



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

8 December 2022

AGENDA

The 199th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 8 December 2022

Commences: 11.30 PM

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1	Welcome (11.30 AM)		
2	Apologies	(R)	
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (6 October 2022) (11.40 AM)	(R)	1
4	Identification of Items for Council Policy		
5	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting		
6	Notification of Items for General Business		
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8	Update by Corina Jordon (CEO of NZF&G) (11.55 PM, 15 min)		
9	Operational Reports (12.10 PM, 20 min)		
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10	2021-2022 Performance Report (12.30 PM 15 min)	(R)	42
11	2023 Game Season Conditions (12.45 PM, 15 min)	(R)	46
12	Kaituna Wetland Ballot Holder Access (1.00 PM, 5 min)	(I)	58
13	Future Treatment of Non-Resident Levy (1.05 PM, 15 min)	(R)	62
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15	Liaison Officers Reports (1.40 PM, 15 min)	(I)	77
16	General Business (1.55 PM, 25 min)		
	- Little Waihi Estuary		
	- Amalgamation Update		
17	Public Excluded Session (2.20 PM, 30 min)		78
18	Meeting Closes (3.00 PM - No Later than 3.30PM)		
	AGM at 3.45 PM in the Octagon		

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 198th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 2022 AT 11.00AM**

Present

Crs Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Kevin Coutts, Debbie Oakley, Jay Tapsell, Lindsay Lyons, Mike Jarvie, and Mark Sceats.

In attendance

Arash Alaeinia, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert, Mark Sherburn, and Eden Mutton (Eastern Fish & Game), and Barry Roderick.

WELCOME AND KARAKIA

- 1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 11.00am with a karakia from Jay Tapsell and welcomed all present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Geoff Thomas, Scott Nicol, Alan Simmons, and Ken Coombes.
- 2.2 *Apologies: Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 198th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/10/2.2]*

3.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 3.1 **Nominations for Chair:** Ngahi Bidois nominated (Murray Ferris/ Jay Tapsell). No further nominations Ngahi Bidois elected Chair.
- 3.2 **Nominations for Deputy Chair:** Murray Ferris (Debbie Oakley/ Mike Jarvie). No further nominations Murray Ferris elected Deputy Chair.
- 3.3 **Nominations for NZC Appointee:** Debbie Oakley nominated (Kevin Coutts/ Murray Ferris). No further nominations. Debbie Oakley elected NZC Appointee.
- 3.4 **Nominations for WCEET representative:** Matthew McDougall nominated (Murry Ferris / Debbie Oakley). No further nominations Matthew McDougall appointed WCEET representative.
- 3.5 The Chair thanked the Council for their support and congratulated appointees.

4.0 HATS AT THE COUNCIL TABLE

- 4.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons asked if it was appropriate for the Chair to be wearing a hat at the Council meeting.

4.2 A 34-minute discussion ensued regarding wearing hats at the Council meeting.

4.3 *The Chair asked for a vote on hats worn by the Chair only at Council meetings: Council agreed (Lindsay Lyons/ Mark Sceats) that it is inappropriate for the Chair to wear a hat at the Council table [22/10/4.3]*

5.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 *Minutes: Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Kevin Coutts) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the correction to 13.2 “NZ Beef” should read “NZ Federated Farmers”. [22/10/5.1]*

6.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

6.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy

7.0 MATTERS ARISING

7.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

8.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Cr Mark Sceats Due diligence around regional amalgamations.

8.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons Plastic in the environment.

8.3 Cr. Kevin Coutts Access to the reserves.

8.4 Barry Roderick Eastern’s F&G social licence to operate in the environmental field.

9.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

9.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.

10.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

10.1 **Health and Safety Report:** Correction required (page 16 “staff rood” should read “staff room”). No other issues were identified.

10.2 *Health and Safety: Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [22/10/10.2]*

10.3 **Finance Report:** Cr Oakley inquired about the item in Westpac Current Account (Table 4, page 25) transaction of 20 July – “Staff Expenses reimbursed” (Kilwell Sports) and asked that more detail be provided to enable what the payment relates to. Cr Lyons questioned the time limit that applies to

the term of Garrick Contracting. Cr Bidois questioned why project 1140 Hatchery Operations (Table 3 page 24) was \$25,004 above budget. Arash will follow up and find out.

- 10.4 Finance Report: Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for July, August, and July/August 2022 credit card totalling \$296,173.50. [22/10/10.4]**
- 10.5 Management Report:** A correction to the management report is required 1173 page 32 “quail” should be replace by “mallard.”
- 10.6** Arash apologised for the lateness of his contribution to the report and thanked the Council for their understanding with regards to his leave to visit his sick sister in the UK. He also thanked the team at Eastern for their focus on our clients. He highlighted some of the outstanding achievements from his management report.
- 10.7** Cr Bidois relayed plans to bring international fish, game, and hunting, conferences to Rotorua. Tourism NZ are behind this proposal. NZC will also be requested for involvement.
- 10.8 Licence Sales Report:** Crs Ferris and Coutts pointed out that retailers were continuing to have problems with the new licence database system. Problems include difficulty changing licence type and not all rural addresses can be entered into the system. Councillors to email Arash with specifics. Arash will follow up with Kate Thompson.
- 10.9** Cr Lyons suggested Council promote non-motorised boat fishing to reduce the impact of the reintroduction of excise tax on fuel. General discussion around licence sales NZ wide. Council would like information around why licence holders have stopped buying a licence. Arash to provide details gleaned from previous surveys.

Break for Lunch 12.04 pm. Meeting resumed at 12.30 pm

11.0 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

- 11.1** Cr Coutts asked if shoveler should be taken off the licence given the apparent decline or reduce the bag limit. Matt McDougall pointed out that very few hunters shoot more than one shoveler therefore it would be better if the two regions that shoot most of the shoveler reduce their season lengths.
- 11.2** Cr Lyons proposed that a one hen pheasant limit be introduced for opening weekend only. Matt McDougall pointed out that pheasants are the only game species in New Zealand where males only are hunted. He will prepare a paper for the December meeting discussing harvesting hen pheasants.

11.3 Council acknowledged the other game season conditions agenda items which will require a motion and ratification at the December 2022 meeting.

12.0 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT

12.1 The draft Performance report was received.

13.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

13.1 Taken as read.

14.0 DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2022

14.1 Meeting Dates: The proposed meeting dates detailed in the October 2022 agenda for 2023 were agreed (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell)

15.0 FEASIBILITY OF YEAR-ROUND FISHING SEASON

15.1 General discussion ensued around the proposal to open the lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) all year and to formalise the opening day as the first Saturday in the month. Counsellors were asked to voice their opinion on both matters. Cr Oakley read out Cr Coombs email and Arash read out email from Cr Thomas addressing this matter. An around table discussion resulted in an overwhelming agreement in principle, to keep the status quo for the three lakes and to open the fishing season on the 1st of October. Cr Lyons was the only dissension. It was agreed that this was not binding on Councillors but rather a reflection of their thoughts on this matter. A more thorough discussion was proposed following a staff report at the next Council meeting.

16.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

16.1 Monitoring Reports: Agreed (Mark Sceats/ Mike Jarvie) to receive the summaries for the 2021-22 summer creel survey (in PFI) and the 2022 national shoveler count [22/10/15.1]

17.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS

17.1 **Report from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board:** No attendance

17.2 Cr Debbie Oakley provided an update from the New Zealand Council (NZC). Key points were:

17.2.1 A professional facilitator has been engaged to establish a values and vision strategy for the Fish and Game organisation. A strategy workshop was conducted with NZC, managers, and NZC councillors.

17.2.2 Regional staff have also been asked to contribute to the organisational vision and values strategy.

17.2.3 Chairs and managers have asked for additional members of the ISG (Implementation Strategy Group) now Brian Anderton has left. ISG

have nearly completed recommendations. The next step is to meet with the Minister to obtain approval of these recommendations prior to disseminating them before the end of October.

17.2.4 Council update from the CEO Corina Jordan, has been included in the October 2022 PFI.

18.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

18.1 Regional Amalgamation: Cr Sceats commented on the proposed regional amalgamation and suggested that Eastern Council undergo due diligence on all the options. Including what financial benefit, or not, these options provide, what staffing levels would be required, and what the assets are, and where they would fall. Cr Oakley suggested the Council wait until the report on the matter is released on 19th of October 2022

18.2 Plastics in the environment: Cr Lyons proposed that Fish and Game be more active in promoting biodegradable shotgun shells and wads. General discussion was in agreement, but availability may be an issue at this stage.

18.3 Reserve Access during the hunting season: Cr Coutts raised the issue of the gates being locked in the reserves after the second week of the game bird season. He considered that this was a major impediment for many hunters wanting to use the reserve after this date as it was a long way to walk carrying gear to some maimais. The issue was meant to be addressed prior to Andy Garrick leaving but it didn't happen. Staff agreed to prepare a discussion paper on this.

18.4 Social licence to operate in the environmental space: Barry Roderick commented that iwi wanted to know where Fish and Game were in relation to a couple of water related environmental planning issues around Te Puke. He had received advice from John Meikle on the matters however iwi had expressed their disappointment that Fish and Game were absent. Arash would follow up with John however he suspected that the issues were not part of F&G's kaupapa.

19.0 MEETING CLOSED

19.1 Chair Bidois thanked the Council and closed the meeting at 1.42 pm with a karakia by Cr Jay Tapsell

.....
Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

Apologies: Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 198th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/10/2.2]	1
Finance Report: Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for July, August, and July/August 2022 credit card totalling \$296,173.50. [22/10/10.4]	3
Health and Safety: Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [22/10/10.2] ...	3
Meeting Dates: The proposed meeting dates detailed in the October 2022 agenda for 2023 were agreed (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell)	4
Minutes: Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Kevin Coutts) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the correction to 13.2 "NZ Beef" should read "NZ Federated Farmers". [22/10/5.1].	2
Monitoring Reports: Agreed (Mark Sceats/ Mike Jarvie) to receive the summaries for the 2021-22 summer creel survey (in PFI) and the 2022 national shoveler count [22/10/15.1]	5
Nominations for Chair: Ngahi Bidois nominated (Murray Ferris/ Jay Tapsell). No further nominations Ngahi Bidois elected Chair.	1
Nominations for Deputy Chair: Murray Ferris (Debbie Oakley/ Mike Jarvie). No further nominations Murray Ferris elected Deputy Chair.	1
Nominations for NZC Appointee: Debbie Oakley nominated (Kevin Coutts/ Murray Ferris). No further nominations. Debbie Oakley elected NZC Appointee.	1
Nominations for WCEET representative: Matthew McDougall nominated (Murry Ferris / Debbie Oakley). No further nominations Matthew McDougall appointed WCEET representative.	2
The Chair asked for a vote on hats worn by Councillors only at Council meetings: Council agreed (Lindsay Lyons/ Mark Sceats) that it is inappropriate to wear hats at the Council table [22/10/4.3]	2

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

23 November 2022

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

In 2016 the Eastern Fish and Game Council adopted a revised policy and rules for dealing with Conflicts of Interest and these include providing 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;
- (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

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.

- (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.***

9. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

9.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

23 November 2022

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 and 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.

September – November 2022

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan
Regular (weekly) staff meetings. Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of the meeting are emailed to all staff. Visitors to the office and contractors are required to sign our desk register, and our hazard register is updated as required.
Tail Gate forms completed for:
Sept 2022 Waikaremoana spawning stream surveys
Oct 2022 Opening day ranging
Oct 2022 Brood counts
Nov 2022 Pheasant call counts
2022-2023 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	23/11/2022
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2020-2021 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	1
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	51
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	4
Total number of days since last lost work injury	613
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 21/3/21	245
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 19/7/20	1,053
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 31/8/17	1,363
Total number of days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury on 7/12/13	6,672

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

COVID 19

Masks are no longer required in office spaces. Lunches etc in conference room if there are too many staff present to keep safe distances in staff rood.

Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting and emailed to all staff:

- 3 Oct 2022 Slippery grass around grounds
- 10 Oct 2022 Slippery grass around grounds, check brake & windscreen fluid
- 17 Oct 2022 Check vehicle service dates, be aware in field – drug harvest time
- 24 Oct 2022 Nothing new reported
- 31 Oct 2022 Mindful of sunstrike and wet patches while driving, EAP services available to all staff
- 7 Nov 2022 Summer – sunblock, hats, and water
- 14 Nov 2022 Summer is here - Sunblock, Hat and Water (plus Water for Dogs)
- 21 Nov 2022 Weather very changeable - be prepared for sun or rain protection with all gear with you. Check your vehicle tyres - minimum 3mm on Utes

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Nil

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

9.2 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

23 November 2022

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the months of September and October 2022.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 31 October 2022
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2022
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 31 October 2022
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions September and October 2022
Table 6	Credit Card Transactions September and October 2022
Table 7	Reconciliation of OWP to Financial Statement Budget 2022-2023
Table 8	Fixed Asset Budget for 2022-2023
Table 9	Statement of Financial Performance Budget for the year ended 31 August 2023
Table 10	Statement of Financial Position Budget as at 31 August 2023
Table 11	State of Cashflows Budget for the year ended 31 August 2023

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 October is provided in Table 3.

Income

Fish and Game licence revenues are reporting to be close to budget YTD. Revenue has been collected from ballot holders for game bird licences pending these being issued March 2023. A more up to date and detailed picture of fish licence sales performance can be found within the licence sales report.

Revenue from other sources over the two months totalled \$31,355 and was made up of the following: hatchery income (\$7,244), grazing (\$947), fishing competitions (\$408), rentals (\$8,053), and fines from prosecutions collected through the courts (\$398). Donations were received for the children's fishing events (\$928), and ballot habitat maintenance fees were collected with the return of the hunter ballots (\$3,352). In October Genesis Energy was invoiced for Waikaremoana projects (\$8,983) and FENZ for reimbursement of insurance premiums on the FENZ compound and their portion of the boat shed (\$1,544). Interest income is currently reporting at negative \$504 due to end of year accruals.

Species Management

The Population Monitoring expenditure over the period was significant and included Datawatch free licences (\$1,261), prepaid duck bands (\$2,000), Isotope analyses – Tarawera Food Web study (\$5,880), and minor expenses associated with Waikaremoana work

Within the Harvest Assessment budget, expenses are reported for Game Bird Hunter surveys, and the opening of the fishing season.

The more significant expenditure within the Hatchery budgets related to fish food (\$10,762) and insurance (\$6,940). Expenses were also incurred relating to vehicle servicing and fuel, a COF for the tanker, rates, electricity and oxygen. The expense for tidying up the road in conjunction

with establishing the new emergency water line came through in October and this is provided for from the Water Reticulation Reserve set up for this purpose (\$463). Various materials and equipment were also purchased for hatchery maintenance.

Habitat

Within the Habitat output expenses are reported in the reserves budget for predator baits. The Assisted Habitat spending relates to the repair of the Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy following vandalism (\$1,441) and will be funded in due course from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

Participation

Access spending for the period related to accommodation for Waioeka access work and for the Gisborne/East Coast signs run. A reprint of the Rotorua Lakes Fishery brochure occurred in October and minor expenses were incurred relating to the children’s fishing programme and hut electricity.

Public Interface

Minor expenses are reported with the Public Promotions budget related to morning tea expenses associated with the CE meetings with RoturuaNZ, Bay Trust, and Event Venues. Expenses are also reported for Grounds Maintenance for patching of the roadways and replacing mesh on the boardwalks.

Compliance

Compliance expenses are reported relating the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone and fees for a summons service. Travel and catering expenses are also reported for ranger training which occurred in September.

Licensing

The Licensing cost includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online sales.

Council

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the October meeting of Council.

Planning

Levies were paid as budgeted and minor costs are reported for CE meetings with various stakeholders. The accrual of the audit fee for the 2021-22 financial year is reported in September and will be offset once the invoice comes in for payment.

Administration

Salaries	Within budget.
Staff Expenses	An ACC levies accrual is reported in September and other minor expenses are reported relating to staff farewells, staff clothing, and morning teas. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Rates and insurance were paid, and maintenance costs incurred relating to roof and bench top repairs in the timber house. The fire extinguishers were also serviced within the period. Over budget YTD \$784 and this is primarily due to an increase in property rates.

