

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

A Meeting of Council will be held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Drive,
Hamilton, on Saturday 13 October 2018 commencing at 11a.m.

AGENDA

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3. Minutes of previous meetings held on 18 th August 2018 *	1
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M. Young
Chairman
1/10/2018

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 18 August 2018 commencing at 11.00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: M. Young

Councillors: G. Annan, C. Carey, D. Cocks, W. Howard, N. Juby, P. Shaw,
C. Sherrard, B. Smith, S. Smith.

Staff: B. Wilson, J. Dyer, D. Klee,

Visitors: L. Lyons (Chairman NZ Council), P. Hardy (DoC).

1. APOLOGIES

A. Kerr, E. Williamson, A. Sintenie, M. Davies, A. Daniel, R. Tyson.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Cocks/S. Smith CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 16 JUNE 2018:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 16 June 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Cocks/S. Smith CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

Outward: A letter from the Chairman to Mr Lindsay Lyons, Chairman NZ Council, regarding the Auckland/Waikato Council's concerns with the report "Marketing Analysis" prepared by Steve Doughty.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Mr Lyons informed Councillors that the Eastern Region has agreed to the raising and release of triploid rainbow trout with the proviso that the fish are referred to as "sterile" rather than "triploid".

Councillor Juby stated that he disagreed with the statement in the Mangatutu Drift Dive Survey Report regarding the impact of the dairy farm conversion on angler usage, since the decline in angler usage occurred before the conversion took place.

Councillor Juby also suggested that a “big picture” report would be useful, integrating all the survey methods to present a State of the Fishery report.

Mr Wilson gave a brief summary of the new guidelines from the Auditor General regarding Fish and Game reporting with more emphasis on why councils do activities and what were the impacts.

Councillors discussed the replacement of the ATV, remarking on the high maintenance costs, and made suggestions as to its replacement. Mr Wilson stated that they would try to obtain a discount as part of sponsorship deal.

In reply to a question, Mr Klee spoke on the use of the recently purchased Mavic Drone for taking photos & video of wetland restoration projects for publicity purposes and to show funding agencies.

Mr Lyons was invited to speak to the meeting by the Chairman. Mr Lyons emphasised his close relationship to the Waikato region having been brought up on a dairy farm next to Lake D on the outskirts of Hamilton. He was a founding member of the Waikato branch of Ducks Unlimited, and had a maimai on Lake Ngaroto for many years, eventually leaving this possie because of his concerns that the water quality had declined to a level where it was no longer safe for his dog to drink. Mr Lyons then spoke on the NZ Council advising that they were currently being carried out three regional audits at the request of the Minister of Conservation. The audits arose due to concerns by councillors and/or members of the public over conflicts of interest and lack of governance.

Mr Wilson spoke on the proposed Waikato District Plan and the potential impact on restoration and maintenance work on Council’s wetlands. A comprehensive submission was being prepared by Mischa Davies.

Council rose for lunch at 12.40 and resumed at 1.30

The Chairman spoke on the recent passing of Dan Madsen who gave many years of service to Fish and Game both as an Auckland/Waikato and NZ councillor.

It was moved

that the CE Bimonthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.

Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

7. CONFIRMATION OF 2018/19 BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN:

Mr Wilson spoke on the 2018/19 budget stressing his disappointment that he couldn’t present a final budget as the NZ Council had not yet considered Council’s request for an additional \$5,000 for the salary increase for the RMA staff.

It was moved:

that the 2018/19 Operational Work Plan and budget of \$789,508 (conditional on the NZ Council approving \$5,000 for salary adjustments) be approved.

Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

8. STANDING ORDERS:

Councillors discussed the draft Standing Orders, which were based on the *Model Rules for Conduct of Regional Fish and Game Council's Meetings* as set out in Schedule 1 of the Conservation Act 1987 and published in the New Zealand Gazette, 30 January 2017.

