



**EASTERN  
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING  
AGENDA***

**13 February 2025**

## AGENDA

### The 213<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

**ROTORUA**

**Date:** Thursday, 13 February 2025

**Commences:** 1PM

	<u>Page Number</u>
1 Welcome (1PM)	
2 Apologies	<b>(R)</b>
3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting ( <b>7 December 2024</b> ) (1.05PM)	<b>(R)</b> 2
3.1 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
3.2 Matters arising from the meeting of 7 December 2024	
4 Notification of Items for General Business	
5 Conflict of Interest Register	9
6 Health and Safety Report (1.20 PM, 10 min)	<b>(R)</b> 11
7 Anglers Notice Review (1.30PM 10min)	<b>(R)</b> 13
8 Draft Fatigue Management Guidelines (1.40PM, 10 min)	<b>(I/D)</b> 18
9 Goals and Priorities for the 2025-26 OWP (1.50PM, 1Hour)	<b>(I/D)</b> 21
10 Operational Reports (2.50PM, 20 min)	
10.1 Finance Report	<b>(R)</b> 32
10.2 Management Report	<b>(I/D)</b> 43
10.3 Licence Sales Report	<b>(I/D)</b> 57
11 Liaison Officers Reports (3.10PM, 10 min)	<b>(I)</b> 60
12 General Business (3.20PM, 10min)	
13 Meeting Closes (3.30PM)	

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 212<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND  
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW  
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024 AT 11.00 AM**

**Present**

Crs. Mark Sceats, Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Kevin Coutts, Mike Jarvie, Pat Swift, Alec McIver.

**In attendance**

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson (Eastern Fish & Game); Barry Roderick and Bernie McDowell.

**1.0 WELCOME**

1.1 Cr Mark Sceats opened the meeting at 11.00am welcoming all present.

**2.0 APOLOGIES**

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Scott Nicol.

2.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 212<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [24/12/2.2]*

**3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 NOVEMBER 2024)**

3.1 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [24/12/3.1]*

**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 November 2024.

**3.3 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 7 November 2024.

**4.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**

Arash Alaeinia – HPAI update

**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 updated Council on increased compliance issues in some closed season areas and that he had recently met with the Area Police Commander to discuss how the Police can provide support to staff where necessary.

6.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [24/12/6.2]*

**7.0 2023-2024 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

7.1 Arash Alaeinia confirmed that Council had been emailed a copy of the 2023-2024 Performance Report and audit management letter and a hard copy was provided at the meeting for addition to the Councillor Governance folders.

7.2 Arash Alaeinia acknowledged the work of the staff who operate within the correct processes and policies, and Kate Thompson who prepares the report and engages with the auditor throughout the audit process.

7.3 Cr Kevin Coutts queried the information reported on Club Meetings/Events (Pg 27 of Report) and asked where this is reported to Council. Arash Alaeinia advised that this is usually reported within the Management Report in the Council Meeting Agenda.

- 7.4 Cr Mark Sceats highlighted the Chairs Report and reiterated his acknowledgement of staff and particularly Council for the work they have done over the year and more recently the support afforded to him with his in move into the role of Council Chair.
- 7.5 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2023-2024 year. [24/12/7.5]***
- 8.0 PRESENTATION “REVIEW OF GAME SEASON CONDITIONS”**
- 8.1 Cr Mark Sceats advised that he had made a Chairmans call that a further presentation was not needed as Council had been supplied with information in the previous Council agenda and emails had been circulated relating to the matter.
- 9.0 2025 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**
- 9.1 After some initial confusion Cr Mark Sceats suggested that Council review the recommendations as presented on Page 32 of the agenda the first being 4.1 in relation to “mallard and grey duck population thresholds and associated regulations currently used i.e. the status quo (shown in Table 1) be noted”.
- 9.2 Cr Kevin Coutts believed that duck hunters in the Eastern Region were “getting a bad deal on the cost of the licence and what they were allowed to shoot” and felt that Council should be relaxing the regulations to enable more opportunity to hunters, noting that last season only two of the four weekends available were suitable for shooting. He said we are concerned about licence sales, and that this is a good reason for relaxing the regulations, his preference being a six-week season and eight bird limit.
- 9.3 Cr Lindsay Lyons agreed that we have concern over licence sales but highlighted that the current threshold policy had been reviewed and agreed to by Council in December last year. Lindsay had made his own enquiries with staff at Auckland/Waikato Region and was advised that they are also working on the same policy and that they too had concern over the decline in duck numbers. He believed that at this point in time we need to be careful of the resource as we are approaching a season with limited duck numbers for breeding and with a hot summer there is likely to be an increase in botulism and the possibility of HPAI. He reminded Council of the 1991 botulism events that had wiped out a lot of the duck populations in the Waikato and through Eastern as well from which he believed we have never really recovered. Lindsay also commented on the satisfaction survey where only 14% of respondents had been negative about their season, most were positive. He said that, as Councillors, we are charged with looking after the resources included within the Sports Fish & Game Management Plan, this is a policy Council agreed to, so he would be supporting the status quo, i.e. work to the policy.
- 9.4 Cr Pat Swift questioned whether it was possible to extend the season without increasing the bag limit to provide more opportunity? Cr Mark Sceats said that he would be happy to extend the season which he believed was essentially one week only dependant on when King’s Birthday falls.
- 9.5 Cr Alec McIver informed Council that he had spoken to several local hunters and in summary most were quite happy with the season length as it is, but they would like a larger limit. He agreed with the research that showed 10% of the hunters shoot 90% of the birds and said that these hunters would prefer a higher limit of drakes e.g. 10 bird limit including 8 drakes. Alec added that the stats showed that drakes did not matter as much as hens and acknowledged that there would be some mistakes as it is difficult to identify greylards in low light. Cr Mark Sceats felt that the extended season was a compromise to keep numbers as they are.
- 9.6 Cr Alec McIver advised that we also need to bear in mind if Auckland/Waikato have a shorter season than Eastern, we can expect more hunters taking advantage of the extra two weeks in the Eastern Region.

- 9.7 Bernie McDowell informed Council that over last three seasons his hunting group had averaged 500 birds per season. He said that regardless of the population they will only take a % of what's available e.g. if there is 100, they might shoot 50% and if there are 50 they will only get 25, their numbers will drop dependant on what's there.
- 9.8 ***Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Mark Sceats) that Council does not support the status quo for the policy relating to mallard and grey duck population thresholds and associated regulations, and instead agrees to increase the season length for mallard and grey duck by two weeks for the 2025 Game Bird Hunting Season to a total of six weeks (3 May 2025 – 15 June 2025) regardless of population size identified through summer monitoring programmes to create more opportunity for duck hunters. Five voted in favour and two against. Crs. Lindsay Lyons and Murray Ferris asked that their vote against this motion be recorded. [24/12/9.8]***
- 9.9 Council continued to discuss recommendations 4.2 to 4.9 and comments included;
- shoveler season should be extended in line with mallards to avoid confusion
  - non-toxic alternatives to lead shot for .410 Ga shotguns needed to be addressed at a national level
- 9.10 Cr Kevin Coutts wished to put a point to Council that “you are allowed to shoot five cock pheasants for four months, but we have been arguing about six ducks for four weeks” and questioned how our staff know how many cock pheasants are out there? Cr Murray Ferris advised that staff undertake crow counts every year and commented on the high numbers they have in the Gisborne area.
- 9.11 ***Agreed (Alec McIver/Kevin Coutts) that Council agrees to recommendation 4.6 “That a daily bag limit of 2 shoveler and a season length the same as the mallard apply for the 2025 Game Bird Season” i.e. six weeks (3 May 2025 – 15 June 2025) [24/12/9.11]***
- 9.12 ***Agreed (Mark Sceats/Kevin Coutts) that Council agrees to adopt the balance of recommendations as set out on page 32 of the agenda as follows:***
- 4.2 ***That the policy relating to paradise shelduck shown in Appendix 1 is noted.***
  - 4.3 ***That the policy relating to black swan shown in Appendix 1 is noted.***
  - 4.4 ***That there is a special black swan season in Management Area A1 coinciding with the same period for a proposed special pukeko season i.e. 6 February – 15 February 2026 (just over one week and two weekends).***
  - 4.5 ***That there is a special pukeko season 6 February – 15 February 2026 (i.e. one week and two weekends) for the Eastern Region.***
  - 4.7 ***That pheasant and California quail daily bag limit and season length remain the status quo.***
  - 4.8 ***That the season for brown quail in the Eastern Region remains closed for the 2025 season***
  - 4.9 ***That non-toxic alternatives to lead shot continue to be required for .410 Ga shotguns for waterfowl hunting over open water. [24/12/9.12]***
- 9.13 Cr Lindsay Lyons commented on the grey duck and its endangered species status and suggested that it would be good to get some awareness out to hunters to be prudent and if they recognise a grey duck, they leave it. Others commented on the difficulty in identifying grey ducks.

## 10.0 LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

- 10.1 Some Councillors had provided feedback to the letter from the Minister via email and Council had been provided copies of those. The Chair suggested the best approach was to review and comment on each question from the Minister.
- 10.2 *What opportunities are there to make efficiencies, reduce duplication and ensure economies of scale across Fish and Game (e.g. shared services) to improve value for money for licence holders? How could these be best achieved?*

Council supported the centralisation of payroll and some administrative functions highlighting the potential cost saving benefits. Sharing of equipment between regions was raised but would need careful consideration as this may not be financially or logistically practical. Council also supported regional licence revenues in excess of the 20% required to maintain reserves and cashflows being held centrally.

10.3 *What do you think about the Governance Review recommendation to merge regions, and on what basis would this be appropriate?*

Members of the 2021-2024 Council still sitting reiterated what had been submitted for the Ministerial Review in 2022 being that the Eastern Fish & Game Region was large enough both geographically and financially to stand alone, but if a merger was necessary the more suitable option would be with the Hawke's Bay Region. Following today's discussion Council supported three North Island Regions being:

- 1 Auckland Waikato and Northland
- 2 Eastern
- 3 Wellington, Taranaki, and Hawke's Bay

Cr Lindsay Lyons also suggested the South Island Region's boundaries could potentially be redefined and split into three regions laterally. He said that this would ensure that shared resources crossing into the West Coast for example would be managed by one region.

10.4 *What would better support you as councillors and as Fish and Game generally:*

10.4.1 *Would a reduced number of councillors on each council improve effectiveness and decision making?*

Council discussed potential pitfalls of reduced number of Councillors such as diversity of members and potential for Council to be made up of a majority of game hunters over anglers and vice versa, and the ability to meet a quorum. Cr Murray Ferris felt that it was more about how effectively the meetings are run rather than the number of people sitting around the table. Council had already reduced its numbers to eight this term and agreed that eight was a good number going forward.

10.4.2 *Would a modest honorarium for councillors recognise and support your voluntary role?*

Council acknowledged the significant contribution to this voluntary role and supported recognition of this through either a free licence, or a small meeting honorarium, or both.

10.4.3 *How can the relationship between your Council and the NZC be improved to support the organisation and licence holders? Is the current way of nominating your representative to the NZC working? How can there be stability for the NZC over the whole term?*

Council discussed the role of the NZ Council appointee and the difficulties experienced by members appointed to the position in past years. Council acknowledged that this position needed to represent anglers and gamebird hunters from a national perspective and if their position didn't align to the view of the Regional Council they were too easily stood down as a result. Council considered options to remedy this and in summary agreed that the security of tenure of the appointee to the New Zealand Council is important, and when the appointment is made it is for a three-year term unless the appointee needs to resign from the position for other reasons.

10.4.4 *What other measures would support your Council to be more effective and trusted (e.g. wider eligibility to stand and vote in elections, a fit and proper person test)?*

Council agreed that the right to vote in elections should be automatic for all Whole Season licence holders i.e. no need to tick a box to register for election. Council also agreed that a "fit and proper person test" was important and the current legislation which excludes candidates standing for Council if they have been convicted of an offence involving sports fish or game or protected wildlife, was too lenient. Council discussed types of criminal offences and minor convictions and supported a change to

the legislation to exclude any person with a conviction that carries/d a maximum sentence of one or more years imprisonment.

10.4.5 *Should the criteria under which the Minister currently has the power to remove elected members be reviewed?*

Council agreed that the power for the Minister to remove elected members should be reviewed and that the Minister should have the power to remove a councillor at a national or regional level.

10.5 Council discussed the difficulties in working under the umbrella of the Department of Conservation and supported the establishment of a new “Fish & Game Act” reporting directly to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing.

11.0 Council adjourned for lunch at 12.20pm reconvening at 1.09pm.

## 12.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

### *Finance Report*

12.1 Kate Thompson informed Council that this meeting’s finance report included the Budgeted Financial Statements for the 2024-2025 financial year and summarised the adjustments needed after incorporating the OWP budget which was approved earlier in the year.

12.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council receives the finance report approves payments for September and October totalling \$294,612.44. [24//12/12.2]*

12.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance, and Cash flow for the 2024-2025 financial year. [24/12/12.3]*

### *Management Report*

12.4 Arash Alaeinia briefly spoke of compliance around streams over the summer period. No other questions from Council

12.5 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Management Report. [24//12/12.5]*

### *Licence Sales Report*

12.6 Kate Thompson advised that the updated age demographics report would be presented at the next meeting due to her being unable to complete it for this meeting having been sick in the past week. Cr Lindsay Lyons mentioned that it shows a very interesting picture of what’s happening and was keen to see an updated version. Arash Alaeinia noted the positive results achieved YTD with most of the North Island in the black compared to last season and highlighted the positive posts about the fisheries circulating on social media and in papers. Arash also provided some detail about the pre-Christmas EDM which was going to Eastern, Auckland Waikato and Northland lapsed licence holders. Barry Roderick congratulated the team on the positive results noting the regions performance compared with others and acknowledged that the excellent whether may have contributed.

