



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

7 December 2023

AGENDA

The 205th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: **Thursday, 7 December 2023**

Commences: **11.00 AM**

	<u>Page Number</u>
1 Welcome (11.00 AM)	
2 Apologies	(R)
3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (12 October 2023) (11.05AM)	(R) 2
3.1 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
3.2 Matters arising from the meeting of 12 October 2023	
4 Notification of Items for General Business	
5 Conflict of Interest Register	12
6 Health and Safety Report (11.20 AM, 5 min)	(R) 14
7 Bio Security Threat Update (11.25AM, 15min)	(I/D) 16
8 Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund (11.40AM 10min)	(R) 17
9 2022-2023 Performance Report (11.50AM, 10 min)	(R) 19
Working Lunch (12 – 12.20PM)	
10 Presentation “Review of Game Season Conditions” (12.20PM, 30min)	(I/D)
11 2024 Game Season Conditions (12.50PM, 20min)	(R) 23
12 Operational Reports (1.10PM, 20 min)	
12.1 Finance Report	(R) 38
12.2 Management Report	(I/D) 55
12.3 Licence Sales Report	(I/D) 65
13 Liaison Officers Reports (1.30PM, 10 min)	(I) 67
14 General Business (1.40PM, 30min)	
15 Public Excluded Session (2.10PM, 30min)	68
16 Meeting Closes (2.40PM)	

AGM at 3PM in Fish & Game Conference Room

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

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 204th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2023 AT 11.00 AM**

Present

Crs. Ngahi Bidois, Debbie Oakley, Lindsay Lyons, Mike Jarvie, Kevin Coutts, Jay Tapsell, Scott Nicol, and Murray Ferris.

In attendance

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert, Anthony Van Dorp (Eastern Fish & Game); Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish & Game), Ken Raureti (Te Arawa Lakes Trust), Dave Conley, James Barnett (Department of Conservation), Stan Hayman, Pat Swift, Dave Parr, Eddie Bowman, and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois opened the meeting at 11 am welcoming Councillors, Staff, and members of the public.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Mark Sceats. No apology was received from Cr Alan Simmons; however, it was noted that he had purchased fishing licence for the 2023-24 Season.

2.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois acknowledged Ken Coombes resignation from Council, reiterating his work commitments were the compounding factor of his unavailability to the Council. Cr Murray Ferris acknowledged Kevin Coombes for his outstanding contribution within the Council, Executive Committee, and his assistance to staff with the Lake Tarawera research project.

2.3 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that the apologies for the 204th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/10/2.3]*

3.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3.1 Arash Alaeinia called for nominations for the position of Chair.

3.2 *Moved (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell) that Cr Ngahi Bidois be nominated for Council Chair. [23/10/3.2]*

3.3 *Moved (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell) that nominations for position of Council Chair be closed. [23/10/3.3]*

3.4 Cr Ngahi Bidois was duly appointed to the position of Chairman.

3.5 Cr Ngahi Bidois called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair.

3.6 *Moved (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that Cr Kevin Coutts be nominated for Council Deputy Chair. [23/10/3.6]*

3.7 *Moved (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that nominations for position of Council Deputy Chair be closed. [23/10/3.7]*

3.8 Cr Kevin Coutts accepted the nomination and was duly appointed to the position of Deputy Chair.

3.9 Cr Ngahi Bidois called for nominations for the position of the Eastern Region's appointee to the New Zealand Council.

3.10 *Moved (Murray Ferris/Scott Nicol) that Cr Debbie Oakley be nominated for appointment to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. [23/10/3.10]*

- 3.11 ***Moved (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that nominations for position of New Zealand Council Appointee be closed. [23/10/3.11]***
- 3.12 There were no further nominations and Cr Debbie Oakley was duly appointed to the position of Eastern Region's New Zealand Council appointee.
- 3.13 Cr Ngahi Bidois recommended that the incumbent staff member, Matthew McDougall, should remain Council's representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust given his expertise and history in the role.
- 3.14 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council confirms Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust. [23/10/3.14]***
- 3.15 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that nominations for position as Council's representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust be closed. [23/10/3.15]***
- 3.16 Mat McDougall confirmed that he was happy to continue this role.
- 3.17 Cr Ngahi Bidois provided a brief background to the role of the Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee which typically consisted of the Chair, Deputy Chair, NZ Council Representative, and one other council member.
- 3.18 ***Moved (Scott Nicol/Murray Ferris) that Cr Ngahi Bidois be nominated for a position on the Executive/Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee. [23/10/3.18]***
- 3.19 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Cr Kevin Coutts be nominated for a position on the Executive/Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee. [23/10/3.19]***
- 3.20 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Scott Nicol) that Cr Mark Sceats be nominated for a position on the Executive/Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee. [23/10/3.20]***
- 3.21 ***Moved (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that Cr Debbie Oakley be nominated for a position on the Executive/Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee. [23/10/3.21]***
- 3.22 There were no further nominations and Cr Mark Sceats was duly appointed to the Executive/Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee along with the elected Chairman Cr Ngahi Bidois, Deputy Chairman Cr Kevin Coutts, and NZ Council Appointee Cr Debbie Oakley.

4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (10 AUGUST 2023)

- 4.1 ***Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to correction to wording between items 7.4 and 7.5 as follows;***

Change wording from 'broke' to 'adjourned'. [23/10/4.1]

4.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy from the minutes of the meeting held 10 August 2023.

4.3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 10 August 2023.

5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 6.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.

- 6.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried Cr Ngahi Bidois role within Te Arawa, particularly in relation to Lake Okataina. Cr Ngahi Bidois acknowledged his whakapapa to Te Arawa, and did not feel conflicted regarding the Golden Clam biosecurity risk surrounding Lake Okataina. He advised that no one in his family makes any decisions within the Te Arawa Lakes Trust nor monetary gains. He felt comfortable representing both Te Arawa iwi and the Eastern Fish and Game Council. Cr Jay Tapsell also acknowledged his whakapapa to Te Arawa, and his role on Council to represent all licence holders.
- 6.3 Cr Debbie Oakley wished to highlight Ngahi's contribution as iwi liaison and the work he has done with the Chair of New Zealand Fish and Game Council, Barrie Barnes, and Fish & Game CEO Corina Jordan, adding that his contribution was very well regarded by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
- 6.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons said there is nothing wrong with having a conflict of interest, he has had conflicts himself in the past. It is more about what people see from the outside whether it's a perceived conflict or actual conflict of interest. Lindsay wanted to ensure that Council addresses any conflicts from the outset to show that this has been considered and accepted by Council as is the case here.
- 6.5 Ken Raureti explained Cr Ngahi Bidois role at the hui around the Lake Okataina closure. Ken had requested that Ngahi open with karakia and engage with important organisations that were MPI, Te Arawa Lake Trust (TALT), Eastern Fish and Game and Ngati Tarawhai; Ken acknowledged he was here today for TALT.

7.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 7.1 Health and Safety Report - Arash Alaeinia updated Council on a recent incident regarding a verbal and physical assault to a staff member during a poaching offence investigation. Cr Kevin Coutts queried further information.
- 7.2 Arash also updated Council regarding an ongoing issue of a shoulder injury to a staff member whilst performing a repetitive work task, previously reported.
- 7.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Debbie Oakley) that Council received the Health and Safety report. [23/10/7.3]*

8.0 BIO SECURITY THREAT AND IMPLICATIONS ON FISHING

- 8.1 Council discussed the impact of the Gold Clam Bio Security threat, the closure of Lake Okataina and Controlled Area Notice (CAN) imposed on the lake for 1 month by MPI and the possibility of other Rotorua lakes closing.
- 8.2 New Zealand Council Chair, Barrie Barnes, acknowledged the handling of the situation by everybody involved in this highly emotional situation. He said the New Zealand Council had become involved having a greater opportunity to hold MPI and other political interests to account. This was not just a Te Arawa lakes issue but could be of national importance. Fish & Game Officer, Adam Daniel, is on the TAG group for biosecurity with MPI, he has a lot of knowledge on the issue. Additional comments;
- uppermost priority advocating for cleaning stations at the source
 - MPI was unaware these boats imported from US had residual water in them.
 - better scientific solution than 45-degree water is needed. Suggest forbid vessels like this travelling to other areas if been within Karapiro/Maraitai
 - the clam is not likely to get upstream, without input via vessel
 - the Golden Clam has been known to be here for 2-3 years
 - F&G will continue to push MPI
- 8.3 Comments and concerns from Council included the following;
- support of F&G working with MPI
 - focus should be at source, in the Waikato
 - stop wake board boats travelling from the areas of the incursion
 - concern for Taupo and other rivers around the region

- there is need to collaborate as high potential to affect all of NZ
 - lack of controls let PSA in, resulting in closure of Orchards. M.Bovis closure of farms. Didymo – Fish & Game put measures in place to prevent the spread
 - education is going to need to be a big part of this campaign
 - questions over effectiveness of cleaning stations
- 8.4 Dave Conley, Operations Manager for Taupo Fishery, was present today to hear the conversation sharing concern as a neighbouring fishery. They are confident there are no clams in the Taupo fisheries at present and commented on ongoing delimiting surveys and eDNA sampling which has been carried out for several years. There is obviously concern about the clams getting to Taupo, but the idea of containment is the preferred option as there are 26-28 boat ramps on Lake Taupo alone, it is not practical to install wash stations, it makes more sense to focus on the river. Management options for Taupo fall under the Reserves Act so there may be potential to come up with other management options. Irrespective of the decisions made by MPI, Taupo fishery is committing to beef up education around biodiversity. It's their first line of defence for management, bearing in mind they don't see anglers as the primary vector group.
- 8.5 Ken Raureti from the Te Arawa Lakes Trust agreed with discussion today and informed Council that the hui with the Trust and MPI was called for prior to Lake Okataina being put under the spotlight. It was called to have a public consultation to let the public know about the threat of the clams and escalated when Ngati Tarawhai announced they were going to close the lake. He believed the positive thing to come away from hui was that MPI, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Eastern F&G, Rotorua Lakes Council, and the Regional Council are now all inputting into the korero around strategies for the management of the Golden Clam.
- 8.6 Barry Roderick highlighted the Kiwifruit sector and PSA, following this, information was gathered from around the world on other pests that may affect the industry. The Clam has come in through boats, what else is out there ready to arrive on our shores? Has MPI changed its behaviour moving forward to prevent further pest introduction?
- 8.7 Cr Kevin Coutts queried the legality around transportation of the clam from one water source to another. Arash Alaeinia advised that MPI have made it illegal to move water (and the Clam) from the Waikato and move it to another area.
- 8.8 Cr Murray Ferris questioned the spread through water taken for drinking water? Arash Alaeinia reassured that hefty water filtrations are place for drinking water, and farms are also using the Waikato as a water source, requiring permits etc.
- 8.9 Stan Hayman questioned the number of rowing events are held since the clam was discovered within the Waikato and expressed concern about the clam already being spread through these events. He understood the last big rowing regatta was down in Ruitaniwha, above Lake Benmore, in the South Island. Cr Ngahi Bidois advised that there was no knowledge of the clam being found elsewhere. James Barnett spoke of a three-phase program in place looking immediately in the Waikato, going out to the regions such as Waipa, and then much further afield. There are eDNA protocols in place to monitor elsewhere.
- 8.10 Arash Alaeinia highlighted that education is needed to stop the spread, the eDNA will identify how far it has spread, then what actions can be taken to contain it in those spaces. Cr Ngahi Bidois acknowledges prevention is better than cure because once the clam is in waterways it's incredibly hard to manage.
- 8.11 Cr Lindsay Lyons speaks on MPI stating their protocols at Picton (wash stations) worked to prevent the spread of Didymo. He understood that the containment of Didymo to the South Island was primarily due to the makeup of the water i.e. glacial vs volcanic. He felt that care should be taken in publicly stating that the wash stations are mitigating the spread of pests.

9.0 Council adjourned for lunch with a karakia from Ken Raureti at 12:22pm, Council reconvened at 12:50pm.

10.0 2024 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

- 10.1 Arash Alaeinia advised that he had received an email from Cr Mark Sceats requesting a review of our policies and criteria for setting of the Game Season conditions. He said that this meeting provided Council with the opportunity to raise items they would like staff to consider for the December meeting.
- 10.2 Cr Kevin Coutts had received feedback from several hunters that the cost of the licence is not good value for the number of birds able to be taken and queried the possibility of increasing season length without changing the current threshold policies.
- 10.3 Matthew McDougall advised that season length impacts the numbers we are seeing, the longer the season the bigger impact on hen survival, adding that hen numbers had been down over the last few years. He said that there is a lot of uncertainty which impacts populations such as weather, success of the breeding season, predator numbers, and disease. Operating in an uncertain environment we need to take care, or we run risk of impacting populations and future harvest which could have long term repercussions. The Bay of Plenty has a lot of hunters and unfortunately not a lot of habitat, primarily drains and roadsides. Matt said that it would be interesting to see what happens with the longer season but questioned whether we would be prepared to take the risk that there might be less ducks in the following seasons?
- 10.4 Matt McDougall also responded to Cr Kevin Coutts query about pheasant limits, commenting on the population assessments undertaken each year and impact that current forestry practices might be having on pheasant populations.
- 10.5 Cr Lindsay Lyons agreed, it's a balancing act, and recalled the 1985 unrestricted season in the Waikato, followed by an outbreak of botulism which decimated the population, so the following season was very poor. He said you don't know what's around the corner that could affect our population.
- 10.6 Cr Debbie Oakley spoke to licence holder feedback about value for money and questioned whether bag limits could be higher for opening day? Debbie had also received feedback that the native Weka was decimating ducklings in the Opotiki area.
- 10.7 Matt McDougall responded advising opening weekend has the biggest impact on the populations and the bag limits were the most effective method for controlling harvest. He said that on average most hunters take 2.5 ducks over opening and the restrictive bag limit manages a small group of very successful hunters.
- 10.8 Arash Alaeinia said that he would have a discussion with Matt McDougall to see if there is any capacity to look at the current criteria in time for the December meeting. Matt advised that he usually reviews the criteria every five years.
- 10.9 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Kevin Coutts) that Council considered the proposed threshold levels and criteria for regulation setting and did not identify any variants for ratification at its December 2023 meeting, unless there was sufficient time to review the policies prior to that meeting. [23/10/10.9]***
- 10.10 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Kevin Coutts) that Council did not identify any other game season condition matters it would like further information on, or consultation with hunters about, before its December 2023 meeting. [23/10/10.10]***

11.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

11.1 Arash Alaeinia called for questions about the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund update. No questions raised.

11.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council received the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund update. [23/10/11.2]*

12.0 2022-2023 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT

12.1 Arash Alaeinia called for comments on the 2022-2023 Draft Performance report. There were no comments and Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested that Council could feedback to Arash by email if they had anything to add.

12.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that Council received the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance and Financial Statements for the 2022-2023 year. [23/10/12.2]*

13.0 DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2024

13.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois discussed prior conversation about meetings being held on the weekend to work around councillors that need to take leave from work to attend.

13.2 Arash Alaeinia spoke to the proposed meeting timetable which accommodated the option to meet on up to two Saturdays as previously suggested. He asked for Council to consider the proposed dates and confirm which meetings will take place on a Saturday.

13.3 Cr Scott Nicol suggested that it would be appropriate to have the AGM on a Saturday to enable public to attend.

13.4 Pat Swift queried the possibility of live streaming these meetings for public.

13.5 *Agreed (Jay Tapsell/Scott Nicol) that Council confirms the schedule of meeting dates as submitted for the Thursday meetings and that the Saturday meetings would take place on 10 August 2023 and 7 December 2023. [23/10/13.5]*

	Date	Venue	Key Topics
1	Thurs 1 February 2024	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities,• Anglers Notice – initial consideration
2	Thurs 4 April 2024	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP - first draft plus bids proposed for contestable funds
3	Thurs 30 May 2024	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fees• OWP - second draft• Anglers Notice – finalise recommendations
4	Sat 10 August 2024	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	Thurs 7 November 2024	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - initial consideration• Annual Performance Report – draft• Final meeting 2021-2024 Fish & Game Council• Inaugural meeting 2024-2027 Fish & Game Council
6	Sat 7 December 2024	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - finalise recommendations
AGM	Sat 7 December 2024	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

13.6 There was no Council feedback for the New Zealand Council on its draft meeting and budget timetable for 2023-24.

14.0 DRAFT POLICY ON SETTING NATIONAL POLICY

14.1 Cr Debbie Oakley confirmed that the New Zealand Council had approved the Draft National Policy on setting National Policy and is seeking feedback from regions. Debbie clarified the meaning of the wording “or its delegate” under item 3.18 and advised the primary aim of the policy was to enable consultation with regions to occur within one meeting cycle.

