



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

16 June 2016

AGENDA

The 158th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 16 June 2016

Commences: 12.00 PM

	<u>Page Number</u>
1 Welcome (12.00 PM)	
2 Apologies	
3 Minutes of the previous meeting (7 April 2016)	
4 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
5 Matters Arising	
6 Notification of Items of General Business	
7 Conflict of Interest Register	14
8 Health and Safety Policy (12.15 PM, 15 min)	15
9 Regional Governance Policies (12.30 PM, 15 min)	19
10 Anglers Notice Review (Second Schedule) (12.45 PM, 20 min)	20
11 Proposed Changes to First Schedule Anglers Notice (1.05 PM, 10 min)	34
12 2016-2017 Operational Work Plan (1.15 PM, 15 min)	49
13 2016-2017 Licence Fees (1.30 PM, 5 min)	52
14 Hunting and Harvest Ethics (1.35 PM, 15 min)	58
15 NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board (1. 50 PM, 5 min)	62
16 Species Monitoring Report (1.55 PM, 5 min)	63
17 Liaison Officers Reports (2.00 PM, 15 min)	65
18 Operational Reports (2.15 PM, 30 min)	
18.1 Management Report	66
18.2 Health and Safety Report	83
18.3 Finance Report	85
18.4 Licence Report	94
15 General Business (2.45 PM, 15 min)	
17 Meeting Closes (3.00 PM)	

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 157th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON WEDNESDAY 7th APRIL 2016 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Neal Hawes, Peter Storey, Laurance Tamati, David Woolner, Annaka Davis, Sandy Bull, and Alan Baird (arrived 12.07pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Eben Herbert, Matthew McDougall, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Mark Sherburn, Anthony van Dorp, Matt Osborne, (Eastern Fish & Game); Colin Paton (Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board); Ken Raureti and Bill Clark (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board); Jenn Sheppard, Wallace Bain, Peter Fahey, and Pat Swift.

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 12.00pm and welcomed members of the Conservation Boards Ken Raureti, Bill Clark, and Colin Paton; Tarawera Trout Fishers Club members Wallace Bain and Peter Fahey; and Jenn Sheppard and Pat Swift.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Ken Coombes and Steve Scragg, Ray Bushell, and Cr Alan Baird advised that he would be running a little late.

2.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that the apologies for the 157th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/04/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (18 FEBRUARY 2016)

3.1 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [16/04/3.1]*

3.2 Identification of resolutions for inclusion in Council Policy.

3.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that Item 12.2 relating to the term of elected officers be included as Council Policy. [16/04/3.3]*

4.0 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Cr Laurance Tamati requested an update on Item 11.5 relating to access to Rotomahana. Andy Garrick advised that he and Anthony van Dorp had met with Timberlands to discuss issues and options and potential solutions, and spoke briefly about these. He said that Fish & Game was now awaiting the outcome of a meeting Timberlands would be having with the CNI access committee (which represents the interests of the Kaingaroa landowners through whose land the access passes) to discuss the proposed arrangement.

5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Murray Ferris – Change to meeting length/agenda content

6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

6.1 An updated conflict of interest register was circulated which in accordance with suggestions made at February's Council meeting, now required all Councillors present to indicate whether they have a conflict or potential conflict of interest with an item on the agenda, i.e. YES/NO, and to sign the register whether or not they do. Andy also circulated a "Declaration of Interest" form which had been adopted by the New Zealand Council with the intention that all Councillors complete this declaration once a year in accordance with accepted governance practice.

7.0 CHANGES TO AGENDA ORDER

7.1 Cr Barry Roderick requested that Item 10 "Issues and Options for Producing Trophy Trout" which had been scheduled for later in the meeting be advanced for the benefit of several members of the public who were attending today's meeting for the specific purpose of this discussion.

7.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Item 10 "Issues and Options for Producing Trophy Trout" be considered prior to Item 7 "Anglers Notice Review". [16/04/7.2]*

8.0 ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR PRODUCING TROPHY TROUT

8.1 Andy Garrick noted that in addition to information relating to this item provided in the agenda a submission had been received from the Tarawera Trout Fishers Club (TTFC) and this had been circulated to all members just prior to the meeting. Andy commented that while we are totally committed to improving the situation at Tarawera, Council needed to be aware that whatever course of action might ultimately be taken with the aim of doing so may not provide the desired outcome as there are many environmental factors in play.

8.2 Cr Barry Roderick congratulated and thanked Matt Osborne for the detailed analysis which had been provided with the agenda paper.

8.3 Andy Garrick introduced Wallace Bain who would be speaking to the submission from the Tarawera Trout Fishers Club.

8.4 Wallace Bain appreciated the opportunity to speak confirming that he and the TTFC share the Council's views and objectives on this matter. Wallace also thanked Matt Osborne for his outstanding paper adding that it was heartening to see advice of this quality. As described within the submission Wallace requested that Council consider the appointment of a sub-committee to specifically address this priority and provided details of those keen to spend the time required. Wallace also spoke about iwi concerns, opportunities for employment and tourism in the long term, recent good catches through jigging, Terry Beckett's detailed data going back 40 plus years, grounds for Government funding, reducing the size of liberations and the unknown effect that this would have, and the abundance and size of smelt in Rotoiti compared with Tarawera.

8.5 Council and public discussion covered the following;

- care needed in making decisions with no scientific backing;
- past attempts to manipulate the Okataina fishery using size limits;
- whether or not attempts to create a regional trophy fishery would be better focussed on Okataina once more due to the reduced pressure it receives, and the likelihood that any negative consequences that might arise from management actions would impact on a smaller number of anglers;

- possible outcomes of reducing the number of large fish taken at Tarawera and the possibility that while this may result in greater numbers of older fish being available, they may not necessarily grow to a larger size due to environmental conditions now prevailing within the lake;
 - recent good sized fish being taken at Tarawera;
 - shags chasing hooked trout at Tarawera suggesting a possible issue with smelt/prey populations;
 - improvements to the environment and water quality likely to have a flow on effect to fisheries;
 - some very good fish being caught at the eastern end of Lake Rotoiti where water quality in that lake is at its poorest;
 - insufficient knowledge of smelt population dynamics, and lack of technologies until now perhaps (c.f. Taupo work) and cost effective means for monitoring smelt.
- 8.6 Cr Peter Storey queried how it was known whether the proposed reduction to the annual liberation to 12,500 was enough to have an impact. Andy Garrick responded that we can't be entirely sure of the outcomes of doing so as there are too many unknown and unquantifiable factors involved. We don't even know if there needs to be a reduction in the numbers of fish liberated. Andy noted that any changes that might be made need to be based on the best science we have, we need to be able to measure the outcomes, and we need to allow sufficient time to see the results.
- 8.7 Cr Laurance Tamati queried the use of the technology currently being used on Lake Taupo? Andy provided an overview of what was being done there and advised that staff will be looking into this further with a view to determining whether this is something we could usefully and practically employ here, and whether the technology is capable of providing the size and abundance data we're looking for.
- 8.8 Some Councillors voiced their support for the establishment of a sub-committee as proposed by the TTFC to tackle this priority, commenting that it presented a good opportunity but noting also, that any sub-committee would need to have a very clear brief and terms of reference. Cr David Woolner indicated he supported the idea to some degree but felt that with the lack of scientific data available he was unsure whether such a committee would be able to help from a scientific point of view. He suggested if numbers of trout liberated at Tarawera were to be reduced don't mess with reducing it to 12,500, reduce it to 10,000 so that effects could be more readily determined.
- 8.9 Matt McDougall spoke of the distinction between Council's role and staff's role, and noted that while Council wishes to see an improvement in fish size on Tarawera, it was the role of staff to enable that. He added that putting less fish in the lake would not help if the numbers coming out were unknown, and suggested that solutions such as this might actually exacerbate the problem.
- 8.10 Cr Murray Ferris felt that the formation of a sub-committee was premature and that Council needed to ensure that it did not crossover into operational matters. He confirmed Council's concern and that they wished to see an improvement in fish size on Tarawera, suggesting that the desired outcomes may take some time as the decline in the fishery had occurred over a number of years.
- 8.11 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council wishes to see an improvement in the size of trout in Lake Tarawera. [16/04/8.11]*

- 8.12 Cr Murray Ferris thanked the members of public present for their input and agreed that the appropriate course of action would be to leave this in staff's hands.
- 8.13 Ken Raureti advised that he was happy with that, and Wallace Bain added that he supported an extended "closed" period but acknowledged not everyone else shared this view.
- 8.14 Andy Garrick acknowledged the Council's wishes and advised that staff would develop an operational plan taking into account all of the ideas and views that had been put on the table. He confirmed too, that staff would continue to communicate with the TTFC and associates, and was happy to receive further ideas and input from all interested parties.

9.0 2016-2017 ANGLERS NOTICE

- 9.1 Cr Neal Hawes asked to withdraw his submission 5.8 relating to closure of the Te Wairoa Stream mouth from 1 April and 30 September due to the other work being proposed for Lake Tarawera.
- 9.2 Cr Peter Storey requested the addition of a restriction on glo bugging at the Te Wairoa mouth. Mark Sherburn advised that a sign had previously been erected appealing to anglers not to glo bug there, but beyond this it was extremely difficult to regulate against as it was almost impossible to define as a method.
- 9.3 Cr Sandy Bull advised the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association supported the status quo continuing to apply. Matt Osborne advised he had received a submission from Sandy and other clubs and anglers to date but not one from this club.
- 9.4 Council discussed the submission to move opening day to the first weekend of October in order to enable more anglers to participate. Discussion covered the following:
- increased participation leading to increased licence sales;
 - mid week opening spreads the load on the already very busy lakes at this time;
 - many anglers stay on for the following weekend;
 - need to advocate for better infrastructure as many going out the day prior to avoid congestion;
 - we have a goal to simplify regulations;
 - timing of school holidays has an effect.

Council concluded the discussion noting that the 2016 opening will fall on a Saturday and that this would provide a great opportunity to review and assess concerns relating to the commencement of opening day.

- 9.5 Cr Laurance Tamati queried whether staff could indicate their preferred "option" when listing these for each Anglers Notice proposal. Cr Barry Roderick agreed that this would be helpful as Council is comfortable with staff's judgement. Matt Osborne suggested that this could be construed as staff leading the Council and could open Council up for criticism. Andy Garrick commented that it was the staff's role to provide sufficient information for Councillors to be able to make a reasoned decision. He added however, that while some items submitted are of a biological nature and have biological consequences requiring scientific input from staff, others are of a more social nature and more a matter for Council to debate and determine.

10.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016-2017 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 10.1 Andy Garrick provided a brief overview of the Operational Work Planning process and the need to confirm the draft budget and proposed contestable funding

applications at this meeting. Andy advised that at the February meeting Council had decided there were no major changes in direction needed other than slight changes in emphasis. Andy provided a brief overview of projects to be incorporated into the 2016-2017 work plan for next year and provided a summary of the contestable fund applications being sought in relation to staff salaries, mallard monitoring, prosecutions, protective equipment, and reserves restoration.

10.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Sandy Bull) that Council receives the draft budget and approves the proposed contestable funding bids for the 2016-2017 Operation Work Plan. [16/4/10.2]*

11.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

11.1 Andy Garrick provided a summary of works planned to be carried out by staff within the Wairoa catchment during the 2015-16 operational year with funding from the WSFHEF of \$19,000. Andy advised that final planning and budgeting of work programmes within the catchment for the 2016-17 year had yet to be completed, but proposed that a similar amount be allocated from the Fund as there was a need to continue the Waikaremoana fishery monitoring programme that was now into its second year in addition to covering the yet to be quantified costs associated with the recovery and likely repair of the Water Quality Monitoring Buoy. Andy advised that he hoped he would have further information available in relation to the resurrection of the buoy for presentation to the June meeting of Council.

11.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves in principle a sum of \$19,000 to be allocated from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the 2016-17 operational year, in order to fund the continuation of work within the Wairoa catchment, and costs associated with the extraction of the water quality monitoring buoy, subject to additional information being supplied at the June meeting of Council. [16/4/11.2]*

11.3 Council discussed the application for financial assistance put forward by the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association to replace four navigation markers on Lake Waikaremoana. Initial comments were in relation to maintenance and legalities of these structures. Cr Murray Ferris advised that the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association had completed the necessary applications/approvals and had made arrangements to do the work in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and iwi. Andy Garrick suggested that it would be appropriate to obtain copies of the required approvals.

11.4 *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Sandy Bull) that Council approves funding of \$12,000 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to assist the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association with the replacement of four navigation markers as specified within their application, subject to Council receiving copies of the necessary approvals for these structures. [16/04/11.4]*

12.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

12.1 Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Ken Raureti informed Council that there would be three new members joining the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. He advised that the Boards current key priorities/issues were;

- environmental restoration;
- whitebait habitat, and catching and selling of whitebait;

- Canada geese and complaints about their numbers in the Okareka, Rotomahana, and Tauranga areas;
- trails, including the Tarawera trail, and a lack of associated infrastructure such as toilets.

Ken noted that work is continuing on the Conservation Management Strategy and the first draft was expected to be completed by the end of August 2016 with the aim of implementation by the new Board in June 2017.

Bill Clark added that the Board had had significant input into wetlands at Tumurenu and Tumurau, and that they were hoping to generate enthusiasm for the harvest of Canada goose eggs in spring as a means of reducing populations.

12.2 Tongariro -Taupo Conservation Board

Colin Paton advised that trails were also an issue for the Tongariro-Taupo Board with the Tongariro crossing having reached capacity and more infrastructure being required there to accommodate the ever increasing number of visitors. Colin spoke briefly about the meeting over the proposed carp farm in Taupo and Contact Energy's subsequent withdrawal from this proposal, and noted that there seemed to be a swan problem at Stump Bay on Lake Taupo. Colin advised that today was his last meeting representing the Conservation Board and advised that Annaka Davis had been nominated and expected that Council would be informed of the new Board in May. Cr Murray Ferris thanked Colin for his work with the Board saying that he was always studious and kept Council very well informed. Murray noted that Colin had also previously been a member of this Council and his combined efforts and input over the years in these two roles was appreciated.

12.3 East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

Not represented and no report received.

12.4 Department of Conservation, Central and Lower North Island Regions

Not represented and no report received.

12.5 Report from the New Zealand Council

A summary report of the March New Zealand Council meeting prepared by Robert Sowman was included in the Papers for Information. Cr Lindsay Lyons enlarged on these notes focussing in particular on licence sales, threats to Water Conservation Orders, the review of the Walking Access Act and work of the Commission, Northland Region's issues with the Kai Iwi lakes, recent didymo work which had seen some positive results, and the poor salmon runs to date this year which had affected licence sales in the South Island regions.

13.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT

13.1 Cr Peter Storey requested an update on the catfish situation in Lake Rotoiti. Matt Osborne advised that there had been substantial work involving fyke netting and electric fishing and that to date 48-50 catfish had been caught from what appeared to be two age cohorts at Te Weta Bay. Matt would be meeting with Bay of Plenty Regional Council staff and other interested parties in about two weeks to review issues and options.

13.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried whether the submission to close the Awahou Stream would reduce compliance issues in the area. Andy Garrick advised that we hoped it would do so by making offenders more detectable, and more likely to be reported and apprehended.

- 13.3 Cr Murray Ferris asked whether any results had been gained from the 500 datawatch tagged fish that had been released in Waikaremoana. Matt Osborne advised that these fish were not quite yet at an age or size where we would expect a return and we hadn't as yet. Cr Sandy Bull added that there had been very low returns from previous liberations.
- 13.4 Cr Murray Ferris commented on the interesting results arising from the analyses Eastern Region staff (Harri Condie and Matt McDougall) had undertaken of mallard band returns in Hawke's Bay. Andy Garrick advised that this was a repeat of modelling work that Matt had undertaken in the Eastern Region, and indicated that recruitment may be influenced by the preceding winter rainfall. This is a useful insight for the Eastern Region, particularly the East Coast.
- 13.5 Cr Barry Roderick asked whether ballot holders needed to sign off on the list of hazards and controls that we had recently sent them. Andy Garrick spoke about the new Health & Safety at Work Act which had recently come into effect, and in particular, changes to liability and responsibility. He said that there had been some concern raised around the liability of Councillors, and as a consequence a legal opinion had been sought (see April Papers for Information) which concluded that as volunteer officers individual Councillors were not liable. Cr Laurance Tamati queried overall responsibility i.e. as a Council as a whole? Andy Garrick advised that there was a lack of clarity in relation to some matters such as this, and WorkSafe's response to some issues had been it would need to be tested through the Courts. Andy advised that Carmel Veitch is co-ordinating a review of Health & Safety policies and procedures nationally, and advised that Health & Safety matters will be reported in greater detail in all future meetings of Council to ensure that Council is meeting its obligations. Cr David Woolner queried the implications on Fish & Game managed wetlands versus other locations such as lakes that we don't have a direct management input to. Andy said that what we have provided for balloted stand holders is possibly beyond what is required of us, although the fact that we have stand holders undertaking maintenance works that we have prescribed they need to do may have obligations that are more far reaching for us. Cr Annaka Davis highlighted the need to consider also, the situations where public are working with staff. Cr Laurance Tamati said we need to ensure that the changes needed to make us compliant are implemented, and noted his concern in relation to Councillors' liabilities, referencing items 32.1 and 32.7 of the legal opinion contained within the Papers for Information on pages 13 and 14. Andy Garrick confirmed that Eastern Region staff are looking at this very closely and in addition are collaborating with other regions and as an organisation as this is also critical.
- 13.6 *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Barry Roderick) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales Reports, and approves the payments for January and February 2016 totalling \$368,344.47. [16/04/13.6]***
- 13.7 Cr Lindsay Lyons requested that the finance and licence sales reports be brought forward within the agenda to sit prior to the management report as there was usually insufficient time to review these. Lindsay put forward a motion to this effect and this was seconded by Cr Sandy Bull. After further discussion it was agreed that the priorities section we usually have on the agenda could be reduced or dropped altogether to ensure that there was sufficient time to discuss all topics in greater detail if required. On this basis Crs Lindsay Lyons and Sandy Bull withdrew their motion.
- 13.8 Kate Thompson provided a brief overview of licence sales YTD noting that Eastern's sales were impacted by the reduced value of the day licence and the high uptake of the

local area licence. She noted that Eastern had actually gained adult anglers but this increase in participation within the region had been masked by the discounted categories that were now available.

14.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

14.1 Cr Murray Ferris asked Council to consider extending the allowable duration of Council meetings to four hours. He noted that council was not infrequently needing to pass a motion to extend meeting length, and suggested that Council aims for three hours, but meets for up to four hours if need be without having to resort to formally agreeing to do so on each occasion.

14.2 A motion to extend Council's standard meeting time to up to four hours where business requires it was put forward, seconded, and agreed to by Council. Retrospectively this has no formal standing as it was inadvertently considered under General Business but will be put on to the agenda of Council's next meeting in June.

15.0 PRESENTATION BY JENN SHEPPARD ON MALLARD RESEARCH

15.1 Andy Garrick introduced Jenn Sheppard who had kindly agreed to give a presentation entitled "Researching Mallards in New Zealand: Breeding Season Vital Rates and Next Steps" to Council. Jenn has been conducting a PhD research programme supported by Fish & Game in the Waikato and Southland, and presented interim results gathered over the past two years.

15.2 A number of discussions took place during the course of the presentation, and on its conclusion Cr Murray Ferris thanked Jenn on behalf of the Council for her work in this area which was revealing some interesting and valuable insights into mallard breeding in today's environment.

