

CONFIRMED MINUTES

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL



At the **NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING** on **27 Nov 2024** these minutes were **confirmed as presented**.

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Wednesday, 25 September 2024
Time:	5:30 pm to 9:33 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, KEN LLOYD, NIALL COSTER, PHILLIP MUSSON, TREVOR ISITT
Attendees:	RASMUS GABRIELSSON, DEBBIE AMBLER, MATTHEW GARRICK, STEVE TERRY
Apologies:	RICHARD O'KEEFE, TE HAU ANGLEM
Guests/Notes:	Matthew McClintock, Cody Elliott, Norm Anderson, Larry Burke, Phil Ball, Carlos Feigo, Jhan Ferigo, Barry Cleghorn, Paul Hodgson

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman

Cr Stong advised this would be the last meeting of the current Council and acknowledged three Councillors who had not stood for re-election. On behalf of Council and stakeholders, he thanked Cr Isitt for his contribution, dedication and guidance to the NCFG Council over the past 18 years. He also thanked Council's Lloyd and O'Keefe for their contribution to NCFG.

1.2 Karakia

In the absence of T Anglam, R Gabrielsson gave the Karakia.

1.3 Apologies

R O'Keefe.

It was advised that T Anglam (the Ngai Tahu Representative) had resigned and that a replacement would be sought soon.

C Brankin apologised for lateness.

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

- Cr Stong signalled that groups wanting to ban or restrict hunting and fishing on riverbeds so not to disturb nesting native birds throughout Canterbury were changing their focus of protest to local organisations such as Regional and District Councils instead of Fish and

Game. A recent example includes calls for a total of all dogs from the Ashley River (including for game bird hunting during the winter season) and the ban of all hunting on Te Waihora. Discussion followed on the implications of this form of advocacy, and if / how to best respond to this sort of correspondence. It was thought that a way to combat the situation would be to ensure all decision makers knew and that our values were well understood. To make NZC aware of the issue, a copy of all correspondence from this "group" be sent.

- After a question was posed, Cr Barron advised that he and Cr Musson had met with the Chairman plus two others from CSI to commence discussions on mutual issues that affected both regions. He stated there was a huge amount of willingness to work together and that the meeting had been a positive one. Some issues discussed referenced the salmon symposium and how effective that was; that core values be aligned so that the same message went out to both Region's stakeholders; the possibility to develop combined gamebird and fish committees and a suggestion that a combined governance training session for the new councils be had.
- Cr Barron stated that he and Cr Isitt attended a meeting with the TAKF Trust to listen and assist with any issues they had. The Trust thanked NCFG staff on getting work completed for the TAKF event on Sunday 29 September 2024.

2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Game Bird Regulations

Cr Strong strongly urged councillors to stay in governance space and then proceeded to read out the Policy on Regulation Setting to remind Council of the task ahead.

M Garrick presented outcomes and recommendations from the Game Bird Regulations Review Consultation and process.

Findings from the hunter satisfaction survey that was recently completed, and general points raised during included:

- did not recognise hunter effort on feeding ponds prior to the season opening
- the survey was not related to bag limits at all
- how much impact on the survey do hunters have by shooting on their own ponds
- a robust framework needs to be set up to better understand numbers of greylards
- the survey aligns with other regions on bag limit setting closer to that which hunters expect
- aligns regulations with other regions
- bag limit setting was reliant on harvest
- data sets can be improved upon - input welcome by Council
- most farmers treat ducks as pests - that perception needs to change
- decisions should be based on the health of the resource
- three foundation points where questions need to be asked - a. biological- something failing, and we don't know why; b. hunter satisfaction - bag limit set to have better expectations and c. social licence.
- incoming Council should make it a priority to come up with a better way on how data is gathered
- if stakeholders not satisfied, then no licences being sold
- education given on 'take what you need' rather than reducing a bag limit



Game Bird Regulations

Set opening weekend greylard daily bag limit to 20 as a stepwise change.