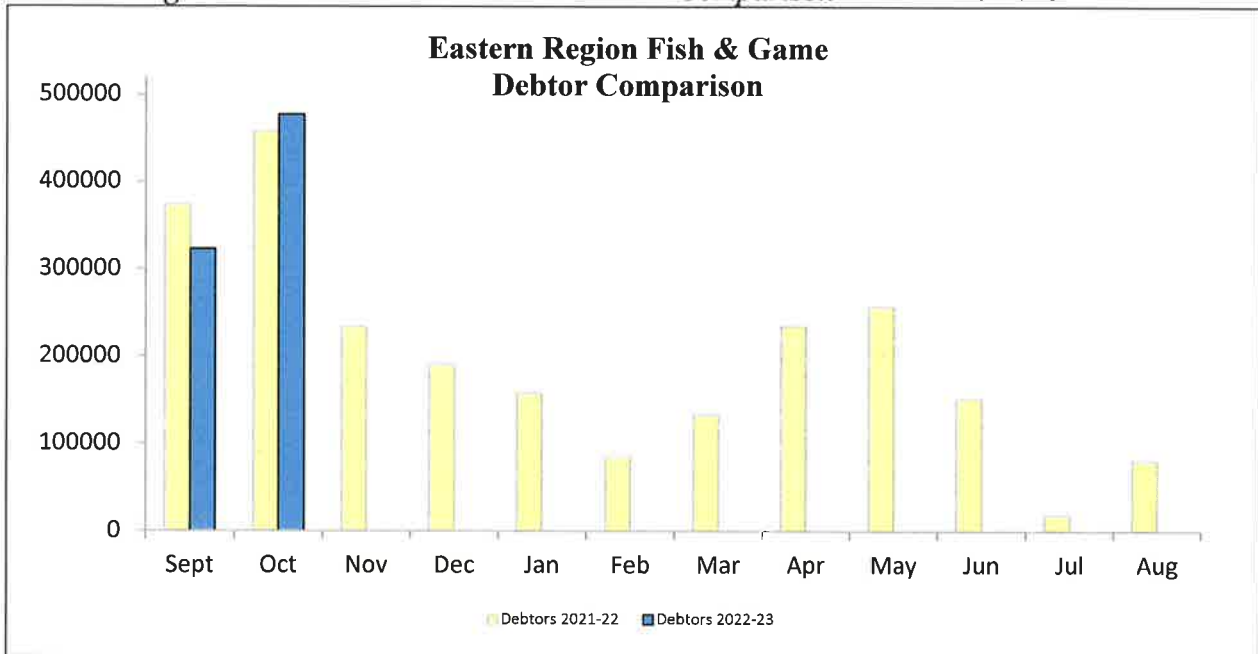
Office Premises	Rates and insurance were paid within the period. The usual expenses relating to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring were incurred. Over budget YTD \$1,375 and this is also due to an increase in property rates but also the annual increase on insurances was higher than budgeted.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs, a new fire extinguisher, and a contribution to staff cell phone. Over budget YTD \$646 and this is timing related and will reduce as the year progresses.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Over budget YTD \$686 and again this is expected to reduce as the year progresses.
General	Insurance costs were reported in September for liabilities, contents, and all buildings not provided for elsewhere. Other smaller expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. Overbudget YTD \$2,033 and this is due to increased general insurance costs.
General Equipment	Equipment purchases for the period included two sets of binoculars for the boats, earmuffs, and gloves. Maintenance expenses included three trailer WoF's, a trailer tyre, repair to compliance vest, and fire extinguisher servicing. Insurance on boats and equipment is also reported in September. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of two vehicles, and fuel/RUCs. Vehicle insurances were also paid in September. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: As at 31 October 2022

\$ 728,004	(includes \$78,584 Asset Replacement Reserve)
<u>\$ 470,494</u>	(Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,198,498	Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$476,967 as at 31 October 2022 (\$457,936 as at 31 October 2021).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2021/22-2022/23



Debtors outstanding as at 31 October are primarily related to the new season sales with \$298k invoiced to agents for September and October licence sales and \$154k for the October online sales (\$322k was settled to the region 10 Nov). Two small debts are outstanding to agents which are being followed up by office staff.

3. Variance Report (Table 1)

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.

2022/2023 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

as at 31 October 2022

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	Budget	Actual		
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 40,700	\$ 9,321	2,124	449	\$ 142,317	\$ 22,453	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 183,017	\$ 31,774	\$ 151,243	\$ 151,243	\$ 17.4	
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 402	681	251	\$ 45,630	\$ 12,578	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,530	\$ 12,980	\$ 35,550	\$ 35,550	\$ 26.7	
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 83,350	\$ 24,501	2,982	805	\$ 199,807	\$ 40,275	\$ 58,000	\$ 7,244	\$ 225,157	\$ 57,532	\$ 167,625	\$ 167,625	\$ 25.6	
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	52	\$ 8,979	\$ 2,578	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,979	\$ 2,578	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,400	\$ 28.7	
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	50	13	\$ 3,350	\$ 651	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,350	\$ 651	\$ 2,699	\$ 2,699	\$ 19.4	
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	36	5	\$ 2,412	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,912	\$ 250	\$ 2,662	\$ 2,662	\$ 8.6	
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 127,450	\$ 34,224	6,007	1,574	\$ 402,495	\$ 78,785	\$ 58,000	\$ 7,244	\$ 471,945	\$ 105,765	\$ 366,179	\$ 366,179	\$ 22.4	
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,412	429	\$ 94,610	\$ 21,452	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,610	\$ 21,452	\$ 73,158	\$ 73,158	\$ 22.7	
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 256	934	192	\$ 62,582	\$ 9,612	\$ 11,650	\$ 4,299	\$ 68,432	\$ 5,569	\$ 62,863	\$ 62,863	\$ 8.1	
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ -	770	121	\$ 51,593	\$ 6,058	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,293	\$ 6,058	\$ 48,236	\$ 48,236	\$ 11.2	
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & M	\$ 20,200	\$ 256	3,188	742	\$ 213,610	\$ 37,121	\$ 11,650	\$ 4,299	\$ 222,160	\$ 33,078	\$ 189,082	\$ 189,082	\$ 14.9	
1310	Access	\$ 5,500	\$ 342	692	219	\$ 46,367	\$ 10,976	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,867	\$ 11,318	\$ 40,549	\$ 40,549	\$ 21.8	
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	318	34	\$ 21,307	\$ 1,702	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,307	\$ 1,702	\$ 19,605	\$ 19,605	\$ 8.0	
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 711	36	1	\$ 2,412	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,412	\$ 761	\$ 3,651	\$ 3,651	\$ 17.2	
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 42	812	118	\$ 54,407	\$ 5,895	\$ 7,000	\$ 411	\$ 48,257	\$ 5,526	\$ 42,732	\$ 42,732	\$ 11.5	
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	15	\$ 2,144	\$ 738	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,144	\$ 738	\$ 1,406	\$ 1,406	\$ 34.4	
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 138	46	1	\$ 3,082	\$ 50	\$ 400	\$ 78	\$ 4,132	\$ 110	\$ 4,022	\$ 4,022	\$ 2.7	
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTIC	\$ 9,800	\$ 1,233	1,936	388	\$ 129,720	\$ 19,412	\$ 7,400	\$ 489	\$ 132,120	\$ 20,156	\$ 111,965	\$ 111,965	\$ 15.3	
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	14	\$ 4,824	\$ 676	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ 676	\$ 4,148	\$ 4,148	\$ 14.0	
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	116	28	\$ 7,772	\$ 1,402	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,772	\$ 1,402	\$ 6,371	\$ 6,371	\$ 18.0	
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 33	114	3	\$ 7,638	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,638	\$ 183	\$ 8,455	\$ 8,455	\$ 2.1	
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 879	668	66	\$ 44,759	\$ 3,279	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,259	\$ 4,158	\$ 41,101	\$ 41,101	\$ 9.2	
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 912	970	110	\$ 64,994	\$ 5,507	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,494	\$ 6,419	\$ 60,075	\$ 60,075	\$ 9.7	
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 85	930	148	\$ 62,314	\$ 7,397	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,314	\$ 7,482	\$ 55,832	\$ 55,832	\$ 11.8	
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 645	104	71	\$ 6,968	\$ 3,554	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,968	\$ 4,199	\$ 3,769	\$ 3,769	\$ 52.7	
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 176	336	36	\$ 22,513	\$ 1,802	\$ 6,000	\$ 398	\$ 21,513	\$ 1,580	\$ 19,933	\$ 19,933	\$ 7.3	
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,000	\$ 906	1,370	255	\$ 91,796	\$ 12,753	\$ 6,000	\$ 398	\$ 92,796	\$ 13,261	\$ 79,535	\$ 79,535	\$ 14.3	
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	124	2	\$ 8,309	\$ 113	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,909	\$ 113	\$ 8,796	\$ 8,796	\$ 1.3	
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	158	8	\$ 10,587	\$ 375	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,587	\$ 375	\$ 10,211	\$ 10,211	\$ 3.5	
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ -	282	10	\$ 18,895	\$ 488	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,495	\$ 488	\$ 19,007	\$ 19,007	\$ 2.5	
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,111	457	73	\$ 30,621	\$ 3,655	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 4,766	\$ 30,855	\$ 30,855	\$ 13.4	
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,111	457	73	\$ 30,621	\$ 3,655	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 4,766	\$ 30,855	\$ 30,855	\$ 13.4	
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ 21	281	2	\$ 18,828	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,328	\$ 121	\$ 27,207	\$ 27,207	\$ 0.4	
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	64	\$ -	\$ 4,288	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,288	\$ -	\$ 4,288	\$ 4,288	\$ 0.0	
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,950	\$ (9,650)	391	63	\$ 26,199	\$ 3,154	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,149	\$ (6,496)	\$ 42,845	\$ 42,845	\$ -18.0	
1840	National Liaison	\$ 50	\$ 203	258	18	\$ 17,287	\$ 901	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,337	\$ 1,104	\$ 16,233	\$ 16,233	\$ 6.4	
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,500	\$ (9,426)	994	83	\$ 66,602	\$ 4,155	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,102	\$ (5,271)	\$ 90,373	\$ 90,373	\$ -6.2	
	TOTAL	\$ 190,050	\$ 29,216	15,204	3,234	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 161,876	\$ 83,050	\$ 12,430	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 178,662	\$ 947,071	\$ 947,071	\$ 15.9	

	EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	
1910 Salaries	\$ 929,707	\$ 134,921	\$ 11,680	\$ 8,983	\$ 918,027	\$ 125,938	\$ 792,089	\$ 792,089	13.7
1920 Staff Expenses	\$ 24,000	\$ 1,569	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 1,569	\$ 22,431	\$ 22,431	6.5
1930 Staff Houses	\$ 10,306	\$ 5,219	\$ 55,000	\$ 7,975	\$ (44,694)	\$ (2,756)	\$ (41,938)	\$ (41,938)	6.2
1940 Office Premises	\$ 20,000	\$ 8,190	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 8,190	\$ 11,810	\$ 11,810	41.0
1950 Office Equipment	\$ 2,600	\$ 977	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 977	\$ 1,623	\$ 1,623	37.6
1960 Communications/Consumables	\$ 17,200	\$ 3,146	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,200	\$ 3,146	\$ 14,054	\$ 14,054	18.3
1970 General	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,019	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,472	\$ 9,500	\$ 8,547	\$ 953	\$ 953	90.0
1980 General Equipment	\$ 16,600	\$ 4,309	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,600	\$ 4,309	\$ 12,291	\$ 12,291	26.0
1990 Vehicles	\$ 55,500	\$ 11,955	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,500	\$ 11,955	\$ 43,545	\$ 43,545	21.5
Administration	\$ 1,086,913	\$ 181,306	\$ 68,180	\$ 19,430	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 161,876	\$ 856,857	\$ 856,857	15.9
Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,018,733	\$ 161,876			
Total Outputs Staff Hours					15,204	3,234			
Internal Cost Per Hour					67.00	50.06			

2022/2023 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C	Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%	
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance		
	1	Species Management	\$ 127,450	\$ 34,224	\$ 1,574	\$ 402,495	\$ 78,785	\$ 7,244	\$ 471,946	\$ 105,765	\$ 366,179	\$ 366,179	22.4	
	2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 20,200	\$ 266	742	\$ 213,610	\$ 37,121	\$ 11,560	\$ 4,299	\$ 222,160	\$ 33,078	\$ 189,082	\$ 189,082	14.9
	3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,800	\$ 1,233	388	\$ 129,720	\$ 19,412	\$ 7,400	\$ 489	\$ 132,120	\$ 20,166	\$ 111,965	\$ 111,965	15.3
	4	Public Interface	\$ 1,600	\$ 912	110	\$ 64,984	\$ 5,507	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,494	\$ 6,419	\$ 60,075	\$ 60,075	9.7
	5	Compliance	\$ 7,000	\$ 906	1,370	\$ 91,796	\$ 12,763	\$ 6,000	\$ 398	\$ 92,796	\$ 13,261	\$ 79,535	\$ 79,535	14.3
	6	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	282	\$ 18,895	\$ 488	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,495	\$ 488	\$ 19,007	\$ 19,007	2.5
	7	Councils	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,111	73	\$ 30,621	\$ 3,665	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,621	\$ 4,766	\$ 30,855	\$ 30,855	13.4
	8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,500	\$ (9,426)	83	\$ 66,602	\$ 4,155	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,102	\$ (5,271)	\$ 90,373	\$ 90,373	-6.2
	9	Administration												
		Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,950	1,015								
		TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 190,060	\$ 29,216	4,249	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 161,876	\$ 12,430	\$ 1,126,733	\$ 178,662	\$ 947,071	\$ 947,071		
		Licence Income 2022-2023	Budget	Actual	% year complete	% of OWP budget spent				17%		16%		
		2022-23 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,079,901	\$ 565,930					\$ 1,126,733	\$ 178,662				
		Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 48,595					\$ (9,605)	\$ 626				
		Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,031,305	\$ 665,930					\$ (9,605)	\$ 626				
		2023 Game Licence Income	\$ 269,723	\$ 10,192					\$ 168,686	\$ 39,646				
		Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 12,137					\$ (1,349,624)	\$ (576,122)				
		Net Game Licence Income	\$ 267,586	\$ 10,192					\$ 60,733	\$ 20,492				
		Total Licence Income	\$ 1,349,624	\$ 676,122					\$ (28,167)	\$ -				
		Total Commission	\$ -	\$ 60,733					\$ 74,244	\$ 12,414				
		Total Net 2022-23 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,288,891	\$ 555,630					\$ 32,010	\$ (324,282)				
		Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund												
		Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest							\$ (7,937)	\$ (122)				
		Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses							\$ 8,000	\$ 1,509				
		Adj to OWP budgets - Non Res Reserve - Lake Tarawera project												
		Adjusted Budget							\$ 32,073	\$ (322,896)				

Table 2	Balance Sheet	
	Eastern Fish and Game Council	
	As at 31 October 2022	
Assets	31 Oct 2022	31 Aug 2022
Bank		
Investments	\$555,790.56	\$511,038.52
Petty Cash	\$221.20	\$221.20
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	\$470,494.40	\$470,049.72
Westpac Call Account	\$135,385.82	\$235,120.80
Westpac Current Account	\$39,971.51	\$5,995.12
Total Bank	\$1,201,863.49	\$1,222,425.36
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	\$476,967.13	\$80,402.35
Accounts Receivable – Hawke's bay & External parties	-\$807.12	\$0.00
Accounts Receivable - Staff Recovery	-\$78.57	\$0.00
Inventory - Fish Stock	\$168,939.00	\$168,939.00
Prepayments and Accrued Income	\$0.00	\$10,176.06
Total Current Assets	\$645,020.44	\$259,517.41
Fixed Assets		
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	-\$734,032.30	-\$729,394.41
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	-\$165,688.59	-\$159,830.31
Accum Dep Office Equipment	-\$53,802.29	-\$53,118.85
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	-\$161,438.16	-\$160,203.86
Buildings	\$1,043,849.38	\$1,043,849.38
Land	\$102,000.00	\$102,000.00
Motor Vehicles	\$426,076.22	\$425,024.50
Office Equipment	\$61,185.20	\$61,185.20
Plant & Equipment	\$198,898.90	\$198,898.90
Total Fixed Assets	\$717,048.36	\$728,410.55
Total Assets	\$2,563,932.29	\$2,210,353.32
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$63,304.00	\$36,799.19
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	\$78,422.00	\$135,452.97
Business Credit Card	\$1,012.80	\$1,273.43
Employee Entitlements	\$78,415.53	\$87,769.49
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy Clearing	\$169.88	\$0.00
GST	\$71,205.31	-\$8,953.93
PAYE Clearing	\$22,420.06	\$31,605.92
Rounding	\$0.04	\$0.00
Staff Social Club	\$2,351.93	\$2,671.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$317,301.55	\$286,618.07
Total Liabilities	\$317,301.55	\$286,618.07
Net Assets	\$2,246,630.74	\$1,923,735.25
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	\$1,236,581.39	\$1,280,725.06
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$49,427.00	\$49,427.00
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	\$136,025.59	\$130,710.65
Breeding Programme Reserve	\$1,018.00	\$1,018.00
Current Year Earnings	\$322,895.49	-\$38,828.73
Fish for Gold Reserve	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	\$16,571.00	\$16,571.00
Hunter Ballot Reserve	\$5,934.00	\$5,934.00
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	\$464,178.27	\$464,178.27
Total Equity	\$2,246,630.74	\$1,923,735.25