14.2 Council considered the Draft National Policy on setting National Policy and did not have any further feedback to the NZC.

15.0 DRAFT CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

15.1 Cr Debbie Oakley advised that the New Zealand Council is encouraging regions to take on the proposed Conflicts of Interest Policy. Cr Kevin Coutts queried delegates voting rights. Cr Lindsay Lyons advised standing orders at the NZC table can be suspended allowing the appointee to vote. Cr Debbie Oakley confirmed representation can change at council meetings.

15.2 Council supported the review and update of the Eastern Fish and Game Council’s Conflict of Interest Policy to reflect the NZC Policy once adopted.

16.0 DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT

16.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons asked whether feedback could be supplied to Arash Alaeinia. Arash confirmed he was comfortable with the content of the Policy and was happy to receive feedback. Discussion included.

- there needed to be a clause giving staff the right to refuse to do something they believed was unsafe
- no mention of use of illegal drugs
- staff concerned not informed
- query relationship between manager and staff
- reminder Council are the employer of all staff, under employment law a staff code of conduct required
- use as tool to dismiss staff, ultimately comes back to what’s in individual’s employment contracts

16.2 Concern was raised by Matthew McDougall and Eben Herbert around No 6: “Ensure the participations of political matters does not conflict with your duty to F&G and council and any partnership with government agencies.” Will this hamstring staff raising concerns with other organisations such as the Department of Conservation? Eben Herbert highlighted the Ruitaniwha dam project in the Hawke’s Bay where Fish & Game had a different view to DOC. Arash Alaeinia believed this was a fair question to provide in our feedback.

16.3 Arash Alaeinia confirmed he will supply feedback to the New Zealand Fish & Game Council and introduced Georgia Beuth, new Fish & Game Officer, to the Eastern Fish and Game Council.

17.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

17.1 Arash Alaeinia wanted to acknowledge and thank the staff for their work over the last two months with the hosting of the staff conference, the NZ 4x4 expo, spring liberations and preparation for opening, compliance, and the Lake Okataina - Golden Clam issue.

17.2 Cr Kevin Coutts informed Council that some people are holding back on buying their licence due to uncertainties around other lake closures. Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested to go with the official information provided to the public until otherwise advised.

- 17.3** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council received the Finance Report and approves payments for July and August 2023 totalling \$288,246.24. [23/10/17.3]*
- 17.4** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Management and Licence Sales Reports. [23/10/17.4]*

18.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

18.1 *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

Arash Alaeinia had received apologies from Sara Carley who had emailed an update. Four new appointees to the Conservation Board. DOC wish to provide more effort to maintain a stronger relationship with Fish & Game. Arash informed Council that he had scheduled to catch up with the appointees early in the new year.

18.2 *Report from New Zealand Council*

Cr Debbie Oakley noted the Papers for Information contained the information from the last NZC meeting. She advised that the two working groups were meeting most fortnights, collating discussion notes and aim to provide NZC with feedback/information by the November meeting.

19.0 MEETING CLOSED

- 19.1** Cr Jay Tapsell closed the meeting with a karakia at 2.00pm.

.....
Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.3 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that the apologies for the 204th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/10/2.3]*

3.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 3.2 *Moved (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell) that Cr Ngahi Bidois be nominated for Council Chair. [23/10/3.2]*
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4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (10 AUGUST 2023)

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Change wording from 'broke' to 'adjourned'. [23/10/4.1]*

10.0 2024 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

- 10.9 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Kevin Coutts) that Council considered the proposed threshold levels and criteria for regulation setting and did not identify any variants for ratification at its December 2023 meeting, unless there was sufficient time to review the policies prior to that meeting. [23/10/10.9]*
- 10.10 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Kevin Coutts) that Council did not identify any other game season condition matters it would like further information on, or consultation with hunters about, before its December 2023 meeting. [23/10/10.10]*

11.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 11.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council received the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund update. [23/10/11.2]*

12.0 2022-2023 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 12.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that Council received the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance and Financial Statements for the 2022-2023 year. [23/10/12.2]*

13.0 DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2024

13.5 *Agreed (Jay Tapsell/Scott Nicol) that Council confirms the schedule of meeting dates as submitted for the Thursday meetings and that the Saturday meetings would take place on 10 August 2023 and 7 December 2023. [23/10/13.5]*

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AGM	<i>Sat 7 December 2024</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

17.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

17.3 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council received the Finance Report and approves payments for July and August 2023 totalling \$288,246.24. [23/10/17.3]*

17.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Management and Licence Sales Reports. [23/10/17.4]*

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

23 November 2023

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

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

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

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

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

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;
- (ii) The member’s other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;

¹ “Matter” means:

(i) The Council’s performance of its functions or exercise of its powers as set out in Part 5A of the Conservation Act 1987, subject to the Council’s statutory purpose set out in section 26P(1) of the Conservation Act; or

(ii) An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Recommendation

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

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

23 November 2023

Background

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

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

September – November 2023

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan	
Regular (weekly) staff meetings. Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of the meeting are emailed to all staff. Visitors to the office and contractors are required to sign our desk register, and our hazard register is updated as required.	
Tail Gate forms completed for:	
October 2023	Ranging – Opening weekend
October 2023	Brood counts
November 2023	Brood counts, Pheasant call counts
2023-2024 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000	

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	24/11/2023
Number of Workplace injuries in 2023-2024 year	0
Number of Workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	4
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2020-2021 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	55
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	5
Total number of days since last lost work injury	212
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 26/04/23	767
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 21/3/21	245
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 19/7/20	1,053
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 31/8/17	1,363
Days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury 7/12/13	6,672

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting and emailed to all staff:

2 Oct 2023 Be aware stream poachers, wet grounds from heavy rain
9 Oct 2023 A lot of activity Ohau Channel, grounds still soft
16 Oct 2023 Nothing new
23 Oct 2023 Illegal activity spawning streams
30 Oct 2023 Nothing new
6 Nov 2023 Nothing new
13 Nov 2023 Nothing new
20 Nov 2023 Ngongotaha bridge slip, streams high, soft grounds

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Since the last report a staff member has reported bruising to face following a fishing rod/reel being thrown during compliance work. An investigation has been completed and measures considered to prevent this type of injury occurring in the future.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

7. BIO SECURITY THREAT UPDATE

24 November 2023

1. Purpose

To update council on the current restrictions and mitigations in place to help reduce the risk of the spread and the concern on lake closures.

2. Background

Following the initial closure of Lake Okataina from the 1 October to its restricted opening on the 10 November with a Control Area Notice put in place by MPI, that legally requires all boat users for Lake Okataina to use a designated wash station on the East side of Rotorua and to follow a process of registering their use and wash down of their boat and trailer before accessing the lake. The same CAN also puts a legal requirement on all boats coming from the Waikato region that have been in the infected section of the Waikato in the past 30 days to also use this wash station before accessing any of the Rotorua lakes.

The pressure on Okataina is that all users for each visit (unless their vessel stays on the water or at the boat ramp) need to follow this procedure for each visit. This higher level of requirement is until more recent eDNA sampling of all the other Rotorua lakes is carried to confirm that there is no *Corbicula* in the regional lakes as the last survey was done in June.

Also as of 25 November an additional CAN comes into place that legally restricts the movement of vessels with internal ballast systems as these are of a higher risk of transferring the clam. This will be a welcome additional safeguard that will directly reduce the risk of known high risk vessels being a main source of transferring the clam.

Included in your papers for information are the two current CAN's that are in place.

We are continually working with all stakeholders, both at operational level and at higher governance and executive level to support and safeguard our waterways, so that we can maintain access to all the lakes and facilitate less access restrictions to Lake Okataina.

As this environment is often a fast-moving situation and actions have limited lead up time, there is a feeling of frustration from our licence holders that our communications is slow, but we are working closely with the National office with regard to communications and media releases to inform and update as soon as we can.

3. Recommendation

That Council discusses the risks associated both financially, environmentally and reputationally to EF&G. Our communication plan and engagement with all stakeholders.

8. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

20 November 2023

1. Purpose

To consider a further bid for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund as indicated to Council at the April 2023 meeting.

2. Background

In 1999 ECNZ made a commitment to create a trust known as the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Trust ("Trust") as part of its consent for the Waikaremoana Power Scheme before its transfer to Genesis. The Trust was set up in response to concerns about the environmental, recreational, social, cultural and economic effects of the Waikaremoana Power Scheme ("WPS"). Due to Inland Revenue issues and the Trust being subject to taxes on interest, the Trust was disbanded soon after its formation, and the settlement was paid to Fish & Game to form the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund ("Waikaremoana Fund")

The objective of the Trust and now the Waikaremoana Fund is:

"To sustain and enhance habitat for sports fish within the Wairoa River catchment and enhance access of the public to recreational sports fish therein".

In addition to this key objective, there are a number of additional purposes that include:

- *To undertake research that furthers the objectives of the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund;*
- *Identify and evaluate areas in the catchment worth protection, restoration, enhancement, etc.;*
- *Carry out creel surveys;*
- *Carry out trials and monitoring on improving sports fish habitat;*
- *To create, improve, maintain signage and access to sports fisheries.*

The Fund contained an initial investment of \$250,000. When the Fund was established in 2000 the Council agreed that the principal should be protected with an inflation-based adjustment and spending from the Fund should be maintained within the interest generated. The balance of the Fund stands at \$476,971 as at 31 August 2023.

3. Overview of Approved Offset Funding for 2023-24

Since 2017, Council has approved applications from staff each year for funding from this restricted reserve to incorporate into its OWP budget for the year coming to finance ongoing Waikaremoana survey and monitoring programmes, and to compensate for activities that staff would otherwise be undertaking elsewhere within the region, a principle that Council recommended and endorsed in 2016 [16/4/11.2].

Council has already approved a draw down from the Fund of \$6,500 from the Fund to incorporate into this budget to offset staff time and expenses associated with monitoring, access and buoy related work in the catchment (compliance activities are not eligible for funding from this source). [23/06/5.7]

4. Additional Funding Application for Eastern Region's River fisheries monitoring during the 2023-2024 OWP

Additional to the sum of \$6,500 approved at Council's June meeting, staff are seeking the further drawdown of \$2,000 to carry out investigations into the Wairoa River tributaries in the wake of Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle. On approval of the initial \$6,500 staff indicated that further funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund would be sought once a monitoring program had been determined. The Waiau River is a tributary of the Wairoa system and therefore meets the threshold for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

Staff propose to undertake a fisheries investigation into the mid-upper Waiau River that was hit hard during Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. Little data has been received from the Waiau over the past 2 decades and Eastern staff have not accessed the mid-upper Waiau River for river monitoring since 2000 when drift diving was undertaken. Given the extent of flooding from Gabrielle, it is important to undertake an assessment of this river fishery.

Staff wish to access the area (where drift diving was previously undertaken) by helicopter, as that is the only reasonable way into the upper river, utilising polaroiding and fish-out methods to obtain fish metrics and assess riverine habitat. This method is recommended over drift dive trout counts at this time as it is unknown as to the extent of siltation which would restrict through-water visibility, and the distance between landing sites would necessitate arduous instream travel for swimmers. This work, in prime Waiau River angling water will give staff and Council insights into how the fishery is coping following the cyclones and allow sharing of information with licence holders.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That Council reviews and approves this application for an additional funding of up to \$2,000 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund. (The total budgeted drawdown from the Fund for 2023-2024 would be \$8,500 if approved.)

9. 2022-2023 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.04

7 December 2023

1. Purpose

To adopt the Performance Report for the 2022-2023 year.

2. Background

The Performance Report for the 2022-2023 year has been completed and audited by Owen McLeod. The draft Performance Report was provided for consideration at Council's 12 October meeting, and a final copy which includes the Independent Auditor's Report has been provided via email for this meeting.

3. Reporting Standards

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

4. Variance against Budget

A net surplus of \$24,520 was recorded for the year against a budgeted deficit of \$32,073.

The variance between the actual surplus for the year and the budgeted deficit totalled \$56,593.

4.1 Income

Total revenue for the 2022-23 year was \$67,299 over budget. This is made up from the following:

Amount	Note
\$22,861	Increased general interest income
\$21,588	Increased trout inventory at year end (non-cash)
\$11,670	Additional contract revenue (primarily Genesis Energy Contract)
\$10,611	Increased interest income from Waikaremoana Fund deposits
\$8,936	Research funding NZ Fish & Game Research Fund (offsets expense)
\$4,000	Department of Conservation contribution Awaiti culvert repairs (offsets expense)
\$1,000	Donation for Te Wairoa trap net (offsets expense)
\$937	Unbudgeted other donations
\$1,856	Unbudgeted revenue from mowing DOC reserves
\$1,718	Ministry of Primary Industries contribution to maize for banding (offsets expense)
\$1,544	Insurance recovery FENZ (offsets expense)
\$759	Increased general income
-817	Lower than budgeted gain on sale of fixed assets
-\$1,457	Reduced Fishing Competitions
-\$2,614	Reduced income from Hatchery
-\$3,125	Reduced income from Prosecutions and Legal expense recovery
-\$12,168	Reduced licence revenue
<u>\$67,299</u>	

4.2 Expenditure (Direct)

4.2.1 Species Management

The total direct expenditure relating to species projects was \$15,454 over budget.

The Population monitoring budgets ended the year \$451 under budget or \$11,105 under budget when taking into consideration unbudgeted revenue received for maize for duck banding (\$1,718), and for the Lake Tarawera research project (\$8936).

The Hatchery costs were higher than budgeted for the year (\$16,672) and this was due primarily to increases in the price and freight for fish food and vehicle maintenance and fuel (\$16,924).

4.2.2 Habitat Protection & Management

Habitat related direct expenditure ended the year \$2,922 over budget. Offsetting income was received from the Department of Conservation for repairs to the Awaitei water inlet (\$4,000), and funds were also drawn down from the Ballot Habitat Management Reserve (\$1,651) to provide for additional expenditure over and above what was received from ballot holders for the 2023 Game Bird season.

4.2.3 Angler & Hunter Participation

The total direct expenditure related to client service projects was \$670 over budget. While Access spending was under budget for the year the Region incurred an unbudgeted expense for access mapping on the web which has been coordinated by Wellington Fish & Game.

4.2.4 Public Interface

Public Interface direct expenditure ended the year \$853 over budget. The Public Interface overspend related to grounds maintenance and in particular roading repairs and mitigation for flooding.

4.2.5 Compliance

The overall direct expense in the Compliance Output was under budget by \$3,157. Prosecution costs were reduced due to fewer prosecutions going through the Courts.

4.2.6 Licensing

Licensing costs were lower than budgeted by \$12,129. This is due in part to lower than budgeted licence sales but as sales continue to move through the Public Online facility the overall cost to Fish & Game is reduced.

4.2.7 Council

Council related expenditure was \$3,511 over budget due higher than anticipated travel costs. The Council budget had been reduced over the Covid period with some meetings occurring online via Zoom.

4.2.8 Planning & Reporting

Planning and reporting expenditure was \$6,788 under budget and this relates primarily to funds allocated for R3. The R3 budget had been intended for the purpose of development of an R3 Strategy for the region however, this has not yet occurred and the minimal spending incurred this year was applied to other R3 initiatives.

4.2.9 Overhead

The overhead expenses have been split into Employee related costs, Other expenses and Depreciation, and the combined end of year variance was \$9,370 (0.8%) over budget.

Employee related expenses were \$8,176 below budget due to staff vacancies during the year.

Other expenses were over budget by \$16,770. Spending on the staff houses was increased this Year (\$7,565) because of higher than anticipated maintenance costs to bring the houses up to Healthy Home standards and with the houses now managed by an agency, agent management fees were incurred. Office premises expenses ended the year \$2,916 over budget, primarily a result increased maintenance and insurance costs. Office equipment spending was over budget \$854 due to equipment requirements for new staff. Communications expenditure was \$22 under budget. General expenses were over budget by \$2,267 a result of increased insurance premiums. Field equipment spending was \$1,506 over budget primarily due to unanticipated repairs to the tractor and timing of Maritime surveys. Vehicle expenses were over budget \$1,684 due to increased maintenance costs with new vehicles not having capped servicing costs.

