



PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE

WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2023**

Presented to the House of Representatives pursuant to Section 26 X of the Conservation Act 1987.

5th December 2023

Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister

I have the honour to submit, pursuant to Section 26X of the Conservation Act 1987 and Section 44 of the Public Finance Act 1989, the Performance Report of the Wellington Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dewar', is written in a cursive style.

Chair
Paul Dewar
Wellington Fish and Game Council

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ENTITY INFORMATION

Legal Name

Wellington Fish and Game Council.

Type of Entity and Legal Basis

The Wellington Fish and Game Council is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4). The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990.

Mission and Statutory Functions

Wellington Fish and Game Council was established for the purposes of the management, maintenance, and enhancement of sports fish and game in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.

The Council has statutory responsibilities established by the Conservation Act 1987 (including the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983) and the Wildlife Act 1953 (incl. the Wildlife Regulations 1955).

Particular functions of Wellington Fish and Game Council include:

- monitoring sports fish and game populations;
- monitoring the success and satisfaction of users;
- monitoring the condition and trend of ecosystems as habitats for sports fish and game;
- maintaining and improving access;
- maintaining and enhancing the habitat of sports fish and game;
- formulating and establishing regulations and policies which ensure the maintenance of sports fish and game populations and the recreational experience;
- securing compliance with sports fish and game regulations;
- promoting recreational angling and game bird hunting;
- representing the interests of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process;
- keeping anglers and hunters informed.

The Council's operations are based upon a national statement of purposes and priorities, a Sports Fish and Game Management Plan which sets long term goals and policies, and an annual Operational Work Plan, which sets out the specific work programme and budget.

Structure of Wellington Fish and Game Council

The Council currently consists of 12 councillors who were elected in November 2021. Councillors are elected three yearly by fish and game licence holders in the Council's region. There are no co-opted members on the Council. Representatives from The Department of Conservation and the Conservation Board are invited to attend each meeting.

The Council meets a minimum of six times each year at sites around the region that enable licence holders to attend one or more Council meetings should they desire.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day operations and reports to the Council. Four other full and one part time staff support the Chief Executive in delivering the Councils objectives.

Paul Dewar is the Current Chair and Professor Stephen Haslett was elected by the Council as an appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in December 2022, replacing Richard McIntyre who stepped down from this role.

Council and Staff

Council Members	Sub Region	Meetings Attended
Paul Dewar	Southern	5 (1*)
Jim Cook	Northern	6
Jennifer Yanko	Northern	6
Steve Brown	Northern	3 (3*)
Stephen Haslett	Northern	5 (1*)
Andrew McGregor	Northern	5 (1*)
Don Scott	Northern	5 (1*)
John Hancock	Eastern	6
Colin Shore	Eastern	4 (2*)
Aaron Passey	Eastern	6
Malcolm Francis	Southern	6
Richard McIntyre	Southern	3 (3*)

* Apologies received

There were no attendances of representatives of the Director General of Conservation

Staff Members

Phil Teal <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Corinne Deans <i>Administration Manager</i>	Jilli Steedman <i>Financial Administrator P/T</i>
Matt Kavermann <i>Senior Fish & Game Officer</i>	Hamish Carnachan <i>Senior Communications / Fish & Game Officer</i>	Ami Coughlan <i>Resource / Technical Officer</i>

Auditors

Vivien Cotton (CKS Audit) on behalf of the Office of the Auditor General.

Bankers

ANZ

Offices

The Council office is located at 292 Featherston Street, Palmerston North

Phone 06 3590409

Email wellington@fishandgame.org.nz

Website <https://fishandgame.org.nz/wellington/>

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to present this 2022/23 Annual report on the operations of Wellington Fish and Game Council.

The Wellington Fish and Game Council continues to manage the fish and game resource in a sustainable way to achieve strategic and long-term outcomes that have a benefit in terms of the resource itself and provide access to the resource to enable licence holders to carry out their recreational pursuits.

The Changing Political Landscape – Opportunities and Uncertainty

The election of a new Government from the 2023 General Election has signalled change in the political landscape that will inevitably flow through to changes to the fundamental legislation that provides mandates for Fish and Game to operate effectively. While it is anticipated that some of the changes will present opportunities for Fish and Game, there is also considerable uncertainty as to how legislation direction will be developed and implemented.

Review of Legislation Fundamental to Fish and Game Operations

Wellington Fish and Game governors have a high awareness of the importance of potentially critical legislative changes that will influence opportunities for licence holders to undertake their recreation into the future.

In the past few years there has been significant changes to the legislative framework that provide a platform for Fish and Game to successfully operate. The review of the Resource Management Act resulted in the Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 was fundamental to Fish and Game in securing relevance in the resource advocacy space to protect sports fish and game bird habitats. I acknowledge the efforts of Corina Jordan (Chief Executive of NZ Council) and her team to retain provisions in the new Act to protect the habitat of trout and salmon. However, this legislation is one of the first to be signalled for repeal in whole (or substantive) by the new Coalition Government by the end of 2023 Calendar Year.

The previous Minister of Conservation also announced in September 2023 a review and prospect of repeal of the Wildlife Act 1953 which could considerably alter the fundamental mandates and responsibilities that Fish and Game operates. There are some views in the conservation management sector that are fundamentally opposed to the concept of valued introduced species having a place in New Zealand ecosystems, and the responsibilities associated with future governance systems used to manage those resources.

Regional Planning Process

Regional Councils have been active in reviewing their regional planning instruments – Regional Policy Statements and Regional Plans. Engaging in representation of Fish and Game mandates and values is extremely resource intensive in terms of staff resources and cash resources to engage external planning, legal, and technical experts when engaging in the Environment Court proceedings. We must stay engaged in these processes to ensure the management of fish and game resources are adequately provided for.

The fundamental principles used by Fish and Game of using trout and waterfowl as key indicator species for maintaining or enhancing ecosystem health should still retain its relevance into the future.

The National Policy Statement Freshwater 2020 (NPSFM 2020) requires regional councils to give effect to the national direction provided by the Government to protect, enhance and prevent further damage to waterways, lakes and streams¹: *the health and well-being of degraded water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is improved, and the health and well-being of all other water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is maintained and (if communities choose) improved.* The NPS-FM requires regional councils to notify a change to their regional plan by December 2024 – the Plan changes will consider all provisions that relate to freshwater management.

The focus and resourcing of protecting the habitat values through representations in these processes are essential and they will not be abating in the near future. It is a key function for Fish and Game to achieve outcomes that enhance the resource where degraded or maintain the resource where it is currently in good health.

Shared Resources Arrangement between Taranaki and Wellington Fish and Game Council

Wellington Fish and Game Council viewed the independent critique of the organisation by the Ministerial Review of Fish and Game Governance² as a health check on the governance arrangements. Wellington Fish and Game Council governors have embraced the need to address the weaknesses of the Fish and Game federal system identified by the findings of the Ministerial Review- and there was a similar appreciation of Taranaki Fish and Game Council governors of the need to modernise organisational practices.

Among the actions recommended by the Ministerial Review (and further refined by the Structure Review Group³) was for two viable options for potential amalgamations to be considered: a Wellington and Taranaki region amalgamation, and a lower North Island options that additionally incorporates Hawke's Bay region. Wellington and Taranaki Fish and Game Councils developed a collaborative approach with considerable goodwill in order to progress the former option. This will initially be a 'shared resource' arrangement operating as separate business units until it is legally possible to amalgamate the two regions – both operationally and governance.

There is a responsibility of all regional Fish and Game Councils to implement changes in a timely manner to maintain control of shaping the organisation's future structure. It has been somewhat frustrating for Wellington Council to see the slow progress of the implementation process of the list of recommendations – even though there has been some recent progress on implementing items that don't require legislative change. The delays have unfortunately stifled momentum, and this provided regions the chance to relitigate discussions on regional effectiveness and efficiencies – and even reverting

¹ Ministry for the Environment. 2022. *Guidance on the National Objectives Framework of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.

² 2021. Clark, B., and T. Mills . *Review of the Governance of Fish and Game New Zealand and the Regional Fish and Game Councils. February 2021. A report prepared for the Minister of Conservation.*

³ 2022. Hunt, D, et al. *Future Regional Structure of Fish and Game Councils. A report prepared for the Implementation Group DOC.*

back to a 'business as usual' governance and operational mode. There is an increasing risk that if the organisation comes under external scrutiny there will be an apparent lack of progress to implement meaningful change – and the control, pace, and extent of changes may be out of our control.

High Quality Species Monitoring Programme Puts Fish and Game in Good Position

Wellington Fish and Game Council acknowledges the value and quality of the species monitoring programmes undertaken in Wellington region – and they are undertaken with diligence and expertise by qualified staff. This information provides confidence to the Council when setting harvest regulations but also provides the principal source of information when considering advocacy in resource management decision making by external resource managers.

