



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

8 June 2023

AGENDA

The 202nd Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: **Thursday, 8 June 2023**

Commences: **11.00 AM**

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 201st MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 6th APRIL 2023 AT 1.04PM (11.30AM)**

PRESENT

Crs. Murray Ferris (Acting Chair), Debbie Oakley, Lindsay Lyons, Mike Jarvie, Mark Sceats, and Ken Coombes. Alan Simmonds joined at 1.04PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Arash Alaeinia, Eben Herbert, Matt Osborne, Mark Sherburn, Anthony van Dorp, Eden Mutton (Eastern Fish & Game); James Barnett (Doc Tongariro/Taupo), Ken Raureti (TALT), and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 11:35am, and welcomed all attendees, and invited a karakia from Ken Raureti.

1.2 Murray Ferris outlines that a quorum is not present at the start of the meeting at 11.35am, so no resolutions will be able to be passed. The meeting agrees to document resolutions and send out to absent Councillors for confirmation at the next Council meeting. However as 2 resolutions are critical, a Councillor will be contacted via electronic means to allow quorum and thus enable the 201st Eastern Fish and Game Council meeting to recommence. This was done at 1.04pm.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Jay Tapsell, Ngahi Bidois, Kevin Coutts, Geoff Thomas and Scott Nicol.

2.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 201st meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained.*

Note: Resolution to be reconfirmed at Council meeting scheduled for 8 June 2023.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (9 FEBRUARY 2023)

3.1 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

Note: Resolution to be reconfirmed at Council meeting scheduled for 8 June 2023.

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons commented that public excluded parts of meetings must be notified.

5.2 Cr Debbie Oakley – Lead shot in .410 update is in PFI Pg 67

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Lindsay Lyons – Evaluating Council and Chair Performance

Barry Roderick – Water quality in Lake Rotorua

Ken Coombes – Family licence for Game Bird hunting

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

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

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 8.1 *Health and Safety Report* – Report taken as read. Arash Alaeinia – Highlighted an incident which was a light sprain. No further work required in that space.
- 8.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. Note: Resolution to be reconfirmed at Council meeting scheduled for 8 June 2023.*
- 8.3 *Finance Report* – Cr Lindsay Lyons outlined that the Capri Club had donated \$300 to F&G for the use of the grounds last year and it had not been documented. He would like it documented in the minutes that Capri Club had donated \$300. Lindsay also queried a cost of \$1,300 for tractor recovery from Awaiti. Arash Alaeinia confirmed that the tractor had got stuck due to extremely wet conditions encountered during normal reserve work and required some heavy machinery to retrieve it.
- 8.4 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for January and February 2023 totalling \$429,476.19. Note: Resolution to be reconfirmed at Council meeting scheduled for 8 June 2023.*
- 8.5 *Management Report* – Taken as read. Arash Alaeinia highlighted that the team has been under more than normal pressure over the last two months due to the weather events that we have had. This has led to normal work programmes being compressed into periods of breaks in the weather. Arash wanted to note his thanks to the team for working extra days and long hours to get jobs done. However, he said we are still tracking behind on some work compared to where we would normally be.

Cr Murray Ferris reported that, with regards to the East Coast fisheries, he had heard that the Ruakaturi had recently fished well, with trout in good condition, and plenty of food present. Other anglers reported that they had fished poorly in the Waioeka, well in the Motu, and someone had caught a fish in the Hangaroa.

Arash Alaeinia outlined that our approach for dealing with East Coast fisheries is to wait through the wetter seasons of Autumn and Winter, then implement a strategic data review in summer to go to specific areas to look at habitat, spawning areas, and the general state of the waterbodies to assess the effects on those fisheries. In the interim we have asked for feedback on conditions from anglers, and others.

Barry Roderick outlined that the Waiari River recently had the biggest rainfall recorded since 1968. Queried whether staff know what our rainfall intensity was at the hatchery during recent events, how the infrastructure stood up, and whether the current processes and systems are still appropriate. Arash Alaeinia commented that there were no major events at the hatchery, rainfall intensity and accumulation didn't create any major slips, and we do have processes in place to deal with such circumstances. Barry Roderick questioned what the state of the vegetative cover around the spring at the moment is. Arash Alaeinia stated that it is still there, that there were no slips, and nothing has changed since a year ago.

- 8.6 *Licence Sales Report* – Arash Alaeinia advised that the Licence Sales Report was updated to the 20th of March, and as of the 31st of March we are now tracking at 2.6% down on last year as opposed to 2.9% in the report. Cr Lindsay Lyons felt the report didn't give a true indication of the decline in sales as the increase in fees increased revenue and which masked the decline in sales. Lindsay is concerned that if you have a business and your clientele drops off, then putting fees up is only putting a band aid on the problem, which

is not the right way to do business. He said we must stop the decline in licence sales. Arash Alaeinia confirmed that the increased licence fee did have a bearing on it but highlighted that the report refers to a 2.9% decline in licence sales, not the revenue derived from those sales. Additionally, costs are going up for everything, and licence prices need to increase to reflect increasing costs to the organisation. Arash agreed that the decline in sales needs to be addressed but suggests that a 2.6% decline is not bad considering the environmental situations we have experienced this year.

Cr Lindsay Lyons queried James Barnett about what was happening in Taupo in this regard. James stated that no licence fee increases had been made for the Taupo fishery, driven partly by their angler demographics (low income), but they will be increasing fees in the future due to increasing costs. They have also looked at higher fees for non-resident anglers, but modelling showed that this wouldn't have a significant financial benefit for them due to the low non-resident participation in Taupo. They are also having a look at the licence sales categories that they offer. Arash Alaeinia highlighted that the Taupo fishery is supported by DoC, which is a fully funded Government agency, whereas Fish and Game is not. They therefore have a better ability to hold fees and absorb costs, that Fish and Game cannot. Barry Roderick queried James Barnett about how their licence sales are tracking. James Barnett confirmed that generally sales are down a similar amount to the Eastern region.

9.0 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

9.1 Arash Alaeinia introduced the OWP and highlighted the main changes to it.

9.2 Cr Mike Jarvie suggested that we should go all out in the area of niche marketing because the current media options of Facebook, Instagram etc have generated an absolutely abysmal following. He felt we needed to target a new audience through T.V. advertising. Arash Alaeinia outlined our current marketing streams and acknowledged that marketing/communications is a weakness of the organisation in general, and that it is an area that is being addressed. Within Eastern we operate in this space at the best level we are able to considering our resourcing, via e-magazines, magazines, emails, social media, other options such as billboards were also being considered, however TV is not a realistic option considering our financial resources.

9.3 Cr Mark Sceats identified a lack of face-to-face interactions with licence holders as a significant issue leading to the licence holder disconnect. Arash Alaeinia confirmed that lack of communication had been identified by licence holders in the Gisborne area as an issue. However, he advised that we do provide a lot of communication avenues through 9 Reel Life e-newsletters a year, 2 x printed magazines a year, 3 x Both Barrel's and numerous pre-season e-reminders/updates. Plus, our Council minutes and agendas and our OWP are on our website which is available for those that are interested. He also noted that the low population density in the area means that while rangers do visit, contacts may be lower. EF&G staff also have regular contact with the Gisborne District Council on a regular basis. Arash was trying to work out what the best way forward is to address this issue. Anthony van Dorp outlined that in the last approximately 15 years, we have had staff and honorary rangers present in the Gisborne/East coast area on the opening weekend of the game season on around 12 occasions. We also have 4 honorary rangers based in Gisborne.

- 9.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons spoke of the issue around ongoing difficulties with access through Kaingaroa Forest to the Rangitaiki River, and the cost to Fish & Game in licence sales. It has been identified that equity with the access arrangement for the Maori landowners is a problem and suggested that we work with the owners to find a solution. He understood that insurance was a significant stumbling block during negotiations and finding a solution around insurance like a \$6 access insurance premium would solve the problem. Arash Alaeinia noted that this access issue remains a part of his and Anthony van Dorp's work schedule, and work is ongoing. Also, that anglers only require access through the forest, whereas hunters are undertaking their activities within the forest. Ken Raureti informed Council that he is a part of the CNI access subcommittee and hunters and fishermen were not considered in the same category. He said that trespassers and poachers are a significant issue and are considered in a very negative way by the subcommittee. Access issues for Iwi are the same as those faced by Fish and Game. General discussion ensued around trespassers, poachers and forest security.
- 9.5 Cr Debbie Oakley raised the issue of standing orders regarding approving contestable funding applications and the OWP included within this agenda item at this meeting. She advised that with NZ Council standing orders, a meeting must lapse if a quorum is not present (such as is the case here).
- 9.6 Cr Debbie Oakley offered to contact Dr Jack Kos (Senior Policy Advisor to NZ Fish & Game) to determine whether a quorum can be organized for the current meeting via virtual attendance (zoom/phone).
- 9.7 At 12:53 pm Cr Murray Ferris adjourns the meeting until 1:05pm
- 9.8 Cr Murray Ferris re-opens the meeting at 1:03pm.
- 9.9 Cr Debbie Oakley advised that she had spoken to Dr Jack Kos and ascertained that; a meeting can be held with member/s attending by zoom or phone, providing recommendations are repeated for adoption as a council resolution at its next meeting. Acting chair Cr Murray Ferris agreed with this approach and Arash Alaeinia contacted Cr Alan Simmonds by phone at 1:04pm and puts him on speaker.
- 9.10 Arash Alaeinia outlined details of the proposed contestable funding applications.
- 9.11 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the six contestable fund applications as detailed on pages 1-12 of the Papers for Information. [23/04/9.11]***
- 9.12 Cr Alan Simmonds leaves the meeting at 1:06pm
- 9.13 Discussion about whether a quorum is needed again to approve the Operation Work Plan in whole. It was decided that it is, and Arash Alaeinia contacts Cr Alan Simmonds by phone. Cr Alan Simmonds re-joins the meeting via speaker phone at 1:14pm.
- 9.14 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves the draft Operational Work Plan for the 2022-2023 year. [23/04/9.14]***
- 9.15 Cr Alan Simmonds leaves the meeting at 1:17pm.
- 10.0 2023-2024 ANGLER'S NOTICE**
- 10.1 Arash Alaeinia raises the Anglers Notice review. Cr Murray Ferris asks for comments. No further discussion. Council supported the recommendation to hold the conclusion of the Anglers Notice process for the 2023-2024 Season until 8 June 2023 Council
- 11.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND**
- 11.1 On the issue of the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Fund, Barry Roderick queried the geographic area, and applications covered by the fund. Matt Osborne clarifies that the

\$6,500 funding application is for operations within the Waikaremoana area, and that the fund is applicable to the Wairoa system.

11.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves funding of up to \$6,500 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund as submitted.*

Note: Resolution to be reconfirmed at Council meeting scheduled for 8 June 2023.

12.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

12.1 Council received the Species Monitoring reports. Cr Mark Sceats requested that sub-region data be recorded during future game bird hunter surveys. Cr Murray Ferris added that we used to collect the sub region data but could not remember why it had been stopped. Arash Alaeinia said that he would look into the reason why it had been stopped and appropriateness to collect the sub-region data moving forward. Barry Roderick stated the opening day angler surveys give a strong connection with our stakeholders.

13.0 FUTURE F & G REPORT

13.1 Cr Debbie Oakley outlined plans for futureproofing the organization at a National level. She advised NZC have established two working groups, Future Finance and Future Structure. Two NZC members and two chairs are on each group. The purpose is to consider what can change within the organisation under the current legislation. Finally have a draft terms of reference. It also looks at processes for budgeting and assessing funding applications in the future.

13.2 Discussion occurred about governance changes, and how they may benefit the organisation. Cr Lindsay Lyons stated that the ministerial review began as a governance review.

13.3 Cr Debbie Oakley informed Council that NZC have employed a new HR person to assist all regions and will be employing a finance expert.

13.4 Arash Alaeinia introduced the Future F&G Report and says that the main takeaway is that we need to be mentally prepared for change. We are a 30-year-old organisation that was set up to fail. The report is designed to generate discussion around positive change. Cr Lindsay Lyons stated that F&G was originally formed of 12 regions that were outside of Government influence. It was a strength at the time but is now a weakness.

13.5 Cr Debbie Oakley stated that the meeting would have a quorum if the number of councillors was reduced to ten. Cr Mark Sceats questioned whether the Council is wasting their time because half the Council is missing. The subjects are all going to have to be re-litigated in the future when a quorum is present.

14.0 FISH & GAME, LICENCE HOLDER DISCONNECT

14.1 Moved for discussion at 8 June meeting.

15.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS

15.1 *Report from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.*

No Report

15.2 *Report from the Department of Conservation*

No Report

15.3 *Report from the New Zealand Council*

Arash Alaeinia stated that the report from NZC was moved to the discussion on Future F&G. Cr Debbie Oakley advised that Corina Jordan now also provides a NZC update which is included in PFI.

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 16.1 Cr Murray Ferris raised the question of whether the meeting should have an update from James Barnett, then move to General Business. Council discussed whether it is worth discussing General Business in the circumstances, and how that might be done. Cr Ken Coombes was happy to move his discussion on Family Game Licences until the following meeting.
- 16.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons stated that we are overdue for a Council Performance Review. Papers should be sent out prior to the June meeting. Discussion about whether this should occur. Agreed that Arash Alaeinia is to organize sending out the evaluation templates.
- 16.3 Barry Roderick stated that Council needs to seriously consider the Future F&G report and start making some progress.
- 16.4 Cr Debbie Oakley suggested that Council should involve the new HR Manager in the 360 review. Murray Ferris clarified that the questionnaire has traditionally been shared to NZC, but not the results. Arash Alaeinia proposes to discuss the review with the new HR manager and create a process going forward. Barry Roderick suggested that Council should be getting input from other organisations such as DoC. Arash Alaeinia stated that there are different levels of review. It is important to get feedback from other organisations and stakeholders, but not for personal employment reviews. Cr Murray Ferris confirms that Arash Alaeinia is to talk to the NZC HR manager regarding establishing a suitable review process going forward and bring those recommendations back to the next Council meeting. Cr Mark Sceats considers that Cr Geoff Thomas is still a member of Council as his meeting apologies have been accepted at meeting/s within the preceding 4 meetings. This has the effect of granting a leave of absence.
- 16.5 Arash Alaeinia stated that any agenda items that have not been covered in this meeting will be carried through to the next agenda, including items of General Business.

17.0 *Report from the Department of Conservation (Tongiroto/Taupo)*

- 17.1 Murray Ferris invites James Barnett to provide a brief update on the Taupo fishery.
- 17.2 James Barnett made a presentation, and answered several questions to the effect that;
- Last winter the Taupo fishery was exceptionally good. Fish were caught in good numbers and sizes. The expectation is that catch rates and fish size would settle to around 2019 levels this year, based on lake productivity surveys.
 - Lake Otamangakau regulation changes this year, which have been received pretty well by anglers.
 - The Anglers Notice is being reviewed.
 - Licence fees are being reviewed.
 - There has been no obvious effects on the fishery from recent earthquakes.
 - The hatchery is owned by Tu Whare Toa. DoC remains integral in its management.
 - The hatchery is breeding specifically for the fish out, but also supplying fingerlings as a food source for a particular threatened bird species.
 - Catfish seem to have had a limited impact on the Stump Bay trout fishery.
- 17.3 Debbie Oakley informed Council that she now sits on the Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee, by Ministerial Appointment and was congratulated by all present.
- 17.4 Arash Alaeinia reminds Council that we currently have a sum of funding for a project looking at lake productivity in Rotorua, which is based on work done by Michel Dedual on Lake Taupo.
- 17.5 Murray Ferris thanked James and extended an open invitation for DoC staff to attend F&G Council meetings.

18.0 MEETING CLOSED

18.1 The meeting closed at 1.17pm (2.05pm).

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Murray Ferris
Acting Chairman

Summary of Resolutions

9.0 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

9.11 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the six contestable fund applications as detailed on pages 1-12 of the Papers for Information. [23/04/9.11]*

9.14 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves the draft Operational Work Plan for the 2022-2023 year. [23/04/9.14]*

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 200th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 11.30AM**

Present

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Matt Osborne (12.24pm), Mark Sherburn (12.35pm), Eben Herbert (12.47pm) (Eastern Fish & Game); John Waaka (TALT), and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

- 1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 11.30am with a karakia and welcomed John Waaka (Te Arawa Lakes Trust) to the meeting.
- 1.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) informed Council that he wished to add a Public Excluded Session to the end of today's meeting to update Council on items from the Public Excluded session held at the December meeting.

APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Geoff Thomas and Ken Coombes.
- 2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that the apologies for the 200th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (8 DECEMBER 2022)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct subject to the following amendment.*

14.1 - 1 October Opening

Amend all references pertaining to "Julian Danby" to "Julian Hughes". [23/02/3.1]

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 8 December 2022.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- 6.1 Kevin Coutts – Councillor numbers for next election
Mike Jarvie – Building and site maintenance
Alan Simmonds – Pine tree situation across NZ

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

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

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 *Health and Safety Report* – Arash Alaeinia informed Council that a staff member had recently suffered a sprained ankle and with this being so recent this was not included in the Health & Safety report. Barry Roderick expressed concern about the health and safety of volunteers assisting with duck banding and Arash Alaeinia advised he would liaise with staff about this. Cr Lindsay Lyons enquired as to whether a flotation device should be available for the children’s fish out pond in case a child falls. Arash advised that he would look into this but, as the property is a working site with multiple water hazards questioned, where do we draw the line. There was signage on the property informing visitors that children must be supervised at all times and expected that an adult would be nearby should such an incident occur. Cr Debbie Oakley suggested that it is management’s role to identify hazards and eliminate or minimise with appropriate records kept.

8.2 ***Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [23/02/8.2]***

8.3 *Finance Report* – Cr Debbie Oakley enquired whether the credit card in the name of Andy Garrick had now been closed, Kate Thompson confirmed it had. Debbie had also noted increased Council meeting expenses resulting from Councillor travel allowances and suggested that a higher budget be sought through contestable funding for the 2023-24 budget round. Cr Lindsay Lyons noted the spending on the lapsed participant email campaign and questioned the number sent and whether we can determine how effective this was. Kate Thompson confirmed that it was possible to see those who have since repurchased but difficult to ascertain whether they had repurchased because of the email campaign versus those who would have repurchased anyway. Further discussion occurred around retention, R3 objectives, and distribution of licence proceeds between Fish & Game regions.

8.4 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2022 totalling \$353,148.35. [23/02/8.4]***

8.5 *Management Report* – Management report was taken as read.

8.6 *Licence Sales Report* – Kate Thompson provided a more recent update on licence sales Key points noted were:

- The current variance is down on last season but with continued return of non-resident anglers throughout the season we expect to see year end results on a par with last season.
- It was concerning to see the numbers falling in the family and season categories. These being made up by Auckland Waikato based anglers followed by Rotorua and Tauranga and a smaller decline in Taupo.
- Gisborne and Wairoa numbers have increased this season, and this is likely contributed to by Lake Waikaremoana now able to be fished without too many restrictions.
- Four weeks of Eastern’s peak sales period had seen very poor weather.

Cr Lindsay Lyons expressed concern about the effects of climate change on New Zealand fisheries and how this will impact non-resident visiting anglers. Arash Alaeinia agreed that we have had some concerning weather events but highlighted that we are seeing good numbers of international anglers returning, and the lakes are fishing well albeit some of the streams have been impacted by these weather events. Cr Debbie Oakley agreed advising that NZ is certainly a destination of choice with international anglers currently. Barry Roderick asked whether we were looking to run the “Fish for Gold” event once again this season? Arash Alaeinia said he would liaise with staff but understood that prior Fish for Gold promotions had not materially increased angler

numbers as hoped. He advised that staff are involved with supporting organisations and clubs who run these competitions as opposed to running the promotions ourselves.

9.0 GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2023-24 OWP

9.1 Arash Alaeinia overviewed the purpose of the item and called for Council discussion around whether the current priorities should be carried through to the 2023-24 operational year or whether there were changes that Council wished to consider or have staff look in to. He advised he had commenced discussions with staff and that following this meeting he would look to formulate a draft OWP for the April meeting of Council. He reminded Council that with such limited resources any reasonable additions to work programmes would need to be offset by a reduction in effort elsewhere.

9.2 After some discussion Council concluded that the current priorities were still relevant and should be carried through to the 2023-24 work programme.

Council discussion included.

- Climate change
- Economic recession
- Banding project costs and F & G role in monitoring populations
- Trend counts
- Access to Kaingaroa forest
- Ruahihi canal/Lake McLaren fishery
- Utilisation of a drone to assist with some monitoring
- MPI contribution to the banding programme
- Operational relationship with Hawke's Bay F & G Council
- Wetlands – new requirements for farms
- Water quality – Rangitaiki river
- MPS Freshwater – consents required to enhance or maintain wetland habitats
- Fuseworks – access for Councillors

9.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Lindsay Lyons) that Council agreed that the current Council Priorities as detailed would be carried through to 2023-2024 Operational Work Programme. [23/02/9.3]*

10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

10.1 Matt Osborne highlighted the need to amend note 5.2 of the Anglers Notice following the December meeting resolution in which Council supported reverting the opening of lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, and Okataina back to the 1st of October. Note 5.2 related to anglers fishing from boats in winter shoreline areas “from 1 July until the 1st Saturday in October”, Matt Osborne advised that this needed to be amended to “from 1 July until 1 October”.

10.2 Matt Osborne also highlighted an issue that had been raised by Compliance staff relating to the landmark pole at the Lake Rotorua end of the Ohau Channel. It is currently situated approximately 10 meters above the weir on the Ramada Resort side of the Channel and is often obscured by trees. There is no landmark pole on the Takinga Street side. To make the limits clearer for anglers' staff proposed that the fly fishing only upstream limit be moved back to the Lake Rotorua outlet weir. Council supported this proposal and confirmed that no further consultation was required for this minor change.

10.3 Barry Roderick relayed a story to Council regarding Czech Nymphing where he understood that large numbers of trout had been caught using this method. Barry highlighted the argument put to Council previously that spin fishing was considered detrimental to a particular “fly fishing only” river and questioned whether Czech Nymphing should not also be considered in this light as this method seemed far more

detrimental than spin fishing. Barry suggested that Council may wish to review what is happening in Europe as Czech Nymphing had been banned in several countries.

10.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council agrees with the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2023-2024 Anglers Notice [23/02/10.4]*

10.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council did not identify any issues for further discussion for the 2023-24 Anglers Notice but suggested that Czech Nymphing be incorporated for further discussion next year when a full review of the Anglers Notice will be undertaken. [23/02/10.5]*

10.6 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council approves the amendment to Note 5.2 of the Anglers Notice to read "No licence holder shall fish for trout from a boat in the designated winter shoreline-fishing areas on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, and Okataina from 1 July until 1 October". [23/02/10.6]*

10.7 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council approves the amendment to the fly fishing only area of the Ohau Channel to read "between the lake Rotorua Outlet weir and landmark approximately 200m downstream of the weir". [23/02/10.7]*

11.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 *Report from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.*

No Report

11.2 *Report from the Department of Conservation*

No Report

11.3 *Report from the New Zealand Council*

The New Zealand Council was due to meet in the coming days and Cr Debbie Oakley asked for Council feedback on a proposal to remove the current exemption on use of lead shot in 410 shot guns within 200m of water. There were mixed opinions from Council and pros and cons identified included.

- the 410 was not originally designed to shoot ducks
- low use, predominantly by kids, small impact on environment
- used by some older hunters also
- same range, not as much shot
- wounding, happens with 12g too
- social licence
- best option for juniors to learn with
- Canada geese can be shot with lead over water at any time
- Police phasing out lead in firearms due to lead residue
- nontoxic shot was not available for 410's when steel shot introduced for sub gauges, there is now a reasonable number of non-toxic options available overseas

12.0 GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST NOMINEE

12.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois called for nominations for the Game Bird Habitat Trust. Barry Roderick was nominated but declined as he was not available. Arash Alaeinia suggested Andy Garrick as a possible nominee and a staff member had also mentioned Erin Garrick who also comes from an environmental background. Cr Mike Jarvie asked whether Andy had been contacted. Arash confirmed that he had, and Andy was happy to be considered but Erin had not been contacted as her name had only been mentioned recently.

12.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that council supports the nomination of Andy Garrick for the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. [23/02/12.2]*

13.0 DRAFT FUTURE EASTERN FISH & GAME

- 13.1 Arash advised that this was an opportunity for some robust discussion by Council on the “Future Eastern Fish & Game” and said the paper touches on the point Cr Sceats raised at the last meeting about what can be implemented now that does not require legislative change. Arash advised that he had since received some fantastic and constructive feedback from the staff team on the paper and invited Council to do the same.
- 13.2 Cr Murray Ferris expressed concern about the proposed “Professional development for elected members”. Murray had been to several of these courses in the past and found them to be expensive and somewhat ineffective. Cr Ngahi Bidois understood that the NZ Fish & Game Council had been working with the Institute of Directors to develop suitable programmes. He described the programmes provided by the Institute of Directors and informed Council that he had completed several of their courses and he had found them to be outstanding. Cr Kevin Coutts was concerned about cost of such courses and felt that the qualifications Councillors come with are sufficient to do the role for which they were elected. Kevin was primarily concerned about whether licence holders would see this as necessary spending of licence holder funds. Cr Debbie Oakley informed Council that a budget had been allocated at a National level for Governance training. She advised that the New Zealand Fish & Game Council had already undertaken some governance training and Council Chairs would follow, it was then expected to be rolled out to Councils. She said it may be that Council’s join with others for this purpose, but details were yet to be confirmed. Debbie reiterated that the Ministerial Review highlighted that Fish & Game needs to improve its governance. Debbie acknowledged that many within the Council will have undertaken governance training previously but felt that it was worthwhile for those who are experienced to sit in on the same training with those who are not or are new to Councils. Arash Alaeinia believed there was two aspects to professional development firstly, even in you have had some form of training there is always new information, new processes, and a refresher reminds you of the things you already know but that are not at the forefront of your mind. Secondly, for those who are new to taking a position on boards it creates an attraction to come and join Fish & Game Council that invests in their Councillors to help them grow and benefit them for opportunities in their future. He said the review had highlighted that our governors need governance training.
- 13.3 Council were asked for their final comments.
- Cr Scott Nicol felt it was worthwhile to obtain extra knowledge and learn something new and with fewer councillor numbers expected that cost would be reduced.
 - Cr Murray Ferris wanted to ensure that the training was professional and relevant.
 - Cr Lindsay Lyons highlighted issues with Governance in some regions over the past few years which had ultimately led to the Governance Review.
 - Cr Alan Simmonds believed the issues were with one or two regions and did not think anyone on this Council needed governance training, he believed this Council was doing a fine job and acting responsibly and appropriately.
 - Cr Kevin Coutts felt it would be more worthwhile to spend the funds on staff development.
- 13.4 In closing the discussion Cr Ngahi Bidois asked Council to provide feedback on the discussion document directly to Arash once they have had the opportunity to give it some good thought. Arash reiterated that this is the opportunity for us to look at the future Fish & Game we want for Eastern. This is your opportunity, in less than a year

there will be a general election and a future Government is more likely to support an organisation that has a plan, a vision, and has unified agreement. He said if we do not act, decisions will be made for us, so asked Council to share with him their views of what they want.

14.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

14.1 Cr Kevin Coutts – Councillor numbers for the next election

Councillor numbers was also an item within the Future Eastern Fish & Game paper and Arash explained why he had proposed 10 seats for this Council in the upcoming election. Cr Kevin Coutts felt that there was little difference in having 10 or 12 Councillors and with the review no longer being enforced there was no real need to change. Cr Debbie Oakley provided background to why the number of 8 had been recommended advising that this provided the opportunity to co-opt or appoint experience that you need. Cr Alan Simmonds suggested that a council of 8 might also increase competition for the people standing. Cr Ngahi Bidois asked that Council also forward their thoughts on Councillor numbers to Arash to incorporate into the next discussion paper.

14.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons spoke of the National party's mandate prior the last election to bring Fish & Game into a sports club of NZ combining with the likes of the Big Game Animal Council and the Canoe Assn. With these ideas about Lindsay reiterated the importance of Fish & Game carrying out the recommendations that had been identified through the review process. Cr Kevin Coutts noted that local MP Todd McClay had been assigned to a Hunting & Fishing portfolio and suggested Council meet with him to understand what his role and ideas would be, should the National party be successful in the upcoming election. Arash Alaeinia advised that following the cancellation of a meeting with Corina Jordan (NZFG CEO) he took the opportunity to invite Todd McClay to informally meet with staff and provide his visions for the role and this also provided an opportunity for staff to highlight some of their concerns regarding sport fish angling and game bird hunting. He said that Todd was still in the process of meeting various groups within the fishing and hunting community and was working on formulating his vision for this role. Council agreed that it would be great to have Todd McClay attend a council meeting to provide Councillors the opportunity to understand his role and ask their own questions which may be quite different to the staff operational perspective. Arash Alaeinia confirmed that he would extend an invitation to Todd McClay for the next meeting of Council.

14.2 Cr Mike Jarvie – Building and site maintenance

Cr Mike Jarvie asked whether there is a maintenance programme for the site as he had noted that some of the buildings on the property that appeared to need a tidy up, and as we are open to the public, he felt that presentation of the site was important. Arash confirmed that there is a maintenance plan and maintenance is carried out by the team when they are not undertaking our primary operations and when the weather permits.

14.3 Cr Alan Simmonds – Pine tree situation across NZ

Cr Alan Simmonds raised concerns about the Pine Forest issue that has been resonating with people he had met across the country. Alan highlighted concerns regarding significant areas of productive farmland being converted to pine for overseas corporations to claim carbon credits and how this would not only impact rural communities but also access for freshwater angling and game bird hunting. Alan highlighted a few areas of concern and advised he would provide some figures at the next meeting. Cr Debbie Oakley confirmed that this was on the agenda at a national level and suggested articles of interest could be viewed in the Fuseworks mediamine. Eben Herbert reminded Council of the uproar when forest was being converted to

pasture some 15 years ago and believed the conversion to forestry was not the big issue and focus should not be on conversions as such but on conditions put on these conversions such as species being planted and what types of access arrangements are being agreed upon. Cr Lindsay Lyons also raised the issue now being seen on the East Coast from forestry slash and the degradation to fisheries resulting from this.

14.4 Closing comments –

With the King’s Coronation taking place 6th May Opening of Game Bird Season Cr Mark Sceats asked whether any consideration had been made for this on the GB licence as this might be attractive for some hunters.

Barry Roderick asked the manager whether regions such as Otago or Auckland Waikato’s OWP’s could be provided alongside Eastern’s in the PIF’s. Arash said it would be useful to compare with regions that have geographical and resource similarities.

15.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

15.1 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.21pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to update Council on items from the Public Excluded session held at the December meeting. [23/02/15.1]

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
Confirmation of public excluded minutes and update Council on items from the Public Excluded session held at the December 2022 meeting.	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 9 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.”

15.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.40 pm. [23/02/15.2]*

15.3 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 2.40pm. [23/02/15.3]*

16.0 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting closed at 2.40pm.

.....
Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

Summary of Resolutions

APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that the apologies for the 200th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/02/2.2]*
- 3.0 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (8 DECEMBER 2022)**
- 3.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct subject to the following amendment.*
14.1 - 1 October Opening
Amend all references pertaining to “Julian Danby” to “Julian Hughes”. [23/02/3.1]
- 8.0 **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**
- 8.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [23/02/8.2]*
- 8.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2022 totalling \$353,148.35. [23/02/8.4]*
- 9.0 **GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2023-24 OWP**
- 9.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Lindsay Lyons) that Council agreed that the current Council Priorities as detailed would be carried through to 2023-2024 Operational Work Programme. [23/02/9.3]*
- 10.0 **ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW**
- 10.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council agrees with the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2023-2024 Anglers Notice [23/02/10.4]*
- 10.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council did not identify any issues for further discussion for the 2023-24 Anglers Notice but suggested that Czech Nymphing be incorporated for further discussion next year when a full review of the Anglers Notice will be undertaken. [23/02/10.5]*
- 10.6 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council approves the amendment to Note 5.2 of the Anglers Notice to read “No licence holder shall fish for trout from a boat in the designated winter shoreline-fishing areas on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, and Okataina from 1 July to 1 October”. [23/02/10.6]*
- 10.7 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council approves the amendment to the fly fishing only area of the Ohau Channel to read “between the lake Rotorua outlet weir and landmark approximately 200m downstream of the weir”. [23/02/10.7]*
- 12.0 **GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST NOMINEE**
- 12.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that council supports the nomination of Andy Garrick for the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. [23/02/12.2]*
- 15.0 **PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**
- 15.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.21pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to update Council on items from the Public Excluded session held at the December meeting. [23/02/15.1]*
- 15.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.40 pm. [23/02/15.2]*
- 15.3 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 2.40pm. [23/02/15.3]*

5. RECONFIRMATION OF RESOLUTIONS 6 APRIL 2023 MEETING

25 May 2023

1. Purpose

To reconfirm the resolutions from the 6 April Eastern Fish & Game meeting due to lack of quorum for majority of the meeting.

