

HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2017 AT 6:00 PM

PRESENT

Councillors Hern, Williams (Chairman), Bates, Niblett and Lumsden.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mark Venman (Regional Manager), Nathan Burkepile, Christine Tuck (Hawkes Bay Fish and Game staff) and Glenis Phillips (minute taker).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Fred Nichol (CHB angling club), Red Hooper (Hastings angling club) and Blair Slavin (6.30PM).

INTRODUCTION

1.0 WELCOME

Cr Williams opened the meeting at 6.10pm, and welcomed the members of the public and Glenis Phillips as minute taker. Cr Williams advised Councillors that this meeting will be recorded.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apology received from Cr Mackie. No apology received from Cr Duley or Cr Macintosh.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (14 February 2017)

AGREED

- 3.1** *That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the meeting of Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on 14 February 2017 are a true and correct record.*
[17/04/3.1] *Hern/Niblett*

4.0 MATTERS ARISING

Cr Bates asked Mark whether Cr Duley had sent Mark footage of catch & release to use in future videos to promote best practice. Mark replied that he hadn't received any footage yet from Cr Duley. Cr Williams said that there were fishing videos of the Tukituki, Tutaekuri and Ngaruroro that all showed good fish handling techniques. Mark added that former Chiefs rugby player Andrew Horrell is currently volunteering with Hawke's Bay Fish and Game two days a week while he is studying towards an environmental degree. Andrew has been a huge help undertaking tasks around the Game farm and at Glen Falls hut. Mark plans to produce a short video clip featuring Andrew and use this to promote best practise in regards to catch and release.

Cr Lumsden asked whether we have received any further information back from Matt McDougall regarding the analysis of banding data and sample sizes. Nathan responded and said that he has had a chat to Matt about it and added that all of the data has been reviewed by Darryl McKenzie who is a statistician and Jim Nichols from the states. In regards to sample sizes, Hawke's Bay has struggled to

get adequate sample sizes in the past but added that this year we managed to get a good sample size with respect to what Matt believes is a good representation of what the current population is. Nathan said that he would have preferred 1,000 birds to have been banded but Matt was comfortable with just short of 800 birds.

Cr Niblett said that the question that he put to Council at the last meeting was how many birds do we need to be statistically significant and that this question has parameters around it. Is the population taken as a whole across NZ or is it localised? Nathan said that Matt analyses it using the duck management unit. Cr Niblett asked if ducks don't move that far, is the sampling of these birds enough? Cr Niblett asked staff to ask Matt and to cc him into an email response. Nathan responded that he had called Matt rather than email him and said that his discussions with Matt led him to believe that banding 700+ birds was an adequate sample size for this region. Cr Niblett asked whether it was sound science or not. Cr Williams asked whether Cr Niblett could put an email question to Mark so that a formal response could be received from Matt. Cr Niblett said that it has been brought up several times and the responses received appear to vary.

Nathan responded by saying that Matt has published his work in scientific journals that have been reviewed by other scientific experts from around the world. Cr Niblett said that it depends on the assumptions that you make – if those assumptions are wrong then that work is invalid. Cr Williams said that there was a move nationally to standardise the banding and the monitoring of duck populations. Cr Niblett added that you still need to define what a population is. The banding data suggests that these birds do not move very far. Nathan said that we have 30 years of banding data and the movements of ducks have not changed much over that time. Cr Niblett said that the ducks are very localised with 85% of ducks not moving more than a 50km radius. Nathan explained that we added some sites this year and that we will look at additional sites next year to ensure that we get an adequate sample size across the region. Cr Niblett asked whether we are assuming that ducks move randomly throughout the duck management unit. He said that the results do not show that they move randomly throughout a duck management unit. Nathan said that we had banded a good number of ducks this year but Cr Niblett again asked how many ducks do we need to band to be statistically significant.

Cr Lumsden said that the question to a statistician should be “how many birds do we need to band to be statistically significant?” Nathan responded to say that it is more modelling rather than statistical analysis. Nathan said that Matt would be the best person to answer this and Cr Niblett said that this is what was put to staff at the last Council meeting. Cr Niblett questioned the cost of banding last year and how that would be reflected in this year's operational work plan. He added that we need to be asking the questions now to get answers now and not wait until later in the year. Cr Williams asked Cr Niblett to articulate a question to Mark so that he can get a response from Matt.