The results of the monitoring of waterfowl and trout populations show that they are being maintained in a healthy state, and this is providing hunting and angling opportunity of consistently high quality.

Access to the Resource- Future Governance and Management of Wairarapa Moana

The establishment of the Statutory Reserve Board is an opportunity to engage and develop collaborations to establish pathways for improving the health of the lake ecosystem, while still allowing for recreational use of the lake by hunters and anglers.

Social Licence Campaign

There has been a consistently high-quality communications output from Wellington Fish and Game Council staff that has provided timely information to licence holders.

NZ Fish and Game Council has embarked on a nation-wide campaign to maintain social licence (the 'ReWild' Campaign) by highlighting the benefits of undertaking the pursuits of hunting and angling, as well as the value Fish and Game (and hunters and anglers) add to the conservation of the resources. Wellington staff continue to provide expert input into this initiative – as it is an organisational approach and involvement required.

Licence Sales – Recruitment and Retention Initiatives

Licence sales for angling took an unexpected boost during the 'Covid years' but despite best efforts (probably thwarted by wet weather) we didn't maintain those elevated licence sales targets.

Wellington Fish and Game Council does acknowledge the outstanding initiatives and efforts undertaken by Fish and Game Clubs in holding family focused fishing events, and the superbly run Women on the Fly programme which has a focus of 'for women-run by women'.

Acknowledgement of Efforts of Governors – Volunteers – Staff

I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by volunteers associated with our organisation as they put something back into the management of the pursuit and resource. Our volunteer network is varied in extent and action, but all contain the components of passion and commitment to maintaining and enhancing the fish and game resource. , contribution to projects that otherwise would not be possible, and dedication to completing the tasks for the wider good. To the warranted honorary rangers, club members who mentor novice anglers at fishing days, to those who contribute willingly to conservation projects and operational support, contributors to

advocacy campaigns, and most of all my fellow governors – thank you for your contributions.

To our staff, I also provide a sincere thanks for dedicated and expert contributions to the fish and game resource. We are truly fortunate to have such a skilful group of professionals that are always prepared to go the extra distance to achieve such outstanding outcomes.

Continuing Our Focus into the Future

Fish and Game must continue to be driven by the underlining and long held ethos of managing the environment to support freshwater fish and game bird populations – with meeting licence holders’ needs being front and centre focus.

Wellington Fish and Game Council will continue to do their best endeavours to achieve the most positive outcomes possible into the future.



Paul Dewar

Chairman

5 December 2023

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

5th December 2023

The Council and Management of the Wellington Fish and Game Council, accept responsibility for the accuracy of and judgements used in the preparation of the following Financial Statements and Performance Report, the establishment and maintenance of systems of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance of the integrity and reliability of financial reporting and the end of year performance information.

In our opinion, the information set out in the following statements and attached notes to these statements fairly reflects the financial position and service performance of the Wellington Fish and Game Council, for the year ended 31 August 2023.



Paul Dewar
Chair



Phil Teal
Chief Executive Officer

STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Introduction

The following is a summary of performance relating to objectives provided for in the 2022-23 Operational Workplan, as adopted by Council for commencement on 1 September 2022.

Annual Operational Workplan

The annual operational workplan is structured within eight broad outputs.

“Budget” and “Actual” costs are comprised of internal costs (proportion of staff time multiplied by overheads) and external costs established for each project.

Main Sources of Cash and Resources

Wellington Fish and Game Council derives revenue through the sale of fish and game licence sales, interest, contracts, a grant from New Zealand Fish and Game Council and miscellaneous sales. We applied these funds to achieve the goals as set out in the mission statement.

Outcomes – Achievements

During the year Council completed a number of tasks for the benefit of anglers and hunters.

Sports Fish Monitoring

Monitoring programmes are undertaken during the year to assess the state of the sport fish population across the region’s rivers and inform sports fishing regulations to ensure sustainable populations of sports fish for anglers now and in the future.

Game Bird Monitoring

Monitoring programmes are undertaken during the year which are required to assess productivity, survival, and harvest of gamebirds to set appropriate game bird season regulations in order to maintain sustainable populations of game bird species for hunters now and in the future.

Angler and Hunter Participation

We continue to maintain and enhance access to the fish and game resource and inform hunters and anglers of opportunities for fishing and hunting in the Wellington Fish & Game Region.

Sports Fish and Game Bird Habitat Protection

We represented Fish & Game interests and the aspirations of anglers and hunters in resource management processes and strategies, advocating for and making submissions on behalf of anglers and hunters where their recreational interests could be impacted.

Compliance

We carried out compliance checks to monitor compliance with angling and hunting regulations and took enforcement action where considered necessary. A high level of compliance is necessary to support sports fish and game bird populations and to ensure that all users contribute to the resource.

Governance

The Wellington Fish and Game Council and Taranaki Fish and Game Council have worked cooperatively to actively progress amalgamation of the two regions by operating with shared resources and in the first instance and aligning work programmes.

Licence System

A readily accessible licencing system is available online and through Fish & Game licence retailers.

More detailed information on actual targets and outputs for the year is recorded within the following pages and a summary of budget and actual expenditure for each output Area is provided below. The overhead expenses detailed in the Statement of Financial Performance have been allocated to each output area based on the proportion of staff time directly expended in each area.

Summary Budget and Actual Expenditure for each output area.

Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
Species Management	\$288,284	\$2,000	\$286,284	\$189,138	\$4,500	\$184,638
Habitat Protection	\$136,313	\$16,000	\$120,313	\$239,657	\$64,514	\$175,143
Angler & Hunter Participation	\$108,245	\$4,400	\$103,845	\$133,855	\$22,242	\$111,613
Public Interface	\$41,052	\$0	\$41,052	\$30,366	\$0	\$30,366
Compliance	\$63,215	\$5,000	\$58,215	\$24,063	\$461	\$23,602
Licensing	\$43,959	\$719,734	-\$675,775	\$26,741	\$668,061	-\$641,320
Council	\$24,752	\$0	\$24,752	\$34,933	\$0	\$34,933
Planning & Reporting	\$49,787	\$0	\$49,787	\$109,660	\$0	\$109,660
Total Outputs	\$755,607	\$747,134	\$8,473	\$788,413	\$759,778	\$28,635
Administrative Expense offset by administrative income	\$43,922	\$43,922	\$0	\$136,414	\$136,414	\$0
Levies, Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$217	-\$217
	\$799,529	\$791,056	\$8,473	\$924,827	\$896,409	\$28,418

OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1110	Species Monitoring	\$113,654	\$0	\$113,654	\$165,855	\$0	\$165,855
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$31,243	\$0	\$31,243	\$4,667	\$0	\$4,667
1130	Fish Salvage	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$122,360	\$0	\$122,360	\$0	\$4,500	-\$4,500
1150	Game Farm	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1160	Liberations	\$16,998	\$2,000	\$14,998	\$10,442	\$0	\$10,442
1170	Regulations	\$2,052	\$0	\$2,052	\$2,824	\$0	\$2,824
1180	Control	\$1,977	\$0	\$1,977	\$5,350	\$0	\$5,350
Total		\$288,284	\$2,000	\$286,284	\$189,138	\$4,500	\$184,638

The Council's role is to manage the region's populations of sports fish and game bird species by assessing populations and harvest levels, augmenting, or dispersing local populations as required, and formulating season conditions that will best provide for the long-term requirements of anglers and hunters.

Sports Fish Population Monitoring

Trout populations in all fisheries in the Wellington Fish and Game region, that are valued by licence holders, will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
Information gained by drift diving and spawning surveys, as planned in Council's adopted Sports Fish Monitoring Strategy, will result in identifying implications for sports fish management. A report by professional staff on the results will be presented to the council to 31 August 2023.	42 drift dive surveys completed (totalling 65.4km) across 19 rivers. This included 14 core river reaches sampled annually where a 7-year trend analysis of core survey reaches indicate a stable sports fish population within the region. A report of this work by professional staff was received by Council on 10 October 2023.

