



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

30 May 2024

AGENDA

The 208th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 30 May 2024

Commences: 11 AM

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1 Welcome (11.00 AM)	
2 Voting of Officer for the Chair's position	(R)
3 Apologies	(R)
4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (4 April 2024) (11.15AM)	(R) 2
4.1 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
4.2 Matters arising from the meeting of 4 April 2024	
5 Reconfirmation of Letter sent to NZC	(R) 11
6 Notification of Items for General Business	
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8 Health and Safety Report (11.20AM, 5 min)	(R) 14
9 Anglers Notice Review (11.25AM 5min)	(R) 16
10 2024-25 Operational Work Plan 2 nd Draft (11.30 AM 10 min)	(R) 17
11 Licence Fee Recommendation 2024-25 (11.40 AM, 10 min)	(R) 19
12 Reduction of Eastern Council Councillors (11.50PM, 25min)	(R) 36
13 Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund	(R) 38
Working Lunch (12.15PM – 12.45PM)	
14 Operational Reports (12.45PM, 20 min)	
14.1 Finance Report	(R) 40
14.2 Management Report	(I/D) 51
14.3 Licence Sales Report	(I/D) 64
15 Liaison Officers Reports (1.05PM, 10 min)	(I) 68
16 General Business (1.15PM, 20 min)	
17 Meeting Closes (1.35PM)	

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

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 207th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2024 AT 11.00 AM**

Present

Crs. Ngahi Bidois, Debbie Oakley, Lindsay Lyons, Jay Tapsell, Alan Simmonds, Mike Jarvie, Mark Sceats, and Murray Ferris.

In attendance

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Mark Sherburn, Matt Osborne, Cheyenne Robson (Eastern Fish & Game); Ken Raureti (Te Arawa Lakes Trust); and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois opened the meeting at 11.12 am with a karakia and welcomed all present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Scott Nicol, and Kevin Coutts; Ken Raureti informed the Chair that he would need to leave by 12pm.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 207th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [24/04/2.2]*

2.3 Cr Ngahi Bidois recommended moving the item on Lake Okataina Access forward to enable Ken Raureti to contribute to this discussion, considering his need to leave early.

2.4 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Jay Tapsell) that Agenda item 12 regarding Lake Okataina is moved to forward to enable Te Arawa Lakes Trust representative, Ken Raureti, to speak to the meeting. [24/04/2.4]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (1 FEBRUARY 2024)

3.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois//Jay Tapsell) that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [24/04/3.1]*

3.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy from the minutes of the meeting held 1 February 2024.

3.3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 1 February 2024.

4.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

Ngahi Bidois – Letter from Hon. Todd McLay

Mark Sceats – Hunter survey sub regions

Mark Sceats – ReWild Campaign

Mark Sceats – NZ Health Survey

Murray Ferris – Lake Aniwhenua

Lindsay Lyons – Reduction in councillor numbers for 2024 election

Lindsay Lyons – Acknowledgement of councillor contributions

5.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

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

6.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

- 6.1 Health and Safety Report – Arash Alaeinia informed Council that the near miss incident reported in the agenda item was highlighted at Council’s previous meeting and no further incidents had occurred.
- 6.2 Discussion occurred around whether a resolution was required to accept the Health & Safety report or whether Council just needed to receive it. Cr Ngahi Bidois felt that a resolution was required, however others suggested it was sufficient to be received.
- 6.3 ***Agreed (Mark Sceats/Lindsay Lyons) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [24/04/6.3] Cr Ngahi Bidois wished to record his opposition to this motion.***

7.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

- 7.1 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that since the last meeting the anglers notice review items had been circulated to clubs and asked if Council had any further questions on the suggestions submitted for consideration.
- 7.2 Cr Murray Ferris spoke to his General Business item for Lake Aniwhenua informing Council of a query he had recently received regarding Lake Aniwhenua and why there was still a two fish limit when there are plenty of fish and whether this could be a hangover from the big fish days? Staff felt it could have been a hangover but also pointed out that it is a wild fishery and most of our wild fisheries have a two fish limit except for the Waikato River and the tributary streams to Aniwhenua were also two fish limits.
- 7.3 Council proceeded through the recommendations as presented.
- 7.4 **Czech nymphing**
Matt Osborne informed Council that feedback from one club was received highlighting no concerns with this method. Staff also have no concerns and recommend the status quo. Cr Mike Jarvie suggested it is controlled by the catch rate. Cr Alan Simmonds understood the argument to be that it was targeting the juvenile fish and commented on a recent event which took very high numbers of fish, and his primary concern was the mortality of these fish. Mark Sherburn advised that this event on the Tukituki last year had recorded/reported 166 fish caught.
- 7.5 ***Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports maintaining the status quo as recommended by staff. [24/04/7.5]***
- 7.6 **Whether ‘GPS anchoring systems’ should be considered ‘anchors’.**
Matt Osborne informed Council that historically around landmark poles and particularly in areas where there are shore-based anglers also present, we have had a regulation that requires a physical anchor that is connected to the lakebed. This is to stop boat anglers trolling through these areas and causing social issues with shore-based anglers. He advised that we are seeing fewer shore-based anglers in recent times and the new GPS based anchoring systems will often hold a vessel in place better than a vessel swinging on an anchor rope. Staff propose to allow the use of a GPS anchor in these areas given their increasing popularity with anglers.
- 7.7 Discussion on the subject included.
- Significant investment in these system by licence holders.
 - DoC Taupo has said no to GPS anchoring systems.
 - The issue between trolling and shore-based are not so much of an issue as both these methods have reduced in recent years.
 - Query electric motors – only GPS motors.
- 7.8 Council supported the proposal to permit GPS anchoring systems on staff recommendation and obviously issues arising from this will be monitored.

7.9 **Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council supports the use of GPS anchoring systems and to amend note 5.4 of the Eastern region regulations from; 'Note 5.4 Anchored boats should be securely anchored with no more than two anchors.'**

to,

'Note 5.4 Anchored boats should be securely anchored with no more than two anchors or a GPS anchor system.' [24/04/7.9]

7.10 **Definition of Rotorua lakes**

Matt Osborne advised that this item is for clarification of regulations as the term 'Rotorua lakes' is referred to in several rules.

7.11 **Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jay Tapsell) that Council supports the inclusion of the following under 1 Definitions within the Eastern region regulations.**

'Rotorua lakes means Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoma, Rotoehu, Rotomahana, Rerewhaitu, Okareka, Okataina, Okaro, Ngahewa, Ngapouri, Tarawera, and Tikitapu.' [24/04/7.11]

7.12 **Update of Anglers Notice Policy 2018**

7.13 Matt Osborne commented on a prior season regulation amendment to permit the use of scented soft baits which was outside of the Council's current Anglers Notice Policy. This request is to update that policy to remove scented soft baits from the definition of baits.

7.14 **Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council updates its Anglers Notice Policy 2018 to remove Scented Soft Baits from 3.2(ii) Definition of Baits.**

7.15 **Agreed Jay Tapsell/Lindsay Lyons that Council did not identify any further proposals for incorporation to the 2024-25 Anglers Notice Regulations for Ministerial signoff.** [24/04/7.15]

8.0 LAKE OKATAINA ACCESS AND TE ARAWA LAKES SETTLEMENT ACT

8.1 Arash Alaeinia expressed that this paper is to discuss the relationship of the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act, understand the concerns of Ngāti Tarāwhai and the wider Te Arawa iwi, and find a pathway that operates within the law and the Act while advocating for anglers and others access to Lake Ōkataina in a safe manner.

Currently MPI as the lead agency has put in place a CAN order with requirements needed to access Lake Ōkataina. The Act also clearly states the right of access for recreation and navigation rights (subject to all legal requirements and bylaws). Grey area is that iwi and Ngāti Tarāwhai are not comfortable with the trust process of the CAN for people to Check, Clean, Dry and have put in place a controlled manned access managed by iwi checking that users have been to the Wash Station. As access security is manned, it is only accessible for 4 days a week until the 29th of April then 3 days per week until the 30th of June. The concerning issue is that the legal authority to manage biosecurity has a process in place and there is a legal right to allow recreational access to the Lake but this is not being upheld.

8.2 Arash acknowledged that Ken Raureti was in attendance, and it would be of great value to have Ken's insight and assistance with answering any questions at the end of the consultation.

Council discussion ensued with a variety of points:

- Concern was raised by two Councilors that there had been a lack of communication of events to the Council and the Council was not aware of the different discussions and meetings that had occurred through this process.
- Support for a robust association with iwi.

- Biosecurity concerns of Didymo and how ineffective MPI had been at managing that at the time. Belief that this Clam will unfortunately enter all our waterways in NZ over time and are we going to close down all fisheries and recreational activities?
 - Concerns about the newly discovered Clams in the Taupo Waterpark and questions as to how they got there as this water body does not have boats or fishing and is a closed water body?
- 8.3 Cr Ngahi Bidois raised the positive developing relationship between Eastern F&G and iwi over the past 12 months, and the growing relationships through Corina Jordan and Barrie Barnes of the National office. Ngahi complemented Ngāti Tarāwhai on standing up and pushing back on MPI for stronger control measures and informed Council that Ngāti Tarāwhai had the support and backing of all 56 subtribes, and suggested we should be mindful that it is not just Ngāti Tarāwhai that we are dealing with. Ngahi also questioned why F&G had been silent on pushing for more stringent control measures over the Clam but for Didymo they closed lakes and water bodies?
- 8.4 Discussion continued
- F&G, like iwi pushed that MPI should be doing more at the source as a control measure.
 - Concern raised that iwi may decide to close all other 12 lakes as some of the other lakes are more susceptible to the Clams. It was added that if you are going to close all the Te Arawa lakes because of the Clam then you need to consider closure of all water bodies around NZ.
 - Consideration of management going forward was needed. Since NZ Council have been involved all the way through in the liaison, then the NZ Council should liaise with the Government and escalate as a National issue and put together a management plan to act on any pest or disease issue now and in the future for all New Zealand waters. Acknowledged similar to the one currently being done for the possible threat of Avian Influenza.
- 8.5 Cr Ngahi Bidois invited Ken Raureti to speak.
- Ken Raureti expressed that he had just come from a Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Ngāti Tarāwhai Executive meeting and if he wasn't here would be attending the MPI meeting that had been arranged. He had come with the support and authority of the Te Arawa Lakes Trust and as Chair of Komiti Whakahaere Te Arawa Lakes Trust to speak to Council. Key points raised by Ken were;
- Update on current thinking of how the Golden Clam arrived at the Taupo Aqua Park, 1. Via inflatable product moved/purchased from infected area. 2. A child with a bucket of sand and infected clams transferred over from the Waikato region, the former considered to be the more plausible.
 - Erosion of relationship between Eastern Fish & Game and Te Arawa Lakes Trust with the headline that F&G put out stating that "Lake Ōkataina Closed". The lake access was reduced to 4 days a week (until 29 April and then to 3 days from 30 April to 30 June).
 - Relationships between F&G and iwi will and are suffering if you are to reflect and question the Te Arawa Settlement Act and Article 32 of committing to give unrestrained recreational access to all 14 lakes. This is not helpful in building relationships.
 - The concern that EF&G did a liberation of trout in March after knowing of Ngāti Tarāwhai and TALT's wish to pause releases.
- 8.6 Ken highlighted that Lake Ōkataina was not a high-pressured fishery noting maximum anglers ever on an opening day was 80 pax. He advised that iwi are wanting Fish & Game to reduce the numbers of trout liberated to Lake Ōkataina as they believed that there was sufficient natural spawning.

8.7 Arash Alaeinia acknowledged Ken's points and appreciated his honesty and openness for engaging in this discussion. He highlighted that Opening day is a singular snapshot of a moment in time of the season and over the entire season is a high valued fishery. Arash acknowledged again Ken's statement and points raised but stated that he does not agree entirely with his views and there is a need for further conversation to be had outside of this forum.

8.8 Further discussion

- It was reiterated that the process for Council to consider changing its Fish Management plan had been explained to Ngāti Tarāwhai Chair.
- Acknowledgement that all parties are passionate about the wellbeing of the lake.
- Concern that these discussions and meetings are of news to the Council members and that they need to be kept informed and involved in the discussions and decisions being taken by others.
- Question was asked of the Minister of Hunting & Fishing's involvement and knowledge of the situation?
- This issue is a political issue and is at a higher level than EF&G and needs to have the Minister and the Government involved as F&G are not going to be able to resolve the situation.

There was a general agreement that Arash Alaeinia should write a letter to the Minister of Hunting & Fishing bringing this concern to his attention.

8.9 Ken Raureti thanked the Council for their time and for bringing the item forward on the agenda to enable him leave early.

Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked Ken for his attendance and korero.

9.0 Council adjourned for lunch at 12.20pm and reconvened at 12.47pm.

10.0 2024-2025 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

10.1 Arash Alaeinia spoke to Council about the New Zealand Council's recommendation to reduce regional budgets by 3% and highlighted that this level of reduction would impact project expenditure by some 20% as overhead costs are largely fixed. He advised that while the 3% reduction was not able to be met, project expenditure had been reduced by \$14,800. Inflationary adjustments including an amount unbudgeted for FBT in this current year totalled \$29,300 a net difference of \$14,500. This increased requirement had been able to be absorbed by increasing the amount budgeted for staff working on national projects and supporting other regions. Arash informed Council that two contestable fund bids were being sought which related to staff remuneration and for the ongoing Tarawera research, the latter to be funded from the non-resident levy reserve.

10.2 Cr Mark Sceats spoke to his general business items regarding the Mental Health & Wellbeing Survey and the ReWild campaign. He questioned the value of these and was disappointed that regions were being asked to reduce costs when he believed the National Office had been spending money on these projects. Some Councillors were concerned about the cost and content of the survey and commented that a survey was not needed to prove that hunting and fishing was good for mental health.

10.3 Arash Alaeinia provided some background to the survey advising that the intent was to have data to support fishing becoming an accredited activity that a doctor can prescribe to you. He said this was happening in the UK and a South Island region had seen some value in this and it was supported by the New Zealand Fish & Game Council. Council questioned why the UK data could not have been used and Arash advised that it was also being utilised. Mark Sherburn cautioned utilising the British research solely as they are quite different and really Fish & Game could not campaign based on UK research.

10.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons questioned the intent of the Ministers letter and whether this might impact the 2024-25 OWP. Arash Alaeinia believed the intent was to give the minister an understanding of how Fish & Game is operating and whether we are giving value for money to our licence holders while undertaking our mandated responsibilities. He said that any changes would likely be at an organisational level and expected that NZC and the regions would all have a part to play in the consultation process. Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested further discussion could be addressed in general business.

10.5 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports managements approach to the cost saving measures and absorption of increased operational costs. [24/04/10.5]*

10.6 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the draft Operational Work Plan and the two accompanying contestable fund bids as presented. [24/04/10.6]*

11.0 DRAFT NATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

11.1 Arash Alaeinia advised that the New Zealand Council's intention is to create an overview policy that all regional councils adhere to and to highlight where responsibilities fall.