Table 3**Profit and Loss**

Eastern Fish and Game Council
For the 2 months ended 31 October 2022

Income	Sep 2022	Oct 2022	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	312,531	258,276	570,807	573,000	1,349,624	(2,193)	0%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	2,015	3,300	5,315	0	0	5,315	0%
Other Income	5,057	26,299	31,355	24,500	196,829	6,855	28%
Total Income	319,602	287,875	607,477	597,500	1,546,453	9,977	2%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	6,207	6,207	12,414	12,374	74,244	40	0%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	9,301	88	9,389	9,500	43,200	(111)	-1%
1120 Harvest Assessment	307	95	402	700	2,900	(298)	-43%
1140 Hatchery Operations	13,127	11,374	24,501	28,550	83,350	(4,049)	-14%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	0	500	0	0%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	22,735	11,558	34,292	38,750	129,950	(4,458)	-12%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1220 Works & Management	256	0	256	1,000	17,500	(744)	-74%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	1,441	1,441	50	2,700	1,391	2781%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT	256	1,441	1,697	1,050	20,200	647	62%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	0	342	342	750	5,500	(408)	-54%
1340 Other Publications	0	711	711	700	2,000	11	1%
1350 Training	0	42	42	150	850	(108)	-72%
1370 Huts	31	107	138	200	1,450	(62)	-31%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	31	1,202	1,233	1,800	9,800	(567)	-32%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1440 Public Promotions	18	15	33	0	1,000	33	0%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	759	120	879	500	500	379	76%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	777	135	912	500	1,500	412	82%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	17	68	85	175	1,000	(90)	-52%
1520 Ranger Training	645	0	645	500	1,000	145	29%
1530 Compliance	176	0	176	830	5,000	(654)	-79%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	838	68	906	1,505	7,000	(599)	-40%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	0	600	0	0%
1630 Commission	11,599	8,893	20,492	25,785	60,733	(5,293)	-21%
Total 1600 LICENSING	11,599	8,893	20,492	25,785	61,333	(5,293)	-21%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	0	1,111	1,111	1,000	5,000	111	11%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	1,111	1,111	1,000	5,000	111	11%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	0	21	21	0	8,500	21	0%
1830 Reporting/Audit	(9,650)	0	(9,650)	(9,450)	9,950	(200)	2%
1840 National Liaison	75	39,774	39,849	39,646	158,636	203	1%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	(9,576)	39,795	30,219	30,196	177,086	23	0%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	62,493	72,429	134,921	143,000	935,207	(8,079)	-6%
1920 Staff Expenses	1,149	419	1,569	2,000	24,000	(431)	-22%
1930 Staff Houses	4,148	1,071	5,219	4,435	10,306	784	18%
1940 Office Premises	6,092	2,098	8,190	6,815	20,000	1,375	20%
1950 Office Equipment	813	164	977	334	2,600	643	192%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,592	1,554	3,146	2,460	17,200	686	28%
1970 General	10,875	144	11,019	8,986	11,000	2,033	23%
1980 General Equipment	3,433	876	4,309	5,100	16,600	(791)	-16%
1990 Vehicles	8,579	3,377	11,955	13,100	55,500	(1,145)	-9%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	99,175	82,131	181,306	186,230	1,092,413	(4,925)	-3%
Total Operating Expenses	132,042	152,540	284,582	299,190	1,578,526	(14,608)	-5%
Net Profit	187,561	135,335	322,895	298,310	(32,073)	24,585	8%

Table 7: The following is a reconciliation of the OWP to the Financial Statement Budget:

Reconciliation of OWP to Tier 3 Reporting		
<i>Approved Budget - per OWP</i>		<i>(1,161,697)</i>
Adjustments to Financial Budget		
Plus Licence Revenue	1,349,624	
Plus General Interest	9,505	
less Commission	<i>(60,733)</i>	
Less levies	<i>(158,586)</i>	
Less Depreciation	<i>(74,244)</i>	
Plus Net Gain on Sale	28,157	
Plus ARF	35,964	
Plus Waikaremoana Interest	7,937	
Less Waikaremoana Spending	<i>(8,000)</i>	
Net Adjustments		1,129,624
Net Surplus (Deficit)		<i>(32,073)</i>

Table 8: Fixed Asset Budget

Asset	Budgeted Asset purchases (excl. GST)	Budgeted Asset sales (excl. GST)
3 Vehicles	\$128,000	\$136026
2 Computers	\$3,500	
Computer Server	\$6,500	
Total	\$85,020	\$51,000

Table 9: Statement of Financial Performance Budget

Eastern Fish and Game Council
Budgeted Statement of Financial Performance
For the year ended
31 August 2023

	Note	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
REVENUE			
Fish and Game licence sales	1	1,349,624	1,280,902
Grants and donations	1	750	17,407
Interest	1	17,442	18,407
Other revenue	1	178,637	187,406
Total Revenue		1,546,453	1,504,122
EXPENSES			
Outputs			
Species management	2	127,450	134,301
Habitat protection & management	2	22,700	13,402
Angler & Hunter participation	2	9,800	11,927
Public interface	2	1,500	1,989
Compliance	2	7,000	4,174
Licensing	2	61,333	50,246
Council	2	5,000	7,871
Planning & reporting	2	18,500	9,925
Overheads			
Employee related costs	2	959,207	970,797
Depreciation	4	74,244	73,262
Other expenses	2	133,206	130,106
Total Expenses		1,419,940	1,408,000
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		126,513	96,122
Less Other Expenses			
Levies to NZFGC		158,586	134,951
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(32,073)	(38,829)

Table 10: Statement of Financial Position Budget

Eastern Fish and Game Council
Statement of Financial Position
As at
31 August 2023

	Note	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	110,425	241,337
Debtors and prepayments	3	114,000	99,532
Investments	3	1,075,000	981,088
Inventory	3	168,939	168,939
Total Current Assets		1,468,364	1,490,896
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	684,298	728,411
Investments	3	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		684,298	728,411
TOTAL ASSETS		2,152,662	2,219,307
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	143,000	176,197
Employee costs payable	3	118,000	119,375
Total Current Liabilities		261,000	295,572
TOTAL LIABILITES		261,000	295,572
NET ASSETS		1,891,662	1,923,735
EQUITY		1,891,662	1,923,735

Table 11: Statement of Cashflows Budget

Eastern Fish and Game Council
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended
31 August 2023

	Budget 2023	Actual 2022
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Licence Sales	1,319,803	1,276,983
Grants, donations and fundraising	750	17,407
Interest	17,244	18,707
Other revenue	177,681	183,821
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers	588,876	505,428
Payments to employees	960,582	982,216
GST (net)	1,046	(3,149)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(35,026)	12,423
CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Sale of property, plant and equipment	136,026	-
Sale of investments/deposits	-	254,450
Cash was applied to:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	138,000	82,724
Purchase of investments/deposits	93,912	-
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing	(95,886)	171,726
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	(130,912)	184,149
Opening Cash	241,337	57,188
Closing Cash	110,425	241,337
This is represented by:		
Bank accounts and cash	110,425	241,337

5. Recommendations

5.1 That the payments for September and October 2022 totalling \$277,289.18 be approved.

<i>September - Current account</i>	<i>\$119,092.31</i>
<i>October - Current account</i>	<i>\$156,113.43</i>
<i>September/October - Credit Card</i>	<i>\$2,083.44</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$277,289.18</i>

5.2 That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2022-2023 financial year.

9.3 MANAGEMENT REPORT

15 November 2022

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Upper Streams Opening – Check, Clean, Dry Promotion

The upper sections of Lake Rotorua's tributaries (Ngongotaha, Waiteti and Utuhina Streams) open to angling on 1 December. The delay in opening these reaches is due to the late timing of rainbow trout spawning in this catchment with aims to prevent disturbance to spawning fish and trampling of redds. Staff will be checking angler compliance and providing advocacy messages for biosecurity.

River Fishery Drift Dive Investigations 2022-23 season

Over the coming summer period staff are intending to undertake investigations of the Otara, Waiotaha and Waioeka Rivers following heavy flooding and greater stress from more intensive drought conditions in recent summers.

The Rangitaiki River within the upper Kaiangaroa Forest is planned to be sampled during late February, early March 2023. If river clarity is suitable for drift diving, staff will utilise that method. If conditions are unsuitable (<2.5m visibility), then parameters will be collected and, in that way, add to the long-term monitoring dataset for the river.

1112 Datawatch

During the first seven weeks following the season opening (1 October), a total of 95 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	1
Lake Okataina	22
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	5
Lake Rotoehu	1
Lake Rotoiti	19
Lake Rotoma	0
Lake Rotorua	2
Lake Tarawera	45
Lake Waikaremoana	0
Lake Tutira (HB)	0
Hawkston (HB)	0
Maraetotara (HB)	0

**Datawatch returns (entered to 21/11/2022)*

The number of returns to date (entered) is ahead of the 2021-22 (59), 2020-21 season (41) and the 2019-20 season (87) for approximately the same period.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The Lake Waikaremoana monitoring buoy has been functioning well since redeployment of the sensor lines, console and new larger solar tower in June 2022. The unit had to be repaired following vandalism on 13th February 2021 and the replacement solar unit was not large enough to sustain battery charge given Waikaremoana's reduced winter sunlight hours.

The buoy is currently logging the summer stratification taking place as the warmer surface waters cause the depth layers to separate out as the thermocline forms.

1114 Lake Tarawera

Acoustic Smelt Monitoring

The post-turnover acoustic transects are due to be undertaken during Late November or early December given staff availability and a period of favourable weather. The acoustic gear is required to be picked up from Turangi and brought back to Rotorua. Following this, two days without too much wind is required to complete the field work aspect.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Fish Trap

Ngongotaha trap run (October 2022)

	<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>	489	1.49	26	7		
<i>Brown</i>	562	2.49	5	1		16%

The Ngongotaha Trap was operated for 4 nights during October 2022. The trap was operated around flooding from regular rainfall in the catchment. The largest rainbow was a 530mm, 2.3kg rainbow male and the largest brown a 580mm, 2.6kg female.

The trap has yet to be set during November due to staff availability and weather/ flooding.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Mallard harvest management and monitoring.

Eastern Council policy dictates that mallard and grey duck (greylard) regulations (season length and daily bag limit) are determined from estimated population size. Mallard and grey duck (greylard) monitoring over the last 26 years in the Eastern Region was used to estimate the 2023 greylard population size. Based on these population estimates the 2023 mallard and grey duck season will fall into the restrictive category.

Juvenile female annual survival rates are particularly low (<0.45). Council needs to keep this in mind when considering alterations to the game season regulations. Refer to the December 2022 PFI for the full report.

Brood Counts

Annual duck brood counts were undertaken on the coastal Bay of Plenty drainage network during October and November. Results will be reported at the next Council Meeting.

1119 Upland Game Assessments

Annual pheasant call counts were conducted in Kaingaroa Forest in early November. Results will be reported at the next Council Meeting.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Ohau Creel Survey

The Ohau Channel Fishery Panel meeting has been set for 23 November. Fish & Game staff will present information from the 2021-22 Ohau Angler Creel Survey conducted by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust staff and workers. There will also be reports on smelt movements through the Channel (Niwa) and koura monitoring from lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua (Ian Kusabs/ TALT).

Opening Day Creel Survey 2022-23

The 2022-23 Opening Day Survey information from 1 October 2022 has been entered into the opening database. The information has yet to be analysed.

Summer Creel Survey 2022-23

The plan for the 2022-23 summer creel surveys has been created. As with the 2022-23 summer creel we are running a less intensive schedule (on paper) focussing more on peak times to better allocate staff time as work schedules and staff availability are at a premium. Surveys will be focussed on Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina and will if practicable allow visits to several other lakes. Surveys are timed to begin mid November 2022 and will go through to the end of April 2023.

Angler diaries

Anglers are continuing to slowly come in from the online angler diary scheme. The diary scheme was advertised in the 2022-23 Season magazine along with the winner of the 2021-22 angler diary draw. To date, 9 entries have been returned via Survey Monkey for this financial year (starting 1-09-2021). This is similar to the start of the 2021-22 (14 entries) and 2020-21 seasons (13 entries). Ongoing periodic advertising and promotion will be required through online media and through club visits to remind anglers about the diary scheme. The majority of returns have been from the main lake areas that are also covered by creel surveys, but there has been one entry each for the Whirinaki River and the Tarawera River.

1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey

There was a decrease in hours spent hunting waterfowl between 2021 and 2022 (2,251 hours; $z=-20.692$, $df= 839$, $P<0.0001$; **Error! Reference source not found.**). This decrease is consistent with the trend over the survey (1993–2022) where total annual hours hunting waterfowl have decreased about 2,600 per annum ($\beta_{Year}=-2,614.6$, $t=-10.78$, $P<0.0001$; **Error! Reference source not found.**). Licence sales were similar to 2021 (2021=3,244, 2022 = 3,230) therefore the decrease in total hours can be explained by a reduction (0.63; $z=-18.508$, $df= 839$, $P<0.0001$; **Error! Reference source not found.**) in average hours hunted over the season.

The 2022 estimated mallard harvest (20,949) was significantly less than the 2021 harvest (22,114; $z = -11.174$, $P<0.0001$). Grey duck harvest was also significantly lower in 2022 (1,425) cf. 2021 (2,088; $z = -30.534$, $P<0.0001$). Refer to the December 2022 PFI for the full report.

1141 Hatchery Operations

September and most of the October liberations have been completed with the balance just waiting for suitable weather conditions.

Rearing tanks were populated with final rainbow trout crosses and outside rearing ponds are being prepared to receive fry in December.

Fish were delivered to Wellington, Taranaki and Auckland Waikato Fish & Game regions.

Fish locations at 22nd November 2022:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	Fry	120K	2023 season liberations
Tank B	Tig	0+	800	2023 autumn liberations
Tank C	Bt	0+	1,000	2023 spring liberations
Tank E	Rt	1+	10	Best of brood, 1+ for 2023
Tank F	Bt	0+	500	0+ for 2022 liberation
Pond 2	Rt	0+	2,000	0+ for 2022 spring liberation
Pond 9	Rt	1+	6,500	2023 2 year olds
RW2	Rt	1+	2,000	Rising 1+ for KF programmes
Kids	Rt		1,000	2+ for Eastern KF programme

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 14 Sept – 22 Nov 2022

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Number
Rotoma	15/09/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	2000
Rotoma	15/09/2022	Rp	D22	RT	1+	500
Rotoehu	20/09/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	1500
Rotoehu	20/09/2022	Rp	C22	RT	1+	500
Okareka	21/09/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	2000
Okareka	22/09/2022	Rp	G22	RT	1+	500
Rerewhakaaitu	23/09/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	2500
Rerewhakaaitu	23/09/2022	Rp	I22	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	29/09/2022	-	-	RT	3+	18
Rotoiti	17/10/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	0
Okataina	17/10/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	750
Tarawera	21/10/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	1000
Okaro	27/10/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	500
Ngahewa	1/11/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	50
Ngapouri	1/11/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	7/11/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	3750
Mc Laren	22/11/2022	Rp	-	BT	1+	500
Mc Laren	22/11/2022	Rp	-	RT	1+	1000

Fish were also delivered to Auckland Waikato, Wellington and Taranaki Fish & Game regions and one research facility.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Fish and Game is continuing to liaise with BoPRC on the review of the Schedule of Important Trout Habitats in the region. Consultation via the RESOF group is continuing. Regional Council's work to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM) is underway and early discussions are occurring on some very early drafts of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and the Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP).