Rangitikei Trout Fishery Management

Sports fisheries that exhibit characteristics that are valued by anglers will be identified and safeguarded.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>The implementation of a programme of research, monitoring and compliance work, with financial support, from a report to, Genesis Energy Limited, by 31 August 2023.</p> <p>Operate a backcountry licence for the Upper Rangitikei fisheries.</p>	<p>Seven drift dive surveys totalling approximately 19 km were completed for the Upper Rangitikei fishery in 2023.</p> <p>Outcomes of these surveys provided data on trout population abundance, spawning and recruitment.</p> <p>A back country licence has continued to be issued but will transition to the Designated Waters Licencing system for the 2023-24 season.</p> <p>A report to Genesis Energy Limited was completed in July 2023 and received by Council on 8 August 2023.</p> <p>Receipt of \$25,149 (excl GST) was received from Genesis Energy Limited.</p>

River Control Fishery Assessment

The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Information gained by drift diving will result in assessment of the impacts of river control works on trout habitats and populations in the Hutt and Waikanae Rivers.</p> <p>A progress report by professional staff on the results of the fieldwork will be presented to Greater Wellington Regional Council by 31 August 2023.</p>	<p>Drift dive surveys were completed for the Hutt and Waikanae Rivers.</p> <p>Outcomes of these surveys provided data on trout population abundance, spawning and recruitment.</p> <p>A report by professional staff summarising survey results was presented to Greater Wellington Regional Council in July 2023 and was received by Council on 8 August 2023.</p> <p>Receipt of \$4,000 (excl GST) from Greater Wellington Regional Council.</p>

Game Bird Population Assessment

The Wellington regional populations of game birds are managed to remain relatively stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Information gained by summer and autumn counts of the regional populations of mallard/grey ducks and pūkeko; summer trend counts of pūtangitangi/paradise shelduck and kakīānau/black swan; and late winter counts of kuruwhengi/shoveler ducks, will result in identifying implications for game bird management.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the fieldwork will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2023.</p>	<p>Summer (pūtangitangi/paradise shelduck and kakīānau/black swan), autumn (rakiraki and pārerā/dabbling duck and pūkeko) and late winter (kuruwhengi/shoveler duck and pūkeko) game bird surveys were completed by professional staff in 2023.</p> <p>A report detailing survey outcomes, and population trend analysis with game bird population management implications was received by Council on 10 October 2023.</p>

National Hunter Harvest Survey

Hunter harvest of game birds will be controlled so it is not the cause of any population demise.

Planned Result	Outcomes
<p>Information gained from game licence holders during the 2023 game season, collected by participation in this externally analysed and nationally coordinated annual survey, will result in identifying implications for game bird management.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the 2023 survey will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2023.</p>	<p>The 2023 national game bird hunter harvest survey was undertaken during the 2023 game bird season.</p> <p>Data from the survey detailing regional game bird harvest levels for the season was analysed and compared against the previous 20 years harvest assessment and the regional population trends.</p> <p>A report detailing regional survey results and game bird population management implications was received by the Council on 10 October 2023.</p>

Regional Angler Survey

85% of licenced anglers have a satisfactory angling experience, and will be satisfied with the availability, quality and extent of information available.

Planned Result	Outcome
Information gained by surveying fish licence holders during the 2022-2023 financial year will result in identifying implications for fisheries management.	Licence holders in the Wellington region were surveyed and contributed data to the Angler usage of New Zealand lake and river fisheries report prepared by an external service provider.
A report by professional staff on the results of the survey will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2023.	No other regional surveys were completed by professional staff.

Regional Hunter Survey

90% of dabbling duck hunters have a satisfactory hunting experience, and will be satisfied with the availability, quality and extent of information available.

Planned Result	Outcome
Information gained by surveying game licence holders during the 2022/23 financial year will result in identifying implications for game management.	A series of regionally focused questions relating to hunter satisfaction in the Wellington region were asked as part of the National Game Bird Hunter survey.
A report by professional staff on the results of the survey will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2023.	Analysis of regional responses to these questions was completed and a summary report of information collected and implications for game management was received by the Council on 10 October 2023.

Trout Liberations

The maintenance and improvement of trout fisheries by stocking with hatchery-reared fish where this is necessary, achievable and cost effective.

Planned Result	Outcome
The provision of up to 1,400 healthy two-year-old rainbow trout at Capital Trout Centre, Wellington, by 31 August 2023.	1000 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 10 August 2023 to the Capital Trout Centre, Wellington from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua.
The provision of at least 400 healthy two-year old rainbow trout at Hokowhitu Lagoon with view to supporting a junior/novice fishing day promotion.	750 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 13 October 2022 to the Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua.

The provision of at least 200 healthy two-year old rainbow trout at Otaki Lake with view to supporting a junior/novice fishing day promotion.	A family fishing event was held over the weekend of 15-16 October 2022. 600 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 16 November 2022 to the Winstone Aggregates Family Fishing pond, Otaki from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua. A family fishing event was held over the weekend of 19-20 November 2022.
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Season Regulations

The maintenance and improvement of the region's sports fish and game bird resources, by the formulation and recommendation to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council of season conditions for fishing and game hunting seasons, that can be demonstrated to be sustainable.

Planned Result	Outcome
The dispatch of the Council's draft recommendations for 2023 game hunting season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 6 February 2023.	The Council's draft recommendations for the 2023 game bird hunting season conditions were confirmed with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 8 February 2023.
The dispatch of the Council's draft recommendations for the 2022/2023 fishing season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 30 June 2023.	The Council's draft recommendations for the 2022/2023 fishing season conditions were confirmed with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 23 June 2023.

Keep and Release Approvals

The protection of Wellington Fish and Game region's indigenous biodiversity and trout habitat.

Planned Result	Outcome
All keepings of game birds, and all releases of sports fish, other fish, and game birds will be subject to appropriate statutory approvals.	There were no gazetted game preserves operating under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1953. There were three game preserves operating under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act 1953 approved by the Minister of Conservation in the Wellington Region in 2023.

Game Bird Dispersal

The dispersal or control of congregations of game bird, where they cause unacceptable damage to farmers' crops, is undertaken in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>The dispersal or control of game birds where they cause unacceptable damage to farmers' crops is undertaken in a timely and cost-effective manner.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the performance of game bird dispersal throughout Wellington Fish and Game region for the reporting year will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2023.</p>	<p>70 written authorities were provided by the Council to control or disperse game birds where they were causing unacceptable damage to landowners.</p> <p>A summary report of these authorities was received by the Council on 10 October 2023.</p>

OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1210	RMA	\$58,439	\$0	\$58,439	\$210,701	\$0	\$210,701
1220	Works & Management	\$42,325	\$16,000	\$26,325	\$26,475	\$64,514	-\$38,039
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$32,595	\$0	\$32,595	\$2,481	\$0	\$2,481
1240	Assessment	\$2,954	\$0	\$2,954	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total		\$136,313	\$16,000	\$120,313	\$239,657	\$64,514	\$175,143

The Council's role is to protect and improve the habitat of sports fish and game bird species where methods are cost effectively available to achieve this.

Resource Management Act

The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
Submissions on resource consent applications and plan proposals will be made as appropriate, seeking to achieve trout habitat protection and wetland conservation.	<p>Council staff responded to resource management issues throughout the year to protect trout habitat and conserve wetlands as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 Pre-applications liaisons and/or site visits 15 Section 95 approvals (signed form or email agreement) (non-notified) 1 Section 96 submission in opposition 2 Consents on Hold 2 Pre-hearing meetings 0 Formal hearing on consent proposals 1 Formal hearing on policy or plan proposals – not including prehearing meetings on Horizons Plan Change 2, Plan Change 3, Greater Wellington Plan Change 1, or Otago Proposed Regional Policy Statement. 2 Appeal Formal Mediation Meetings (12 December 2022 and 15 March 2023) – and multiple meetings for conferencing Appeal mediation. 2 Review or monitor consent compliance or implementation. 1 Liaison meeting with Regional Council staff/ stakeholder meetings on planning issues 2 Waikanae River recharge meetings 4 Wastewater treatment plan post-consenting process meetings 14 Resource Management Team meetings video conference

	2 Resource Management Team workshops 7 Greater Wellington regular monthly meetings
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Habitat Advocacy

The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
The promotion of habitat protection and enhancement, outside the Resource Management Act procedures, as opportunities allow.	Council staff met with local government staff to advocate for habitat protection and enhancement on three occasions.

Trout Habitat Inventory

The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
A report by professional staff on current trout habitat and spawning inventory of will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2023.	Concurrent report of trout spawning surveys was received by Council on 10 October 2023.

Lake Wairarapa Habitat

To maintain and enhance the game bird habitat at the northeast margin of Lake Wairarapa.

Planned Result	Outcome
The payment of rates on the Council's "Simmonds Lagoon" property.	Rates were paid in a timely manner on the "Simmonds Lagoon" property.
The management of water levels within the wetlands of the "Tairoa/JK Donald Reserve" at Lake Wairarapa as authorised by Greater Wellington Regional Council.	Six meeting requests were made by Council staff to the current managers of the "Tairoa/JK Donald Reserve" to discuss water level management.
The management of open water at Boggy Pond and Matthews Lagoon as authorised by the Department of Conservation.	No action was required by staff to manage open water at Boggy Pond and Matthews Lagoon.
Involvement of Fish & Game in the Wairarapa Moana management organisation or its successor.	Council staff attended and contributed to three Wairarapa Moana Governance Group meetings and provided feedback on one management report.