The Chairman stated that he didn't consider that the draft was materially different from Council's existing standing orders except they were a bit "tighter" in regard to the running of Council meetings. Councillors agreed that the current standing orders had rarely been referred to in recent years but were a necessary backstop in case of potential discord.

It was moved;

that Council retains its existing Standing Orders

Cocks/Annan CARRIED

9. STAFF REPORTS:

The staff reports were tabled.

Mr Dyer's report on Grey Teal was discussed with several Councillors concerned that numbers were not adequate to sustain ongoing harvest. However, Mr Dyer considered that the Grey Teal population would be relatively easy to monitor and that the current population could sustain harvest.

It was moved;

that Mr Dyer's report on Grey Teal be sent to the NZ Council with the recommendation that they request the Minister of Conservation to transfer Grey Teal to the 1st Schedule of the Wildlife Act 1953 to become "Wildlife declared to be game"

Cocks/B. Smith CARRIED

Councillors Howard and Shaw requested that their votes in opposition to the motion be recorded.

10. NZF&GC MEETING OF 19TH JULY 2018:

Councillor Sherrard reported on various issues that arose at the recent NZ Council meeting including their allocation of \$21,000 to mallard research for the study of brood-habitat selection and use.

In reply to a question, Mr Lyons reported that the minutes of the recent meeting of the National Sea Run Salmon Committee would soon be available to Councillors.

Concern was expressed at the recent closure of the Fish & Game Magazine, and especially that Councillors and staff had no prior knowledge of the closure. Mr Lyons replied that the magazine was running at a considerable loss and was being heavily subsidised by Fish and Game

11. OSH REPORT:

The OSH Report for August 2018 was tabled.

Mr Wilson drew Councillors attention to his comments concerning the maintenance required on Council's building.

It was moved;

that the OSH Report for August 2018 be accepted.

S. Smith/Cocks CARRIED.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS:

There being no general business the meeting concluded at 2.25pm

Bi Monthly Managers Report

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Meeting October 2018

OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT**Project 1114 Shoveler**

Fish and Game carried out a national count of shoveler duck (*Spatula rhynchotis*) on 6 August 2018. This is the 19th annual count (2000-2018) to monitor change in the New Zealand population. The survey is coordinated by Matt McDougal from Eastern F&G who also analyses the data.

In this region, the count involved staff and keen volunteers from throughout the region. We also covered a site in the Northland F&G region that is close to our northern border. One highlight was seeing a couple of Northern Shoveler (they're found in both North America and in Europe), that have strayed to New Zealand and can be seen near the Miranda Shorebird Centre.

Shoveler are surveyed nationally because this duck is very mobile and tends to disperse nationally. This compares with other game species in New Zealand such as the mallard or paradise shelduck which are more sedentary.

Over the 19 years the population of Shoveler appears to be stable.

Project 1117 Gamebird Research

Mallard Research Strategy: David Klee met with Matt McDougal, and has had discussion with other members of the mallard research group, to further develop the Mallard Research Strategy. It appears the research strategy at a national level will be changed with a major emphasis on risk. We know that licence sales are strongly correlated to changes in mallard populations and thus ensuring that hunters have sufficient numbers of ducks in their hunting areas is a key factor driving satisfaction. Therefore, the risk of not maintaining adequate mallard populations is a decrease in licence sales and participation.

Brood habitat selection and use project: Jenn Sheppard has gone through all the brood data and assessed its integrity. A summary outlining these results and future research plan for this project is appended to the agenda.