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 were held mid-2019. Decisions were released in May. A/W Fish and Game Council, with support from Eastern, have appealed a number of matters. Waikato Healthy Rivers plan has since stalled due to the recent and upcoming national legislation. There is some concern over the legitimacy of OVERSEER for nitrogen modelling which has been raised through the healthy rivers process.

Gisborne District Council

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, the Motu Catchment Plan process is now underway. Fish and Game has so far had some input in identifying values, and recently provided comments on a draft version of the catchment plan. Additionally, stakeholder consultation is scheduled to begin shortly on the Regional Policy Statement, Freshwater Plan amendments, and the Waiapu, Waimata, Uawa, Waipaoa, Wharehika and Hangaroa catchments.

Fish and Game were previously involved in the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel and community catchment groups. Plan Change 9 was eventually withdrawn and the groups stalled. However, an appeal against the withdrawal remains outstanding. Council has now established a new group to provide advice in relation to policy development for NPSFM implementation. Fish and Game is part of this Rural and Environmental Sector Organisation Forum.

The public notification of the draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy has been revoked. The purpose of the revocation is to ensure further engagement opportunities are provided. The Department intended to re-notify the draft in 2021. No new developments

Various Fish and Game regions have been collaborating on a submission to amend some parts of the NES-Freshwater 2020 that are viewed as unacceptable to us. Of particular interest to Eastern Region are some unreasonably strict regulations around physical works in wetlands, and on the construction of maimai. Some other areas of involvement at a national level include intensive winter grazing provisions, and the Essential Freshwater Work Programme involving Freshwater Farm Plans and Stock Exclusion Regulations, and the exclusion of natural coastal wetlands from the NES-FW.

The Government plans to repeal the RMA and replace it with three new pieces of legislation. Government recently introduced the Spatial Planning Bill and the Natural and Built Environment Bill to Parliament. RMA staff throughout the country will be collaborating with a view to providing some formal input in this process.

Following on from Fish and Games involvement in the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy, NZ Council have recently made a submission on the exposure draft of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity. No new developments

The Department is currently in the early stages of a Wildlife Act review process. Fish and Game staff have been collaborating at a national level to have input into the process.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
31 Oct	BOPRC	BOPRC	Variation of flood spillway design	Orini WMR	Submission lodged seeking conditions
11 Oct	GDC	Juken NZ	LUC- forest harvest	Mangapoike River, Gisborne	Opposed but seeking conditions
14 Nov	RLC	P&M Consultants Ltd	SC – rural lifestyle subdivision	Rotokawau Stream, Rotorua	No concerns email

Consents of Note:

Multiple forest harvesting resource consents are expected from the Gisborne district, with reference to the NES-PF rules permitting activities within spawning streams. National Office have been advised of these rules and the fish spawning calendar which are the now designated tools/ rules for foresters and Councils to assess consent applications. There currently is a review of the NES-PF rules of which F&G is submitting on – ideally to rectify these issues.

Catfish Incursion Lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua

At this time of year catfish spawning is well underway. A spread of age groups and sizes are found in the catch from newly hatched (several mm's long) up to very large breeding adults. The community catfish fyke netting program led by Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) known as 'The Te Arawa Catfish Killas' has been actively recruiting more school groups to assist with the netting program and expand advocacy messages around a range of pest species.

1221 Reserves Management

The summer maintenance programme is behind due to the ongoing rainy weather inhibiting the mowing schedule, early spray works and the Kaituna balancing culvert weir replacement. We continue to prioritise these works but we await on contractor availability and a dry period to lower water levels enabling access and works. Hopefully we should be caught up by Christmas. The summer 2024 maintenance works remain on schedule. All of the above is dependant upon the current NES-W rules and any modifications made as a result of the current review – due out November 2022.

Discussions have been put on hold with BOPRC and DOC to consider “global” resource consents to undertake enhancement and maintenance activities within wetland reserves that are

no longer permitted under the new rules of the NES. We continue to await review of the NES-W rules with final wording predicted Nov 2022. Once obtained we can progress discussions.

One new landowner request has been received to provide advice on a wetland pond newly constructed, principally planting for waterfowl breeding and flight lines for hunting. This landowner is in Gisborne – and I will arrange a site visit to concurrently visit the other two outstanding landowner visits, which are being inhibited by clarity of the NES-W rules.

Please note – the vast majority of land owner visits require works in what is now deemed “natural wetlands” under the NES-W rules. As stated previously, these rules are under appeal with final wording predicted Nov 2022. Until final wording is obtained, trying to progress wetland works currently is considerably more time consuming and costly as works are very restrictive unless resource consents are obtained. Once final NES-W rules are established it should be a clearer pathway to do, or not to do, wetland enhancement works.

The Burt Wetland project in Te Puke. I have met with BOPRC planning staff and ecologists who have provided an avenue to progress the project and detailed the resource consents required. Discussions have occurred with the land owners who agreed with F&G staff that the application and project be put on hold for one year to enable some pre site spraying to occur and soil borrow area details assessed. This time also enables sufficient iwi consultation to occur, plus ensure the desired works contractor to be available. Works are planned for spring summer 2023/24.

The NZGBHT funding application for a water control structure weir was approved. For this project.

1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats

A forum meeting was held 4th October at DOC Tauranga. Attendees included DOC, F&G, BOPRC, Tauranga City Council, QEII and one Tauranga iwi representative. Generalised discussions occurred regarding day to day works, but what was evident was all parties awaiting on the NES-W rules review to undertake summer maintenance works and enhancements. The next meeting is planned for March 2023 at the F&G office Rotorua.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Access maintenance work is underway and ongoing. Maintenance and enhancement of access has been carried out at the Ngongotaha Stream, Waiteti Stream, Kaituna River at Okere Falls, Waiioeka River system, and in the Rangitaiki River system. Further work is underway or pending in various locations around the region.

Signage inspection and maintenance and enhancement is ongoing. Angler access signs around the Gisborne and East Coast areas have been inspected and maintained, with some replacements having been required.

We have met with senior Timberlands staff to build relations and to discuss angler and hunter access into Timberlands Forests. Efforts were made to have access for anglers extended past the end of September due to the low fire risk, however this was unsuccessful. We have again

discussed and requested consideration of summer access to at least the Flaxy Lakes and canals. We are advised that the CNI Collective access committee must make any access decisions and at this stage it is unlikely that decisions will be made to favour angler access over other groups including forest owners.

Access investigations are ongoing in various other locations as to potential opportunities to enhance access to fisheries around the region.

Liaison as required with landowners and managers at various locations. Staff have dealt with some anglers who have contacted us concerned at the loss of some huts within Te Urewera, and how this may effect angling trips into those areas.

1312 Signage

Sign maintenance and enhancement is ongoing with replacements as required.

1313 Hunter Ballots

The number of hunters that have either applied for or reconfirmed their stand is the lowest recorded (209). For the last three years (2022 – 2020) there were respectively 259, 261, and 277 hunters in the ballot.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life E-zine was published for September, October and November and covered season prospects and reports.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, changes to the children's fishing page, a notice of weed spraying on Rotorua lakes, an opening day report, and opening day prospects.

1334 Social Media

Facebook continues to attract good traffic and interaction with users. We have over 1,700 organic followers. Our Instagram page is increasing in popularity with over 300 followers. Regular posts are made to both.

1341 Information Pamphlets

A re-print of the Rotorua lakes brochure has been received.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Five fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

No angler/hunter training was held for the reporting period. The final two children's fishing events were successfully held for the reporting period.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Two club visit was conducted for the reported period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Wairua Hut is continuing to be used and booked by anglers at Lake Tarawera. Waikaremaona Hut continues to be used by staff as required while working in the area.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

Updates in CE Report

1421 Public Communications

Lake Waikaremoana Genesis Consultative Meeting

The Genesis Consultative meeting was held on 6th October this year. Eastern Fish & Game staff attended and presented an overview of Fish & Game projects in the Wairoa / East Coast Catchment including the Lake Waikaremoana winter fishery surveys.

Rotorua Lakes Symposium

The 2022 Rotorua Lakes Symposium organised by the Lakes Water Quality Society was held on the 10th and 11th of November. Matt Osborne attended on behalf of Eastern Fish & Game.

Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee (TFAC)

Matt Osborne represented Fish & Game NZ at the TFAC meeting held on 22 November and gave a report detailing the Rotorua lakes opening (1 October), the upcoming summer fisheries surveys program and the licence sales tracking to date.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Staff have dealt with a number of callouts to reports of persons fishing in closed waters, otherwise there have relatively few incidents encountered or reported. Areas which are still carrying late spawning fish continue to be monitored. Frequent wet weather and high water has hindered anglers but has also meant many spawning areas have not been in optimal condition for those inclined to trout poaching.

Poor weather at the trout fishing season opening and at many times into the season has meant we have had fewer than expected angler contacts so far this year.

Contacts Year to date 2022-2023.

555 anglers and hunters have been checked for compliance YTD – to end of October. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2022-2023

Month	2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Last 5 yr average
September	21	46	16	51	35	31
October	893	726	724	718	520	779
November	20	126	16	66		59
December	309	237	287	182		281
January	442	246	404	352		328
February	307	265	155	140		201
March	180	23	164	93		93
April	124	7	153	238		140
May	252	143	297	203		224
June	168	162	124	141		153
July	63	75	45	57		64
August	54	20	22	32		32
Total	2833	2076	2407	2273	555	2425

National CLE Liaison Role

Eastern staff continue to fill this role and to provide CLE and prosecution advice to various regions on request, and to coordinate ranger safety and communications (CERT) training.

1521 Ranger Training

Ranger training is up to date. A CERT training course was held here at Eastern Region on 19/11/2022, for our staff and with various staff and rangers from 3 other North Island and 1 South Island region attending. This included a session on rangers powers and interviewing, and best practice, as well as training on health and safety matters.

Rangers

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute around the region as and when they can.

1531 Prosecutions

Prosecutions have been proceeding well with most matters dealt with being resolved via diversion processes. 1 matter is pending further court appearances, with at this stage of a Not Guilty plea and therefore likely to go to trial.

Offences 2022-2023 Year:

5 persons dealt with for 8 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2022-2023 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	3
Fishing in closed waters	5
Total number of offences	8

Offences Pending Resolution

Other than a number of matters which are pre-2019 which have warrants for arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in Court, there is only 1 matter, of 3 offences pending resolution, which is currently before the court.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	1
Fails to give details	1
Obstruction of ranger	1
Total number of offences	3

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. The CE and staff have made a number of visits to various agents around the region since the last meeting of Council.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

Updates in CE Report

1841 NZ Fish & Game Liaison

Kate Thompson continued to provide regular updates of licence sales and other information requests to the New Zealand Council and regions. She has also provided ongoing input to outstanding fixes and bugs occurring in the new licence system. Some improvements for agents require scoping by the supplier and will take a little longer to implement.

9.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

25 November 2022

1. 2022-2023 Fish Licence Sales

1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2022-23 season compared with the 2021-22 season to 24 November are summarised in Table One. Fish licence sales are reporting to be 5.0% below 2021-22 season results for the same period.

1.2 Whole Season categories are trailing behind last season for the same period and an increase in purchasing of short-term categories is evident.

1.2 A pre-Christmas email is being sent to all Season categories who are yet to renew their licence for the new season on 25 November.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 24 November 2022

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2021-22	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2022-23	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family Season	884	926	1,810	791	884	1,675	-135
Season Non-Resident	740	758	1,498	675	666	1,341	-157
Loyal Senior	2	11	13	22	52	74	61
Local Area Adult	239	228	467	206	231	437	-30
Winter Adult	688	335	1,023	592	407	999	-24
Long Break Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short Break Adult	2	2	4	3	5	8	4
Day	39	95	134	60	148	208	74
Day Non-Resident	151	411	562	187	415	602	40
Total Adult	2,746	2,780	5,526	2,580	2,909	5,489	-37
Fish Junior							
Season	100	94	194	95	94	189	-5
Season Non-Resident	0	2	2	3	1	4	2
Day	11	26	37	15	52	67	30
Day Non-Resident	2	1	3	2	0	2	-1
Total Junior	113	123	236	115	147	262	26
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Day Non-Resident	0	2	2	5	1	6	4
Total Child	0	2	2	5	2	7	5
Total Fish	2,859	2,905	5,764	2,700	3,058	5,758	-6
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			5,263			4,999	-264
Variance between Seasons							-5.0%
\$ (excl GST)			\$627,015			\$630,346	\$3,331

Summary 2022-2023 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2022-23 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,565	100.0%	\$1,019,001
2022-23 Actual	4,999	58.4%	\$630,346
Variance to budget	-3,566	-41.6%	-\$388,655

9.5 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REVIEW & UPDATE

As we approach the end of a year, it marks a 6-month period of my tenure and a year of change for the team. With the retirement of Andy Garrick, the continued amalgamation process discussions and a long awaited but not yet finalised organisational remuneration review has set a scene that could have disengaged and severely affected the team's morale. However, I have found that although these issues are of concern and of great interest to all team members, they have not allowed these uncertainties to affect their performance or dedication to the organisation and its values. For this I am most grateful to all the staff in the Eastern Fish & Game Region.

Te Urewera – We were very distressed by the recent actions of Te Uru Taumatua who destroyed over 30 huts that were used by many groups including anglers. We expressed our concerns to NZ Fish & Game to raise at the highest level with DOC in Wellington as well as our concern for the ambiguous position of ownership of Waikaremoana Lakebed.

RotoruaNZ - in conjunction with Hamills Rotorua have created a 'fishing' display at the Isite. With Cranxworks finished, RotoruaNZ has assured us that their team is now working on creating a promotional fishing video.

We are also working with RotoruaNZ in developing an educational guide that will put us on a list of venues that schools can access funding to visit. This funding will allow us to charge an appropriate fee for hosting these educational visits.

Rental Properties – We currently have one property empty and are actively advertising for a tenant through the agent.

Networks and Contacts – I have connected with NZ Deer Stalkers Association and NZ Game Council to build stronger working relationships, as we have similar values and share members. This will support all organisations as we deal with proposed legislative changes that can affect our members activities and the work that we carry out.

In November I met with Te Uru Taumatua CEO Kirsty Luke and her Executive team as part of my introduction push. I also met DOC Team leads in Taupo and Tauranga and have an appointment early December to meet with DOC Regional Director in Whakatane.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to speak at the CIT Fishing competitions opening night and also at the Tauranga Fishing Club evening.

During the past month I was also able to visit agents in Whakatane, Taupo and Tauranga to introduce myself and listen to them first hand with their concerns of the new licencing system.

We recently had Corina Jordon, NZFG CEO visit our Region to attend a national CERT training and during this time introduced her to key contacts who can have influence both regionally and nationally.

Early December I will be visiting Gisborne for a planned 3 day trip, meeting stakeholders, partners and licence holders during my visit.

In late October the managers had a Strategy meeting which was very useful in creating a picture of; what our values are, where we currently see ourselves and how we want to get to where we want to be. Also, the process looked at our threats and how we can look at overcoming these concerns. The team at Eastern were included in the preparation work and added great points that formed the bases of the discussions.

Hawkes Bay F&G suffered a major loss of their long-standing administrator, which left the region in a difficult state. Eastern F&G namely Kate Thompson has been offering support at the level she can, considering her busy work schedule here and her commitment to National projects. We have also worked closely with National office in the support offered to HB.

10. 2021-2022 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.04

8 December 2022

1. Purpose

To adopt the Performance Report for the 2021-2022 year.

2. Background

The Performance Report for the 2021-2022 year has been completed and audited by Owen McLeod. The draft Performance Report was provided for consideration at Council's 6 October meeting, and a final copy which includes the Independent Auditor's Report has been provided via email for this meeting.

3. Reporting Standards

The Performance Report has been prepared under a Public Benefit Entity Simple Format reporting - Accrual (Public Sector) (PBE SFR A (PS)).

4. Variance against Budget

A net deficit of \$38,829 was recorded for the year against a budgeted deficit of \$124,324.

The variance between the actual deficit for the year and the budgeted deficit totalled \$85,495.