5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Bates: Duck banding

Cr Lumsden: Pheasants

Mark Venman: Licences

6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Niblett said that he might have a potential conflict with the OWP discussion in regard to captive reared mallards, p.13.

7.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2017-2018 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Mark presented the draft OWP that incorporated suggestions from the previous February Council meeting and the priorities workshop and asked the Council for feedback on the draft document.

Cr Bates asked some questions about the predator control programme and how that would work. Nathan said that he would trial some things this year locally and then develop a methodology for next year that would allow us to collect some valid information. Cr Niblett said that managing species is about habitat, populations and predation. Cr Williams queried Cr Niblett about there being sufficient habitat in the Hawkes Bay. Cr Niblett said that he never said that there was sufficient habitat and added that you can never have enough ducks. Cr Niblett clarified what he said by saying that current habitat was not being fully utilised by the mallard population which is very different to saying that we have too many ponds or wetlands.

Cr Bates added that there are a lot of wetlands that don't have many ducks on them. Cr Niblett said that in his opinion, one of the biggest issues that we have is predation and current studies are backing this claim. Cr Niblett said that the limiting factor for production could be predation and that we need to look after our existing wetlands and help protect waterfowl from predators for maximum productivity. Nathan asked if predation was high because the habitat wasn't ideal. Cr Niblett said that recent research has shown that if you fence off a wetland then it can potentially create a better environment for predation. Ducklings are suffering higher predation by predators that can approach them undetected in the denser vegetation. There needs to be a stronger focus on predator control to help maximise waterfowl production in the habitat that we currently have.

Cr Hern said that he had witnessed predator numbers increase since fencing off a wetland by giving the predators somewhere to hide, especially cats, stoats, hedgehogs and rats. Fish and Game needs to promote predator control and continue to protect wetlands that we have helped to create or enhance to maximise the return on our investment. Cr Niblett said that 90 cats had been caught over the past 4 months on a single 1,500-acre property. Nathan said that he was hoping to run some predator control workshops in different parts of the region so that private landowners could undertake the majority of the work. There is an opportunity to work in with the regional council on predator control programmes. We need to show the effectiveness of predator control to help get others on board. Cr Niblett said that staff need to work in with the Government's aim of being predator free by 2050 as there will be lots of different initiatives and funding that Fish and Game could tap into and work alongside other agencies.

Cr Williams said for the record, that this Council supports the creation, development and enhancement of wetlands in the Hawkes Bay region to create as much waterfowl habitat as possible.

It was asked why the direct costs for the harvest assessment had decreased in the new OWP in comparison to the previous year. Nathan said that the survey was essentially the same but a different provider was being used hence the reduction in cost.

A question was asked about the one-off costs for the staff house. Mark explained that it was for the painting of the interior, exterior and roof as all were well overdue for maintenance.

Cr Lumsden asked about the junior shoot in the new OWP and what new opportunities were being proposed for junior and novice hunters. Nathan informed the Council that he had produced a paper at the November 2016 Council meeting that discussed options for junior and novice hunters. Mark said that staff were looking to Council to provide guidance on which ideas were worth pursuing. Nathan said that we were working to open up some generic stands but also to run some informative gamebird hunting workshops much like what Eastern staff run. Nathan suggested running such a workshop in early March 2018, prior to the start of next year's game bird season. Cr Niblett asked whether anything had been planned for juniors this year through until the end of August 2017. Nathan said that two junior ballots had been organised for the Peka Peka wetland. He added that we might have 1 or 2 ballots at Waitangi in the future and some junior hunting opportunities at a DoC site in Central Hawkes Bay.

Cr Williams asked Councillors if there was anything that they would like staff to do for junior hunters and there was support for education programmes before the season starts. Council wanted to communicate more with juniors and promote opportunities for juniors. Nathan added that it was important to focus on novice hunters too that were keen to develop more. Cr Williams said that we can educate and encourage but hunting opportunities are limited due to so much private land in the region. Councillors wanted something written in the OWP so that we could quantify whether we were getting more juniors involved in hunting and not losing potential licence holders. Emphasis was put on improving habitat, increasing predator control, increasing bird numbers all of which should ultimately help increase the hunter's experience and hopefully encourage more people to get involved in game bird hunting.