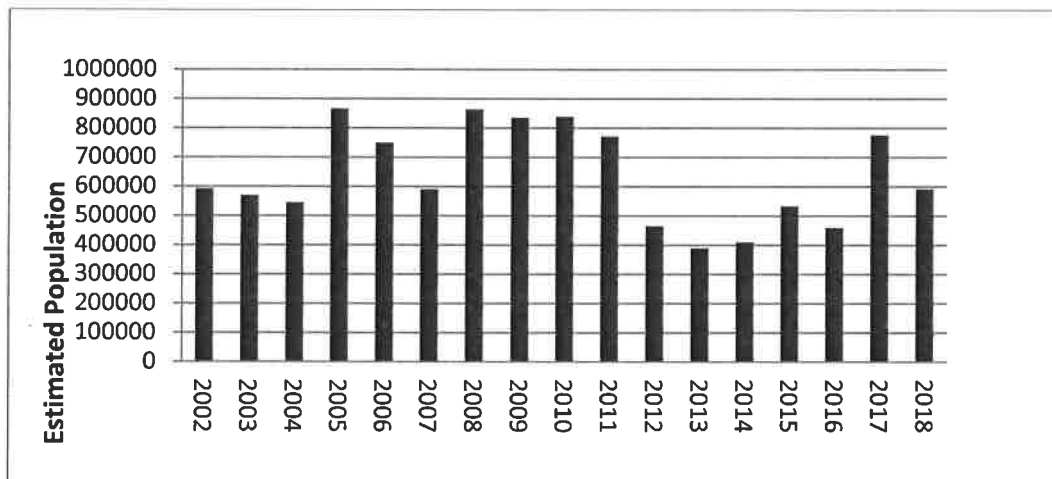
Project 1121 Harvest survey

Tagged fish: Tag recovery has been slow but reasonable fish numbers have been reported in Lake Arapuni.

Gamebird harvest survey/Banding: We recently completed the final question of the game bird harvest survey which is used to evaluate our duck band reporting rate. Despite some decent prizes being offered in recent years, reporting rates remains very poor. Obtaining reliable reporting rate estimates coupled with the overall poor returns continues to be a key issue confounding our banding programme. We will continue to push for a national research project aimed at increasing band returns and a band reward scheme to ensure we get accurate

reporting rate estimates. Because few regions conduct banding it is unlikely that this will receive unanimous support from all regions and may require each of the regions conducting banding to contribute. The population estimates remain moderate, and the decrease from last years can in part be attributed to a very low reporting rate estimate compared to previous years.

It appears to have been a good start to the breeding season. If we continue to get some good consistent rainfall in the next two months, it should bode well for a 3rd year in a row where we have had the right climatic conditions to promote higher duckling survival rates.



Grant Dyson (F&G publicity officer) assures us that the winners of the five \$600 hunting jackets and decoy pack prizes, which are drawn randomly from the duck band returns, will be photographed receiving their prizes at Hunting & Fishing stores, (who sponsor these packages). There is no doubt that these prizes incentivise hunters to report bands but also that not a lot of other hunters know about these prizes. So extra publicity in the form of photos might goad other hunters into action and should prove very helpful to get the band reporting rates up. Phone surveys of several hundred hunters indicate a lot of them have bands in their glovebox, their sheds and so on, but never get around to reporting them. Even worse is that when they eventually do, they're no longer sure which bands they shot this year or last, nor from where. This often makes it impossible for us to sort it out. If these hunters had to get all their bands in by September 15 at the latest, that would help.

Project 1161 Fish Release:

Sterile rainbow trout: The production of sterile rainbow trout in the Ngongotaha Hatchery was approved by Eastern Fish & Game. Adam now needs to find a pressure vessel.

OUTPUT 2 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

Project 1211 R.M.A.

Martha Mine: We lodged an objection to the application by Oceana Gold Ltd in Waihi to take water from the Ohinemuri River to flood the Martha mine and create a lake. They are proposing to take up to 20% of the river flow when flows are above $2 \times$ Mean Annual Low Flow ("MALF").

Fish and Game was not approached for consultation nor were we advised by either the applicant or the regional council before the consent was notified. It is concerning to see an application involving a significant trout river notified for submissions with no prior public consultation.

The application focusses on the lake and geotechnical aspects and provides minimal information or assessment as to the water take. There is no analysis in the application on the effects of the take on the Ohinemuri River. We have asked the regional council to put the application on hold until the required information is provided to the public and the effects of the proposed take has been assessed; however, the consenting officer has chosen to continue with the process and has taken submissions.

