



PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE

**AUCKLAND/WAIKATO
FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2020**

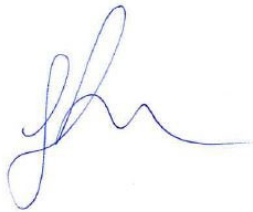
Presented to the House of Representatives pursuant to Section 26X of the Conservation Act
1987

Hon. Kiri Allan
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

I have the honour to submit, pursuant to Section 26X of the Conservation Act 1987 and Section 44A of the Public Finance Act 1989, the Performance Report of the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Annan', written over a faint circular stamp.

G. Annan
Chairman
Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

PERFORMANCE REPORT For the year ended 31 August 2020

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ENTITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

LEGAL NAME

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council

TYPE OF ENTITY AND LEGAL BASIS

The Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4).

The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990.

MAIN SOURCE OF CASH AND RESOURCES

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council derives revenue through the sale of fish and game licences, interest, contracts, grants and miscellaneous sales.

FORMAT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

This report is structured to allow evaluation of all projects planned at the commencement of the 2019-2020 work year. The work programme is based around eight outputs and one input. Within each of these functional areas the Statement of Service Performance provides summary details of the resources that were anticipated to be required, along with the actual results for the year. In addition, the performance standard for each project is listed along with a description of the result that was achieved.

MISSION STATEMENT & OBJECTIVES:

To manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.

The Conservation Act 1987, as amended by the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990, outlines the particular functions of Fish & Game Councils, which includes:

- monitoring sports fish and game populations;
- monitoring the success and satisfaction of users;
- monitoring the condition and trend of ecosystems as habitats for sports fish and game;
- maintaining and improving access
- maintaining and enhancing the habitat of sports fish and game;
- formulating and establishing regulations and policies which ensure the maintenance of sports fish and game populations and the recreational experience;
- securing compliance with sports fish and game regulations;
- promoting recreational angling and game bird hunting;
- representing the interests of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process;
- keeping and anglers and hunters informed.

The Council's operations are based upon a national statement of purposes and priorities, a Sports Fish and Game Management Plan which sets long term goals and policies, and an annual Operational Work Plan, which establishes the specific work programme and budget.

Structure – Council and Staff

The Council comprises 12 Councillors elected by licence holders, a Regional Manager who is responsible for the day to day operation and reports to the Councillors, and six other fulltime and part-time staff who support the Regional Manager in delivering the Council's objectives.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

CHAIRMAN

Grant Annan, Te Awamutu

VICE-CHAIRMEN

Shane Smith, Cambridge,
David Cocks, Pakuranga

COUNCIL ELECTED BY LICENCE HOLDERS

George Avery, Te Aroha	William Howard, Tuakau
Nigel Juby, Ohaupo	Andrew Kerr, Te Kauwhata
Ben Moore, Tirau	Peter Shaw, Ohaupo
Colin Sherrard, Huntly	
Euan Williamson, Auckland	

LIFE MEMBERS

David Lawrie (1989)
Dean Blythen (1989)

STAFF

John Dyer, BSc (Wildlife Management Officer - Game)
David Klee, MSc (Wildlife Management Officer - Game)
Adam Daniel, PhD (Fisheries Manager)
Roslyn Simmonds (Office Manager)
Mischa Davis BA/LLB, (Resource Management Officer)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Ben Wilson MSc

Office Location

156 Brymer Road
R. D. 9
HAMILTON 3289

Telephone: 07 849 1666
Fax: 07 849 1648

COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCES – (6 MEETINGS HELD)

	Number of meetings attended	Apologies
G. Annan	6	
D. Cocks	5	1
S. Smith	6	
A. Kerr	3	3
B. Moore		1
C. Sherrard	6	
E. Williamson	4	2
G. Avery	4	2
N. Juby	5	1
P. Shaw	6	
W. Howard	4	2
M. Young	1	3

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020

Along with the rest of the country it has been a stressful year for Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game with the Australian bush fires, extended drought and the Covid-19 crisis. It was also a year in which we lost our long-standing Chairman, Murray Young who died in May this year after a long illness.

Murray was elected as councillor to the Auckland Acclimatisation Society in 1984 and has served as Chairman since 2001. His contributions to Fish and Game were immense, as was recently acknowledged by Council with the renaming of the Evans Road Wetland as the Murray Young Wetland. It was an amazing commitment from Murray over the years. Even turning up to council meetings involved a 2-3 hour drive each way from Helensville, and he never claimed expenses. He was always a very pragmatic individual and his opinion, based on a lifetime hunting and farming, was highly valued both by staff and his fellow Councillors. Murray was also an excellent Chairman, and his ability to handle both Councillors and visitors, while steering Council meetings in the right direction was appreciated by all. He will be greatly missed, and we can only hope the next generation will have the same commitment to Fish and Game.

The year saw considerable staff movement compared to the relative stability of recent years. Our Office Manager, Robyn Lingard, retired at the end of 2019 after working for 21 years with Fish and Game. Robyn was well known in the angler and hunter community for her efficiency in dealing with the many requests and enquires we receive daily. The Office Manager role changed considerably during her tenure, and thus Robyn was required to adapt to these changes and to acquire new skills which she did with considerable professionalism. The new Office Manager, Roslyn Simmonds, started in February and has quickly and efficiently adapted to the role.

Staff changes also occurred with the Environmental Officer position. Anna Sintenie resigned after three years in the role, with much of her time spent on producing our comprehensive submission on the Healthy Rivers project. Her replacement, Jane Shaw, showed considerable promise but had to leave after just 8 months due to non-work related reasons.

Staff worked from home during the Covid-19 shutdown and this was a good opportunity to update our access publications and produce overdue management reports. The opening of the Game Season was delayed until the 23rd May and the season length was extended until 28th June for a five-week season. Rangers and police were out on the first Saturday in May (2nd May), but no evidence of gamebird hunting was observed. The delayed opening was very well received by licence holders, and compliance with the new regulations was exemplary. Everyone checked was delighted to be out and about after lockdown, whether they had heavy game bags or not. There was a lot of positive feedback with many hunters thanking Fish & Game for ensuring they had a season.

Botulism continues to be an issue throughout the region, especially on the Hauraki Plains where hot summer temperatures contributed to a large-scale botulism outbreak and the death of fish trapped in canals. More than 3500 dead birds were collected by volunteers involved in a multi-agency clean-up led by Fish & Game. I am especially grateful for the efforts of the six teams of hunter volunteers who worked around the Firth on an almost daily basis to remove dead birds and minimise the impact of the outbreak. Although the local duck population bore the brunt of

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

this outbreak, protected species including shags, spoonbills, herons, harriers, stilts, banded dotterels, and Caspian terns were also affected.

The decision by the previous National government to take Canada geese off the First Schedule of the Wildlife Act (wildlife declared to be game), against the advice of Fish and Game, has proven to be unwise and perhaps even disastrous. Geese have expanded considerably both in numbers and distribution throughout the region and are proving to be a major agricultural pest as well as a very significant aviation hazard. Although we no longer have statutory control over geese, we continue to work with the Auckland International Airport Authority over geese control in the Manukau Harbour.

We have produced a draft of a new Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan for the Auckland/Waikato Region. However, the public consultation process was put on hold until the various reviews of Fish and Game, both internal and external are completed.

I would like to express my gratitude to Councillors and staff for their support, enthusiasm, and hard work throughout the last year. I would also like to thank the voluntary rangers and the many anglers and hunters who contributed to Council projects, including the upkeep of council properties.

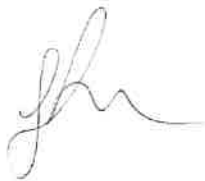
Statement of Responsibility
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

Responsibility Statement

The Council and Management of the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council accept responsibility for the preparation of the Performance Report and the judgement used in this report.

The Council and Management accept responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the Fish and Game Council's financial reporting.

