



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

18 February 2016

AGENDA

The 156th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 18 February 2016

Commences: 12.00 PM

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| (i) Identification of items for Council Policy | |
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**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 155th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2015 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Michael Little, Terry Wood, Neal Hawes, Laurence Allingham, Terry Sutton, Peter Storey, Steve Scragg, Laurance Tamati, David Woolner, Ken Coombes, Sandy Bull, and Alan Baird.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Eben Herbert, Matthew McDougall, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Mark Sherburn, Anthony van Dorp, Lynne Sands, Carmel Veitch, Harri Condie (Eastern Fish & Game); Brigit Nieuwboer (Royal Society of NZ Science Teaching Leadership Programme); Grant Dyson (Public Awareness Advisor, New Zealand Fish & Game); Ken Raureti (Chairman, Bay of Plenty Conservation Board); Trevor Richardson (Western BOP Fish & Game Club); Paul Badger (Gisborne Anglers Club); Alan Robinson (Wairoa Anglers Club); Ray Bushell, Thomas Turner, Maurice Mitchell and Ross Dillon.

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 12.00pm and welcomed all present, inviting new Councillors to sit at the Council table.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Annaka Davis and Steve Luscombe; Helen Neale (Department of Conservation); and Colin Paton (T/T Conservation Board).

2.2 *Agreed (Mike Little/Terry Wood) that the apologies for the 155th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [15/11/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (21 OCTOBER 2015)

3.1 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Barry Roderick) that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [15/11/3.1]*

3.2 There were no resolutions identified for inclusion in Council Policy.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Cr Terry Wood expressed again his concern over Councillor absenteeism and requested that Council consider a future agenda item on the subject with the intention of establishing a policy for this. Andy Garrick noted that expectations of Councillors would be discussed during governance induction training at Council's February 2016 meeting. He noted also, that Agenda Item 15 of today's meeting would look at dates and timing of meetings and this may reduce issues some Councillors have had with their availability for previously scheduled meetings.

4.2 Cr Mike Little expressed his concern over the 2015 election process advising that he had written to the New Zealand Council requesting changes to the electoral conditions. In particular he has requested that all season licence holders be automatically enrolled, and for a candidate to be eligible to stand for Council they must reside within 50km of the sub region that they are standing in. Andy Garrick advised that election process

issues had been raised nationally, and that this item will be put on the agenda for Council's February meeting and the outcomes of that discussion submitted to the New Zealand Council.

5.0 2014-2015 PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 5.1 Andy Garrick informed Council that the agenda item for the 2014-15 Performance Report included a summary of the final results for the 2014-15 financial year and follows on from Kate Thompson's overview provided at the October meeting. Crs Barry Roderick and Steve Scragg queried whether the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund should be excluded from the Fish & Game accounts to ensure the funds are protected for their original purpose and not included in general reserves. Kate advised that the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund had previously been held outside of the Eastern Fish & Game accounts in the name of the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Trust, but due to our inability to gain charitable status, and for taxation purposes, the Trust was wound up and the funds transferred to the Eastern Fish and Game Council. Kate confirmed that the "Fund" is recorded as a dedicated reserve within the Performance Report and is not included in any calculations relating to the operational reserves and funding of the operational work plan.
- 5.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Peter Storey) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2014-2015 year. [15/11/5.2]*

6.0 FAREWELL TO DEPARTING COUNCILLORS

- 6.1 On behalf of Council and staff Cr Murray Ferris extended thanks to departing Councillors Mike Little, Terry Sutton, Laurence Allingham, Terry Wood, and Steve Luscombe in recognition of their services to Fish & Game. He said that being a Councillor can sometimes be a thankless job, but noted that everyone had made a contribution, and he encouraged new Council members to actively engage and participate in Council discussions and deliberations. Murray then presented each of the departing Councillors with a certificate of appreciation and acknowledgement of their time on the Council.
- 6.2 Terry Wood said that his time on Council had been a great opportunity, he had learnt a great deal, and was leaving with treasured memories. He wished the new Council, Andy Garrick and staff continued success.
- 6.3 Terry Sutton said that it had been great to get to know and work with Council, and felt that Eastern was held in high regard across the country. Terry commented on his support for amalgamation of the Taupo and Eastern Region fisheries, and reiterated his desire to see triploid fish included in liberations.
- 6.4 Laurence Allingham acknowledged the stewardship of Andy Garrick and the great team that Eastern Region has. He noted that the Eastern Region has a tremendous resource to look after.
- 6.5 Mike Little wished Council and staff all the best adding that while he would no longer be a Councillor he could now have an input from the outside.
- 6.6 Steve Luscombe had put his apologies in for this meeting but wished to pass on his support for continued work with the mallard programmes.
- 6.7 Cr Murray Ferris advised that at this point the first part of the proceedings was now concluded. Mike Little and Terry Sutton extended their thanks and left the meeting.

7.0 ELECTION OF NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL APPOINTEE AND REGIONAL CHAIRPERSON

7.1 Andy Garrick took the Chair and informed Council of the statutory requirement to appoint an interim New Zealand Council representative and an interim Chairperson to cover the period up until February 2016. At this point Council will repeat the process and include other Council positions. Cr Lindsay Lyons, current Eastern Fish & Game appointee and chairman of the New Zealand Council, provided a brief overview of his current role and informed Council of the upcoming 118th meeting of the New Zealand Council this weekend in Hamilton. Cr Barry Roderick acknowledged the significant demands of this role and thanked Cr Lindsay Lyons for the co-operation and progress seen within the New Zealand Council under his guidance as Chair. Barry noted that the interim appointment was required to cover the Christmas period through to the next meeting of Council in February 2016 at which time firm appointments would be made.

7.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that Lindsay Lyons be New Zealand Council appointee between now and Council's next meeting in February 2016. [15/11/7.2]*

7.3 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Lindsay Lyons) that Murray Ferris be Council Chairman between now and Council's next meeting in February 2016. [15/11/7.3]*

7.4 Cr Murray Ferris took the Chair and thanked Council for their support.

8.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Terry Wood – maimai (dealt with in Council Priorities 12.1).
- Maurice Mitchell –game bird matters

9.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

9.1 Cr Barry Roderick registered his potential conflict of interest over items within the agenda relating to the Waewaetutuki wetland and his prior relationship with the Tauranga Acclimatisation Society. Barry advised that he would not vote on these matters if a vote was to be taken.

10.0 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND COUNCILLOR INDUCTION

10.1 Andy Garrick advised that this agenda item would be revisited in full in February 2016. He provided a brief summary of the documents contained within the Councillor induction manuals to be distributed at the conclusion of the meeting. He said some sections were in the process of being updated and these would be provided in February. In the meantime Councillors could familiarise themselves with the content available now. Andy advised that Robert Sowman, the New Zealand Council's Policy and Planning Manager, would be in attendance at the next meeting of Council to discuss the roles of governors, and governance more generally, and provide an induction to Fish & Game.

11.0 COUNCIL PRIORITIES

11.1 *Angler and Hunter Access:* Terry Wood spoke of his recent contact and complaint he had lodged with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council in relation to dilapidated maimai on Lake Rerewhakaitu, and advised that the Regional Council had since removed the structure. Andy Garrick confirmed that this was the case and that the Department of Conservation had been invoiced for the cost of doing so. The implications likely to arise from this are potentially significant. Andy noted that while the responsibility,

and therefore costs, technically lie with the individual(s) who constructed the maimai, it is in practice very difficult to identify who these people are, meaning liabilities are then brought to bear on the landowner. In this case it was DOC but it could have been LINZ, or a local or regional authority. Andy advised that he has arranged a meeting with the Regional Council and the Department of Conservation to discuss the issue and determine a pragmatic way forward. Cr Murray Ferris asked Councillors to discuss issues such as these with the Manager before trying to deal with them. Ray Bushell added that this situation was not dissimilar to abandoned whitebait stands.

