



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

11 April 2019

AGENDA

The 175th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

Venue: Eastern Fish & Game Region Offices
Paradise Valley Road
ROTORUA

Date: **Thursday, 11 April 2019**

Commences: **12.00 PM**

	<u>Page Number</u>
1 Welcome (12.00 PM)	
2 Apologies	
3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (12 February 2019)	1
4 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
5 Matters Arising	
6 Notification of Items for General Business	
7 Conflict of Interest Register	14
8 2019-20 Operational Work Plan (12.15PM, 15 min) (D)	16
9 Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Fund (12.30 PM, 10 min) (R)	21
10 Timing of Opening of Fishing Season (12.40PM, 20 min) (R)	23
11 Children's Fishing Day Donation (1.00 PM, 15 min) (R)	27
12 Presentation: "How Does the Hatchery Work?" (1.15 PM, 20 mins)	
13 Game Bird Hunting Code of Conduct (1.35 PM, 15 min) (R)	30
14 Species Monitoring Report (1.50 PM, 10 min) (I)	39
15 Liaison Officers Reports (2.00 PM, 15 min) (I)	41
16 Operational Reports (2.15 PM, 15 min)	
16.1 Management Report (I)	42
16.2 Health and Safety Report (R)	56
16.3 Finance Report (R)	58
16.4 Licence Sales Report (I)	68
17 General Business (2.30 PM, 30 min)	
18 Meeting Closes (3.00 PM)	

R = resolution required, D = for discussion/advice, I = for information only

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 174th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON TUESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2019 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs Murray Ferris, Barry Roderick, David Woolner, Lindsay Lyons, Laurance Tamati, Geoff Thomas, Ngahi Bidois, Alan Baird, and Adam Rayner (arrived 12.10pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Anthony van Dorp, Lynne Sands, Mark Sherburn, John Meikle, Eben Herbert, Matt Osborne, and Lloyd Gledhill (Eastern Fish & Game); Grant Dyson and Steve Doughty (New Zealand Fish & Game); Trevor Richardson and Brian Samson (Western BoP Fish & Game Club), Michael Rusling (Prime Pine), Tim Julou (Equine Estate), Nigel Raven (Pirini Family Trust) Tiggy Clayton, Colin Prestige, Mike McLean, Chris Vinie, Shaun Williamson, Richard Conner, Rod Swindlehurst, Yvonne Langridge, Ian Ferguson, Lewis Rudd, Grahame Atkinson, Andrew Davenport, Chris Hill, Steve Brown, Jim Patten, Kim Kenny, Dave Julou, Rob Hayes.

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.05pm and welcomed all present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Ken Coombes; Helen Neale and Dave Conley (Department of Conservation); Ken Raureti (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board); and Carmel Veitch (Eastern Fish & Game).

2.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Geoff Thomas) that the apologies for the 174th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 DECEMBER 2018)

3.1 *Agreed (David Woolner/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendment:*

Item 15.8, last sentence - amend "Cr Barry Roderick also felt that fish were in better condition last year" to "Cr Barry Roderick also felt that fish had been in better condition the previous year". [19/02/3.1]

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 Two items were identified for inclusion in Council Policy, these being resolutions [18/12/4.1] and [18/12/11.3].

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Laurance Tamati – Junior licence books for clubs

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 7.1 Alan Baird registered his potential conflict of interest relating to the Upland Game Properties item, and in particular the questions concerning captive-reared mallards. His comment noted, “no financial interest, future prospects could see a game CRM start”. Cr Barry Roderick also registered a potential conflict now and in the future relating to any discussions concerning the Tangaroa Fishing Competition due to his “sponsorship of prizes for the event”. No other conflicts were identified.

8.0 GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

- 8.1 The Council’s Governance manual had been issued to Councillors present at the last meeting and copies had since been distributed to those not present. Cr Lindsay Lyons provided a brief overview of the contents of the manual and requested that Councillors take time to review the information within and to bring it along to each meeting.
- 8.2 Lindsay spoke in more depth about the Governance role that the Council needs to maintain and highlighted the difference between governance and management responsibilities. He said that while Council holds authority over management he prefers to act as a team with management and staff. He requested Councillors to direct their queries/issues through the Chairman or Manager rather than contact staff directly, and to consider whether their query is of a management or operational nature, adding that operational matters were not the role of Governors. Lindsay also confirmed that recommendations/motions could not be made on items of General Business and suggested that these items be raised with the Chairman prior to the Agenda being prepared for the next meeting to determine whether it should be included as an agenda item.
- 8.3 Lindsay stressed that failure to follow Governance and Conflict of Interest policies was the primary reason for the audits being undertaken on some regional Fish and Game Councils recently. He added that conflicts could be Pecuniary, Perceived, Actual, or Closed Mind i.e. stalls discussion. Lindsay noted that a “Declaration of Interest” form had been handed to Councillors so they could identify any obvious matters or associations at the outset of the year that could constitute a conflict of interest for them being a Fish & Game governor, and this coupled with recording any specific conflicts they might have in relation to an agenda item at the commencement of each meeting was important as it provided transparency and reduced the likelihood of issues arising as had happened elsewhere in Fish & Game. An “Oath of Office” document had also been handed out, and while these documents were not legally binding it could also be viewed as a declaration Councillors could make to licence holders and those who elected them that they would uphold the values of Fish & Game. Cr Murray Ferris added that Councillors were not here to represent any particular group but all fish and game licence holders.
- 8.4 There was also a need for confidentiality particularly for Public Excluded discussions where information may be embargoed, politically sensitive, or was related to individual persons. Andy Garrick advised that from time to time the Papers for Information also contained confidential information that was for the eyes of Councillors eyes only, and this needed to be respected.
- 8.5 Lindsay advised that extracts of the relevant legislation applying to Fish & Game were contained in the rear section of the Governance Manual. Cr David Woolner suggested that taking in all of this information may be overwhelming for some, and questioned their freedom to act? Lindsay referred to the Councillor Guide at the front

of the manual which provided a more concise overview of the role of Councillor and what interactions with media and clubs and others was appropriate. In conclusion Andy Garrick said that while governance policy makes clear distinctions in relation to the roles and responsibilities of Councillors and staff, he wanted to make it clear that from his perspective we don't want to have a them and us situation, our strength lies in being a team. Between Council and staff we have a great team in this region and he welcomes Councillors sharing their ideas with staff.

9.0 R3 PRESENTATION FROM STEVE DOUGHTY

- 9.1 Cr Murray Ferris introduced Steve Doughty from the New Zealand Council who would be presenting on R3 today.
- 9.2 Steve Doughty provided Council with a brief overview of his background in business development and marketing and the purpose of his involvement with Fish & Game. He said his role in the first instance is to look into angler participation and revenues which had been on the decline in recent years, adding that this was not dissimilar to what was also occurring overseas. The focus of the R3 programme was to identify where and why there has been a reduction in participation, and explore opportunities for turning this around. Retention of existing participants was the number one priority followed by, re-activation of past participants, and recruitment of new participants (the three Rs).
- 9.3 Steve presented to Council via power point the background for the project, and highlighted some of the reasons for the decline in fish licence sales, the opportunities available in lakes and lowland rivers where participation could be increased, and factors that influence retention and recruitment.
- 9.4 Cr Barry Roderick asked how they motivated people in the States. Steve Doughty advised that they did this through motivational marketing e.g. being with the family, in the outdoors, and experiencing what is on offer. He noted that Government and State funding was available in the US do this.
- 9.5 Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked Steve for his presentation and asked if Councillors could receive a copy. Andy Garrick advised that he would circulate a copy of the power point to Councillors.

10.0 GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2019-2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 10.1 Andy Garrick noted that Steve Doughty's presentation led nicely into this agenda item which concerned planning for the 2019/20 programme commencing 1 September 2019 through to 31 August 2020. Andy provided a brief overview of the process highlighting changes to timing which meant the draft Operational Work Plan (OWP) and Budget would need to be approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Council in order to meet NZC deadlines (needing to be submitted to NZC by 20 March 2019). The draft OWP and budget would be presented to the full Eastern Fish & Game Council ahead of its meeting in April which would provide an opportunity for all other Councillors to comment on what it proposed.
- 10.2 Andy provided an overview of Council's current priorities and commented on the tendency in past years' to roll out the same priorities each year. He said that the Council's strategic planning meeting held in November last year had provided an opportunity for reviewing these priorities in greater depth than was usually available. The outcome of this meeting was effectively, to retain the key regional priorities Council currently has, the one exception being that the focus on "Increasing Licence Revenue" be reworded to "Increasing Revenue". General support was registered for

the concept that some of Council's priorities are of greater importance than others in terms of for example, maintaining operational sustainability. Higher priorities at this point in time were considered to be Access, Maximising Fishery Opportunities, and Increasing Revenue, the arguments being that without access to sports fish and game bird resources the opportunities available to many licence holders are limited, and without adequate revenue we are unable to perform many of the operational undertakings needed to provide sustainable populations of sports fish and game birds. Maximising fishery opportunities was seen as a means of increasing participation, and revenue.

- 10.3 Cr Barry Roderick queried whether our use of social media could be improved and referred to the availability and use of the daily Tongariro River fishing reports supplied by Graham Whyman of Sporting Life in Turangi. Steve Doughty confirmed that there is an opportunity to improve on the way in which we make use of social media, but with the number of waters within the region we are unlikely to have the resources available to undertake this to the level they do in Turangi. Barry suggested that businesses with guides operating out of their stores might be able to contribute to an initiative of this sort.
- 10.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons requested that further consideration be given to exploring opportunities at the Ruahihi Canal at McLaren Falls in Tauranga for increasing fishing opportunity. Cr Barry Roderick commented on the great publicity the large fish release into Lake Rotorua had received and questioned whether a portion of the hatchery's surplus large fish at the end of this year could be released into the Canal with the aim of creating greater interest there.
- 10.5 Andy Garrick noted that much of our annual work programme revolved around core activities, and asked Councillors to consider if there were areas they considered less effort could be put into in order to provide room for new activities. Cr Barry Roderick suggested we could consider halting liberations of trout into Lake Okataina as had been proposed by Ken Raureti at December's meeting. Andy suggested incorporating a project into the OWP to have another look at options for creating a trophy trout fishery at Lake Okataina which could include assessing the merit of reducing or halting liberations as a means of achieving this. Cr Lindsay Lyons noted that a previous attempt to create a larger number of trophy trout at Okataina by reducing the minimum takeable size had not worked.
- 10.6 Cr Lindsay Lyons questioned whether it was worthwhile continuing with access efforts in areas where access was very restricted such as in the Rangitaiki. Anthony van Dorp advised that access work in the Rangitaiki area had already been cut back, and much of the area that we do maintain is primarily funded by Timberlands. Cr Barry Roderick queried the use of the Whirinaki as a summer fishery given the loss of access to the Rangitaiki over summer months. Anthony advised that the amount of public land over which access could be provided to the Whirinaki was somewhat limited but currently appeared to be adequate for current levels of use. These access points were included within the latest access brochure.
- 10.7 Cr Adam Raynor requested an update on the Kaituna Wetland. In response John Meikle advised that the Regional Council had received \$1.4m in funding to finance the conversion and enhancement of an area to the south and west of the Wildlife Management Reserve to wetland. He said hydrological modelling was currently being undertaken to quantify how much water was needed to supply the wetland and how this could be achieved. The work was planned for next summer. Andy Garrick said that this was a collaborative effort with ourselves and other agencies.

- 10.8 As a follow on from Steve Doughty's R3 brief, Andy asked Steve to provide some insight to some of the ideas he had been discussing with staff for improving access and enhancing participation within the Eastern Region. Steve outlined five projects that had been scoped, these being:
- Access promotion – opportunity to collaborate with NZC;
 - Kids fishing days followed up with beginners' classes;
 - Adult beginners' class;
 - Working with Destination Rotorua on marketing initiatives;
 - Kayak fishing tuition.
- 10.9 Cr Geoff Thomas queried where Council had got to regarding Saturday opening for the fishing season. Lindsay Lyons responded advising that this had been considered at the prior meeting but could be discussed again further down the track.

12.0 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES

- 12.1 Cr Murray Ferris welcomed those present who had come along specifically for this discussion. He informed all present that this was a consultation process and there was a need to keep it objective. While he welcomed people to share their views he asked that due to time constraints only one person representing a group speak and to please not repeat information if it has already been put forward. All questions needed to be put through the chair. He said the purpose of the discussion was to provide feedback to the New Zealand Council, and advised that the information and paperwork this Council held on the matter was the same as that available to all others. He advised Council that resolutions were required to feed back to the NZC, and that all Fish and Game Councils around the country had been invited to do the same.
- 12.2 Mike Rusling (Prime Pine) wished to highlight that the information circulated for this meeting was different to the initial information that they originally been made aware of, and wanted clarification on what exactly was going on. He commented that while Fish & Game was wanting to increase revenue as discussed in the previous agenda item, shutting down preserves will result in the loss of thousands of dollars in licence income. Andy Garrick advised that staff have been analysing upland game property diary returns and doing some background research on the numbers of licence holders participating in pheasant shoots, how often individuals do so, licence categories (day versus whole season, adults versus juniors), and place of residence. This information would be forwarded to the NZC to provide some insight into the extent to which upland game properties are utilised within the Eastern Region, and the demographics of those doing so.
- 12.3 Tim Julou (Equine Game Keeper) said that he was attending the meeting today to ensure that the information conveyed to Councillors was accurate. He said that while he worked for Equine he was not speaking on behalf of Equine. Tim acknowledged that there had been some misunderstanding about the intentions of today's discussion as they were unaware that what had been proposed by the NZC (transfer pheasants and partridge from Schedule 1 to Schedule 3 for three years) was an interim or transitional measure to allow commercial operators to continue operating as they have been for another three years giving time to sort things out. Tim added that a lot of people get a lot out of preserve hunting, and that it provided great opportunity to bring young people into the sport. Kim Kenny from Equine commented that they were here to answer Council's questions.

- 12.4 Shaun Williamson advised that his daughter enjoyed pheasant shooting and game shooting and felt that if the preserves were to close down, they wouldn't get into hunting and fishing to the same extent.
- 12.5 Brian Samson (WBoP Fish & Game Club) commented on Fish and Game's goal to increase hunting opportunities and added that hunting opportunities in the Bay of Plenty were down to just 10% of what they once were when he was starting out. He felt that the legislation had been in place for quite some time and that it wouldn't hurt to review the rules and address the issues that have arisen around commercial hunting operations.
- 12.6 Tim Julou commented that yes there is a cost to hunt on preserves and questioned whether it was wrong to recoup the costs to provide the opportunity. He made a comparison between fishing guides and pheasant preserves and suggested that there was not a lot of difference.
- 12.7 Jim Patton at 86 years old wanted to let Council know that the preserves provided him and others of his age their only real opportunity to go shooting.
- 12.8 Yvonne Langridge said that a lot of ladies get involved whether it be as beaters or working with gun dogs. She said that there was great atmosphere and camaraderie. The preserves also provided a very safe environment particularly for women and children, and commented on the wives' and children's days held. She felt that field shooting was not a safe place for women anymore and the preserves were a really good way of keeping women in the sport.
- 12.9 Richard Conner was involved with dog trials and said that without preserves like Equine there would not be the same opportunity for others like him to work their dogs, as insufficient numbers of birds were available in the wild to do this. He added that the stakes were high for the operators, and noted that preserves provide an opportunity for ladies to be introduced to hunting and that they were required to have a shooting licence too. He enjoyed the camaraderie and commented on the escapees from Equine to nearby Rotoehu Forest.
- 12.10 Trevor Richardson (WBoP Fish & Game Club) also commented on escapees. He had had no involvement with preserves here, but had worked in England on a couple of preserves where they would be happy if 40% of the birds were shot. Trevor said that our preserves had been operating for some 18 years, they were doing a good job, and why stop them in three years' time - Fish & Game should be working to get this small matter sorted. Andy Garrick said that what was being looked at was an interim measure that had been proposed in recognition that many preserves were well established, had had a lot invested into them, and there was an obligation to those businesses and operations to provide them with an opportunity to either restructure their operations to make them compliant with the legislation, or develop and implement an exit strategy, or resolve the issue in some other manner. He said the intention of this temporary measure was not to shut down preserves in three years' time, but to provide breathing space and a lawful means by which otherwise non-compliant operations could continue to operate as they were for the next three years while their operators decided on the future of their preserves.
- 12.11 Kim Kenny (Equine) was pleased to hear that this was an interim measure. He estimated escapees from Equine to adjoining properties to be in the order of 80,000 pheasants over the years the preserve had been operating.
- 12.12 Cr Alan Baird commented that preserves provide 80,000 pheasants a year for hunters, and Fish & Game puts 80,000 fish into the lakes, but doesn't put anything into

- hunting. He said we need to get clarification of our support for preserves so we can go to the Minister to get the legislation changed.
- 12.13 Tim Julou commented that contrary to what Martin Taylor was saying that some syndicates may be acting within the law, Sir Geoffrey Palmer's opinion did not differentiate between commercial operations and recreational syndicates, and that the Act needed changing.
- 12.14 Cr Geoff Thomas noted that according to Eastern Region records, preserves had liberated over 380,000 pheasants over the 18 years they had been operating, 220,000 of which were not shot on the preserves and could have gone over the fence. The cost for Fish & Game to breed that number of birds would be in the millions of dollars. Geoff noted that predator control on preserves benefits native birds also.
- 12.15 Shaun Williamson said that he attends every weekend by choice to be involved as a beater and working the dogs and to be part of what is a huge social event.
- 12.16 Kim Kenny commented that kokako were coming back into Equine and added that a whole range of native birds including kaka benefitted from the predator control they did there.
- 12.17 Nigel Raven (Pirini Family Trust) noted that Totara Lodge had had an extended cock pheasant season for juniors and that Fish & Game in the past had used preserves to bring youth through.
- 12.18 Cr Ngahi Bidois found the information provided was interesting to read and compared it with people breeding trout on their properties and charging people to fish for them. If that was to occur there would be people up in arms about it. He noted however, that while tikanga can change over time to suit the environment, the people, and the wildlife, that doesn't change the fact that selling the hunting of pheasants is currently illegal no matter how long it has been going on. Because it's been going on for so long there may be justification for changing the law. Legally the speed limit is 100km but there are people doing 105km. This needs to be recognised or put right.
- 12.19 Cr Adam Raynor felt that as Councillors they were in a difficult position. He was not against preserves but felt that the legislation needed addressing.
- 12.20 Kim Kenny commented that Equine would not break the law intentionally but these activities had been condoned by the law makers for a long time.
- 12.21 Yvonne Langridge queried whether they had the support of this Council to recommend a change of law.
- 12.22 Chris Vine had read Mr Palmer's report and suggested that all that needed to be changed was to allow a landowner to charge a fee for hunting on private land.
- 12.23 Cr Murray Ferris advised the meeting that it was time for Council to consider the questions raised by the New Zealand Council. Andy Garrick confirmed that Council needed to respond to these questions, and noted that all Upland Game Property operators had been invited to forward submissions to the New Zealand Council if they wished to do so, 29 March being the final cut off point.
- 12.24 Cr Lindsay Lyons noted that it would be a major undertaking to change the Act, and in attempting to do so would pose a risk of other changes being made that were not in the interests of game bird hunters or Fish & Game.
- 12.25 Tim Julou commented that a lot of people have the perception that Fish & Game is not working for hunters anymore. He added that Fish & Game has a serious image problem with farmers and he hears constant complaints from them. He advised that a number of preserve operators have formed an environmental organisation (the NZ Game and Conservation Alliance) and it wants to work with Fish & Game.