Our own analysis shows that the abstraction will take place approximately 223 days of the year for the applicant's estimated 9 years. However, there are no performance standards proposed to limit the duration of the take so this could continue well beyond the 9 years projected. The water take is likely to cause an increase in water temperature, which would reduce the area of trout habitat. The increase in water temperature may also affect fish migrations within the Ohinemuri catchment and increase streambed algal growth.

We opposed the whole application on the grounds laid out above and stated that the application lacks proper analysis of environmental effects and should be revised to include proposed performance standards. We expect this will proceed to hearing with minimal stakeholder prior engagement.

Fonterra Te Rapa: We are expecting to be informed by the Waikato Regional Council, as to whether issues raised in our submission on the consent applications by the Fonterra Te Rapa Dairy Factory can be resolved and the likelihood of a hearing.

Fonterra Te Awamutu: We met with the consenting officer to discuss the proposal by Fonterra to increase the heat discharged to the Mangapiko Stream with their discharge from the Te Awamutu Dairy Factory. This seems likely to head to a hearing if the issue can't be resolved with the applicant.

Meremere Clearfill site: Anna Sintenie has been in contact with the applicant and the consenting officer for the Waikato Regional Council to raise the issue of drainage and potential effects on the adjacent North Shepherd Wetland. We have met with the applicant who indicated there should be no change to the water flows entering or leaving the North Shepherd as the existing pumping system from the site to the Waikato River will continue to be used. However, John Dyer has since located and photographed a culvert to the north of the clearfill site, which goes under the railway and appears to allow for water to flow between the east and west of the railway and has not been taken into account by the applicant. The applicant has indicated they are going to further investigate how this culvert may impact flooding.

Healthy Rivers (Plan Change 1): The Waikato Regional Council has indicated that it will initiate the hearing process in late 2018 but that hearings will not start until 2019.

The final Summary of Decisions Requested was notified and Anna has now drafted, finalised and lodged Fish and Game's Further Submission document. Fish and Game has been served with further submissions from a number of other parties.

We have received overall advice as to a strategy from an external expert planner, and an environmental economist. We are now preparing to retain and brief experts for the hearing, focussing on evidence relating to environmental effects and outcomes at this stage which can feed into other witnesses' evidence as we progress to hearing.

Whangamarino Weir Section 128 Review: No further correspondence has been received from the Waikato Regional Council regarding this process.

Open Country Dairy: We signed a Memorandum of understanding with Open Country Dairy in 2016. After it was agreed that it would be everyone's best interest for OCD to withdraw their previous consent application and apply for a short-term interim consent to allow them to budget for and implement an improved treatment regime. Some further correspondence has been had with consultants and a draft application is due at the end of the month.

Inghams Consent: The previous environmental manager has left and despite multiple attempts to get an update we are unsure how they plan to progress the mitigation package that we negotiated through the reconsenting process. If we don't hear back in the near future, we will approach the consent compliance officer.

Te Kauwhata Waste Water Treatment Plant: Further correspondence has been had with the new project manager for the Waikato District Council, the 4th person who has held the position in nearly as many years since the interim consent was granted. As councillors will recall the submitters signed an agreement with WDC to give the district council some time to budget for and progress a land-based disposal option for the discharge from the Te Kauwhata waste water treatment plant. We have now been informed that land-based disposal is off the cards, although the case for this option being discarded especially during critical summer months remains unclear. We have again voiced our concerns, primarily with the lack of quality consultation with the TKWWTP Consultation Group. Over the years the goal posts have also been shifted with timeframes consistently prolonged. From our perspective it appears that decisions are being made without seeking feedback from the submitters and we are simply being informed of such once outcomes have been derived. This is hardly the collaborative process we envisaged, and we also feel it is not achieving the intent of the agreement that council signed with the submitters.