There was discussion around sponsorship for significant junior hunting events and how it encouraged more juniors to purchase a game bird licence including those that lived on farms so that they could be in with a chance of hunting at an upland game property. Nathan said that he wanted to expand opportunities for juniors and said that although we were still keen to do a junior shoot this year for a small number of kids he added that we should also diversify and look at other opportunities to get more juniors involved. It was agreed that future events need to be advertised well in advance so that juniors have plenty of time to get involved and our investment is maximised. Fish and Game need to make contact with the preserves in the first instance to see whether any are keen to assist and host future events.

Cr Niblett asked about the investigation into the effects of captive reared mallards and asked where staff were intending to go with it and whether staff had a plan. Nathan said that it had been in this year's OWP and added that we weren't going to pursue anything until Murray Williams had finished his report. Nathan said that it had been left in the OWP until we had more information available. Mark added that it had been decided at the Manager's meeting that Murray Williams was to be given more time to flesh out his two-page report and provide a more comprehensive document.

Cr Hern questioned how much money did we have to spend on Lake Tutira given its current state. Cr Williams said that Mark would provide an update later in the Management Report.

Cr Lumsden queried the number of hours that we required Eastern staff to assist and asked how that compared to this current year. Mark said that the hours for next year had been reduced by approximately \$10K with the aim of reducing it further each year. There used to be a contract between the two regions but during more recent years nothing has been signed. Mark added that Andy had suggested detailing what services Eastern would provide and what Hawkes Bay would provide Eastern in the agenda for Councillors to see. Councillors would prefer to see a more official contract arrangement in the future.

There was a brief discussion on CPI adjustment and whether there should be a policy around it for setting the Manager's salary. Mark explained that the CPI adjustment had been discussed at the Managers meeting in February. Councillors felt that there should be a national policy created if there wasn't one already. Cr Williams said that he would mention it at the next NZ Council meeting.

Recommendation

7.1 That Council considers the initial OWP for 2017-18, identifies any issues it might have with it, and approves the contestable funding bid that has been proposed. [17/04/7.1]

Bates/Niblett

8.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

Mark explained that we had received four submissions from anglers and clubs regarding the angler notice review. There was a collective push for a ban on the use of treble hooks in this region, for minimum and maximum size limits to be introduced on the upper Mohaka River and for the headwaters of the main rivers to be fly fishing only waters.

Mark asked the Councillors for feedback on each of those submissions and referred them to the preliminary issues and options paper in the agenda.

1. Prohibit the use of treble hooks in the Hawkes Bay region

There was discussion on the use of treble hooks and concerns raised about youth fishing with them. It was discussed that it isn't compulsory to use treble hooks and can choose to use single hooks if you wish. Cr Williams said that there had been a good article in the last edition of the Fish and Game magazine that said that hook up rates were just as successful with a single hook compared with treble hooks. Mark explained that it was a Schedule 1 issue and that it could be difficult to change this without a change being made nationally. Councillors asked whether there was any evidence that the fishery had declined as a result of treble hooks being permitted and does it discourage anglers from fishing? Conversely there still seems to be a belief amongst some anglers that it actually encourages them to use treble hooks as they believe that they have a better chance of hooking a fish. Cr Hern said that he would support the region banning treble hooks but only if it was a nationwide ban. However, encouraging all other regions to follow suit and ban the use of treble hooks could be difficult. Cr Lumsden was supportive of option 2. There was discussion about limiting the time that a fish is out of the water when it comes to catch and release and anything that makes it easier to successfully release a fish should be encouraged. It was agreed that this region should be pro-active and take the idea forward to NZ Council saying that we as a region are keen to ban the use of treble hooks.

Recommendation

- 8.1 Put forward a submission to NZ Council to recommend a change to Schedule 1 of the regulations to exclude the use of treble hooks. [17/04/8.1] Lumsden/Bates**

2. Introduce a minimum length for trout in the Mohaka River

Councillors suggested that more data from future drift dive counts would be useful before recommending whether a minimum size limit is actually necessary. A question was asked about what the benefits of having a minimum size limit are to the licence holder or to the fishery. Minimum size limits only exist on the Maraetotara Stream and Lake Tutira. It was discussed that minimum size limits were applied to these two waters as that is where trout have been liberated during recent times. A minimum size limit does protect the young trout but it was argued that if a young angler catches a small trout and it is their first ever trout that they have caught themselves then why shouldn't they be allowed to take that fish. We should be encouraging anglers to have an enjoyable experience.