5 For 2 Against Cr Barron abstained.

Decision Date: 25 Sept 2024
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved



Game Bird Regulations

Set regular season paradise shelduck daily bag limit to 15.

3 For 2 Against Cr's Barron and Coster Abstained

Decision Date: 25 Sept 2024
Mover: DAVE COLL
Seconder: PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome: Approved



Game Bird Regulations

Set summer season paradise shelduck daily bag limit to 15.

2 For 3 Against Cr's Barron and Coster Abstained.

Decision Date: 25 Sept 2024
Mover: DAVE COLL
Seconder: CHRIS BRANKIN
Outcome: Not Approved



2025 Game Season Dates

Species	Season Duration	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey, mallard duck and any hybrid of those species	3 to 4 May	20	All areas
	5 May to 27 July	15	All Areas
	1 to 2 and 8 to 9 Feb 2025	10	Area B Only over agricultural grain crops and green feed paddocks and more than 200 metres from any water body
NZ shoveler duck	3 May to 27 July	2	All Areas
Paradise shelduck	3 May to 27 July	15 20	Area A Area B
	1 Feb to 9 March 2025	15	All Areas and only more than 200 metres from any water body
Pukeko	3 May to 31 August	5	All Areas
Black Swan	3 May to 27 July	2	All Areas

California Quail	3 May to 31 August	10	All Areas
Cock Pheasant	7, 8 & 9 June, 5 to 6 July, and 2 to 3 August	1	All Areas
Chukar	3 May to 31 August	2	All Areas

Decision Date: 25 Sept 2024
Mover: DAVE BARRON
Second: NIALL COSTER
Outcome: Approved

2.2 Rakaia River Fishing Competition 2025

R Gabrielson advised that staff did not see a problem holding next year's Rakaia River Fishing Promotions (RRFP) annual fishing competition as angler harvest rate of sea-run salmon is currently controlled effectively through the season bag limit (set at two salmon per salmon licence holder each season).

It was acknowledged that a survey maybe required to clarify anglers perceptions regarding future fishing competitions if the overall salmon returns this season are again low. The salmon management plan was developed to assist in controlling harvest rates to support recovery when population monitoring confirms ongoing poor runs over time.

The RRFP should be advised of the consequences of a poor salmon run in relation to possible changes of requirements for holding future competitions.



Rakaia River Fishing Promotions

That the 2025 Rakaia River salmon fishing competition (27th February to 2nd March 2025) is approved.

Decision Date: 25 Sept 2024
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Second: PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome: Approved

2.3 Feedback to NZ Fish & Game Council on consultation package

NZC sent papers to Councils at short notice. All papers were taken as read.

- Draft Sports Fish and Game Management Plan
- Policy on drafting the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan
- Guide to engaging with Mana Whenua on the preparation of the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan
- 2024/25 Meeting and Budget Schedule
- Budget and Licence Fees and Levy's/Grants 204/25
- Fish and Game Levy System
- Fish and Game Standing Orders



Feedback to NZC on Consultation Package

Staff to review these Policies and alert Council to any concerns as necessary.

Decision Date: 25 Sept 2024

Mover: CHRIS BRANKIN
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved



Feedback on NZC Consultation Package

So review NZC Consultation papers and alert Council of any concerns as necessary.

Due Date: 31 Oct 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Consultation Papers from NZC

For future papers presented by NZC, ask to provide a summary front cover memo of each paper, to better understand the content in a shorter version.

Due Date: 27 Nov 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Confirm Minutes Dated 22 May 2024

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting 24 Jul 2024, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Presentation from World Fisheries Congress

R Gabrielsson to provide a presentation at the Annual General Meeting in November 2024 of his attendance at the World Fisheries Congress held in Seattle USA March 2024.

Paper to be sent to past and new Councillors prior to meeting.

Due Date: 27 Nov 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Minutes of the 24 July 2024 Council Meeting

That subject to the changes to the attendees (spelling of Cr Baron to Barron and deletion of Cr's Isitt and Coster to Cr Musson) in "Discussion with Central South Island Regarding Management of Lake Heron & Melish Stream" that the minutes be accepted.

