



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

12 October 2023

AGENDA

The 204th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 12 October 2023

Commences: 11.00 AM

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3 Election of Officers (11.10 AM, 20 min)	(R) 1
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17 Liaison Officers Reports (2.10PM, 10 min)	(I) 82
18 General Business (2.20PM, 30min)	
19 Meeting Closes (2.50PM)	

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

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ref: 7.02.01

28 September 2023

1. Purpose

To reconfirm or elect a Chair for the Eastern Fish and Game Council, to reconfirm or elect an appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and reconfirm or elect other Eastern Fish and Game Council officers and appointments for the coming year.

2. Background

Each year the Eastern Fish and Game Council elects or reconfirms its appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in accordance with the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990 which state the following:

26 Appointment of members of New Zealand Fish and Game Council

- (1) The first meeting of each newly elected Fish and Game Council shall be held not later than 3 weeks after the date the members came into office.*
- (2) At the first meeting of the Council members shall appoint one of their number to be a member of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.*
- (3) The appointment shall be by majority vote of the Council.*
- (4) Members of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall remain in office as long as they remain members of the appointing Fish and Game Council, except that where a majority of the members of the appointing Fish and Game Council pass a resolution that a vote be taken on a new appointment prior to expiry of the term, then a vote shall be taken and the successor shall serve out the remaining period of the term.*

Cr Debbie Oakley has been the NZC appointee since the inauguration of the present Eastern Fish and Game Council in 2021.

The other positions requiring consideration are that of Chair, Deputy Chair, and the appointment of the staff member as trustee representing Council's interests on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET). Current appointees to these roles are as follows:

- Chair – Cr Ngahi Bidois
- Deputy Chair – Cr Murray Ferris
- Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET) trustee – Matthew McDougall

The Eastern Fish and Game Council also appoints an Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee. This has specific Terms of Reference dealing with the compilation of information for the annual Manager's performance review, and also serves as an initial point of contact for the Manager in the event of issues arising that need to be addressed urgently or in between scheduled meetings of Council. The term of appointment for this Committee is three years commencing at the beginning of each Council term, in this case November 2021 to November 2024. The incumbent Councillors are Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Debbie Oakley and Ken Coombes (prior to his recent resignation).

The objectives of the Waikato (WCEET) trust are detailed in an attachment to this item. Matt's role on the WCEET remains largely technical and involved with the evaluation of funding applications and acting as project manager and advisor for a number of projects. The members of the WCEET are mostly staff from agencies including Fish & Game, DOC, territorial authorities, and Mercury Energy.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council elects a New Zealand Council appointee along with members of Council to fill above roles, and confirms the ongoing appointment of Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust.



Trust Purpose

The Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust was established for the following charitable purposes:

- To foster and enhance the sustainable management of the ecological resources in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To mitigate adverse effects of the operation of the Hydro Scheme on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity, the sports fishery and game bird populations in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments through appropriate and sustainable species and habitat management by:
 1. identifying important habitats and/or species;
 2. identifying risks and threats to those identified habitats and/or species;
 3. identifying most practicable means to ameliorate or resolve risks and threats to habitats and species in the catchment;
 4. identifying practical means to enhance important habitats and/or species;
 5. establishing an enduring and beneficial working partnership between Mighty River Power and the Trust.

Trust Objectives

Objectives of the trust are:

1. Enhancement of wetland values in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
2. Enhancement of indigenous biodiversity in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
3. Enhancement of the sports fishery and game bird population in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
4. Mitigation of any adverse effects of the operation of the Waikato Hydro System on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 203rd MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 10th August 2023 AT 11.00 AM**

Present

Crs. Ngahi Bidois, Debbie Oakley, Lindsay Lyons, Mike Jarvie, Mark Sceats, Kevin Coutts, Jay Tapsell, and Murray Ferris (via Zoom at 12.40pm)

In attendance

Arash Alacinia, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Mark Sherburn, Anthony van Dorp and Matt Osborne, Cheyenne Robson (Eastern Fish & Game); Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish & Game), Barrie Barnes (New Zealand Fish and Game Council), and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

- 1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois opened the meeting at 10.56am welcoming all present including Cheyenne Robson (new team member Eastern Fish & Game) and Barrie Barnes (New Zealand Fish and Game Council). Cr Jay Tapsell opened with a karakia.
- 1.2 Ngahi introduced Barrie Barnes to the meeting and acknowledged the great mahi he has been doing especially in Kaupapa Māori and the passion he has for our relationships with iwi. Barrie thanked Ngahi for his introduction and the opportunity to attend the meeting.

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Ken Coombes, Scott Nicol, and Murray Ferris who would join later via Zoom. Cr Ngahi Bidois informed Council that the requirement for councillors to hold a current Fish & Game licence had been confirmed with a recent legal opinion. Ngahi understood that, to date, Alan Simmons had not purchased a current season licence which fundamentally meant that unfortunately Alan was unable to sit on Council until this matter was resolved. Ngahi confirmed that Alan Simmons had sent his apologies for today's meeting.
- 2.2 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 203rd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/08/2.2]*
- 2.3 Cr Lindsay Lyons wished Alan Simmons a speedy recovery for his upcoming operation.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (8 JUNE 2023)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jay Tapsell) that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to correction of a minor spelling error noted on page 10 item 14.1. [23/08/3.1]*

3.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy from the minutes of the meeting held 8 June 2023.

3.3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 8 June 2023. Arash Alacinia advised that he had responded via email to the matters raised at the meeting.

4.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Arash Alaeinia – Meeting times and days.

5.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

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

6.0 PRESENTATION HON MP TODD McCLAY

6.1 Arash Alaeinia had received a message that Hon. MP Todd McClay was unable to attend the meeting as he was stuck in New Plymouth. Todd was happy to reschedule or join via Zoom to which Arash accepted his offer to join via Zoom.

6.2 Hon. MP Todd McClay joined meeting via Zoom at 11.40am. Cr Ngahi Bidois welcomed Todd to the meeting, providing a brief introduction, and thanking him for his support for the work of Fish & Game.

6.3 Mr McClay acknowledged the launch of the National Party's hunting and fishing policy, that will create a Minister responsible for Hunting and Fishing and be able to give a voice to the large portion of all NZ hunters and anglers. His key points raised were:

- The minister will have statutory and legislative ministerial responsibility for the Game Animal Council and for Fish and Game.
- The National party states the proposed The Minister of Conservation would no longer be responsible for the legislation for Fish & Game rather that would move to the Minister of Hunting & Fishing.
- The National party is opposing the proposed Natural Built Environments Act.
- The proposed minister will also take responsibility for access to public land for recreational hunting & fishing.
- New Zealanders have a right to go hunting & fishing in NZ, they have a right to access public land and the DoC estate.

6.7 Cr Kevin Coutts queried whether Nationals' policy will be looking to take away pest status on some of the game animals that are good for the NZ economy such as the Tahr in the South Is and Red deer in the North? Mr McClay responded advising that they propose to change policy so that nowhere in legislation are game animals referred to as pests rather they become valued introduced species which need to be managed.

6.8 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried the closure of Kaingaroa forest for access and whether there would be further investigation for access into one of the most important rivers within the Eastern Fish & Game region? Mr McClay recalled the background and spoke of the issues surrounding access to this area and confirmed this is something that National would like to revisit.

6.9 Barrie Barnes (NZC) requested meeting with Mr McClay to discuss the future challenges of Fish & Game nationally and some of the challenges Fish & Game faces with the current legislation, and relationships with some ministries moving forward. Mr McClay agrees to connect regarding these matters.

6.10 Cr Debbie Oakley questioned the security of the firearms registry following a recent breach and asked Mr McClay whether National believes it is effective and going achieve the desired outcomes? Mr Clay advised that National have not committed to taking the registry away, but their objective will be to make sure the information contained within it is safe and secure, ensure it achieves the desired results, and it should not be expensive. He spoke of a restructure of responsibilities and management between the Ministry of

justice, the NZ Police, the Minister of Hunting & Fishing, and the responsible legitimate licenced firearms community.

7.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 *Health and safety Report* - Cr Kevin Coutts expressed concern for areas our staff are entering and the type of people they are having to deal with. Cr Mike Jarvie commented on ranger training, situational awareness, remote areas requiring two people to attend, and utilising inreach device. Cr Ngahi Bidois agreed staff safety is top priority. Arash Alaeinia highlighted that our protocols and procedures are robust, and staff are trained to for these situations.

7.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/ Kevin Coutts) that Council received the Health and Safety report. [23/08/7.2]*

7.3 *Financial report* – Lindsay Lyons expressed concern about budget overspends totalling some \$17,500 and suggested that YTD budgets could be allocated at higher margins, rather than continuously working over budget. Kate Thompson referred to the Profit and Loss Statement and explained that the total variance to date for expenses was 19k and for income 4k. The YTD budget figures were a guide for proposed spending for the period and variances to the YTD budget highlighted issues early to staff and Council. Kate advised that where there is an overspend there will always be an explanation that either the overspend is offset of additional income, by reduced spending in another budget, due to timing, or in some cases budgets are exceeded due to unforeseen expenditure or increases in costs. Cr Debbie Oakley suggested that a summary of the net position per the Profit and Loss would be helpful.

7.4 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jay Tapsell) that Council received the Finance Report and approves payments for May and June 2023 totalling \$335,491.44. [23/08/7.4]*

Council broke for lunch at 12pm, resuming at 12.28pm.

7.5 *Management Report* – Cr Mike Jarvie commented on the report that had highlighted that a couple of the solar panels on the Lake Waikaremoana monitoring buoy were not operating and questioned what was required to get them operational again? Arash Alaeinia confirmed that the buoy was operational despite the panels being damaged and for the time being these would not be replaced.

7.6 *Licence Sales Report* – Cr Lindsay Lyons asked if further marketing was to occur before opening and suggested articles be written for publications/newspapers in Tauranga and Hamilton. Arash Alaeinia appreciated Lindsay's ideas and detailed what is planned prior to opening to promote the start of the season which included electronic billboards at Koutu corner, Godzone Magazine, and the Fishing & Hunting 4x4 Expo. He said he would liaise with Mark Sherburn about other opportunities.

7.7 Cr Kevin Coutts commented on the current cost of living crisis and what this means for many people, adding that it might just be that sales decline until the economy improves.

7.8 *Agreed (Jay Tapsell/ Kevin Coutts) that Council received the Management and Licence Sales Reports. [23/08/7.8]*

8.0 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

8.1 Arash Alaeinia confirmed that there had been no feedback received following the distribution of the draft 2023-24 Operational Work Plan to clubs and stakeholders.

8.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Kevin Coutts) that Council approves the proposed Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2023-2024 year. [23/08/8.2]*

8.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jevin Coutts) that Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved 2023-2024 Operational Work Plan and Budget. [23/08/8.3]*

9.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

9.1 Cr Kevin Coutts commented on Lake Rotorua being the Jewel in the crown of fisheries and believes we can do more to promote our region for fishing. There are many boats on Rotoiti/Tarawera but would be great to see Lake Rotorua more active during the summer season. Cr Lindsay Lyons having previously operated as a guide on Rotorua Lakes commented that you were always guaranteed to catch trout. He felt that we needed to market Lake Rotorua more as a magnificent fishery. Arash Alaeinia commented that the biggest problem for Rotorua Lake was a lack of guides.

9.2 *Agreed (Kevin Coutts/ Mike Jarvie) that Council received the summary for the 2022-23 Summer Creel Survey. [23/08/9.2]*

Cr Murray Ferris joined the meeting via Zoom at 12.40pm.

10.0 DRAFT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

10.1 Arash Alaeinia introduced the proposed Draft Performance Management Policy commenting on its aim to create a national framework to support and ensure that all regions are adhering to a minimum standard for staff development and remuneration, acknowledging that there may be individual nuances along the way.

10.2 Council were generally supportive of the proposed policy. Cr Debbie Oakley questioned whether the package could also be utilised for the governor/management relationship? Arash Alaeinia understood it to be primarily for staff use but would confirm with the NZC HR manager. Other feedback included.

- a little costly but worthwhile
- there is a need for a national policy
- provides a guideline and as Governors we need to ensure it's followed.

10.3 Cr Kevin Coutts questioned whether other Fish & Game regions were supportive of the proposed policy commenting that some regions may continue with their own processes. Cr Debbie Oakley advised that the New Zealand Council would consider the feedback from regions but a consensus was not required to implement the policy.

10.4 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Debbie Oakley) that Council supports the proposed Draft Performance Management Policy in principle. [23/08/10.4]*

11.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

11.1 Report from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Arash Alaeinia had received apologies from Sara Carley advising that their report was not due for another two weeks.

11.2 Report from the Department of Conservation

No Report.

11.3 Report from New Zealand Council

Cr Ngahi Bidois invited the Chair of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZFGC), Barrie Barnes to speak to Council.

11.4 Barrie Barnes highlighted that the NZFGC is also made up of volunteers just like regional councils, but the legislation imposes other liabilities and mandates on them. Barrie outlined the process for development of national policy and explained that some decisions needed to be made where all regions might not be in favour, adding that sometimes those decisions were difficult and ultimately the Conservation Act requires

that regions to abide by national policy once it is set. He recommended that Councils who have thoughts/ideas on national policies put them through to the New Zealand Council rather than seeking feedback from regions first, the reason being, to hasten the process as it usually takes a couple of meeting cycles to reach a decision.

11.5 Barrie provided a brief overview of what the NZFGC were working on currently and commented on working groups set up to address specific tasks. He spoke of:

- Future Finance working Group
- Future Structure Working Group
- Research Working Group
- Ranger and marine compliance
- Insurance policy review
- Designated Waters
- Guides licensing

12.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that the REM Policy which had been included within the PFI for the June meeting was also included for this meeting to enable Council to discuss and provide feedback to national office.

12.2 Cr Debbie Oakley advised that strategic pay had been involved since 2019 and updates which included adjustments for CPI were provided by them in March 2023. The policy had been prepared by Jane Hutchings, HR Specialist, and was a guideline for Councils to use with an expectation that they take it on board.

12.3 Cr Ngahi Bidios thanked Cr Debbie Oakley for her work with the group responsible for getting the policy through to this stage.

12.4 Cr Debbie Oakley advised that a resolution was needed to confirm this Council's support for the policy. Some discussion occurred as to whether this motion could be passed in General Business. It was agreed that the standing orders would be suspended to enable a resolution to be passed on this matter which has been referred back to Council for a resolution.

12.5 Agreed (Mark Sceats/ Kevin Coutts) that Council suspends standing order 3.8.9 to enable a resolution to be passed on the REM Policy. [23/08/12.5]

12.6 Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports the Draft Remuneration Policy issued by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for consultation dated 8 May 2023. [23/08/12.6]

12.7 Agreed (Mark Sceats/ Kevin Coutts) that Council reimpose standing order 3.8.9 to enable a resolution to be passed on the REM Policy. [23/08/12.7]

12.8 Cr Ngahi Bidios invited Council to provide their thoughts on moving Council meetings to the weekends to assist those Councillors that need to take time off work to attend. A mixed response was received with most happy to attend weekend meetings, but suggestions were made for a range of options or even Zoom meetings. Weekend meetings would provide the opportunity for public to attend also. Cr Debbie Oakley pointed out that unfortunately Zoom meetings are no longer permissible for statutory organisations and as a result any resolutions would need to be ratified at a following meeting. Matt McDougall suggested that it could provide opportunity for some Councillors to Zoom in assuming a quorum is present at the meeting. Cr Ngahi Bidios summarised that Council was supportive of attending weekend meetings but asked Arash Alaeinia to present a range of options for approval at the next meeting.