Recommendation

- 8.2 Retain status quo of no minimum size limit for trout from the Mohaka river until further monitoring has been completed. [17/04/8.2] Hern/Niblett**

3. Introduce a maximum size limit on the Mohaka River upstream of SH5

Cr Niblett asked what size do trout need to get for breeding purposes. Councillors discussed historical reasons of having a maximum size limit was really to ensure that there were trophy sized trout available that could be caught multiple times by different anglers over the years. Historically trophy sized fish were harvested from these rivers as anglers wanted to mount them on their walls at home but these fish are more valuable to the fishery alive where they can be caught several times. It was decided that further monitoring through drift diving is required before a decision can be made about whether a maximum size limit is actually required. Compliance and education of anglers is required to ensure that fish in the upper Ngaruroro, in particular, are not being kept when they shouldn't be. Cr Hern reported good numbers of large fish being caught this season in the Mohaka in comparison to the previous ten years and that is without any slotting system for length.

Recommendation

- 8.3 Retain the status quo of no maximum size limit for trout from the Mohaka upstream of the SH5 road bridge and continue to undertake further monitoring. [17/04/8.3] Bates/Niblett**

4. Fly fishing only in all headwaters

Councillors discussed that by allowing fly fishing and spin fishing they were maximising opportunities for anglers. Changing the regulations to prevent hunters from using a spinning rod to supplement their food on hunting trips isn't going to work if these hunters haven't purchased a fishing licence in the first place. Councillors discussed that we should educate anglers about the importance of these backcountry fisheries and ensure through compliance checks that everyone is licenced and abiding by the rules and regulations. Mark said that he was happy to put more effort into checks of backcountry areas to determine whether this was an actual issue or not. Councillors said that it should be left up to Mark to decide how best to undertake these checks of backcountry rivers and said that there is money in the backcountry reserves that could be utilised for this purpose. There was a discussion around whether there were defined areas of our rivers that were classed as "backcountry" or whether they were better classed as headwater fisheries.

Recommendation

**8.4 Increase compliance checks and education of anglers fishing in the headwater fisheries.
[17/04/8.4]**

Bates/Hern

9.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 EAST COAST/HAWKES BAY CONSERVATION BOARD

No report received

9.2 REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

No report received

9.3 REPORT FROM NZ COUNCIL

Cr Williams mentioned that the Auditor General was investigating another region but said that he couldn't disclose more information as it had been discussed at a public excluded session.

Cr Williams added that Ngai Tahu had approached National Office to have an input into game birds and wetland management.

10.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mark provided an update on Lake Tutira and said that Maungaharuru Tangitu Trust and HBRC were in the process of applying for significant funding from MfE to help improve Lake Tutira. If the funding is successful, a number of short term projects could commence in the near future that have the potential to improve conditions in the lake for both eels and trout. Mark added that Fish and Game, local angling clubs, farmers and school kids have all provided letters of support for the funding application. An outcome about whether the funding application has been successful is expected around August. Mark added that the hydrilla survey had been postponed until June when conditions in the lake were expected to improve due to winter mixing. Mark said that it was best to support the funding application at this stage because if it was successful then we would likely see a much faster improvement than if we were to investigate other avenues. He added that next year's liberations

into Tutira had been reduced to 2,000 trout with some of the savings allocated towards improvement projects at Lake Tutira.

There was a discussion about whether we could work more with the regional council to assess water quality prior to releasing trout into Tutira and Mark said that was why last year's liberations had been delayed until conditions had improved slightly.

A discussion developed around why the trout fishery declined at Lake Tutira during more recent years and what could be done to help to improve conditions within the lake.

Cr Hern asked what was happening to the advertising board next to the expressway. It was explained that Fish and Game owned the sign but the skins had been sponsored. Mark explained that putting the skins up required hiring a cherry picker due to the height of the sign and added that it was too high to use a ladder. Cr Williams said that he might be able to assist with providing a cherry picker and Mark said that he would try to get something organised.

