



NORTHLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Thursday 6 August 2026

TIME: 7.00pm

Dinner 6.00pm

LOCATION: NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE, A5, 7-11 NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI

Welcome/Apologies

Annual or One Year Agenda

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Confirmation of 21 May 2026 Meeting Minutes
Matters Arising from Minutes

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Managers' Report

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Field Officers Reports

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NZFGC Update

Final approval of draft Budget 2026-2027

Separate Paper

Final approval of draft Operational Work Plan 2026-27

Separate Paper

Discussion of Budget Options – Memorandum to follow

Health & Safety Report

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Executive Limitations Report

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Financial Report to 30 June 2026

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Correspondence Schedule

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Other Business

NORTHLAND FISH & GAME ANNUAL OR ONE-YEAR AGENDA

Meetings	Council process	Regular agenda items	Annual items	Ad hoc items
Thursday 12 Feb 2026	▪ Routine – Apologies, minutes of previous meeting, matters arising, agenda items	▪ Managers Operational & Financial Reports ▪ Urgent General Business	▪ Evaluation of Council's Governance Review ▪ Confirm trout order for 2027 liberation ▪ Draft budget ▪ Draft OWP	▪
Wednesday 01 April 2026	▪ Routine – Apologies, minutes of previous meeting, matters arising, agenda items	▪ Managers Operational & Financial Reports ▪ Urgent General Business	▪ Report from Chairman on governance review	▪
Thursday 21 May 2026	▪ Routine – Apologies, minutes of previous meeting, matters arising, agenda items	▪ Managers Operational & Financial Reports ▪ Urgent General Business	▪ Licence Fee and Form consultation ▪ Anglers Notice – issues requiring NZC consideration ▪ Report from Chairman on governance review	▪
Thursday 06 August 2026	▪ Routine – Apologies, minutes of previous meeting, matters arising, agenda items	▪ Managers Operational & Financial Reports ▪ Urgent General Business	▪ Budget and OWP – final sign-off ▪ Managers Annual Performance Review	▪
Thursday 22 October 2026	▪ Routine – Apologies, minutes of previous meeting, matters arising, agenda items. Final meeting of current council before elections	▪ Managers Operational & Financial Reports ▪ Urgent General Business	▪ Meeting programme - dates & venues for next year's meetings. ▪ Managers performance review report	▪
Thursday 03 December 2026	▪ Routine – Apologies, minutes of previous meeting, matters arising, agenda items. Inaugural meeting of new council	▪ Managers Operational & Financial Reports ▪ Urgent General Business	▪ Chairman and Managers Annual Report ▪ Financial Statement for year ended 31 August 2026 ▪ Review of audit report for 2025-26 FY ▪ Draft Game Notice	▪

Unconfirmed Minutes - NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL

Location:	Northland Fish & Game Office
Date and Time:	Thursday 21 May 2026, 6.52pm

PRESENT

Acting Chairperson Cameron Shanks

Councillors Russell Daniels, Sean Brickland, Darryl Reardon, Barrie Barnes, John McEntee

Staff Craig Deal (Manager), Rachael Quin (Administrator)

The Acting Chairman welcomed the councillors. The Conflict-of-Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

APOLOGIES Mark Bell, Lloyd Altham, Phil Durham (Leave of Absence)

It was moved *That the apologies be accepted.*

Darryl Reardon / John McEntee

CARRIED

Previous Minutes

It was resolved *That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 1st April 2026 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Barrie Barnes/ Russell Daniels

CARRIED

Matters Arising

Cr McEntee stated that the newly developed lake/reservoir on Old Bay Road at the headwater of the Waitangi River should be explored for its suitability as a stocked fishery.

Managers' Report

The Manager further reported;

- The addition of botulism management plans in wastewater treatment plants has received support from FNDC but is meeting resistance from Northland Regional Council (NRC) consenting team and will be requesting a meeting.
- Duck nights at the Hunting and Fishing stores went well. Cr Brickland congratulated the Manager for appropriate messaging (and duck calling) and noted the good number of juniors and their safety awareness.

- Several offences against the Wildlife Act detected during ranging operations on opening weekend of game season.
- Impending deadline for Kelvin Ellis Cr vacancy request with no candidates and byelection requests to date.
- Budget submitted to NZC was not correct therefore NFGC should anticipate a shortfall in 2026-27 and consider contingencies in the coming financial year.

The Manager reminded Council of the formal consultation required for the North Canterbury Initiative and proposed a letter be drafted from Council to staff to notify of the intent to commence the process. The Council resolved to form a working group to follow up on staff employment memorandum of understanding. Cr Barnes suggested Adrienne Murray from NZFGC is contacted for guidance by the working group.

Action: The Manager contact Adrienne Murray for guidance.

It was moved ***That the Acting Chairman Shanks, Cr Reardon and Chairman Durham form a working group and create their own Terms of Reference.***

Barrie Barnes / Sean Brickland

CARRIED

It was moved ***That the Manager's Report be received.***

Russell Daniels / Sean Brickland

CARRIED

Field Officers Reports

1231/2 Landowner advice / NZGBHT applications

The Council was asked to consider whether there should be further development work at Underwood wetland. The Manager suggested it was not practical at this time considering the Jack Bisset wetland bund wall issue and its likely cost. Acting Chairman Shanks agreed.

1313 Ballots / Permits

The Manager advised Council that the letter referred to in Field Officer Gallagher's report regarding conduct of hunters at Jack Bisset wetland was not available.

The Manager discussed the intention to use the vacancies at Borrow Cut wetland as a recruitment and training project for junior hunters. The Councillors were supportive.

Pukeko Trend Counts Report

The Council had no comment.

Kaitaia Oxidation Ponds

Acting Chairman Shanks queried progress with the de-sludging project that is underway, and the Manager reported it to be ongoing and noted there were no birds residing on the oxidation ponds due to the disturbance.

It was moved

That the Field Officer's Reports and Northland Pukeko Trend Counts 2026 Report be received.

Darryl Reardon / John McEntee

CARRIED

Jack Bisset Wetland Bund Repair Report

The Manager outlined the options of a quick fix or to follow the report recommendations. Cr Daniels queried the outcome of doing nothing. The Manager stated that the property was our most popular with a very high value for wildlife and hunters. The Manager proposed to share the engineering report with contractors for an estimate. Cr McEntee and the Acting Chairman agreed a decent sized contractor agency should be sought.