Depreciation was \$776 over budget.

4.2.10 NZ Fish & Game Levies

The levy of \$158,586 was in line with budget.

5. Financial Position

5.1 Liquidity

The Council's financial position remains secure with current liquidity ratios, which indicate the amount of working capital or quick assets available, of \$4.51 of current assets to every \$1 of current liabilities (\$4.47 in 2021-22). Note current assets figure for this calculation has been adjusted to exclude fish stock on hand at year end (ratio including fish stock \$5.15, cf \$5.04 in 2021-22).

The Statement of Cash Flows highlights that net cash received from operating activities for the year was \$26,123 compared to \$12,423 last year. The net increase in cash on hand at year-end of \$31,208 is made up of the inflow from operating (\$26,123), and the inflow/outflow of cash from investments and to fixed assets (\$5,085).

5.2 Debtors

The figure of \$127,022 is made up of current debtors, prepaid expenses, and accrued income (2021-22 figure, \$99,532).

5.3 Fish & Game General Reserves

The current National Financial Reserves Policy is that a Council's reserves will not fall below 20% of that Region's preceding year's bulk fund.

The Eastern Fish and Game Council's General Reserves (excluding Restricted Reserves) to 31 August 2023 totalled \$728,568. The Council's General Reserve sits at 55% of the 2023-24 bulk fund (\$1,322,153).

5.4 Restricted and Dedicated Reserves

Note 5 (pages 51 and 52) in the Performance Report provides a summary of Council's Dedicated and Restricted Reserves. These include the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund, the Asset Replacement Reserve, the Non-Resident Levy Reserve, the

Breeding Programme Reserve, the Fish for Gold Reserve, Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve, and the Ballot Habitat Management Reserve.

6. Statement of Service Performance

The Statement of Service Performance commencing on page 6 of the Performance Report provides information on each output area including Projects & Objectives, Performance Measures, and Actual Results. The Summary Budget and Actual Expenditure table shown on page 7, and the more detailed Summary of Resources tables shown at the commencement of each output area, provide a summary of total expenses less income for each output area.

The total expense figures reported within the Summary of Resource tables not only include direct costs but also an allocation of the overhead costs based on the actual hours worked in each output area.

Note 11 on page 55 provides a summary of the total expense for each output area detailing the overhead component and hours that contribute to this.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 That Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2022-2023 year.

11. 2024 GAME SEASON CONDITION

Ref: 1.07.03

22 November 2023

Purpose

To determine game season conditions for the 2024 hunting season.

2. Background

Council has established policies and criteria for determining game season regulations based on monitoring programmes undertaken in the January preceding the game season. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this Agenda Item. Appendix 2 shows the proposed 2024 Game Gazette Notice, Eastern Region page, with highlighted sections in yellow awaiting results of Council recommendations and summer monitoring.

3. Mallard Harvest Regulations

Background

Game bird harvest regulations in the Eastern Region are based on population monitoring of the respective species. For most of the waterfowl species Council have three sets of regulations. Which of these three sets of regulations get implemented depends on if the population is high, low, or at some intermediate level. In the case of paradise shelduck we don't know the size of the population so we use the long term population trend in moult site counts.

Regulation recommendations to the Minister of Conservation are required by the end of January. Monitoring occurs over the summer period when paradise and swan congregate to moult their flight feathers. Mallard and grey duck are banded over this period too when most of the juveniles have fledged, the adult moult has finished (almost), and before the juveniles develop adult sex characteristics.

Because of the timing of monitoring and the due date for regulation recommendations Council need established protocols of what regulations (usually bag limit and season length) apply for a given monitoring outcome.

Introduction

Species specific regulations have been developed over many years based on almost 30 years of monitoring and research. It is appropriate that Council periodically review these regulations to see if they remain fit for purpose. Current policy relating to game bird regulations can be found in Appendix 1.

The aim of this document is to present and review the species-specific regulations.

Mallard and grey duck

The mallard is a highly fecund introduced species, while the grey duck is a critically endangered native species. Introgression with the mallard (gene sharing), habitat loss, and over harvest (grey duck are more susceptible to harvest than mallard), have resulted in only a few remnant pockets of grey duck throughout New Zealand (and it is not clear if they are pure grey). Gisborne backcountry and Galatea are two key areas for grey duck in the Eastern Region. Because of this introgression it is no longer possible to identify the difference between

a grey duck hybrid and a mallard hybrid² (without genetic analysis) hence they are now managed in the Eastern Region as one species, called a greylard in this document.

Greylard harvest

Greylard harvest in the Eastern Region has been decreasing by about 1,600 per annum since 1993 (Figure 1). This decrease can be explained by annual hours spent hunting waterfowl and bag limit. Hours spent hunting waterfowl can be explained by a year effect (each year the hours spent hunting has decreased, maybe due to competing hobbies but may also be due to decreasing greylard population size??) and greylard season length (Figure 2).

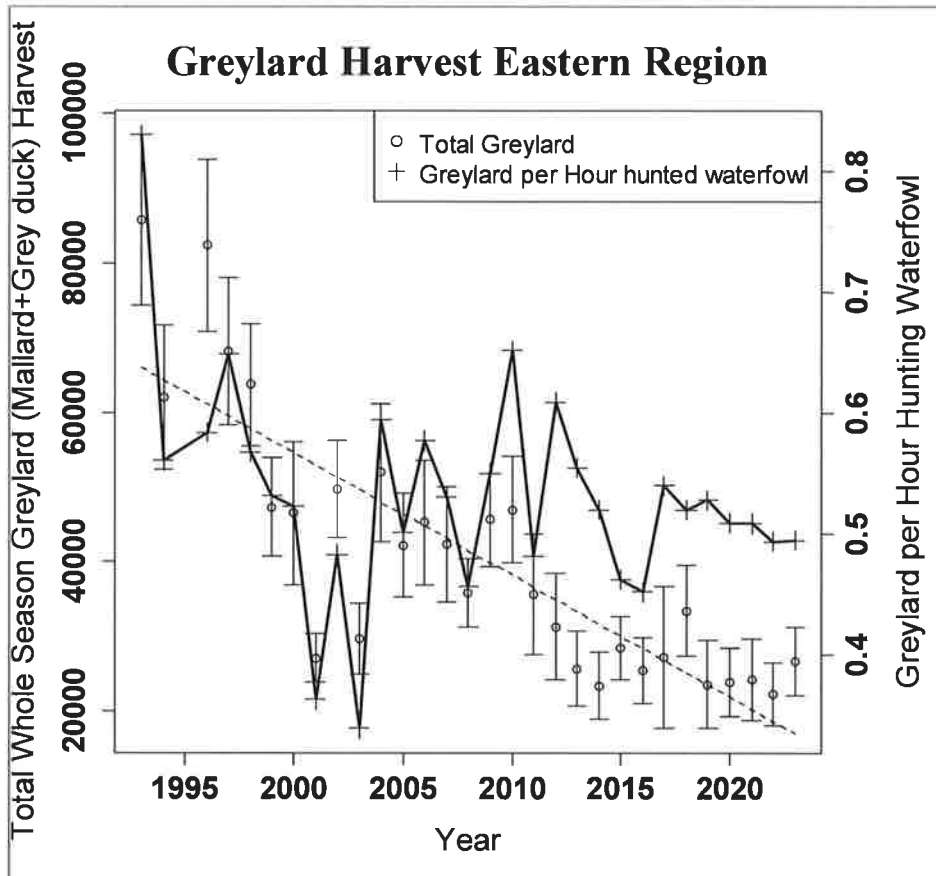


Figure 1. Greylard (mallard + grey duck) whole season harvest (mean=open circles; with 95% confidence bars) in the Eastern Region 1993 – 2023 (NB the survey was not carried out in 1995 in the Eastern Region). The solid line (with crosses) is greylard per hour hunting waterfowl.

Greylard per hour spent hunting waterfowl has shown a small but not significant decrease 1993 – 2023 (Figure 1; for further information see the 2023 Eastern game bird harvest survey report).

² Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act 1953 refers to grey duck as grey duck and grey duck cross and similar for the mallard i.e., mallard and any mallard cross.

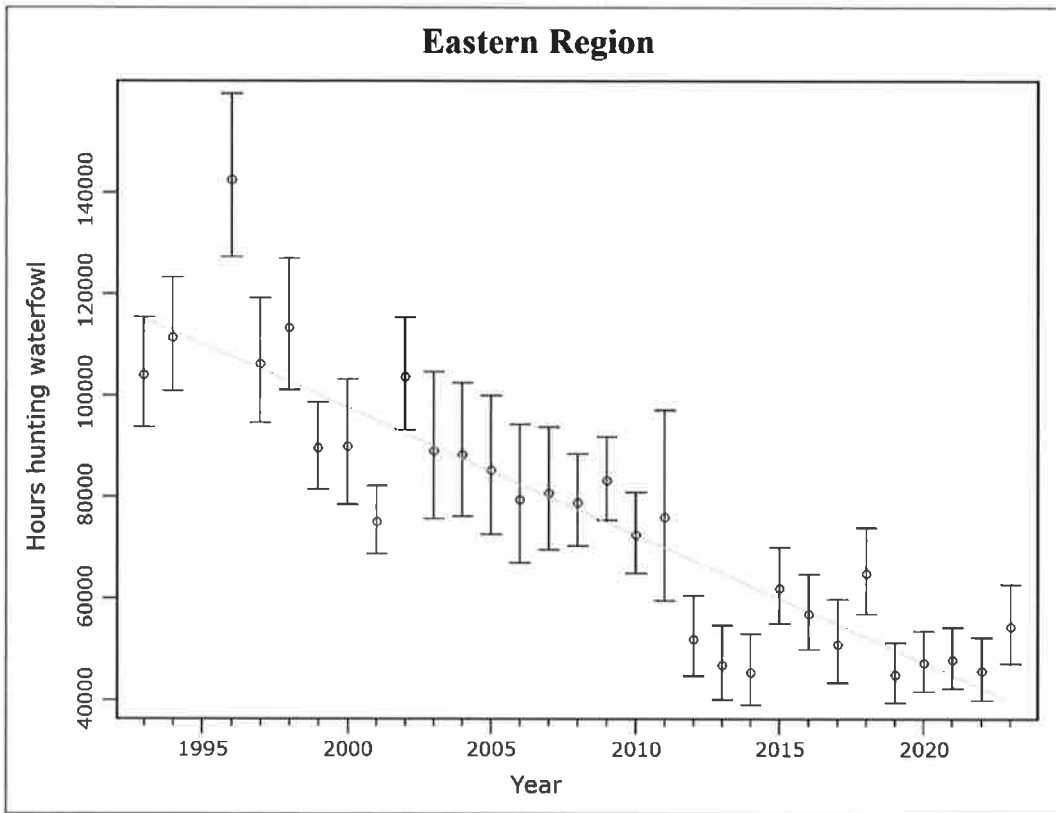


Figure 2. Total hours (mean \pm 95% confidence limit; the solid line if the regression line) spent hunting waterfowl in the Eastern Region 1993–2023

The correlation between hours hunting and greylard harvest is strong (Figure 3). Therefore, if we can manage hours hunted, we can manage harvest.

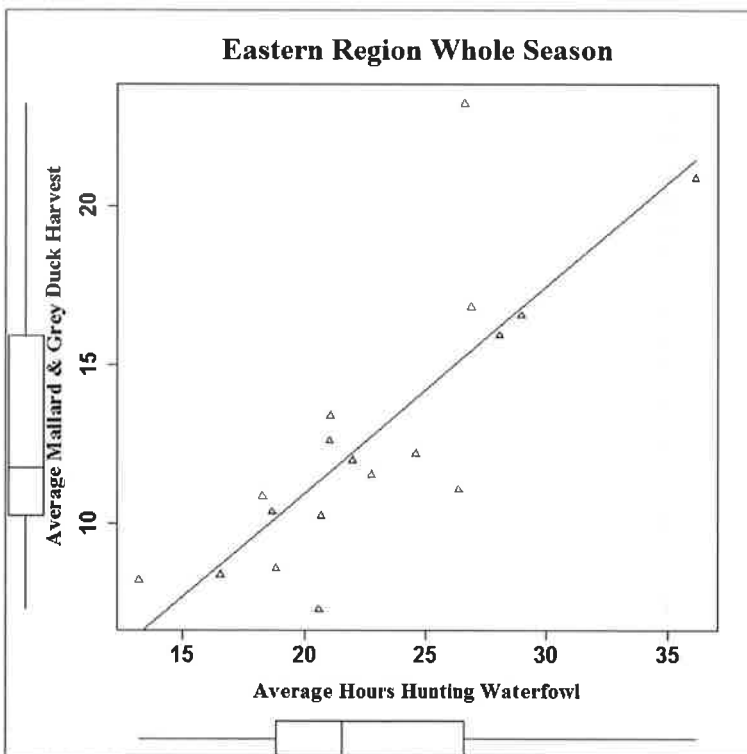


Figure 3. The correlation between hours hunting waterfowl and greylard harvest is strong.

Greylard population

Band data, harvest data, and reporting rate estimates, are used to estimate greylard population size using the Lincoln – Petersen estimator (Figure 4). This dataset is also used to predict the population size for the up-and-coming greylard season (Figure 5). Climate (winter and summer rain, and winter temperature), the previous year's population size, and harvest, explain changes in the greylard population (when the harvest is lower the following years population is higher).

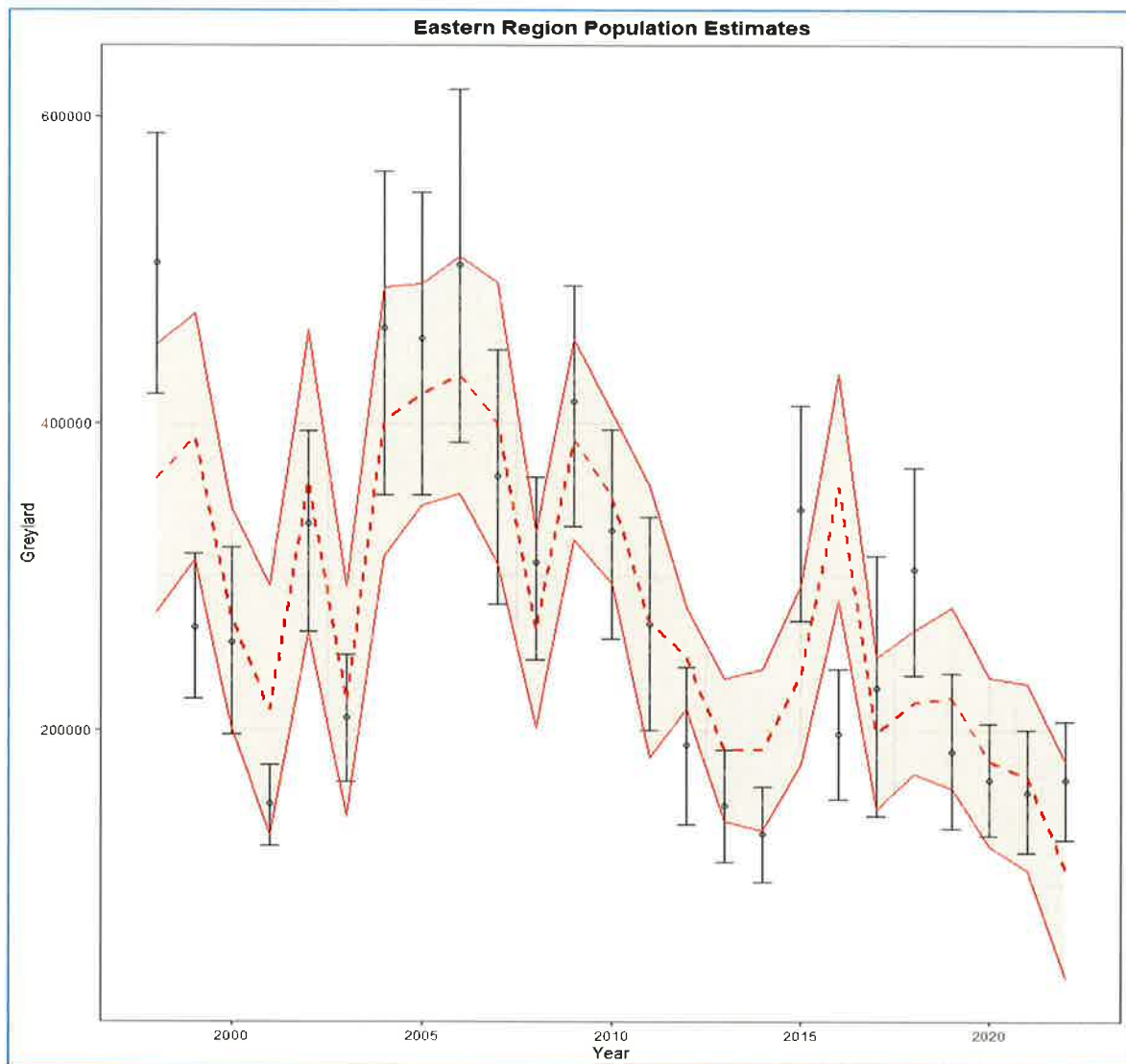


Figure 4. Eastern Region mallard population (open circle; mean \pm 95% BCI) 1998–2022, The dashed line shows the model $N(t) = N(t-1) + H(t-1) + WR(t) + time(t)$ (the grey zone either side is the 95% confidence interval for the model); where $N(t)$ =mallard population in year t , H = greylard harvest in year $t-1$, WR =total winter rain (recorded at the Whakatane weather station), $time = year (t)$.