In the opinion of the Council and Management the Performance Report fairly reflects the financial position and operations of the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council for the Year Ended 31 August 2020.



Chairperson

30/11/2020

Dated



Chief Executive

30/11/2020

Dated

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For the Year Ended
31 August 2020



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended

31 August 2020

	Note	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
REVENUE				
Fish and Game licence sales	1	961,326	992,636	977,494
Grants and donations	1	129,174	190,500	263,482
Interest	1	21,613	7,941	31,727
Other revenue	1	76,250	9,000	40,747
Total Revenue		1,188,363	1,200,077	1,313,450
EXPENSES				
Outputs				
Species management	2	40,954	38,520	42,895
Habitat protection & management	2	98,430	194,000	220,841
Angler & Hunter participation	2	5,341	13,700	15,184
Public interface	2	824	500	281
Compliance	2	22,014	21,000	20,001
Licensing	2	38,429	44,669	39,522
Council	2	1,944	2,000	2,083
Planning & reporting	2	14,957	15,000	15,006
Overheads				
Employee related costs	2	570,877	621,022	594,375
Depreciation	4	41,824	31,537	41,717
Other expenses	2	99,793	96,350	98,502
Total Expenses		935,387	1,078,298	1,090,407
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		252,976	121,779	223,043
Less Other Expenses				
Levies to NZFGC		131,779	131,779	136,147
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		121,197	(10,000)	86,896

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the Financial Statements



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council
Statement of Financial Position

As at
 31 August 2020

	Note	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank accounts and cash	3	556,764	400,000	278,005
Debtors and prepayments	3	91,500	65,000	93,862
Investments	3	662,040	715,000	822,040
Total Current Assets		1,310,304	1,180,000	1,193,907
Non-Current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	4	1,168,855	1,100,000	1,193,117
Total Non-Current Assets		1,168,855	1,100,000	1,193,117
TOTAL ASSETS		2,479,159	2,280,000	2,387,024
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	94,765	90,000	98,597
Employee costs payable	3	77,876	80,000	103,106
Loan-current		-	10,000	-
Total Current Liabilities		172,641	180,000	201,703
Non-Current Liabilities				
Total Non-Current liabilities		-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		172,641	180,000	201,703
NET ASSETS		2,306,518	2,100,000	2,185,321
EQUITY		2,306,518	2,100,000	2,185,321

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the Financial Statements



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended
31 August 2020

	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Licence Sales	960,731	1,000,000	980,098
Grants, donations and fundraising	144,255	200,000	254,443
Interest	17,615	30,000	43,405
Other revenue	75,740	20,000	40,398
Cash was applied to:			
Payments to suppliers	475,789	500,000	554,937
Payments to employees	596,107	590,000	582,198
GST (net)	(3,970)	3,000	(5,374)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	130,415	157,000	186,583
CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Sale of property, plant and equipment	27,448	15,000	23,011
Sale of investments/deposits	160,000		347,960
Cash was applied to:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	39,114	2,000	467,619
Purchase of investments/deposits		70,000	-
Repayment of Loan	-	-	-
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	148,344	(57,000)	(96,648)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	278,759	100,000	89,935
Opening Cash	278,005	300,000	188,070
Closing Cash	556,764	400,000	278,005
This is represented by:			
Bank accounts and cash	556,764	400,000	278,005

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the Financial Statements



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Statement of Accounting Policies

For the year ended
31 August 2020

ACCOUNTING POLICIES APPLIED

Reporting Entity

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4). The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Section 153-6 of the Crown Entities Act 2004.

Basis of Preparation

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Public Sector) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Council is registered for GST. All amounts are recorded exclusive of GST.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Revenue Recognition

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council derives revenue through the sale of fish and game licences, interest, sale of fish product, contracts, rentals, grants and miscellaneous sales.

Licence Revenue

Licence revenue is recognised in relation to the period covered by the Game bird or Fish Licence. Any licence money received for a licence in advance will be treated as income in advance.

Grants Received

Grants are recognised as revenue when they become receivable unless there is an obligation in substance to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when the conditions of the grant are satisfied.

Interest



Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year.

Other Income

Income from contracts, rentals and miscellaneous sales are recorded as revenue in the period they are earned.

Outputs

The Council has allocated expenditure based on 8 output areas - Species management, Habitat Protection & management, Angler and Hunter participation, Public interface, Compliance, Licensing, Council and Planning & reporting. These are expensed when the related service has been received.

Employee related costs

Wages, salaries, and annual leave are recorded as an expense as staff provide services and became entitled to wages, salaries.

Superannuation contributions are recorded as an expense as staff provide services.

Levies to NZFGC

A levy is paid each year to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the administration of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, or redistribution to other Council and for advocacy and research.

Bank Accounts and cash

Bank Accounts and cash comprise cash in hand, cheque or savings accounts, and deposits held at call with banks.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors are initially recorded at the amount owed. When it is likely the amount owed (or some portion) will not be collected, a provision for impairment is recognised and the loss is recorded as a bad debt expense.

Investments

Investments comprise investments in term deposits with banks.

Deposits with banks are initially recorded at the amount paid. If it appears that the carrying amount of the investment will not be recovered, it will be written down to the expected recoverable amount.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Significant donated assets are recognised upon receipt at valuation. Significant donated assets for which current values are not readily obtainable are not recognised.



Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates that will write off the cost of the assets over their useful lives. The useful lives and associated depreciation rates of the major classes of assets have been estimated as follows:

Buildings	40 years (2.5%)
Plant & Equipment	5-10 years (10% to 20%)
Motor Vehicles	5 years (20 %)
Office Equipment	10 years (10%)

Creditors and accrued expenses

Creditors and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.

Game Bird Habitat Stamp levy

Levies are collected and are paid to New Zealand Fish and Game Council per the New Zealand Game Bird habitat Stamp Regulations 1993 at \$4 for every game licence sold.

Employee costs payable

A liability for employee costs payable is recognised when an employee has earned an entitlement.

These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date. A liability and expense for long service leave and retirement gratuities is recognised when the entitlement becomes available to the employee.

Restricted Reserves

Restricted reserves are those reserves subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be revised by the Council without specified purposes or when certain conditions are met.

Income Tax

The Council is a Public Benefit Entity and is exempt from the payment of Income tax in terms of the Income Tax Act 2007.

Budget Figures

The Budget figures are derived from the Council budget that was approved at the Council meeting in August 2019.

Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards applied

The Council has not applied any Tier 2 Accounting Standards in preparing its financial statements.

CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There has been no change in accounting policies since the previous annual report.



Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended
31 August 2020

Note 1 : ANALYSIS OF REVENUE	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Licence sales			
Fish licence	450,413	432,886	445,056
Game licence	510,913	559,750	532,438
Total	961,326	992,636	977,494
Grants and donations			
Grants	58,695	80,500	45,027
Genesis/Mercury/Winstones/NZTA mitigations	60,857	60,000	54,356
National Fish & Game legal funding	9,522	50,000	163,869
Donations	100	-	230
Total	129,174	190,500	263,482
Interest			
Other Interest	21,613	7,941	31,727
Total	21,613	7,941	31,727
Other revenue			
Fines/Prosecutions	4,345	6,000	7,715
Gain on sale/disposal of assets	6,770	-	10,224
Mallard Survey reimbursement NZF&GC	-	-	17,391
Misc	18,757	3,000	4,137
Consultancy fees	-	-	1,280
Covid-19 Wage Subsidy	46,378		
Total	76,250	9,000	40,747