13.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

13.1 Agreed (Mike Jarvie/ Jay Tapsell) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at

1.42 pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to discuss Council and the CE's Performance review. [23/08/13.1]

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
Discussion on the Council's performance review and other related matters, and review of the Manager's performance.	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.
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.”

13.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/jay Tapsell) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.25 pm. [23/08/13.2]*

13.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jay Tapsell) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 2.26 pm. [23/08/13.3]*

14.0 **MEETING CLOSED**

14.1 *The meeting closed at 2.26pm.*

.....
Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 203rd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/08/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (8 JUNE 2023)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jay Tapsell) that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to correction of a minor spelling error noted on page 10 item 14.1. [23/08/3.1]*

7.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 7.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/ Kevin Coutts) that Council received the Health and Safety report. [23/08/7.2]*
7.4 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jay Tapsell) that Council received the Finance Report and approves payments for May and June 2023 totalling \$335,491.44. [23/08/7.4]*
7.8 *Agreed (Jay Tapsell/ Kevin Coutts) that Council received the Management and Licence Sales Reports. [23/08/7.8]*

8.0 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 8.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Kevin Coutts) that Council approves the proposed Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2023-2024 year. [23/08/8.2]*
8.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jevin Coutts) that Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved 2023-2024 Operational Work Plan and Budget. [23/08/8.3]*

9.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

- 9.2 *Agreed (Kevin Coutts/ Mike Jarvie) that Council received the summary for the 2022-23 Summer Creel Survey. [23/08/9.2]*

10.0 DRAFT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

- 10.4 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Debbie Oakley) that Council supports the proposed Draft Performance Management Policy in principle. [23/08/10.4]*

12.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 12.5 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/ Kevin Coutts) that Council suspends standing order 3.8.9 to enable a resolution to be passed on the REM Policy. [23/08/12.5]*
12.6 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports the Draft Remuneration Policy issued by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for consultation dated 8 May 2023. [23/08/12.6]*
12.7 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/ Kevin Coutts) that Council reimpose standing order 3.8.9 to enable a resolution to be passed on the REM Policy. [23/08/12.7]*

13.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

- 13.1 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/ Jay Tapsell) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 1.42 pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to discuss Council and the CE's Performance review. [23/08/13.1]*
13.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/jay Tapsell) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.25 pm. [23/08/13.2]*
13.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jay Tapsell) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 2.26 pm. [23/08/13.3]*

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

29 September 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.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

30 September 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.

July – September 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:	
July 2023	Wairua – Walk up counts
July 2023	Debris removal – Ngongotaha trap
August 2023	Ranging operation Utuhina, Waiowhero
September 2023	Ngongotaha trap set up
2022-2023 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000	

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	26/09/2023
Number of Workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	4
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	54
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	5
Total number of days since last lost work injury	157
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 26/04/23	767
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)

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

24 July 2023 Road works at end of Paradise Valley Road, take care
31 July 2023 Mindful of aggressive fishers, safe working in field
7 Aug 2023 Mindful of aggressive fishers
14 Aug 2023 Mindful of aggressive fishers
21 Aug 2023 Rivers up again, mindful of flooding
28 Aug 2023 60 School children on site – mindful dogs and vehicles
4 Sept 2023 Still many undesirable youths around streams
11 Sept 2023 60 School children on site – mindful dogs and vehicles
18 Sept 2023 Mindful of aggressive fishers, high winds
25 Sept 2023 Weather – high waters, slips

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Since the last report a staff member has reported bruising to face following a fishing rod/reel being thrown during compliance work. An investigation has been completed and measures considered to prevent this type of injury occurring in the future.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

8. BIO SECURITY THREAT AND IMPLICATIONS ON FISHING

3 Oct 2023

1. Purpose

For Council to discuss the impact of the Gold Clam Bio Security threat, the closure of Lake Okataina and Controlled Area Notice (CAN) imposed on the lake for 1 month by MPI and the possibility of other Rotorua lakes closing.

2. Background

The *Corbicula fluminea*, (Gold Clam/Asian Gold Clam), was discovered first in the Bob's Landing area of the Waikato River near Lake Karāpiro in early May 2023. MPI found significant numbers of the clam up to 1.5kms upstream from Bob's Landing, and as far downstream as Hamilton city, indicating a well-established breeding population that had potentially been present there for 2-3 years.

A 3-phase surveillance programme to determine how widely the clams are distributed is ongoing. To date, all detections are within the Waikato River.

Phase 1 - This phase involved visual checks and water sampling of 25 sites for environmental DNA (eDNA) testing in the Waikato River and Lake Taupō. This phase is complete.

The furthest upriver the freshwater gold clam has been detected is in Lake Maraetai, near the Mangakino Recreation Reserve. This is the currently known upper limit of the incursion on the Waikato River.

Phase 2 - Is surveillance of rivers flowing into the Waikato River, prioritising the Waipā River.

Phase 3 - This phase is a national survey of high-risk water bodies, collecting water samples for environmental DNA (eDNA) testing. These are lakes and rivers where there are links to the Waikato River through human activities such as boating.

Temporary biosecurity rules are being introduced for Lake Ōkātina as part of a precautionary approach to reducing risk of spread from the freshwater gold clam. The lake is being closed for a month, from 1 to 31 October to boating and fishing, through a Controlled Area Notice (CAN) under the Biosecurity Act. "While the clam has not been found outside of a 99km stretch of the Waikato River, the temporary CAN is in response to a request from Ngāti Tarāwhai, while other options, including boat cleaning stations, are put in place," says Biosecurity New Zealand deputy director-general Stuart Anderson.

Following this action Te Arawa Lakes Trust issued a statement on 2nd Oct highlighting that it is considering placing a rāhui on all the other lakes in the region to safeguard them from the invasive species as an "interim measure," to raise awareness.

The details would depend on "the evidence being built to encompass a rāhui whakarauora taiao, to allow for conservation, and a rāhui aukati mōreareatanga, to address the biosecurity risk".

3. Recommendation

That Council discusses the impact of Lake Okataina closure, the possibility of the Lake being closed for longer than 1 month. The impact of a rāhui being placed on other Lakes in the region. Our communication plan through NZC to both Eastern licence holders and all national licence holders.

9. 2024 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

Ref: 1.07.03

27 September 2023

1. Purpose

To review the 2023 Eastern Game Season Conditions (see Appendix 1) and highlight the 2024 game season issues needing further consideration at Council's December meeting.

2. Introduction

Issues relating to game season regulations for the upcoming season need to be identified at this meeting of Council. From time to time Council reviews its policies and criteria for setting regulations (see resolutions Appendix 2). Council has previously determined that where it could, it would set mallard and grey duck (grey/mallard) regulations based on predicted population sizes of game bird populations ("threshold management"), with three sets of regulatory constraints, these being restricted, intermediate, and relaxed conditions. If for example, the Eastern mallard population was predicted to be equal to, or below 350,000 birds then a restricted set of conditions would apply. If the population is predicted to be above 350,000 and below 450,000 birds an intermediate set would apply, and if the population was predicted to be greater than 450,000 birds this would trigger a relaxed set of conditions (see Figure 2).

Paradise shelduck and black swan regulations are also based on their respective population status. Criteria for setting regulations for these species are given in Appendix 2.

National monitoring of shoveler populations indicates the population may be decreasing.

Game season conditions for the season following are generally proposed at Council's meeting in December and confirmed or refined by staff for recommendation to the Minister of Conservation at the end of January once additional population information is available from summer monitoring programmes.

3. Issues

In addition to any other issues Council might wish to discuss, there are four topics that require Council's consideration and input for next season as follows:

1. Special black swan season

A special black swan season has been gazetted for the weekend of 17 – 25 February 2024 in Area A1 where there has for many years been an unlimited daily bag limit. The special season was first proposed in 2018 following rapidly increasing numbers on Tauranga Harbour (Figure 1).

The Western Bay of Plenty Fish and Game Club usually organises a shoot over the special season in February with the aim of reducing numbers on the harbour but have not had much luck with the weather in recent years.

Council needs to consider whether it wishes to hold another special season in February 2025 and if so, is it supportive of a season lasting 9 days (two weekends + one week).

Tauranga

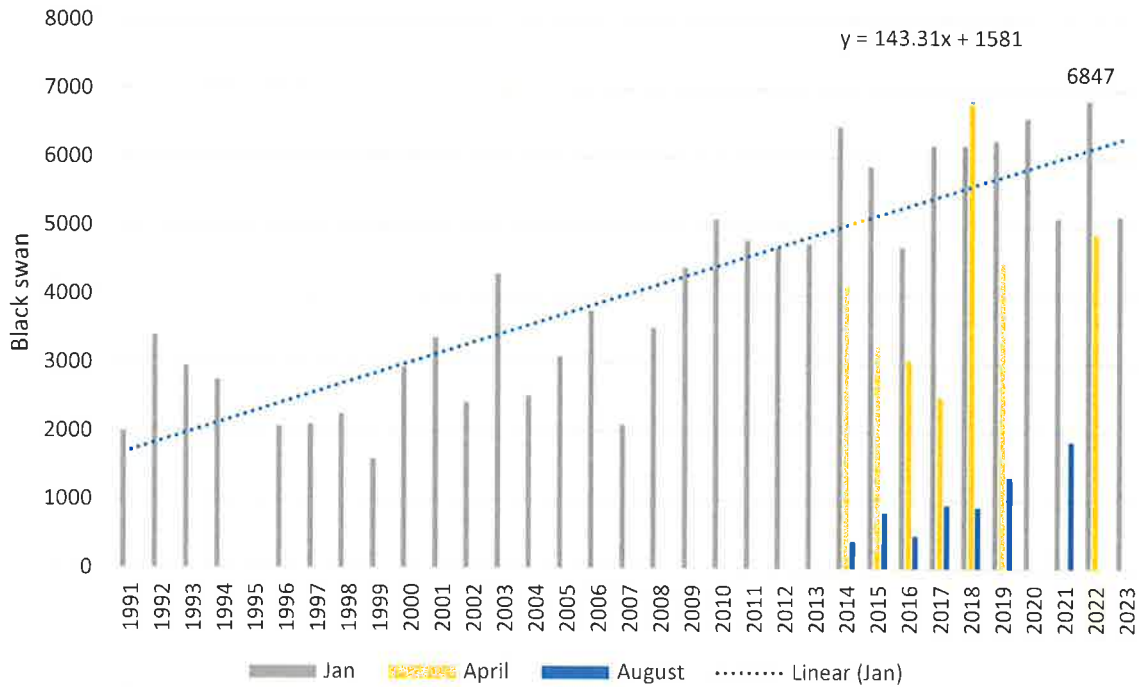


Figure 1. Black swan counts on Tauranga harbour 1991–2023 (grey columns). April and August counts are shown in yellow and blue respectively. Counts are made from a Cessna 172 aircraft flying at 300’ using two observers. The 2021 count was delayed because of Covid-19 lockdown and did not occur until 13 September.

2. *Special pukeko season*

A special season for pukeko has been aligned with the black swan season 17 – 25 February 2024 with a daily bag limit of 10 which applies across the entire Eastern Region. The special season was initially proposed to alleviate crop damage, reduce mallard and grey duckling predation, and was based on the limited harvest recorded during the game bird season (2023 season: 1,518; 95% CI 1, 915 –2,518). It is unclear if hunters choose to participate.

In recent years (2015–2022) the number of permits issued to disturb pukeko has been decreasing (NB 2023 data is not complete; Figure 2). Council needs to decide if it wishes to hold another special season in 2025 and if so, should the season align with the special swan season if that is to occur?

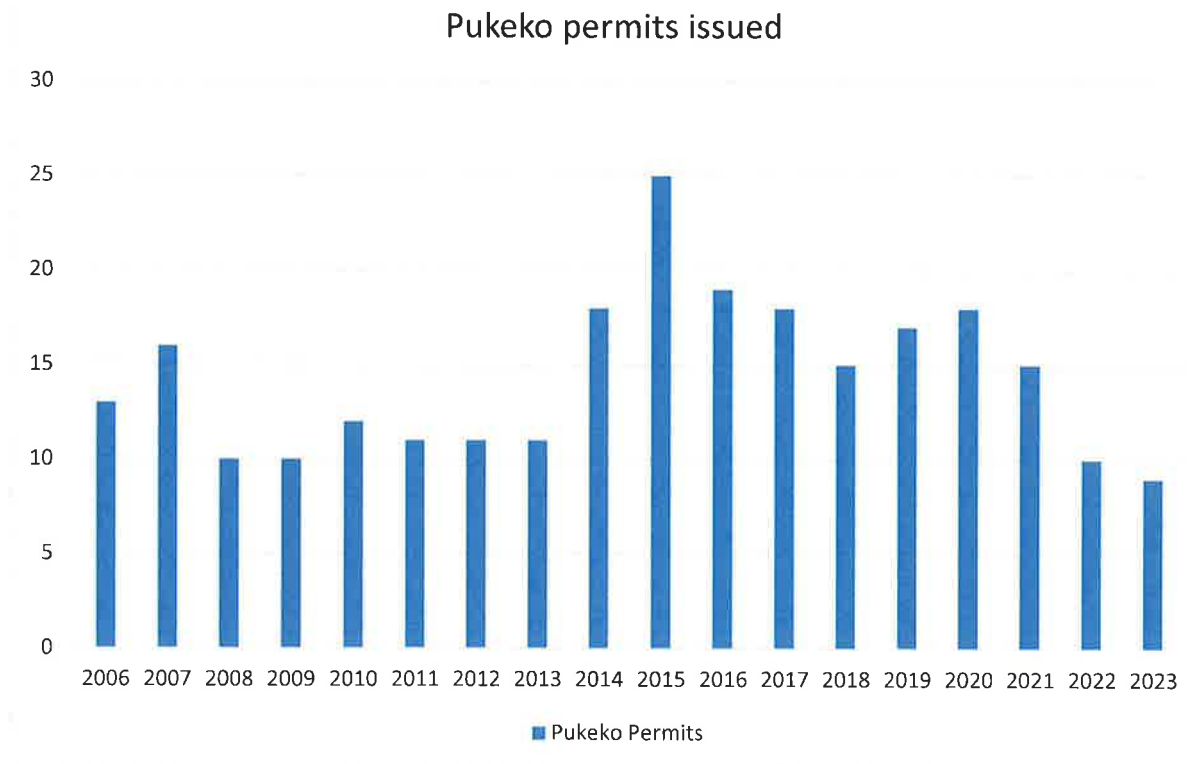


Figure 1. Number of pukeko permits to disturb issued by year.

3. *Brown quail*

In 2020 – 2023 there was no open season for brown quail in the Eastern Region. This came about because of a perceived decline in the population. There has been no reported harvest (hunter survey) for many years (although one was reported shot this year despite a closed season). Council needs to consider if a closed season should continue for the 2024 season. We have had no comment from hunters regarding closure of the season over the past three years.

4. *Special Conditions*

Special Conditions of the Gazette Notice refer to maimai impeding navigable channels (Regulation 5(2)) and erecting maimai in various estuaries and lakes (Regulation 5(3); see Second Schedule in **Appendix 1**). Both these issues are dealt with in Regional Council plan rules and probably don't need to be included in the Game Gazette notice.

After today's meeting, clubs will be invited to comment on any issues they wish to raise for consideration at Council's next meeting (December 2023).

3. Additional Information

3.1 Threshold Approach and Mallard and Grey Duck Population Estimates

Refer to the Papers for Information December 2022.