16.0 MEETING CLOSED

16.1 The meeting was closed at 3.20pm.

.....
Murray Ferris,
Chairman

.....
Date

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that the apologies for the 157th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/04/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (18 FEBRUARY 2016)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [16/04/3.1]*

- 3.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that Item 12.2 relating to the term of elected officers be included as Council Policy. [16/04/3.3]*

7.0 CHANGES TO AGENDA ORDER

- 7.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Item 10 "Issues and Options for Producing Trophy Trout" be considered prior to Item 7 "Anglers Notice Review". [16/04/7.2]*

8.0 ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR PRODUCING TROPHY TROUT

- 8.11 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council wishes to see an improvement in the size of trout in Lake Tarawera. [16/04/8.11]*

10.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016-2017 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 10.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Sandy Bull) that Council receives the draft budget and approves the proposed contestable funding bids for the 2016-2017 Operation Work Plan. [16/4/10.2]*

11.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 11.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves in principle a sum of \$19,000 to be allocated from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the 2016-17 operational year, in order to fund the continuation of work within the Wairoa catchment, and costs associated with the extraction of the water quality monitoring buoy, subject to additional information being supplied at the June meeting of Council. [16/4/11.2]*

- 11.4 *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Sandy Bull) that Council approves funding of \$12,000 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to assist the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association with the replacement of four navigation markers as specified within their application, subject to Council receiving copies of the necessary approvals for these structures. [16/04/11.4]*

13.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT

- 13.6 *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Barry Roderick) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales Reports, and approves the payments for January and February 2016 totalling \$368,344.47. [16/04/13.6]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

1 June 2016

1. Purpose

A standing agenda item to disclose any Councillor Conflict of Interest or potential perceived Conflict of Interest, and record this in the Councillor Conflict of Interest Register

2. Background

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

For Crown entities the definition of 'interested' is;

4. *Board members [Councillors] of Crown Entities should be aware of the very wide scope of what 'interested' means under the Crown Entities Act. A person is interested in a matter if he or she:*
 - *May derive a financial benefit from the matter;*
 - *Is the spouse, defacto partner (whether of the same or different sex), child or parent of a person who may derive a financial benefit from the matter;*
 - *May have a financial interest in a person to whom the matter relates;*
 - *Is a partner, director, officer, board member, or trustee of a person who may have a financial interest in a person to whom the matter relates;*
 - *May be interested in the matter because the entity's Act so provides; or*
 - *Is otherwise directly or indirectly interested in the matter.*

And any Conflict of Interest can be dealt with as follows.

- 6.6 *Members agree that the Council may, where appropriate, decide that a Council Member who has declared an interest in matters to be discussed by the Council*
 - [1] *should leave the meeting room for the duration of discussion on such matters or;*
 - [2] *remain in the room and contribute to the discussion and be allowed to vote or;*
 - [3] *remain in the room and contribute to the discussion but not be allowed to vote.*

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

3. Recommendations

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

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Ref: 9.01.07

30 May 2016

1. Purpose

To adopt a Health and Safety Policy for the Eastern Fish and Game Council based on the new Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

2. Background

As of 4 April 2016, the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) came into effect. HSWA places health and safety duties on 'persons conducting a business or undertaking' (PCBU). Eastern Fish and Game Council is a PCBU, and Councillors are considered 'officers' and have a primary duty of care to staff of Hawke's Bay Fish and Game.

3. Councillors' Duties

Councillors have a duty to exercise **due diligence**. This requires Councillors to take reasonable steps to:

- know about work health and safety matters and keep that knowledge up to date;
- gain an understanding of the nature of Eastern Fish and Game Council's operations and the hazards and risks associated with those operations;
- ensure Eastern Fish and Game Council has appropriate resources and processes to eliminate or minimise those risks and uses them;
- ensure that Eastern Fish and Game Council has appropriate processes for receiving and considering information about incidents, hazards and risks, and for responding to that information in a timely manner;
- ensure there are processes for complying with any duty (within the HSWA) and that these are implemented;
- verify that these resources and processes are in place and being used.

While having these duties, a Councillor cannot be prosecuted under the HSWA for failing to comply with his or her duties as Councillors are *volunteer* officers.

Councillors have an important role to play in establishing and maintaining good health and safety practices for staff, and developing a positive health and safety culture within the workplace.

A draft Health and Safety Policy follows.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That the Eastern Fish and Game Council reviews and adopts the accompanying draft Health and Safety Policy or makes such revisions as it considers necessary.

EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Ref 9.01.07

June 2016

1. Introduction

As of 4 April 2016 the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) came into effect. HSWA places health and safety duties on 'persons conducting a business or undertaking' (PCBU). Eastern Fish and Game Council is a PCBU, and Councillors are considered 'officers' and have a primary duty of care to all workers and visitors to Eastern Fish and Game Council's workplaces.

2. Council's Commitment

The Council is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace by complying with relevant health and safety legislation (Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and associated regulations), and various New Zealand standards and approved codes of practice.

The Council is committed to providing the information, training and supervision needed to achieve this to ensure the health and safety of staff, volunteers (including rangers), and other people in the workplace. While the Council is responsible for ensuring health and safety procedures are developed and implemented, staff also need to be aware of their responsibilities and comply with Council's health and safety policy and workplace procedures.

3. Implementation of the Policy

The Council will, as far as is reasonably practicable, comply with the provisions of legislation dealing with health and safety in the workplace, by:

- providing a safe physical and emotional work environment;
- ensuring a health and safety strategy/plan is in place and that engagement and consultation with staff on the strategy takes place;
- providing adequate facilities, including ensuring access and ensuring property and equipment is safe to use and staff are not exposed to hazards;
- ensuring there is an effective method in place for identifying, assessing and controlling hazards. This includes recording and investigating injuries, and reporting serious harm incidents;
- having a commitment to a culture of continuous improvement.

The Regional Manager, as an officer, is also responsible for implementing this policy and must:

- exercise due diligence in accordance with the provisions of the health and safety legislation;
- take all reasonable steps to protect staff, volunteers and visitors in the workplace from unsafe or unhealthy conditions or practices;
- ensure there is zero tolerance to unacceptable behaviour, such as bullying, and that there are effective processes in place to deal with issues of this nature;
- provide information and training opportunities to staff;

- advise the Council chair of any emergency situations as soon as possible.

The Regional Manager, as a stipendiary officer, may be personally liable if he/she fails to meet or comply with health and safety obligations (unlike Councillors who are deemed to be volunteer officers).

All workers (employees, contractors, and volunteer workers) are expected to play a vital and responsible role in maintaining a safe and healthy workplace through:

- being involved in improving health and safety systems at work;
- following instructions, rules, procedures and safe ways of working;
- reporting any pain or discomfort as soon as possible;
- reporting all injuries, incidents and near misses;
- helping new staff members, trainees and visitors to the workplace understand the safety procedures and why they exist;
- reporting any health and safety concerns or issues through the reporting system;
- keeping the workplace tidy to minimise the risk of any trips and falls;
- wearing protective clothing and equipment as and when required to minimise exposure to workplace hazards.

Workers may be personally liable if they fail to meet, or comply with, their health and safety obligations.

All others in the workplace must:

- follow all instructions, rules and procedures while in the workplace;
- report all injuries, incidents and near misses to the Regional Manager;
- wear protective clothing and equipment as and when required to minimise their exposure to hazards.

4. Monitoring and Reporting

A bi-monthly report will be presented to the Council covering, but not limited to, the following:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety policy/manual.
2. Monitoring and Reporting - annual, monthly, and spot audits.
3. Risk Management (identification and treatment) - any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed.
4. Training programme - information sharing and training of staff and volunteers.
5. H&S incidents - near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events.

5. Variations to this Policy

No variations of this Policy or amendments to it can be made without the unanimous approval of the Council.

6. Distribution & Circulation of Policy

The Regional Manager must circulate this policy to all staff, and ensure that a copy is included in the Eastern Fish and Game Council Policy Manual, copies of which will be available to staff. The Regional Manager will be responsible for ensuring that all new staff are made familiar with this Policy.

Signed
Murray Ferris
Council Chairperson

on behalf of, and with the authority of the Eastern Bay Fish and Game Council on

Review Date:

Approved Council meeting _____ *2016*

9. REGIONAL GOVERNANCE POLICIES

Ref: 7.02.01

26 May 2016

1. Purpose

To review and adopt a set of draft Regional Fish & Game Governance Policies.

2. Background

After the election of the new Eastern Fish and Game Council in November 2015 an induction session was organised for Councillors on governance. Robert Sowman (Policy and Planning Manager for the New Zealand Council Office) delivered a presentation on the principles of governance and what this means in practical terms. The presentation included an overview of NZ Council's Fish and Game's Governance Policies and the Standing Orders that we operate under (the rulebook that we refer to for conducting meetings). Time was made available to examine some examples and how the principles and rules of governance would or should be applied to these. Governance policies are reviewed by Council every three years. A copy of a recent update of the NZ Council Governance Policies adapted for regional application has been included in the June Papers for Information.

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council reviews and adopts the updated Regional Governance Policies.*

10. 2016-2017 ANGLER'S NOTICE REVIEW (SECOND SCHEDULE)

Ref: 1.07.01

1 June 2016

1. Purpose

To finalise changes to the Second Schedule of the Eastern Region Anglers Notice regulations for the 2016-2017 angling season.

2. Background

Suggestions for changes to the Second Schedule of the Anglers Notice for the 2016-2017 season have been through one round of consultation and this Agenda Item deals with a revised group of suggestions following the April Council Meeting and the results of a second round of consultation. The Council has an Anglers Notice Policy that identifies two functional groups of regulations within the Anglers Notice. The first group of regulations are those that serve a social function and relate to the way anglers interact with each other. The second group of regulations are those that have a biological effect on the fisheries and more direct effects on trout populations. Suggested changes to the Anglers Notice from year to year are considered within the guidelines of this Anglers Notice Policy. This policy approach has greatly simplified the task of reviewing the anglers notice and enabled regulations to be applied consistently across the region. The Anglers Notice Policy is included as Appendix 1 to this agenda item.

As well as considering the Anglers Notice Policy, the Council should be mindful of the guidance set out in the Eastern Fish and Game Council's Sports Fish and Game Management Plan as repeated below:

Regulations

Fish and Game Councils annually review and develop conditions that regulate the way fish are caught, season length, and daily bag limits. These regulations are principally to ensure that levels of harvest are sustainable, and to avoid inappropriate social interactions. Regulations should be based upon sound biological principles, and are also developed to provide for the legitimate range of preferences that anglers have when fishing. For example, fly and spin fishing may create conflicts on some waters where space is restricted. The Eastern Fish and Game Council wishes to increase the range of angling opportunities available, particularly to youth and novice anglers. Regulations may be used to assist in achieving this by removing barriers to participation. This must be done without threatening the sustainability of sports fish populations.

1.2.1 Issues

- 1. Eastern Fish and Game Council needs to manage the sports fisheries to provide for a sustainable harvest.*
- 2. The Eastern Fish and Game Council wishes to maximise the range of angling opportunities available, and to encourage anglers to participate.*

1.2.2 Objective

Ensure the maintenance and management of sports fish populations in the Eastern Fish and Game Region to maximise angler opportunity.

Policies

1.2.2(a) *To manage harvest by establishing and administering sports fishing conditions that maximise opportunities for anglers without adversely affecting the sustainability, quality, or diversity of the sports fishery. Conditions should:*

- *Be based on sound biological principles.*
- *Maximise diverse angling opportunities without increasing angler conflicts.*
- *Enhance the angling experience.*
- *Be simple to understand and enforceable by law.*

3. Review of 2015-2016 Anglers Notice

At the April 2016 Council meeting, nine suggested changes to the current Anglers Notice were presented to Councillors. One of the suggestions (Te Wairoa Stream mouth closure) was removed from the process, and staff were tasked with including the eight remaining suggestions in a second 'Issues and Options' paper for further public consultation and consideration. Letters were sent to local clubs and submitters on 5 May seeking comments on the matters for discussion and asking for feedback relating to the eight suggested changes. Alongside the letters posted to clubs and agencies, the Anglers Notice regulation process was advertised on the Eastern Region Fish & Game web page, the 'Reel Life' e-zine, and a press release was generated for regional newspapers.

Further submissions have been received in response to this second round of consultation and to date a total of 26 submissions have been received from clubs and/or individuals on the eight suggestions from both rounds of consultation. Copies of all submissions received on the remaining eight proposals have been included in the June Papers For Information. Any additional submissions received after the Papers for Information were mailed out will be tabled at the Council meeting.

4. Current submissions received on the 2016-2017 'Issues and Options' papers

As at 1 June 2016 we have received 26 submissions/letters in response to the 'Issues and Options' papers from anglers, clubs and individuals. The two letters received from Ngahi Bidois proposing closure of the Awahou Stream have also been signed by 26 locals who reside alongside the Awahou Stream. The submitters' rationale for the positions they have taken have been summarised in sections 5.1 to 5.8 below along with background, discussion, and options for Council's consideration prepared by staff. Staff do not indicate a preferred option for proposals involving regulatory changes that are of a social nature, i.e. those that affect or modify angler behaviour, but will do so if biological sustainability is likely to be affected. The respondents' full submissions are included in the April Papers For Information.

5 Issues and Options Paper:

5.1 Prohibit the use of lead sinkers and lead downrigger weights used during trout fishing within the Rotorua lakes/Eastern Region.

3.1.1 Background

Jigging is the most highly utilized method of angling accounting for greater than 50% of methods used in the deeper Rotorua lakes (summer creel surveys). Downrigger trolling has been recorded as contributing between 8-12% to total method use on the deeper lakes over the summer period. All anglers fishing via these methods are likely to be using lead sinkers (jigging) or lead downrigger weights (downrigger trolling).

The environmental effects of lost sinkers/downrigger weights have not be quantified and are difficult to quantify though much research has been undertaken in America and Australia on alternative options (non-toxic alternatives or encapsulating with plastic). Since 1986, lead fishing weights of between 0.06 and 28.35 grams (No.6 shot to 1oz) have been banned from sale and use for the purpose of weighting fishing lines in the UK. The legislation was enacted specifically to protect mute swans from accidental poisoning through the ingestion of accidentally discarded lead weights (Petch T., Anglers Mail, UK website, 2011). Some lead based sinkers are also banned in National Parks and Wildlife areas in Canada (Ontario, CA website) and some states in the USA (<http://sportsmenslink.org/policies/state/lead-sinker-ban>).

One submission received has raised the option of banning lead weights less than 15g. This would effectively allow the continued use of downrigger balls and jigging sinkers, but would prohibit the use of split shot commonly used by fly fishing anglers.

5.1.2 Discussion

If Council chose to bring in a rule banning lead weights or split shot, there could be wider ramifications of doing so, for example, it could lead to a call for lead line (frequently used by trollers) and other lead based tackle or angling paraphernalia to be banned also. If Council opts for the status quo, this proposal can always be revisited at a later date if new information/research becomes available.

5.1.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo and allow the continued use of lead weights, or;

(ii) Prohibit the use of lead weights for angling within the Eastern Fish & Game Region, or:

(ii) Retain the use of lead weights over 15g in weight but prohibit the use of lead weights under 15g.

<i>(i) Submissions in support of status quo (retain continued use of lead weights)</i>	<i>(ii) Submissions supporting change (Prohibit use of lead weights for angling)</i>
5	1

Submitter's reasons for retaining status quo:

Banning the use of lead will affect all fishers in one way or another. Losing a sinker while jigging is very slim. There is only a small minority using downriggers so risk of large numbers of downrigger balls being lost is slim. Any perceived ban should be thoroughly and scientifically quantified and assessed before any changes are brought about. Ramifications of an ill researched ban may have wider ramifications and may not be easily overturned in future.

Submitters' reasons supporting change:

Lead weights used for downrigger trolling and jigging pose minimal risk to ingestion, however split shot is a risk. Therefore ban any lead weight less than 15g.

5.2 Extend the winter shoreline area on Lake Okataina to include the western rocky point (600m west of boat ramp).

5.2.1 Background

The current open winter shoreline area at Lake Okataina is open 1 October to 30 September and extends 200m offshore between landmark poles off the main beach at the end of Okataina Road. It is open to angling from both the shoreline and anchored boats from 1 October to 30 June, and solely from the shore for the remainder of the season 1 July to 30 September. The eastern end landmark is only accessible at extremely low lake levels. The western end is currently at the end of the main beach and is accessible at all lake levels.

5.2.2 Discussion

If the western landmark was shifted further to the west it would provide greater opportunity for anglers when lake levels are low as occurs at the eastern end of the area. This would be very unlikely to affect biological sustainability or create additional compliance issues.

5.2.3 Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the Lake Okataina winter Shoreline fishing area remains unchanged, or;
- (ii) Alter the area of the Lake Okataina winter shoreline fishing area to include the western rocky point (600m west of boat ramp).

<i>(i) Submissions in support of status quo (retain current winter shoreline area)</i>	<i>(ii) Submissions supporting change (Extend winter shoreline area)</i>
0	1

Submitters' reasons for retaining status quo:

No correspondence received.

Submitter's reasons supporting change:

The more water available for fishing the better, so long as there is no detriment to the environment.

5.3 Prohibit the use of motorized craft while fishing upstream of the Hopuruahine Stream mouth (Lake Waikaremoana).

5.3.1 Background

The Hopuruahine landmark pole is approximately 900m from the mouth of the stream at moderate lake levels. At high lake levels, the flood plain is pushed further up the stream. Some boat based anglers may attempt to troll up the lower stream which could conflict with anglers fishing the lower stream from the river bank.

5.3.2 Discussion

The Hopuruahine Stream shallows quickly at moderate lake levels and for much of its length below the existing landmark would be difficult to navigate and turn around in. Due to this there is likely to be minimal boat trolling occurring within the confines of

the lower stream. Fish & Game staff have not witnessed angling from motorized craft within the Hopuruahine Stream.

5.3.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo, i.e. angling from a motorized vessel is not prohibited within the Hopuruahine Stream, or;

(ii) Prohibit angling from a motorized vessel upstream of the Hopuruahine Stream mouth under Regulation 7 Use of Boats.

<i>(i) Submissions in support of status quo (Allow angling from craft under power within Hopuruahine Stream)</i>	<i>(ii) Submissions supporting change (Prohibit angling from craft under power within Hopuruahine Stream)</i>
4	1

Submitters' reasons for retaining status quo:

The Hopuruahine Stream level varies enormously from so low as to be non-navigable to so high that the only way to fish the lower stream is by anchored boat. Never seen anybody attempt to drag lines up the stream therefore dont need to add an unnecessary rule. All proposed changes to Waikaremoana unanimously opposed by East Coast clubs.

Submitter's Reasons supporting change:

Fishing at Waikaremoana fairly hard, any changes that could help fishing would be good.

5.4 *Move the Hopuruahine landmark pole 200m downstream from current position to remove ambiguity between spin/fly demarcation.*

5.4.1 Background

The current regulation stating demarcation of the fly/spin limits is ambiguous and reads "fly fishing only above and within 200m below landmark" (as also is the case in the Mokau Stream).

5.4.2 Discussion

If the landmark was moved 200m downstream from its current position, anglers would lose opportunities to engage in river fishing during the closed season (1 July to 30 November). There are only three sections of Lake Waikaremoana tributaries that remain open throughout the spawning period. These are Aniwaniwa below the falls, Mokau below the landmark, and Hopuruahine below the landmark. To make the rule clearer and promote opportunity, the landmark could remain where it is currently situated and become fly and spin below the landmark 1 October to 30 September, and fly fishing only above the landmark 1 December to 30 June.

5.4.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the Hopuruahine landmark pole remains in its current position with existing fly/spin designations, or;

(ii) Reposition the Hopuruahine landmark downstream 200m with fly fishing only above the landmark over the period 1 December - 30 June, and fly fishing only all year round within the 200m section of the river downstream of the landmark, or;

(iii) Retain the Hopuruahine landmark pole in its current position with fly fishing only above the landmark from 1 December - 30 June, but both fly and spin allowed all year below the landmark.

<i>(i) Submissions in support of status quo (Maintain current position of landmark)</i>	<i>(ii) Submissions supporting change (Alter landmark position)</i>
5	1

Submitters' reasons for retaining status quo:

The landmark is fine where it is. Currently in a very visible position. Very few issues around misinterpreting regulations. Is very easy to identify the fly fishing only zone. All proposed changes to Waikaremoana unanimously opposed by East Coast clubs.

Submitter's Reasons supporting change:

Fishing at Waikaremoana fairly hard, any changes that could help fishing would be good.

