



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

13 March 2025

AGENDA

The 214th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: **Thursday, 13 March 2025**

Commences: **11 AM**

	<u>Page Number</u>
1 Welcome (11.00 AM)	
2 Apologies	(R)
3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (13 February 2025) (11.10AM)	(R) 2
3.1 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
3.2 Matters arising from the meeting of 13 February 2025	
4 NZC Appointee Nominations and voting	
5 Notification of Items for General Business	
6 Conflict of Interest Register	7
7 Health and Safety Report (11.20AM, 5 min)	(R) 9
8 Anglers Notice Review (11.25AM 5min)	(R) 11
9 Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund (11.30AM 10min)	(R) 16
10 2024-25 Operational Work Plan & Budget (11.40AM 20 min)	(R) 21
Working Lunch (12PM – 12.30PM)	
11 Operational Reports (12.30PM, 20 min)	
11.1 Finance Report	(R) 24
11.2 Management Report	(I/D) 34
11.3 Licence Sales Report	(I/D) 45
12 Liaison Officers Reports (12.40PM, 10 min)	(I) 46
13 General Business (12.50PM, 20 min)	
14 5 Year Strategic Planning (1.10PM, 1Hr)	(D) 47
15 Public Excluded Session (2.10 PM, 20 mins)	(R) 48
16 Meeting Closes (2.30 PM)	

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 213th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY AT 1 PM.**

Present

Crs. Mark Sceats, Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Alec McIver, Scott Nicol, Mike Jarvie, Pat Swift.

In attendance

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Mark Sherburn (Eastern Fish & Game); Barry Roderick and Liam Tapsell

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Cr Mark Sceats opened the meeting at 1.04pm welcoming all present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Kevin Coutts.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that the apologies for the 213th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [25/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 DECEMBER 2024)

3.1 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Alec McIver) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [25/02/3.1]*

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 7 December 2024.

3.3 MATTERS ARISING

Cr Lindsay Lyons asked if a copy of the letter sent to minister be circulated to Council. Cr Mark Sceats confirmed he would circulate the final version.

4.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

Lindsay Lyons – CEO’s review

Arash Alaeinia – Lake Okataina update

Mike Jarvie – Access and closed waters

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 Arash Alaeinia informed Council of a recent staff injury resulting from a duckling rescue which was yet to resolve. Cr Scott Nicol highlighted a date error on the report.

6.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [25/02/6.2]*

7.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

7.1 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that the first Anglers Notice communication had been sent to clubs and interested parties and that to date, no feedback had been received. Council did not identify any issues for further discussion.

7.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2025-2026 Anglers Notice. [25/02/7.2]*

8.0 DRAFT FATIGUE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- 8.1 Arash Alaeinia provided some background to the Draft Fatigue Management Guidelines. Arash advised this was in response to Maritime rules and regulations but also other aspects of our work. The guidelines were put together by NZC after receiving feedback from regions and is now distributed to regional councils to see if there is support for it. It will then be put through NZC to become policy.
- 8.2 Cr Scott Nicol questioned the statement “ensuring staff work no more than 14 hrs in a day” and wondered whether this could be clearer ie. what happens if they do, are they required to seek manager approval should this need to occur? Arash Alaeinia advised that staff rarely work longer than this but if there was a requirement to do so they would need to ensure they take appropriate breaks. Cr Mark Sceats suggested that discussions would need to occur with the CEO if this were likely.
- 8.3 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Pat Swift) that Council receives the Draft Fatigue Management Guidelines and suggested feedback was to seek clarification on the statement “ensuring staff work no more than 14 hrs”. [25/02/8.3]*

9.0 GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 9.1 Arash Alaeinia explained how he had structured the paper and highlighted that many priorities roll from year to year. Arash talked about the current priorities, our risks, and opportunities that can come from those risks. He also provided detail of the NZC priorities which were supported by this Council and asked if there were any areas Council would like to focus on.
- 9.2 Cr Scott Nicol thanked Arash for the well thought out paper and supported some of the new initiatives. Scott was concerned that the outcomes from this year’s banding projects were not being considered for the season regulations and questioned the purpose of banding if the data is not being used. Scott was absent for the December meeting. Cr Murray Ferris reiterated his disappointment in the outcome of the Game Season Regulation discussions.
- 9.3 Arash Alaeinia advised that the banding projects were particularly important, especially this year with HPAI on our doorstep and were valued by MPI. Cr Lindsay Lyons and Barry Roderick had received feedback from Wlodek Stanislawek (MPI) of the significance of this work in detecting not only HPAI but other avian viruses too, Wlodek had thanked Fish & Game for their contribution to this important work. Cr Alec McIver was aware of the importance of capturing the data and was concerned that some regions were not undertaking banding work. His experience with the Game Animal Council had shown the data capture was critical to support discussions with the politicians.
- 9.4 Council supported the proposed priorities with two amendments and agreed that Water Quality and Quantity did not need to stand alone as this generally sat under both fishery opportunities and greylard habitat. Proposed priorities were;
- 1 Access
 - 2 Increasing revenue
 - 3 Enhancing Fishery Opportunities
 - 4 Improvement of Greylard Production and Habitat.
- Council agreed with 1 and 2 but 3 and 4 were amended as follows;
- 3 Enhancing Fishery Opportunities **and Water Quality**
 - 4 Improvement of **Gamebird** Production and Habitat
- 9.5 Discussion also covered.
- High cost in creating Habitat, drains are integral part of duck habitat
 - Regional Councils drain management practices affect duck breeding season
 - Opportunities through Game Bird Habitat Trust for funding projects
 - Wetlands not being looked after by hunters appropriately
 - Ballot process and expectations

- NZC to advocate strongly against private capture
- Walking access not doing what they were established to do
- Access portfolio of all lost waters sent to NZC, it is a high priority for them
- Collaboration with iwi
- Lake McLaren and immigrant fishing opportunities

9.5 Arash Alaeinia concluded that the priorities as listed 1-4 are the overarching priorities from a governance perspective and these will filter through to the Operational Work Plan (OWP) outputs which would be considered at Councils March meeting. Council would have the opportunity to contribute to the OWP at that time.

10.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Finance Report

10.1 There were no questions raised on the finance report.

10.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Alec McIver) that Council receives the finance report approves payments for November and December 2024 totalling \$377,466.47. [25/02/10.2]*

Management Report

10.3 Cr Scott Nicol queried whether fish kill situation at Lake Okaro had been resolved and whether this was still occurring. Arash Alaeinia advise that this was due to environmental changes in the lake for a short period and was pleased that there had been no resulting cases of botulism in the area.

10.4 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Management Report. [25/02/10.4]*

Licence Sales Report

10.5 Kate Thompson advised while sales are still positive against last season the positive result had dropped to 6.7% since the last report. She believed this was due to the significant weather events at the start of last season meaning people delayed their purchases until the summer period, this season the opposite has occurred in that purchasing occurred earlier at the start of the season and has slowed over summer as many already have their licences. Kate also commented on sales still not having recovered following covid. Discussion continued around current economic climate and impacts that this is having on sales, noting that short term sales have seen an increase compared with season categories which may be indicative of this.

10.6 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Licence Sales Report. [25/02/10.6]*

11.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

11.1 *Report from Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

No Report

11.2 *Report from Department of Conservation*

No Report

11.3 *Report from New Zealand Council*

Arash Alaeinia had circulated the NZC report prior to the meeting. The Southland/Federated Farmers issue was raised and Cr Mark Sceats advised that this was currently ongoing. Arash Alaeinia highlighted recent news item with Southland doing positive work in wetlands with farmers.

12.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 *Managers Review*

Cr Lindsay Lyons queried whether the manager's 360° had occurred? Arash Alaeinia confirmed a review had occurred in August 2024 with the Executive Committee at the time. Lindsay informed Council of the usual process whereby the Executive Committee is responsible for collating and recommending but highlighted this needed to be put

back through all of Council meeting in a Public Excluded session. Cr Mark Sceats was not Chair at the time and could not recall what had occurred but recommended this be placed on the next agenda.

12.2 *Lake Okataina Update*

Arash Alaeinia advised that the gate at Lake Okataina is currently being installed and has been funded by the Regional Council, Lakes District Council, and Ministry for Primary Industries. Arash detailed the process needed to access the gate once operational. The Regional Council was managing the gate and would deal with issues and maintenance and the Okataina Lodge would be a point of call for people having issues on site. Cr Pat Swift asked if there could be an instructional video developed to show users the new requirements including the wash process and navigating access through the gate. Arash Alaeinia advised that he would recommend this to the Regional Council as they are the lead organisation. Council discussed the potential pitfalls that might occur with the process. Arash advised that the wash station suggested for the Rotoiti rugby grounds was not confirmed but was under discussion.