4.1 Income

Total revenue for the 2021-22 year was \$86,879 over budget. This is made up from the following:

Amount	Note
\$32,034	Licence revenue achieved in excess budget
\$16,918	Covid 19 subsidies
\$15,336	Additional Contract revenue (primarily Genesis Energy Contract)
\$9,088	Increased general interest income
\$9,005	Increased Hatchery revenue
\$4,566	Rental income higher than budget associated with Fire Store lease
\$2,835	Unbudgeted revenue from mowing DOC reserves
\$2,348	Increased Interest income from Waikaremoana Fund deposits
\$2,000	Unbudgeted Sponsorship of Datawatch licence winners
\$1,652	Transect flights on-charged to BOP Regional Council
\$1,451	Unbudgeted General income
1,304	Insurance premiums on-charged to FENZ
\$537	Increased income from Huts, and Fish food
\$130	Unbudgeted donations
-\$66	Reduced ballot habitat maintenance fees
-\$391	Reduced Kids fishing donations
-\$750	Reduced Diversions for Junior Angler/Hunter Education
-\$921	Reduced income from fishing competitions
-\$2,043	Reduced income from Prosecutions and Legal expense recovery
-\$8,154	Gain on sale of fixed assets - sales delayed
<u>\$86,879</u>	

4.2 Expenditure (Direct)

4.2.1 Species Management

The total direct expenditure relating to species projects was \$16,431 over budget. The Population monitoring budgets were not fully utilised due primarily to funding which was approved from the Non-Resident reserve for the Lake Tarawera research projects not yet being completely drawn down (\$13k budget from the Non-Resident reserve vs \$784 expense) and reduced costs associated with drift dives. The underspend was however offset in part by increased flight costs and wages associated with the waterfowl monitoring projects (\$5,811)

The Hatchery costs were also higher than budgeted for the year \$25,004 which was due primarily to increases in the price and freight for fish food and vehicle maintenance and fuel (\$14,085). Additional spending also occurred for establishing an emergency water line and refurbishment of the fort knox area (\$11,050). This additional spending was funded from insurance proceeds and a donation. Hatchery income was higher than budgeted for the year by some \$9,000.

4.2.2 Habitat Protection & Management

Habitat related direct expenditure ended the year \$15,498 under budget due to planned habitat works, which were to be funded by the ballot holder habitat maintenance fees, being undertaken by other parties. The income received from ballot holders for this work was transferred to a dedicated reserve at year end (\$5,934). Spending for Waikaremoana projects was below budget because of the wages' component for these needing to be recorded against the general salaries budget (\$6,962).

4.2.3 Angler & Hunter Participation

The total direct expenditure related to client service projects was \$3,023 under budget. The costs associated with the development of the new Whirinaki access track were lower than anticipated and Timberlands continue to contribute to the Rangitaiki access track maintenance.

4.2.4 Public Interface

Public Interface direct expenditure ended the year \$3,511 under budget. The Public Promotions budget was not fully utilised as a result of deferring the Fish for Gold Promotion. The funds allocated for the promotion were transferred to the Fish for Gold reserve at year end (\$3,500).

4.2.5 Compliance

The overall direct expense in the Compliance Output was under budget by \$2,826. Prosecution costs were reduced due to fewer prosecutions going through the Courts.

4.2.6 Licensing

Licensing costs were lower than budgeted (\$6,553). This was due to increased licence sales occurring through the Public Online facility which reduced the overall costs payable in agent commissions.

4.2.7 Council

Council related expenditure was \$1,871 over budget due to increased travel expenses for meetings related to the employment of the new CE.

4.2.8 Planning & Reporting

Planning and reporting expenditure was \$8,425 under budget as a result of unspent funds which had been allocated for R3 projects which were to have occurred with the input and support of national Marketing and Communications Manager (\$8,500). This project was essentially deferred due to changes in staff at the New Zealand and Eastern Fish & Game Council's.

4.2.9 Overhead

The overhead expenses have been split into Employee related costs, Other expenses and Depreciation, and the combined end of year variance was \$22,918 (1.95%) over budget.

Employee related expenses were \$18,956 over budget resulting primarily from the employment processes to hire and transition to new CE Arash Alaeinia, following the retirement of Andy Garrick.

Other expenses were over budget by \$1,561. Maintenance work planned for the cottage was deferred reducing the staff house expenses by \$4,923. Office premises expenses ended the year \$1,405 over budget, primarily a result increased cleaning and document destruction costs. Office equipment spending was over budget \$1,298 due to equipment requirements for new staff. Communications expenditure was \$895 under budget with small reductions in costs across several budgets. General expenses were over budget by \$942 a result of increases to insurance premiums. Field equipment spending was \$1,995 under budget primarily due to reduced equipment maintenance costs. Vehicle expenses were over budget \$3,661 and while maintenance costs were down the fuel cost was some \$6,500 higher than anticipated. An unbudgeted non-cash adjustment was made for revaluing the trout stock at year-end of \$2,068

Depreciation was \$2,401 over budget.

4.2.10 NZ Fish & Game Levies

The levy of \$134,951 was in line with budget.

5. Financial Position

5.1 Liquidity

The Council's financial position remains secure with current liquidity ratios, which indicate the amount of working capital or quick assets available, of \$4.47 of current assets to every \$1 of current liabilities (\$4.86 in 2020-21). Note current assets figure for this calculation has been adjusted to exclude fish stock on hand at year end (ratio including fish stock \$5.04, cf \$5.47 in 2020-21).

The Statement of Cash Flows highlights that net cash received from operating activities for the year was \$12,423 compared to \$192,697 last year. The net decrease in cash on hand at year-end of \$184,149 is made up of the inflow from operating (\$12,423), and the inflow/outflow of cash from investments and to fixed assets (\$171,726).

5.2 Debtors

The figure of \$99,532 is made up of current debtors, prepaid expenses, and accrued income (2020-21 figure, \$58,118).

5.3 Fish & Game General Reserves

The current National Financial Reserves Policy under Covid19 circumstances is that a Council's reserves will not fall below 20% of that Region's preceding year's bulk fund. This will be reviewed at some later point in time.

The Eastern Fish and Game Council's General Reserves (excluding Restricted Reserves) to 31 August 2022 totalled \$697,157. The Council's General Reserve sits at 60% of the 2022-23 bulk fund (\$1,151,697).

5.4 Restricted and Dedicated Reserves

Note 5 (page 55) in the Performance Report provides a summary of Council's Dedicated and Restricted Reserves. These include the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund, the Asset Replacement Reserve, the Non-Resident Levy Reserve, the Breeding Programme Reserve, the Fish for Gold Reserve, Ballot Habitat Management Reserve and the Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve.

6. Statement of Service Performance

The Statement of Service Performance commencing on page 5 of the Performance Report provides information on each output area including Projects & Objectives, Performance Measures, and Actual Results. The Summary Budget and Actual Expenditure table shown on page 5, and the more detailed Summary of Resources tables shown at the commencement of each output area, provide a summary of total expenses less income for each output area.

The total expense figures reported within the Summary of Resource tables not only include direct costs but also an allocation of the overhead costs based on the actual hours worked in each output area.

Note 13 on page 60 provides a summary of the total expense for each output area detailing the overhead component and hours that contribute to this.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 That Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2021-2022 year.

11. 2023 GAME SEASON CONDITION

Ref: 1.07.03

16 November 2022

1. Purpose

To determine game season conditions for the 2023 hunting season.

2. Background

Council has established policies and criteria for determining game season regulations based on monitoring programmes undertaken in the January preceding the game season. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this Agenda Item.

Mallard and grey duck (greylard) harvest regulations are determined from the estimated population size [18/11/10.16]. There are three sets of regulations depending on how large or small we believe the population is likely to be at the commencement of the game season (Figure 1). When our predictions are that the population will fall into the low category a set of restrictive regulations comes into effect, while a relaxed set is applied if we assess the population as being likely to be high. When the population is somewhere between an intermediate set of regulations is applied. What is important to understand is that we are unable to accurately assess population size until after the regulations have been set, and indeed, until after the hunting season has finished. This means we need to develop, refine, and utilise a predictive approach to determining population size that we have confidence in and is as robust as we can make it.

Population change from year to year is dependent on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration. Band recovery data suggest the bulk of the mallard population is relatively sedentary, and it is assumed that what emigration occurs will be offset by immigration. We have 26 years of population estimates and the same for survival rates. With this data we can estimate the productivity or recruitment (the number of juveniles that make it to the hunting season) from year to year. It is likely that productivity will be influenced by several different variables such as the previous year's population size, predator numbers, the preceding harvest, and climatic factors (e.g., rainfall and temperature). To predict population size, Matt McDougall has examined how well these variables explain changes in greylard (mallard and grey duck) population numbers. The "best fit" combination of factors for greylard populations to date has been the previous year's population size, and harvest, coupled with winter rain and a year effect (the population is decreasing over time). Summer rainfall appears to also have a bearing on the subsequent population size however summer rainfall is not available at the time regulation recommendations are required for the Game Season Gazette Notice. This data has been used for the past three hunting seasons to predict the greylard population and has subsequently proven to have done a reasonably good job of it. Over the long term this method would have produced the "right" result (the predicted population is in the correct regulation zone) in at least 22 of the last 25 years (88%) with two of the incorrect fits at the beginning of the study (1998 & 1999).

The 2023 estimate of 221,429 greylard (Figure 1) puts the regulation set as restricted.

The Papers for Information accompanying this agenda provide a more in-depth explanation of this process.

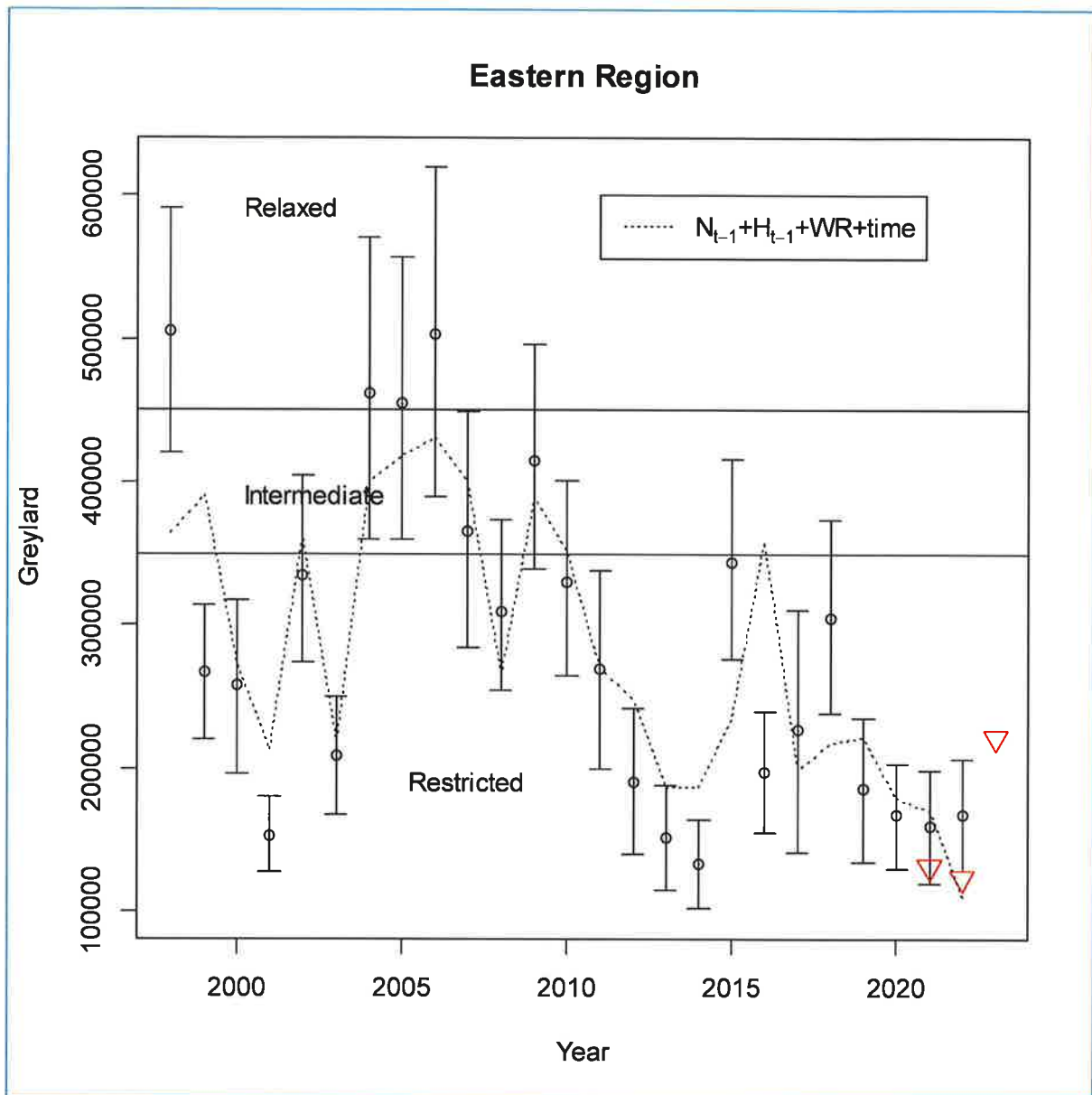


Figure 1. Eastern Region mallard population (open circle; mean \pm 95% BCI) 1998–2022, with three zones of regulation constraint, Restricted, Intermediate and Relaxed (demarcated by the horizontal lines). The dashed line shows the model $N_{(t)} = N_{(t-1)} + H_{(t-1)} + WR_{(t)} + \text{time}$ where $N_{(t)}$ =mallard population in year t , $H_{(t-1)}$ = greylard harvest in year $t-1$, $WR_{(t)}$ =total winter rain (recorded at the Whakatane weather station) in year t , time = year (t). The upside-down red triangle represents the predicted 2021–2023 greylard population.

Black swan regulations are based on population size estimates and trends over the past twenty years, and paradise shelduck regulations on population trends alone (see Appendix 1 to this agenda item). Aerial counts of swans and parries are undertaken in mid-January. Analysis of this data is usually completed by Waitangi Weekend. Shoveler duck populations are assessed from ground-based counts undertaken throughout New Zealand in August each year, but unlike other waterfowl species there are no established criteria for setting season regulations other than applying a conservative approach to the trend counts obtained. As a result, regulations have tended to remain the same each year.

Upland game regulations also tend to remain the same from year to year. Staff undertake some monitoring of pheasant populations by conducting crow counts in November, but this provides only limited insight into numbers as it is undertaken prior to the breeding season. At this stage we do not have a robust means of quantifying upland game populations to inform the setting of bag limits and duration of season. Quail are also recorded during the November survey, but the data collected is insufficient to enable a meaningful analysis. Staff have only seen a few brown quail in the Eastern Region in recent years, and for some years prior to that they were only ever observed in small, isolated coveys. The annual Game Bird Hunter Survey has not recorded a brown quail having been shot since 2007, which suggests that they are an inconsequential harvest, and/or that the population is too low to support a harvest.

At Council's November 2022 meeting, one issue was raised for further consideration at this December meeting (a hen pheasant harvest). The Western Bay of Plenty Fish & Game Club (WBOPFGC) was subsequently invited to comment on this, and any other issue, they thought pertinent. The club have indicated they have no comment on the proposed 2023 game season regulations.

Appendix 2 provides the proposed schedule and regulations for the 2023 game season. The content of the highlighted cells in the schedule is subject to the outcomes of summer monitoring in January 2023 and will be finalised as per the policy direction indicated in Appendix 1. Council will be advised in early February of the results of the summer monitoring programmes (trend counts), and the consequent regulations that will apply.

3. Information for Further Discussion and/or Making of Resolutions

3.1 Special Black Swan Season (*resolution required*)

The background to this topic is provided in Council's November meeting agenda. To reiterate, swan on Tauranga Harbour and some of the Rotorua lakes in Management Area A1 have been reasonably high since 2014 (Figure 2). There is a strong inverse relationship between the increase on Tauranga Harbour and a decrease in swan numbers in the Waikato lakes. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council and some Tauranga residents have expressed concerns around the number of swan on the harbour and the effect large numbers have on seagrass (*Zostera sp.*).