The Manager raised the issue of resource consents when dealing with wetland reconstruction. Cr Barnes suggested an MP is contacted to ensure the wetlands prominence is promoted and defended to ensure consenting is not an obstacle. The Manager proposed the specific costs plus the cost for resource consenting should be on hand before the next step.

Council discussed using restricted reserves for the bund repair and applying for funding from the Game Bird Habitat Trust.

Action: Manager to seek estimates and consenting costs to obtain a likely total figure to repair the bund wall.

NZFGC Update

Cr Barnes had nothing to report as a NZFGC meeting had not taken place.

Anglers Notice 2026-27 Season

Second Schedule

Northland Fish and Game Region

The Northland region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1 Except in the case of Perch and Tench, for which there is no daily limit, no angler shall on any one day take and kill or be in possession of more than the prescribed daily limit from the waters specified in the schedule.

Note 2 An angler may continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day on which the angler has already killed a limit bag for that species, as long as fish taken are immediately returned with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.

Note 3 In all waters of the region there is a minimum length of 300mm for Trout.

Note 4 No angler shall fish from or troll from any boat which is being mechanically propelled.

Note 5 No angler shall fish from any boat or flotation device.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Locations	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Species	Daily bag limit by species zero bag limit unless number shown	Refer Clause 2 Additional Requirements
Lake Manuwai	Waipapa		All year	FSB	Rainbow	3	Notes 1, 2, 3, 4
Whau Valley Dam	Whangarei		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	3	Notes 1, 2, 3, 5
Wilsons Dam	Ruakaka		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	3	Notes 1, 2, 3, 5
Ahuroa River	Waipu		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Awarua River	Twin Bridges		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kaihu River	Kaihu		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kaikanui River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kaimamaku River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kerikeri River	Kerikeri		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kirikiritoki Stream	Hikurangi		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangahahuru Stream	Hikurangi		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangakahia River	Twin Bridges		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangapa River	10 km north of Okaihau		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangatu River	Donnelly's Crossing/Kaihu		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
North River	Waipu		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Opouteke River	Twin Bridges		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Punakitere River	10 km south of Kaikohe		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Tirohanga Stream	Kawakawa		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Victoria River	South of Kaitaia		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waima River	Donnelly's Crossing		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waiotu River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waipapa River	10 km north of Okaihau		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Wairua River	Hikurangi, downstream of confluence of Waiotu and Whakapara Rivers		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waitangi River	Paihia		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Tench	2	Notes 1, 2, 3

Whakapara River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
All other waters not listed			All year	FSB		2	Notes 1, 2, 3

Cr Daniels asked for clarification around Note 4 regarding mechanically propelled boat. Discussions around electrically propelled craft with no mechanical advantage led to the need for a distinction.

It was moved *To accept the angler notice submitted with the correction to Note 4 'No angler shall fish from or troll from any boat which is motorised'.*

Sean Brickland / Russell Daniels

CARRIED

The Manager included the Regulation Amendment Cover Template required when submitting any regulation amendments to the Minister. Of note is the need for consultation with licence holders. The Manager stated that Council does not have the resources necessary to do the monitoring needed for fisheries regulations but noted that Northland has had success making changes without complete data to support the proposed change if it is creating additional opportunities for licence holders.

Consultation – Licence Fee Increase

Cr Barnes outlined issues with requesting a \$5 increase in light of decreasing licence sales and little cost cutting, suggesting councils not support the increase and instead limit spending to the available budget. The implications of not requesting the \$5 increase were discussed. The options for contingency in the face of another year of budget shortfall were discussed. Cr Barnes stated that regions are going to have to find ways to reduce costs to meet expected income or use their reserves to cover shortfalls.

It was moved *That Northland Fish & Game Council does not support the \$5 licence fee increase being consulted on by NZFGC.*

Darryl Reardon / Russell Daniels

CARRIED

Consultation – Privacy Policy

The Manager queried how the policy applies to holding private information of lapsed licence holders over time and attempting to reengage. The Manager noted that a new licensing system would need to feature an option to for lapsed customers to unsubscribe from emails and promotional material.

It was moved *That Northland Fish & Game Council support the privacy policy with submitted recommended corrections and amendments.*

Barrie Barnes / John McEntee

CARRIED

Consultation – Game Birds Causing Damage or Nuisance

The Manager noted the recent policy and SOP was an improvement since feedback was submitted on the last draft. The current version needs more clarity around who the Risk Assessment is for (in SOP) and the rules around whether or not regions could provide equipment (gas guns). The Manager recommended the policy must allow regions the flexibility to issue a cull permit without trialling non-lethal means if necessary. The Council requested the Manager issue feedback on the Council's behalf.

Action: The Manager issue feedback on the Council's behalf.

It was moved ***That Northland Fish & Game Council support the Game Birds Causing Damage or Nuisance policy with submitted recommended corrections and amendments.***

Sean Brickland / Darryl Reardon

CARRIED

Health and Safety Report

Northland Fish & Game is required to give a Health & Safety report at each council meeting detailing:

- The implementation and adherence to Health & Safety policy/manual
- Any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed
- Progress with any ongoing issues
- Outcomes of audits and reviews required in the Health & Safety manual
- Any near misses or injuries

It was moved ***That the Health and Safety Report be received.***

John McEntee / Russell Daniels

CARRIED

Executive Limitations Report

The Manager discussed the recent incident with a dead brown teal being found at Pataua, noting not to assume a licensed duck hunter was at fault as other scenarios may exist. Advice had been sought from the national staff about how to respond if there was media interest.

It was moved ***That the Executive Limitations Report be received.***

Russell Daniels / Darryl Reardon

CARRIED

Financial Report

The Manager noted that the gift to Cr Ellis was recorded as sensitive expenditure and requested a resolution to make an exception to transfer ownership from Northland Fish & Game Council.

It was resolved ***To make an exception that the property of Northland Fish & Game Council, namely a Kauri bowl, transfer ownership to Kelvin Ellis.***

Barrie Barnes / John McEntee

CARRIED

Cr Barnes thanked Rachael for organising a gift at short notice.

Time 8.54pm

The Council moved into a public excluded session of the meeting.