12.3 *Access and closed waters*

Cr Mike Jarvie queried where we stand with access across private land to waterways as he understood some landowners did not allow access or just allowed friends and, in some cases, guides to access water through/on their properties. Mike asked if Fish & Game negotiates with these landowners and questioned the legality of not opening these waters. Cr Lindsay Lyons advised that closing waters is different to not opening waters which is something Fish & Game can do under the legislation but there needed to be a biological reason for doing so. Arash provided an example of an area now closed for access because of a sale of a property and the new owner not wishing to have anglers accessing through their land. Staff liaise with landowners on behalf of anglers and investigate situations where exclusive capture may be occurring.

12.4 Cr Mark Sceats congratulated Scott Nicol on the arrival of his daughter.

12.5 Cr Murray Ferris advised that he preferred to have a paper Agenda rather than the electronic version and asked if those that wanted the paper version could get one? Cr's Lyons, Jarvie, Ferris, Sceats, Coutts have requested paper agendas in future.

12.6 Cr Lindsay Lyons had brought up with last Council to look at a five-year plan, that is where did we want Fish & Game to be in five years. He asked whether we could put together the cornerstones that we want in a five-year plan at the next meeting. Cr Mark Sceats requested Arash to add this to the March agenda for discussion.

13.0 MEETING CLOSED

13.1 Cr Mark Sceats closed the meeting 2.33 pm.

.....
Mark Sceats
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that the apologies for the 213th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [25/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 DECEMBER 2024)

3.1 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Alec McIver) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [25/02/3.1]*

6.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

6.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [25/02/6.2]*

7.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

7.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2025-2026 Anglers Notice. [25/02/7.2]*

8.0 DRAFT FATIGUE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

8.3 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Pat Swift) that Council receives the Draft Fatigue Management Guidelines and suggested feedback was to seek clarification on the statement “ensuring staff work no more than 14 hrs”. [25/02/8.3]*

10.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

10.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Alec McIver) that Council receives the finance report approves payments for November and December 2024 totalling \$377,466.47. [25/02/10.2]*
Management Report

10.4 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Management Report. [25//02/10.4]*

10.6 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Licence Sales Report. [25/02/10.6]*

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

20 February 2025

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.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

27/02/2025

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.

January - February 2025

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:	
January 2025	Hatchery roof cleaning
February 2025	Electric fishing - Waitahaia
February 2025	Waitahaia Trout Fishery Investigation
2024-2025 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000	

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	26/2/2025
Number of Workplace injuries in 2024-2025 year	1
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
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	56
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	5
Total number of days since last lost work injury	672
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:

28 Jan 2025 Nothing new
3 Feb 2025 Nothing new
10 Feb 2025 Nothing new
17 Feb 2025 Nothing new
24 Feb 2025 Be aware Covid is about again, sunstrike particularly bad at the moment

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Nil new.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

8. 2025-2026 ANGLER'S NOTICE

Ref: 1.07.01

19 Feb 2025

1. Purpose

To consider whether any extraordinary issues outside of the bi-annual comprehensive angling regulation review cycle require changes to the Anglers Notice regulations for the 2025-2026 angling season.

2. Background

Council has developed a comprehensive policy approach to dealing with the Anglers Notice. A full Anglers Notice review is performed every second year to reduce the loading required on staff and Council time.

This year forms an intermediary year in between the full review cycle undertaken every second year. The next full Anglers Notice review will occur in the 2025-26 season in preparation for the 2026-27 trout fishing season.

3 New Issues identified

No new issues or submissions regarding the Anglers Notice process have been identified or received.

4 Recommendation

4.1 That Council holds the conclusion of the Anglers Notice process for the 2025-2026 season until the May 29 Council Meeting.

APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy

Ref: 1.07.01

Updated 14 June 2018

1. Background

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

The policy has been established around two key groups of regulations within the Anglers Notice. The first group of regulations are those that have a biological effect on the fisheries and may have direct effects on trout populations. The biological regulations are the primary focus of the Anglers Notice Policy and have been developed to ensure ongoing sustainability of the fishery resource.

The second group of regulations are those that serve a social function and relate to the way anglers interact with each other.

2. Biological Regulations

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

Policy 2.1 The biological regulations applied to waters shall be based upon the following table;

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

3. Social Regulations

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

Council has stated a desire to reduce barriers to participation such as overregulating by making rules simpler for anglers to understand. Measures of angler use have been reworked and greater clarity given to where anglers may fish from unanchored boats so that shore-based anglers are not disproportionately affected by boats drifting or trolling within close proximity.

The Policy no longer preferentially allocates ‘fly fishing only’ waters at stated pressure levels, however, this does not preclude Council from recognising ‘fly fishing only’ areas. What it does allow is for Council to exercise greater flexibility in which waters are reserved solely for fly only anglers.

Fishing methods

Policy 3.1 Setting of method restrictions for waters shall be based upon the following framework.

Water Category	Level of use of water (threshold)	Methods Available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake edge fisheries and associated migratory spawning waters 	Low Intensity Use (< 30 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods including bait in certain circumstances*,
	Moderate to High Intensity Use (>30 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly, Spin, Bait (in certain circumstances)* No unanchored boats at stream mouths, high intensity locations and lake outlets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower density river fisheries based on resident trout populations 	Any Intensity of Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods including bait in certain circumstances*

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

Bait

Policy 3.2 (i) Bait fishing will only be permitted in waters that have no bag limits or no size limits.

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

Scented Soft Baits (Artificial lures that are biodegradable and/or contain chemical attractants).

Boats in winter shoreline areas

Policy 3.3 Fishing from a boat shall not be permitted in designated winter shoreline fishing areas from 1 July to 30 September.

9. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

25 February 2025

1. Purpose

To consider an application for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to incorporate into the draft budget for the 2025-26 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 \$474,600 as of 31 August 2024.

3. Overview of Approved Offset Funding for 2024-25

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 up to \$33,500. A total of \$32,104 was spent. This included \$24,247 that was drawn from the fund for the purchase of the electric fishing machine (Smith Root model LR-24), \$1666 was drawn from the fund for the Waiiau River headwater investigation (\$1,500 for helicopter flights, and \$166 for food expenses). A
Eastern Fish and Game Council Meeting March 2025

total of \$6,190 was drawn down from the fund to undertake key work around Lake Waikaremoana and the Wairoa catchment which included staff time and expenses associated with survey and access work and monitoring buoy servicing.

At the August 2024 meeting Council approved the funding toward Navigational markers for Lake Waikaremoana sought for by the Lake Waikaremoana Boating and Fishing Association. Funding was subject to receiving appropriate detailed information of the navigational markers, sites identified for markers, installation details and appropriate permission from Tuhoe and Department of Conservation. *Unconfirmed August 2024 [24/08/11.2]*

4. Application for Funding towards Eastern Region's 2025-2026 OWP

The 2025-26 OWP provides for an ongoing compliance, monitoring, access and buoy related work programme at Waikaremoana, and Eastern Region wishes to 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.

10. 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

25 February 2025

1. Purpose

To consider proposed projects, budgets and additional funding cases for the 2025-2026 Operational Work Plan (OWP).

2. Background

Operational Work Plans (which come into force on 1 September each year) are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic priorities, core functions, project objectives, allocation of resources, and performance measures. The process usually includes seeking Council's approval for the submission of applications to the NZ Council managed Contestable Fund, or for the utilisation of regional reserves to increase bulk funding for specific purposes.

The steps involved in developing the OWP for the 2025-2026 year and an update of where we're at in relation to these are as follows:

1. Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions at February meeting.
2. Staff compile a draft work plan and budget (excluding internal costs), and identify potential additional funding cases it believes warrant consideration. The draft budget and cases have to be submitted to the NZ Council by **24 March**.
3. Final budgets due back to NZC by **28 March**.
4. NZC Council Meeting on **11 April**, will review impact of regional budgets on Licence Fee.
5. **29 May** Eastern Fish and Game Council review and accept changes made to budget and proposed Licence Fee submission.
6. The second draft of the OWP is considered at the May meeting.
7. **30 May**, All regional responses on Licence Fee proposal returned to NZC.
8. This draft is then circulated to clubs and other interested parties for comment if they wish to.
9. Feedback from this consultation is considered and incorporated, if Council considers appropriate, into the final OWP presented for approval at Council's meeting on **7 August**.

A draft OWP/budget and business case is provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda. A copy of the draft OWP for 2025-2026 will be sent electronically separately and printed copy available at the meeting.

3. Outcomes from Council's Meeting in February

Council reviewed its priorities, and supported the idea to streamline its key priorities from 5 down to 4. With no additional work plans added, but some outputs reviewed and refined.