- 11.2 *Enhancing Habitat for Greylard Production:* Cr Barry Roderick said that with the Game Season conditions up for review there was a need to discuss the mallard population collapse in Area A2 as described within the regulations. Cr Murray Ferris informed Council of a letter submitted by the Western BOP Fish & Game Club regarding pukeko numbers, an out of season swan shoot, increasing take on drakes if duck numbers are showing an increase, and its support for the 3 shot regulation currently adopted by the Auckland/Waikato and Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Councils. Ross Dillon from Edgecumbe spoke of his concerns that the current regulations, and in particular the short seasons, were killing the sport. He advised that in the area he hunts they have two good weekends of hunting before the birds raft out to sea and do not return until later in the season. This effectively reduces their opportunity to take mallard from four weeks to two weeks. He advised that they achieve their limit in the first hour, and that night shooting was not happening.
- 11.3 Matt McDougall informed Council that currently population estimates are as low as they have ever been and that Council is tasked with setting regulations to deal with that. He said that survival is affected by season length in that we are hunting too long into the breeding season and this is the reason Council supported a four week season this year. Matt noted however, that following extensive surveying of the Rangitaiki and Bay of Plenty drains it appeared that we have had a good breeding season this spring. Matt believes that the population is cyclic and that harvest surveys indicate that populations are improving. John Meikle added that despite the season for greylard being reduced there were opportunities to take other species over the four months of the game season. Andy Garrick noted that while staff believe there is some recovery taking place this is not apparent in the Reporoa/Broadlands area. He said that severely depressed populations are typically slow to recover and there may be a requirement for differential regulations within parts of the region.
- 11.4 Maurice Mitchell, duck hunter of 37 years, felt that Fish & Game was doing its best to improve numbers and habitat but asked what else can be done? He had heard that pukeko were taking a lot of eggs and ducklings and asked whether Council would consider removing the limit on pukeko? He also felt that paradise shelduck were dominant over breeding waters and were pushing mallards and grey duck out and queried whether the limit on parries should also be increased? Maurice was concerned too, that there were fewer opportunities for young hunters, and that he endorsed a three shot maximum. Maurice thanked Council for the opportunity to speak.
- 11.5 Trevor Richardson spoke to the submission forwarded by the Western Bay of Plenty Fish & Game Club. He said that pukeko were an ever increasing issue for hunters and farmers and that he and the club supported an increased limit if not making them available to take all year round. Trevor advised Council that the swan on Tauranga harbour head for the hills prior to Opening and requested that Council consider an out of season cull. He also agreed with earlier comments that the greylards are present at the start of the season but are gone later on, and asked Council to consider, if trend

- counts increase, adding two extra drakes to the bag limit. He felt it was better to ask hunters to go for green heads but acknowledged that they were not easily identifiable in the air. Trevor and the club also endorsed the 3 shot limit as they felt stray pellets had a lot to do with the declining mallard populations. Ray Bushell added that he supported shooting on the water as these birds were more easily retrieved and felt that those shot on their way out were often injured or not retrievable.
- 11.6 Maurice Mitchell requested that Fish & Game look into the possibility of growing ducks to point of flight and releasing these unless there was something within the Act that specifically prohibited this. Andy Garrick advised that it is an option and that a number of hunters were doing this having applied for, and been granted permits to do so by the Department of Conservation. The Eastern Fish and Game Council had developed a policy for the release of captive reared mallards in June this year which set out terms and conditions it sought to have applied to the permits issued by DOC, but was not at this stage contemplating rearing or releasing birds itself. He said that the jury is still out as to whether this is a cost effective and worthwhile management option here as some overseas studies have suggested otherwise. Andy noted that those who do apply to do this in the Eastern Region are required to have the birds banded before they are released so we can obtain some insight into survival rates and to what extent released birds may be contributing to the recovery of regional mallard populations.
- 11.7 Ken Raureti, BOP Conservation Board, expressed concerns about proposals to increase or remove limits on pukeko and asked that when Council considers limits it does so taking into account cultural concerns that it is offensive to harvest a species and leave it to waste. Andy Garrick advised that pukeko populations appear to have dramatically increased in some areas, and queried Ken as to whether he could see issues with increased takes of birds provided these were done sustainably as is required (by statute) of Fish & Game. Andy noted also, that Fish & Game has a Code of Conduct for hunters and asks hunters not only to hunt safely, lawfully and with regard to the rights of others, but to do so in an ethical manner. Ken endorsed that it was important for harvest to be within sustainable levels and limits should be set for local areas. Cr Sandy Bull commented on the substantial increase in pukeko numbers on Gisborne orchard properties and supported an increase to the daily bag limit or permits out of season.
- 11.8 Cr Murray Ferris thanked everyone for their input to this discussion and Andy Garrick noted that staff would take the comments and suggestions put forward into consideration.
- 11.9 *Maximising Fishery Opportunities:* Cr Barry Roderick briefly spoke of the Tangaroa fishing competition and suggested this is a great competition to publicise. Andy Garrick confirmed our involvement with this competition noting that staff attend and assist with each of the weigh-ins.
- 12.0 2016 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**
- 12.1 Cr Barry Roderick opened the Game Season Conditions discussion asking that Council re-affirms items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.8 as recommended before further discussion of items 4.4, 4.7, 4.9 (x2) and 4.10.
- 12.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [15/11/12.2]*

- 12.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [15/11/12.3]*
- 12.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [15/11/12.4]*
- 12.5 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [15/11/12.5]*
- 12.6 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the 2016 season conditions for shoveler duck be a two bird bag limit for four weeks. [15/11/12.6]*
- 12.7 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council approves the continuation of hunting of pukeko with Australasian harriers. [15/11/12.7]*
- 12.8 *Proposal to further constrain mallard and grey duck bag limit in the Reporoa/Broadlands/Upper Waikato River area.:*

Matt McDougall spoke of feedback received from hunters and Council about significantly depleted duck populations in the Reporoa/Broadlands areas advising that while these observations are anecdotal this feedback has been coming for some time. He advised that Fish & Game monitoring in the area included banding, but in recent years insufficient birds have been able to be captured to provide a robust insight into what's happening. Matt said there is reason to believe that populations, and hunting opportunity in the Broadlands/Reporoa area, is augmented from birds migrating into the locality from the Waikato River and lower Waikato. He suggested that impacts on habitat arising from Waikato River water level ramping, the collapse of the Waikato lakes from nitrification and activity of koi carp, and increased dairy conversions in the last couple of decades may have contributed to the reported decline. Matt referred to comments provided in the agenda and noted that Council needs firstly to decide whether more restrictive game season conditions are required within this area, what those restrictions should be if any, and then what area these restrictions should apply to? Cr Ken Coombes commented that considerable numbers of birds had been seen in submerged paddocks prior to opening but these had gone by the time opening arrived. He had spoken to a number of hunters none of whom was opposed to more restrictive bag limits being introduced to this area for a period. Cr Alan Baird stated that from his perspective there seemed to be no issue with duck numbers in the Waikite/Ngakuru/Kapenga areas, and his shooting had been unaffected. He advised that one of his ponds currently had 200 ducklings on it and he believed there were plenty of ducks around. The following matters were discussed:

- Level of confidence the Council needed to instigate changes to regulations.
- In the absence of good science Council should err on the side of caution if concern and uncertainties exist, as hunting success is not always the best indicator.
- Potential compliance issues resulting from a proposed change.
- Impacts on licence sales and the need to maintain revenue to support the mallard research currently being undertaken.

- Difficulties in monitoring the area and the need for a baseline population estimate to measure the effects of further restrictions if these were imposed.

Council concluded that more information on mallard numbers was required prior to changing the bag limits for these areas. Matt McDougall would investigate the possibility of establishing new banding sites in the area in consultation with Crs Baird and Coombes and acquiring greater insight into the status of mallards within this area over the next 12 months.

- 12.9 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the proposal to constrain the mallard and grey duck bag limit in the Reporoa/Broadlands/upper Waikato River areas be reviewed in November 2016 following further investigations by staff and the establishment of baselines for monitoring populations in these areas. [15/11/12.9]**
- 12.10 Proposal to allow one hen pheasant per day over opening weekend:**
Cr Steve Scragg queried whether a harvest of hen pheasants was detected in this year's game hunter survey. Matt McDougall advised that while the surveyors had been asked to record the number of hens harvested this had not occurred, but he had seen no increase in harvest over opening weekend where he thought there might have been. Council discussed the background as to why the limited harvest of hens was introduced and the subsequent ill feeling that this had created amongst some hunters. Cr Ken Coombes tabled a petition from the Wildfowlers Association opposing the proposal. Council were divided over this regulation noting on the one hand that it provided an additional opportunity and incentive for young hunters and those new to the sport, a training opportunity for new dogs, hunters were not obliged to take hens if they didn't wish to, and there was no indication and little likelihood that numbers being taken were significant or unsustainable. On the other hand there was a long standing tradition not to take hens, and a belief by some hunters that the females of this particular species should not be harvested even though this is contrary to the approach taken to all other game birds.
- 12.11 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Sandy Bull) that Council discontinues the proposal to harvest one hen pheasant on opening weekend of 2016 as insufficient demand has been indicated in support of providing this opportunity. [15/11/12.11]**
- 12.12** Andy Garrick briefly commented on a suggestion raised at Hawke's Bay Region's Council meeting the night before to bring the opening of the game bird season forward by a week to reduce the impact of longer seasons on the condition and/or survival of hen mallards going into the subsequent breeding season. Council discussed timing and compliance issues, and some felt that any change to the season start date should be at a national level and be consistent.
- 12.13 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that Council approve the remaining conditions for 2016 as per Appendix 1 in the agenda. [15/11/12.13]**
- 12.14 Proposal to restrict magazine capacity:**
Council considered the magazine restrictions imposed by its neighbouring regions (Auckland/Waikato and Hawke's Bay) and the indications that this regulation is likely to be adopted nationally. The background as to why the restrictions were removed was discussed, as was compliance, means of restriction, and the concept of a voluntary lead in period.
- 12.15 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports a voluntary restriction of 3 shots for the 2016 Season with the intention that this will become a mandatory requirement for the 2017 Season. [15/11/12.15]**