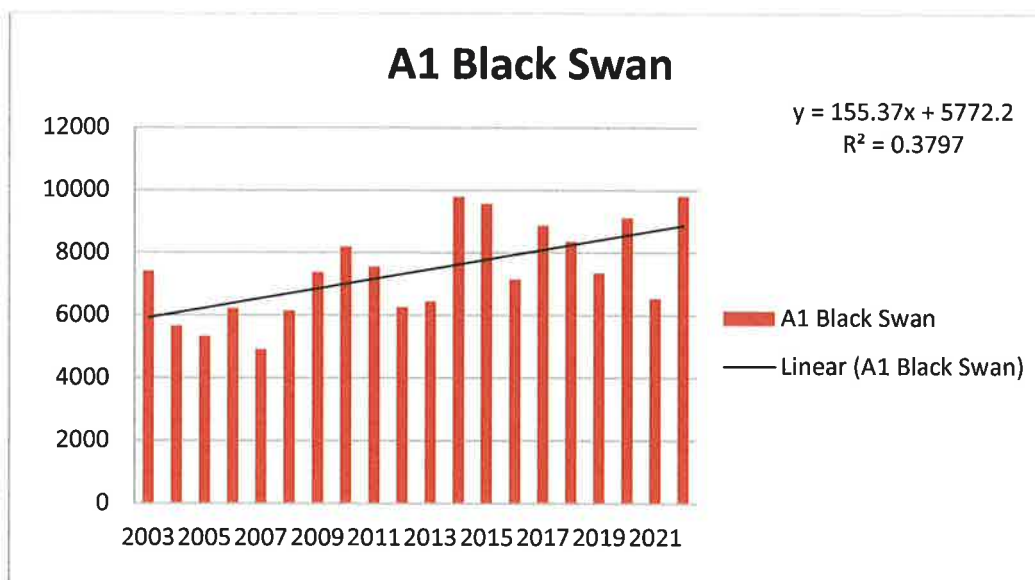


Figure 2. Black Swan counts in Management Unit A1 2003 – 2022

A special two-day season has been held every year since February 2019 (refer 2018 Game Gazette Notice). Additional opportunity has been provided for the end of the 2022/2023 season with a special swan season Gazetted for 25 February – 5 March 2023 for Management Area A1, and for Tauranga Harbour only on the weekend of 25 – 26 March. Council needs to decide if they wish to have another special season in 2024.

Last year the Western Bay of Plenty Fish & Game Club suggested that the special season could be moved to late March as the end of February coincides with a lot of other activity on the harbour. They suggest the date for this should be before the birds leave to breed, and before Easter weekend. The only issue with an end of March hunt is that the tides aren't ideal.

An organised hunt on Tauranga harbour requires a good high tide (>1.9m) that occurs mid-afternoon (in order that hunters can access Blue Gum Bay where the shoot occurs). There is only one weekend in the February – March period that provides both of these and that is 17 – 18 February 2024.

Recommendation

3.1.1 That there is a special black swan season in Management Area A1 coinciding with the same period for a proposed special pukeko season i.e. 17 February – 25 February 2024 (one week and two weekends);

3.2 Special Pukeko Season (resolution required)

In previous years the dates of a special season for pukeko have coincided with the special swan season but the area has applied to the whole of the Eastern Region (i.e., not just Management Area A1). The rationale for the season is to reduce predation by pukeko on ducklings and other water birds (refer to Council's November 2021 meeting agenda for more detail). At the November 2021 meeting Cr Rayner suggested that the pukeko season could be extended beyond just one weekend.

Recommendation

3.2 *That there is a special pukeko season 17 February – 25 February 2024 (i.e. one week and two weekends) for the Eastern Region.*

3.3 **Brown Quail (resolution required)**

For the last three years there was no open season for brown quail in the Eastern Region. This came about because of a perceived decline in the population. There has been no reported harvest (hunter survey) for many years and they have disappeared from the few pockets staff know of. The WBOPFGC have also reported members had not seen any brown quail for a number of years.

Recommendation

3.3 *That the season for brown quail in the Eastern Region remains closed for the 2024 season.*

3.4 **Hen pheasant harvest**

3.4.1 Introduction

At the October 2022 Council meeting Council indicated they wished to consider the introduction of a hen pheasant harvest in the Eastern Region for the 2023 game bird season. This paper presents biological and harvest data and provides extracts from the minutes of previous meetings when this topic was discussed.

Council have previously considered this issue at the November 2011 meeting. An extract from the minutes from that meeting is provided:

Considerable discussion was had regarding the proposed trial of a limited hen pheasant harvest. Some Councillors said they had been approached directly by some hunters raising concern over the ethics of hunting the breeding stock. Other Councillors felt a limited harvest of hen birds would be very unlikely to effect the overall productivity but would provide some limited opportunity for novice hunters or dogs. Mr Paul Register also spoke of his concerns about legalising a hen pheasant harvest. Council was divided over the setting of regulations for a limited hen pheasant harvest based on the potential opportunities, verses the limited biological information available and ethical and emotional concerns.

9.2 *Moved (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that council supports the trial of a limited hen pheasant harvest of 1 hen bird per day on opening weekend only and that Council acknowledges the resources required to monitor the effect of the trial. [Not carried]*

Further, Brian Samson Western Bay Fish and Game club stated at the November 2010 Council meeting: *that the Western Bay of Plenty Fish & Game Club (WBOPFGC) had concerns about the idea of a limited harvest of hen pheasants. We have asked the WBOPFGC following the October 2022 meeting for feedback on the proposal for a limited harvest in 2023 but they stated they didn't have any issues.*

3.4.2 Background

Pheasant are generally considered polygamous however the evidence is equivocal (Westerskov 1956). Polygamy in pheasant may be a function of sex-based harvest. In areas with little or no harvest males will bond with a single female. In more intensely harvested

areas sustainable population of one male to 7-10 females have been observed in Canada (Westerskov 1956; 1962). The norm in New Zealand is 1:2-3 (Marchant and Higgins 1990).

The rationale of sex-based limits with polygamous species is that a proportion of the population can be harvested without affecting the breeding potential. There are examples of polygamous species where both males and females are harvested such as grouse in the USA. The pheasant is the only r-species (high producing species²), that I am aware of, that has sex-based harvest.

Accidental harvest of hens is incidental to harvest of cocks (Figure 3). It is not known if hunters include hens in their hunter survey tally but I would guess not. Anecdotally less than 5% of the male harvest is hens (pers. obs.). Westerskov (1953) reports 4 out of 62 (6.4%) of harvested banded birds were hens.

We do not have enough data to understand the consequence of a hen harvest so we may have to follow the old “suck it and see” adage.

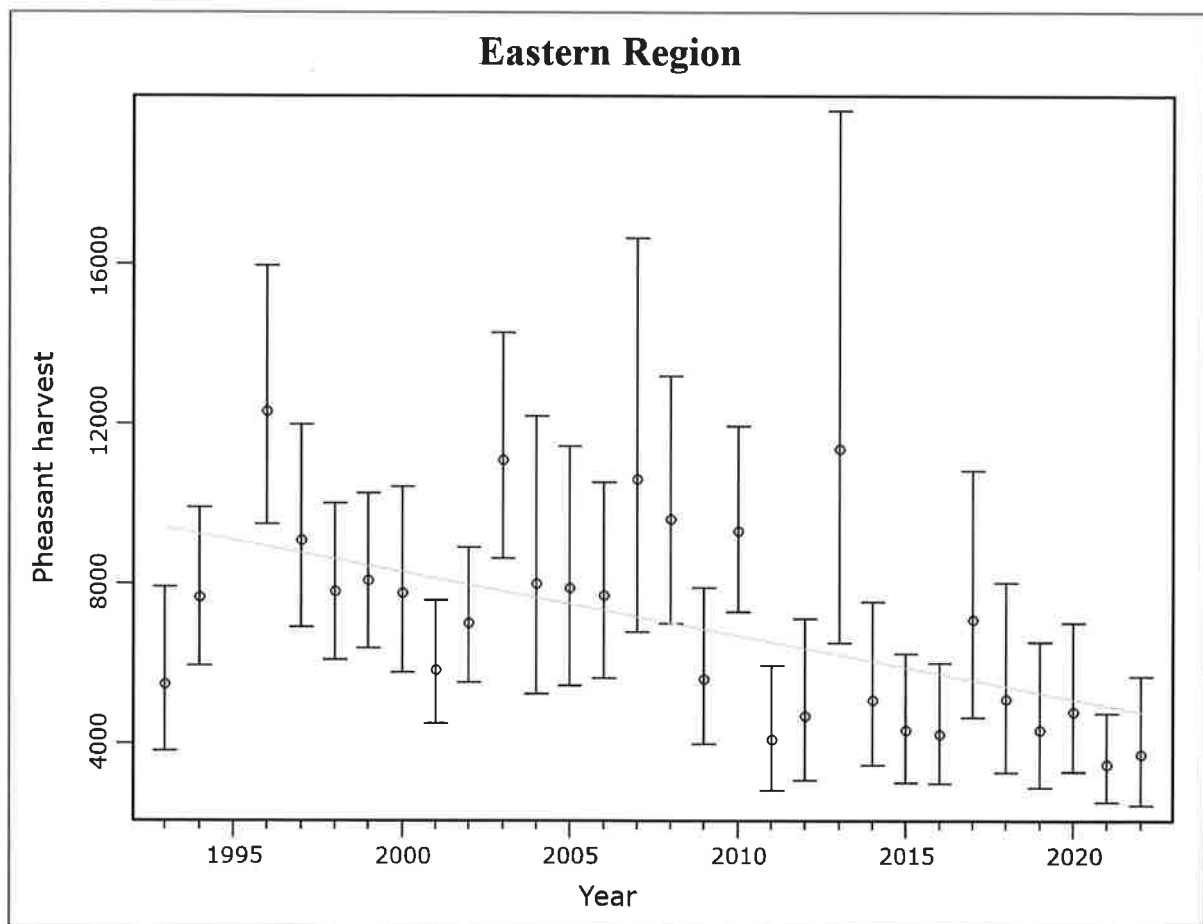


Figure 3: Estimated whole season pheasant harvest in the Eastern Fish and Game Region.

² Clutch size 8-9, precocial young, breed at 1 year but can breed as young as 6 months. Two broods in one season possible but rare (Westerskov 1956; Marchant and Higgins 1990)

3.4.3 Options

Should the Council wish to proceed there are a number of ways that a hen harvest could be introduced:

- **Bag limit:** for example 1 per day for the season or 1 opening weekend only.
- **Season length:** some reduced season (compared with cocks).
- **Quota:** a total quota for the season. This could be managed through a permit system (built into the gazette notice). For example a maximum of 200 permits allowing hunters to harvest 5 hens over the season (the hen would be recorded on the permit at the time of harvest).

3.4.4 Comment

Bag Limit: Bag limits are consistent with current regulations and are easy to enforce. The downside is that we have little control over total harvest.

Season Length: As with the bag limits regulations around season length are consistent with current management. Introducing a reduced season may provide some control over total harvest. Most hunters do not hunt pheasant over opening weekend so staff suggest that the season encompass more than just this weekend.

Quota: The permit system has the advantage of setting the total harvest plus provides an opportunity to get information back from the hunter such as cocks/hens flushed, perhaps age data (e.g., wings/legs) and maybe effort (however this is already determined from the hunter survey). Further this option would involve a lot more effort.

3.4.5 Recommendations

That a one hen pheasant harvest be allowed for a season length to be determined by Council.

APPENDIX 1: CURRENT POLICY AND CRITERIA

1. GREYLARD (Mallard and Grey Duck) POLICY

- (i) *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ngahi Bidois) that Council re-affirms the current threshold levels, criteria, and conditions for regulation setting for grey duck/mallard, paradise shelduck and black swan. [18/11/10.16]*
- (ii) *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [16/12/10.3]*
- (iii) *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [16/12/10.4]*
- (iv) *Agreed (Ian Pirani/Lindsay Lyons) that Council authorises staff to make a decision on Game Season Regulations outside of policy when an issue has been flagged. [12/10/8.2]*

2. Paradise Shelduck

- (i) *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [16/12/10.5]*

Threshold Criteria

Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels

LONG TERM POPULATION TREND	SEASON
Negative ie. population declining	Restricted
Zero ie. population stable	Intermediate
Positive ie. population growing.	Relaxed

Table 2: Eastern Paradise Shelduck season conditions

SEASON	Area	Specific Conditions	
		Length (weeks)	Bag Limit
Restricted	A1 & A2	4	4
	B2 & B1 South of true right bank Uawa River	4	4
Intermediate	A1, A2	8	6
	B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River	8	10
Relaxed	A1, A2, B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	10
Fixed Season condition	B1 North of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	20

3. Black Swan

- (i) *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [16/12/10.5]*
- (ii) *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the “Intermediate” regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e, when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*

Threshold Criteria

Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels

POPULATION SIZE	TREND	SEASON
Low (below 1,000)	Negative	Restricted
Low (below 1,000)	Zero	Restricted
Low (below 1,000)	Positive	Restricted
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Negative	Intermediate
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Zero	Intermediate
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Positive	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Negative	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Zero	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Positive	Relaxed

Table 4: Eastern Black Swan season conditions

SEASON	SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (LENGTH AND DAILY BAG)
Restricted	No season
Intermediate	8-week season with a 5-bird limit for Management Units A1, A2 and B1. 6-week season with a 4-bird limit for Management Unit B2.
Relaxed	16-week season with a no-bird limit

4. Hunting with Australasian Harriers Policy

- (i) *Agreed (Mike Little/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the application submitted by the NZ Falconers Association and Wingspan to hunt Pukeko with Australasian Harriers in the Eastern Region subject to the game bird season conditions and bag limits. [13/10/8.2]*
- (ii) *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposal to allow registered falconers, who hold a game bird licence and an Authority to Handle birds from the Department of Conservation, to hunt other game bird species as listed within the Game Bird hunting regulations. [16/10/9.11] Cr Alan Baird opposed the motion.*

APPENDIX 2: PROPOSED 2022 GAME SEASON

The First Schedule extract from the 2022 season is provided in the October 2022 Agenda.

EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION³

SECOND SCHEDULE 2023 GAME SEASON

1. Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2022/2023 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	6 May to 5 June 2023	6	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	6 May to 5 June 2023	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	6 May to ? 2023	6?	Area A1, A2 Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
	6 May to ? 2023	10?	
	6 May to 16 July 2023	20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pukeko	6 May to 27 August 2023	10	All areas
	24 February – 3 March 2024	10?	All areas
Black swan	6 May to 27 August 2023	No limit	Area A1
	24 February to 3 March 2024	No limit	Area A1
	17 February to 18 February 2024	No limit	Tauranga Harbour only
	6 May to 2 July 2023	5	Area A2

³Reference to Description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 22 May 1990, at page 1861

	Closed season	0	Area B1 & B2
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	Closed Season	0	All areas
Brown quail	Closed season	0	All areas
California quail	6 May to 27 August 2023	No limit	Area A1 & A2
	6 May to 27 August 2023	5	Area B1 & B2
Cock pheasant	6 May to 27 August 2023	5	All areas

2. Definition of Areas

The following descriptions refer to Management Units within the Eastern Region (described on Infomap 242B-2 Land Information New Zealand). The Management Units are defined using both District Council and Eastern Region Fish and Game boundaries. The coastal boundaries of Management Units A1, B1 and, B2 follow the coastline as per Infomap 242-2.

- (1) **Area A1:** Tauranga District, Western Bay of Plenty District, that part of the South Waikato District within the Eastern Fish and Game region and east of State Highway 1, Rotorua District, Kawerau District, Whakatane District and Opotiki District.
- (2) **Area A2:** Those parts of the South Waikato District west of State Highway 1 within the Eastern Fish and Game region, Taupo District and Ruapehu District, which lie within the Eastern Fish and Game region.
- (3) **Area B1:** Gisborne District.
- (4) **Area B2:** That part of Wairoa District within the Eastern Fish and Game region.

3. Shooting Hours

6.15am to 6.15pm in all areas for all species during their respective seasons.

4. Decoy Limit

No Limit

5. Special Conditions

- (1) No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the Eastern region with any magazine shotgun unless the shotgun:
 - a. has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
 - b. the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Act; so that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than 2 shells in the magazine, with no more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.
- (2) No maimai shall impede the use of navigable channels in the Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua and Lake Taupo.
- (3) A person who erects a maimai in the Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua, Ohiwa Harbour, Stump and Waihi Bays of Lake Taupo must dismantle and remove it within 2 weeks of the close of the season (ie by 11 September 2023).
- (4) A licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.

- (5) No person shall wilfully within the Eastern Fish & Game Region, in or on any public place, or in or on any private land without consent of the land occupier:
- a. deposit any type of litter, including any carcass or part of it, of any shot game.
 - b. having deposited any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game, leaves it after having been deposited.
 - c. for the purposes of this regulation litter includes any refuse, animal or game remains, or waste matter or items of any type used in the course of hunting, which is abandoned or intended to be abandoned.
- (6) A person must not use a drone to disturb game birds.