- 12.26 Cr Murray Ferris informed all present that 99% of what the Eastern Fish and Game Council does is for groups that want change. He said no one is more passionate than the group around this table.
- 12.27 Cr Alan Baird wanted to add to the discussion that Equine had organised fundraising balls for the last two years to raise money for charities. Tim Julou advised that these had resulted in donations of \$24,000 to the Kokako and Kiwi Trusts.
- 12.28 Cr Barry Roderick felt that as Fish & Game Councillors they had only one option, and couldn't condone something that was illegal.
- 12.29 As a preface to considering the questions raised by the New Zealand Council, Andy Garrick explained that the italicised text he had inserted after 4 of the 5 questions was to assist Council with its deliberations by clarifying what was being asked or needed to be considered, and/or provided additional information e.g. relevant policy or resolutions previously made by Council.
- 12.30 Cr Murray Ferris read aloud the first question, "Does your Council support the operation of Upland Game Properties with special conditions for the principal purpose of providing an alternative or more productive hunting/shooting experience for a fee? Cr David Woolner noted that the sale of hunting rights had never been tested in the Courts and Cr Ngahi Bidois queried whether it was worthwhile getting another legal opinion. Matt McDougall advised that the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council had previously obtained a legal opinion on pheasant preserves charging a fee and this had concluded it was not legal, and Andy Garrick advised that the Department of Conservation had also done this and come to the same conclusion last year. Andy suggested that the first question should be read as "If the legislation was changed to allow the charging of a fee, would your Council support the operation of ..."
- 12.31 Council decided to address the three suggestions presented in Item 4.3 of the agenda prior to considering the questions raised in Item 4.1.
- 12.32 ***Item 4.3(i): Seven out of nine Councillors were in favour of acknowledging Sir Geoffrey's opinion and endorsing the NZ Council's position that Upland Game Properties currently charging a fee cannot continue to operate under the current structure. Two Councillors abstained. [19/02/12.32]***
- 12.33 ***Item 4.3(ii): Seven out of nine Councillors were in favour of expressing strong support for an interim measure such as that proposed that will enable time for currently non-compliant Upland Game Properties to restructure, or implement exit strategies minimising the financial impact that that might have on their businesses, or to explore other options. Two Councillors abstained. [19/02/12.33]***
It was also suggested that the NZ Council give consideration to extending the three year transitional measure proposed.
- 12.34 ***Item 4.3(iii): Eight out of nine Councillors were in favour of a review of the operational guidelines/conditions associated with Upland Game Properties to ensure that these are relevant and appropriate. For example, requirements relating to the ongoing welfare of released birds following the conclusion of the season, and protocols/procedures for disposal of carcasses. One Councillor abstained. [19/02/12.34]***
- 12.35 In response to a question from Cr Murray Ferris, Tim Julou advised that Equine continues to feed its free ranging birds after the game season has concluded until they are no longer taking that food.
- 12.36 Council returned to the questions raised by the New Zealand Council and voted on the first three as follows:

- 12.37 **Question 1. Does your Council support the operation of Upland Game Properties with special conditions for the principal purpose of providing an alternative or more productive hunting/shooting experience for a fee? All nine Councillors were in favour (assuming it is legal). [19/02/12.37]**
- 12.38 **Question 2. Is there support for continuing to allow non-fee paying Upland Game Properties with special conditions operated by families, private syndicates or friends for the purpose of providing an alternative, or more productive hunting/shooting experience, that are compliant with current legislation? All nine Councillors were in favour. [19/02/12.38]**
- 12.39 **Question 3. If Fish & Game and the legislation allows pheasant/partridge hunting on Upland Game Properties with special conditions for a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other game birds on that property for a fee?**
All nine Councillors were initially in favour on the assumption that it was legal to do so, but subsequently revoked this after further consideration (see below).
- 12.40 Eben Herbert pointed out to Council that by voting in favour of Question 3, “assuming it was legal”, conflicted with earlier resolutions made by Council in relation to the hunting of mallards on Upland Game Properties which are highlighted on pages 30-31 of the agenda. Andy Garrick suggested that the inclusion of mallards in this discussion was adding layers of confusion to an already challenging topic, and suggested that Council might wish to defer consideration of this question and the next until such time as the principal issues relating to the operation of Upland Game Properties have been resolved.
- 12.41 **Questions 3 and 4. Council agreed that debate on the hunting of mallards and other game birds on preserves be deferred until the issues associated with the hunting of pheasants and partridges have been resolved, and it was not in a position to provide feedback to the NZ Council on Questions 3 and 4 at this point in time. All nine Councillors were in favour of taking this course. [19/02/12.41]**
- 12.42 **Question 5. Would you support legislation being changed to allow the sale of hunting rights on Upland Game Properties with special conditions but maintain the prohibition on the sale of hunting rights in all other hunting situations? All nine Councillors were in favour. [19/02/12.42]**
- 12.43 Tim Julou acknowledged that the topic of captive reared mallards was too much to consider at present, and extended an invitation to all Councillors to come and have a look at Equine’s operation.
- 12.44 Cr Murray Ferris brought the discussion to a conclusion and thanked all those who had attended for their contribution to this agenda item. Members of the public departed at this point (3.10pm).

13.0 EXTENSION OF MEETING DURATION

- 13.1 Agreed (Adam Raynor/Laurance Tamati) that the meeting be extended by a further 30 minutes to deal with remaining items. [19/02/13.1]**

14.0 SETTING NATIONAL POLICY

- 14.1 Councillors had reviewed the draft policy for Setting National Policy and supported it as written.
- 14.2 Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Ngahi Bidois) that Council supports the proposed draft policy for Setting National Policy as written. [19/02/14.2]**

15.0 2019-2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN CONTINUED

15.0 Cr Lindsay Lyons pointed out that Council did not vote on the recommendation on page 26 relating to the 2019/2020 Operational Work Plan.

15.1 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council had reviewed its priorities and programmes for the 2018-19 year and identified changes as discussed. [19/02/15.1]*

15.2 Council also discussed providing Child Licence pads to clubs in order to make it easier for them to get kids fishing. Andy Garrick informed Council that there were plans ahead to develop a programme around this, however it was agreed that this would be appropriate in the interim.

16.0 BEQUEST POLICY

16.1 Councillors had reviewed the draft Bequests Policy and supported it as written. A comment was made however, that it could or should apply to donations as well.

16.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposed draft Bequests Policy as written. [19/02/16.2]*

17.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

17.1 Council received the Rotorua Lakes 2018 Winter Creel Survey Report.

18.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

18.1 *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*

No Report.

18.2 *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

No Report.

18.3 *Department of Conservation*

No Report.

18.4 *New Zealand Fish and Game Council*

Cr Lindsay Lyons advised that a recent meeting with Eugenie Sage, the Minister of Conservation, went well, and commented on Fish & Game's positive relationship with Merv English, Deputy Director-General of DOC. Lindsay advised that there was to be a discussion on the regional Fish & Game audits that had been taking place at the upcoming meeting of the NZ Council this coming Saturday, and acknowledged the upheaval these had caused, but noted that what was coming out of these was positive. He said that there were six new Councillors on the New Zealand Council and a new executive committee. There was to be a Governors meeting on Friday at the end of this week, and Lindsay advised that Murray Ferris would be attending that along with all other Fish and Game Council chairs.

19.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

19.1 Cr Barry Roderick expressed concern about the difficulty staff were having in obtaining drift dive data in the upper Rangitaiki due to ongoing poor visibility and asked whether it would be worthwhile putting a highly skilled angler in there to obtain some data. He noted there was generally better visibility in the Otamatea and asked whether Dry Fly Creek was also clear. Anthony van Dorp advised that the Otangimoana had visibility of 6-7 metres and the Otamatea 5 metres when staff attempted to dive the river in mid January, whereas visibility in the Rangitaiki was down to 1 metre or so. Matt McDougall had flown over Lake Poerua on Lochinver Station in January and said that there appeared to be no obvious cropping next to the lake and that this didn't appear to be the source of the poor water quality, though there

were five kms or so between the lake and the State Highway 5 bridge where our first monitoring site was. Matt added that while it was not obvious, that didn't mean that it wasn't the source. Andy Garrick said that despite staff being unable to obtain any comparative fish data, we did still get useful measurements of water quality to compare with previous years' including secchi disc, temperature, and oxygen, and this would be useful for advocacy purposes and discussions we would be having with BOP Regional Council staff. Barry wondered whether it was appropriate to put an angler in for four hours and record numbers of fish caught during that time. Anthony van Dorp said that the feedback he had received from anglers over winter was that trout were of good size and condition. Andy noted that angler catch rates weren't a particularly useful index for monitoring trends, and in addition we didn't have historic data this could be compared against. Cr Lindsay Lyons said that the Rangitaiki had always been a premium river and the bread and butter for many guides, and the potential to get worse was right up there.

19.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/David Woolner) that Council receives the Management and Health and Safety reports. [19/02/19.2]*

19.3 Kate Thompson provided an explanation to a transaction query from Cr Ngahi Bidois relating to Levies.

19.4 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2018 totalling \$390,879.17. [19/02/19.4]*

19.4 Council also received the Licence Sales report.

20.0 MEETING CLOSED

20.1 The meeting was closed at 3.47pm.

.....
Murray Ferris
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Geoff Thomas) that the apologies for the 174th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 DECEMBER 2018)

- 3.1 *Agreed (David Woolner/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendment:*

Item 15.8, last sentence - amend "Cr Barry Roderick also felt that fish were in better condition last year" to "Cr Barry Roderick also felt that fish had been in better condition the previous year". [19/02/3.1]

12.0 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES

- 12.32 *Item 4.3(i): Seven out of nine Councillors were in favour of acknowledging Sir Geoffrey's opinion and endorsing the NZ Council's position that Upland Game Properties currently charging a fee cannot continue to operate under the current structure. Two Councillors abstained. [19/02/12.32]*
- 12.33 *Item 4.3(ii): Seven out of nine Councillors were in favour of expressing strong support for an interim measure such as that proposed that will enable time for currently non-compliant Upland Game Properties to restructure, or implement exit strategies minimising the financial impact that that might have on their businesses, or to explore other options. Two Councillors abstained. [19/02/12.33]*
- 12.34 *Item 4.3(iii): Eight out of nine Councillors were in favour of a review of the operational guidelines/conditions associated with Upland Game Properties to ensure that these are relevant and appropriate. For example, requirements relating to the ongoing welfare of released birds following the conclusion of the season, and protocols/procedures for disposal of carcasses. One Councillor abstained. [19/02/12.34]*
- 12.37 *Question 1. Does your Council support the operation of Upland Game Properties with special conditions for the principal purpose of providing an alternative or more productive hunting/shooting experience for a fee? All nine Councillors were in favour (assuming it is legal). [19/02/12.37]*
- 12.38 *Question 2. Is there support for continuing to allow non-fee paying Upland Game Properties with special conditions operated by families, private syndicates or friends for the purpose of providing an alternative, or more productive hunting/shooting experience, that are compliant with current legislation? All nine Councillors were in favour. [19/02/12.38]*
- 12.41 *Questions 3 and 4. Council agreed that debate on the hunting of mallards and other game birds on preserves be deferred until the issues associated with the hunting of pheasants and partridges have been resolved, and it was not in a position to provide feedback to the NZ Council on Questions 3 and 4 at this point in time. All nine Councillors were in favour of taking this course. [19/02/12.41]*
- 12.42 *Question 5. Would you support legislation being changed to allow the sale of hunting rights on Upland Game Properties with special conditions but maintain the prohibition on the sale of hunting rights in all other hunting situations? All nine Councillors were in favour of taking this course. [19/02/12.42]*

13.0 EXTENSION OF MEETING DURATION

- 13.1 *Agreed (Adam Raynor/Laurance Tamati) that the meeting be extended by a further 30 minutes to deal with remaining items. [19/02/13.1]*

14.0 SETTING NATIONAL POLICY

14.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Ngahi Bidois) that Council supports the proposed draft policy for Setting National Policy as written. [19/02/14.2]*

15.0 2019-2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN CONTINUED

15.1 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council had reviewed its priorities and programmes for the 2018-19 year and identified changes as discussed. [19/02/15.1]*

16.0 BEQUEST POLICY

16.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposed draft Bequests Policy as written. [19/02/16.2]*

19.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

19.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/David Woolner) that Council receives the Management and Health and Safety reports. [19/02/19.2]*

19.4 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2018 totalling \$390,879.17. [19/02/19.4]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

26 March 2019

1. Purpose

A standing agenda item to disclose any Councillor (“Member”) Conflict of Interest or potential Conflict of Interest, and record this in the Councillor Conflict of Interest Register.

2. Background

The Eastern Fish and Game Council at its October 2016 meeting adopted a policy and rules for dealing with Conflicts of Interest and must provide a standing agenda item to allow Councillors to disclose any Conflict or highlight any potential conflict. The “Interest Register” ring binder will be circulated in the first part of each meeting for Councillors to record any interests. The Council should then discuss how it wants to deal with any interest or perceived interest identified.

Conflict of Interest (refer s2.7 Governance Policies) means when the member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias in respect of a matter¹ i.e:

- (i) A member can be shown to have actual bias when a member’s decision or act in relation to a matter could give rise to an expectation of financial gain or loss (that is more than trivial) to the member (and/or to the member’s parent(s), child(ren), spouse, civil union partner, de facto partner, business partner(s)/associate(s), debtor(s) or creditor(s)).
- (ii) A member can be shown to have apparent bias when a member’s official duties or responsibilities to the Council in relation to a matter could reasonably be said to be affected by some other interest or duty that the member has.
- (iii) A member’s “interest or duty” includes the interests of that member’s parent(s), child(ren), spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner that may be affected by the matter at issue. It also includes the interests of a person with whom the member has a close, personal relationship where there is a real danger of personal favouritism.
- (iv) There is no Conflict of Interest where the member’s other interest or duty is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence him or her in carrying out his or her responsibility.

A potential conflict of interest (refer s2.8 Governance Policies) arises when:

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;

¹ “Matter” means:

- (i) The Council’s performance of its functions or exercise of its powers as set out in Part 5A of the Conservation Act 1987, subject to the Council’s statutory purpose set out in section 26P(1) of the Conservation Act; or
- (ii) An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.

- (ii) The member's other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;
- (iii) A fair-minded lay observer might reasonably consider that the member's private interest or duty may influence or motivate the actions of the member in relation to a matter; and
- (iv) There is a risk that the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the member or the Council.

Conflicts of Interest should be dealt with as follows (refer s1.13 Standing Orders):

1.13.1 Every member present at a meeting must declare any direct or indirect conflict of interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.

1.13.2 When a conflict of interest arises in respect of a matter, the affected member will:

- (i) not vote on issues related to the matter;
- (ii) not discuss the matter with other members;
- (iii) conform to the majority view of other members present as to whether to be excluded from discussions regarding the matter and/or leave the room when the matter is discussed;
- (iv) not, subject to the discretion of the Chairperson, receive further papers or other information related to the matter.

1.13.3 Where a member can be shown to have a potential conflict of interest, the Council (excluding the affected member) will determine an appropriate course of action, which may include the following:

- (i) applying some or all of the actions applied to a member with a conflict of interest (set out in 1.13.2 i) – iv) above);
- (ii) providing a written explanation outlining why there is no legal conflict of interest that can be made available to all Fish and Game Councils, licence holders and other interested parties.