Northland Regional Plan Ongoing: We have been contracted by the Northland Fish and Game Council to case manage the review of the Northland Regional Plan. We made a submission on the Proposed Plan back in November last year. Since then we arranged a panel of expert witnesses, including for planning, wetlands and freshwater, to present evidence at the hearing which was held on the 25th of September. We put forward a strong case for protecting and enhancing wetlands for gamebird opportunities, and to a lesser extent provision for improvement in water quality. This is because of the limited extent of angling opportunities in Northland due to a warmer climate. The Northland Region is not so well known for its trout fisheries but does however have a number of large significant wetlands and lakes. In our submission we sought amendments to provisions to allow for wetland management and

enhancement activities to take place as a controlled activity but without consent fees. The submission also addressed the need for buffer zones and setbacks for cultivation and stock exclusion in order to reduce the effects of sedimentation in waterways. Water quality issues were also addressed including the need for improved monitoring in order to help set water quality limits. We now await the recommendations of the Hearings Panel before deciding whether we will take the case further.

Waikato District Plan review Ongoing: The Waikato District Plan is in the process of being reviewed. The Waikato District Council are currently accepting submissions on the Proposed Waikato District Plan. The Proposed Plan was notified on the 18th of July with the submission period running until the 9th of October. This will be followed by a hearing where independent commissioners will hear the submissions. Key changes that we will be seeking in our submission will mainly be in relation to the rural zone such as hunting being allowed as a permitted activity and being exempt from noise rules, and earthworks for wetland creation, maintenance and enhancement being allowed as a permitted activity. Other changes we will be seeking include buffer/setback rules for building near wetlands, allowing for all signs erected by Fish and Game to be a permitted activity, and including policies that acknowledge the recreational values of gamebird hunting and sportfishing in the Waikato District.

KiwiRail CRL Project: Spoil Removal Rail Concept: We were invited to attend a meeting hosted by DoC regarding KiwiRail's concept to double track the railway line that runs through the Whangamarino wetland. The railway line between Auckland and Hamilton is double tracked only until the Amokura station near Meremere, then it's a single track for 15km all the way through the Whangamarino until Te Kauwhata where it becomes double again. KiwiRail are proposing to use fill from the Auckland City Rail Link (CRL), transporting it by rail, to double track through the Whangamarino. The concept makes sense in that there will be 2 million tonnes of fill being excavated from the CRL project which will need to be disposed of, and 1.8 million tonnes of fill will be required to double track the Whangamarino railway. While the double tracking is not urgent it will inevitably need to be done due to population increase and demand not only in transport but also in freight. In which case if the fill is not used from the CRL then it will need to be sourced from elsewhere which has environmental concerns itself with such a large quantity of fill being required (described as basically an entire mountain needing to be removed).

There are a range of issues with the concept. Specifically, for us we are concerned about the fire risks the operations would pose to the Whangamarino. The grinders used on the tracks were described by one of the engineers present at the meeting as basically being flame throwers. Wetlands are surprisingly flammable landscapes, especially peat wetlands like the Whangamarino. We are also concerned about public access to the Whangamarino and the challenge of level crossings which would become untenable with passenger trains traveling at high speeds of 200 km an hour. We are also concerned about any impacts the operation might have on the hydrology of the wetland as there are numerous culverts that pass underneath the railway track.

The option of moving the entire railway track to being closer to State Highway One and therefore out of the Whangamarino was discussed. This option however was said to be an exceptionally expensive project. Whatever option is chosen however, the cost of environmental mitigation will need to be considered. Mitigation costs are often overlooked or underestimated at the outset in projects like these.

At this early stage it is merely a concept, and nothing has been decided on, which is why they are engaging us and DoC now. We will endeavour to continue to be involved in discussions on this.