11.2 Cr Mike Jarvie queried that staff were happy with the regional plan? Arash advised that this was up for review, but staff were happy with the content.

11.3 Barry Roderick question where staff Health & Safety inductions were? Arash advised that these were in the detailed regional plan and that this policy was an overview.

11.4 No additional feedback was supplied apart from a request that anagrams have definition included within the document.

12.0 DRAFT HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY FOR RANGERS

12.1 Arash Alaeinia advised that this was another policy to give a national overview for all regions to adhere to certain expectations/standards and Anthony van Dorp had been at the forefront its development.

12.2 Having been involved in ranger training Cr Murray Ferris wished to highlight the importance that Anthony has placed on the Health & Safety of rangers. Arash added that there was a need to be consistent across the organisation and that this was the intention of the policy.

13.0 DRAFT PROTECTED DISCLOSURES POLICY

13.1 Arash Alaeinia advised that the primary purpose of this policy was to protect any person bringing an issue to the attention of the organisation. No additional feedback was supplied.

14.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Finance Report

14.1 Cr Debbie Oakley questioned the small outstanding agent debt noting that there seems to be a carry over each month. Kate Thompson informed Council of the agent's detail and advised that it was not unusual to need to chase this agent because of inadequate systems in place for payment, but payment was forthcoming.

14.2 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the finance report approves payments for January and February 2024 totalling \$488,644.79. [24/02/14.2]*

Management Report

14.3 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that it had been a very busy period for staff with duck banding, fisheries surveys, and East Coast river investigations.

- 14.4 Cr Ngahi Bidois commented on the offence table within the Management Report and wanted reassurance that our staff were safe. Arash advised that staff have ranging processes and do not engage if they believe a situation to be unsafe.
- 14.5 Cr Mike Jarvie questioned whether staff know why the visibility of the Rangitaiki River is poor. Matt Osborne advised that the visibility has degraded over several years and is likely contributed to by cropping around Lake Pouarua on the Lochinvar Station. He felt that the conversion of another large station off the Napier/ Taupo Rd (SH5) from a high intensity dairy heifer quarantine block to a solar farm would help to reduce the overall nutrient load going into the Rangitaiki and could contribute to some improvement in the Rangitaiki water quality in coming years.
- 14.6 Cr Lindsay Lyons was aware that Avian Influenza had been found in Antarctica and questioned staff on when or if it will arrive in New Zealand. Matt McDougall advised that it has been found in the South Polar Skua which migrate from South America to Antarctica and up to Japan, and they have been seen in NZ. He said it was a high priority for Fish & Game and that he was involved in discussions with MPI and DoC currently and gave a brief overview of potential impacts should it arrive in NZ.

Licence Sales Report

- 14.7 Arash Alaeinia provided a summary of the licence sales report noting the current variance of 1.8% below last season was the same as the national variance YTD and highlighted the decline in the South Island sales suggesting this could be related to the poor weather they have had down there. Cr Lindsay Lyons expressed disappointment with the licence sales performance considering NZ visitors numbers are up considerably. He believed the higher licence price was pushing people into the cheaper short-term categories and suggested we needed to market more in not the usual places. Arash advised that the NZ Council was looking at obtaining an economic impact assessment to show what freshwater angling brings to the NZ economy to engage more support in what Fish & Game contribute to the economy.

15.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

15.1 *Report from Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

Not present – report within papers for information

15.1 *Report from New Zealand Council*

Cr Debbie Oakley's report covered:

- TFAC meeting upcoming on 11th April
- NZC report included in papers for information
- Research committee
- Ranger/Maritime compliance
- Audit compliance
- Future Structure Working Group – full report due at NZC's April meeting
- Future Funding Working Group

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 *Letter from Hon. Todd McLay*

Cr Lindsay Lyons asked that Council be provided a copy of the response to Ministers letter and questioned the purpose of it. Cr Debbie Oakley felt that if we are wanting to change the legislation that Fish & Game operates under then it makes sense that the Minister obtains a summary of the regions. Council also discussed the structure review by DoC which has not progressed and Arash Alaeinia added that to progress any change it starts at the Ministers office.

16.2 *Hunter Survey – Sub-regions*

Cr Mark Sceats requested that an additional question is added to the Game Bird Hunter Survey this season to identify which sub-region a licence holder was hunting. He was wanting an overview of hunting on one side of Raukumara's being the Rotorua side and the other being Gisborne Wairoa in relation to hours hunted and harvest. Matt McDougall informed Council of how the survey was developed to detect a 20% change in mallard harvest 80% of the time and this was achieved through seven surveys of 120 hunters (5 being conducted during the mallard season), this was determined to be the minimum number required to identify the 20% change 80% of the time. Matt was keen to understand the purpose for obtaining this additional information as statistically, based on the number of surveys conducted each season currently that there would be insufficient data to make informed decisions on a sub-region basis, particularly in relation to harvest and provided an example of this. He said we can do it but suggested that the cost would increase significantly, and interviewers might also have difficulty identifying sub-region. Matt advised that if he understood the purpose of the request, he might be in a better position to advise the most appropriate and reliable method to obtain the information sought. No outcome from this discussion occurred.

16.3 *Reduction to councillor numbers for 2024 Election*

Cr Lindsay Lyons proposed a reduction in the number of Councillors standing in the next Election for the Eastern Region, noting that a reduction in numbers would generate an election and this had been highlighted in the Governance Review. Council agreed that this matter should be placed on the June agenda for a more in-depth discussion and to enable a decision to be made.

16.4 *Acknowledgement of councillor contributions*

Cr Lindsay Lyons requested that acknowledgement of Councillor contributions be highlighted in agendas and publications. He felt that licence holders did not have a real understanding of what Councillors contribute, voluntarily, in their own time. Arash Alaeinia agreed with Lindsay's sentiments and asked that Councillors also share our stories to their contacts through our social media channels.

17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

17.1 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.27 pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss concerns of members relationships, interaction and expectations of roles and responsibilities. [24/04/17.1] Cr Alan Simmonds wished to record his opposition to this motion.*

17.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that Council moves out of Public Excluded at 2.58pm.*

18.0 MEETING CLOSED

18.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois closed the meeting 2.59pm with closing karakia by Cr Jay Taspell.

.....
Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 207th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [24/04/2.2]*
- 2.4 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Jay Tapsell) that Agenda item 12 regarding Lake Okataina is moved to forward to enable Te Arawa Lakes Trust representative, Ken Raureti, to speak to the meeting. [24/04/2.4]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (1 FEBRUARY 2024)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Jay Tapsell) that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [24/04/3.1]*

6.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

- 6.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Lindsay Lyons) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [24/04/6.3] Cr Ngahi Bidois wished to record his opposition to this motion.*

7.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

- 7.5 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports maintaining the status quo as recommended by staff. [24/04/7.5]*
- 7.9 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council supports the use of GPS anchoring systems and to amend note 5.4 of the Eastern region regulations from;*
'Note 5.4 Anchored boats should be securely anchored with no more than two anchors.'
to,
'Note 5.4 Anchored boats should be securely anchored with no more than two anchors or a GPS anchor system.' [24/04/7.9]
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'Rotorua lakes means Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoma, Rotoehu, Rotomahana, Rerewhāaitu, Okareka, Okataina, Okaro, Ngahewa, Ngapouri, Tarawera, and Tikitapu.' [24/04/7.11]
- 7.14 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council updates its Anglers Notice Policy 2018 to remove Scented Soft Baits from 3.2(ii) Definition of Baits.*
- 7.15 *Agreed Jay Tapsell/Lindsay Lyons that Council did not identify any further proposals for incorporation to the 2024-25 Anglers Notice Regulations for Ministerial signoff. [24/04/7.15]*

10.0 2024-2025 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 10.5 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports managements approach to the cost saving measures and absorption of increased operational costs. [24/04/10.5]*
- 10.6 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the draft Operational Work Plan and the two accompanying contestable fund bids as presented. [24/04/10.6]*

14.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 14.2 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the finance report approves payments for January and February 2024 totalling \$488,644.79. [24/02/14.2]*

17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

- 17.1 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.27 pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss concerns of members relationships, interaction and expectations of roles and responsibilities. [24/04/17.1] Cr Alan Simmonds wished to record his opposition to this motion.*
- 17.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that Council moves out of Public Excluded at 2.58pm.*

5. RECONFIRMATION OF LETTER TO NZC

Ref: 8.02.01

15 May 2024

1. Purpose

To ratify a letter to NZC that was agreed upon by a majority via email on the 7 May.

2. Background

Cr Lyons proposed a letter from Eastern Fish and Game Council formally requesting that NZC raise Eastern's concerns to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing.

This notion was earlier also supported at the 4 April Council meeting, where the majority of Councillors supported the idea that the CEO should write a letter to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing bringing Eastern's concerns to his attention and for political support in diffusing or rectifying the issues, as the problems were at a political level and needed a higher authority than Fish & Game.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Council reconfirms its support to formally communicate and ask NZC to raise Eastern's concerns to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing and any other appropriate government offices.

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

15 May 2024

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.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

16 May 2024

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.

March – May 2024

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: Game Bird opening ranging Te Wairoa Fish trap install
2024-2025 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	16/05/2024
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	386
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:

18 Mar 2024 No meeting
25 Mar 2024 Aggressive people on jet skis. Sunstrike when driving
2 Apr 2024 Jet ski issue, sunstrike and slippery roads when driving
8 Apr 2024 Nothing new
15 Apr 2024 Spawning early – care when undertaking compliance
22 Apr 2024 Spawning early – be mindful, changeable weather, sunstrike
29 Apr 2024 Care when turning into PV Road, be wary of cyclists & runners
6 May 2024 Extra care around firearms when ranging, changing weather & road conditions
13 May 2024 Care when ranging, spawning streams, tension between parties – Whirinaki arm

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Nil

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

9. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

Ref: 8.02.01

01 May 2024

1. Purpose

To consider the Anglers Notice regulations for the 2024-2025 angling season.

2. Background

The Anglers Notice sets regional sports fishing regulations and any changes from one season to the next go through a consultation process with licence holders and interested parties before being recommended to the Minister of Conservation. Sports fishing regulations are set to ensure the sustainability of fisheries without unnecessarily restricting angler opportunities.

3. New Proposals

No new proposals have been received.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Council concludes the Anglers Notice Process for the upcoming 2024-25 angling season.

10. 2024-2025 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

13 May 2024

1. Purpose

To receive the updated draft Operational Work Plan (OWP) prepared for the 2024-2025 year and approve its circulation to clubs and other interested parties for feedback prior to final sign off.

2. Background

Operational Work Plans are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic priorities in addition to core functions, project objectives and allocation of resources. At the February meeting Council discussed several minor changes to the OWP and concluded that the current priorities were still relevant and should be carried through to the 2024-2025 work programme. The draft work plan and budget were approved by Council at its April meeting. Also approved at the April meeting was a contestable funding bid of \$26,600, and one application to draw down funding of \$15,000 from our Non-Resident Levy Reserve. These were subsequently reviewed and approved by the NZ Council at their April meeting. The approved funding has been incorporated into the second draft of the 2024-2025 OWP which has been provided as a PDF accompanying this agenda. This latest draft of the plan also includes updated hours and internal costs.

3. Resourcing the Work Plan

The first draft of the 2024-2025 budget was prepared in accordance with NZ Council's budgeting process and included base funding of \$1,278,944.

One application was made to the nationally administered contestable funding pool and one for use of the Regional Non Resident Reserve comprising:

- CPI & salary adjustments \$26,600
- Tarawera Food Web Monitoring Data Analysis \$15,000

Incorporating this funding into our budget for 2024-2025 elevates our baseline budget to \$1,320,544 (subject to Ministerial approval of Fish & Game's proposed licence fees for 2024-25). With no increase to the licence fee sought for the 2024-25 season, Regions will be required to draw on their general reserves to cover the shortfall in budgeted revenue to the value of \$432,903. Eastern's contribution to this shortfall will be \$43,824, each Regions draw on reserves equates to 3.6% of their bulk fund.

Further funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund will be incorporated into the Budgeted Financial Statements to be approved at the August meeting of Council as this funding sits outside of the Fish & Game National Budget process. The proposed funding from the Waikaremoana Fund is included for approval at this meeting under agenda item 13 (Page 37).

4. Comparison of Resourcing for the 2024-2025 OWP and the 2023-2024 OWP

The main changes to the 2024-2025 OWP versus the 2023-2024 OWP at an output class level are as below:

Output	2023-24 External Costs	2024-25 External Costs	2023-24 Hours	2024-25 Hours	Hours Change	% Change
Species	\$154,150	\$146,550	6,051	6,339	177	2.9%
Habitat	\$18,200	\$18,200	3,214	3,184	-30	-0.9%
Participation	\$9,800	\$9,600	1,941	1,891	-50	-2.6%
Public Interface	\$1,500	\$1,500	935	1,219	284	30%
Compliance	\$6,000	\$6,000	1,370	1,383	13	1%
Licensing	\$13,654	\$600	272	257	-15	-5.5%
Council	\$6,500	\$6,500	474	739	265	56%
Planning/Reporting	\$18,650	\$16,042	981	1,210	229	23%
TOTAL	\$228,454	\$204,992	15,238	16,111	873	5.7%

The total output hours for the draft 2024-2025 OWP are 16,111 hours compared to 15,238 hours last year, and overhead/administration staff hours are 6,431 compared to 7,084 hours last year. Hours have been updated for individual projects and a summary of the change within each Output clusters is detailed above. The change to the Species output reflects a small change across several areas which have been previously under budgeted. The Managers time in recent years was assigned to overheads and as such allocated to projects through the overhead allocation. The new CEO's work is involved less in the projects managed by staff and more in the Public Interface/R3/Council and Planning arena. Due to this change in management approximately 50% of the managers time has been allocated directly to these outputs, with the balance assigned through overhead allocations.

5. Next Steps

1. Staff will incorporate any amendments to the draft 2024-2025 plan that Council might seek as an outcome of this meeting.
2. The draft will then be circulated to clubs and interested parties for comment with feedback required prior to the end of July.
3. Council will formally approve the plan at its August meeting after taking into account any submissions received on it and determining whether these require amendments to the plan.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That Council receives the second draft of the 2024-2025 OWP and identifies any amendments it wishes be made to it prior to its circulation to other parties for comment.***

11. 2024-2025 LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION

Ref: 6.01.04

15 May 2024

1. Purpose

To review the licence fees recommended for the 2024-2025 year.

2. Background

All regional budgets along with the NZ Council budget are assessed in April in accordance with national budget policy. A key element of the policy is that budgets provide a level of base funding sufficient to meet the core operations of each region and the NZ Council. Any increase to base funding for a particular region or the NZ Council must be done through a contestable bidding process. Once forecasted licence sales and overall funding requirements for Fish & Game nationally have been assessed the NZ Council recommends licence fees for both the fish licence and the game licence.