1.13.4 The conflicted member will be given the opportunity to be heard by the Council on the points raised and the member's submissions will be taken into consideration by the Council.

1.13.5 The minutes must record the declaration and member's subsequent abstention from discussion and voting.

Councillors should take this opportunity to disclose any Conflict of Interest they are aware of now and record it in the circulated Conflict of Interest Register. If during the course of the meeting a conflict or perceived conflict is recognised, then this should be disclosed at that point in time.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Councillors disclose any Conflict or potential Conflict of Interest, record it in the Interest Register, and Council agrees on how to deal with any Conflict of Interest raised.

8. 2019-2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

26 March 2019

1. Purpose

To consider proposed projects, budgets and performance targets for the 2019-2020 Operational Work Plan (OWP).

2. Background

Operational Work Plans (which come into force on 1 September each year) are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic priorities, core functions, project objectives, allocation of resources, and performance measures. The process may include seeking Council's approval for the submission of applications to the national Contestable Fund to increase bulk funding for specific purposes.

The steps involved in developing the OWP for the 2019-2020 year and an update of where we're at are as follows:

- Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (12 February 2019 meeting).
- Staff compile a draft work plan and budget (excluding internal costs) and identify potential contestable funding bids (done).
- Council's Executive Committee reviews draft projects, budget, and contestable funding bids by 15 March (done).
- Contestable funding bids and draft budget (revised if necessary following review by Executive Committee) are submitted to the NZ Council by 20 March (done) for consideration at the Managers Meeting on 3/4 April and the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 5 April. The draft work plan, budget and bids will also be circulated to all Eastern Fish & Game Councillors (done, with this agenda).
- Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 5 April, and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 13 June meeting.
- The second draft of the OWP is considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets are reviewed and refined as necessary.
- This draft is then circulated to clubs for comment if they wish to.
- Club comments are considered, and if Council considers appropriate these are incorporated into the final OWP presented for approval at Council's meeting on 8 August 2019.

3. Outcomes from Council's Meeting in February

Council did not identify any substantive changes to its current priorities or programmes for the 2019-20 OWP, the outcome of its November 2018 and February 2019 meetings effectively being to retain the key regional priorities Council currently has with one change only, that being to shift the focus from "Increasing Licence Revenue" to "Increasing Revenue". There was however, support for the concept that some of Council's priorities are of greater importance than others currently. Higher priorities at this point in time were considered to be Access, Maximising Fishery Opportunities, and Increasing Revenue, the

arguments being that without access to sports fish and game bird resources the opportunities available to many licence holders are limited, and without adequate revenue we are unable to perform many of the operational undertakings needed to provide sustainable populations of sports fish and game birds. Maximising fishery opportunities was seen as a means of increasing participation, and revenue.

Some key amendments and additions to current programmes arising from suggestions made at Council's February meeting, subsequent reviews by staff, and more recent comments received from Executive Committee members include (ordered by Project Code):

- 1111(i): drop Motu drift dives unless circumstances arise to warrant further monitoring
- 1111(iv): didymo sampling dropped as no longer required
- 1114(ii): complete field sampling for preliminary investigation of food webs and continue smelt monitoring
- 1115(ii): review options for establishing a trophy trout fishery at Lake Okataina
- 1118: defer investigation of reasons for churn/decline in game season licence sales until a wider R3 strategic approach to this is developed
- 1141(ii): produce 50+ large trout/annum for release in conjunction with fishery promotions
- 1171: provide for the formal biennial review of the Anglers Notice in 2020
- 1232(v): advocate for more environmentally appropriate drain management practices
- 1333: update access information including maps on Eastern website
- 1334: make more effective use of social media in accordance with any R3/national comms strategy developed
- 1352(iii): run an angling seminar for adult beginners
- 1352(iv): run an angling seminar for kayakers
- 1355: continue to investigate (and implement if feasible) opportunities for establishing an enhanced trout fishery in the western Bay of Plenty
- 1441: seek sponsorship for annual tagged fish event
- 1931: continue/complete renovations of former staff accommodation

In addition to core regional activities Eastern Fish & Game will continue to support national projects associated with species monitoring and management, compliance and licensing outputs, Health and Safety, and R3 pilot programmes concerned with increasing public awareness and encouraging greater participation.

A hard copy of the draft of the 2019-20 OWP with amendments proposed by the Executive Committee has been be mailed to Councillors with a hard copy of this agenda ahead of the 11 April meeting.

4. Direct Costs

Points to note in relation to direct/external costs in thist draft of the 2019-20 OWP as compared to the current 2018-19 plan are as follows:

- The Species Monitoring output has been reduced by \$500 overall. Within the output the \$800 for didymo monitoring is no longer required, Lake Tarawera investigations expenditure has been reduced by \$1,000, the Waikaremoana expenditure reduced by \$1,700, and Waterfowl monitoring expenditure has been increased by \$3,000.

- Harvest Assessment budgets have been reduced by \$4,750 resulting from removal of funds previously allocated for external assistance for angler surveys (\$5,000), and increased expenses associated with Game Hunter surveys (\$250).
- Hatchery costs have been increased by \$12,400. The fish food budget has been increased by \$11,500 to align with actual costs which have increased following the need to source an overseas supplier and variable foreign currency exchange rates. Equipment purchases have been reduced by \$500 and Oxygen increased in line with actual costs (\$500). The vehicle Registration budget has been reduced (\$100), Insurance costs have increased (\$900), Electricity reduced (\$200), and an anticipated increase in the Rates budget has been provided for (\$300).
- Within the Habitat output, \$5,000 has been removed from the Habitat Creation budget. This is intended to be a temporary measure.
- Access budgets have reduced by \$300.
- Newsletter budgets have reduced by \$3,000 as New Zealand Council is now paying for the magazine supplements.
- The Pamphlets budget has been reduced by \$500 (increase last year was a temporary measure).
- Training budgets have been increased by \$200 for angler/hunter training
- Hut budget is unchanged.
- Communications, Public Promotions, and Visitor/Education budgets unchanged.
- Compliance budgets have been reduced by \$2,600 and income reduced by \$2,000.
- Licensing budget is unchanged.
- Council Meetings budget has been reduced due to reduced travel costs.
- Reporting and Audit budget is unchanged, as audit fees have yet to be confirmed.
- National Liaison budget is unchanged.

Overall operational output expenditure in this preliminary budget has been reduced by \$5,550 and revenues have been increased by \$350. Expenses and revenues in the Administration area have increased by \$5,900 due mainly to the removal of revenue and expense budgets associated with the Hawke's Bay contract (see below).

5. Hawke's Bay Management Agreement

The reciprocal service agreement that Eastern had with Hawke's Bay Fish & Game for financial, administrative, and operational support that was in place for several years was put

on hold in September 2018 pending the outcome of the election and the appointment of a Council and Manager that this region has confidence in. While those appointments have been made, the outcome of the external audit of the Hawke's Bay Council that has yet to be concluded will also be a factor needing to be considered in relation to any future arrangements made. This being so no provision has been made, at this stage, in the 2019-2020 OWP for income or expenditure associated with inter-regional support services.

6. Resourcing

6.1 Bulk Funding

Eastern Region currently (2018-2019 OWP year) has a bulk funded operational budget of \$1,110,924. The current draft operational budget for the 2019-2020 year remains set at this level pending the outcome of a contestable fund bid we lodged in March to accommodate proposed CPI indexed salary adjustments. Cost recovery funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund is however, required to balance the budget (see Agenda Item 9 below).

6.2 Contestable Funding Bid

To operate beyond our bulk fund of \$1,110,924, Eastern Region must enter into the contestable fund (CF) bidding process involving other Fish & Game Regions and the NZ Council. All CF bids received are ranked by the regional managers/chief executives after which the rankings are reviewed by the NZ Council. The NZ Council decides where the cut-off point for supporting bids will be, and determines what the necessary licence fees will need to be to meet the combined budgets of the regional and national offices.

Last year we lodged two contestable funding bids, one for staff CPI adjustments, and another for a projected increase in prosecution expenses as a result of no longer being able to use reparation as an alternative to prosecuting some cases. This year we have applied for contestable funding to adjust salaries in accordance with CPI increases. The annual CPI rate to December 2018 was 1.9% and this is the rate that all Fish & Game regions will be using to calculate their proposed CPI adjustments for the 2019-20 operational year. The CF bid approved by the Executive Committee for submission to the New Zealand Council amounted to \$17,046.

6.3 Allocation of staff hours

Staff hours will be reviewed and adjusted where necessary in the next draft of the 2019-2020 OWP. Hours will be allocated in accordance with the project areas and priorities Council has determined, to the extent this can be accommodated without compromising our ability to deliver on our core activities and statutory functions including monitoring, licensing, compliance, Council support, planning and reporting, and administration of the Council. The Eastern Region will continue to contribute a component of its overall staff hours to assisting with national Fish & Game programmes including waterfowl monitoring and research, compliance, licensing, Health and Safety, and other tasks as may arise. Eastern's contribution to these national projects is justifiable on the basis of its size and the number of staff it employs, which has enabled it to retain specialists in a number of fields. Some of this assistance is cost recoverable but a substantial component is not, and is provided for the benefit of other regions and that of the organisation as a whole.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That Council considers the draft OWP for 2019-20 provided, and identifies any amendments it requires at this stage.**

9. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

27 March 2019

1. Purpose

To consider an application for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to incorporate into the 2019-20 OWP.

2. Background

In 1999 ECNZ made a commitment to create a trust known as the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Trust ("Trust") as part of its consent for the Waikaremoana Power Scheme before its transfer to Genesis. The Trust was set up in response to concerns about the environmental, recreational, social, cultural and economic effects of the Waikaremoana Power Scheme ("WPS"). Due to Inland Revenue issues and the Trust being subject to taxes on interest, the Trust was disbanded soon after its formation, and the settlement was paid to Fish & Game to form the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund ("Waikaremoana Fund")

The objective of the Trust and now the Waikaremoana Fund is:

"To sustain and enhance habitat for sports fish within the Wairoa River catchment and enhance access of the public to recreational sports fish therein".

In addition to this key objective, there are a number of additional purposes that include:

- *To undertake research that furthers the objectives of the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund;*
- *Identify and evaluate areas in the catchment worth protection, restoration, enhancement, etc.;*
- *Carry out creel surveys;*
- *Carry out trials and monitoring on improving sports fish habitat;*
- *To create, improve, maintain signage and access to sports fisheries.*

The Fund contained an initial investment of \$250,000. When the Fund was established in 2000 the Council agreed that the principal should be protected with an inflation-based adjustment and spending from the Fund should be maintained within the interest generated. The balance of the Fund stands at \$453,014.11 as of 31 August 2018.

3. Overview of Approved Offset Funding for 2017-18 and 2018-19

The relatively intensive three year survey and monitoring programme instigated in early winter 2015 at Waikaremoana drew to a close towards the end of the 2017 calendar year, and was replaced by an ongoing but less intensive monitoring regime. In 2017 Council approved an application from staff for \$12,000 to incorporate into its 2017-18 budget [17/4/9.4] to finance the ongoing Waikaremoana survey and monitoring programme planned, and to compensate for activities that staff would otherwise be undertaking elsewhere within the region, a principle that Council recommended and endorsed in 2016 [16/4/11.2]. On a similar note, at its meeting in April 2018, Council approved a draw down of up to \$8,500 to

support the ongoing monitoring, access and buoy related programme during the current 2018-19 year [18/04/9.2].

4. Application for Funding towards Eastern Region's 2019-20 OWP

The draft 2019-20 OWP provides for an ongoing compliance, monitoring, access and buoy related work programme at Waikaremoana, and Eastern Region would like to apply for \$9,350 from the Fund to incorporate into its 2019-20 budget to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy components of the exercise (compliance activities not eligible for funding from this source).

5. Recommendation

5.1 That Council reviews and approves this application for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

10. TIMING OF OPENING OF FISHING SEASON ON SELECTED LAKES

Ref: 1.07.01

27 March 2019

1. Purpose

To review the merits of opening the trout fishing season on the first Saturday in October on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina.

2. Background

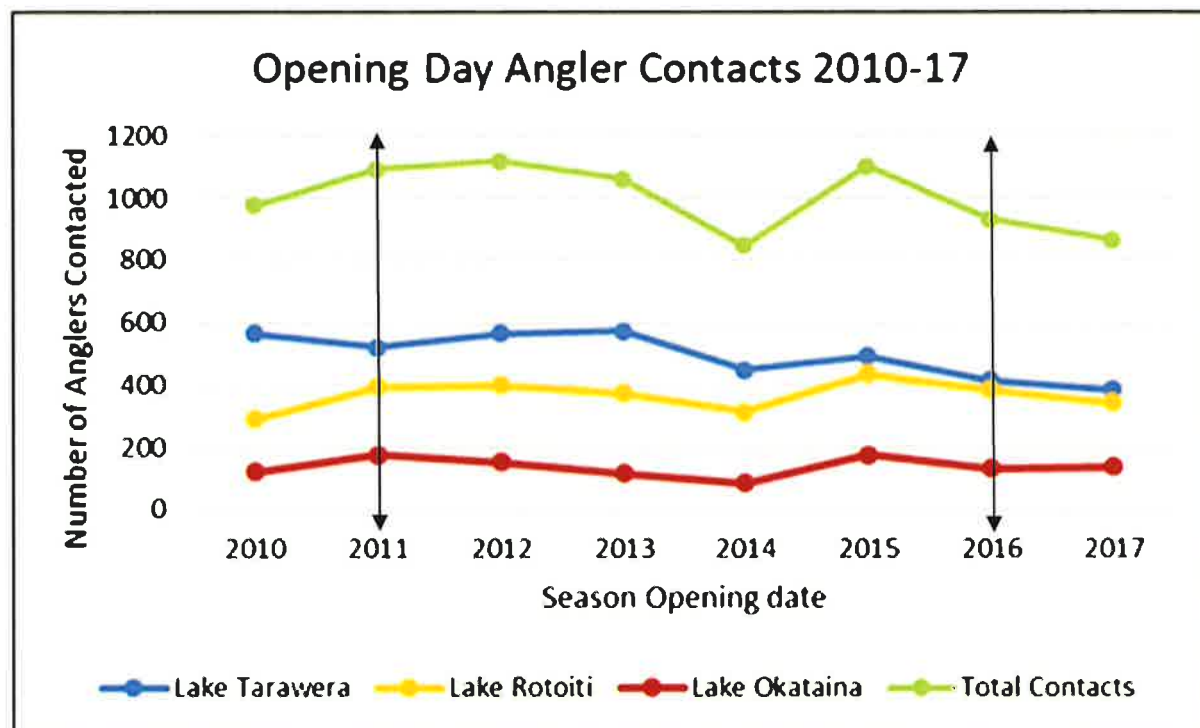
Currently the Eastern Region trout fishing season opens on 1 October each year excluding some areas of special spawning significance that open on 1 December. It has been suggested that the opening date for the three 'renowned' Rotorua lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) that close at the end of June each year could be moved to the first Saturday in October. The rationale underlying this is that it would enable more anglers to participate in the occasion, and Fish & Game could take advantage of this and generate more of a 'carnival' atmosphere to attract new licence holders, and/or retain a proportion of those who might otherwise not bother to renew their licence. Saturday'ising' the opening of the fishing season would make it consistent with the traditional opening of the game season being on the first Saturday in May.

Council has on several occasions previously, contemplated the possibility of starting the fishing season on the first Saturday in October rather than on 1 October. It was proposed in the lead up to the 1997-98 fishing season for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, and Okataina. Regional clubs supported the idea during consultation on the Anglers Notice and submitted that it should be extended to all waters within the region. The concept of opening on the first Saturday in October for all Fish & Game managed waters in the Eastern Region only, was rejected however, as the recent introduction of inter-regional licencing in 1996-97 meant that anglers might purchase their licences elsewhere if other regions opened a few days earlier, and this would lead to a loss of income for Eastern. This would not have been an issue if all Fish & Game regions opted to open on the first Saturday in October, but this was not supported nationally.

During the three year period 2013-14 to 2016-17 the idea was again raised by Eastern Councillors for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina but didn't gain traction. However, the opening of the 2016-17 season fell on a Saturday and this provided an opportunity to conduct a poll of anglers and gain some insight into what the views of anglers were. As part of our customary opening day creel survey, staff asked anglers coming into their shore station whether they supported, or did not support the concept of opening the three lakes on the first Saturday in October rather than the 1st of the month. The timing and manner in which the poll was conducted means the results, which were roughly 50:50, don't tell us a great deal other than there were anglers who supported a Saturday opening, and anglers who didn't.

During the years 2010-2017 the opening day fell on a Saturday in 2011 and 2016. The number of angler contacts on opening day can be used as a rough index of the numbers of anglers on the lakes on these days. The number of contacts each year are shown in the figure below, as are the two opening days which fell on a Saturday (refer arrowed lines). The figures do not indicate a significant increase in the number of anglers fishing in 2011 and

2016, although this could have been masked by weather conditions which, depending on their severity, can have a major influence on angler activity.



3. Staff Comments

3.1 Potential upsides to changing opening dates

(i) *Enable more of a festival atmosphere to be created*

If the opening day is moved to a Saturday rather than a weekday or Sunday, it may be a more marketable option and provide an opportunity to generate more interest and profile around the occasion than when it occurs on a normal workday. More events could be organised for the night before and this could lead to greater anticipation, and participation.