Project 1221 Council Land

North Emmett Wetland. We've been meeting with Babbage Consultants concerning the work planned by Synlait within our North Emmett Wetland, as mitigation for some wetland lost on their own construction site. The question arose as to whether this water-weed removal amounted to maintenance or if it needed a consent. A letter has since been received from the Waikato District Council confirming that, as no new digging is being done, it is in effect not much different to a farmer drain cleaning his accumulated water-weeds. This will be quite a useful letter to hang onto for similar maintenance elsewhere. Although this particular area is shown within the boundaries of a wetland zone, this map seems to have been drawn up quite casually and includes a maize paddock behind a tall stopbank. We would not imagine that the farmer would have ever been prevented from harvesting his maize or tilling the ground because he is in a "wetland area". In the same respect, this "wetland" of ours was until recent years a well-drained paddock which since at least the 1940's until late 1990's was only ever grazed land until we reflooded it by blocking off the drains. This can easily be demonstrated by referring to Retrolens website which holds the original aerial photos for all those early years. The drains and even stock grazing this "wetland" site all show up clearly and this may have helped with the opinion expressed in the letter which now paves the way for restoration onsite - meaning both water-weed removal and also replanting the margins in suitable native plants, all at no cost to F&G licence buyers.



Photo 1. North Emmett Wetland aerial 1963. Lines show drain locations.

Dean & McKenzie Wetlands: John Dyer has inspected the maimais in the Dean and McKenzie Wetlands as well as assessing the state of the ponds which balloted pondholders are required to actively maintain as part of their pond tenure conditions. Apart from a few small issues, to which the respective pondholders have been contacted about, the wetland is looking in very good condition. A flock of some 300 grey teal was seen wheeling around the sky

above it, something staff have not seen since Tony Flexman's grey teal nest box complex was in its heyday, when Ducks Unlimited looked after it.

Project 1231 Non Council Land

Water Quality Study in the upper Whanganui/Whakapapa rivers: Adam collected samples in July and August from the upper reaches of the Whanganui and Whakapapa rivers. The preliminary analysis has revealed 3 streams of concern. One of the streams has had track washouts that have been repaired so monitoring will continue to see if the repairs improve downstream water quality.

Wetland Site Visits: David conducted a further four site visits with landowners to assess areas for wetland restoration potential and explore funding opportunities. He is also liaising with WRCs RUD team to try and assist a landowner with obtaining resource consent for wetland construction activities.

Flax Block and Kopuatai Wetland: David attended a meeting with representatives from DOC and the UPWMA to discuss the ongoing management of the Flax Block and huts in the Kopuatai Wetland. David was very disappointed that the boards in the Flax Block weir had been removed, despite sending information to DOC and ICM in Nov 2017 clearly showing the interim water level regimes they were using had been superseded in 1999 after substantive monitoring and flood modelling and the agreed year-round water level of 1.7RL was set in 2000 and has been maintained ever since. Unfortunately, neither DOC or ICM appeared to consider the information at the time and hence the association was instructed to lower the weir to 1.2 RL. After the meeting we have had confirmation in writing from DOC that a year-round level of 1.7RL is appropriate and this will be maintained from now on and the weir boards were put back in place. David also put some context around the Flax Block highlighting that it is a partnership project between DOC, F&G and the local committee. Part of that project was aimed to restore water levels to the wetland as the area had been adversely affected through drainage. F&G spent circa \$180,000 of funding sourced from licence holders and grant applications on the project, not to mention hundreds of hours of staff time. At the meeting Avi Holzapfel the DOC area manager indicated that DOC, IWI and ICM were conducting an exercise aimed at evaluating an appropriate hydrological regime for the wetland. It was emphasised by us, that given the history and amount of effort and financial contribution F&G have had at the site, that we also had a strong desire to be involved in any such exercise. Avi subsequently confirmed that he envisaged that we would be involved in this process moving forward.

The other topics of discussion included the intention of the 2 storage sheds which were allowed on the Flax Block at the time of the project. Phil Tel and Doug Emmett have both given written reply's confirming that the sheds were not to have any permanent dwelling facilities which would make them non-compliant with the building code but could be used for overnight accommodation. That was also the feedback from longstanding members of the committee.