Tairoa/JK Donald Drain Clean

To maintain and enhance the game bird habitat at the northeast margin of Lake Wairarapa.

Planned Result	Outcome
To clean drain in the Tairoa/JK Donald Reserve wetland to comply with arrangements with adjoining landowners.	Drain status compliant and no work was required in 2023.

Wetland Enhancement

The Wellington regional populations of game birds are managed to remain relatively stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
The provision of advice on request, and the promotion of sources of funding, for the construction and enhancement of waterfowl habitat by landholders within the Council's region by 31 August 2023.	Advice on wetland improvements was provided to one landholder with assistance with one funding application which was not awarded Game Bird Habitat Stamp funding.

Habitat Management Opportunities

The Wellington regional populations of game birds are managed to remain relatively stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
To provide part funding for habitat enhancement projects.	Advice was provided on one habitat enhancement project.



OUTPUT 3: ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION AND SERVICES

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1310	Access	\$38,195	\$0	\$38,195	\$44,849	\$8,108	\$36,741
1320	Satisfaction Survey	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1330	Newsletters	\$24,048	\$0	\$24,048	\$39,791	\$0	\$39,791
1340	Other Publications	\$4,477	\$0	\$4,477	\$11,827	\$0	\$11,827
1350	Training	\$38,324	\$4,400	\$33,924	\$31,871	\$14,134	\$17,737
1360	Club Relations	\$1,313	\$0	\$1,313	\$5,517	\$0	\$5,517
1370	Huts	\$1,888	\$0	\$1,888	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total	\$108,245	\$4,400	\$103,845	\$133,855	\$22,242	\$111,613

The Council's role is to assess the requirements of anglers and hunters, to provide them with information on their sport and its administration, and to manage access to publicly available hunting land where appropriate.

Angler Access

Not less than 1,000 kilometres of angling water will be accessible to anglers in the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Planned Result	Outcome
The identification and negotiation of angler access as part of an access programme, with access signage and angler access brochures made available to licence holders by 31 August 2023.	Regional angler access brochure information was digitised, reviewed, collated online and made available for all licence holders.
Liaison with the Walking Access Commission to identify potential improvements in public (and specifically angler) access.	Staff liaised with the Walking Access Commission on three occasions to provide advice on improving public access to the hunting and fishing resource.

Lake Wairarapa Hunter Access

The management of hunter access and the allocation of maimai sites shall be undertaken by Council, where a mutually acceptable written agreement to this effect between the Council and the landholder or land administering authority can be negotiated.

Planned Result	Outcome
Maintenance of Eric Kilmore Lodge, with costs recovered from users.	<p>Eric Kilmore lodge was used by hunters on 56 nights, including three club weekend hunts.</p> <p>Some maintenance costs were recovered from hunters through levies charged by the Council for lodge use.</p> <p>The Department of Conservation/Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) undertook a Monitoring of Structure or Easement Concession (DOC-7326271) review. The Department concluded that Eric Kilmore Lodge is compliant with the permit (with maintenance of the lodge largely undertaken by users.</p>
The implementation of Council policy for the management of game bird hunter access at Wairarapa Moana/Lake Wairarapa, in accord with agreements with the Department of Conservation and farmers to this end, with some costs recovered from users.	<p>Council staff maintain constructive working relationships with farmers allowing hunters to access the Tairoa/JK Donald block. Council staff continue to work with DOC and other land administrator to maintain hunter access to Wairarapa Moana/Lake Wairarapa.</p> <p>Some maintenance costs were recovered from hunters through levies charged by the Council for access to the Tairoa/JK Donald block.</p>

Hunter Access Permits and Access Management

The management of hunter access and the allocation of maimai sites shall be undertaken by Council, where a mutually acceptable written agreement to this effect between the Council and the landholder or land administering authority can be negotiated.

Planned Result	Outcome
The availability of duly negotiated and agreed access permits, with a small charge, to licenced hunters, by 31 March 2023 for the 2023 game season, for all	Access for game bird hunters was negotiated and agreed on all public areas available last year and permits for game bird hunter access on to nominated areas

<p>areas publicly available to hunters in the Wellington region.</p> <p>The management of hunter access (including allocation) of available hunting sites in forests and public access wetlands, in time for 2023 game season.</p>	<p>were provided through Council and regional sporting goods stores.</p> <p>A report to Council on 10 October 2023 showed 556 permits were issued for the 2023 game bird season.</p>
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Magazine and Newsletters

Not less than 85% of licenced anglers and hunters will be satisfied with the availability, quality, and extent of information available.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>The provision of a two-page regional supplement in each of the two Special Editions of the Fish & Game magazine to be published during the reporting year.</p>	<p>Wellington Fish and Game Council provided two three-page supplements for the two Special Editions (55 and 56) of the Fish & Game magazine.</p>
<p>The preparation and publication of two regional newsletters to licence holders (one angling and one hunting focused) during the reporting year.</p>	<p>Regional seasonal newsletters were made available through the Council and posted in summer 2022 (Angling News Issue 22) and autumn (Hunting News Issue 23).</p>

Information to Licence Holders

Not less than 85% of licenced anglers and hunters will be satisfied with the availability, quality, and extent of information available.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Responses to requests for information will be provided as required.</p>	<p>Council staff provided responses to requests for information as required.</p>
<p>Weekly email reports from October to end of March that provide anglers with information on river levels and angling potential.</p>	<p>Weekly Fishing reports (29) were sent to ca. 8000 licence holders between September 2022 – April 2023.</p> <p>Council staff appropriately contributed to 12 E-Zine – Reel Life national publications.</p>
<p>Weekly email reports from May to June that provide hunters with information on weather and hunting potential.</p>	<p>Weekly Hunting reports (12) were sent to ca. 4000 licence holders between April 2023 and July 2023.</p> <p>Council staff contributed to 4 E-Zine – Both Barrels national publications.</p>
<p>Council’s portion of the New Zealand Fish and Game website will be maintained as</p>	<p>The website has downloads and links to access pamphlets, online maps and river level information. Other information on</p>



an important communication means with licence holders by 31 August 2023.	Council meetings and e-newsletters are also available on the website.
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Lapsed Participants Survey and Parameter Analysis

The participation of hunters and anglers are to be at levels that will sustain effective management of the sport.

Planned Result	Outcome
Assist NZ Fish and Game Council undertake testing of marketing opportunities to lapsed participants and existing participants.	Undertook reactivations actions, including targeted email campaigns, consistent with national R3 strategy.

Hunter Training Lake Omanu

Game licence sales are at a level that will sustain effective management of the sport.

Planned Result	Outcome
The Foxton Waterfowl and Wetlands Club will be assisted to run a hunter training programme at Lake Omanu.	The novice hunter training programme was undertaken on a as requested basis in 2023.

Junior Angler Programme

Not less than 5,000 licenced anglers will undertake not less than 40,000 angling visits per year in the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Planned Result	Outcome
Establish an inventory of equipment that can be used in junior angler promotions.	Novice anglers' equipment was maintained for family fishing events along with school education programmes.
Assist clubs undertake junior angling training in public fishing open promotions.	Activities related to novice angler engagement as part of the Hokowhitu Lagoon family fishing event, Ōtaki Lakes family fishing, Marton reservoir family fishing events and novice recruitment events at the Capital Trout Centre.

Junior Hunter Programme

The participation of hunters and anglers are to be at levels that will sustain effective management of the sport.

Planned Result	Outcome
Establish an inventory of equipment that can be used in junior hunter promotions and programmes.	Council staff assisted 3 novice hunter groups during the course of the 2023 game bird season.

Club Liaison

The maintenance of a positive working relationship with clubs.

Planned Result	Outcome
Attend meetings on regular basis or as required.	Maintain active communications with 10 active Fish and Game Clubs. Council staff attended nine club meetings.

OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC INTERFACE

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1410	Liaison	\$3,204	\$0	\$3,204	\$16,589	\$0	\$16,589
1420	Communication	\$4,760	\$0	\$4,760	\$0	\$0	\$0
1430	Advocacy	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
1440	Public Promotions	\$4,678	\$0	\$4,678	\$13,777	\$0	\$13,777
1450	Visitors/Education	\$27,410	\$0	\$27,410	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total		\$41,052	\$0	\$41,052	\$30,366	\$0	\$30,366

The Council's role is to promote public understanding and acceptance of angling and game bird hunting issues and values.