Maintain and enhance game bird habitat. Cr Bates asked about the Wedd property. Nathan said that health and safety was a concern for accessing the property as there were some river crossings that were required and added that it wasn't ideal for junior hunters to access during the winter months. Cr Bates asked whether the money used to fund this project had come from the Wildlife fund and Nathan said that a late decision had been made not to use the Wildlife fund money as not all of the necessary criteria of the fund could be met. Nathan confirmed that the work had been funded through our budget for maintaining game bird habitat. Cr Bates questioned why the budget had been exceeded and Mark explained that the finance report figures needed to be adjusted as the decision had been made late not to use money from the Wildlife fund. Cr Lumsden said that there was money available in the Wildlife fund and that consideration should be given to future ideas but added that the correct process had to be followed. Cr Bates suggested that the fund could be used to kickstart the development of an educational wetland at the Game Farm site for youth as that could fit well with the fund's criteria.

Cr Bates questioned why the Assisted Habitat budget was over budget by 48% after just 6 months. Staff explained that this should return to being within budget once all of the landowners have reimbursed Fish and Game for the work done. It was explained that normally we don't get involved with the Game Bird Habitat Trust in terms of paying for physical wetland work to be done. This year, Nathan decided to get involved with the physical works as there were three successful applicants with wetlands in close proximity to each other and he thought that it would work out more economical to undertake the work and share costs across the three wetlands. Fish and Game have paid for the work to be done and are seeking reimbursement from each of the three landowners. One landowner has not reimbursed Fish and Game and Councillors questioned whether this was a sensible approach this year. Normally successful applicants pay for the work to be done themselves and are then reimbursed by the Game Bird Habitat Trust. Councillors asked whether we need a policy for this in the future and staff said that standard protocols would be followed in the future to avoid being caught in this position with a bad debtor.

It was mentioned that one successful applicant also damaged the digger that Fish and Game had dry hired while undertaking work on one of the wetlands. A hand rail and panel had been damaged while undertaking wetland work and had been covered under Fish and Game's insurance. The driver

of the digger at the time paid the cost of the insurance excess so that there was no cost to Fish and Game. Councillors questioned whether it was advisable to dry hire a digger and employ a driver instead of just paying for a contractor to undertake the work with their own insurance. Once again, Councillors questioned whether we needed a policy around the use of contractors and hiring of equipment. Councillors were also concerned that this was the first that they had heard of the damage to the digger.

Cr Hern questioned whether it was the best use of licence money for Fish and Game to be managing a hut on the Mohaka River and asked how much revenue we get from hiring out the hut. Mark said that the hut gets hired out approximately 40 nights a year and at \$25 per night brings in about \$1,000 per year in its current state and with minimal advertising. Mark explained that there was \$1,000 in the budget for overdue maintenance of the hut and added that staff and volunteers were working towards bringing the hut up to scratch. Once upgraded, it could be advertised more and rental could also be increased slightly to increase our revenue.

Cr Hern asked about the outcome of the two fishery offenders that had been caught fishing without licences, provided false details and obstructed a Ranger back in January. Mark replied that the two men were due in Court on 19 April. Mark provided an update on the new Honorary Rangers that had recently joined the team taking the total number to 10. Cr Hern asked whether staff would have support from the Police over opening weekend of the game bird season. Mark said that staff are working with Police and had discussed some options over the past couple of months. Councillors asked whether there could be a media release sent out before opening weekend to inform hunters that Rangers would be out and about in the region to help encourage hunters to purchase a game bird licence.

Councillors discussed whether a boat would be useful to help patrol larger lakes such as Lake Hatuma. Nathan said that the three-shot rule had been advertised in the regional newsletter and on Facebook to help increase awareness before the start of the season. Changes to the shooting hours had also been advertised.

Councillors discussed what the three-shot rule meant in terms of how it could be interpreted and from the perspective of firearm safety as it could be deemed safer to have three shots in the magazine with the magazine lock on rather than two shots in the magazine and one in the chamber. Nathan said that he had spoken to Eastern staff to get a better understanding of the three-shot rule and a legal understanding. As it stands the regulation states that you must have two shots in the magazine and one shot in the chamber. You can't have three shots in the magazine and none in the chamber.

10.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

No comment.