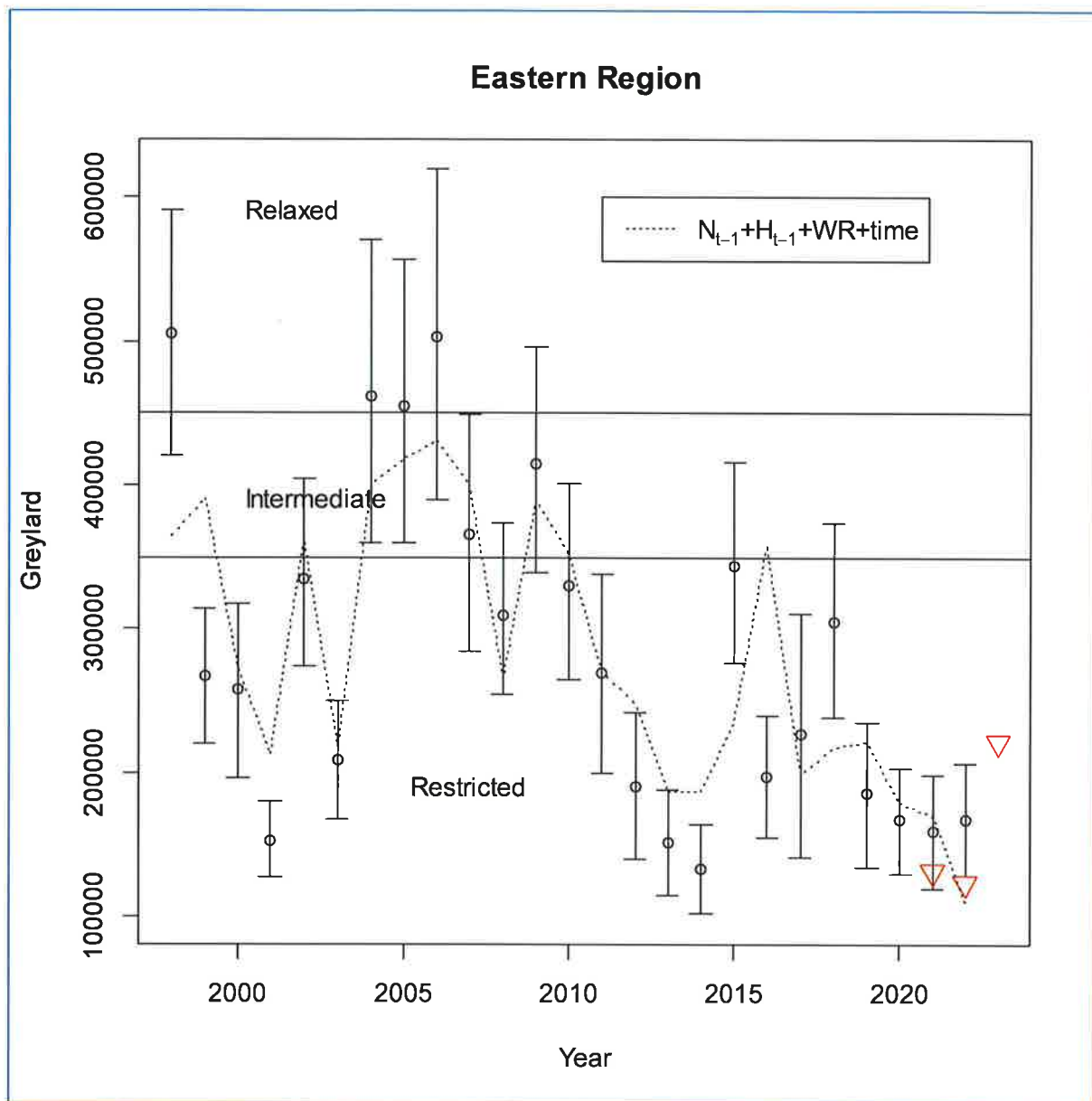


Figure 2. Eastern Region mallard population (open circle; mean \pm 95% BCI) 1998–2022, with three zones of regulation constraint, Restricted, Intermediate and Relaxed (demarcated by the horizontal lines). The dashed line shows the model $N(t) = N_{(t-1)} + H + WR + \text{time}$ where $N_{(t)}$ =mallard population in year t , H = greyland harvest in year $t-1$, WR =total winter rain (recorded at the Whakatane weather station), $\text{time} = \text{year } (t)$. The upside-down red triangle represents the predicted 2021–2023 greyland population.

4. Recommendation:

- 4.1 That Council considers the proposed threshold levels and criteria for regulation setting and identifies any variants for ratification at its December 2023 meeting.**
- 4.2 That Council identifies any other game season condition matters it would like further information on, or consultation with hunters about, before its December 2023 meeting.**

Appendix 1

FIRST SCHEDULE

This notice revokes all previous Open Season for Game Notices and shall come into force on 6 May 2023.

Hunting conditions generally common to all fish and game regions

1 Bag limits

1. No person shall take or kill, on any one day, more than the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for the Fish and Game Region in which the game is taken.
2. No person shall possess, on any one day, more than the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for the Fish and Game Region in which the game is taken, except on Sunday 7 May 2023, when that person may have in their possession twice the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for Saturday 6 May 2023.
3. A person may possess more game than specified in clause 1(2) of this Schedule, if all such game is labelled with the following details:
 - (a) The name and address of the person by whom the game was taken;
 - (b) The number of the licence to hunt or kill game held by the person by whom the game was taken;
 - (c) The name of the Fish and Game Region by which that licence was issued;
 - (d) The name of the Fish and Game Region in which the game was taken; and
 - (e) The date on which the game was taken.

2 Waiver of Restrictions on Baiting for Waterfowl

A person may hunt or kill game of the family Anatidae (waterfowl) during the open season for game in all Fish and Game Regions, except Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, where food has been cast, thrown, placed or planted any time during the year.⁴ In the Second Schedule, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, Special Condition 4(10), applies to restrictions on baiting.

3 Magazine Shotguns

A person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, in any Fish and Game Regions with any magazine shotgun of a calibre 10 gauge or less, which includes magazine extensions that comply with the Arms Act 1983,⁵ other than in the:

- a. Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region;
- b. Eastern Fish and Game Region;
- c. Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Region;
- d. Wellington Fish and Game Region;
- e. Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Region;
- f. West Coast Fish and Game Region.

For these six Regions special conditions in the Second Schedule apply.

4 Shot Size

No person shall use, in any shotgun used for the purposes of hunting and killing game, any cartridge containing any shot size having a larger retained, per-pellet energy at 90 metres than lead BB.

5 Use of Lead Shot Prohibited

- (1) No person may possess lead shot, or use lead shot, while hunting or killing waterfowl within 200 metres of open water with any gun, except those using a .410 cartridge. Non-toxic alternative shot must be used, including steel.
- (2) For the purposes of this requirement, “waterfowl” means any of the following game species:
 - Black swan (*Cygnus atratus*);
 - Grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;
 - Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;
 - Paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) also known as Paradise duck;
 - Australasian shoveler duck (New Zealand shoveler) (*Anas rhynchos*);
 - Pūkeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*).
- (3) For the purposes of this requirement, “open water” means either:
 - (a) any area of land or seabed covered permanently or seasonally by water wider than 3 metres; or
 - (b) any area which is temporarily covered by water wider than 3 metres at the time of such possession or use, and that is contiguous to an area referred to in paragraph (3)(a).

6 Camouflaged Rowboats

A person may hunt or kill game within the following Fish and Game Regions, from unmoored camouflaged rowboats, subject to the excluded periods for the regions specified below:⁶

Northland – no excluded period

Auckland/Waikato – excluding 6 and 7 May 2023 for the whole Auckland/Waikato region and excluding 6 to 8 May and 13 and 14 May 2023 for the Waikato River north of the boat ramp at the confluence of the Mangawara Stream

Eastern – excluding 6 and 7 May 2023

Hawke’s Bay – excluding 6 and 7 May 2023

Taranaki – no excluded period

Wellington – excluding 6 and 7 May 2023

Nelson/Marlborough – no excluded period

West Coast – no excluded period

North Canterbury – excluding 6 and 7 May 2023

Central South Island – excluding 6 and 7 May 2023

Otago – excluding Clutha River 6 to 14 May 2023 inclusive

Southland – excluding the Mataura, Aparima, Oreti, Waiau and Waimatuku rivers and their tributaries 6 to 31 May 2023 inclusive and excluding that part of the Oreti River below the Dunn’s Road bridge for the whole season.

7 Restriction on Taking of Game

No person shall use any vehicle propelled by mechanical power (including motorised watercraft) to chase or kill game, except in such circumstances and at such times as authorised by the Conservation Act 1987 and Wildlife Act 1953.⁷

8 Pegging Day

- (1) Stand claimants who claimed and occupied a stand during the 2022 Game Season may claim that stand at any time prior to pegging day (up to 10.00 a.m. on 2 April 2023)

following the purchase of the 2023 game licence. If you are in the Auckland/Waikato Region, then the above mentioned applies **only to Adult Whole Season Licence Holders** and does not apply to Junior Licence Holders as it does in all other Fish and Game Regions.

- (2) Otherwise, unclaimed stands can only be claimed any time after 10.00am on 2 April 2023 in all Fish and Game Regions.
- (3) A stand may be claimed by planting on it a stake having either a board or identifying label attached, plainly identifying the name of the claimant and the number of his/her licence. The hunting stand claim tag provided with the licence must be completed with the name of the claimant and affixed to the board or identifying label.
- (4) The licence holder claiming a stand must be present in person at the stand when marking it up.
- (5) No one can claim more than one stand.
- (6) A stand cannot be claimed closer than 90 metres to a stand already claimed by another person without that person's consent.
- (7) Any stand not occupied by the claimant within one hour after the opening hour of hunting, on any day, can be occupied by another licence holder for the remainder of the day.

9 Conditions

These conditions will expire at the end of the open season for game.

EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION¹¹

1 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—

Species	Season (dates inclusive)	Duration	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	6 May to 5 Jun 2023		6	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	6 May to 5 Jun 2023		2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	6 May to 2 Jul 2023		6	Area A1, A2
	6 May to 2 Jul 2023		10	Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
	6 May to 16 Jul 2023		20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pūkeko	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		10	All areas
	17 Feb to 25 Feb 2024		10	All areas
Black swan	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		No limit	Area A1
	17 Feb to 25 Feb 2024		No limit	Area A1
	6 May to 2 Jul 2023		5	Area A2
	Closed season		0	Area B1 & B2

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

2 Definition of Areas

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

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

3 Shooting Hours

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

4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

5 Special Conditions

- (1) No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the Eastern region with any magazine shotgun unless the shotgun:
 - (a) has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
 - (b) the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Act; so that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than 2 shells in the magazine, with no more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.
- (2) No maimai shall impede the use of navigable channels in the Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua and Lake Taupo.
- (3) A person who erects a maimai in the Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua, Ohiwa Harbour, Stump and Waihi Bays of Lake Taupo must dismantle and remove it within 2 weeks of the close of the season (ie by 12 September 2023).
- (4) Any game bird licence holder who has a Department of Conservation authorisation to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking or falconry may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.
- (5) No person shall wilfully within the Eastern Fish and Game Region, in or on any public place,

or

 in or on any private land without consent of the land occupier:
 - (a) deposit any type of litter, including any carcass or part of it, of any shot game.

(b) having deposited any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game, leaves it after having been deposited.

(c) for the purposes of this regulation litter includes any refuse, animal or game remains, or waste matter or items of any type used in the course of hunting, which is abandoned or intended to be abandoned.

(6) A person must not use a drone to disturb game birds.

6 Hunting From a Boat Under Power

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

Appendix 2

GAME SEASON CONDITION POLICIES

2.1 Mallard and Grey Duck (greylard)

- (i) *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [15/11/12.2]*
- (ii) *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [15/11/12.3]*
- (iii) *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [15/11/12.4]*

2.2 Other Species

- (i) *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and subject to January monitoring results. [15/11/12.5]*
- (ii) *Agreed (Ian Pirani/Lindsay Lyons) that Council authorises staff to make a decision on Game Season Regulations outside of policy when an issue has been flagged. [12/10/8.2]*

Rationale for (v) as per October 2012 Council minutes:

“Cr Barry Roderick commented on the greylard population estimates being the lowest in 8 years and the mystery, last summer, with a very high ratio of juveniles in the traps. Matt McDougall said that in the last decade something had occurred in some years that's throwing us off track. Last year he was concerned over the reduced adults in the traps and those concerns were later vindicated by harvest results. Council discussed the policy for setting the season regulations and the short time frame available before these are presented to the Minister for approval. Rob Pitkethley said that in 4 out of 5 years the modelling policy would be used, but in the occasional year staff would like the ability to alter the policy direction if unusual results suggested something else was occurring. Staff were seeking guidance on how this unusual process could work and Cr Steve Scragg said that he would be comfortable with Matt McDougall and Rob Pitkethley making the appropriate call and providing confirmation by email to Council.”

- (iii) *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the “Intermediate” regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e, when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*

2.3 Threshold Criteria for Paradise shelduck

Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels

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

Table 2: Eastern Paradise Shelduck season conditions (Season per Table 1)

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

2.4 Threshold Criteria for Black Swan

Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels

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

Table 4: Eastern Black Swan season conditions (Season per Table 3)

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

EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION¹¹

1 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—

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NZ shoveler duck	6 May to 5 Jun 2023		2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	6 May to 2 Jul 2023		6	Area A1, A2
	6 May to 2 Jul 2023		10	Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
	6 May to 16 Jul 2023		20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pūkeko	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		10	All areas
	17 Feb to 25 Feb 2024		10	All areas
Black swan	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		No limit	Area A1
	17 Feb to 25 Feb 2024		No limit	Area A1
	6 May to 2 Jul 2023		5	Area A2
	Closed season		0	Area B1 & B2
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	Closed Season		0	All areas
Brown quail	Closed season		0	All areas
California quail	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		No limit	Area A1 & A2
	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		5	Area B1 & B2
Cock pheasant	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		5	All areas

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

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

3 Shooting Hours

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

4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

5 Special Conditions

- (1) No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the Eastern region with any magazine shotgun unless the shotgun:
 - (a) has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
 - (b) the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Act; so that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than 2 shells in the magazine, with no more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.
- (2) No maimai shall impede the use of navigable channels in the Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua and Lake Taupo.
- (3) A person who erects a maimai in the Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua, Ohiwa Harbour, Stump and Waihi Bays of Lake Taupo must dismantle and remove it within 2 weeks of the close of the season (ie by 12 September 2023).
- (4) Any game bird licence holder who has a Department of Conservation authorisation to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking or falconry may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.
- (5) No person shall wilfully within the Eastern Fish and Game Region, in or on any public place,
or
in or on any private land without consent of the land occupier:
 - (a) deposit any type of litter, including any carcass or part of it, of any shot game.
 - (b) having deposited any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game, leaves it after having been deposited.
 - (c) for the purposes of this regulation litter includes any refuse, animal or game remains, or waste matter or items of any type used in the course of hunting, which is abandoned or intended to be abandoned.
- (6) A person must not use a drone to disturb game birds.

6 Hunting From a Boat Under Power

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

10. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

27 September 2023

1. Purpose

To provide an end of year summary of expenditure of funds from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund during the 2022-2023 year.

2. Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

The table below shows expenditure on projects and work areas since 2001. The items highlighted in yellow are projects undertaken/expenses incurred in 2022-2023.