2. Background

At the 6 April Council meeting, apologies were received still giving the Council its quorum to continue, but due to last minute car issues and incorrect diary scheduling of the Council meeting the numbers fell below quorum. The Council meeting continued, and items were discussed, and general views noted but resolutions were agreed to be carried to the next meeting to be carried. Two resolutions were carried as a Councillor was connected via a device to be able to vote on the matter.

Summary of Resolutions needing Reconfirmation

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 201st meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained.*

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. Note: Resolution to be reconfirmed at Council meeting scheduled for 8 June 2023.*

8.4 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for January and February 2023 totalling \$429,476.19.*

9.0 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

9.11 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the six contestable fund applications as detailed on pages 1-12 of the Papers for Information. [23/04/9.11]*

9.14 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves the draft Operational Work Plan for the 2022-2023 year. [23/04/9.14]*

11.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

11.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves funding of up to \$6,500 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund as submitted.*

Please refer to the PFI for the detailed reports pertaining to the topics.

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That the Eastern Fish and Game Council reconsiders and reconfirms the individual resolutions made at the 201st Meeting Council where a quorum was not present.*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

25 May 2023

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;

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Recommendation

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

8. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

18 May 2023

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.

March – May 2023

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: April 2023 Te Wairoa trap install and maintain access track April 2023 Drift dive Otara River May 2023 Opening weekend ranging May 2023 Lake Tarawera Acoustic Surveys 2022-2023 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	18/05/2023
Number of Workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	1
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	52
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	4
Total number of days since last lost work injury	788
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
Days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury 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 room.

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

- 26 Mar 2023 Sandbags, boat shed entry – JM to liaise with FENZ re ramping. Ensure whiteboard is updated on leaving office
- 3 Apr 2023 Te Wairoa trap safety discussion
- 11 April 2023 Nothing new
- 17 April 2023 Spawning streams, two up ranging, ensure vests are worn particularly in light of recent stabbing incidents on news, take care and assess situation well before approach.
- 24 Apr 2023 Nothing new
- 1 May 2023 PV Road corner issues ongoing, H & S will be incorp into Game Opening ranging briefing
- 8 May 2023 Ensure you follow H & S guidelines while out ranging.
- 15 May 2023 Care around spawning streams – poaching activities.

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Nil

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

8.2 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

22 May 2023

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the months of March and April 2023.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 30 April 2023
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2023
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 30 April 2023
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions March and April 2023
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions March and April 2023

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 30 April is provided in Table 3.

Income

Fish and Game licence revenues including Non-Resident levies are reporting to be just \$88 ahead of budget YTD. 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 \$25,165 and was made up of the following: fishing competitions (\$1,749), rentals (\$10,655), wetland mowing (\$844), NZ Fish & Game contracted work (\$2,003), and fines from prosecutions collected through the courts (\$296). Donations were received from; Wingspan \$200, and cash \$20. Interest income on general reserves totalled \$2,398, and gain on sale of vehicle \$6,988.

Species Management

Species expenditure for the period included the cost of the Game Bird licences issued for winners of the band return draw (\$837), and the final instalment for the Tarawera Food Web Report which was completed by Cawthron Institute (\$656).

The more significant expenditure within the Hatchery budgets related to fish food (\$6,372), hatchery maintenance materials (\$1,815), and replacement gates for the Te Wairoa trap (\$1,500). Vehicle expenses were increased this period due to rust removal, service, and COF for the trout tanker (\$2,239). Expenses were also incurred relating to rates, fuel, electricity, and oxygen. The Hatchery area is over budget YTD \$10,823 and this is related primarily to increases to the price and freight on fish food and increased vehicle maintenance costs.

Habitat

Significant works occurred in the F&G managed wetlands in the March/April period with pest plant spraying occurring in several reserves, repairs to the water inlet, culvert, and causeway at the Awaiti reserve, water reticulation works at Awaiti and Bregmans, and inlet/outlet weir and floodgate repairs and cleaning at the Orini reserve. The overspend within the Habitat output is offset by a contribution from DOC for the Awaiti repairs (\$4,000), and the drawing of funds from the Ballot Holder Habitat Maintenance reserve.

Participation

Access spending for the period related to spraying of regrowth on the Whaeo access tracks and a further expense for access mapping development (\$550), the latter being offset by reduced R3 expenditure within the Planning output. Within the Publications budget an expense is reported for a reprint of the Lake Rotorua and Tributaries brochure. Other minor expenses reported within the period related to coal for the Wairua hut and electricity for the Waikaremoana hut. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

Public Promotions spending relates to various stakeholder meeting expenses of the CEO. Over budget YTD (\$1,075) due to timing of expenses and increased grounds maintenance expenditure.

Compliance

Compliance expenses are reported relating Ranger Notebooks, the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone. Legal fees were also incurred for prosecutions. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

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

Council

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the February and April meetings of Council. Over budget YTD \$1,977 due to higher than anticipated travel costs.

Planning

NZFG levies were paid as budgeted in April and expenses are also reported for taxi and airport parking for the managers meeting. Planning expenses are over budget \$772 YTD due to unbudgeted meeting expenses.

Administration

Salaries	Over budget YTD (\$3,164)
Staff Expenses	Expenses are reported relating to staff clothing, airport parking, accommodation, meal expenses, and a flu vaccine. Costs were also incurred to advertise the administration role on Seek, and the life buoy for the Octagon. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Rates were paid as budgeted and minor maintenance costs incurred. Over budget YTD (\$1,600) due primarily to real estate agent commissions and this is offset by increased rental income.
Office Premises	Office premises expenses related to rates, electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring. Over budget YTD (\$1,169) due primarily to an increase in insurance.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs. Over budget YTD (\$650) due to additional equipment requirements for new staff.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. The Private Bag was renewed in March and minor costs are also reported for a new router and IT services. Over budget YTD (\$193). We are currently reviewing replacement phone systems as

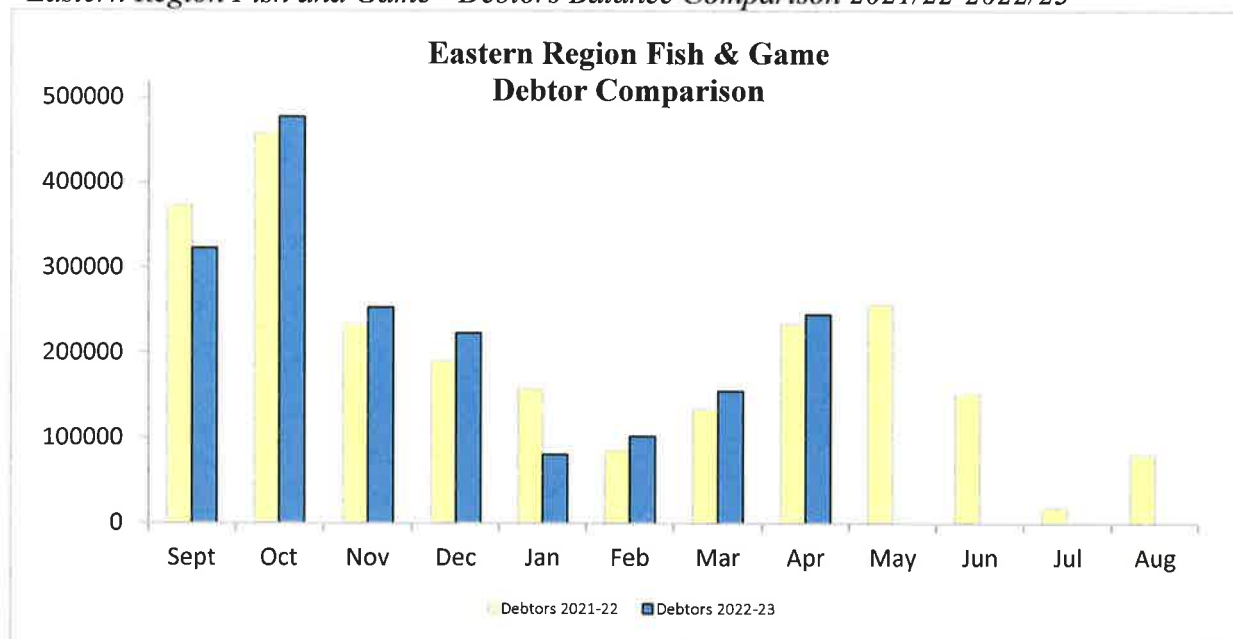
	our copper line rentals will no longer be available from mid-August 2023.
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. Overbudget YTD \$2,377 and this is due to increased general insurance costs.
General Equipment	Maintenance expenses included repairs to the John Deere tractor (\$2,753), and servicing of Whio (\$718) and Kotare \$606. Field equipment and boat fuel is also reported. Over budget YTD (1,867) due to unanticipated repairs to the tractor.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of two vehicles, tyres for one vehicle, a taillight bulb replacement, and fuel/RUCs. Over budget YTD (\$3,346) and this is due to increased fuel and maintenance expenses and is likely to reduce as the year progresses.

Cash Position: As at 30 April 2023

\$ 856,096 (includes \$78,584 Asset Replacement Reserve)
\$ 459,357 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,315,453 Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$244,829 as at 30 April 2023 (\$234,281 as at 30 April 2022).

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



Debtors outstanding as at 30 April are primarily related to licence sales \$244,803. One agent is overdue \$218.

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.

Table 1 2022/2023 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME as at 30 April 2023

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	Variance	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 40,700	\$ 40,796	2,124	1,646	\$ 142,317	\$ 111,295	\$ -	\$ 1,718	\$ 183,017	\$ 150,373	\$ 32,644		82.2
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 456	681	547	\$ 45,630	\$ 36,986	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,530	\$ 37,441	\$ 11,089		77.2
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 83,350	\$ 76,223	2,982	2,345	\$ 199,807	\$ 158,559	\$ 56,000	\$ 30,430	\$ 225,157	\$ 204,351	\$ 20,805		90.8
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	124	\$ 8,979	\$ 8,384	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,979	\$ 8,384	\$ 594		93.4
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	50	49	\$ 3,350	\$ 3,313	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,350	\$ 3,313	\$ 37		98.9
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	36	18	\$ 2,412	\$ 1,217	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,912	\$ 1,217	\$ 1,695		41.8
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 127,450	\$ 117,474	6,007	4,729	\$ 402,495	\$ 319,755	\$ 56,000	\$ 32,148	\$ 471,945	\$ 405,081	\$ 66,864		85.8
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,412	1,112	\$ 94,610	\$ 75,189	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,610	\$ 75,189	\$ 19,421		79.5
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 23,490	934	866	\$ 62,582	\$ 58,555	\$ 11,650	\$ 10,807	\$ 68,432	\$ 71,238	\$ (2,806)		104.1
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ -	770	231	\$ 51,593	\$ 15,619	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,293	\$ 15,619	\$ 38,674		28.8
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	72	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ 4,824		0.0
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		0.0
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & M	\$ 20,200	\$ 23,490	3,188	2,209	\$ 213,610	\$ 149,363	\$ 11,650	\$ 10,807	\$ 222,160	\$ 162,046	\$ 60,114		72.9
1310	Access	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,556	692	539	\$ 46,367	\$ 36,445	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,967	\$ 42,001	\$ 9,966		81.0
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	318	133	\$ 21,307	\$ 8,993	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,307	\$ 8,993	\$ 12,314		42.2
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,410	36	1	\$ 2,412	\$ 68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,412	\$ 1,478	\$ 2,935		33.5
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 133	812	366	\$ 54,407	\$ 24,071	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,609	\$ 48,257	\$ 21,595	\$ 26,662		44.7
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	19	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,285	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,285	\$ 859		59.9
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 907	46	13	\$ 3,082	\$ 879	\$ 400	\$ 487	\$ 4,132	\$ 1,289	\$ 2,833		31.4
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICI	\$ 9,800	\$ 8,006	1,936	1,061	\$ 129,720	\$ 71,740	\$ 7,400	\$ 3,096	\$ 132,120	\$ 76,650	\$ 55,470		58.0
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	56	\$ 4,824	\$ 3,786	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ 3,786	\$ 1,038		78.5
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	116	43	\$ 7,772	\$ 2,907	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,772	\$ 2,907	\$ 4,865		37.4
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 661	114	23	\$ 7,638	\$ 1,555	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,638	\$ 2,216	\$ 6,422		25.7
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 914	668	198	\$ 44,759	\$ 13,456	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,259	\$ 14,370	\$ 30,889		31.7
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,575	970	321	\$ 64,994	\$ 21,705	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,494	\$ 23,280	\$ 43,215		35.0
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 646	930	436	\$ 62,314	\$ 29,480	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,314	\$ 30,126	\$ 33,188		47.6
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,181	104	103	\$ 6,968	\$ 6,964	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,968	\$ 8,145	\$ (177)		102.2
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 666	336	88	\$ 22,513	\$ 5,950	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,488	\$ 21,513	\$ 5,128	\$ 16,385		23.8
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,493	1,370	627	\$ 91,796	\$ 42,395	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,488	\$ 92,796	\$ 43,400	\$ 49,396		46.8
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	124	138	\$ 8,309	\$ 9,331	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,909	\$ 9,331	\$ (422)		104.7
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	158	43	\$ 10,587	\$ 2,907	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,587	\$ 2,907	\$ 7,679		27.5
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ -	282	181	\$ 18,895	\$ 12,238	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,495	\$ 12,238	\$ 7,257		62.8
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		0.0
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,377	457	257	\$ 30,621	\$ 17,377	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 22,754	\$ 12,867		63.9
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,377	457	257	\$ 30,621	\$ 17,377	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 22,754	\$ 12,867		63.9
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ 21	281	30	\$ 18,828	\$ 2,028	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,328	\$ 2,049	\$ 25,279		7.5
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	64	54	\$ 4,288	\$ 3,651	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,288	\$ 3,651	\$ 637		85.1
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,950	\$ -	391	243	\$ 26,199	\$ 16,431	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,149	\$ 16,431	\$ 19,718		45.5
1840	National Liaison	\$ 50	\$ 820	258	124	\$ 17,287	\$ 8,384	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,337	\$ 9,204	\$ 8,133		53.1
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,500	\$ 841	994	451	\$ 66,602	\$ 30,495	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,102	\$ 31,336	\$ 53,767		36.8
	TOTAL	\$ 190,050	\$ 159,256	15,204	9,836	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 665,068	\$ 83,050	\$ 47,539	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 776,785	\$ 348,948		69.0

Table 1 Cont.	OVERHEADS		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		Variance	%
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1910	\$ 929,707	\$ 610,164	\$ 11,680	\$ 16,044	\$ 918,027	\$ 594,120	\$ 323,907	\$ 64.7				
1920	\$ 24,000	\$ 3,781	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 3,781	\$ 20,219	\$ 15.8				
1930	\$ 10,306	\$ 10,841	\$ 55,000	\$ 36,639	\$ (44,694)	\$ (25,798)	\$ (18,896)	\$ 57.7				
1940	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,134	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,134	\$ 3,866	\$ 80.7				
1950	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,132	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,132	\$ 468	\$ 82.0				
1960	\$ 17,200	\$ 12,083	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,200	\$ 12,083	\$ 5,117	\$ 70.3				
1970	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,476	\$ 1,500	\$ 5,773	\$ 9,500	\$ 6,703	\$ 2,797	\$ 70.6				
1980	\$ 16,600	\$ 13,967	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,600	\$ 13,967	\$ 2,633	\$ 84.1				
1990	\$ 55,500	\$ 41,946	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,500	\$ 41,946	\$ 13,554	\$ 75.6				
	\$ 1,086,913	\$ 723,524	\$ 68,180	\$ 58,456	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 665,068	\$ 353,665	65.3				
	Total Overhead Net Cost				\$ 1,018,733	\$ 665,068						
	Total Outputs Staff Hours				15,204	9,836						
	Internal Cost Per Hour				67.00	67.62						