5.5 Reduce the bag limit at Waikaremoana from 8 fish to 3 fish per day.

5.5.1 Background

The current bag limit is an 8 fish aggregate limit with 2 brown trout permitted.

5.5.2 Discussion

During the 2015 winter, staff undertook the first of an ongoing series of investigations within the key Waikaremoana spawning tributaries and this is providing an understanding of angling pressure and harvest. The work will in due course enable the evaluation of concerns that have been raised in David Dods' submission that there has been a demise in early spawning rainbows (see 3.7 below also). Over the 2015 winter, staff encountered low angler pressure and low harvest at both the Hopuruahine and Mokau Streams. Eastern Fish and Game Council Policy (2003) dictates that bag limits within fisheries fall into thresholds given population size and angler pressure/harvest. Lake Waikaremoana sits within the high demand and high availability bracket for harvest allocation. The recommended daily angler allocation is an 8 fish aggregate bag.

5.5.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo i.e. the bag limit remains an 8 fish aggregate bag as per Council Policy, or;

(ii) Reassess Council's policy and alter the Lake Waikaremoana and tributaries bag limits.

<i>(i) Submissions in support of status quo (Maintain Waikaremoana 8 fish bag limit)</i>	<i>(ii) Submissions supporting change (Alter Waikaremoana bag limit)</i>
12	2

Submitters' reasons for retaining status quo:

Dropping the limit from eight fish to three is far too big a jump in change of limit. Fishing is relatively hard at Waikaremoana, therefore cannot justify a change when anglers keep so few fish anyway. If these changes are brought about, my family and I will go and fish Taupo. All proposed changes to Waikaremoana unanimously opposed by East Coast clubs.

Submitter's Reasons supporting change:

Fishing at Waikaremoana fairly hard, any changes that could help fishing would be good. Would support reduction to try and re-establish stock.

5.6 *Adjust the season opening date for Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina so that it falls on the first Saturday in October each season.*

5.6.1 Background

Currently the trout fishing season opens on 1 October each year excluding some areas of special spawning significance that open 1 December. It has been suggested that moving the opening date for the three 'renowned' Rotorua lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) to the first Saturday in October would enable more anglers to participate in the occasion, and Fish & Game could take advantage of this and generate more of a 'carnival' atmosphere to attract new licence holders and/or retain a proportion of those who might otherwise not bother to renew their licence.

5.6.2 Discussion

There are some significant downsides to this proposal from a compliance perspective and the dissatisfaction that might arise from the additional pressure brought to bear on facilities such as ramps and parking (which are already at capacity), and overcrowding on the lakes more generally. Further angler dissatisfaction would be likely to result from compliance actions against anglers that have engaged in the tradition of 1 October openings for many years who have not picked up on this change to the regulations if it was enacted.

5.6.3 Options

- (i) Retain the status quo i.e. Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina open 1 October, or;
- (ii) Change the season opening date for Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to the first Saturday falling in October each season.

<i>(i) Submissions in support of status quo (Maintain current opening day 1 October for Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina)</i>	<i>(ii) Submissions supporting change (Move opening date for Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina to 1st Saturday in October annually)</i>
3	1

Submitters' reasons for retaining status quo:

There will be huge confusion. Fish & Game would have to ticket all those out fishing from 1 October to the first Saturday to make it fair to those who wait. People earn 4 weeks annual leave, take annual leave like everybody else. Pressure at ramps and on the lake would increase from already congested openings.

Submitters Reasons supporting change:

Although it goes against people like myself who try to avoid the weekends and dodge the crowd, it makes sense to give those working folk better opportunities to fish on those special days.

5.7 David Dods' submission regarding the perceived demise of early spawning rainbow trout at Lake Waikaremoana.

5.7.1 Background

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

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

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

5.7.2 Discussion

This submission is still under investigation. Further field work is required to acquire the information needed to assess Mr Dods' comments and perceptions. Monitoring in 2015 showed that rainbows were in the spawning streams and involved in spawning activity from early May, and that angler pressure on the streams and trout harvest during the winter months was extremely low.

5.7.3 Recommendation

Defer further consideration of the proposed changes to the angling regulations until sufficient information is available to properly assess the validity of the perceived decline in early spawning rainbow trout.

5.8 Reclassify the Awahou Stream Lake Rotorua as closed waters.

5.8.1 Background

The Awahou Stream (Lake Rotorua) is a spring fed water providing a strong cold water plume into Lake Rotorua. During the summer period, the water temperature of Lake Rotorua can exceed 25° Celsius. When this occurs, trout become thermally

stressed and seek cold water refuge to survive. The Awahou Stream and lake edge fishery is accessed via Gloucester Road. This road and the adjoining land through which the stream runs is privately owned and all access is due solely to the goodwill of the landowners. During the hottest summer months (January/February), many anglers are attracted to this fly fishing only location. Locals also use the stream area for swimming and bathing as it is a very clean and cool area. Due to the convergence of locals, anglers and general public, conflict can arise alongside the stream. The very visible, accessible trout schools within the stream also attract the attention of poachers who use a variety of techniques to remove trout from this location. Locals have retrieved a variety of weighted treble hooks used to jag fish. Some of these have been embedded in logs which pose a very real hazard to swimmers. An accumulation of angling litter (nylon and dead fish) has also been dumped at, and alongside the environs of the stream. Local children swimming in the stream have also been verbally abused by visiting anglers. This submission has been received from the local community (Rangiwewehi locals) in an attempt to alleviate issues occurring at the stream.

5.8.2 Discussion

Closure of the Awahou Stream will not affect the opportunity for anglers to visit and fish the lake edge downstream of the Awahou Stream mouth. Over the hottest months January/February/March, there is an abundance of fish residing within the cool water plume located within the lake itself which can be targeted by anglers. If anglers were confined to fishing within the lake it would enable the ready detection of offending taking place within the stream, and greatly facilitate compliance and law enforcement activities. Most angling occurs within the lake, not in the stream, so while a number of anglers that fish the stream would be greatly affected, overall benefits to the fishery and local community (including the landowners who have been generous enough to allow ongoing public access to the area) from closing the stream would be substantial.

5.8.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the Awahou Stream downstream of Hamurana Road remains open all year for fly fishing only, or;

(ii) Alter Regulation 3.3(a) to include Awahou Stream as closed waters.

<i>(i) Submissions in support of status quo (Retain current open all year status for Awahou Stream to fly fishing below Hamurana Rd Bridge)</i>	<i>(ii) Submissions supporting change (Reclassify Awahou Stream as 'Closed Waters')</i>
2	3 (plus 2 letters from one submitter accompanied by 26 local signatures)

Submitters' reasons for retaining status quo:

The proposal to close the Awahou Stream would be an act of stupidity. Locals would not stop fishing the area where they always have. Ultimately it would lead to a closure of access to the lakefront for all. This proposal smacks of socioeconomic discrimination.

Submitters' reasons supporting change:

The land through which the stream runs is private property. Anglers and swimmers clash, with anglers bullying children from the most popular swimming holes. Anglers are also fighting. The trout within the stream are stressed and require refuge. Illegal tackle such as treble hooks are providing hazards for local children swimming. A trout sanctuary with viewing areas (much like the Tongariro River) would enhance the local community and provide educational awareness of trout and the environment.

6.0 Other Suggestions raised

A total of three suggestions for further changes to the Anglers Notice for the 2016-17 season have come forward since development of the 2016-17 Issues and Options Papers. These are:

1. Allow spin fishing in the Ohau Channel.
2. Allow spin fishing at Lake Whakamarino (Tuai).
3. Provide a better definition of the boundary between Lake Maraetai (Waikato River) and the Mangakino Stream.

As these proposals have been received after the development of the Issues and Options Papers it is recommended that they be carried over until the next full review of the Eastern Region Anglers Notice in 2018 (unless there is a pressing need for one or more to be considered sooner in which case this could be scheduled to occur in early 2017).

7. Recommendation

7.1 That Council considers all submissions, and in the absence of further issues being identified, confirms the Anglers Notice regulations for the 2016-17 season.

APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy

Ref: 1.07.01

21 May 2003

1. Background

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

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

2. Social Regulations

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

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

Fishing methods

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

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

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

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

Bait

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

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

Boats in winter shoreline areas

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

3. Biological Regulations

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

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

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

4. Review Process

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

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

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

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

11. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE ANGLERS NOTICE

Ref: 1.07.01

26 May 2016

1. Purpose

To comment on proposed changes to the First Schedule of the Anglers Notice for introduction in 2017-2018.

2. Background

A First Schedule Anglers Notice Working Party was established at a staff conference in August 2015. Its principal function was to review and align South Island angling regulations, remove unnecessary information, and make the regulations easier to understand. The working party met in November 2015 and the results of its deliberations have since become available.

The NZ Council has recently circulated the working party's draft recommendations to all regional fish and game councils for information and with an invitation to provide feedback if they so wish. It is unlikely that any comments will be received in time for implementation in the 2016-17 Anglers Notice, but any agreed changes could be introduced into the 2017-2018 Anglers Notice.

A copy of the draft recommendations for changes to the First Schedule of the Anglers Notice has been included below.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council receives the working party's report with the intention of considering it in greater detail at a subsequent meeting of Council and providing feedback on its recommendations to the NZ Council.

ANGLERS NOTICE FIRST SCHEDULE WORKING PARTY

1. Background

A First Schedule Anglers Notice Working Party was established at the South Island staff conference in August 2015, with its function being to review and align South Island angling regulations to make them easier for anglers to find and understand, and to reduce content.

The working party has identified that over recent years the content of the regulation guide has increased considerably and not necessarily to the benefit of anglers trying to find what they can and can't do on a particular fishery. Removal of unnecessary information and reformatting to emphasize the regulations rather than helpful information, is required.

A meeting of the working party was held on 16 November 2015 at the CSI Fish and Game Office. The results of working party deliberations are provided as recommendations first for structure of the Regulations Guide and second, recommendations for amendments to the Anglers Notice. Appendices are provided of the current Anglers Notice First Schedule and a revised current Anglers Notice First Schedule with the working party recommended changes included.

The constraints that other Acts and Regulations may place on the content of the Anglers Notice have not been assessed by the working party. It is also considered that during the review of recommendations that will be undertaken by all Fish and Game regions during any consideration of national fishing regulations, any unforeseen consequences of changes and the wider implications of any of the recommendations will be thoroughly assessed. Additionally, Department of Conservation staff will advise on legal correctness of the new wording,

2. Regulations Booklet

Recommended Changes to the Introductory Content

Recommendation RB 1

There is a need for bold and simple instructions “**How to Use this Book**” to draw attention to the need to read the First Schedule before going to the Second Schedule.

Justification

The introductory content needs to more clearly direct angler attention to the First Schedule that is applicable to all regions. In the current format we felt it most likely anglers skipped the First Schedule opting for the regional content in the Second Schedule

Recommendation RB 2

Remove advertising on the inside cover (page 2) and replace with current page 3. Include on new page 2 a statement to the effect of “for fishing tips, general information and access points for individual regions, please consult the Fish and Game web site www.fishandgame.org.nz or the appropriate regional Fish and Game office”.

Justification

The advertising appears to be filler. By suggesting anglers consult the Fish and Game web site or regional office for information regarding fishing and access, there is no need to put

regional summary information at the start of each regions section in the Second Schedule of the regulation book. This could save 12 pages in the regulation booklet.

Recommendation RB 3

Table of Contents to emphasize that the First Schedule contains conditions that apply to **All F&G Regions** and the Second Schedule has **Regional Specific Fishing Conditions**.

Justification

Reinforce to new anglers that both Schedules may contain rules applying to the fishery for which they need information.

Recommendation RB 4

New page 3 - Commence with Angler's Notice for Fish and Game Regions as per current bottom half of page 5 and top section of current page 6. Following this, start with the First Schedule.

Justification

The working party felt the Code of Conduct section, the National Regulations section and the section titled "Stop the Spread of Freshwater Pests" did not justify prominence at the start of the regulation booklet. They could be repositioned to the back of the booklet if considered necessary.

3. Recommended Changes to the First Schedule

Definition of bait

Current definition is "*bait*" means:

- Natural insect.
- Natural spider.
- Natural worm or worms.
- Natural crustacean.
- Natural fish, excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc), except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.
- Uncoloured bread dough.
- Any scented lure, soft bait and other synthetic imitations with chemical attractant properties, fished actively or passively, except where stated otherwise in the second schedule of this notice.

Recommended new definition of *bait*:

"*bait*" means any natural invertebrate, or synthetic lure, or any fish, excluding sports fish either whole, or in part, or their ova.

Justification

- Simplifies the current list of baits as the working party believes that there are no invertebrates that should not be allowed
- Includes provision for soft baits/synthetic lures etc.
- Maintains prohibition on use of whole, or parts, or extracts of sports fish.
- Provides for continued use of non-sports fish as bait e.g. bullies, silveries
- Parts of fish (fish extracts) are currently used in some scented lures and under current definitions these lures should be illegal. The working party believes it has always been counter to sports fishing principles to be able to use real fish as lures for sports fishing.

With the advent of so many types of lures with and without attractants and emphasis now on having anglers catch fish rather than how they catch fish, it seems there should be a relaxation in the use of fish as bait. However using sports fish or any part of a sports fish should remain prohibited.

- Definition of synthetic lure added separately to interpretation.

Definition of “bait fishing”

The current definition is: “*bait fishing*” means to fish for sports fish with bait.

Recommended new definition of “bait fishing”:

“*bait fishing*” means to fish for sports fish with bait where that is either a hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks, and no more than one such bait assembly may be used.

Justification

- Removes the need to separately define bait assembly
- Current definition of bait and bait assembly are combined so the angler all the information relevant to baits in one place.
- Negates the need for clause 2.3.3 in the current regulation booklet.

Definition of “fly fishing”

The current definition is: “*fly fishing*” means to fish for sports fish with fly rod and fly reel and fly line and artificial lure.

Recommended new definition of “fly fishing”:

“*fly fishing*” means to fish for sports fish with a fly rod and fly reel and fly line and no more than three artificial flies.

Justification

- Combines current definition of fly fishing and clause 2.3.2
- In combination with Recommendation 6, clause 2.3.2 can be removed

Definition of “synthetic lure”

There is currently no definition of “*synthetic lure*” in the regulations.

Recommended definition of “synthetic lure”:

“*synthetic lure*” means any lure made by a chemical process or with chemical attractant properties.

Justification

- Defines synthetic lure as used in the proposed bait definition to cover scented soft baits.

Definition of “spinner”

The current definition is “*spinner*” means any artificial lure other than an artificial fly.

Recommended new definition of “spinner”:

“*spinner*” means any artificial or synthetic lure to which a continuous action is applied.

Justification

- Retains the current definition of spinner/lure but allows for the use of synthetic lures and artificial flies when fished as a spinner. If synthetic lures are used passively they may only be used in waters where bait fishing is permitted.

Definition of “spin fishing”

The current definition is: “*spin fishing*” means to fish for sports fish with a spinner.

Recommended new definition of “spin fishing”:

“*spin fishing*” means to fish for sports fish with no more than three spinners.

Justification

- Combines new spinner definition and clause 2.3.2.
- The proposed definition of spinner qualifies a synthetic lure as a spinner only if it is actively fished. A synthetic lure that is not actively fished cannot be used in spin fishing waters unless bait is also permitted.

Definition of “freshwater”

The current definition is included in clause 1 of the First Schedule.

Recommendation:

Remove the definition of freshwater

Justification

- *Freshwater* is not referred to in any South Island regional regulations in the Second Schedule of the Anglers Notice.
- If it is needed it could be transferred into the National Regulations advice currently on page 5 of the Guide but recommended to come after the Second Schedule.

Authorised Tackle

Title for clause 2 of the First Schedule.

Recommendation:

Replace “*Authorised Tackle*” with “*Authorised Equipment*”.

Justification

- The current title of this section does not make immediately obvious the scope of equipment covered.
- To most anglers tackle refers only to what they have on the end of the cast. *Authorised Equipment* has wider association with all gear used while fishing.

Fishing for Sports Fish Clause 2.1

Clause 2.1 currently states:

“No licence holder shall fish for sports fish except by using a rod and running line and authorised lure (as defined in clause 7 of this First Schedule)”.

Recommendation:

Replace current clause 2.1 with:

“No licence holder when fishing for sports fish shall use other than one rod and running line and authorised lures (as defined in clause 7 of this First Schedule) except when fishing for coarse fish in coarse fishing waters”.

Justification

- Incorporates clause 2.3.1

Clauses 2.2 and 2.3

Currently clause 2.2 has specific information on nets and gaffs while clause 2.3 has information of more general application.

Recommendation:

Reverse the order of current clauses 2.2 and 2.3.

Justification

- What is currently clause 2.3 is more important information and applies to more anglers than clause 2.2.

Clause 2.2.1

Currently clause 2.2.1 states that when playing a sports fish, a landing net may be used to secure or land that fish.

Recommendation:

Delete clause 2.2.1.

Justification

- Provided use of landing nets is not contrary to other Acts or Regulations there should be no need to specifically permit it.
- Use of landing nets is widely practiced and accepted.

Clause 2.2.3

Currently clause 2.2.3 states no licence holder shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish except where provided for in the Second Schedule of this notice.

Recommendation:

No licence holder shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish except in the Otago Fish and Game Region under clause 4.1 of their Second Schedule.

Justification

- Current wording gives anglers no guidance as to whether the Region they are fishing allows use of gaffs and they are required to search the Second Schedule to be sure.
- Proposed wording identifies that unless they are in the Otago Fish and Game Region then use of a gaff is not permitted.

Clause 2.3.5

Currently clause 2.3.5 states that no licence holder when fishing for sports fish shall use in waters other than those where bait fishing is permitted any lure treated with any chemical preparation other than that used solely to control the buoyancy of an artificial fly, except where stated otherwise in the second schedule of this notice.

Recommendation:

Delete clause 2.3.5.

Justification

- The first part of the clause is covered in the new definition of bait.
- The second part allows for the use of chemical preparation solely for the purpose of buoyancy for flies. The working party consider the practice of applying buoyancy to dry flies is common practice and does not require a specific condition authorising its use.

Second Schedule Regional Content

The working party has identified a number of inconsistencies with regional regulations in the Second Schedule that require further discussion and a tidy up to obtain regional consistency such as:

- definitions and the use of boats;
- season lengths and method descriptions;
- consistency in layout of tables and abbreviations.

Regions may also consider removing most of the introductory page for each region in Schedule 2 because it has little relevance to regulations, and most anglers have access to the Fish and Game website where this information can be found. A brief introduction for each region and any contact numbers such as staff and pollution hotline maybe sufficient.

APPENDIX 1: CURRENT ANGLERS NOTICE

ANGLERS' NOTICE FOR FISH AND GAME REGIONS

CONSERVATION ACT 1987 FRESHWATER FISHERIES REGULATIONS 1983

Pursuant to section 26R(3) of the Conservation Act 1987, the Minister of Conservation approves the following Anglers' Notice, subject to the First and Second Schedules of this Notice, for the following Fish and Game Regions:

Northland	Nelson/Marlborough
Auckland/Waikato	North Canterbury
Eastern	West Coast
Taranaki	Central South Island
Hawke's Bay	Otago
Wellington	Southland

NOTICE

This Notice shall come into force on the 1st day of October 2015.

First Schedule Fishing conditions generally common to all Fish and Game Regions.

Second Schedule Regional specific fishing conditions, bag limits, closed and open waters, and the like.

FIRST SCHEDULE

1. INTERPRETATION

Words and expressions in this Notice, which are defined in the Conservation Act 1987, the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 or the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2015, shall be so defined.

“artificial fly” means any lure of feather, fur, wool or other material of any kind customarily used in the making of artificial flies.

“bait” means:

Natural insect.

Natural spider.

Natural worm or worms.

Natural crustacean.

Natural fish, excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc), except where stated otherwise in the second schedule of this notice.

Uncoloured bread dough.