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended

31 August 2020

Note 2 : ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Species management			
Population monitoring	24,737	19,020	25,012
Harvest assessment	1,400	-	779
Releases	14,407	17,000	16,017
Control	410	2,500	1,087
Total	40,954	38,520	42,895
Habitat protection & management			
Resource management	10,854	52,000	145,992
Works & management	30,833	22,000	27,542
Assisted habitat	45,769	115,000	43,111
Assessing & monitoring	10,974	5,000	4,196
Total	98,430	194,000	220,841
Angler & Hunter participation			
Access	26	500	1,075
Newsletters	4,828	13,000	14,109
Other publications	400	200	-
Club relations	87	-	-
Total	5,341	13,700	15,184
Public interface			
Advocacy	45	-	-
Public promotions	779	500	281
Total	824	500	281
Compliance			
Ranging	-	500	275
Ranger training	-	500	-
Compliance	22,014	20,000	19,726
Total	22,014	21,000	20,001

Note 2 : ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES

Actual

Budget

Actual



Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

	2020	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$
Licensing			
Licence production & distribution	405	-	-
Commission & process fees	38,024	44,669	39,522
Total	38,429	44,669	39,522
Council			
Council meetings	1,944	2,000	2,083
Total	1,944	2,000	2,083
Planning & reporting			
Annual Reporting	14,957	15,000	14,908
National liaison	-		98
Total	14,957	15,000	15,006
Employee related costs			
Salaries and wages	527,434	574,680	551,559
Fringe benefit tax	11,795	13,600	11,738
KiwiSaver contributions	20,196	19,442	19,184
ACC levies	1,309	2,300	1,325
Staff training and other expenses	10,143	11,000	10,569
Total	570,877	621,022	594,375
Other expenses			
Office premises	18,715	19,700	10,963
Office equipment	6,039	7,000	5,590
Communications/consumables	19,168	18,200	18,924
General	13,755	4,050	10,831
General/Field equipment	5,909	5,900	5,195
Vehicles	36,207	41,500	46,999
Total	99,793	96,350	98,502



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended

31 August 2020

Note 3 : ANALYSIS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES	Actual 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Bank accounts and cash		
Cash on hand	200	200
Current Accounts	550,898	272,142
On line savings	5,666	5,663
Total	556,764	278,005
Debtors and other receivables		
Accounts receivable	85,476	83,868
GST receivable	6,024	9,994
Total	91,500	93,862
Investments		
<i>Current portion</i>		
Term Deposits	662,040	822,040
<i>Non- Current portion</i>		
Term Deposits	-	-
Total	662,040	822,040
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Trade and other payables	29,521	44,949
Income in advance	65,244	53,648
Total	94,765	98,597
Employee costs payable		
Accrued salaries and wages	19,571	13,703
Annual leave and time in lieu	58,305	89,403
Total	77,876	103,106



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended

31 August 2020

Note 4 : PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT

2020

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	843,264	-	-	-	843,264
Buildings	189,914	-	5,715	6,468	177,731
Plant & Equipment	47,817	-	-	10,386	37,431
Vehicles	107,148	34,425	15,837	23,950	101,786
Office Equipment	4,974	4,689	-	1,020	8,643
Total	1,193,117	39,114	21,552	41,824	1,168,855

2019

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	453,482	389,782	-	-	843,264
Buildings	188,684	8,196	-	6,966	189,914
Plant & Equipment	30,909	29,469	2,450	10,111	47,817
Vehicles	111,467	40,172	20,561	23,930	107,148
Office Equipment	5,684	-	-	710	4,974
Total	790,226	467,619	23,011	41,717	1,193,117



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended

31 August 2020

Note 5: EQUITY	Actual 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Accumulated Funds		
Balance as at 1 September	1,313,146	858,480
Surplus/(Deficit)	121,197	86,896
Transfer to Reserves	(116,969)	(103,049)
Transfer from Reserves	46,794	470,819
Balance at 31 August	1,364,168	1,313,146
Dedicated Reserves		
Asset Replacement Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	72,850	73,983
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	(2,030)	(1,133)
Balance at 31 August	70,820	72,850
Non-Resident Levy Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	60,722	41,991
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	19,654	18,731
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	80,376	60,722
Total Dedicated Reserves	151,196	133,572
Restricted Reserves		
Opuatia Wetland Fund		
Balance as at 1 September	0	0
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	15000	0
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	0	0
Balance at 31 August	15000	0
Ingham Wetland Fund		
Balance as at 1 September	0	0
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	15000	0
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	0	0
Balance at 31 August	15000	0



Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

Whanganui River Fund		
Balance as at 1 September	33,286	427,253
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	35,998	37,594
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(11,930)	(431,561)
Balance at 31 August	57,354	33,286
Waikato River Fund		
Balance as at 1 September	50,076	48,929
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	14,853	15,323
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(14,416)	(14,176)
Balance at 31 August	50,513	50,076
Lake Are Are Fund		
Balance as at 1 September	36,675	35,607
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	550	1,068
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	37,225	36,675
Lower Waikato Wetland		
Balance as at 1 September	44,240	43,335
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	7,298	13,604
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(18,418)	(12,699)
Balance at 31 August	33,120	44,240
Williamson Wetland		
Balance as at 1 September	58,909	68,443
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	884	1,716
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	(11,250)
Balance at 31 August	59,793	58,909
Huntly Wetland Fund		
Balance as at 1 September	349,636	339,452
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	5,245	10,184
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	354,881	349,636
Murray Young Wetland Fund		
Balance as at 1 September	165,781	160,952
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	2,487	4,829
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	168,268	165,781
Total Restricted Reserves	791,154	738,603
Total Equity	2,306,518	2,185,321



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended
31 August 2020

Note 6: COMMITMENTS & CONTINGENCIES

The Council has no contingent liabilities as at 31st August 2020 (2019 nil)

The Council has no capital commitments as at 31st August 2020 (2019 nil)

Note 7: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The following transactions were carried out with related parties during the year

New Zealand Fish & Game Council

Levies paid to NZF&GC for the year totalled \$131,779 (2019 \$136,147)

Legal funding was received from NZF&G Council \$9522 (2019 \$163,869)

Other Fish & Game Councils

Trout fingerlings for release were purchased from Eastern F&G Council \$14,018 (2019 \$16,017)

WCEET provided funding for habitat works \$28,696 (2019 \$45,027)

Councillors

Transactions entered into with Councillors were for the purchase of licences to fish or hunt

Auckland/Waikato councillors receive no fees

Auckland/Waikato councillors were reimbursed \$1,177 for expenses associated with work on council wetlands

Note 8: EVENTS AFTER BALANCE DATE

There were no significant events after balance date (2019 nil)

Note 9: OPERATING LEASES

None

Note 10: EVENTS AFTER BALANCE DATE

There is a potential liability due to legal action against the Council and Department of Conservation as joint holders of the resource consents for the Whangamarino Weir. Both consent holders are currently preparing their defence.



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended

31 August 2020

Note 11: ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS TO OUTPUT AREAS FOR 2020

In the Statement of service performance, overheads are allocated across the 8 Output areas based on the hours worked within those Outputs over the year. Below is the calculation for distributing the overheads across the output area.

ACTUAL 2020

Output Area	Actual Direct \$	Actual Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	40,954	1,588	134,327	175,281
Habitat protection & management	98,430	3,739	316,279	414,709
Angler & hunter participation	5,341	1,145	96,855	102,196
Public interface	824	491	41,533	42,357
Compliance	22,014	400	33,836	55,850
Licensing	38,429	63	5,329	43,758
Council	1,944	444	37,558	39,502
Planning & reporting	14,957	553	46,778	61,735
Totals	222,893	8,423	712,494	935,387

Actual Overheads

Employee related costs	570,877
Depreciation & Other Expenses	141,617

Total Overheads to Allocate 712,494

BUDGET 2020

Output Area	Budget Direct \$	Budget Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	38520	1,414	123,106	161,626
Habitat protection & management	194000	3,717	323,610	517,610
Angler & Hunter participation	13700	806	70,172	83,872
Public interface	500	582	50,671	51,171
Compliance	21000	819	71,303	92,303
Licensing	44669	90	7,836	52,505
Council	2000	630	54,849	56,849
Planning & reporting	15000	544	47,362	62,362
Totals	329389	8,602	748,909	1,078,298

Budget Overheads

Employee related costs	621,022
Depreciation & Other Expenses	127,887
Total Overheads to Allocate	<u>748,909</u>



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the year ended

31 August 2020

Note 12: COVID RESPONSE

Covid-19 has had a financial impact on Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council. Licence revenue was reduced due to the lock down and the closure of the New Zealand borders. At the beginning of the lockdown there was uncertainty as to whether there would be a game season, which was eventually delayed. This softened the financial impact of reduced income. The Auckland/Waikato Council opted to apply for the Wage subsidy, as it met the criteria and we wanted to ensure all our staff were fully employed. The 2019/20 budget was scrutinised, and only essential work and spending was undertaken to reduce the impact of reduced licence income.