Licence fees for the coming 2024-2025 sports fishing and game bird seasons were considered at the NZC Council meeting on 22 April 2024.

The following paper describes the legislative background and the process undertaken for setting the licence fee. It includes information on use of LEQ targets, a review of the contestable funding applications, and funding allocated for research and for RMA/legal cases. The NZC report concludes with the recommendations:

1. That the 2024/25 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees.
2. That the National LEQ target for Fish is 72,826, and for Game 31,340.

The report did not request confirmation of the Designated Waters or Salmon licence categories, but we suggest that Council also confirms these.

3. That the fee for the Salmon Licence currently provided by two South Island regions at \$5, and the Designated Waters Licence, available as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40 remain unchanged for the 2024-25 year.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 ***That the Eastern Fish and Game Council supports the proposed licence fees for 2024-2025 of \$153 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Fishing licence, and \$113 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Game licence (which includes \$5 for the Game Bird Habitat Trust), and supports the Sea Run Salmon licence endorsement of \$5 and the Designated Waters Licence as a \$5 annual licence per region for residents and \$40 per day for non-residents.***
- 3.2 ***That Council accepts the proposed National LEQ target for 2024-25 for Fish of 72,826 and Game 31,340***

CONSULTATION:	LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION 2024-25
TO:	Regional Chairs
CC:	Regional Managers, NZC and Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	29/04/2024
FEEDBACK DUE:	31/05/2024
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz
LINK TO REGISTER:	Consultation Register

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:

1. That the 2024/25 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories. (no change from 2023/24).
2. The sea run salmon licence endorsement of \$5 (as a cost-recovery mechanism). (no change from 2023/24).
3. That Designated Waters Licence, as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40. (no change from 2023/24).

Discussion - Koīrero

Proposal

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) is seeking to consult with Fish and Game regional councils on the '2024/25 licence fee recommendations and forecast LEQ' for 2024/25.

The NZC met on the 19th and 20th of April 2024 to consider the 2024/25 budgets and licence fees. Following that meeting, NZC agreed to recommend maintaining the licence fee for a sports fish adult whole season licence at \$153 and to maintain the game adult whole season licence at \$113 for 2024/2025. In recommending these fees, NZC also recommended that all other licence categories increase to the agreed proportions. A full list of recommended licence fees and categories is detailed in the Schedule attached (**Appendix 2**).

Background

Legislation provides for the following:

- Section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of Fish and Game Councils.
- **Subsection (1)(d)(a) requires councils:** *To assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game;*
- **Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) requires Fish and Game councils:** *To develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees;*
- **Section 26C(1)(e) requires NZC:** *To recommend to the Minister of Conservation an appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licenses, after considering the views and recommendations of Fish and Game Councils;*
- **Section 26C(1)(ia) also requires NZC:** *To recommend to the Minister, after considering the views and recommendations (if any) of Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board, an appropriate fee in respect of any game bird habitat stamp and the form of such stamps (the form of the stamp to be approved as part of the 2011 Game Notice).*

Operationally, the national policy of NZC specifies that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round, including capital expenditure and expenditure from reserves for all councils.

Policy

At the May 2020 NZC meeting, in response to COVID-19, the NZC set the minimum level of reserves at 20% of total budget for all councils. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow.

The budget policy specifies that all expenditure from general and dedicated reserves needs to be notified/approved by NZC as part of the budget round, or by making an application for Exceptional Funding. There are consequences across all sectors of the organisation when any council's reserves are reduced in a manner inconsistent with this policy.

Budget Process

The method of increasing funding levels for individual councils is through a contestable funding application at the April budget setting meeting. Applications can be for either a one-off funding allocation for a specific project, or for ongoing additional funding. The latter in effect raises the total baseline funding level for that council.

The funding required to cover base funds and approved contestable funding is assessed against the expected licence sales for the year ahead (established from analysis of the last two-year sales trends, considering the implications of COVID-19 and border restrictions) to determine the licence fees.

This process is summarised in the following budget cycle:

Feb	<p>All council budgets reviewed against audited actual expenditure. Budgets over or under 10% variance are reported against, reviewed, and discussed. The variance reports for the 2022/23 year are prepared and discussed.</p> <p>NZC set regional base funds for the 2024/25 year at \$11,867,408. NZC recommended to all Regions to make reductions of 3% from their Base funds.</p>
March	<p>Preparation of business and operational work plans for new financial year (NFY).</p> <p>Draft budgets developed by NZC and regional councils.</p> <p>Regions and NZC made savings of \$192,183.</p>
April	<p>Councils apply for 'new' contestable funding with applications circulated beforehand, reviewed against criteria, considered, and prioritised at the meeting</p>
	<p>NZC meet (by Zoom) with the Chairs of each region to consider the contestable funding applications.</p>
April	<p>NZC make recommendation on licence forecast, fees, having considered base funding levels and contestable fund applications, and send to regional councils for consideration.</p>
May	<p>Regional councils consider NZC licence fee recommendation. Due back to NZC (31 May).</p>
June	<p>NZC consider regional response and finalise licence fee recommendations for approval by the Minister of Conservation. (19 June)</p>

The recommended licence fee is effectively set by dividing the sum of the proposed budgets of the 13 Councils by the number of the adult whole season licence equivalents that Fish and Game NZ expects to sell during the year (LEQ targets).

2024/25 Licence LEQ Forecast

The following table represents the approved forecast for the Licence sales for Fish and Game for the 2024/25 season. Total LEQ Fish 72,826 and Game 31,340.

The forecast which was recommended by the Licence Working Party.

	Actual 2021/22		Actual 2022/23		Est 2024	Budget 2023/24		Projected 24/25	
	Fish	Game	Fish	Game	Fish	Fish	Game	Fish	Game
Northland	217	1,582	455	1,552	454	370	1,552	454	1,537
Auckland\Waikato	3,231	6,309	3,550	6,518	3,658	3,729	6,201	3,658	6,518
Eastern	8,695	3,024	8,643	2,854	8,456	8,663	3,012	8,363	2,769
Hawkes Bay	2,476	1,916	2,525	1,750	2,335	1,879	1,916	2,690	1,667
Taranaki	861	1,114	1,034	1,086	987	938	1,113	964	1,072
Wellington	3,239	3,409	2,990	3,290	2,989	2,807	3,409	2,989	3,231
Nelson-Marlb	3,460	900	4,410	862	4,364	4,599	887	4,341	843
Nth Canterbury	10,980	2,428	11,084	2,557	10,964	11,148	2,381	10,904	2,557
West Coast	1,744	370	2,253	364	2,169	2,208	358	2,127	361
Central SI	11,638	2,235	12,946	2,267	12,536	12,937	2,233	12,331	2,267
Otago	14,923	4,080	15,828	3,989	15,549	15,614	4,029	15,410	3,944
Southland	8,099	4,727	9,084	4,625	8,758	9,167	4,672	8,595	4,574
NZC only									
National									
TOTAL	69,563	32,094	74,802	31,714	73,219	74,060	31,763	72,826	31,340

Following Components Featured in the 2024/25 Budget Discussions:

Contestable Funding Applications

59 contestable funding applications were received (90 last year), seeking additional funding of \$2,200,596 (last year \$2,965,090).

National Budget	# Applications	\$ from Licence fee	\$ from Reserves	CF for Salaries	CF for REM	CF for new Staff
Northland	2	12,974	-	10,974	10,974	
Auckland\Waikato	0	-	-	-	-	
Eastern	2	26,600	15,000	26,600	26,600	
Hawkes Bay	2	154,000	-	54,000	54,000	
Taranaki	2	29,333	-	29,333	8,124	21,209
Wellington	1	17,788	-	17,788	17,788	
Nelson-Marlb	0	-	-	-	-	
Nth Canterbury	5	103,748	30,000	31,748	31,748	
West Coast	2	34,350	25,000	59,350	59,350	
Central SI	3	237,500	29,601	190,000		190,000
Otago	3	120,000	23,000	115,000		115,000
Southland	5	19,427	136,775	75,702	10,427	65,275
NZC only	7	110,400	-	-		
National	25	1,075,100	-	160,000		160,000
TOTAL	59	1,941,220	259,376	770,495	219,011	551,484
TOTAL Contestable Funding Applications		2,200,596				

Contestable Funding Recommendations from NZC Staff

The NZC staff made recommendations to the NZC in 3 Steps:

1. Step 1: Prioritisation for Regional Contestable fund applications for salaries and core functions;
2. Step 2: Recommendations for NZC and National Budgets for core functions;
3. Step 3: Recommendation of the Regional Contestable applications and the NZC and

National applications against the Fish & Game Organisational Strategy – strategic merit.

2024/25 NZC Contestable Funding Approval and 2024/25 Budgets

Budgets for all councils were received and circulated to the NZC for review prior to the April NZC meeting.

The Chairs of the Regions were invited to present their CFs to the NZC on Friday 19th April.

The NZC approved contestable funding applications at a total value of \$1,580,496. Of this, \$624,161 were ongoing from the Licence fee, \$596,959 were one off from the Licence fee and \$359,376 were one-off from reserves.

The attached Table 6 (Appendix 1) sets out the full list of approved contestable funding applications with the approval rating from the NZC staff and the final approval from the NZC. Any figures highlighted in yellow have been adjusted from the original application during the Contestable funding review process or at the NZC meeting.

Reasoning behind the decisions include:

1. Salaries for REM – have all been approved in principle – as the NZC believe our people are our greatest assets. However, the amounts sort in the CF's need to peer reviewed by the HR advisor to ensure the amounts are in line with the REM policy i.e. there is parity/ equity across the organisation for staff.
 - a. The process this year is that the market information from the March Strategic Pay survey will be available around mid May. Jane will then notify Chairs/ Managers of the new pay bands and will send out a spreadsheet to those who have asked for CF funds for remuneration. Jane will work with the Chair/ Manager to schedule a meeting to chat through regional recommendations for salaries. Pay parity can then be checked and the additional budget required can be confirmed.
 - b. Once this review has been completed, the relevant Regions will be notified of the final approval from the CF fund for Rem.
 - c. In future, as NZC has only approved a budget for one Strategic Pay report in the next financial year, we will use the September 2024 report to calculate the remuneration budget for the 25/26 financial year.
 - d. Strategic Pay will calculate new pay bands in early December from the September survey , so the HR/HS advisor can then send out a spreadsheet to Regions where you can identify where you think you will want to place your staff within the bands, and the required remuneration can be calculated well before the April NZC meeting.
2. All CF's from Regional reserves were approved.
3. Northland - \$2,000 for insurance was declined as the NZC feels this amount could be found within the present Northland budget, and due to significant organisational fiscal constraints.

4. Hawkes Bay \$100,000 has been approved from reserves as a one off. It is the intention of the HBFGC to ensure this project is self-sustaining in the following years.
5. Taranaki – Management Contract - \$21,209 – Approved as a one off and for the budget to be reconsidered in the following year.
6. North Canterbury – Put and Take Fishery – NZC approved \$5,000 as per the current year budget. The value of the put and take fishery project was noted as high against the Organisational Strategy, though unfortunately further funding could not be provided at this stage due to tight organisational fiscal constraints. Te Waihora Maimai \$9,000 was approved as a one off as the NZC have requested the North Canterbury Council to investigate alternative funding for this, for example a Maimai fee to those using the maimai's. The ARF figure was approved as per the current year budget \$20,000 (one off) with the NZC requesting all Regions ARF registers are reviewed against ARF policy to ensure all Regions are adequately funded.
7. Central South Island – Applied for 2 staff members – the NZC approved 1 staff member, after considering the regional needs to support the canals fisheries, and level of staffing across similar sized regions. This was the second year CSI had sought an additional field officer to support delivery of their operational plan and in particular to meet the needs of managing the canal fisheries;
8. Otago - \$5,000 for the Council Induction was not approved as this will be funded by the NZC budget. The new staff member was declined due to financial constraints, though as with North Canterbury's put and take fishery, the strategic value of this position was noted as high against the Organisational Strategy.
9. Southland – CF's from Reserves approved and the Parrie and swan counts costs were reinstated.
10. NZC - \$20,000 for NZC meetings not approved as they look to move to online and 1-day meetings to save money. Staff expenses reduced to \$10,000 due to financial constraints. Advocacy for Fish and Game \$37,500 was reinstated (as this was originally reduced with the 3% cuts). The NZC were committed to the Governance Advisor and approved \$20,000 for this as part of the commitment to undertake the non-legislative recommendations of the Ministerial Review, and in supporting the organisation through this period of change.
11. National – Many of the National CF applications were due to increased costs for providing core regional services and as such were approved – for example, the increase in office 365 and data costs, election costs, postage increases for the postage of the licences and increased costs of hosting face to face managers meetings.
 - a. The Health and Safety Risk management system was given a priority as the NZC considered that the implementation of a robust H & S system used by all of Fish and Game was vital.
 - b. Approval was given for the Website and Social media project \$30,000 which aims to

design and delivery extension resources for hunters and anglers as part of the commitment to adding value for Licence holders and in underpinning the organisations R³ program – initial focus on recruitment and reactivation.

- c. The NZC Staff submitted a CF for National Liaison (\$40k) and Marketing & Social Licence (80K). The NZC approved a total of \$30,000 across both projects with the direction to the CEO to use this funding either in National Liaison and or Marketing and Social licence. \$90,000 declined due to prioritisation of regional needs within tight fiscal constraints.
- d. The Research budget was reinstated to the \$100k (as this was originally reduced with the 3% cuts)
- e. A reduction in the National Base funding of \$50,000 was approved (this was part of the Regulations budget) to make additional funds available. The NZC made a decision to no longer print regulation guides, but to have these provided as a link and a PDF only.
- f. The \$50,000 reduction from the Regulations budget was approved to be used as a one off for the Scoping of the Digital licence for 2024/25.
- g. The HR/HS position that was funded as a one off in 2023/24 was approved but at .6FTE rather than the .8 FTE that was originally applied for.
- h. Governor Training and induction was approved at \$30,000.
- i. The application for a .5 FTE for research was declined.

12. There were two major projects that were considered by the NZC, that were not affordable within the Licence fee – these 2 projects were for the magazine \$235,000 and for the Regional RMA (Resource Management Act) Fund \$200,000. The NZC recognised the significance of these 2 projects – both have been approved as one offs for 2024/25 and will come from regional reserves.

The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game councils for 2024/25 (including funding from reserves) is \$13,255,720. Individual budgets are shown in the Table 3 below alongside the previous financial year (both shown as GST exclusive).