Work Area	Amount funded (\$)
Information & access pamphlets	6,177
Signage & Information panels	7,046
2002 Angler Creel Survey	4,130
Contributions to Access through jetties, gangplanks, carparks etc	13,333
Habitat studies (Lake & River (2) Inventories, Wildlands reports)	9,521
2007 Angler Creel Survey	5,376
Fish research (River fish age/source otolith analysis)	928
Buoy construction share and installation	21,577
Buoy maintenance/servicing expenses	6,752
2012 Angler Creel Survey	5,944

Lagarosiphon Project	1,000
Water Quality Monitoring Report	4,990
Waikaremoana Buoy Maintenance	250
2014-15 Wairoa Catchment Access Investigations	5,204
2015-16 Survey Project	13,521
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,560
2015-16 Wairoa Access work and brochure	2,920
2016-17 Survey, Monitoring and Access	12,010
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,459
Lowrance Transducer/Transceiver - Parera	7,129
2017-18 Survey and Monitoring	5,061
2018-19 Survey, Monitoring, Access and 1/3 rd share of Buoy repairs	10,885
2019-20 Survey, Monitoring and Access	5,208
2020-21 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs	6,930
2021-22 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs, OxyGuard meter	6,128
2022-23 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs	6,078
TOTAL	\$173,119

3. Discussion

Overview of 2022-2023 Expenditure

At its meeting in April 2022, Council approved funding of up to \$10,400 for the 2022-2023 OWP year from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for ongoing survey and monitoring of key spawning tributaries at Waikaremoana, the continuation of access related work within the Wairoa catchment, buoy maintenance, and an additional \$2,400 to replace the portable handheld oxygen and temperature meter for use in the Waikaremoana and Wairoa catchments. [22/04/12.2]

Of the \$10,400 funding approved for expenditure during the 2022-2023 OWP year, \$2,410 was drawn down from the fund in the 2021-2022 year as the handheld oxygen meter was purchased following the April 2022 approval. Funds drawn down in the 2022-2023 financial year totalled \$6,078 and included staff time and expenses associated with survey and access work, and repairs to the water quality monitoring buoy following vandalism. Reports on other activities undertaken at Waikaremoana during the year were reported in the bi-monthly Operational Reports provided in Council's 2022-23 agendas.

The April 2023 Council meeting saw Council approve further funding of up to \$6,500 for the 2023-24 OWP year to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy maintenance. *Confirmed June 2023 [23/06/5.7]* Additional to the sum of \$6500 above, staff advised that they were considering options for carrying out investigations into Wairoa River tributaries in the wake of cyclones Hale and Gabrielle. In due course staff will approach Council with a further bid for draw down from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund to support this work.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council receives this update.

11. 2022-2022 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.04

29 September 2023

1. Purpose

To review the draft Statement of Service Performance report and draft Financial Statements for the 2022-2023 Performance (Annual) Report.

2. Background

- The finalised Performance Report for the 2022-2023 year will be presented to the public annual general meeting to be held on 7 December 2023 as per the requirement of Sections 26W and 26ZD(7) of the Conservation Act 1987.
- The annual Performance Report contains a Statement of Service Performance (SOSP) so that readers can assess the performance of the Council against the targets set out in the 2022-2023 Operational Work Plan (OWP). The Performance Report aligns with the OWP to clearly show actual outcomes against targets identified in the annual work planning process.
- The purpose of this paper is to enable early consideration of the material being developed for inclusion in the Performance Report. A draft of the SOSP has been prepared, along with draft unaudited Financial Statements, and these will have been circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

The reports will be revised after Council consideration and feedback from the independent external Auditor then compiled into the final Performance Report. This then needs to be approved at Council's 7 December 2023 meeting held immediately prior to the public annual general meeting where it will be presented to the public.

3. Recommendation:

- 3.1 *That Council receives the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance and Financial Statements for the 2022-2023 year, and provides any feedback it might have on the drafts before the Performance Report for the 2022-2023 year is completed.***

12. DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2024

Ref: 7.02.01

29 September 2023

1. Purpose

To set Council's 2024 meeting dates and venues, and provide feedback to the NZC on its draft 2023/24 Meeting and Budget Timetable.

2. Background

The Council is required to meet on at least six occasions between 1 February and 31 December each year. Due to a need to supply regional feedback to the New Zealand Council on important matters such as regulation and licence fee setting, the timing of these meetings needs to fit within a national schedule. Meetings are generally held at bi-monthly intervals in February, April, June, August, October and December to consider, amongst other items, the topics listed in the table below. Meetings have for some time been scheduled to take place on Thursday afternoons and more recently changed to commence at 11am ending at 2.00pm with a 15 minute working lunch at Eastern Fish and Game Council's offices in Rotorua. At the August meeting of Council those present were supportive of rescheduling some meetings of Council to occur on a Saturday which would reduce the need for leave from work and provide increased opportunity for public attendance.

Council needs to determine what dates it will meet on in 2024 taking into account the provisional 2023/24 Annual Timetable prepared by the NZC which is appended to this agenda item. Council may also wish to review the venue and times at which it meets. The general view from the Council meeting on 10 August was to incorporate 2 Saturday meetings within the schedule.

The NZC has requested feedback on its draft schedule by 20 October 2023.

Proposed meeting dates if Council continues to meet on a Thursday and a second option provided for a Saturday meeting; proposed venue; and key issues for discussion. These are compatible with NZC's draft Meeting and Budget Timetable for 2023/24.

	Date	Venue	Key Topics
1	<i>Thurs 1 February 2024</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities,• Anglers Notice – initial consideration
2	<i>Thurs 4 April 2024 or Sat 6 April 2024</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP - first draft plus bids proposed for contestable funds
3	<i>Thurs 30 May 2024</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fees• OWP - second draft• Anglers Notice – finalise recommendations
4	<i>Thurs 8 August 2024 Sat 10 August 2024</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	<i>Thurs 7 November 2024 Sat 9 November 2024</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - initial consideration• Annual Performance Report – draft• Final meeting 2021-2024 Fish & Game Council• Inaugural meeting 2024-2027 Fish & Game Council
6	<i>Thurs 5 December 2024 Sat 7 December 2024</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - finalise recommendations
AGM	<i>Thurs 5 December 2024 Sat 7 December 2024</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council decides on the time, dates and locations at which it meets in 2024.

3.2 That Council advises any feedback it wants communicated to the NZC on its draft meeting and budget timetable for 2023/24.

DRAFT 2023-24 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule

Key:

	Public Holiday
	NZ Council Meeting
	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting
	GBHT Board Meeting
	Governors Forum (Regional Chairs & NZC)

Year: 2023			
Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
September	Friday 1 Sep	Fish & Game New Financial Year	
	Friday 22 Sep Saturday 23 Sep	GBHT Board Meeting <i>(Including Saturday field trip)</i>	Hawke's Bay
October	Sunday 1 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening	
	Monday 23 Oct	Labour Day	
November	Wednesday 1 Nov	High Country Sports Fishing Opening	Otago & Southland
	Thursday 2 Nov	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting <i>(Feed into 24 & 25 Nov NZC Meeting)</i>	Online
	Saturday 4 Nov	High Country Sport Fishing Opening	Nth Canterbury & CSI
	Friday 24 Nov Saturday 25 Nov	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days) <i>(Set 2024/25 Strategic Priorities)</i>	Wellington
December	Thursday 14 Dec	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting (TBC)	Online
	Friday 22 Dec	All Variance Reports & Reserves Schedules Submitted to CFO	
	Monday 25 Dec	Christmas Day	
	Tuesday 26 Dec	Boxing Day	
	Friday 29 Dec	All Regional Council 2023 Meetings to be complete/held	
Year: 2024			
January	Monday 1 Jan	New Year's Day	
	Tuesday 2 Jan	New Year's Day Observed	
	Friday 26 Jan	Summary of Variance Reports & Reserves Updates <i>(Returned to Managers with queries)</i>	
	Wednesday 31 Jan	Licence Working Party Licence Sales Forecast <i>(Forecast week before 29th report)</i>	
	Wednesday 31 Jan	Regulation Details Due for Game Notice <i>(From all Regional Councils)</i>	
February	Friday 2 Feb	World Wetland Day/Release of 2024 Habitat Stamp	
		Variance Reports Final Circulation to Managers	
		Draft Game Notice Submission to DOC for comment	
	Tuesday 6 Feb	Waitangi Day	
	Thursday 8 Feb	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting	Online
	Friday 9 Feb	Game Regulation Guide Content Due to NZC Office	
	Monday 19 Feb	Game Notice & Submission to MOC & Gazette Office	
	Friday 16 & Sunday 18 Feb	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days) <i>(Includes Licence Forecast)</i>	Wellington
	Saturday 17 Feb	Governors Forum - Regional Chairs & NZC <i>(Planning & Governance)</i>	Wellington
Friday 23 Feb/or following week	Publish Game Notice in NZ Gazette		

Year: 2024			
Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
March	Thursday 14 Mar	Game Bird Hunting Licences on Sale (<i>2nd Thursday</i>)	
	Monday 18 Mar	Game Magazine Released	
	Wednesday 20 Mar	Draft Budgets & Contestable Fund Applications Due	
	Thursday 28 Mar	Staff Development Grant Applications Close	
	Friday 29 Mar	Good Friday	
April	Monday 1 Apr	Easter Monday	
	Sunday 7 Apr	Mark-up/Pegging Day (<i>4 weekends before opening</i>)	
	Friday 12 Apr	Budgets, Budget Summaries & Contestable Fund Applications Circulated	
	Thursday 18 Apr	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting	Wellington
	Friday 19 Apr	NZ Council & Regional Managers/CEs Joint Meeting (am)	Wellington
	Saturday 20 Apr	NZ Council Meeting	Wellington
	Thursday 25 Apr	Anzac Day	
May	Saturday 4 May	Game Bird Season Opening	
	Thursday 23 May	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting (<i>Feed into 18 & 19 June NZC Meeting</i>)	Zoom
	Friday 31 May	Regional responses to Licence Fee proposals, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN backcountry/sea run salmon Due to NZC Office	
June	Monday 3 June	King's Birthday	
	Tuesday 18 June Wednesday 19 June	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 half days) (<i>Consider Licence Fee, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN</i>)	TBC
	Thursday 20 June	Licence fee, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN submission to MOC	
	Thursday 27 June	GBHT Grant Applications Due	
	Friday 28 June	Matariki	
July	Tuesday 9 July	GBHT Grant Applications Distributed to Board	
	Wednesday 17 July	GBHT Board Meeting (11am)	Zoom
	Thursday 18 July	Anglers Notice Published in NZ Gazette	
August	Thursday 1 Aug	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting	Zoom
	Monday 12 Aug	Fish & Game Election Nominations Open	
	Thursday 8 Aug	Sports Fishing Licences on Sale (<i>2nd Thursday in August</i>)	
	Thursday 29 Aug	Fish & Game Election Nominations Close	
	Friday 23 Aug Saturday 24 Aug	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days)	Wellington
	Monday 26 Aug	Fishing Magazine Released	
	Saturday 31 Aug	Fish & Game End of Financial Year	
September	Wednesday 11 Sep	Election Roll Closes	
	Friday 6 Sep Saturday 7 Sep	GBHT Board Meeting (Held over 2 days)	TBC
	Thursday 19 Sep	Fish & Game Election Voting Papers Out	
October	Tuesday 1 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening	
	Tuesday 15 Oct	Election Postal Dates Close	
	Wednesday 30 Oct	Elected Members Take Office	
	Monday 28 Oct	Labour Day	

Year: 2024			
Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
November	Friday 1 Nov	High Country Sports Fishing Opening	Otago & Southland
	Saturday 2 Nov	High Country Sport Fishing Opening	Nth Canterbury & CSI
	Thursday 7 Nov	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting <i>(Feed into 13 & 14 Dec NZC Meeting)</i>	Zoom
	Wednesday 20 Nov	New Regional Councils Last Day to hold Inaugural Meeting <i>(3 weeks after taking office)</i>	
December	Friday 13 & Saturday 14 Dec	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days) <i>(2025/26 Strategy)</i>	Wellington
	Friday 20 Dec	All Variance & Reserves Schedules to CFO	
	Tuesday 31 Dec	All Regional Council 2024 Meetings to be complete/held	

13. DRAFT POLICY ON SETTING NATIONAL POLICY

29 Sept 2023

1. Purpose

A Policy on Setting National Policy was discussed at the August 2023 NZC meeting and the draft policy on Setting National Policy distributed for consideration by the Regions. A streamlined consultation process is recommended in order to accommodate urgent statutory requirements and to implement the non-legislative parts of the Ministerial Review.

2. Background

National policy provides guidance, cohesion, coordination and direction to be consistently applied across the organisation. This sets out the process for setting national policy. In setting these functions, Parliament has given the NZ Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) a leadership and coordination role at the centre of the sports fish and game system to ensure that all parts of the system work together as a coherent whole.

A central aspect of the NZ Council's co-ordination purpose is its function to "develop, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, national policies for the carrying out of its functions for sports fish and game" (section 26C(1)(a)).¹ This function is accompanied by the requirement that Fish and Game Councils "implement national policy determined by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council" (section 26Q(1Xe)(v)).

The amended Draft policy makes provision for suitable consultation and review by the regional councils in any national policy being put forward. It also makes provision for regional councils to include a rationale to any changes/amendments through due process to NZC for consultation. The process has a submission and consultation period of 8 weeks (one NZC Council meeting period) with a submission of 15 working days prior to the NZC meeting. The majority decision rule has been removed as there is no legal requirement in arriving at the policy.

3. Recommendation

That Council review the Draft National Policy on setting National Policy and provides feedback to NZC prior to the 20th October deadline.

DRAFT POLICY ON SETTING NATIONAL POLICY

Section	National
Contact/Owner	NZC CEO/NZC
Last Review	2018/19
Next Review	November 2028 (5 years or as appropriate)
Approval	NZC November 2023
Effective Date	[INSERT DATE]

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 National policy provides guidance, cohesion, coordination and direction to be consistently applied across the organisation. This sets out the process for setting national policy.

2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 In setting these functions, Parliament has given the NZ Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) a leadership and coordination role at the centre of the sports fish and game system to ensure that all parts of the system work together as a coherent whole.

2.2 Statutory relevance for FGNZ:

As noted, a central aspect of the NZ Council's co-ordination purpose is its function to "*develop, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, national policies for the carrying out of its functions for sports fish and game*" (section 26C(1)(a)).1

- 2.3 This function is accompanied by the requirement that Fish and Game Councils "*implement national policy determined by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council*" (section 26Q(1)(v)).

3. PROCESS

- 3.1. The following provisions shall apply in the preparation and approval of such policy:

- a. Proposed policy initiatives can be put forward by the NZ Council or any Fish and Game Council for consideration by the NZ Council, or its delegate (which has the delegation from NZ Council to review policies and approve them for consultation with the regions).
- b. The initiative will be drafted as policy and submitted to the NZ Council, or its delegate, for its consideration.
- c. In determining that the policy warrants becoming national policy, the NZ Council, or its delegate, must agree to it as draft national policy and consult with Fish and Game Councils.
- d. Fish and Game Councils are to include rationale for any change/amendment in a letter from the regional chairperson that can be attached to a report to the NZ Council on consultation and feedback.
- e. Following a period (~~one of at least two meeting cycles~~) that allows Fish and Game Councils reasonable time to consider and provide feedback on the draft national policy, the NZ

Council can consider and where necessary amend that policy before resolving to adopt it as national policy.

f. Once adopted, the NZ Council must circulate the document to all Fish and Game Councils, recording the date it was approved as National Policy.

3.2 In doing so, there is an expectation that the NZ Council will approach the development of national policies with an open mind to the views of Fish and Game Councils. That said, it does not require that there be complete agreement ~~but a majority decision~~ by all Fish and Game Councils in arriving at that policy. Section 26C(1)(a) Conservation Act 1987 provides that the NZ Council can adopt national policies "in consultation with Fish and Game Councils".