Any scented lure, soft bait and other synthetic imitations with chemical attractant properties, except where stated otherwise in the second schedule of this notice.

“bait assembly” means either a hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks.

“bait fishing” means to fish for sports fish with bait.

“boat” means any manned flotation device.

“coarse fish” means perch, tench (all New Zealand) and rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only).

“coarse fishing waters” means named locations where anglers can fish for coarse fish:

- (a) with a rod which has either a fixed or running line.
- (b) with no restriction on the type or number of baits in use.
- (c) with no restriction on the use of preparations to attract fish.

“fly fishing” means to fish for sports fish with fly rod and fly reel and fly line and artificial fly.

“fishing” and “fish” in this Notice means:

the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish; and includes:

- (a) any other activity that may reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish.
- (b) any attempt to catch, take or harvest sports fish.
- (c) any operation in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition.

“freshwater” means

- (a) all waters of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, lagoons, wetlands, impoundments, canals, channels, watercourses, or other bodies of water whether naturally occurring or artificially made.
- (b) all waters of estuaries or coastal lagoons.
- (c) all other fresh or estuarine waters where freshwater fish indigenous to or introduced into New Zealand are found.
- (d) all waters in the mouth of every river or stream, and the mouth of every river and stream shall be deemed to include every outlet thereof and the seashore between those outlets and the waters of the sea or lying within a distance of 500 metres from any place where at low tide the waters of a river or stream meet the waters of the sea.

“foul hook” means to hook a sports fish other than from within the mouth.

“landmark” means a black, yellow and white ringed post or buoy.

“length” is the measurement from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

“lure” means any authorised artificial fly or spinner or bait.

“spinner” means any artificial lure other than an artificial fly.

“spin fishing” means to fish for sports fish with a spinner.

“sports fish” means those freshwater fish described in the First Schedule of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, namely:

Brown trout.

Rainbow trout.

American brook trout or char.

Lake trout or char.

Atlantic salmon.

Quinnat or chinook salmon.

Sockeye salmon.

Perch.

Tench.

Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only).

Any hybrid of the above species.

2. AUTHORISED TACKLE

2.1 No licence holder shall fish for sports fish except by using a rod and running line and authorised lure (as defined in clause 7 of this First Schedule).

2.2 Nets and gaffs:

2.2.1 When playing a sports fish, a landing net may be used to secure or land that fish.

2.2.2 For keeping coarse fish alive, a keep net may be used in the water from which the fish was caught.

2.2.3 No licence holder shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish except where provided for in the second schedule of this notice.

2.3 No licence holder when fishing for sports fish shall:

2.3.1 Use more than 1 assembled rod and running line.

2.3.2 Use more than 3 artificial flies or spinners.

2.3.3 Use more than 1 bait assembly.

2.3.4 Be more than 15m from the rod being used.

2.3.5 Use in waters other than those where bait fishing is permitted any lure treated with any chemical preparation other than that used solely to control the buoyancy of an artificial fly, except where stated otherwise in the second schedule of this notice.

2.3.6 Use any preparation not attached to a lure to attract fish except when fishing for coarse fish in coarse fishing waters.

2.4 No person shall fish for sports fish by using felt-soled waders or footwear incorporating or having attached a sole of felted, matted or woven fibrous material when sports fishing.

3. FOUL HOOKING OF FISH

- 3.1 No licence holder shall attempt to foul hook any sports fish.
- 3.2 Any licence holder who foul hooks a sports fish shall return it immediately to the water with as little injury as possible.

4. FISH LENGTH

Every licence holder who catches a sports fish which does not exceed the specified minimum length, or exceeds the specified maximum length, shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.

5. OPEN SEASON

No licence holder shall fish for any sports fish except during an open season.

6. DAILY LIMIT BAGS

- 6.1 No licence holder shall continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day in which he or she has already killed the limit bag for that species except where provided for in the Second Schedule.
- 6.2 It shall be permissible to make up the difference between a lesser limit bag prescribed in one place and a higher limit bag prescribed in another if the extra fish are taken in the area with the higher bag limit.

7. AUTHORISED LURES

Authorised lures (subject to any regional restrictions specified in the Second Schedule) are:

Artificial fly.
Spinner.
Bait.

APPENDIX 2: AMENDED ANGLERS NOTICE

ANGLERS' NOTICE FOR FISH AND GAME REGIONS

CONSERVATION ACT 1987 FRESHWATER FISHERIES REGULATIONS 1983

Pursuant to section 26R(3) of the Conservation Act 1987, the Minister of Conservation approves the following Anglers' Notice, subject to the First and Second Schedules of this Notice, for the following Fish and Game Regions:

Northland	Nelson/Marlborough
Auckland/Waikato	North Canterbury
Eastern	West Coast
Taranaki	Central South Island
Hawke's Bay	Otago
Wellington	Southland

NOTICE

This Notice shall come into force on the 1st day of October 2015.

First Schedule Fishing conditions generally common to all Fish and Game Regions.

Second Schedule Regional specific fishing conditions, bag limits, closed and open waters, and the like.

FIRST SCHEDULE

1. INTERPRETATION

Words and expressions in this Notice, which are defined in the Conservation Act 1987, the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 or the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2015, shall be so defined.

“artificial fly” means any lure of feather, fur, wool or other material of any kind customarily used in the making of artificial flies.

“bait” means any natural invertebrate, or synthetic lure, or any fish, excluding Sports Fish either whole, or in part, or their ova.

“bait assembly” means either a hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks.

“bait fishing” means to fish for sports fish with bait where that is either a hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks, and no more than one such bait assembly may be used.

“boat” means any manned flotation device.

“coarse fish” means perch, tench (all New Zealand) and rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only).

“coarse fishing waters” means named locations where anglers can fish for coarse fish:

- (a) with a rod which has either a fixed or running line.
- (b) with no restriction on the type or number of baits in use.
- (c) with no restriction on the use of preparations to attract fish.

“fly fishing” means to fish for sports fish with fly rod and fly reel and fly line and **no more than three artificial flies**.

“fishing” and “fish” in this Notice means:

the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish; and includes:

- (a) any other activity that may reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish.
- (b) any attempt to catch, take or harvest sports fish.
- (c) any operation in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition.

“foul hook” means to hook a sports fish other than from within the mouth.

“landmark” means a black, yellow and white ringed post or buoy.

“length” is the measurement from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

“lure” means any authorised artificial fly or spinner or bait.

“spinner” means any artificial or synthetic lure to which a continuous action is applied.

“spin fishing” means to fish for sports fish with **no more than three spinners**.

“sports fish” means those freshwater fish described in the First Schedule of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, namely:

Brown trout.
Rainbow trout.
American brook trout or char.
Lake trout or char.
Atlantic salmon.
Quinnat or chinook salmon.
Sockeye salmon.
Perch.
Tench.
Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only).
Any hybrid of the above species.

“synthetic lure” means any lure made by a chemical process or with chemical attractant properties.

2. AUTHORISED EQUIPMENT

2.1 No licence holder when fishing for sports fish shall:

2.1.1 **Use other than one rod and running line and authorised lure (as defined in clause 7 of this First Schedule) except when fishing for coarse fish in coarse fishing waters.**

2.1.2 Be more than 15m from the rod being used.

2.1.3 Use any preparation not attached to a lure to attract fish **except when fishing for coarse fish in coarse fishing waters.**

2.2 Nets and gaffs:

2.3.1 For keeping coarse fish alive, a keep net may be used in the water from which the fish was caught.

2.3.2 No licence holder shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish **except in the Otago Fish and Game Region under clause 4.1 of their Second Schedule.**

2.3 No person shall fish for sports fish by using felt-soled waders or footwear incorporating or having attached a sole of felted, matted or woven fibrous material when sports fishing.

3. FOUL HOOKING OF FISH

3.1 No licence holder shall attempt to foul hook any sports fish.

3.2 Any licence holder who foul hooks a sports fish shall return it immediately to the water with as little injury as possible.

4. FISH LENGTH

Every licence holder who catches a sports fish which does not exceed the specified minimum length, or exceeds the specified maximum length, shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.

5. OPEN SEASON

No licence holder shall fish for any sports fish except during an open season.

6. DAILY LIMIT BAGS

6.1 No licence holder shall continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day in which he or she has already killed the limit bag for that species except where provided for in the Second Schedule.

6.2 It shall be permissible to make up the difference between a lesser limit bag prescribed in one place and a higher limit bag prescribed in another if the extra fish are taken in the area with the higher bag limit.

7. AUTHORISED LURES

Authorised lures (subject to any regional restrictions specified in the Second Schedule) are:

Artificial fly.

Spinner.

Bait.

12. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016-2017 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

31 May 2016

1. Purpose

To review the updated Draft Operational Work Plan prepared for the 2016-2017 year beginning 1 September 2016.

2. Background

Operational Work Plans are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic and overall priorities in addition to core functions, project themes and allocation of resources. During the February and April Council meetings Council identified and confirmed the priority work areas that it wants to focus on for the next operational year. The Draft OWP allocates resources for projects meeting these Council priorities. The updated Draft 2016-2017 OWP (dated 2 June 2016) incorporates updated hours and costs, and has been emailed to Council along with all other papers ahead of a mailed out hard copy to ensure Councillors have sufficient time to consider its contents.

3. Key changes to resourcing

The June Draft OWP shows the proposed hours for 2016-2017 in addition to direct costs. Project descriptions and targets are also identified. The main changes within each output are as below.

Output	2016-17 \$	2016-17 Hrs	2016-15 \$	2015-16 Hrs	Main changes
Species	\$104,100	6,519	\$107,900	6,614	↑ increase in staff hours allocated to Lake Tarawera project. ↓ reduced expense and income related to the Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy as these costs are yet to be determined. ↓ reduced hours allocated to National Angler Survey. ↑ increased hatchery revenue from the sale of fish to other Fish & Game regions. ↓ reduced hours allocated to Anglers Notice due to biennial review.
Habitat	\$23,600	3,343	\$23,600	3,552	↓ reduced hours to habitat creation projects. ↑ small increased hours to management of existing reserves.
Participation	\$24,800	2,393	\$24,050	2,445	↑ additional funds allocated to hunter training ↓ staff hours reduced in newsletter/magazine area to more accurately reflect time required. ↑ increased hours to hunter training

					and to angler/hunter enquiries.
Public	\$5,000	1311	\$4,700	1278	↑small increase in funds allocated for grounds maintenance. ↑hours within output area adjusted with overall small net increase.
Compliance	\$8,600	1437	\$7,600	1372	↑increase in prosecutions budget through one off contestable fund bid. ↑ increased hours to more accurately reflect what is occurring.
Licensing	\$800	582	\$800	688	↓ reduced hours due to online licensing and reduced working party input required
Council	\$10,000	772	\$10,000	774	↑staff hours for Council meeting increased to reflect what is occurring. ↓staff hours allocated to elections not required this year.
Plan/Report	\$9,650	978	\$9,950	988	↓OWP hours reduced slightly.

The total output hours for the Draft 2016-17 OWP are 17,335 hours compared to 17,711 hours last year, and overhead staff hours are 6,066 compared to 5,684 hours last year. This shift in hours from output to overheads is primarily due to increased allocation for Health & Safety processes and additional Maritime related requirements.

4. Resourcing the Work Plan

The 2016-2017 Draft OWP and budget was prepared in accordance with NZ Council's budgeting process and a base funding limit of \$1,077,872.

Following Eastern Fish & Game Council's April meeting, applications were made to the national contestable funding pool for an additional \$14,000 for Salaries, Mallard Monitoring, Health & Safety PPE, and Compliance. These contestable fund bids were approved at the managers' meeting in April and the NZ Council meeting in May, and our total budget for 2016-2017 is now \$1,077,872 subject to Ministerial approval of our proposed licence fees (see next Agenda Item). Further to this we successfully requested a one off reserve restoration of \$30,000 to provide reserves that align more closely with Fish & Game's national policy of retaining a contingency fund of at least of 30% of our annual licence income. The aim of this reserves restoration bid is to restore our reserves to 25% of licence income or 30% of our annual bulk fund.

In addition to the contestable fund bids, the Draft OWP and budget incorporates income of \$43,840 from Hawke's Bay Fish & Game in exchange for administrative, technical and managerial services to be provided by Eastern Region. Hawke's Bay Fish & Game staff will provide Eastern Region with field services valued at \$4,480. It also incorporates \$17,000 to be drawn down from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund which is \$2,000 less than the \$19,000 agreed to at Council's April 2016 meeting [16/04/11.2] as costs associated with the repair and maintenance of the Water Quality Monitoring Buoy have still to be confirmed.

5. Next Steps

- Staff incorporate any amendments to the draft that Council might seek as an outcome of this meeting.
- Circulation of the Draft 2016-2017 plan to clubs and interested parties for comment before the end of July.
- Consideration of any submissions received, and final approval by Council of the plan at Council's August meeting.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That Council reviews the Draft 2016-2017 OWP and identifies amendments or issues needing to be addressed prior to circulating the draft more widely.***
- 6.2 That Council circulates a revised draft, with any amendment required to interested parties to comment on before final consideration and approval of the plan at the August meeting.***

13. 2016-2017 LICENCE FEES

Ref: 6.01.04

1 June 2016

1. Purpose

To consider the NZ Council recommended licence fees for the 2016-2017 year.

2. Background

At the New Zealand Council meeting of 20 May 2016, the NZ Council considered licence fee recommendations for the coming 2016/2017 fishing and hunting seasons. The NZ Council resolved to adopt, as a basis for consultation with regions, the recommendation that the sports fish licence fees be based on an adult whole season licence fee of \$125 (incl. GST), and the game licence fees be based on an adult whole season licence fee of \$93 (incl. GST and \$3 Game Bird Habitat Stamp). These fees reflect a \$1 increase (+0.81%) to the fishing licence from last year and a \$1 increase (+1.1%) to the price of the game bird licence. The supporting paper from the New Zealand Council is attached.

3. Discussion

All regional budgets and the NZ Council budget are assessed collectively at the April managers' meeting according to the national budget policy. The key aspect of this policy is that budgets provide a level of base funding sufficient to meet the core operations of each region and the NZ Council. Any increase to base funding for a particular region or the NZ Council must be done through a contestable bidding process.

Northland, Hawke's Bay, and Southland Fish & Game councils did not require increases to their base funding levels as they did not submit applications for contestable funds. Only applications rated as essential for the 2016/17 season were agreed to be funded (totalling \$350,232) inclusive of the \$34,274 to be funded from reserves.

NZ Council accepted the recommendation of Managers, approving total contestable funding applications of \$350,232. Total contestable funds of \$315,958 to be funded by Licence fee pool and \$34,274 would be provided from regional reserves for 2016/17. Ongoing approved funding beyond 2016/17 from Reserves for two Fish & Game Councils (CSI & West Coast) is \$103,674 and this amount will be added to the base fund of the applicable council/s.

Funding of \$129,458 was recommended on an ongoing basis, thereby increasing the bulk funding of the regions concerned and \$707,862 (\$186,500 excluding legal fund) was recommended for the 2016/17 year only, and would therefore be returned to the contestable pool for the next F&G NZ budget.

The managers' recommended research projects totalled \$125,300 for the 2016/17 financial year. The 2016/17 budget will be retained at \$134,000 plus \$34,000 for Mallard Research. The recommended licence fee would provide legal funding of \$521,362 in addition to the \$140,000 existing allocation within NZC budget for this purpose, giving a total 2016/17 budget allocation of \$661,632.

The NZ Council has considered the forecast licence sales and overall funding requirements for Fish & Game nationally in developing a recommended licence fee for the 2016-2017 year.

The NZ Council has proposed that an increase of \$1 to the fish licence and \$1 to the game licence is appropriate, and the rationale for this decision is discussed in the documentation following. Feedback is required from all regions before 20 June before a final licence fee can be recommended to the Minister for approval ahead of the 2016-2017 fishing season.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council supports the proposed licence fee for the 2016-2017 season of \$125 (AWS Fish) and \$93 (AWS Game, inclusive of the \$2 Game Bird Habitat Stamp).



TO: Regional Councils

2016/17 LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION

At its meeting on 20 May, the NZ Council (NZC) resolved:

That for the purpose of consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils, the NZ Council recommend a 2016/17 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$125 and the adult whole season game licence of \$93 (inclusive of a \$3 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.

1. Background

National policy defines that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round including expenditure to be funded from the bulk fund for the year, capital expenditure and expenditure from dedicated reserves.

Under the bulk funding regime funding levels are set for the 12 regional councils, the New Zealand Council, and the National budgets which make up the Fish & Game New Zealand budget. The method of increasing the funding level of any individual budget is through an application to the Contestable Fund, for either a one-off funding allocation for a specific project, or for ongoing additional funding. The latter in effect raises the bulk funding level for that council.

2. Reserves

National policy sets regional reserve levels equal to between 30-50% of licence income, or of total budget for those regions which receive a grant. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow.

Where a region's general reserve exceeds the 50% level, approved contestable funding for that region is allocated from its excess reserve, until such time as that region's general reserve is drawn down to sit within the recommended range. Where a region's reserve is below the 30% level, a contestable fund application can be made to restore the region's general reserve back up to that level.

3. 2016/17 Fish & Game NZ Budget Round with review of 2014/15 Financials

3.1 Variance Review

Preparation of the budgets begins with all instances of more or less than 10% variance between budget and audited year-end financial results being identified at the schedule B level, and explanation for those variances being reviewed at the February managers meeting. This becomes a reference towards considering and prioritising contestable fund applications submitted into the 2016/17 Fish & Game NZ (F&G NZ) Budget.

4. 2016/17 Fish & Game NZ Budget

4.1 Contestable Funding

A total of 32 applications were received, seeking additional funding of \$532,438 exclusive of additional legal/WCO funding, which is funded by the surplus in the contestable fund pool after adoption of licence fees.

Northland, Hawkes Bay, and Southland Fish & Game councils did not require increases to their base funding levels, as they did not submit applications for contestable funds.

After rating all contestable funding applications with the following rankings:

- 1 Rejected
- 2 Not recommended
- 3 Good to do but not funded 2016/17
- 4 Recommended but not essential for 2016/17
- 5 Essential for 2016/17

It was agreed that only those applications which were rated as (5) *essential for 2016/17* be funded (totalling \$350,232) inclusive of the \$34,274 to be funded from reserves.

Recommended Funding from the licence fee pool:

The successful applications include:

- Salary CPI totalling \$3,048.
- Staff performance increases in six regions, totalling \$57,300.
- Restoration of Reserves for Eastern for the amount of \$30,000.
- New RMA officer position for Auckland/Waikato for the amount of \$60,000.
- Mallard monitoring & Habitat management and enhancement, 2 separate applications totalling \$17,800 for Taranaki.
- Replacement of 5 small dinghy boats to meet Health & Safety standards for the Novice Training programme for the total amount of \$4,500 for Wellington.
- Three separate applications - Mallard monitoring survey; review of protective equipment; & external legal fees for processing offences totalling \$9,000 for Eastern.
- Development of national fish passage guidelines totalling \$3,500 for C.S.I.
- Four separate applications - National finance review; website redesign; Fish & Game staff conference; Promotional banners totalling \$126,000 for NZ Council for National projects.

Recommended Funding from West Coast Regional Council's reserves:

The successful application includes:

- Salary CPI totalling \$190 (on-going).
- Staff performance increases totalling \$11,000 (on-going).
- Increase in part-time staff hours \$16,084 (on-going).
- Back country fisheries management \$7,000 (one-off).

Unfunded applications:

6 applications were not recommended for funding this year.

Unsuccessful applications included:

- Funding for salary performance increase – Auckland/Waikato.
- Bank interest charges – Auckland/Waikato.
- Specialist Recruitment officer –Wellington.
- OSH external assessment- Nelson/Marlborough.
- New Field Officer position- North Canterbury.
- Policy & planning position – NZ Council.

4.2 NZC Recommendation:

NZC accepted the recommendation of Managers, approving total contestable funding applications of \$350,232.