2025-2026 Priorities

- A. **Access** – Enabling anglers and hunters to locate, access and utilise resources through habitat maintenance, advocacy to safeguard/ expand publicly accessible habitat and development of improved information sharing platforms for licence holders.
- B. **Increasing Revenue** – Using an R3 approach to Retain, Recruit, Reactivate anglers and hunters and to develop additional income sources.
- C. **Enhancing Fishery Opportunities and Water Quality** – Supporting healthier fisheries and enhancing angler satisfaction through good science, surveys and efficient hatchery practices. Advocate for improved water quality and quantity.
- D. **Improvement of Gamebird Production and Habitat** – Using good science, historical trends and surveys to best support and improve production, habitat, species management and sustainable harvest.

4 Zero Based Budgeting

Going into the 2025-2026 budget round the New Zealand Council's new Zero-Based Budgeting approach changes our usual budgeting processes. New budget templates were to be supplied to regions by the end of January 2025, subsequently supplied 27 February. It is our understanding that the contestable fund process has essentially been eliminated and that the following methods for increasing budgets are applied.

- Increase required under \$30,000 will be considered by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the New Zealand Council, and our Council's chair may speak to these.
- Increases required over the \$30,000 threshold will require a business case and will be considered by the New Zealand Council, and our Council's chair may speak to these.

At the time of preparing the agenda for Council to consider budgets at this March meeting the proposed templates and processes were not complete, therefore the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 Operational Work Plan (OWP) has been completed on the existing budget template which is incorporated within the OWP contained within the Papers for Information.

Each year the staff and the CEO usually review the Council's budgets on a Zero-based approach anyway and utilise savings in one area to offset increases needed in others. Increases outside of this whether they be one off or ongoing or for new capital items were previously considered through the Contestable Fund Process. With processes unclear at this point for the purposes of this discussion we have incorporated proposed increases into the existing budget template and details of the adjustments to our budget follow.

5. Direct Costs

A detailed summary of adjustments in the draft budget prepared for the 2025-2026 OWP year as compared to the 2024-2025 plan we're currently operating to are as follows:

5.1 Species Management (increased overall \$16,179)

- The Population Monitoring output expenditure has been increased by \$7,839. Approved one off spending from the Non-Resident reserve (\$15,000) for Lake Tarawera research for 2024-25 has been dropped in terms of the usual budget processes. A further \$3,000 is budgeted for the 2025-26 financial year for the continued analysis

of the acoustic data and this again is to be applied for from the Region's Non-resident Levy Reserve.

As part of the cost reductions required for the 2024-2025 budget the aerial Trend Counts for the East Coast were postponed. These have been reinstated for the 2025-2026 year and contribute largely to the overall increase in the Waterfowl Monitoring budgets of \$4,839.

- Harvest Assessment budgets have increased slightly \$440 due to an increase in costs associated with game hunter surveys.
- Hatchery costs have been increased by \$7,900 due primarily to increased insurance costs of the hatchery and vehicles (\$2,050), and an increase in the cost of fish food (\$5,000). Spending on fish food ended the 2023-24 year at \$65,081 against a budget of \$60,000. In this current year (2024-25) the fish food expense is expected to reach this level again against a budget \$60,000. Costs appear to have stabilised over the past 12 months, so we are expecting a similar cost going into the 2025-26 financial year. Small increases to consumables, and minor equipment purchases are also expected with minor increases to these budgets.
- Game bird control budget remains unchanged and is for the purpose of zon gun servicing and miscellaneous expenses.

5.2 Sports Fish & Game Habitat (no change)

- Habitat expenditure budgets remain unchanged, with costs associated with reserves management, landowner assistance, habitat creation and enhancement.

5.3 Participation (reduced overall \$500)

- Access budgets are reduced by \$500 with cost savings to occur on Game hunter ballots with email being the primary method of communications removing the costly postage expense (\$700). Some access work continues to be supported by Timberlands. A small increase to the Access budget (\$200) caters for liaison/meetings specifically related to access.
- The information pamphlets budget remains unchanged and is utilised for updates/reprints of printed information as required.
- Angler/hunter training, Huts, and Communications budgets are unchanged.

5.4 Public Interface (increased overall \$3,400)

- The Statutory Liaison/Public Promotions budgets are increased (\$400) for liaison/meetings related to promotions and other statutory organisations.
- A new budget has been included under the Visitor/Facilities output under Education of \$3,000. The purpose of this is to set up a scholarship that will support a Postgraduate 4th Year or Honours student with a focus on New Zealand waterways/river ecology that can inform best practice and sustainability for the freshwater Angling and Sports Fishing communities.

5.5 Compliance (no change)

- The Ranging budgets are unchanged and relate to compliance equipment, training, and legal fees associated with prosecutions.

5.6 Licensing (reduced overall \$340)

- Licensing output is reduced by \$340 resulting from removal of the need to print A4 regulation pads for day fishing licences (\$540). The new regulation guides organised

by National Office are now in this format. Agent support costs is a new budget (\$200) for liaising/meetings with licence agents.

5.7 Council (increased overall \$2,000)

- Council’s Meetings budget is increased by \$2,000. The makeup of the Council and associated travel costs largely dictates what the Council budget should be. The last couple of years we have been over budget which has been a result of additional meetings and not budgeting sufficiently for travel.

5.8 Planning/Reporting (reduced overall \$842)

- The Management/Strategic Planning budget is reduced by \$2,500 with this amount being shifted to the “Advertising budget” under overheads. The regions R3 work will continue and we will look at leveraging and relationships to assist with value output.
- Reporting, Audit and National Liaison budgets have increased \$1,658 relating to primarily to the audit fee which is yet to be quoted. Within this the annual meeting budget has been set at \$500 to accommodate the possibility of hosting agents/stakeholders to a BBQ in conjunction with the AGM.

Summary of adjustments

Overall Operational Output expenditure in this preliminary budget after removing one off contestable fund bids for the 2024-25 year has been increased by net \$15,387.

Table 1 – Adjustments to budget by Output Area

Output	Adjustment Expense	Adjustment Income	Net Increase
Species Management	\$16,179		
Sports Fish & Game Habitat	\$0		
Participation	-\$500	\$4,500	
Public Interface	\$3,400		
Compliance	\$0		
Licencing	-\$340		
Council	\$2,000		
Planning/Reporting	-\$842		
Total Outputs	\$19,897	\$4,500	\$15,387
Administration	\$147,949	\$20,000	
Asset Replacement Fund	-\$517		
Total	\$167,329	\$24,500	\$142,829

Administration expenses are increased by \$147,949 (net \$127,949). Of this \$100,779 relates to staff salaries adjustments in line with strategic pay and incorporates the business case for a new additional compliance officer. The balance of the increase is primarily related to increased insurance (\$8,750), rates (\$2,450), vehicle maintenance (\$6,000), staff expenses (\$1,500), biannual valuation fee (\$1,300), advertising (\$2,500), building maintenance (\$23,600), and several small adjustments across several administration areas.

The vehicle maintenance costs have increased significantly as vehicles with capped servicing have now been sold or are no longer eligible. Capped servicing is no longer supplied by the dealers, and this essentially increases the cost of a service from \$200 to anywhere between \$600-\$1,000.

In 2025-26 we have budgeted to undertake repairs and painting of the administration building roof. We have been advised on several occasions that the nails are lifting, and the entire roof needs to be re-screwed. In addition to this the roof has not been painted in 20+ years and rust is now starting to appear. It makes sense to undertake both jobs contemporaneously as scaffolding is a significant component of the cost and is required for both tasks. The administration building maintenance budget has been increased by \$24,500 to accommodate this work and is offset in part (\$20,000) by increased rentals by securing the tenant for the leased compound (old fire store). A quote is yet to be obtained for the painting work – the re-screw and scaffolding is quoted at \$9,870.

6. Contracting to Hawke’s Bay Fish & Game and the New Zealand Council

Provision for staff contracts to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the Hawke’s Bay Fish and Game Council will continue and have been budgeted at \$25,680 for the year. The services to be provided at this stage are technical/operational assistance subject to staff availability to Hawke’s Bay Fish & Game, and licensing and CLE assistance to the New Zealand Council. Administration support to the Hawke’s Bay Region was provided in the last financial year on a temporary basis. This support has now ended as the high workload on our Office Manager who also contributes to assisting other regional admin staff and with the National Licence projects, was not sustainable.

7. Resourcing

7.1 Bulk Funding

Eastern Region currently (2024-2025 OWP year) has a bulk funded operational budget of \$1,320,544 and after removing one off contestable funds for the current year (\$15,000) we go in to the 2025-2026 budget round with a base fund of \$1,305,544. Our first draft of the operational budget for the 2025-2026 would usually be set at this level, and increased subject to this Council, and the NZC’s approval of proposed CF bids. Instead, our first draft has been prepared at the increased level of \$1,448,373 subject to Council approval of the proposed increases sought. Over the coming weeks we hope to have a better understanding how this will be presented for consideration by the National Office staff and the New Zealand Council.