Barrie Barnes / Darryl Reardon

CARRIED

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
XX.	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Sec 9(2)(b)(ii)	Commercial information about a third party would likely prejudice the commercial position of that party if released.	Once the third party to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.
	Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.	Sec 9(2)(g)(ii)	Prejudice or harm is likely to occur making it necessary to withhold the information to prevent that occurring.	Only where the public interest in disclosure of the information, in whole or part, outweighs the need to withhold the information.

	Maintain legal professional privilege	Sec. 9(2)(h)	To enable the Council to discuss legal advice.	Once the matter is completed and the legal advisor agrees to its release.
	Enable a Minister of the Crown or any Department or organisation holding information to carry out without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.	Sec.9(2)(j)	To enable the Council to discuss the information without improper gain or advantage being given to third parties.	Once agreement has been reached or contract signed.

Time 9.46pm

The Council resumed an open meeting of the Northland Fish and Game Council.

Barrie Barnes / Darryl Reardon

CARRIED

Refer to Public Excluded minutes.

General Business

Cr Brickland reported the recent Northland field days attended to be the biggest yet with over 20,000 attendees.

Cr McEntee extended sympathy to Rachael on behalf of the Council for being on the receiving end of hunters heightened emotions around the start of game season.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.49pm.

Cameron Shanks
Acting Chairman

To: All Councillors
From: Craig Deal
Date: 6 August 2026
Subject: Managers Report

The following is an account of activities that management has been involved in since the 21 May 2026 meeting.

1110 Species Monitoring

Some trout spawning surveys have occurred to determine where the spawning areas are in the region. Annual national shoveler survey is scheduled for 3 August 2026.

High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza H5N1 (HPAI) has been detected in wild birds within New Zealand. There are no detections in Northland currently. There is no definitive way to tell what the effect will be to the various game bird populations. Observations in the USA showed that mallard ducks were not badly affected and hunting seasons were not altered. Research from other countries has shown that black swan are extremely vulnerable to HPAI as they are missing a gene that triggers an immune response to HPAI viruses. Mortality rates in black swan are extreme when contacted with the virus.

There has been a reasonable amount of duck leg bands being returned from our first banding activity in February this year, both from the banding site pond and the surrounding area. Most bands harvested outside the banding location have come from the Dargaville/Ruawai area.



Northland hunter Cam Shaw with his trophy, a drake with unusual plumage that was banded at our site this year. I was able to send him a photo of his duck in the trap when we were banding.

1122 Hunter Harvest Survey

Hunter surveys have continued through the game season.

1161 Trout Releases

The 2026 trout release was completed in late May as directed. 150 two-year-old rainbows into Whau Valley Dam and Lake Manuwai, and 20 into Wilsons Dam. This is the first trial release of 2-year-old fish. Staff will observe catch rate and fish size over the coming year to see if there is any appreciable difference.

1171 Anglers Notice

The Anglers Notice for the 2026-27 season was submitted and approved by the Minister.

1221 Jack Bisset Wetland

I have reached out to three earthworks companies that specify ponds and dams as a specialty. Two have replied and stated that they would be interested in taking on a contract for the Jack Bisset repair. I have sent the engineering report and will coordinate site visits. Once I have quotes, I will put them before Council for a decision.



Lucas Deal and Button the springer spaniel braving a late season southerly to get a duck before the season ended

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

A hunter reported recently downed trees on the access track near the big pond in June. Field officer Graham Gallagher investigated and found machinery in the wetland doing work on the access track. The work had been commissioned by DOC but was inside the reserve managed by Fish and Game. I contacted DOC Kauri Coast and made it clear that the timing of the works was undesirable (game season) and that we should have been consulted for any works inside the reserve that is a Fish and Game responsibility. The works were ceased and an apology received.

1311 Access Negotiation

I have made a submission to PF Olsen to allow us to issue forestry permits on their behalf. They are managing many new forestry blocks across the region.

1313 Ballots and Permits

Wetland and forestry permits are being issued as requested.

The online DOC permitting system has worked well. I have been making requests to DOC to increase the number of reserves available to hunt game. A regional staff member has been allocated to engage with me on this work which is a positive step. I suspect that this work will take a low priority while HPAI is a developing threat.

Ballots for stands on Fish and Game properties are scheduled for late October.

1315 Fishing Tuition

The Whau Valley Fishing Tuition event is scheduled for Saturday 17 October 2026.



Button the springer spaniel with another Northland pine pheasant

1330 Newsletters

Both Barrels newsletters have been published monthly through the game season.

The regional supplement to the Anglers Fish & Game Magazine 2026-27 edition has been submitted.

1360 Club Relations

I attended a hunting competition run by Whangarei Gun Dog Club. The competition was a mixed bag competition, with different points scored for different game species. Eight species appeared at the prizegiving, out of the nine available in the region. Of note, the winner produced six species (mallard duck, grey duck, paradise duck, black swan, pheasant, brown quail) which were all harvested in one day, all on publicly accessible properties. This is a great example of the variety of hunting available in the region.

1411 Conservation Board Liaison

Staff have been engaging with the regional bittern management team led by DOC staff.

1413 Regional/District Council Liaison

Staff have represented Fish and Game at regional HPAI coordination meetings.

1440 Public Promotions

The competition offering a free full season licence has been drawn and the winner published in the Anglers Magazine.

1451 Regional Shows and Events

I have registered for a site at the 2027 Northland Field Days event.

1511 Ranging

A late duck season ranging activity was undertaken in the Hikurangi area in late June. One party was spoken with.

Fish and Game staff and DOC rangers investigated the incident with the brown teal that appeared to have been harvested near Pataua. Nearby residents were spoken to, but no clear leads were uncovered. The investigation is now closed.

1520 Ranger Training

CERT Ranger Training is booked in Ngongotaha for myself, John Macpherson and honorary ranger Stephen Geange on 08 August 2026.

1531 Prosecutions

The three hunters found offending near Kaeo on opening weekend have been charged under the Wildlife Act 1953. I have engaged Crown Prosecutors to represent on our behalf. First appearances start from 24 July 2026.

1600 Licensing

Fish licence sales remain on track to slightly exceed target for the year (3.2%). Nationally sales remain down slightly (1.1%). Game licences sales are down 8.7% in the region this year. This will be partly due to the Southland licence sales recovering after last season. Nationally game licence sales are down 3.5%.

1630 Commission

Commission is being paid by way of a credit on invoices issued to agents.