3.3 The NZ Council may at any time prepare an amendment to any National Policy. In doing so it is required to follow the same consultation process of notifying Fish and Game Councils and allowing for feedback on what is proposed and whether the policy is amended.

3.4 ~~All new policies are to be reviewed after a two-year period~~ no longer than 5 years or as appropriate.

4. DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: Corina Jordan, NZC CEO
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation): 6/09/2023
Next Review: November 2028 (5 years or as appropriate)

14. DRAFT CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

29 Sept 2023

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect the integrity and the reputation of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and its members. Council is responsible for ensuring that all actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest are handled appropriately, and this Policy sets out the procedures for the management of this.

This Policy is binding on all Members of the Council. That this policy encourages regions to review their current policy and make necessary revisions to their current policy to ensure consistency with the NZC policy.

2. Background

To have an effective and stringent policy that safeguards the integrity of the Council and its members and is line with the statutory requirements under the Conservation Act and in line with requirements of a Crown Entity. That this review and update will give purpose to regional Councils to also review and update their Conflict of Interest Policy to have consistency with the NZC policy.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 *That Council reviews the Draft Conflict of Interest Policy and provides feedback to NZC prior to the 20th October deadline.***
- 3.2 *That Council supports a review and update of Eastern Fish and Games Conflict of Interest Policy that was last reviewed in 2008 to reflect the NZC policy.***

Section	NZC Governance
Contact/Owner	NZC CEO/NZC
Last Review	December 2015 (In Governance Policies)
Next Review	August 2026
Approval	NZC November 2023
Effective Date	[INSERT DATE]

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to protect the integrity and the reputation of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and its members.
- 1.2 Council is responsible for ensuring that all actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest are handled appropriately, and this Policy sets out the procedures for the management of this.
- 1.3 This Policy is binding on all Members of the Council.

2. POLICY

- a. A Conflict of Interest arises in respect of a Matter when the Member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias.

For the purposes of this policy, "Matter" means:

- 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 26B(1) of the Conservation Act; or
 - An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.
- b. 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), debtor(s) or creditor(s)).
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.

- e. 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.
- f. Members of the Council are expected to have read and be familiar with the Office of the Auditor General's publication *Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for Public Entities* (2007).
- g. Each Member of the Council, as soon as practicable after election to the Council, must be provided with a copy of this Policy and must confirm in writing that they have read and understood it and they will comply with its requirements.
- h. Conflicts of Interest will be a standing item on the Council agenda.
- i. Aspiring office holders will be required to declare any Conflicts of Interest before appointment.

3. POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a. For the purposes of this Governance Policy, a Potential Conflict of Interest arises when:
 - There is a realistic connection between the Member's private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;
 - The Member's other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a Matter;
 - 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
 - There is a risk that the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the Member or the Council.

4. DISCLOSURE PROCESS

- a. A Member with a Conflict of Interest or a Potential Conflict of Interest must identify the conflict and disclose it to the Council in a timely and effective manner. The Member must disclose:
 - The nature of the interest and the monetary value of the interest (if the monetary value can be quantified); and/or
 - The nature and extent of the interest (if a monetary value cannot be quantified).
- b. If a Member is uncertain of whether there is any Conflict of Interest or Potential Conflict of Interest, the Member should disclose it to the Council as a Potential Conflict of Interest for consideration by the Council.
- c. The disclosure of any conflict must be recorded in the minutes and entered in a separate Interests Register.
- d. When the conflict has been identified, the Council must determine how that conflict is to be dealt with.

5. DEALING WITH THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a. When a Conflict of Interest arises in respect of a Matter, the affected Member:
 - Must promptly declare a direct or indirect conflict at the Council meeting, other than any interest that they hold in common with the public
 - Will be excluded from discussions regarding the Matter (including not being in the same

room when the Matter is discussed);

- Will not vote on issues related to the Matter;
 - Will not receive papers or any other information on the Matter; and
 - Will not discuss the Matter with other Members.
- b. Members may be asked at any time to complete and sign a Material Interest Declaration (attached)

6. DEALING WITH A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a. Where there is a Potential Conflict of Interest, the Council (excluding the affected Member) will determine an appropriate course of action, which may include the following:
- Applying some or all of the Actions applied to a Member with a Conflict of Interest (set out at 4);
 - Sending a written explanation to stakeholders, members and licence holders outlining why there is no legal conflict of interest; and/or
 - Monitoring the Matter to determine whether at any point the Matter changes such that there is a Conflict of Interest.
- b. In determining the appropriate course of action, the Council will have regard to:
- The type or size of the Member's other interest;
 - The nature or significance of the relevant Matter; and
 - The extent to which the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the Member or the Council.
- c. The Member will be given the opportunity to be heard by the Council on the points in 5.a and 5.b and the Member's submissions will be taken into consideration by the Council.
- d. If a Member is concerned that another Member has an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest:
- the concerned Member must inform the Chair of all material facts at the earliest reasonable opportunity;
 - the Chair will report that concern to the next meeting of the Council;
 - the concern will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting;
 - the Council will determine the appropriate further steps to be taken.

(Members are reminded that invoking this Policy for their own strategic or political purposes, rather than to uphold the integrity of the NZC, would be contrary to the Governance Policies and their duties as Members)

7. PREDETERMINATION

A conflict of interest may arise when a Member has strong views about a matter that create a risk of bias, prejudice, or predetermination that is inconsistent with performing his or her duties to the NZ Council in an impartial, objective and independent manner. Members must not approach NZ Council decisions with a closed mind but rather be willing to consider fairly all relevant information and

arguments.

If the Member's approach to a Matter is likely to be predetermined, they will be excluded from participating in the Matter in the manner set out in 4.

8. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The Chief Executive is responsible for maintaining a Register of Interests. This must record:

- The date on which the interest is declared or identified;
- The name of the Member of the Council having the relevant interest;
- The relationship between the Member of Council and the person holding the relevant interest (if relevant); and
- A reference to action taken

9. DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: Jane Hutchings, HR Business Partner
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation): N/A
Next Review: August 2026

Schedule to Conflicts of Interests Policy
Material Interests Declaration

Name: _____

Member of Council Staff Member

My current occupation (other than with NZ Council):

Directorships and trusteeships held by me (or my immediate family) which could be considered relevant to NZ Council activities:

Shareholdings in publicly listed companies held by me (or my immediate family) which council be considered relevant to NZ Council activities:

Shareholdings in private companies (if greater than 5% of issued shares) held by me (or my immediate family) which could be considered relevant to NZ Council activities:

My property interests which could be considered relevant to NZ Council activities:

My involvement in community organisations which could be relevant to NZ Council activities:

My other interests (or other interests of my immediate family) that I consider relevant to declare:

I declare that the above disclosures are a true and complete record of my interests and the interests of my immediate family in accordance with the NZ Council Conflicts of Interests Policy.

.....

(Signature)

.....

(Date)

EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Ref: 7.02.02

29 September 2008

Introduction

- 1 The Council accepts that Formal Crown entities such as Fish & Game are now subject to a prescribed Conflicts of Interest regime under the Crown Entities Act 2004.
- 2 The purpose of this policy is to provide information to ensure guidelines are established regarding Councillors providing services to Council, and to ensure that any potential Conflict of Interest, actual or perceived, is properly identified and managed.

What is Conflict of Interest

- 3 One way of considering whether a conflict of interest may exist is to ask: “Does the issue create an incentive for the person to act in a way that may not be in the best interests of the public entity?” If the answer is in the affirmative a conflict is possible”.
- 4 For Crown entities – the definition of ‘interested’
Board members of Crown Entities should be aware of the very wide scope of what ‘interested’ means under the Crown Entities Act. A person is interested in a matter if he or she:
 - *May derive a financial benefit from the matter;*
 - *Is the spouse, defacto partner (whether of the same or different sex), child or parent of a person who may derive a financial benefit from the matter;*
 - *May have a financial interest in a person to whom the matter relates;*
 - *Is a partner, director, officer, board member, or trustee of a person who may have a financial interest in a person to whom the matter relates;*
 - *May be interested in the matter because the entity’s Act so provides; or*
 - *Is otherwise directly or indirectly interested in the matter.*

Provision of Services to the Council by Council Members

- 5.1 Members should not, generally, provide business or professional services of an ongoing nature to the Council because a **conflict of interest** (actual or perceived) may be created.
- 5.2 Notwithstanding the general rule and subject to 2.8, the Council is at liberty to:
 - 5.2.1 For the purpose of a special assignment, engage the services of any Member having special expertise in the particular field; or
 - 5.2.2 Engage the services of another person from a Member’s business or Regional Fish and Game Council so long as the terms of engagement are

POLICY – OCTOBER 2008

competitive, are clearly recorded and all legal requirements for disclosure of the engagement are properly observed.

Conflicts of Interest

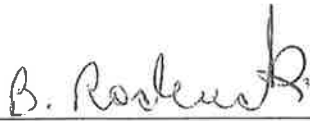
- 6.1** A Member who is 'interested in a transaction' of the Council must, as soon as practicable, disclose the nature of the interest to the Council.
- 6.2** Subject to 6.6, Members must not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Council relating to a transaction in which they are interested.
- 6.3** The disclosure of any interests must be considered as a standing Agenda Item, recorded in the minutes and entered in a separate interests register.
- 6.4** "Interested in a transaction" is defined as: "if the Council Member:
- 6.4.1** Is a party to, or will derive a material financial benefit from, the transaction;
- 6.4.2** Has a material financial interest in another party to the transaction; or is a Chief Executive, member, officer, or trustee of another party to, or person who will or may derive a material financial benefit from, the transaction; or
- 6.4.3** Is the parent, child, or spouse (or de facto partner) of another party to, or person who will or may derive a material financial benefit from the transaction; or
- 6.4.4** Is otherwise directly or indirectly materially interested in the transaction."
- 6.5** Members recognise that at times there may arise a 'perception of interest' which is a wider interpretation than that defined above. Members agree that the appropriate procedure is to raise such matters of interest in the first instance with the Chairman, who will determine an appropriate course of action.
- 6.6** Members agree that the Council may, where appropriate, decide that a Council Member who has declared an interest in matters to be discussed by the Council [1] should leave the meeting room for the duration of discussion on such matters or [2] remain in the room and contribute to the discussion and be allowed to vote or [3] remain in the room and contribute to the discussion but not be allowed to vote.
- 6.7** Members will not use their official position for personal gain, or solicit or accept gifts, rewards or benefits which might be perceived as inducements and which could compromise their integrity.
- 6.8** Members will exercise care and judgement in accepting any gifts, and advise the Chair and/or Council of any offer received.

Approval

- 7** When the Council approved the Policy it was agreed that no variations of this Policy or amendments to it can be made except by the unanimous approval of the Council.

POLICY – OCTOBER 2008

- 8 As part of its approval the Council requires the manager to make copies available to all Councillors and staff. The Council requires that the manager arrange for all new Councillors and staff to be made familiar with this Policy.



Signed

Barry Roderick
Council Chairman

On behalf of, and with the authority of the Eastern Council on 10/12/08
(Date)

Approved Council meeting 17 October 2008

**EASTERN FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

Individual Member Declaration

Name	
Details of potential Conflict/s

Signed (Council Member)	
Date	

15. DRAFT STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

29 Sept 2023

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the minimum standards of conduct for all staff, and supports the values of Fish and Game NZ. Reflected in this Code of Conduct is the importance of trust and confidence in the relationship between Fish and Game Councils and their employees. The Code of Conduct covers all employees of Fish and Game Councils, and contractors covering employment positions.

2. Background

The Draft Staff Code of Conduct was to be amended to include the values framework from the organisational strategy, and consideration be given to include the definition of “due process” under misconduct and inclusion of a dispute resolution provision, with the updated version to be circulated to regions for feedback as requested by the Chairs Forum and as part of the Ministerial Review Recommendation 17.

3. Recommendation

That Council reviews the Draft Staff Code of Conduct Policy and provides feedback to NZC by the 20th October deadline.



DRAFT STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	
Approval	NZC November 2023
Effective Date	

1. PURPOSE

This policy sets out the minimum standards of conduct for all staff, and supports the values of Fish and Game NZ. Reflected in this *Code of Conduct* is the importance of trust and confidence in the relationship between Fish and Game Councils and their employees. The *Code of Conduct* covers all employees of Fish and Game Councils, and, contractors covering employment positions.

2. POLICY

Employees are expected to act reasonably at all times in compliance with their individual conditions of employment and taking into account the interests and welfare of Fish and Game Councils and their colleagues. As an employee, you are expected to maintain the highest integrity, discretion and ethical conduct when performing your duties or representing your Fish and Game Council. All employees are expected to exercise good judgement to determine what action should be taken in any given situation and be able to withstand scrutiny from internal and external parties.

3. EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS

1. Personal Responsibilities:

- act honestly and with integrity in all aspects of your employment;
- respect the rights of others and treat others courteously and without discrimination or harassment;
- be respectful of, and responsive to all cultures, values and beliefs;
- perform and organise your work to the best of your ability and according to specified duties by showing commitment to high quality work, policies, and standards and taking a strategic approach by thinking ahead about ramifications of actions you take;
- carry out any lawful and reasonable instruction from your manager;
- be supportive of your colleagues and accept your responsibilities as part of the team;
- comply with all Fish and Game policies, processes, standards, vision, mission, values, and SOPs
- act in a safe manner to protect your health and safety and that of your colleagues. Follow your Fish and Game Council's Health and Safety policies and procedures and comply with all reasonable and relevant directions.

VALUES

TRUST

We are trusted as consistent and capable providers

INCLUSION

We recognise and respect diverse perspectives and cultural interests

CONNECTION

We are deeply connected with anglers, hunters, regulators and the public

SERVICE

We are enthusiastic, professional, kind and accountable

- do not consume alcohol at work or during work time (including lunch breaks) unless by prior approval from the Chief Executive/Regional Manager

2. External Relationships:

- be courteous, helpful and responsive;
- respond promptly to requests;
- act reasonably, honourably and in good faith when working with the fishing and hunting communities
- create and maintain positive relationships and networks with others.

3. Customer Service and Responsiveness:

- recognise everyone you deal with is a customer;
- strive to get things done to agreed standards and timeframes;
- keep others informed of progress or delays; and
- be responsive and react to situations in a timely manner.

4. Confidential Information:

- be responsible for the security and confidentiality of any personal information that you have acquired;
- ensure that any information you have acquired through your work is not used for personal advantage; and
- ensure that financial and non-financial information gathered by Fish and Game and your knowledge of its systems and processes is used solely to perform Fish and Game business.

5. Conflict of Interest:

- obtain your manager's approval before commencing any activity, business interest or employment that has the potential to conflict with Fish and Game business (refer to *Conflicts of Interest Policy*);
- avoid any financial interest in any undertaking that could be seen to compromise your responsibilities to Fish and Game,
- do not allow personal relationships with staff or customers to affect or appear to affect the professional relationship with them;
- ensure that your behaviour in relation to gifts and gratuities and managing contracts and purchasing does not compromise your personal integrity or that of Fish and Game; and
- when your personal views differ from those of Fish and Game, you must ensure that both your personal integrity and the integrity of Fish and Game are not compromised. If you are likely to find yourself in this situation, then you should discuss the matter with your manager first.

6. Uphold the Reputation of Fish and Game:

- act with integrity at all times;
- ensure your participation in political matters does not conflict with your duty to your Fish and Game Council and any partnerships with government agencies; and
- ensure your private activities do not reflect adversely on Fish and Game or key stakeholders.