Table 2 – Bulk fund 2024-25 with adjustments for 2025-26

Approved Budget 2024-2025		\$1,320,544
Less one-off expenditure		-\$15,000
Base Fund 2025-2026		\$1,305,544
Increased Costs 2025-2026	\$167,329	
Increased Income 2025-2026	-\$24,500	\$142,829
Proposed Budget 2025-2026		\$1,448,373

In summary the total increased expense and new items sought for Council approval are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Summary of additional funding

Area	Amount	Background
Insurance	\$10,800	Provide for existing plus inc 7.5% last yrs saw 16% inc
Vehicle maintenance	\$6,400	Increased servicing cost for field and hatchery vehicles
Rates	\$2,050	Provide for existing plus 10% increase
Building maintenance	\$5,000	Admin building roof maintenance
Waterfowl monitoring	\$4,800	Reinstate East Coast aerial trend counts
Fish food	\$5,000	Increase budget to actual expense last two years
Education	\$3,000	Scholarship (new budget)
Council Meetings	\$2,000	Increased to provide for current level -of expense
Tarawera work	\$3,000	Acoustic monitoring – Funded by Non-resident reserve
Salaries	\$100,779	Salary adjustments, new position
Total	\$142,829	

7.2 Allocation of staff hours

Staff hours will be reviewed and adjusted where necessary in the next draft of the 2025-2026 OWP. Hours will be allocated in accordance with the project areas and priorities Council has determined to the extent this can be accommodated without compromising our ability to deliver on our core activities and statutory functions including monitoring, licensing, compliance, Council support, planning and reporting, and administration of the Council. The Eastern Region will continue to contribute a component of its overall staff hours to assisting with national Fish & Game programmes including waterfowl monitoring and research, compliance, environmental planning, licensing, Health and Safety, and other tasks as may arise. Eastern’s contribution to these national projects is justifiable on the basis of its size and the number of staff it employs, which has enabled it to retain specialists in a number of fields. Some of this assistance is cost recoverable but a substantial component is not, and is provided for the benefit of other regions and that of the organisation as a whole.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That Council considers the draft OWP for the 2025-2026 year and the accompanying budget including:

- proposals for increases to budgets as ongoing requirements,**
- proposal to draw down some of Eastern Region’s Non-Resident reserve funds to continue research work on Lake Tarawera,**
- business case for a new Compliance role,**
- and approve these in their current or amended form.**

11. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

11.1 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

21 February 2025

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the month of January 2025.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Profit and Loss to 31 January 2025
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2025
Table 3	Variance Report to 31 January 2025
Table 4	Bank Transactions January 2025
Tables 5 & 6	Credit Card Transactions January 2025

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 January is provided in Table 1.

Summary

The net position YTD is \$404,276 surplus against a YTD budgeted surplus of 336,481, net variance \$67,795 (surplus).

The net variance of \$67,795 is a result of income received being higher than that budgeted by \$77,819, and increased expenditure \$10,024.

Income	Var YTD	Expenses	Var YTD
Licence Sales	57,887 ▲	Depreciation	2,379 ▼
Other Income	19,932 ▲	Operating Expenses	673 ▼
		Administration Expenses	13,076 ▲
	77,819 ▲		10,024 ▲
		Net	67,795 ▲

A more detailed summary is provided in the following notes.

Income

Licence Sales

Licence revenue continues to be positive at \$57,887 ahead of budget YTD. A more up to date and accurate picture of licence sales YTD is provided in the Licence Sales Report.

Other Income

Revenue from other sources for the period totalled \$30,903 and is made up of the following:

Hatchery	\$1,152	Fishing competitions	\$157
Habitat maintenance fees	\$109	Gain on Sale – Parera (boat)	\$10,743
Fines	\$676	Interest Waikaremoana Fund	\$6,655
Fish food, tours	\$90	Interest General	\$4,252
Donations	\$104	Rentals	\$6,965
		Total	\$30,903

Other income is currently ahead of budget \$19,932 YTD. This surplus is primarily due to increased contract work to Hawke’s Bay Fish & Game over year end, a donation from the Agrodome, and increased rental income with the fire store now being leased.

Species Management

The Population Monitoring expenditure for January was related to flights for trend counts, and contract wages and minor expenses for the banding project.

Hatchery expenditure in January included fuel, vehicle registration, oxygen and various purchases of equipment and consumables for summer maintenance. The framing for the Te Wairoa trap was galvanised and insurance was paid on the new hatchery flat deck. The hatchery Mazda has been upgraded and will be placed up for sale once the summer reserves spraying has occurred.

Species Management expenditure is over budget YTD (\$3,360) in part to increases in insurance for the hatchery, and unanticipated vehicle repairs.

Habitat

There was no Habitat spending to report for January.

Participation

Participation spending in January related to a reprint of the Lake Rotorua and Tributaries brochure, tackle for kids fishing, hire of chairs for the boat fishing tuition and minor hut maintenance materials. Electricity costs for the Waikaremoana hut is also reported. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

The spending within the Public Interface output was related to plumbing and electrical repairs at the leased compound (old fire store), flaxes for the grounds, and cleaning of the public toilets. Over budget YTD \$410 due to the maintenance costs on the leased compound which were not budgeted. Going into the next budget round these costs will be provided for within the overhead budgets.

Compliance

Compliance expenditure relates to the usual 0800 Poaching service and cell phone costs. Legal expenses were incurred relating to one prosecution. Over budget YTD \$628 due to increased prosecution costs YTD.

Licensing

Licensing costs include agent commissions, and the fees associated with the Public Online sales. Within budget YTD even though sales are up due to the shift to online sales reducing the overall costs.

Council

There were no Council expenses incurred in January.

Planning

Planning costs related meeting expenses. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Salaries	Overbudget YTD \$2,303. Annual leave is now accrued regularly for reporting purposes rather than at year end and as a result variances will be reported against budget due to timing of annual leave being taken.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses included costs associated advertising of job vacancy, food for Waikaremoana and banding work, PPE for banding, airport parking, a med cert, and clothing expense. Over budget YTD \$878 due to increased Health & Safety costs with increased PPE requirements for duck banding in light HPAI risks.
Staff Houses	Staff Houses expenses related to rates and Real Estate agent commissions. Overspent YTD (\$2,848) due to higher than anticipated insurance costs, adjustment to GST on agent fees, and timing of maintenance against budget.
Office Premises	Expenses for the period related to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring. Overspent YTD (\$712) again due to higher than anticipated rates and insurance costs.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs. Under budget YTD (\$269).
Communications/ Consumables	Communications spending includes the 0800 service, Garmin InReach, staff cell plans and the 2Talk calling plan needed to utilise the IP phones. Expenses are also reported relating to stationery, Starlink, IT services, courier and photocopying. Over budget YTD (\$196).
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. Overbudget YTD (\$1,212) due primarily to increased insurance premiums.
General Equipment	Maintenance spending related to repairs to ride on mower, the water blaster, and a boat trailer (Whio). Expenses are also reported fuel and a credit was received on the cancellation of insurance on Parera. The overspend YTD of \$1,088 is due to timing of equipment purchases and maintenance and is expected to reduce as the year progresses.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period related to one vehicle service, repairs for a WoF, new vehicle registration, RUC's, and fuel. The vehicles budgets are over spent YTD (\$4,109) which is due to increased insurance and servicing costs. Two field vehicles have been replaced and two will be placed up for sale now that summer work has been

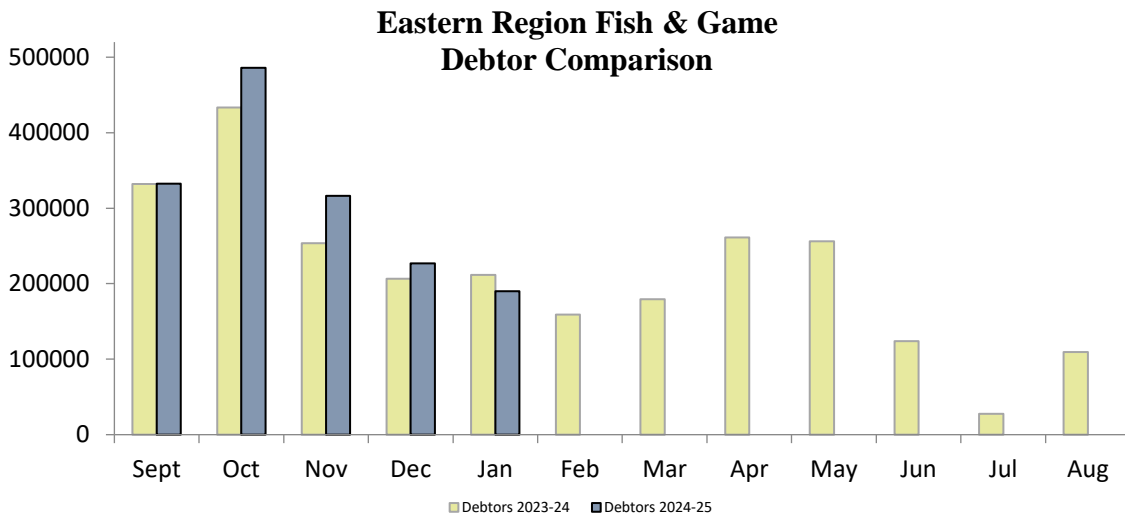
	completed. A credit on insurances will be received on those vehicles once sold. It is likely that a variance will continue to be reported throughout the year with increased insurance costs and particularly maintenance costs. Previously new vehicles came with capped servicing for a period, and this is no longer available.
--	--

Cash Position: As at 31 January 2025

\$ 948,875 (includes \$60,942 Asset Replacement Reserve)
\$ 481,255 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$ 1,430,130 Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$211,628 as at 31 January 2025 (\$189,903 as at 31 January 2024).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2023/24-2024/25



There are no concerns with the Council outstanding debtors at this time.