Table 1 cont 2022/2023 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C	Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		Variance	%
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
	1	Species Management	\$ 127,450	\$ 117,474	6,007	4,729	\$ 402,495	\$ 319,755	\$ 58,000	\$ 32,148	\$ 471,945	\$ 405,081	\$ 66,864	85.8
	2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 20,200	\$ 23,490	3,188	2,209	\$ 213,610	\$ 149,363	\$ 11,650	\$ 10,807	\$ 222,160	\$ 162,046	\$ 60,114	72.9
	3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,800	\$ 9,006	1,935	1,061	\$ 129,720	\$ 71,740	\$ 7,400	\$ 3,096	\$ 132,120	\$ 76,650	\$ 55,470	58.0
	4	Public Interface	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,575	970	321	\$ 64,994	\$ 21,705	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,494	\$ 23,280	\$ 43,215	35.0
	5	Compliance	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,493	1,370	627	\$ 91,796	\$ 42,395	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,488	\$ 92,796	\$ 43,400	\$ 49,396	46.8
	6	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	282	181	\$ 18,895	\$ 12,238	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,495	\$ 12,238	\$ 7,257	62.8
	7	Councils	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,377	457	257	\$ 30,621	\$ 17,377	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 22,754	\$ 12,867	63.9
	8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,500	\$ 841	994	451	\$ 66,602	\$ 30,495	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,102	\$ 31,336	\$ 53,767	36.8
	9	Administration												
		Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,950	5,576								
		TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 190,050	\$ 159,256	22,154	15,412	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 665,068	\$ 83,050	\$ 47,539	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 776,785	\$ 348,948	
		Licence Income 2022-2023				% year complete	% of OWP budget spent				67%	68%		
		2022-23 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,079,901	\$ 1,031,219							\$ 1,125,733	\$ 776,785		
		Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 48,596										
		Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,031,305	\$ 1,031,219										
		2023 Game Licence Income	\$ 269,723	\$ 158,869										
		Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 12,137										
		Net Game Licence Income	\$ 257,586	\$ 158,869										
		Total Licence Income	\$ 1,349,624	\$ 1,190,088										
		Total Commission	\$ -	\$ 60,733										
		Total Net 2022-23 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,288,891	\$ 1,147,889										

Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget		Budget	Actual
less interest		\$ -	\$ (7,767)
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies		\$ 158,586	\$ 118,939
Less Licence Revenue		\$ (1,349,624)	\$ (1,190,088)
Plus Commission Expense		\$ 60,733	\$ 42,200
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation		\$ (28,157)	\$ (24,794)
Depreciation		\$ 74,244	\$ 49,397
Subtotal		\$ 32,010	\$ (235,328)
Adj to OWP budgets - Waikararimoana Fund			
Less Waikararimoana Fund Interest		\$ (7,937)	\$ (1,444)
Plus Waikararimoana Fund Expenses		\$ 8,000	\$ 1,509
Adj to OWP budgets - Non Res Reserve - Lake Tarawera project			
Adjusted Budget		Total \$ 32,073	\$ (235,263)

Table 2

Balance Sheet Eastern Fish and Game Council

As at 30 April 2023

Assets	30 Apr 2023	31 Aug 2022
Bank		
Westpac Current Account	28,648	5,995
Westpac Call Account	112,380	235,121
Petty Cash	259	221
Investments	718,553	511,039
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	459,357	470,050
Total Bank	1,319,197	1,222,425
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	244,829	80,402
Accounts Receivable - Hawke's Bay & External parties	(747)	0
Inventory - Fish Stock	168,939	168,939
Prepayments and Accrued Income	0	10,176
Total Current Assets	413,021	259,517
Fixed Assets		
Buildings	1,043,849	1,043,849
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	411,943	425,025
Office Equipment	58,297	61,185
Plant & Equipment	198,899	198,899
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(747,946)	(729,394)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(141,608)	(159,830)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(43,323)	(53,119)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(165,141)	(160,204)
Total Fixed Assets	716,971	728,411
Total Assets	2,449,189	2,210,353
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	75,158	36,799
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	78,422	135,453
Employee Entitlements	78,416	87,769
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy Clearing	7,050	0
GST	24,378	(8,954)
PAYE Clearing	22,734	31,606
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	287	0
Staff Social Club	2,996	2,671
Business Credit Card - Closed	0	1,273
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	328	0
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	420	0
Total Current Liabilities	290,191	286,618
Total Liabilities	290,191	286,618
Net Assets	2,158,998	1,923,735
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,203,420	1,280,725
Asset Replacement Reserve	49,427	49,427
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	169,187	130,711
Breeding Programme Reserve	1,018	1,018
Fish for Gold Reserve	14,000	14,000
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	16,571	16,571
Hunter Ballot Reserve	5,934	5,934
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	464,178	464,178
Current Year Earnings	235,263	(38,829)
Total Equity	2158998	1,923,735

Table 3

Profit and Loss - Council
Eastern Fish and Game Council

For the 2 months ended 30 April 2023

Income	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var %
Licence Income	86,766	137,841	1,151,611	1,190,000	1,349,624	(38,389)	-3%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	5,436	2,139	38,477	0	0	38,477	0%
Other Income	12,040	13,125	140,000	122,447	196,829	17,553	14%
Total Income	104,242	153,105	1,330,087	1,312,447	1,546,453	17,640	1%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	6,406	6,220	49,397	49,496	74,244	(99)	0%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	888	656	40,864	40,700	43,200	164	0%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	456	900	2,900	(444)	-49%
1140 Hatchery Operations	2,791	11,136	76,223	65,400	83,350	10,823	17%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	500	500	(500)	-100%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	3,680	11,792	117,542	107,500	129,950	10,042	9%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1220 Works & Management	19,339	1,102	23,490	16,500	17,500	6,990	42%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	1,441	1,700	2,700	(259)	-15%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MNGMNT	19,339	1,102	24,931	18,200	20,200	6,731	37%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	550	554	5,556	5,000	5,500	556	11%
1340 Other Publications	0	699	1,410	2,000	2,000	(591)	-30%
1350 Training	0	0	133	600	850	(467)	-78%
1370 Huts	113	167	907	1,050	1,450	(143)	-14%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	663	1,420	8,006	8,650	9,800	(644)	-7%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1440 Public Promotions	29	19	661	0	1,000	632	0%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	0	0	914	500	500	414	83%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	29	19	1,575	500	1,500	1,075	215%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	221	68	646	675	1,000	(29)	-4%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	1,181	1,000	1,000	181	18%
1530 Compliance	0	200	666	3,335	5,000	(2,669)	-80%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	221	268	2,492	5,010	7,000	(2,518)	-50%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	0	600	0	0%
1630 Commission	3,627	6,007	42,200	53,550	60,733	(11,350)	-21%
Total 1600 LICENSING	3,627	6,007	42,200	53,550	61,333	(11,350)	-21%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	542	745	5,377	3,400	5,000	1,977	58%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	542	745	5,377	3,400	5,000	1,977	58%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	0	0	21	0	8,500	21	0%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	(0)	300	9,950	(300)	-100%
1840 National Liaison	0	39,767	119,760	118,988	158,636	772	1%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	0	39,767	119,780	119,288	177,086	492	0%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	72,306	72,417	610,164	607,000	935,207	3,164	1%
1920 Staff Expenses	688	95	3,781	7,000	24,000	(3,219)	-46%
1930 Staff Houses	595	813	10,841	9,241	10,306	1,600	17%
1940 Office Premises	1,200	1,223	16,134	14,965	20,000	1,169	8%
1950 Office Equipment	164	183	2,132	1,736	2,600	396	23%
1960 Communications/Consumables	2,012	801	12,083	11,890	17,200	193	2%
1970 General	151	147	12,476	10,099	11,000	2,377	24%
1980 General Equipment	4,917	196	13,967	12,100	16,600	1,867	15%
1990 Vehicles	4,252	3,372	41,946	38,600	55,500	3,346	9%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	86,285	79,249	723,524	712,631	1,092,413	10,893	2%
Total Operating Expenses	120,789	146,588	1,094,824	1,078,225	1,578,526	16,599	2%
Net Profit	(16,547)	6,517	235,263	234,222	(32,073)	1,041	0%

8.3 MANAGEMENT REPORT

22 May 2023

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Otara and Waioatahe Investigations

Staff visited the Pakahi Stream, Otara River and Waioatahe Stream on the 18th of April as part of an ongoing investigation of riverine habitat and population sustainability. Drift diving was undertaken in the Otara River at two sites including an area where BOPRC Rivers and Drainage had installed a series of groynes to protect banks from erosion and create differential flow areas along a straight featureless stretch of river. Though only a low number of small and medium size class trout were sighted, encouraging angling reports were received from anglers encountered reporting medium and large fish caught. River habitat at that time looked very good with juvenile fish (yearling size) observed rising and taking off surface. Horny case caddis, regular caddis, and mayfly larvae were seen on larger cobbles. The rock groynes were altering the flow creating slower resting habitat for trout and native fish, however staff felt that larger structures would have been beneficial.

At the Waioatahe River, staff visited the lower river access sites. River realignment works had recently been completed (well below spawning zones) to protect bridge and roading infrastructure. 4 fingerlings (yearling size) were sighted, and caddis and mayfly larvae observed in one access area. The river looked to be in excellent shape and unaffected by flooding.

East Coast River Monitoring

Staff are attending the Wairoa Angling Club AGM on 24 May. At this time the Ruakituri and lower Waiau rivers will be accessed to check on the current condition. Since cyclone Gabrielle, we have received very promising angler reports from the Waioeka, Motu, Hangaroa, Ruakituri, and upper Waiau systems (including a guiding report from Waiau).

1112 Datawatch

During the first 6 months following the season opening (1st October), a total of 461 datawatch tags were returned and entered into the database. The distribution was as follows:

Lake McLaren	1
Lake Okareka	10
Lake Okataina	111
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	17
Lake Rotoehu	4
Lake Rotoiti	103
Lake Rotoma	13
Lake Rotorua	5
Lake Tarawera	197

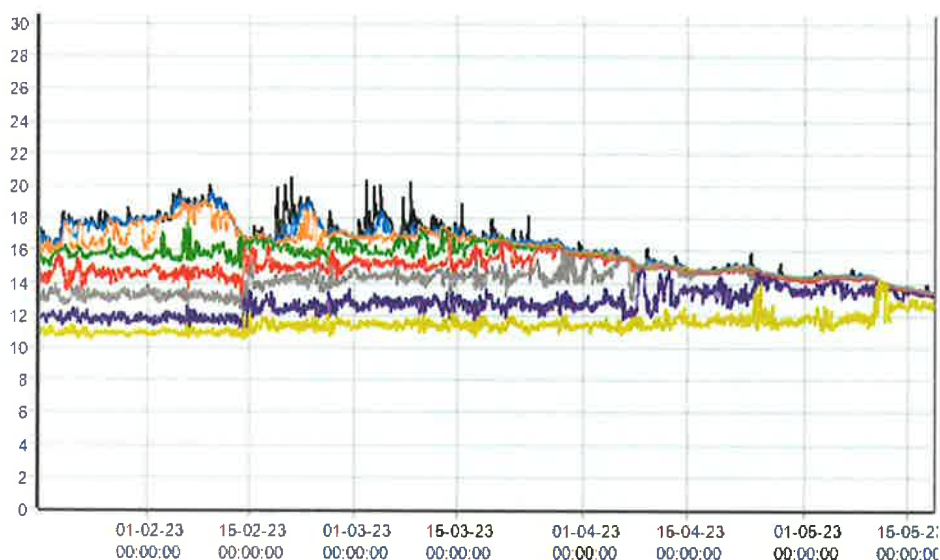
data entered to 16 May 2023

The total number of datawatch tags returned to the 16th of May 2023 is 119 tags greater when compared to the 2021-2022 season to the same date. Lakes that have produced more returns are Okataina (+13), Rotoiti (+46) and Tarawera (+78).

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The monitoring buoy has continued to function well. Latest data shows that the lake has fully mixed (turned over) as of 15 May 2023. Surface temperatures remained cooler than most summers at 18-19 degrees bar the odd daily spike due to the rain and overcast conditions that have predominated since 1 October 2022.



Water temperature (°C) from surface to 30m depth in the time period 15 Jan 23 to 15 May 23.

Staff will be visiting Lake Waikaremoana and Tuai/ Kaitawa hydro lakes while in the area for the Wairoa Anglers AGM.

1114 Lake Tarawera

Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

The Lake Tarawera Outlet is due to be drift dived by Fish & Game staff toward the end of May.

Te Wairoa Trap Run

The trapping season at the Fish & Game fish trap (Te Wairoa Stream) at Lake Tarawera started on the 3rd of April following trap installation. 96mm of rain was recorded at Tarawera for April, mainly falling between the 10th and 14th April. 217 trout were processed through the Te Wairoa fish trap during April 2023 compared with 253 for April 2022. To the 11th of May 2023 the total trap run to date sits at 514. There has been 230mm of rain recorded during the first 11 days of May at the trap site.

The current average size of the trout running this winter is 554mm and 1.99kg compared with 539mm and 1.96kg to the same approximate period during the 2022 run. Wild origin fish have made up 46.5% of the run to the 11th of May compared to 44% as at the same period in 2022. The wild fish this winter have been 25mm longer and 120g heavier than the 2022 wild fish.

The hatchery marked fish up to 11th May 2023 have been 10mm longer and 10g heavier on average. The condition factor of both the hatchery and wild contribution to the 2023 run is lower compared to that of the 2022 winter.

Lake Tarawera Fishery Monitoring Project update

The lake Tarawera Food Web project started in 2019 has been completed and a final report delivered by Cawthron and is currently being reviewed by staff.

Acoustic Transects were carried out on 15th and 16th May 2023. A thermocline was still visible around the 17-20m mark and trout smelting on the surface around the lake. The lake water is looking very green due to a severe algal bloom. This is in part due to high rainfall and nutrient/sediment flushed into the lake. An abundance of clutter (food source/trout) was visible between the surface and down to the thermocline and the deep-chlorophyll maxima (DCM) was present throughout most of the main lake body lake between 30 – 50m deep. The area of the DCM appears larger than we have seen over the past 5 years and could lead to increased trout growth.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Fish Trap

During March 2023, the Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for a period of 11 nights. The largest fish entering the trap was a 640mm, 4.0kg brown male. Brown trout made up 86% of the sample as the brown trout spawning run was underway.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (March 2023)

	<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>	484	1.43	15	1		
<i>Brown</i>	584	2.61	93	8		86%

The Ngongotaha trap was not able to be operated during April 2023.

Pest Weed Incursions

The autumn round of aquatic weed spraying has been undertaken on the Rotorua lakes.

Catfish Incursion Lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua

The fyke netting program managed by Te Arawa Lakes Trust and undertaken by community groups and local schools is continuing. To date, over 200K catfish have been removed from lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua since the program was established. The ‘Te Arawa Catfish Killas’ have been actively visiting schools to inform wider audiences about the threat to the lakes of these invasive species. Currently, catfish are only confirmed as being present in lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Summer Creel Survey

The 2022-23 summer survey data collection finished in April. The data is currently being entered into a database prior to analysis.

Winter Compliance/Survey

Monitoring of winter shoreline angling across the Rotorua lakes will be undertaken following the same protocols as the past 3 winters. Compliance checks will be undertaken at random and as a part of this process, anglers will still be surveyed on their catch rates, satisfaction and any harvested fish will be measured.

1141 Hatchery Operations

Maintenance was carried out on the Te Wairoa fish trap in March, and it was installed on April 3rd. Trapping has been undertaken since and a good selection of brood fish for the breeding program have been collected. High water levels have made trapping difficult.