10.3 FINANCE REPORT

Cr Bates questioned why the interest was considerably lower than projected. Christine explained that several term deposits mature in June and that it was simply a timing issue and added that we could end up exceeding the interest that was projected. Cr Bates also questioned the rental of the

maize paddock and Christine explained that the rent was paid in quarterly instalments and was on target.

10.3.1 That Council approves the payments for January 2017 and February 2017 totalling \$71,816.94. [17/04/10.3]
Hern/Lumsden

10.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

Mark explained that game bird licences were slightly behind last year for the same period, mainly in the adult category. A significant proportion of licences are still sold through agents.

Councillors discussed Robert Sowman's report. Councillors recommended a 30% increase on the cost of a non-resident day licence and that no more than 2 consecutive day licences could be purchased as feedback to NZ Council.

11.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Bates: Duck banding

Cr Bates said that at the last Council meeting we discussed ways to increase the return of duck bands. Nathan said that we were working on it and had put a notice in the game bird newsletter and we will distribute return forms around the various licence agents. We will also put reminders up on the Facebook page throughout the season. Nathan added that the duck banding return forms will also be available on the front page of the new Fish & Game website to make it easier for hunters to locate the form. We will also put out a press release prior to opening weekend. Nathan added that the opening weekend phone surveys will ask hunters whether they shot a banded bird and if they did to remind them to return that information. Christine added that it was part of the final survey question. Nathan said that Matt uses the survey data to help identify the number of band returns.

Cr Williams said that one of the main reasons that we band ducks is to identify the ratio of adult to juvenile birds in the population to help identify recruitment. Cr Lumsden said that trapping and banding costs money and that we need to get a good return from doing that work. Cr Hern was concerned about the reporting rates of the bands and said that if 80% of bands are not reported, for example, we are wasting time and money banding birds that could be better spent on other things. Cr Lumsden said that we need to ensure that hunters report their bands and asked whether that information could be gathered when it is asked as part of the phone surveys. Nathan said that that was the plan. Nathan added that live banded recaptures are also important when they are captured during banding events as they provide information on longevity. He said that banding ducks is the most efficient and inexpensive way to monitor wild populations.

Christine said that the survey question only asks, "Did you shoot a banded bird? – yes or no". She added "did you return your band information". Christine said that we pay SIT for this survey and they are only getting paid by question and in all fairness, we can't expect them to record the information of the banded bird data too. Once we get the survey answers, staff can follow up with the hunters that shot a banded bird but didn't report it. Christine said that it was our responsibility to follow up on and that we would follow up shortly after receiving the answers back from SIT.

Cr Williams said that we will be reviewing the OWP later tonight but that it seemed important to Councillors that the banding is looked at in more detail. Cr Lumsden reinforced that we need to get as much information out of banding as possible given the costs involved. Cr Niblett added that as long as banding is statistically sound – if we need to band 2,000 ducks then let's ensure that we band 2,000 ducks. Cr Williams said that a decision had been made this year to band 1,000 ducks before banding had started but due to weather and other circumstances, staff had fallen short of this target by approximately 200 birds. Cr Niblett responded by saying if 1,000 birds was what was required then anything less than that may not be statistically valid.

Nathan said that Darryl McKenzie did a review recently of all of the mallard research projects which highlighted some of his concerns. Cr Williams said that we have obtained the data from just under 800 birds and that data will go to Matt who will analyse whether it is useful or not. Cr Niblett said that Murray Williams has shown that doing this type of population monitoring via banding is not significant indicating that there were conflicting views amongst scientists. Cr Niblett said that his main question was regarding statistics. The assumption is that these birds move randomly throughout the whole duck management unit but if that assumption is made then the data may not be valid. Cr Williams said that it would be useful for Cr Niblett to present a paper to this Council on the merits of banding and the number of birds that need to be banded for the data to be statistically valid. Cr Niblett responded by saying that he isn't a statistician but was asking the question of a statistician – what do we need to do to make it valid science? Statisticians don't always consider the behaviours of animals.

Cr Williams said that we had covered this topic in some depth and that we required some additional information and science to be able to move forward.

