

CONFIRMED MINUTES

NCFG COUNCIL MEETING



At the **North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting** on **24 Jul 2024** these minutes were **confirmed as presented**.

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Wednesday, 22 May 2024
Time:	5:33 pm to 10:17 pm (NZST)
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), CHRIS BRANKIN, DAVE BARRON, DAVE COLL, GRAEME NAHKIES, KEN LLOYD, PHILLIP MUSSON, RICHARD O'KEEFE, TEHAU ANGLEM, NIALL COSTER, TREVOR ISITT
Attendees:	DEBBIE AMBLER, RASMUS GABRIELSSON, RICHARD COSGROVE
Guests/Notes:	O Harkerss, B Grant, M Gilbert, G Faulkner, L Burke, T McClintock, A Gascoyne, M Main, B Cleghorn, S Terry, J Meecham, J Earl, M McClintock, S Singh, D Benny

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman

Cr Strong welcomed C Jordon (CEO Fish and Game NZ), public, councillors and staff. R Gabrielsson gave a Health & Safety brief.

1.2 Karakia

R Gabrielsson introduced new staff member, J Meecham, who would be working with R Cosgrove to deliver regional communications. J Meecham gave brief background on himself.

1.3 Interests Register

No additions were made.

1.4 Council Discussion on Issues and Risks That May Require Council Attention

1. As this was G Nakies last meeting, having recently accepted a governance role with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC), Cr Stong stated the current Chair position on the Chief Executive Committee would need to be filled alongside the role of deputy Chair and asked Council to give some thought as to a replacement. He stated the need to create succession plans for Council positions once a councillor left.
2. Cr Isitt stated his disappointment of the current state of and the inability to sustain the North Canterbury fishery. He was disconcerted that North Canterbury pay levies to other

regions, yet North Canterbury had little budget to fund a put & take fishery stocking programmes and that this needed to be addressed.

3. Cr Musson expressed concerned by the lack of management Central South Island perceived to have on Lake Heron and Mellish Stream and the possible negative impacts the Winnemem Wintu project would have on the Rakaia salmon fishery. It was noted that in low run years the Rakaia salmon population is heavily reliant on Mellish Stream and Lake heron sub-population, which can make up over 30% of the Rakaia River sea-run salmon spawning population. In asking what could be done if Central South Island was in breach of current legislation which was to manage, maintain and enhance the sea-run salmon fishery, C Jordon replied that a collaborative approach was required, however, the power to change regional boundaries sat with the Minister for Hunting and Fishing. New Zealand Council was currently developing standard operating procedures across regions to try and get a coordinated approach to how things are done.
4. Cr Barron asked if the national governance structure was set up for success and stated the organisation needed to work better. C Jordon encouraged governors to get together to discuss what they see the future would look like for New Zealand Fish and Game.

C Jordan gave a small presentation on the strategies, values and the positiveness of the Re-Wild Campaign. She stated initiatives for modernising the organisation through governance, setting national policies and ranging compliance were currently underway.

C Jordan thanked R Gabrielsson for NCFG assistance in supporting R Cosgrove and H Garrick who worked part time with NZC.

NZC are currently undertaking:

1. Work that is being insight driven by H Garrick and was focusing on "what can Fish and Game do for licence holders in the future";
2. Behind the scenes NZC building stronger relationships with other hunting and fishing entities;
3. The Minister for Hunting and Fishing is looking at legislative changes for next year;
4. The challenges remain in relation to the health of the natural environment and access nationally;
5. To continue positive, co-ordinated messaging and understand what licence holders want.

RMA advocacy was discussed along side the financial challenges the organisation was faced with.

C Jordon expressed concern that the avian flu, which was a threat to game birds, could get to NZ. Messaging surrounding what steps hunters should take if they come across birds in distress was discussed. Currently, a national plan is being developed to deal with this situation.

2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Licence Fee Consultation

It was noted that the methodology for forecasting Licence Equivalent licence sales figures, which formed the basis for setting regional income budgets, needs improving. Essentially Fish & Game current resource allocation division is out of date and represents an unsustainable business model. As a levy-paying region North Canterbury has been required to pay levies on licence sales never received.

The NZC has noted that the Minister for Hunting and Fishing has signalled there would be no licence fee increase in the 24/25 financial year. As a result the NZC had requested regions reduce their budgets by 3%, which after absorbing rising costs effectively meant a cut to regional budgets by approximately 10% in the next financial year (24/25). It is concerning that essentially only South Island regions had done so (exceptions being Otago and Auckland/Waikato), as southern regions could not sustain this loss of investment going forward. Cr Strong stated the NZC FINANCIAL

REVIEW COMMITTEE had been considering a new levy payment framework whereby the final levy for the financial year could be adjusted up or down according to actual licence sales.