Total contestable funds of \$315,958 to be funded by Licence fee pool, and \$34,274 would be provided from regional reserves for 2016/17. Ongoing approved funding beyond 2016/17 from Reserves for two Fish & Game councils (CSI & West Coast) [until the 50% level is drawn down (refer Item 2, Page 1)] is \$103,674, after which this amount will be added to the base fund of the applicable council/s.

Funding of \$129,458 was recommended on an ongoing basis, thereby increasing the bulk funding of the regions concerned and \$707,862 (\$186,500 excluding legal fund) was recommended for the 2016/17 year only, and would therefore be returned to the contestable pool for next F&G NZ budget.

4.3 Research Fund Allocation

The managers' recommended projects totalling \$125,300 for 2016/17 financial year. The budget is retained at \$100,000 plus \$34,000 for Mallard Research.

4.4 RMA & WCO Legal Fund Allocation

The recommended licence fee would provide legal funding of \$521,362 in addition to the \$140,000 existing allocation within NZC budget for this purpose, giving a total 2016/17 budget allocation of \$661,632.

5. Conclusion

The 2016/17 licence fee recommendation would result in a \$1 increase to the Adult Whole Season Fish licence fee (from \$124 to \$125) which equates to a .81% increase, and a \$1 increase for the Game Bird Habitat stamp increasing the Adult Whole Season Game licence

fee (from \$92 to \$93 - inclusive of the \$3 Game Bird Habitat Stamp) which equates to a 1.1% increase.

Regional council responses on the proposed 2016/17 licence fees need to be received **no later than Monday 20th June 2016** so that they can be circulated to NZ Council and considered prior to a telephone conference on Wednesday 22nd June 2016. The NZC will then recommend to the Minister the new schedule of licence fees.

Alison Lyall

Finance and Administration Manager

25 May 2016

14. HUNTING AND HARVEST ETHICS

Ref: 5.03.10

26 May 2016

1. Purpose

To discuss whether Fish & Game should have a national policy on hunter and harvest ethics and if so, provide feedback on what that policy response might be.

2. Background

The paper which follows fully explains the background and summarises the comments received by licence holders. The memo is intended to encourage wider debate.

On a separate matter, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is encouraging hunting, fishing and pest management and interest groups to establish their own views and document their own guidance on generally accepted practice. NAWAC is an independent Ministerial advisory committee on animal welfare established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. It has a role under the Animal Welfare Act to encourage the development of guidelines on hunting and killing pests, wild animals and “animals in a wild state”. The Animal Welfare Act 1999 has recently been amended to clarify that acts of wilful or reckless ill-treatment in hunting and killing can be prosecuted as an offence. NAWAC want to understand current hunting and fishing practices and how Fish and Game takes account of animal welfare in its role.

Last year, the Game Animal Council held a meeting of major recreational game hunting groups to find common ground amongst hunters of all types. Each individual hunting group is to develop a code of conduct around the following statement:

“Hunters in New Zealand have a responsibility to conduct their method of hunting and animal harvest to the highest practicable standards of animal welfare with regard to minimising distress and suffering and to humanely kill animals being hunted”.

NAWAC are holding another meeting on 17 August 2016 in Wellington and Bryce Johnson will be attending to give a presentation on this matter. NAWAC are particularly interested in hunting (shooting) and fishing practices that may have high impacts on the welfare of the targeted game, or non-target animals. Wounding rates for ducks/lack of retrieval attempts and the survival rates of sports fish caught and released are likely to be discussed.

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council discusses whether Fish and Game should have a national policy on hunter and harvest ethics, and if so, what that policy response might be.*

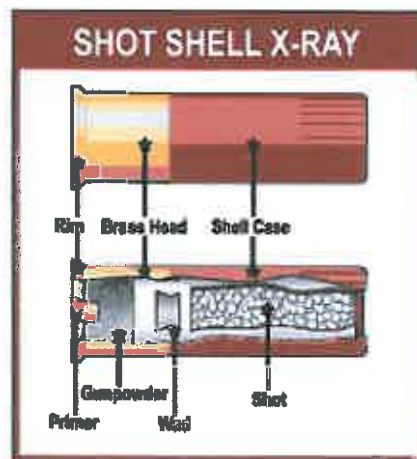
HUNTING AND HARVEST ETHICS

New Zealand Fish and Game Council May 2016

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Policy & Planning Manager

1. Recent emails received from licence holders on hunting gadgetry and scattered empty plastic shot shells have been considered by the staff Game Committee. The following summary of their comments is intended to encourage wider debate.
2. The NZ Council Office received an email from a concerned hunter asking what consideration is being given to banning electronic calls for waterfowl, as has occurred across America. Similar concerns are heard over the use of flapping and motorised decoys, jerk-a-spreaders or wind driven decoys. More recently some Fish and Game Councils have taken steps to limit the number of shells held in a shotgun at a time when certain game bird population numbers are low.
3. The Conservation Act 1987 assigns a promotion and education function to regional Fish and Game Councils - (s.26Q(c)(i) requires them to define and promote *ethical standards of behaviour to be followed by anglers and hunters*. Ethical standards or behaviour is an individual, as well as collective, responsibility. It involves integrity, honesty and fairness. It also implies a sense of responsibility and obligation to comply with laws and show respect about the way the heritage has evolved.
4. Ethics includes an element of courtesy to the hunted, with unnecessary harvest frowned upon. They also focus on animal welfare — an animals' wellbeing in terms of flourishing, or suffering. Such standards include protecting particular species or populations and protecting the ecosystems of which wildlife form a part.
5. The often acclaimed father of wildlife conservation in American, Aldo Leopold is quoted as saying “Ethical behaviour is doing the right thing when no one else is watching- even when doing the wrong thing is legal.” In his 1949 book *A Sand County Almanac*, he wrote “our tools for the pursuit of wildlife improve faster than we do, and sportsmanship is the voluntary limitation in the use of these armaments”.
6. A lot of Fish and Game’s angling or hunting heritage is based on sportsmanship or ethical rules. The classic hunting ones being prohibiting the use of any live decoy, shooting from a vehicle or vessel propelled by mechanical power, or shooting of game not in flight. Others vary between regions, such as allowing pond feeding, extension tubes, etc..
7. Arguably these are more to do with aspirations or ethos under a loosely defined term of ‘sportsmanship’ than true controls. If the concern is more about the number of particular species being harvested than the population size can sustain then possibly controls such as season lengths and bag limits will have greater impact than new tools that might improve individual hunter’s success. Admittedly this raises the question of whether season length and bag limits are actually regulating harvest but this is another debate altogether. It also brings into question whether a limit is a limit, regardless of how it is obtained, and what is the need for further complexity of rules? Another subject of debate.

8. A related email was also received asking about Fish and Game's policy on plastic wads, pointing out Fish and Game are very vocal about water quality in NZ but silent on phasing out the current plastic wads and promoting biodegradable alternatives. Consideration of this subject at the recent meeting of managers concluded there is little immediately that Fish & Game can do apart from agree the spread of plastic wads is an environmental issue. Newer plastics that are UV biodegradable are available, but much more expensive and not widely available. Plus the type of 'plastic' used in the manufacture of steel shot 'enviro wad' will take a couple of years to break down. Older versions of non-plastic wads typically made from coconut fibre and similar material are apparently not good for non-lead shot users. All steel shells require a "shot-cup" wad to protect the barrels from damage from the very hard steel shot, which is why fibre wads are not compatible with steel shells. Action ultimately depends on international ammunition companies responding to growing international interest in such wads, and provides biodegradable wads for steel shot in the not too distant future.



9. Empty shells themselves if not properly disposed of, can have a negative impact on a wetland and its inhabitants. Shotgun shells are generally made of plastic and brass and if they are left in the wetland they will remain there as they don't break down.



10. As licence holders, we are all stewards of the outdoors and need to do everything we can to help take care of it. The more conscientious hunter pick-up their spent shells, but the assumption is most don't. One simple step might be for Fish and Game to encourage hunters to use biodegradable wadding and pick up cartridge cases. A new gadget that might help make a difference is the MOJO Pick Stick that makes picking up empty shotgun hulls in blind, range, or field much easier. The magnetic staff will pick up as many as 25 hulls at a time.
11. These recent email enquiries raise important points about hunter and harvest ethics and what could be Fish and Game's policy response. Should Fish and Game be setting its own code of ethics and best practice? Should Fish and Game have a consistent view on the introduction of technical aids for hunters?
12. Such questions are not new. Bryce raised similar points in a Chief Executive's comment in the Fish & Game Magazine's March 2013 Special Edition. He posed the question as to whether 'gear and gadgets' were putting hunters at an unsustainable and unfair advantage over their quarry.
13. Clearly it requires wider debate and the need to go out to regions for discussion with the outcome dependant on a predominant view.
14. If there were to be any suggestion to introduce restrictions it would need a phased in period over several years in recognition that hunters may have recently purchased a piece of kit that they can no longer use. It would also require a signal to retailers/importers as early as possible that such action could be pending. Many have already invested significant sums in bringing them into New Zealand.

15. NZ GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST

Ref: 8.04.02

26 May 2016

1. Purpose

To nominate a suitable candidate for the position of Game Bird Habitat Trust Board member for a 3 year period commencing 1 November 2016.

2. Background

The three year terms of appointment of the members of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board expire on 31 October 2016. Working back from that date, the Minister of Conservation must advise the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee of her appointments before confirming them. She will need to be able to advise the appointees of their appointments no later than one month prior to the end of the current term of appointment. Therefore nominations are requested by the Minister no later than 31 July 2016.

Section 44F of the Wildlife Act 1953 makes provision for members of the Habitat Trust Board to be appointed by the Minister of Conservation consisting of:

- a) a chairperson:
- b) 3 persons appointed after consultation with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:
- c) 1 person appointed after consultation with the Director-General (DG):
- d) 1 person appointed after consultation with the Board of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Incorporated (DU).

The current members nominated by the NZ Council are Ian Hogarth, Mark Sutton and Andy Tannock. Other members of the Board are the chairperson Mark Airey (Minister's appointment), John Cheyne (DU) and Susan King (DG).

All incumbent members are eligible for reappointment.

The NZ Fish and Game Council would like to advise the Minister of Conservation on its preference for:

- a) a chairperson:
- b) 3 persons appointed after consultation with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Council nominations are sent to the NZ Fish and Game Council before 11 July 2016 so that they can be included in the NZ Council's July meeting agenda.

16. SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

Ref: 6.01.04

2 June 2016

1. Purpose

To receive the 2016 Game Bird Trend Count report detailing aerial counts of paradise shelduck and black swan in the Eastern and Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Regions.

2. Background

Fish & Game staff have been carrying out annual summer aerial trend counts of game bird species since 1991 in the Eastern Region and 2003 in the Hawke's Bay Region. The aerial trend counts occur during the moulting period and happen over a short time frame in January each year. Populations of paradise shelduck and black swan are counted at moult sites from a low flying plane and the overall trend in population change between moult sites is used to estimate population change. The annual trend counts are used in setting game season conditions each year. The 2016 Trend Count Report has been circulated to Councillors with the June 2016 Papers for Information and will be made available on the Eastern and Hawke's Bay pages of the Fish & Game web site. A summary of the results from the report is detailed below.

3. Summary

Trend counts of paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) and black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) were conducted in the Eastern and Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Regions over the period 13 to 15 January 2016. Sites were counted (or photographed if a reasonable count could not be obtained) from a plane. Results were analysed and presented using two different methodologies, these being total count with a fitted regression line, and a variant of the route regression method (Geissler and Sauer, 1990).

Season regulations are set as a function of the long term trend for paradise shelduck and black swan but population size thresholds are also taken into account for black swan.

Overall paradise shelduck populations, reported by Management Units (A1, A2, B1, B2 and HB¹), are stable over the long term (fourteen years), although the population in B1 may be declining. The short term (two year) trends confidence intervals span zero suggesting no detectable change.

Paradise shelduck counts from sites that have been counted each year in the Eastern Region ($n=19$) since 1991 indicate the population may be in a 13 year cycle (550 times more support than the linear regression model).

Long-term counts of black swan indicate that the population is fairly stable in all Management Units including HB although B1 may have decreased. Populations in B1 and B2 are below the threshold (1,000 birds) to hold a season but populations in A1 and HB are above the relaxed season threshold of 3,000.

¹ HB = Hawke's Bay

Sites where black swan have been counted each year since 1991 ($n=19$) show a cyclical pattern (11 years; 19 times the support of the linear regression model).

Recommended game season conditions for paradise shelduck and black swan in the Eastern Region are given in Table 8 and Table 14, and in Table 15 and Table 11 for Hawke's Bay.

4. Recommendation

4.1 *That Council receives the 2016 Trend Count Report.*

17. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

17.1 Conservation Boards

- *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*
- *East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board*
- *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

17.2 Reports from other agencies

- Department of Conservation

17.3 Report from New Zealand Council

18. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

18.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

1 June 2016

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Didymo monitoring

Staff are due to undertake the quarterly didymo delimiting survey in the Ngongotaha in early June. Didymo remains absent from North Island waters according to the most up to date survey results and information.

1112 Datawatch

During the eight months following the season opening (1 October), a total of 416 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	9
Lake Okataina	81
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	19
Lake Rotoehu	28
Lake Rotoiti	122
Lake Rotoma	11
Lake Rotorua	18
Lake Tarawera	123
Lake Tutira	3
Lake Waikaremoana	2

**tags entered in datawatch database to 23/5/2016*

The total number of tags returned is up by 14 compared with about the same time last year. Lakes in which returns are slightly up are lakes Rotoiti (up 21), Rotoehu (up 23), and Okataina (up 3). Two returns have also come from Lake Waikaremoana from the April 2015 liberation. All other datawatch monitored lakes are down for the season to date. The largest differences are lakes Tarawera (down 13) and Rotoma (down 10). Lake Tutira (Hawkes Bay) is down five tags compared to 2015 returns and this may be due in part to the large fish kill that occurred there last summer.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The Lake Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy remains snagged to a bottom structure or submerged tree. Since Council's last meeting, discussions have been held with University of Waikato staff and a Regional Council contractor, and costings sought for extraction of the buoy which will involve a diving operation. Special planning and safety measures are required to address Health and Safety concerns, but we are hopeful we're not far away from recovering the buoy and establishing what repairs will be required to get it operational again.

1114 Lake Tarawera

Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

The Lake Tarawera Outlet was drift dived by Fish & Game staff on 24 June. The dive extends from the Outlet itself to a point approximately 1km downstream and incorporates the spawning sanctuary.

A total of 331 large trout, 44 medium trout, and 320 small size class trout were counted. This is on a par with monitoring undertaken in May during previous years. Further Tarawera Outlet drift dives will be undertaken in early June, July and August.

Te Wairoa Trap Run

The trapping season at the Fish & Game fish trap (Te Wairoa Stream) at Lake Tarawera started slowly given the warm, dry conditions that continued into April. Over April a total of 53 rainbow trout ran up the stream compared with 36 during April 2015 and 48 during April 2014. Up to 26 May we had trapped 308 fish compared with 235 to the same point during the 2015 winter. The average sized rainbow trout so far this winter has been 531mm and 1.89kg compared with 545mm and 1.97kg to the same period during May 2015. Wild origin fish have made up 43% of the run to 21 May compared with 41% during the 2015 winter. The wild fish this winter have been 25mm shorter and 190g lighter on average than the 2015 wild fish. Hatchery fish to 26 May 2016 have been 4mm shorter but 200g heavier than their counterparts were at this time in 2015.

These results confirm the poor growth that has been evident in Tarawera in recent times, but suggest also, that there may have been some improvement during the late summer/autumn period when anecdotal reports were being received of good smelt numbers being present in the lake.

Lake Tarawera Fish Size

Staff have had ongoing discussions into strategies which we believe might hasten the recovery and presence of larger sized trout in Lake Tarawera. More recently we have met with fisheries staff from Taupo and Hawke's Bay and invited their input. As a result we have decided on the following:

1. Cancelling the November/December liberations of trout as part of the staggered spring releases. We initiated this in 2015 by reassigning the fish that were to be released in November/December back to the October/ November liberations. This should address some of the variation in hatchery fish size observed over the past three seasons arising from some fish being able to grow in the lake for up to three months more than others. The result of this move should be evident in the 2016 opening harvest when these fish appear in the angler catch as two-year-olds.
2. Reducing the spring 2016 liberations by 2,500 fish will result in an annual stocking level of 12,500 fish. This stocking level has prevailed previously and takes into account declining angler use while ensuring sufficient fish are available to provide for estimated annual angler harvest, and hatchery requirements.
3. Monitoring of the Tarawera fishery will continue as it does currently. If improvements in fish size and quality are not evident in creel surveys between now and early 2017, we will initiate further discussion of regulatory approaches for implementation at the commencement of the 2017 season.

4. Subject to the outcome of further discussions with Taupo fishery staff and other parties, staff will also be directing their attention to developing a smelt monitoring programme likely to involve both the use of advanced echosounding technology and recently developed analytical software, and gut content sampling of angler caught fish. Lake Tarawera anglers will be approached and invited to participate in the latter, along with other monitoring programmes which could include spawning counts in the Wairua.

1115 Lake Fisheries Research

Ngongotaha Stream Trap

The trap was operated for 10 nights. The largest fish was a 625mm, 4.3kg brown female (just under the 10 pound mark). The number of trout trapped was greater than that in March 2015.

Trap run March 2016

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	548	2.13	26	3		
<i>Brown</i>	585	2.68	60	6		70%

During April the Ngongotaha trap was operated for eleven nights. A higher number of trout (both rainbows and browns) were recorded than in April 2015. No fish exceeded the ten-pound mark. The largest fish was a 655mm, 4.3kg brown female. Brown trout made up 88% of the monthly run.

Trap run April 2016

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	486	1.33	21	2		
<i>Brown</i>	589	2.70	151	14		88%

Catfish Incursion Update

One brown bullhead catfish was caught and another seen during weed harvesting work in Te Weta Bay, Lake Rotoiti on 15 March. Following this discovery, a comprehensive and rigorous fyke netting programme was carried out within Te Weta Bay resulting in 118 catfish being caught. Further delimiting surveys (with fyke nets) were carried out in subsequent weeks around Rotoiti's perimeter and through the Ohau Channel with only one juvenile catfish being caught during the process, this being in the Okere Arm. No catfish were caught within Okawa Bay, where a large dead catfish was found on the beach in 2009. The University of Waikato electric fishing boat was deployed in Rotorua, Ohau Channel and Rotoiti during April, but caught only one catfish within Te Weta Bay. Fyke netting immediately following this produced another 211 catfish from Te Weta Bay over four nights in April. The efficiency of the fykes in catching catfish appears to be much greater than that of the electric fishing boat.

It appears that there are 3 cohorts (year classes) present meaning that the catfish have been present for at least several years.

Following the Rotoiti monitoring, BOPRC set fyke nets around the perimeter of Lake Tarawera during mid May to investigate historic catfish sightings. No catfish were located there. Lake Rotoehu will be similarly surveyed in early June in response to NIWA reports of 'pot marks' being seen that may be indicative of catfish or carp feeding.

A meeting was convened by BOPRC and attended by experts from University of Waikato, NIWA and DOC along with Fish & Game staff, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Lakes Water Quality Society on 19 May at Fish & Game's office. BOPRC staff gave a rundown of what had been discovered so far and options available to manage the issue were discussed. It was agreed that containment of Te Weta Bay (with weed cordon netting) where the catfish have mostly been located may be the best initial option with a goal of eradication from Rotoiti if feasible. There is no guarantee that the catfish have not already spread further through Rotoiti or into Rotorua.

The effect of the catfish incursion on the trout fishery within Lake Rotoiti is expected to be interspecific competition for prey and in particular koura (freshwater crayfish). In Lake Taupo, catfish have been present for about 35 years. They are slow moving ambush predators that are fairly constrained to shallower, slow flowing weedy areas. Trout will eat juvenile catfish but the net effect of catfish on trout is unknown.

1116 Game Bird Trend Counts

Paradise and Black Swan Counts

A report on the 2016 trend counts for the Eastern and Hawke's Bay regions has been provided in the June Papers for Information.