The current regulations that apply for a given population size are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Mallard season regulations as a function of the estimated population size.

Constraint	Population Size	Daily Bag Limit	Season Length	Area
Restricted	<350,000	6	4 week ^(a)	All areas
Intermediate	350,000–450,000	8	6 week	All areas
Relaxed	>450,000	10	10 week	All areas

(a) If the last weekend of the mallard season is Queens birthday weekend, then the Monday is included.

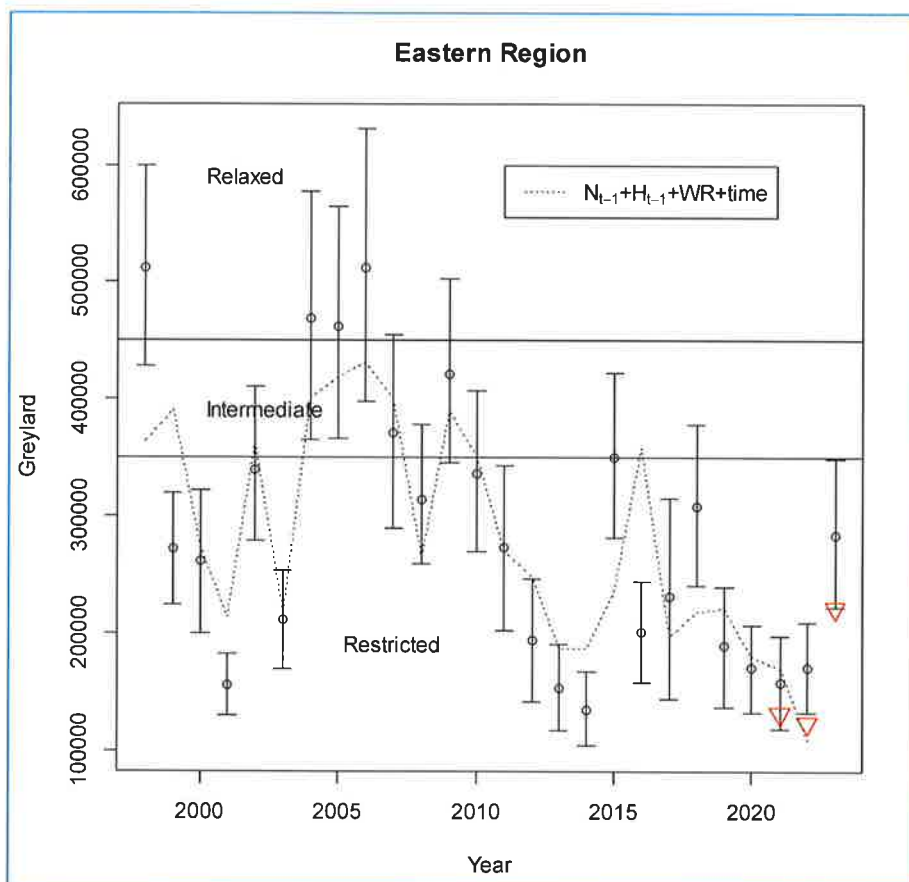


Figure 5. Eastern Region mallard population (open circle; mean ± 95% BCI) 1998–2023, with three zones of regulation constraint, Restricted, Intermediate and Relaxed (demarked by the horizontal lines). The dashed line shows the model $N(t) = N(t-1) + H(t-1) + WR(t) + \text{time}(t)$ where $N(t)$ =mallard population in year t , H = greylard harvest in year $t-1$, WR =total winter rain (recorded at the Whakatane weather station), $\text{time} = \text{year } (t)$. The upside-down red triangle (Nabla) represents the predicted 2021 – 2023 greylard population.

Bag Limits

Bag limits are only limiting a few hunt days. On forty percent of 10,279 hunter days, hunters shot zero greylard. On 68% of days, they shot ≤ 2 and 91% of days the shot ≤ 6 when the minimum limit was 7 (Figure 6). Figure 7 shows the percentage of hunters that shot their limits under different bag limits. Hunters are most successful over Opening Weekend, but limits are only limiting a very few hunters. For example, when the bag limit was 7 only about 11% shot their limit, when the limit was 10, less than 9% and when the limit was 15 about 2% of hunters

shot their limit over opening weekend. This dropped $\leq 2\%$ after the first fortnight for all bag limits.

Sixty-five percent of annual harvest therefore can be attributed to hunters shooting ≤ 6 birds per day (based on 10,279 hunter days see Figure 6). Based on this data we are manipulating only 35% of the potential harvest with bag limits above 6.

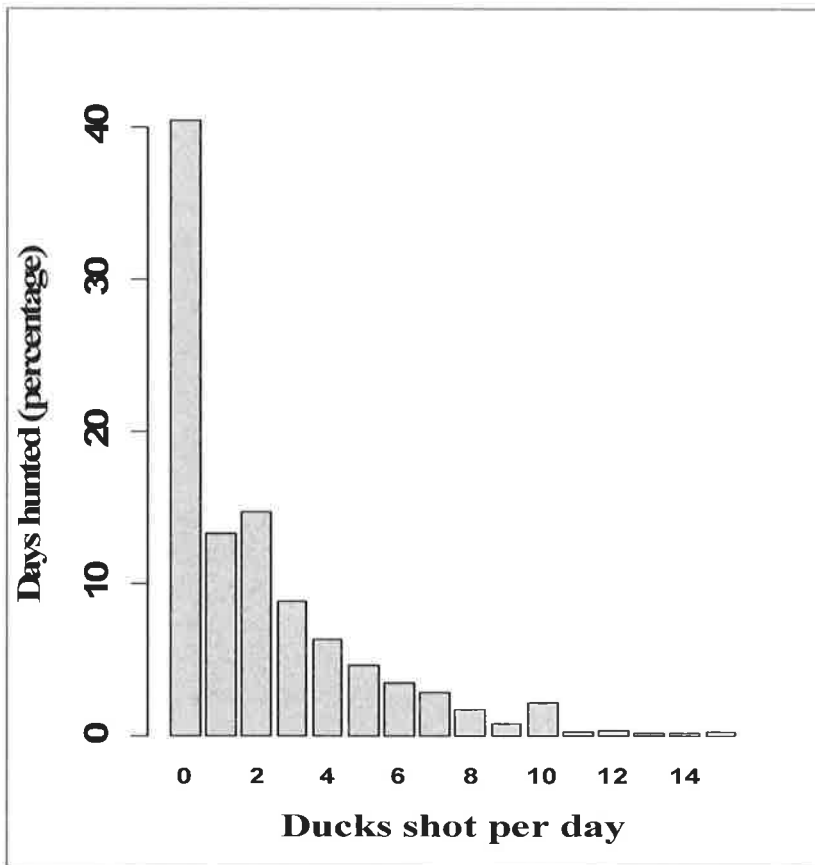


Figure 6. The percentage of days hunted (based on 10,279 hunter days) where 0, 1, 2, ...15 greylard were shot. For example, on about 40% of days hunters did not shoot any greylard.

Despite the low percentage of hunters shooting their bag limit, changes in bag limit explain changes in annual greylard survival (Figure 10). Annual survival is primarily a function of the age and sex of the bird, but bag limits also have an impact. Alternatively, or in addition to, bag limits may be reflecting population size and population size may be affecting survival i.e., density dependence. Moreover, bag limits explain changes in survival better than annual greylard harvest, which gives support to the later statement. Nevertheless, average greylard harvest and bag limits are correlated ($R^2 = 0.72$ $P < 0.0001$; see Figure 8) so it shouldn't be surprising that bag limits explain changes in annual survival.

There are two points worth noting from the survival graph (Figure 10), one is how low juvenile survival is, particularly the females, and secondly, that although the bag limits make a small difference in survival it can transpose into a large increase in the population if there is a good breeding season. For example, the difference in survival between a bag limit of 15 and 7 is only about 5% for juveniles and 10% for adult females but this equates to an additional 16,000 greylard per annum if those surviving hens produce two offspring. 16,000 is almost 80% of what we currently harvest each year.

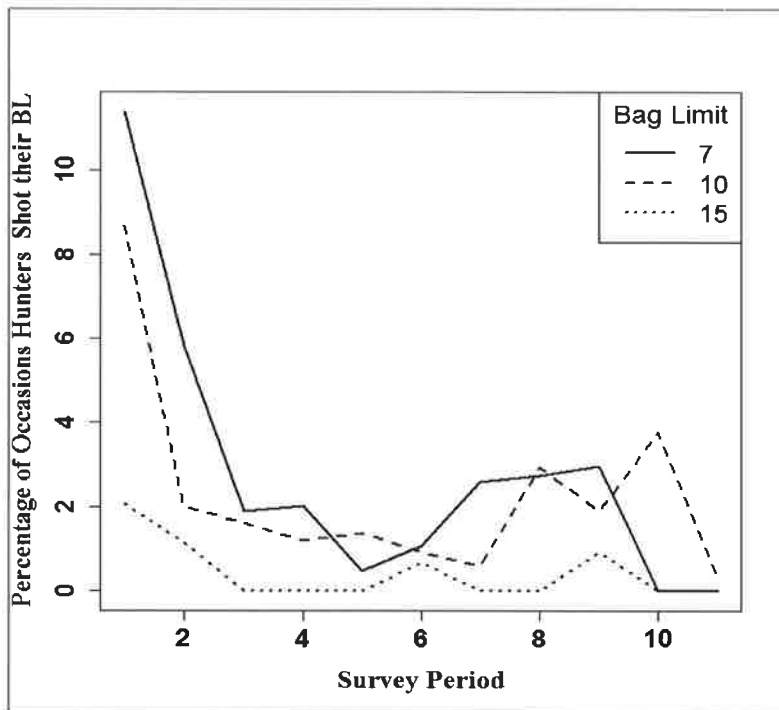


Figure 7. Percentage of hunt days (n=10,279) that hunters shot their limit under different bag limits (7, 10, 15). The survey periods are 1= opening weekend, 2-10 are subsequent fortnights. For example, about 11% of hunters shot their limit over opening weekend when the bag limit was 7 while only about 2% shot their limit when the bag limit was 15 (also for opening weekend).

Average hunter harvest shows an increasing trend with increasing daily bag limits however there is a large variability (Figure 8). This makes it very difficult to anticipate the effects of harvest regulations and given the consequences of getting it wrong it is best to adopt a conservative approach.

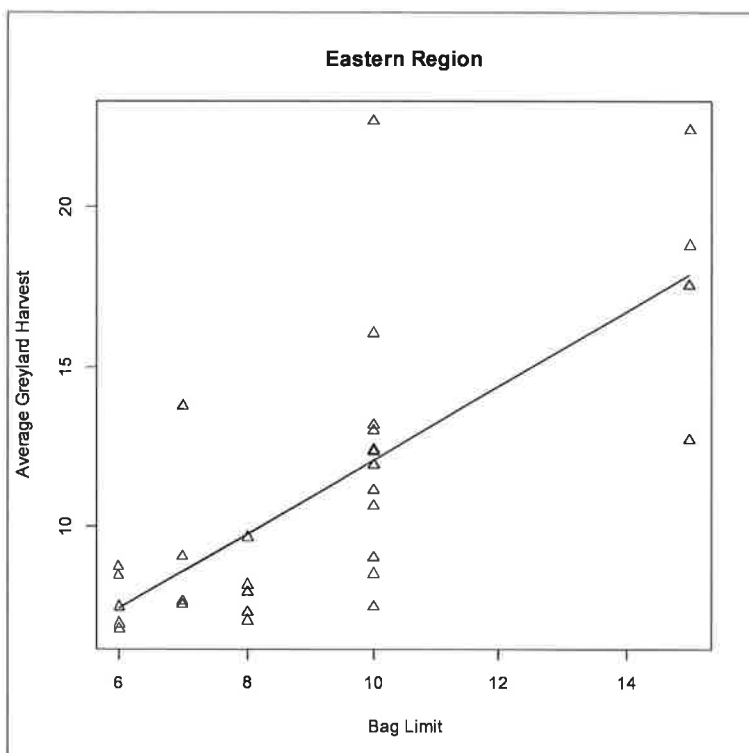


Figure 8. Average hunter harvest for different bag limits (6 – 15).

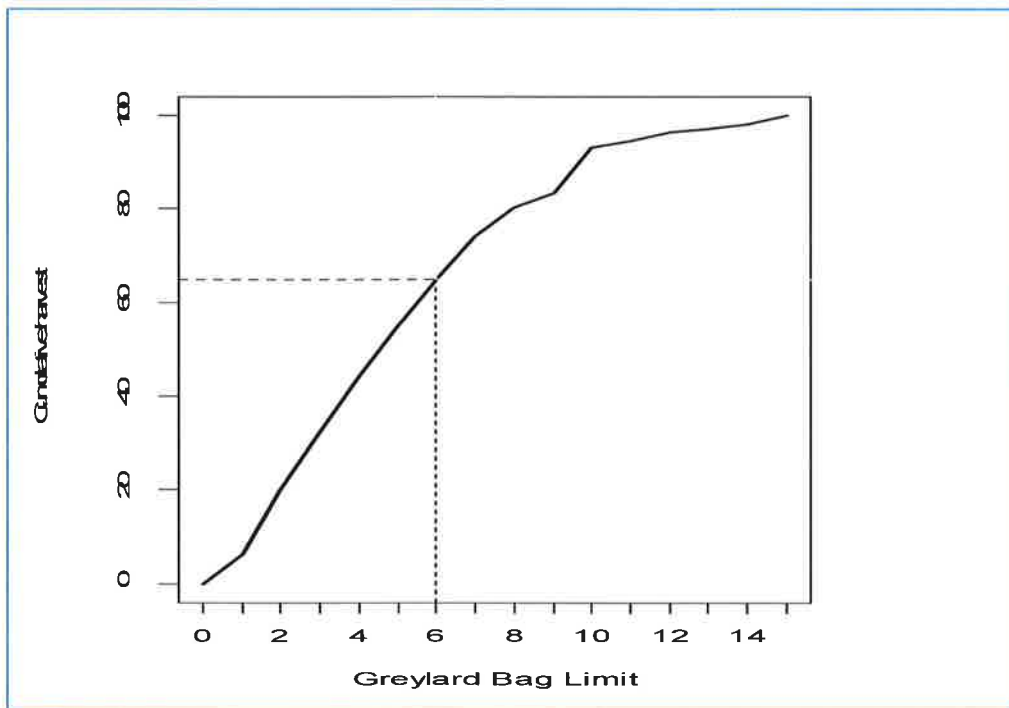


Figure 9. Cumulative harvest (percentage) for different bag limits (0 – 15). The black solid line shows the harvest derived from the percentage of ducks shot per day (10,279 hunter days). The dashed line shows that 65% of the harvest occurs from hunters shooting ≤ 6 ducks per day.