There has been a national response to the next financial year (2020/21) and the Auckland/Waikato Council has reduced the budget for the 2020/21 year along with a reduced projection of licence income. The Auckland Waikato Council has accepted that in the 2020/21 year it will use reserves to cover any shortfalls.

The NZFGC has established a policy to support any Fish and Game region to ensure liquidity and to ensure that all Fish and Game Councils remain a going concern.



AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

INTRODUCTION

As required under Section 26W(b) of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990 and Section 45A of the Public Finance Act 1989 Fish and Game New Zealand, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council has prepared the following Statement of Service Performance for the 2019-20 Financial Year.

The activities of the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council are planned under eight output areas detailed in the annual Operating Work Plan. This Statement of Service Performance compares actual results against the stated performance measures from the Plan.

MISSION STATEMENT

"To manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters."

For the purposes of this statement the overhead expenses detailed in the Statement of Financial Performance (Administration, Employee Benefits & Management Fee, Depreciation and Profit/Loss on sale) have been allocated to each output area on the basis of the proportion of staff time directly expended in each area.



FUNCTIONAL AREA 1:

SPORTS FISH AND GAMEBIRD MANAGEMENT

Goal: To maintain sustainable populations of harvestable species at levels to provide for angler and hunter satisfaction while mitigating adverse impacts of the species.

1.1 - Sports Fish Management:

Council stocked lakes Otatua, Parkinson's and Whatihua with trout as these waters have no natural recruitment and thus stocking is required to maintain productive trout fisheries. Trout liberations were also carried out in lakes Arapuni and Moana-nui to supplement natural recruitment which is low in both waters. Trout releases were not carried out in Lake Pupuke this year and continued liberations to these waters are currently under review due to poor growth rates.

Drift dive surveys were completed over the summer including the Mangatutu, Waihou, Waimakariri, Whakapapa and Awakino rivers. All rivers were in good shape in terms of fish populations. These surveys contribute to a population database which contains over 30 years of data, providing a valuable record of long-term trends.

A gill-netting survey was carried out with DOC in Lake Karapiro after a credible report of a perch sighting was received. Seven 30m nets were set around the water-ski club boat ramp. No perch were detected but a koi had previously been recovered.

Electrofishing surveys were carried out in the small streams along the west coast to update our inventory of spawning streams in the region. The project was initiated by gathering all known data on spawning streams from the Freshwater Fish Database and old reports. Potential spawning streams with no data were prioritised for exploration.

The sterile rainbow trout programme is proceeding on track. In 2019 rainbow trout ova were pressure tested to induce sterility. Early this year, the trout yearlings from the ova were tested to confirm that they were in fact sterile, and later this year we intend to release these trout into Lake Arapuni. The fish will all be tagged, and we encourage anglers to report the capture of any tagged trout as this data will be crucial for the success of the project.

Project 1.1.1 Drift Diving

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To monitor the trout population in the major clear rivers and impact of management decisions.	Drift dive representative river sites. Report and recommendations to Council detailing population status and management implications	Drift dive surveys were carried out on the Awakino, Waihou, Waimakariri, Mangatutu, and lower Whakapapa rivers. Reports received by Council in August 2020.



Table 1: Drift dive counts for trout in five rivers in the Auckland/Waikato Region (legal sized trout per km).

Year	Waihou		Waimakariri		Awakino		Whakapapa		Mangatutu	
	30-40 (cm)	40+ (cm)	30-40 (cm)	40+ (cm)	30-40 (cm)	40+ (cm)	30-40 (cm)	40+ (cm)	30-40 (cm)	40+ (cm)
2015	25	4	*	*	6	3			2	9
2016	36	2	26	11	29	14			*	*
2017	66	21	*	*	10	23			2	2
2018	18	5	27	4	26	30			6	2
2019	12	4	11	0	11	16			5	4
2020	38	12	23	0	7	0	11	30	7	7

*River conditions were not suitable for a drift dive survey

Project 1.1.2 Fish Surveys

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Sports fisheries monitored using techniques that may include netting, electric fishing, spawning, fin clipped and tagging surveys.	Report and recommendations to Council detailing population status and management implications.	Reports on the wild trout tagging survey and the report on the electrofishing survey of west coast streams received by Council in August 2020.

Project 1.1.3 Fish Harvest Assessment

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Fish harvest assessments estimated in major fisheries.	Results analysed from fishing competitions. Progress report to Council.	Results from the Lake Arapuni analysed and reported to Council in August 2020

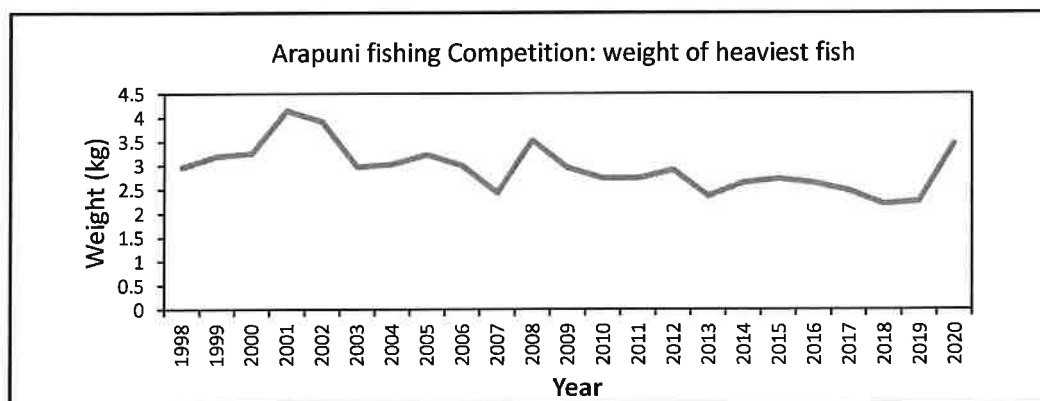


Figure 1: Weight of the heaviest fish caught in the annual Arapuni fishing contest.



Project 1.1.4 Fish Releases

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Fish liberations undertaken where required to maintain productive trout fisheries in lakes where natural recruitment is inadequate.	Fish liberated as required and reported to Council.	Releases carried out and reported to Council throughout year.

Table 2: 2019/20 Trout liberations in the Auckland/Waikato Region

Date	Lake	1+Rainbow	2+ Rainbow	2+ Brown
October 2019	Arapuni	2000		
May 2020	Whatihua	200		
	Parkinson			100
July 2020	Moana-nui		525	
	Ototoa	250		

Project 1.1.5 District Anglers Notice

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
District Anglers Notice approved based on best available science and angler aspirations.	District Anglers Notice approved.	D.A.N Gazetted for 2020/21 fishing season.

Budget: \$43,470	Actual: \$53,259
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1.2 - Gamebird Management

Council considered whether effort should be reduced on the mallard banding programme and redirected into botulism recovery operations. Councillors agreed that the programme provides essential data for the management of the duck population as well as having high level of community involvement and excellent ongoing publicity. It was recognised by Councillors that the programme was relatively low cost due to the high level of voluntary input by the hunting community. Councillors agreed that the banding programme be retained with a re-evaluation in five years to determine whether alternative survey methods (aerial transits) could provide the level of precision required to determine population changes of the mallard population in our region.