7. Additional Expectations for Managers:

- guide and motivate employees in accordance with Fish and Game policies, processes, standards and systems that are in place to support you in your role as a manager;
- lead by example and model the standards of behaviour expected of all employees; and
- take responsibility for the quality of work performed, the actions and decisions of employees in your team.

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8. Misconduct:

- any form of misconduct will constitute a breach of the Fish and Game Code of Conduct and may lead to disciplinary action;
- it is Fish and Game’s intention that all matters relating to unsatisfactory conduct will be dealt with properly, fairly and consistently.
- following a fair process, as set out in MBIE’s employment website [Fair process » Employment New Zealand](#) if the essential elements of trust and confidence are found to have been breached by employees, Fish and Game may terminate the employment relationship.

4. DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: Jane Hutchings, HR Business Partner
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation): 6/9/23
Next Review:

DRAFT

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16. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

16.1 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

29 September 2023

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-end financial position and approve payments for the final two months of the 2022-2023 financial year. Although all accruals have been completed, some adjustments may be recommended by our auditors before the final copy of 2022-2023 Financial Statements are completed.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 31 August 2023
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 31 August 2023
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions July and August 2023
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions July and August 2023

2. YTD Profit and Loss

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

Summary

The 2022-2023 Financial Year ends with a reported net profit of \$24,519 against a budgeted loss of \$32,073 (var. \$56,592). Total income for the year is \$45,711 over budget and total expenses ended the year \$10,881 under budget resulting in a net variance against budget of \$56,592. This year-end result also incorporates non-cash items relating to asset revaluation, and unbudgeted revenue and expenses. A more detailed summary is provided in the following notes.

Income

Licence Sales

Revenue from Fish, and Game licence sales ended the year under budget, \$36,362 and \$17,124 respectively (total \$53,636). Non-resident licence levies were not budgeted and totalled \$41,468 for the year. While on the surface this unbudgeted revenue from the non-resident sales offsets the drop in resident licence income, these funds are transferred to the Non-Resident Levy reserve at year end so essentially do not fund the years spending. A more up to date and detailed picture of fish licence sales performance can be found within the licence sales report.

Other Income

Revenue from other sources over the final two months of the year was significant at \$86,384 and was made up of the following: hatchery income (\$17,559), grazing (\$5,200), donations from children's fishing (\$319), fishing competitions (\$88), tours and fish food sales (\$182), and rentals (\$8,880). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$359 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery and junior education programmes (\$500 and \$1,900 respectively). The Hawke's Bay and New Zealand Fish & Game Councils were invoiced for contract services (\$826 & \$2,925 respectively), and the New Zealand Fish & Game Council was invoiced for funding of the Lake Tarawera research project (\$8,936). Interest income for the period includes year end accruals and totalled \$21,284 on general reserves and \$15,882 for the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund. Adjustments were made

within the period for the gain on sale of fixed assets i.e. a vehicle (\$2,546), and income received specifically for works to be undertaken at the Awaiti reserve in the new financial year was accrued out (-\$1,000) of 2022-2023 and in to the 2023-2024 financial year.

In summary “Other Income” is reported at \$57,879 over budget with \$33,472 relating to unbudgeted interest income on General Reserves and the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund, and \$16,187 is unbudgeted revenue which was received to offset expenses contributing to this result.

Species Management

Population monitoring expenses were minimal and related to drift dive gear and the negative figure shown within the Profit & Loss in August relates to an expense that has been accrued to 2023-24 financial year for duck bands purchased in advance, a measure taken to ensure supply. The population monitoring area ended the year under budget \$451 or \$11.105 under budget when taking into consideration unbudgeted revenue received for maize for the banding project (\$1,718) and for the Lake Tarawera research project (\$8,936), the latter meaning less of a drawdown is required from the region’s Non-Resident Levy reserve.

Harvest assessment expenditure over the two months related to the Game Bird hunter surveys. The harvest assessment area ended the year under budget \$267.

The main expense within the Hatchery budgets related to fish food (\$9,147). Expenses were also incurred for hatchery maintenance, vehicle and fuel, rates, electricity, and oxygen. The Hatchery area has ended the year over budget \$16,672 and this is related primarily to increases to the price and freight on fish food (\$13,553) and increased vehicle maintenance costs (2,313). A non-cash adjustment was made to increase the value of fish stock at year end (\$21,588) which means that stocks being held for sale in the new season are higher than those held last year. Holding the additional stock will have also contributed to the increased fish food expense.

Habitat

Habitat spending for the period relates solely to expenses transferred to the Waikaremoana Sports Fish fund as budgeted for access and survey works carried out during the year. The Habitat area ends the year over budget \$2,922. Offsetting income was received from DoC for repairs to the Awaiti water inlet \$4,000, funds were also drawn down from the Ballot Habitat Management Reserve \$1,651 to provide for additional expenditure over and above what was received from ballot holders for the 2023 Game Bird season. This reserve was set up in 2022 as funds received from ballot holders in that season were not utilised due to the works being funded by other parties. Council supported holding these funds in a reserve to provide for future works were the costs might exceed revenue receive in a seasons. This ensured the transparency of funds received for this purpose, details of which are shown in the summary below.

Date		Expenses	Income	Balance
31/08/2019		6,555	6,555	0.00
31/08/2020		4,633	6,055	1,422
31/08/2021		6,675	5,784	531
31/08/2022	Reserve established		5,934	6,465
31/08/2023		7,511	5,860	4,814

Participation

Access spending for the period related to new sign overlays for opening 1 October. Other expenses reported within the period related to children’s fishing tackle, a brochure reprint, and electricity for the Waikaremoana hut. The Participation area ended the year over budget \$669

and while access spending was underbudget for the year the region incurred an unbudgeted expense for access mapping on the web which was coordinated by Wellington Fish & Game.

Public Interface

A small expense is reported for grounds maintenance. The Public Interface area is over budget at year end \$854 and this is primarily related to roading repairs on the property and installation of rubber bunds to prevent flooding in the boat sheds.

Compliance

Compliance expenses are reported relating to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone. Travel reimbursement and catering for ranger training is also reported within the period and legal fees were incurred for prosecutions. The Compliance output has ended the year well within budget (\$3,157) with reduced prosecutions going through the courts resulting in reduced needs for legal assistance. Prosecutions income is also reduced this year.

Licensing

Licensing costs include agent commissions, and the fees associated with the Public Online sales. The licencing area has ended the year \$7,816 underbudget due in part to reduced licence sales but also the continual shift of sales from retail agents to online. The cost of the Designated Waters system development has been budgeted in the new financial year hence the payment for it has been accrued as a prepayment (\$4,312).

Council

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the August meeting of Council. The Council output has ended the year \$3,511 over budget due to higher than anticipated travel expenses. This budget had been reduced over the Covid period due to several meetings taking place online and has been reinstated for the 2023-24 financial year.

Planning

Levies were paid in July as budgeted and the audit fee for the year accrued into the August period. Other planning expenses related to the R3 programme including prizes, signage, and repairs to the aquarium for the Fish & Game stand at the Rotorua Hunting and Fishing Expo, membership to the Rotorua Chamber of Commerce, and meetings with various parties. The planning output is under budget \$6,789 relating primarily funds allocated for R3. The R3 budget had been intended for the purpose of development of an R3 Strategy for the region however, this has not yet occurred, and the minimal spending incurred this year was applied to other R3 initiatives.

Administration

At year end the total overhead expenditure was \$8,594 (1%) overbudget. This is made up of variances in budget groups as detailed in the following table.

Salaries	The salaries budgets have ended the year under budget \$651.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses for the period included ACC levies, a first aid course, and clothing and meal expenses. At year end the staff expenses area was under budget \$7,525 due primarily to reduced staff training and FBT expenditure.
Staff Houses	Rates were paid as budgeted and further maintenance costs were incurred during the period to resolve issues for our new tenants. The staff houses area is over budget for the year \$7,565, and this is due to higher than anticipated maintenance costs to bring the houses up to

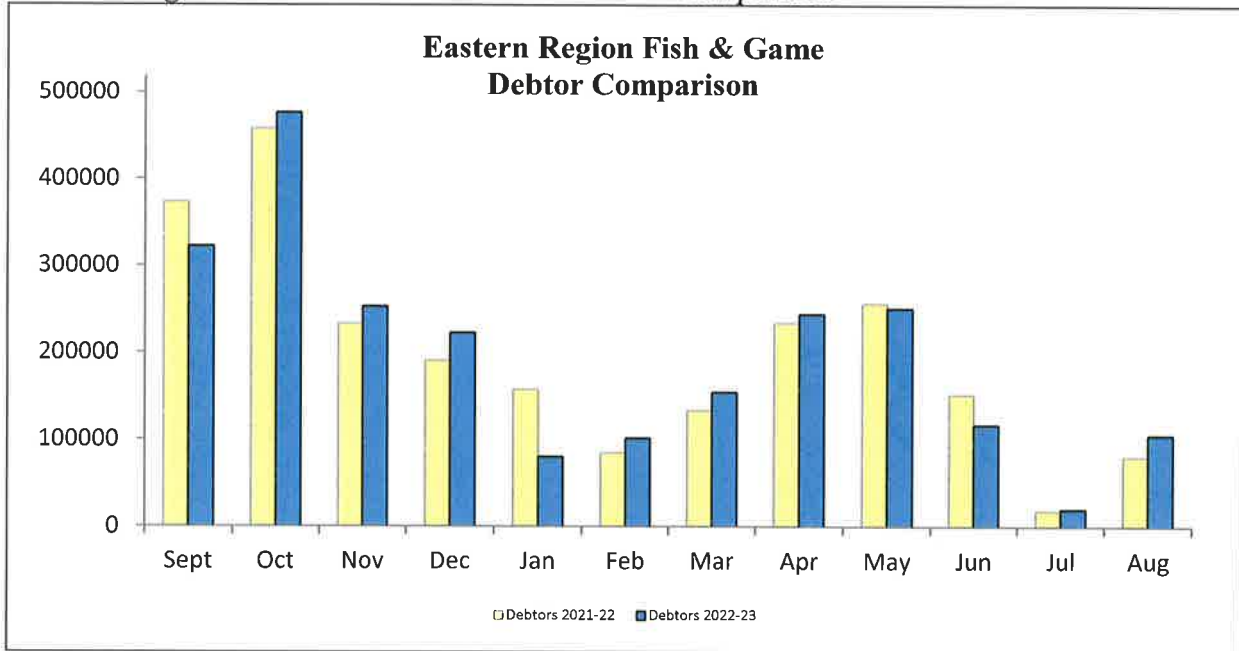
	Healthy Homes standards and agent management fees. Increased rental income provides for the agent management fees. We expect that these additional costs will be offset in the new financial year based on current rentals and releasing of the fire depot. The current tenants in both rentals are a good match for this unique location.
Office Premises	Office premises expenses related to rates, electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, septic tank cleaning, and alarm monitoring. This area has ended the year over budget \$2,915 with higher than anticipated costs for insurance, maintenance, and cleaning. Some of these budgets have been increased for the 2023-24 year.
Office Equipment	Office equipment expenses include various small equipment purchases and the phone system and eftpos lease costs. The office equipment area has ended the year over budget \$854 due to additional equipment requirements for new staff.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, postage, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Computer expenses were incurred for anti-virus protection. The Communications area has ended the year under budget \$22.
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey and Rotorua X subscriptions, morning teas, and bank charges. General expenses are overspent at year end \$2,267 and this is due to increased general insurance costs. Again, the insurance budget has been increased for the 2023-24 year, however insurance premiums continue to rise.
General Equipment	Equipment expenses for the period included servicing of Parera engines, fire extinguishers for scrub bar and chainsaw use, trailer registrations, and equipment and boat fuel. The equipment area is over budget at year end \$1,506, and this is due to unanticipated repairs to the tractor and timing of the Maritime surveys which now occur 3 yearly.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of two vehicles, registration of a new vehicle, and fuel/RUCs. The vehicles budgets are overspent at year end \$1,684 and this is due to increased maintenance costs as the new vehicles do not have capped servicing.

Cash Position: As at 31 August 2023

\$ 743,803 (includes \$93,543 Asset Replacement Reserve)
\$ 476,971 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,220,774 Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$105,483 as at 31 August 2023 (\$80,402 as at 31 August 2022).

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



Debtors outstanding as at 31 August related primarily to licence sales and invoicing of other Fish & Game regions. All debtors are current.

3. Variance Report (Table 1)

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. The complete year 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 31 August 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	\$ 40,249	2,124	2,136	\$ 142,317	\$ 149,370	\$ -	\$ 10,654	\$ 183,017	\$ 178,966	\$ 4,051	97.8
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,633	681	655	\$ 45,630	\$ 45,822	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,530	\$ 48,455	\$ 75	99.8
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 83,350	\$ 100,022	2,982	3,318	\$ 199,807	\$ 232,010	\$ 58,000	\$ 55,491	\$ 225,157	\$ 276,541	\$ (51,384)	122.8
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	135	\$ 8,979	\$ 9,441	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,979	\$ 9,441	\$ (462)	105.1
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	50	68	\$ 3,350	\$ 4,755	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,350	\$ 4,755	\$ (1,405)	141.9
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	36	24	\$ 2,412	\$ 1,678	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,912	\$ 1,678	\$ 1,234	57.6
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 127,450	\$ 142,905	6,007	6,336	\$ 402,495	\$ 443,076	\$ 58,000	\$ 66,145	\$ 471,945	\$ 519,837	\$ (47,892)	110.1
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,412	1,713	\$ 94,610	\$ 119,790	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,610	\$ 119,790	\$ (25,180)	126.6
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 23,544	934	1,090	\$ 62,582	\$ 76,224	\$ 11,650	\$ 16,007	\$ 68,432	\$ 83,761	\$ (15,329)	122.4
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ -	770	397	\$ 51,593	\$ 27,762	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,293	\$ 27,762	\$ 26,531	51.1
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ 4,824	0.0
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & M	\$ 20,200	\$ 23,544	3,188	3,200	\$ 213,610	\$ 223,776	\$ 11,650	\$ 16,007	\$ 222,160	\$ 231,313	\$ (9,153)	104.1
1310	Access	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,507	692	618	\$ 46,367	\$ 43,217	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,867	\$ 49,723	\$ 2,144	95.9
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	318	196	\$ 21,307	\$ 13,706	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,307	\$ 13,706	\$ 7,601	64.3
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,105	36	2	\$ 2,412	\$ 140	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,412	\$ 2,244	\$ 2,168	50.9
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 477	812	535	\$ 54,407	\$ 37,413	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,643	\$ 48,257	\$ 32,247	\$ 16,011	66.8
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	31	\$ 2,144	\$ 2,168	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,144	\$ 2,168	\$ (24)	101.1
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,381	46	18	\$ 3,082	\$ 1,259	\$ 400	\$ 722	\$ 4,132	\$ 1,918	\$ 2,214	46.4
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTIC	\$ 9,800	\$ 10,469	1,936	1,400	\$ 129,720	\$ 97,992	\$ 7,400	\$ 6,365	\$ 132,120	\$ 102,006	\$ 30,114	77.2
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	121	\$ 4,824	\$ 8,462	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ 8,462	\$ (3,637)	175.4
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	116	60	\$ 7,772	\$ 4,196	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,772	\$ 4,196	\$ 3,577	54.0
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 698	114	42	\$ 7,638	\$ 2,937	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,638	\$ 3,635	\$ 5,003	42.1
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 1,655	668	539	\$ 44,759	\$ 37,692	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,259	\$ 39,348	\$ 5,911	86.9
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,354	970	762	\$ 64,994	\$ 53,287	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,494	\$ 55,640	\$ 10,854	83.7
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,083	930	840	\$ 62,314	\$ 58,741	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,314	\$ 59,824	\$ 3,490	94.5
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,744	104	141	\$ 6,968	\$ 9,860	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,968	\$ 11,604	\$ (3,636)	145.6
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,016	336	216	\$ 22,513	\$ 15,105	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,875	\$ 21,513	\$ 13,246	\$ 8,267	61.6
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,843	1,370	1,197	\$ 91,796	\$ 83,706	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,875	\$ 92,796	\$ 84,675	\$ 8,121	91.2
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 650	124	205	\$ 8,309	\$ 14,336	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,909	\$ 14,986	\$ (6,077)	168.2
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	158	65	\$ 10,587	\$ 4,545	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,587	\$ 4,545	\$ 6,041	42.9
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ 650	282	270	\$ 18,895	\$ 18,881	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,495	\$ 19,531	\$ (36)	100.2
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,511	457	352	\$ 30,621	\$ 24,615	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 33,126	\$ 2,495	93.0
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,511	457	352	\$ 30,621	\$ 24,615	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 33,126	\$ 2,495	93.0
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ 642	281	80	\$ 18,828	\$ 5,594	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,328	\$ 6,236	\$ 21,092	22.8
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	64	55	\$ 4,288	\$ 3,846	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,288	\$ 3,846	\$ 442	89.7
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,950	\$ 10,167	391	324	\$ 26,199	\$ 22,657	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,149	\$ 32,824	\$ 3,324	90.8
1840	National Liaison	\$ 50	\$ 903	258	552	\$ 17,287	\$ 38,601	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,337	\$ 39,504	\$ (22,167)	227.9
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,500	\$ 11,712	994	1,011	\$ 66,602	\$ 70,699	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,102	\$ 82,411	\$ 2,691	96.8
	TOTAL	\$ 190,050	\$ 203,988	15,204	14,528	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 1,015,943	\$ 83,050	\$ 91,391	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 1,128,539	\$ (2,806)	100.2