Fixed Assets

Purchases

2024 Ford Ranger x 2
 2025 Toyota Hilux Flat deck

To sell

2021 Mitsubishi Triton x 2
 2018 Mazda BT50 Flat deck

3. Variance Report (Table 3)

The variance report shows the YTD actual including staff hours entered for each project area to provide Council with an overview of the staff time component of the Operational Work Plan.

Table 1

Profit and Loss - Council
 Eastern Fish and Game Council
 For the month ended 31 January 2025

Income	Jan 2025	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	%
Licence Income	120,177	997,887	940,000	1,401,728	57,887	6%
Other Income	30,903	131,517	111,585	251,931	19,932	18%
Total Income	151,081	1,129,404	1,051,585	1,653,659	77,819	7%
Operating Expenses						
Depreciation	7,167	40,941	43,320	94,455	(2,379)	-5%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT						
1110 Population Monitoring	10,414	22,731	26,000	44,500	(3,269)	-13%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	720	760	2,900	(40)	-5%
1140 Hatchery Operations	4,373	52,789	46,120	98,750	6,669	14%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	400	0	0%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	14,787	76,240	72,880	146,550	3,360	5%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT						
1220 Works & Management	0	3,190	3,200	17,500	(10)	0%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	500	18,200	(500)	-100%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION MGT	0	3,190	3,700	35,700	(510)	-14%
1300 PARTICIPATION						
1310 Access	0	2,202	2,700	5,300	(498)	-18%
1340 Other Publications	921	921	1,000	2,000	(80)	-8%
1350 Training	190	720	550	850	170	31%
1370 Huts	171	504	500	1,450	4	1%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	1,282	4,346	4,750	9,600	(404)	-9%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE						
1440 Public Promotions	0	345	500	1,000	(155)	-31%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	710	1,065	500	500	565	113%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	710	1,410	1,000	1,500	410	41%
1500 COMPLIANCE						
1510 Ranging	68	1,283	650	1,000	633	97%
1520 Ranger Training	0	7	500	1,000	(493)	-99%
1530 Compliance	200	1,989	1,500	4,000	489	33%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	268	3,278	2,650	6,000	628	24%
1600 LICENSING						
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	65	0	600	65	0%
1630 Commission	3,513	32,351	36,400	56,070	(4,049)	-11%
Total 1600 LICENSING	3,513	32,416	36,400	56,670	(3,984)	-11%
1700 COUNCIL						
1720 Council Meetings	0	3,137	2,000	6,500	1,137	57%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	3,137	2,000	6,500	1,137	57%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING						
1810 Management Planning	0	1,109	2,500	5,000	(1,391)	-56%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	0	10,942	0	0%
1840 National Liaison	28	23,075	22,993	92,072	82	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	28	24,184	25,493	108,014	(1,309)	-5%
1900 ADMINISTRATION						
1910 Salaries	80,041	438,821	436,519	1,074,094	2,302	1%
1920 Staff Expenses	823	4,626	3,748	41,500	878	23%
1930 Staff Houses	1,047	13,738	10,890	17,550	2,848	26%
1940 Office Premises	2,498	14,997	14,285	24,550	712	5%
1950 Office Equipment	231	1,196	1,465	3,400	(269)	-18%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,072	6,398	6,202	14,400	196	3%
1970 General	270	13,109	11,897	13,150	1,212	10%
1980 General Equipment	1,551	11,439	10,351	19,050	1,088	11%
1990 Vehicles	7,158	31,663	27,554	56,700	4,109	15%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	94,691	535,987	522,911	1,264,394	13,076	3%
Total Operating Expenses	122,446	725,128	715,104	1,729,383	10,024	1%
Net Profit	28,635	404,276	336,481	(75,724)	67,795	20%

Table 2

Balance Sheet
Eastern Fish and Game Council
As at 31 January 2025

Assets	31 Jan 2025	31 Aug 2024
Bank		
Westpac Current Account	21,049	52,742
Westpac Call Account	396,121	31,850
Petty Cash	842	367
Investments	530,674	717,165
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	481,255	391,397
Total Bank	1,429,941	1,193,520
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	189,903	109,337
Accounts Receivable - Hawke's Bay & External parties	(49)	0
Inventory - Fish Stock	209,951	209,951
Prepayments and Accrued Income	0	14,343
Total Current Assets	399,805	333,631
Fixed Assets		
Buildings	1,049,503	1,049,503
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	502,628	409,517
Office Equipment	65,935	65,935
Plant & Equipment	190,141	222,119
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(796,961)	(782,836)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(154,575)	(137,349)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(51,438)	(47,840)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(132,892)	(158,838)
Total Fixed Assets	774,341	722,212
Total Assets	2,604,087	2,249,363
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	29,076	50,311
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	81,224	137,476
Employee Entitlements	112,931	117,649
GST	29,431	(2,488)
PAYE Clearing	26,328	23,571
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	137	0
Staff Social Club	1,240	721
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	32	314
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	(221)	2,595
Rounding	0	0
Designated Waters Clearing Acc	419	0
Total Current Liabilities	280,597	330,148
Total Liabilities	280,597	330,148
Net Assets	2,323,490	1,919,214
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,189,868	1,218,909
Asset Replacement Reserve	60,942	60,942
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	155,412	155,412
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	7,265	7,265
Waikaremoana Sportfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	474,600	474,600
Current Year Earnings	404,276	(29,040)
Total Equity	2,323,490	1,919,214