It has been a mixed bag at banding sites, but overall the results were disappointing due to a variety of reasons including new banding sites and the impact of botulism outbreaks occurring in adjacent areas. A juvenile female mallard banded at Pipiroa on 13 January this year was recovered 1,970km away, exhausted but otherwise OK just over 3 weeks later in Lifou Island. This is part of the Loyalty group of islands to the immediate east of New Caledonia. Most NZ mallards are sedentary and live and die within 25km of where they were born, but in odd cases individual birds seem to make such heroic journeys.

Despite the Covid-19 lockdown, numerous requests were received for permits to carry out game bird control. The number of permits issued continues to rise as industrial and residential developments are increasingly enveloping the region's wetlands.

Project 1.2.1 Banding

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To estimate the mallard and grey duck population by banding and other appropriate techniques.	Population estimate derived from mallard and grey duck banded at five sites. Report to Council.	2,492 ducks were banded at six sites. Reports to Council throughout year.

Table 3: Banding catches at each location.

Banding Location	Site Manager	Year					
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Hauraki Plains	David Klee	1171	1422	1818	1449	1224	881
Te Awamutu	David Klee	417	557	786	806	478	646
Opuatia	David Klee	355	322	399	517	148	247
Aka Aka	John Dyer	274	264	507	399		48
Helensville	John Dyer	526	570	708	487	472	519
Wellsford	John Dyer	224	97	165	35	50	151
TOTAL		2967	3232	4383	3693	2372	2492



Project 1.2.2 Transects

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Trial of aerial transects to see whether an effective method to monitor mallard/grey duck populations.	Report to Council with recommendations. Trial continues	Aerial transects planned for April 2020 were cancelled due to the Covid-19 shutdown.

Project 1.2.3 Trend Counts

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To monitor the swan and paradise shelduck populations.	Swan and paradise shelduck population estimates derived from aerial counts. Report to Council with recommendations.	Surveys completed and report received by Council (Figures 2,3,4) in March 2020.

Project 1.2.4 Gamebird Research

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To support research on game birds that leads to improved management outcomes and options.	Research projects on game birds by Fish & Game and universities supported. Participation in national mallard research committee.	Staff contributed to national research committee.

Project 1.2.5 Gamebird Harvest Assessment

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Monitor the harvest of mallard/grey ducks to produce a measure of hunter success and contribute to population estimates.	Estimate harvest of mallards/greys derived by implement of the 2020 hunter survey in conjunction with band returns.	The number of hours hunted on opening weekend in 2020 increased compared to the previous two seasons, as did the number of ducks shot per hunter per hour (Table 4).



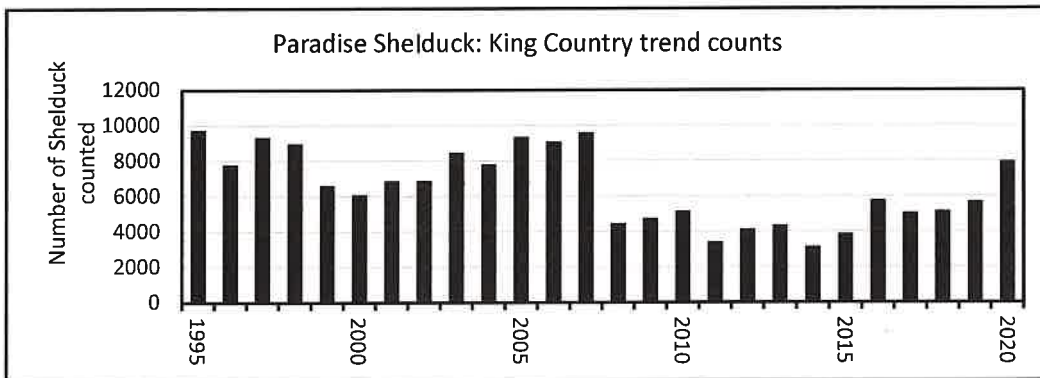


Figure 2: Paradise Shelduck, trend count data, King Country.

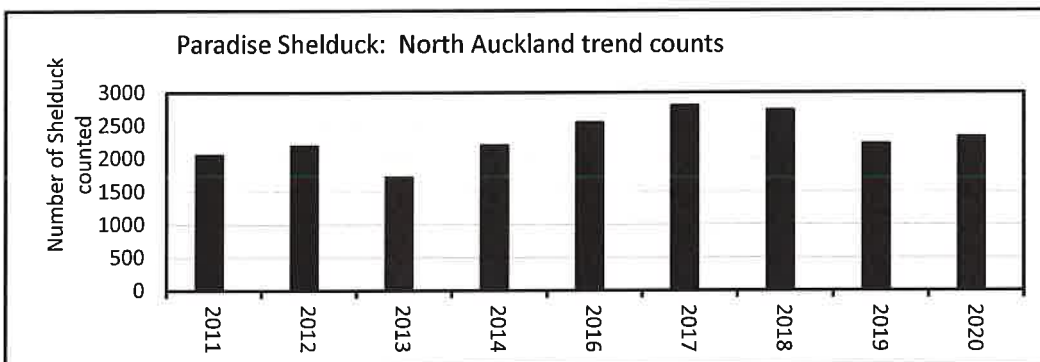


Figure 3: Paradise Shelduck, trend count data, North Auckland.

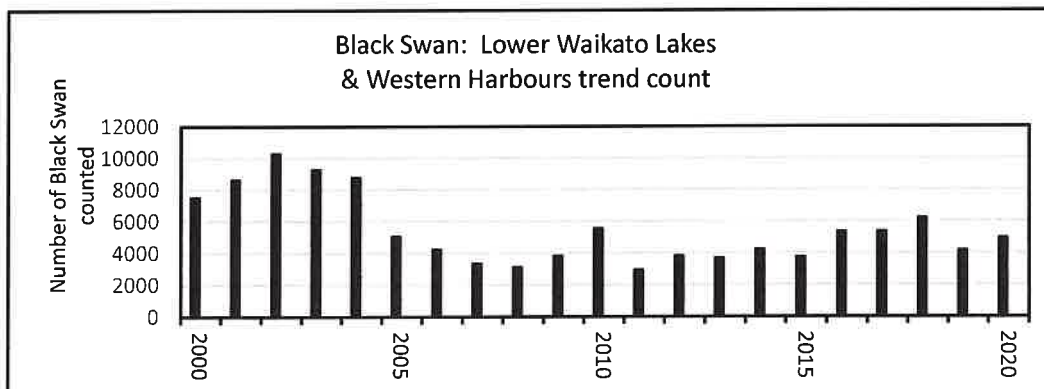


Figure 4: Swan trend counts in the lower Waikato lakes and western harbours combined.



Table 4: Average hours and number of grallards shot per hunter on opening weekend of the gamebird season for the last 6 years.

Year	Hours	Grallard Harvest	Ducks per hour
2015	12.1	5.3	0.44
2016	11.3	6.4	0.57
2017	12	6.1	0.51
2018	11.7	6.6	0.56
2019	10.4	5.6	0.54
2020	11.5	6.7	0.58

Project 1.2.6 Gamebird releases

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Gamebird releases by private individuals are subject to appropriate statutory approvals.	New applications for properties with special conditions are vetted. Annual reports received from existing properties.	One new application received in August 2020, and still being considered. Annual reports received.

Project 1.2.7 Game Gazette

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Game regulations gazetted based on best available science & hunter aspirations with the objective of maximising substantial yield to hunters while maintaining gamebird populations.	Game Gazette approved	Regulations gazetted for 2020 Game season.