Table 2

Balance Sheet
Eastern Fish and Game Council

As at 31 August 2023

Assets	31 Aug 2023	31 Aug 2022
Bank		
Westpac Current Account	101,445	5,995
Westpac Call Account	170,930	235,121
Petty Cash	170	221
Investments	579,406	511,039
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	368,823	470,050
Total Bank	1,220,774	1,222,425
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	105,483	80,402
Inventory - Fish Stock	190,527	168,939
Prepayments and Accrued Income	18,978	10,176
Total Current Assets	314,989	259,517
Fixed Assets		
Buildings	1,043,849	1,043,849
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	415,992	425,025
Office Equipment	58,606	61,185
Plant & Equipment	198,899	198,899
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(757,222)	(729,394)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(140,776)	(159,830)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(45,234)	(53,119)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(167,610)	(160,204)
Total Fixed Assets	708,505	728,411
Total Assets	2,239,309	2,210,353
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	30,127	36,799
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	154,813	135,453
Employee Entitlements	87,798	87,769
GST	(2,560)	(8,954)
PAYE Clearing	21,104	31,606
Staff Social Club	1,796	2,671
Business Credit Card - Closed	0	1,273
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	618	0
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	2,317	0
Total Current Liabilities	296,014	286,618
Total Liabilities	296,014	286,618
Net Assets	1,948,255	1,923,735
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,154,410	1,280,725
Asset Replacement Reserve	93,543	49,427
Non-Resident Levy Reserve	167,182	130,711
Breeding Programme Reserve	1,018	1,018
Fish for Gold Reserve	14,000	14,000
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	16,109	16,571
Hunter Ballot Reserve	4,814	5,934
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	476,971	464,178
Current Year Earnings	24,519	(38,829)
Total Equity	1,948,255	1,923,735

Table 3 Profit and Loss - Council

Eastern Fish and Game Council for the 2 months ended 31 August 2023

Income	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	YTD Actual	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	9,335	238	1,295,988	1,349,624	(53,636)	-4%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	586	317	41,468	0	41,468	0%
Other Income	10,466	75,918	254,708	196,829	57,879	29%
Total Income	20,388	76,473	1,592,164	1,546,453	45,711	3%
Operating Expenses						
Depreciation	6,266	6,266	75,020	74,244	776	1%
Trout Inventory Revaluation	0	(21,588)	(21,588)	0	(21,588)	0%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT						
1110 Population Monitoring	93	(708)	40,249	40,700	(451)	-1%
1120 Harvest Assessment	407	360	2,633	2,900	(267)	-9%
1140 Hatchery Operations	11,254	1,953	100,022	83,350	16,672	20%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	500	(500)	-100%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	11,754	1,605	142,905	127,450	15,455	12%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT						
1220 Works & Management	0	0	23,544	17,500	6,044	35%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	638	2,078	5,200	(3,122)	-60%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION	0	638	25,622	22,700	2,922	13%
1300 PARTICIPATION						
1310 Access	275	0	6,507	5,500	1,007	18%
1340 Other Publications	0	695	2,105	2,000	105	5%
1350 Training	0	344	477	850	(373)	-44%
1370 Huts	106	180	1,381	1,450	(69)	-5%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	381	1,219	10,469	9,800	669	7%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE						
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	698	1,000	(302)	-30%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	116	(50)	1,655	500	1,155	231%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	116	(50)	2,354	1,500	854	57%
1500 COMPLIANCE						
1510 Ranging	68	41	1,083	1,000	83	8%
1520 Ranger Training	0	563	1,744	1,000	744	74%
1530 Compliance	100	0	1,016	5,000	(3,984)	-80%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	168	604	3,843	7,000	(3,157)	-45%
1600 LICENSING						
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	(4,209)	650	600	50	8%
1630 Commission	405	185	48,554	60,733	(12,179)	-20%
Total 1600 LICENSING	405	(4,204)	49,205	61,333	(12,128)	-20%
1700 COUNCIL						
1720 Council Meetings	20	1,373	8,511	5,000	3,511	70%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	20	1,373	8,511	5,000	3,511	70%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING						
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	76	293	642	8,500	(7,858)	-92%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	10,167	10,167	9,950	217	2%
1840 National Liaison	39,646	0	159,489	158,636	853	1%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	39,722	10,460	170,297	177,086	(6,789)	-4%
1900 ADMINISTRATION						
1910 Salaries	104,458	76,718	934,556	935,207	(651)	0%
1920 Staff Expenses	2,913	(528)	16,475	24,000	(7,525)	-31%
1930 Staff Houses	894	1,811	17,871	10,306	7,565	73%
1940 Office Premises	2,095	1,646	22,915	20,000	2,915	15%
1950 Office Equipment	384	411	3,454	2,600	854	33%
1960 Communications	1,889	554	17,178	17,200	(22)	0%
1970 General	187	204	13,267	11,000	2,267	21%
1980 General Equipment	696	472	18,106	16,600	1,506	9%
1990 Vehicles	1,928	4,080	57,184	55,500	1,684	3%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	115,444	85,367	1,101,007	1,092,413	8,594	1%
Total Operating Expenses	174,277	81,869	1,567,645	1,578,526	(10,881)	-1%
Net Profit	(153,889)	(5,396)	24,519	(32,073)	56,592	-176%

16.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

29 September 2023

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1112 Datawatch

During the 2022-23 trout fishing season, a total of 691 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database since 1 October 2022. The distribution is as follows:

Lake McLaren	1
Lake Okareka	14
Lake Okataina	149
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	19
Lake Rotoehu	4
Lake Rotoiti	138
Lake Rotoma	14
Lake Rotorua	9
Lake Tarawera	343

data entered to 24 August 2023

The datawatch programme was advertised in the latest Fish & Game magazine (fish supplement) and on the Fish & Game website to encourage anglers keep sending in tag returns.

Tag returns for the 2022-23 season, entered into the datawatch database between 1 October 2022 - 24 August 2023 were down 14 tags compared to the same approximate period of the 2021-22 season. Lakes Okataina (increased 11 tag returns) and Rotoiti (increased 58 tag returns) were up on reported tags compared to a similar period during the 2021-22 season. All other lakes were behind for tag reporting. Lake Rotorua (behind 14 returns) has ceased to be a 'datawatch' lake therefore diminishing tag returns are expected. Other lakes such as Rotoma (behind by 16 returns) have had angler access issues caused by extremely high lake levels. The lake with the largest drop in tag returns was Lake Tarawera (down by 37 tag returns). Tarawera's returns are bolstered by the running of the Te Wairoa trap which provides a large proportion of 3 and 4-year-old tagged fish. All other datawatch lakes were within several tag returns of the previous season.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The lake Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy has been transmitting data consistently over the past month. Longer days with more sunlight have the battery charging up and retaining a greater level of capacity well over and above its 11.5V low battery cutoff control. The sensor cables and anodes are due for a clean to remove algal build up. Staff will action this maintenance during the next scheduled work at Waikaremoana.

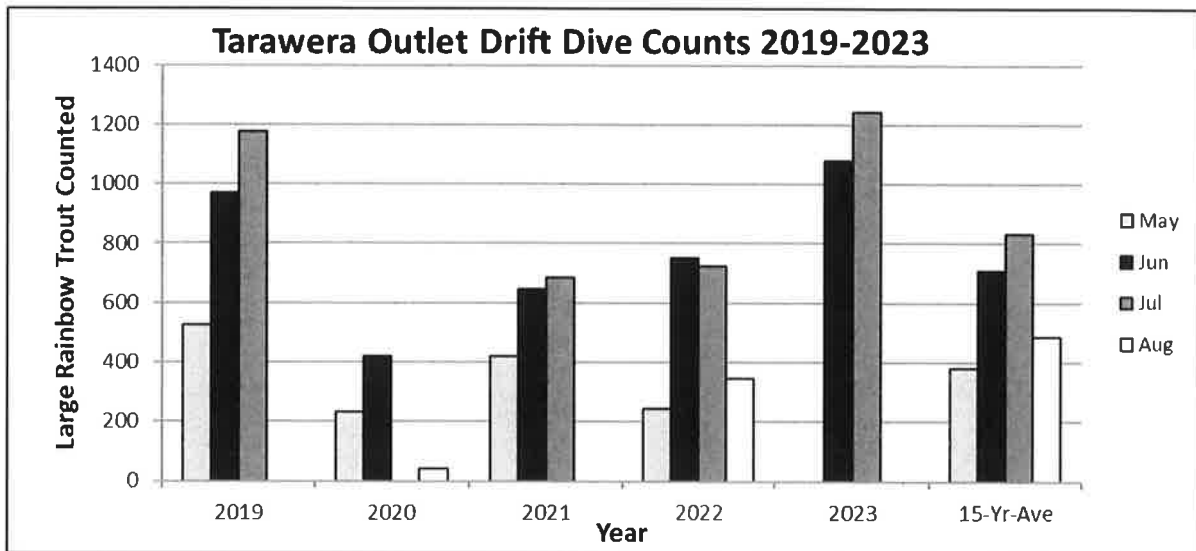
1114 Lake Tarawera

Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

Fish & Game staff did not undertake an August drift dive count of the Tarawera Outlet during the 2023 winter.

	Size range			2023	2022	2021
	Small	Medium	Large	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
May	-	-	-	-	444	238
June	3	5	1087	1095	646	420
July	2	24	1272	1298	683	-
August	-	-	-	-	-	41

Trout counts in the Tarawera Outlet during the 2023 winter were higher than the past 15-year average for the months of June and July.



1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Trap-run

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for 10 nights during August 2023. The largest fish running the trap was a rainbow male (Rotoiti liberation LpAd clip) measuring 610mm and weighing 3.4kg. The largest brown trout was a 540mm female weighing 2.85kg.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (August 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>	496	1.73	98	10		
<i>Brown</i>	523	2.11	6	1		6%

The trap was operated for 4 consecutive nights during September. All fish running through that period were rainbow trout. The largest fish was a 610mm, 3.0kg Lp clipped male that was liberated into Lake Rotoiti during Spring 2021.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (September 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>	499	1.73	40	10		
<i>Brown</i>			0	0		-

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Ohau Creel Survey

Over the coming 2023-24 season, creel surveys will be contracted by Bay of Plenty Regional Council to Te Arawa Lakes Trust (as was the 2021-22 and 2022-23 survey schedule) and funded by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Surveys are undertaken October, November, April, May and June and are undertaken to continue monitoring the effects of the Ohau Channel Water Quality Diversion Wall.

Opening Day 2023 Creel Surveys

The Opening Day Creel Surveys 2023-24 have been organised for Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina (postponed until CAN order is lifted by MPI). Fish & Game staff will be joined by volunteers, honorary rangers, councillors, and University of Waikato students. This year the opening date for these lakes falls on Sunday 1st of October.

Summer Creel Surveys

The 2023-24 summer creel survey schedule has been created. The strategy for the 2023-24 summer (as per recent summer creels) is to retain coverage of the four large high use lakes, and if possible, provide some level of presence/ monitoring across the lesser utilised lakes. The aim this summer is to begin Summer Creel Surveys from labour weekend (21-23 October) and have a greater staff presence and compliance coverage across the lakes. An angler diary scheme is also running to assist in gaining greater reports and coverage from lesser covered waters within the Eastern Region.

1141 Hatchery Operations

Trapping for brood fish collection was completed in August, and the Te Wairoa trap removed at the end of the month. Sixty-eight crosses were taken for the winter trapping period producing adequate ova to produce fish for the 2024 liberations.

Candidates for the Hatchery Assistant position were interviewed in July, and Georgia Beuth was duly appointed and commenced work with us mid-September.

The last of the season's crosses have now hatched, and fry moved to the rearing tanks for on-growing. Spring liberations commenced in September.

Fish locations at 28th September 2023:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx)	Comment
Hatchery-troughs and incubators	Rt	0+	100K	2024 season liberations
Tank 1	Rt	0+	8,500	For 2+ in 2025
Tank 2	Rt	0+	13,600	
Tank 3	Rt	0+	11,600	
Tank 4	Rt	0+	13,600	
Tank A	Rt	0+	1,050	Auck/Wai Region 2023 Trips
Tank D	Bt	0+	1,000	2023 liberations, various.
Tank F	Brook	0+	130	Brood for 2023 onward
Pond 3	Rt	1+	10,000	Spring liberations 2023
Pond 6	Rt	1+	6,600	Spring liberations 2023
Pond 7	Rt	1+	6,600	Spring liberations 2023
RW1&2	Rt	1+	4,000	KF and sales 2023

1143 Te Wairoa Trap

The Te Wairoa Fish Trap (Lake Tarawera) was removed on the 27th of August. The total run recorded running upstream during the 2023 winter was 1,575 fish. This total was lower than the number of trout trapped during the 2022 winter (2,651) and 2021 winter (2,312 fish). The winter trapping period was heavily affected by rainfall and high lake levels for much of the winter season allowing trout to bypass the trap structure. The heaviest fish through the trap was a 655mm, 3.7kg Rp female (3-year-old). The average size of the fish trapped this winter (561mm and 2.09kg) was significantly longer (8mm, $P<0.001$), unchanged weight and in significantly poorer condition ($P<0.001$) than the average size of fish trapped during the 2022 winter. Hatchery released fish trapped over the 2023 winter measured 575mm and 2.21kg compared to 565mm and 2.21kg during the 2022 winter. These were significantly longer (10mm, $P<0.001$) but came in at the same average weight. The average size of the wild fish trapped over the 2023 winter measured 530mm and 1.79kg compared to 519mm and 1.77kg during 2022. As with the hatchery fish, wild fish were significantly longer (11mm, $P<0.001$), but slightly heavier (20g) and in significantly poorer condition.