1821 Annual OWP/Budget

On Friday 17 July 2026 it was announced that the Minister for Hunting and Fishing would be approving a \$2 licence fee increase. This is welcomed and will go some way toward alleviating financial pressure on the organisation however it will not be enough to cover the total budgets of the regions and NZFGC. The Base Fund approved by NZFGC for Northland for 2026-27 is \$592,925. This is a 2.3% reduction from the bulk fund approved for this current year (\$606,883). The budget for 2026-27 that was requested was \$640,931. This is \$48,006 more than what will be funded. I will draft a separate paper to present some options for a decision on how to proceed with the budget for 2026-27.

The draft 2026-27 OWP is included in the agenda for final approval.

1840 National Liaison

I continue to attend managers meetings and other national meetings as required.

1900 Administration

The office has been open for all the required hours during the reporting period and has served the public and licence holders.

The Councils assets are well maintained and fully insured. I am in the process of renewing insurance for 2026-27.

Recommendation

That the Northland Fish and Game Council receive this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Deal', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Craig Deal
Manager
23 July 2026

To: All Councillors
From: Graham Gallagher
Date: 20/07/2026
Subject: Field Officer Report (Whangarei)

1111 Trend counts and population monitoring

I have inspected most of the Fish and Game properties and at this stage there is no sign of any sick birds or mass mortality.

1119 Trout population assessment

Spawning surveys were carried out on the Kaimamaku and the Waipapa Rivers.

Results:

Kaimamaku: 2 large trout including 1 x jack - 30cm plus, 2 med, 9 small trout. No Redd beds seen.

Waipapa (Puketi Forest): No fish or Redd beds were seen in the 2km stretch of the Waipapa River.

1172 Regulations

Nothing to report.

1181 Game bird dispersal

Nothing to report.

1220 Works and Management Wetland Summary

Flaxmill: See bittern telemetry report from DOC Kauri Coast. The Flaxmill and Awakino wetland complex are a hot spot for bittern activity.

Wairua: Nothing to report.

Bisset: A possum trapper is now working on the surrounding properties of the Bisset and Greenheart wetland. This will hopefully reduce the possum reinvasion to these blocks.

Underwood: DOC are upgrading the access tracks in the left-hand side of the reserve.

1231/2 Landowner advice/NZGBHT applications

Nothing to report.

1313 Ballots/Permits

Stand audits were carried out at the Flaxmill, Bisset and Kawakawa wetlands. No major issues were detected.

1331 Media

Northlands regional supplement was submitted along with the June and July Both Barrels. National office is leading correspondence with licence holders regarding bird flu.

1510 Ranging/Compliance

A mid-season ranging operation occurred around the Wairua reserve. A small group of hunters were spoken to and were compliant with the regulations.

An end of upland game season ranging operation is planned for the Te Hiku Forest in August.

1923 Staff Training

Nothing to report.

Maritime/Moss

The vessel management software SEAFLEX has been updated and a new version released and our records have been transferred. The MTOP is currently being renewed nationally and any amendments to Northland documentation and procedures will be made in due course. Several minor maintenance issues have been rectified.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Gallagher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Gallagher
Field Officer

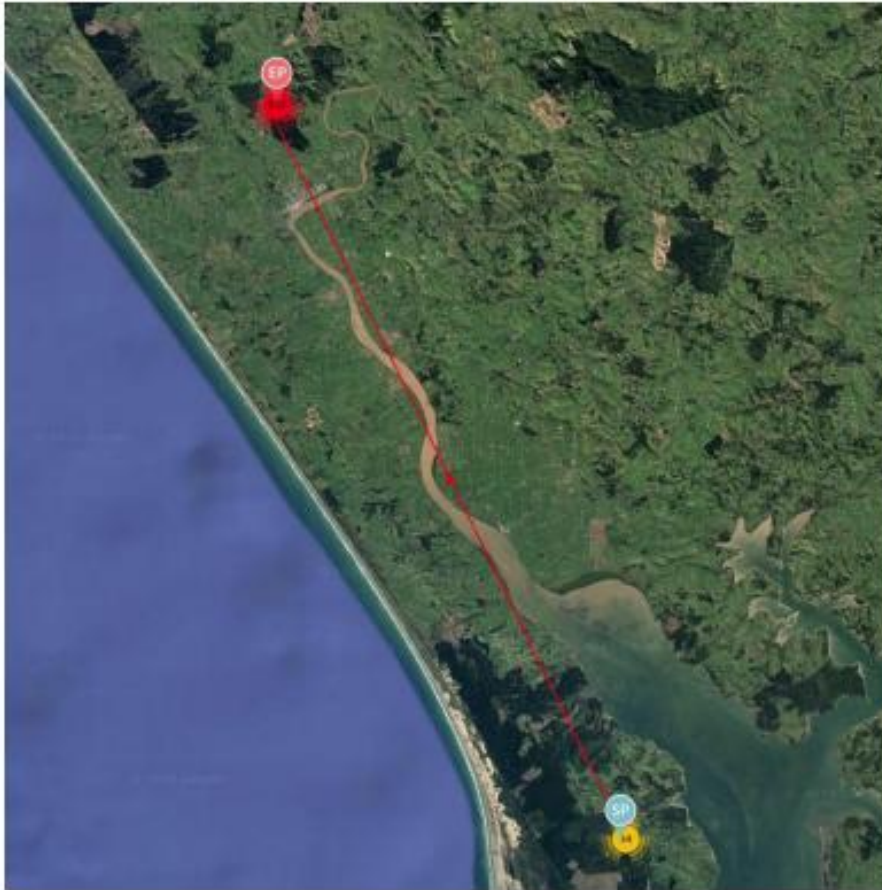
Kauri Coast matuku-hūrepo update of tagged birds as of July 2026:

Currently there are 6 male matuku-hūrepo that have active GPS trackers in the Kauri Coast District.

Shown below are each matuku-hūrepo tracking for the current year of January to July 2026.