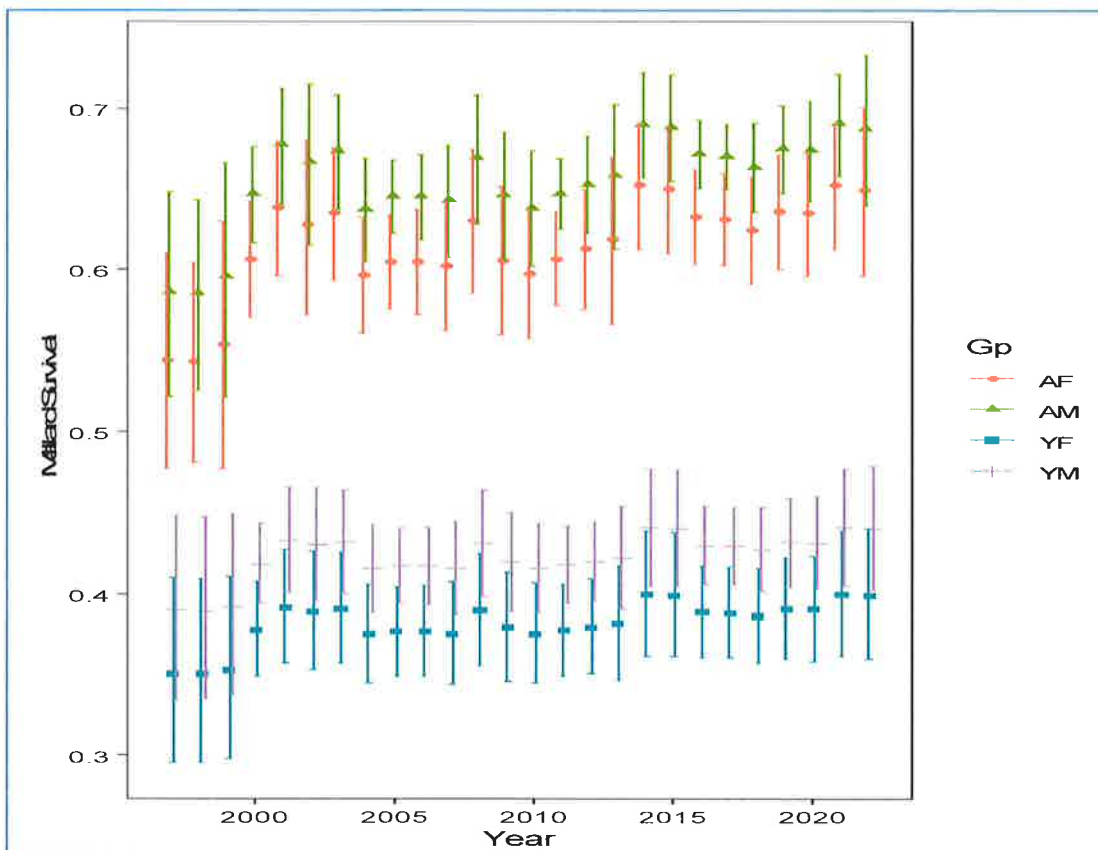


Figure 10. Greylard (Mallard and grey duck) annual survival rates (mean $\pm 95\%$ CI; derived from model averaging) in the Eastern Region 1997–2022 AF=adult females, AM=adult males, YF=juvenile females, YM= juvenile males.

Season length

Longer seasons result in more disturbance and hens put on less pre-season condition. Hens that go into the breeding season in good condition lay more eggs, the eggs are bigger, and bigger eggs result in higher duckling survival. Early nesters are more successful and have a higher probability of renesting.

Only a small increase in productivity can make the difference between sustainable and not sustainable harvest.

The correlation between season length and hours hunted is strong ($R^2 = 0.76$, $P < 0.0001$) but has a degree of uncertainty associated with it. There is a reasonable amount of overlap between the average hours hunted for the different season lengths (Figure 11).

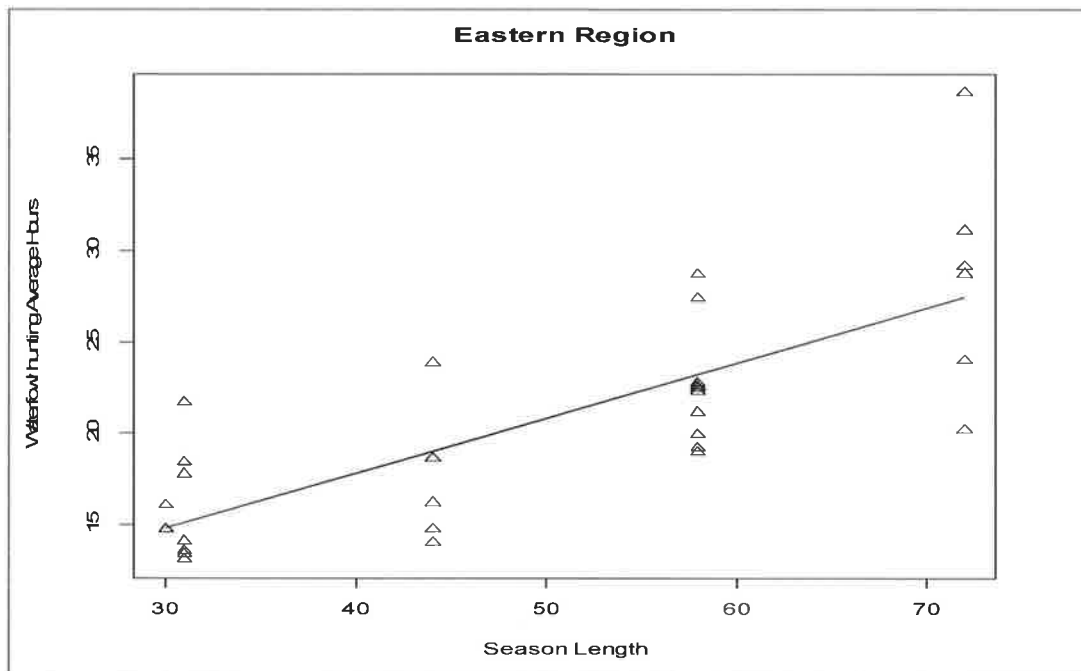


Figure 11. Average hours hunting waterfowl by each Eastern Region hunter for different season lengths (30, 31, 42, 57, 72 days).

Sex based limits.

Sex based limits have been tried in the Eastern Region without much support from hunters. The issue is that as we have seen most hunters shoot very few birds so the hen limit would either have to be one or none. This limits the ability to hunt first thing in the morning or the evening at a time that a lot of the harvest traditionally occurs (mallards are crepuscular and are more likely to move about at these times). But there is also the issue that hybridization has resulted in a lack of sexual dimorphism in the plumage of some birds and it can be very difficult to tell the difference between males and females particularly in flight.

Greyland summary

- The greyland population has been low for a number of years (9 of the last 11).
- Harvest is one of the few variables available to influence the following years population size. In other words, to increase the population to a level where season length and bag limits can be relaxed.
- Harvest is strongly correlated with hours hunted and is also influenced by daily bag limits.
- There is a general increase in average hours hunted as season length is increased however there is a reasonable overlap in hours between the short seasons and the long

seasons. In fact, in the past hunters have hunted for more hours in some of the short seasons cf. the long seasons (Figure 11).

- Bag limits appear to influence survival despite the fact bag limits are only limiting a very small percentage of hunters.
- It appears that regulations are governing only a very small percentage of hunters however this small group may be affecting greylard survival.
- Alternatively, or in addition to, it may be that survival decrease as population increases (density dependence), i.e., when the population is high daily bag limits are high.

Greylard Options

- The status quo. In Figure 5 we can see a large increase in the 2023 greylard population following a restrictive set of regulations in 2022. It appears that a good breeding year and a restrictive set of harvest regulations in the preceding year has the potential to increase the greylard population.
- Daily bag limit could be further decreased however this is likely to be politically unacceptable, while increasing the daily bag limit runs a risk of decreasing the following years harvest.
- Season length could be increased but again this is likely to impact on the harvest in the following season.
- Should we continue with population size thresholds to determine which set of harvest regulations apply? As an alternative, we could run optimisation algorithms to try and maximise harvest in the following year however this methodology is not very transparent. The advantage of population size thresholds is that everyone can understand them and can see what set of regulations should be implemented given the estimated population size.

Recommendation

3.1 *That the mallard and grey duck population thresholds and associated regulations currently used i.e., the status quo (shown in Table 1) of this paper remain until further evidence points to an alternative approach.*

3.2 Black swan special season (resolution required)

The background to this topic is provided in Council's November meeting agenda. To reiterate, swan on Tauranga Harbour and some of the Rotorua lakes in Management Area A1 have been reasonably high since 2014 (Figure 12). There is a strong inverse relationship between the increase on Tauranga Harbour and a decrease in swan numbers in the Waikato lakes. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council and some Tauranga residents have expressed concerns around the number of swan on the harbour and the effect large numbers have on seagrass (*Zostera sp.*).

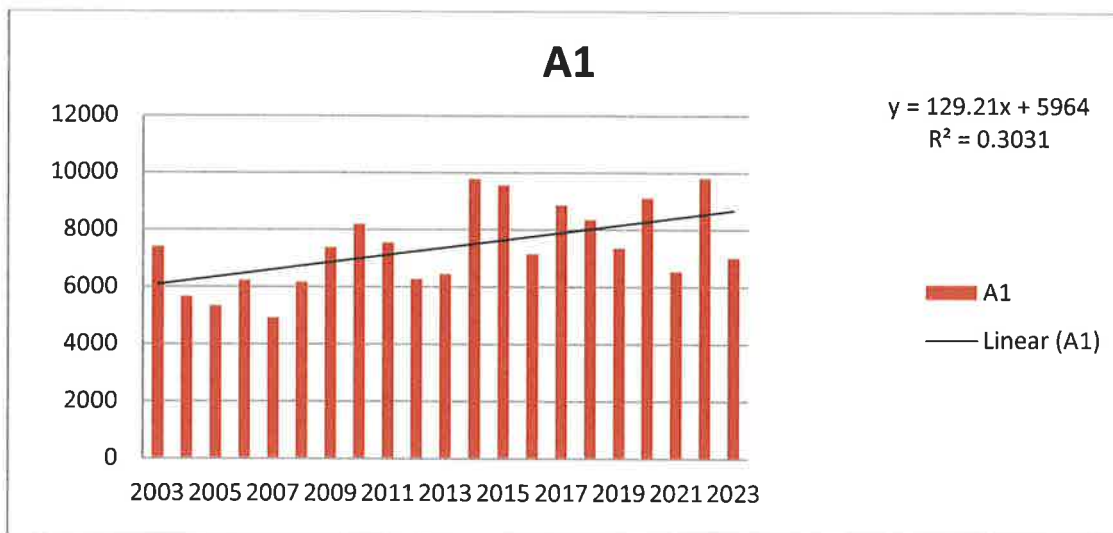


Figure 12. Black Swan counts in Management Unit A1 2003 – 2023

A special two-day season has been held every year since February 2019 (refer 2018 Game Gazette Notice). Additional opportunity has been provided for the end of the 2023/2024 season with a special swan season Gazetted for 17 – 25 February 2024 for Management Area A1. Council needs to decide if they wish to have another special season in 2025.

An organised hunt on Tauranga harbour requires a good high tide (>1.9m) that occurs mid-afternoon (in order that hunters can access Blue Gum Bay where the shoot occurs). There is only one weekend in the February – March period that provides both of these and that is 1 – 2 February 2025.

Recommendation

3.2 That there is a special black swan season in Management Area A1 coinciding with the same period for a proposed special pukeko season i.e. 1 February – 9 February 2025 (one week and two weekends);

3.3 Special Pukeko Season (resolution required)

In previous years the dates of a special season for pukeko have coincided with the special swan season but the area has applied to the whole of the Eastern Region (i.e., not just Management Area A1). The rationale for the season is to reduce predation by pukeko on ducklings and other water birds (refer to Council’s November 2021 meeting agenda for more detail). At the November 2021 meeting Cr Rayner suggested that the pukeko season could be extended beyond just one weekend.

Recommendation

3.3 That there is a special pukeko season 1 February – 9 February 2025 (i.e. one week and two weekends) for the Eastern Region.

3.4 Brown Quail (resolution required)

For the last four years there was no open season for brown quail in the Eastern Region. This came about because of a perceived decline in the population. There has been no reported harvest (hunter survey) for many years and they have disappeared from the few pockets staff know of. The WBOPFGC have also reported members had not seen any brown quail for a number of years.

Recommendation

3.4 That the season for brown quail in the Eastern Region remains closed for the 2024 season.

Appendix 1

GAME SEASON CONDITION POLICIES

2.1 Mallard and Grey Duck (greylard)

- (i) Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [15/11/12.2]*
- (ii) Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [15/11/12.3]*
- (iii) Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [15/11/12.4]*

2.2 Other Species

- (i) Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and subject to January monitoring results. [15/11/12.5]*
- (ii) Agreed (Ian Pirani/Lindsay Lyons) that Council authorises staff to make a decision on Game Season Regulations outside of policy when an issue has been flagged. [12/10/8.2]*

Rationale for (v) as per October 2012 Council minutes:

“Cr Barry Roderick commented on the greylard population estimates being the lowest in 8 years and the mystery, last summer, with a very high ratio of juveniles in the traps. Matt McDougall said that in the last decade something had occurred in some years that's throwing us off track. Last year he was concerned over the reduced adults in the traps and those concerns were later vindicated by harvest results. Council discussed the policy for setting the season regulations and the short time frame available before these are presented to the Minister for approval. Rob Pitkethley said that in 4 out of 5 years the modelling policy would be used, but in the occasional year staff would like the ability to alter the policy direction if unusual results suggested something else was occurring. Staff were seeking guidance on how this unusual process could work and Cr Steve Scragg said that he would be comfortable with Matt McDougall and Rob Pitkethley making the appropriate call and providing confirmation by email to Council.”

- (iii) *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the “Intermediate” regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e, when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*

2.3 Threshold Criteria for Paradise shelduck

Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels

LONG TERM POPULATION TREND	SEASON
Negative i.e. population declining	Restricted
Zero i.e. population stable	Intermediate
Positive i.e. population growing.	Relaxed

Table 2: Eastern Paradise Shelduck season conditions (Season per Table 1)

SEASON	Area	Specific Conditions	
		Length (weeks)	Bag Limit
Restricted	A1 & A2	4	4
	B2 & B1 South of true right bank Uawa River Mouth	4	4
Intermediate	A1, A2	8	6
	B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	8	10
Relaxed	A1, A2, B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	10
Fixed Season condition	B1 North of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	20

2.4 Threshold Criteria for Black Swan

Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels

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

Table 4: Eastern Black Swan season conditions (Season per Table 3)

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

Appendix 2

PROPOSED 2024 GAME SEASON

The First Schedule extract from the 2023 season is provided in the October 2023 Agenda.

EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION³

SECOND SCHEDULE 2024 GAME SEASON

1. Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2024/2025 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	4 May to 3 June 2024	6	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	4 May to 3 June 2024	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	4 May to ? 2024	6?	Area A1, A2
	4 May to ? 2024	10?	Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
	4 May to 14 July 2024	20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pukeko	4 May to 25 August 2024	10	All areas
	1 Feb – 9 Feb 2025	10?	All areas
Black swan	4 May to 25 August 2024	No limit	Area A1
	1 Feb to 9 Feb 2025	No limit	Area A1
	4 May to 30 June 2024	5	Area A2
	Closed season	0	Area B1 & B2
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	Closed Season	0	All areas
Brown quail	Closed season	0	All areas
California quail	4 May to 25 August 2024	No limit	Area A1 & A2
	4 May to 25 August 2024	5	Area B1 & B2
Cock pheasant	4 May to 25 August 2024	5	All areas

³Reference to Description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 22 May 1990, at page 1861
Eastern Fish and Game Council Meeting 7 December 2023

2. Definition of Areas

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

- (1) **Area A1:** Tauranga District, Western Bay of Plenty District, that part of the South Waikato District within the Eastern Fish and Game region and east of State Highway 1, Rotorua District, Kawerau District, Whakatane District and Opotiki District.
- (2) **Area A2:** Those parts of the South Waikato District west of State Highway 1 within the Eastern Fish and Game region, Taupo District and Ruapehu District, which lie within the Eastern Fish and Game region.
- (3) **Area B1:** Gisborne District.
- (4) **Area B2:** That part of Wairoa District within the Eastern Fish and Game region.

3. Shooting Hours

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

4. Decoy Limit

No Limit

5. Special Conditions

- (1) No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the Eastern region with any magazine shotgun unless the shotgun:
 - a. has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
 - b. the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Act; so that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than 2 shells in the magazine, with no more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.
- (2) A licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.
- (3) No person shall wilfully within the Eastern Fish & Game Region, in or on any public place, or in or on any private land without consent of the land occupier:
 - a. deposit any type of litter, including any carcass or part of it, of any shot game.
 - b. having deposited any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game, leaves it after having been deposited.
 - c. for the purposes of this regulation litter includes any refuse, animal or game remains, or waste matter or items of any type used in the course of hunting, which is abandoned or intended to be abandoned.
- (4) A person must not use a drone to disturb game birds.