Year	Total run	Wild run	Wild %	Ave length	Ave weight
2019	2757	740	26.8	550	2.09
2020	1245	286	23.0	549	1.89
2021	2312	636	38.0	537	1.95
2022	2651	715	26.9	553	2.09
2023	1575	465	29.5	561	2.09

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 20 July – 28 September, 2023

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Qty
Okareka	27/09/2023	Lp		RT	1+	1500
Okareka	27/09/2023	Lp	G23	RT	1+	500
Okataina	22/09/2023	Lp		RT	1+	1500
Okataina	22/09/2023	Lp	E23	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	7/09/2023	Lp		RT	1+	6500
Rotoiti	6/09/2023	Lp	B23	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	5/09/2023	Lp		RT	1+	3000
Tarawera	5/09/2023	Lp	H23	RT	1+	500

Fish were collected by Auckland Waikato Fish & Game, University of Waikato, NIWA, and delivered to a local tourist attraction.

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 early drafts of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and chapters of the Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP). Comments have recently been submitted on a draft version of the fish passage provisions for the RNRP. Comments are also due on the *Changes to Freshwater Management in the Bay of Plenty* document by the end of September.

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. Environment Court hearings are currently under way.

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 Waipapu 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.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established a 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. A meeting was also attended with Regional Council staff to discuss the issue of several of our wetlands requiring resource consents for water take/discharge.

Other

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. Work is currently underway to rewrite and submit some more workable provisions. 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 was lodged in this process. The Select Committee has recommended a number of changes in line with Fish & Game's submissions, including the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon. While this is an extremely positive outcome there is still work to be done in other areas.

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.

The NZ RMA team has been very active recently with a number of important workstreams on the go – including development and consultation on Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plans, freshwater fish species interaction and passage, water allocation and limit setting, and the development of practice notes.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
21 Jul	BOPRC	Kawerau DC	DP- geothermal	Tarawera River	No concerns email
31 Jul	BOPRC	NZTA	LUC – gabion baskets and walls, SH30	Lake Rotoma	No concerns email
14 Aug	BOPRC	Eco Rakau NZ Ltd	LUC – box culvert install	Waioeka River, Opotiki town	No concerns email
17 Aug	RLC	Rotomahana No3 Trust	LUC- establish marae & cultural centre	Upper Te Wairoa St, Lake Tarawera	No concerns email
1 Sept	GDC	Juken	LUC – forest harvest	Upper Mangapoike	No concerns email
8 Sept	BOPRC	D&S Crosbie	LUC - rebuild rock wall	Lake Rotoehu	No concerns email

Lake Rotoiti Catfish Update

Engagement and education of school groups is being undertaken by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust led community catfish programme (Te Arawa Catfish Killas). Heading into spring, water temperatures increase, and catfish begin to seek out new habitat. With increased movement, the use of fyke nets becomes effective.

At this time of year larger catfish (>200mm) tend to be caught compared to large groups of baby catfish that are encountered in summer. Areas of key spawning habitat such as around rocky areas (Rotorua lake front) and Te Weta Bay will receive additional netting effort in attempts to remove mature adult fish prior to spawning.

1221 Reserves Management

No works have occurred within any of the managed wetlands over the winter period, except for trying to manage water levels to enable track drying and settled levels for bird nesting. F&G staff assisted DOC with a small native planting on the northern border of the Awaiti WMR to trial reticulation channel shading to reduce aquatic weed growth.

Pest weed spraying, water reticulation and track repairs and mowing schedules are currently be planned for spring commencement with discussions with DOC and BOPRC regarding their works and financial contributions.

The BOPRC regulatory team have advised DOC and F&G that the requirement for a resource consent renewal to supply water to the Awaiti WMR is not required as it is a permitted activity in the Tarawera Catchment Plan – so the expiry of this double up resource consent will not jeopardise water supply to this important wetland.

F&G staff are assisting with planning and set up of a funded predator control programme within the Kaituna WMR and the wetlands around Little Waihi estuary. Plans are currently being discussed to expand the programme to the Rangataiki Plain wetlands.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

No new landowner requests for assistance / advice have been received since the August council report.

Please note that with the ever-changing NES-W rules, works have been difficult to progress without considerable evaluation and costs to the landowner.

The major outstanding wetland enhancement, which is high ecological significance, is the Burt Wetland in Te Puke. Staff have again evaluated the site and been in discussions with the owners, but the project is currently in a holding pattern due to the huge requirements to comply with current NES-W rules, and the additional costs associated with these rules.

1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects

Habitat Works

Discussions with BOPRC Rivers and Drainage division have occurred regularly over winter with emergency works in spawning waters and how to minimise impacts and con-currently provide additional fisheries habitat.

Discussions have also been undertaken with BOPRC planners and resource consents staff to progress understanding of current NES-W rules and how we can progress outstanding wetland enhancement and maintenance projects. No real progress has been permitted under current rules.

** Please note Fish & Game have recently undertaken a significant media campaign about the inhibiting nature of the current NES-W rules, with the National Party now proposing changes to enable wetland enhancement and maintenance works, should they be elected.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

The winter recreational access into the Timberlands forests remains open to the last weekend of September for anglers and hunters, weekends only during daylight hours.

Access maintenance checks on signs and access points is on-going with maintenance as required. Annual angler access maintenance work is scheduled and underway as is possible.

High water levels at various Rotorua lakes continues to impede angler access in some areas, with issues at Lakes Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okataina, and Rerewhaakaitu. Lake Okataina also has issues with the road condition at the carpark and turnaround area at the lake with springs coming up through the roadway, and unstable surface conditions in the carpark area.

1312 Signage

Sign maintenance and enhancement is ongoing with replacements as required.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life copy was produced for September.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, children's fishing event and Freshwater gold clam updates.

1334 Social Media

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

1341 Information Pamphlets

A reprint of the Rotorua lakes brochure was produced. Adequate stocks of all other brochures are being held.

1351 Junior Angler/Hunter Programmes

The second Childrens fishing day held in conjunction with the Rotorua Angler's Association occurred 3 September with the next scheduled for 8 October.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

No angler/hunter training was conducted for the period.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Nine 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

Efforts continue regarding seeking a renewal of the licence to occupy the site of the Waikaremoana hut/work base, with little if any progress to date. Options are still being explored around this, however time is running out with the current licence to occupy the site expiring at the end of December 2023. Wairua Hut maintenance has been carried out as required.

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

Continue to have regular meetings with Ngati Whakaue and Te Arawa Kumatua's to strengthen relationships and build better opportunities for collaboration.

1441 Public Promotions

We have an electronic billboard promotion at Rotorua Koutou corner on display running from 16th Sept to the 7th October. The same promotional imagery is also being promoted in GodZone fishing magazine in their Sept/Oct edition as well as their Nov/Dec edition.

1451 Education

Five school tours and one University group tour were conducted over the period.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Compliance work is focusing on monitoring of late spawning areas, closed waters locations and areas which have remained open to anglers over the winter closed season. There have been a number of offenders dealt with recently for fishing in closed waters as well as other associated offences. From 1 October emphasis moves to maximising contacts and surveys with anglers on the lakes and rivers which have reopened for the new fishing season.

Contacts Year to date 2022-2023.

1,417 licence check contacts have been made for the 2022-23 year. Overall compliance is in excess of 98%. Overall numbers of contacts especially with anglers are well down on previous years. There are several factors causing this including poor weather conditions at what has been traditionally the peak angler times of year on the lakes, and effects of weather and storms on river fisheries. Along with staff absences due to illness and other workloads, and generally a declining amount of angler effort which is noticeable at key times, not just in the Rotorua Lakes but around the region. Going into the 2023-24 year a plan is in place to maximise the numbers of contacts which we can make.

Contacts: Year 2022-2023

Month	2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Last 5 yr average
September	21	46	16	51	35	31
October	893	726	724	718	520	779
November	20	126	16	66	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	203	224
June	168	162	124	141	52	153
July	63	75	45	57	36	64
August	54	20	22	32	13	32
Total	2833	2076	2407	2273	1417	2425

1521 Ranger Training

A regional ranger training day on field practice and procedures was held in August. Two from Hawkes Bay region (1 staff member and 1 honorary ranger) attended this day along with our Eastern Rangers and some staff. A CERT Situational Safety and Tactical Communications refresher training day is scheduled for 11 November, which will include rangers from Hawkes Bay, along with attendees from Eastern Region.

Rangers

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute as and when they can. We currently have a honorary ranger team of 8, including 1 trainee in progress. Attracting and recruiting suitable new volunteer rangers is an issue and this is faced by most regions.

1531 Prosecutions

To date, end of June, we have 7 matters pending resolution. One of these is a matter of fishing without licence, obstruction, and failing to provide details which is set down for a trial December. Other offences are in the process of assessment and pending resolution.

Offences 2022-2023 Year:

For the 2022-23 year we have dealt with 20 offenders for 32 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2022-2023 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	13
Fishing in closed waters	6
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Fish with illegal tackle	1
Give false details	2
Fails to give details	2
Possess lead shot	2
Unpinned gun	2
Hunting from boat under power – gun able to be deployed	3
Total number of offences	32

Offences 2023-2024 Year:

For the 2023-24 year, to date (mid Sept.) we have dealt with 5 offenders for 9 offences.

Offence table 2023-2024 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	3
Fishing in closed waters	3
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Fish with bait/illegal tackle	2
Total number of offences	9

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 7 defendants pending resolution (as at Mid Sept), for 15 offences. Details of these are:

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Number of offences
Fish without licence	5
Fails to give details	1
Obstruction of ranger	1
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Fish with bait	2
False details	1
Fishing in closed waters	4
Total number of offences	15

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. Regulations guides were distributed to agents for the new fishing season.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

Our media campaign on the run up to the Opening of the fishing season is underway, with news articles sent to local, regional and community papers and notice boards.

This is also supported by our push to create excitement and reminder of the upcoming fishing season on our social media platforms.

The electronic billboard and advertisement in GodZone magazine are underway.

Our stand at the Hunting, Fishing and 4x4 Expo was a great success with over 4k people visiting the expo over the weekend and we had a high engagement rate with those passing through.

We have a facilitator who is creating our REN context suitable for NCEA use by schools, and we should be ready to go and be marketed before the end of the final school term.

We have secured funding in principle from Agrodome (Ngāi Tahu iwi Trust) to support our Kids Day fishing activities from 2024 at \$5,000 sponsorship yearly.

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. Over the last month she has been assisting with fine tuning of system features following the introduction of the Designated Waters licence.

National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing, led from this region. This recently has involved considerable input into matters including compliance reviews, training review and development, and matters around firearms laws and SOPs, and reviewing and rewriting the Compliance Policy which dates back to 2001 and needs an update.

16.3 LICENCE SALES REPORT

27 September 2023

1. 2022-2023 Fish Licence Sales

- 1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2022-23 season compared with the 2021-22 season to 31 August are summarised in Table One.
- 1.2 Fish licence sales are reporting to be 3.8% (329 LEQ's) below 2021-22 season results for the same period.
- 1.3 96.6% of the annual sales target has been met. This result will differ from the year-end financial statements but is not too far off. September 22 sales of 2021-22 licences, and adjustments for refunds and accruals will be incorporated for the financial statements.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 31 August 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 Season	1,111	1,433	2,544	994	1,329	2,323	-221
Season Non-Resident	980	1,166	2,146	880	1,032	1,912	-234
Loyal Senior	16	38	54	115	199	314	260
Local Area Adult	269	267	536	240	271	511	-25
Winter Adult	894	626	1,520	775	667	1,442	-78
Long Break Adult	183	331	514	175	310	485	-29
Short Break Adult	12	25	37	24	37	61	24
Day	281	734	1,015	215	628	843	-172
Day Non-Resident	1,091	2,636	3,727	731	2,432	3,163	-564
Total Adult	4,869	7,389	12,258	4,569	7,672	12,241	-17
Fish Junior							
Season	190	238	428	187	241	428	0
Season Non-Resident	0	5	5	11	12	23	18
Day	118	230	348	81	365	446	98
Day Non-Resident	2	8	10	16	17	33	23
Total Junior	310	481	791	295	635	930	139
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	2	2	2	7	9	7
Day Non-Resident	0	4	4	11	20	31	27
Total Child	0	6	6	13	27	40	34
Total Fish	5,179	7,876	13,055	4,877	8,334	13,211	156
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			8,601			8,273	-329
Variance between Seasons							-3.8%
\$(excl GST)			\$1,024,676			\$1,043,089	\$18,412

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	8,273	96.6%	\$1,043,089
Variance to budget	-292	-3.4%	-\$36,812

2. 2022-2023 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 Game licence sales for the 2023 season compared with the 2022 season to 31 August are summarised in Table Two.
- 2.2 Game licence sales for 2023 are reporting to be 5.7% (173 LEQ's) below the 2022 season results for the same period.
- 2.3 93.8% of the annual sales target has been met. This result will differ from the year-end financial statements but is not too far off. Adjustments for refunds and accruals will be incorporated for the financial statements.

Table Two: Game Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 31 August 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	2,480	460	2,940	2,327	446	2,773	-167	
Adult Day	37	95	132	31	83	114	-18	
Junior Season	243	49	292	219	66	285	-7	
Junior Day	3	4	7	0	2	2	-5	
Child Season	111	13	124	99	38	137	13	
Total Game	2,874	621	3,495	2,676	635	3,311	-184	
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			3,024				2,851	-173
Variance between Seasons \$ (excl GST)							-5.7%	
			\$252,456				\$252,899	\$443

Summary 2022-2023 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2022-23 Annual Budgeted Game LEQs	3,041	100.0%	\$269,723
2022-23 Actual	2,851	93.8%	\$252,899
Variance to budget	-190	-6.2%	-\$16,824

3. 2023-2024 Fish Licence Sales

- 3.1 Early fish licence sales for the 2023-24 season compared with the 2022-23 season to 26 September are summarised in Table three.
- 3.2 For the 2023-24 Season the levy component of non-resident licence sales is no longer to be directed to the Non-Resident Levy Reserve, rather all revenue from licence sales will go into the regions bulk fund. To enable an apples with apples comparison of LEQ's against the 2022-23 Season, the LEQ for the levy component of non-resident licence sales has been separated out at the bottom of the sales table (table three). While the amount is minimal at 4 LEQ's presently this will grow as the year progresses.
- 3.3 Fish licence sales for the 2023-24 Season YTD are reporting to be 1% behind sales reported for the same period of the 2022-23 Season after removing the LEQ's relating to the non-resident levy.

Table Three: Fish Licence Sales 2023-24 vs 2022-23 YTD results to 26 September 2023

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2022-23	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2023-24	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family	280	324	604	334	278	612	8
Season	252	206	458	252	165	417	-41
Season Non-Resident	1	14	15	2	4	6	-9
Loyal Senior	90	151	241	112	118	230	-11
Local Area Adult	182	123	305	280	66	346	41
Winter Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Break Adult	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Short Break Adult	1	6	7	2	8	10	3
Day	4	2	6	2	6	8	2
Day Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adult	810	826	1,636	984	646	1,630	-6
Fish Junior							
Season	24	17	41	23	16	39	-2
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Junior	24	17	41	23	16	39	-2
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Child	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Fish	834	843	1,677	1,007	662	1,669	-8
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			1,717			1,700	-17
Variance between Seasons							-1.0%
LEQ from Non Res Levy to bulk fund						4	
Total LEQ						1704	-13
							-0.7%
\$ (excl GST)			\$216,454			\$226,723	\$10,269

Summary 2023-2024 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2023-24 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,663	100.0%	\$1,152,577
2023-24 Actual	1,704	19.7%	\$226,723
Variance to budget	-6,959	-80.3%	-\$925,854

17. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

17.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

17.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

**17.3 Report from New Zealand Council
Cr Debbie Oakley**