Rotopouua, Pouto male (unnamed): Tagged Nov 2025

Jan to July 2026



Clarks Bay male (unnamed): Tagged Nov 2025

Jan to July 2026



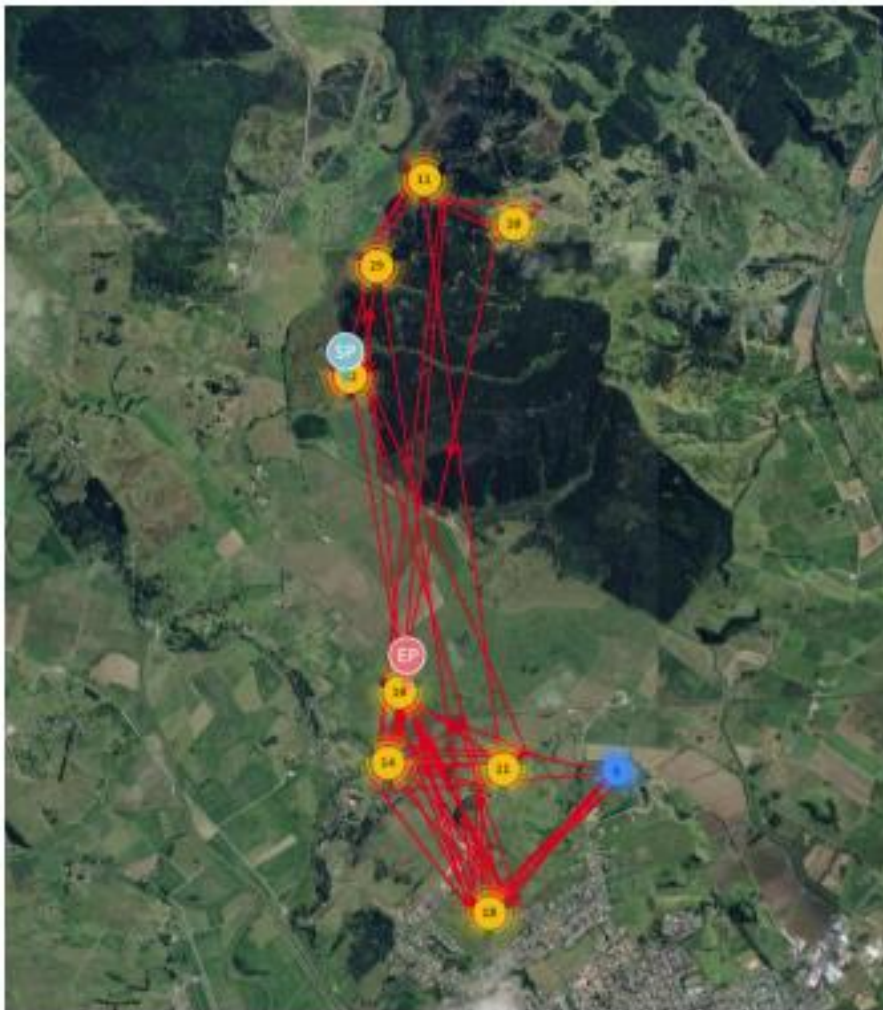
Remy: Tagged Awakino Nov 2025.

Jan to July 2026



Hau Roto: Tagged Awakino Oct 2025

Jan to July 2026



Dart: Tagged Rehutai 2024 Nov

Jan to July 2026



Tunatahi: Tagged Te Kuihi Nov 2025

Jan 2026 tracking (No updated satellite data)



No updated satellite data

Brendan: Tagged 2022 Flaxmill

Bruce: Tagged Flaxmill Nov 2024.

Tracking no longer available due to satellite upgrade (2g trackers)

Kupe: Tagged Lake Humuhumu 2023

Te Awanui (female): Rehabilitated and released winter 2022

Homeboy: Tagged 2023 Nov

To: All Councillors
From: John Macpherson
Date: 20/07/2026
Subject: Field Officer Report (Kaitaia)

Fortnightly Surveys

The surveys have been going well, although they are taking longer and longer with people realising they can ask for information e.g. bird populations; where are the most birds; how fat are they; is anybody else seeing ducklings; how's everybody else doing with the hunting; are there any pups for sale; how do we get into this area, what should I take. One minute can be up to half an hour. It's an extremely accurate way of communicating and I find it very rewarding being able to communicate directly with our licence holders. We have another two surveys to go for the season.

Permits

Permits to Disturb have slowed, although a lot of people think the paradise shelduck finished at the end of June. People are quite surprised to find they don't finish until the 26 July. I keep get people requesting permits in built up areas, subdivisions, orchards. One person on the surveys wanted to know if we could run a comp for pukeko, keep the legs, and at the end of the season, send in a picture with the tally of pairs of legs. He thought it would give people an incentive to hunt pukeko through the season. We are at around 104 permits for the year, pretty much the same as the previous year.

Trout

Trout releases went off without a hitch - Wilsons Dam, Whau Valley Dam, Lake Manuwai, off Sandys Road in Kerikeri. Trout surveys have been an ongoing battle with weather and clean creeks. Whau Valley was closed in one of the short windows we had for clean running water. We checked Puketi pools and river just recently. No signs of any trout or areas of gravel they may have been using to spawn. Of the rocks turned over for mayflies and other food, only a couple of snails were found.

Arbour Day

Joined up with DOC, Paparore School, Bushlands Trust and Summit for a tree planting day at Lake Ngatu and Lake Gem. With many parents and staff digging holes the kids whipped through them. Lunch is always a highlight for the kids with barbeque sausages on bread.

Ranging

Graham and I carried out ranging in the Borrow Cut and Wairua. One family group were checked on the stop bank, all compliant. Great to see the work carried out by Graham in the valuable wetland, amazing work and difference to when we started.

Summit Forest has given Fish and Game access to permits to Range during the week in the Te Hiku Forest.



John Macpherson
Field Officer (Kaitaia)

HEALTH AND SAFETY – July 2026

Background

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace the Council requires a report at each meeting detailing;

1. implementation and adherence to Health and Safety policy / manual
2. any new issues and updates
3. progress with any ongoing issues
4. outcomes of audits and reviews required in the Health and Safety manual
5. any near misses or injuries and any new hazards and how these have been addressed

Update

	Status
1. Development of policy / manual	
Policy and Manual is in place.	Current
2. New issues and information	
Course renewal	Graham - Controlled Substance cert received. Craig - First Aid course renewal completed. TrackMe account activated.
3. Ongoing issues	
Nil	
4. Audits, reviews, and meetings	
H&S Meetings Vehicle inspections Annual Audits and Reviews	Monthly meetings held. Completed. Chemical inventory up to date with live tracker created. Signage installed. Controlled substances now stored in safe. Spill kit and chemical storage annual check complete. August checks (first aid kits, tool audit, workplace safety and managers audit are scheduled to be completed by 10 August.
5. Audit Recommendations Progress	
	Actioning chemical handling and storage. TrackMe lone worker tracking has been contracted and is in the implementation phase.
6. Near misses, injuries, and hazards	
HPAI	Risks to staff discussed. The current plan is to minimise staff exposure to the virus and potential carriers. There are no circumstances where staff should be picking up dead birds. PPE for “just in case” occurrences will be purchased. Duck banding activities may occur in an HPAI environment if MPI approves. This will have particular H+S and PPE requirements that will be implemented as necessary. If HPAI is detected in a F&G wetland the plan is to close the wetland to public access for a time rather than clean up carcasses.
Hazard - Doormat	Door mat anchored.