Table 3: National Approved Budget -DRAFT

	Base Funds 2024/25	Approved CF Licence Fee ongoing	Approved CF from Licence Fee - One off	Approved CF from Reserves - One off	Approved Budget 2024/25 (inc from Reserves)
Northland	581,107	10,974	0	0	592,081
Auckland/Waikato	881,824	0	0	0	881,824
Eastern	1,278,944	26,600	0	15,000	1,320,544
Hawkes Bay	380,624	54,000	0	100,000	534,624
Taranaki	419,692	8,124	21,209	0	449,025
Wellington	830,600	17,788	0	0	848,388
Nelson-Marlb	564,125	0	0	0	564,125
Nth Canterbury	973,187	36,748	29,000	30,000	1,068,935
West Coast	341,601	34,350	0	25,000	400,951
Central SI	850,235	95,000	23,750	29,601	998,586
Otago	1,240,967	0	0	23,000	1,263,967
Southland	803,632	19,427	0	136,775	959,834
NZC only	1,203,086	77,400	0	0	1,280,486
National 1	1,325,600	243,750	523,000	0	2,092,350
TOTAL	11,675,224	624,161	596,959	359,376	13,255,720

 1

Research Fund Allocation

To avoid inflating the budget in any one year an allocation is made annually to the Research Fund. The annual Research Budget (\$155k) has been split between General Research (\$100k), the National Anglers Survey (\$30k) and the Research for PhD (Cawthron \$25k).

The National Research Budget was reduced by \$41,000 (to make the 3% savings) This was reinstated by the NZC within the CF approval process.

There were no applications to this Research Fund.

Staff Development Fund

A staff scholarship of \$10,000 is available annually for Fish and Game staff to apply for support from the organisation for national and international study, work experience or participation in events or conferences.

There were two applications to this fund for the 2024/25 year.

¹ National issues include the cost of shared services benefiting the organisation nationwide, such as the special editions of the FISH AND GAME magazine, the FISH AND GAME NZ website, licence administration system, administration of elections, ranger health & safety training, etc.

1. Hamish Stevens (CSI) \$2,500 – to attend the Biennial Bay Delta Science Conference in San Francisco
2. Beginner te Reo Māori online classes for 20x F & G staff \$6,600 (applied for by Maggie Tait)

Following the recommendations from the Managers, the application from Hamish Stevens was approved to the total value of \$2,500.

RMA/Legal Fund Allocation

The RMA/Legal fund receives budget allocations on a reimbursement basis. It covers payment of costs through a national fund rather than separate funding allocations in individual council's budgets where approved legal projects occur.

It was agreed that contestable funding of \$200,000 be allocated to the national legal pool fund for this 2024/25 year. This will be funded from reserves.

The NZC approved from the RMA fund

- \$10,215 to work on inputs control form the NPSFM (National Policy Statement Freshwater Management) project.
- \$30,000 for Hawkes Bay for Tranche 2.
- \$50,000 towards RMA reform and NPS _ FM.
- And 65,000 from Hawkes Bay Reserves for Tranche 2.

Licence Fee Recommendations

NZC Licence Fee Recommendation

At the February 2024 NZC meeting, the NZC indicated that they intended for the licence fee to remain at \$153 and \$113 as they believed that the minister would, be accepting of this price.

The NZC recommend that the 2024/25 licence fee be based on a sports fish adult whole season fee of \$153 and the game adult whole season licence \$113 (inclusive of the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) (GST inclusive) and for all other licence categories to increase proportionally. The Salmon licence \$5, the Designated Waters Licence \$5 for residents and \$40 for Non-residents. This represents no increase on last year.

The NZC recommended that the Sports Fish and Game licence categories be maintained at the same ratios as previous years.

Recommended licence fees are set out in the schedule 2 at the end of this letter.

Total income including interest is \$12,463,441. The Cost of Sales (COS) is the commission and bank transaction charges relating to the sale of licences is budgeted at 4.0% of licence income.

Table 4: Total Income Summary 2024/25

	TOTAL Licence Income \$		Net Licence		
	TOTAL F & G	Total COS \$	Income \$	Interest \$	Net Income
Northland	204,746	8,190	196,556	10,104	206,660
Auckland\Waikato	1,098,798	43,952	1,054,846	17,768	1,072,615
Eastern	1,372,688	54,908	1,317,780	34,340	1,352,120
Hawkes Bay	514,440	20,578	493,862	35,630	529,492
Taranaki	228,929	9,157	219,772	9,032	228,804
Wellington	701,100	28,044	673,056	10,984	684,040
Nelson-Marlb	656,710	26,268	630,442	7,419	637,861
Nth Canterbury	1,690,842	67,634	1,623,208	13,367	1,636,575
West Coast	316,886	12,675	304,211	15,470	319,681
Central SI	1,853,460	74,138	1,779,322	44,444	1,823,766
Otago	2,420,593	96,824	2,323,769	57,966	2,381,735
Southland	1,573,067	62,923	1,510,144	39,923	1,550,068
NZC only				40,025	40,025
National					
TOTAL	12,632,259	505,290	12,126,969	336,472	12,463,441

NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp

The NZC recommended the Game Bird Habitat Stamp for 2023/24 remain at \$5.

Modification to Licence Categories and Ratios with whole Season Fees

The NZ Council agreed that the sports fish categories and ratios be maintained the same as previous years.

Overall Forecast Position and Use of Reserves

The recommendation for licence fee of \$153 and \$113, along with the recommendation of a total budget of \$13,255,720 creates an overall deficit of \$792,279.

Table 5: Overall Forecast Position for Fish and Game	
For the Year ended 31 August 2025	
Net Licence Sales	12,126,969
Interest	336,472
Total Income	12,463,441
Less Approved Budget	13,255,720
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	(792,279)

Approval for regions to use their reserves to cover one off projects for the year totals \$359,376. Additionally, regions are required to use their reserves to cover the shortfall of \$432,903. This latter amount represents an additional 3.36% use of reserves. (\$359,376 plus \$432,903 equals the total LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION 2024-25

deficit of \$792,279).

Forecasts as at April 2024 suggest one region, North Canterbury may fall below the 20% reserves and require a top up of \$12,247 in the 2025/26 contestable funding round. This forecast however, is based on Regions working within the 2023/24 budgets.

Conclusion

The NZ Council seeks consultation from Fish and Game regional councils on the following points:

1. **The licence fees and categories as set out in the appended schedule (Appendix 2) and specifically:**
 - a. **That the 2024/25 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees**
 - b. **The Licence LEQ of 72,826 (Fish) and 31,340 (Game)**

To enable the NZC to consider feedback and make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation at its 18 June 2023 meeting, responses to these changes are requested to be submitted by the close of business on **31 May 2024**.



Barrie Barnes
Chairman
New Zealand Fish and Game Council



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

APPENDIX 1

Table 6 : Contestable Fund Applications Detail 2024-25 - 432,903

Summary of Decisions from NZC meeting

App No	Region Base Funding 2024/25	Project Code	Description	L R O C	Additional \$ Sought	\$ amount \$ Adjusted	Staff Recommendation	NZC Recommendation	1 Not	2 Good To	3 Recommends	4 Essential	5 Whole Withdrawn	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED Restore Reserves	APPROVED Capital EX	APPROVED from Reserves	
NTH 001	\$ 581,107	1910	Salaries	L B	10,974	10,974	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTH 002		1984	Insurance	L B	2,000	2,000	1	1	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Northland				12,974	12,974			2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Auckland/Waikato				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	\$ 881,824		No CF bids		0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Auckland/Waikato				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Eastern				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EAST 001	\$ 1,278,944	1910	Salaries	L B	26,600	26,600	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	26,600	0	0	0	0	0
EAST 002		1114	Lake Tarawera	R O	15,000	15,000	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	0	15,000
	TOTAL Eastern				41,600	41,600			0	0	0	0	0	26,600	0	0	0	0	15,000
	Hawke's Bay				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	\$ 380,624				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HBAY 001		1910	Salaries	L B	54,000	54,000	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	54,000	0	0	0	0	0
HBAY 002		1451	Education Centre Development	R O	100,000	100,000	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	100,000
	TOTAL Hawke's Bay				154,000	154,000			0	0	0	0	0	54,000	0	0	0	0	100,000
	Taranaki				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	\$ 419,692				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TARA 001		1912	Continuation of Management	L O	21,209	21,209	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,209	0	0	0	0
TARA 002		1911	Salaries	L B	8,124	8,124	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	8,124	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Taranaki				29,333	29,333			0	0	0	0	0	8,124	21,209	0	0	0	0
	Wellington				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	\$ 830,600				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WELL 001		1911	Salaries	L B	17,788	17,788	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	17,788	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Wellington				17,788	17,788			0	0	0	0	0	17,788	0	0	0	0	0
	Nelson/Marlborough				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	\$ 564,125		No CF Bids	L B	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Nelson/Marlborough				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	North Canterbury				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	\$ 973,187				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC 001		1911	Salaries	L B	31,748	31,748	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC 002		1161	Put & Take Fishery	L B	23,000	5,000	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	31,748	0	0	0	0	0
NC 003		1232	Te Waihora Maimai Agt	L O	9,000	9,000	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	9,000	0	0	0	0
NC 004		ARF	Asset Replacement Fund	L O	40,000	20,000	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC 005		1112	Trout Fishery/Designated W	R O	30,000	30,000	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL North Cant				133,748	95,748			0	0	0	0	0	36,748	29,000	0	0	0	30,000
	West Coast				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	\$ 341,601				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WC 001		1910	Salaries	L B	34,350	34,350	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WC 002		1910	Salaries	R O	25,000	25,000	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	34,350	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL West Coast				59,350	59,350			0	0	0	0	0	34,350	0	0	0	0	25,000

Table 6 : Contestable Fund Applications Detail 2024-25 - 432,903
Summary of Decisions from NZC meeting

App No	Region Base Funding 2024/25	Project Code	Description	L R O C	Additional \$ Sought	\$ amount \$ Adjusted	Staff Recommendation	NZC Recommendation	1 Not	2 Good To	3 Recommends	4 Essential Whole	5 Withdrawn	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED Reserves	APPROVED Capital Ex	APPROVED from Reserves		
Central South Island																				
	\$ 850,235				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CSI 001		CAP	Electric Fishing Machine	R C	29,601	29,601	4	4	0	0	0	29,601	0	0	0	0	0	0	29,601	
CSI 002		1910	Salaries	L B	190,000	95,000	4	4	0	0	0	95,000	0	95,000	0	0	0	0	0	
CSI 002		1912	Staff Expenses	L O	47,500	23,750	4	4	0	0	0	23,750	0	23,750	0	0	0	0	0	
			TOTAL Central South Island		267,101	148,351			0	0	0	148,351	0	95,000	23,750	0	0	0	29,601	
Otago																				
	\$ 1,240,967				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 001		1700	Council Elections & Meetings	L O	5,000	5,000	1	1	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 002		1911	Advocacy/PRI/Strategic Relat	L B	115,000	115,000	4	3	0	0	115,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 003		1321	Designated Waters Impleme	R O	23,000	23,000	4	4	0	0	0	23,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,000
			TOTAL Otago		143,000	143,000			5,000	0	115,000	23,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,000	
Southeast																				
	\$ 803,632				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STH 001		1900	Salaries	L B	10,427	10,427	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STH 002		1115	Maintain Te Anau House	R O	61,500	61,500	4	4	0	0	0	10,427	0	10,427	0	0	0	0	0	0
STH 003		1115	Maintain Angler Access Bright	R O	10,000	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	61,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61,500
STH 004		1115	Parrie and swan counts	L B	9,000	9,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000
STH 005		1710	Salaries from DW Reserve	R O	65,275	65,275	4	4	0	0	0	9,000	0	9,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
			TOTAL Southeast		156,202	156,202			0	0	0	156,202	0	19,427	0	0	0	0	65,275	
NZC																				
	\$ 1,203,086				0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 001		1700	Governance Forum Chairs/N	L B	3,000	3,000	2	1	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 002		1700	NZC Chair Travel	L B	7,000	7,000	4	4	0	0	0	7,000	0	7,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 003		1700	NZC Meetings	L B	20,000	10,000	2	2	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 004		1820	Financial Audit Fee	L B	3,000	3,000	4	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 005		1920	Staff Expenses	L B	20,000	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 007		1430	Advocacy for Fish & Game	L B	37,400	37,400	4	4	0	0	0	37,400	0	37,400	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 009		1700	Governance Advisor	L B	20,000	20,000	3	4	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
			TOTAL NZC		110,400	90,400			3,000	10,000	0	77,400	0	77,400	0	0	0	0	0	

APPENDIX 2

Schedule of FISH AND GAME NZ's proposed Licence & Fees for 2024/25 (inclusive of GST)

Sports Fish Licence		2023/24	2024/25	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (1 Oct – 30 Sep)	Adult	153	153	Nil
	Junior	31	31	Nil
	Child	free	free	Nil
Family		198	198	Nil
Non-resident Whole season	Adult	264	264	Nil
	Junior	50	50	Nil
	Child	50	50	Nil
Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)	Adult	92	92	Nil
Loyal senior	Adult	130	130	Nil
Local area	Adult	122	122	Nil
Short break	Adult	55	55	Nil
Long-break	Adult	107	107	Nil
Day	Adult	24	24	Nil
	Junior	5	5	Nil
Non-resident Day	Adult	37	37	Nil
	Junior	22	22	Nil
	Child	22	22	Nil
Controlled period		free	free	Nil
Sea Run Salmon		\$5	\$5	Nil
Designated Waters- resident	Season	\$5	\$5	Nil
Designated Waters- non-resident	Day	\$40	\$40	Nil

Game Bird Licence*		2024	2025	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (primarily 1st Sat in May to 31 Aug)	Adult	113	113	Nil
	Junior	26	26	Nil
	Child	5	5	Nil
Day (available from 2nd Monday of season)	Adult	26	26	Nil
	Junior	10	10	Nil

All licence category fees are set as a percentage of the fish or game adult whole season fee and rounded to the nearest \$, hence in some instances the fee difference remains nil.

*Game bird hunting licence fee includes the \$5 NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Notes:

- A junior means a person aged 12 years or over, but under 18 years at the start of the season.
- A child means a person aged under 12 years at the start of the season.
- Designated Waters, Sea Run Salmon and Controlled-Period licence entitles an adult or junior whole season or family fish licence holder to fish in specified waters or for specified species.
- Whole Season for sports fish extends from 1 October through to 30 September the following year.
- Whole Season for game birds can extend from the first Saturday in May to beyond the traditional closing dates for upland game hunting at the end of August due to special season conditions between February to April the following year for some species, e.g. Paradise shelduck and Pukeko.
- A Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee of \$5.00 (incl. GST) is payable on all categories of game hunting licence and is included in the fees shown in the game hunting licence table above.

12. REDUCTION OF EASTERN COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

Ref: 8.02.01

13 May 2024

1. Purpose

To consider reducing Eastern Fish and Game Councillor numbers to 8 or 10 from its current 12 members.