12.7 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Licence Sales Report. [24/12/12.7]*

## 13.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 *Report from Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*  
No Report

13.2 *Report from Department of Conservation*  
No Report

13.3 *Report from New Zealand Council*  
No Report as there had been no meeting of the NZ Council since Eastern’s last meeting.

**14.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**14.1 HPAI update**

Arash Alaeinia advised that work is in progress on the HPAI plan, but no further update had been given from the National Office. Managers are concerned the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) are implicating ducks/waterfowl as carriers, and this is likely due to these species being the only species monitored through Fish & Game’s banding programmes, which have been carried out for the past 30 years. MPI have been actively testing waterfowl for avian influenza through F & G programmes over this time with low pathogenic varieties being detected for several years. It is likely that all species are at risk but more likely sparrows coming in to breeding sites. A decision is to be made about banding programmes going into new year as concern is raised about birds being brought together and if there are infected birds this will help it spread, but contrary to this these birds are known to mix anyway at moult/banding sites and the banding programmes assist MPI with their testing. Arash advised that the US and Australia are continuing a business-as-usual approach with increased education about good hygiene and appropriate PPE. Cr Lindsay Lyons questioned whether MPI was monitoring the bottom of the South Island and the likes of the Auckland and Campbell Islands given that the virus arrived in Australia via Antarctica and asked if we could highlight these concerns to MPI. Arash advised that Matthew McDougall has been involved from the outset and a draft Plan had been submitted to DOC and MPI via Corina Jordan and that further information was to come from DOC reflecting the current situation.

**14.2 Golden clam update**

Cr Pat Swift asked for an update on the Golden clam situation. Arash Alaeinia advised that the clam is still contained to Waikato River moving down stream and the Taupo leisure park which had been closed. He said that options to chemically cleanse the leisure park lake and infill it are being considered.

**14.3 Okataina gate update**

Arash Alaeinia advised that all parties had accepted the gate contractor, and the cost was to be shared between the Regional Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, MPI. The MOUs were yet to be finalised, but he understood that the gate would be in place mid to late January.

**15.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

**15.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 1.40 pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to approve the minutes of the August 2024 Special Meeting where the public were excluded. [24/12/15.1]***

**15.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council moves out of public excluded at 1.43 pm. [24/12/15.2]***

**15.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 1.43 pm. [24/12/15.3]***

**16.0 MEETING CLOSED**

**16.1 The meeting closed at 1.45 pm.**

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**Mark Sceats**  
**Chairman**



## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- APOLOGIES**
- 2.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 212th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [24/12/2.2]*
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 NOVEMBER 2024)**
- 3.1 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [24/12/3.1]*
- 6.0 HEALTH & SAFETY**
- 6.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [24/12/6.2]*
- 7.0 2023-2024 PERFORMANCE REPORT**
- 7.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2023-2024 year. [24/12/7.5]*
- 9.0 2025 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**
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## 5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

18 January 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 matter<sup>1</sup> 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;

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<sup>1</sup> “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.***



### **3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)**

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

25 Nov 2024	Ongoing compliance issues described, changing weather - road conditions, allergies, water, sunblock & hats
2 Dec 20214	Changing weather – road conditions, allergies, water, sunblock, hats
9 Dec 2024	Changing weather – road conditions, allergies, water, sunblock, hats
16 Dec 2024	Changing weather – road conditions, allergies, water, sunblock, hats
23 Dec 2024	Ongoing compliance issues described, changing weather - road conditions, allergies, water, sunblock & hats
30 Dec 2024	No staff meeting
6 Jan 2024	Ongoing compliance issues described, changing weather - road conditions, allergies, water, sunblock & hats
13 Jan 2024	Ongoing compliance issues described, changing weather - road conditions, allergies, water, sunblock & hats
20 Jan 2024	Nothing new

### **4. Training Programme**

Nil

### **5. H&S Incidents**

Early January a staff member injured his should through rescuing a duckling from an empty pond. An awkward movement caused the injury. No lost work as a result, injury investigation completed.

### **6. Recommendation**

**That Council acknowledges it has received this report.**

## **7. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW**

File: 1.07.01

14 January 2025

### **1. Purpose**

To review the 2024-2025 Anglers Notice and identify any urgent changes to the current freshwater sports fishing regulations that might be required in the 2025-2026 season.

The 2023-24 season provided a comprehensive review of the Anglers Notice (Eastern Region angling regulations). The 2024-25 season provides an intermediary year between full reviews excepting any specific emergency issues being identified outside of the two-yearly cycle. This means the next review of the angling regulations will be undertaken during the **2025-26** season for the **2026-27** season.

### **2. Background**

The Anglers Notice review provides an opportunity to amend regional sport fishing regulations. Licence holders and the public are able to submit on issues they may have identified with the current regulations for consideration by Council.

Council has developed a comprehensive approach to dealing with the Anglers Notice. The policy approach splits regulations into those that serve a social function and those that serve a biological function. Social regulations are those that affect the angler and principally relate to angling methods. Waters are categorised based on trout densities, and levels of angler use. These categories are used to determine how social based regulations should be applied. Biological regulations are those that affect trout populations and include bag and size limits. A matrix was developed taking into account biological objectives associated with sustainability, harvest allocation, and specific population manipulations. Any changes to the Anglers Notice must not conflict with the Anglers Notice policy which is provided in Appendix 1 to this item.

This approach has greatly simplified the task of reviewing the Anglers Notice and enables regulations to be confirmed or amended quickly and efficiently.

A full review of the regional regulations (Schedule 2) is undertaken every second year. A less comprehensive process is conducted in the year between. This year (2025) represents an intermediary year in the process where extraordinary or urgent matters that have arisen may be addressed.

This process will involve:

1. At the February 2025 Council meeting, the Anglers Notice process begins. Council may receive any items that arrived following conclusion of the previous Anglers Notice Process and consider which submissions have merit and warrant further investigation.
2. Prior to the March 2025 meeting, Councillors will receive feedback from staff and submitters through an Agenda item. At the March meeting, any submissions received may be debated and the Council will decide if these require further examination are to be accepted following resolution or held over till a full review cycle is underway.

3. At its May 2025 meeting, the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council will receive any additional correspondence from new submitters along with a draft to the Minister of the 2025-26 Anglers Notice. Council will accept resolutions on any remaining proposals and finalise the 2025-26 Anglers Notice. The Eastern Region Fish and Game recommendation to the Minister must be provided to NZ Council by 30 June.

### **3. Initial suggestions for consideration**

No submissions have been received concerning the Anglers Notice process at time of mailout of Council Agenda.

### **4. Resolutions**

- 4.1 *That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2025 -2026 Anglers Notice.*
- 4.2 *That Council identifies any issues for further discussion be prepared following the February meeting into a paper for circulation.*

## **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;

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Regulation Applied</b>
<p><i>Sustainability I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure adequate recruitment of juveniles to provide later harvest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect spawning rearing waters.</li> <li>Closure of waters and season length most effective tool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close waters to fishing if they provide significant proportion of recruitment.</li> <li>Length of closure related to importance of contribution, availability of other spawning, fishing opportunity potentially provided and duration of spawning.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Sustainability II</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure adequate survival of adults to spawn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect sufficient fish through to maturity to enable them to spawn.</li> <li>Size limits most effective tool for protecting fish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size limits guarantee protection of fish to maturity.</li> <li>Size limits can be adjusted based upon knowledge of harvest rates.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Harvest Allocation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To share available harvest</li> <li>Bag limit most effective.</li> </ul>	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"> <li>To enhance specific component</li> </ul>	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.

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

*\*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.

## **8. DRAFT FATIGUE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

**20 Jan 2025**

### **1. Purpose**

As part of the overall National Health & Safety Policy, NZC at its December 2024 meeting has asked for Regional Council's feedback on its Draft Fatigue Management guidelines.

### **2. Background**

As part of Fish and Game's commitment to reviewing and developing national Health & Safety standards, in late 2023, following feedback from the Maritime NZ audit of Fish & Game NZ's boating procedures nationally, it was highlighted that Fish & Game did not have a fatigue management policy. Globally, fatigue is identified as the main cause of human error that has led to fatalities in workplace accidents, especially when operating a vehicle.

As Fish & Game staff often work in lone-worker situations and may have a can-do attitude, they may place themselves in situations where fatigue is an issue. In order to provide both managers and staff with a guideline for planning and undertaking their work activities, a fatigue management policy was deemed desirable.

The National Health and Safety Committee took this determination from Maritime NZ and a draft fatigue management policy was formulated by HR advisor Jane Hutchings and the committee. The draft policy was shared with regional managers for feedback in May 2024. Following this feedback, the draft policy was presented at the NZC Meeting in December 2024 and is being provided to regional Fish & Game Councils for their feedback.

Feedback initially also indicated that some councils thought this policy should also apply to councillors, especially those from regions where councillors have to travel long distances to attend council meetings.

### **3. Recommendation**

***That Council review the Draft Fatigue Management Guidelines and provides feedback to NZC prior to their next meeting.***

# DRAFT Fatigue Management Guidelines

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that all Fish and Game NZ staff minimize the risk to themselves and others by:

- Understanding fatigue and how it can affect you
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of staff and managers
- Identifying hazards that contribute to fatigue
- Assessing fatigue risks
- Working with staff to develop a plan to manage factors that contribute to fatigue

## 2. FATIGUE AND THE HSWA 2015

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, fatigue is a workplace risk that must be managed like any other risk

This means that the business must eliminate the risk of fatigue as far as reasonably practicable. If it can't be eliminated, it must be minimized as far as reasonably practicable, by implementing suitable control measures in consultation with staff

## 3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Management responsibilities:

- Ensure staff have sufficient breaks between periods of work to rest and recover
- Provide training for staff to foster a common understanding of fatigue management
- Develop a culture of shared responsibility for fatigue management

### Staff Responsibilities

- Staff have a duty under the Act to take reasonable care of their own safety and health and that their acts or omissions don't adversely affect the health or safety of others

To reduce the risk of being involved in a work accident caused by fatigue you should:

- Understand your sleep, rest and recovery needs and obtain adequate sleep and rest away from work
- Seek medical advice if you are concerned about a health condition that affects your sleep or causes fatigue
- Look out for signs of fatigue in yourself and the people you work with
- In consultation with your manager, take steps to manage fatigue e.g. taking a short break or nap( before driving home after a long period of field work), drinking water, stretching
- Talk to your manager if you foresee or experience being impaired by fatigue likely to create a health and safety risk e.g. because of a health condition, excessive work demands or personal circumstances

## 4. WHAT IS FATIGUE:

A state of mental and/or physical exhaustion that reduces a person's ability to perform work safely and effectively. It can occur because of prolonged or intense physical or mental activity, sleep loss and/or disruption of the internal body clock. Signs of fatigue include:

- Tiredness even after sleep

- Reduced hand-eye coordination or slow reflexes
- Short term memory problems and an inability to concentrate
- Blurred vision or impaired visual perception
- A need for extended sleep during days off work
- Increased irritability
- Falling asleep at work
- Excessive head nodding or yawning
- Near misses

#### **5. WHAT CAN CAUSE FATIGUE?:**

- Long periods of work
- Inadequate rest breaks
- Not enough time to recover between work periods
- Very strenuous jobs and long commuting times
- Disruption of circadian rhythms
- Environmental stresses (noise, vibration)

#### **6. FATIGUE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- Teams can mitigate the risks of fatigue by developing a practical fatigue management plan that matches the demands of their roles
- Steps are to identify the particular causes of fatigue and finding solutions; for example:
- Where long distance driving is required to undertake ranging or check wetlands, take a volunteer ranger or retired ranger with you to share driving and provide extra support
- Manage staff workloads to reduce the need to work for extended periods
- Eliminate or reduce the need to work long shifts for more than 3 consecutive days
- Be aware of the fatiguing effects of drift diving and find solutions to reduce the risk of accidents following drift diving
- Making sure that there is at least 10 hours between the end of one workday and the start of the next
- Ensuring that staff work no more than 14 hours in a day
- Ensuring that there is no more than 10 consecutive days of work
- Ensuring that staff take holidays on a regular basis and are not stockpiling annual leave without the written agreement with their manager
- Ensuring that any TOIL accumulated is taken within the agreed period and not accumulated

## 9. GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

28 January 2025

### 1. Purpose

To review Council's goals and priorities for the 2024-2025 year and identify changes in priorities or work areas and projects that Council would like to see incorporated into the 2025-2026 Operational Work Plan.

### 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 may include seeking Council's approval for a business case, seeking additional funding for a project or specific purpose that needs NZC's approval.

This year is the first year of NZC's plans in implementing a "zero based concept" for budgeting. The implementation of this new to F&G process is over 2 years.

Based on the new steps involved, the process and schedule for the 2025-2026 Operational Work Plan (OWP) will be as follows:

1. Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (this 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 **13 March**.
3. Week of **17 March**, 1:1 discussion with Regional CE and NZC CEO and CFO to discuss budget and operational costs.
4. **28 March**, Regional Budgets and summaries circulated back to Regions.
5. Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of NZC budget reviews and summaries on **28 March** and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its **29 May** meeting.
6. NZC Council Meeting on **11 April**, will review impact of regional budgets on Licence Fee.
7. **29 May** Eastern Fish and Game Council review and accept changes made to budget and proposed Licence Fee submission.
8. The second draft of the OWP is considered at the May meeting and projects, budgets and targets are reviewed and refined as necessary.
9. **30 May**, All regional responses on Licence Fee proposal returned to NZC.
10. This draft is then circulated to clubs and other interested parties for comment if they wish to.
11. 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**.