Project 1.2.8 Gamebird Control

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The dispersal of congregations of gamebirds where they are causing unacceptable damage to farm crops.	Respond to crop and pasture predation reports within two working days.	Some 140 permits to disperse issued within two working days of complaint. Dispersal advice tendered & organised shoots arranged where required.

Budget: \$118,156	Actual: \$122,023
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 2:

SPORTS FISH AND GAMEBIRD HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Goal: To protect and increase suitable habitat for sports fish and gamebirds to the extent necessary to provide for the recreational interests of hunters and anglers.

2.1 - Habitat Works

2.1.1 - Council lands

Council owns some 1,700 hectares of endangered wetlands comprising some 39 properties which are managed for waterfowl production and hunter opportunity. Responsibility for day to day property management has been vested in the local Fish and Game Associations and wetland user groups, with Council budgeting funds to maintain and enhance these properties. Council properties have some 125 constructed ponds on them providing hunting for approximately 500 hunters on any one day. Access for itinerant hunters is an important issue in the region. Each year additional to those hunters who drew a ballot on the ponds some 400 permits are issued to hunt on Council land. The bulk of permits are taken up by hunters from urban areas. Council lands provide an excellent opportunity to get started in waterfowl hunting.

In March 2020 the Whangamarino Weir, jointly owned by DOC and Council, was found to have suffered from vandalism with extensive damage to the wire mesh in the gabion baskets. Repairs were carried out before the winter floods caused extensive damage to the weir.

Project 2.1.1 Council Lands

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Overview and report to Council on property maintenance. Undertake works necessary to maintain and enhance Council's properties. Continue to oversee restoration projects on Councils properties.	Council properties maintained to an appropriate standard.	Reports received throughout year by Council on works undertaken.

Budget: \$76,863	Actual: \$89,199
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2.1.2 Other lands

Council provides direct assistance to landowners by way of advice on wetland development and riparian plantings, via financial contributions towards habitat projects on appropriate properties, and assisting with funding applications to charitable trusts. Council also distributes some 5,000 trees per annum for habitat protection and enhancement. Council works closely with other agencies, including the Waikato Regional Council and DOC, to create substantial areas of wetland habitat and to restore riparian margins.



Project 2.1.2 Other Lands

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Provide habitat assistance to landowners and assess habitat grant applications for presentation to Council and external habitat trusts. Utilise opportunities as they arise for habitat enhancement, creation and restoration in conjunction with DOC and other agencies.	Report to Council on opportunities for habitat enhancement, creation and restoration in conjunction with Fish & Game Assoc's and other agencies.	Funding arranged for 7 wetland projects on private land creating 20ha of wetland.

Project 2.1.3 Trees

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Annual tree order made up, received and delivered.	Trees delivered to Clubs and Projects.	5115 trees and shrubs distributed.

Table 5: Tree distributions in 2020

Plant Distribution 2020	Mike Gilroy	Kenny Smith	David Saxton	Jeff Tucker	Brian Lees	Craig Carey	Wayne McEntee	Te Aroha Club	Te Awamutu Club	Howard Triddy	Blythen block	Andree Sands	Franklin Club	Dean Wetland	Mauritiusville Club	Mike O'Donnell, UPWMA	Scott Nesbit	Doug McGeckex	Dennis Ashton	Daniel Hall	SUB TOTAL	
Cherry	10							25					25		50		25					135
English Oak	5			10	10	10		25	50	10	25		50	50			25					270
Pin Oak	5			10		10	10	25	50	10		50	50		25		25					270
Turkey Oak				10		10		25					25	50	25		25				25	195
Swamp Cypress								25	50				25		25		25	20			25	195
Weeping willow	5					10	5															20
NZ Flax	30		30		20	30	40	25		50	25	50	150	100	175		25		20			770
Kahikatea	10		20	20	20		20	25	50	10					25	50	25					275
Cabbage Tree	50	20	20	20	20	30	50	25	50	30		25	75	100	100		25		10	50		700
Kowhai	10	10	10	10	5	10	20											20				95
Manuka	20	30	20	40	10	30	80	25		20		50		50				50	20			445
Carex Secta	60		20	50	20	50	50	25	50	20		50	100	100	50	200	25					870
Carex Virgata	40					10		25								100						175
Lemonwood	10	20	20	20	10	20	10											20				130
Karamu	20	20	20	20	10	20	20							50				20				200
Kanuka	10	30	20	20	10	30	50			20									10			200
oioi		150					20															170
TOTAL	285	280	180	230	135	270	375	275	300	170	50	225	500	500	475	350	225	130	60	100		5115

Budget: \$166,396	Actual: \$87,641
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2.2 Resource Management Act

Considerable effort was again spent by Council on RMA issues at both the statutory planning and consent application stages. Although staff changes contributed to making this a particularly challenging year regarding RMA issues, we continue to be the most effective advocate for freshwater and wetlands in our region.

The action by Ward Ranch against Fish & Game and DOC in the High Court continued throughout the year and involved considerable staff time and funds. Ward Ranch are alleging that the construction of the Whangamarino Weir during the 1980's caused substantial flooding to their farmland. We do not believe that the action is justified.

The proposed Waikato District Plan continues to be a priority given that this district contains many nationally and regionally significant gamebird hunting areas, including the lower Waikato River Delta, Whangamarino Wetland and 1600 hectares of land owned by Fish and Game. Council presented evidence to the Hearing Panel specifically challenging the proposed rule that requires landowners to obtain a resource consent for building maimai. Other key concerns were the earthworks rules, which currently inhibit wetland maintenance works by requiring resource consents, and reverse sensitivity policies where we are seeking that recreational hunting be recognised as a typical feature of the rural environment.

Council presented a strong scientific, legal and planning case at the Hearings for the proposed Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1 for the Waikato River catchment. Many of our submission points were accepted by the Commissioners including the high significance of wetlands, the requirement to demonstrate the Best Practicable Option for point-source-discharges, the rejection of the grandparent approach to N allocations, and a catchment wide approach to stock exclusion. However there are aspects that we disagree with and thus we have appealed specific points including requesting a more ambitious 10-year goal of 30% improvement in water quality so that there is more certainty the 80-year targets of PC1 would be achieved, The proposed Plan also contains a lot of general, ambiguous, and permissive language that should be amended to reduce uncertainty.

Council was successful in opposing the consent application by Open Country Dairy to discharge treated waste from their Waharoa Factory to the Waitoa River. This was an appalling application with the company seeking to replace a summer discharge to land with a discharge to natural waters, upstream of two wetlands of international status. Mr Klee and Mr Wilson presented evidence at the Hearing noting that the catchment was already under considerable stress with large outbreaks of botulism the previous summer. We would also like to thank local game bird hunter, Richard Foster for his advocacy evidence based on many years of hunting in the catchment. Regretfully we have subsequently been informed that Open Country Dairy has appealed the decision at the Environment Court.

Council objected to consent applications for the McPherson Quarry which is located upstream of our Mangatawhiri wetlands. The application had insufficient information to assess impacts upon the receiving waterways. We are concerned over potential effects on game bird and trout habitat within the catchment and cumulative effects on downstream environments.

Council objected to the consent renewals for the Puke Coal Mine. After substantial discussions with the applicant we have suggested proposed consent conditions, including operational



improvements that should result in reductions of 50% in the contaminants released. Our suggestions were well received, and Puke Coal Ltd have indicated that they are happy to adopt these conditions.

Further information is expected from Fonterra on the nature of the discharge from their Waitoa factory to the Waitoa River in regard to our concerns over zinc, temperature and nutrients.

After a site visit, further data was requested from Fonterra in relation to their consent application for the Hautapu Dairy Factory. Our concerns are regarding their discharge to the Waikato River.

Council continues to be very concerned over the lack of investment in urban wastewater treatment plants throughout the Waikato region. The plants have failed to keep up with best practice and do not have the capacity to deal with the considerable urban growth that is occurring throughout the region. Many plants are non-compliant with their discharge limits, in terms of nutrient discharge, and are no longer fit for purpose.