(ii) *Allow more anglers to get out fishing, as some are restricted by work commitments*

Opening the trout season on selected lakes on the first Saturday in October may enable more people and families to attend as most people don't work on Saturdays and juniors are supposed to be at school.

3.2 Potential downsides to changing opening dates

(i) *Complexity of regulations*

The Minister of Conservation's departmental advisors have stated categorically that Fish & Game must achieve greater consistency between regions in terms of open seasons, allowable methods and regulation layout. This is to remove barriers to participation.

The three lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) already have complex regulations due to a mix of biological and social considerations. These lakes currently open 1 October and are open to boat fishing up until the end of June (9 months). Shore-based angling is permitted at selected sites year-round, 1 October to 30 September. If these lake openings were shifted to the first Saturday in October, the opening date would vary from the 2nd to the 7th of October

for boat fishing. If the season for shoreline fishing remained as it currently is, the regulations for Lake Tarawera on a 7 October opening would be as follows:

Waters	Open	Close	Method	Bag limit	min size
Tarawera Lake (excepting below)	07-Oct	30-Jun	FS	8	350
				8 Female	
	07-Oct	31-Mar	FS	only	350
Tarawera Lake within 200m of Te Wairoa Stream mouth	01-Apr	30-Jun	F	8 Female	350
				only	
Tarawera Lake winter shoreline area from Landing Landmark east to Otumutu Lagoon Landmark and 200m offshore (excepting below)	01-Oct	30-Sep	FS	8	350
Tarawera Lake within 200m of the Landing Landmark	01-Oct	31-Mar	FS	8	350
	01-Apr	30-Sep	F	8	350
Tarawera Lake winter shoreline area from Tarawera Outlet Landmark north to Te Tapahoro Bay Landmark and 200m offshore	01-Oct	30-Sep	FS	8	350

This scenario would mean different parts of the lake and/or fishing methods would be subject to three different opening dates and three different closing dates. It could be argued that to reduce confusion arising from this, shoreline fishing on Tarawera could also be delayed until the lakes were opened to boat fishing. This would mean instead of shoreline fly fishing being available for 365 days/year (other than in the vicinity of Te Wairoa and the Landing), the open season would vary from 359 to 365 days which in itself adds another layer of complexity to the situation.

(ii) Compliance issues

Changes to regulations typically generate new sets of compliance issues, and as a result of this a need to devote greater effort and resources to responding to, and attempting to pre-empt these issues in the short to medium term, if not longer term. Our experience tells us regrettably, that not many anglers diligently read regulation guides or other promotional material we put out to pick up on changes from one year to the next. 1 October is imprinted into the minds of many as the opening of the fishing season, and full season licences across the country relate to the period 1 October to 30 September.

(iii) Loss of opportunity

Saturday openings could lead to some loss of opportunity for those who have to work on Saturdays, potentially some children/juniors during their school holidays, and up to an additional six days for boat anglers (and possibly shoreline anglers) over a period of 12 months depending on which day the 1st October falls on in the year concerned.

(iv) Overcrowding at ramps and on lakes

One of the most off-putting experiences for lake users is the congestion at lake ramps and carpark areas. Most opening days see carpark facilities at lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina overflowing with parked vehicles and trailers, and this leads to considerable frustration. If moving the opening to a Saturday did lead to greater numbers of anglers on the lakes, additional pressure is likely to be exerted on infrastructure. Similarly, more boats on the lakes detracts from the angling experience of many who go out on opening day, especially when weather deteriorates and anglers are forced into smaller areas where lack of knowledge of boating rules, boat handling skills and etiquette becomes more obvious. Some anglers are

put off by large numbers of boats on the lakes and simply wait until opening has passed before venturing out themselves.

3.3 Concluding Remarks

The effects of moving the opening day to the first Saturday in October for parts or all of the region are largely speculative. Staff's position is (i) that it's not a proposition that should be trialled as it would only add to the confusion if it subsequently needed to be revoked, and (ii) there needs to be a sound basis for taking this course of action.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That Council review the merits of opening the trout fishing season on the first Saturday in October on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina, and whether this should be carried forward for further consideration during the biennial review of the Anglers Notice in 2020.

11. CHILDREN'S FISHING DAY DONATIONS

Ref: 3.05.01

28 March 2019

1. Purpose

To consider a request from the Rotorua Anglers Association to review the fee charged per child to participate in the children's fishing programme and the sum received by the club.

2. Background

In September 2018 the Rotorua Anglers Association wrote to the Eastern Fish & Game Council requesting a review of the fee charged in association with the children's fishing days. The clubs were of the view that the fee hadn't been reviewed for some time, and that it would be better to adjust it gradually from time to time, rather than increase it by a larger amount less often. The children's fishing event is the club's main source of fund raising.

The children's fishing programme has been successfully run at the Ngongotaha facility since 1976. The programme is a partnership between Eastern Fish & Game, who provide the facilities, equipment and the fish, and the Rotorua Anglers Association who provide the manpower and run the event on the day. Local businesses also kindly sponsor the event with funding and equipment. Fish & Game awarded the Rotorua Anglers with a gold medal award for the promotion of sports fishing in 2006.

Fish & Game views the children's fishing events as a promotional activity rather than a fund-raising exercise. The fees received go a small way towards covering running costs and the tuition/guiding services provided. It is a means of introducing children, and in many cases the adults associated with them, to the concept of trout fishing, the ultimate objective being to kindle interest in the pursuit of trout fishing and so foster young licence holders into lifelong Fish & Game supporters.

Currently four fishing days are held per year, usually commencing in late winter and running into spring. Attendance is capped at 250 children per day to ensure a manageable level of resourcing can be provided by the Rotorua Anglers. Participants book a spot online and pay a \$3 suggested 'donation/koha' on arrival where they are issued with a special 'licence' to fish the pond. After licencing is complete children are tutored in basic fly casting and playing fish before taking their turn on the pond. With the aid of an angling club member/helper, the children then catch and kill a rainbow trout which is subsequently weighed, after which the child is presented with a certificate of achievement to take away. Each child is guaranteed to catch a fish and the children are encouraged and mentored throughout the event.

The fee was last reviewed in 2007 when it was increased from \$2 to its present \$3. Income is shared with 2/3 going to the Rotorua Anglers and 1/3 going to Fish & Game. Events have become very popular over time, and when fully booked a high level of resourcing is required to run these smoothly. Rotorua Anglers normally have over 20 members in attendance and events run from 9.00am to 3.00pm. The club provides a sausage sizzle and coffee as an additional fund raiser, and fish can be gutted for a gold coin fee.

Eastern Fish & Game allocates 108 hours staff time annually to the programme, and \$400 in direct costs. We rear 1,500 2-year old rainbow trout for the events annually at a cost of \$6.20 each. Because fish remain in captivity for an extended period, an additional feed cost is also incurred, this being estimated to be c.\$3,000.

Two other groups bring up to 30 children once a year to the grounds for a similar experience (the Motu Trust from Gisborne, and a fishing club from Te Awamutu). The children from Te Awamutu donate \$5 per child but no fee is sought from the Motu Trust participants as the Trust is providing the opportunity for a group of underprivileged children. The Rotorua Anglers Association is not involved with either of these events and accordingly does not receive any of the income generated from the Te Awamutu club.

A number of similar programmes are run throughout the country. Fees for the Department of Conservation's programme at Turangi vary from \$10 to \$30 depending on the level of service provided. Otago Fish & Game runs two events at a stocked pond. There is no fee associated with these and the children aren't guaranteed a catch a fish, but receive a small goodie bag and are eligible for prizes. They get instruction if requested.

3. Staff Comments

As previously indicated, the primary objective of the children's fishing programme is and has been to introduce children to the concept of trout fishing, and for that reason we are and have been prepared to finance the greater part of what it costs to produce the fish and provide the facility rather than making it a cost recoverable exercise. The benefits for the Rotorua Anglers Association from our perspective are that (and in the order following):

- (i) the club is also investing in the prospect that some of these young people will ultimately become anglers and ambassadors for freshwater sports fishing (and we need all we can get to combat the ever increasing pressures and impacts coming to bear on our interests and activities);
- (ii) some of these up and coming young anglers will be available to take up the baton from retiring members of the association and become members themselves; and
- (iii) the club is able to derive some supplementary income along the way, albeit modest (and topped up by providing a filleting service etc).

Having said that, staff recognise that the Rotorua Anglers make a substantial contribution to the running of the fishing events, and that the income that the club derives doesn't go as far as it once did and there is an argument for increasing the fee/suggested donation. Staff also recognise that this needs to be balanced against the fact that there will be a price point beyond which some people will be unable to bring their kids along, and if we possibly can we don't want to deny any child the opportunity to experience what is on offer.

The club has suggested that the fee be raised from \$3 to \$5 per child.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council reviews the fee charged per child to participate in the children's fishing programme and the amount received by the Rotorua Anglers Association for events they've been directly involved with.

12. PRESENTATION FROM MARK SHERBURN ON THE HATCHERY

13. GAME BIRD HUNTING CODE OF CONDUCT

Ref: 1.07.03

28 March 2019

1. Purpose

To provide feedback to the New Zealand Council on the draft Code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting it has circulated for comment.

2. Background

Refer to pages following.

Note that while the NZC was requesting feedback in time for its 5-6 April meeting, this has since been extended to providing comment in time for its June 2019 meeting.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR GAME BIRD HUNTING

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Policy & Planning Manager, NZ Fish and Game Council

The NZ Fish and Game Council has received a request to change the current game hunting code of conduct that is reproduced on pages 6 & 7 of the 2018 Game Bird Hunting Guide booklets. Otago Fish and Game Council staff, with input from Southland, have revised this code with it adopted by the Otago Fish and Game Council at its October 2018 meeting. At its November 2018 meeting in Rotorua, the NZ Council:

Resolved (Kevin Williams/Colin Weatherall)

- 1. Agree that the proposed Otago changes to the game hunting code of conduct be discussed by the NZ Council and referred for consultation to Fish and Game Councils as proposed national policy.**
- 2. Agree that feedback on a new code of conduct be requested in time for the April 2019 NZ Council meeting to enable any adopted change to be reflected in the preparation of the 2020 Game Bird Hunting Guide booklets.**

... with a view to it being adopted nationally. The NZ Council recognised the difficulty to complete this consultation for its implementation in time for the 2019 game regulation booklet – to be ready to print by 20 February, hence the resolution for it to be included in the 2020 booklets.

The code of conduct for game bird hunting has been developed in the same format as the angling code, grouping the key ideas under four responsibilities. It is presented with a summary (that would be reproduced as set out below in the game bird hunting regulation guide booklets) and an explanatory description to be incorporated in any brochure or web site reproduction of the code.

Please discuss and provide feedback on the game hunting code of conduct with a view of it becoming national policy and included in the 2020 game bird hunting regulation guide booklets.

Proposed Code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting

Background

In 2017 an updated code of conduct for freshwater sports fishing was developed and presented to the NZ Council as part of the Otago Council's response on the issue of angling ethics and catch and release. Further discussions with staff identified the potential to similarly review the code of conduct for game bird hunting. In particular the current code of conduct does not place adequate emphasis on the humane treatment of game birds and could be clearer in communicating key aspects of ethical behaviour for hunters. The following draft code of conduct for game bird hunting has been developed in the same format as the angling code of conduct, grouping the key ideas under four responsibilities. These four responsibilities align with the angling code of conduct to enable clear and consistent messaging across Fish and Game regarding the expected standard of behaviour for licence holders; both when hunting and fishing.

INTRODUCTION

Game bird hunting is a treasured pastime for New Zealanders across the country. With the enjoyment of a natural resource comes a responsibility to ensure its sustainability and to behave responsibly and ethically, in order to safeguard the future of hunting for all New Zealanders. Fish and Game New Zealand (comprised of 12 regional Fish & Game Councils across New Zealand and one National Council) are the statutory managers of game bird hunting in New Zealand and represent the interests of hunters. This Code of Practice outlines our responsibilities as game bird hunters to support the practice of ethical hunting.

SUMMARY

The Code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting outlines our four key responsibilities as hunters:

- **Hunt humanely**
- **Protect game bird resources and our hunting traditions**
- **Care for the environment**
- **Respect the rights of others**

These four key responsibilities incorporate 13 specific principles:

HUNT HUMANELY

1. Shoot only within the effective range of our firearm and our capabilities, and only when a quick, clean kill is likely
2. Retrieve all shot birds promptly and dispatch wounded game birds quickly and humanely
3. Respect the resource and value our game birds and eat what we shoot.

PROTECT GAME BIRD RESOURCES AND OUR HUNTING TRADITIONS

1. Understand and observe all hunting regulations and licensing requirements
2. Support game bird management and habitat enhancement activities
3. Take no more than our immediate needs

4. Share our knowledge and foster ethical attitudes and behaviour in hunting companions and youth

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Remove all rubbish from the hunting area and dispose of offal and carcasses responsibly
2. Use non-toxic shot where required
3. Use established tracks and roads

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

1. Respect private property and always ask for access permission
2. Be considerate of non-hunters
3. Be aware of our safety and the safety of others when hunting
4. Always following the 7 Firearms Safety Rules:
 1. Treat every firearm as loaded
 2. Always point firearms in a safe direction
 3. Load a firearm only when ready to fire
 4. Identify your target beyond all doubt
 5. Check your firing zone
 6. Store firearms and ammunition safely
 7. Avoid alcohol and drugs when handling firearms

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR GAME BIRD HUNTING

TREAT GAME BIRDS HUMANELY

1. Shoot only within the effective range of our firearm and our capabilities, and only when a quick, clean kill is likely

By understanding the effective range of our firearm, using the appropriate legal ammunition, patterning our shotguns and practicing to improve our skills, we ensure that a quick, clean kill is likely. This gives regard to the welfare of the game birds and ensures a successful and enjoyable hunting experience.

We ensure a quick, clean kill is likely by:

- Making sure our gun fits properly
- Practicing our shooting skills before the season opens
- Patterning our shotgun to determine effective load/choke combinations and effective range (normally a maximum of 30 – 40 m)
- Waiting until the bird are close and within range, never shooting at birds out of range or 'skyblasting'.

2. Retrieve all shot birds promptly & dispatch wounded game birds quickly and humanely

By retrieving all harvested birds promptly, you reduce predation by scavenging species such as harrier hawks, and also reduce the potential for meat to spoil and ensure that any wounded birds are dispatched quickly. It also allows an accurate count of shot birds to be kept so that bag limits are not exceeded.

Retrieve shot birds and dispatch wounded birds efficiently by:

- Only shooting when confident the shot bird can be recovered
- Retrieving birds immediately – do not wait until the end of the hunt to recover birds
- Using a trained gun dog or having another means ready to retrieve birds when hunting around water
- Dispatching wounded game birds quickly and humanely by rapid dislocation of the neck or using specially designed game bird dispatching tool

3. Respect the resource and value our game birds

Our treatment and handling of game birds is a direct reflection of the respect we have for game birds, our appreciation of the resource, and our commitment to protecting the hunting tradition for future generations.

Respecting the resource means:

- Use appropriate ammunition for the species and size being targeted
- Storing game birds in a cool shady place away from direct sun and making appropriate preparations to store dressed carcasses/meat so that it does not spoil
- Avoiding waste and never discarding any harvested game birds

PROTECT GAME BIRDS RESOURCES AND OUR HUNTING TRADITIONS

4. Understand and observe all hunting regulations and licencing requirements

Fish and Game New Zealand set and enforce regulations to manage our game birds and the quality of the hunting experience. Regulations safeguard the sustainability of the hunting population by placing limits on harvest, season length and methods.

Understanding and observing all hunting regulations means:

- Obtaining the required licence and permits, carrying it at all times when hunting, and producing it if requested by a Fish and Game Ranger
- Becoming familiar with Fish and Game's regulation guide, including both the First Schedule for regulations generally common to all regions, and the Second Schedule for regional hunting regulations
- Checking the bag limit and season length regulations of the targeted game bird *before* commencing hunting
- Ensuring we can accurately identify and distinguish game birds and protected species
- Reporting any illegal game bird hunting activity or inappropriate behaviour to the local Fish and Game office

5. Support game bird management and habitat enhancement activities

Sustainable and productive game bird populations rely on the maintenance, protection and enhancement of wetlands and other game bird habitats.

Support efforts to manage our game birds and their habitat by:

- Cooperating with the collection of harvest and hunting effort data
- Reporting any banded game birds harvested
- Participating in research, educational and enhancement projects
- Participating in public processes concerning matters involving game birds and their habitats
- Participating in Fish and Game elections and submitting on consultative and long-term planning processes

6. Take no more than our immediate needs

We can limit pressure on game bird populations by limiting what we harvest; taking only the game birds we require for our own immediate needs.

When hunting game birds taking no more than our immediate needs means:

- Only killing game birds we intend to eat, and not taking more than we need
- Treating bag limits as limits, not as targets

7. Share our knowledge and foster ethical attitudes and behaviour in hunting companions and youth

Introducing and mentoring new hunters and youth is important to safeguard the future of our hunting traditions.

We share our knowledge and foster ethical attitudes by:

- Being generous sharing our knowledge, skills, and hunting opportunities with novice hunters
- Being a good example of a safe and competent hunter, obeying all regulations and always behaving in an ethical manner, even when there is no one else there to observe our behaviour
- Promoting ethical game bird hunting practices and choosing not to hunt with unethical companions

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

8. Remove all rubbish from the hunting area and dispose of offal and carcasses responsibly

Rubbish and pollution can affect the health of the environment and wildlife and can degrade the outdoor experience of others.