2. Background

The 2022 Ministerial Review highlighted a need for Fish and Game Regions to reduce their Councillor numbers within the bandwidth of our constitution. The Review's recommendations on page 41 highlighted that all Regional Councils should reduce their Councillor numbers down to 8.

As this does not require a change to legislation, it is feasible as we approach an election period that Eastern considers making this change to its Council to fall in line with the review recommendations.

Our Region consists of 6 sub regions/electoral wards and we have been currently operating with 10 Councillors (prior to Ngahi Bidois resignation).

3. New Proposals

That Eastern Fish and Game Council reduces its elected Councillors to 8.

Representation numbers from;

Rotorua -	2
Tauranga -	2
Taupo -	1
Whakatane -	1
Gisborne -	1
Wairoa -	1

4. Recommendations

4.1 That Council adopts a reduction in its elected members as of the October 2024 election from 12 to 8.

Or

4.2 That Council adopts a reduction in its elected members as of the October 2024 election from 12 to 10.

Or

4.3 Council maintains its status quo of 12 Councillors.

EASTERN REGION FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND



SUB-REGIONS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 ROTORUA LAKES SUB-REGION | 2 TAURANGA SUB-REGION | 3 TAUPO SUB-REGION |
| 4 WHAKATANE SUB-REGION | 5 GISBORNE SUB-REGION | 6 WAIROA SUB-REGION |

13. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

16 May 2024

1. Purpose

To consider an application for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to incorporate into the draft budget for the 2024-25 OWP once it has been approved.

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 stood at \$476,971 as of 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].

Last year Council approved a draw down from the Fund of \$6,500 from the Fund to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy components of the exercise. At the December 2023 meeting Council further approved an extra \$2,000 to undertake fisheries monitoring into the mid-upper Waiau River to assess the recovery of the system following Cyclone Gabrielle. A further \$25,000 was approved at the February meeting for the purchase of a replacement Electric Fishing Machine. The total approved for the 2023-24 operational year is \$33,500. Interest received on the fund this year will be close to \$30,000.

4. Application for Funding towards Eastern Region's 2024-2025 OWP

The draft 2024-25 OWP provides for an ongoing compliance, monitoring, access and buoy related work programme at Waikaremoana, and Eastern Region wishes to once again apply for \$6,500 from the Fund to incorporate into this budget to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy components of the exercise (compliance activities not eligible for funding from this source).

5. Recommendation

5.1 That Council reviews and approves this application for funding of up to \$6,500 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

14. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

14.1 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

14 May 2024

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the months of March and April 2024.

Tables within this report:

- Table 1 Variance Report to 30 April 2024
- Table 2 Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2024
- Table 3 Profit and Loss to 30 April 2024
- Tables 4 & 5 Bank Transactions March and April 2024
- Tables 6 & 7 Credit Card Transactions March and April 2024

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 30 April 2024 is provided in Table 3.

Summary

The net position YTD is \$269,315 surplus against the YTD budgeted surplus of \$257,748, net variance \$11,567.

The net variance of \$11,567 is a result of income received being lower than that budgeted of \$8,781, and reduced expenditure \$20,348.

Income	Var YTD	Expenses	Var YTD
Licence Sales	44,455 ▼	Depreciation	605 ▲
Other Income	35,674 ▲	Operating Expenses	31,172 ▼
		Administration Expenses	10,219 ▲
	8,781 ▲ -1%		20,348 ▼ -2%
		Net	11,567 ▲ 4%

A more detailed summary is provided in the following notes.

Income

Licence Sales

Licence revenue is reporting to be below budget YTD (\$44,455). It is likely that a variance of this level will remain at year end with Game licence sales looking to end the year some \$30k under budget and Fish licence sales \$15k. A more up to date and accurate 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 \$43,732 and was made up of the following:

Fishing competitions	\$43	Interest General	\$3,398
Rentals	\$9,932	Interest Waikaremoana	\$11,402
Fines	\$461	Contract Services (H/Bay)	\$3,531
Fish food, tours, habitat fees	\$201	Contract Services (CSI)	\$5,510
Grazing	\$3,467	Contract Services (Genesis)	\$3,292
Donations	\$470	Mowing (BoPRC)	\$2,025
		Total	\$43,732

Other income is currently reporting to be \$35,674 ahead of budget, \$9,000 of this offset's expenditure within the Reserves budget for Awaiti WMR, \$1,680 for maize within the Waterfowl Monitoring budget, and \$1,600 for sponsorship within the R3 budget.

Species Management

There were no Population Monitoring expenses during the reported period.

Hatchery spending for the period includes fish food, vehicle maintenance and fuel, rates, oxygen, and the cost of various materials for repairs and painting. The hatchery lights were upgraded, and two pairs of waders purchased. Within budget YTD.

Habitat

Reserves spending for the period included Awaiti WMR culvert and earthworks, Kaituna WMR track repairs, spray unit repairs, and paint for the new accessible maimai. Over budget YTD \$7,453 and this is offset by income received for the Awaiti works of \$9,000.

The assisted habitat spending relates to the helicopter high for the Waiau fishery investigations and this is funded by the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

Participation

There was minimal expenditure within the Participation budgets relating to signage, bulk email costs for the Gisborne duck hunters night, and electricity for the Waikaremoana hut. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

The spending within the Public Interface output was related to maintenance to buildings and seating on the grounds. Over budget YTD \$2,168. These costs will be recouped following the reletting of the fire store depot.

Compliance

Compliance expenditure relates to the usual 0800 Poaching service and cell phone costs. The Compliance output is within budget YTD.

Licensing

Licensing costs include agent commissions, and the fees associated with the Public Online sales. The licensing output is under budget YTD (\$17,738) due to lower than budgeted development costs for the Designated Waters system and lower commissions in part due to reduced licence sales. This surplus will help to offset reduced licence revenue this season.

Council

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the April meetings of Council. Minor expenses are also reported for meetings with the Chair and various stakeholders. Within budget YTD.

Planning

Management and Strategic Planning costs related advertising of the Game Season in Godzone (R3 Budget), meeting expenses with Rotorua NZ, Intrinsic events, DoC, NZC CEO, and work with Japanese film crew. NZ Fish & Game levies were paid as budgeted. Within budget YTD.

Administration

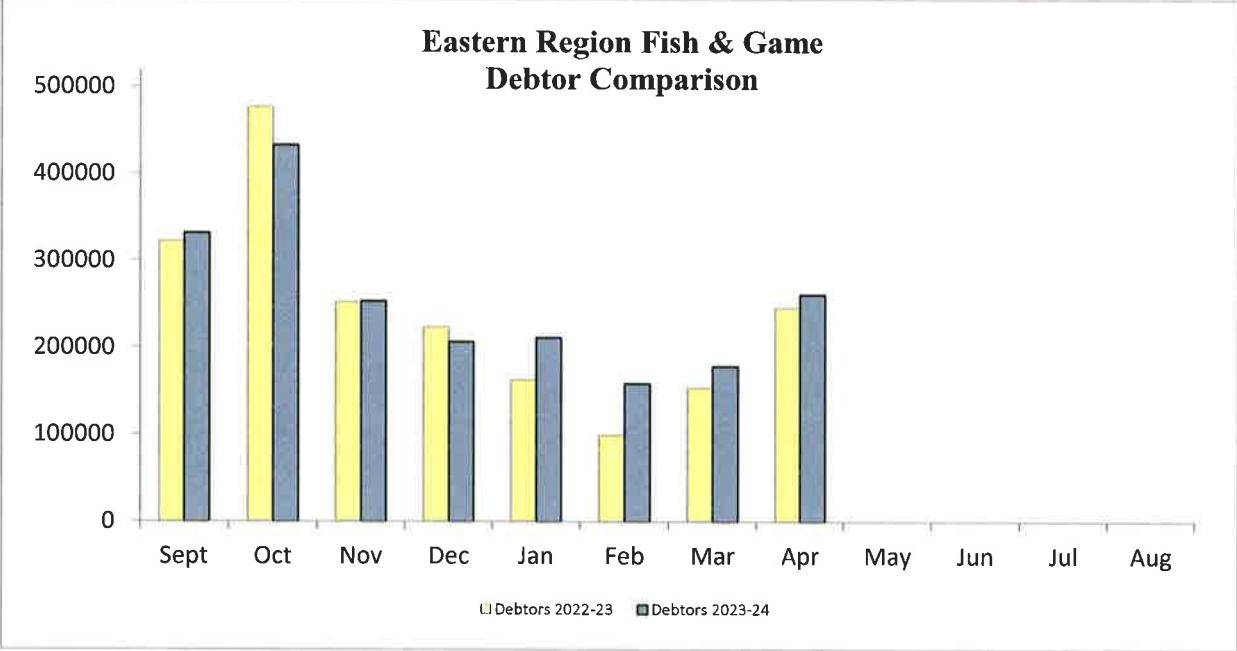
Salaries	Within budget.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses include food for Waiiau, and Waikaremoana work, a flu vaccine, hats, and a voucher for a staff 15yr anniversary. Staff training includes first aid for one and Power Boat L2 training for our skippers. The staff expenses output is over budget YTD \$2,672 and is offset by increased revenue through staff contracts.
Staff Houses	Rental agent commission and fees and property rates are reported within the Staff Houses expense budgets. Under budget YTD \$1,268.
Office Premises	Rates were paid in April and the usual expenses relating to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring were incurred. A maintenance cost was incurred for repairs to a power outlet. Over budget YTD \$882 and this is due primarily to increased rates and insurance.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs. Over budget YTD \$819 due to an upgrade of the phone system at a slightly higher cost.
Communications/ Consumables	Telephone expenses are 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 IT services, courier, postage, Starlink, stationery, and photocopying. Under budget YTD \$1,975.
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. Over budget YTD \$2,762 due to increased insurance costs.
General Equipment	General equipment and maintenance spending related to a tyre replacement and repairs to trailer guard, a service of Kotare, repair of the leaf blower, and Seaflux charges. Over budget YTD \$628 due to unbudgeted costs associated with the Seaflux app.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included servicing of two vehicles, a puncture repair, one registration, 13k in RUC's, and fuel. The vehicles budgets are overspent YTD \$7,855 due to increased maintenance, fuel, and insurance costs. We expect that this variance will reduce as over the coming months but a variance will remain at year end.

Cash Position: As at 30 April 2024

\$ 762,894	(includes \$93,543 Asset Replacement Reserve)
<u>\$ 493,186</u>	(Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,256,080	Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$261,387 as at 30 April 2024 (\$245,760 as at 30 April 2023).

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



Debtors outstanding as 30 April related primarily to licence sales (\$253,751). One agent remains overdue \$556 and this has been followed up by administration staff and we expect payment to come through shortly.

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

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	Budget	Actual		
1110		\$ 53,700	\$ 33,885	2,119	1,572	\$ 158,476	\$ 117,035	\$ -	\$ 1,680	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 212,176	\$ 149,240	\$ 62,936		70.3	
1120		\$ 2,900	\$ 607	690	698	\$ 51,604	\$ 51,966	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,504	\$ 52,573	\$ 1,931		96.5	
1140		\$ 97,050	\$ 75,076	2,996	2,079	\$ 224,066	\$ 154,782	\$ 68,000	\$ 31,828	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 253,116	\$ 198,030	\$ 55,086		78.2	
1160		\$ -	\$ -	134	156	\$ 10,022	\$ 11,614	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,022	\$ 11,614	\$ (1,593)		115.9	
1170		\$ -	\$ -	76	86	\$ 5,684	\$ 6,403	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,684	\$ 6,403	\$ (719)		112.6	
1180		\$ 500	\$ -	36	13	\$ 2,692	\$ 968	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,192	\$ 968	\$ 2,225		30.3	
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 154,150	\$ 109,568	6,051	4,604	\$ 452,544	\$ 342,768	\$ 68,000	\$ 33,508	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 538,694	\$ 418,828	\$ 119,866		77.7	
1210		\$ -	\$ -	1,432	1,074	\$ 107,097	\$ 79,959	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107,097	\$ 79,959	\$ 27,137		74.7	
1220		\$ 17,500	\$ 24,953	940	781	\$ 70,301	\$ 58,145	\$ 11,650	\$ 19,909	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,151	\$ 63,189	\$ 12,961		83.0	
1230		\$ 700	\$ -	770	149	\$ 57,587	\$ 11,093	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,287	\$ 11,093	\$ 47,194		19.0	
1240		\$ -	\$ -	72	72	\$ 5,385	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ -	\$ 5,385		0.0	
1250		\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		0.0	
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & M	\$ 18,200	\$ 24,953	3,214	2,004	\$ 240,370	\$ 149,198	\$ 11,650	\$ 19,909	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 246,920	\$ 154,242	\$ 92,678		62.5	
1310		\$ 5,500	\$ 1,793	708	409	\$ 52,950	\$ 30,450	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,450	\$ 32,243	\$ 26,207		55.2	
1330		\$ -	\$ -	342	101	\$ 25,578	\$ 7,519	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,578	\$ 7,519	\$ 18,058		29.4	
1340		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,019	38	3	\$ 2,842	\$ 223	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,842	\$ 1,242	\$ 3,600		25.7	
1350		\$ 850	\$ 368	775	392	\$ 57,961	\$ 29,184	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,322	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,811	\$ 28,230	\$ 23,581		54.5	
1360		\$ -	\$ -	32	95	\$ 2,393	\$ 7,073	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,393	\$ 7,073	\$ (4,680)		295.5	
1370		\$ 1,450	\$ 1,077	46	14	\$ 3,440	\$ 1,042	\$ 400	\$ 339	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,490	\$ 1,780	\$ 2,710		39.6	
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTIC	\$ 9,800	\$ 4,257	1,941	1,014	\$ 145,164	\$ 75,492	\$ 7,400	\$ 1,661	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 147,564	\$ 78,088	\$ 69,476		52.9	
1410		\$ -	\$ -	72	43	\$ 5,385	\$ 3,201	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ 3,201	\$ 2,183		59.5	
1420		\$ -	\$ -	116	31	\$ 8,675	\$ 2,308	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,675	\$ 2,308	\$ 6,367		26.6	
1440		\$ 1,000	\$ 105	114	45	\$ 6,526	\$ 3,350	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,526	\$ 3,455	\$ 6,071		36.3	
1450		\$ 500	\$ 3,363	633	249	\$ 47,341	\$ 18,538	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,841	\$ 21,901	\$ 25,940		45.8	
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,468	935	368	\$ 69,927	\$ 27,398	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,427	\$ 30,966	\$ 40,561		43.2	
1510		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,687	930	435	\$ 69,553	\$ 32,386	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,553	\$ 34,073	\$ 36,480		48.3	
1520		\$ 1,000	\$ 203	104	61	\$ 7,778	\$ 4,541	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,778	\$ 4,744	\$ 4,034		54.0	
1530		\$ 4,000	\$ 600	336	94	\$ 25,129	\$ 6,998	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,738	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,129	\$ 4,861	\$ 19,268		20.1	
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,490	1,370	590	\$ 102,460	\$ 43,926	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,738	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 103,460	\$ 43,678	\$ 59,782		42.2	
1610		\$ 13,654	\$ 8,620	124	87	\$ 9,274	\$ 6,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,928	\$ 15,097	\$ 7,831		65.8	
1620		\$ -	\$ -	148	25	\$ 11,069	\$ 1,861	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,069	\$ 1,861	\$ 9,207		16.8	
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 13,654	\$ 8,620	272	112	\$ 20,342	\$ 8,338	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,996	\$ 16,958	\$ 17,038		49.9	
1710		\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		0.0	
1720		\$ 6,500	\$ 3,414	474	209	\$ 35,450	\$ 15,560	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 18,974	\$ 22,975		45.2	
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,414	474	209	\$ 35,450	\$ 15,560	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 18,974	\$ 22,975		45.2	
1810		\$ 8,500	\$ 7,342	281	175	\$ 21,016	\$ 13,029	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,516	\$ 18,771	\$ 10,744		63.6	
1820		\$ -	\$ -	64	34	\$ 4,786	\$ 2,531	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,786	\$ 2,531	\$ 2,255		52.9	
1830		\$ 10,100	\$ -	408	245	\$ 30,514	\$ 18,240	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,614	\$ 18,240	\$ 22,373		44.9	
1840		\$ 50	\$ 165	228	146	\$ 17,052	\$ 10,870	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,102	\$ 11,035	\$ 6,067		64.5	
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,650	\$ 7,507	981	600	\$ 73,367	\$ 44,670	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 92,017	\$ 50,577	\$ 41,440		55.0	
	TOTAL	\$ 228,454	\$ 164,277	15,238	9,501	\$ 1,139,624	\$ 707,350	\$ 92,050	\$ 59,416	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,276,028	\$ 812,212	\$ 463,816		63.7	