As indicated above, the operational planning cycle commences now with a review of current priorities and goals. Council needs to determine whether changes to these are needed within the next OWP year in response to changing circumstances and/or other factors. **Decisions on this are needed now so that staff can undertake initial planning and costing of projects.**

### 3. Current (2024-2025) Priorities

- A. **Access** - making it easier for anglers and hunters to locate and utilise resources;
- B. **Increasing revenue** – through increasing participation and developing alternative sources of income;
- C. **Maximising fishery opportunities**;
- D. **Water quality and quantity** – addressing in particular, the pressures on our free-flowing water resources and the water quality of the Rotorua lakes.
- E. **Enhancement of habitat for greylard production** – in particular, activities that increase duck numbers and as a result, hunter opportunities;

At successive February Council meetings over the years, Council has concluded that the key regional priorities for the following year have remained the same. It was acknowledged that some of Council's priorities continue to be of greater importance than others, for example, those that are critical to maintaining the viability and operational sustainability of Fish & Game. Higher priorities are considered to be **Access**, **Maximising Fishery Opportunities**, and **Increasing Revenue**, the arguments being that without access to sports fish and game bird resources the opportunities available to many licence holders are limited, and without adequate revenue we are unable to perform many of the operational undertakings needed to provide sustainable populations of sports fish and game birds for licence holders to harvest. **Maximising fishery opportunities** was seen as a means of increasing participation, and revenue.

The Council also undertakes to support the aspirational outcomes of NZ Fish & Game and bears these in mind when preparing its OWP each year. These aspirations are:

- **Unified and Enduring Organisation** - a national and regionally cohesive organisation built on a culture of shared values, trust and engagement. Delivering on a vision and purpose for stakeholders and Mana Whenua. Maintaining the statutory mandates that enable effective service delivery.
- **Attract and Retain Licence Holders** - deliver well-valued and cost-effective experience for licence holders by understanding their needs, providing simple and effective communication, making fishing and game bird hunting more attractive to a wider group of future participants.
- **Mana Whenua Connected** - Māori values are understood and reflected within Fish and Game with aligned advocacy and a positive collaborative approach that builds upon Te Tiriti obligations defined in Conservation Act.
- **Public Perception and Legitimacy** - understanding and reshaping public perception of Fish & Game NZ, angling and game bird hunting through positive messaging of natural environment protection, wild food harvesting and well-being through outdoor recreation.
- **Healthy Species, Habitats, and Ecosystems** - Sports fish and game bird species are monitored and sustainably managed, freshwater habitats are protected, and access to sustainable wild harvest opportunities are secured for future generations.

Over the years we have gained a much greater understanding of what can and can't be influenced in terms of achieving the outcomes Council is seeking, and with this understanding we have adaptively managed our approach and refined projects or changed our focus more towards what can be done.

This year, we have approached our priorities by way of the risks that we face. After discussions and inputs from staff, I have created an approach that looks at the risks that we face within the band of each of our priorities. This process has led me to make some slight changes to our

priorities and I am hoping that Council will engage in a robust discussion of ideas and thoughts generated by this approach.

Fish and Game Councils main purpose is:

***“Manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.”***

In fulfilling this purpose, the primary functions of Fish and Game Councils are to:

1. Assess and monitor sports fish and game bird populations, habitats and harvests.
2. Assess and monitor angler and hunter satisfaction.
3. Maintain and improve the sports fish and game bird resource.
4. Provide information and promote angling and hunting.
5. Represent the interests of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process.
6. Give cause to the Treaty of Waitangi

### **Risks Identified**

1. **Climate Change.**
  - a. Extreme Weather Events
  - b. Slips & Malicious damage at Hatchery
  - c. Sedimentation in waterways effecting sports fish and game bird habitat
2. **Threats to game/fish populations**
  - a. Pest species (fish/weed/algae/virus) invasion
  - b. Bird Flu
  - c. Gold Clams
  - d. Perch/ catfish spread
3. **Statutory Changes**
  - a. Wildlife Act
  - b. Conservation Act
  - c. RMA -NBEA
  - d. Treaty of Waitangi
4. **Power Companies & Societal need for electricity**
5. **Forestry and Carbon Farming**
6. **Social Licence**
  - a. Public perception of F&G
  - b. Perceptions of trout
  - c. Perceptions around hunting and fishing (catch & release)
7. **Cultural views**
  - a. Iwi views on trout and licence fee for fishing
  - b. Population diversity & increasingly urbanization
  - c. Perceived value of introduced species
8. **Land Use & Development**
9. **Conflicting stakeholder aspirations**
  - a. Access
  - b. Management of resource
  - c. Hatchery operations – regulation and future need
10. **Limited and Declining Revenue**
  - a. Licence structure
  - b. Number of licence options
  - c. Direct Debit payment
  - d. New Pandemic



## 2025 Priorities Risk Table

Priorities	Risks	Rank 1-5 (1-high)	Opportunities from Risks
Access	Climate Change	1	Collaboration Improve access, success & regulation Maintain Trout as valued introduced species by promoting the environmental benefits of F&G, the economic value of freshwater angling and the mental health benefit. Develop relationships Water Quality Improvement & Access Opportunities Paid Surveys and habitat enhancement Positive narrative Immigrant fishing opportunities
	Iwi Aspirations	1	
	Declining Revenue	1	
	Statutory Changes	2	
	Land Use Changes	2	
	Forestry	3	
	Power Companies	4	
	Social Licence	4	
National Cultural Changes	4		
Increasing Revenue	Climate Change	1	Collaboration Improve access, success & regulation Maintain Trout as valued introduced species by promoting the environmental benefits of F&G, the economic value of freshwater angling and the mental health benefit. Develop relationships Water Quality Improvement & Access Opportunities Paid Surveys and habitat enhancement Positive narrative Immigrant fishing opportunities
	Iwi Aspirations	1	
	Declining Revenue	1	
	Statutory Changes	2	
	Land Use Changes	2	
	Forestry	3	
	Power Companies	4	
	Social Licence	4	
National Cultural Changes	4		
Maximising Fishery	Climate Change	1	Collaboration Improve access, success & regulation Maintain Trout as valued introduced species by promoting the environmental benefits of F&G, the economic value of freshwater angling and the mental health benefit. Develop relationships Water Quality Improvement & Access Opportunities
	Iwi Aspirations	1	
	Declining Revenue	1	
	Statutory Changes	2	
	Land Use Changes	2	
	Forestry	3	
Species Management	Climate Change	1	Collaboration Improve access, success & regulation Maintain Trout as valued introduced species by promoting the environmental benefits of F&G, the economic value of freshwater angling and the mental health benefit. Develop relationships Water Quality Improvement & Access Opportunities Paid Surveys and habitat enhancement Positive narrative Immigrant fishing opportunities
	Iwi Aspirations	1	
	Declining Revenue	1	
	Statutory Changes	2	
	Land Use Changes	2	
	Forestry	3	
	Power Companies	4	
	Social Licence	4	
National Cultural Changes	4		
Water Quality & Quantity	Climate Change	1	Develop relationships Water Quality Improvement & Access Opportunities Paid Surveys and habitat enhancement
	Land Use Changes	2	
	Forestry	3	
	Power Companies	4	
Greyland Habitat Enhancement	Climate Change	1	Improve access, success & regulation Develop relationships Water Quality Improvement & Access Opportunities Paid Surveys and habitat enhancement
	Declining Revenue	1	
	Land Use Changes	2	
	Forestry	3	
	Power Companies	4	

2025 - 26 Risk v Threat v Opportunity v Priority Table

**Risks v Threat v Opportunities v Priorities**

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Threat</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Who &amp; What</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Priorities</b>
<b>Access</b>	Reduced access means less opportunities and increase in effort to fish or hunt leading to reduction in licence sales/revenue	Maintain or create or re-open access which increases opportunity	Forestry, DoC, Iwi	Continue to work and have relationship with orgs to help create opportunity for creating or re-engaging access.	<b>Increased opportunity</b> leads to increase in satisfaction of F&G work leads to <b>increase revenue</b> - R3 - Reactivate, Retain, Recruit
<b>Compliance</b>	Reduction in revenue, negative impact on sustainable management of species, loss of respect and value of F&G's work	Engaged licence holders & increasing licence sales	Education of role F&G plays to manage sustainable harvest of fisheries and gamebird	Encouraging school visits, supporting RBHS outdoor/fishing program, supporting Youth Centre Fishing program	Social licence promotion, R3 - Retain & Recruit, <b>Increase Revenue</b>
<b>Bio Security Threats</b>	Reduction/closure of access, resulting less opportunity	Build respected, valued & professional relationships	Have plan in place by using 30 years of science and data	Work collaboratively with MPI, DOC, Iwi, BOPRC	Iwi respect, professionally respected, valued work & authority
<b>Declining Revenue</b>	Reduction of our ability to manage, maintain and enhance the species and habitat. Unable to perform statutory responsibilities. Reduction in maintaining opportunity, managing the species to fish & hunt and compliance ranging. All leading to anti R3 (decline in retention, decline in reactivation and nonexistence of recruitment) equalling failure and closure of F&G	Promote benefits and environmental outcomes of fishing & hunting to increase engagement (R3- Reactivate, Recruit, Retain) and donations	NZC - national campaigns, social media, news articles, building relationships with tourism operators, schools, other relevant and supportive organisations	Increase licence sales and societal support for F&G by increasing public and corporate donations.	Social licence, professionally respected and acknowledgment as an authority in freshwater and gamebird management and enhancement
<b>Iwi Aspirations of Managing Fisheries</b>	Loss of managing fisheries (Waikaremoana and Rotorua Lakes Area), leading to loss of licence sales and revenue, leading to loss ability to perform duties leading to possible closure of EF&G	To keep us relevant and a needed partner/organisation to help manage sustainable fishing & hunting for current and future generations. To be seen as a professional, engaging and valued entity.	Build engaging, respectful and valued relationships	Showing skill, professionalism and passion for environment & sustainable kia gathering while supporting balanced eco systems	Social licence promotion, increasing revenue, increased compliance and strengthen iwi relationships

## Proposed 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** – 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 Greylard Production and Habitat** – Using good science, historical trends and surveys to best support and improve production, habitat, species management and sustainable harvest.

### A. Regional Priority: Access

#### Proposed 2025-26 OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Secure and Maintain Physical Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain current access tracks to the Rangitaiki River and its tributaries (and continue to investigate new opportunities there), the Waiioeka, Tarawera, Whirinaki and Waikaretaheke Rivers, and the Ngongotaha and Waiteti Streams.</li> <li>• Allocate balloted hunting stands.</li> <li>• Advocate for improved access through forestry and resolution of identified captured access areas.</li> <li>• Submit to regional/district plans for improved angler/hunter access.</li> <li>• Continue to advocate for greater access to the Rangitaiki River fishery.</li> <li>• Liaise with the Walking Access Commission and lobby for provision for public access in Treaty of Waitangi Settlements and Overseas Investment Act sale and purchase conditions.</li> <li>• Maintain the Fish &amp; Game hut at Wairua Stream.</li> </ul>
Provide Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade signs to brand specifications where required, check annually and replace as required, and maintain signage database.</li> <li>• Update access pamphlets and website as required to ensure angling and hunting access information readily available.</li> </ul>
Web & App Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support NZC to facilitate best technology for sharing of access mapping, regulatory information and ‘how-to’ seminars through Website and Social media platforms.</li> <li>• Support NZC to investigate development of an ‘App’ to share access, regulatory and upskilling information.</li> <li>• Create QR code stickers to attach to existing signs to share access, regulatory and upskilling information.</li> </ul>

**B. Regional Priority: Increasing Revenue*****Proposed 2025-26 OWP***

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Niche Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct further research into ‘licence churn’, establish reasons why particular demographics drop out (e.g. first time licence holders and young adults), and devise strategies to reduce this.</li> <li>• Develop and implement regional R3 strategies (retention, recruitment, reactivation) in accordance with national initiatives to maintain and increase participation.</li> <li>• Investigate ways of increasing sales of licences to non-resident anglers.</li> </ul>
Promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate and develop strategies with Destination Rotorua and other marketing agencies.</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for promoting hunting and fishing in partnership with organisations such as travel agencies, accommodation providers, real estate agencies, and hunting and fishing outlets.</li> <li>• Investigate means of, or incentives for agents to up sell licence types.</li> </ul>
Opportunity Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise the profile of under-utilised fisheries e.g. Waikato River, and develop and market ‘new’ opportunities e.g. summer river fisheries.</li> </ul>
Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to contribute to a national Licence Working Party and explore opportunities for increasing revenue via fine tuning licence categories and/or pricing of such.</li> </ul>
Other sources of Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for generating additional revenue via other means e.g. hire and/or rental of facilities including Octagon, Conference Room, group visits and contracting out staff services.</li> </ul>
Education Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate education partnerships with local high schools and Youth Centre</li> <li>• Investigate creating a scholarship program.</li> </ul>
R3 Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with NZC to create a national; R3 program.</li> <li>• Update regional R3 action plan to reflect national priorities filtering into regional activities.</li> </ul>
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a sufficient level of participant contact to ensure the protection and sustainability of fisheries.</li> </ul>
Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make fishing licences readily available and continue to investigate licence holder behaviour and licence holders’ needs.</li> </ul>