Advocacy and Liaison

Not less than 80% of the Wellington regional general public knows and accepts the activities and interests of anglers and hunters.

Planned Result	Outcome
Liaison with Conservation Boards and Regional Councils at a governor level as opportunities permit.	<p>Signatory of the Manawatu River Accord which involved intent and commitment from iwi, environmental groups, industry groups and territorial local authorities to clean up the Manawatu River.</p> <p>Council staff attended and contributed to three Wairarapa Moana Governance Group meetings.</p> <p>No DOC staff attended Councils meetings.</p> <p>Eric (Jim) Cook held an appointed position on the Wellington Conservation Board (independently appointed by the Minister of Conservation in November 2021), with a potential declared interest as an elected Wellington Fish and Game Councillor.</p> <p>Mr Cook attended six Council meetings during his tenure as a Conservation Board appointee.</p> <p>Council meeting agenda information was provided to DOC and Conservation Boards in the lower North Island.</p>

Iwi Liaison

A positive relationship with the Wellington Fish and Game region's iwi will be sought in respect of the management of trout.

Planned Result	Outcome
The establishment of a positive working relationship with Iwi Authorities with a view to defining appropriate contacts by 31 August 2023	<p>Maintained contacts with iwi representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga • Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa • Rangitaane o Wairarapa • Te Mauri o Rangitaane o Manawatu • Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust • Te Runanga o Ngati Apa • The Muaupoko Tribal Authority <p>Staff from Te Mauri o Rangitaane o Manawatu and the Muaupoko tribal authority collaborated with Council staff on game bird monitoring projects throughout the year.</p>

Public Awareness

Not less than 80% of the Wellington regional general public knows and accepts the activities and interests of anglers and hunters.

Planned Result	Outcome
Publicity on angling, hunting, and the work of Fish & Game New Zealand is provided, with the coverage reported to Council by 31 August 2023.	<p>Press releases to newspapers and magazines.</p> <p>Social media outreach and regular updates to New Zealand Fish and Game website for campaigns.</p> <p>A summary report of these outcomes was received by the Council on 10 October 2023.</p>

Promotions

The provision of news releases, displays and other forms of public communication as appropriate.

Planned Result	Outcome
To be involved in public promotions which advocate for Fish & Game interests and values.	<p>Staff input and support of #ReWild national Fish & Game campaign.</p> <p>Ongoing recognition of volunteer contributions by Council.</p>



OUTPUT 5: COMPLIANCE

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1510	Ranging	\$39,161	\$0	\$39,161	\$3,294	\$0	\$3,294
1520	Ranger Training	\$5,267	\$0	\$5,267	\$7,166	\$0	\$7,166
1530	Compliance	\$18,787	\$5,000	\$13,787	\$13,603	\$461	\$13,142
	Total	\$63,215	\$5,000	\$58,215	\$24,063	\$461	\$23,602

The Council's role is to seek to ensure that all anglers and game bird hunters are licenced, and that they are operating in compliance with the law and the season regulations.

Ranger Management

Sufficient ranging resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions.

Planned Result	Outcome
The recruitment and retention of Council's ranger team meets adopted policy and is reported to Council by 31 August 2023.	At 31 August 2023, Council had 13 warranted honorary rangers, and six staff rangers. A summary report of these outcomes was received by the Council on 10 October 2023

Ranger Training

The maintenance of an adequate number of properly trained Rangers; an annual ranging programme to check the compliance of ten percent of the region's anglers.

Planned Result	Outcome
Provide safety and compliance training and skill maintenance and is reported to Council to 31 August 2023.	A pre-hunting season ranger training day for staff and honorary rangers was held in Featherston. A pre-fishing season ranger training day for staff and honorary rangers was held in Levin, with support from Te Tari Pūreke, the Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand. Summary report of these outcomes was received by the Council on 10 October 2023.

Compliance

The protection and enhancement of the region’s sports fish and game resources by the operation of an enforcement program to deliver not less than 95% compliance of anglers and game bird hunters with licence and legal requirements and season regulations.

Planned Result	Outcome
Ranging to check compliance of target at least 350 anglers and hunters throughout the region, throughout the year, in line with adopted policy.	The Council’s 13 active rangers and six Fish and Game staff checked 74 anglers and 74 hunters for compliance.
The processing of participants found un-licensed, or in substantial non-compliance with legal requirements or season regulations without just cause, in line with adopted policy.	A report received by Council on 10 October 2023 noted 7 offences were detected. 0 alleged offenders were prosecuted, 5 alleged offences are pending, 2 adults were issued formal warnings for alleged offences.

OUTPUT 6: LICENCING

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1610	Licence Production	\$5,088	\$719,734	-\$714,646	\$419	\$668,061	-\$667,642
1620	Agent Servicing	\$6,483	\$0	\$6,483	\$0	\$0	\$0
1630	Agent Payments	\$32,388	\$0	\$32,388	\$26,322	\$0	\$26,322
	Total	\$43,959	\$719,734	-\$675,775	\$26,741	\$668,061	-\$641,320

The role of the Council is to issue hunting and fishing licences as the main source of income to fund the performance of its functions.

Licencing

To issue hunting and fishing licences.

Planned Result	Outcome
2022/23 fishing licences will be available to licence agents and participants throughout the region by 31 August 2022.	Sports fish licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game region are presented in Output 6: Licencing Table 1 for the 2022/23 season.
2023 Game licences will be available through licence agents or on-line to participants throughout the region by 31 March 2023.	Game bird licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game region are presented in Output 6: Licencing Table 2 for the 2023 season.
An up-to-date data base of licence holders will be maintained.	Licence holder data base was regularly updated and maintained throughout the year.
Progress reporting on licence sales will be provided to the Council throughout the year.	Sports fish and game bird licence sales reports were included in each Council agenda. Summary report of licencing was received by the Council on 10 October 2023.

Licence Agents

An effective and efficient network of licence resellers.

Planned Result	Outcome
Council's Licence Agent Network is managed in line with adopted Council policy.	<p>The Council had a network of 25 licence agents through the region at balance date.</p> <p>Council's licence agent network was managed in line with adopted Council policy, as reported to Council on 10 October 2023.</p> <p>A licence management agreement with Eyede Solutions Ltd (ESL) to manage licence sales production, distribution, and invoicing was signed by Council as part of the New Zealand Fish and Game collective.</p>

Output 6: Licencing Table 1. Seasonal sports fish licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game Region 2018/19 – 2022/23.

FISHING LICENCES	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Adult Whole Season	1599	1605	1851	1870	1506
Non-Resident Whole Season	151	159	30	20	172
Loyal Senior Whole Season	218	237	264	284	300
Local Area Whole Season	221	206	270	240	194
Family Fishing	472	464	492	502	402
Adult Day	422	472	579	508	374
Non-Resident Day	161	133	13	19	178
Adult Winter	142	157	157	125	119
Adult Short Break	116	89	98	85	64
Adult Long Break	7	17	8	8	11
Junior Whole Season	231	265	279	276	221
Junior Non-Resident Whole Season	5	4	2	0	5
Junior Day	94	126	119	99	145
Junior Non-Resident Day	4	1	0	0	2
Child Whole Season					710
Child Non-Resident Whole Season	0	3	2	5	3
Child Non-Resident Day	8	1	0	0	2
Sea Run Salmon Endorsement					51
Total Fish Licences	3851	3939	4164	4041	4460
Whole Season Licence Equivalent	3048	3026	3251	3229	2848

Output 6: Licencing Table 2. Seasonal game bird licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game Region 2019 – 2023.

GAME LICENCES	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adult Whole Season	3418	3047	3315	3326	3199
Adult Day	142	141	132	106	129
Junior Whole Season	278	287	319	315	327
Junior Day	16	9	5	3	5
Child Whole Season	146	142	138	135	170
Total Game Licences	4000	3626	3909	3885	3830
Whole Season Licence Equivalent	3508	3133	3406	3409	3288

OUTPUT 7: COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1710	Council Elections	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1720	Council Meetings	\$24,752	\$0	\$24,752	\$34,933	\$0	\$34,933
	Total	\$24,752	\$0	\$24,752	\$34,933	\$0	\$34,933

The role of the Council is to represent the interests of all Wellington regional licence holders effectively in directing the management of the region's sports fish and game bird resources.

Council Election

Planned Result	Outcome
Maintain electoral roll and assist returning officer	Assisted as required in preparation for 2024 elections.

Council

The effective direction of the management of the Council's business.

Planned Result	Outcome
Not less than six meetings of the Council, that comply with all legal and policy requirements to be held before 31 August 2023.	Wellington Fish and Game Council held six meetings during the year with a quorum present at each meeting. Summary details of Councillors attendance at meetings is presented on page 2.