Table 3 2024/2025 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

as at 31 January 2025

Schedule B	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 44,500	\$ 22,731	2,170	1,041	\$ 157,954	\$ 80,614	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 202,454	\$ 103,345	\$ 99,109	51.0
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 720	700	489	\$ 50,953	\$ 37,868	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,853	\$ 38,588	\$ 15,265	71.7
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 98,750	\$ 52,789	3,108	1,186	\$ 226,230	\$ 91,842	\$ 68,000	\$ 38,340	\$ 256,980	\$ 106,291	\$ 150,689	41.4
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	141	\$ 9,754	\$ 10,919	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,754	\$ 10,919	\$ (1,165)	111.9
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	80	51	\$ 5,823	\$ 3,949	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,823	\$ 3,949	\$ 1,874	67.8
1180	Control	\$ 400	\$ -	36	18	\$ 2,620	\$ 1,355	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,020	\$ 1,355	\$ 1,665	44.9
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 146,550	\$ 76,240	6,228	2,926	\$ 453,334	\$ 226,547	\$ 68,000	\$ 38,340	\$ 531,884	\$ 264,447	\$ 267,437	49.7
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,504	614	\$ 109,476	\$ 47,547	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 109,476	\$ 47,547	\$ 61,928	43.4
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 3,190	950	416	\$ 69,150	\$ 32,215	\$ 11,650	\$ 12,448	\$ 75,000	\$ 22,957	\$ 52,044	30.6
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 700	\$ -	658	158	\$ 47,896	\$ 12,235	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,596	\$ 12,235	\$ 36,360	25.2
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	10	\$ 5,241	\$ 774	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,241	\$ 774	\$ 4,466	14.8
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & M	\$ 18,200	\$ 3,190	3,184	1,198	\$ 231,762	\$ 92,772	\$ 11,650	\$ 12,448	\$ 238,312	\$ 83,514	\$ 154,799	35.0
1310	Access	\$ 5,300	\$ 2,202	664	352	\$ 48,332	\$ 27,258	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,632	\$ 29,460	\$ 24,172	54.9
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	306	69	\$ 22,274	\$ 5,343	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,274	\$ 5,343	\$ 16,930	24.0
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 921	30	2	\$ 2,184	\$ 155	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,184	\$ 1,076	\$ 3,108	25.7
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 720	805	220	\$ 58,596	\$ 17,037	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,187	\$ 52,446	\$ 15,570	\$ 36,876	29.7
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	36	8	\$ 2,620	\$ 620	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,620	\$ 620	\$ 2,001	23.6
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 504	50	11	\$ 3,639	\$ 852	\$ 400	\$ 313	\$ 4,689	\$ 1,043	\$ 3,647	22.2
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICI	\$ 9,600	\$ 4,347	1,891	662	\$ 137,645	\$ 51,264	\$ 7,400	\$ 2,500	\$ 139,845	\$ 53,111	\$ 86,734	38.0
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	208	38	\$ 15,140	\$ 2,943	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,140	\$ 2,943	\$ 12,198	19.4
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	184	43	\$ 13,393	\$ 3,330	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,393	\$ 3,330	\$ 10,063	24.9
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 345	146	20	\$ 10,627	\$ 1,549	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,627	\$ 1,894	\$ 9,734	16.3
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 1,065	681	186	\$ 49,570	\$ 14,404	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,070	\$ 15,469	\$ 34,601	30.9
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,410	1,219	287	\$ 88,731	\$ 22,225	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,231	\$ 23,635	\$ 66,596	26.2
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,283	946	322	\$ 68,859	\$ 24,935	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,859	\$ 26,218	\$ 43,641	37.5
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 7	108	4	\$ 7,861	\$ 310	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,861	\$ 317	\$ 8,545	3.6
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,989	329	93	\$ 23,948	\$ 7,202	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,776	\$ 22,948	\$ 6,415	\$ 16,533	28.0
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,279	1,383	419	\$ 100,668	\$ 32,447	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,776	\$ 101,668	\$ 32,950	\$ 68,718	32.4
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 65	144	43	\$ 10,482	\$ 3,330	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,082	\$ 3,395	\$ 7,687	30.6
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	113	14	\$ 8,225	\$ 1,084	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,225	\$ 1,084	\$ 7,141	13.2
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ 65	257	57	\$ 18,707	\$ 4,414	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,307	\$ 4,479	\$ 14,828	23.2
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	8	2	\$ 582	\$ 155	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 582	\$ 155	\$ 427	26.6
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,137	731	208	\$ 53,209	\$ 16,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,709	\$ 19,244	\$ 40,465	32.2
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,137	739	210	\$ 53,792	\$ 16,262	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,292	\$ 19,399	\$ 40,892	32.2
1810	Management Planning	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,109	290	220	\$ 21,109	\$ 17,037	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,109	\$ 18,146	\$ 7,963	69.5
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	104	13	\$ 7,570	\$ 1,007	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,570	\$ 1,007	\$ 6,563	13.3
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 10,942	\$ -	486	184	\$ 35,376	\$ 14,249	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,318	\$ 14,249	\$ 32,069	30.8
1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ 82	330	121	\$ 24,021	\$ 9,370	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,121	\$ 9,452	\$ 14,668	39.2
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 16,042	\$ 1,191	1,210	538	\$ 88,075	\$ 41,662	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 104,117	\$ 42,853	\$ 61,264	41.2
		\$ 204,992	\$ 92,859	16,111	6,297	\$ 1,172,714	\$ 487,593	\$ 92,050	\$ 56,064	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 524,388	\$ 761,268	40.8

Table 3 Cont...		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%	
OVERHEADS		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance			
1910	Salaries	\$ 1,069,594	\$ 438,821	\$ 25,680	\$ 9,200	\$ 1,043,914	\$ 429,621	\$ 614,293	41.2		
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 41,500	\$ 4,626	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,500	\$ 4,626	\$ 36,874	11.1		
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 17,550	\$ 13,738	\$ 60,000	\$ 32,074	\$ (42,450)	\$ (18,336)	\$ (24,114)	43.2		
1940	Office Premises	\$ 24,550	\$ 14,997	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,550	\$ 14,997	\$ 9,553	61.1		
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 3,400	\$ 1,196	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,400	\$ 1,196	\$ 2,204	35.2		
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 14,400	\$ 6,398	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,400	\$ 6,398	\$ 8,002	44.4		
1970	General	\$ 13,150	\$ 13,109	\$ 1,500	\$ 7,120	\$ 11,650	\$ 5,989	\$ 5,661	51.4		
1980	General Equipment	\$ 19,050	\$ 11,439	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,050	\$ 11,439	\$ 7,611	60.0		
1990	Vehicles	\$ 56,700	\$ 31,663	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,700	\$ 31,663	\$ 25,037	55.8		
Administration		\$ 1,259,894	\$ 535,987	\$ 87,180	\$ 48,394	\$ 1,172,714	\$ 487,593	\$ 685,121	41.6		
Total Overhead Net Cost								\$ 1,172,714	\$ 487,593		
Total Outputs Staff Hours								16,111	6,297		
Internal Cost Per Hour								72.79	77.44		

Table 1 cont 2024/2025 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
Code	Output	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	
1	Species Management	\$ 146,550	\$ 76,240	6,228	2,926	\$ 453,334	\$ 226,547	\$ 68,000	\$ 38,340	\$ 531,884	\$ 264,447	\$ 267,437	49.7
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 18,200	\$ 3,190	3,184	1,198	\$ 231,762	\$ 92,772	\$ 11,650	\$ 12,448	\$ 238,312	\$ 83,514	\$ 154,799	35.0
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,600	\$ 4,347	1,891	662	\$ 137,645	\$ 51,264	\$ 7,400	\$ 2,500	\$ 139,845	\$ 53,111	\$ 86,734	38.0
4	Public Interface	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,410	1,219	287	\$ 88,731	\$ 22,225	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,231	\$ 23,635	\$ 66,596	26.2
5	Compliance	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,279	1,383	419	\$ 100,668	\$ 32,447	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,776	\$ 101,668	\$ 32,950	\$ 68,718	32.4
6	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 65	257	57	\$ 18,707	\$ 4,414	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,307	\$ 4,479	\$ 14,828	23.2
7	Councils	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,137	739	210	\$ 53,792	\$ 16,262	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,292	\$ 19,399	\$ 40,892	32.2
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 16,042	\$ 1,191	1,210	538	\$ 88,075	\$ 41,662	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 104,117	\$ 42,853	\$ 61,264	41.2
9	Administration												
Total Overhead Staff Hours				6,431	2,635								
TOTAL BUDGET		\$ 204,992	\$ 92,859	22,542	8,932	\$ 1,172,714	\$ 487,593	\$ 92,050	\$ 56,064	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 524,388	\$ 761,268	

Licence Income 2024-2025		Budget	Actual
2024-25 Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,134,459	\$ 976,421
Less Commission		-\$ 45,378	
Net Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,089,081	\$ 976,421
2024 Game Licence Income		\$ 267,269	\$ 21,466
Less Commission		-\$ 10,692	
Net Game Licence Income		\$ 256,577	\$ 21,466
Total Licence Income		\$ 1,401,728	\$ 997,887
Total Commission		-\$ 56,070	-\$ 32,351
Total Net 2024-25 Licence Revenue		\$ 1,345,658	\$ 965,536

% year complete	% of OWP budget spent	42%	41%
OWP Bulk Fund	Actual Net Cost YTD	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 524,388
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget			
	less Interest	\$ (34,340)	\$ (8,391)
	Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies	\$ 91,972	\$ 22,993
	Less Licence Revenue	\$ (1,401,728)	\$ (997,887)
	Plus Commission Expense	\$ 56,070	\$ 32,351
	Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation	\$ (14,761)	\$ (10,743)
	Depreciation	\$ 94,455	\$ 40,941
Subtotal		\$ 77,324	\$ (396,349)
Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund			
	Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ (23,600)	\$ (7,927)
	Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses	\$ 22,000	\$ -
Adjusted Budget	Actual(surplus)/deficit YTD	Total	\$ 75,724
			\$ (404,276)

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 *That the payments for January 2025 totalling \$251,815.24 be approved.*

<i>January - Current account</i>	<i>\$251,162.54</i>
<i>January - Credit Card - AA</i>	<i>\$32.20</i>
<i>January - Credit Card - KT</i>	<i>\$620.50</i>
<i><u>Total</u></i>	<i><u>\$251,815.24</u></i>

11.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

24 February 2025

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

SPECIES MANAGEMENT REPORT - FISHERIES

1111 River Fisheries investigations

Rangitaiki River Water Quality monitoring

Monitoring of the Rangitaiki River is due to take place later in February or early March. If the river is suitable for drift diving (Secchi disc reading >3m) then staff will undertake drift dive trout counts. If the water clarity is <3m water parameters (temperature, oxygen) will be recorded at sites along with visibility.