6. Hunting From a Boat Under Power

No person may possess a firearm that can be rapidly deployed in or on any unmoored vessel, except (1) where the unmoored vessel is not being propelled at the time by a motorised device, or (2) the firearm is needed to retrieve wounded game. For the purpose of this subclause a firearm is considered unable to be rapidly deployed if it has been dismantled or secured in a case, gunslip or other secure compartment.

14. Kaituna Wetland Ballot Holder Access

Background

17.3 Reserve Access during the hunting season: Cr Coutts raised the issue of the gates being locked in the reserves after the second week of the game bird season. He considered that this was a major impediment for many hunters wanting to use the reserve after this date as it was a long way to walk carrying gear to some maimais. The issue was meant to be addressed prior to Andy Garrick leaving but it didn't happen. Staff agreed to prepare a discussion paper on this.

(From Unconfirmed minutes of October 2022 Council Meeting)

Action

As stated above this issue was brought up in the June 2021 Council meeting as per the below.

12.0 BALLOT HOLDER ACCESS TO THE LOWER KAITUNA WMR

12.1 *Cr David Woolner noted that Cr Lindsay Lyons had prepared a paper on hunting access to the Kaituna Reserve and emailed it to all Councillors to be considered in conjunction with the prepared agenda item. David commented that the discussion to follow may be relevant to other managed wetlands also.*

12.2 *Cr Debbie Oakley pointed out that Council needed to confirm whether it was appropriate for Cr Lindsay Lyons and Adam Rayner to be involved in the discussion having earlier recorded their conflict of interest with this item. All those present agreed that Crs Lyons and Rayner should be able to provide information and participate in the conversation. Andy Garrick advised that staff looked forward to hearing Councillors' views and suggestions and would take these into account when reviewing, and if appropriate, modifying our current approach. He noted that ultimately it was an operational matter for management to resolve rather than governors.*

12.3 *There was mixed opinion about closure of vehicle access at the conclusion of the exclusive ballot holder period and the following suggestions were made:*

- *Those with disabilities or incapable of walking significant distances could only hunt in the reserve when the gates were open to vehicle access if they didn't have a quad;*
- *Access should not be by vehicle the night before opening as people shouldn't be disturbing ducks;*
- *Once the gates were closed, access to maimai involving a significant walk was a disincentive to go and this resulted in a shortened season for those affected.*
- *Given the reserve is so close to built up areas, its unlikely to be long before people start using it for 4WD hooning.*
- *There is a maimai close to the gate which was vacant for most of the season, and this and others a relatively short distance away are options for those unable to walk very far.*
- *We need to publicise what opportunities exist to those less able, and prior to the ballots we need to advise hunters the accessibility and degree of effort required to reach stands if vehicle access is unavailable. Stands could be categorised*

along the lines of being easy, moderately challenging, or requiring greater effort to get to.

- *Risks and consequences of leaving gates open, e.g., damage to tracks, health and safety issues.*

- 12.4 *Cr Ken Coombes asked for John Meikle's comment. John provided some background to Council in relation to damage done to tracks in the past not only by hoons, but unintentionally by otherwise caring hunters. John noted the significant funding and effort put in by the Regional Council over the past couple of years to upgrade the tracks and detailed the system we currently have in place in terms of gates, quad access, and other users. The Department of Conservation had not contributed to maintenance costs over the past 7-8 years and our total budget less habitat contribution fee from ballot holders for management of this and all other reserves was in the region of only \$12,000. A substantial amount was spent on keeping water in the wetlands, and additional costs were incurred with mowing access tracks, e.g., staff time and equipment costs. The annual habitat contribution fee by ballot holders of around \$5,000 contributed to spraying and maintenance of access tracks in all balloted reserves, but when tracks were seriously damaged as they easily can be when water levels are higher than they were this year, this amount of money doesn't go far. If our budget is constantly having to be directed to maintenance and repair of tracks, it leaves nothing for enhancement or development of additional access.*
- 12.5 *Cr Barry Roderick felt that the outer access ring road was solid and suggested that vehicles be kept out of internal access ways, and maybe Fish & Game could provide keys to those with mobility issues. Cr Alan Baird suggested specific, easily accessible stands could be made available to those who inform Fish & Game they have limitations in terms of their ability to walk any distance. Cr Lindsay Lyons suggested that ballot holders could contribute to maintaining access tracks through working bees.*
- 12.6 *Cr Ngahi Bidois left the meeting at 1.30pm.*
- 12.7 *Cr Ken Coombes did not support vehicles in wetlands, quad access was available, and he agreed that closer and more easily accessible stands could be identified.*
- 12.8 *Eben Herbert indicated his preference would be for vehicles to be excluded from wetlands but felt that the Kaituna Reserve ring road may be something that could be made greater use of if it was possible to prevent people from deviating off it.*
- 12.9 *Andy Garrick thanked Council for their input and suggestions and advised that staff would devise an approach aimed at maximising access opportunities while minimising damage and other potential impacts.*

This access topic was further discussed in the August 2021 Council meeting as per the below.

12. *BALLOT HOLDER ACCESS TO THE LOWER KAITUNA WMR*

Ref: 8.03.03

1. Purpose

To review hunting access arrangements for balloted stand holders in the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.

2. Background

This item has been included in the agenda at the request of Cr Lindsay Lyons.

For the past seven years, general i.e., 'large' vehicle access (e.g. cars/utes/SUVs) for ballot holders during the game season has been provided to the wetland via the access gates at the

south-eastern and south-western end of the reserve. In 2015 the gates were open for opening weekend only (from Friday morning the day before to Monday morning the day after). From 2016 to 2018 the gates were also opened over the final weekend of the mallard season (from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon) to enable hunters to retrieve hunting gear via 'large' vehicle if they wished to do so. Since 2019 general vehicle access over opening weekend has been extended from the Friday before opening day to the Sunday afternoon at the conclusion of the exclusive nine day 'ballot holder period', i.e. prior to walk in hunting permits for non-balloted hunters being available. Some restrictions on vehicle use also apply within the reserve, i.e. hunters are asked to comply with signage indicating "no vehicle access" to certain tracks, and to park within designated parking areas.

In addition to the access provided above, quad/UTV access to the reserve is, and has been available, for the full duration of the mallard season over the past seven years.

Higher base water levels are currently experienced within many parts of the reserve than was generally the case in earlier years, and on these occasions and/or when tracks have been exposed to heavy rainfall are susceptible to substantial damage from even light and considerate traffic movements. We have been fortunate to have had many tracks within the wetland upgraded at little or no cost to us over the past couple of years by Bay of Plenty Regional Council in conjunction with the major wetland development and enhancement projects that have been taking place within and adjacent to the reserve. This is close to coming to an end however, and we can no longer expect to any assistance in that regard. The Department of Conservation is unwilling or unable to contribute to track maintenance, nor could it be expected to where the damage is attributable to game licence holder activity during the hunting season. Track repair is expensive, and needs to be balanced off against our obligation and desire to facilitate and maximise access opportunities for hunters.

Restrictions and a variety of arrangements relating to vehicle access apply to other balloted wetlands also (see appended text from Eastern webpage for 2021).

3. Recommendation

3.1 Council discusses issues, tradeoffs, and principles associated with providing vehicular access for balloted hunters to the Lower Kaituna WMR during the game season (and more generally, to other wetland reserves, e.g., Awaiti WMR).

As a result of the June 2021 Council discussions and in preparation of the August 2021 Council meeting, staff discussed certain process that would help add value to hunters utilising this area. Those actions were:

1/ Agreed that having the main access gates open for all vehicles into the Kaituna could occur from the Thursday before opening weekend – logic being any additional time to this beforehand will not be utilised and could create greater disturbance to birds.

2/ Agreed that closing of the main access gates could occur the Wednesday post-closing weekend – logic being enabling hunters to gather gear and not be rushed on the closing day and having any impact on birds is not relevant. Only possible issue is people hunting post season.

3/ Agreed that hunters once taking vehicles into the wetland must then park their vehicle at designated car parks throughout the wetland – logic so randomly parked vehicles throughout the wetland do not detract from hunter’s wilderness experience and affect birds entering the wetland and affecting hunting (driving all over the place and reflection etc).

4/ Agreed that staff would continue to explore option to address the issue of uninhibited vehicle access to tracks throughout the wetland for the whole season. However, concern was expressed that most of the side tracks will not handle constant vehicle use and will rapidly degrade. It was reasoned that with the main gates opened and to prevent side track damage we would have to restrict access to these side tracks, but signage was ignored and insufficient and pole inserts or rock barriers were not feasible or cost effective.

For the 2022 season, the gates were closed to vehicles (but quad access enabled) at the conclusion of the ballot holder exclusive period (second Sunday evening) – points 1, 2 and 3 were implemented. Signs were erected encouraging parking and the closure of unsuitable tracks (these were moved aside by the hunters!).

Outcome

Following the October 2022 Council meeting the staff had very robust discussions about the points raised by both Councillor Lindsay Lyons and Kevin Coutts, the success, and failures of the changes for this year’s access.

Staff agreed that issues still arise enabling uninhibited vehicle access throughout the wetland and the damage of tracks. Staff agreed that access should be enabled but managed with conditions to minimise track damage. This is especially relevant should future mallard hunting seasons be longer in duration (intermediate (6 weeks) or unrestricted (8 weeks)).

Consequently, staff agreed

- a) That points 1,2 and 3 as stated previously remain
- b) That the main access gates are closed at the conclusion of the ballot holder exclusive period to general vehicle access – but quad gates are opened
- c) That an offer of keys (special hunting access padlock) to the two main gates after the ballot exclusive period is over, for hunters that are unable to walk or use other means to get to their maimais. This would be on an application basis, with conditions, and a \$50 refundable bond would be needed.

Staff are exploring other options of education and closer correspondence with ballot holders to progress access into this reserve.

I must also make mention, EF&G is not reducing access to this area, as access is available. Our mandate is not that every fishing or hunting area needs to have vehicle access. By controlling and managing the effects of vehicle access to an obvious wet, soft, and unstable track we are helping to enhance the access and paying respect to our other partners who operate in this wetland, that being DOC, BOPRC, iwi – and the other public that have right of access and enjoyment of the wetland.

Future treatment of non-resident levy (inclusion as licence income)

To: Council Chairs
CC: Council Managers/CEO's
Prepared by: Carmel Veitch, CFO, NZ Fish and Game Council
Date: 21 September 2022
Comment Due: 31st January 2023

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

To Consult with Regional Councils on the inclusion of the non-resident levy in total licence income.

Ngā taunaki - Recommendations

The NZ Council is consulting with Fish and Game Councils on the following points:

1. Whether to include the non-resident levy as general licence income from the 2023/24 Financial year onwards

Agree/Disagree

Note: If agreed, it is the intention for the increase in overall income to be used to offset increases to resident licence fees in the future.

2. Whether existing non-resident reserves should:
 - a) Remain in regional dedicated reserves

Agree/Disagree

- b) Be merged into a National Pool

Agree/Disagree

- c) Be maintained in the Regions for use until 2024/25 then merged into a National Pool.

Agree/Disagree

Note:

1. The Minister has noted that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council intends to consult with regional Fish and Game Councils on the inclusion of the non-resident levy as general licence income and has raised no objections. Resultantly this would no longer need to be earmarked for fisheries projects.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

- 1 There is presently a levy on the non-resident licence, which is not included as Fish and Game licence income. Instead, it accrues in a dedicated reserve of Regional Council that sells that licence.
- 2 NZC wishes to change this policy so that all revenue from the sale of a non-resident licence becomes licence income for the whole of Fish and Game and is included in the Annual Budget process.

Takenga mai - Background

- 3 The non-resident levy was introduced in 2014/15.
- 4 The levy amount was the difference between the resident whole season licence and the non-resident licence, less GST & any applicable commission @ 4.5%.
- 5 When it was introduced, it was the Minister's wish that the levy be used for the improvement of back country fisheries management.
- 6 In September 2015 NZC resolved that each region maintain a dedicated fund of the levies collected in their region.
- 7 In 2019/20, The Minister confirmed that the non-resident levy is able to be used for any fisheries management.
- 8 A prior decision of NZC in August 2020 to treat the levy as licence income was made without consultation and was rescinded in February 2021.
- 9 In June 2022, as part of the licence fee setting process, NZC agreed to consult with Regional Councils on bringing the non-resident levy amount into general licence income for the 2023/24 season and onwards.
- 10 At the 158th NZC meeting on 16th June 2022 the NZC
Agreed to consult with regions on bringing the non-resident levy amount into general licence income.
- 11 In the subsequent Licence Fee recommendation to the Minister dated 20 June 2022, the Minister noted that NZC was undertaking consultation on treating the non-resident levy as licence income.

Kōrerorero - Discussion

- 12 There are 3 distinct areas within the Fish and Game financial system that would be impacted changes to the treatment of non-resident levy income.
 - 12.1 Treatment of non-resident levy income moving forwards:
 - 12.1.1 From the 2023/24 season the levy is included as licence income in the budget and licence fee setting processes. note:

covid impacted overseas licenses and it may take a few years to get a clear indication of LEQ's to budget on).

OR

12.1.2 Status quo continues and the levy stays in the Region that sells the licence.

12.2 Reserves - How does Fish and Game treat the current non-resident reserves held by Regional councils?

12.2.1 All non-resident reserves get transferred to a central pool for Councils to apply to for fisheries management purposes. The balance of non-resident reserves as at 31 August 2023 are transferred to National pool.

OR

12.2.2 Each region maintains the non-resident reserve and works towards spending over the next 3 years (by 2024/25) Any unspent funds at the end of 2024/25 will be transferred to a national pool.

OR

12.2.3 Status quo. Regions retain non-resident reserves and funds accrued in these on an ongoing basis.

12.2.4 As there is no ability to levy reserves, any transfer of reserves to a national pool would be on a voluntary basis. However, this would enable the cost of managing fisheries to be spread across multiple councils and would facilitate national scale projects.

12.2.5 It is proposed that this would function akin to the Legal/RMA fund, whereby NZC would administer the fund on behalf of the organisation and applications would be made to the fund by Councils with the usual review of application undertaken by managers.

12.3 Impact on budget:

12.3.1 Because the non-resident levy is proposed to be included as general licence income, this will mean that there is an increase in the total available funds for distribution between Fish and Game Councils via the levy/grant system.

12.3.2 This increase in licence revenue further facilitates the ability to offset or reduce the resident licence fee, in keeping with the policy basis on which the Minister approved the increase in whole season non-resident licence fee to \$250.

Ngā kōwhiringa - Options

- 13 The Regional Councils are being consulted on whether they support the recommendations to:
- 13.1 include the non-resident levy as general licence income from the 2023/24 Financial year onwards;
- 13.2 And for existing non-resident reserves to:
- 13.2.1 Remain in regional dedicated reserves
- 13.2.2 Be merged into a National Pool
- 13.2.3 Be maintained in the Regions for use until 2024/25 then merged into a National Pool.

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision-making

Financial Implications

- 14 Income generated from the non-resident levy from 1/9/14 to 31/8/21 total \$1.48m (average \$211k per annum)
- 15 Total spending of this fund over the same period was \$372k.
- 16 The Balance of the non-resident reserve across all Regions as at 31 August 2021 \$1.11m.

Table 1: Summary of Non resident Levy - Back Country Fisheries Reserve

Summary	N/land	Akd/Wai	Eastern	H's Bay	Tara	Well	Nel/ Marl	N/Cant	WC	CSI	Otago	S/Land	Total
TOTAL LEVIES since 1/9/14	16,256	84,690	137,429	59,778	12,794	32,398	164,627	152,325	62,932	200,072	334,934	221,086	1,479,321
% of levies by region	1.10%	5.72%	9.29%	4.04%	0.86%	2.19%	11.13%	10.30%	4.25%	13.52%	22.64%	14.95%	100.00%
TOTAL SPEND to 31/8/21	2,214	-	10,162	-	5,000	-	77,831	105,046	16,802	22,629	67,128	66,099	372,911
Balance	14,042	84,690	127,267	59,778	7,794	32,398	86,796	47,279	46,130	177,443	267,806	154,987	1,106,410
% of levies Spent	14%	0%	7%	0%	39%	0%	47%	69%	27%	11%	20%	30%	25%

- 17
- 18 The above information identifies that the fund is not being utilised to its full capacity.
- 19 Merging the fund into a single pool will allow better collaboration and the ability to dedicate funds for National projects as well as towards Regionally focussed projects.
- 20 With the non-resident licence having being increased to \$250 (\$87 to the non-resident levy) this fund (held by Regional Councils) is likely to grow significantly if non-residents return to pre-covid numbers.

Legislative Implications

- 21 See attached the correspondence to/ from the Ministers with regard the use of the non-resident levy.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

- 22 As this consultation document exclusively pertains to the treatment of non-resident licence income there are no direct s4 responsibilities identified. However, if the proposed changes are adopted and there is an offset in resident licence fees this could support the accessibility of New Zealand's freshwater sports fishery to whānau/hapū.

Consultation

- 23 This document undertakes consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils.

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next actions

- 24 Feedback from Regional Councils due 31 January 2023.
- 25 NZC will then reach a decision having regard to regional feedback.

(F) Non-resident licence.



17 April 2019

Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Minister

I want to raise with you a change in Fish & Game NZ's handling of non-resident angler licence income.

A non-resident sports fishing licence (NRL) was approved by the Hon Kate Wilkinson, Minister of Conservation on 9th September 2012. In this letter the Minister stipulated that the NRL be *"at a cost of 1.3 times the adult whole season fishing licence, with the increased revenue obtained being directed to specific management to improve back country fisheries."*

The NRL was introduced in the 2014 sports fish licences, fees and forms notice and since that date this revenue has been set aside for back country fisheries. In the last completed fishing season (2017/18) there were 6,508 adult NRL's sold with a total additional revenue of \$204,807.

Fish & Game NZ remains concerned about non-resident anglers fishing intensively on our high-quality backcountry fisheries. However, we have come to realise that this demands more than a focus solely on the backcountry as non-residents also fish in our lowland rivers and lakes.

Hence Fish & Game NZ believes there is no value in continuing the ring-fencing of increased revenue obtained from NRL sales. We believe it more pragmatic to spread the full licence fee from non-resident anglers across each Council's budget in exactly the same way we treat other licence income. This will allow each licence to contribute fairly to the overall cost of managing sports fish and game each year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Martin Taylor'.

Martin Taylor
Chief Executive

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.
Telephone (04) 499 4757. Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz. www.fishandgame.org.nz



Office of Hon Kate Wilkinson

MP for Waimakariri

Minister of Conservation

Minister of Labour

Minister for Food Safety

Associate Minister of Immigration

J.14
13 SEP 2012

Matthew Hall
Chairperson
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
PO Box 13-141
WELLINGTON 6440

- 13 SEP 2012

Dear Matthew

On 27 July you wrote to me endorsing a proposal to introduce non-resident (i.e. not a New Zealand resident) sports fishing licence at a cost of 1.3 times the adult whole of season fishing licence, with any increased revenue obtained being directed to specific management to improve back country fisheries.

I would like to thank the Council for advising me of its support.

I look forward to this proposal being included in the New Zealand Fish and Game Council recommendations for sports fishing and game hunting licences and fees for 2013/2014.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kate Wilkinson
Minister of Conservation



Office of Hon Kate Wilkinson

MP for Waimakariri
Minister of Conservation
Minister of Labour
Minister for Food Safety

Associate Minister of Immigration

30 MAY 2012

E. 21

29 MAY 2012

Matthew Hall
Chairperson
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
PO Box 13141
Wellington 6440

Dear Matthew

In February 2012, I was briefed by the Department of Conservation on a proposal to establish a non-resident (i.e. not a New Zealand resident) sports fishing licence. At this time, I gave instructions to the department to finalise a report summarising submissions, to develop a preferred proposal taking into account submissions received, and to liaise with Fish and Game Councils over the proposal. Subsequent to that briefing, the department and Fish and Game officials have developed a preferred proposal. This proposal takes into account submissions received, and was formulated in consultation with Fish and Game officials. The proposal is that a non-resident sports fishing licence be introduced at a cost of 1.3 times the annual licence. It is also proposed to restrict eligibility for family and winter licences to resident anglers only. Attached to this letter is a more detailed schedule showing the proposed changes to Sports Fishing Licences.

Four regional Fish and Game Councils submitted on the discussion paper to support the introduction of a non-resident sports fishing licence. This specific proposal has not been formally considered by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, nor any Regional Fish and Game Council. There is no current request from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council to me recommending the establishment of a non-resident sports fishing licence.

I am also interested in the view of your council on any increased revenue being ring-fenced for specific management purposes for the improvement of back country fisheries management, rather than being applied to general advocacy work.

Should you have any questions, please contact Stephen Wynne-Jones swynneijones@doc.govt.nz who will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kate Wilkinson
Minister of Conservation

Attachment

Proposed Changes to Sports Fish Licences to introduce a new Non Resident Sports Fishing Licence

A non-resident is defined as any person who does not have a permanent residential address in New Zealand
(Amended text shown as underlined)

The proposed new Sport Fishing licence structure is as follows:

24 Hour licence

Adult \$23.00
Junior \$7.00

Family

Adult \$151.00
(available to residents only)

Whole Season

Resident

Adult \$116.00
Junior \$23.00
Child No fee

Whole Season

Non-resident

Adult \$151.00

Winter

Adult \$70.00
Junior \$14.00
(Available to residents only)

Hon Eugenie Sage

Minister of Conservation
Minister for Land Information
Associate Minister for the Environment

Minita mō Te Papa Atawhai
Minita mō Toitū Te Whenua
Minita Tuarua mō Te Taiao



- 4 NOV 2019

Mr Martin Taylor

Via email: mtaylor@fishandgame.org.nz

Dear Mr Taylor

Thank you for your letter dated 17 April 2019 seeking a change in Fish and Game NZ's handling of non-resident licence income. I note that non-resident licence holders fish in both the front and back country fisheries.

I understand that there is no legal constraint to spending the revenue raised through the non-resident licences in either or both the front and back country fisheries.

I note you are seeking to improve the value of your expenditure, and I look forward to getting further feedback on the financial strength of Fish & Game NZ.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Sage".

Hon. Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

14. 1 OCTOBER OPENING

31 October 2022

1. Purpose

To consult on amending the 2023 and beyond opening day for the 3 lakes (Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti) from the current 1st Saturday in October to the 1st October.

2. Background

2.1 The Anglers Notice

The Anglers Notice Process traditionally begins at the February Council Meeting, is continued through the April meeting and then concludes at the June Council meeting. The purpose of this is to allow licence holders to feed into the process with their views, very much a ‘user pays – user says’ exercise. Resolutions are then disseminated to NZ Fish & Game Council by the end of June to present to the Minister for approval.

Following the 2012 Anglers Notice Process, Council moved to a biennial (every second year) full review to alleviate time constraints and workload. As such, the 2022-23 season represents a partial Anglers Notice review in which important issues such as threats to sustainability or participation should be reviewed. The issue around reviewing the opening date for Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina certainly falls within the ‘threat to participation’ category as it concerns Eastern Regions most popular fisheries with thousands of licence holders directly affected.

Regarding the opening date, an overwhelming amount of licence holder feedback has already been received by Council and if Council are intent on rescinding the standing regulation and revert to a 1 October opening date, it is important that quick action be undertaken in order to inform anglers that are already seeking to book accommodation for the 2023 opening day. The Eastern Office has received a number of queries since 1 October 2022 relating to this.

2.2. Discussion Document from item 14.0, October 2022 Council Meeting

Staff were asked to provide a report around the proposal to open lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina year-round. The below is the report provided for the October 2022 Council meeting:

14. FEASIBILITY OF YEAR-ROUND FISHING SEASON

21 September 2022

1. Purpose

To discuss value and effects of having year-round fishing in the Rotorua lakes and thus not having an opening/closing season except for designated spawning areas.

(a) What are the positives and negatives, both in added value and potential increase of licence sales?

(b) Any scientific and/ or cultural need to have the lakes closed between July and September?

2. Recommendations

The Council is to discuss the marketing effect, possible increase or decrease in licence sales- and any cultural and scientific values the impact of year-round fishing against closing and opening on the 1st of the month or the 1st Saturday of the month (October) would have.

3 Executive Summary

Currently 3 of our lakes close to trout fishing (except for designated shoreline fishing areas) from 1 July and reopen on the 1st Saturday in October (previously the 1 October).

In the past other lakes were also closed, however over time successive Council's have made the decision to open the less popular lakes over the traditional closed period. This decision has not had any negative or seemingly positive effect on the fish, their quality, or the licence holders perceived value for purchasing a fishing licence. Although some licence holders will feel better value for their licence is provided if the lakes are all open year round.

Scientifically, there is no evidence that closing the lakes for this period has any beneficial effect on the health and wellbeing of the fish. However seasonally the fish are at their best from February onwards compared to the mature post spawning fish being slabby in the late winter and spring – early summer period. These are hatchery stocked lakes to provide enough trout to boost catch rates and spawning waters are protected by winter closure.

From a marketing point of view, there is a definite value to having a closing and an opening as this adds an urgency to purchase a licence and undertake angling during the open period. Also, psychologically this method is used in most promotional marketing to create a 'hype' or 'fear of missing out'. It also creates a 'date' in the calendar to perform a certain task (e.g. purchasing a licence) that may otherwise not be actioned if procrastination sets in and the task is not completed due to there being no perceived consequence if not done. So, by having an opening of a season, an event is created to action the licence purchase, that may realistically result in the licence being used a handful of times. However, if that date (event) is not set, the customer might realise that if they have not purchased their licence within the first month of the season and the fact being last year, they may only have gone out fishing a few times may make it not worth buying a licence now/ this season?

The process of having an opening (after an enforced closure) also adds a practical layer to the work that the Fish & Game staff (and honorary rangers) carry out, which is having a set date to carry out data collection and a known period where a forecasted block of income is collected. Fish & Game have more than 40 years of angling information and fish metrics collected from opening day across the 3 lakes which is an enviable dataset. By opening the lakes year-round, the new licence period at 1 October would merely become a rollover and it would not be possible to gather anywhere near comparative angler contacts nor information.

If the expected revenue does not arrive (e.g. licence sales are down) in the lead up to the opening or the following month of the season, as all income is gathered via licence revenue - future Fish & Game budgeting will be strained.

The closing also has a practical application, whereby our staff use this 'down time' to carry out other work streams, monitoring of and data collection of vulnerable areas and engagement opportunities with landowners and stakeholders. By having the lakes open, there will be a need to undertake greater compliance and survey activity which will mean other tasks within the Operational Work Plan will need to be reduced.

We should also take into consideration other knock-on effects that by having the lakes open year-round might have on other statutory authorities with regard to on lake traffic, maintenance work carried out on the boat ramps, jetties and biosecurity requirements.

There has also been a comment made from a local kaumatua regarding not being in favour of the lakes being open year-round and it is possible we can risk creating tensions for future relationships and support by not engaging with and taking regard of the wishes of local iwi, even though there may be no scientific evidence to support their claims.

Altering an all year opening regime for these 3 lakes is not the sort of regulation change you could easily go back on if it didn't work out – so if licence sales suffered it would be difficult to reverse because the perception of 'giving' more fishing opportunity would be more acceptable than taking it

away at a later date. With past alterations to the Gazette Notice there has been the opinion “It’s not set in stone, we can change it if it doesn’t work”, however in this case, these 3 lakes provide for up to 80,000 angler days per annum and there could be resistance to give up newly provided opportunity.

The Eastern staff do not support year-round opening of the 3 lakes for the reasons highlighted above and RotoruaNZ are also in favour of the current closing and opening period due to the opening hype and ‘fear of missing out’ it creates. Even if this is replaced by an ‘opening carnival’ it will not have the same psychological effect. However, RotoruaNZ does support the idea to introduce a carnival event on the 1st weekend in October and to reintroduce the opening to the 1st of that month, as this date resonates more to the passionate and long-standing fisherman and is not seen as a lost opportunity for engaging new anglers. However, the stories of the ‘great times’ experienced and the social comradery of the day will be a marketing tool to help sell more licences to those who have disengaged or those who are considering giving it a go!

Action

A possible next step, would be to ask our licence holders over the coming period their views on having a year-round season and if they see added value and what their usage would be?

2.3. October 2022 Council Discussion Outcome

14.0 FEASIBILITY OF YEAR-ROUND FISHING SEASON

14.1 General discussion ensued around the proposal to open the lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okatina) all year and to formalise the opening day as the first Saturday in the month. Counsellors were asked to voice their opinion on both matters. Cr Oakley read out Cr Coombs email and Arash read out email from Cr Thomas. An around table discussion resulted in an overwhelming agreement in principle, to keep the status quo for the three lakes and to open the fishing season on the 1st of October. Cr Lions was the only dissension. It was agreed that this was not binding on Councillors but rather a reflection of their thoughts on this matter. A more thorough discussion was proposed following a staff report at the next Council meeting.

3. Outcome for year round lakes opening

Opening the 3 lakes to all year angling (outside of current winter shoreline fishery) would not impact on biological sustainability of the trout fishery. The spawning areas are protected through their own closures.

Anglers would have greater opportunity to access the resource and participate in trout fishing.

However, the enforced 3-month closure of these particular lakes provides social, marketing and data gathering opportunities to Eastern Fish & Game.

Anglers look forward to the opening day on these three lakes following the 3-month closure of the lakes fishery. It is a major event circled on their annual calendar to spend with their friends and families.

To have a year-round open season would reverse all of the Eastern Council’s intent to create a ‘special atmosphere’ around the opening period and would effectively remove what is a very special marketing and promotional tool for Eastern Fish & Game.

We are unable to foresee what effect opening the 3 lakes year-round would have on licence sales or timing of licence sales that affects Eastern Region's budget forecasting. Opening the lake for the extra 3-month period may produce some further winter, short term, or day licences? The current model with enforced closure acts as a trigger mechanism for many that the opening event is coming and there is the requirement to purchase licenses. In the event of a year-round open season, the 'special' opening day event is removed and licence sales may be lost through anglers simply never getting around to fishing because they can do it at some other convenient time. They may then not find that time.

To remove the opening day (following lakes closure) would remove the chance to survey up to 800 anglers across the three lakes and capture a snapshot in time of the fisheries and compare to a 'like for like' dataset going back well over 40 years. This could not be replicated in any other manner.

While these lakes close to boat-based fishing over the 3-month-period (1 July to 30 Sept), the numerous other lakes remain open providing excellent fishing opportunities for boat-based anglers.

Based on the majority agreement at the October 2022 Council meeting, not to have our 3 lakes open for year-round boat fishing, and the above Eastern F&G view this discussion does not need any further investigation. To further support this outcome, I attend Te Arawa Lakes Trust Komiti Whakahaere, where the Komiti led by its Chair Ken Raureti (who had previously expressed his and his iwi's opposition to year-round opening at a Council meeting in August 2021, which Council decided not to pursue) stressed that they were against the opening of the 3 lakes for cultural and spiritual reasons.

The October 2022 Council discussion did lead to Council wishing to review its decision made two years ago on opening the 3 lakes on the 1st Saturday in October back to the 1st October, due to feedback and the realization of the impact of value to the anglers.

4. 2023-24 Opening Day Date for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina

A resolution was passed to shift the opening day from the 1st of October to the 1st Saturday in October at the June 2020 Eastern Region Council Meeting. This resolution was in opposition to the views of Eastern Region staff and to an overwhelming majority of licence holders who participated in a targeted survey.

Realization is dawning with anglers that if the opening date for these 3 lakes is not changed back to the 1st of October for the 2023-2024 season opening (Sunday), they will have to wait an entire week till the 1st Saturday rolls around before they can fish their desired location.

The 2023-24 opening date for these lakes (if kept as the 1st Saturday) will fall at the end of the school holidays further disadvantaging families and youth anglers that are otherwise able to fish for a week prior to heading back to work and school commitments at the conclusion of the holiday period.

Fish & Game staff have observed over many years of opening day surveys, that the day of the week does not have the same effect on attendance on opening that weather does. Fine, calm weather openings produce more attractive conditions on the lakes than rough, windy and wet weather and influence participation to a much greater extent than the day of the week on which opening falls.

The 2022-23 opening was a clear demonstration of this point.

Recommendation

That Council withdraws the current state of Opening the 3 lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) from 1st Saturday in October to the 1st of October.

15. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

15.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

15.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

15.3 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Debbie Oakley

17. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Ref: 8.04.04

28 November 2022

1. Purpose

To discuss sensitive matters pertaining to natural people.

2. Recommendations

2.1 *That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on Council's self-appraisal of its performance and other confidential matters.*

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER ACT	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

Note:

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”