Last week the members received confirmation that the hut licence concessions had been processed, the fee for this was around \$1200 +GST per concession. The hut concessions forwarded to us had an annual fee of \$3,384 +GST, a management fee of \$400+GST and a monitoring fee of \$115/hour +GST per staff member for any compliance checks done by DOC. Previously individuals only had to pay the fee of \$400 which was to be used directly for the management of the wetlands, although we are unsure exactly where this money has been

spent in recent years. This obviously constitutes a large increase and may be cost prohibitive for some individuals.

Tree Order: This year's annual tree order was dispatched. We piggy-backed on the RiverCare order for our native plants which meant that we received heavily discounted prices for PB3s. On average they were slightly more expensive than bare rooted plants from Appletons but have the benefit of being larger, eco-sourced and in pots which means they don't need to be planted immediately. With greater emphasis being put on land retirement and planting we are getting more enquiries from hunters and landowners for plants. We always try to provide some trees free of charge for worthy projects but for large quantities we have also started to purchase them at our discounted rate and pass them on at cost.

Predator Traps: David picked up the traps from the Waterfowl Enhancement Trust in Taupo which were secured through funding applications he lodged on behalf of local clubs and organisations. We managed to secure funding for 3 projects where we have dedicated groups of hunters willing to put in the time and effort required for predator trapping. We also purchased a bunch of DoC 200 boxes from the Waterfowl Enhancement Trust for \$15 each which are at the office. If hunters want to acquire some traps they just need to buy the springs from CMI and screw them into the boxes. The cost would be around \$35 compared to \$80 RR.

Game Bird Habitat Trust: David conducted site visits to previously completed projects to provide information and photos back to the Trust.

Lake Ngaroto maimai: David spent a day out on Lake Ngaroto on our boat with Murray Davies and Susan Emmitt (Waipa DC) to GPS, assess and record maimais. Waipa District Council and local iwi have shown a strong desire to remove derelict structures from the lake. In total 37 structures were located 22 of which need to be removed or repaired. Initially it was thought that WRC had a barge that could be borrowed in order to remove the derelict maimai, however this is not the case and a barge would need to be hired. A preliminary quote has come in at up to \$45,000.

Duck stamp funding: Despite urging by John Dyer an application for Duck Stamp funding for extending an existing pond was received too late from the Miranda area to be included in this year's budget. However we are pleased to hear that it is going ahead anyway with the interested parties absorbing the costs directly. The inspection by John undoubtedly helped firm up what was planned for this and another nearby pond.

A second application supported by John near Waerenga did meet the criteria and \$1,500 has been approved for improvement of the ponds there. This work has since been completed and re-inspected by John who have confirmed the money was spent in the manner proposed.

OUTPUT 3 PARTICIPATION

Project 1311 Access Negotiation

Ongarue River: The agreement with Hancock Forest Management for access to the road thru the property owned by the Black Fern Lodge was signed and will be publicised in the newsletter. This will allow anglers to gain access to a significant stretch of river where access was usually denied by the Lodge owners.

Project 1331 Magazine/Supplement

Fish newsletter: The annual preseason fish newsletter that will go out in October. Thanks to Nigel Juby for his assistance.

Angler Survey: Adam conducted a survey of all anglers on the email database, including those who have lapsed in the last two years. The report is in draft form awaiting review. There are apparent shifts in angler use and some important marketing information including the other activities anglers enjoy on fishing trips that include hunting, picnicking, swimming and tramping.

Project 1341 Other Publications

Adam continues to produce the reel life blog.