Fish locations at 22nd May 2023:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	Fry	10K	2023 season liberations, Northland Fish & Game order
Tank A	Rt	0+	1,050	Auck/Wai Region 2023 Trips
Tank C	Tig	0+	800	2023 autumn liberations
Tank D	Bt	0+	1,000	2023 liberations, various.
Tank F	Brook	0+	140	Brood for 2023 onward
Pond 6	Rt	0+	1,500	Autumn lib 2023
Pond 7	Rt	0+	7,000	Autumn lib 2023
RW1&2	Rt	1+	5,600	KF 2023

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

April liberations were successfully completed, and May liberations are currently underway. Two lots of fish were collected by Auckland Waikato Fish & Game Region.

Liberations, Eastern Region 17 March – 22 May 2023

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Qty
Okataina	17/05/2023	LpAd	O23	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	11/05/2023	LpAd	23R	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	11/05/2023	LpAd		RT	1+	5000
Tarawera	11/05/2023	LpAd	23T	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	11/05/2023	LpAd		RT	1+	500
Okataina	13/04/2023	LpAd		RT	1+	250
Rotoiti	12/04/2023	LpAd		RT	1+	5000
Tarawera	12/04/2023	LpAd		RT	1+	1000
McLaren	5/4/2023	-		RT	3+	20

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). Comments have recently been submitted on a draft version of the fish passage provisions for the 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. No new developments.

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. Consultation has recently started on the Waiapu Catchment Plan. Additionally, stakeholder consultation is scheduled to begin shortly on the Regional Policy Statement, Freshwater Plan amendments, and the Waimata, Uawa, Waipaoa, Wharehika and Hangaroa catchments. GDC is also beginning a topic by topic review of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan. This work is largely on hold in the short term while GDC prioritises the effects from the recent cyclone.

Other

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.

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 have been collaborating and a formal submission has been lodged in this process. No new developments

Following on from Fish and Games involvement in the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy, NZ Council have 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. No new developments.

Pest Weed Incursions

The autumn round of aquatic weed spraying has been undertaken on the Rotorua lakes.

Catfish Incursion Lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua

The fyke netting program managed by Te Arawa lakes Trust and uptaken by community groups and local schools is continuing. To date, over 200K catfish have been removed from lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua since the program was established.

The 'Te Arawa Catfish Killas' have been actively visiting schools to inform wider audiences about the threat to the lakes of these invasive species.

Currently, catfish are only confirmed as being present in Rotorua and Rotoiti.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
30 Mar	GDC	Ingka Investments	LUC – afforestation of harvested forest	Huiarua Station, Mata	No concerns email
21 Apr	GDC	Kauri Forestry LP	LUC – afforestation of harvested forest	Maungau Bay Station, Whangara	No concerns email
3 Apr	RLC	Horahora A32	LUC- bridge install	Tahunaatara Stream	No concerns email

Consents of Note;

Gravel abstraction Rabbit Bridge and Wetland Island removal, Lake Aniwhenua (draft). Southern Energy are seeking to undertake significant dredging of the main channel on true right directly below Rabbit Bridge to alleviate farmland flooding issues above the bridge. They also wish to remove wetland / debris islands downstream to enable flood relief and more direct channel water flows. We are in ongoing discussions with DOC, and applicant to consider options and ecological effects. We continue to try and liaise with iwi but no responses have been forthcoming.

Rotorua Lakes Council - we still await ecological reports and formal renewal consent application by RLC for its existing municipal water supply takes for Rotorua in various streams, with principle concern for the fishery and spawning habitat in the upper Utuhina. Final ecological and hydrological assessments are expected soon, along with formal application.

BOPRC have initiated an (draft) application to undertake stranded weed removal in Lake Rotorua by digger and weed rake within the riparian margin and within the water to one metre deep and is currently being discussed with staff. Concern has been expressed about spawning issues and timing. We await final application to comment further.

1221 Reserves Management

All wetland reserves received a final access track mow and were inspected prior to the season for water levels, operational water management structures and signage.

Gate openings occurred on time with signage erected for closure timings etc. No requests have been received for keys from ballot holders for access into the Kaituna reserve since gate closures.

Due to the extraordinary weather events, most wetlands water levels were higher than operational maximum, and as a consequence some vehicle access was affected for hunters for opening, and many tracks have since been degraded due to repeated usage by 4WD's. Positively all ponds had good water levels for hunting.

Wetland Management Agreements: these are required as part of the gazetted management process and have progressed over the past three years. We await signing off by DOC for all excluding the Lower Kaituna WMR which has been agreed upon and signed off by DOC. The remainder are expected to be signed off before the end of June 2023.

Additionally, a revised MOU for the Lower Kaituna has been jointly signed by BOPRC, DOC and Fish & Game, regarding water management, water reticulation timing and cost sharing, and responsibilities of each agency within the wetland. This revised MOU is of great benefit to F&G with enhanced water levels and maintenance of channels and reduced annual budget expenditure.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

No new landowner requests for assistance/advice have been received since the March Council report.

1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats

Wetland Forum

One significant issue that arose from the late March Wetland Forum meeting, was the request by participants to BOPRC to provide a simplified version of the latest NES-W rules and how they applied to maintenance within wetlands and how the new rules applied to enhancement works, what is now permitted and what require resource consents. BOPRC consenting staff are currently working on providing this information to stake holders.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Access maintenance work continues with effects of bad weather requiring further clearance of tree fall and slips on the Wheao River track, and a contractor has been engaged to do this. We have received approval from DOC for maintenance to clear vegetation growth on the track from Homestead Arm at Lake Rerewhaakaitu around the lake reserve to the area known as 'Gumboot Point' which is a popular angling location. Contractors have also been engaged to do this work which has been delayed due to high lake levels.

The winter recreational access into the Timberlands forests opened at the end of April, for angler access and hunter access. This includes Kaingaroa Forest (angling and hunting), Waimangu Forest (angler access to Lake Rotomahana), and Rotoehu Forest (hunter access). Permit conditions remain the same as previous years, \$50 per permit, and anglers accessing Lake Rotomahana via the Waimangu Forest are issued a gate key to access the forest. Fish &

Game has made numerous efforts to have further discussions with Timberlands and the CNI access committee regarding further angler access through Kaingaroa Forest however to date no progress has been made in this respect.

1312 Signage

Sign maintenance and enhancement is ongoing with replacements as required.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life E-zine was published for March and April covering winter opportunities. Both Barrels was produced for March and April.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes.

1334 Social Media

Social media posts continue to be made via Facebook and Instagram. Angler/hunter inquiries are being received vis social media.

1341 Information Pamphlets

A re-print of the Lake Rotorua and tributaries brochure has been completed.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

No angler/hunter training was conducted for the period.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Six fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

No club visits were conducted for the reported period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Wairua Hut is receiving bookings for use by anglers. An approach has been made to Te Urewera regarding discussing the future of the Waikaremoana Hut which has the licence to occupy the site in Te Urewera expiring in December 2023. Fish & Game would like, if possible, to have a 'friendship agreement' with Te Urewera, to enable us to continue to use the site our building is situated on, so we can continue to base our work in that area from that site.

1451 Education

No visits were made for the reported period. The Multicultural Society of Rotorua were hosted on-site in April.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Compliance work is focusing on winter shoreline angler checks and surveys and monitoring of spawning areas, as well as game season ranging. We have had few offences dealt with in the last period, although we have received information regarding alleged trout poaching in streams which we are monitoring. The game season opening weekend ranging operation went well and without incident. We had 4 ranging teams out checking hunters on public and private lands/waters and checked 146 hunters over the weekend. Of these, only 1 hunter was found to have committed an offence, which was possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl within 200 meters of open water. Areas checked over opening weekend were in the Opotiki-Eastern BOP region, Rotorua and Taupo areas, Turangi, Lake Otamangakau, and the Waikato River and hydro lakes.

Contacts Year to date 2022-2023.

1,259 licence check contacts have been made YTD up to and including the game opening weekend. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2022-2023

Month	2018-2019	2019-2020	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	16	59
December	309	237	287	182	182	281
January	442	246	404	352	212	328
February	307	265	155	140	12	201
March	180	23	164	93	111	132
April	124	7	153	238	25	140
May	252	143	297	203	146	224
June	168	162	124	141		153
July	63	75	45	57		64
August	54	20	22	32		32
Total	2833	2076	2407	2273	1259	2425

National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing with input from this region. This recently has involved considerable input into matters around the game season compliance work nationally, and liaison with the new Firearms Safety Authority.

1521 Ranger Training

Ranger training is up to date. The next regional ranger training day will be held mid-year.

Rangers

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute as and when they can. We are in the process of recruiting a new ranger in the Tauranga area with an application in progress.

1531 Prosecutions

To date (Mid-May) we have 3 matters currently pending resolution via the courts. One of these is a matter of fishing without licence, obstruction, and failing to provide details which is intimated to go to trial.

Offences 2022-2023 Year:

As of mid-March, we have dealt with 12 offenders for 18 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2022-2023 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	8
Fishing in closed waters	5
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Fish with illegal tackle	1
Give false details	1
Fails to give details	1
Possess lead shot	1
Total number of offences	18

Offences Pending Resolution

Other than several matters which are pre-2019 which have warrants for arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in Court, there are 3 defendants pending resolution, for 7 various fishing related offences.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	3
Fails to give details	2
Obstruction of ranger	1
Give false details	1
Total number of offences	7

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. Agent visits by staff occur when field staff are in the area or passing through.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

RotoruaNZ have recently had a restructure and review of their priorities. I have been trying to arrange an opportunity to discuss what their new strategic priorities are and where does Fishing and our Lakes sit within these. Also continually following up on REN opportunity and for F&G to be accredited in this space.

We will be seeking support from RotoruaNZ for a fishing promotion campaign using billboards in Rotorua around the school holidays and seeking their support to financially input towards an economic review of the economic impact fresh water angling brings to the region and nationally in conjunction with Cawthron Institute.

The opportunity to be named sponsor (without any financial obligations) and to receive a dollar amount from the revenue produced at the inaugural NZ Fishing, Hunting and 4x4 Expo in September is moving ahead. The event is just after F&G NZ hold a national staff conference here in Rotorua, which will create and add some local exposure to the topics and the organization.

The team have attended 3 R3 workshops to help build an Eastern approach to operating and adhering to the R3 program. From this R3 Road Map a Marketing Plan has also been created to support the work that is needed to be done and can be done within the capacity and budget of the team.

1841 NZ Fish & Game Liaison

Licensing

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales and other information requests to the New Zealand Council and regions. Kate is called upon to assist with various data extracts and continues to monitor outstanding licence system upgrade issues and along with the Licence Working Party. Kate will be assisting with the upcoming implementation of the system upgrades for the new Designated Waters Licence.

National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing with input from this region. This recently has involved considerable input into matters around the game season compliance work nationally, and liaison with the new Firearms Safety Authority.

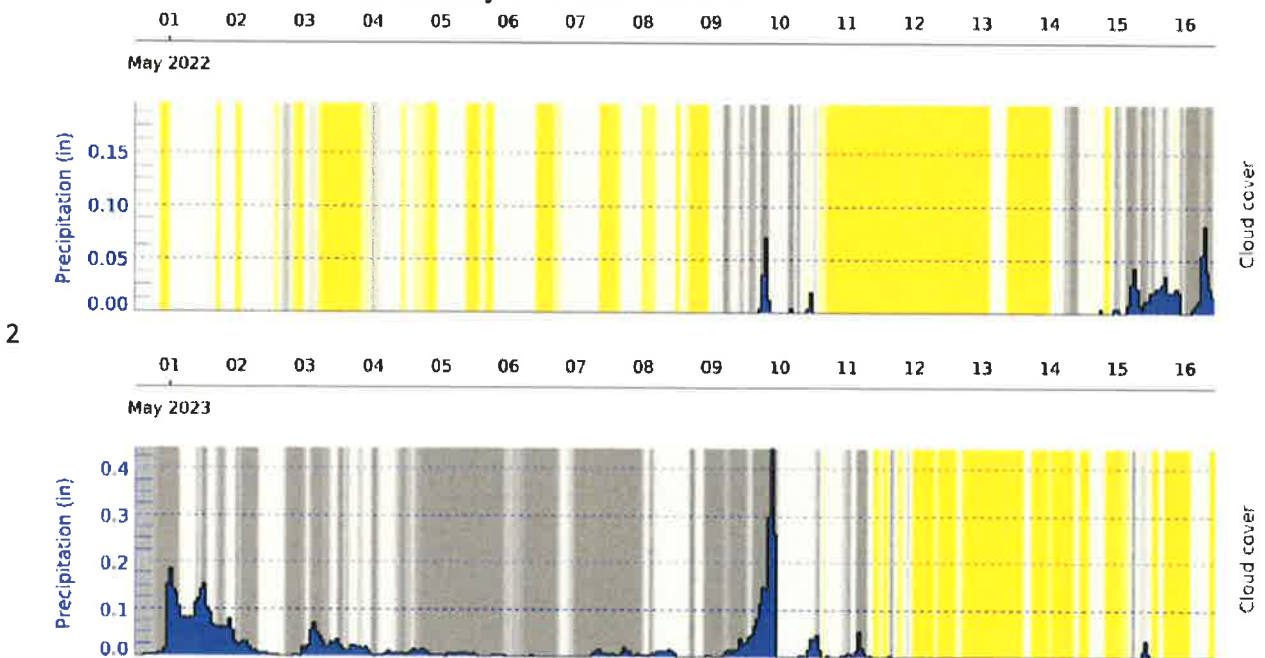
8.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

22 May 2023

1. 2022-2023 Fish Licence Sales

- 1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2022-23 season compared with the 2021-22 season to 21 May are summarised in Table One.
- 1.2 Fish licence sales have fallen since the April report 0.7% and are now reporting to be 3.6% below 2021-22 season results for the same period.
- 1.3 The months of March and April appear to have had slightly more rainfall periods in 2023 compared with 2022 but the first half of May this year has seen considerably more rainfall than in 2022. This will have had some impact on licence sales over this period.

1.4 Weather Archive Rotorua May 1-16 2022 vs 2023



Source: https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/historyclimate/weatherarchive/rotorua_new-zealand

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 21 May 2023

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	1,104	1,427	2,531	987	1,322	2,309	-222
Season	975	1,161	2,136	875	1,025	1,900	-236
Season Non-Resident	13	32	45	113	189	302	257
Loyal Senior	269	267	536	240	270	510	-26
Local Area Adult	894	623	1,517	773	663	1,436	-81
Winter Adult	107	219	326	116	212	328	2
Long Break Adult	12	24	36	24	34	58	22
Short Break Adult	238	587	825	166	526	692	-133
Day	911	2,166	3,077	625	1,992	2,617	-460
Day Non-Resident	22	97	119	391	688	1,079	960
Total Adult	4,545	6,603	11,148	4,310	6,921	11,231	83
Fish Junior							
Season	176	213	389	175	218	393	4
Season Non-Resident	0	4	4	10	11	21	17
Day	103	173	276	60	274	334	58
Day Non-Resident	2	8	10	14	14	28	18
Total Junior	281	398	679	259	517	776	97
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	2	2	2	7	9	7
Day Non-Resident	0	3	3	11	16	27	24
Total Child	0	5	5	13	23	36	31
Total Fish	4,826	7,006	11,832	4,582	7,461	12,043	211
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			8,259			7,959	-301
Variance between Seasons							-3.6%
\$ (excl GST)			\$983,921			\$1,003,463	\$19,543

Summary 2022-2023 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2022-23 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,565	100.0%	\$1,079,901
2022-23 Actual	7,959	92.9%	\$1,003,463
Variance to budget	-606	-7.1%	-\$76,438

2. 2022-2023 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 Game licence sales for the 2023 season compared with the 2022 season to 21 May are summarised in Table Two.
- 2.2 Game licence sales for 2023 are reporting to be 5.5% (164 LEQ's) below the 2022 season results for the same period.
- 2.3 A very quick review of data shows sales in Gisborne (51), Taupo (40), and Rotorua (33) are down along with some Auckland Waikato areas. Wairoa on the other hand is showing an increase of 31 licences. Note: these results are not sub regions, rather just named cities/towns.