Removing rubbish and caring for the environment means:

- Taking all rubbish and gear away from hunting sites including decoys, empty cartridges, wads and personal litter
- Dispose of game bird offal and carcasses responsibly – offal and other waste must not be left at the hunting site or dumped in public areas. Bury or discard discretely out of sight.
- Report pollution of waterways to the local council or Fish and Game office
- Preventing the spread of aquatic pests when moving between waterways: **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** all hunting equipment, including dogs

9. Use non-toxic shot

Lead is a toxic heavy metal which has been found to have detrimental effects on the health of game bird populations, other wildlife and the environment. There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe for humans. **Using non-toxic shot means:**

- Complying with all regulations regarding the use of non-toxic shot
- Using appropriate non-lead ammunition where required for hunting waterfowl

10. Use established tracks and roads

Off-road access can contribute to erosion, vegetation loss and disturb riverbeds.

Using established tracks and roads means:

- Using designated access points and roads, and avoid straying from established tracks
- Sticking to marked tracks on riverbeds or parking and walking to the hunting site
- Using established fords when crossing rivers where possible
- Avoid obstructing access when parking vehicles

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

11. Respect private property and always ask for access permission

Public access to our rivers and waterbodies is at the heart of our Kiwi way of life and hunting traditions. However sometimes access over private land is required and this privilege is given at the discretion of the landowner. As a hunting community we all have a responsibility to behave appropriately while on private land to ensure continued access into the future.

Respecting private property means:

- Asking the land owner for access
- Leaving gates as they are found
- Not disturbing stock, crops, machinery or other property
- Ensuring our dogs are under control at all times and vaccinations and worming are up to date

12. Be considerate of non-hunters

We all hunt for a variety of reasons and may take particular enjoyment from different aspects of our hunting experience. People unfamiliar with hunting may not understand why we hunt or may even disagree with hunting. Be aware that for some people the presence of firearms, hunters wearing camouflage or dead animals may be intimidating or uncomfortable. Ensuring the ongoing acceptability of hunting will be determined by the views of hunters and non-hunters alike. It is important that we are respectful and considerate of the perspectives and feelings of non-hunters and remember that our behaviour will reflect on people's opinion of all hunters.

Being considerate of non-hunters means:

- Being thoughtful about displaying, transporting and disposing of hunted birds and/or carcasses
- Keeping firearms stored safely and out of sight when travelling
- Communicating respectfully with people who have different views to our own
- Respecting the rights of all outdoor users even if their activity is not ideal for our own hunt
- Being respectful about what we post on social media

13. Be aware of our safety and the safety of others when hunting

Caring about safety means:

- Checking the weather and being prepared for the conditions
- Notifying someone about your intentions, particularly if hunting remotely or from a boat
- Wearing appropriate high visibility clothing, particularly when upland game hunting

- Always following the 7 Firearms Safety Rules:
 1. Treat every firearm as loaded
 2. Always point firearms in a safe direction
 3. Load a firearm only when ready to fire
 4. Identify your target beyond all doubt
 5. Check your firing zone
 6. Store firearms and ammunition safely
 7. Avoid alcohol and drugs when handling firearms

14. SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

Ref: 1.02.02

28 March 2019

1. Purpose

To receive the Executive Summary for the 2018 Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Creel Survey Report.

2. Background

The Council annually resources a number of key species management programmes to assess and monitor sports fish and game populations and the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource. The information collected from these programmes enables the Council to make informed decisions on species management to ensure sustainable populations are maintained for recreational harvest. These programmes also provide valuable information for other parties such as Regional Councils who can use sports fish and game bird data to assess the effects of habitat changes on biological systems. The programmes provide credible datasets not only to underpin management decisions, but are vital for statutory advocacy and public awareness. This agenda item presents the executive summaries for the 2018 Opening Day Creel Survey Report. A copy of the full report is provided in the Papers for Information for this meeting.

3. Executive Summary for the 2018 Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Creel Survey

- Fish & Game staff conducted 858 interviews with anglers who had fished for 3,486.17 hours in total and produced 724 fish for measurement during the Opening Day Creel Survey on Monday, October 1, 2018.
- Lake Tarawera anglers experienced catch rates that were lower than the 2017 opening but equal to the past 10-year average with one fish caught for every 3.2 rod-hours. The average sized fish caught was 1mm longer, significantly heavier (70g, $P=0.014$) and in significantly improved condition ($P<0.001$) compared to the fish weighed in at the 2017 opening. Most cohorts showed improvement in size. Hatchery released fish made up a slightly lesser proportion of the catch (62%) compared with the 2017 opening (65%) and the hatchery contribution was just below the past 10-year average (69.7%). The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish caught this Opening Day were longer (4mm), significantly heavier (70g, $P=0.002$) and in significantly improved condition ($P=0.012$) than the 2017 measured two-year-olds, and autumn released 2-yr-olds were significantly longer (20mm, $P=0.003$), heavier (310g, $P<0.001$) and in better condition ($P=0.019$) than their counterparts from the preceding year.
- Lake Rotoiti anglers had an improved Opening Day catch rate compared to the 2017 opening with one fish caught for every 3.85 rod-hours fished. This catch rate was better than the past 10-year average catch rate. The average fish caught was 10mm smaller and 20g lighter, but in significantly better condition ($P=0.005$) than those from the 2017 opening. The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish were on average the same length, but significantly heavier ($P=0.02$) and in significantly better condition ($P<0.001$) than the 2017 caught two-year olds. At 495mm they were smaller than the past 10-year average length (500mm). The autumn liberated two-year olds were significantly shorter

($P=0.011$), and lighter but in better condition than the same aged fish weighed at the 2017 opening.

- Lake Okataina anglers experienced an improved catch rate during the 2018 opening compared to the 2017 opening with one legal sized fish caught for slightly over every 2.5 hours effort. This catch rate was higher than the past 10-year average of one fish per 3.85 hours effort. A higher proportion of hatchery fish were weighed in (75%) compared to the 2017 Opening Day. This was higher than the past 10-year average (69% hatchery released). The average fish caught was smaller (11mm), significantly lighter (140g, $P=0.031$), and in poorer condition than the average 2017 opening day fish measured. The two-year-old hatchery fish were also smaller (10mm), significantly lighter (110g, $P=0.047$), and in poorer condition than those weighed in at the 2017 opening.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council receives the 2018 Executive Summary for the Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Survey Report.

15. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

15.1 Conservation Boards

- *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*
- *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*
- *East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board*

15.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

15.3 Report from New Zealand Council

16. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

16.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

29 March 2019

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Drift Dive Investigations - Motu River

Drift dives were conducted in the Motu River on 20 February. The river was very low and warm at the historical site of the Gisborne Anglers Hut compared with earlier surveys. Invertebrate life was teeming however within this section. A high count of juvenile/small size class brown trout was obtained in the riffle sections and five large longfin eels were counted in areas of log jams. Two large and two medium sized brown trout were counted toward the downstream end of the stretch where overhanging willow provided some cover. Visibility was better than during the 2017 drift dives when construction of the Motu Bridge was under way.

GAC Site

Date	Dist (km)	Secchi	Black	Temp	BS	BM	BL	US	UM	UL	trout/km
30-03-00	1.5	4.2	3.6	14.2	10	3	5				12.0
28-03-01	1.5	4.3	3.9	15.6	5	16	10				20.7
15-02-17	1.5	1.8	1.6	19.7							0
20-02-19	1.5	2.4	2.0	23.4	43	2	2				31.33

Visibility at the Moutohora site was better than it was in 2017 when it was added to the drift dive programme survey. Numbers of trout recorded were also higher.

Moutohora Site

Date	Dist (km)	Secchi	Black	Temp	BS	BM	BL	US	UM	UL	trout/km
15-02-17	1.5	2.4	2.4	23.1		1	5				4
20-02-19	1.5	3.0	3.0	23.9	4	4	16				16

Visibility was reduced at the site approximately 1km above the Motu Falls due to time of day and angle of sun coupled with the presence of a darker periphyton on the bed of the river. The numbers of medium and large fish were down on those observed during the 2017 count, but comparable to the numbers counted during the 1997-2000 period.

Above Motu Falls Site

Date	Dist (km)	Secchi	Black	Temp	BS	BM	BL	US	UM	UL	trout/km
17-02-97	1.7	3.9		21.2		7	13		1	2	13.5
25-03-98	1.7	2.5	2.2	21.1		4	3				4.1
14-02-99	1.7	4	2.5	23.4	3	9	7				11.2
30-03-00	1.7										0.0
15-02-17	1	2.2	2.1	23	1	8	11				20
20-02-19	1	1.5	1.5	24.7	0	9	4				13

Drift Dive Investigations - Waioeka River

As part of the Motu trip, the opportunity was taken to survey two of the upper Waioeka River drift dive sites. The uppermost site (Redpaths Road) is an area that receives ongoing angling pressure over the summer period.

The river was low, visibility reasonable, and a healthy population of fish was encountered.

WM6 (Redpaths Road Site)

Date	Dist (km)	Secchi	Black	Temp	RS	RM	RL	BS	BM	BL	L+M trout/km
15-02-13	0.5	6.5	5.5	21.7	152	20	19	0	1	1	82
17-02-14	0.5	6.5	5.5	20.1	9	8	18	0	1	0	54
10-02-15	0.5	5.0	5.0	19.9	33	13	4	0	0	1	36
21-02-19	0.5	5.2	5.0	20.1	82	18	26	2	0	0	88

At the site below the Opato Confluence (Omaukora Stream Bridge) a fewer trout were counted than during the 2013-15 dive series. Oxygen and water temperature were unable to be measured at this site due to issues of getting the oxygen meter and secchi disc to the exit point.

WM5 (Omaukora Bridge)

Date	Dist (km)	Secchi	Black	Temp	RS	RM	RL	BS	BM	BL	L+M trout/km
15-02-13	0.5				10	15	44	0	0	5	128
17-02-14	0.5				35	31	34	0	6	2	146
10-02-15	0.5				33	119	21	0	12	7	318
21-02-19	0.5				0	21	16	0	0	0	74

Oxygen and temperature were however taken in the Koranga and Otara tributaries of the Waioeka.

Drift Dive Investigations - Whirinaki River

The Whirinaki River was surveyed on 6 March, the first occasion it had been since 2001. Historically there was one site below the Mangamate Falls near Minginui that was dived each year. In March this year the river was very low with high periphyton loading on rocks. This was dislodged by divers and travelled ahead for some distance which further lowered visibility in parts. A total of 25 large and medium sized trout were counted (24 rainbows, one brown) which is lower than what has been recorded in dives during the 1999-2001. Poorer visibility is likely to have played a large part in this.

Mangamate Falls Site

Date	Dist (km)	Secchi	Black	Temp	RS	RM	RL	BS	BM	BL	L+M trout/km
27-04-99	1.0	6.0	5.0	13.0	4	7	5	2	12	12	40*
18-02-00	1.0	5.0	3.8	17.2	24	25	7	17	14	7	75*
20-03-01	1.0	4.8	3.3	13.3	41	19	8	0	5	0	38*
06-03-19	1.0	3.5	3.0	15.2	1	10	14	0	0	1	25

*Contains M+L of unidentified species (1999 – 4M, 2000 – 17M 5L, 2001 – 15M 1L)

A second site was chosen on the basis of its popularity with anglers, a 1km stretch above the Troutbeck Road Bridge. The river here was much larger and had a faster flow rate. Visibility was lower and less than recommended levels for drift diving. Nevertheless 11 large and medium sized trout were counted (all rainbows).

Upstream of Troutbeck Road Bridge

Date	Dist (km)	Secchi	Black	Temp	RS	RM	RL	BS	BM	BL	L+M trout/km
06-03-19	1.0	2.25	1.25	18.0	3	5	6	0	0	0	11

1112 Datawatch

During the six months following the season opening, 342 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The source of these is as follows:

Lake Okareka	5
Lake Okataina	73
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	15
Lake Rotoehu	4
Lake Rotoiti	83
Lake Rotoma	15
Lake Rotorua	13
Lake Tarawera	128
Lake Tutira	3
Lake Waikaremoana	0

*tags entered in datawatch database to 19/3/2019

Compared with returns received at this stage last year (mid-March 2018), 111 more tags have been returned. Returns for most of the lakes are very close to the number of tags returned to March 2018 except for Lakes Okataina (up by 20), Rotoiti (up by 21) and Tarawera (up by 63).

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy has had a new controller panel built into it and tested at the University of Waikato. As a precautionary measure it was installed on Lake Tarawera to run under load (weight of sensors on cabling) to ensure that it is functioning correctly before taking it to Lake Waikaremoana. This trial was successful and it has since been recovered pending its redeployment in Waikaremoana.

1114 Lake Tarawera

Lake Tarawera Fishery Research Update

As advised in February's report, field sampling for the food web study at Lake Tarawera got underway in mid January 2019. Samples were collected from four shallow (shoreline sites) and three deep (mid-lake) sites. A range of species were collected including smelt, bullies, worms, snails, lakeweeds, zooplankton and algae with trout being provided by Cr Geoff Thomas. Several more specimens of particular species had still to be collected at that stage

(koura, kakahi, and morihana if possible) and Cr Ken Coombes subsequently undertook this in conjunction with staff. The next quarterly sample collection is scheduled to be undertaken in April.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Trap-run

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated over four nights during the last week of February 2019. Low numbers of trout were moving upstream over this period.

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	486	1.43	6	2	0	
<i>Brown</i>	573	2.18	4	1	0	40%

Catfish Update

Matt Osborne attended a Regional Council led meeting on the Rotoiti catfish situation on 19 February. From August 2018 to 19 February 2019 a total of 20,000 catfish have been caught in Rotoiti. A further 130 have been caught in Lake Rotorua, the majority around Mokoia Island but also in Holdens Bay, the Ohau Channel and Kawaha Point. The numbers caught are well above the same period in 2018. Other surveillance has detected some circular marks on the lake bottom in Okataina that Regional Council are unable to assign a cause to.

The Te Arawa Lakes Trust managed control programme has allocated 135 fyke nets to groups of people, and five schools will be coming on board with this also. Other initiatives being planned include involving spearfishing clubs and running competitive spearfishing events. A catfish catching event involving 30 marae was also planned.

Ongoing research includes investigation of eDNA technology to detect catfish populations in the lakes, pheromone bait trials as a means of enhancing trapping results, and an electric barrier feasibility study to determine whether catfish can be prevented from crossing through an electric field without inhibiting native fish passage. A spawning disruption project is being considered by NIWA, and an acoustic tagging trial looking at movement and spawning area preferences is also planned.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Mallard & Grey Duck Banding

The number of ducks caught in a trapping season is a rough indication of the number of ducks around. Last year was the highest catch since mallard and grey duck trapping began in 1997. This year it was only the fifth highest despite the inclusion of an extra trap site. While this was still a relatively high catch, the number of juveniles in the trap sample was the fourth lowest. It appears there was a good carry over of adults from last year followed up by a poor breeding season. This low number of juveniles is consistent with the pre-season modelling we did which predicted a poor breeding season and resulted in the recommendation to Council for a restricted season (4 weeks plus Queens Birthday).

Staff also assisted Taranaki Fish & Game with its banding programme. This included entering and submitting its banding data to the Banding Office. Band recoveries of captive reared mallards trapped at their release sites in Broadlands were entered into our database for

future analysis along with recoveries of bands recovered from wild birds at our other trapping sites.

Matt McDougall also spent a considerable amount of time upgrading Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game's banding database so that survival and recovery location data can be extracted from it.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

2018-2019 Summer Creel Survey

The summer angler creel surveys for the 2018-19 season started in November and will be concluded in mid-April. Summer survey angler contacts to date have been higher compared to the past few seasons. At mid-March, survey tallies are 100 angler interviews ahead of the final tally from the 2017-18 summer creel surveys and on track to be comparable to the numbers of angler contacts during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons. Lake Rotorua has fished very well for both shoreline and boat-based anglers. Fish condition has been excellent. Rotoiti anglers have commented fishing was very hard during February and March, though fish condition has been better than that observed in the other Rotorua lakes. Tarawera has produced high catch rates, and fish condition has been very good, particularly amongst the young fish with reports of smelt 'spewing' from mouths. Okataina has produced some good angling days though fish condition continues to be less than that in recent years.

2019 Winter Creel Survey

The winter creel shoreline survey schedule has been developed on a similar basis as the last number of years. The surveys will begin during April and will run through until the end of June on Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Tarawera.

1122 2018-19 Opening Day Survey

Analysis and write of the 2018-19 Opening Day Creel Survey was completed in late March (see Agenda Item 14 for Executive Summary and Papers for Information for copy of full report).

1141 Hatchery Operations

Juvenile rainbows of the 2018 brood were moved to Rearing Ponds 2 and 3 for spring liberations during 2019.

Display Pond 8 has been re-stocked with rainbows and browns.