1118 Waterfowl Monitoring Programme

Aerial Transect Counts

Staff conducted pre-season aerial transect counts of greylards within the Eastern Region and assisted with counts in the Hawke's Bay, Auckland/Waikato and Northland Regions. Results are still being processed. Black swan were also counted black swan on Tauranga Harbour. As has been observed with other counts in April, black swan numbers were about 50% down on counts undertaken in January.

Effect of Harvest Regulations on Hunter Effort, Harvest Rates, and Annual Survival of Mallards and Grey Ducks in New Zealand

A further request for amendments to the earlier drafts of this paper was requested and attended to.

1121 Lakes Fisheries Creel Surveys

Summer Creel Survey

The 2015-16 summer survey has been completed. The data is ready to be entered into an Access database. When this is complete, analysis of the data will begin.

Winter creel survey

The 2016 winter shoreline survey for Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina began in May. Shoreline fishing began slowly across all three lakes, but rain through the middle of May has enticed fish to move in toward the streams and release points as evidenced within the Te Wairoa trap run at Tarawera.

Lake Waikaremoana Surveys

Staff have conducted two trips during April and May to investigate angler usage and success at the major Waikaremoana tributaries. Another scheduled trip was abandoned due to poor

weather affecting stream visibility. Angler pressure surveyed within the tributaries has been very low. This is due to very few fish having moved into the tributaries (to mid May) as environmental conditions (lowflows/high water temperatures) have not provided the cues the fish are looking for.

Reports have come in during April and May of very good catch rates by boat anglers trolling and fly fishing at the Hopuruahine mouth. Staff are gathering length/weight characteristics along with catch rates. Angler diary sheets are being handed to regular visiting anglers during surveys at Waikaremoana.

1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey

Eastern Region Game Season Opening Weekend

Interim results from the opening weekend hunter survey indicate the mean and total mallard and grey duck harvest (Figure 1) for active hunters was down on last year (although not significantly) despite more licence sales and an upward trend in average hours hunted (Figure 2Figure).

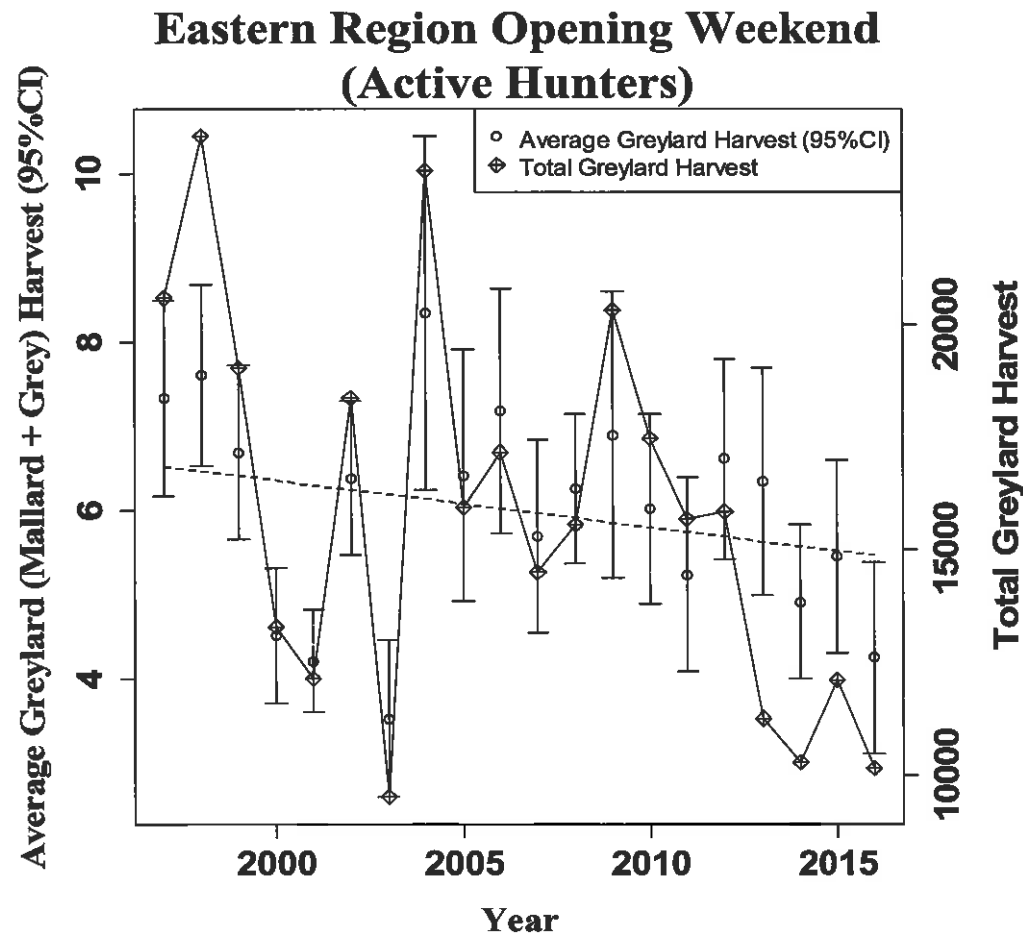


Figure1. Mallard and grey duck harvest (mean \pm 95% CI) for the opening weekend. Dashed line is the linear regression of the mean harvest over time, the solid line is the total mallard and grey duck harvest.

Eastern Region Opening Weekend (Active Hunters)

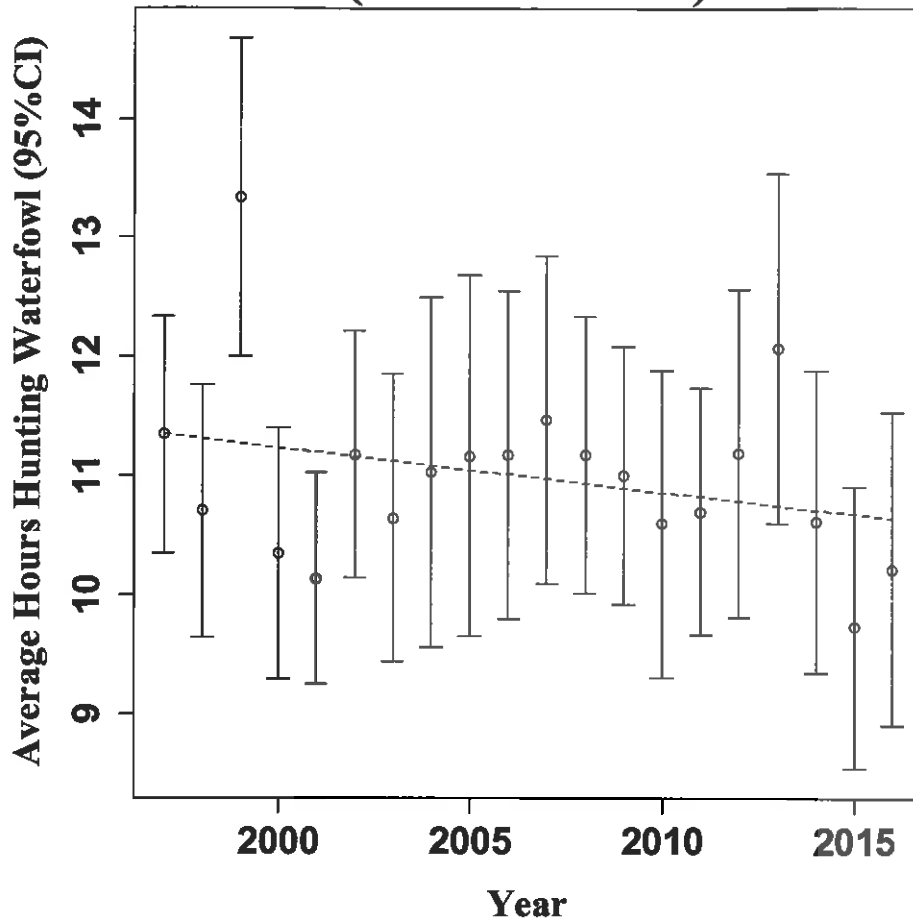


Figure 2. Average hours hunted in the Eastern region opening weekend (1997–2016). The regression line of hours over time is shown as the dashed line.

Although the opening looks reasonably average we have had a number of reports of good duck numbers in the Bay of Plenty and around Gisborne. Some Gisborne hunters have reported the best season they have had for years (feedback from the hunter survey).

1141 Hatchery Operations

The Te Wairoa fish trap was installed at the beginning of April and will remain in place until the end of August 2016. Staff have been clearing it daily, with the exception of weekends which have looked after by Cr Peter Storey.

Liberations were completed in March, April and May as detailed in the table below. Fish have also been transported to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game region.

13 crosses have been taken to-date producing about 47,800 ova and staff are happy with the quality of brood fish and ova taken so far this winter.

Fish locations at 26 May 2016:

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank A	0+ Brown	2000	Eastern, HB liberations 2016
Tank C	0+ Tiger	500	Eastern autumn liberations
Tanks 4-8	0+ Rt	5,000	Eastern, spring and orders
Pond 2	0+ Rt	20,000	Eastern and HB spring liberations
Pond 2	0+ Rt	20,000	Eastern and HB spring liberations
Pond 7	0+ Rt	6,000	Eastern spring liberations
RW 2	1+ Rt	4000	Other regions as 2+ in 2016

Liberations 15 March 2016 to 26 May 2016:

Date	Location	Qty	Age	Species	Tag	Clip/mark
25/5/16	Rerewhakaaitu	3500	1+	RT	-	Rpad
18/5/16	Rotoma	2000	1+	RT	-	Rpad
18/5/16	Rotoma	380	1+	Tiger	-	Rpad
17/5/16	Okareka	2500	1+	RT	-	Rpad
11/5/16	Rotoehu	2000	1+	RT	-	Rpad
11/5/16	Okataina	500	1+	RT	16 O	Rpad
4/5/16	Rotoiti	500	1+	RT	16 R	Rpad
4/5/16	Rotoiti	5000	1+	RT	-	Rpad
3/5/16	Tarawera	500	1+	RT	16 T	Rpad
3/5/16	Tarawera	1000	1+	RT	-	Rpad
20/4/16	Waikaremoana	500	1+	RT	WA16	Rpad
13/4/16	Tarawera	1000	1+	RT	-	Rpad
12/4/16	Okataina	250	1+	RT	-	Rpad
12/4/16	Rotoiti	5000	1+	RT	-	Rpad

1171 Regulations

Anglers Notice

See Agenda Item 10.

1181 Game Bird Control

Crop Permits

33 permits to disturb have been issued so far this year (Error! Reference source not found.).

Species	Number
Black swan	1
Paradise Shelduck	14
Pukeko	16
Ring neck pheasant	2
Total	33

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning and Consents

Gisborne District Council – Freshwater Advisory Group and Freshwater Plan

Following the work of the Freshwater Advisory Group the Gisborne District Council notified the proposed freshwater plan on October 12 2015. Overall the notified plan is pretty good from a Fish and Game perspective, although a submission was lodged in early December covering a number of topics. Further submissions were lodged in February.. Due to some points being omitted from Council’s original summary of submissions this document has been re-notified and reviewed. The further submission period closed on 20 May.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has recently established a Regional Water Advisory Panel. This is a collaborative group with representatives from a wide range of sectors which has been set up to provide context and direction for how freshwater resources are managed in the Bay of Plenty. The most recent meeting was attended in May. Community groups to consider catchment specific regulations have been established in three catchments. Fish and Game representatives have been accepted on each of them. Bay of Plenty Regional Council have released a draft freshwater plan and are hoping to formally notify it over the next couple of months.

Water Quality

Following the adoption of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management in 2014, Regional Councils are now required to implement its provisions. Fish and Game remains involved in the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel. This collaborative group comprise representatives from a wide range of sectors and have been established to assist the councils with freshwater management planning, to provide context and direction for how freshwater resources are managed, and to assist in the implementation of the National Policy Statement.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has also established community groups to look at values and limits within the Rangitaiki, Kaituna/Maketu and Pongakawa/Waitahanui Water Management Areas. Fish and Game representatives have been accepted on each of them. Community groups will also be established in the other seven Water Management Areas in the future.

The Gisborne District Council has identified ten Water Management Areas and is expected to follow a similar process of establishing community groups.

Resource Consents

Date In	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
29-3-16	WBOPDC	WBOPDC	DP- wastewater treatment plant	Waiari Stream, Te Puke	On Going
21-5-16	RDC	Baxendale Developments	SC- 24 new lots and esplanade strip	Utuhina Stream, Rotorua	No Concerns letter

Lake Waikaremoana Lagarosiphon Project

A Lagarosiphon meeting was held at Lake Waikaremoana on 27 May. Fish & Game staff did not attend (apologies put in) as scheduled Waikaremoana spawning surveys were interrupted due to weather, and staff time was required elsewhere.

Koaro Restoration Group Meeting

The next attempt at removing trout from the Waitarere tributary of Hamurana Stream has been scheduled for the week 20 - 24 June. The tributary upstream of the trout barrier is still full of algae which will need clearing before setting nets. Nets will be monitored so trout caught can be released below the trout barrier if caught.

Lake Rotoiti Water Quality Diversion Wall

Staff attended a pre-consenting meeting with BOPRC, BECA consultants, Environmental monitoring consultants and DOC to discuss the background of the consent, monitoring history and the corrosion affecting the wall. An application for renewal of the consent is due in 2017.

1221 Reserves Management

General

A full site inspection occurred in each managed wetland mid April to ensure conditions were optimal for hunting opening weekend. All wetlands were found to have satisfactory water levels and access tracks passable. To preserve the vehicle tracks we have restricted vehicle access to quad/mule access only post opening weekend within the Lower Kaituna and Awaiti WMRs. No access track issues are occurring in other wetland reserves.

Preparation planning of summer 2016/17 reserve maintenance works is currently occurring.

A full restoration action plan is being designed between DOC, Fish & Game, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Ngati Tahu – Ngati Whaoa and the Waikato Regional Council for Lakes Ngahewa, Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga. The aim is obtain funding from an outside Trust to enable stock proof fencing on the correct boundary to be erected, spray pest plants, commence a native planting programme and implement a pest animal programme. The aim of the project is to "promote restoration, enhancement and sustainable management for the protection of Lakes Ngahewa, Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga and their catchments for the use of present and future generations, while recognising and providing for the traditional relationship of Te Arawa with the lakes". Fish & Game's interest with these lakes is that two have fisheries values and two have game bird hunting values, with Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga being managed by Fish & Game. We will keep the Council informed of the progress with this project.

Renewal of gazette notices for management of the Crown owned wetlands within the Eastern Region between DOC and Fish & Game continues to be stalled a little as DOC is still yet to determine who is to take charge of this and liaise with Fish & Game staff.

Kaituna WMR

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has formalised the monitoring programme for water levels, flows and salinity in the Lower Kaituna WMR and the adjoining Kaituna River, as part of the Maketu Kaituna River diversion proposal. Multiple monitoring sites are proposed, each with data loggers, to enable a model to be constructed to suggest the most suitable site for a mitigation water inlet culvert to be installed for the Lower Kaituna WMR wetland. This data collection is crucial for the mitigation water supply required to maintain current water levels within the reserve. A minimum of twelve months data must be collected prior to any

diversion works can commence, so installation of the monitoring sites is planned for the end of May. Minimal disruption will occur to the hunters within the wetland.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is also considering the purchase of the land adjacent to the Lower Kaituna WMR which was previously owned by farmer Pammett. The intent is to convert all this area in addition to the grazed land within the reserve into wetland. The proposal is in early concept design with monitoring being undertaken, but the Council is keen to progress this idea and is in regular discussion with DOC and Fish & Game. They have also had a public meeting (40 odd in attendance) at Te Puke to gauge public opinion. Fish & Game representatives were at this public meeting, which overwhelmingly supported the proposal in principle, but many factions wanted different things. Priorities are yet to be confirmed, but Fish & Game must give careful consideration to protect the rights of hunters, and the waterfowl species (i.e. disturbance) in the reserve and surrounding area before any support can be fully given. We will keep the Council up to date of this significant wetland construction project.

1232 Habitat Creation Projects

Waikato Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET)

Matt McDougall attended the 48th meeting of WCEET to consider applications to fund ecological restoration projects aimed at offsetting the impacts of Mighty River Powers management of the Waikato River while generating power.

The 2016 funding round attracted 26 applications requesting \$1,050,184.83 in funds. Of these, 20 projects were confirmed for funding with a total investment of \$512,410.33. This was a little more than in previous years.

1233 Drain Management

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council drain planting programme is proceeding but not to the same scale as originally proposed. There has been resistance by farmers who are part of the drainage scheme so the Council is undertaking a smaller scale planting to prove its effectiveness and show it as a pilot scheme. The main two sites proposed are on the Kaituna Road, in close proximity to the Lower Kaituna WMR. There will be plantings only with no modification to the drainage channel, at this stage.

1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats

Lake Aniwhenua

As previously reported, Nova Energy required multiple draw downs of Lake Aniwhenua to enable major repair works to occur at the power station's head pond. Fish & Game was regularly consulted and the concerns we expressed taken seriously by both Nova and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Trout salvage operations occurred with few trout lost. A media release was put out to game bird hunters explaining the works required, how bird monitoring was occurring and that the draw downs would not majorly affect their opening weekend hunting. Some hunters did contact us stating their concerns of the draw downs close to opening weekend and stating they believed bird numbers in the area were down.

Multiple site visits occurred just prior to opening weekend and bird numbers appeared similar to before the draw downs. A ranging team was sent there on opening weekend and reports indicate shooting was comparable to that of other years.

All works have been completed successfully with the Lake Aniwhenua hydro regime returning to normal and no further issues are envisaged. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council did not undertake the gravel abstraction works proposed within the Rangitaiki River system during the draw down period so no monitoring was undertaken.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

General

Recreational access into the Kaingaroa and Rotoehu Forests opened in mid-late April. Waimangu Forest opened for angler access to Lake Rotomahana on the first weekend of May.

In regard to the access through the Waimangu Forest to Rotomahana, we have met with Timberlands Ltd (forest managers) regarding access. We have been advised of issues in past years regarding access, primarily in relation to unauthorised access, or access for unauthorised purposes, when the main gate has been left open over weekends. To alleviate this problem anglers who wish to access Lake Rotomahana via Waimangu Forest can apply for a gate key tab when they are issued an access permit. The key tab can be retained for the duration of the winter access season through to the end of September. The gate keys are issued by First Security who also issue the access permits, and a key bond of \$100 is required to be paid, refundable when the key is returned.

Angler access work on the Waikaretaheke river was completed in Mid March. This involved three access points in the area below Tuai, and two sections of track. This provides another option for anglers fishing the Tuai and Waikaremoana areas.

We have had input into a number of matters which the Walking Access Commission is dealing with, particularly in regard to Overseas Investment Office matters.

An access matter at Putere Lakes is pending an investigation by DOC. This is in relation to landowner encroachment onto a marginal strip and attempting to control public access on this strip which is public land.

Hunting Ballots

Permits were issued to 336 hunters as part of the ballot system to hunt in wetlands managed by Eastern Fish and Game. Another 62 walk-in permits have also been issued so far this season.

1331 Inform Anglers and Hunter

Reel News, Both Barrels

Reel Life was produced in March, April and May covering winter shoreline fishing, pest fish update for Lake Rotoiti (catfish), new access tracks and Anglers Notice process and submissions for 2016. Both Barrels were produced for April and May.

1333 Fishing Reports

Fishing prospects were added to the Reel Life for the period and numerous reports featured on Twitter.

1334 Maintain & Update Content on Web Site

Updates or changes to the Eastern website included council agendas and minutes, notices re Anglers Notice, joint efforts between Police and Fish & Game, forest access update, and changes made to reserves information. Our Twitter account has 366 followers and received 35,000 impressions for the reported period.

1341 Information Pamphlets

Lake Rotorua and Tributaries brochure re-print has been received and further work is underway on the Wairoa fisheries catchment brochure.

1352 Children's Fishing Programme

No children's fishing events were held for the period.