### **C. Regional Priority: Enhancing Fishery Opportunities**

#### ***Proposed 2025-26 OWP***

<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Projects/Programmes</i></b>
Species Monitoring and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor growth and performance of liberations into lake fisheries via the Datawatch programme.</li> <li>• Monitor the Lake Rotorua, Ngongotaha, and Ohau Channel fisheries.</li> <li>• Monitor the Lake Waikaremoana fishery.</li> <li>• Monitor Lake Tarawera wild spawning runs.</li> <li>• Assess smelt abundance in Lake Tarawera.</li> <li>• Continue research into factors affecting trout growth and survival in Lake Tarawera.</li> <li>• Provide support to external research projects aimed at better understanding lake fisheries.</li> </ul>
Harvest Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake lake fisheries creel surveys to monitor angler catch and satisfaction and Opening Day surveys to evaluate stocking programmes.</li> <li>• Extend current programme on Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to some of the smaller fisheries (Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu) resources permitting.</li> </ul>
Hatchery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce c70,000 quality fish to maintain trout fisheries within the region.</li> </ul>
Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain/enhance sports fish resources by reviewing and refining where necessary, the Anglers Notice using a policy driven review process.</li> <li>• Look for opportunities to increase participation and remove barriers to fishing by simplifying regulations in some fisheries.</li> </ul>
RMA planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represent anglers in water quality and quantity planning and consenting processes and advocate for improved habitat, angling experience and access opportunities.</li> </ul>
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and enhance access, and publicise more widely.</li> <li>• Increase angler communication and information sharing using social media platforms and identify options for increasing participation.</li> <li>• Support children's and adult fishing programmes, angler training and angling competitions, and maintain club relations.</li> <li>• Continue to promote and review Lake McLaren fishery.</li> </ul>
Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor trout populations, water clarity and other measures of water quality in regional river fisheries including the Rangitaiki River and communicate water quality issues to Regional Council and community consultation groups.</li> <li>• Participate in collaborative processes and submit on water allocation processes in planning and consenting matters on sensitive waters.</li> </ul>
Lakes Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue Rotorua lakes fisheries monitoring programmes and participate in fisheries research projects.</li> <li>• Monitor and support the Waikaremoana water quality buoy programme.</li> <li>• Participate in Rotorua lakes' collaborative processes and use creel survey and NAS results to advocate for improved water quality.</li> </ul>

**D. Regional Priority: Improvement of Greylard Production and Habitat****2025-26 OWP**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Species Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor greylard populations via trapping/banding, brood counts and game bird hunter surveys to investigate productivity, survival, harvest and movements.</li><li>• Review game season conditions and make changes where needed to address issues impacting on greylard populations and productivity.</li><li>• Contribute to national research programmes on mallards.</li><li>• Refine as appropriate the draft regional five-year strategic research and management work plan for greylards.</li></ul>
Wildlife Management Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement, monitor, and refine if necessary, the annual maintenance strategy supported in part by a habitat management fee levied on ballot holders.</li><li>• Review rotational maintenance programmes undertaken by staff in Fish &amp; Game managed wetlands and re-assess/confirm existing priorities.</li></ul>
Assisted Habitat on Non-Public Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage in statutory planning processes and make submissions to regional and district plans to amend rules that are barriers to habitat enhancement or hunter opportunities, and support or oppose consent applications that impact on game bird habitat values or hunter access.</li><li>• Develop positive working relationships with landowners and other parties with an interest or involvement in rural land management including local and regional authorities, DOC, Federated Farmers, Fonterra, Dairy NZ, Horticulture NZ and Forest Managers.</li></ul>
Habitat Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide advice to enable and encourage hunters/landowners to develop quality, productive wetland habitat.</li><li>• Advocate for better drain management and enhance habitat in drainage canals.</li><li>• Provide advice on enhancement of stock ponds and implement enhancement projects.</li><li>• Retain involvement with Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and oversee appropriate projects.</li></ul>
Social and rural media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use media to encourage the creation and enhancement of wetland habitats.</li></ul>

### **Regional support for New Zealand Council operational outcomes**

The NZ Council has long had a focus on increasing public awareness and support of Fish & Game as managers of sports fish and game bird resources, and as advocates for the interests of anglers and hunters. Protecting and enhancing habitats and access to wild areas and resources is an important and fundamental role of Eastern Fish & Game. In addition to this the Council contributes significant regional resources to supporting national projects associated with species monitoring and management, public awareness, compliance, licensing and administrative (e.g. financial management) outputs.

#### **2025-26 OWP**

<b><i>Project Area</i></b>	<b><i>Projects/Objectives</i></b>
Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribute to the national public awareness network and support national public awareness events.</li><li>• Manage our website and use social media to increase awareness of Fish &amp; Game activities.</li><li>• Produce regular media releases and support the NZ Council Communication Advisers.</li><li>• Engage and communicate with the rural community and landowners.</li><li>• Promote Fish &amp; Game at appropriate events and in the rural media.</li><li>• Give presentations to schools and outside organisations and use the Ngongotaha hatchery and grounds to promote Fish &amp; Game to the wider public.</li></ul>
Statutory Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manager to periodically meet with senior local and regional authority managers, senior DOC staff, Conservation Boards, and MPs where appropriate.</li><li>• Meet periodically with Te Urewera iwi entities towards the development of a MOU with Eastern Region Fish &amp; Game.</li><li>• Develop a closer/more formal working relationship with Te Arawa. Provide support to the NZ Fish &amp; Game representative at the Taupo Fisheries Advisory Committee meetings.</li></ul>
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Rotorua lakes via Regional Council planning and collaborative processes.</li><li>• Utilise river investigation projects to advocate for improved water quality in key regional rivers.</li><li>• Review and support/oppose plans and consents that impact significantly upon sports fish/game bird habitat values, or angler and hunter access.</li><li>• Maintain inventory of wetlands, assess their vulnerability and identify wetland deficient areas and opportunities for enhancement through stakeholder collaborative processes.</li></ul>
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocate for improved access and submit to the Walking Access Commission on key issues, and ensure provision for public access is made in relevant Treaty of Waitangi settlements.</li></ul>

#### **4. Concluding Remark**

As previous Councils have noted, one of the most challenging elements of the business planning process for Council is not so much concerned with identifying new projects, programmes or priorities it wants to introduce to next or future years' operational work plans, but to identifying what programmes it would drop or scale back in order to accommodate the proposed changes.

#### **5. Recommendation**

***5.1 That Council reviews its priorities and programmes for the 2024-2025 year, and identifies any changes it wishes to see incorporated into its draft operational work plan for the 2025-2026 year.***



## 10. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

### 10.1 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

20 January 2024

#### 1. Purpose

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

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 31 December 2024
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 31 December 2024
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions November and December 2024
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions November and December 2024

#### 2. YTD Profit and Loss

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

#### *Summary*

The net position YTD is \$377,219 surplus against a YTD budgeted surplus of 327,165, net variance \$50,054 (surplus).

The net variance of \$50,054 is a result of income received being higher than that budgeted by \$61,463, and increased expenditure \$11,409.

<b>Income</b>	<b>Var YTD</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Var YTD</b>
Licence Sales	42,710 ▲	Depreciation	2,240 ▼
Other Income	18,754 ▲	Operating Expenses	1,286 ▲
		Administration Expenses	12,363 ▲
	<b>61,463 ▲</b>		<b>11,409 ▲</b>
		<b>Net</b>	<b>50,054 ▲</b>

A more detailed summary is provided in the following notes.

#### *Income*

##### **Licence Sales**

Licence revenue continues to be positive at \$42,710 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 \$72,765 and is made up of the following:

Hatchery	\$36,478	Diversion - Jnr Programmes	\$50
Habitat maintenance fees	\$2,621	Contracts	\$9,200
Fines	\$828	Fishing competitions	\$596
Fish food, tours	\$363	Interest General	\$3,280
Donations	\$4,877	Rentals	\$13,602
BOPRC Mowing	\$870	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$72,765</b>

Other income is currently ahead of budget \$18,754 YTD. The Council has received a kind donation from The Agrodome of \$4,000 from their recent local's day where Fish & Game held a stand to promote what we do, Arash Alaeinia manned the stand for the day. The organisers wanted to support a local community group and felt that the work we do here for the community was a worthy cause. Income from staff contracts is increased due to an increase in support for Hawke's Bay Fish & Game required to complete their annual financial statements and audit file. Rental income is also ahead of budget with the securing of the tenant for the fire store for the year.

## **Species Management**

The Population Monitoring expenditure shown in December is related to the purchase of the fish tags for the Datawatch programme and grain for duck banding. An expense is also reported for the review and analysis of the echo-sounding undertaken on Lake Tarawera in November.

The final Game Hunter Survey costs were processed to the Harvest Assessment budget.

The most significant Hatchery costs reported during the period related to fish food (\$6,706) and vehicle maintenance (\$1,531). Other expenditure included fuel, electricity, vehicle registrations, an eDNA kit, general maintenance materials, and oxygen

Species Management expenditure is over budget YTD (\$4,400) in part to increases in insurance for the hatchery, and unanticipated vehicle repairs.

## **Habitat**

A small expense is shown with Works & Management budgets related minor equipment purchases (\$80). Within budget YTD.

## **Participation**

Participation spending over the period related to access signs, sticker overlays, and materials for a new style for Ngongotaha stream access. Electricity costs for the Waikaremoana hut is also reported. Within budget YTD.

## **Public Interface**

The spending within the Public Interface output was related a pre-Christmas EDM promoting licence sales. Grounds maintenance also sits within this area and costs were incurred relating to cleaning of the public toilets, asphalt for the grounds. The negative shown is a result of staff being invoiced for F&G camo buffs, a direct reimbursement of costs. \$11 over budget YTD.

### ***Compliance***

Compliance expenditure relates to the usual 0800 Poaching service and cell phone costs. Legal expenses were incurred relating to five prosecutions. Over budget YTD \$710 due to increased prosecution costs during the period.

### ***Licensing***

Licensing costs include agent commissions, and the fees associated with the Public Online sales. Within budget YTD.

### ***Council***

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to the November and December meetings and include travel reimbursement, catering, small gifts to acknowledge Council contribution for Christmas and for departing Councillors. Over budget YTD \$1,137.

### ***Planning***

Planning costs related to the audit fee (\$10,547) and this was accrued into the 2023-2024 financial year, NZC Levies (\$22,993), and minor cost associated with meetings, car parking, "Take a Mate" fishing licences, and an EDM to licence holders for the 150 YRS day licence promotion. Within budget YTD.

### ***Administration***

Salaries	Overbudget YTD \$5,537. Annual leave is now being 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 with Auckland Waikato/Eastern staff BBQ, Christmas BBQ, and food for Waikaremoana and Waioeka work. Various additional PPE items were purchased through the Health & Safety budget as directed by the NZ Office for use when handling birds should Avian Influenza arrive in New Zealand. Over budget YTD \$263.
Staff Houses	Staff Houses expenses related to small Christmas gifts for tenants, and Real Estate agent commissions. An expense is also reported in November relating to an adjustment to GST claimed on the Real Estate Commissions (\$1,242), this is not claimable as the income from these properties is exempt of GST. Overspent YTD (\$2,027) due to higher than anticipated rates and insurance costs.
Office Premises	Expenses for the period related to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring. Overspent YTD (\$562) 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 \$268.
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, postage, courier and photocopying. Over budget YTD \$75.
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. The negative figure shown in December is a

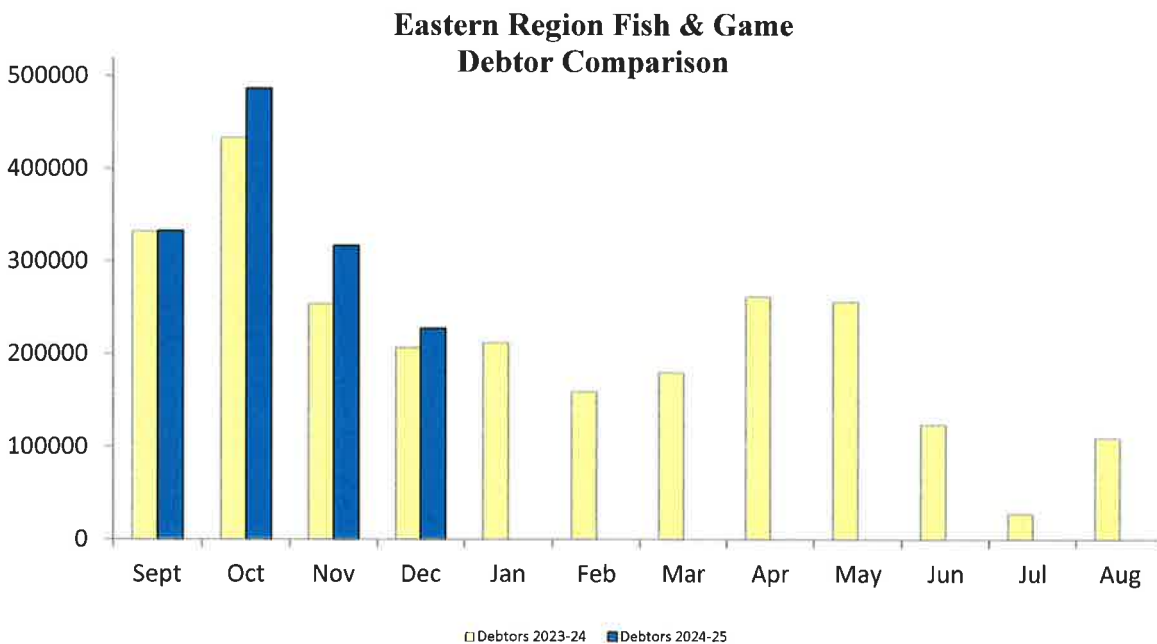
	credit resulting from an adjustment to our insurance policy. Overbudget YTD (\$1,121) due primarily to increased insurance premiums.
General Equipment	Maintenance spending related to trailer WoF's and replacement tyres, life jacket servicing, and variance maintenance materials. Expenses are also reported for the Seaflux subscription, and fuel. The overspend YTD of \$1,688 is due to timing of equipment purchases and is expected to reduce as the year progresses.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period related to three vehicle service, five registrations, RUC's, and fuel. Two vehicles required replacement sets of tyres during the period. The vehicles budgets are over budget YTD (\$1,358) which is due to increased insurance and servicing costs.

**Cash Position: As at 31 December 2024**

\$ 1,000,478 (includes \$60,942 Asset Replacement Reserve)  
\$ 474,600 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)  
**\$ 1,475,078 Total**

**Debtors:** Outstanding Debtors \$226,966 as at 31 December 2024 (\$206,664 as at 31 December 2023).

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



Four minor debts totalling under \$400 have been followed up by administration staff. One licence agency is overdue \$183 and this is also being followed up. No concerns.