OUTPUT 8: PLANNING & REPORTING

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1810	Management Plan	\$11,530	\$0	\$11,530	\$966	\$0	\$966
1820	Annual Planning	\$2,626	\$0	\$2,626	\$7,150	\$0	\$7,150
1830	Reporting	\$25,044	\$0	\$25,044	\$19,871	\$0	\$19,871
1840	National Liaison	\$10,587	\$0	\$10,587	\$81,673	\$0	\$81,673
	Total	\$49,787	\$0	\$49,787	\$109,660	\$0	\$109,660

The role of the Council is to prepare such plans as will assist the cost-effective performance of its functions, and to prepare and make available such reports as will provide transparent accountability for its activities and expenditure.

Management Planning

Policies reflect national policies and good governance.

Planned Result	Outcome
Policies will be developed and adopted covering a Public Awareness Strategy, a Regional Marketing Strategy, and a Regulation-setting model for the region's sports fisheries and game bird populations, by 31 August 2023.	Policy review programme actively considered.
Council will undertake a review of its approved Management Plan by 31 August 2023.	Formal review of a sports fish game management plan was initiated and a draft plan is finalised and potentially ready for consultations.

Annual Plan

To formulate and adopt an annual operational work plan.

Planned Result	Outcome
Adoption of a Proposed Annual Plan for 2023/24 that meets organisational budgeting requirements by the Council, by 31 August 2023.	Council's Annual Plan for 2023/24 was adopted on 8 August 2023.

Annual Reporting

To furnish the Minister of Conservation with an annual report on the operations of the Council for the year.

Planned Result	Outcome
The adoption and presentation by the Council at a public Annual General Meeting of its audited Annual Report for 2022/23 not later than 24 December 2023, and its dispatch to the Minister directly thereafter.	Council's audited Annual Performance Report for 2022 was adopted and presented at a public Annual General Meeting on 13 December 2022, was delivered to the Minister of Conservation in December 2022 and presented to parliament on the 11 July 2023.

National Liaison

Effective liaison with New Zealand Fish and Game Council to meet all statutory requirements.

Planned Result	Outcome
Representation to New Zealand Fish and Game Council with respect to coordination of the Council's recommendations for licence fees, season regulation recommendations, fund redistribution for budgeting purposes, research requirements, and national policy development.	<p>Licence fee recommendations were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in June 2023.</p> <p>Game bird season regulations for the region were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in February 2023.</p> <p>Sports fish season regulations for the region were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in June 2023.</p> <p>Fund redistribution for budgeting purposes for the region were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in March 2023.</p> <p>Other recommendations from the region were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council as required.</p> <p>The Council CE attended two national Fish and Game Managers' meetings in person and 17 Zoom video meetings.</p>



National Projects

Wellington Fish and Game staff will contribute to strategic national projects which benefit the wider organisational goal and objectives e.g. region remains free of invasive species such as Didymo.

Planned Result	Outcome
Staff assistance or management of research, advice or management of organisational operational requirements, or resource management advice as required.	<p>Council staff assisted with research, advice or management of national projects involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National policy reviews. • Regional amalgamation projects. • Licence working party. • Communications media and outreach to licence holders and New Zealand community. • Indigenous game bird harvest and management research. • Indigenous fish and sports fish interactions research projects. • Interregional resource consenting expert witness advice. • Collaborative RMA position statement and resource development.



WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Actual 2023 \$	Unaudited Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
REVENUE				
Fish and Game licence sales	1	668,061	719,734	667,903
Grants and donations	1	56,148	46,999	96,096
Interest	1	18,690	8,923	6,246
Funding from Central or Local Government	1	34,100	4,000	4,000
Other revenue	1	119,190	11,400	34,227
Total Revenue		896,189	791,056	808,472
EXPENSES				
Outputs				
Species management	2	67,566	41,800	43,805
Habitat protection & management	2	55,218	5,500	13,483
Angler & Hunter participation	2	53,822	28,805	48,045
Public interface	2	641	1,250	584
Compliance	2	2,439	7,000	2,145
Licensing	2	26,741	32,388	28,125
Council	2	5,580	6,000	3,991
Planning & reporting	2	7,780	9,000	9,903
Overheads				
Employee related costs	2	540,374	536,343	499,141
Depreciation	4	40,698	9,739	21,199
Other expenses	2	123,751	121,706	131,194
Total Expenses		924,610	799,531	801,615
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		(28,421)	(8,475)	6,857
Less Other Expenses		-	-	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(28,421)	(8,475)	6,857

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this performance report. This performance report should be read in conjunction with the independent auditor's report.



WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 31 August 2023

	Note	Actual 2023 \$	Unaudited Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank accounts and cash	3	211,795	314,075	346,290
Debtors and prepayments	3	145,972	90,000	76,614
Investments	3	359,342	360,000	345,348
Total Current Assets		717,109	764,075	768,252
Non-Current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	4	296,221	259,303	245,748
Total Non-Current Assets		296,221	259,303	245,748
Total Assets		1,013,330	1,023,378	1,014,000
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	66,103	100,000	54,208
Income in Advance	3	54,286	45,000	47,716
Employee costs payable	3	134,509	100,000	125,222
Total Current Liabilities		254,898	245,000	227,146
Total Liabilities		254,898	245,000	227,146
NET ASSETS		758,432	778,379	786,854
EQUITY	5	758,432	778,379	786,854

The accompanying accounting Policies and notes form an integral part of this performance report. The performance report should be read in conjunction with the independent auditor's report.

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Licence sales	665,931	666,100
Grants, donations and fundraising	51,296	68,219
Interest	18,522	6,087
Other revenue	97,521	32,469
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers	367,509	301,995
Payments to employees	531,087	480,716
GST (net)	(12,162)	7,860
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(53,164)	(17,696)
CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Sale of property, plant and equipment	39,540	9,926
Sale of investments/deposits	-	-
Cash was applied to:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	106,877	48,616
Purchase of investments/deposits	13,994	4,784
Net Cash Flows from Investing & Financing	(81,331)	(43,474)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	(134,495)	(61,170)
Opening Cash	346,290	407,460
Closing Cash	211,795	346,290
This is represented by:		
Bank accounts and cash	211,795	346,290

The accompanying accounting Policies and notes form an integral part of this performance report. The performance report should be read in conjunction with the independent auditor's report.

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES
For the year ended 31 August 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES APPLIED

Reporting Entity

Wellington Fish and Game Council is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4). The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Section 153-6 of the Crown Entities Act 2004.

Basis of Preparation

Wellington Fish and Game has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Public Sector) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Council is registered for GST. All amounts are recorded exclusive of GST, except for Debtors and Creditors which are stated inclusive of GST.

SPECIFIC ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Revenue Recognition

Wellington Fish and Game Council derives revenue through the sale of fish and game licences, interest, contracts, rentals, grants, and miscellaneous sales.

Licence Revenue

Licence revenue is recognised in the period the licence fee is earned, for example, a fish licence sold in August of the current year which relates to the next fishing season is treated as income in advance.

Grants Received

Grants are recognised as revenue when they become receivable unless there is an obligation in substance to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when the condition of the grant is satisfied.

Interest

Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year.



Other Income

Income from contracts, rentals and miscellaneous sales are recorded as revenue in the period they are earned.

Outputs

The Council has allocated expenditure based on the 8 output codes - Species management, Habitat protection and management, Angler and Hunter participation, Public interface, Compliance, Licensing, Council, and Planning and reporting. These are expensed when the related service has been received.

Employee related costs

Wages, salaries, and annual leave are recorded as an expense as staff provide services and become entitled to wages, salaries. Performance payments are recorded when the employee is notified. Superannuation contributions are recorded as an expense as staff provide services.

Bank accounts and cash

Bank accounts and cash comprise cash on hand, cheque or savings accounts, and deposits held at call with banks.

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors are initially recorded at the amount owed. When it is likely the amount owed (or some portion) will not be collected, a provision for impairment is recognised and the loss is recorded as a bad debt expense.

Investments

Investments comprise investments in term deposits with banks. Deposits with banks are initially recorded at the amount paid. If it appears that the carrying amount of the investment will not be recovered, it will be written down to the expected recoverable amount.

Property, plant, and equipment

Property, plant, and equipment is recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation, and impairment. Donated assets are recognised upon receipt of the asset if the asset has a useful life of 12 months or more, and the current value of the asset is readily obtainable and significant. Significant donated assets for which current values are not readily obtainable are not recognised. For an asset to be sold, the asset is impaired if the market price for the equivalent asset falls below its carrying amount. For an asset to be used by the Council, the asset is impaired if the value to the Council in using the asset falls below the carrying amount of the assets.