- 12.16 *Proposal to continue with the Waewaetutuki novice hunt programme:*
Cr Barry Roderick had earlier notified his conflict in discussions pertaining to the Waewaetutuki wetland and reiterated that he would not vote on the matter.
- 12.17 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that the Waewaetutuki wetland be closed to the general ballot and walk in permit system for the 2016 game bird hunting season and that the novice hunt programme instigated in 2015 be repeated. [15/11/12.17]*
Cr Barry Roderick abstained.
- 13.0 DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2015 FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING**
- 13.1 Council considered dates for the first meeting of Council for 2016.
- 13.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) Council agrees that the first 2016 Council meeting will be on 18th February 2016 at 12pm. [15/11/13.2]*
- 14.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS**
- 14.1 **Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board**
Not represented and no report available.
- 14.2 **Bay of Plenty Conservation Board**
Ken Raureti, Chairman of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board, congratulated Council on the recent success of the Red Tag promotion advising that he had heard some great feedback from anglers he knows. Ken advised that all Board members excluding himself were new to their positions and that they were now getting their feet on the ground. He spoke of three key priorities of the Board;
- Development of a new Conservation Management Strategy.
 - Implementation of Iwi Treaty settlements and in particular Ngati Whare/Whirinaki and Tuhoe/Te Urewera.
 - War on Weeds – the ‘dirty dozen’, wilding pines, and aquatic weeds.
- Ken advised that the Board would look at promotions to get people active and enjoying our environment, and they hoped to engage and grow their volunteer base.
- 14.3 **East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board**
Not represented and no report received.
- 14.4 **Department of Conservation, Central and Lower North Island Regions**
Not represented and no report received.
- 14.5 **Report from the New Zealand Council**
Lindsay Lyons’ report had been pre-circulated and Lindsay had nothing further to add advising that the New Zealand Council would be meeting in Hamilton this coming weekend with three new Councillors in attendance. Lindsay advised that the New Zealand Council would meet again in March next year once all regional representatives had been confirmed at the February Regional Council meetings.
- 15.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT**
- 15.1 Kate Thompson provided an updated verbal report on the Region's licence sales and commented briefly on what was occurring elsewhere in the Country.
- 15.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales Reports, and approves the payments for September 2015 totalling \$120,731.99. [15/10/15.2]*

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 Maurice Mitchell queried the Council's monitoring of properties with special conditions for upland game and sought confirmation as to when birds were released. He believed that some properties were not adding to wild numbers and if this was the case should their permits be rescinded? Andy Garrick confirmed that there was a requirement to release birds ahead of time, but there was no requirement to have a demonstrable impact on numbers beyond the boundaries of the properties. He advised that annual returns were required from each operation and that a summary of these would be included in the papers for information for the February 2016 meeting.

17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

17.1 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.47pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on the Manager's annual performance review. [15/11/17.1]*

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

| GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED | REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER | GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION |
|---|---|---|
| Discussion on the Regional Manager's performance review | Good reason to withhold exists under section 7 of the Official Information Act 1982 | Section 48(1)(a)(ii) |

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

| ITEM | REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 | SECTION | PLAIN ENGLISH REASON |
|-------------|---|----------------|--|
| 16 3.1 | Protect the privacy of natural persons | Sec. 7(2)(a) | Discussion between the Regional Manager and the Council on the Manager's performance review and any negotiations on employment conditions should occur in private between these parties. |

17.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that the public be readmitted to the meeting at 3.36pm. [15/11/17.2]*

18.0 MEETING CLOSED

18.1 The meeting was closed at 3.36pm.

.....
Murray Ferris,
Chairman

.....
Date

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Mike Little/Terry Wood) that the apologies for the 155th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [15/11/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (21 OCTOBER 2015)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Barry Roderick) that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [15/11/3.1]*

5.0 2014-2015 PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 5.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Peter Storey) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2014-2015 year. [15/11/5.2]*

7.0 ELECTION OF NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL APPOINTEE AND REGIONAL CHAIRPERSON

- 7.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that Lindsay Lyons be New Zealand Council appointee between now and Council's next meeting in February 2016. [15/11/7.2]*
- 7.3 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Lindsay Lyons) that Murray Ferris be Council Chairman between now and Council's next meeting in February 2016. [15/11/7.3]*

12.0 2016 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

- 12.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [15/11/12.2]*
- 12.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [15/11/12.3]*
- 12.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [15/11/12.4]*
- 12.5 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [15/11/12.5]*
- 12.6 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the 2016 season conditions for shoveler duck be a two bird bag limit for four weeks. [15/11/12.6]*
- 12.7 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council approves the continuation of hunting of pukeko with Australasian harriers. [15/11/12.7]*
- 12.9 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the proposal to constrain the mallard and grey duck bag limit in the Reporoa/Broadlands/upper Waikato River areas be reviewed in November 2016 following further investigations by staff and the establishment of baselines for monitoring populations in these areas. [15/11/12.9]*
- 12.11 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Sandy Bull) that Council discontinues the proposal to harvest one hen pheasant on opening weekend of 2016 as insufficient demand has been indicated in support of providing this opportunity. [15/11/12.11]*
- 12.13 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that Council approve the remaining conditions for 2016 as per Appendix 1 in the agenda. [15/11/12.13]*
- 12.15 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports a voluntary restriction of 3 shots for the 2016 Season with the intention that this will become a mandatory requirement for the 2017 Season. [15/11/12.15]*
- 12.17 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that the Waewaetutuki wetland be closed to the general ballot and walk in permit system for the 2016 game bird hunting season and that the novice hunt programme instigated in 2015 be repeated. [15/11/12.17] Cr Barry Roderick abstained.*

13.0 DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2015 FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING

13.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) Council agrees that the first 2016 Council meeting will be on 18th February 2016 at 12pm. [15/11/13.2]*

15.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT

15.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales Reports, and approves the payments for September 2015 totalling \$120,731.99. [15/10/15.2]*

17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

17.1 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.47pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on the Manager's annual performance review. [15/11/17.1]*

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

| GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED | REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER | GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION |
|---|---|---|
| Discussion on the Regional Manager's performance review | Good reason to withhold exists under section 7 of the Official Information Act 1982 | Section 48(1)(a)(ii) |

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

| ITEM | REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 | SECTION | PLAIN ENGLISH REASON |
|-------------|---|----------------|--|
| 16 3.1 | Protect the privacy of natural persons | Sec. 7(2)(a) | Discussion between the Regional Manager and the Council on the Manager's performance review and any negotiations on employment conditions should occur in private between these parties. |

17.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that the public be readmitted to the meeting at 3.36pm. [15/11/17.2]*

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

2 February 2016

1. Purpose

A standing agenda item to disclose any Councillor Conflict of Interest or potential perceived Conflict of Interest, and record this in the Councillor Conflict of Interest Register

2. Background

The Eastern Fish and Game Council has developed a policy to deal with Conflicts of Interest and must provide a standing agenda item to allow Councillors to disclose any Conflict or highlight any potential conflict. The "Interest Register" ring binder will be circulated in the first part of each meeting for Councillors to record any interests. The Council should then discuss how it wants to deal with any interest or perceived interest identified.

For Crown entities the definition of 'interested' is;

4. *Board members [Councillors] of Crown Entities should be aware of the very wide scope of what 'interested' means under the Crown Entities Act. A person is interested in a matter if he or she:*
- *May derive a financial benefit from the matter;*
 - *Is the spouse, defacto partner (whether of the same or different sex), child or parent of a person who may derive a financial benefit from the matter;*
 - *May have a financial interest in a person to whom the matter relates;*
 - *Is a partner, director, officer, board member, or trustee of a person who may have a financial interest in a person to whom the matter relates;*
 - *May be interested in the matter because the entity's Act so provides; or*
 - *Is otherwise directly or indirectly interested in the matter.*

And any Conflict of Interest can be dealt with as follows.

- 6.6 *Members agree that the Council may, where appropriate, decide that a Council Member who has declared an interest in matters to be discussed by the Council:*
- [1] should leave the meeting room for the duration of discussion on such matters or;*
 - [2] remain in the room and contribute to the discussion and be allowed to vote or;*
 - [3] remain in the room and contribute to the discussion but not be allowed to vote.*

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

3. Recommendations

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

7. COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Ref: 8.02.01

2 February 2016

1. Purpose

To review Council's priorities for the 2015-2016 year, and identify changes in priorities or work areas and projects to be incorporated into the 2016-2017 Operational Work Plan.

2. Background

At each meeting the Council reviews the progress of projects and initiatives that have been developed to focus on Council's key priorities. This February meeting is the beginning of the operational planning cycle for activities we intend to carry out in the 2016-2017 OWP year. At this meeting it is important to consider Council's current priorities, and if there should be changes to priorities, or directions within a priority, in the next OWP year. This will allow us time to undertake appropriate project planning over the coming months.

The Council's key regional priorities for the current 2015-2016 OWP year are:

- Enhancement of habitat for greylard production – in particular activities that increase duck numbers and as a result, hunter opportunities;
- Water quantity and quality – addressing in particular, the pressures on our free-flowing water resources and the water quality of the Rotorua lakes;
- Access – making it easier for anglers and hunters to use the resource;
- Maximising fishery opportunities.