**3. Variance Report (Table 1)**

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

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

as at 31 December 2024															
Schedule B	Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	Variance	%
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
	1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 44,500	\$ 12,317	2,170	628	\$ 157,954	\$ 49,240	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 202,454	\$ 61,557	\$ 140,896	\$ 30.4	
	1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 720	700	432	\$ 50,953	\$ 33,872	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,853	\$ 34,592	\$ 19,260	\$ 64.2	
	1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 98,750	\$ 48,306	3,108	958	\$ 226,230	\$ 75,115	\$ 68,000	\$ 37,099	\$ 256,980	\$ 86,322	\$ 170,658	\$ 33.6	
	1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	141	\$ 9,754	\$ 11,056	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,754	\$ 11,056	\$ (1,302)	\$ 113.3	
	1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	80	31	\$ 5,823	\$ 2,431	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,823	\$ 2,431	\$ 3,393	\$ 41.7	
	1180	Control	\$ 400	\$ -	36	9	\$ 2,620	\$ 706	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,020	\$ 706	\$ 2,315	\$ 23.4	
		<b>TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>\$ 146,550</b>	<b>\$ 61,343</b>	<b>6,228</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>\$ 453,334</b>	<b>\$ 172,420</b>	<b>\$ 68,000</b>	<b>\$ 37,099</b>	<b>\$ 531,984</b>	<b>\$ 196,664</b>	<b>\$ 335,220</b>	<b>\$ 37.0</b>	
	1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,504	548	\$ 109,476	\$ 42,968	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 109,476	\$ 42,968	\$ 66,508	\$ 39.2	
	1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 3,190	950	378	\$ 69,150	\$ 29,638	\$ 11,650	\$ 12,339	\$ 75,000	\$ 20,489	\$ 54,511	\$ 27.3	
	1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 700	\$ -	658	127	\$ 47,896	\$ 9,958	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,596	\$ 9,958	\$ 38,638	\$ 20.5	
	1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	10	\$ 5,241	\$ 784	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,241	\$ 784	\$ 4,457	\$ 15.0	
	1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
		<b>TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION &amp; M</b>	<b>\$ 18,200</b>	<b>\$ 3,190</b>	<b>3,164</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>\$ 231,762</b>	<b>\$ 83,348</b>	<b>\$ 11,650</b>	<b>\$ 12,339</b>	<b>\$ 238,312</b>	<b>\$ 74,199</b>	<b>\$ 164,113</b>	<b>\$ 31.1</b>	
	1310	Access	\$ 5,300	\$ 783	664	328	\$ 48,332	\$ 25,718	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,632	\$ 26,501	\$ 27,131	\$ 49.4	
	1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	306	50	\$ 22,274	\$ 3,920	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,274	\$ 3,920	\$ 18,353	\$ 17.6	
	1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ -	30	2	\$ 2,184	\$ 157	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,184	\$ 157	\$ 4,027	\$ 3.7	
	1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 530	805	166	\$ 58,596	\$ 13,016	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,029	\$ 52,446	\$ 11,517	\$ 40,929	\$ 22.0	
	1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	36	8	\$ 2,620	\$ 627	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,620	\$ 627	\$ 1,993	\$ 23.9	
	1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 332	50	8	\$ 3,639	\$ 627	\$ 400	\$ 313	\$ 4,689	\$ 646	\$ 4,043	\$ 13.8	
		<b>TOTAL - ANGLER &amp; HUNTER PART C</b>	<b>\$ 9,600</b>	<b>\$ 1,645</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>\$ 137,645</b>	<b>\$ 44,065</b>	<b>\$ 7,400</b>	<b>\$ 2,342</b>	<b>\$ 139,845</b>	<b>\$ 43,368</b>	<b>\$ 96,477</b>	<b>\$ 31.0</b>	
	1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	208	32	\$ 15,140	\$ 2,509	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,140	\$ 2,509	\$ 12,631	\$ 16.6	
	1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	184	36	\$ 13,393	\$ 2,823	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,393	\$ 2,823	\$ 10,571	\$ 21.1	
	1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 345	17	17	\$ 10,627	\$ 1,333	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,627	\$ 1,678	\$ 9,949	\$ 14.4	
	1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 316	681	118	\$ 49,570	\$ 9,252	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,070	\$ 9,568	\$ 40,502	\$ 19.1	
		<b>TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ 661</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>\$ 88,731</b>	<b>\$ 15,917</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 90,231</b>	<b>\$ 16,578</b>	<b>\$ 73,653</b>	<b>\$ 18.4</b>	
	1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,215	946	286	\$ 68,859	\$ 22,425	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,859	\$ 23,640	\$ 46,219	\$ 33.8	
	1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 7	108	4	\$ 7,861	\$ 314	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,861	\$ 320	\$ 8,541	\$ 3.6	
	1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,789	329	70	\$ 23,948	\$ 5,489	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,100	\$ 22,948	\$ 5,178	\$ 17,770	\$ 22.6	
		<b>TOTAL - COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,011</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>\$ 100,668</b>	<b>\$ 28,227</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,100</b>	<b>\$ 101,668</b>	<b>\$ 29,138</b>	<b>\$ 72,530</b>	<b>\$ 28.7</b>	
	1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 65	144	39	\$ 10,492	\$ 3,058	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,082	\$ 3,123	\$ 7,959	\$ 28.2	
	1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	113	11	\$ 8,225	\$ 862	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,225	\$ 862	\$ 7,363	\$ 10.5	
		<b>TOTAL - LICENSING</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>	<b>\$ 65</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$ 18,707</b>	<b>\$ 3,920</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 19,307</b>	<b>\$ 3,985</b>	<b>\$ 15,322</b>	<b>\$ 20.5</b>	
	1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	8	2	\$ 562	\$ 157	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 582	\$ 157	\$ 426	\$ 26.9	
	1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,137	731	189	\$ 53,209	\$ 15,603	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,709	\$ 18,740	\$ 40,969	\$ 31.4	
		<b>TOTAL - COUNCILS</b>	<b>\$ 6,500</b>	<b>\$ 3,137</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>\$ 53,792</b>	<b>\$ 15,760</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 60,292</b>	<b>\$ 18,997</b>	<b>\$ 41,394</b>	<b>\$ 31.3</b>	
	1810	Management Planning	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,109	290	190	\$ 21,109	\$ 14,898	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,109	\$ 16,007	\$ 10,102	\$ 61.3	
	1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	104	7	\$ 7,570	\$ 549	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,570	\$ 549	\$ 7,021	\$ 7.3	
	1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 10,942	\$ -	486	164	\$ 35,376	\$ 12,859	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,318	\$ 12,859	\$ 33,459	\$ 27.8	
	1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ 54	330	102	\$ 24,021	\$ 7,998	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,121	\$ 8,052	\$ 16,069	\$ 33.4	
		<b>TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	<b>\$ 16,042</b>	<b>\$ 1,163</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>\$ 88,075</b>	<b>\$ 36,303</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 104,117</b>	<b>\$ 37,466</b>	<b>\$ 66,651</b>	<b>\$ 36.0</b>	
			\$ 204,992	\$ 74,215	16,111	5,101	\$ 1,172,714	\$ 399,951	\$ 92,050	\$ 53,880	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 420,296	\$ 865,360	\$ 32.7	

Table 1 Cont...	EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		%
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
<b>OVERHEADS</b>							
1910	\$ 1,069,594	\$ 358,780	\$ 25,680	\$ 9,200	\$ 1,043,914	\$ 349,580	33.5
1920	\$ 41,500	\$ 3,803	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,500	\$ 3,803	9.2
1930	\$ 17,550	\$ 12,085	\$ 60,000	\$ 25,109	\$ (42,450)	\$ (13,024)	30.7
1940	\$ 24,550	\$ 12,480	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,550	\$ 12,480	50.8
1950	\$ 3,400	\$ 964	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,400	\$ 2,436	28.4
1960	\$ 14,400	\$ 5,326	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,400	\$ 9,074	37.0
1970	\$ 13,150	\$ 12,839	\$ 1,500	\$ 7,014	\$ 11,650	\$ 5,825	50.0
1980	\$ 19,050	\$ 10,502	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,050	\$ 8,548	55.1
1990	\$ 56,700	\$ 24,505	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,700	\$ 32,195	43.2
	\$ 1,259,894	\$ 441,284	\$ 87,180	\$ 41,323	\$ 1,172,714	\$ 399,961	34.1
<b>Total Overhead Net Cost</b>							
					\$ 1,172,714	\$ 399,961	
<b>Total Outputs Staff Hours</b>							
					16,111	5,101	
<b>Internal Cost Per Hour</b>							
					72.79	78.41	

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

Schedule C	EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		%
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
1	\$ 146,550	\$ 61,343	\$ 2,199	\$ 453,334	\$ 172,420	\$ 68,000	\$ 531,884	\$ 196,664	37.0
2	\$ 18,200	\$ 3,190	1,063	\$ 231,762	\$ 83,348	\$ 11,650	\$ 238,312	\$ 74,199	31.1
3	\$ 9,600	\$ 1,645	562	\$ 137,645	\$ 44,065	\$ 7,400	\$ 139,845	\$ 43,368	31.0
4	\$ 1,500	\$ 661	203	\$ 88,731	\$ 15,917	\$ -	\$ 90,231	\$ 16,578	18.4
5	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,011	360	\$ 100,668	\$ 28,227	\$ 5,000	\$ 101,668	\$ 29,138	28.7
6	\$ 600	\$ 65	50	\$ 18,707	\$ 3,920	\$ -	\$ 19,307	\$ 3,985	20.6
7	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,137	201	\$ 53,792	\$ 15,760	\$ -	\$ 60,292	\$ 18,897	31.3
8	\$ 16,042	\$ 1,163	463	\$ 88,075	\$ 36,303	\$ -	\$ 104,117	\$ 37,466	36.0
9			2,049						
	\$ 204,992	\$ 74,215	7,150	\$ 1,172,714	\$ 399,961	\$ 92,050	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 420,296	33%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>									
<b>Licence Income 2024-2025</b>									
2024-25 Fish Licence Income									
	\$ 1,134,459	\$ 856,329							
	\$ -	\$ 45,378							
	\$ 1,089,081	\$ 856,329							
2024 Game Licence Income									
	\$ 267,269	\$ 21,381							
	\$ -	\$ 10,692							
	\$ 266,577	\$ 21,381							
<b>Total Licence Income</b>									
	\$ 1,401,728	\$ 877,710							
<b>Total Commission</b>									
	\$ -	\$ 28,838							
<b>Total Net 2024-25 Licence Revenue</b>									
	\$ 1,345,658	\$ 848,872							

% year complete		% of OWP budget spent	
OWP Bulk Fund	Actual Net Cost YTD	Actual Net Cost YTD	% of OWP budget spent
	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 420,296	33%
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget			
	\$ (34,340)	\$ (4,139)	
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies			
	\$ 91,972	\$ 22,993	
Less Licence Revenue			
	\$ (1,401,728)	\$ (877,710)	
Plus Commission Expense			
	\$ 56,070	\$ 28,838	
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation			
	\$ (14,761)	\$ -	
Depreciation			
	\$ 94,455	\$ 33,775	
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$ 77,324	\$ (375,947)
<b>Adj to OWP budgets - Waikararimoana Fund</b>			
	\$ (23,600)	\$ (1,272)	
Less Waikararimoana Fund Interest			
	\$ 22,000	\$ -	
Plus Waikararimoana Fund Expenses			
<b>Adjusted Budget</b>		\$ 75,724	\$ (377,219)
<b>Actual(surplus)/deficit YTD</b>		\$ -	\$ -

**Table 2**

**Balance Sheet**  
**Eastern Fish and Game Council**  
**As at 31 December 2024**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>31 Dec 2024</b>	<b>31 Aug 2024</b>
<b>Bank</b>		
Westpac Current Account	186,760	52,742
Westpac Call Account	285,650	31,850
Petty Cash	1,101	367
Investments	526,967	717,165
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	474,600	391,397
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>1,475,078</b>	<b>1,193,520</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	226,966	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
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>436,868</b>	<b>333,631</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Buildings	1,049,503	1,049,503
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	460,542	409,517
Office Equipment	65,935	65,935
Plant & Equipment	222,205	222,119
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(794,607)	(782,836)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(151,348)	(137,349)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(50,849)	(47,840)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(163,833)	(158,838)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>739,548</b>	<b>722,212</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,651,494</b>	<b>2,249,363</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	86,021	50,311
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	81,224	137,476
Employee Entitlements	114,695	117,649
GST	29,614	(2,488)
PAYE Clearing	41,865	23,571
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	129	0
Staff Social Club	1,129	721
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	1,071	314
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	(842)	2,595
Rounding	0	0
Designated Waters Clearing Acc	154	0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>355,060</b>	<b>330,148</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>355,060</b>	<b>330,148</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>2,296,434</b>	<b>1,919,214</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
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 Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	474,600	474,600
Current Year Earnings	377,219	(29,040)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>2,296,434</b>	<b>1,919,214</b>