Depreciation is provided on a diminishing value basis at rates that will write off the cost of the assets over their useful lives.

	<u>Life</u>	<u>Depreciation Method</u>
Buildings	40 years	SL (2.5%)
Plant & Equipment	2-20 years	DV (11.4% to 50%)
Motor Vehicles	10 years	DV (10% to 24%)
Office Fittings, Furniture & Equipment	3-10 years	DV (11.4% to 50%)

Creditors and accrued expenses

Creditors and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.

Game Bird Habitat Stamp levy

Levies are collected and paid to New Zealand Fish and Game Council per the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp Regulations 1993. The levy is \$5 for every game licence sold within the financial year.

Employee costs payable

A liability for employee costs payable is recognised when an employee has earned an entitlement. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date. A liability and expense for long service leave and retirement gratuities is recognised when the entitlement becomes available to the employee.

Restricted and dedicated reserves

Restricted and dedicated reserves are those reserves subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be revised by the Council without specified purposes or when certain conditions are met.

Asset Replacement Reserve

The asset replacement reserve is a reserve set up to enable Council to replace property, plant and equipment.

Non-Resident Fisheries Reserve

The back-country fisheries reserve is for the purpose of management of "back country fisheries". The reserve was established with the introduction of the Non-Resident Licence in 2014. A portion of the non-resident licence fee is transferred to this reserve based on the number of non-resident licence sales made within the financial year.

Rangitikei Fish Monitoring Reserve

This reserve is used for the monitoring of the upper reaches of the Rangitikei River.

JK Donald Block Track

This reserve is to fund the maintenance and upkeep of the JK Donald Block track at Lake Wairarapa. Income for this fund is derived from the sale of vehicle access stickers.

Kilmore Lodge

This fund is for the maintenance and upkeep of Kilmore Lodge at Lake Wairarapa. Income for this reserve is derived from hunters paying for accommodation costs.



Reparation

This reserve is for works and projects that contribute to the Fish and Game resource such as habitat maintenance and compliance management.

Asset Replacement Funding

For the maintenance and upkeep of the Fixed Assets.

Enhancement and Education Programme

This reserve is for works and projects that contribute to the Fish and Game resource such as enhancement of the Fish and Game resource and education opportunities. Income for this reserve is derived from compliance actions.

Wairarapa Hunter Access

This reserve is for works to the management of access to hunting around Lake Wairarapa. It was resolved by Council on 10th August 2021 that any surplus revenue from the sale of access permits be allocated to a dedicated reserve.

Hunter Access

This reserve will be used for projects that increase or maintain hunter opportunity and access. It was resolved by Council at its 10 August 2021 meeting to establish a dedicated reserve to allow for funds to be accumulated from the sale of hunter access permits.

RiverLink – Hutt River

This reserve will be used for projects relating to the Hutt River catchment. Approved by Council at its 9 August meeting 2022.

Income tax

The Council is a Public Benefit Entity and is exempt from the payment of Income tax in terms of the Income Tax Act 2007.

Budget figures

The Budget figures are derived from the Council budget that was approved at the Council meeting on 9 August 2022.

Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards applied.

The Council has not applied any Tier 2 Accounting Standards in preparing its financial statements.

CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There have been no changes in accounting policies.

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE PERFORMANCE REPORT
for the year ended 31 August 2023

Note 1: ANALYSIS OF REVENUE	Actual 2023 \$	Unaudited Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Licence sales			
Fish licence	359,819	417,637	382,485
Non Resident Fish Licence Levy	17,005	-	1,148
Game licence	291,237	302,097	284,270
Total Licence sales	668,061	719,734	667,903
Grants and donations			
National Fish & Game Grant	30,999	30,999	65,177
Grant from Genesis	25,149	16,000	23,719
Government Wage Subsidy	-	-	7,200
Total Grants and donations	56,148	46,999	96,096
Funding from Central or Local Government			
Funding from central or local government	34,100	4,000	4,000
Total	34,100	4,000	4,000
Interest			
Interest	18,690	8,923	6,246
Total Interest	18,690	8,923	6,246
Other revenue			
Trout Liberations	4,500	2,000	4,497
Other RMA Income	39,365	-	1,050
Lake Wairarapa Hunter Access	1,326	1,000	1,242
Hunter Access permits	4,956	3,000	5,157
Hunter Training Lake Omanu	348	400	348
R3 Novice Engagement	13,786	-	6,253
Kilmore Lodge	1,609	-	1,783
Fines and prosecutions	461	5,000	1,370
Back Country licence income	217	-	-
National Projects	28,244	-	4,167
Gain on sale of fixed assets	24,381	-	8,360
Total other revenue	119,190	11,400	34,227



Note 2: ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES	Actual 2023 \$	Unaudited Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Species management			
Population monitoring	52,754	26,500	27,883
Harvest assessment	4,370	3,300	4,290
Releases	10,442	11,500	11,632
Regulations Control	-	500	-
Total Species management	67,566	41,800	43,805
Habitat protection & management			
Resource management	41,644	500	2,954
Works & management	13,545	4,000	5,256
Assisted habitat	29	1,000	5,273
Total Habitat protection & management	55,218	5,500	13,483
Angler & Hunter participation			
Access	11,706	9,800	10,633
Newsletters	18,315	11,000	15,623
Information to Clients	6,700	3,000	7,005
Training	17,009	5,005	14,749
Club relations	92	-	35
Total Angler & hunter participation	53,822	28,805	48,045
Public interface			
Advocacy	166	1,000	101
Liaison	475	250	483
Total Public interface	641	1,250	584
Compliance			
Ranging	545	1,000	514
Ranger training	998	1,000	927
Compliance	896	5,000	704
Total Compliance	2,439	7,000	2,145



Note 2: ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES CONT	Actual 2023 \$	Unaudited Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Licensing			
Licence production & distribution	419	-	427
Commission	26,322	32,388	27,698
Total Licensing	26,741	32,388	28,125
Council			
Council meetings	5,580	6,000	3,991
Total Council	5,580	6,000	3,991
Planning & reporting			
Annual planning	16	-	-
Reporting	6,272	9,000	5,890
National liaison	1,492	-	4,013
Total Planning & reporting	7,780	9,000	9,903
Employee related costs			
Salaries and wages	524,630	524,941	490,390
ACC levies	1,164	3,600	1,092
Staff Training and Other expenses	14,580	7,802	7,659
Total Employee related costs	540,374	536,343	499,141
Other expenses			
Office premises	37,343	43,050	38,863
Office equipment	6,877	2,500	9,603
Communications	13,095	17,479	17,199
General	8,623	10,650	8,634
Field equipment	1,265	2,000	704
Vehicles	56,003	46,027	56,191
Loss on sale of disposal of assets	545	-	-
Total Other expenses	123,751	121,706	131,194

Note 3 : ANALYSIS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES	Actual 2023 \$	Unaudited Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Bank accounts and cash			
ANZ Select	199,215	314,075	334,460
ANZ Cheque	27	-	27
Enhancement Programme	12,553	-	11,803
Total	211,795	314,075	346,290
Debtors and prepayments			
Accounts receivable	127,315	90,000	60,683
Prepayments	18,260	-	15,702
Accrued Interest	397	-	229
Total	145,972	90,000	76,614
Investments			
<i>Current portion</i>			
Term Deposits	359,342	360,000	345,348
<i>Non- Current portion</i>			
Term Deposits	-	-	-
Total	359,342	360,000	345,348
Creditors and accrued expenses			
Trade and other payables	38,506	100,000	39,695
Accrued expenses	9,773	-	8,851
GST Payable	17,824	-	5,662
Total	66,103	100,000	54,208
Income in Advance			
Income in Advance	54,286	45,000	47,716
Total	54,286	45,000	47,716
Employee costs payable			
Accrued salaries and wages	8,310	6,000	5,995
Annual leave and time in lieu	106,512	80,000	101,297
PAYE owing	19,687	14,000	17,930
Total	134,509	100,000	125,222

Note 4 : PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT**2023**

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	126,552	-	-	-	126,552
Buildings	2,747	-	-	182	2,565
Plant & Equipment	6,159	-	488	954	4,717
Vehicles	103,690	106,877	15,159	38,571	156,837
Office Equipment	6,598	-	57	991	5,550
Total	245,746	106,877	15,704	40,698	296,221

2022

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	126,552	-	-	-	126,552
Buildings	2,929	-	-	182	2,747
Plant & Equipment	7,408	-	-	1,249	6,159
Vehicles	79,562	44,211	1,562	18,521	103,690
Office Equipment	3,440	4,405	-	1,247	6,598
Total	219,891	48,616	1,562	21,199	245,746

The combined value of the Council's land at Simonds Lagoon and at Lake Omanu is disclosed in the Schedule of Fixed Assets at a total value of \$126,552. The Council considers that the fair values of these lands are respectively \$530,000, as determined at 1 September 2020 for South Wairarapa District Council, and \$780,000, as determined at 14 December 2022 for Horowhenua District Council, by Quotable Value New Zealand Ltd. The Council does not consider the cost of formal revaluation that would be required to substantiate any write up of land values to be warranted at this time.