Cr Coll abstained due to absence from that meeting

Decision Date: 25 Sept 2024
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved

3.2 Public Session

Paul Hodgson, President NZSAA, spoke to his project on collating Angler Oral Histories on the Rakaia River.

He stated that he wanted the findings and public report published into a journal article, with a view to have it peer reviewed. He was asking NCFG to assist with funding of this Report and stated that if NCFG contributed, he would include a fifth river.



Oral Histories - Sponsorship Request

To discuss with council and look at possible funding and advise P Hodgson on outcome.

Due Date: 27 Nov 2024

Owner: ALAN STRONG

3.3 General Business

Board Pack - papers to be condensed as this particular set of papers were too long. All Reports should be taken as read.

To get through meetings quicker, Cr Coll stated that Council could have on-line meetings of which decisions would be ratified at those meetings prior to the main Council meeting.

E Craig was commended on her Final Sea-Run Salmon Harvest and Spawning Estimates Report which would be put through social media. A more technical report would be forthcoming.

Weekly Report - the reason for the Weekly Report going to social media was to have cut through to more stakeholders which is Facebook driven.

4. STANDARD REPORTS

4.1 Standard Reports

All Reports were taken as read.

- Adaptive Management Strategy - a review in conjunction with CSI could be undertaken. This presents to the possibility of another salmon symposium.
- New drone purchased used to study changes in habitat and fish counting. Currently is discussion with an American scientist regarding how to best use the data gathered.
- High Country Water and Wildlife Project - Councillors and staff to be invited to the opening of the restoration project at the Glenariffe headwaters. C Brankin congratulated S Terry and R Gabrielsson on the success of the Project. S Terry was praised for his abilities to develop and build landowner relationships which assisted in the success of the Project. Both S Terry and R Gabrielsson were congratulated for their efforts made during the three-year timeline of the Project.

4.2 Action List

Due Date	Action Title	Owner
19 Jul 2023	National Reserves Policy Status: Completed on 30 Jul 2024	RICHARD O'KEEFE
22 May 2024	Trout Management Plan Status: Completed on 12 Sept 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
22 May 2024	Councillor "Alone Time" Status: In Progress	ALAN STRONG
22 May 2024	Building Relationships with Ngai Tahu Status: On Hold	ALAN STRONG
16 Aug 2024	Rakaia Water Conservation Project Status: Completed on 16 Aug 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
21 Aug 2024	Discussion with Central South Island Regarding Management of Lake Heron & Melish Stream Status: In Progress	DAVE BARRON

Due Date	Action Title	Owner
18 Sept 2024	Mai Mai's on Te Waihora and Muriwai Lakes Status: Completed on 1 Sept 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
18 Sept 2024	Operational Work Plan Status: Completed on 1 Oct 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
18 Sept 2024	Actions from General Business Status: Completed on 1 Sept 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
18 Sept 2024	Angler Oral Histories on the Rakaia River Status: Completed on 21 Sept 2024	ALAN STRONG
30 Sept 2024	Fishing Competitions Status: Completed on 1 Oct 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
19 Feb 2025	Rakaia Reserve Status: In Progress	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
28 Feb 2025	Development of an Educational and Promotional Strategy for Gamebird Hunting Status: In Progress	RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Shooting Platform for the Disabled

To bring back to Council information on the feasibility of a shooting platform for the disabled at Te Waihora or Muriwai Lakes.

A examination of potential benefits and challenges for a shooting platform for the disabled hunters within the North Canterbury region is underway, and will be presented to Council at their February 2024 workshop (revised date) in conjunction with the educational and promotional strategy for game bird hunting.

Due Date: 16 Feb 2025
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

R Gabrielsson updated Council on the Controlled Fishery Booking system.

The meeting moved into Public Excluded session to discuss staff remuneration at 9.33pm.

5. FOR INFORMATION STAFF REPORTS

5.1 For Information Papers

6. Close Meeting

6.1 Close the meeting

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

Signature: _____

Date: _____