Table 1 Cont...	EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		%
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
OVERHEADS							
1910 Salaries	\$ 1,042,994	\$ 661,238	\$ 11,680	\$ 32,641	\$ 1,031,314	\$ 628,597	61.0
1920 Staff Expenses	\$ 29,000	\$ 8,967	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,000	\$ 8,967	30.9
1930 Staff Houses	\$ 14,600	\$ 11,236	\$ 59,500	\$ 39,407	\$ (44,900)	\$ (16,729)	62.7
1940 Office Premises	\$ 21,710	\$ 17,424	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,710	\$ 17,424	80.3
1950 Office Equipment	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,753	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,753	105.9
1960 Communications/Consumables	\$ 16,200	\$ 9,661	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,200	\$ 9,661	59.6
1970 General	\$ 12,900	\$ 14,196	\$ 1,500	\$ 5,123	\$ 11,400	\$ 9,073	79.6
1980 General Equipment	\$ 16,800	\$ 12,962	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,800	\$ 12,962	77.2
1990 Vehicles	\$ 55,500	\$ 46,084	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,500	\$ 46,084	83.0
Administration	\$ 1,212,304	\$ 784,521	\$ 72,680	\$ 77,171	\$ 1,139,624	\$ 707,350	62.1
Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,139,624	\$ 707,350	
Total Outputs Staff Hours					15,238	9,501	
Internal Cost Per Hour					74.79	74.45	

Table 1 cont 2023/2024 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C	Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		%
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
	1	Species Management	\$ 154,150	\$ 109,568	6.051	4,604	\$ 452,544	\$ 342,768	\$ 68,000	\$ 33,508	\$ 538,694	\$ 418,828	77.7
	2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 18,200	\$ 24,953	3,214	2,004	\$ 240,370	\$ 149,198	\$ 11,650	\$ 19,909	\$ 246,920	\$ 154,242	62.5
	3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,800	\$ 4,257	1,941	1,014	\$ 145,164	\$ 75,492	\$ 7,400	\$ 1,661	\$ 147,564	\$ 78,088	52.9
	4	Public Interface	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,468	935	368	\$ 69,927	\$ 27,398	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,427	\$ 30,866	43.2
	5	Compliance	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,490	1,370	590	\$ 102,460	\$ 43,926	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,738	\$ 103,460	\$ 43,678	42.2
	6	Licensing	\$ 13,654	\$ 8,620	272	112	\$ 20,342	\$ 8,338	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,996	\$ 16,958	49.9
	7	Councils	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,414	474	209	\$ 35,450	\$ 15,560	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 18,974	45.2
	8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,650	\$ 7,507	981	600	\$ 73,367	\$ 44,670	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ 92,017	\$ 50,577	55.0
	9	Administration											
		Total Overhead Staff Hours			7,084	5,046							
		TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 228,454	\$ 164,277	22,322	14,547	\$ 1,139,624	\$ 707,350	\$ 92,050	\$ 59,416	\$ 1,276,028	\$ 812,212	
		Licence Income 2022-2023					% year complete	% of OWP budget's spent					
		2022-23 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,152,577	\$ 1,060,169							\$ 1,276,028	\$ 812,212	64%
		Less Commission	\$ 51,866								\$ (31,617)	\$ (20,910)	
		Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,100,711	\$ 1,060,169							\$ 124,451	\$ 93,338	
		2023 Game Licence Income	\$ 282,866	\$ 171,376							\$ (1,435,443)	\$ (1,231,545)	
		Less Commission	\$ 12,729								\$ 64,595	\$ 44,116	
		Net Game Licence Income	\$ 270,137	\$ 171,376							\$ (13,847)	\$ (8,773)	
		Total Licence Income	\$ 1,435,443	\$ 1,231,545							\$ 80,674	\$ 54,389	
		Total Commission	\$ 64,595	\$ 44,116							\$ 64,841	\$ (257,173)	
		Total Net 2022-23 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,370,848	\$ 1,187,429							\$ 64,841	\$ (257,173)	
		Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund									\$ (20,991)	\$ (13,642)	
		Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest									\$ 8,500	\$ 1,500	
		Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses									\$ 52,350	\$ (269,315)	
		Adjusted Budget											
		Actual (surplus)/deficit YTD											
		Total											

OWP Bulk Fund	Actual Net Cost YTD	\$ 1,276,028	\$ 812,212
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget			
less Interest			
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies			
Less Licence Revenue			
Plus Commission Expense			
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation			
Depreciation			
Subtotal		\$ 64,841	\$ (257,173)
Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund			
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest		\$ (20,991)	\$ (13,642)
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses		\$ 8,500	\$ 1,500
Adjusted Budget	Actual (surplus)/deficit YTD	Total	\$ 52,350

Table 2**Balance Sheet**

Eastern Fish and Game Council
As at 30 April 2024

Assets	30 Apr 2024	31 Aug 2023
Bank		
Westpac Current Account	7,138	101,445
Westpac Call Account	107,234	170,930
Petty Cash	887	170
Investments	644,333	579,406
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	493,186	368,823
Total Bank	1,252,778	1,220,774
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	260,168	105,483
Accounts Receivable - Hawke's Bay & External parties	538	0
Inventory - Fish Stock	190,527	190,527
Prepayments and Accrued Income	680	18,978
Total Current Assets	451,914	314,989
Fixed Assets		
Buildings	1,046,308	1,043,849
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	482,647	415,992
Office Equipment	69,894	58,606
Plant & Equipment	228,176	198,899
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(775,773)	(757,222)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(152,904)	(140,776)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(49,634)	(45,234)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(161,781)	(167,610)
Total Fixed Assets	788,933	708,505
Total Assets	2,493,624	2,244,268
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	53,253	30,127
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	81,194	154,813
Employee Entitlements	75,122	87,798
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy Clearing	9,087	0
GST	25,051	(2,560)
PAYE Clearing	26,925	21,104
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	200	0
Staff Social Club	260	1,796
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	2,100	618
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	1,202	2,317
Rounding	(0)	0
Designated Waters Clearing Acc	1,661	0
Total Current Liabilities	276,054	296,014
Total Liabilities	276,054	296,014
Net Assets	2,217,570	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	269,315	24,519
Total Equity	2,217,570	1,948,255

Table 3**Profit and Loss - Council**

Eastern Fish and Game Council for the 2 months ended 30 April 2024

Income	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Variance YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	91,951	148,383	1,231,266	1,276,000	1,435,443	(44,455)	-4%
Other Income	20,034	23,698	179,911	144,237	231,185	35,674	25%
Total Income	111,985	172,081	1,411,456	1,420,237	1,666,628	(8,781)	-1%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	7,329	7,329	54,389	53,784	80,674	605	1%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	0	0	33,712	45,500	53,700	(11,788)	-26%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	607	760	2,900	(153)	-20%
1140 Hatchery Operations	13,610	2,847	75,076	77,100	97,050	(2,024)	-3%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	500	500	(500)	-100%
Total 1100 SPECIES MNGT	13,610	2,847	109,395	123,860	154,150	(14,465)	-12%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1220 Works & Management	16,681	115	24,953	17,500	17,500	7,453	43%
1230 Assisted Habitat	1,500	0	1,500	3,700	9,200	(2,200)	-59%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROT/MNGT	18,181	115	26,453	21,200	26,700	5,253	25%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	14	0	1,793	4,700	5,500	(2,907)	-62%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	1,019	2,000	2,000	(982)	-49%
1350 Training	0	120	368	550	850	(182)	-33%
1370 Huts	106	106	1,077	1,050	1,450	27	3%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	120	226	4,257	8,300	9,800	(4,043)	-49%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	105	800	1,000	(695)	-87%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	325	882	3,363	500	500	2,863	573%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	325	882	3,468	1,300	1,500	2,168	167%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	68	68	1,687	680	1,000	1,007	148%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	203	500	1,000	(297)	-59%
1530 Compliance	0	0	600	2,600	4,000	(2,000)	-77%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	68	68	2,490	3,780	6,000	(1,290)	-34%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	8,620	13,054	13,654	(4,434)	-34%
1630 Commission	3,639	6,598	44,116	57,420	64,595	(13,304)	-23%
Total 1600 LICENSING	3,639	6,598	52,736	70,474	78,249	(17,738)	-25%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	103	697	3,414	4,500	6,500	(1,086)	-24%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	103	697	3,414	4,500	6,500	(1,086)	-24%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Management Planning	540	8	7,342	7,500	8,500	(159)	-2%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	0	100	10,100	(100)	-100%
1840 National Liaison	33	31,113	93,503	93,389	124,501	114	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	572	31,121	100,845	100,989	143,101	(144)	0%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	79,655	80,714	661,238	663,221	1,042,994	(1,983)	0%
1920 Staff Expenses	741	780	9,140	6,468	29,000	2,672	41%
1930 Staff Houses	434	855	11,236	12,504	14,600	(1,268)	-10%
1940 Office Premises	1,400	1,595	17,424	16,542	21,710	882	5%
1950 Office Equipment	288	238	2,753	1,934	2,600	819	42%
1960 Communications	1,423	1,109	9,661	11,636	16,200	(1,975)	-17%
1970 General	203	267	14,196	11,434	12,900	2,762	24%
1980 General Equipment	1,614	673	12,962	12,334	16,800	628	5%
1990 Vehicles	2,489	4,518	46,084	38,229	55,500	7,855	21%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	88,247	90,750	784,694	774,302	1,212,304	10,392	1%
Total Operating Expenses	132,194	140,634	1,142,141	1,162,489	1,718,978	(20,348)	-2%
Net Profit	(20,209)	31,447	269,315	257,748	(52,350)	11,567	4%

14.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

9 May 2024

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1112 Datawatch

During the first 6 months following the season opening (1st October), a total of 323 datawatch tags were returned.

The distribution was as follows:

Lake McLaren	0
Lake Okareka	14
Lake Okataina	46
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	21
Lake Rotoehu	3
Lake Rotoiti	47
Lake Rotoma	16
Lake Rotorua	1
Lake Tarawera	175

data entered to 6 May 2024

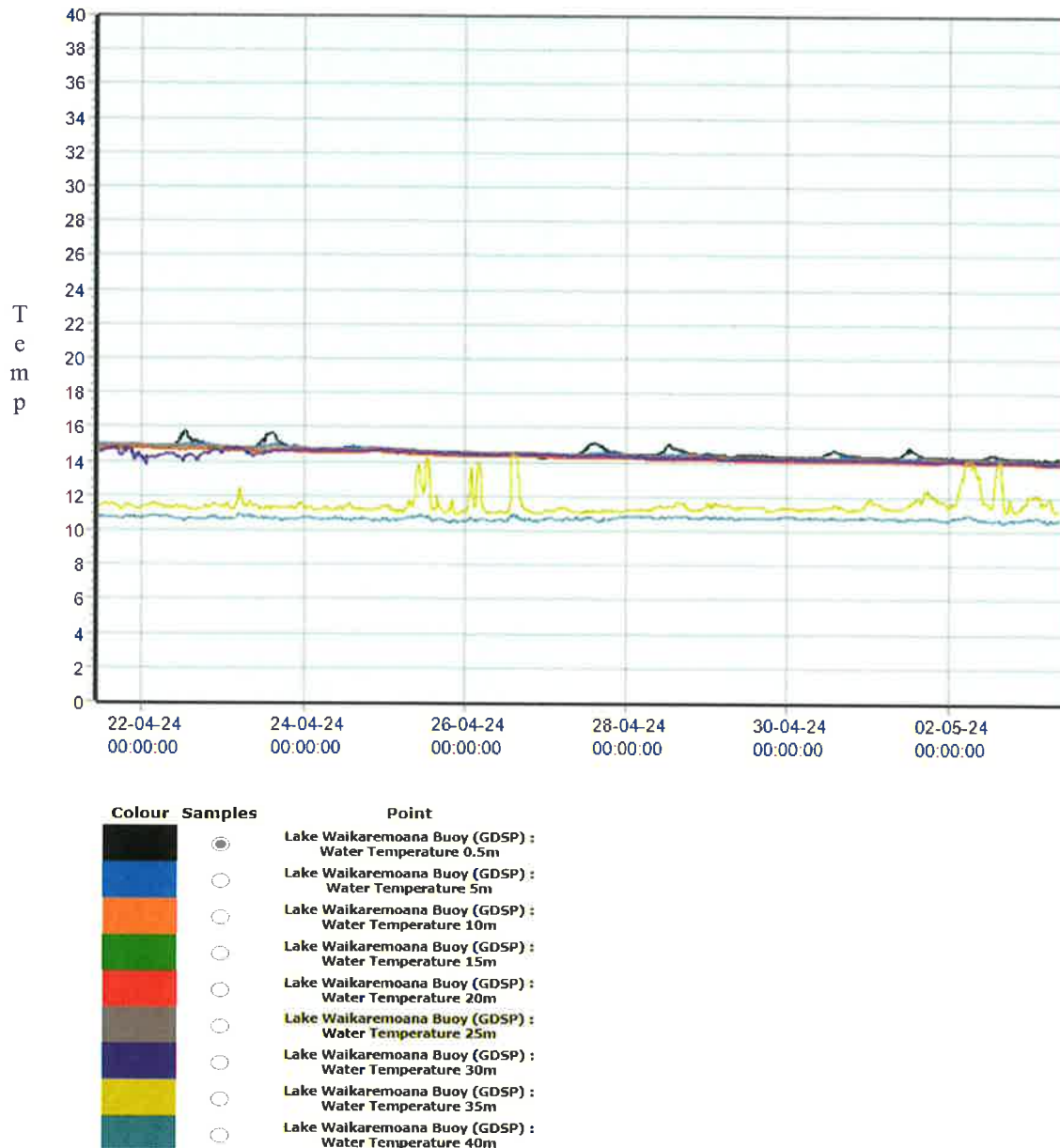
The total number of datawatch tags returned to the 6th of May 2024 is 138 tags behind the 2022-2023 season returns. The 2023-24 season reporting is approximately 2 weeks earlier than that completed during the 2022-23 season. Lakes that have produced slightly more returns are Okareka (+4), Rerewhakaaitu (+4), Rotoma (+3). Lakes that saw fewer returns were Okataina (-65), Rotoiti (-56) and Tarawera (-22).