Licence Fee Recommendation 2024/25

To ask R Gabriëlsson to write to NZC to comment on the disparity of the LEQ licence sales forecast and on the new levy payment framework.

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved

However the motion was superseded by the following;



Licence Fee Recommendation 24/25

That R Gabriëlsson communicate to NZC that the licence fee as set out below be accepted with reluctance as to hold licence fees at this level was unsustainable going forward.

1. That the 2024/25 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories (no change from 2023/24).
2. The sea-run salmon licence endorsement of \$5 (as a cost-recovery mechanism) (no change from 2023/24).
3. The Designated Waters Licence, as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40.00 (no change from 2023/24).
4. The Licence LEQ of 72,826 (Fish) and 31,340 (Game).

The vote was 5 For and 3 Against

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved



Licence Fee Recommendation 24/25

R Gabriëlsson write to NZC regarding the licence fee proposal for the 24/25 financial year as per the resolution.

Due Date: 31 May 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

2.2 Fishing Regulations 2024 - 2025 Season

Noted the recommendations was to tidy up some of the fishing regulations.

The experimental Controlled Fishery noted in points would introduce a trial "Controlled Fishery" booking system for sections of the North and South Branch of the upper Hurunui River. Like other Controlled Fishery booking systems, it would be available through the Fish & Game website. The trial will allow detailed user data to be gathered to identify pressure "pinch points" and facilitate satisfaction surveys, to better manage fishing pressure and preserve a high-quality angler experience.

Confirmation that the Regulations Setting Policy was adhered to was provided.

The council's Statutory Advisors from Ngai Tahu (Te Hau Anglem) recommended that going forward, Hapu be consulted when Fish & Game considers changes to the way geographical places/areas are named or described in our regulations (e.g. the Lewis Pass Fishery).



Fishing Regulation Changes for 204/25 Season

1. The Hope River Designated Waters Fishery is renamed the Lewis Pass Designated Waters Fishery.
2. Hacketts Creek is removed from the listed waterways cover in the Anglers Notice (duplicated elsewhere).
3. The White Posts are reinstated as the upper limit for sea-run salmon fishing on the Rakaia River.
4. The Hurunui River North Branch is made an experimental controlled period fishery for two seasons starting 1 October 2024.
5. The Hurunui River South Branch is made an experimental controlled period fishery for two seasons starting 1 October 2024.

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: DAVE BARRON
Seconder: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved

Concern was raised on the number and size of returning sea-run salmon and that the threshold when setting the season bag limit should not be on returning numbers alone. A review of the sea-run salmon management framework was required at the start of the 24/25 season, as this season signifies the end of the first three-year salmon returning cycle since the introduction of the season bag limit.



Sea-Run Salmon Season Bag Recommendation for 2024/25 Angler Notice Review

1. That the sea-run salmon season bag limit for 2024/24 for the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game regions continues to comply with the Threshold Management Strategy and be based on the final estimates of the combined Waimakariri, Rakaia and Rangitata rivers sea-run salmon spawning population size available no later than 21 June 2024, as follows:
 - a. Combined spawning population size between 1,200 and 5,100 fish - retain two fish season bag limit;
 - b. Combined spawning population size of less than 1,200 - implement a one fish season bag limit.

Cr's Isitt and Lloyd against.

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: DAVE BARRON
Outcome: Approved

2.3 Te Waihora and Muriwai Mai Mai Fund Transfers

Te Waihora Mai Mai Fund

In response to a question about why the Mai Mai Fund exists and if this should be challenged, it was explained that the fund had been created to fulfill Fish & Game's obligations under Ngai Tahu's Treaty Settlement agreement.

Cr Barron's suggestion that licence holders who tag a Mai Mai [at Te Waihora] are asked to either have them taken down or rebuilt according to Ngai Tahu/DOC/Fish & Game specifications was discussed.

It was noted that the Fish & Game environmental protection and clean-up efforts around Te Waihora were assisted by a sizable financial contribution from Environment Canterbury this season. The Fish & Game-led clean-up efforts are a positive collaborative project undertaken with several other parties (e.g. Environment Canterbury, DOC and TRONT).



Te Waihora Mai Mai Fund

The planned expenditure of \$17,500 on various projects to be included in the 2024/25 Operational Work Plan and budget that meets Councils priorities as well as objectives within the Te Waihora Joint Management Plan. This Mai Mai Fund expenditure will go toward three different projects, continuing on from works completed in early 2024/25 financial year.

1. Fencing of the paper road along the back boundary of Greenpark Sands to protect wetland values and facilitate vehicle access;
2. Cleaning up and removing derelict mai mai's and other rubbish from the lakebed;
3. Graveling paper road at important access points to facilitate vehicle access.

Upon approval, staff will complete negotiations with Ngai Tahu and DOC before undertaking work described. Agreement must be met with the majority of parties for work to be conducted.

That discussions be initiated with DOC and TRONT regarding strategy for the use of funds going forward.