1352 Angler Hunter Training

Three novice hunter training hunts have been undertaken at the Waewaetutuki Wetland. This involved a total of six novices (one cancelled last minute) with four of them taken back for a second hunt. All novices were provided multiple opportunities to shoot birds with most novices shooting birds successfully. In one instance, the very first duck one novice shot was a banded duck. All were given tuition on decoy layout, calling and shown how to process the birds for food preparation. All six novices purchased season licences, their own shotguns etc, and it is believed all will continue to game bird hunt.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Six fishing competition permits were processed for the period. Staff attended one competition briefing.

1361 Fish & Game Club Relations

One club meeting was attended for the period.

1370 Fish & Game Huts

Routine maintenance carried out at Wairua and Waikaremoana Huts.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1442 Media Releases

This was a busy couple of months with around half a dozen media releases issued on topics ranging from the start of the game bird season, to the jail term handed down to the second of the high profile Rotorua poachers.

Grant Dyson went to some lengths to promote Eastern and other regions changing their regulations in view of healthier game bird populations. Eastern's longer season and large bag limit was highlighted in a news release titled 'good news for game bird hunters.' Grant also worked with a freelance reporter who was preparing a preview feature on the game bird season for both Daily Post and Bay of Plenty Times. The journalist was provided with background information, photos, and key Fish & Game contacts. The result was an excellent double page feature which featured a number of women hunters.

The Banding Together campaign to encourage the return of band details was also re-launched with a fresh website banner, news release and other publicity. Grant Dyson worked with Matthew McDougall to ensure easy access online to band return forms, etc.

The May 7 start of the game bird season in Eastern Region was followed up with a release on compliance in which the majority of hunters were praised for sticking to the rules and regulations.

The four month jail term handed down to David Leef received strong coverage. Fish & Game has since lodged complaints with some media who have portrayed the pair as somewhat innocent folk simply trying to “put food on the table.” In the case of Radio New Zealand, a complaint from our Communications Manager Don Rood, in consultation with Andy Garrick, resulted in an unbalanced report being pulled from the airwaves and RNZ’s website. This matter is ongoing!

Separate media releases were issued distributed to Bay of Plenty and East Coast media to summarise proposed changes to the Angler’s Notice and urge anglers to ‘have their say.’

1461 Education

Two tours of hatchery and grounds have occurred since the previous report.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Compliance

Following the summer issues around the Lake Rotorua stream mouths dropping away in March there was a relatively quiet period into April prior to the early runs of spawning trout making their way into stream, and the opening of the game bird hunting season in early May.

Fishery compliance activities are focusing now on checks around spawning areas, particularly those that are closed and protected areas, and angler survey work around the Rotorua Lakes as well as dealing with other matters which arise.

The game bird hunting season opening weekend compliance operation involved Fish & Game staff, honorary rangers, and in most areas ranged, also Police working alongside us with their focus being on checking hunters compliance with firearms licensing, and hunter behaviour in particular monitoring alcohol consumption by hunters. The joint Fish & Game and Police approach was well received by hunters, and although we have carried out joint operations in the past, this year was the biggest joint operation to date.

Police dealt with a number of matters which included issues relating to firearms security, hunter behaviour, and administrative matters around licensing.

Over the weekend we checked 217 hunters in areas from Gisborne and the East Coast, and from the Eastern Bay of Plenty, through to the Rotorua and Taupo areas. Overall compliance was very good, and to date we have only dealt with seven hunters for offences: four hunting without licence, and three matters of possession of lead shot 12 G ammunition within 200 m of open water.

Further ranging was carried out by staff on the second week of the season, with few hunters and no offences located.

Waikaremoana spawning monitoring is underway with no compliance issues found to date.

Compliance checks have been carried out in other locations around the region with no issues, with input in these others areas also by honorary rangers.

Angler and hunter contacts to May (inclusive of opening weekend game ranging) are at 2871 checks.

Contacts: Year 2015-2016 to 08/05/2016

	<i>2011-12</i>	<i>2012-13</i>	<i>2013-14</i>	<i>2014-15</i>	<i>2015-16</i>	Last 5 yr average
September	96	82	66	50	59	71
October	1,183	997	984	960	1,223	1,069
November	223	129	175	112	20	132
December	494	598	387	392	293	433
January	466	497	355	381	335	407
February	170	234	151	395	418	274
March	184	300	279	275	253	258
April	340	195	299	264	53	230
May	503	516	446	498	217	436
June	422	209	325	203		290
July	224	120	79	120		136
August	74	131	77	76		90
Total	4,379	4,008	3,623	3,726	2,871	3,934

Note – May figures relate to game bird opening weekend only.

1520 Ranger Training

Regional Honorary Rangers

Honorary rangers continue to contribute around the region. There is ongoing interest in this programme. Two recent new trainee rangers have pulled out of the programme due to moving location, and other commitments. There is a large time commitment for new rangers, particularly initially due to training requirements before a warrant can be issued, but also with health and safety and procedural training.

Ranger training days are planned; an annual Eastern region training day in early July, and a ranger safety refresher course in September.

North Island/National CLE role

This role continues with input into CLE/training/prosecutions and legal matters. A national compliance coordinators meeting is planned in June.

Hawkes Bay work

Continuing input into Hawkes Bay region rangers and CLE operations, and into Hawkes Bay access matters as they arise.

1531 Prosecution of Offenders

Prosecutions

Currently nine offenders have offences pending resolution. The most common offence remains fishing without licence, fishing closed waters and using illegal tackle. Reparation

uptake for a number of fishing related matters from summer/autumn was slow with considerable effort being required in most cases to conclude matters.

Reparation resolution in relation to game related offences has gone well, with to date only one matter pending resolution. Several offenders have warrants to arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in court, and some of these warrants to arrest have been in existence for some time.

At present there are three matters currently pending court prosecution process, one of these is a Fish without Licence matter which is set down for a defended hearing in mid June.

In mid May, an offender who had been wanted for well over a year on warrants to arrest for failing to answer District Court bail when he failed to appear for sentencing in the Rotorua District Court in early 2015, was arrested. He subsequently was sentenced on three trout poaching charges, all of which are punishable by a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment or \$100,000 fine, as well as two charges of failing to answer District Court bail. He was sentenced to a total of four months imprisonment on these charges.

Offences 2015-2016 Year

For the year 2015- 2016 year to date we have dealt with 40 persons for 65 offences as tabled below. Another four persons are being investigated in relation to a trout poaching incident and are not included yet in this table.

Offences for the Year 2015-2016 to 27/05/2016:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	24
Fish closed waters	9
Fish with illegal tackle	14
Fish more than 1 rod	2
Fish with unattended rod	1
Disturb spawning gravels	2
Take trout with net/spear/device	3
False details	2
Obstruction	1
Hunt without licence	4
Possession of lead shot 12 G ammunition	3
Total	65

Offences Pending Resolution

To date (27/05/2016) 15 separate offences are pending resolution, by nine offenders.

Offences pending resolution as at 27/05/2016:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	6
Illegal tackle	4
Fish closed waters	2
False details	1
Obstruction	1
Possess lead shot	1
Total	15

LICENSING

1612 National Licence Management

Kate Thompson's work with the Licence Working Group has been scaled back over the last two months due to her relieving in the office administration role. She does however continue to provide National Sales results to Robert Sowman and regions, and responds to queries and assistance as required.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Staff continue to support agents as required. More than 3,000 game bird licences were sold during March/April and early May through our licence agents utilising the Agency Online facility. No known issues were encountered and the number of licences unable to reach their destination due to inaccurate recording of address information was minimal.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1841 New Zealand Fish & Game Liaison

Several staff provided ongoing input to national projects including Kate Thompson, Carmel Veitch, and Anthony van Dorp. Andy Garrick continued to provide managerial services to the Hawke's Bay Region, and most other staff provided remote assistance or were directly involved in the field there in connection with matters ranging from CLE and access enquiries, administration and accounting, RMA and consent processes, fisheries related work, and permits to disturb.

ADMINISTRATION

1920 Annual Leave

Staff annual leave accruals are reported each month. Due to employment anniversary dates, the leave accruals for individuals vary depending on the time of the year. We have established leave for individual staff as at 16 May 2016. We currently have two staff members four weeks behind where we would like them to be, three staff members two weeks behind and one staff member one week behind. The remainder are in a neutral leave position.

1922 Staff Training

Five staff undertook Power Boat Level 2 assessments in March and Anthony van Dorp conducted a CLE refresher course for staff in May. Carmel Veitch undertook a webinar on the new Health and Safety at Work Act and the impact on the outdoor sector.

1980 General Equipment

Boats

We are now operating our boats under the national Fish & Game MTOP (Maritime Transport Operators Plan) in the MOSS system. This is appearing to be an efficient and more streamlined system.

1924 Health and Safety

Carmel Veitch with input from Mark Sherburn and other staff updated our Health and Safety Plan and Carmel circulated this to all other regions to be used as a template where required (see Agenda Item 18.2 and June Papers for Information). Carmel also produced a draft Health and Safety Policy for Council's adoption (see Agenda Item 8).

18.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

1 June 2016

Background

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

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

April/May 2016 Update

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

A Health and Safety Policy has been drafted for Council's consideration/approval (see Agenda Item 8). This policy sets out the commitment that Council has towards the health and safety of all Fish and Game Workers and visitors.

A draft Health and Safety Plan which incorporates the provisions and requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and associated regulations has been circulated to staff for comment (refer Papers for Information). The plan sets out the policies and procedures that will be implemented to ensure that our workers and visitors to our workplace are safe. The plan sets out the roles and responsibilities of Council, management and all workers at the workplace. The plan also sets out an annual timetable to ensure that all risk areas within the business are identified and audited at appropriate intervals.

Weekly staff meetings have Health and Safety on the agenda as a standard item. Staff are given an opportunity to raise any issues, and as a team we develop a procedure to minimise the risks of such. Any new risks are included in the weekly email so that all staff are aware of the risk should they be absent from the weekly meeting.

'Tailgate' forms are used when staff go out on field trips/ranging.

The board room was used for a meeting and all persons attending the meeting were required to sign in and out on the visitor register and a verbal Health and Safety briefing was given.

Five minute forms have been used for Drift dives and Ranging activities.

First Aid kits have been purchased for all boats, vehicles, hatchery and octagon.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

As at 27 May 2016

Number of workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2014-2015 year	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2013-2014 year	3
Total number of workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	28
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	1
Total number of days since last lost-work injury (7/12/13)	903
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	6,672

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

With Opening weekend (and ongoing) game season ranging a full Operational Brief was developed by Anthony van Dorp which identified the areas that were being targeted and the risks associated with the ranging operation.

A 'Tailgate' form was also prepared for each ranging team. This form identified the risks, hazards, and controls for each team. The ranging teams discussed these hazards and signed off the tailgate form as evidence that all members were aware of the hazards and the controls in place to minimise risks. Police officers assisting with the operation were also involved in the discussions and they too signed the tailgate forms.

Tailgate forms were prepared for the drift dive that took place on 24 May 2016 and for the work undertaken at the trap.

4. Training programme

Five staff undertook Power Boat Level 2 assessments in March and Anthony van Dorp conducted a CLE refresher course for staff in May. Carmel Veitch undertook a webinar on the new Health and Safety at Work Act and the impact on the outdoor sector.

A staff training schedule is under development which will ensure all hazards that require specific training are identified and training is provided for.

5. H&S incidents

No incidents to report.

6. Recommendations

1. That the draft Health and Safety policy be received and approved (Agenda Item 8).
2. That Council review and provide feedback on the draft Health and Safety Plan provided in the June Papers for Information;
3. That Council receive this Health & Safety report.

18.3 Finance Report

Ref: 8.03.01

24 May 2016

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of its current financial position, and approve payments for the months of March and April 2016.

2. Finance Report

The cash flow summary and variance report for the month ending 30 April 2016 are attached. These reports document the income and expenditure for the period.

Income

Licence revenue reported to the end of December is under budget by \$24,983 yet remains ahead of revenue reported for the same period last year. As advised previously with the significant shift to online sales this season the monthly budget targets are best estimates and will become more accurate in the next season when the aim is to have all agents online. The increased use of the Public Online facility also contributes to this improvement in cash flow as proceeds of these sales are paid to the region soon after the completion of each month. Licence sales by category and LEQ are reported in detail within the licence sales report and will provide a more accurate picture of licence sales YTD.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following; fishing competitions (\$295), rentals (\$3,332), fines (\$630), reparations (\$913), and interest (\$1,335). Funding was also received from the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET) for the Simpson Ruatawiri wetland (\$8,195). Other income is reported to be some \$65,000 over budget due primarily to additional revenue gained through staff contracts.

Species Management

Within the Population Monitoring budgets expenses are reported relating to the aircraft hire for mallard transect counts for Eastern and Northland regions. A late invoice was also received for aircraft hire relating to counts which were undertaken in August last year but omitted from invoicing at that time. Other expenses incurred within the period related to the purchase of datawatch tags from Hallprint Australia, grain for reared mallards, and staff expenses for Waikaremoana survey work. Within budget YTD.

Hatchery expenses for the period included fish food, fabrication of nine stainless filters for troughs, CoF for the tanker, a ladder for access to ponds, and minor purchases of various maintenance materials. The usual expenses are also reported relating electricity, fuel, oxygen, and rates. Within budget YTD.

Habitat

Reserves expenses for the period related to aerial spraying of pampas at Waewaetutuki, technical assistance re battery storage at Awakaponga, and minor purchases of equipment and safety gear for spraying. Within the Assisted Habitat budget the expenses relate to the pest plant spraying at the Simpson Ruatawiri wetland which will be reimbursed by WCEET in due course.

Customer Services

The Access expenses for the period relate to angler access signs, maintenance materials, and postage costs for hunter ballots. The Game Magazine supplement and newsletter insert costs are reported within the newsletter budgets and the other publications spending relates to a reprint of the Lake Rotorua and tributaries brochure. Huts spending related to electricity for the Waikaremoana hut and, gas and kindling for Wairua.

Public Interface

Within the Public Interface budgets expenses related to grounds maintenance. Within budget YTD.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the month related to the 0800 Poaching service and legal fees associated with five prosecutions are also reported. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The fees associated with the 0800 and Internet sales are included within the commission expenditure and are within budget YTD. The budget for commissions is set at 5% of total sales as this is the standard rate of commission paid to licence agents. With increased sales being processed through the Public Online facility the overall costs of those sales has reduced to approximately 2.8% resulting in a saving of in excess of \$10,000 YTD.

Council

Catering and travel expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to the February and April meetings of Council. Within budget YTD.

Planning

Levies were paid to the New Zealand Council as budgeted. A small expense is also showing for airport parking fees. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

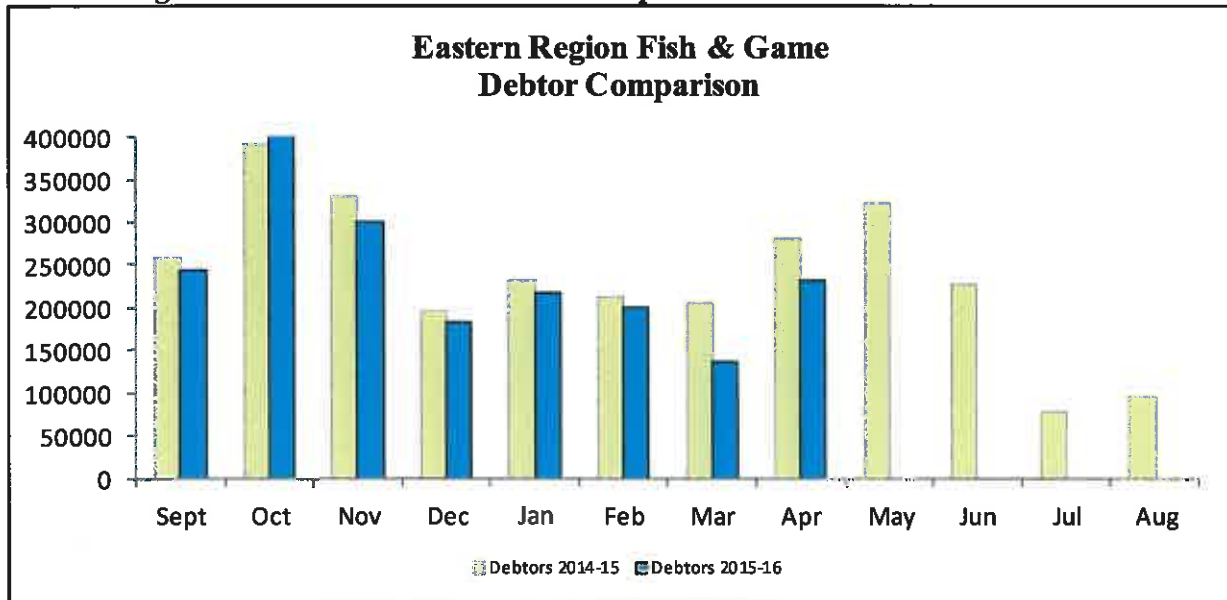
Salaries	The Salaries area is currently reporting to be over budget due to increased staff time, including casual staff resulting from increased assistance to NZ Fish & Game, and Hawke's Bay and North Canterbury Fish & Game Regions. This budget variance is offset by increased revenue received from these regions.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses for the period included Power boat L2 training for five staff, staff clothing, and flowers for staff member Lynne Sands. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Rates were paid as budgeted. Minor expenses are reported for electricity and maintenance. Within budget YTD.
Office Premises	Rates were paid as budgeted and the standard electricity. This area is over budget YTD by \$362.
Office Equipment	The monthly expense relating to the phone and eftpos leases are reported as is the non cash transfer to asset replacement reserves. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Communications expenses for period include Gisborne directory fees, phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Computer expenses included two backup drives, two switches, a modem, an antivirus update, and services to setup and install. This area is currently overspent by \$467 due to increased phone

	call charges and these are currently being investigated.
General	Expenses are reported relating to morning teas and bank fees. Within budget YTD.
General Equipment	Charges relating to the re-surveying of all three boats are reported in April. Equipment maintenance expenses relate to servicing of two boats, trailer tyres and two trailer WOF's, a spray unit hose, scrub bar blade, mower blades and circuit breaker, oil and equipment fuel. Asset replacement funding totalled \$554 for the period. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	The maintenance expenditure reported within the vehicles budgets for the period relates to one vehicle service and two sets of tyres. The standard fuel expense is reported and includes four vehicles for RUC's. Asset replacement funding totalled \$3,692 for the period. The Hawke's Bay Region has reimbursed fuel expenses associated with staff working in the region and this contributes to the vehicles budget showing to be underspent by \$9,382 YTD.

Cash Position: \$994,592 (includes \$79,423 for asset replacement reserve and \$451,512 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 30 April 2016

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$230,714 as at 30 April 2016 (\$279,566 as at 30 April 2015).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Comparison 2014/15 – 2015/16



The Region's debtors total for April 2016 is made up primarily of agent debtor invoices for licence sales (\$212,611) of which \$73,051 was settled on 3 May and the balance is due for settlement early June. One agent still has books outstanding from the 2014-15 season and this is being followed up by admin staff.