East Coast River Fishery Investigations

Waitahaia River Investigation

Staff travelled to the Waitahaia River to undertake a fishery investigation on the 12th of February. The river environs appeared to have been highly impacted by Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle with slips and erosion evident on slopes and non-wetted riverbed abraded. The Forestry Road bridge for access over the river was washed out and perched on the far side.



Photo 1. Upper river environs

An invertebrate kick sample was taken which captured mayfly (*Nesameletus*, *Deleatidium*, *Astronella spp*) and several free-swimming caddis (*Hydrobiosella*). The invertebrates were all of a small size which could be indicative of the recovering system.



Photos 2 and 3. Invertebrate sampling

Staff analysed the invertebrate sample collected and rated a macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI score) of 165 that ranks the Waitahaia River as having excellent water quality.



Photo 4. Electric fishing

Electric fishing was undertaken across 2*70m stretches of riffle/run in which we might expect to find trout fry/fingerlings present. No trout were encountered at these sites however 2 torrent fish around 75mm in length were caught. One small eel was also seen.

Following this, a walk upstream for 1.5 km was undertaken using polaroid's and fish out methods. No trout were encountered.



In communicating with the adjacent station manager, it was ascertained that trout have been sighted post New Years in the Ruatahunga Stream (upper catchment) which tells us that the Waitahaia fishery is at a low population level following the cyclones impact.

Photo 5. Torrent fish

1112 Datawatch

During the 5 months following the season opening, a total of 274 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	4
Lake Okataina	40
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	14
Lake Rotoehu	3
Lake Rotoiti	62
Lake Rotoma	19
Lake Rotorua	0
Lake Tarawera	132

*tags entered in datawatch database to 19/2/2025

Compared with returns received at this stage last year (mid-February 2024), the total number of tags returned is up by 151 (55%). Lake Tarawera is the most improved lake in terms of returns (up by 49 returns) and Rotoiti (up by 38 returns) followed by Okataina which was closed at the start of the 2023-24 season then had restricted access is up 37 returns. Lake Rotoma which had high water level at the start of the 2023-24 season is up by 18 returns.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The Lake Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy remains offline as the sensor strings and control console were removed in mid-January and delivered to Limnotrack in Hamilton for servicing. Staff will look to reinstate the buoy sensors when next attending Waikaremoana for work.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Trap

The Ngongotaha fish trap was installed for 4 nights during January 2025 following removal of debris from the trap structure by BOP Regional Council Rivers & Drainage staff. Just 4 fish entered the trap during the 4-night period the trap was set.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (January 2025)

	Av. Length	Av. Weight	Trap Run	Fish/night	10 pound+	% Brown
Rainbow	515	1.90	2	<1	0	
Brown	550	1.88	2	<1	0	50%

The Ngongotaha fish trap has not been operated for the month of February at the time of report writing

1116 Waterfowl Harvest Management

Mallard and grey duck harvest management

Mallard and grey duck banding is an integral part of harvest management. Banding provides information on the size of the population, what is happening to the population (increasing or decreasing) and helps us understand why the population is changing. We can determine the effects of harvest regulations on the population. The data also allows us to predict the following years population.

The trap sample gives us a rough indication of what the breeding season has been like. Moreover, the catch per unit effort provides an indication of the population size.

The December 2024 agenda showed the results of predictive modeling. The predictions were that the population of mallard and grey duck is low and a forecast poor breeding season. This year's trap sample was consistent with these predictions with relatively few birds caught (1,356), they were in relatively poor condition, and had the second lowest number of juveniles to adults recorded in the last 29 years. A low population and a poor mallard and grey duck breeding season does not bode well for the game bird season and given the Council have decided to extend the 2025 mallard and grey duck season, has potential consequences for the 2026 game bird season.

Brood Counts

Annual duck brood counts were undertaken on the coastal Bay of Plenty drainage network in late October. Results will be reported at the next Council Meeting.

1117 Botulism & HPAI Avian Influenza

Fortunately, we have had no outbreaks of Botulism and continue to work with NZC and MPI in developing our response for when HPAI arrives.

1119 Upland Game Assessments

Pheasant call counts

Annual pheasant call counts were conducted in Kaingaroa Forest in early November. Results will be reported at the next Council Meeting.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Summer Creel Survey

The summer angler creel surveys for the 2024-25 season began in mid-October and will conclude toward the end of March. Reporting is due end of August 2025.

1141 Hatchery Operations

Fish have been moved and sorted internally. Staff are underway with annual maintenance tasks before the commencement of the winter breeding season.

Fish locations at 23 January 2025:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx.)	Comment
Hatchery	Fry	0+	5,000	Liberations 2025
Tank A	Tig	0+	1,500	Liberations 2025
Tank B	Bt	0+	1,000	Liberations 2025
Tank E	Brook	0+	200	Brood
Tank F	Brook	2+	5	Brood
Pond 2	Rt	0+	18,000	Spring liberations 2025
Pond 3	Rt	0+	18,000	Spring liberations 2025
Pond 4	Rt	0+	9,000	Autumn liberations 2025
Pond 5	Rt	0+	9,000	Autumn liberations 2025
Pond 6	Rt	0+	9,000	Autumn liberations 2025
Pond 9	Rt	1++	4,750	2+ in 2026
RW1,2	Rt	2+	6,500	For 2+ for 2025, various

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

No liberations took place to Eastern Fish & Game waterways since the last report. Fish were delivered to one local tourist operation for the reporting period.

1171 Anglers Notice

Prior to the February 2025 Council meeting, letters were sent out to clubs and statutory organisations informing them that the Anglers Notice Process (intermediary year) for the 2024-25 season was underway. This occurred on 5th and 6th December 2024. No replies have been received from these sources at time of report writing.

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.

In September a submission was lodged on some proposed amendments to the Regional Pest Management Plan

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. No new developments.

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 and the last meeting was attended in December.

A Forest Industry Discussion Group meeting was attended in February.

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 to rewrite and submit some more workable provisions has been completed.

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, along with a submission on afforestation on Crown Land, and a review of DoC's consultation document on Charging for Access to some Public Conservation Land.

1212 Consent Applications

Nothing since the last Council report.

1221 Reserves Management

The third mowing cycle of access tracks within the Awaiti and Kaituna wetlands has been completed. Spraying of vegetation on and along main water control structures and water reticulation channels plus access tracks in managed wetlands continues.

Ballot holder access for stand maintenance opened Saturday 8th Feb and remains open until Sunday 6th April (pegging day).

1230 Habitat Works

We have been actively involved with BOPRC Rivers and Drainage regarding recontouring and stream diversion of the upper Mangakakahi Stream in Rotorua – a significant spawning tributary of the Utuhina Stream. This stream was significantly damaged during extreme rainfall 18 months ago. Earthworks have accommodated fish passage and habitat, while con-currently shaped and designed to enable flood events without damaging adjoining roading and housing infrastructure. We are confident spawning will occur once again in this stream this winter.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

The Burt Wetland (Te Puke) remains outstanding for any works to occur, and we continue to discuss with regional council as to how we may progress works, but no clear options are available currently due to NES-W rules.

No other landowners have been in contact with us to provide advice since last Council meeting.

1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats

Wetland Forum

A forum meeting is scheduled for 1st April 2025.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Angler access work is continuing in various locations. Signage maintenance and updates have been done and still require more work to complete including an East Coast visit to update signs and check access in the Gisborne – Wairoa districts.

During February Fish & Game and Walking Access Commission staff together carried out a site visit to the Waitahaia River on the East Coast North of Gisborne. A public access easement through a private forest is in place, however this is currently behind a locked gate and signage which states there is no public access without a permit.

The easement is on a formed roadway which is in good condition and would enable good access to the river where there are road reserve land parcels on each side of the river. Work is ongoing with Walking Access Commission staff in regard to the access to the easement, and Walking

Access are leading further work with the forest management regarding public being able to use this this easement.

A fishery investigation was also conducted at the river and the results of that investigation are reported separately, however at this stage indications are the trout fishery is significantly impacted from weather in past years.

We are also working with Walking Access Commission staff in relation to other access matters around the region.

1313 Hunter Ballots

The ballot meeting was held at the beginning of February with 24 hunters attending. The meeting was instigated by Council to ensure ballot holders knew what they are allowed and not allowed to do (following several hunters lighting fires that got out of control, sprayed a reserve with a helicopter, and put a bulldozer into a wetland without consent or permission). Once a hunter has attended one of these meetings they do not need to attend again. In the first few years we had hundreds attend these meetings, but these numbers have dropped off and now the meetings predominately cater for new hunters.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life Copy was produced for February.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Minor changes were made to the website over this period. Notice posted regarding the new Lake Okataina automated gate.