**Table 3****Profit and Loss - Council**

Eastern Fish and Game Council for the 2 months ended 31 December 2024

<b>Income</b>	<b>Nov 2024</b>	<b>Dec 2024</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Var YTD</b>	<b>%</b>
Licence Income	127,185	144,507	877,710	835,000	1,401,728	42,710	5%
Other Income	44,177	28,588	100,614	81,860	251,931	18,754	23%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>171,363</b>	<b>173,095</b>	<b>978,323</b>	<b>916,860</b>	<b>1,653,659</b>	<b>61,463</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
Depreciation	6,741	6,741	33,775	36,015	94,455	(2,240)	-6%
<b>1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>							
1110 Population Monitoring	0	10,961	12,317	12,000	44,500	317	3%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	720	660	2,900	60	9%
1140 Hatchery Operations	2,620	8,564	48,306	43,906	98,750	4,400	10%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	0	400	0	0%
<b>Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMNT</b>	<b>2,620</b>	<b>19,525</b>	<b>61,343</b>	<b>56,566</b>	<b>146,550</b>	<b>4,777</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT</b>							
1220 Works & Management	80	0	3,190	3,200	17,500	(10)	0%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	0	0	18,200	0	0%
<b>Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>35,700</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>1300 PARTICIPATION</b>							
1310 Access	357	212	783	2,100	5,300	(1,317)	-63%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	0	1,000	2,000	(1,000)	-100%
1350 Training	0	0	530	150	850	380	253%
1370 Huts	113	104	332	400	1,450	(68)	-17%
<b>Total 1300 PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>(2,005)</b>	<b>-55%</b>
<b>1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>							
1440 Public Promotions	(16)	140	345	400	1,000	(55)	-14%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	50	83	316	250	500	66	26%
<b>Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>1500 COMPLIANCE</b>							
1510 Ranging	68	68	1,215	600	1,000	615	102%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	7	500	1,000	(493)	-99%
1530 Compliance	1,789	0	1,789	1,200	4,000	589	49%
<b>Total 1500 COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>1600 LICENSING</b>							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	65	0	600	65	0%
1630 Commission	3,820	4,419	28,838	31,400	56,070	(2,562)	-8%
<b>Total 1600 LICENSING</b>	<b>3,820</b>	<b>4,419</b>	<b>28,903</b>	<b>31,400</b>	<b>56,670</b>	<b>(2,497)</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>1700 COUNCIL</b>							
1720 Council Meetings	929	1,632	3,137	2,000	6,500	1,137	57%
<b>Total 1700 COUNCIL</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>3,137</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>							
1810 Management Planning	70	65	1,109	2,000	5,000	(891)	-45%
1830 Reporting/Audit	10,547	0	0	0	10,942	0	0%
1840 National Liaison	23,025	9	23,047	22,993	92,072	54	0%
<b>Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	<b>33,642</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>24,156</b>	<b>24,993</b>	<b>108,014</b>	<b>(837)</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>							
1910 Salaries	80,632	139,265	358,780	353,243	1,074,094	5,537	2%
1920 Staff Expenses	546	1,691	3,803	3,540	41,500	263	7%
1930 Staff Houses	1,998	498	12,085	10,058	17,550	2,027	20%
1940 Office Premises	856	890	12,480	11,918	24,550	562	5%
1950 Office Equipment	239	231	964	1,232	3,400	(268)	-22%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,476	1,513	5,326	5,251	14,400	75	1%
1970 General	392	(586)	12,839	11,718	13,150	1,121	10%
1980 General Equipment	1,002	1,322	10,502	8,814	19,050	1,688	19%
1990 Vehicles	6,187	6,424	24,505	23,147	56,700	1,358	6%
<b>Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>93,329</b>	<b>151,248</b>	<b>441,284</b>	<b>428,921</b>	<b>1,264,394</b>	<b>12,363</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>143,522</b>	<b>184,247</b>	<b>601,104</b>	<b>589,695</b>	<b>1,729,383</b>	<b>11,409</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>27,840</b>	<b>(11,152)</b>	<b>377,219</b>	<b>327,165</b>	<b>(75,724)</b>	<b>50,054</b>	<b>15%</b>



## 10.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

24 January 2025

### SPECIES MANAGEMENT

#### 1111 River Fisheries Investigations

##### Rangitaiki River Water Quality Monitoring

Fish & Game staff are scheduled to undertake annual monitoring of the Rangitaiki River within Kaingaroa Forest during February. This will consist of either drift dive monitoring - if the river conditions are suitable or if in-water visibility proves unsuitable water parameters will be taken at a range of historically documented sites. Pre-Christmas period access work suggested the river whilst low was carrying high particulate matter/algae and may not be suitable for drift dive surveys. The visibility at that time was estimated to be 1.5m whereas a through water distance of 3m or greater is required for drift diving.

#### 1112 Datawatch

During the four and a half months following the season opening, a total of 220 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	4
Lake Okataina	22
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	4
Lake Rotoehu	2
Lake Rotoiti	50
Lake Rotoma	18
Lake Tarawera	118

*\*Datawatch returns (entered to 14/01/2025)*

This total is 99 tags greater than during the same approximate period during 2024. Lake Tarawera is up by 35 tag returns entered, Rotoiti up 26, Okataina up 22 (Okataina was closed to all recreational activities at the start of the 2023-24 season) and Lake Rotoma up by 17 returns. Lakes Okareka and Rotoiti are very close to the previous return tallies with Rerewhakaaitu down by 2 returns.

#### 1113 Lake Waikaremoana

##### Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The Lake Water Quality Monitoring buoy is due for maintenance involving retrieval of the sensor chains and physical cleansing of sensors. Staff are due at Lake Waikaremoana to attend the Lake Waikaremoana Boating and Fishing Association's Family angling competition on 18<sup>th</sup> January, so intend to incorporate this work into the same visit. The monitoring buoy control consol and sensors will be delivered to Limnotrack (Hamilton) for servicing.

## 1114 Lake Tarawera

### **Lakes Tarawera Acoustic Sampling**

Acoustic monitoring was undertaken across 14 parallel transects of Lake Tarawera on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. The ‘back scatter’ recorded picks up all air pockets or swim bladders within the transects. Acoustic monitoring has been undertaken twice yearly since November 2018 to give an estimate of the food resource across Lake Tarawera. What we have noted is that the spring/early summer (post winter lake turnover) is a lean period in terms of productivity on Lake Tarawera. Conversely, the autumn period (post stratification/pre turnover) is highly productive after the food chain builds over the summer. This most recent sampling illustrated greater than average backscatter for the early season period throughout the southern end of the lake. This indicates that the good productivity period and trout growth will continue at least in the short term. Dr. Michel Dedual who also undertakes the analysis of DOC Taupo’s acoustic transects has analysed the Tarawera data.

### **“Lake Tarawera echo-sounding Survey November 2024”**

*Michel Dedual, MD Halieutics, December 2024*

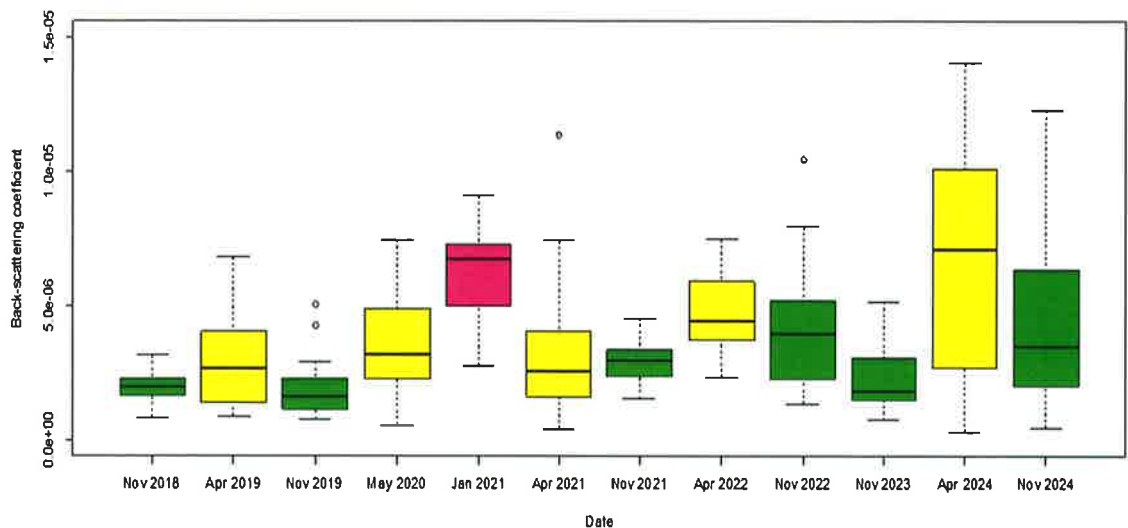
The results of the echo survey conducted in November 2024 are presented in Graphs 1 and 2.

The data indicate that average spring productivity this year is significantly higher than in 2023 and comparable to levels observed in November 2022 (Graph 1). It remains to be seen if this productivity will or does reflect on the condition of the fish caught in the lake this summer.

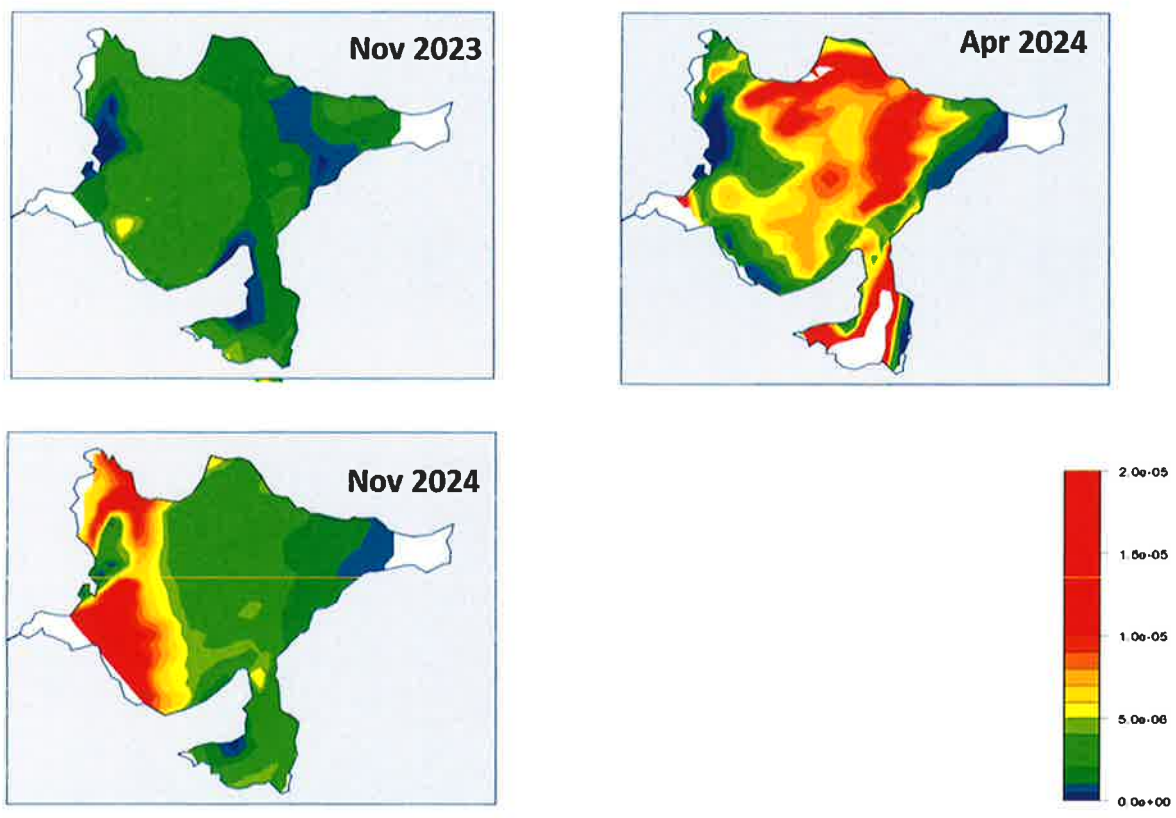
The spatial distribution of productivity (Graph 2) reveals a pronounced gradient across the lake, with very high productivity on the western side and low productivity on the eastern side. This is the first time such a gradient has been observed since the monitoring began.

While the exact causes remain unclear, it is possible that this distribution is influenced by prevailing wind patterns. Another potential, albeit less likely, explanation could involve differences in water quality, such as variations in temperature or chemistry.

Overall, the data suggest a general increase in productivity since 2019, particularly during autumn, despite some variability (Graph 1). Comparing this data with the evolution of the water quality may provide some insight for what the future could be.



Graph 1. Average back-scattering coefficient measured along 13 transects across Lake Tarawera between Nov 2018 and Nov 2024. The colour of the boxes in green, yellow, and magenta indicate spring, summer and autumn respectively. The boxes represent the interquartile range (IQR), which is the middle 50% of the data. The bottom of the box indicates the 25th percentile (Q1), and the top indicates the 75th percentile (Q3). The horizontal line represents the median (50th percentile) of the data in each category. The whiskers extend from the box to the minimum and maximum values within 1.5 times the IQR from Q1 and Q3. They help identify the range of the data.



Graph 2. Spatial distribution of back-scattering in Lake Tarawera

## 1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

### Ngongotaha Stream trap

#### *Ngongotaha Stream trap run (December 2024)*

The Ngongotaha fish trap was not operated during December 2024. Following flooding in November, large timber debris became lodged in the trap structure which is beyond staff ability to remove.



#### *Ngongotaha Stream trap run (January 2025)*

The fish trap had not been operated at the time of this report due to debris still obstructing the setting of the trap. The trap was cleared of debris on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January and built-up silt removed prior to trap installation on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January.

### Lake Okaro Fish Kill

On the 10 December 2024, staff became aware of a situation at Lake Okaro leading to an ongoing fish kill. Visiting anglers reported that around 12 fish had been seen dead along the lake edge. On assessment of the BOPRC Water Quality Monitoring Buoy, it was noted that below 4m deep (under surface) dissolved oxygen was too low to support trout and within the top 4m of water temperatures were reaching lethal limits therefore creating a habitat squeeze. Staff located and buried 9 trout (2-3 year hatchery released cohorts) On return to the office, Regional Council, DOC and TALT were notified of the situation.