6. Hunting From a Boat Under Power

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

12. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

12.1 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

23 November 2023

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the months of September and October 2023.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 31 October 2023
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2023
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 31 October 2023
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions September and October 2023
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions September and October 2023
Table 8	Reconciliation of OWP to Financial Statement Budget 2023-2024
Table 9	Fixed Asset Budget for 2023-2024
Table 10	Statement of Financial Performance Budget for the year ended 31 August 2024
Table 11	Statement of Financial Position Budget as at 31 August 2024
Table 12	Statement of Cashflows Budget for the year ended 31 August 2024

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 October is provided in Table 3.

Summary

With the new season licence sales coming in over these initial months of the new financial year a net profit of \$290,896 is reported against the YTD budget of 280,016, net variance \$10,880.

The net variance of \$10,880 is a result of reduced expenditure \$18,271, and reduced income \$7,391.

Income	Var YTD		Expenses	Var YTD	
Licence Sales	12,663 ▼		Depreciation	1,319 ▼	
Other Income	5,272 ▲		Operating Expenses	8,315 ▼	
			Administration Expenses	8,637 ▼	
	7,391 ▼	-1%		18,271 ▼	-6%
			Net	10,880 ▲	4%

A more detailed summary is provided in the following notes.

Income

Licence Sales

Fish licence revenue is \$12,663 below budget YTD. Revenue has been collected from ballot holders for game bird licences pending these being issued March 2024. A more up to date and detailed picture of fish licence sales performance can be found within the licence sales report.

Other Income

Revenue from other sources over the two months totalled \$25,728 and was made up of the following: grazing (\$947), fishing competitions (\$284), rentals (\$9,767), fines from prosecutions collected through the courts (\$683), donations for the children's fishing events and a school visit (\$1,137), and ballot habitat maintenance fees collected with the return of the

hunter ballots (\$4,230). Funds were also received for sponsorship of the preseason advertising on the Koutu Corner billboard from; Destination Rotorua, Hamills Rotorua, Rotorua Hunting & Fishing, and Telfer Marine (\$1,348). A contribution from DOC for Awaitei Wetland works was accrued to new financial year where the spending is to occur (\$1,000). Interest income is currently reporting at negative \$2,442 due to end of year accruals, and a transaction is recorded from gains made on sale of fixed assets (\$8,773).

Species Management

The Population Monitoring expenditure over the period included Datawatch free licences (\$851), and an accrual for prepaid duck bands (\$1,000). Within budget YTD.

Within the Harvest Assessment budget, expenses are reported for Game Bird Hunter surveys, and the opening of the fishing season. Within budget YTD.

The more significant expenditure within the Hatchery budgets related to fish food (\$9,602) and insurance (\$8,051). Expenses were also incurred relating to vehicle fuel, a COF for the tanker, rates, electricity, and oxygen. Equipment purchases included waders and a gazebo for the clipping station. Minor expenses were also incurred for maintenance. Within budget YTD.

Habitat

Within the Habitat output expenses are reported in the reserves budget for hunter wheelchair signage, and pest plant spraying in the Awaitei and Orini WMR's. A small variance is reported YTD.

Participation

Access spending was minimal and related to overlay stickers for the Ohau Channel signage and electricity for the Waikaremoana hut. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

The spending within the Public Interface output was from the grounds maintenance budget and related to lighting for the staff conference evening on the grounds and cleaning. Within budget YTD.

Compliance

Compliance expenses are minimal and relate to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

Licensing costs include agent commissions, and the fees associated with the Public Online sales. The costs for the Designated Waters licensing development work were accrued to the new financial year and a second instalment was made in October. These costs will be drawn down from the non-resident levy reserve at year end. Within budget YTD.

Council

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the October meeting of Council. Within budget YTD.

Planning

Management and Strategic Planning costs relate to several promotions which have taken place leading up to the opening of the fishing season including the Hunting & Fishing Expo, hosting of the Chamber of Commerce BA5 event, advertising in the Coffee Table Book and Godzone magazine, and billboard advertising of the new fishing season at the Koutu Corner lights. The

overspend in this budget YTD is offset by revenue from sponsorship of the billboard advertising (recorded within “Other Income”).

The audit budget is showing a negative and is a result of the audit fee (yet to be charged) being accrued into the last financial year. Levies were paid to the NZC as budgeted.

Administration

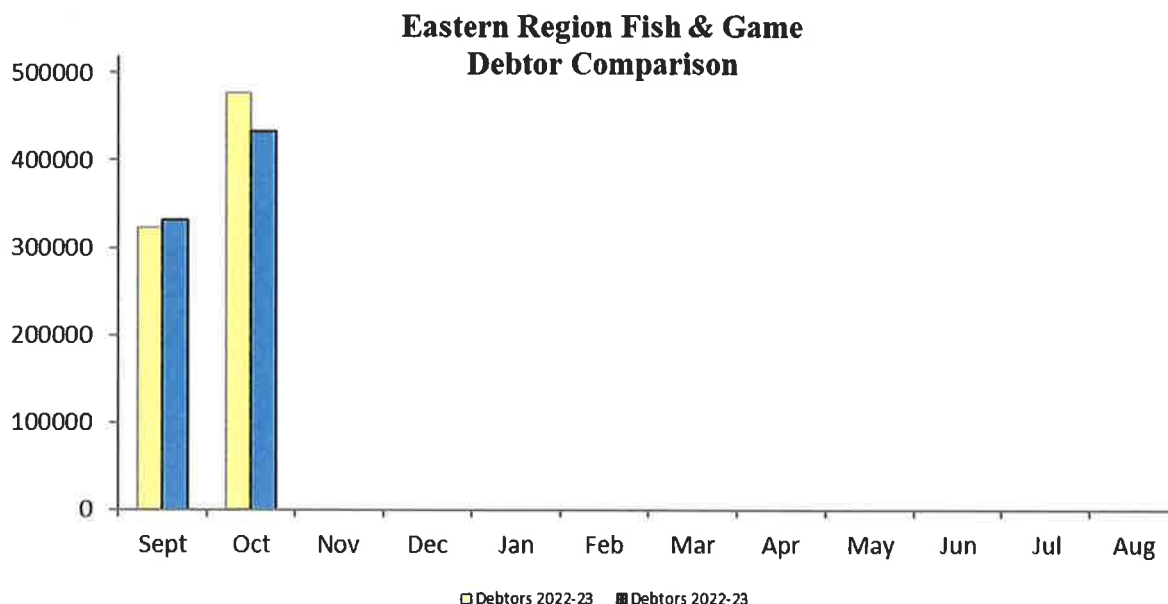
Salaries	Within budget.
Staff Expenses	An ACC levies accrual is reported in September and first aid training for 10 staff in October. Other expenses included staff clothing and PPE, fire extinguisher purchase and servicing, and flowers. A small overspend is reported YTD due to timing of expenses.
Staff Houses	Rates and insurance were paid, and maintenance costs incurred relating to a new fence, and gutter cleaning of both houses. The fire extinguishers were also serviced within the period. Over budget YTD \$1,970 and this is primarily due to an increase in rates and insurance.
Office Premises	Rates and insurance were paid within the period. The usual expenses relating to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring were incurred. Over budget YTD \$1,168 and this is due to increased insurance premiums and timing of other expenses.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs. Over budget YTD \$127 due to an upgrade of the phone system at a slightly higher cost. The new system works over Starlink and as a result savings will be made in the telephone expenses budget following cancellation of all landlines.
Communications/ Consumables	Telephone expenses are now made up of cell phones, 0800 service, Garmin InReach, and 2Talk calling plan needed to utilise the IP phones. Expenses are also reported relating to Starlink, stationery, and photocopying. Computer expenses were incurred for IT services and minor equipment purchases. The Communications area is over budget YTD \$310.
General	Insurance costs were reported in September for contents, and all buildings not provided for elsewhere. Other smaller expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. Overbudget YTD \$1,220 and this is due to insurance costs for the fire store compound being covered by F & G pending it being re-let.
General Equipment	General equipment spending related to flares for the boats and minor equipment purchases. Maintenance expenses included two trailer repairs and WoF’s, 4 trailer tyres, a mudguard and jockey wheel handle, maintenance materials, and fire extinguisher servicing. Insurance on boats and equipment is also reported in September. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of one vehicle, a WoF, a wheel alignment, and fuel. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: As at 31 October 2023

\$ 751,906	(includes \$93,543 Asset Replacement Reserve)
<u>\$ 478,823</u>	(Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,230,729	Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$433,189 as at 31 October 2023 (\$476,967 as at 31 October 2022).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2022/23-2023/24



Debtors outstanding as at 31 October related primarily to licence sales. One agent is overdue \$325 and this is being followed up by administration staff.

3. Variance Report (Table 1)

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. The complete year 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.

Table 1 2023/2024 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME as at 31 October 2023

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	Variance	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 53,700	\$ 1,851	2,119	253	\$ 158,476	\$ 17,366	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 212,176	\$ 19,207	\$ 192,970	\$ 9.1	
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 604	690	244	\$ 51,604	\$ 16,738	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,504	\$ 17,342	\$ 37,162	\$ 31.8	
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 97,050	\$ 22,457	2,996	504	\$ 224,066	\$ 34,574	\$ 68,000	\$ 2	\$ 253,116	\$ 57,029	\$ 196,086	\$ 22.5	
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	46	\$ 10,022	\$ 3,156	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,022	\$ 3,156	\$ 6,866	\$ 31.5	
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	76	-	\$ 5,664	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,664	\$ -	\$ 5,664	\$ 0.0	
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	36	2	\$ 2,692	\$ 137	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,192	\$ 137	\$ 3,055	\$ 4.3	
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 154,150	\$ 24,912	6,051	1,049	\$ 452,544	\$ 71,961	\$ 68,000	\$ 2	\$ 538,694	\$ 96,871	\$ 441,823	\$ 18.0	
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,432	305	\$ 107,097	\$ 20,923	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107,097	\$ 20,923	\$ 86,174	\$ 19.5	
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 1,831	940	188	\$ 70,301	\$ 11,525	\$ 11,650	\$ 6,177	\$ 76,151	\$ 7,178	\$ 68,973	\$ 9.4	
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 700	\$ -	770	29	\$ 57,587	\$ 1,989	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,287	\$ 1,989	\$ 56,298	\$ 3.4	
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	-	\$ 5,385	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ 0.0	
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 18,200	\$ 1,831	3,214	502	\$ 240,370	\$ 34,437	\$ 11,650	\$ 6,177	\$ 246,920	\$ 30,090	\$ 216,829	\$ 12.2	
1310	Access	\$ 5,500	\$ 85	708	112	\$ 52,950	\$ 7,683	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,450	\$ 7,768	\$ 50,682	\$ 13.3	
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	342	5	\$ 25,578	\$ 343	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,578	\$ 343	\$ 25,235	\$ 1.3	
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ -	38	-	\$ 2,842	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,842	\$ -	\$ 4,842	\$ 0.0	
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ -	775	125	\$ 57,961	\$ 8,575	\$ 7,000	\$ 283	\$ 51,811	\$ 8,292	\$ 43,519	\$ 16.0	
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	4	\$ 2,393	\$ 274	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,393	\$ 274	\$ 2,119	\$ 11.5	
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 139	46	6	\$ 3,440	\$ 412	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 4,490	\$ 551	\$ 3,940	\$ 12.3	
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 9,800	\$ 224	1,941	252	\$ 145,164	\$ 17,287	\$ 7,400	\$ 283	\$ 147,564	\$ 17,228	\$ 130,336	\$ 11.7	
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	10	\$ 5,385	\$ 686	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ 686	\$ 4,699	\$ 12.7	
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	116	16	\$ 8,675	\$ 1,068	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,675	\$ 1,098	\$ 7,578	\$ 12.7	
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ -	114	30	\$ 8,526	\$ 2,024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,526	\$ 2,024	\$ 7,502	\$ 21.2	
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 248	633	37	\$ 47,341	\$ 2,538	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,841	\$ 2,786	\$ 45,055	\$ 5.8	
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 248	935	93	\$ 69,927	\$ 6,345	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,427	\$ 6,593	\$ 64,834	\$ 9.2	
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 164	930	131	\$ 69,553	\$ 8,987	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,553	\$ 9,151	\$ 61,403	\$ 13.0	
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	104	18	\$ 7,778	\$ 892	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,778	\$ 892	\$ 7,886	\$ 10.2	
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,000	\$ -	336	27	\$ 25,129	\$ 1,852	\$ 5,000	\$ 683	\$ 24,129	\$ 1,169	\$ 22,960	\$ 4.8	
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 6,000	\$ 164	1,370	171	\$ 102,460	\$ 11,731	\$ 5,000	\$ 683	\$ 103,460	\$ 11,212	\$ 92,248	\$ 10.8	
1610	Licensing	\$ 13,654	\$ 8,620	124	18	\$ 9,274	\$ 1,235	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,928	\$ 9,864	\$ 13,073	\$ 43.0	
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	148	-	\$ 11,069	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,069	\$ -	\$ 11,069	\$ 0.0	
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 13,654	\$ 8,620	272	18	\$ 20,342	\$ 1,235	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,996	\$ 9,854	\$ 24,142	\$ 29.0	
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,500	\$ 838	474	51	\$ 35,450	\$ 3,499	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 4,336	\$ 37,613	\$ 10.3	
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,500	\$ 838	474	51	\$ 35,450	\$ 3,499	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 4,336	\$ 37,613	\$ 10.3	
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ 5,133	281	68	\$ 21,016	\$ 4,665	\$ -	\$ 1,348	\$ 29,516	\$ 8,450	\$ 21,066	\$ 28.6	
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	64	3	\$ 4,786	\$ 171	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,786	\$ 171	\$ 4,615	\$ 3.6	
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 10,100	\$ (10,167)	408	141	\$ 30,514	\$ 9,673	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,614	\$ (494)	\$ 41,108	\$ -1.2	
1840	National Liaison	\$ 50	\$ 103	228	163	\$ 17,052	\$ 11,182	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,102	\$ 11,285	\$ 5,817	\$ 66.0	
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,650	\$ (4,931)	981	375	\$ 73,367	\$ 25,691	\$ -	\$ 1,348	\$ 92,017	\$ 19,412	\$ 72,605	\$ 21.1	
	TOTAL	\$ 228,454	\$ 31,905	15,238	2,510	\$ 1,139,624	\$ 172,186	\$ 92,050	\$ 8,493	\$ 1,276,028	\$ 195,597	\$ 1,080,431	\$ 15.3	

Table 2**Balance Sheet**

Eastern Fish and Game Council

As at 31 October 2023

Assets	31 Oct 2023	31 Aug 2023
Bank		
Westpac Current Account	58,494	101,445
Westpac Call Account	111,390	170,930
Petty Cash	170	170
Investments	580,568	579,406
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	478,823	368,823
Total Bank	1,229,446	1,220,774
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	433,189	105,483
Accounts Receivable - Hawke's Bay & External parties	(872)	0
Inventory - Fish Stock	190,527	190,527
Prepayments and Accrued Income	0	18,978
Total Current Assets	622,844	314,989
Fixed Assets		
Buildings	1,043,849	1,043,849
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	381,710	415,992
Office Equipment	58,779	58,606
Plant & Equipment	203,929	198,899
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(761,859)	(757,222)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(133,342)	(140,776)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(46,184)	(45,234)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(156,444)	(167,610)
Total Fixed Assets	692,438	708,505
Total Assets	2,544,727	2,244,268
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	57,971	30,127
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	81,194	154,813
Employee Entitlements	75,122	87,798
GST	64,605	(2,560)
PAYE Clearing	23,094	21,104
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	150	0
Staff Social Club	2,013	1,796
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	757	618
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	527	2,317
Designated Waters Clearing Acc	145	0
Total Current Liabilities	305,576	296,014
Total Liabilities	305,576.23	296,014
Net Assets	2,239,151	1,948,255
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,174,617	1,150,098
Asset Replacement Reserve	93,543	93,543
Non Resident Levy Reserve	167,182	167,182
Breeding Programme Reserve	1,018	1,018
Fish for Gold Reserve	14,000	14,000
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	16,109	16,109
Hunter Ballot Reserve	4,814	4,814
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	476,971	476,971
Current Year Earnings	290,896	24,519
Total Equity	2,239,150	1,948,255