Council continues to be concerned about the proposal by the Thames Coromandel District Council to increase the nutrient loads into the Firth of Thames from the Thames Wastewater Treatment Plant, and thus we objected to their consent renewal. We have offered some potential solutions in order to give the applicants some more certainty that they can achieve nutrient discharge limits long term and have provided a revised botulism management plan for their consideration.

Discussions continued with the Waikato District Council regarding their consent applications for the Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plant. Subsequently local mana whenua has lodged legal action against the District Council due to the ongoing systemic failures that have led to 5 years of noncompliance with discharge limits from the plant. The Waikato Regional Council needs to take some responsibility as despite years of significant noncompliance they have failed to take strong action and start the legal process which may have expedited the required upgrades. Unfortunately, there is little that can now be done to improve the current situation until the new plant is commissioned so the noncompliance is likely to continue for some years.

Further meetings were held with Tourism Holding Ltd (THL) regarding their consent application for the Waitomo Wastewater Treatment Plant. We are advocating for a 7% reduction in contaminant release over the lifetime of the consent (7 years), which has been accepted by THL, which will hopefully avoid the need to go to a hearing.

A series of meetings was had with the Waipa District Council regarding their resource consent application for the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant. The site is close to finishing a \$2m upgrade and work is being completed on the long-term plans for the site with funding levels being determined at present. Once the current upgrade is complete, monitoring of site performance will take place. The Hearing has been postponed and is likely to take place in late 2020. It is hoped that further data and information on the Council's long-term investment strategy will assist Fish and Game in the assessment of their application.

Council continues to be involved in the reconsenting process for the Kinleith Paper Mill. The owners, Oji Fibre, are planning a significant update of their wastewater treatment facilities and



a much improved discharge which should lead to an increase in water clarity in the Waikato River.

As noted in last year’s report, Council objected to the proposed rezoning of marginal farmland at Ohinewai to industrial and urban. One of the biggest issues is the treatment and disposal of wastewater, as both Huntly WWTP and Te Kauwhata WWTP are already non-compliant with their resource consents and do not have the surplus capacity to take any extra wastewater. The Mid-Waikato Strategy indicates that the most suitable site for the wastewater to go to will be a new treatment plant planned to be built at Huntly by 2025. This seems like a suitable solution however there are significant concerns over the ability for Waikato District Council to fulfil this work within these timescales. Therefore, development of Ohinewai needs to be staged so that there is sufficient wastewater treatment capacity available for the houses at the site before connection is made.

Council objected to rezoning proposals throughout the region including a proposal to rezone land next to our North Shepherd Wetland as industrial, and a proposal to rezone a wetland adjacent to the Blythen Wetland as residential.

Project: 2.2.1 Resource Management Act

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To advocate for the interest of Fish & Game in response to resource consent applications & planning processes.	Fish & Game interests are protected using the RMA. Report to Council on issues and Fish & Game response.	Council staff responded to issues & reported to Council on such throughout year.

Budget: \$258,933	Actual: \$221,904
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2.3 Assessment & Monitoring

Licence holders have expressed concern to Council over the comparatively poor water quality in the headwaters of the Whanganui River in the Tongariro Forest Park. Possible causes include large forestry operations in this catchment. An assessment and monitoring programme of trout habitat in the Whanganui River headwaters was started in early 2017 and continued in 2019/20.

Project: 2.3.1 Assessment & monitoring

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Implementation of an assessment and monitoring programme of trout habitat in the Whanganui River headwaters.	Final report to Council with recommendations.	Final report delayed due to Covid-19 shutdown delaying fieldwork.

Budget: \$15,418	Actual: \$15,965
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 3:

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION AND SATISFACTION

Goal: To encourage maximum angler and hunter participation while maintaining quality of angler/hunter experience and satisfaction with Fish and Game management.

3.1 Access issues

Council administers balloted hunting on its own wetlands and via its association with Fish & Game Clubs and the Kopuatai and Whangamarino Wetland Associations is involved in management control of Lakes D, Cameron, Rotokauri, Kainui, Rangiriri Islands, Rayonier Forests, and the Kopuatai and Whangamarino Wetlands. Council maintains a close liaison with local authorities and DoC to establish management plans and committees for crown lands to protect fish and game interests. Council continues to monitor the situation regarding public land (reserve strips etc) over which hunters and anglers have legal access and as and where appropriate advocates on their behalf, now liaising with the newly established Walking Access Commission.

Project 3.1.1 Access Negotiations

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Angler and hunter access to the sport fish & gamebird resource is maintained and enhanced.	<p>1 - Permits are issued for balloted ponds before commencement of season.</p> <p>2 - As-of-Right access for licence holders & negotiated access where As-of-Right access not present.</p> <p>3 - Maintain Fish & Game presence on Wetland Management Associations.</p> <p>4 - Reported angler/hunter access problems reported to Walking Access Commission</p> <p>5 - Register of fishing & hunting clubs maintained with regular liaison undertaken.</p>	<p>450 Permits issued</p> <p>Results reported to Council throughout year.</p> <p>Meetings held with DOC and local authorities. Results reported to Council throughout year.</p> <p>Commission informed of access issues involving Lake Waikare and the upper Whakapapa River.</p> <p>Register updated. Meetings attended by staff & Council representatives & reported to Council throughout the year.</p>



Project 3.1.2 Signs/tracks

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Brand standard access signage progressively provided at appropriate hunter & anglers access points subject to landowner approval where required.	Brand standard access signage replaced where required and new signage installed where appropriate.	All signs next to State Highways were checked and replaced where required.

Budget: \$24,389**Actual: \$29,632****3.2 Promotion**

Regular contact with hunters and anglers plays an important part in retaining their interest. Councillors and staff regularly attend and address ward association and allied recreation group meetings. Production of Fish & Game magazines and a separate newsletter sent direct to all Auckland/Waikato licence holders prior to the game and fish seasons are considered an essential activity which is very well received by licence holders. Council also produces a monthly internet newsletter for anglers (Reel Life) and during the game season a monthly internet newsletter for hunters (Both Barrels).

Project 3.2.1 Magazine & Newsletters

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The production and distribution of game and fishing newsletters and magazine supplements to previous years licence purchasers before commencement of season.	Preseason newsletters and magazine supplements produced and distributed.	Newsletters cancelled due to Covid-19 but magazine supplements sent out to licence holders.

Project 3.2.2 Other Publications

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
1 To Contribute to "Reel Life" & "Both Barrels" e-zines & hunting/fishing magazines.	1 - Contributions made to "Reel Life" & "Both Barrels" e-zines & hunting/fishing magazines.	All editions of "Reel Life" & "Both Barrels" contributed to.
2 Undertake pre-season publicity for hunting and fishing.	2 - Pre-season publicity undertaken.	Pre-season club meetings attended.



Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

Project 3.2.3 User Groups

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Represent Council interests at fish and game associations/clubs in the Auckland/Waikato Region	Council represented at local fish and game associations/clubs.	Attendances reported to Council throughout year.

Budget: \$59,483	Actual: \$72,564
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 4:

PUBLIC INTERFACE

Goal: Acceptance of the recreation of sports fishing and gamebird hunting and community support for Fish & Game Council management.

Considering that 40% of New Zealand’s population is encompassed within the Auckland/Waikato region, which also comprises the largest urban population in the country, Council recognises the importance of community support for its activities.

The importance of Auckland to Fish & Game interests has been identified by NZF&GC, who deem the raising of Public Awareness in Auckland an issue of national significance.