It was found that there had been a die-off of a heavy surface algal bloom starting around 1 December (perhaps due to nutrient depletion and warm surface temperatures). The lake transitioned from daytime cycling of dissolved oxygen and a typical surface water pH 9 in November to a sudden decline in DO, pH and chlorophyll in early December which are consistent with a reduction in phytoplankton biomass. The decline in pH and DO may have been exacerbated by decomposition of the bloom resulting in ammonium release which then oxidised to nitrate and the formation of nitric acid. Further trout were located and buried over the following week.

### **1116 Waterfowl Monitoring**

Monitoring mallard and grey duck populations over the last 28 years has allowed us to predict the following years population. For the 2025 season we have predicted that the population will be on the low side of last years estimate. When the population is low we usually have difficulty catching ducks for banding. To date we have caught about 540 less than last year.

The trend counts of paradise shelduck and black swan were confined to Management Areas A1 and A2 (B1 and B2 weren't counted as part of our regions cost cutting exercise). Counts suggest the populations in management areas A1 and A2 are similar to last year.

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**

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

### **1121 Lakes Creel Surveys**

Staff have been conducting creel surveys on the Rotorua lakes since mid October. The majority of these have been on lakes Tarawera and Rotoiti, with several visits also to Okataina, Rotorua and Rotorua shoreline. Since the season opening through to mid-January 2025, conditions across the Rotorua lakes have been favourable to anglers and lake users except for the period immediately post-Christmas. Excellent quality has been observed in the younger fish across lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina. Lake Rotorua shoreline angling came on early at the Waiteti and lower Ngongotaha Stream mouths with rapidly warming water conditions. Early January saw cooler nights and slightly lower daytime temperatures slowing catch rates as trout moved back into the main lake away from the stream mouths.

Angler diaries have been distributed to several regular anglers that fish Okataina to obtain additional data as survey trips there have resulted in low numbers of anglers encountered.

## 1122 Opening Day Survey

The 2024-25 Opening Day Survey report has been completed. (See PFI for full report)

### Executive Summary

- Fish & Game staff conducted 570 interviews with anglers who had fished for 2326.5 hours in total and produced 549 fish for measurement during the Opening Day Creel Survey on Tuesday, October 1st, 2024.
- Lake Tarawera anglers experienced better catch rates than at the 2023 Opening. They were above the past 10-year average with 1 fish caught for just over every 2.3 hours effort. The average sized fish caught at the 2024-25 Opening was significantly longer (16mm,  $P<0.001$ ), significantly heavier (290g,  $P<0.001$ ) and in significantly better condition (2.13 condition points,  $P<0.001$ ) than at the 2023 Opening. Hatchery released fish made up a lesser proportion of the catch (53%) compared with the 2023 Opening (62%) and the hatchery contribution sits below the past 10-year average (63%) likely due to recent changes to the liberation schedule. The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish caught on the 2024-25 Opening Day were significantly longer (17mm,  $P<0.001$ ), significantly heavier (340g,  $P<0.001$ ), and in significantly better condition (3.61 CF points,  $P<0.001$ ) compared to the 2023 Opening Day 2-year-olds. The autumn released two-year-olds were significantly longer (32mm,  $P<0.001$ ), significantly heavier (514g,  $P<0.001$ ), and in significantly better condition (2.60 CF points,  $P<0.001$ ) compared to the same aged cohort recorded from the Opening Day of the 2023-24 season. The largest fish from Lake Tarawera on Opening Day 2024 was a 635mm, 3.4 kg Rp clipped (2022 spring released) rainbow male.
- Lake Rotoiti anglers had a better Opening Day catch rate compared to the 2023 Opening with 1 fish caught for just over every 4 hours effort. This catch rate was similar to the past 10-year average catch rate (0.24 fish.hr). The average fish caught was shorter (3mm), heavier (100g), and in significantly improved condition than those caught during the 2023 Opening. The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish were longer (3mm), significantly heavier (120g,  $P=0.011$ ) and in significantly better condition (2.1 CF points,  $P=0.012$ ) than the 2023 caught spring two-year-olds, and at an average length of 521mm were longer than the past ten-year average length (505mm). The autumn liberated two-year olds were on average longer (10mm), significantly heavier (270g,  $P<0.001$ ) and in significantly better condition (3.21 CF points,  $P=0.01$ ) than the same aged fish caught on the 2023 Opening Day. The largest fish presented for measurement during surveys from Rotoiti was a 640mm, 4.0kg Rp clipped rainbow female (from the 2022 autumn liberations).
- Lake Okataina was closed to all recreational use at the 2023 Opening under CAN order to stop golden clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) reaching the lake. Therefore, the 2024 Opening Day data has been compared to the 2022 Opening Day data. Lake Okataina anglers experienced an improved catch rate at the 2024 opening compared to the 2022 opening with 1 legal sized fish caught for just under every 2 hours effort. The 2024 Opening catch rate bettered the past 10-year average of 1 fish per 3 hours effort. Hatchery liberated fish contributed 67% of the Opening Day catch which was just under the 2022 Opening and the past 10-year average of 71%. The average fish caught was longer (3mm), heavier (90g), and in better condition than the fish produced for measuring at the 2022 Opening Day. The two-year-old spring-released hatchery fish (Lp clip) were longer (5mm), heavier (30g), but in slightly poorer condition than the two-year-olds caught during the 2022 Opening. The 2023 autumn released LpAd clipped fish caught on Opening Day 2024 were longer (9mm), heavier (160g) and in better overall condition than the same aged fish caught at the 2022 Opening Day.

## 1141 Hatchery Operations

Final liberations were completed for 2024. Ponds cleaned and prepared for re-stocking. Some fry from the 2024 brood has been moved to populate the rearing ponds. This will be completed early in 2025. General hatchery maintenance projects are underway.

*Fish locations at 23 January 2025:*

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx.)	Comment
Hatchery	Fry	0+	30,000	Liberations 2025
Tank A	Tig	0+	1,500	Liberation 2025
Tank B	Bt	0+	1,000	Liberations 2025
Tank C	Asst.	1+	200	P/Valley springs 2025
Tank E	Brook	0+	200	Brood
Tank F	Brook	2+	5	Brood
Pond 2	Rt	0+	9,000	Spring liberations 2025
Pond 3	Rt	0+	9,000	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

*Liberations, Eastern Region 21 November 2024 to 23 January 2025*

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Number
Tikitapu	16/12/2024	Rp	-	RT	1+	300
Tarawera	3/12/2024	Rp	-	RT	1+	1,000

*Fish were also collected or delivered to Hawkes Bay Fish & Game, Wellington Fish & Game, Auckland Waikato Fish & Game*



*Whio and team heading out to do stream mouth liberations.*

## **1171 Sports Fishing Regulations**

The 2024-25 season constitutes an intermediary year between full biennial reviews of the Anglers Notice process for Eastern Region Fish & Game. A letter outlining the process and a copy of the 2024 Anglers Notice Policy was sent to clubs and stakeholders to advise them of this on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2024.

The regulations for the 2025-26 angling season will be finalized at the May 2025 Council meeting.

## **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

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established a group to provide advice in relation to policy development for NPSFM implementation. Fish & Game is part of this Rural and Environmental Sector Organisation Forum and the last meeting was attended in December

#### **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 & 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**

A Forest Industry Discussion Group meeting was attended in November.

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 & 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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Resource Involved</b>	<b>Action</b>
8 Jan 25	BOPRC	Foundary Farms Ltd	WP- Tumurau canal	Tumurau Lagoon	Remains in discussions

Consents of note: September 2023, we were advised Manawa Energy were seeking F&G interest and comments regarding resource consent renewal of the Wheao hydro scheme, which directly affects the fishery in this water system. A site visit with other agencies occurred and the main proposed change was the sluicing regime. F&G stated our concerns. We have just been advised that Manawa Energy has been granted “fast track” approval for this consent renewal and our concerns will not be addressed.

## **1221 Reserves Management**

The second mowing cycle of access tracks within the main wetlands has been completed. Further spraying of vegetation on and along main water control structures and water reticulation channels plus access tracks in these managed wetlands will occur late February /early March.

Ballot holder access will commence Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb until Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April (pegging day).

### **1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance**

A site visit occurred mid December to a landowner in Gisborne. Advice was given how to improve his stock dam for waterfowl breeding and attractiveness for hunting. Additional advice was also given for planting “spinney’s” on his property for upland game.

The Burt Wetland (Te Puke) remains outstanding for any works to occur. Yet again, complications have occurred regarding NES-W rules regarding duration of the wetland being drained to enable works, area of vegetation to be removed, plus requirements for the new weir. We are working through these issues with BOPRC to hopefully permit works March/April 2025.

### **1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects**

No specific habitat works have occurred within past two months, but in January 2025 we are working with rivers and drainage to enhance fishery habitat in two streams around Rotorua.

## **ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION**

### **1311 Maintain & Enhance Access**

Angler access work is continuing with maintenance work on the Rangitaiki River system access areas within Kaingaroa Forest and other areas as required. Signage maintenance and updates are in progress and still require more work to complete including an East Coast visit to update signs and check access in the Gisborne – Wairoa districts.

Lake Okataina: Angler access is in place with conditions for washing boats.

Work is continuing with Walking Access Commission staff re access issues and regarding East Coast fisheries North of Gisborne, in particular the Waitahaia River access, and plans are in place for a staff and Walking Access combined visit to that location in mid-February to examine a public access easement to the river, which is in place, but which is not well known. This easement follows a formed road to the river, which is within a production forest and the forest land is Iwi owned.

### **1331 Electronic Newsletters**

Reel Life copy was produced for December and January.

### **1333 Fish & Game Website**

Updates or changes to the Eastern website included Council agendas and minutes, and other minor updates.

### **1334 Social Media**

Social media posts continue to be made via Facebook and Instagram. Angler/hunter inquiries are being received via social media. Our Facebook has over 3,000 organic followers. Facebook reach exceeded 50K December and January.

### **1341 Information Pamphlets**

Lake Rotorua and Tributaries brochure edited and re-ordered.

### **1352 Angler/Hunter Training**

A tuition talk and demonstration on successful boat fishing was successfully held at our premises in January 2025. There were about 90 participants.



*Boat Fishing Tuition  
hosted by Mark  
Sherburn and Matt  
Osborne.*

### **1354 Fishing Competitions**

Three fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

### **1361 Fish & Game Club Communications**

No club events were attended by staff during the reporting period.

### **1371 Fish & Game Huts**

Maintenance has been carried out at the Waikaremoana Hut, and further work is required soon to replace the fire flue roof flashing which is leaking – a temporary fix is in place until a replacement can be installed. Wairua hut is in good condition with annual maintenance planned soon, including maintenance on the composting toilet system.

## **PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness**

Quiet period since our December meeting.

### **1441 Public Promotions**

Continue to post and promote fishing experiences and the fishery work that we do on Social Media platforms. Invitation to all local agents was sent inviting them to the AGM in December but unfortunately no one was able to attend.

### **1451 Education**

No educational tours were held for the reporting period.

## **COMPLIANCE**

### **1511 Ranging**

Angler surveys have continued on the main Rotoura lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina) and ranging carried out in many locations and in particular the summer high angler use areas of the Lake Rotorua stream mouths. A number of offenders have been found in the Rotorua areas, particularly at the Lake Rotorua Stream mouth locations with consequent follow up action for mostly offences of fishing without licence and several people for decamping from rangers. These areas will remain significant locations until the end of summer when fish numbers drop off in the stream mouths and lower streams.

Staff attended a family fishing competition event at Lake Waikaremoana in mid-January; this was a well-attended and supported event; we had a presence on the lake during the event with a focus on PR with anglers attending, as well as staff performing weigh master duties at the weigh in.

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.

### **Contacts 2024-2025 year.**

To end of December, we have made 1076 contacts with anglers. This is down on the same period for the previous year, mostly due to a lower number of anglers able to be contacted at this year's fishing opening in October. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

### **Contacts: Year 2024-2025 year**

<b>Month</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>5 yr average</b>
<b>September</b>	16	51	35	36	42	37
<b>October</b>	724	718	520	856	627	709
<b>November</b>	16	66	16	161	154	77
<b>December</b>	287	182	182	256	253	229
<b>January</b>	404	352	212	217		286
<b>February</b>	155	140	12	117		138

<b>March</b>	164	93	111	185		115
<b>April</b>	153	238	25	81		101
<b>May</b>	297	203	203	175		204
<b>June</b>	124	141	52	80		112
<b>July</b>	45	57	36	59		54
<b>August</b>	22	32	13	29		23
<b>Total</b>	2407	2273	1417	2252	1076	2085

### **National CLE Liaison Role**

This role is continuing led from this region. Currently work includes preparing a submission for NZC regarding the current Government review of the Arms Act.

### **1521 Ranger Training**

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

#### **Rangers**

We are in the process of issuing an initial ranger warrant to a Rotorua based trainee honorary ranger who has undergone training over the last year, the intention is that this new ranger will be in a position to assist staff on occasions while ranging.

### **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 Pending Resolution**

*Offences table – pending resolution as at mid Jan 2025*

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

### **Offences 2024-2025 Year:**

YTD to Mid-January we have dealt with 15 offenders for 24 offences as tabled below.

*Offence table 2024-2025 year*

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Number of offences</b>
Fishing without licence	12
Fishing in closed waters	5
Fish with illegal tackle	2
False details	1
Obstruction of ranger	1
Fails to give name and address	3
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>24</b>

## **LICENSING**

### **1621 Licence Agent Support**

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

## **PLANNING AND REPORTING**

### **1812 R3 Programme**

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.

## 10.3 LICENCE SALES REPORT

23 January 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 22 January are summarised in Table one.

1.2 Sales continue to track ahead of last year although the variance has reduced from 9.2% reported in December to 7.1% YTD 22 January. 83.5% of the annual sales target has been met YTD.