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: DAVE COLL
Seconder: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Outcome: Approved



Te Waihora Mai Mai Fund

That the end of year financial contribution to the Te Waihora Mai Mai Fund be \$15,729.23. \$9,000 to come from approved spending with the shortfall being taken out of Reserves.

Cr Musson against.

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: NIALL COSTER
Outcome: Approved



Te Waihora and Muruwai Mai Mai Funds

That a strategy be formed for the management of mai mai's on Te Waihora and Muruwai Lakes.

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: DAVE BARRON
Seconder: PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome: Approved



Mai Mai's on Te Waihora and Muruwai Lakes

That a strategy be formed for the management of mai mai's on Te Waihora and Muruwai Lakes.

Due Date: 18 Sept 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Muruwai Mai Mai Fund

That the end of year financial contribution to the Muruwai Mai Mai Fund be \$1,126.92.

Cr Musson against.

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: CHRIS BRANKIN
Seconder: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved

2.4 Finance Report



Finance Report to 30 April 2024

That the Finance Report be accepted to 30 April 2024.

That the revised budget for 23/24 financial year be ratified by this Council before being reported to NZC.

R O'Keefe against.

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved



Monthly Actual v Budget - Finance Report

That a column be added to reflect month on month actual v budget on the Profit and Loss Report.

Due Date: 18 Jul 2024
Owner: DEBBIE AMBLER



Insurance

A review of NCFG insurances be undertaken.

Due Date: 20 Jun 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 General Business

G Nahkies was leaving the NCFG Council to take up a position on the NZC as a governance specialist. He was thanked by Cr Stong on behalf of all Councillors for his assistance over the past three years with all aspects of governance and council frameworks. A presentation was made, then G Nahkies replied.

3.2 Confirm Minutes Dated 22 February 2024 and 14 March 2024

4. PUBLIC SESSION

4.1 Public Session

Gamebird Regulations

Notification of and consultation on proposed changes to game bird hunting regulations was discussed. Cr Barron outlined the Council's Regulations Review Policy to those members of the

public attending the meeting, and stated it had been followed. He also noted that the communication process with stakeholders can always be improved.

It was explained that a call for submissions on proposed game bird hunting regulation adjustments will go out in September 2024. Additional effort will be made to communicate with and encourage participation from licence holders and other interested parties in the regulation review process.

5. STANDARD REPORTS

5.1 Standard Reports

Operational Progress Report

1. **General Observation-** Cr Coll asked for more information on the summary of work carried out rather than an analysis of facts.
2. **Winnemem Wintu Visit** - Cr Isitt was disappointed that he had not been notified sufficiently to attend the hosted visit of the Winnemem Wintu Tibe members at the North Canterbury's offices. Cr Strong apologised and asked R Gabrielsson to follow-up on the reason. The Chair reported that the visit was well received with discussions on the value of chinook salmon to recreational anglers in NZ, the current status and Councils work on recovery goals of salmon populations with the NCFG region.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Committee undertook an audit of the NCFG health and safety systems and were confident the current process is on the right track and would stand up to scrutiny via an audit. Discussion on the merits of engaging an external auditor to give assurance that the process was working was had.

Agreement that NCFG work with NZC to develop a national plan to engage internal and/or external auditors with a national budget being set to do so.



Health and Safety Audit

That an external auditor be engaged to complete an audit of the NC health and safety system with a budget of up to \$20,000.

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT

C Jordon advised there was a health and safety auditor (who was qualified) on staff. She suggested NC write to NZC to request an audit and/or they could suggest a suitable process and internal/external auditor.



Health and Safety Audit

That NCFG write to NZC asking to facilitate the engagement of an independent auditor to audit the NCFG health and safety systems.

Cr O'Keefe against Cr Isitt abstained
Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: CHRIS BRANKIN
Seconder: PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome: Approved



Health and Safety Audit

That an external auditor be engaged to complete a health and safety audit of NCFG systems.

5 For 1 against

Decision Date: 22 May 2024
Mover: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved



Health and Safety Audit

That R Gabrielson write to NZC asking to facilitate the engagement of an independent auditor to audit the NCFG health and safety systems.

Due Date: 20 Jun 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

6. FOR INFORMATION STAFF REPORTS

6.1 For Information Papers

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: No date for the next meeting has been set.

New Actions raised in this meeting

Item	Action Title	Owner
2.1	Licence Fee Recommendation 24/25 Due Date: 31 May 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
2.3	Mai Mai's on Te Waihora and Muruwai Lakes Due Date: 18 Sept 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
2.4	Monthly Actual v Budget - Finance Report Due Date: 18 Jul 2024	DEBBIE AMBLER
2.4	Insurance Due Date: 20 Jun 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
5.1	Health and Safety Audit Due Date: 20 Jun 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Signature: _____

Date: _____