Council and staff are founding trustees in the National Wetland Habitat Trust, Waikato Ecological Enhancement Trust, Waipa Peat Lakes and Wetlands Accord, Waikato District Lakes and Freshwater Wetlands Accord, South Waikato Rural Access Committee, Lower Waikato Enhancement Society, South Waikato Environmental Initiative Group, Lakes Rotokauri, D & Cameron Management Groups, and regularly attend Wetland Forums, Biodiversity Forums, and Rivercare meetings, Regional and local council sector liaison meetings and other like group meetings; organisations that not only provide benefits for fish and game habitat but also an important link in promoting acceptability of hunting and fishing.

Project 4.1.1 Liaison & Advocacy

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Promotion of the interests of hunters and anglers with the public through the media. Liaison with appropriate organisations/agencies in the interests of hunters and anglers.	1 - Respond to inquiries for information and to issues affecting interests of anglers and hunters through provision of suitable information to public media and sector interest groups.	All inquiries from public media, anglers, and hunters responded to.
	2 - Maintain liaison as required with appropriate organisations/agencies.	F&G liaison with appropriate organisations maintained and reported to Council throughout the year.

Project 4.1.2 Displays/promotions

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Promotion of the interests of hunters and anglers by displays and promotions.	Assist local fish & game associations with displays and promotions.	All requests for assistance from associations responded to.

Budget: \$51,171	Actual: \$42,357
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 5:

COMPLIANCE

Goal: To ensure compliance with hunting and fishing regulations, to protect the resource and Council's financial base.

Council administers some 15 warranted officers. Planned and coordinated law enforcement work is carried out by as many rangers as can be mustered at the time. Active gamebird ranging on opening day is limited to staff and a small number of honorary rangers. Given the longer period that fishing activities are undertaken a better coverage of fishing activities is achieved.

Project 5.1.1 Ranging

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The protection and enhancement of the region's fish and game resource through an effective enforcement programme.	Liaise with honorary rangers to undertake ranging coverage as required. Compliance checks by rangers throughout the year.	Major hunting & fishing areas covered.

Project 5.1.2 Ranger training

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Rangers are properly trained including OSH requirements.	Organise professionally run training sessions so OSH requirements are met for all rangers.	Courses held for Rangers in Rotorua.

Project 5.1.3 Compliance legal

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Offenders for fish and game offences are successfully prosecuted.	Arrange prosecutions, present evidence and follow-up fine monies outstanding as necessary	Prosecutions undertaken for both hunting offences.

Budget: \$92,303	Actual: \$55,850
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 6:

LICENSING

Goal: To produce and distribute legally correct licence forms by due date.

The sale of licences is Council's primary source of income. The administrative function of licensing has been contracted out however Council still maintains control over licences distributed and debt collection

Project 6.1.1 Licence Distribution

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To issue fishing and hunting licences	1 - Game and fish licences and supporting material prepared and dispatched one month prior to opening of seasons.	Licences & supporting data dispatched one month before opening of seasons.
	2 - Legally binding contracts with personal guarantees maintained with all agents.	All agents covered by contract.
	3 - Database of licences sold maintained and reconciled against income received. Game and fish licences and supporting material prepared and dispatched one month prior to opening of seasons.	Databases maintained & reconciled.

Budget: \$52,505	Actual: \$43,758
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 7:

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/CLUB SERVICING

Goal: To service Council, committees and clubs, to provide for the democratic management of the Fish & Game system.

Given the informal and personal level upon which Council functions, Council is able to maintain good levels of communication within the organisation. Council has always maintained an efficient monitoring administrative system via its detailed budgeting and accounting system along with its Chief Executive's Report.

Project 7.1.1 Council Meetings

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To provide effective management and operation of the Council.	<p>1 - Conduct at least six meetings of the Council that comply with all legal requirements.</p> <p>2 - Compile and distribute agendas and supporting papers at least seven days prior to meetings.</p> <p>2 - Distribute minutes and Newsbrief within ten days after Council meetings.</p>	<p>Six Council meetings held throughout year.</p> <p>All agenda and supporting papers distributed within appropriate timeframe.</p> <p>All minutes and Newsbriefs distributed within appropriate timeframe.</p>

Budget: \$56,849	Actual: \$39,502
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 8:

PLANNING/REPORTING

Goal: To ensure cost efficient and appropriate management of fish and game resources.

Council's Management Plan was approved by the Minister of Conservation on 13 October 2010.

Project 8.1.1 OWP/Budget fee setting

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Produce Annual Operational Work Plan in approved format to NZF&GC deadlines. Revise and update Management Plan.	Adoption of a proposed Operational Work Plan for 2019/20 by August 2019.	Operational Work Plan approved by Council. Draft Management Plan approved by Council at their March Meeting.

Project 8.1.2 Annual report/Audit

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Produce Annual Report for the 2018/19 year and obtain Annual Audit within statutory time frame & present to Annual Public Meeting within required timeframe.	Annual Report produced and Annual Audit obtained within statutory time frame & present to Annual Public Meeting.	Annual Report adopted by Council at AGM.

Project 8.1.3 National Liaison

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Maintenance of effective liaison with NZF&GC. Contribute to national programmes.	1 - Process submissions and information to NZF&GC within requested deadlines. 2 -Undertake national & inter- regional liaison as required.	All necessary submissions made within appropriate deadlines. Assisted NZF&GC on sub committees. All necessary liaison undertaken.

Budget: \$62,362	Actual: \$61,735
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 9:

ADMINISTRATION/OVERHEADS

Goal: Manage the business of Fish and Game in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Council was fortunate in having inherited from the Acclimatisation Society a well established and effective administration system which functions in an efficient and cost effective manner.

Project 9.1.1 Administration/Overheads

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Manage the business of Fish and Game in a cost effective and efficient manner.	Completion of all administration tasks as and when required.	All administrative tasks completed as required.

BUDGET: \$748,909	ACTUAL: \$712,494 Reallocated to Outputs 1-8
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE READERS OF AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council (the Fish and Game Council). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Richard Owen, using the staff and resources of Owen McLeod & Co Ltd, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on his behalf.

Opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance

We have audited:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council on pages 10 to 26, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 August 2020, the statement of financial performance, and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on pages 27 to 48.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council: on pages 10 to 26:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 31 August 2020; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector); and
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on pages 27 to 48:
 - presents fairly, in all material respects, the Fish and Game Council's performance for the year ended 31 August 2020, including for each class of reportable outputs:
 - its standards of performance achieved as compared with the forecasts included in the description of the annual operating work plan for the financial year; and
 - its actual revenue and expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the description of the annual operating work plan for the financial year; and
 - complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 11 December 2020. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements and the statement of performance, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

Emphasis of Matter – COVID-19

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the disclosures in note 12 on page 26 which outline the possible effects of the Covid -19 Lockdown.

Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Council for the financial statements and the statement of performance

The Council is responsible on behalf of the Fish and Game Council for preparing financial statements and a statement of performance that are fairly presented and comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

The Council is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements and a statement of performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements and the statement of performance, the Council is responsible on behalf of the Fish and Game Council for assessing the Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. The Council is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of the Fish and Game Council, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Council's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989, the Crown Entities Act 2004, and the Conservation Act 1987.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the statement of performance, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of these financial statements and the statement of performance.

For the budget information reported in the financial statements and the statement of performance, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Fish and Game Council's description of the annual operating work plan.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and the statement of performance.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the statement of performance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fish and Game Council's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council.

- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the Fish and Game Council's framework for reporting performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Council and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements and the statement of performance or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fishing and Game Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and the statement of performance, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and the statement of performance represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Other Information

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in pages 1 to 9, but does not include the financial statements and the statement of performance, and our auditor's report thereon.

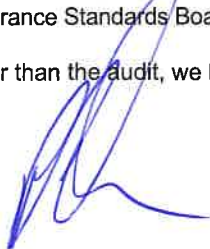
Our opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the statement of performance or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the Fish and Game Council in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Professional and Ethical Standard 1: *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Fish and Game Council.



Richard Owen
Owen McLeod & Co Ltd
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Hamilton, New Zealand