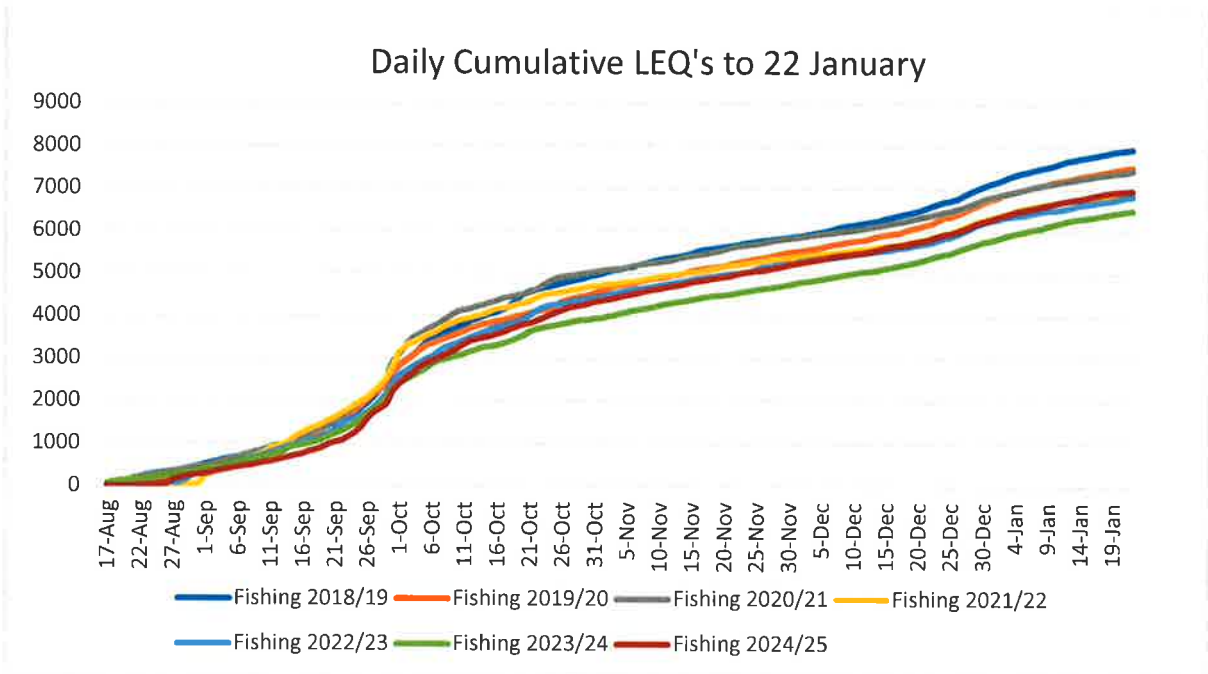
**Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2024-25 vs 2023-24 YTD results to 22 January**

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2023-24	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2024-25	Inc/Dec on prior Season
<b>Fish Adult</b>							
Family Season	879	1,117	1,996	825	1,226	2,051	55
Season Non-Resident	706	878	1,584	706	993	1,699	115
Loyal Senior	65	114	179	59	130	189	10
Local Area Adult	228	242	470	238	284	522	52
Winter Adult	775	474	1,249	788	609	1,397	148
Long Break Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short Break Adult	14	31	45	15	25	40	-5
Day	125	286	411	89	366	455	44
Day Non-Resident	343	1,176	1,519	284	1,457	1,741	222
<b>Total Adult</b>	<b>3,304</b>	<b>4,711</b>	<b>8,015</b>	<b>3,153</b>	<b>5,522</b>	<b>8,675</b>	<b>660</b>
<b>Fish Junior</b>							
Season	138	210	348	162	257	419	71
Season Non-Resident	4	15	19	3	16	19	0
Day	70	177	247	65	210	275	28
Day Non-Resident	15	12	27	10	29	39	12
<b>Total Junior</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Fish Child</b>							
Season Non-Resident	0	6	6	2	9	11	5
Day Non-Resident	3	9	12	2	7	9	-3
<b>Total Child</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Fish</b>	<b>3,534</b>	<b>5,140</b>	<b>8,674</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>6,050</b>	<b>9,447</b>	<b>773</b>
<b>Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)</b>			6,517			6,982	465
<b>Variance between Seasons</b>							7.1%
<b>\$ (excl GST)</b>			\$867,039			\$947,125	\$80,086

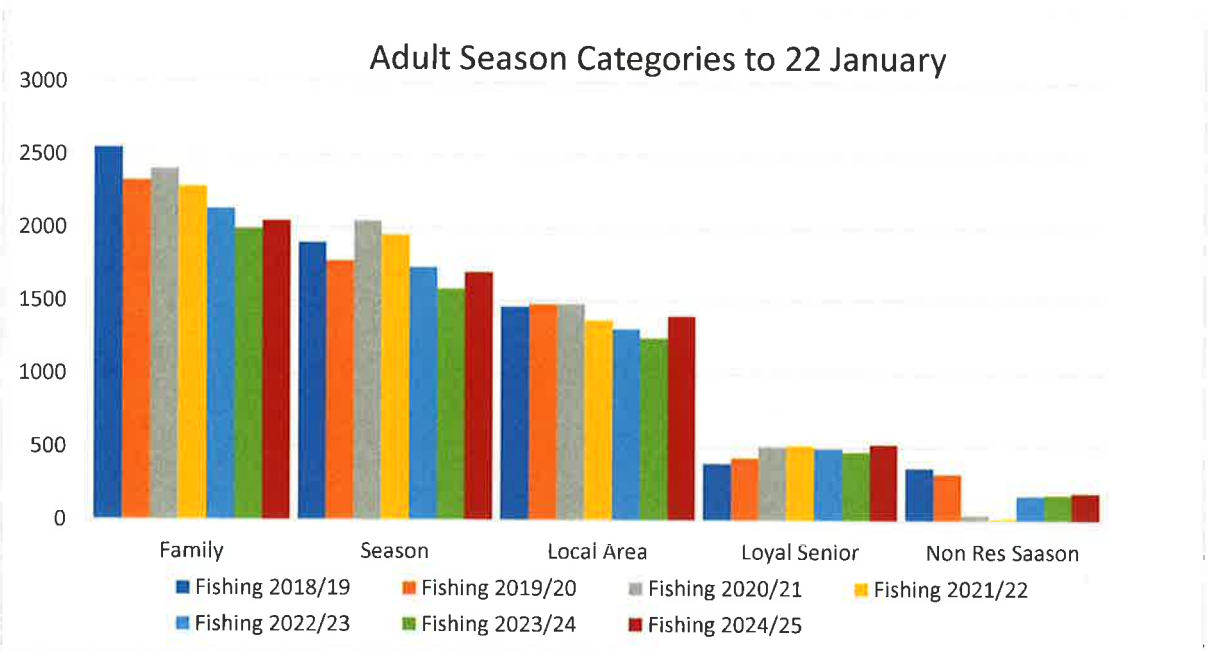
### Summary 2024-2025 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2024-25 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,363	100.0%	\$1,134,459
2024-25 Actual	6,982	83.5%	\$947,125
<b>Variance to budget</b>	<b>-1,381</b>	<b>-16.5%</b>	<b>-\$187,334</b>

1.3 2024-25 fish licence sales by LEQ are ahead of last season YTD and are tracking in line with the 2021-22 season. The dip in the sales comparison to 2023-24 results since our last report is likely due to an increase in sales seen over the 2023-24 summer following the very wet start to the season. Comparisons to the 2018-19 (pre-Covid) Season results show a total downturn of 961 LEQ's YTD.



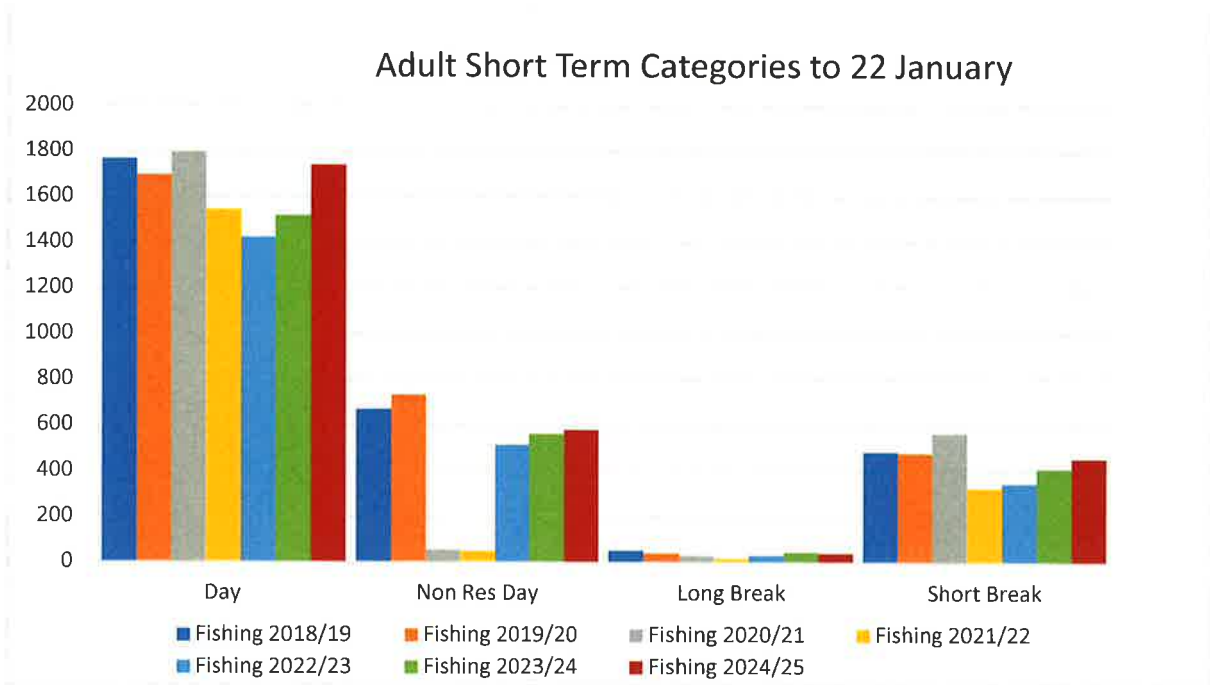
Graph 1: Daily cumulative sales by LEQ (note: 18-19 through 22/23 LEQ calculations are adjusted to incorporate non-resident levies to enable a more accurate comparison)



Graph 2: YTD Sales to 22 January – Adult Season Categories

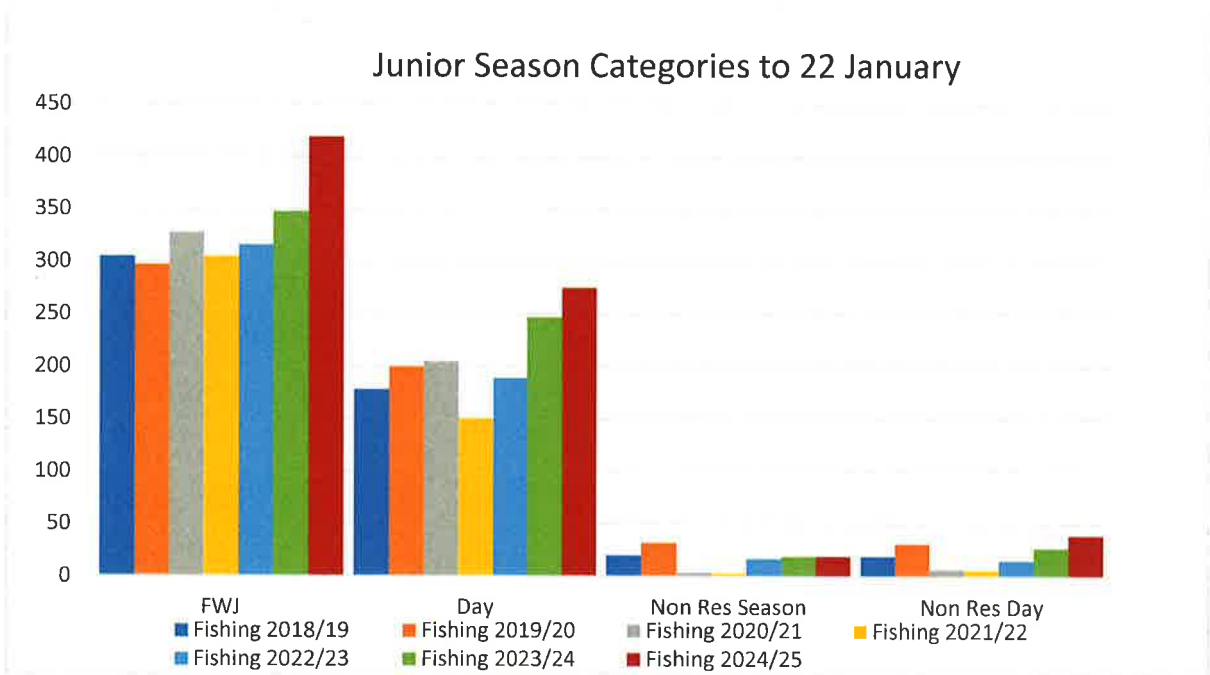
1.4 Non-Resident anglers are yet to return to pre-Covid levels (down 172 licences on 2018-19 Season YTD). Family licence sales appear to have taken the largest hit at 500 licences (648 LEQ's) down on 2018-19 Season results YTD.





*Graph 3: YTD Sales to 22 January – Adult Short-Term Categories*

1.5 Day and short break licences have returned to pre-Covid levels. We may be seeing a shift from the Season categories to short term during uncertain economic times.



*Graph 4: YTD Sales to 22 January – Junior Categories*

1.6 The good increase in the Junior categories seen this season is positive, there has been some excellent coverage of local trout fishing opportunities through social media channels. The reduction in sales of family licences may also be contributing to this result.

**14. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

**14.1 Conservation Boards**

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board (See papers for Information)

**14.2 Reports from Other Agencies**

- Department of Conservation

**14.3 Report from New Zealand Council  
Cr Mark Sceats**