Table 3 Profit and Loss - Council

Eastern Fish and Game Council for 2 months ended 31 October 2023

Income	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Variance YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	312,152	229,907	542,058	555,000	1,435,443	(12,942)	-2%
Non-Resident Licence Levy	279	0	279	0	0	279	0%
Other Income	13,150	12,577	25,728	20,456	231,185	5,272	26%
Total Income	325,581	242,484	568,065	575,456	1,666,628	(7,391)	-1%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	5,962	6,165	12,127	13,446	80,674	(1,319)	-10%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	1,133	718	1,851	2,000	53,700	(149)	-7%
1120 Harvest Assessment	604	0	604	660	2,900	(57)	-9%
1140 Hatchery Operations	20,100	2,358	22,457	22,760	97,050	(303)	-1%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	0	500	0	0%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	21,836	3,076	24,912	25,420	154,150	(508)	-2%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1220 Works & Management	0	1,831	1,831	1,800	17,500	31	2%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	0	0	9,200	0	0%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION	0	1,831	1,831	1,800	26,700	31	2%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	85	0	85	400	5,500	(315)	-79%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	0	1,000	2,000	(1,000)	-100%
1350 Training	0	0	0	100	850	(100)	-100%
1370 Huts	33	106	139	200	1,450	(61)	-30%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	118	106	224	1,700	9,800	(1,476)	-87%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	0	200	1,000	(200)	-100%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	198	50	248	250	500	(2)	-1%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	198	50	248	450	1,500	(202)	-45%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	96	68	164	160	1,000	4	2%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0%
1530 Compliance	0	0	0	600	4,000	(600)	-100%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	96	68	164	760	6,000	(597)	-78%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	4,312	4,308	8,620	10,000	13,654	(1,380)	-14%
1630 Commission	11,556	7,380	18,936	24,525	64,595	(5,589)	-23%
Total 1600 LICENSING	15,868	11,688	27,556	34,525	78,249	(6,969)	-20%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	12	825	838	1,000	6,500	(162)	-16%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	12	825	838	1,000	6,500	(162)	-16%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Management & Planning	4,241	892	5,133	3,500	8,500	1,633	47%
1830 Reporting/Audit	(10,167)	0	(10,167)	(10,000)	10,100	(167)	2%
1840 National Liaison	85	31,130	31,216	31,113	124,501	103	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	(5,841)	32,023	26,182	24,613	143,101	1,569	6%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	56,434	72,159	128,593	141,223	1,042,994	(12,630)	-9%
1920 Staff Expenses	2,114	2,363	4,478	4,132	29,000	346	8%
1930 Staff Houses	5,884	1,782	7,666	5,696	14,600	1,970	35%
1940 Office Premises	7,624	2,012	9,636	8,468	21,710	1,168	14%
1950 Office Equipment	238	238	477	334	2,600	143	43%
1960 Communications	1,453	1,094	2,547	2,236	16,200	311	14%
1970 General	11,319	261	11,580	10,360	12,900	1,220	12%
1980 General Equipment	4,629	981	5,611	5,768	16,800	(157)	-3%
1990 Vehicles	9,998	2,505	12,503	13,509	55,500	(1,006)	-7%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	99,694	83,395	183,089	191,726	1,212,304	(8,637)	-5%
Total Operating Expenses	137,943	139,226	277,169	295,440	1,718,978	(18,271)	-6%
Net Profit	187,638	103,258	290,896	280,016	(52,350)	10,880	4%

4.0 Fixed Assets

Purchases	Sales
Whio – Mercury 90hp Engine	Mazda BT50 – MQD518
	Whio – Suzuki 70hp Engine

5.0 Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Cashflows – Budget 2023-2024

The Public Finance Act 1989 requires that Council approve the Budget Statement of Financial Performance, Budget Statement of Financial Position, and Budget Statement of Cashflows for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance and Cashflows are set out on the following pages. This information is directly obtained from the expenditure budget approved by Council in August 2023 and the anticipated income as determined by the New Zealand Council. The Budget Statement of Financial Performance and Budget Statement of Financial Position are prepared using PBE-SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Public Sector).

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

The Budgeted Deficit for the 2023-2024 financial year is **\$52,350**

Table 8: The following is a reconciliation of the OWP to the Financial Statement Budget:

Reconciliation of OWP to Tier 3 Reporting		
<i>Approved budget - per OWP</i>		(1,322,153)
Adjustments required for Financial Budgets:		
Plus Licence revenue	1,435,443	
Plus General Interest	31,617	
Less Commission	(64,595)	
Less Levies	(124,451)	
Less Depreciation	(80,674)	
Plus Gain / Minus Loss on Sale	13,847	
Plus Asset Replacement Fund Budget	46,125	
Plus Waikaremoana Interest	20,991	
Less Waikaremoana Spending	(8,500)	
Net Adjustments		1,269,803
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(52,350)

Table 9: Fixed Asset Budget

Asset	Budgeted Asset purchases (excl. GST)	Budgeted Asset sales (excl. GST)
2 Vehicles	\$102,000	\$84,068
3 Computers & photocopier	\$12,500	
Whio Engine	\$18,000	\$2,850
Total	\$132,500	\$86,918

Table 10: Statement of Financial Performance Budget

EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended

31 August 2024

	Note	Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
REVENUE			
Fish and Game licence sales	1	1,435,443	1,337,456
Grants and donations	1	750	11,623
Interest	1	52,608	50,914
Other revenue	1	177,827	213,759
Total Revenue		1,666,628	1,613,752
EXPENSES			
Outputs			
Species management	2	154,150	142,904
Habitat protection & management	2	26,700	25,622
Angler & Hunter participation	2	9,800	10,470
Public interface	2	1,500	2,353
Compliance	2	6,000	3,843
Licensing	2	78,249	49,204
Council	2	6,500	8,511
Planning & reporting	2	18,650	11,712
Overheads			
Employee related costs	2	1,071,994	951,031
Depreciation	4	80,674	75,020
Other expenses	2	140,310	149,976
Total Expenses		1,594,527	1,430,646
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		72,101	183,106
Less Other Expenses			
Levies to NZFGC		124,451	158,586
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(52,350)	24,520

Table 11: Statement of Financial Position Budget

EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Statement of Financial Position

As at

31 August 2024

	Note	Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	181,227	272,545
Debtors and prepayments	3	126,000	127,022
Investments	3	1,000,000	948,229
Other current assets	3	180,000	190,527
Total Current Assets		1,487,227	1,538,323
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	689,678	708,505
Investments	3	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		689,678	708,505
Total Assets		2,176,905	2,246,828
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	163,000	189,671
Employee costs payable	3	118,000	108,902
Total Current Liabilities		281,000	298,573
Total Liabilities		281,000	298,573
NET ASSETS		1,895,905	1,948,255
EQUITY	5	1,895,905	1,948,255

Table 12: Statement of Cashflows Budget

EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended

31 August 2024

	Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Licence sales	1,422,320	1,340,758
Grants, donations and fundraising	750	11,623
Interest	52,972	48,352
Other revenue	175,125	205,505
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers	572,379	625,005
Payments to employees	1,062,896	961,504
GST (net)	7,440	(6,394)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	8,452	26,123
CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Sale of property, plant and equipment	84,501	144,909
Sale of investments/deposits	-	-
Cash was applied to:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	132,500	139,824
Purchase of investments/deposits	51,771	-
Net Cash Flows from Investing & Financ	(99,770)	5,085
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	(91,318)	31,208
Opening Cash	272,545	241,337
Closing Cash	181,227	272,545
This is represented by:		
Bank accounts and cash	181,227	272,545

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 That the payments for September and October 2023 totalling \$290,088.82 be approved.

<i>September - Current account</i>	<i>\$124,797.38</i>
<i>October - Current account</i>	<i>\$158,394.96</i>
<i>September/October - Credit Card - KT</i>	<i>\$3,139.53</i>
<i>September/October - Credit Card - AA</i>	<i>\$3,756.95</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$290,088.82</i>

6.2 That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2023-2024 financial year.

12.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

20 November 2023

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Upper Streams Opening – Check, Clean, Dry Promotion

The upper sections of Lake Rotorua's tributaries (Ngongotaha, Waiteti and Utuhina Streams) open to angling on Friday 1 December. The delay in opening these reaches relative to the 1 October sports fishing licence date is due to the late timing of rainbow trout spawning in this catchment with aims to prevent disturbance to spawning fish and trampling of redds. Staff will be out welcoming anglers and checking compliance with regulations and providing biosecurity advocacy.

River Fishery Drift Dive Investigations 2023-24 season

Over the coming summer period staff are intending to undertake investigations of the Otaru, Waioatahe, Waioeka, and Waiu Rivers following heavy flooding and greater stress from more intensive drought conditions in recent summers.

The Rangitaiki River within the upper Kaiangaroa Forest is planned to be sampled during late February, early March 2023. If river clarity is suitable for drift diving, staff will utilise that method. If conditions are unsuitable (<2.5m visibility), then water parameters will be collected and, in that way, add to the long-term monitoring dataset for the river.

1112 Datawatch

During the first four weeks following the season opening, a total of 45 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	0
Lake Okataina	0
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	0
Lake Rotoehu	0
Lake Rotoiti	7
Lake Rotoma	0
Lake Rotorua	0
Lake Tarawera	38
Lake Waikaremoana	0

**Datawatch returns (entered to 15/11/2023)*

The number of datawatch tags returned and entered into the datawatch database during the first month and a half of the 2023-24 angling season is low compared to the same approximate period of the 2023 season (95 tags) but similarly to the 2021-22 (45 tags) and 2020-21 (41 tags) seasons. The main difference between this season and other seasons is that several lakes that provide returns have been unavailable to anglers. Okataina has had a forced closure from 1 October to 10 November and limited access since. Rotoehu is inaccessible through lake level height and Rotoma has similar access issues.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

Staff undertook routine maintenance (retrieval and clean) of the monitoring buoys sensor cables during a visit to the lake on 7th November. The monitoring buoy has been functioning well and the longer day length is providing ample charge to the battery system.

1114 Lake Tarawera

Acoustic Smelt Monitoring

The post-turnover acoustic transects are scheduled to be undertaken during late November or early December given staff availability and a period of favourable weather. The acoustic gear is to be collected from Turangi when Matt Osborne attends the TFAC meeting on the 23rd November. Following collection, two days with low wind conditions are required to complete the field work aspect.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Fish Trap

The Ngongotaha fish trap was not operated during October 2023.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Duck brood counts were undertaken in October and November.

1119 Upland Game Assessments

Pheasant call counts were undertaken in November and results will be compiled for February Council meeting.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Ohau Creel Survey

A date has yet to be set for the Ohau Channel Fishery Panel meeting to discuss findings from the 2022-23 Ohau Angler Creel Survey conducted by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust. Fish & Game staff will present the trout fishery information to the panel. NIWA will present smelt fishery data and Ian Kusabs will provide koura and kakahi monitoring.

Opening Day Creel Survey 2023-24

The 2023-24 Opening Day Survey information from 1 October 2023 is currently being entered into the Opening Day Angler Creel database. The information will then be analysed.

Summer Creel Survey 2023-24

The plan for the 2023-24 summer creel surveys has been created. This year, the monitoring has started earlier in mid-October to achieve a greater presence and increased contacts on the lakes. To mid-November we have interviewed 230 anglers and measured 103 fish on lakes Tarawera and Rotoiti. Unfortunately, with the closure of Okataina to this point, no data has been available or possible to this point. Lake Rotorua shoreline anglers have been regularly

sighted chasing brown trout along the lake edge, so will be picked up by staff on trips around the lake. Surveys will go through to the end of April 2024.

Angler diaries

The diary scheme was advertised in the 2023-24 Season magazine along with the winner of the 2022-23 angler diary draw. To date, just 3 entries have been returned via Survey Monkey for this financial year (starting 1-09-2023). These come from the Rotorua lakes fishery. A total of 14 entries had been received to the same point during the 2022-23 season. Ongoing periodic advertising and promotion will be required through online media and through club visits to remind anglers about the diary scheme.

1141 Hatchery Operations

Spring liberations continued in October and November.

Last of the winter season's fry have been moved into tanks and are being readied to move outside to rearing ponds. Staff have commenced summer maintenance projects.

Fish locations at 20th November 2023:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank 1	Rt	0+	8,500	For 2+ in 2025, move to P9
Tank 2	Rt	0+	13,600	Autumn Liberation 2024
Tank 3	Rt	0+	11,600	Autumn Liberation 2024
Tank 4	Rt	0+	13,600	Autumn Liberation 2024
Tank 5	Rt	0+	13,600	Spring liberation 2024
Tank 6	Rt	0+	11,900	Spring liberation 2024
Tank 7	Rt	0+	11,900	Spring liberation 2024
Tank 8	Rt	0+	11,900	Spring liberation 2024
Tank 9	Rt	0+	3,000	Summer liberation 2024
Tank A	Rt	1+	1,050	Auck/Wai Region 2023 Trips
Tank B	Bt	0+	850	Liberations, various in 2024
Tank D	Bt	1+	1,000	2023 liberations, various.
Tank F	Brook	1+	130	Brood for 2023 onward
Pond 3	Rt	1+	5,000	Spring liberations 2023
RW1	Rt	1+	6,500	For 2+ in 2024

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 28 September – 20 November 2023

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Qty
Tarawera	7/11/2023	Lp	-	RT	1+	2,000
Rotoiti	24/10/2023	Lp	-	RT	1+	6,000
Ngapouri	19/10/2023	Lp	-	RT	1+	500
Rerewhakaaitu	10/10/2023	Lp	-	RT	1+	2,500
Rerewhakaaitu	10/10/2023	Lp	I23	RT	1+	500
Ngahewa	4/10/2023	Lp	-	RT	1+	200
Okaro	4/10/2023	Lp	-	RT	1+	500
Rotoma	3/10/2023	Lp	-	RT	1+	2,000
Rotoma	3/10/2023	Lp	D23	RT	1+	500

Fish were also transported to Taranaki Fish & Game and Wellington Fish & Game (2 trips).

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Fish and Game is continuing to liaise with BoPRC on the review of the Schedule of Important Trout Habitats in the region. Consultation via the RESOF group is continuing. Regional Council's work to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM) is underway and early discussions are occurring on some early drafts of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and chapters of the Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP). Comments have recently been submitted on a draft version of the fish passage provisions for the RNRP. Comments have also been submitted on the *Changes to Freshwater Management in the Bay of Plenty* document.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established a group to provide advice in relation to policy development for NPSFM implementation. Fish and Game is part of this Rural and Environmental Sector Organisation Forum. No new developments.

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Council's lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1. Council hearings were held mid-2019. Decisions were released in May. A/W Fish and Game Council, with support from Eastern, have appealed a number of matters. Environment Court hearings are currently under way.

Gisborne District Council

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, the Motu Catchment Plan process is now underway. Fish and Game has so far had some input in identifying values, and recently provided comments on a draft version of the catchment plan. Consultation has recently started on the Waiapu Catchment Plan. Additionally, stakeholder consultation is scheduled to begin shortly on the Regional Policy Statement, Freshwater Plan amendments, and the Waimata, Uawa, Waipaoa, Wharehika and Hangaroa catchments. GDC is also beginning a topic by topic review of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan. No new developments.

Other

Various Fish and Game regions have been collaborating on a submission to amend some parts of the NES-Freshwater 2020 that are viewed as unacceptable to us. Of particular interest to Eastern Region are some unreasonably strict regulations around physical works in wetlands, and on the construction of maimai. Work is currently underway to rewrite and submit some more workable provisions.

The Government plans to repeal the RMA and replace it with three new pieces of legislation. Government recently introduced the Spatial Planning Bill and the Natural and Built Environment Bill to Parliament. RMA staff throughout the country have been collaborating and a formal submission was lodged in this process. The Select Committee has recommended a number of changes in line with Fish & Game's submissions, including the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon. While this is an extremely positive outcome there is still work to be done in other areas.

The Department is currently in the early stages of a Wildlife Act review process. Fish and Game staff have been collaborating at a national level to have input into the process. No new developments.