The Council has also agreed to support long term aspirational and desired outcomes for Fish & Game identified by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and these need to be provided for where possible in the OWP. The New Zealand Council's current aspirations are:

- Fish & Game NZ is well recognised and well regarded as fish and game resource managers based on a user says/user pays system.
- Fish & Game's values and aspirations are reflected in statute.
- Sports fish and game birds are recognised as valued public resources with right of access.
- There is general recognition that wildlife habitat is a finite resource that must be protected.
- Water Conservation Orders are finalised and defended.
- The New Zealand public is sympathetic to Fish & Game NZ's goals.

Most of the 2015-16 regional priorities have been a focus of the Eastern Council for the best part of ten years. Over this time we have gained a much greater understanding of what can and can't be influenced in terms of achieving the outcomes we are seeking. With this understanding we have adaptively managed our approach and refined projects or changed our focus more towards what we can influence to meet the priorities of Council. The achievements and some important issues we have identified within each of the key priority areas are indicated below. It would be helpful for Council to consider the issues facing each priority, and identify or suggest project areas where continued resourcing or changes in resourcing should be considered during the preparation of the 2016-2017 OWP. Project areas

and associated tasks for the current (2015-2016) OWP year are presented in the tables appended to each of the priority comments made below.

3. Enhancement of habitat for greylard production (Priority One)

- Over the past decade we have directly developed, or facilitated development of significant areas of wetland across the region using both licence holders' income and external funding from trusts and regional councils. This has occurred on private and public lands and more hunting opportunities have been developed, but some projects, particularly smaller private land initiatives, have not necessarily resulted in the creation of new and additional habitat that has gone on to produce more birds. We now have a track record with funding agencies so there are opportunities for ongoing projects of this nature. However, the preparation for funding requires significant resources, and if we develop areas that require ongoing management, we can be burdened with ever increasing and ongoing commitments. We already have a large number of habitats we need to maintain (e.g. our existing Wildlife Management Reserves) and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find the resources needed to prevent these areas from going backwards as we add new habitat to our management programmes.
- We have increased our expectations and requirements of ballot holders in Fish & Game managed reserves to relation to maintaining habitat and hunting opportunities (and have more to do in this area), in addition to obtaining funding from external sources to increase/maintain open water habitat. Our reserves however, are only just receiving the maintenance they require and there is potential for producing more ducks if more resources could be allocated or obtained for maintenance. We have concluded that a stronger focus on habitat quality rather than quantity as was the case in the past is a better option for increasing duck numbers, and there is much more to be done in this area.
- Through intensive regional research and monitoring we have a good understanding of the effects of harvest on populations and future production. We also know that trying to manage harvest through our current regulation options is very difficult due to changes in hunter behaviour resulting from regulation manipulation. If regulations are to make a difference when mallard populations are depressed, it's apparent that very restrictive conditions need to apply.
- Regional research has shown that productivity is a key driver for "more ducks" and may be a more effective area in which to place our efforts than simply creating more habitat of the type we have focussed on in the past. We do not have the resources to put more effort into investigating and improving production without impacting on resources that are currently directed elsewhere, or finding external resources to cover what is needed. Increasing habitat and increasing investigations into productivity requires additional and/or novel approaches to resourcing.
- We have been gaining an insight into production on lowland Bay of Plenty drains, and implemented a field programme last spring investigating the physical characteristics of drains most utilised by mallards during brood rearing. This information has still to be processed, but will provide a better guidance on what can be done to enhance the habitat values of these networks of waterways. We have also initiated trials aimed at enhancing East Coast pond habitats. These projects have considerable potential, but resourcing for large scale and more widespread implementation will have to be sought from alternative sources.

- National research on factors affecting mallard productivity is still in progress and we have made a significant contribution to this work in recent years. While this contribution has big-picture benefits and regional spinoff, it has also affected our internal capacity to deliver in other work areas.

2015-16 programme

| <i>Project Area</i> | <i>Specific Project activity and targets</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Species Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboratively monitor greylard populations within proposed Duck Management Units with adjoining Fish & Game regions via a combination of trapping/banding, aerial surveys, and brood counts to investigate productivity, survival, harvest and movements. • Contribute to national research programmes on mallard ducks. • Undertake game bird hunter survey. • Review game season conditions and make changes where needed to address issues impacting on greylard populations and productivity. |
| Wildlife Management Reserves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the balloting process and closely manage stand holders' maintenance activities to ensure habitat quality is maintained if not enhanced. • Review rotational maintenance programmes undertaken by staff in Fish & Game managed wetlands and re-assess/confirm existing priorities. • Investigate why productivity of juveniles appears to be greater in some wetland reserves than others, and assess options for addressing issues that are identified. |
| Assisted Habitat on Non Public Land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in statutory planning processes and make submissions to regional and district plans to amend rules that are barriers to habitat enhancement or hunter opportunities, and support or oppose consent applications that impact on game bird habitat values or hunter access. • Develop positive working relationships with landowners and other parties with an interest or involvement in rural land management including local and regional authorities, DOC, Federated Farmers, Fonterra and Dairy NZ. |
| Habitat Creation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice to enable and encourage hunters/landowners to develop quality, productive wetland habitat. • Advocate for better drain management and enhance habitat in drainage canals. • Provide advice on enhancement of stock ponds and implement enhancement projects. • Make at least one external funding application for wetland habitat development. • Participate on Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and oversee appropriate projects. |
| Rural media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use rural media to encourage the creation and enhancement of wetland habitats. |

4. Water Quality and Quantity (Priority Two)

- We have had a very active role in the Rotorua Lakes Action Planning processes to improve water quality in the Rotorua Lakes. Many of the lakes have shown marked

improvements with the interventions the Bay of Plenty Regional Council has put in place. Lake Tarawera's water quality has deteriorated more recently but an Action Plan has recently been prepared for it. Some of Regional Council's interventions may have had a negative impacts on some fisheries (e.g. Ohau Channel Diversion Wall), but improved water quality is or will benefit other fisheries. There is an ongoing requirement to monitor fisheries to ensure that any impacts as a result of interventions are detected and if necessary mitigated for.

- The BOPRC's Regional Policy Statement has outlined plans for land use change in sensitive lake catchments to ensure nutrient inputs from agriculture decrease. We will need to retain a strong presence in regional water quality planning and collaborative processes to advocate for land use change and sustainable nutrient leaching, so the need for continued interventions that may have negative impacts on our fisheries is reduced.
- We have highlighted Rangitaiki River water quality issues to the BOPRC and more recently the Rangitaiki River Forum. Water quality issues have been acknowledged and provisions made in the RPS to use the Forum to create a catchment management plan for the river. This process will take time and will require ongoing discussion with territorial authorities and Iwi. We have also become involved with other "Freshwater Futures Community Groups in the Kaituna and Pongakawa catchments.
- There are other catchments within the region, e.g. the upper Motu, where intensification of land use and conversion from lesser nutrient leaching dry stock farming to higher nutrient leaching dairy farming has been mooted or has been happening. We are limited in what we can do to influence these activities and their subsequent impacts on water quality under current planning processes, but will need to continue to advocate effectively during plan change processes. We may be able to have more influence on water quantity matters but will need good evidence and be able to present strong cases to support our position on fishery values.
- Overlying these water quality issues are several national government initiatives to increase primary production through more effective land use and increased irrigation. The National Policy Statement for Fresh Water is now in place (to be reviewed in 2016) and National Environmental Standards are being developed. The threat of fundamental and far reaching reforms to the RMA has softened but could resurface. To advocate for trout habitats we are going to need to be increasingly involved in a number of processes. Our capacity to stay involved at the required level, and the achievements we can obtain from collaboration will need to be continually reviewed as these processes develop.

2015-16 programme

| <i>Project Area</i> | <i>Specific Project activity and targets</i> |
|---------------------|--|
| Rivers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to assess trout numbers in the Rangitaiki River fishery and communicate water quality issues to Regional Council and the Rangitaiki River Forum. • Maintain input to the didymo awareness and surveillance programme. • Participate in the National Angler Survey (NAS). • Participate in collaborative processes and submit on water allocation processes in planning and consenting matters on sensitive waters. • Maintain water quality register of Regional Councils' performance. |
| Lakes Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Rotorua lakes fisheries monitoring programmes and |

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| Quality | <p>participate in fisheries research projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and support the Waikaremoana water quality buoy programme. • Participate in Rotorua lakes' collaborative processes and use creel survey and NAS results to advocate for improved water quality. |
|---------|---|

5. Angler and hunter access (Priority Three)

- We have maintained extensive physical access tracks and signage for angling across priority waters for over a decade. The current programme is manageable under the existing resource allocation. Maintaining hunter access to our reserves also requires regular resourcing to allow hunter access without reducing our ability to manage habitat.
- Forest access for both angling and hunting has been affected by Treaty of Waitangi Settlements, and forest managers e.g. Timberlands. Many of our access problems arise due to land ownership issues and the rights of landowners (or occupiers/managers in the case of Timberlands) to control access across their land. Restoring access to these areas depends on relationship building with land owners and is time consuming with varying levels of success.
- We maintain comprehensive printed access information and continue to expand our inventory of information that is available digitally. There is potential to increase this through joint programmes (e.g. with Walking Access Commission and its Walking Access Mapping System) that could be explored and developed further.

2015-16 programme

| <i>Project Area</i> | <i>Specific Project activity and targets</i> |
|----------------------------|---|
| Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current access tracks to the Rangitaiki River and its tributaries, the Waioeka River and Tarawera River, and the Ngongotaha and Waiteti Streams. Improve access to Wairoa catchment tributaries including the upper Waikaretaheke River and the Waiiau River. • Allocate balloted hunting stands. • Upgrade signs to brand specifications where required, and maintain signage database. • Advocate for improved access through forestry and resolution of identified captured access areas. Submit to regional/district plans for improved angler/hunter access. • Submit to Walking Access Commission and ensure that provision for public access is made in Treaty of Waitangi Settlements. |
| Licence holder information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain access pamphlets and website to ensure effective communication of angling and hunting access information. • Maintain Fish & Game hut at Wairua. |

6. Maximising fishery opportunities (Priority Four)

- We have a successful supplementary stocking programme on the Rotorua lakes based on maximising returns to anglers. We undertake intensive monitoring of these fisheries and regularly review stocking rates. We have recent research findings that have modified our liberation strategies and we adaptively manage liberations to maximise returns and

effectiveness to the extent it is possible to within various constraints imposed by environmental conditions.

- Interest has been expressed in managing some of the Rotorua lakes for different objectives or experiences as another means of enhancing opportunities for anglers. Suggestions include re-creating a trophy trout fishery in one of the lakes e.g. Tarawera or Okataina. Cr Peter Storey has drafted some notes to generate a discussion around this topic, and these have been included in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.
- In 2015 we instigated a more intensive fisheries monitoring programme at Waikaremoana to fill some gaps, and assess concerns raised in an earlier petition and submission to Council for regulation changes. This work is producing some useful information but will need to be extended for at least another year to get an insight into seasonal and annual variation. The programme involves creel surveys and monitoring of key spawning tributaries.
- We have increased information distribution on fishing opportunities available to our angling licence holders through printed and electronic channels. We need to improve and maintain an effective social media presence to keep up with informing our licence holders on the opportunities available to them. We have also increased angler training efforts to improve angler success, and there is additional potential to increase participation in angling with assistance from angling clubs and other partners across the region.

2015-16 programme

| <i>Project Area</i> | <i>Specific Project activity and targets</i> |
|----------------------------|---|
| Species Monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor growth and performance of liberations into lake fisheries via the Datawatch programme. Tag and release 8,500 trout. • Monitor Lake Tarawera wild spawning and investigate enhancement opportunities. • Monitor the Lake Waikaremoana fishery and its key spawning tributaries. • Monitor the Lake Rotorua and Ngongotaha fisheries. • Monitor the Ohau Channel fishery. • Contribute to research projects to better understand lake fisheries. |
| Harvest Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake lake fisheries creel surveys to monitor angler catch and satisfaction, and Opening Day surveys to evaluate stocking programmes. • Participate in the National Angler Survey to determine usage and opportunities. |
| Hatchery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce 105,000 quality fish to maintain trout fisheries within the region. |
| Regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain sports fish resources through development of the anglers notice using a policy driven review process. • Look for opportunities to increase participation and remove barriers to fishing. |
| RMA planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent anglers in water quality planning, consenting processes and district planning for improved habitat, angling experience and access opportunities. |
| Participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance access. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase angler communication and information, document existing opportunities, and identify options for increasing participation. • Support childrens' fishing programmes, angler training and angling competitions, and maintain club relations. |
| Compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a high level of participant contact and protect fishery sustainability. |
| Licensing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make fishing licences readily available and market new fishing licence categories to existing and potential licence holders. |

7. New Zealand Council Aspirational Outcomes

New Zealand Council has a focus on increasing public awareness and support of Fish & Game, as managers of sports fish and game bird resources, and as advocates for the interests of anglers and hunters, and often in doing so, for those of the wider public. Protecting and enhancing habitats and access to wild areas and resources are important to all New Zealanders, and a fundamental role for the Eastern Council. The Eastern Council contributes significant regional resources to supporting national projects associated with species monitoring and management, public awareness, compliance and licensing outputs.

2015-16 programme

| <i>Project Area</i> | <i>Specific Project activity and targets</i> |
|----------------------------|--|
| Public Awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the national public awareness network and support national public awareness events. • Manage our website and use social media to increase awareness of Fish & Game activities. • Distribute 40 media releases and support the NZ Council North Island PA Advisor. • Engage and communicate with the rural community and landowners. Promote Fish & Game at appropriate events and in the rural media. • Conduct 12 presentations to schools/outside organisations and use the Ngongotaha hatchery and grounds to promote Fish & Game to the wider public. • Engage and liaise with regional iwi groups. |
| Statutory Liaison | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Manager to periodically meet with senior local and regional authority managers, senior DOC staff, Conservation Boards, and MPs where appropriate. • Regional Manager to meet with Te Urewera iwi entities and make progress toward a MOU with the Tuhoe Board. • Regional Manager to attend meetings of the Taupo Fisheries Advisory Committee as the NZ Fish & Game Council representative. |
| Habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Rotorua lakes via Regional Council planning and collaborative processes. • Utilise river investigation projects to advocate for improved water quality in key regional rivers. • Review and support/oppose plans and consents that impact significantly upon sports fish/game bird habitat values, or angler and hunter access. • Maintain inventory of wetlands, assess their vulnerability and identify wetlands deficient areas and opportunities for enhancement through |

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| | stakeholder collaborative processes. |
| Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for improved access and submit to the Walking Access Commission on key issues, and ensure provision for public access is made in relevant Treaty of Waitangi settlements. |

8. Developing the 2016-2017 Operational Work Plan

Staff are seeking a clear direction from this meeting of Council on priorities to focus on in the OWP for the coming year. If the focus is to remain on the existing priorities, then consideration of the issues identified (and others raised at the meeting) should guide the development of alterations to current work areas so a draft budget can be prepared for the April Council meeting. A key point for discussion is the balance of resources both within and across priorities. If the Council wants more work done in an area it is important to consider where these resources will come from. If internally resourced, then some other work programme has to be reduced and this should be identified before planning proceeds.

In April, an indication of resources required for any changes in the OWP, along with options for re-allocations, will be presented for discussion. At the April meeting it will be necessary for Council to consider indicative performance targets for projects so a draft OWP and budget can be prepared for both the April managers meeting and licence holder consultation. At the June Council meeting, the refined draft OWP will be further considered along with any feedback received from licence holders. The final version of the OWP for the 2016-2017 year will be signed off at the August meeting.

9. Recommendations

9.1 *That Council reviews the priorities for the 2015-2016 year, and identifies any changes to priorities or projects for incorporation into the draft operational work plan for the 2016-2017 year.*

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ref: 7.02.02

5 February 2016

1. Purpose

To elect officers for the Eastern Fish and Game Council for 2016.

2. Background

The Council has determined that the appointment of officers should be reviewed annually at the beginning of each calendar year. The incumbent Councillors and staff are listed below:

- Chairman – Murray Ferris.
- New Zealand Council appointee – Lindsay Lyons (also Chairman of NZ Council).
- Deputy Chairman – Lindsay Lyons.
- Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET) – Matthew McDougall.

There is also, a Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee. This has a specific Terms of Reference (TOR) dealing with the compilation of information for the annual Manager's performance review. The term of appointment for this Committee is three years commencing at the beginning of each Council term (February 2013 to February 2016, February 2016 to February 2019 etc.) so appointments are up for review at this meeting. The incumbent Councillors are Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons and Barry Roderick.

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

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Council reviews the appointments to the roles detailed above and determines whether it wishes to make changes to any of these.



Trust Purpose

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

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

Trust Objectives

Objectives of the trust are:

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

9. 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

Ref: 7.02.01

5 February 2016

1. Purpose

To finalise the Council meeting schedule for the 2016 year and consider options for Council field trip(s) during the year.

2. Background

For the last few terms of Council, meetings have occurred mid-week, generally on the second or third Wednesday of every second month during the year. These mid-week meetings have been the preferred option for most Councillors as it enables them to meet with staff to discuss operational matters or clarify questions immediately before or after each meeting. The two-monthly Regional Fish and Game Council meetings also fit within the New Zealand Fish and Game Council schedule that also meets every two months, but on an alternative monthly cycle to the Regional Fish and Game Councils. There are several important national processes that need to occur during the year (e.g. draft budgets, licence fee setting, inaugural meeting of new Councils), that require Regional Council feedback to the NZ Council at specific times or are mandated by statute which can sometimes conflict with meeting schedules. In 2016 we have "no later than" dates for both the April and June regional meetings.

As indicated above, meetings have typically taken place on Wednesdays in the past, but this day of the week presents issues for at least one Councillor in addition to the Regional Manager. Thursday was proposed as being a more suitable day at Council'

The proposed meeting schedule for 2016 has been prepared on the basis of the above. We have six 'regular' meetings and one other which is scheduled on the same day as the sixth meeting as indicated below. The key issues for discussion at each meeting are listed alongside each of the proposed meetings.

Proposed 2016 meeting dates, venues and key issues for discussion.

| | Date | Venue | Issues |
|-------------------|--|--------------|---|
| 1 | 18 February 2016 | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities• Anglers Notice |
| 2 | 7 April 2016 (must be before 11 th) | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP (initial draft) |
| 3 | 16 June 2016 (must be before 20 th) | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fees• OWP (2nd draft)• Finalise Anglers Notice |
| 4 | 11 August 2016 | East Coast? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP |
| 5 | 20 October 2016 | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions (initial consideration)• Draft Annual Report |
| 6 | 17 November 2016 | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise Game Conditions |
| Public AGM | 17 November 2016 | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Report |

3. Meeting timing and duration

The six 'regular' Eastern Fish and Game Council meetings start at 12 noon and are scheduled to finish by 3pm. The agenda is designed to stay within this three hour duration. Previously we have supplied biscuits and such before the meeting and then light refreshments after the meeting. Council should consider if the timing and duration of the meetings require changing, and whether the proposed catering requirements are satisfactory.

4. Field trip

In some years we have also scheduled in a field trip to visit a site of interest and to provide context for issues discussed at Council meetings. We have had trips to wetland developments and Wildlife Management Reserves, and also incorporated in Ngongotaha Hatchery tours to discuss fishery management matters. Council may wish to discuss the desirability of a field trip so staff can investigate possible options and dates for later in the year.

5. Council information distribution

Unless agreed otherwise, the same process for sending out Agendas for meetings and monthly Papers For Information (PFI) will continue. In addition to emailing and sending out hard copies of the agendas these are loaded on the website www.fishandgame.org.nz one week before each meeting for other parties to view. Draft minutes from each meeting will be circulated to Councillors as soon as possible after the meeting. If no "more-than-minor" errors in the draft are advised these Unconfirmed Minutes are posted on the web site a week later. The Unconfirmed Minutes can then be formally confirmed at the following meeting and posted on the web site as Confirmed Minutes.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That Council considers the proposed meeting schedule for 2016, and determines the dates for the remaining five regular meetings and the annual general meeting.

10. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

File: 1.07.01

4 February 2016

1. Purpose

To review the 2015-2016 Anglers Notice and identify any changes to the current regulations that might be warranted in the 2016-2017 season.

2. Background

The Anglers Notice review provides an opportunity to amend regional sport fishing regulations. Licence holders and the public are able to submit on issues they may have identified with the current regulations for consideration by Council.

Council has developed a comprehensive approach to dealing with the Anglers Notice. The policy approach splits regulations into those that serve a social function and those that serve a biological function. Social regulations are those that affect the angler and principally relate to angling methods. Waters are categorised based on trout densities, and levels of angler use. These categories are used to determine how social based regulations should be applied. Biological regulations are those that affect trout populations and include bag and size limits. A matrix has been developed that takes into account biological objectives associated with sustainability, harvest allocation, and specific population manipulations. Any changes to the Anglers Notice must not conflict with the Anglers Notice policy which is provided in Appendix 1 to this item.

This approach has greatly simplified the task of reviewing the Anglers Notice and enables regulations to be confirmed or amended quickly and efficiently.

During the 2012-13 angling season, the Eastern Fish and Game Council opted to switch the annual Anglers Notice review to a biennial process as follows:

“Agreed (Richard Montgomerie/Steve Scragg) that Council will review future Anglers Notices on a bi-annual rotation unless specific issues are identified which require amendment outside of this cycle.” [12/06/10.2].

Every second year a full review of the regional regulations (Schedule 2) is undertaken. A less comprehensive process is conducted in the year between. This year a full review is required which involves or has involved:

1. Advising angling clubs and earlier submitters that the process is underway and that any suggested changes and rationale for change are welcomed. The process is advertised on the Fish & Game website, ‘ezine’ and ‘tweeted’ through electronic media also.
2. At the February Council meeting, a list of submissions to the Anglers Notice will be presented to the Council for discussion alongside any proposals not tabled until then. The Council will consider which submissions have merit and warrant further investigation. Staff will produce a preliminary ‘Issues and Options’ paper for distribution to clubs and submitters, and advertising via electronic media.

3. Prior to the April meeting, Councillors will receive feedback from staff and submitters including any new suggestions in the form of an Agenda item. At the April meeting, all submissions received will be debated and the Council will decide which of these are worthy of further examination. A second 'Issues and Options' paper will be produced and again circulated for consultation. This will include a press release to inform the public along with licence holders who might not be aware of the process taking place.
4. At its June 2016 meeting, the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council will receive any additional correspondence arising from the undertakings to date and will finalise the content of the 2016-17 Anglers Notice.

4. Initial suggestions for consideration

There have been a number of initial 'suggestions' identified by Councillors and submitters since the last review. These suggestions are outlined below for consultation and consideration:

B1: Consider prohibiting the use of lead sinkers and lead downrigger weights used during trout fishing within the Rotorua lakes/Eastern Region.

Jigging is the most highly utilized method of angling accounting for greater than 50% of methods used in the deeper Rotorua lakes (summer creel surveys). Downrigger trolling has been recorded as contributing between 8-12% to total method use on the deeper lakes over the summer period. All anglers fishing via these methods are likely to be using lead sinkers (jigging) or lead downrigger weights (downrigger trolling). The environmental effects of lost sinkers/downrigger weights are difficult to quantify though much research has been undertaken in America and Australia on alternative options (non toxic/encapsulating with plastic). If Council chose to bring in a rule of this sort, there could be wider ramifications of doing so, for example, it could lead to a call for lead line (trollers), split shot (fly anglers) and/or lead shot for game bird hunters to be banned also.

B2: Extend the winter shoreline area on Lake Okataina to include the western rocky point (600m west of boat ramp).

The current open winter shoreline area at Lake Okataina is open 1 October to 30 September extending 200m offshore between landmark poles off the main beach at the end of Okataina Road. It is open to angling from shore and anchored boats from 1 October to 30 June, and solely from shore for the remainder of the season 1 July to 30 September. The eastern end landmark is only accessible at extremely low lake levels. The western end is currently at the end of the main beach and is accessible at all lake levels. If the western landmark was shifted further to the west, it, as is the situation at the eastern end of the area, provide greater opportunity for anglers when lake levels are low. This would be very unlikely to affect biological sustainability nor or create additional compliance issues.

B3: Amend the regulations for the Hopuruahine Stream (Waikaremoana) to;

(i) Prohibit the use of motorized craft while fishing upstream of the Hopuruahine Stream mouth.

The Hopuruahine landmark pole is approximately 900m from the mouth of the stream (at moderate lake levels). At high lake levels, the flood plain is pushed back up the stream some distance. Some boat based anglers may attempt to troll up the lower stream, but the stream shallows quickly at moderate lake levels and would become difficult to navigate and turn around in. There would be minimal boat trolling occurring within the confines of the stream.

(ii) Move the Hopuruahine landmark pole 200m downstream from its current position to remove ambiguity between spin/fly demarcation.

The current regulation stating demarcation of the fly/spin limits is ambiguous and reads "fly fishing only above and within 200m below landmark" (as is the Mokau Stream situation). If the landmark was moved 200m downstream from its current position, anglers would lose opportunities to engage in river fishing during the closed season (1 July to 30 November). There are only 3 sections of Lake Waikaremoana tributaries that remain open throughout the spawning period. These are Aniwaniwa below the falls, Mokau below the landmark, and Hopuruahine below the landmark. To make the rule clearer and promote opportunity, the landmark could remain where it is currently situated and become fly and spin below the landmark 1 October to 30 September, and flyfishing only above the landmark 1 December to 30 June.

(iii) Reduce the bag limit from 8 fish to 3 fish per day in the stream

The current bag limit is an 8 fish aggregate limit with 2 brown trout permitted. Staff have undertaken one winter's investigation at Waikaremoana spawning tributaries which is providing an understanding of angling pressure and harvest. This work gives insights to this submission and also covers the submission raised by David Dods regarding the perceived demise of early spawning rainbows (see B5). This work is ongoing. Over the 2015 winter, staff encountered low angler pressure and low harvest at both the Hopuruahine and Mokau Streams.

B4: Alter season opening date for Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina to fall upon the first Saturday in October each season.

Currently the trout fishing season opens on 1 October each year excluding some areas of special spawning significance that open 1 December. It has been suggested that moving the opening date for the three 'renowned' Rotorua lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) to the first Saturday in October would enable more anglers to participate in the occasion, and Fish & Game could take advantage of this and generate more of a 'carnival' atmosphere to attract new licence holders and/or retain a proportion of those who might otherwise not bother to renew their licence. There are some potential downsides to this proposal from a compliance perspective and the dissatisfaction that might arise from the additional pressure brought to bear on facilities such as ramps and parking, and overcrowding on the lakes more generally.

B5: David Dods submission regarding the perceived demise of early spawning rainbow trout at Lake Waikaremoana

Several questions were raised by David Dods in his submission signed by a large number of anglers and others concerned with Lake Waikaremoana spawning runs and the sustainability of the Waikaremoana fishery. This petition was presented to Council at the April 2014 meeting.

Mr Dods has suggested the following changes as a means of addressing his concerns:

1. Reduce the limits bags at Lake Waikaremoana from 8 rainbow trout to 4 rainbow trout and reduce the limit of brown trout from 2 brown trout (within current 8 fish aggregate bag) to 1 brown trout per day;
2. Close spawning rivers from 1st May instead of 1st July;
3. Open rivers from 1 November to harvest late spawning rainbow trout which are protected at present time.