1334 Social Media

Various posts generated regarding access, check, clean and dry, fishing success, angler etiquette and news and information affecting licence holders. Facebook has over 3,000 organic followers and received licence-holder communications and questions

1341 Information Pamphlets

A re-print of "Lake Rotorua and Tributaries" pamphlet was completed in January.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

No activities for the reporting period.

1354 Fishing Competitions

One fishing competition permit was processed for the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Maintenance carried out at the Wairua Hut toilet. It is evident that the toilet is being overused mostly by visitors to the area (not our hut users) and it is necessary to have discussions with DOC as to how to best deal with this going forward.

Work is pending at Waikaremoana to replace the flue flashing on the hut, temporary fix still in place.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

Quiet period since our February meeting.

1441 Public Promotions

Continue to post and promote fishing experiences and the fishery work that we do on Social Media platforms. A talk at RAA was conducted at their Friday night social.

1451 Education

No educational tours were held for the reporting period.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Angler surveys have continued on the main Rotorua lakes and ranging carried out in many locations and in particular the summer high angler use areas of the Lake Rotorua stream mouths. We are experiencing some issues at the stream mouths, including complaints about poor angler behaviour and etiquette.

Planning has begun for the 2025 game season opening weekend ranging operations in the first weekend of May. This is likely to include working again with Police and Firearms Safety Authority staff in certain areas, and those agencies have been approached and invited to again have staff working with rangers.

Contacts 2024-2025 year.

To end of January, we have made 1,226 contacts with anglers. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2024-2025 year

Month	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Last 5 yr average
September	16	51	35	36	42	37
October	724	718	520	856	627	709
November	16	66	16	161	154	77
December	287	182	182	256	253	229
January	404	352	212	217	150	286
February	155	140	12	117		138
March	164	93	111	185		115
April	153	238	25	81		101
May	297	203	203	175		204
June	124	141	52	80		112
July	45	57	36	59		54
August	22	32	13	29		23
Total	2,407	2,273	1,417	2,252	1,226	2,085

1521 Ranger Training

Currently rangers are up to date with training. Further ranger training will take place in 2025.

Rangers

A new honorary ranger is coming on board in the Rotorua area. Nigel Simpson is also moving onto our honorary ranger team following his tenure as a staff member.

1531 Prosecutions

5 offenders have matters pending resolution via court prosecutions and or diversion processes. Prosecution and diversion processes are very time consuming, and diversion is more difficult to resolve with some persons who essentially are unable to pay a financial donation and contribution, which means other diversion conditions are to be considered.

Offences 2024-2025 Year:

YTD we have dealt with 16 offenders for 25 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2024-2025 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	13
Fishing in closed waters	5
Fish with illegal tackle	2
False details	1
Obstruction of ranger	1
Fails to give name and address	3
Total number of offences	25

Offences Pending Resolution

Offences table – pending resolution as at mid Feb 2025

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	5
Fails to give name and address	1
Total number of offences	6

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

Promoting the fisheries and fishing experience on Social Media. Getting additional traffic through being #hash tagged on posts by Hunting & Fishing Rotorua from their social media pages.

Eastern Region has been requested to assist Northland with one staff member with the large agricultural field days at Dargaville, end of February. The theme is to promote hunting and wetlands in the area, and specialist staff were sought. We have agreed to assist and provided one staff for two days, with direct expenses paid for by Northland. We have provided set up

and product advice with experience derived from the Rotorua 4x4 and Sika shows we have organised/assisted with.

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 liaises with licence system administrator to resolve outstanding issues and on behalf of regions for any issues as they arise. This month has included coordination of the Game Magazine databases for the upcoming magazine distribution, game regulation guide requirements, new season system updates, and agent information packs.

National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing led from this region. We have been working with Firearms Safety Authority and NZ Mountain Safety Council in preparation for the upcoming hunting season with regards to safety messaging and campaigns around that.

11.3 LICENCE SALES REPORT

25 February 2025

1. 2024-2025 Fish Licence Sales

1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2024-25 season compared with the 2023-24 season YTD to 24 February are summarised in Table one.

1.2 Sales continue to track ahead of last year although the variance has reduced from 7.1% reported in January to 6.1% YTD 24 February. 91.5% of the annual sales target has been met YTD.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2024-25 vs 2023-24 YTD results to 24 February 2025

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2023-24	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2024-25	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family	904	1,196	2,100	857	1,290	2,147	47
Season	746	959	1,705	745	1,087	1,832	127
Season Non-Resident	92	144	236	79	169	248	12
Loyal Senior	233	256	489	241	289	530	41
Local Area Adult	829	539	1,368	834	654	1,488	120
Winter Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Break Adult	19	42	61	17	30	47	-14
Short Break Adult	152	387	539	113	494	607	68
Day	454	1,613	2,067	368	1,911	2,279	212
Day Non-Resident	286	593	879	245	629	874	-5
Total Adult	3,715	5,729	9,444	3,499	6,553	10,052	608
Fish Junior							
Season	154	241	395	176	301	477	82
Season Non-Resident	5	17	22	5	16	21	-1
Day	85	241	326	80	259	339	13
Day Non-Resident	18	13	31	10	31	41	10
Total Junior	262	512	774	271	607	878	104
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	6	6	2	9	11	5
Day Non-Resident	3	10	13	2	10	12	-1
Total Child	3	16	19	4	19	23	4
Total Fish	3,980	6,257	10,237	3,774	7,179	10,953	716
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			7,216			7,654	439
Variance between Seasons							6.1%
\$ (excl GST)			\$959,983			\$1,038,310	\$78,327

Summary 2024-2025 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2024-25 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,363	100.0%	\$1,134,459
2024-25 Actual	7,654	91.5%	\$1,038,310
Variance to budget	-709	-8.5%	-\$96,149

12. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

12.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

12.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

12.3 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Mark Sceats

14. EASTERN FISH & GAME COUNCIL STRATEGIC 5 YEAR PLANNING

20 February 2025

1. Purpose

To discuss and create a working document vision of where Eastern Fish & Game should/could be in 5 years' time. To look at high level planning and strategy.

2. Background

At the February 2025 Council meeting, Councillors asked for an opportunity to review, reflect and create a 5-year strategic overview and goal for Eastern F&G.

Below is a wide overview and questions to consider for the Council meeting

Mission Statement: ***To maintain and enhance opportunities for sustainable sports fish angling and game bird hunting.***

Goals & Priorities:

- 1. Species:** *To manage sustainable populations of sports fish and game bird species for recreational harvest.*
- 2. Habitat:** *To manage, maintain, and enhance sports fish and game bird habitats to maximise recreational opportunities for anglers and hunters.*
- 3. Angler & Hunter Participation:** *To maximise angler and hunter participation while maintaining and improving the quality and diversity of the recreational experience.*
- 4. Public Awareness:** *To maximise public awareness of the opportunities, values and issues associated with the sports fish and game resource, and support for the management role of Fish and Game Councils.*
- 5. Compliance:** *To protect the sports fish and game resource and its users through education and effective enforcement of legislative requirements.*
- 6. Licensing:** *To optimise the sale of Eastern Fish and Game Council angling and hunting licences as valued products.*
- 7. Council:** *To provide for the effective governance of the Fish & Game system by fish and game licence holders.*
- 8. Planning & Reporting:** *To ensure cost effective and appropriate business management of the fish and game resource.*
- 9. Administration:** *To support the core functions of the Eastern Region of Fish & Game New Zealand in an effective and cost efficient manner.*

Please take some time to reflect and bring to the discussion on the below questions;

SWOT: Strengths:
 Weakness:
 Opportunities:
 Threats:

Will our priorities remain the same in the next 5 years?

What do you want EF&G to look like in the next 5 years?

What are our priorities in 5 years time?

3. Discussion and White Board Session

15. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Ref: 9.01.01

25 February 2025

1. Purpose

To complete the manager’s performance review.

2. Background

Annually the Council carries out a self appraisal of its performance over the past twelve months in accordance with its adopted governance policy set out in section 2.6a, namely:

“The Council will, each year, appraise its own performance, and its own processes and procedures to ensure that they are not unduly complex and are designed to assist the Council in effectively fulfilling its role.”

Council also carries out a 360 degree appraisal of it’s Manager’s performance with input from staff, Councillors, and the manager. The Council needs to consider the outcomes of the annual review process and discuss their findings with the manager, and it is appropriate that these discussions take place with the public excluded.

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

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Discussion on and review of the Manager’s performance.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii): That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

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

ITEM	REASON UNDER ACT	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

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

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

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

3. Resolutions

3.1 That pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at ... pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to discuss Council and the CE’s Performance review.

3.2 That Council moves out of public excluded at ... pm.

3.3 That the public be re-admitted to the meeting at ... pm.