Forest & Bird: John sent a letter to the Editor of the Forest & Bird magazine in reply to their recent story stating that stoats and weasels were introduced in the 1880's by acclimatisation societies. In fact the societies strongly opposed this government funded initiative from the get-go. For instance, when the first of these vermin were released in NZ, the local society offered 1 pound for every dead one produced, (equivalent to 1 week's wages for an agricultural worker then). The government countered by protecting them with a 10 pound fine for anyone killing one. It wasn't until the 1936 that all protection was taken off cats, ferrets, stoats, weasels and mongooses! The Societies immediately offered bounties for them, paying out on tens of thousands.

OUTPUT 4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Project 1431 Liaison/Advocacy

Fishing Competitions: Adam has been promoting both the Tokoroa Take a Kid fishing comp and the Lower Waikato Trout fishing comp.

Bio Security: Adam is the NZ Fish and Game biosecurity adviser. In this role, he has been assisting with the government's refresh of the Check Clean Dry (CCD) programme at a national and regional level. Adam attended an inter-agency meeting on CCD in August and will be flying to Wellington for a second meeting in September.

Aviation NZ: Adam was invited to speak at the Aviation NZ conference in Nelson to discuss Fish & Game's environmental stance/history as well as case studies involving a real application in the Waikato. It was a challenging crowd that did not like the suggestion that bioaccumulation of cadmium from super phosphate was an ongoing problem.

Koi Carp Research Presentation: Adam was invited to present his research on koi carp by Te Riu o Waikato at Matahuru Marae. Adam presented data that showed when koi have been removed from a nearby lake there was no impact on water quality due to heavy nutrient loads from neighbouring farm land. A farming group presented a report (they had commissioned but paid for by the Waikato Regional Council) indicating that koi were the primary cause of poor water quality in the lake. Adam told the group that both agricultural pollution and koi needed to be addressed sparking heated debate.

Project 1442 Public Awareness

Television: John has assisted with requests from TV producers for dead ducks and dead pukeko to use in various television programme scenes.

TVNZ intended to run a news story about plastic shotgun wads and the fact that NZ F&G Council is proposing to eventually restrict these to help eliminate "single-use plastic" litter. However at time of writing no one seems to have seen these interviews go to air or know why not. John was interviewed, at the request of F&G National Office, to explain just what exactly a shotgun wad is and why so many end up in water. Also the Conservation Minister and F&G National Office CE were also to be interviewed. A few companies overseas have shotgun wads available that begin to degrade immediately when they hit the ground. For instance, a British company Gamebore has one suitable for steel shot. However to date there doesn't seem to be any in NZ, though the agent is trying to get samples. Until recently, fibre wads and similar non-plastic wads have only been suitable for lead shot, not steel, which is mandatory for waterfowl hunting by waterways.

OUTPUT 5 LAW ENFORCEMENT

Project 1511 Ranging/Training

We had some excellent court outcomes from the ranging activities conducted by David and Adam on the Hauraki plains. One set of offenders were convicted of the charge of use of lead shot, and fined \$500, court costs of \$130, solicitors cost of \$800 and order for forfeiture for their respective seized shotguns. These were long time experienced hunters that continued to use lead shot over water despite knowing they were not supposed to do so.

OUTPUT 9: ADMINISTRATION

Project 1900 Administration:

Safety: Adam attend his annual first aid class paid for by coast Guard NZ.

Dan Madsen files: The late F&G Councillor Dan Madsen was for many years not only a stalwart of Auckland Waikato Fish & Game Council and previously the Auckland Acclimatisation Society, but he was also our regional representative on the NZ Fish & Game Council. Not only this but he also played a leading part in the Franklin Acclimatisation Society where he was a Patron and life-member. His widow has suggested we sort out a mountain of paperwork that Dan accumulated over those decades. Imagine how many hundreds of meetings these minutes must represent. With smaller clubs the loss of early records can become quite a problem if there is a fire or similar loss. Since Franklin Society played a key role in the management of the F&G Piggott Wetland, ensuring a good set of these records is safeguarded can be the key to issues that crop up from time to time about earlier agreements, for instance. These will be returned to the club shortly.

B. Wilson
Chief Executive.