Fish locations at 22 March 2019:

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank B	1+ Brown	100	Auckland/Waikato F&G region
Tank C	0+ Bt	1,800	Liberations, various 2019
Tank D	0+ Rt	600	Pair cross trial, liberations 2019
Tank E	0+ Bt	1,680	Liberations, various 2019
Tank F	1+ Brook	25	Display/sales
Pond 2	0+ Rt	22,800	Spring liberations 2019
Pond 3	0+ Rt	22,800	Spring liberations 2019
Pond 4	0+ Rt	8,750	Autumn liberations 2019

Pond 5	0+ Rt	8,250	Autumn liberations 2019
Pond 6	0+ Rt	8,500	Autumn liberations 2019
Pond 7	0+ Rt	7,750	Autumn liberations 2019
Pond 9	0+ Rt	5,500	Sales and children's fishing 2020

1143 Te Wairoa Trap

Preparations for the commencement of trapping at Te Wairoa during winter are underway.

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

The summer, and first of the autumn liberations were successfully completed, details of which are as below.

Liberations, Eastern Region 19 January – 22 March 2019

Lake	Date Liberated	Mark	Tag used	Species	Age	Number
Tarawera	20/03/2019	Lpad	-	Rt	1+	1,000
Okataina	20/03/2019	Lpad	-	Rt	1+	250
Rotoiti	20/03/2019	Lpad	-	Rt	1+	4,000
Rotoiti	18/02/2019	Ad	N19	Rt	1+	500
Tarawera	18/02/2019	Ad	-	Rt	1+	500
Tarawera	18/02/2019	Ad	X19	Rt	1+	500

Two year old fish and yearling browns were delivered to Wellington Fish & Game Region, and fish were also transported from DOC Turangi to Taranaki Fish & Game Region.

1181 Game Bird Control

Organised Swan Shoot Tauranga Harbour

As part of the special swan season on 23 - 24 February, the Western Bay Fish & Game Club organized a hunt on the Sunday at Tauranga Harbour. Given the high numbers of swan on the harbour during the summer months in recent years (>6,000) we assisted the club by providing a permit to move the swan to Blue Gum Bay (Matakana) away from the public gaze, and increase harvest opportunity. The club did a fantastic job in organizing the hunt including holding a briefing beforehand, requiring hunters to register and, providing written safety instructions. Unfortunately, a strong westerly wind played havoc with their plans and a relatively low number of swan (146) were shot. Matt McDougall attended the hunt as an observer and also took the opportunity to assist the University of Queensland, Australia to collect samples from the swan for a study into avian influenza.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Gisborne District Council – Freshwater Advisory Group and Freshwater Plan

An appeal on parts of the Proposed Freshwater Plan was lodged in September 2017. The appeal points related to some fish passage provisions, the activity status for new maimai, crop survival water allocation provisions, and activities in riparian margins. Mediation was attended in May and Oct 2018, and we negotiated positive outcomes on the majority of our

appeal points. The consent documentation has recently been signed off meaning we will not be proceeding to the Environment Court, and the bulk of the legal funding we had approved (c.\$63k) to do this is no longer required.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Proposed Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) submissions were lodged in December 2017. The Hearing was attended in March 2018, and recommendations from the Panel were released in October 2018. An appeal was lodged in November relating to the allocation of surface water after minimum flows are reached. Council has recently been consulting with individual appellants, and mediation is expected to get underway soon.

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Council's lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1. Council hearings began in March and are expected to continue for several months.

Bay of Plenty Water Advisory Panel

Fish & Game remains involved in the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel, community catchment groups, and Okareka Working Party.

Bay of Plenty Draft Regional Pest Management Plan

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's existing Pest Management Plan has recently expired and a new Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan released. Submissions on the proposed plan were lodged in November opposing the inclusion of sports fish (perch and tench) in the document.

1212 Consent Applications

Date In	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
14-Feb-19	BOPRC	BOPRC	LUC/DP- water discharge outlet and stream works	Lake Okareka outlet, Waitangi Stream	S95E3A APPROVED

1221 Reserves Management

Lower Kaituna WMR

BOPRC have undertaken significant works within the upper oxbow area of the reserve. A long reach digger has excavated and re-developed the main channel in the oxbow to provide better water reticulation. Tailings have been distributed onto the main access track, and once dried out will be levelled to increase the base height of the tracks in this area. Some disruption to hunters' access will occur this season but we have had discussions with the affected hunters and will be providing alternative access points. Much of the middle oxbow was also excavated by the long reach digger to assist with water reticulation throughout the wetland. Modelling and design of an additional inlet culvert and new water channels to service the planned expansion of the new wetland area during next summer are still underway.

Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga

The Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga restoration project progresses within budget and timeframes. The Waikato River Authority undertook an inspection and were very satisfied with fencing and plantings. Autumn release spraying is about to commence.

Thornton WMR

Fencing contractors are currently undertaking significant fence repairs within the Thornton Lagoon grazing block as a result of a stolen 4WD vehicle damaging approximately 700m of fence at the eastern end. Leased grazing cannot occur until the fence is repaired due to cattle now being able to access the lagoon and escape onto the beach area. This constitutes a substantial unprogrammed expense but can be accommodated within this year's Reserves Management operating programme as a one off.

Joint Management Agreements

We expect these to be signed off in the very near future.

Hardcastles and Rawhiti lagoons – Waikato River

Each year we place a water level request with Mercury Power to do their best to manage river levels enabling hunters to access and hunt from their maimai safely, primarily at Hardcastles and Rawhiti lagoons. Our requested flows and levels have been agreed to with the caveat that the current drought may make this unachievable (i.e. it depends on how much rain we receive before the game bird season commences).

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

Six Gisborne landowner visits were undertaken recently and the following advice was provided:

- planting and predator information for a 0.75ha newly constructed dam site;
- construction and design advice for a series of small scrapes totalling 0.25 ha;
- investigation into an existing dam requiring significant maintenance, and possibly, deconstruction and development of a new wetland within the same property involving approximately 3.0ha;
- updating a maintenance programme for a 2.25ha remnant oxbow wetland site and providing advice for converting stock ponds with an area of approximately 2ha to duck habitat on a newly acquired farm;
- enhancement options for an existing 15ha lake/wetland to provide better habitat for waterfowl by inserting a water control structure to manipulate water levels and provide more ephemeral flats and shallow water areas, along with putting in place a predator trapping programme;
- identification of options for enhancing a willow dominated series of three remnant swales totalling 2.5 ha with excellent sedge undergrowth and high ground water levels. This site would provide excellent duck habitat and the owner is keen to restore. We will continue assistance with design, resource consents, funding applications and overview of the project, hopefully to be undertaken next summer.

1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects

A large potential wetland site in the Reporoa valley was inspected with the landowner and Waikato Regional Council staff. The site currently has a Soil Conservation Protection provision over it but lends itself to development into an open water dam or series of shallow scrape/wetlands. Unfortunately, the landowner has decided to plant the entire 6ha site in natives and will not be developing any open water habitat at this site (though he has elsewhere).

Matt McDougall met with Waikato Regional Council staff and a local farmer to provide advice for developing an area for waterfowl habitat in conjunction with soil stabilization planting. This was done as part of the WCEET Habitat Funding application process.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Kaingaroa Forest recreational access remains closed during the fire season. Following consultation with forest managers, and due to the extended period of high and extreme fire risk we have suspended all access work within the forest until the fire risk drops. Further access maintenance work is required prior to the winter access season and it is hoped this will be able to be carried out in April.

Other access work carried out as required including sign maintenance.

1313 Hunter Ballots

Numerous requests for advice, and changes to stands have been dealt with including dealing to a wasp nest in Orotu after a hunter was stung. The Thornton gate was locked due to the high fire danger and a number of hunters were not happy with this as we had not notified them directly prior to this. In future we will endeavour to email them notice of closure prior to the event.

Funds from the ballot holder's habitat contribution fee totalled \$6,263, most of which was directed this year to an expanded spray programme within the wetland reserves. All contractor spraying has concluded, the focus this year having been on water channels and access points. This fund also assisted with track improvements in the Awaiti and Kaituna wetlands.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was produced for January, February and March covering fish releases, summer heat, fishing tips, fishing diaries, and fishing rod give-away.

1332 Fish & Game Publications

Fish and Game NZ has contracted a new publisher to produce the Fish & Game magazines this year. Articles and photos were submitted and a proof supplied. Staff were not particularly happy with the proofs, but were unable to influence the layout and presentation of Eastern Region's pages. We will be advocating for an opportunity for all Fish & Game regions to be involved in a review of the layout, style and content of future editions of the magazine. This game edition was distributed to 3,465 2018 Season Game Licence holders.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, addition of Eastern Region access location maps, Lake Aniwhenua lowering, and stream mouth compliance work.

1341 Information Pamphlets

The Lake Waikaremoana and fishery brochure has been re-printed.

1351 Junior Angler/Hunter Programmes

The children's fishing pond has been re-stocked with 1,500 rising two year old rainbows.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

No events for the reported period.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Four fishing competition permits were processed. Staff attended the Tangaroa competition.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

One club visit was attended for the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Annual maintenance work associated with the Wairua Hut was carried out, and the hut is in good condition and ready for its peak use in autumn/winter. Fire resistant mattress covers have been purchased to ensure this hut is consistent with DOC requirements for its huts, and these and new mattresses will be installed shortly. Clubs have been advised of the hut's availability.

There have been no issues with the Waikaremoana Hut, and any maintenance required has been undertaken during staff visits.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

A quarterly liaison meeting was held with BOPRC's Biosecurity Manager to share updates on matters ranging from staffing to lake weed control, pest fish, biosecurity, and perceived issues associated with black swan in Bay of Plenty harbours. A meeting was also convened with BOPRC Land Management staff and the Environmental Manager for Timberlands to discuss water quality issues and concerns in the upper Rangitaiki River. BOPRC has recently designated this area as one of its "Focus Catchments" and has significantly increased its monitoring efforts and interaction with landowners and managers there. Fish & Game, BOPRC and Timberlands have undertaken to share information and work more closely together on issues of mutual concern, and this is an encouraging step forward.

1421 Public Communications

A major effort was put into revamping the Banding Together promotion designed to encourage hunters to return their duck band details. Communications Advisor Grant Dyson

worked closely with Matt McDougall and Andy Tannock of Hunting & Fishing to rewrite the website pages to include fresh information, such as a new six-pack of decoys offered as one of the prizes. A photo shoot was arranged at Hunting & Fishing's Tauranga store so that photographs of the prizes could be updated. These web pages are now live and the prize packages (five in total) will be promoted further via Both Barrels and a media release closer to the start of the new hunting season.

Four media releases were written, and three distributed over the two-month period. In mid-February, a release was issued to encourage more anglers to report their catches to Eastern Region's online diary.

Later in the month a release was sent out to publicise the 'special game bird season' for black swan and pukeko. Grant Dyson also worked with Matt McDougall and Andy Garrick on a 'standby' release to cover the organised swan hunt on Tauranga Harbour. The release was written as a precaution - to be used in a 'worst case scenario' if media again filmed and photographed the hunt to produce tabloid-type negative stories. Fortunately, the release wasn't needed as media were not present and only one report emerged on Sunlive in which our 'special season' release was quoted.

Another release was issued to highlight Fish & Game officers carrying out "active checks" on local areas including stream mouths, notably Waiteti, Awahou, and Hamurana, which had all come under some fishing pressure.

Balance Farm Environment Awards

The supreme winners of the Bay of Plenty Balance Farm Environment Awards for 2019 were dairy farmers Katherine and Fraser McGougan from Whakatane area. The Public field day at 526 Reid Rd RD1, Whakatane 3191 was held on 26 March 2019.

1451 Education

One school tour of the hatchery facility was provided for the period.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

During the period February and March compliance checks continued around the Lake Rotorua stream mouths particularly Hamurana, Awahou, and Waiteti. In early March a period of cooling weather meant that the amount of fish congregating around these stream mouths started to subside, and with it the need for compliance issues subsided somewhat. Lake surveys and angler compliance checks have been ongoing over this period.

The special swan weekend in late February resulted in three persons out of a group of five hunters at Lake Rotoehu being dealt with for offences including one hunting without licence, and others possessing a small amount of lead shot ammunition. Ranging was carried out during that weekend with no other issues found.

Ranging elsewhere in the region has included input by honorary rangers in various locations.

Overall compliance rate is approximately 98%.

Contacts: Year 2018-2019 to 21/03/2019

Month	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Last 5 yr average
September	50	59	29	21	21	45
October	960	1,223	903	836	893	981
November	112	20	62	69	20	88
December	392	293	310	390	309	354
January	381	335	217	195	442	297
February	395	418	293	137	307	279
March	275	253	191	199		239
April	264	53	214	178		202
May	498	272	292	226		347
June	203	277	171	172		230
July	120	107	94	80		96
August	76	42	27	33		51
Total	3,726	3,352	2,803	2,536	1,992	3,208

Contacts Year to Date 2018-2019.

1,992 contacts to end of February.

North Island/National CLE role

This role continues. Eastern staff have been engaged in preparing the National Infringement Compliance and Enforcement policy (draft) and the revised National Prosecution Policy (draft).

1521 Ranger Training

Rangers

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute around the region, with ranging carried out so far this season in a number of areas. In the Rotorua area we currently have one new person in training, this is going well and we are hoping to be able to get that trainee warranted as a ranger shortly.

1531 Prosecutions

For the 2018- 2019 year to date we have dealt with 41 persons for 63 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2018-2019 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Disturbing spawning gravels	14
Fishing closed waters	9
Fishing with more than one rod	3
Fishing without a licence	17
Gives false details	2
Hunting without a licence	1
Illegal Tackle	1
Possession of net/spear/implement	2
Take spawning fish with net/spear/implement	11
Unpinned shotgun	1
Using lead shot	2
TOTAL	63

Offences Pending Resolution

Currently 23 separate offences by 13 offenders are pending resolution, details as per the table below. Several have warrants to arrest for failing to appear in court. Other matters are pending prosecution outcomes and/or investigation following a number of offenders being dealt for various offences, mostly involving fishing without licence and/or in closed waters.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	13
Illegal tackle	1
Possess spear-gaff	1
Fish closed waters	6
False details	2
Total	23

LICENSING

1612 Analysis of Licence Information

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales for all regions. Additional reports have also been supplied to the Licence Working Party and R3 Working Group as required.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Administration staff continue to liaise with licence agents as required. Recently staff visited agents for distribution of the game season regulation guides.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1821 OWP Preparation

The first draft of the Operational Work Plan for 2019-2020 was prepared, and along with a proposed budget and contestable funding bid was circulated to Council's Executive Committee in mid March. The Committee suggested a few minor amendments which were incorporated into the OWP, and endorsed the draft budget and CF bid. These were subsequently forwarded to the National Office to be included in the agenda papers for consideration by the regional managers and New Zealand Council in early April.

1841 New Zealand Fish & Game Liaison

Staff contributed to a number of initiatives including reviews of RMA legal funding application processes, and identification of research needs and prioritization of research projects that have identified. Staff contend that the development of a research strategy working from the top down is urgently required to replace the bottom up ad hoc approach currently being used to identify projects for funding.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff Training

Five staff completed Power Boat Level 2 re-assessments with an external assessor on 19 March.

Staff Houses

Renovation of the timber cottage just inside the front entrance have almost been completed and will be advertised for rental in the near future.

Vehicles

We usually sell the vehicles we plan to dispose of in late summer, but this year we have held on to one to assist with the Reserves spraying. The other has been valeted and placed on Trademe but has yet to meet the reserve price so has been rolled over for another fortnight.

16.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

27 March 2019

Background

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace, the Eastern Fish and Game Council is provided with a report at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety plan – including Health and Safety as an agenda item for staff & ranger meetings;
2. Monitoring and Reporting – in accordance with the Health and Safety plan;
3. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed;
4. Training programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers;
5. Health and Safety incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events;
6. Recommendations.

February/ March 2019

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Regular (weekly) staff meetings.

Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of meeting are emailed to all staff.

Visitors required to sign register; site hazard register updated as required.

Tail gate forms were prepared for:

7/2/19	Diving at Lake Tarawera for research programme
25/2/19	Ngongotaha Trap
20/2/19	Drift Diving - Motu
12/3/19	Orotu Scenic Reserve – Wetland Group

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

	27/03/2019	29/01/2019
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	1	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2016-2017 year	2	2
Number of Workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year	1	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2014-2015 year	1	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2013-2014 year	3	3
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	35	35
Total number of days since last lost work injury 31/8/17	573	516
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	8035	8035

Management is constantly monitoring the Annual leave and Time in lieu hours of staff to ensure the health and wellbeing of staff is maintained.

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting:

04/02/19	A reminder for staff to complete tail gate forms for all risk activities
11/02/19	Be aware of extreme fire risk
18/02/19	Be aware of extreme fire risk & sun strike when driving
25/2/19	Activity at stream mouths settling following cooler weather Care when driving as roads can be greasy after small amounts of rain
04/03/19	Nothing to report
11/03/19	Nothing to report
18/03/19	Watch out for increase in traffic on Fairy Springs Road due to Crankworks
25/03/19	Nothing to report

4. Training Programme

PB2 Reassessment for five staff Tuesday 19 March

5. H&S Incidents

None to report.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

16.3 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

27 March 2019

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the current financial position and approve payments for the months of January and February 2019.

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 28 February 2019 is attached. This report documents the income and expenditure for the period.