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Staff undertook a cleaning of the monitoring buoy sensor cables on the 20th of April when attending the Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club's Waikaremoana trout fishing competition. This clean was well needed as the temperature sensors were starting to malfunction due to the algae buildup on the lines in the top 40+m of the water column.

Latest data shows that Lake Waikaremoana is nearing completion of its winter turnover as the lake becomes close to a single temperature from surface to lakebed. This allows complete mixing of nutrients throughout the water column. What can be seen in Figure 1 is the 'warmer surface waters 0.5 – 30m are cooling and the lines on the graph are trending down toward the mustard coloured 35m depth gradient. In several places this 35m depth temperature line is shown to spike upwards for periods – this is caused by periods of windy weather assisting in mixing the lake.

Figure 1. Graph of water temperature (°C) from surface to 40m depth - 21 April to 3 May 24.



1114 Lake Tarawera

Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

The Lake Tarawera outlet is due to be monitored through drift dive counts by Fish & Game staff 4 times through the winter period. This is planned to occur during the latter part of May, in June, July and August.

Lake Tarawera Fishery Monitoring

Acoustic transects are due to be carried out in early May following the waterfowl hunting opening period. The remainder of the unprocessed seasonal transects (April and November for each year) collected since the start of this project in Nov 2018 will be analysed by Dr Michel Dedual in this financial year.

Te Wairoa Trap Run

The trapping season at the Fish & Game fish trap (Te Wairoa Stream) at Lake Tarawera started on the 2nd of April when trap installation was actioned following the Easter Monday holiday. A total of 92mm of rain was recorded at the Te Wairoa Stream for April, mainly falling between the 9th and 14th April. A total of 285 trout were processed through the trap during April 2024 compared to 217 in April 2023. To 2nd May 2024 the total sits at 342.

The average size of the trout running this winter is 555mm and 2.21kg compared with 550mm and 1.96kg to the same approximate period during the 2023 run. Wild origin fish have made up 58% of the run to the 2nd of May compared to 55% as at the same period in 2023. The wild fish this winter have been significantly longer (11mm, P=0.028) and significantly heavier (310g, P<0.001) than the 2023 wild fish. The hatchery marked fish up to 2nd May 2024 have been longer (2mm) and significantly heavier (230g, P<0.001) on average. The condition factor of both hatchery and wild contribution to the 2024 run is significantly higher compared to the 2023 winter run.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Trap-run

The Ngongotaha fish trap was not operated during March 2024.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (April 2024)

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	527	1.58	5	2		
<i>Brown</i>	603	2.84	33	11		87%

During April 2024, the Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for a period of 3 nights. The largest fish entering the trap was a 660mm, 4.0kg brown male. Brown trout made up 87% of the sample as the brown trout spawning run was underway.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Trend Counts

The following is an extract from the 2024 Trend Count Report in May 2024 PFI.

Game bird season regulations for paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) and black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) in the Eastern Fish & Game Region, are set as a function of the long-term (22 years) estimated population trend. Swan harvest regulation criteria also incorporate population size thresholds.

Aerial counts are conducted annually in January (this year 8 – 11 January 2024).

Paradise shelduck were counted at 62 known moult sites from aerial photos (cf. 28 in 2023 when inclement weather prevented flying B1 and B2 management units), and black swan numbers were recorded at 69 ponds, lakes, and estuaries (cf. 37 in 2023).

Results were analysed and presented using three different methodologies: total count with a fitted regression line, total count of sites counted each year since 1997, and, a variant of the route regression method (Geissler and Sauer 1990), referred to as a trend count in this paper.

The confidence interval of the estimated paradise shelduck long-term trend in all management units, span zero indicating no long-term detectable change. The population in management unit B2 however appears to have been reduced significantly since the 2022 count with the lowest count we have made in this area. This may be due to the birds moving from normal moult sites because of Cyclone Gabrielle (in February 2023) or dying. We saw no evidence of widespread paradise shelduck habitat destruction.

For the sites that have been counted each year since 1997 ($n=19$), there was no clear evidence of a change in the population at these moult sites.

Long-term counts of black swan indicate that the population is stable in all Management Units. Swan populations for 2024 in B1 and B2 were well below the threshold (1,000 birds) to hold a season, while A1 is above the relaxed season threshold of 3,000. Management Unit A2 is approaching the threshold for relaxed regulations.

There was no evidence that the sites ($n=19$) where black swan have been counted each year 1991 – 2024 have undergone any consistent change.

Recommended 2024 game season conditions for paradise shelduck and black swan in the Eastern Region is the status quo and are given in Table 8 (page 11) and Table 11 (page 12).

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

The following is an extract from the draft Avian Influenza plan.

“Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is an influenza A virus, colloquially known as bird flu. It has killed hundreds of millions of birds internationally. HPAI is a notifiable disease in animals (Biosecurity Act 1993) and humans (Health Act 1956) (Hayes, 2006). Waterfowl are a key vector and reservoir species of HPAI. There are many AI viruses, some are high pathogenic and some low pathogenic (LPHI) variants. Many variants can kill humans, particularly the H5 and H7 variants. The HPAI virus currently of concern is classified as H5N1. The clade (version) of H5N1 currently circulating amongst birds has a low transmission rate to humans but if the virus is contracted mortality rates are high (>50%). The World Health Organisation (WHO) recognizes the potential of the virus to mutate and become more transmissible to humans or between humans. If human vulnerability to the virus increases a pandemic might be declared by the WHO.

As at 3 May 2024 HPAI has not been detected in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) still consider the risk of arriving in New Zealand is low. Should a HPAI incursion occur however it is likely to kill many game birds. Sick and dead birds have the potential to infect hunters, their whanau, and their hunting dogs. Hunting internationally has continued with advice to hunters to keep away from sick birds and to use personal protection equipment (PPE) when handling and processing shot game. Provided the meat is cooked properly it is considered safe to eat.

Should game birds start to succumb to HPAI in NZ it is likely that game bird harvest regulations will need to be revised. If a pandemic is declared, game bird hunting may cease. In either

situation, the number of recreational game bird hunters will likely be impacted. The Fish & Game funding model to monitor and manage game birds relies on hunters buying a licence. Fish & Game need to consider an alternative funding model if their statutory functions are to be met.”

The Ministry of Health’s “New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan – A framework for Action” (NZIPAP) states that it is the responsibility of agencies to plan for and respond to a pandemic in their respective sectors. This Fish and Game plan sets out actions to meet those responsibilities and identifies actions to reduce or mitigate risks to hunters, Fish and Game staff, and honorary rangers from HPAI infection.

1121 Lakes Creel Surveys

Summer Creel Survey

The 2023-24 summer survey data collection concluded in April. The data has been entered into a database and is currently being analysed.

Winter Compliance / Surveys

Monitoring of winter shoreline angling across the Rotorua lakes will be undertaken following the same protocols as recent winters. Compliance checks will be undertaken at random and as a part of this process, anglers will still be surveyed on their catch rates, satisfaction and any harvested fish will be measured.

1141 Hatchery Operations

The Te Wairoa fish trap was installed during the first week of April. Good runs of fish have been recorded and adequate ova taken to meet hatchery requirements. April liberations have been completed with May releases now commencing.



Photo: Laying a fresh batch of ova into the incubators.

Fish locations at 13 March 2024:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx.)	Comment
Tank 1	Rt	0+	900	Northland F&G
Tank 2	Rt	0+	2,000	Autumn Liberation 2024
Tank 7	Rt	0+	2,000	Spring liberation 2024
Tank A	Tig	0+	400	Autumn liberations 2024
Tank B	Bt	0+	850	Liberations, various in 2024
Pond 2	Rt	0+	17,500	Spring liberations 2024
Pond 3	Rt	0+	17,500	Spring liberations 2024
Pond 4	Rt	0+	6,600	Autumn liberations 2024
Pond 5	Rt	0+	6,600	Autumn liberations 2024
RW1/2	Rt	1+	4,500	For 2+ in 2024

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 13 March to 13 May 2024

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Number
Tarawera	7/05/2024	RpAd		RT	500
Tarawera	7/05/2024	RpAd	24T	RT	500
Rotoiti	23/04/2024	RpAd		RT	5000
Tarawera	15/04/2024	RpAd		RT	1000
Tarawera	13/03/2024	RpAd		RT	1000

Fish were also collected by Auckland Waikato Region Fish & Game.

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. Due to the recent change in Government, BoPRC has recently put this freshwater management planning, extending planned notification of the RNRP until late 2025. 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

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.

A Forest Industry Discussion Group meeting was attended in November. These meetings are scheduled quarterly.

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 new Government has suggested that a number of changes may be forthcoming with regards to the RMA and conservation legislation amendments that the previous Government was working through. The first changes proposed in this area includes the Fast Track Bill which Fish and Game has submitted on.

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
18 Mar	BOPRC	Kawerau DC	WP-municipal supply	Tribs of Tarawera River	No concerns

Resource Consents of note: Staff attended a mediation session regarding Southern Generation’s resource consent application to abstract gravel on TR of Rangataiki River below Rabbit Bridge, and extract debris islands within the river channel of the Lake Aniwhenua delta. The reasoning is to reduce flood risk to landowners upriver of Rabbit Bridge. The mediation talks were productive, but this application is to go to an official hearing of which staff presented an oral submission Tuesday 14th May. The consenting officers report and recommendations are acceptable to Fish & Game’s concerns. We await the commissioner’s decision.

Aquatic Pest Coordination Group Meeting.

Staff attended the APCG meeting held on 23rd April. At this meeting the Autumn spray round of diquat and in-lake trials using endothall were discussed. Sites for this season's spray round are chosen from pre spray monitoring which determines growth of weed beds (since last treatment), cleanliness of weed (how effective take-up of herbicide may be) assessed along with lake management plans (control versus eradication for certain lakes), vector risk to other lake bodies and overall cost of herbicide application.

Catfish monitoring in Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotorua

The fyke netting programme managed by Te Arawa Lakes Trust and taken up by community groups and local schools is continuing. During the autumn period to date, catfish numbers caught per trap set have been lower than expected.

It is not known why this is occurring. Five fyke nets used in the catfish control project have been stolen from the lakes this year.

1221 Reserves Management

All reserves were prepped prior to opening weekend with all internal access tracks mown, water inlets / outlets cleaned, and appropriate signage erected for access and parking etc. Water levels in all but Awaiti WMR were at appropriate levels. Weekly inspections and weed clearing occurred at Awaiti for three months prior but we could not get to minimum levels required. We have inspected the perimeter of the wetland to see if any leakage to no satisfaction and we remain perplexed as to where our water loss is occurring. We have good water inflows, so this is not the issue. Positively there was no water level issues for ponds and hunters in Awaiti for opening. Gate opening and closures for managed hunted wetlands have been publicised and managed accordingly.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

One new landowner request has been received since last Council meeting. This is an extension of a project designed for an East Coast landowner built 15 years ago. A full evaluation of design and resource consent requirement is yet to be undertaken. A site visit will be undertaken over winter.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Angler access work has continued into Autumn, including work in Kaingaroa Forest at key Rangitaiki River access points, the Pueto Stream, and other areas where access has been checked and assessments for work carried out. The Timberlands recreational forest access into Kaingaroa Forest for angler and hunter access, Waimangu Forest for angler access and Rotoehu Forest for hunter access opens on the first weekend of May and is scheduled to continue through to the last weekend in September. We have met with Timberlands staff to discuss angler and hunter access and there is no change to conditions of access from previous years. Efforts to obtain greater access than what is currently permitted in Timberlands estate continue without success and there are a number of complexities around this. Signage has been checked and

maintained within Kaingaroa Forest and other areas as required, with some upgrades made and pending.

Access around the Lake Rerewhaakaitu shoreline has been assessed, and it has improved with dropping lake levels, and further work to enhance access is planned.

The Lake Okataina access matter remains active, and we are notified of reduced access through until the end of June; this is an area which is ongoing in terms of work to advocate for anglers. However, anglers who have fished Okataina have reported good success.

1312 Signage

Sign maintenance and enhancement is ongoing with replacements as required.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life and Both Barrels were produced for March and April

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern website included Council agendas and minutes.

1334 Social Media

Social media posts continue to be made via Facebook and Instagram. Angler./hunter inquiries are being received via social media. Our Facebook has over 2,500 organic followers

1341 Information Pamphlets

Adequate stocks of all brochures are being held.

1352 Angler Hunter Training

The pre-season “duck hunters night” in Gisborne was a success with 46 attendees. Post event comments were positive and most saying they learnt something.

The “take a mate hunting” promotion had a similar response to previous years with eight requests.

The “novice hunter” promotion to hunt Waewaetutuki this year has been very poor with only two requests. Four weekend hunts are available with two stands. We await diary returns from those participants to assess success / improvements required.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Four fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Routine maintenance on Wairua Hut at Lake Tarawera was undertaken early May.

Maintenance has been carried out at the Waikaremoana hut. There is no further progress to report in regard to any new agreement with the Te Urewera management relating to ongoing use of the site the hut sits on, the status quo continues.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

We have endeavoured to maintain positive and engaging relationships with all our stakeholders and acknowledge that at times we will not always agree or see the same picture, but hopefully we can all agree that our actions and activities lead for maintaining and enhancing our environment and the species that abode therein, plus we all work towards giving opportunity for people to harvest kai sustainably.

After our April Council meeting a follow up meeting was arranged with Ken Raureti to discuss some of the concerns that he had raised. Meetings were also arranged with the new CEO of RLC, Andrew Moraes and Ron Cole the new RAA President. An introductory meeting was also arranged with Arapeta Tahana of TALT and Ngati Pikiao.

We are continuing to work behind the scenes to secure a biosecurity safe and unrestricted access to Lake Ōkātina for the 1 October fishing season. We are in regular communications with MPI, RLC, TALT and BOPRC. We were invited to attend a biosecurity update by TALT and BOPRC to the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group in early May.



Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee

Staff attended the Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee meeting on 11th April. An overview of Eastern Region fishery operations was provided.

1441 Public Promotions

Articles for the upcoming Gamebird Season were well picked up by media sources in both Tauranga, Whakatane, Gisborne and Rotorua. There was and still is extensive interest in the Wheelchair maimai both in print, radio and TV through Seven Sharp and RNZ. Godzone magazine printed another article for Gamebird hunting in there April edition. There has also been good articles published by papers and magazines on winter shoreline fishing.

The Eastern Team through Facebook and Instagram continues to promote the work that is being done and focus on success achieved by hunters and anglers.

1451 Education

One educational tour was held for the reporting period.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Compliance work focus has been on the last of the summer angler surveys on the lakes, to shoreline anglers and stream anglers into Autumn, along with monitoring of spawning areas as the spawning season has commenced. There have been few offences dealt with in this time frame. Ranging has included staff work at Lake Waikaremoana in April which found an angler fishing without licence at a remote location. Planning and preparation for the game bird hunting season has taken place, with the opening weekend operation involving Fish & Game, Police, and the Firearms Safety Authority staff.

The game season opening ranging included visiting the Gisborne East Coast areas, and areas around the Bay of Plenty and South of Rotorua. For the weekend 125 hunters were checked and two dealt with for hunting without licence offences.

Contacts Year to date.

1,897 contacts have been made for the 2023–24 year to end of April. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2023-2024 to end April

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	161	49
December	237	287	182	182	224	239
January	246	404	352	212	217	331
February	265	155	140	12	117	176
March	23	164	93	111	185	114

April	7	153	238	25	69	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	2,076	2,407	2,273	1,417	1,897	2,201

National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing to be led from this region. This includes preparation for the game season compliance operations, coordinating training, and ranger re-warranting, and Teams meetings with compliance staff leads around the country.

1521 Ranger Training

Planning is underway for ranger training later this year in August/September.

Rangers

Honorary Rangers warrant renewal processes are underway. Rangers continue to assist staff as they can including with the game season opening.

1531 Prosecutions

Most offences have been resolved by way of diversion. One matter is pending resolution, involving two offences.

Offences 2023-2024 Year:

For the 2023-24 year to end April 2024, we have dealt with 13 offenders for 21 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2023-2024 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	11
Fishing in closed waters	5
Fish with illegal tackle	3
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
False details	1
Total number of offences	21

Offences Pending Resolution

Offences table – pending resolution as at end April 2024

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	1
Fishing with illegal tackle (lead line at Waikaremoana)	1
Total number of offences	2

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. Staff visited various agents over the period.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

We continue to promote the fishing season through our usual media channels. As per the national ReWild campaign all our social media posts contain the #ReWild hash tag to increase awareness and following. Email notification was sent to Gisborne and Wairoa Game licence holders promoting a talk on game hunting by the Eastern team.

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 continues to assist ESL with resolution of outstanding system issues.

14.3 LICENCE SALES REPORT

10 May 2024

1. 2023-2024 Fish Licence Sales

- 1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2023-24 season compared with the 2022-23 season to 9 May are summarised in Table One.
- 1.2 Fish licence sales are reporting to be 2.2% (179 LEQ's) below 2022-23 season results for the same period, an a decline of 0.4% since the last report.
- 1.3 92.5% of the annual sales target has been met YTD.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2023-24 vs 2022-23 YTD results to 9 May 2024

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	986	1,322	2,308	925	1,251	2,176	-132	
Season	874	1,020	1,894	771	1,021	1,792	-102	
Season Non-Resident	113	189	302	117	176	293	-9	
Loyal Senior	240	269	509	238	258	496	-13	
Local Area Adult	773	662	1,435	852	561	1,413	-22	
Winter Adult	93	186	279	69	143	212	-67	
Long Break Adult	24	33	57	23	52	75	18	
Short Break Adult	162	503	665	222	575	797	132	
Day	596	1,936	2,532	631	2,265	2,896	364	
Day Non-Resident	388	670	1,058	443	836	1,279	221	
Total Adult	4,249	6,790	11,039	4,291	7,138	11,429	390	
Fish Junior								
Season	172	212	384	170	279	449	65	
Season Non-Resident	10	11	21	6	22	28	7	
Day	59	268	327	112	330	442	115	
Day Non-Resident	14	14	28	20	18	38	10	
Total Junior	255	505	760	308	649	957	197	
Fish Child								
Season Non-Resident	2	7	9	0	7	7	-2	
Day Non-Resident	11	16	27	6	12	18	-9	
Total Child	13	23	36	6	19	25	-11	
Total Fish	4,517	7,318	11,835	4,605	7,806	12,411	576	
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			8,195				8,017	-179
Variance between Seasons								-2.2%
\$ (excl GST)			\$1,033,316				\$1,066,560	\$33,244

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	8,017	92.5%	\$1,066,560
Variance to budget	-646	-7.5%	-\$86,017

2. 2023-2024 Game Licence Sales

2.1 Fish licence sales for the 2023-24 season compared with the 2022-23 season to 9 May are summarised in Table Two.

2.2 Game licence sales are reporting to be 6.8% (189 LEQ's) below 2022-23 season results for the same period.

2.3 85.4% of the annual sales target has been met YTD.

Table Two: Game Licence Sales 2024 vs 2023 YTD results to 9 May

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2023	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2024	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Game							
Adult Season	2,288	420	2,708	2,154	368	2,522	-186
Adult Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Season	216	60	276	187	75	262	-14
Junior Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Season	96	35	131	115	28	143	12
Total Game	2,600	515	3,115	2,456	471	2,927	-188
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			2,762			2,573	-189
Variance between Seasons							-6.8%
\$ (excl GST)			\$244,988			\$241,633	-\$3,355

Summary 2023-2024 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2023-24 Annual Budgeted Game LEQs	3,012	100.0%	\$282,866
2023-24 Actual	2,573	85.4%	\$241,633
Variance to budget	-439	-14.6%	-\$41,233

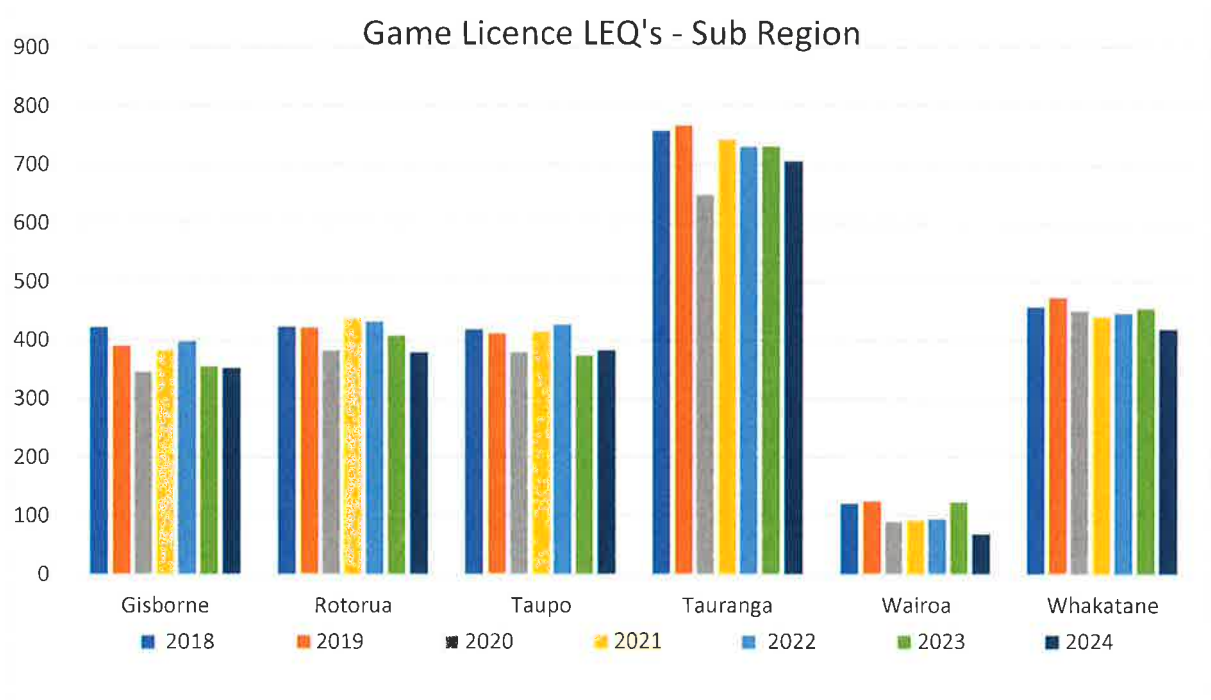
2.4 Game licence sales have not returned to pre-covid levels, a steady decline is shown over the past few seasons. Nationally Game licence sales are down 2.1%

2.5 Graphs 1-4 on the following pages provide total LEQ's sold to 5 days after opening for comparison and where the decline in sales are most notable.

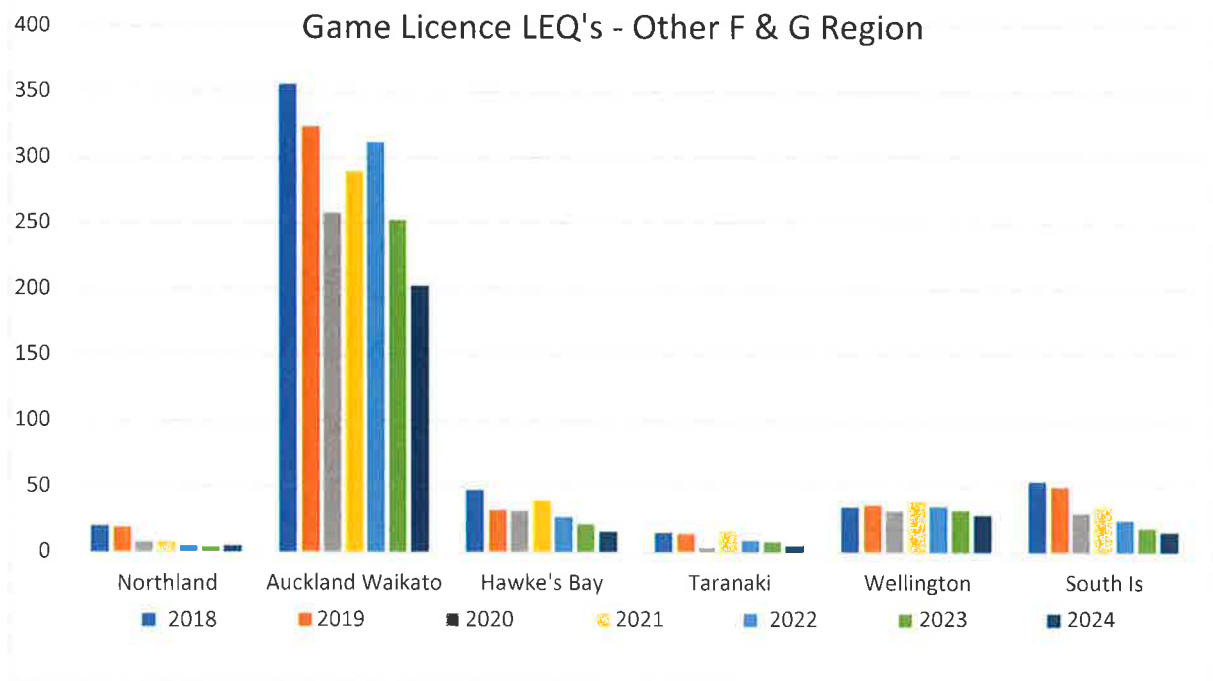
Graph 1 – Total Game Licence LEQ's 2018-2024 to 5th day after opening



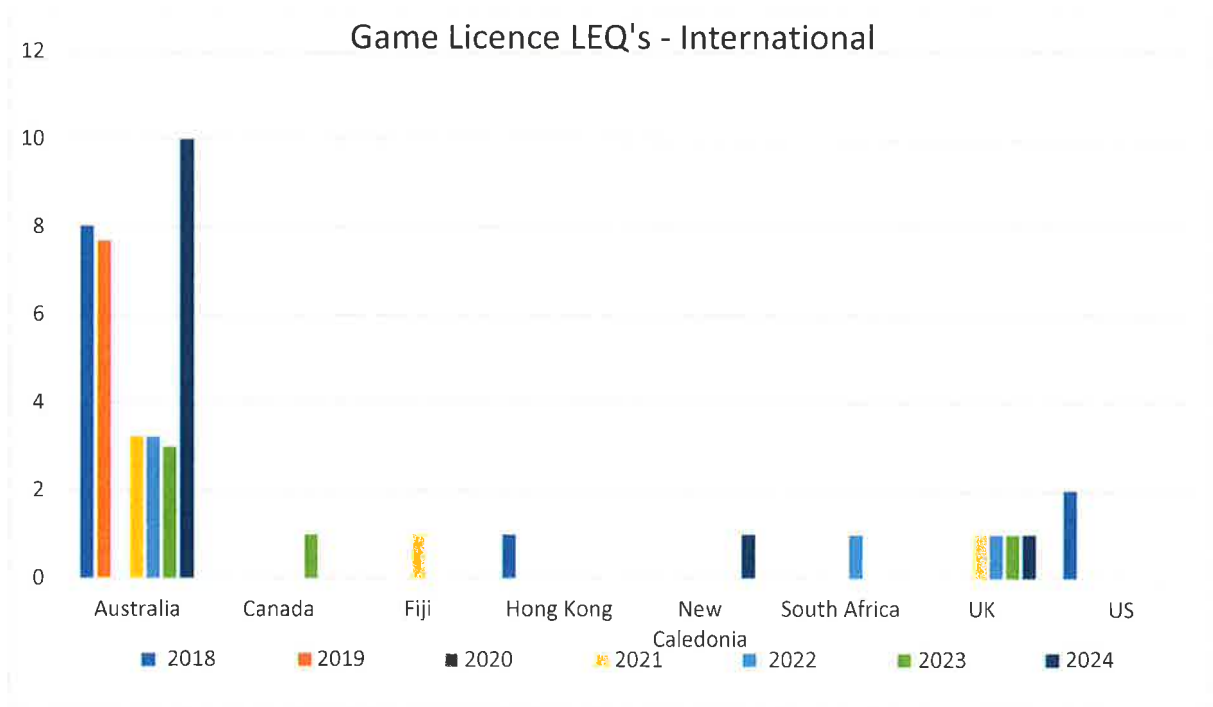
Graph 2 – Game Licence LEQ's 2018-2024 by Sub Region to 5th day after opening



Graph 3 –Game Licence LEQ's 2018-2024 - Other F&G Region to 5th day after opening



Graph 4 –Game Licence LEQ's 2018-2024 – Overseas and Unknown to 5th day after opening



14. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

14.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

14.3 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Debbie Oakley