Gamekeeper	Spare propeller procured.
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Craig Deal
Manager
July 2026

Executive Limitations Report

Northland Fish and Game Council Meeting, 6 August 2026

Prepared by: Craig Deal, Manager

Report frequency: Reports as required by ML 4.4.1

General Comment

The policy ML 4.4.1 requires the Manager to report bimonthly on financial planning and budgeting; financial condition and activities; protection of assets, programmes and services and public affairs. These are regular reports and they are primarily aimed at certification by me that I have complied with the Executive Limitations Policies or identifying any occasions where I have either not been able to comply with the policies or there are issues that I believe need to be brought to the Councils attention, the format of this report is therefore to certify compliance and note any exceptions.

EL 1 Financial Planning and Budgeting

Level Two

EL 1.2 Financial planning for any financial year or the remaining part of financial year shall not deviate materially from the Councils strategic ends policies, risk financial harm or fail to be derived from a multi-year plan.

Report

Expenditure is likely to come in under budget by the end of the financial year.

Due to the requirement to have an engineering inspection and the time it will take to get the required quotes and resource consent for repair works there is a possibility that the funds allocated for the Jack Bisset Wetland repair may not be used in this financial year. Should this be the case my recommendation will be to hold the funds over into financial year 2026-27 to commence the earthworks in October 2026.

EL 2 Financial Condition

Level Two

EL 2.2 With respect to the actual and ongoing financial condition and activities the Manager shall not cause or allow the development of financial harm or material deviation of expenditures from Councils priorities.

Report

Expenditure has been in accordance with the Council priorities and the Councils financial position is sound. There has been one incidence of sensitive expenditure which will be discussed in the financial report.

EL 6 Protection of Assets

Level Two

EL 6.2 The Manager shall not allow the Councils assets to be unprotected, inadequately maintained or unnecessary placed at risk.

Report

All the Councils assets are regularly maintained and serviced by appropriate and experienced personnel. All assets are kept in secure locations and are fully insured against theft, loss or damage. Insurance for vehicles, the vessel, trailers and office contents are in the process of being renewed for 2026-27.

EL 14 Programmes and Services**Level Two**

EL 14.2 The Manager shall not allow programmes and services to be established which are not thoroughly researched prior to commencement and carefully managed, monitored and reviewed.

Report

No programmes or services have been entered into which do not align with the organisation's purposes or priorities.

EL 15 Public Awareness**Level Two**

EL 15.2 The Manager shall not approve or in any way support any action or activity or statements to the news media that are derogatory or in any way damaging to Fish and Game New Zealand.

Report

No actions or statements that might generate media attention have been made or supported in this reporting period and the reputation of Northland Fish and Game remains intact.

The public relations risk with the incident of the brown teal shooting at Pataua has now lapsed due to a rapid and appropriate response.

The stand holder who recently lost their tenure in a Fish and Game wetland has made several threats to take their grievance to news media. Nothing has come of this so far. Should the issue get media interest my intention is to provide the facts as required to maintain the narrative that the NFGC has made appropriate decisions and has been open and transparent in their communications. The likelihood of this issue getting media traction is assessed as low.



Craig Deal
23 July 2026

To: All Councillors
From: Rachael Quin
Date: 23 July 2026
Subject: Financial Report for the period ending 30th June 2026

Revenue

Fish & Game Bird Licence Income **\$218,835**

The latest national licence sales spreadsheet will be circulated at the Council meeting for Councillor's information.

NZFG Council Grant **\$282,887**

The final instalment of the NZC grant is due to be received 20 August 2026.

Interest Income **\$9,779**

The term deposits (73 & 74) were reinvested for 6 months at 3.45%pa and due to mature 17 August.

Other Income **\$21,046**

This figure includes Greenheart Wetland grazing lease, ute gain on sale, gas gun hire and cost recovery for personal use of vehicles.

Total Income **\$532,548**

Expenditure

The current financial situation for the Council is that expenditure is under budget in most areas. All depreciation has been accumulated.

Total Overheads **\$451,774**

Total Operating Expenditure **\$519,882**

Net Profit **\$12,666**

Recommendation

That the financial report to the 30th June be adopted.

Rachael Quin
Office Administrator

Balance Sheet

Northland Fish and Game Council

As at 30 June 2026

Account	30 Jun 2026
Assets	
Bank	
ASB Cashflow	788.13
Cheque Account	3,001.56
Habitat Development Fund	4,667.11
Savings on Call Account	335,233.62
Term Deposit (73)	201,682.47
Term Deposit (74)	100,841.23
Total Bank	646,214.12
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	23,638.81
Accrued Interest	1,338.81
Total Current Assets	24,977.62
Fixed Assets	
Accum Dep Field Equipment	(8,873.80)
Accum Dep Improvements	(43,348.15)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(27,154.22)
Accum Dep Vehicles	(92,784.69)
Field Equipment	19,915.32
Improvements	140,383.00
Land	278,592.75
Office Equipment	29,951.93
Vehicles	184,917.24
Total Fixed Assets	481,599.38
Total Assets	1,152,791.12
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	3,216.53
Accrued Expenses	11,380.00
Annual Leave & Time in lieu	47,281.22
Designated Waters Clearing	8.31
Game Bird Habitat Stamp	7,326.11
GST	30,823.40
Income in Advance	5,910.00
PAYE Clearing	17,208.03
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	20.78
Visa Credit Card - Craig Deal	943.96
Total Current Liabilities	124,118.34
Non-current Liabilities	
Payroll Clearing	(8,439.43)
Total Non-current Liabilities	(8,439.43)
Total Liabilities	115,678.91
Net Assets	1,037,112.21
Equity	
Accumulated Funds	
Current Year Earnings	12,665.75
Accumulated Funds	989,740.00
Transfer To/From Reserves	(330,052.50)
Retained Earnings	22,099.98
Total Accumulated Funds	694,453.23
Asset Replacement Reserve	23,576.96
Non-Resident Levy Reserve	23,989.75
Habitat Development Fund Reserve	4,581.94
Kai Iwi Lakes Fishing Competitions Reserve	1,204.00
NFGC Sports Fish & Game Mgmt Plan Reserve	3,535.00
Habitat Enhancement Programme	4,165.33
Game Bird Habitat Development Reserve	281,606.00
Total Equity	1,037,112.21