3. Variance Report

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

2015/16 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

As at 30 April 2016

Schedule A Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST VARIATION	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1110	Population Monitoring	\$ 38,500	\$ 22,590	2,358	1,402	\$ 133,160	\$ 78,858	\$ 19,000	\$ -	\$ 152,660	\$ 101,448	\$ 51,213	66.5
1120	Harvest Assessments	\$ 2,150	\$ 369	882	543	\$ 50,373	\$ 30,547	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,523	\$ 30,916	\$ 21,607	58.9
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 67,050	\$ 60,501	3,076	1,991	\$ 173,707	\$ 111,979	\$ 70,000	\$ 40,893	\$ 170,757	\$ 131,587	\$ 39,171	77.1
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	216	75	\$ 12,198	\$ 4,191	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,198	\$ 4,191	\$ 8,007	34.4
1180	Control	\$ 200	\$ -	72	31	\$ 4,066	\$ 1,758	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,266	\$ 1,758	\$ 2,508	41.2
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 107,900	\$ 83,460	6,614	4,041	\$ 373,504	\$ 227,333	\$ 89,000	\$ 40,893	\$ 392,404	\$ 269,900	\$ 122,505	68.8
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ -	1,212	787	\$ 68,444	\$ 44,288	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,644	\$ 44,288	\$ 24,356	64.5
1220	Works & Management	\$ 14,000	\$ 7,778	1,014	853	\$ 57,262	\$ 47,987	\$ 5,500	\$ 947	\$ 65,762	\$ 54,818	\$ 10,944	83.4
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 9,400	\$ 15,832	1,230	488	\$ 69,460	\$ 27,467	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 78,860	\$ 43,300	\$ 35,561	54.9
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	96	0	\$ 5,421	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,421	\$ -	\$ 5,421	0.0
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & M&M	\$ 23,600	\$ 23,611	3,552	2,129	\$ 200,588	\$ 119,742	\$ 5,500	\$ 947	\$ 218,688	\$ 142,406	\$ 76,282	65.1
1310	Access	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,575	767	498	\$ 44,443	\$ 28,002	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,443	\$ 31,577	\$ 19,867	61.4
1330	Newsletters	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,312	508	125	\$ 28,575	\$ 7,004	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,575	\$ 20,316	\$ 21,259	48.9
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	102	20	\$ 5,760	\$ 1,125	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,760	\$ 2,125	\$ 5,635	27.4
1350	Training	\$ 600	\$ 384	698	548	\$ 50,712	\$ 30,800	\$ 13,500	\$ 7,112	\$ 37,812	\$ 24,372	\$ 13,439	64.5
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	124	3	\$ 7,003	\$ 169	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,003	\$ 169	\$ 6,834	2.4
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 978	28	8	\$ 1,581	\$ 450	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 2,631	\$ 1,428	\$ 1,203	54.3
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 24,050	\$ 19,549	2,445	1,201	\$ 138,074	\$ 67,590	\$ 13,900	\$ 7,112	\$ 148,224	\$ 79,987	\$ 68,236	54.0
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	156	153	\$ 8,810	\$ 8,579	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,810	\$ 8,579	\$ 230	97.4
1420	Communication	\$ 900	\$ 150	320	82	\$ 18,071	\$ 4,585	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,871	\$ 4,735	\$ 14,136	25.1
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,950	172	34	\$ 9,713	\$ 1,913	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,213	\$ 4,863	\$ 8,350	36.8
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 400	\$ 767	630	368	\$ 35,577	\$ 22,362	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,977	\$ 23,128	\$ 12,848	64.3
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 4,700	\$ 3,867	1,278	666	\$ 72,171	\$ 37,439	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,871	\$ 41,306	\$ 35,565	53.7
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,100	\$ 838	916	577	\$ 51,728	\$ 32,474	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,828	\$ 33,312	\$ 20,516	61.9
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	108	17	\$ 6,089	\$ 956	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,089	\$ 956	\$ 6,143	13.5
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,038	348	196	\$ 19,652	\$ 11,040	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,664	\$ 18,152	\$ 10,414	\$ 7,738	57.4
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,600	\$ 3,876	1,372	791	\$ 77,479	\$ 44,471	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,664	\$ 79,079	\$ 44,683	\$ 34,396	56.5
1610	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	468	340	\$ 26,428	\$ 19,141	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,228	\$ 19,141	\$ 8,088	70.3
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	220	98	\$ 12,424	\$ 5,485	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,424	\$ 5,485	\$ 6,939	44.1
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 800	\$ -	688	438	\$ 38,853	\$ 24,626	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,653	\$ 24,626	\$ 15,028	62.1
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	64	10	\$ 3,614	\$ 563	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,614	\$ 563	\$ 3,052	15.6
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,941	710	543	\$ 40,095	\$ 30,519	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,095	\$ 36,460	\$ 13,635	72.8
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,941	774	553	\$ 43,709	\$ 31,082	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,709	\$ 37,023	\$ 16,686	68.9
1810	Management Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	180	75	\$ 10,730	\$ 4,205	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,730	\$ 4,205	\$ 6,524	39.2
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,700	\$ 7,389	614	308	\$ 29,027	\$ 17,229	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,727	\$ 24,818	\$ 13,908	64.1
1840	National Liaison	\$ 250	\$ 38	264	119	\$ 16,038	\$ 6,709	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,288	\$ 6,747	\$ 9,541	41.4
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 9,950	\$ 7,627	988	500	\$ 55,794	\$ 28,142	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,744	\$ 35,769	\$ 29,975	54.4
	TOTAL	\$ 180,600	\$ 147,931	17,711	10,317	\$ 1,000,172	\$ 580,385	\$ 114,400	\$ 52,616	\$ 1,074,372	\$ 675,700	\$ 398,672	62.9

	EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		%	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
OVERHEADS										
1910 Salaries	\$ 867,117	\$ 581,317			\$ 24,360	\$ 85,954	\$ 842,757	\$ 505,363	\$ 337,394	60.0
1920 Staff Expenses	\$ 26,400	\$ 2,432			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,400	\$ 2,432	\$ 23,968	9.2
1930 Staff Houses	\$ 6,320	\$ 4,894			\$ 20,240	\$ 13,600	\$ (13,920)	\$ (8,706)	\$ (5,214)	62.5
1940 Office Premises	\$ 19,400	\$ 14,530			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,400	\$ 14,530	\$ 4,870	74.9
1950 Office Equipment	\$ 7,965	\$ 5,895			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,965	\$ 5,895	\$ 2,380	70.1
1960 Communications/Consumables	\$ 21,300	\$ 14,734			\$ -	\$ 16,549	\$ 21,300	\$ 14,734	\$ 6,566	69.2
1970 General	\$ 9,370	\$ 6,684			\$ 7,370	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ (9,855)	\$ 11,855	-492.8
1980 General Equipment	\$ 19,722	\$ 13,258			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,722	\$ 13,258	\$ 6,464	67.2
1990 Vehicles	\$ 74,548	\$ 43,046			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,548	\$ 43,046	\$ 31,502	57.7
Administration	\$ 1,052,142	\$ 686,489			\$ 51,970	\$ 116,103	\$ 1,000,172	\$ 580,385	\$ 419,787	58.0
Total Overhead Net Cost							\$ 1,000,172	\$ 580,385		
Total Outputs Staff Hours							17,711	10,317		
Internal Cost Per Hour							56.47	56.26		

2015/16 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		%	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1	Species Management	\$ 107,900	\$ 83,460	\$ 373,504	\$ 227,333	\$ 89,000	\$ 40,893	\$ 392,404	\$ 289,900	\$ 122,505	68.8
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 23,600	\$ 23,611	\$ 200,668	\$ 119,742	\$ 5,500	\$ 947	\$ 216,668	\$ 142,408	\$ 76,282	65.1
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 24,050	\$ 19,549	\$ 138,074	\$ 67,550	\$ 13,900	\$ 7,112	\$ 148,224	\$ 79,987	\$ 68,236	54.0
4	Public Interface	\$ 4,700	\$ 3,867	\$ 72,171	\$ 37,439	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,871	\$ 41,306	\$ 35,565	53.7
5	Compliance	\$ 7,600	\$ 3,876	\$ 77,478	\$ 44,471	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,664	\$ 79,078	\$ 44,663	\$ 34,396	56.5
6	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 38,853	\$ 24,626	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,853	\$ 24,626	\$ 15,026	62.1
7	Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,941	\$ 43,709	\$ 31,082	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,709	\$ 37,023	\$ 16,686	88.9
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,950	\$ 7,627	\$ 55,794	\$ 28,142	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,744	\$ 35,769	\$ 29,975	54.4
9	Administration										
	Total Overhead Staff Hours										
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 188,600	\$ 147,931	\$ 1,000,172	\$ 580,385	\$ 114,400	\$ 52,616	\$ 1,074,372	\$ 675,700	\$ 388,672	

Licence Income 2015/16		Budget	Actual
2015/16 Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,149,102	\$ 1,161,583
Less Commission		\$ -	\$ -
Net Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,091,647	\$ 1,161,583
2016 Game Licence Income		\$ 242,922	\$ 143,144
Less Commission		\$ -	\$ -
Net Game Licence Income		\$ 230,776	\$ 143,144
Total Licence Income		\$ 1,392,024	\$ 1,304,727
Total Commission		\$ 69,601	\$ 50,512
Total Net 2015/16 Licence Revenue		\$ 1,322,423	\$ 1,254,215

Actual Net Cost YTD		Budget	Actual
% year complete			67%
OWP Bulk Fund		\$ 1,074,372	\$ 675,700
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget		\$ -	\$ -
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies		\$ 183,051	\$ 137,288
Less Licence Revenue		\$ (1,392,024)	\$ (1,304,727)
Plus Commission Expense		\$ 69,601	\$ 50,512
Reinstatement of reserves		\$ 65,000	\$ -
Approved Budget		\$ -	\$ (441,227)
Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund		\$ -	\$ -
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest		\$ (12,317)	\$ (2,010)
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses		\$ 13,000	\$ -
Adjusted Budget		\$ 6,683	\$ (443,237)

Eastern Region 2015-16 Projected Cash Flow - Schedule B

as at 30 April 2016	Mar Budget	Mar Actual	Apr Budget	Apr Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Est. Final Position	Total Budget 15/16	Var
INCOME									
Licence	90000	81796	125000	139608	1329710	1304727	1367041	1392024	-24983
Other	3219	2477	13604	11696	104793	170730	252819	186882	65937
	93219	84273	138604	151303	1434503	1475457	1619860	1578906	40954
SPECIES									
1110 Population Monitoring	7200	8267	4300	2543	28500	22590	32590	38500	-5910
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	11	0	0	650	369	1869	2150	-281
1140 Hatchery Operations	2691	4686	7511	6344	61258	60501	66293	67050	-757
1180 Control	0	0	50	0	200	0	0	200	-200
	9891	12965	11861	8887	90608	83460	100752	107900	-7148
HABITAT									
1210 Resource Management	200	0	0	0	200	0	0	200	-200
1220 Works & Management	500	72	1000	1000	7782	7778	14678	14682	-4
1230 Assisted Habitat	400	1611	8195	7526	9595	15832	81832	75595	6237
	1100	1682	9195	8526	17577	23611	96511	90477	6034
CUSTOMER SERVICES									
1310 Access	1250	516	0	245	5400	3575	5175	7000	-1825
1330 Newsletters	0	0	1500	1574	13000	13312	13312	13000	312
1340 Other Publications	0	0	2000	1000	2000	1000	1000	2000	-1000
1350 Training	0	0	0	0	300	684	984	600	384
1370 Huts	85	164	135	149	950	978	1478	1450	28
	1335	680	3635	2968	21650	19550	21950	24050	-2100
PUBLIC INTERFACE									
1420 Communication	250	0	0	0	800	150	150	800	-650
1440 Public Promotions	500	0	0	0	3500	2950	2950	3500	-550
1460 Visitors/Education	0	0	0	288	400	767	767	400	367
	750	0	0	288	4700	3867	3867	4700	-833
COMPLIANCE									
1510 Ranging	175	35	175	35	1400	838	1538	2100	-562
1520 Ranger Training	150	0	0	0	150	0	850	1000	-150
1530 Compliance	375	470	375	500	3000	3038	4538	4500	38
	700	505	550	535	4550	3876	6926	7600	-674
LICENCING									
1610 Licence Production	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	800	0
1630 Commission	4500	3784	6250	6392	66486	50512	53628	69601	-15973
	4500	3784	6250	6392	66486	50512	54428	70401	-15973
COUNCIL									
1720 Council Meetings	1000	801	1000	1012	6000	5941	9941	10000	-59
	1000	801	1000	1012	6000	5941	9941	10000	-59
PLANNING & REPORTING									
1830 Reporting	0	695	0	0	7840	7589	9449	9700	-251
1840 National Liaison	25	0	45788	45771	137464	137327	183164	183301	-137
	25	695	45788	45771	145304	144916	192613	193001	-388
ADMINISTRATION									
1910 Salaries	66701	67963	66701	69604	566957	591317	891477	867117	24360
1920 Staff Expenses	558	457	608	254	4414	2432	24418	26400	-1982
1930 Staff Houses	630	8	615	489	5385	4894	5829	6320	-491
1940 Office Premises	1070	1057	1844	2180	14168	14530	19762	19400	362
1950 Office Equipment	580	560	580	560	5640	5585	7910	7965	-55
1960 Communications	2165	1716	1564	2128	14267	14734	21767	21300	467
1970 General	172	150	171	137	8204	6694	7860	9370	-1510
1980 General Equipment	1544	904	1244	4291	13852	13258	19128	19722	-594
1990 Vehicles	5429	4886	5429	5302	52428	43046	65166	74548	-9382
	78849	77703	78756	84945	685315	696488	1063315	1052142	11173

18.4 Licence Sales Report

Ref: 6.01.05

1 June 2016

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2015-2016 season.

2. 2016 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 Game licence sales for the 2016 season YTD are summarised in Table One.
- 2.2 The Eastern Region annual sales target has been achieved with total sales YTD reporting to be 4.5% ahead of budget and 5.0% ahead of sales reported for the same period last year.
- 2.3 Nationally to 31 May, game licence sales YTD are also ahead of budget 0.2% but are sitting just below sales reported for the same period last year -0.1%.

Table One

Comparison of Game Licence LEQs to 31 May 2016

SALES CHANNEL	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult 24 Hour	Junior 24 Hour	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/ Decrease on 2015
Agent Online Sales	2722	290	125	36		2787	68.6%
Agent Book Sales	93	13	7	0		96	-92.0%
Direct Sales*	349	33	17	19		359	47.8%
Total Game 2016	3164	336	149	55	0	3243	5.0%
<i>Agent Online Sales</i>	<i>1613</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1653</i>	
<i>Agent Book Sales</i>	<i>1148</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>63</i>		<i>1192</i>	
<i>Direct Sales*</i>	<i>234</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>243</i>	
Total Game 2015	2995	359	165	101	5	3088	
TARGETS	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult 24 Hour	Junior 24 Hour	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
2016 Total Budget	3000	334	160	180	10	3104	104.5%
2015 Total Sales	3001	357	165	207	6	3115	104.1%
2015 Estimated year end						3272	105.4%

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800, Mail order

- 2.4 Early indications are that the increase seen in Adult Game Bird licence sales for the 2016 Season in the Eastern Region are distributed across the region, i.e. increases are not evident in one particular location or sub region.

3. 2015-2016 Fish Licence Sales

- 3.1 Fish licence sales for the 2015-2016 season YTD are summarised in Table Two.
- 3.2 A total of 95.3% of the annual sales target has been achieved with total sales YTD reporting to be 4.1% below sales issued for the same period last year.
- 3.3 Nationally to 31 May, fish licence sales are reporting to be 3.8% below the 2014-2015 Season.
- 3.4 Sales of the Adult Winter licence category are showing a notable decline when compared with the 2014-15 results. It is possible that this is due to buyers of this category choosing to purchase one of the many other options available this season. As a result of this, adult participation in the higher valued licence categories is now on a par with the 2014-15 season.
- 3.5 An increase of 360 licences YTD is seen in the two short term categories of Adult Short Break and Adult Day when compared with last season. This translates into a good increase in participation in these categories with fishing days increasing from 6,892 YTD in 2014-15 to 9,838 YTD this season.
- 3.6 The daily cumulative LEQ comparison over the past four seasons is shown in Chart One. This is updated to 31 May for the current 2015-16 Season. Nationally the daily LEQ's comparison is tracking in line with the 2013-2014 season. The Eastern Region licence sales are however tracking below the 2013-2014 season and this is primarily due to the introduction of the discounted licence categories and the high uptake of the Local Area licence in this region in particular.

Chart One

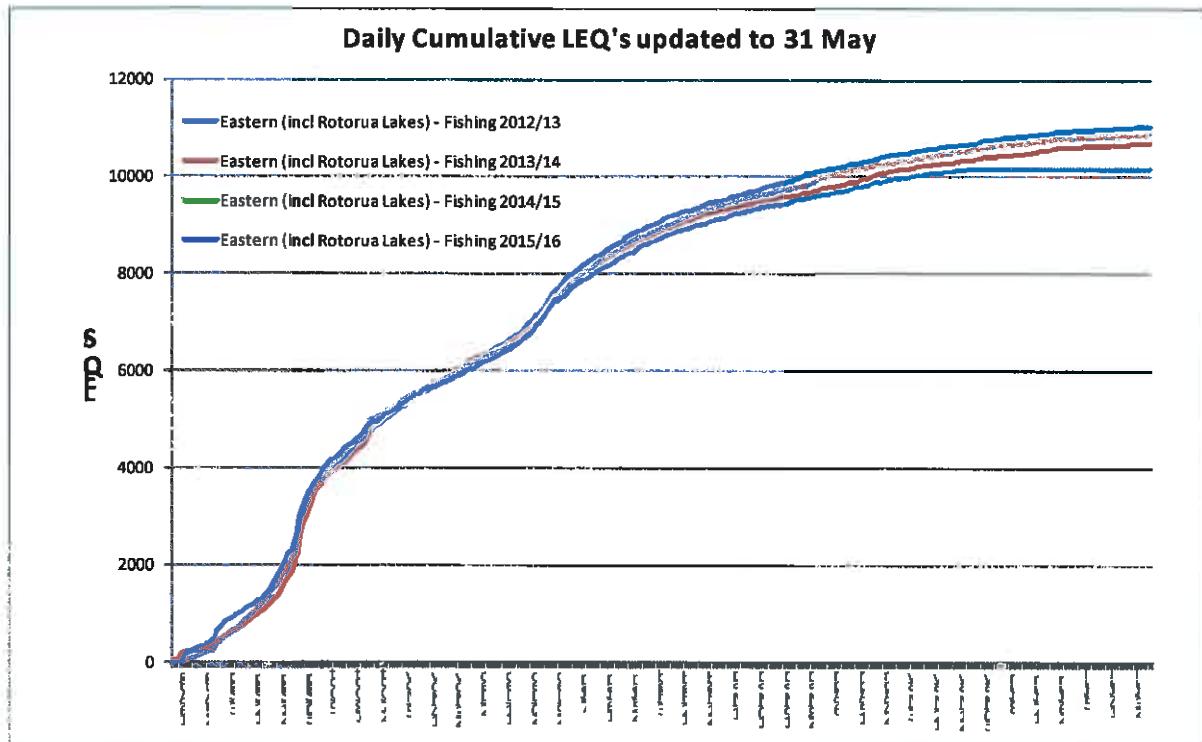


Table Two

Comparison of Fish Licence LEQs to 31 May 2016

SALES CHANNEL	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult			Adult Winter	Junior Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult 24 Hour	Junior 24 Hour	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2014-15
				Loyal Senior	Local Area	Adult Local Area								
Agent Online Sales	1786	1093	353	212	1516	350	283	80	797	3295	251	6281	30.8%	
Agent Book Sales	41	17	0	0	0	10	0			411	52	141	-95.1%	
Direct Sales*	1188	839	145	146	464	126	161	58	496	2233	146	3732	27.7%	
Total Fish 2015-2016	3015	1949	498	358	1980	486	444	0	1293	5959	449	10154	-4.1%	
Agent Online Sales	1451	2001	236			220	287	30		2213	97	4801		
Agent Book Sales	771	1080	0			116	270	16		2866	178	2864		
Direct Sales*	986	976	149			75	208	17		1813	84	2923		
Total Fish 2014-2015	3208	4057	385			411	765	63		6892	359	10588		

TARGETS	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult			Adult Winter	Junior Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult 24 Hour	Junior 24 Hour	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
				Loyal Senior	Local Area	Adult Local Area								
2015-2016 Total Budget	2760	2247	400	800	2100	400	750	0	500	1200	400	400	10657	95.3%
2014-2015 Total Sales	3211	4036	387			416	1002	82		7693	406	10884	10884	93.3%
2015-2016 Estimated year end													10438	97.9%

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800 Licence