Mark Venman: Licences

Mark raised the topic of licences and the need to provide feedback to NZ Council. Cr Williams asked Councillors whether they had seen the paper by Robert Sowman regarding the issues around 24hr fishing licences or "have a go" licences. He discussed that there had been some issues with overseas anglers purchasing – 5-6 consecutive day licences which works out cheaper and so we should be doing something to rectify this issue. Cr Bates said that some anglers could be put off by having to purchase a full season licence to fish backcountry areas and that said that we could be losing income as a result. The discussion also covered charter boat operations. Cr Williams discussed the options in the paper. It was felt that better education of the agents would help with this issue and also better promote Fish and Game.

Cr Lumsden said that Day licences should be for NZ residents and that there should be alternative options in the future for tourist anglers. Cr Williams said that NZ Council were looking for each region to discuss the options and provide feedback to NZ Council. Christine said that with the non-resident day licence, the terminology isn't clear as it says a "few" days rather than defining a period of 2 or 3 days. Anglers will work out whether it is cheaper for them to buy a number of consecutive day licences rather than purchasing a full season licence. Defining the number of consecutive days that a day licence can be purchased would be beneficial. Cr Lumsden said that our backcountry rivers are hugely important and users of them should help pay towards looking after them to ensure that they stay in pristine condition as that is what draws people to them in the first place.

Cr Williams invited Mr Nichol and Mr Hooper to talk on behalf of their angling clubs on this topic. Mr Nichol said that the \$163 to fish here in NZ is peanuts compared to what it costs to fish in the UK and Europe. He also suggested having a family licence category for tourists. Cr Williams said that there was a licence working party looking at licence categories and that they were reluctant to change anything until the current categories had run for at least 3 years and provided some useful data.

Putting a premium on overseas anglers has essentially created this issue. If someone is here fishing for a week then we should be encouraging them to purchase a season licence. A season licence is good value for money for overseas anglers.

Mr Slavin asked the Councillors whether Peter Macintosh was still a Councillor and asked whether he had attended any Council meetings. Councillors told Mr Slavin that Mr Macintosh hadn't attended any Council meetings as a Councillor. Mr Slavin then asked what the process was if a Councillor didn't attend several consecutive meetings. Cr Williams said that Mr Macintosh was still a Councillor and added that he hasn't resigned or been replaced by anyone else.

Cr Lumsden: Pheasants

Cr Lumsden discussed junior shoots on game preserves but also mentioned the cock pheasants that had been released last year on the rivers in Central Hawkes Bay and asked whether staff had done any publicity on those pheasant releases for our licence holders. Councillors asked whether a media release could be circulated in the local newspapers for a wider audience to be targeted. To maximise opportunities we need to ensure that licence holders are informed and need to target other forms of media such as the preseason newsletter and Facebook. Councillors asked for the pheasant release to be mentioned in the media release before the start of the game bird season.

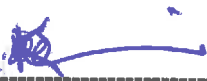
12.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

The meeting went into recession at 9.45 pm for a publicly excluded session that commenced at 9.50 pm.

There being no further business to attend to at the conclusion of the public excluded session, the meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

CONFIRMED

Date: 13 / 06 / 2017



CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (14 FEBRUARY 2017)

- 3.1 *That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the meeting of Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on 14 February 2017 are a true and correct record. [17/04/3.1]* **Hern/Niblett**

7.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2017-18 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 7.1 *That Council considers the initial OWP for 2017-18, identifies any issues it might have with it, and approves the contestable funding bid that has been proposed. [17/04/7.1]* **Bates/Niblett**

8.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

- 8.1 *Put forward a submission to NZ Council to recommend a change to Schedule 1 of the regulations to exclude the use of treble hooks. [17/04/8.1]* **Lumsden/Bates**
- 8.2 *Retain status quo of no minimum size limit for trout from the Mohaka river until further monitoring has been completed. [17/04/8.2]* **Hern/Niblett**
- 8.3 *Retain the status quo of no maximum size limit for trout from the Mohaka upstream of the SH5 road bridge and continue to undertake further monitoring. [17/04/8.3]* **Bates/Niblett**
- 8.4 *Increase compliance checks and education of anglers fishing in the headwater fisheries. [17/04/8.4]*

Bates/Hern

10.3 FINANCE REPORT

- 10.3.1 *That Council approves the payments for January 2017 and February 2017 totalling \$71,816.94. [17/04/10.3]* **Hern/Lumsden**