The NZ RMA team has been very active recently with a number of important workstreams on the go – including development and consultation on Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plans, freshwater fish species interaction and passage, water allocation and limit setting, and the development of practice notes.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
10 Sept	BOPRC	Manawa Energy	WP/DP- hydro scheme management / operation	Wheao / Rangitaiki Rivers	Ongoing with submission to be made
30 Oct	BOPRC	Polynesian Spa	LUC- retaining wall replacement	Lake Rotorua	No concerns email
10 Nov	BOPRC	Southern Generation	LUC / DP – excavate channel in watercourse below Rabbit Bridge	Rangitaiki River / Lake Aniwheneua	Ongoing with submission to be made

Lake Rotoiti Catfish Update

Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) and volunteer groups have been busy undertaking catfish control through setting of fyke nets. At this time of year catfish spawning is taking place. A wide spread of age groups and sizes are found in the catch from newly hatched (several mm’s long) up to very large breeding adults.

The Ohau channel has been a hot spot for large catfish that have been successfully targeted. Trout anglers have also been catching them on smelt flies. In Lake Rotoiti, jiggers have also reported hooking catfish in mid water well away from the bottom where you may expect catfish to be found. DOC Taupo have also recorded this midwater swimming behaviour in video surveillance.

Golden Clam update

Golden clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) has been present in a section of the Waikato River for 2 years or more. It has been identified in that area 6 months ago. In efforts to restrict its spread into the Rotorua lakes, pressure has been put on the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) to place wash stations on the main highway routes between Waikato and Rotorua (SH5 and SH30). A Controlled Area Notice (CAN order) has been issued requiring all vessels and gear coming from the Waikato to undertake cleaning prior to use in the Rotorua lakes. New Check, Clean, Dry (CCD) protocols list the use of hot 60 degree+ water which will kill any clam material.

Rotorua lakes spray program

The Spring/ Summer round of pest weed spraying for noxious aquatic weed using diquat is underway across the Rotorua lakes. Already sprayed to this point are lakes Rotoiti, Okareka and Rotorua.

1221 Reserves Management

No major works have occurred within any of the managed wetlands in recent months with scheduled works planned for late February 2024.

Water level management within most wetlands is requiring very regular closing/ opening of water control structures due to saturated soils and high intensity rain events. We are required by Regional Plan to manage levels within parameters.

A comprehensive predator control programme has been implemented into both Awaiti and Kaituna wetlands with DOC managing the volunteers to clear / reset traps. Parameters have been agreed upon so as to not disturb banding sites, ballot holder maintenance and hunting season.

Full material sponsorship has been acquired for building the wheelchair accessible maimai at the Kaituna Wetland. Rotorua ITM, Rotorua Firth and Rotorua Metalcraft Roofing businesses have kindly supported this worthy cause. Volunteer construction will be undertaken by young tradies who regularly hunt the Kaituna. An article about this project is proposed for the F&G annual special hunting magazine.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

Two new landowner requests for assistance / advice have been received since the October Council report.

One site bordering lake Ohakuri provides opportunity to re-create approximately 3 hectares of wetland, but will require permission from LINZ and a funding proposal to WCEET. The landowner is keen but appropriate permissions will be required before any resource consents discussions occur or funding applications undertaken.

The other potential site is approximately one hectare bordering Tauranga Harbour, and has yet to be visited (planned for early Dec). The landowner has provided significant information and is setting his priorities for the site to ascertain wetland build direction.

1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects

No specific habitat works have occurred within past two months, but we remain in regular contact with BOPRC Rivers and Drainage to explore options for enhancing riverine habitat when opportunities arise.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

The winter recreational access into the Timberlands forests closed at the end of September. Approaches we had made to keep access open during low fire risk were unsuccessful, with forest managers stating the winter access is from set dates now, rather than subject to risk.

High water levels at various Rotorua lakes continues to impede angler access in some areas, with issues in particular still at Lakes Rotoma, Rotoehu, and Rerewhaakaitu.

The lake Okataina access issue with biosecurity matters is reported separately, however the lake is now open on a limited basis with biosecurity conditions, for angler access.

Summer access work maintenance and enhancement is under way. Work has been completed at the Waioeka River with all access tracks checked, maintained and in good condition for the summer season. Signage in that area is also checked and updated, and several stolen or missing signs replaced.

Access maintenance on the Waikaretaheke tracks near Tuai has been carried out. All Waikaremona signage has been checked and maintained.

Access work also carried out at the Ngongotaha Stream, Waiteti Stream, Kaituna River at Okere Falls, and contactors have been engaged to do maintenance work on the Whirinaki River track. Work on the Rangitaiki River access maintenance within Kaingaroa Forest is underway; again, this emphasis is on keeping a smaller number of high quality access points in good condition for the winter season, rather than an extensive network of tracks to lower quality water.

1312 Signage

Sign maintenance and enhancement is ongoing with replacements as required.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life copy was produced for October and November.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, children's fishing event and Freshwater gold clam updates.

1334 Social Media

Social media posts continue to be made via Facebook and Instagram. Angler./hunter inquiries are being received via social media.

1341 Information Pamphlets

Adequate stocks of all brochures are being held.

1351 Junior Angler/Hunter Programmes

Two children's events have been successfully held for the reporting period.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

An angling tuition was given to the public and members of the Gisborne Anglers Club in October.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Seven fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Gisborne and Northshore angling clubs were visited during this period. Also a Game hunters presentation evening on the science of setting season conditions was conducted in Gisborne.

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

Continue to have regular meetings with Ngati Whakauae and Te Arawa Kumatua's to strengthen relationships and build better opportunities for collaboration. Have also had a number of meetings with TALT CEO, Chamber of Commerce CEO and both Chair and CEO of Rotorua Tourism to improve our ability to navigate delicate situations.

1421 Public Awareness

Lake Waikaremoana Genesis Consultative Meeting

The Genesis Consultative meeting was held on 8th November this year. Eastern Fish & Game staff attended and presented an overview of Fish & Game projects in the Wairoa/ East Coast Catchment including Lake Waikaremoana fishery monitoring.

1441 Public Promotions

Eastern Region staff supported National Office with manning of a F&G stand at the Sika Show. This proved very productive with constant attendees in the stand, with the mobile trout aquarium a major draw card. This stand was promoting fishing / hunting and exposing ourselves to the show, with the aim of a more political drive next year.

1451 Education

No visits were made for the reported period. Our curriculum for Rotorua Education Network was completed and is now in circulation.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Compliance work is focusing on monitoring of the last of the late spawning areas, closed waters locations and areas which have remained open to anglers over the closed season. The main focus is now on the areas which opened to angling on 1 October, and survey work on the Rotorua Lakes. Of interest, a fishing without licence offender was dealt with in the Waioeka River area in November, while staff were ranging and carrying out access work and fishery surveys. Evidently this offender had been fishing without a licence for some years and was recognised by a staff member from a non-compliance interaction in 2019.

Contacts Year to date 2023-2024.

892 contacts have been made for the 2023 – 24 year to end of October, almost all of these made during October. A plan is in place to keep the numbers of contacts and angler surveys ticking over and so far, this is proving successful. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2023-2024

Month	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Last 5 yr average
September	46	16	51	35	36	34
October	726	724	718	520	856	716
November	126	16	66	16		49
December	237	287	182	182		239
January	246	404	352	212		331
February	265	155	140	12		176
March	23	164	93	111		114
April	7	153	238	25		109
May	143	297	203	203		220
June	162	124	141	52		129
July	75	45	57	36		55
August	20	22	32	13		28
Total	2076	2407	2273	1417	892	2201

1521 Ranger Training

A CERT Situational Safety and Tactical Communications refresher training day was held on 11 November, which included rangers and staff from 5 regions. This also included a Fish & Game delivered component on rangers powers under legislation and field interviews and evidence collection.

Rangers

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute with a great effort around the fishing season opening. We currently have a honorary ranger team of 8, including 1 trainee in progress. Attracting and recruiting suitable new volunteer rangers is an issue and this is faced by most regions.

1531 Prosecutions

To date, end of October, we have 3 matters pending resolution. One of these is a matter of fishing without licence, obstruction, and failing to provide details which is set down for a trial in early December. Other offences are in the process of pending resolution.

Offences 2023-2024 Year:

For the 2023-24 year to mid Nov. we have dealt with 7 offenders for 11 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2023-2024 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	5
Fishing in closed waters	3
Fish with illegal tackle	2
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Total number of offences	11

Offences Pending Resolution

Other than several matters which are pre-2019 which have warrants for arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in Court, there are 3 defendants pending resolution (as at mid Nov), for 5 offences. Details of these are:

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	3
Fails to give details	1
Obstruction of ranger	1
Total number of offences	5

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

We supported NZ F&G's stand at the Sika show and have supported the national campaign launch of the ReWild campaign.

1841 NZ Fish & Game Liaison

Licensing

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales and other information requests to the New Zealand Council and regions. Kate is called upon to assist with various data extracts and continues to monitor outstanding licence system upgrade issues and along with the Licence Working Party. Kate has also assisted several regions with administration related issues.

National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing led from this region. A draft re-write of the Compliance Policy is completed and is being reviewed. Work is on-going meeting with the Firearms Safety Authority regarding how our organisation and FSA work together and responsibilities each has. Along with other work including support and advice to regions in various compliance and training matters.

12.3 LICENCE SALES REPORT

20 November 2023

1. 2023-2024 Fish Licence Sales

- 1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2023-24 season compared with the 2022-23 season to 19 November are summarised in Table One.
- 1.2 Fish licence sales are reporting to be 9.3% (462 LEQ's) below 2022-23 season results for the same period.
- 1.3 51.9% of the annual sales target has been met YTD.

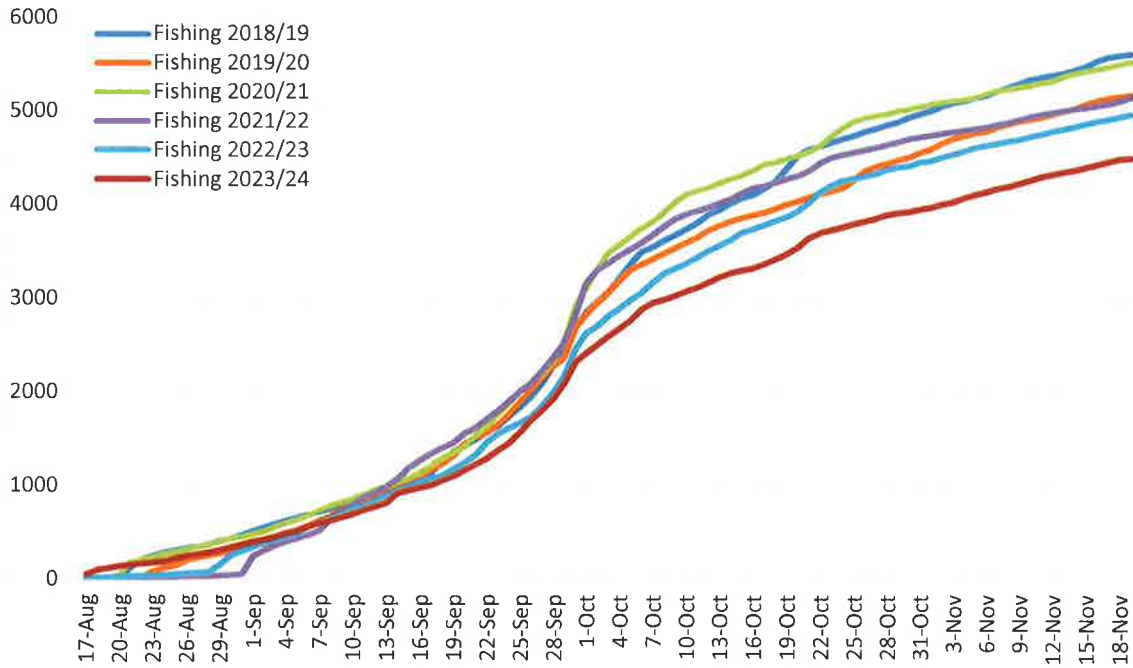
Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2023-24 vs 2022-23 YTD results to 19 November 2023

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2022-23	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2023-24	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family	783	869	1,652	730	765	1,495	-157
Season	658	650	1,308	554	576	1,130	-178
Season Non-Resident	20	50	70	21	39	60	-10
Loyal Senior	204	231	435	206	214	420	-15
Local Area Adult	580	397	977	601	316	917	-60
Winter Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Break Adult	1	5	6	4	7	11	5
Short Break Adult	59	142	201	64	125	189	-12
Day	181	395	576	125	443	568	-8
Day Non-Resident	40	91	131	34	102	136	5
Total Adult	2,526	2,830	5,356	2,339	2,587	4,926	-430
Fish Junior							
Season	88	91	179	93	105	198	19
Season Non-Resident	2	1	3	1	5	6	3
Day	13	51	64	13	38	51	-13
Day Non-Resident	2	0	2	2	1	3	1
Total Junior	105	143	248	109	149	258	10
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	1	1	0	0	0	-1
Day Non-Resident	3	1	4	0	1	1	-3
Total Child	3	2	5	0	1	1	-4
Total Fish	2,634	2,975	5,609	2,448	2,737	5,185	-424
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			4,961			4,498	-462
Variance between Seasons							-9.3%
\$ (excl GST)			\$625,469			\$598,462	-\$27,007

Summary 2023-2024 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2023-24 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,663	100.0%	\$1,152,577
2023-24 Actual	4,498	51.9%	\$598,462
Variance to budget	-4,165	-48.1%	-\$554,115

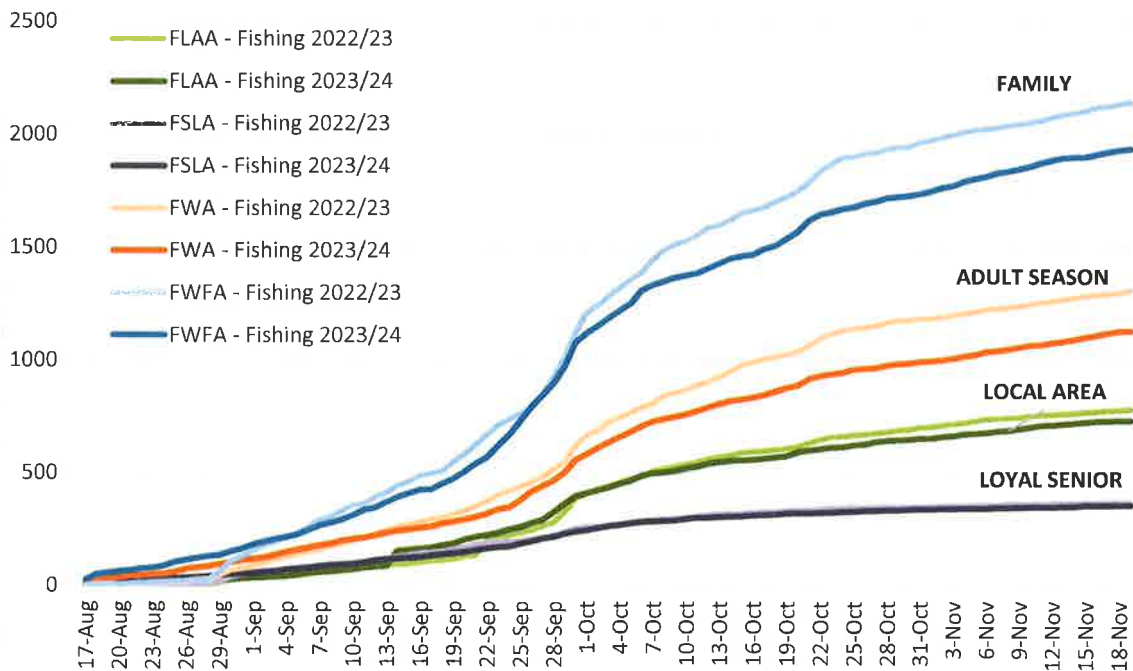
Daily Cumulative LEQ's to 19 November



Graph 1 Daily Cumulative LEQ's

1.4 Licence sales across most categories are down on the 2022-23 season, the variance becoming more obvious as at 1 October. The uncertainties surrounding lake closures may have contributed to this result.

Daily Cumulative LEQ by Category to 19 November



Graph 2 Daily Cumulative LEQ's by Category

13. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

13.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

13.3 Report from New Zealand Council Cr Debbie Oakley

15. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Ref: 9.01.03

24 November 2023

1. Purpose

To consider matters requiring confidentiality at this point in time and/or in the longer term.

2. Background

Annually the Council's Remuneration Committee are to carry out an appraisal of the CE and report back their findings

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the public be excluded from the following agenda item, namely:

20.3 Chief Executives Performance Review

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
20.1 20.3- 5	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