Profit and Loss

Northland Fish and Game Council

For the 10 months ended 30 June 2026

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Budget	Unused Budget	% of Budget
Trading Income						
Licence Sales						
Fish Licence Sales	81,846	0	81,846	83,833	(1,987)	98%
Game Bird Licence Sales	136,990	0	136,990	145,362	(8,372)	94%
Total Licence Sales	218,835	0	218,835	229,195	(10,360)	95%
Grants NZC	282,887	282,887	(0)	377,183	(94,296)	75%
Interest Income	9,779	0	9,779	6,421	3,358	152%
Other Income	21,046	3,500	17,546	15,900	5,146	132%
Total Trading Income	532,548	286,387	246,161	628,699	(96,151)	85%
Gross Profit	532,548	286,387	246,161	628,699	(96,151)	85%
Operating Expenses						
Species Management						
1111 Trend Counts	10,013	13,000	(2,987)	13,000	(2,987)	77%
1116 Mallard Research	1,036	1,000	36	1,000	36	104%
1161 Trout Liberations	2,983	4,200	(1,217)	4,200	(1,217)	71%
1181 Gamebird Control	675	0	675	2,000	(1,325)	34%
Total Species Management	14,707	18,200	(3,493)	20,200	(5,493)	73%
Habitat Protection/Management						
1221 Jack Bisset Wetland	12,295	0	12,295	0	12,295	0%
1223 Habitat Maintenance	835	0	835	40,000	(39,165)	2%
1224 Borrow Cut Wetland	528	0	528	0	528	0%
1225 Flaxmill Wetland	6,917	0	6,917	0	6,917	0%
1226.1 Underwood Wetland	1,851	0	1,851	0	1,851	0%
1228 Wairua River Wildlife Mgmt Reserve	384	0	384	0	384	0%
1228.2 Greenheart Lease	596	0	596	0	596	0%
Total Habitat Protection/Management	23,407	0	23,407	40,000	(16,593)	59%
Participation						
1312 Signage	0	0	0	1,000	(1,000)	0%
1313 Ballots/Permits/Liability Insurance	0	2,000	(2,000)	2,000	(2,000)	0%
1351 Fishing Comp / Tuition Days	456	500	(44)	500	(44)	91%
Total Participation	456	2,500	(2,044)	3,500	(3,044)	13%
Public Interface						
1412 Mana Whenua Liaison	0	0	0	500	(500)	0%
1333 F&G Website / Social Media	150	0	150	0	150	0%
1451 Regional Shows and Events	2,825	3,000	(175)	3,000	(175)	94%
1453 Office Habitat Print & Poster Material	0	0	0	300	(300)	0%
Total Public Interface	2,975	3,000	(25)	3,800	(825)	78%
Compliance						
1511 Ranging & Rangers	395	1,500	(1,105)	1,500	(1,105)	26%
1531 Prosecutions	0	0	0	5,000	(5,000)	0%
Total Compliance	395	1,500	(1,105)	6,500	(6,105)	6%
Licensing						
1611 Licence Production & Distribution	0	0	0	100	(100)	0%
1614 Printing Regulation booklets (Game)	88	300	(212)	300	(212)	29%
1617 Transaction Fees	230	0	230	0	230	0%
1618 Transaction Fees excl GST	2,063	0	2,063	0	2,063	0%
1631 Commission on Sales - Fish	438	0	438	2,750	(2,312)	16%
1632 Commission on Sales - Game	5,547	0	5,547	6,418	(871)	86%
Total Licensing	8,366	300	8,066	9,568	(1,202)	87%
Councils						
1721 Council Meetings	1,372	1,665	(293)	2,000	(628)	69%
1722 Other Council Expenses - mileage	3,911	5,000	(1,089)	6,000	(2,089)	65%
Total Councils	5,283	6,665	(1,382)	8,000	(2,717)	66%
Planning/Reporting						
1832 Accountant	3,000	3,500	(500)	3,500	(500)	86%
1831 Audit	6,260	8,500	(2,240)	8,500	(2,240)	74%
1843 Maritime currency and qualifications	3,260	0	3,260	3,800	(540)	86%
Total Planning/Reporting	12,520	12,000	520	15,800	(3,280)	79%

Overheads

Salaries						
1911 Salaries	309,375	309,160	215	371,000	(61,625)	83%
Kiwisaver Contributions	9,462	9,250	212	11,100	(1,638)	85%
1913 Seasonal Contractor	2,155	0	2,155	5,000	(2,845)	43%
1914 Allowances	1,606	0	1,606	1,800	(194)	89%
Total Salaries	322,599	318,410	4,189	388,900	(66,301)	83%
Staff Expenses						
1921 ACC Levy	786	0	786	1,000	(214)	79%
1922 Fringe Benefit Tax	8,389	0	8,389	7,500	889	112%
1923 Staff Training	1,463	0	1,463	2,400	(937)	61%
1924 Health & Safety (OSH)	898	0	898	2,000	(1,102)	45%
1925 Staff Expenses	2,616	0	2,616	4,100	(1,484)	64%
1926 Staff Uniforms	0	0	0	500	(500)	0%
Total Staff Expenses	14,151	0	14,151	17,500	(3,349)	81%
Office Premises						
1941 Rent	31,667	33,330	(1,663)	40,000	(8,333)	79%
1942 Office Premises Rates (inc Water)	8,673	0	8,673	8,800	(127)	99%
1943 Office Maintenance	233	0	233	500	(267)	47%
1944 Insurance (mgmt fees)	490	0	490	500	(10)	98%
1945 Power	2,661	0	2,661	2,600	61	102%
1946 Office Security	802	0	802	1,000	(199)	80%
Total Office Premises	44,526	33,330	11,196	53,400	(8,874)	83%
Office Equipment						
1951 Purchases (Under 2,000) Office Equipment	864	0	864	1,500	(636)	58%
1952 Asset Replacement/Depreciation	2,984	0	2,984	7,310	(4,326)	41%
1953 Equipment Maintenance	166	0	166	400	(234)	42%
1954 Equipment/Contents Insurance	1,136	0	1,136	500	636	227%
Total Office Equipment	5,151	0	5,151	9,710	(4,559)	53%
Communications/Consumables						
1961 Telephone/fax/internet	4,187	0	4,187	6,000	(1,813)	70%
1963 Courier/Freight	188	0	188	1,000	(812)	19%
1964 Stationery	507	0	507	1,000	(493)	51%
1965 Photocopier	1,421	0	1,421	1,800	(379)	79%
1966 Computer Expenses	3,882	0	3,882	6,000	(2,118)	65%
Total Communications/Consumables	10,185	0	10,185	15,800	(5,615)	64%
General						
1972 Subscription	539	0	539	500	39	108%
1974 Bank Charges	79	0	79	0	79	0%
1975 General (inc Petty Cash)	501	0	501	900	(399)	56%
1976 Public & Statutory Liability Insurance	1,629	0	1,629	1,500	129	109%
Total General	2,748	0	2,748	2,900	(152)	95%
General Equipment						
1981 Purchases (Under 2000) Field Equipment	571	0	571	1,500	(929)	38%
1982 Asset Replacement Field Equipment	2,208	0	2,208	9,000	(6,792)	25%
1983 Field Equipment Maintenance	0	0	0	500	(500)	0%
1985 Equipment Hire/Rental	0	0	0	500	(500)	0%
Total General Equipment	2,779	0	2,779	11,500	(8,721)	24%
Vehicle Expenses						
1991 Purchases (Under 2,000) Vehicles	724	0	724	600	124	121%
1992 Asset Replacement -Vehicles	16,618	0	16,618	4,336	12,282	383%
1993 Vehicle Maintenance	7,243	0	7,243	6,500	743	111%
1994 Vehicle Insurance	6,835	0	6,835	7,000	(165)	98%
1995 Vehicle Registration	595	0	595	1,000	(405)	59%
1996 Vehicle Fuel & RUC	13,924	0	13,924	16,000	(2,076)	87%
1997 General Trailer Maintenance	96	0	96	500	(404)	19%
1999.1 Boat Maintenance	1,522	0	1,522	800	722	190%
1999.3 Polaris ATV	2,078	0	2,078	1,600	478	130%
Total Vehicle Expenses	49,636	0	49,636	38,336	11,300	129%
Total Overheads	451,774	351,740	100,034	538,046	(86,272)	84%
Total Operating Expenses	519,882	395,905	123,977	645,414	(125,532)	81%
Net Profit	12,666	(109,518)	122,184	(16,715)	29,381	-76%

Aged Receivables Summary

Northland Fish and Game Council

As at 30 June 2026

Ageing by due date

Contact	Current	< 1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	Older	Total
Fish & Game, Eyede Solutions Ltd for	23,638.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,638.81
Total	23,638.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,638.81
Percentage of total	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Aged Payables Summary

Northland Fish and Game Council

As at 30 June 2026

Ageing by due date

Contact	Current	< 1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	Older	Total
Aged Payables							
BOC	17.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.02
BP Oil New Zealand Ltd	1,059.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,059.96
Evolve Outdoors Group	228.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	228.25
Marine North Ltd	247.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	247.00
New Zealand Fish and Game Council	69.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.00
Northland Business Systems Limited	85.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.24
NZ Safety Blackwoods	15.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.70
Pacific Motor Group	707.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	707.22
Paymark / Worldline	21.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.74
Powershop	387.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	387.45
TSC IT Consultants	377.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	377.95
Total Aged Payables	3,216.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,216.53
Total	3,216.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,216.53
Percentage of total	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

CORRESPONDENCE				
September 2025 to August 2026				
Inward				
No.	DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	FILED
1807	19/09/2025	Hon James Meager	Sports Fish and Game Management Plans	Craigs emails
1808	21/11/2025	Hon James Meager	Fish and Game Reform update	C:\Users\Craig\NZ Fish & Game\Northland - Documents\1900 ADMINISTRATION\Correspondence\Incoming
1809	21/11/2025	Hon James Meager	Fish and Game Reform update Q+A document	C:\Users\Craig\NZ Fish & Game\Northland - Documents\1900 ADMINISTRATION\Correspondence\Incoming
1810	3/12/2025	Hon James Meager	Ref JMC-931 SFGMP extension approval 30 June 2027	C:\Users\Craig\NZ Fish & Game\Northland - Documents\1900 ADMINISTRATION\Correspondence\Incoming
1811	27/01/2026	Hon James Meager office	Acknowledged receipt of letter advising resignation	Administration emails
1812	13/02/2026	Hon James Meager	Acknowledged receipt of letter advising resignation	Administration emails
1813	7/04/2026	Si'ufili Tavete Ilalio	OIA request re client decision making policies, criteria, guidance and related records.	Administration emails
Outward				
No.	DATE	SENT TO	SUBJECT	FILED
927	4/09/2025	Nicholas Walsh	Response to letter querying season length	Northland - Documents\1900 ADMINISTRATION\Correspondence\Outgoing\L etter to N Walsh - 4 Sep 2025.doc
928	31/10/2025	Hon James Meager	Response to letter JMC-725 re Sports Fish & Game Management Plan time extension	Northland - Documents\1900 ADMINISTRATION\Correspondence\Outgoing\ Northland Fish and Game Council - Response to JMC-725 - 28 Oct 2025.doc
929	27/01/2026	Hon James Meager	Advising resignation of L Peart from NFGC	Administration emails
930	13/02/2026	NZ Council	Crop depredation policy feedback	Craigs emails
931	16/02/2026	David Byles	Thank you letter re banding and cap	Craig
932	17/03/2026	Hon James Meager	Advising council vacancy advertised inviting election requests and nominations. Advised no candidates.	Craig emails
933	26/03/2026	PF Olsen, Whangarei	Letter requesting forestry access for game bird hunting	Craig emails
934	30/04/2026	Si'ufili Tavete Ilalio	Response to official information request	Craig emails
935	25/05/2026	Hon James Meager	Advising no request for bielection or candidate for council vacancy re K Ellis resignation	Administration emails