Note 5: EQUITY	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Accumulated Funds		
Balance as at 1 September	520,493	513,550
Surplus/(Deficit)	(28,421)	6,857
Transfer to Reserves	(128,994)	(47,192)
Transfer from Reserves	130,764	47,278
Total Accumulated Funds	493,842	520,493
<i>Dedicated Reserves</i>		
Asset Replacement Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	56,115	87,725
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	48,388	12,601
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	(106,876)	(44,211)
Balance at 31 August	(2,373)	56,115
Non - Resident Levy Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	33,546	32,398
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	17,005	1,148
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	50,551	33,546
Reparation Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	35,361	35,361
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	35,361	35,361
Kilmore Lodge		
Balance as at 1 September	4,120	2,999
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	1,609	1,783
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(414)	(662)
Balance at 31 August	5,315	4,120
JK Donald Track		
Balance as at 1 September	5,066	4,117
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	1,326	1,242
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(331)	(293)
Balance at 31 August	6,061	5,066



Note 5: EQUITY Con't

Education & Enhancement Programme		
Balance as at 1 September	11,733	10,363
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	461	1,370
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	12,194	11,733
Lake Wairarapa Standholders		
Balance as at 1 September	2,875	1,403
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	1,873	1,808
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(377)	(336)
Balance at 31 August	4,371	2,875
Hunter Access		
Balance as at 1 September	5,272	2,613
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	3,083	3,521
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(840)	(862)
Balance at 31 August	7,515	5,272
<i>Total Dedicated Reserves</i>	<i>118,995</i>	<i>154,088</i>
<i>Restricted Reserves</i>		
Rangitikei River Fish Monitoring Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	112,272	89,467
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	25,149	23,719
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(21,926)	(914)
Balance at 31 August	115,495	112,272
Riverlink - Hutt River		
Balance as at 1 September	-	-
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	30,100	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	30,100	-
<i>Total Restricted Reserves</i>	<i>145,595</i>	<i>112,272</i>
Total Equity	758,432	786,853

Note 6: COMMITMENTS & CONTINGENCIES**Commitments**

Commitment to	Explanation and Timing
Palmerston North Office Lease	Lease expiring 28 February 2025

Operating leases means payments for the Wellington Fish and Game Council premises. Wellington Fish and Game Council has a lease in place for the Council premises, in Palmerston North, expiring in February 2025 costing \$26,000 per annum. The lease was renewed in 2022.

Contingency

There are no contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2023 (Last Year - nil).

Note 7: OTHER**Goods or Services Provided to the Entity in Kind**

Description	Amount
Honorary ranging activities	No Charge
Councillor meetings and events	No Charge

Note 8: RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related-party disclosures have not been made for transactions with related parties that are within a normal supplier of client/recipient relationship on terms and conditions no more or less favourable than those that it is reasonable to expect the Council would have adopted in dealing with the party at arm's length in the same circumstances.

Related Party	Description	2023	2022	2023	2022
		\$	\$	\$	\$
		Value	Value	Amount Outstanding	Amount Outstanding
New Zealand Fish and Game Council	Grants Received	30,999	65,177	-	-
	Reimbursement of Legal costs	37,365	-	-	-
Taranaki Fish and Game Council	Admin support	3,748	3,672	-	-
Lee Cook	Councillor's son assisted with field work	3,720	2,996	-	-
Colin Shore	Councillor, assisted with banding	3,769	3,241	-	-

Related Party	Description	2023	2022	2023	2022
		\$	\$	\$	\$
		Value	Value	Amount Outstanding	Amount Outstanding
Strato Cotsillinis	Trout partly paid for by Wellington Fish and Game Council	-	4,497	-	2,000

New Zealand Fish and Game is by statute a related party, with a financial redistribution for regional Fish and Game Councils. In the reporting year, Wellington Fish and Game Council received a grant totalling \$30,999 from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (2021/2022 received a grant of \$65,177). There are nil outstanding balances at year end (2022 - nil).

New Zealand Fish and Game is by statute a related party, that holds a regional fund for use by regions in RMA processes. There are nil outstanding balances at year end (2022 - nil).

Jim Cook is a Councillor, and Lee Cook is his son. Lee Cook worked for Wellington Fish and Game council for 186 hours assisting with field work and was paid \$3,720.

Colin Shore is a Councillor, who was employed to assist with banding and various other field work for 186 hours and was paid \$3,769.

Strato Cotsillinis was a Councillor until October 2021, and a member of the Executive Committee of Wellington Flyfishers Club. The Wellington Flyfishers Club organises children's fishing days with trout partly paid for by Wellington Fish and Game Council. During the 2021/2022 year a contribution of \$4,497 was invoiced to Wellington Flyfishers Club with an outstanding balance of \$2,000 which was paid by installments in September and November 2022.



Note 11: ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS TO OUTPUT AREAS FOR 2023

In the Statement of service performance, overheads are allocated across the 8 Output areas based on the hours worked within those Outputs over the year. Below is the calculation for distributing the overheads across the output area.

ACTUAL 2023

Output Area	Actual Direct \$	Actual Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	67,566	1,636	121,572	189,138
Habitat protection & management	55,218	2,482	184,439	239,657
Angler & hunter participation	53,822	1,077	80,033	133,855
Public interface	641	400	29,725	30,366
Compliance	2,439	291	21,624	24,063
Licensing	26,741	-	-	26,741
Council	5,580	395	29,353	34,933
Planning & reporting	7,780	1,371	101,880	109,660
Totals	219,787	7,652	568,626	788,413

Actual Overheads

Employee related costs	540,374
Depreciation	40,698
Other expenses	123,751
Less Administrative Income	(136,414)
Total Overheads to Allocate	568,409

BUDGET 2023

Output Area	Budget Direct \$	Budget Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	41,800	6,007	246,484	288,284
Habitat protection & management	5,500	3,188	130,813	136,313
Angler & Hunter participation	28,805	1,936	79,440	108,245
Public interface	1,250	970	39,802	41,052
Compliance	7,000	1,370	56,215	63,215
Licensing	32,388	282	11,571	43,959
Council	6,000	457	18,752	24,752
Planning & reporting	9,000	994	40,787	49,787
Totals	131,743	15,204	623,864	755,607

Budget Overheads

Employee related costs	536,343
Depreciation	9,739
Other Expenses	121,706
Less Administrative income	(43,922)
Total Overheads to Allocate	623,866



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE READERS OF WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Wellington Fish and Game Council (the Fish and Game Council). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Vivien Cotton, using the staff and resources of Cotton Kelly Smit Limited (CKS Audit), to carry out the audit of the financial statements and statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on his behalf.

Opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance

We have audited:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council on pages 36 to 52, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 August 2023, the statement of financial performance, and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on pages 9 to 35.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council: on pages 36 to 52:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 31 August 2023; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with the Public Benefit Entity Simple Formant Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector) framework; and
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on pages 9 to 35:
 - presents fairly, in all material respects, the Fish and Game Council's performance for the year ended 31 August 2023, including for each class of reportable outputs:
 - its standards of performance achieved as compared with the forecasts included in the annual operational plan for the financial year; and
 - its actual revenue and expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the annual operational plan for the financial year; and
 - complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 6 December 2023. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements and the statement of performance, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Council for the financial statements and the statement of performance

The Council is responsible on behalf of the Fish and Game Council for preparing financial statements and a statement of performance that are fairly presented and comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

The Council is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements and a statement of performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements and the statement of performance, the Council is responsible on behalf of the Fish and Game Council for assessing the Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. The Council is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of the Fish and Game Council, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Council's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989, the Crown Entities Act 2004, and the Conservation Act 1987.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the statement of performance, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of these financial statements and the statement of performance.

For the budget information reported in the financial statements and the statement of performance, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Fish and Game Council's annual operational plan.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and the statement of performance.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the statement of performance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fish and Game Council's internal control.

- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the Fish and Game Council's framework for reporting performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Council and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements and the statement of performance or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fishing and Game Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and the statement of performance, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and the statement of performance represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Other Information

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 1 to 7, but does not include the financial statements and the statement of performance, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the statement of performance or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the Fish and Game Council in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Professional and Ethical Standard 1: International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Fish and Game Council.



Vivien Cotton
CKS Audit
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand