NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE

NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI

6.52PM THURSDAY 21 MAY 2026

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 waste water 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 Gallaghan'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	Donnellys 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	Donnellys 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	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

	public interest that such information should continue to be supplied		trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	
	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***

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