Income

Licence revenue is reporting to be below budget YTD (\$28,281). Changes to timing of invoicing and buyer purchasing behaviour means it is difficult to plot a budget forecast in terms of actual revenue in the bank. Therefore, a more up to date and detailed record of licence sales by category and LEQs can be found within the Licence Sales report included within this agenda.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following; hatchery (\$9,184), fishing competitions (\$87), reserve habitat maintenance fees (\$152), rentals (\$5,292), and contracts (\$8,131). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$667 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery, and junior education programmes (\$100 and \$200 respectively). A donation was also received for \$5,000 from a generous ex Lake Tarawera angler, Mr J B Galbraith. Interest income totalling \$2,186 was also received.

Revenue from other sources is ahead of budget YTD (\$39,955) and this relates primarily to the following;

- NZC re Gisborne Fresh Water Plan appeal – offsetting expenses incurred
- Hawke’s Bay Contract – invoicing actual hours (previously set contract)
- Awakaponga pump shed insurance claim– equipment to be replaced
- Fire depot rental – change of tenant and commercial rental now being charged
- Genesis Energy – drift dive and report writing
- Donation J B Galbraith.

Species Management

Expenses associated with the banding and trend count projects are reported within the period and related to aircraft hire (\$6,284), wages (\$6,147), and fuel for feeding out, and food for staff working in Gisborne. River fisheries expenses related to equipment, meals and accommodation for the Motu/Waioeka drift dives, and customs clearance fees are also reported for datawatch tags. The quarterly invoice for the Cawthron food web survey for Lake Tarawera was paid for in January (\$4,931) and a minor expense is reported for travel reimbursement. The overspend of \$1,638 YTD is due to the increased number of weeks that feeding out for banding required this season.

Hatchery expenses for the period related to fish food (\$3,340), waders (\$599), Aqual-S (\$359), jump screens (\$212), netting (\$154), and various minor equipment purchases. Vehicle maintenance costs included a call out/tyre replacement and alterations to the tanker outlet. Expenses are also reported relating to rates, vehicle registration, and the regular expenses for

electricity, fuel, and oxygen. The hatchery output is over budget \$6,613 and this is primarily due to an increase in the cost of fish food (c.9%) through having to go to a new supplier. While a portion of the fish food expense has been reimbursed by Taranaki Fish & Game (reported within “Other Income”) it is expected that the overrun will remain at year end.

The Species Management area is over budget YTD \$4,920.

Habitat

Works and Management spending for the period related to Awaiti Canal monitoring, access signs, pest plant spray, and timber and gate materials. The overspend in the Habitat area is due to spending relating to the Gisborne Freshwater Plan appeal which has since been reimbursed by the New Zealand Council’s legal fund as reported within “Other Income”.

Participation

Access spending for the period related to Rangitaiki and Whaeo access work, and the Waikaremoana hut electricity bill. The Participation output is \$271 over budget YTD. This is primarily due to the costs associated with the 2018-19 Fishing Season newsletter which contained more pages than previous editions. The budget for the Game Bird newsletter will not be spent as it was determined that with the increased number of pages being provided in the Fish & Game Magazine for regional information, the supplementary Game Bird newsletter was not required this year. In due course the Participation output will return to within budget.

Public Interface

Minimal expenditure is reported within the Public Interface output and this relates to minor grounds expenses, cleaning of the public toilets, and pavers for the Tarawera Boat Fishing tuition. Within budget YTD.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone, travel and food for Ranger Training, and legal fees for a prosecution. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The Commission budget includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. Within budget YTD.

Council

Council expenditure for the period included catering and travel reimbursement for the February Council meeting. Within budget YTD.

Planning

Levies were paid as budgeted and a small expense is reported for airport parking. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

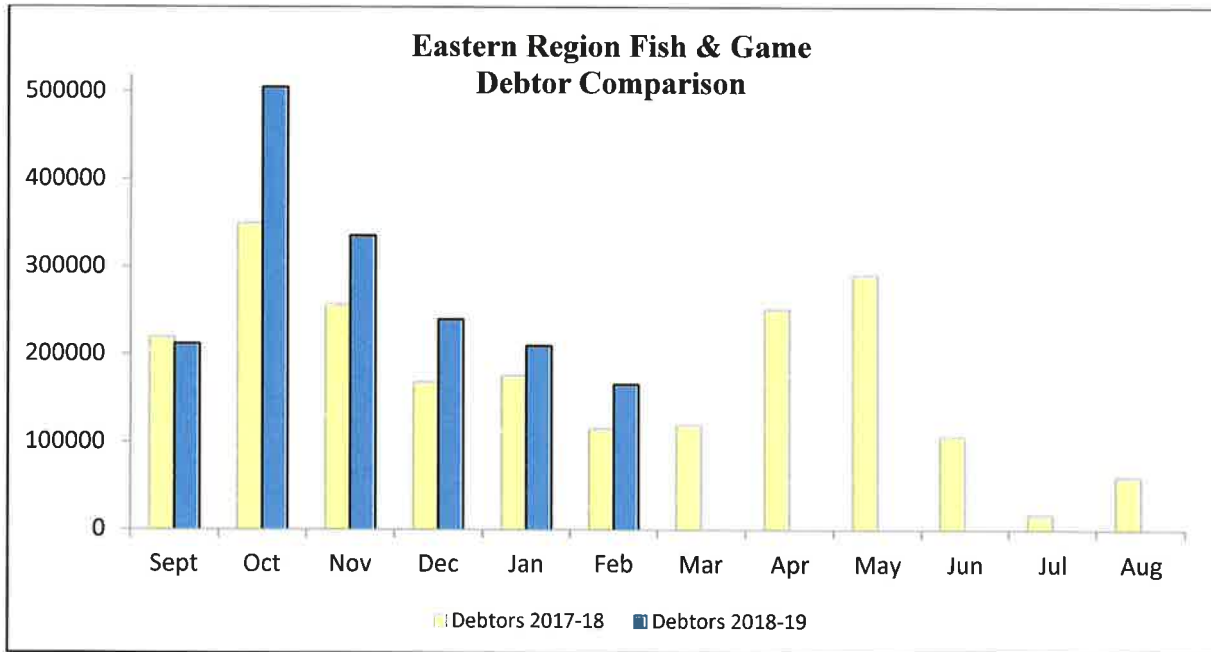
Salaries	Within budget YTD
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses for the period included staff clothing, meals/accommodation for fish delivery, and various purchases of equipment for Health & Safety. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Staff house expenditure was significant with the refurbishment of the timber house. The expenses reported for January and February related to the replacement of the kitchen, bath, vanity, laundry tub,

	and included wall linings and repairs to floors following removal of the chippie woodburner and concrete base to the toilet. The exterior painting was completed, and further work has since been undertaken in the form of interior painting, replacement of the toilet, carpeting of the lounge and laying of vinyl the wet rooms. The overspend of \$4,371 YTD will increase on completion of the work being undertaken but will be rapidly offset by letting the house out at a market rental. A summary of total costs and offsetting revenues will be provided in due course.
Office Premises	Expenses reported within the maintenance budget relate to the servicing of three heat pumps, installation of a new power meter in the boat shed, electrical repairs in the Octagon, and the purchase of LED lights for the boat shed. These new LED lights will replace the fluorescent lights which are obsolete and deemed to pose an unacceptable fire risk. Electricity, rubbish removal, cleaning, and security expenses are also reported. The Office Premises area is over budget \$1,216 YTD and this is due primarily to an increase in maintenance requirements.
Office Equipment	The usual expenses relating to the phone system and Eftpos leases are reported. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Computer related expenses include IT services and the Survey Monkey subscription. The overspend reported YTD is timing related and will reduce over the coming months.
General	Within the general expense budgets, expenses are reported for bank fees and morning teas. The NZ Council has also invoiced the regions for a share of the National Liability Insurance package. The overspend YTD \$452 relates in part to insurance premium increases and the re-allocation of merchant fees to bank charges.
General Equipment	Equipment expenses for the period included repairs to the mulcher and minor equipment purchases. The boat and field equipment fuel expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included one vehicle service, two puncture repairs, and the purchase of an antenna and mudflap. One vehicle was registered, and the standard fuel and RUC costs are also reported. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: \$1,130,478 (includes \$99,541 for asset replacement reserve and \$453,014 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 28 February 2019.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$165,789 as at 28 February 2019 (\$115,490 as at 28 February 2018).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2017/18 – 2018/19



From October this year we have processed our Public Online licence sales through our debtor ledger so those licence sales can be reported within the month that they were sold. This change means that our debtors ledger will be higher than it has been previously as these licence proceeds do not get settled to the region until the 9th -10th of the month following. Of the total debtors outstanding as at 28 February, \$145,516 related to licence sales of which \$92,904 has been settled to the region in early March with the balance due early April. All debtor accounts are current.

Fixed Assets

There were no fixed assets were purchased within the period.

3. Variance Report

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. The year to date actual including staff hours are entered for each project area to provide Council with an overview of the staff time component of the Operational Work Plan.

2018/2019 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

as at 28 February 2019

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	Variance	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 54,000	\$ 22,888	2,341	1,422	\$ 137,216	\$ 75,649	\$ 8,500	\$ -	\$ 182,716	\$ 98,537	\$ 84,179	\$ 53.9	
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 7,150	\$ -	884	489	\$ 51,815	\$ 26,028	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,965	\$ 26,028	\$ 32,938	\$ 44.1	
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 69,050	\$ 63,543	3,078	1,545	\$ 180,415	\$ 82,166	\$ 79,000	\$ 48,671	\$ 170,465	\$ 97,038	\$ 73,427	\$ 56.9	
1150	Game Farm	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	154	130	\$ 9,027	\$ 6,889	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,027	\$ 6,889	\$ 2,137	\$ 76.3	
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	140	38	\$ 8,206	\$ 2,035	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,206	\$ 2,035	\$ 6,171	\$ 24.8	
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ 169	52	40	\$ 3,048	\$ 2,115	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,548	\$ 2,284	\$ 1,264	\$ 64.4	
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 130,700	\$ 86,600	6,649	3,663	\$ 389,727	\$ 194,881	\$ 87,500	\$ 48,671	\$ 432,927	\$ 232,810	\$ 200,117	\$ 53.8	
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ 9,521	1,160	829	\$ 67,993	\$ 44,089	\$ -	\$ 9,076	\$ 68,193	\$ 44,534	\$ 23,659	\$ 65.3	
1220	Works & Management	\$ 21,000	\$ 3,613	1,122	398	\$ 65,765	\$ 21,173	\$ 13,150	\$ 21,142	\$ 73,615	\$ 3,644	\$ 69,971	\$ 5.0	
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 8,700	\$ 375	912	288	\$ 53,456	\$ 15,295	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,156	\$ 15,670	\$ 46,487	\$ 25.2	
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	120	12	\$ 7,034	\$ 638	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,034	\$ 638	\$ 6,395	\$ 9.1	
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 29,900	\$ 13,509	3,314	1,526	\$ 194,248	\$ 81,195	\$ 13,150	\$ 30,218	\$ 210,998	\$ 64,486	\$ 146,512	\$ 30.6	
1310	Access	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,330	592	413	\$ 34,700	\$ 21,958	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,200	\$ 25,288	\$ 16,912	\$ 59.9	
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ 11,500	\$ 8,666	350	91	\$ 20,515	\$ 4,815	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,015	\$ 13,481	\$ 18,535	\$ 42.1	
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,500	\$ -	72	25	\$ 4,220	\$ 1,303	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,720	\$ 1,303	\$ 5,417	\$ 19.4	
1350	Training	\$ 600	\$ 235	996	349	\$ 58,380	\$ 18,566	\$ 11,500	\$ 4,546	\$ 47,480	\$ 14,255	\$ 33,225	\$ 30.0	
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	72	3	\$ 4,220	\$ 160	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,220	\$ 160	\$ 4,061	\$ 3.8	
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 935	36	5	\$ 2,110	\$ 239	\$ 400	\$ 122	\$ 3,160	\$ 1,053	\$ 2,107	\$ 33.3	
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 23,550	\$ 13,166	2,118	894	\$ 124,145	\$ 47,041	\$ 11,900	\$ 4,668	\$ 135,795	\$ 55,540	\$ 80,256	\$ 40.9	
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	216	109	\$ 12,661	\$ 5,799	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,661	\$ 5,799	\$ 6,862	\$ 45.6	
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ -	204	62	\$ 11,957	\$ 3,272	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,457	\$ 3,272	\$ 9,186	\$ 26.3	
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 4,500	\$ 272	158	90	\$ 9,261	\$ 4,775	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,761	\$ 5,047	\$ 8,714	\$ 36.7	
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 2,000	\$ 412	594	174	\$ 34,817	\$ 9,257	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,817	\$ 9,669	\$ 27,148	\$ 26.3	
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 7,000	\$ 684	1,172	434	\$ 68,696	\$ 23,102	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,696	\$ 23,786	\$ 51,910	\$ 31.4	
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,100	\$ 507	940	363	\$ 55,098	\$ 19,298	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,198	\$ 19,805	\$ 37,393	\$ 34.6	
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 383	108	41	\$ 6,330	\$ 2,155	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,330	\$ 2,538	\$ 4,792	\$ 34.6	
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,634	360	135	\$ 21,101	\$ 7,155	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,873	\$ 20,601	\$ 5,917	\$ 14,685	\$ 28.7	
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 10,600	\$ 2,525	1,408	538	\$ 82,529	\$ 28,608	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,873	\$ 85,129	\$ 28,260	\$ 56,870	\$ 33.2	
1610	Licensing	\$ 700	\$ -	322	125	\$ 18,874	\$ 6,623	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,574	\$ 6,623	\$ 12,951	\$ 33.8	
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	184	47	\$ 10,785	\$ 2,474	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,785	\$ 2,474	\$ 8,311	\$ 22.9	
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 700	\$ -	506	171	\$ 29,659	\$ 9,097	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,359	\$ 9,097	\$ 21,262	\$ 30.0	
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	20	20	\$ 1,172	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,172	\$ -	\$ 1,172	\$ 0.0	
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,466	878	512	\$ 51,463	\$ 27,211	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,463	\$ 29,678	\$ 31,786	\$ 48.3	
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,466	898	512	\$ 52,636	\$ 27,211	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,636	\$ 29,678	\$ 32,958	\$ 47.4	
1810	Management Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	5	\$ -	\$ 266	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 266	\$ (266)	\$ #DIV/0!	
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	126	102	\$ 7,385	\$ 5,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,385	\$ 5,400	\$ 1,986	\$ 73.1	
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,185	\$ 6,307	551	448	\$ 32,297	\$ 23,807	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,482	\$ 30,113	\$ 11,368	\$ 72.6	
1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ 25	446	332	\$ 26,142	\$ 17,662	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,242	\$ 17,687	\$ 8,555	\$ 67.4	
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 9,285	\$ 6,332	1,123	886	\$ 65,824	\$ 47,134	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,109	\$ 53,466	\$ 21,643	\$ 71.2	
	TOTAL	\$ 221,735	\$ 125,283	17,188	8,614	\$ 1,007,465	\$ 458,270	\$ 120,550	\$ 86,430	\$ 1,108,650	\$ 497,123	\$ 611,527	\$ 44.8	

		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance
1910	Salaries	\$ 919,325	\$ 424,060	\$ 30,060	\$ 17,970	\$ 889,265	\$ 406,090	\$ 483,175	45.7
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 23,900	\$ 3,764	-	-	\$ 23,900	\$ 3,764	\$ 20,136	15.7
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 13,650	\$ 15,837	\$ 33,200	\$ 19,406	\$ (19,550)	\$ (3,569)	\$ (15,981)	18.3
1940	Office Premises	\$ 21,300	\$ 13,362	-	-	\$ 21,300	\$ 13,362	\$ 7,938	62.7
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 4,000	\$ 905	-	-	\$ 4,000	\$ 905	\$ 3,095	22.6
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 17,750	\$ 9,955	-	-	\$ 17,750	\$ 9,955	\$ 7,795	56.1
1970	General	\$ 9,250	\$ 8,482	\$ 750	\$ 11,573	\$ 8,500	\$ (3,091)	\$ 11,591	-36.4
1980	General Equipment	\$ 16,300	\$ 6,222	-	-	\$ 16,300	\$ 6,222	\$ 10,078	38.2
1990	Vehicles	\$ 46,000	\$ 24,632	-	-	\$ 46,000	\$ 24,632	\$ 21,368	53.5
	Administration	\$ 1,071,475	\$ 507,219	\$ 64,010	\$ 48,949	\$ 1,007,465	\$ 458,270	\$ 549,195	45.5
	Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,007,465	\$ 458,270		
	Total Outputs Staff Hours					17,188	8,614		
	Internal Cost Per Hour					58.61	53.20		

2018/2019 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C	Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance
	1	Species Management	\$ 130,700	\$ 86,600	6,649	3,663	\$ 389,727	\$ 194,881	\$ 87,500	\$ 48,671	\$ 432,927	\$ 232,810	\$ 200,117	53.8
	2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 29,900	\$ 13,509	3,314	1,526	\$ 194,248	\$ 81,195	\$ 13,150	\$ 30,218	\$ 210,998	\$ 64,486	\$ 146,512	30.6
	3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 23,550	\$ 13,166	2,118	884	\$ 124,145	\$ 47,041	\$ 11,900	\$ 4,688	\$ 135,795	\$ 55,540	\$ 80,256	40.9
	4	Public Interface	\$ 7,000	\$ 684	1,172	434	\$ 69,696	\$ 23,102	-	-	\$ 75,696	\$ 23,786	\$ 51,910	31.4
	5	Compliance	\$ 10,600	\$ 2,525	1,408	538	\$ 82,529	\$ 28,608	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,873	\$ 95,129	\$ 28,260	\$ 66,870	33.2
	6	Licensing	\$ 700	\$ -	506	171	\$ 29,659	\$ 9,097	-	-	\$ 30,359	\$ 9,097	\$ 21,262	30.0
	7	Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,466	898	512	\$ 52,636	\$ 27,211	-	-	\$ 62,636	\$ 29,678	\$ 32,958	47.4
	8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,285	\$ 6,332	1,123	886	\$ 65,824	\$ 47,134	-	-	\$ 75,109	\$ 53,466	\$ 21,643	71.2
	9	Administration												
		Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,327	2,700								
		TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 221,735	\$ 125,283	23,515	11,314	\$ 1,007,465	\$ 458,270	\$ 120,550	\$ 86,430	\$ 1,108,650	\$ 497,123	\$ 611,527	