Table Two: Game Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 22 May 2023

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
Game							
Adult Season	2,471	444	2,915	2,314	437	2,751	-164
Adult Day	12	17	29	6	29	35	6
Junior Season	241	47	288	219	64	283	-5
Junior Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Season	108	13	121	98	35	133	12
Total Game	2,832	521	3,353	2,637	565	3,202	-151
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			2,978			2,813	-164
Variance between Seasons							-5.5%
\$ (excl GST)			\$243,398			\$234,854	-\$8,544

Summary 2022-2023 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2022-23 Annual Budgeted Game LEQs	3,041	100.0%	\$269,723
2022-23 Actual	2,813	92.5%	\$234,854
Variance to budget	-228	-7.5%	-\$34,869

9. 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

23 May 2023

1. Purpose

To receive the updated draft Operational Work Plan prepared for the 2023-2024 year and approve its circulation to clubs and other interested parties for feedback prior to final sign off.

2. Background

Operational Work Plans are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic priorities in addition to core functions, project objectives and allocation of resources. At the February meeting Council concluded that the current priorities were still relevant and should be carried through to the 2023-2024 work programme. The draft work plan and budget were approved by Council at its April meeting. Also approved at the April meeting were five contestable funding bids totalling \$83,688, and one application to draw down funding of \$20,000 from our Non-Resident Levy Reserve. These were subsequently reviewed and by regional Fish & Game managers and the NZ Council at their April meeting. The outcome from those meetings was that the Regional applications for REM would be removed from regional budgets (\$64,573) and inserted within the National budget pending Ministerial approval and completion of the Remuneration Review process. A further adjustment to regional budgets was the inclusion of a portion of the system development costs (\$13,054) for the new Designated Waters Licence (pro rata basis). The approved funding has been incorporated into the second draft of the 2023-2024 OWP which has been provided as a PDF accompanying this agenda. This latest draft of the plan also includes updated hours and internal costs.

3. Resourcing the Work Plan

The first draft of the 2023-2024 budget was prepared in accordance with NZ Council's budgeting process and included base funding of \$1,151,697.

Five applications were made to the nationally administered contestable funding pool and one for use of the Regional Non Resident Reserve comprising:

- Increased costs associated with monitoring projects \$3,000
- Increased Council travel expenses \$1,500
- Increased property rates and insurances \$4,460
- Increased allocation for asset replacement \$10,155
- Designated Waters Licence System Development \$13,054
- Tarawera Food Web Monitoring Data Analysis \$20,000

Incorporating this finding into our budget for 2023-2024 elevates our baseline budget to \$1,203,866 (subject to Ministerial approval of Fish & Game's proposed licence fees for 2023-24).

Further funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund will be incorporated into the Budgeted Financial Statements to be approved at the August meeting of Council as this funding sits outside of the Fish & Game National Budget process. This funding is to offset staff time and expenses as agreed to by Council at its last meeting (6 April 2023) and reconfirmed at this 8 June meeting 2023.

4. Comparison of Resourcing for the 2023-2024 OWP and the 2022-2023 OWP

The main changes to the 2023-2024 OWP versus the 2022-2023 OWP at an output class level are as below:

Output	2023-24 External Costs	2022-23 External Costs	2023-24 Hours	2022-23 Hours	Hours Change	% Change
Species	\$154,150	\$127,450	6,051	6,007	44	0.7%
Habitat	\$18,200	\$20,200	3,214	3,188	26	0.8%
Participation	\$9,800	\$9,800	1,941	1,936	5	0.3%
Public	\$1,500	\$1,500	935	970	-35	-3.7%
Compliance	\$6,000	\$7,000	1,370	1,370	0	0.0%
Licensing	\$13,654	\$600	272	282	-10	-3.7%
Council	\$6,500	\$5,000	474	457	17	3.6%
Planning/Reporting	\$18,650	\$18,500	981	994	-13	-1.3%
TOTAL	\$215,400	\$190,050	15,238	15,204	34	0.2%

The total output hours for the draft 2023-2024 OWP are 15,238 hours compared to 15,204 hours last year, and overhead/administration staff hours are 7,084 compared to 6,950 hours last year. Hours have been updated for individual projects and result in minimal change within Output clusters as detailed above.

5. Next Steps

- Staff will incorporate any amendments to the draft 2023-2024 plan that Council might seek as an outcome of this meeting.
- The draft will then be circulated to clubs and interested parties for comment with feedback required prior to the end of July.
- Council will formally approve the plan at its August meeting after taking into account any submissions received on it and determining whether these require amendments to the plan.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1** *That Council receives the second draft of the 2023-2024 OWP and identifies any amendments it wishes be made to it prior to its circulation to other parties for comment.*

10. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

Ref: 8.02.01

18 May 2023

1. Purpose

To consider the Anglers Notice regulations for the 2023-2024 angling season.

2. Background

The Anglers Notice sets regional sports fishing regulations and any changes from one season to the next go through a consultation process with licence holders and interested parties before being recommended to the Minister of Conservation. Sports fishing regulations are set to ensure the sustainability of fisheries without unnecessarily restricting angler opportunities.

3. New Proposals

The Maritime Operations Team Leader at Bay of Plenty Regional Council has identified one minor variation in wording to Note 5.5 (Use of Boats), where a historic version of the Bay of Plenty Navigational Safety Bylaws is quoted e.g. 2004. (as below)

- 5.5** 1) No boats are allowed to pass through the Tarawera Outlet Spawning Sanctuary at any time.
- 2) No boats are permitted under the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaws 2004 to anchor in the Ōhau Channel

There have been several reviews of the Regional Navigational Safety Bylaws since that time and therefore referencing the 2004 bylaws is no longer appropriate. To update this 'Note', staff propose removing reference to a particular date so that the passage reads;

- 5.5** 1) No boats are allowed to pass through the Tarawera Outlet Spawning Sanctuary at any time.
- 2) No boats are permitted under the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaws to anchor in the Ōhau Channel.

3. Recommendations

3.1 *That Council accepts the staff recommendation to change Note 5.5 (2) wording to 'No boats are permitted under the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaws to anchor in the Ōhau Channel'.*

3.2 *That Council concludes the Anglers Notice Process for the upcoming 2023-24 season.*

11. 2022-2023 LICENCE FEES

Ref: 6.01.04

23 May 2023

1. Purpose

To review the licence fees and a new licence category recommended for the 2023-2024 year.

2. Background

All regional budgets along with the NZ Council budget are assessed in April in accordance with national budget policy. A key element of the policy is that budgets provide a level of base funding sufficient to meet the core operations of each region and the NZ Council. Any increase to base funding for a particular region or the NZ Council must be done through a contestable bidding process. Once forecasted licence sales and overall funding requirements for Fish & Game nationally have been assessed the NZ Council recommends licence fees for both the fish licence and the game licence.

Licence fees for the coming 2023-2024 sports fishing and game bird seasons were considered at the managers' meeting on 21 April 2023 and by the NZ Council on 22/23 April.

The paper describes the legislative background and the budget for setting the licence fee. It includes information on use of LEQ targets, a review of the contestable funding applications, and funding allocated for research and for RMA/legal cases. The NZC report concludes with the recommendations:

1. That the 2023/24 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories including a \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon licence endorsement (as a cost-recovery mechanism).
2. That a new licence category is established called a Designated Waters Licence, available as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40.

Fish & Game's Licence Working Party (LWP) put a considerable amount of time and thought into forecasting licence sales for 2023/24. The managers also put considerable effort into discussing whole season licence fees during the budget round and review of contestable fund applications. On this basis the proposed fees in the first of the recommendations above were considered justifiable, and defensible as they are below current CPI. It is important that Fish & Game keeps pace with increases in operational costs and shows that it values its biggest assets that being its staff and therefore offers salaries that are middle of the current market so as to retain its key assets and help attract suitably qualified and experienced new staff in this competitive market.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 *That the Eastern Fish and Game Council supports the proposed licence fees for 2023-2024 of \$153 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Fishing licence, and \$113 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Game licence (which includes \$5 for the Game Bird Habitat Trust).***

CONSULTATION:	LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION 2023-24
TO:	Regional Managers
CC:	Regional Chairs, NZC and Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	08/05/2023
FEEDBACK DUE:	12/6/2023
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz
LINK TO REGISTER:	Consultation Register

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:

1. That the 2023/24 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories including a \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon licence endorsement (as a cost-recovery mechanism).
2. That a new licence category is established called a Designated Waters Licence, available as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40.

Discussion - Kōrerorero

Proposal

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) is seeking to consult with Fish and Game regional councils on the 2023/24 licence fee recommendations.

The NZC met on the 22 and 23 April 2023 to consider the 2023/24 budgets and licence fees. Following that meeting, NZC agreed to recommend an increase of \$8 to the sports fish adult whole season licence (\$153 for 2023/24) and an increase of \$6 to the game adult whole season licence (\$113 for 2024). In recommending these fees, NZC also recommended that all other licence categories increase on the agreed proportions. A full list of recommended licence fees and categories is detailed in the Schedule attached (**Appendix 2**).

Background

Legislation provides for the following:

Section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of Fish and Game Councils.

Subsection (1)(d)(a) requires councils:

To assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game;

Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) requires Fish and Game councils:

To develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees;

Section 26C(l)(e) requires NZC:

To recommend to the Minister of Conservation an appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licences, after considering the views and recommendations of Fish and Game Councils.

Section 26C(l)(ia) also requires NZC:

To recommend to the Minister, after considering the views and recommendations (if any) of Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board, an appropriate fee in respect of any game bird habitat stamp and the form of such stamps (the form of the stamp to be approved as part of the 2011 Game Notice).

Operationally, the national policy of NZC specifies that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round, including capital expenditure and expenditure from reserves for all councils.

Policy

At the May 2020 NZC meeting, in response to COVID-19, the NZC set the minimum level of reserves at 20% of total budget for all councils. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow. In a separate consultation document, NZC is consulting with regional councils on a reserves policy to clarify this position.

The budget policy specifies that all expenditure from general and dedicated reserves needs to be notified/approved by NZC as part of the budget round, or by making an application for Exceptional Funding. There are consequences across all sectors of the organisation when any council's reserves are reduced in a manner inconsistent with this policy.

Budget Process

The method of increasing funding levels for individual councils is through a contestable funding application at the April budget setting meeting. Applications can be for either a one-off funding allocation for a specific project, or for ongoing additional funding. The latter in effect raises the total baseline funding level for that council.

The funding required to cover base funds and approved contestable funding is assessed against the expected licence sales for the year ahead (established from analysis of the last two-year sales trends, considering the implications of COVID-19 and border restrictions) to determine the new licence fees.

This process is summarised in the following budget cycle:

Feb	NZC set regional base funds for the 2023/24 year at \$10,600,219. All council budgets reviewed against audited actual expenditure. Budgets over or under 10% variance are reported against, reviewed and discussed at a meeting of regional managers. The variance reports for the 2021/22 year are prepared and discussed.
March	Preparation of business and operational work plans for new financial year (NFY). Draft budgets developed by NZC and regional councils.
April	Councils apply for 'new' contestable funding with applications circulated beforehand, reviewed against criteria, considered and prioritised at the meeting of regional managers, which recommends the allocation of contestable funds, research and legal fund allocations and new licence fees.
	NZC meet (by Zoom) with the Chairs of each region to consider the contestable funding applications.
April/May	NZC make recommendation on licence fees, having considered base funding levels and contestable fund applications, and send to regional councils for consideration.
May/June	Regional councils consider NZC licence fee recommendation. Due back to NZC 12 June.
June	NZC consider regional response and finalise licence fee recommendations for approval by the Minister of Conservation. (15 June)

The recommended licence fee is effectively set by dividing the sum of the proposed budgets of the

13 Councils by the number of the adult whole season licence equivalents that Fish and Game NZ expects to sell during the year (LEQ targets).¹

2023/24 Licence LEQ Forecast

The following table represents the approved forecast for the Licence sales for Fish and Game for the 2023/24 season. Total LEQ Fish 74,060 and Game 31,763.

The forecast which was recommended by the Licence Working Party. The Forecast has taken into consideration:

- The return of overseas anglers (post COVID-19).
- The impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on the Hawke's Bay region.
- The Non-Resident licence levy being included in the licence fee calculation.

	Actual 2020/21		Actual 2021/22		Budget 2022/23		Projected 23/24	
	Fish	Game	Fish	Game	Fish	Game	Fish	Game
Northland	262	1,630	213	1,578	218	1,626	370	1,552
Auckland/Waikato	3,792	6,516	3,204	6,306	2,966	6,515	3,729	6,201
Eastern	9,197	3,042	8,652	3,022	8,564	3,041	8,663	3,012
Hawkes Bay	2,572	1,849	2,462	1,916	2,532	1,849	1,879	1,916
Taranaki	897	1,111	855	1,113	855	1,110	938	1,113
Wellington	3,252	3,406	3,229	3,409	3,312	3,406	2,807	3,409
Nelson-Marlb	3,483	923	3,444	899	3,753	923	4,599	887
Nth Canterbury	11,490	2,507	10,951	2,423	10,816	2,507	11,148	2,381
West Coast	1,875	392	1,733	369	1,805	391	2,208	358
Central SI	11,680	2,173	11,580	2,233	11,648	2,172	12,937	2,233
Otago	14,539	4,179	14,823	4,079	15,541	4,179	15,614	4,029
Southland	7,739	4,834	8,062	4,726	8,617	4,834	9,167	4,672
NZC only								
National inc Research								
TOTAL	70,780	32,562	69,208	32,073	70,627	32,553	74,060	31,763

Note the projected LEQ for Fish Licence sales is higher than the previous years due to the Non-Resident levy portion now being incorporated into the Licence fee. This increase equates to approximately 4,000 additional LEQ's.

Following Components Featured in the 2023/24 Budget Discussions:

Contestable Funding Applications

A total of 90 contestable funding applications were received (up from 83 last year), seeking additional funding of \$2,965,090 (last year \$1,748,254). A major factor in this was the contestable funding applications for remuneration and CPI, following the NZC recommendation to ensure all staff were paid at "meeting the market" at the NZC February 2023 meeting.

During the managers' meeting, the managers recommended that meeting the current market was

¹ A licence equivalent (LEQ) sets the adult whole season licence as the standard unit of measure with a value of one (1) and other categories of licence are amalgamated as adult whole season equivalents in accordance with their proportionate value of the adult whole season licence. For example, the value of a junior whole season licence is 20% of an adult whole season licence. Therefore 5 junior whole season licences equal 1 LEQ.

required and the figures were updated to reflect the most up to date market information.

Budgets for all councils making application for increased funding were received and circulated for review prior to the April Managers meeting.

Contestable Funding Recommendations

Managers considered all contestable funding applications and assigned each a priority rating. These recommendations were put forward to the NZC.

NZC considered the Managers recommendations and the comments provided by Chairs. Applications totalling \$2,700,560 (\$668,371 from reserves) have been approved for funding, including provision for national RMA/legal funding.

Of this, \$765,000 was recommended for funding on a one-off basis from the Licence fee, meaning this funding would be freed-up and become available in next year's budget round.

Research Fund Allocation

To avoid inflating the budget in any one year an allocation is made annually to the Research Fund. The annual Research Budget (\$130k) has been split between General Research (\$75k), the National Anglers Survey (\$30k) and the Research for PhD (Cawthron \$25k).

There were three applications to the Research fund considered by the Managers and NZC;

- a. Australasian Shoveler management research \$8,000
- b. Licence sale insights \$21,000; and
- c. Trout populations and relationships with habitats \$38,700

The NZC agreed to fund all three applications.

There was also an application within the Contestable Funding round for \$25,000 per annum (ongoing) towards the General Research Fund, which was approved. This increases the Annual Research budget to \$155k. (General \$100k, NAS \$30k and Cawthron PhD \$25k)

Staff Development Fund

A staff scholarship of \$10,000 is available annually for Fish and Game staff to apply for support from the organisation for national and international study, work experience or participation in events or conferences.

There was one application to this fund for the 2023/24 year. The application from Steve Dixon was approved to the total value of \$6,000.

RMA/Legal Fund Allocation

The RMA/Legal fund receives budget allocations on a reimbursement basis. It covers payment of costs through a national fund rather than separate funding allocations in individual council's budgets where approved legal projects occur.

It was agreed that contestable funding of \$440,000 be allocated to the national legal pool fund for this 2023/24 year, an increase of \$90,000 from last year.

The NZC approved \$100,000 to Auckland Waikato for the Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 (Healthy Rivers).

The application from North Canterbury for \$180,000 for the Rakaia River Water Conservation Order was also approved.

2023/24 NZC Contestable Funding Approval and 2023/24 Budgets

The NZC approved contestable funding applications at a total value of \$2,700,560. Of this, \$1,267,189 were ongoing from the Licence fee, \$765,000 were one off from the Licence fee and \$668,371 were one-off from reserves.

The attached Table 5 (**Appendix 1**), sets out the full list of approved contestable funding applications with the approval rating from the Managers and the final approval from the NZC. Any figures highlighted in yellow have been adjusted from the original application during the Managers or NZC meetings to reflect the approved value.

The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game councils for 2023/24 (including funding from reserves) is \$13,300,779. Individual budgets are shown in the Table 2 below alongside the previous financial year (both shown as GST exclusive).

Note that of the \$1,047,832 approved for the National budget, the ongoing amount includes a total of **\$891,832** which has been allocated to the Remuneration Review. At present, this budget sits within the National budget and will be allocated to regions as the remuneration is distributed amongst the regions with this process to take place over the next month in consultation with Corina, Jane and the regions. When this remuneration process has been undertaken, the budget will move from the National budget to the appropriate region.

	Original Base Line Budget 2023 24	Approved CF Licence Fee ongoing	Approved CF from Licence Fee - One off	Approve d CF from Reserves - One off	Approved Budget 2023/24 (inc from Reserves)
Northland	462,860	81,060	0	10,537	554,457
Auckland/Waikato	855,684	10,000	0	38,137	903,821
Eastern	1,151,697	8,960	0	43,209	1,203,866
Hawkes Bay	380,624	0	0	96,226	476,850
Taranaki	370,769	3,000	0	1,244	375,013
Wellington	734,853	17,000	0	14,242	766,095
Nelson-Marlb	508,575	11,950	0	32,704	553,228
Nth Canterbury	874,882	13,887	0	74,521	963,290
West Coast	351,136	0	0	5,895	357,031
Central SI	776,533	8,000	0	119,184	903,717
Otago	1,051,410	11,500	0	70,819	1,133,729
Southland	700,801	25,000	0	161,655	887,456
NZC only	1,169,795	29,000	50,000	0	1,248,795
National inc Research	1,210,600	1,047,832	715,000	0	2,973,432
TOTAL	10,600,219	1,267,189	765,000	668,371	13,300,779 ²

NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp

The NZC recommended the Game Bird Habitat Stamp for 2023/24 remain at \$5.

² National issues include the cost of shared services benefiting the organisation nationwide, such as the special editions of the FISH AND GAME magazine, the FISH AND GAME NZ website, licence administration system, administration of elections, ranger health & safety training, etc.

Licence Fee Recommendations

At the February 2023 NZC meeting, the NZC recommended an indicative licence fee of \$149 for Fish and \$109 for Game.

The Managers recommend a licence fee of \$152 for Fish and \$112 for game (inclusive of the GBHT \$5 levy).

The Managers also recommended a \$5 Designated Waters annual licence fee for all regions for resident anglers and a \$40 Designated Waters day licence for non-resident anglers.

NZC Licence Fee Recommendation

The NZC recommend that the 2023/2024 licence fee be based on a sports fish adult whole season fee of \$153 and the game adult whole season licence \$113 (inclusive of the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) (GST inclusive) and for all other licence categories to increase proportionally. This represents an increase of 5.5% for Fish and 5.6% for Game against a December 2022 CPI figure of 7.2%.

The NZC recommended that the Sports Fish and Game licence categories be maintained at the same ratios as previous years.

Recommended licence fees are set out in the schedule at the end of this letter.

Total income including interest is \$12,623,224. The Cost of Sales (COS) is the commission and bank transaction charges relating to the sale of licences is budgeted at 4.5% of licence income.

	TOTAL Licence Income		Net Licence		
	TOTAL F & G	Total COS	Income	Interest	Net Income
Northland	194,951	8,773	186,178	10,304	196,482
Auckland/Waikato	1,078,474	48,531	1,029,943	10,413	1,040,356
Eastern	1,435,443	64,595	1,370,848	31,617	1,402,466
Hawkes Bay	429,893	19,345	410,548	29,522	440,069
Taranaki	229,350	10,321	219,030	6,441	225,471
Wellington	693,635	31,214	662,421	29,638	692,059
Nelson-Marlb	695,168	31,283	663,885	7,883	671,768
Nth Canterbury	1,706,775	76,805	1,629,970	21,452	1,651,422
West Coast	327,334	14,730	312,604	15,140	327,744
Central SI	1,930,891	86,890	1,844,001	37,798	1,881,800
Otago	2,455,777	110,510	2,345,267	56,757	2,402,024
Southland	1,658,371	74,627	1,583,745	42,769	1,626,514
NZC only	0	0	0	65,050	65,050
National inc Research	0	0	0	-	-
TOTAL	12,836,062	577,623	12,258,439	364,785	12,623,224

Modification to Licence Categories and Ratios with whole Season Fees

The NZ Council agreed that the sports fish categories and ratios be broadly maintained the same as previous years.

There are, however, three exceptions to this:

1. Sea run salmon licence endorsement

To recoup on the administrative costs of running the sea run salmon season bag limit system the \$5 will continue to be charged for the sea run salmon licence endorsement. This fee will only be applicable to regions that are operating a season bag limit scheme – currently, North Canterbury and CSI.

2. Designated waters licence category with fee

NZC, following consultation with all regions, have agreed to a new licence category called a ‘Designated Waters Licence’, which will replace the Backcountry Licence. This licence category would operate as a daily fee of \$40 for non-resident anglers and as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game Region for resident anglers.

Regional Fish and Game Councils will recommend the waterways for which a Designated Waters Licence would be required as part of their Anglers Notice recommendations.

NZC also agreed that the income from the sale of Dedicated Waters licences will accrue in a dedicated reserve within the region that sold the licence for the management of sensitive fisheries.

Overall Forecast Position and Use of Reserves

The recommendation for licence fee of \$153 and \$113, along with the recommendation of a total budget of \$13,300,779 creates an overall deficit of \$677,555

Table 4: Overall Forecast Position for Fish and Game	
For the Year ended 31 August 2024	
Net Licence Sales	12,258,439
Interest	364,785
Total Income	12,623,224
Less Approved Budget	13,300,779
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	-677,555

Approval for regions to use their reserves to cover one off projects for the year totals \$668,371. Most of this is being drawn from the non-resident levy reserve. Additionally, regions are required to use their reserves to cover the shortfall of \$9,184. This latter amount represents an additional 0.07% use of reserves. (\$668,371 plus \$9,184 equals the total deficit of \$677,555).

One region, Nelson/Marlborough may fall below the 20% reserves and require a top up of \$29,916. However, this is dependent on the non-resident levy that is earned in the current financial year.

Conclusion

The NZ Council seeks consultation from Fish and Game regional councils on the following points:

1. **The licence fees and categories as set out in the appended schedule (Appendix 2) and specifically:**
 - a. **That the 2023/24 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories including a \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon licence endorsement (as a cost-recovery mechanism).**
 - b. **That a new licence category is established called a Designated Waters Licence, available as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40.**

To enable the NZC to consider feedback and make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation at its 15 June 2023 meeting, responses to these changes are requested to be submitted by the close of business on **12 June 2023**.



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

APPENDIX 1

Table 5: Contestable Fund Application Summary 2023-2024

App No	Region	Base Funding 2023/24	Project Code	Description	L R O C	Additional \$	MM Recomm relation	MZC Recomm endation	Met Recommended (1)	2 Good To Do but not essential (2)	3 Recommended but not essential (3)	4 Essential Whole Organisation & Or individual Council (4)	5 Withdrawn (5)	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED from Reserves	
NTH 001	Northland	\$ 462,880	1010	Additional REM moved to National	L		4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NTH 002			1010	Salaries for Far North Position	L	81,060	1	4	4	0	0	0	81,060	0	0	0	0
NTH 003			1011	Prosecutions	R	3,000	3	4	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
NTH 004			AWF	New Spray Unit	R	6,000	3	4	4	0	0	0	6,000	0	0	0	6,000
NAT			DW	% cost of DW program	R	1,537	4	4	4	0	0	0	1,537	0	0	0	1,537
NTH 005			1010	REM Salaries - moved to National	L	91,597	4	4	0	0	0	91,597	0	0	0	0	
	TOTAL Northland					91,597			0	0	0	91,597	0	0	0	10,537	
AW 001	Auckland/Waikato	\$ 855,684	1000	Vehicles Costs	L	8,000	3	4	0	0	0	8,000	0	0	0	0	
AW 002			1011	Additional REM - Moved to National	L		4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AW 003			1110	Population Monitoring	L	2,000	3	4	4	0	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	0
AW 004			1011	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L		4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT			DW	% cost of DW program	R	8,137	4	4	4	0	0	0	8,137	0	0	0	8,137
AW 005	CF Misses		1011	Salaries for Trainees	R	30,000	1	4	0	0	0	30,000	0	0	0	30,000	
	TOTAL Auckland/Waikato					48,137			0	0	0	48,137	0	0	0	38,137	
East 001	Eastern	\$ 1,151,697	1110	Population Monitoring	L	3,000	4	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	
East 002			1121	Council Expenses	L	1,500	3	4	4	0	0	0	1,500	0	0	0	0
East 003			1000	Insurance and Rates	L	4,460	4	4	4	0	0	0	4,460	0	0	0	0
East 004			AWF	ARF Funding	R	10,155	3	4	4	0	0	0	10,155	0	0	0	10,155
East 005			1010	Additional REM moved to National	L		4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT			DW	% cost of DW program	R	13,054	4	4	4	0	0	0	13,054	0	0	0	13,054
East 006			1144	Lake Tarawera Food Web Monitoring	R	20,000	4	4	0	0	0	20,000	0	0	0	20,000	
	TOTAL Eastern					52,169			0	0	0	52,169	0	0	0	43,209	
Hawke's Bay									0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NAT	DW	\$ 380,624		No CF Applications for 2023/24	R	5,652	4	4	0	0	0	5,652	0	0	0	5,652	
			DW	% cost of DW program	R	90,574	4	4	0	0	0	90,574	0	0	0	90,574	
	TOTAL Hawke's Bay			Use of Reserves for reduction in Fish Salaries	R	96,226	4	4	0	0	0	96,226	0	0	0	96,226	
Tara 001	Taranaki	\$ 370,769	1010	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tara 001a			1010	Additional REM - Moved to National	L	0	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT			DW	% cost of DW program	R	1,244	4	4	4	0	0	0	1,244	0	0	0	1,244
Tara 002			1110	Population Monitoring	L	3,000	3	4	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
	TOTAL Taranaki					4,244			0	0	0	4,244	0	0	0	1,244	

Table 5: Contestable Fund Application Summary 2023-2024

App No	Region	Base Funding	Project Code	Description	L R O C	Additional \$	MM Recomm. reduction	NZC Recomm. reduction	1 Not Recommended	2 Good To Do but not essential	3 Recommended but not essential	4 Essential Whole Organisation & Of individual Council (4)	5 Withdrawn (\$)	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED One from Reserves	
Well 001	Wellington	\$ 734,863	1910	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	0	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Well 002			1930	Additional REM - moved to National	L	0	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Well 003			ARF	ARF Funding	R	11,151	3	4		0	0	0	11,151	0	0	0	11,151
Well 004			1922	FBT	L	7,000	3	4		0	0	0	7,000	0	0	0	0
Well 005			1990	Vehicles Costs	L	10,000	3	4		0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 018			DW	% cost of DW program	R	3,691	4	4		0	0	0	3,691	0	0	0	3,691
			TOTAL Wellington			31,242			0	0	0	31,242	0	17,000	0	14,242	
NelM 001	Nelson/Marlborough	\$ 508,575	1121	Game Harvest Survey	L	1,500	3	4	0	0	0	1,500	0	0	0	0	
NelM 002			1834	Audit Fee	L	2,150	3	4		0	0	0	2,150	0	0	0	0
NelM 003			1960	Insurance	L	1,300	3	4		0	0	0	1,300	0	0	0	0
NelM 004			1221	Works and Mngt Willow Control- NEW	L	7,000	3	4		0	0	0	7,000	0	0	0	0
NelM 005			1910	Additional REM - moved to national	L	0	4	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NelM 006			1940	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	0	4	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NelM 007			NEW	Relationships with Iwi	R	17,380	4	4		0	0	0	17,380	0	0	0	17,380
NAT 018	DW	% cost of DW program	R	15,324	4	4		0	0	0	15,324	0	0	0	15,324		
			TOTAL Nelson/Marlborough			44,654			0	0	0	44,654	0	11,950	0	32,704	
NC 001	North Canterbury	\$ 874,882	1910	REM Salaries - moved to National	L	0	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NC 002			1910	Additional REM - moved to National	L	0	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC 003			1110	Population Monitoring	L	8,887	3	4		0	0	0	8,887	0	0	0	0
NC 004			1970	Insurance	L	5,000	3	4		0	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	0
NC 005			NEW	Designated Waters	R	60,136	4	4		0	0	0	60,136	0	0	0	60,136
NAT 018			DW	% cost of DW program	R	14,385	4	4		0	0	0	14,385	0	0	0	14,385
			TOTAL North Cant			88,408			0	0	0	88,408	0	13,887	0	74,521	
NAT 018	West Coast	\$ 351,136	DW	No CF Applications for 2023 24	R	0	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
				% cost of DW program	R	5,895	4	4	0	0	0	5,895	0	0	0	5,895	
			TOTAL West Coast			5,895			0	0	0	5,895	0	0	0	5,895	
CSI 001	Central South Island	\$ 776,533	1110	Population Monitoring - Spawning	L	6,000	3	4	0	0	0	6,000	0	0	0	0	
CSI 002			1151	Population Monitoring - Gamebird	L	2,000	3	4		0	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	0
CSI 003			1152	Population Monitoring - Shielduck	L	2,500	1	1		2,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSI 004			2230	Devil's Bridge Mngt and Reconsenting	L	6,000	3	4		0	0	0	0	6,000	0	0	0
CSI 005			1110	Population Monitoring - Lake Benmore Trout	R	10,300	3	4		0	0	0	10,300	0	0	0	10,300
CSI 006			ASF	Capex for digitization/monitoring RMA	R	26,000	3	4		0	0	0	26,000	0	0	0	26,000
CSI 007			2200	Deep Stream restoration RMA	R	5,000	3	4		0	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
CSI 008			3340	Canal Fishery Valuation RMA	R	44,000	3	4		0	0	0	44,000	0	0	0	44,000
CSI 009			1910	New Staff Member	L	120,000	1	1		120,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSI 010			1910	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	0	4	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSI 011			1910	Additional REM - moved to National	L	0	4	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSI 012			ASF	Use Funds in ARF Reserve	R	15,000	4	4		0	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	15,000
NAT 018	DW	% cost of DW program	R	18,884	4	4		0	0	0	18,884	0	0	0	18,884		
			TOTAL Central South Island			265,684			122,500	0	0	127,184	6,000	8,000	0	119,184	
OTG 001	Otago	\$ 1,051,410	1940	Office Cost increases	L	11,500	3	4	0	0	0	11,500	0	0	0	0	
OTG 002			1910	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	0	4	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 003			1910	Additional REM - moved to National	L	0	4	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 004			1420	Communications Strategy	R	24,000	3	4		0	0	0	24,000	0	0	0	24,000
OTG 005			1220	Wanaka Hatchery Maintenance 2 years	R	15,000	3	4		0	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	15,000

Table 5: Contestable Fund Application Summary 2023-2024

App No	Region	Base Funding	Project Code	Description	L R	BOC	Additional \$	MIM Recomm Indication	NZC Recomm Indication	1 Not Recommended (1)	2 Good To Do but not essential (2)	3 Recommended but not essential (3)	4 Essential Whole Organisation & Or Individual Council (4)	5 Withdrawn (5)	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED from Reserves
NAT 018			DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	31,819	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31,819
	TOTAL Otago						82,319								11,500	0	70,819
	Southland																
STH 001		700,801	1910	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STH 001a			1910	Additional REM - moved to national	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STH 002			1910	Salaries for For Te Anau	L	B	83,675	3	4	0	0	0	83,675	0	0	0	83,675
STH 003			1310	Access using Diversion Scheme	R	O	57,000	3	4	0	0	0	57,000	0	0	0	57,000
STH 004				Loss of income - NWFA	L	B	25,000	3	4	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
NAT 018			DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	20,980	4	4	0	0	0	20,980	0	0	0	20,980
	TOTAL Southland						186,655						186,655		25,000	0	161,655
	NZC																
NZC 001		1,169,795	1910	Council Meetings - Board Pro	L	B	2,500	5	5	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0
NZC 002			1820	Audit Fee	L	B	4,000	4	4	0	0	0	4,000	0	0	0	4,000
NZC 003			1940	CEO travel	L	B	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
NZC 004			1720	Council Meetings -Add meeting	L	B	15,000	4	4	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	15,000
NZC 005			1720	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 006			1910	New Staff Member - HR	L	O	50,000	4	4	0	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
	Barrie			Council Working Groups	L	O	12,000	2	1	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NZC						83,500			12,000	0	0	79,000	2,500	25,000	50,000	161,655
	National																
NAT 001		\$1,210,600	822	Maritime Compliance	L	B	5,000	4	4	0	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 002			1710	Regulations	L	B	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
REM			1910	National REM to be allocated by Councils	L	B	891,832	4	4	0	0	0	891,832	0	0	0	891,832
NAT 003			1332	National Magazine	L	B	50,000	3	1	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 004			1213	Lexis Nexis - RMA	L	B	9,000	4	4	0	0	0	9,000	0	0	0	9,000
NAT 005			1221	Research	L	B	25,000	4	4	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
NAT 006			8815	Managers Meetings	L	B	15,000	3	3	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	0	15,000
NAT 007			Reserves	Top up reserves	L	O	160,000	4	4	0	0	0	160,000	0	0	0	160,000
NAT 008			NEW	HR Subscription	L	B	20,000	4	4	0	0	0	20,000	0	0	0	20,000
NAT 009			NEW	RMA Training	L	B	10,000	1	1	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000
NAT 010			1810	RMA Team Meeting	L	B	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
NAT 011			1281	Social Licence	L	B	28,000	2	4	0	0	0	28,000	0	0	0	28,000
NAT 012			1812	Licensing Support	L	B	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
NAT 013			1512	Compliance Support	L	B	12,000	4	4	0	0	0	12,000	0	0	0	12,000
NAT 014			1424	Communications Support	L	B	27,000	4	4	0	0	0	27,000	0	0	0	27,000
NAT 015			1211	RMA - Legal Fund	L	B	440,000	4	4	0	0	0	440,000	0	0	0	440,000
NAT 016			1220	Research - Optimisation model	L	O	45,000	4	4	0	0	0	45,000	0	0	0	45,000
NAT 017			1815	HR Support - Travel to regions	L	O	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
NAT 018			NEW	Designated Waters - NR Reserves	L	O	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 019			1810	Comms and Advocacy Team Meeting	R	O	15,000	1	1	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,000
NAT 020			1820	Fish Specialist Team meeting	L	B	15,000	1	1	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,000
NAT 021			1821	Game Specialist Team meeting	L	B	15,000	1	1	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,000
NAT 022			NEW	Population Monitoring and Analysis SOP	L	O	60,000	4	4	0	0	0	60,000	0	0	0	60,000
	TOTAL National						1,852,832			105,000	0	15,000	1,762,832	0	1,047,832	715,000	668,371
	TOTAL						\$ 2,963,560			\$ 239,500	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,700,560	\$ 8,500	\$ 1,267,189	\$ 765,000	\$ 668,371

APPENDIX 2

Schedule of FISH AND GAME NZ's proposed Licence & Fees for 2023/24 (inclusive of GST)

Sports Fish Licence		2022/23	2023/24	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (1 Oct – 30 Sep)	Adult	145	153	\$8.00
	Junior	29	31	\$2.00
	Child	free	free	Nil
Family		188	198	\$10.00
Non-resident Whole season	Adult	250	264	\$14.00
	Junior	47	50	\$3.00
	Child	47	50	\$3.00
Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)	Adult	87	92	\$5.00
Loyal senior	Adult	123	130	\$7.00
Local area	Adult	116	122	\$6.00
Short-break	Adult	52	55	\$3.00
Long-break	Adult	101	107	\$6.00
Day	Adult	23	24	\$1.00
	Junior	5	5	Nil
Non-resident Day	Adult	35	37	\$2.00
	Junior	21	22	\$1.00
	Child	21	22	\$1.00
Controlled-period		free	free	Nil
Sea Run Salmon		\$5	\$5	Nil
Designated Waters- resident	Season	Nil	\$5	\$5
Designated Waters- non-resident	Day	Nil	\$40	\$40

Game Bird Licence*		2023	2024	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (primarily 1st Sat in May to 31 Aug)	Adult	107	113	\$6.00
	Junior	25	26	\$1.00
	Child	5	5	Nil
Day (available from 2nd Monday of season)	Adult	25	26	\$1.00
	Junior	9	10	\$1.00

All licence category fees are set as a percentage of the fish or game adult whole season fee and rounded to the nearest \$, hence in some instances the fee difference remains nil.

*Game bird hunting licence fee includes the \$5 NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Notes:

- A junior means a person aged 12 years or over, but under 18 years at the start of the season.
- A child means a person aged under 12 years at the start of the season.
- Designated Waters, Sea Run Salmon and Controlled-Period licence entitles an adult or junior whole season or family fish licence holder to fish in specified waters or for specified species.
- Whole Season for sports fish extends from 1 October through to 30 September the following year.
- Whole Season for game birds can extend from the first Saturday in May to beyond the traditional closing dates for upland game hunting at the end of August due to special season conditions between February to April the following year for some species, eg. Paradise shelduck and Pukeko.
- A Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee of \$5.00 (incl GST) is payable on all categories of game hunting licence and is included in the fees shown in the game hunting licence table above.

12. RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT DEFINITION

1. Purpose

To create uniformity between the definition of a Resident and Non-Resident with the Immigration Act and that of DoC Taupo.

2. Background

Currently F&G's definition of a Resident and Non-Resident differs to that of DoC Taupo and to the Immigration Act. This paper seeks to align our definition with that of DoC and the Immigration Act.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That the Eastern Fish and Game Council supports amending the definition of resident and non-resident to align with the Immigration Act and DoC Taupō.

CONSULTATION:	RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT DEFINITION
TO:	Regional Managers
CC:	Regional Chairs, NZC and Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	8/05/2023
FEEDBACK DUE:	12/06/2023
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz
LINK TO REGISTER:	Consultation Register

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:

1. Amending the definition of resident and non-resident to align with the Immigration Act and DoC Taupō.

Executive Summary - Whakarāpopoto

Currently, our definition of resident and non-resident is inconsistent with the Immigration Act and DoC Taupō. It is proposed to amend these definitions so that they are consistent.

Discussion - Kōrerorero

Our current definition of resident and non-resident is as follows:

In the Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notice, Resident is someone who, on 1 October 20XX:

- Is a New Zealand citizen; or
- Ordinarily resides in New Zealand.

We then further define resident at the licence sales point as someone who:

- Holds a residence class, student, or work visa;
- Has lived in New Zealand for at least six of the 12 months immediately prior to their licence purchase; and
- Has New Zealand as their primary place of established residence.

Non-resident is defined in both the Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notice and the licence sales point as:

- Someone who, on October 1, is not ordinarily a resident in New Zealand.

DoC Taupō defines:

Resident as someone who is a:

- New Zealand citizen; or
- Permanent New Zealand resident as defined in the Immigration Act 2009.

Non-resident as someone who is not a:

- New Zealand citizen; or
- Permanent resident as defined in the Immigration Act 2009.

The Immigration Act definitions are as follows:

- New Zealand citizen means someone who has New Zealand citizenship as provided in the Citizenship Act 1977 or the Citizenship (Western Samoa) Act 1982;
- Permanent resident means the holder of a permanent resident visa.

At its April 2023 meeting, NZC agreed to consult with Regional Fish and Game Councils on amending our current definitions to align with the Immigration Act and DoC Taupō because of the increased clarity. It is believed this will also make prosecutions simpler as the definitions are more finite.

Prior to confirming this at its 15 June 2023 meeting, analysis will be undertaken by the Licence Working Party (LWP) on what the prospective implications of this change are from a licence holder and financial perspective.

Options - Ngā kōwhiringa

Regional councils may:

- a. Support amending the definitions; or
- b. Not support the definitions.

Considerations for Decision-Making - Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga

Financial Implications

Analysis will be undertaken by the LWP on the implications prior to confirmation at NZC's June 2023 meeting.

Legislative Implications

If confirmed, this would result in amendments to the Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notice 2023.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

There are no legislative implications raised.

Policy Implications

Consideration needs to be given as to whether this fits within NZC's current policy and strategy, such as National Policy, three-year plan and R3 initiatives etc.

Risks and Mitigations

There is a risk of unforeseen financial implications as a result of amending definitions, however this will be mitigated by undertaking analysis prior to confirmation. There is further a current risk of difficulties in determining residency or prosecuting for fishing with a licence a person is not eligible for because of unclear definitions.

Next Actions - Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

If supported, and NZC approves these changes at its June 2023 meeting, these will be factored into the Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notice 2023.



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

13. NATIONAL RESERVE POLICY

1. Purpose

To confirm clarification on the status quo of the reserves policy. This reserves policy proposes to codify the status quo approach to reserves and provide clarity to all councils on the thresholds and processes associated with reserves.

2. Background

In 2020, the organisational reserves policy was amended in light of covid to reduce reserves thresholds from 30% to 20% and to require regions to spend a portion of their budget from reserves. NZC also indemnified regional reserves at the 20% level.

Since that point the treatment of reserves has not been definitively restated, leading to some confusion around what the approach and what the thresholds are.

3. Recommendation

Councils may:

- 1. Support the draft policy; or*
- 2. Not support the draft policy; or*
- 3. Propose an amendment to the draft policy.*

That we support the draft policy and accept option 1, as our financial position and cash flow offer us stability with little risk of dropping below our reserves threshold or needing emergency support to operate.

CONSULTATION:	DRAFT NATIONAL RESERVES POLICY
TO:	Regional Managers
CC:	Regional Chairs, NZC and Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	8/05/2023
FEEDBACK DUE:	28/06/2023
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz
LINK TO REGISTER:	Consultation Register

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:

1. Clarifying the status quo reserves policy.

Executive Summary - Whakarāpopoto

This reserves policy proposes to codify the status quo approach to reserves and provide clarity to all councils on the thresholds and processes associated with reserves.

Background - Takenga mai

In 2020, the organisational reserves policy was amended in light of covid to reduce reserves thresholds from 30% to 20% and to require regions to spend a portion of their budget from reserves. NZC also indemnified regional reserves at the 20% level.

Since that point the treatment of reserves has not been definitively restated, leading to some confusion around what the approach and thresholds are.

Discussion - Koīrerorero

Prior to the COVID-19 amendments to budget policy, reserves were set for levy paying regions as a percentage of licence sales and for grant receiving regions as a percentage of budget. During COVID-19 this was amended to be as a percentage of budget for all regions (whether levy paying or grant receiving). It is proposed that this approach is continued.

The intention of this policy is not to change the approach to reserves, but to clarify the post-Covid status quo. The one minor amendment is the requirement for regions to fund one-off projects from reserves if these are over the upper threshold (currently this is the usual practice but is not prescribed).

Options - Ngā kōwhiringa

Regional councils may:

- a. Support the draft policy; or
- b. Not support the draft policy; or
- c. Propose an amendment to the draft policy.

Considerations for Decision-Making - Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga

Financial Implications

There should be minimal direct financial implications. Long term, this should provide for an all of organisation approach to the maintenance and expenditure of reserves, minimising increases to licence sales.

Legislative Implications

There are no legislative implications raised.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

There are no Section 4 Treaty responsibilities raised.

Policy Implications

If approved, this would reaffirm existing National Policy.

Risks and Mitigations

This policy represents a mitigation step against the financial risk to the organisation from potential mismanagement of reserves.

Next Actions - Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

If supported, and approved by NZC at its 18 August 2023 meeting, this will become National Policy.

Supporting Document

- [Draft National Reserves Policy](#)



Corina Jordan

Chief Executive

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Section	Governance
Contact/Owner	NZC CEO/NZC
Last Review	
Next Review	November 2025
Approval	NZC [INSERT MEETING DATE/RESOLUTION]
Effective Date	[INSERT DATE]

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the financial viability of Fish and Game whilst minimising increases to the licence fee by:

- Setting minimum and maximum reserves thresholds; and
- Specifying the course of action taken where reserves fall outside this threshold; and
- Ensuring an all of organisation approach to the expenditure of reserves.

2. PRINCIPLES

The National Reserves Policy covers:

- The types of reserves held by Fish and Game Councils.
- The minimum and maximum amount of reserves a Council should hold.
- The approach when a Council falls below or exceeds the minimum or maximum reserves threshold.
- The process by which different classes of reserves may be spent.

3. TYPES OF RESERVES

Fish and Game Councils hold three different types of reserves:

- a. General reserves, which are accumulated funds.
- b. Dedicated reserves, which are reserves held for a dedicated purpose.
- c. Restricted reserves, which are reserves under Fish and Game's control where an external party sets a restricted purpose.

4. PERCENTAGES OF RESERVES TO BE HELD

- All Regional Fish and Game Councils shall hold a minimum of 20% reserves (comprising general and dedicated reserves, but not restricted reserves) and a maximum of 50% reserves as a percentage of budget.
- The New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall hold a minimum of 30% of reserves (general and dedicated) and a maximum of 50% of reserves as a percentage of budget.
- These percentages are as at 31 August each year.

5. APPROACH TO RESERVES OUTSIDE OF 20-50% RANGE

- **Reserves below 20%:**
 - a. Where a Regional Fish and Game Council's reserves, having operated within budget, fall below 20% (for instance, due to an un-forecast reduction in licence sales), the region may apply for a top of reserves in the next budget round. If the region is unable to operate that financial year (i.e. before the top up of reserves takes affect) the region may apply to NZC for a short term loan.
 - b. Where NZC reserves fall below 30% these will be topped up through the contestable funding round.
- **Reserves over 50%:**
 - a. Where a Regional Fish and Game Council exceeds the 50% maximum threshold, they will not be eligible to apply for one-off or fixed-term funding from the licence fee in the contestable funding round until their reserves are below 50%. These projects must instead be funded from reserves.
 - Ongoing costs, such as salaries, can still be applied for from the licence fee in the contestable funding round.
 - b. Where the New Zealand Fish and Game Council exceeds the 50% reserves threshold all funds over and above this threshold will be available at the next contestable funding round.

6. HOW RESERVES MAY BE SPENT

- **General Reserves:**

A Regional Fish and Game Council must seek approval from NZC prior to spending general reserves.
- **Dedicated Reserves**

A Regional Fish and Game Council must notify NZC if it spends dedicated reserves.
- **Restricted Reserves**

A Regional Fish and Game Council must notify NZC if it spends restricted reserves.

7. DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: Jack Kós, Senior Policy & Legal Advisor
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation): 8/05/2023
Next Review: November 2025

14. F&G LICENCE HOLDER DISCONNECT

1. Purpose

To discuss and consult on the points raised in Cr Lindsay Lyons paper to the Council.

2. Background

Cr Lyons feels that there is a disconnect between the operations of the organisation and its licence holders and that this disconnect adds to the lack of focus placed on key R3 areas.

3. Recommendation

Eastern F&G CEO has addressed the points raised by Cr Lyons in a paper (both papers are in PFI) and recommends that most of the points raised have been addressed and is open to further consultation on matters if needed.

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

16. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Ref: 9.01.01

25 May 2023

1. Purpose

To review possibility of amalgamation with Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Region

2. Resolutions

2.1 That pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at ... pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to review possibility of amalgamation with Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Region.

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
Assess operational and governance structure of an amalgamation of Eastern and Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Regions.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii): That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of 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.

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.”

2.2 That Council moves out of public excluded at ... pm.

2.3 That the public be re-admitted to the meeting at ... pm.