Licence Income 2018-19		Licence Income 2019	
	Budget	Actual	%
2018/19 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,207,369	\$ 994,039	45%
Less Commission	\$ 52,375.00	\$ -	
Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,154,994	\$ 994,039	
2019 Game Licence Income	\$ 255,022	\$ 16,712	
Less Commission	\$ 11,476.00	\$ -	
Net Game Licence Income	\$ 243,546	\$ 16,712	
Total Licence Income	\$ 1,462,391	\$ 1,010,751	
Total Commission	\$ 63,851	\$ 38,813	
Total Net 2018/19 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,398,540	\$ 971,938	

Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikareroana Fund		Subtotal	
	Budget	Actual	%
less Interest			
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies	\$ 244,143	\$ 122,071	
Less Licence Revenue	\$ (1,462,391)	\$ (1,010,751)	
Plus Commission Expense	\$ 63,851	\$ 38,813	
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation	\$ (2,959)	\$ -	
Depreciation	\$ 72,378	\$ 36,970	
Subtotal	\$ 10,264	\$ (318,795)	
Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikareroana Fund			
Less Waikareroana Fund Interest	\$ (11,408)	\$ 2,515	
Plus Waikareroana Fund Expenses	\$ 30,500	\$ -	
Adjusted Budget	\$ 29,356	\$ (316,280)	

Profit and Loss

Eastern Fish and Game Council - For the 2 months ended 28 February 2019

Income	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Variance YTD	Variance YTD %
Licence Income	113,278	63,078	982,719	1,011,000	1,418,918	(28,281)	(3)
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	6,099	6,474	28,032	30,100	43,473	(2,068)	(7)
Other Income	4,088	26,967	135,885	95,930	212,335	39,955	42
Total Income	123,464	96,519	1,146,636	1,137,030	1,674,726	9,606	1
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	6,489	6,489	36,970	35,988	72,378	982	3
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	14,223	4,718	22,888	21,250	54,000	1,638	8
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	0	3,300	7,150	(3,300)	(100)
1140 Hatchery Operations	1,201	6,288	63,543	56,930	69,050	6,613	12
1180 Game Bird Control	0	169	169	200	500	(31)	(16)
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	15,425	11,175	86,600	81,680	130,700	4,920	6
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MNGMNT							
1210 Resource Management Act	0	0	9,521	200	200	9,321	4,660
1220 Works & Management	34	1,305	3,613	4,500	21,000	(887)	(20)
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	376	2,600	39,200	(2,224)	(86)
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MNGMNT	34	1,305	13,509	7,300	60,400	6,209	85
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	1,459	0	3,330	4,500	7,500	(1,170)	(26)
1330 Newsletters	0	0	8,666	7,500	11,500	1,166	16
1340 Other Publications	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0
1350 Training	0	0	235	320	600	(85)	(27)
1370 Huts	115	97	935	575	1,450	360	63
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	1,574	97	13,166	12,895	23,550	271	2
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1420 Communication	0	0	0	250	500	(250)	(100)
1440 Public Promotions	0	7	272	500	4,500	(228)	(46)
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	51	55	412	1,000	2,000	(588)	(59)
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	51	62	684	1,750	7,000	(1,066)	(61)
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	57	57	507	1,050	2,100	(543)	(52)
1520 Ranger Training	0	383	383	0	1,000	383	0
1530 Compliance	0	150	1,634	3,900	7,500	(2,266)	(58)
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	57	590	2,525	4,950	10,600	(2,425)	(49)
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	0	700	0	0
1630 Commission	4,451	2,783	38,813	45,495	63,851	(6,682)	(15)
Total 1600 LICENSING	4,451	2,783	38,813	45,495	64,551	(6,682)	(15)
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	0	651	2,466	5,500	10,000	(3,034)	(55)
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	651	2,466	5,500	10,000	(3,034)	(55)
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	6,307	7,040	9,185	(733)	(10)
1840 National Liaison	61,036	9	122,096	122,132	244,243	(36)	(0)
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	61,036	9	128,403	129,172	253,428	(769)	(1)
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	70,321	70,098	424,060	425,288	919,325	(1,228)	(0)
1920 Staff Expenses	320	241	3,764	4,800	23,900	(1,036)	(22)
1930 Staff Houses	3,527	12,393	15,837	11,466	13,650	4,371	38
1940 Office Premises	3,058	1,072	13,362	12,146	21,300	1,216	10
1950 Office Equipment	150	156	905	1,200	4,000	(295)	(25)
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,513	1,340	9,955	9,465	17,750	490	5
1970 General	1,127	74	8,482	8,030	9,250	452	6
1980 General Equipment	649	246	6,222	8,260	16,300	(2,038)	(25)
1990 Vehicles	3,532	2,301	24,632	26,400	46,000	(1,768)	(7)
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	84,197	87,921	507,219	507,055	1,071,475	164	0
Total Operating Expenses	173,314	111,082	830,356	831,785	1,704,082	(1,429)	(0)
Net Profit	(49,849)	(14,562)	316,280	305,245	(29,356)	11,035	4

16.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

Ref: 6.01.05

28 March 2019

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of Fish Licence sales for the 2018-2019 financial year to 27 March 2019.

2. 2018-2019 Fish Licence Sales

- 2.1 Fish Licence sales for 2018-2019 compared with the 2017-18 season YTD are summarised in *Table One*.
- 2.2 The total 2018-19 fish licence LEQs YTD are 2.2% behind the 2017-18 season results for the same period. 86.4% of the annual sales target has been achieved for the season to 27 March 2019.
- 2.3 Nationally, at the same date YTD fish licence sales are reporting to be 3.6% below the same period in the 2017-18 season.
- 2.4 Daily cumulative LEQs are shown in *Graph 1*. Fish licence sales have improved since the last report to 31 January. At that time sales were reporting 287 down for the same period during 2017-18. Year to date (27 March) that gap has reduced to 205 LEQs, an improvement of 82 LEQs.
- 2.5 A summary of individual participants is shown on page 70. As at 20 March, individual angler numbers holding Eastern Region licences had fallen by 0.96% (n=115) on 2017/18 results (cf National downturn of 3% (n=2,612)). The Eastern Region decline in angler numbers is represented by 70% (n=81) non-resident and 30% (n=34) resident anglers whereas the National downturn is represented by 43% (n=1,134) non-resident and 57% (n=1,478) resident anglers.

Graph 1

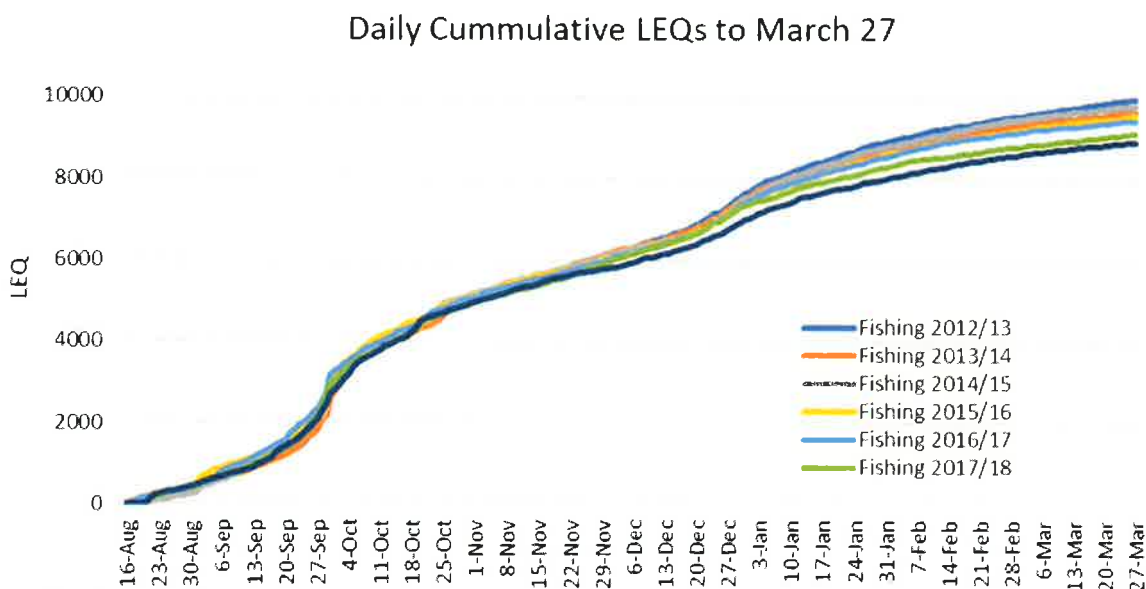


Table One

Fish Licence Sales 2018/19 vs 2017/18 Seasons YTD to 27 March 2019

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWTIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	Total Fish
Agency Online	1574	1224	268	240	1126	11	55	414	1419	1067	230	7	162	0	0	0	7,854
Public Online	1242	927	174	159	469	17	41	368	1356	743	127	10	105	0	0	0	5,760
Eyede Call Centre	12	10	0	12	9	0	0	3	6	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	56
Total YTD 2017-18	2828	2161	442	411	1604	28	96	785	2781	1812	357	17	269	0	0	0	13,670
Agency Online	1486	1130	317	228	1115	6	33	381	1163	701	215	12	131	0	6	19	6,961
Public Online	1215	955	241	159	527	7	44	356	1479	552	133	14	141	0	11	7	5,854
Eyede Call Centre	14	4	0	13	8	1	0	1	11	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	55
Total YTD 2018-19	2715	2089	558	400	1650	14	77	738	2653	1254	350	26	272	0	17	26	12,870

Summary LEQs (Whole Season Licence Equivalents)

Season	Fish LEQ	Fish Var	Fish \$	Inc/Dec
Total YTD 2017-2018	9,100		1,004,943	0
Total YTD 2018-2019	8,899	-2.2%	1,005,963	1,020

2018-19 Summary YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2018-19 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	10,296	100.0%	\$1,163,896
2018-19 YTD Actual	8,899	86.4%	\$1,005,963
Remaining to meet budget	-1,397	-13.6%	\$157,933

Estimate of Complete Season 2018-19 vs Total Budget 2018-19

2018-19 Budgeted FISH LEQs	10,296	100.0%	\$1,163,896
2017-18 Complete Season FISH LEQs	10,020		\$1,106,557
2018-19 Est. year end based on YTD variance	9,799	95.2%	\$1,107,679
Est Shortfall/Surplus 2018-19 Season vs Budget	-497	-4.8%	-\$56,217

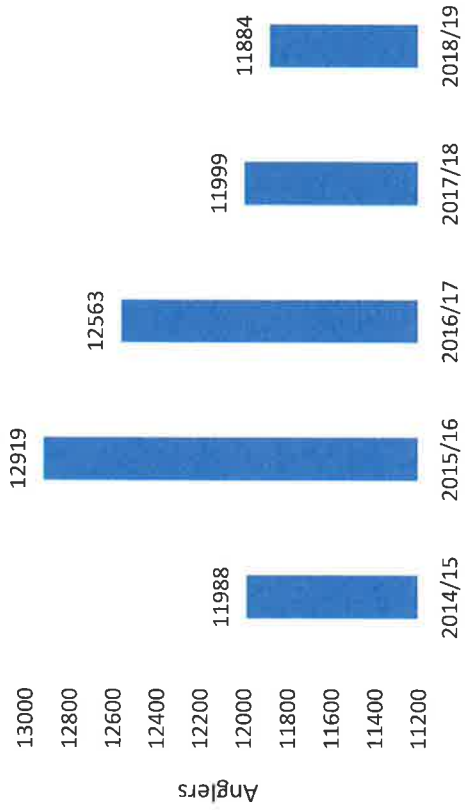
Resident Licence Categories

FWF – Family Season, **FWA** – Adult Season, **FLSA** – Loyal Senior Season, **FLAA** – Local Area Season, **FWIA** – Adult Winter Season, **FLBA** – Adult Long Break, **FSBA** – Adult Short Break, **FDA** – Adult Day, **FWJ** – Junior Season, **FDJ** – Junior Day, **FWC** – Child Season

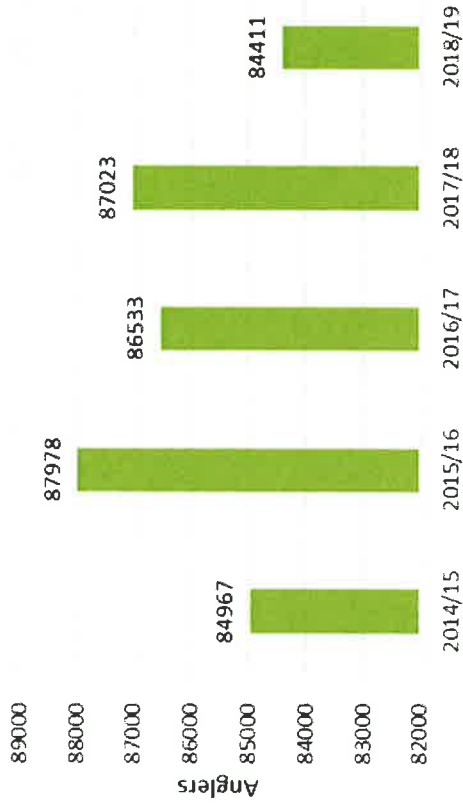
Non-Resident Licence Categories

FDNA – Adult Season, **FDNA** – Adult Day, **FWNJ** – Junior Season, **FDNJ** – Junior Day, **FWNC** – Child Season, **FDNC** – Child Day

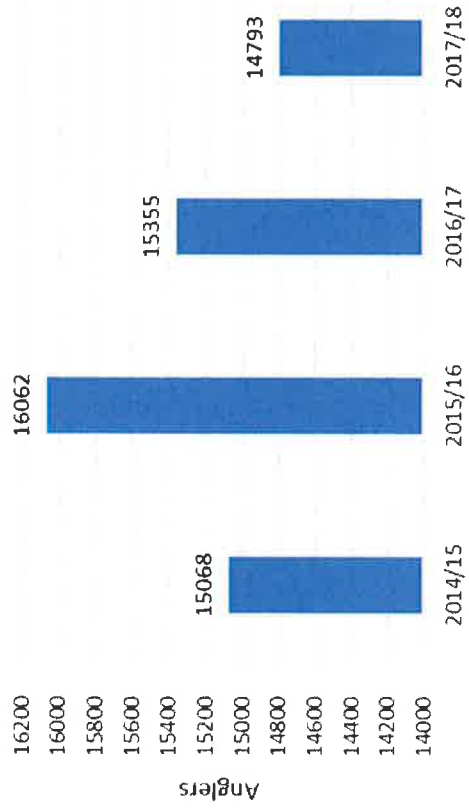
Eastern Anglers - YTD to 20 March



National Anglers - YTD 20 March



Eastern Anglers - Complete Seasons



National Anglers - Complete Seasons



3. 2019 Game Licence Sales

- 3.1 Game Licence sales for the 2019 season compared with the 2018 season YTD are summarised in *Table Two*.
- 3.2 The total 2019 game licence LEQs sold YTD are 4.4% behind the 2018 season results for the same period.
- 3.3 Nationally for the same period, licence sales are reporting to be some 15% below the same period in the 2018 season. This is likely to be a result of delaying the Game Bird magazine mailout and email to prior season licence holders. Eastern Region sales do not appear to have been affected by this delay, and this is likely to be due to the commitment required of all balloted stand holders to purchase their licences at the time of balloting.

Table Two

Game Licence Sales 2019 vs 2018 Seasons YTD to 27 March 2019

Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total Game	Game LEQ	Game Var	Game \$	Inc/Dec
Agency Online	502	54	26	0	0	582				
Public Online	76	5	2	0	0	83				
Eyede Call Centre	1	0	0	0	0	1				
Total YTD 2018	579	59	28	0	0	666	591		\$46,740	
Agency Online	493	45	26	0	0	564				
Public Online	62	2	2	0	0	66				
Eyede Call Centre	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Total YTD 2019	555	47	28	0	0	630	565	-4.4%	\$45,168	-\$1,572

GWA Season Adult, GWJ Season Junior, GWC Season Child, GDA Day Adult, GDJ Day Junior

2019 Summary YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2019 Annual Budgeted GAME LEQs	3,154	100.0%	\$255,022
2019 YTD Actual	565	17.9%	\$45,168
Remaining to meet budget	-2,589	-82.1%	\$209,854

Estimate of Complete Season 2019 vs Total Budget 2019

2019 Budgeted GAME LEQs	3,154	100.0%	\$255,022
2018 Complete Season GAME LEQs	3,252		\$257,332
2019 Est. year end based on YTD variance	3,108	98.6%	\$248,678
Est Shortfall/Surplus 2019 Season vs Budget	-46	-1.4%	-\$6,344