This submission is still under investigation and further field work is required to acquire the information needed to assess Mr Dods' perceptions. Monitoring in 2015 showed that rainbows were in the spawning streams and involved in spawning activity from early May, and that angler pressure on the streams and trout harvest during the winter months was extremely low.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 *That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2016 -2017 Anglers Notice.*
- 5.2 *That Council identifies any issues for further discussion in the initial 'Issues and Options' paper to be prepared in April.*

APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy

Ref: 1.07.01

21 May 2003

1. Background

Fish and Game New Zealand spends a significant amount of time each year considering changes to the Anglers Notice. Changes to the regulations have, in the past, generally occurred in an ad hoc fashion, often in response to specific requests from anglers. Council has recognised that this has resulted in the inconsistent application of regulations across the region. To resolve this situation Council has developed policy which determines how and when regulations apply. The underlying approach taken to developing the policy has been to clearly identify the need for regulations or the issues, which may prompt specific regulations to be considered. The purpose of this policy is to remove inconsistencies and simplify the regulations and reduce the amount of time that council are required to devote to the process.

The policy has been established around two key groups of regulations within the Angler's Notice. The first group of regulations are those that serve a social function and relate to the way anglers interact with each other. The second group of regulations are those that have a biological effect on the fisheries and have more direct effects on trout populations.

2. Social Regulations

The Anglers Notice contains a number of regulations that affect anglers rather than the fish they are targeting. These regulations can be considered social in nature, and are set to control the impacts that anglers have upon each other. These regulations are imposed to maximise the opportunities available and the quality of the angling experience. Social regulations generally relate to how anglers are allowed to fish (permitted methods).

The Council has developed policy for determining social based regulations based on the intensity of the angling that occurs, and therefore the potential for anglers to impact upon each other. Angling intensity has been established using known information from levels of angler use and the amount of water available for fishing.

Fishing methods

Policy 2.1 Setting of method restrictions for waters shall be based upon the following framework.

| Water Category | Level of use of water (<i>threshold</i>) | Methods Available |
|--|---|---|
| • Lake edge fisheries and associated migratory spawning waters | Low Intensity Use (<i>< 10 anglers/100m/season</i>) | • All methods, Bait*, |
| | Moderate Intensity Use (<i>10-200 anglers/100m/season</i>) | • Fly, Bait*, Spin • No unanchored boats |
| | High Intensity Use (<i>>200 anglers/100m/season</i>) | • Fly only, Bait* • No spin fishing • No unanchored Boats |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower density river fisheries based on resident trout populations | Low Intensity Use (<24 anglers/100m/season) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods, Bait*, |
| | High Intensity Use (>=24 anglers/100m/season) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly only, Bait* |

*Bait fishing has a biological effect on trout populations and because of the high hooking mortality shall not be applied where fish may be legally required to be released due to size limits or restrictive bag limits. Bait fishing would only therefore apply in waters where there were no bag or size limits.

Bait

- Policy 2.2 (i)** Bait fishing will only be permitted in waters that have no bag limits or no size limits.
- (ii)** Bait in the Eastern Region shall only include;
- Natural fly.
 - Natural insect.
 - Natural spider.
 - Natural worm or worms.
 - Natural crustacean.
 - Natural fish (excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc), and fish can only be sourced from the water where the fishing is to occur).
 - Uncoloured bread dough.

Boats in winter shoreline areas

Policy 2.3 Fishing from a boat shall not be permitted in designated winter shoreline fishing areas.

3. Biological Regulations

Biological regulations are required to ensure the sustainability of the trout populations or fishing opportunities, or to provide for specific management objectives. Criteria for biological based regulations will generally be qualitative in nature and based upon dive counts, trap runs, angler surveys etc.

Policy 3.1 The biological regulations applied to waters shall be based upon the following table.

| Category | Description | Regulation Applied |
|---|--|---|
| <i>Sustainability I</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate recruitment of juveniles to provide later harvest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect spawning rearing waters. Closure of waters and season length most effective tool. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close waters to fishing if they provide significant proportion of recruitment. Length of closure related to importance of contribution, availability of other spawning, fishing opportunity potentially provided and duration of spawning. |
| <i>Sustainability II</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate survival of adults to spawn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect sufficient fish through to maturity to enable them to spawn. Size limits most effective tool for protecting fish. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size limits guarantee protection of fish to maturity. Size limits can be adjusted based upon knowledge of harvest rates. |
| <i>Harvest Allocation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share available harvest Bag limit most effective. | Moderate or high demand & limited fish availability. | River fisheries that attract moderate to high use and/or contain limited numbers of fish (currently 2 fish bag limit) |
| | High demand & high fish availability. | Restrict excessive fish harvest to enable equitable allocation (currently 8 fish) |
| | Low demand & high fish availability. | No bag limit. |
| <i>Management Objective</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance specific component | Enhance specific component of fishery for deliberate management objective, e.g. Okataina size limit. | Combinations of size limits, season length and bag limits. Requires specific project proposal and justification. |

4. Review Process

Following the formal adoption of this policy, the first step is to review the existing regulations and identify any changes that will be necessary to ensure that they comply.

In future, changes to regulations will be based upon this policy framework. Future reviews of the Anglers Notice will be guided by the policies adopted. Changes will occur if there are either changes in intensity of angler use or changes in biological factors influencing a fishery. The other mechanism to cause change would be through the review of the threshold criteria that differentiate the various categories of regulation.

An example of how changes might occur in future is given below.

- The current level of angling intensity on River X has been calculated to be 135 visits per 100m per season. This is derived from a National Angler Survey estimate of 2030 angler visits and a 1500m fishable length (Angler Access Database Information) and therefore fits the stream into the Lake based fisheries moderate intensity category.
- New Angler Survey figures are obtained that shows angler use has increased to 4500 visits per season. An additional 300m of fishable water has been opening due to a new esplanade reserve being created as a result of subdivision. When both these factors are taken into account the angling intensity has now increased to 250 visits per 100m per season.
- Angling Intensity on River X has gone from the Lake Fisheries moderate category (10-200 visits per 100m per season) to the high category (>200). As a result the River X would become a water which was designated fly fishing only.

11. GOVERNANCE INDUCTION PRESENTATION

Ref: 7.02.01

5 February 2016

1. Purpose

To provide an induction on governance and discuss what it means for Councils and Councillors.

2. Background

With the election of the new Eastern Fish and Game Council in November 2015 it is appropriate to have an induction session for Councillors on governance. Robert Sowman is the Policy and Planning Manager for the New Zealand Council Office and will deliver a presentation on the principles of governance and what it means in practical terms. The presentation will include an overview of Fish and Game's Governance Policies and the Standing Orders we operate under (the rulebook we refer to for conducting meetings). Time will be available to examine some examples and how the principles and rules of governance would or should be applied to these.

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council receives and discusses the Governance Induction Presentation.*

12. 2015 FISH AND GAME ELECTION PROCESS

Ref: 7.01.01

5 February 2016

1. Purpose

To discuss the recent Fish and Game Council election process and identify changes or improvements that can be made for recommendation to the New Zealand Council.

2. Background

At Eastern Fish and Game Council's meeting in November 2015, as has been the case elsewhere (e.g. Hawke's Bay), concerns were raised in relation to the election process and some of the provisions associated, or not associated with the legislation governing it. It was agreed these would be given further consideration at this meeting.

Issues include the following, some of which were discussed after the 2012 election:

- The relatively poor participation of licence holders in the election process and the relatively small percentage of the eligible, enrolled voters who actually voted. It has been suggested that all licence holders should automatically be enrolled rather than being given the option but this still does not address the issue of enrolled licence holders not voting.
- The ability for licence holders in one Fish & Game Region to transfer their enrolment and vote in another region.
- Eligibility to vote as a secondary licence holder on a family licence.
- No provision for rejecting or requiring factually incorrect statements in candidates' profiles to be amended.
- No provisions for declaring an election null and void or putting in place interim arrangements should that occur.

The Returning Officer for the election, Warwick Lampp, has suggested a number of improvements that could be made to the process, and his report is included in the Papers for Information for this meeting.

The Fish and Game Election process is controlled by Section 26 of the Conservation Act and the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations (1990). These set specific conditions on who is eligible to stand and vote and the timing around the election process. Any changes to the current Fish & Game electoral process would require changes to this empowering legislation. After the 2009 Fish and Game election, 17 changes were suggested to the election conditions (after regional consultation) but only a few changes were made due to the need for legislative change and the inability to promote this over other government priorities. While this may again prove to be the case, the New Zealand Council office is currently working on another paper for consideration by the NZ Council to promote changes to the Fish and Game Elections regulations and invites feedback from this Council on matters of possible concern.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council discusses the Fish & Game Election process and identifies changes it would like to see incorporated into future Fish and Game Council elections.

13. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Conservation Boards

- *Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board*
- *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*
- *East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board*

13.2 Reports from other agencies

- Department of Conservation, Central North Island Region (Taupo, Rotorua, BoP)
- Department of Conservation, Lower North Island Region (Gisborne, Wairoa)

13.3 Report from New Zealand Council

A précis of the Council's last meeting held in Hamilton on 20 & 22 November 2015 is provided in the Papers for Information for this meeting.

14. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

14.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

6 February 2016

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Regional river fisheries monitoring programme

A number of questions have been raised regarding the state of the Motu River fishery over the past season. These have come via angler concerns directly to the office as well as press articles. Once the current Waioeka/Ruakituri monitoring programme has been completed, which weather permitting it will be later this month, staff will initiate an investigation of the Motu and Takaputahi Rivers. This will include drift diving surveys and all going well will get underway in late February.

Rangitaiki River Water Quality Monitoring

Fish & Game will undertake drift dives in late February to assess the number of trout present in historically surveyed river stretches and collect water quality parameters from the upper Rangitaiki River within the Kaingaroa Forest. The data collected will add to Fish & Game's knowledge of the area and be used in support of concerns we've communicated to Bay of Plenty Regional Council in relation to impacts of changing land uses in the catchment on water quality. During the 2013 summer drift dives it was noted that there had been large disturbance to in stream habitats which Regional Council scientists attributed to smothering by periphyton. It will be of great interest to observe what the situation is this year.

1112 Datawatch

During the four and a half months since the 1 October opening of the fishing season, a total of 220 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The origin of these tags is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Lake Okareka | 2 |
| Lake Okataina | 45 |
| Lake Rerewhakaaitu | 11 |
| Lake Rotoehu | 21 |
| Lake Rotoiti | 64 |
| Lake Rotoma | 2 |
| Lake Rotorua | 7 |
| Lake Tarawera | 66 |
| Lake Tutira | 2 |
| Lake Waikaremoana | 0 |

**Datawatch returns (entered to 15/01/2016)*

This total is 25 tags ahead of the number returned over the approximately same period in 2015. Lakes Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Rerewhakaaitu returns in particular were well up for this period. Lakes Tarawera, Okataina and Tutira were just ahead of the previous season's tallies, and Lakes Okareka, Rotoma and Rotorua were just behind. Waikaremoana has not had

returns logged at this stage. The fish liberated during April 2015 will now have reached legal size (350mm).

Not included in the tallies are two 'red promotional tags' caught from Lake Tarawera shortly after the opening of the 2015 season.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The Waikaremoana monitoring buoy has been offline for a number of months. There are issues with the sensor lines being snagged on either a mooring line, a sunken tree, or the substrate. Staff are hoping to free the sensor chains in February 2016. JFB Environmental will be contracted to assist with this work. Following this, the unit will be sent to Waikato University for maintenance and an assessment of how this issue could be prevented from occurring again.

Lake Waikaremoana Fishery Investigation/Summer Creel

Staff have undertaken creel surveys and compliance work at Waikaremoana during December and January, and this work will be continued during February. Relatively low numbers of anglers have been encountered but fishing reports have been encouraging. Angling during early morning and evening has produced results while middle of the day has proved hard with bright conditions and warmer surface waters.

1115 Lake Fisheries Research

Ngongotaha Stream trap

Low numbers of trout were trapped in the Ngongotaha fish trap during October 2015. No 10 pound plus fish were measured. Brown trout made up 14% of the trap run.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (October 2015)

| | <i>Av. Length</i> | <i>Av. Weight</i> | <i>Trap Run</i> | <i>Fish/night</i> | <i>10 pound+</i> | <i>% Brown</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Rainbow</i> | 500 | 1.70 | 37 | 4 | 0 | |
| <i>Brown</i> | 615 | 3.14 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 14% |

The Ngongotaha Fish trap was operated for 10 nights during November. The November trapping period was dominated by brown trout with one fish exceeding the 10 pound mark. The largest fish was a 710mm, 5kg brown female. The largest rainbow was a 620mm, 3.5kg female. Size of rainbow trout was greater than that recorded in November 2014 (49mm, 670g lighter), as was the average size of brown trout (23mm, 160g heavier).

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (November 2015)

| | <i>Av. Length</i> | <i>Av. Weight</i> | <i>Trap Run</i> | <i>Fish/night</i> | <i>10 pound+</i> | <i>% Brown</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Rainbow</i> | 535 | 2.11 | 14 | 1 | 0 | |
| <i>Brown</i> | 616 | 3.25 | 103 | 10 | 1 | 88% |

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for 10 nights during December. A very large run of brown trout was recorded moving upstream as Lake Rotorua water temperatures increased. The largest runs recorded occurred on 28 and 29 December when 137 and 138 brown trout were trapped respectively. Just one of these measured however, exceeded the 10 pound mark. The largest fish was a 705mm, 4.8kg brown female.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (December 2015)

| | <i>Av. Length</i> | <i>Av. Weight</i> | <i>Trap Run</i> | <i>Fish/night</i> | <i>10 pound+</i> | <i>% Brown</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Rainbow</i> | 552 | 2.10 | 10 | 1 | 0 | |
| <i>Brown</i> | 615 | 3.26 | 455 | 46 | 1 | 98% |

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (January 2016)

The fish trap was in operation at the time this report was prepared so results will not be reported until next meeting of Council.

Lakes Research

Fish heads are being collected from Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti to further the data collected for the Ohau Channel wall monitoring programme. The otoliths will be taken from the heads and used to determine the natal stream of origin of the trout and investigate fish movements between the two lakes.

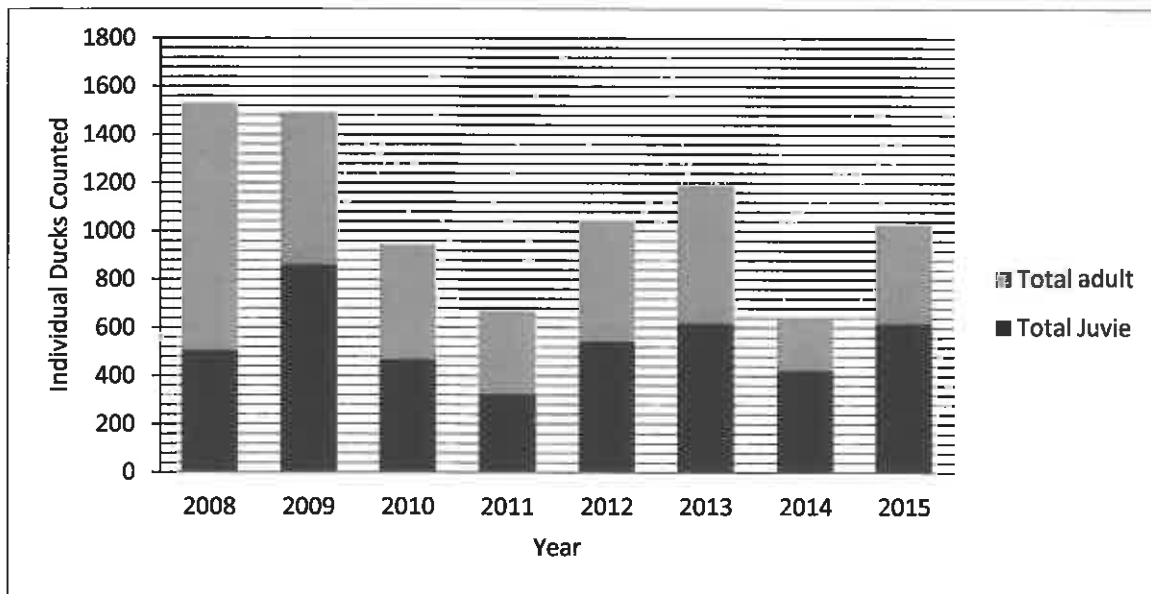
Lake Tarawera Fishery Workshop

A meeting was held on 4 December between Fish & Game staff, Lake Tarawera ratepayers and members of the Lake Tarawera Fishing Club. The purpose of this meeting was to involve a group of concerned Lake Tarawera anglers in a review of the state of the fishery. Submissions were received from our visitors, and staff presented an overview of stocking history, monitoring programmes, catch rates, growth rates, angler pressure, water quality and food supply, information deficiencies, the pros and cons of various management options, and hatchery operations/requirements. This generated some very useful discussion. Staff acknowledge the concerns that have been raised, along with a request for numbers of fish being liberated to be reduced, and are currently reviewing the liberation regime for the lake taking into account data that has, and is being collected this summer. If staff decide lowering the current stocking rate is warranted, this would most likely be implemented later in the year in spring (September/October) rather than in autumn. The autumn liberations (March/April/May) which collectively total only half those liberated in spring, have a greater potential to produce large fish, and in addition to staff having more information to hand before a decision is made, this lends support to deferring any changes until spring. A copy of Matt Osborne's Power Point Presentation along with notes made from the meeting will be emailed with the February Papers for Information.

1116 Game Bird Trend Counts

Brood Counts

Annual duck brood counts were undertaken on the coastal Bay of Plenty drainage network during the last week of October. The graph below shows the total number of adult and juvenile ducks counted each year since 2008. As was the case last year, juveniles comprised a higher proportion of the total numbers observed than has been the case in the preceding years these counts have been conducted.



Black Swan and Paradise Shelduck

Aerial counts of black swan and paradise shelduck were conducted in early to mid January and the preliminary results of these, which are still being processed at the time of writing, will be reported more fully at the 18 February meeting.

1118 Waterfowl Monitoring Programme

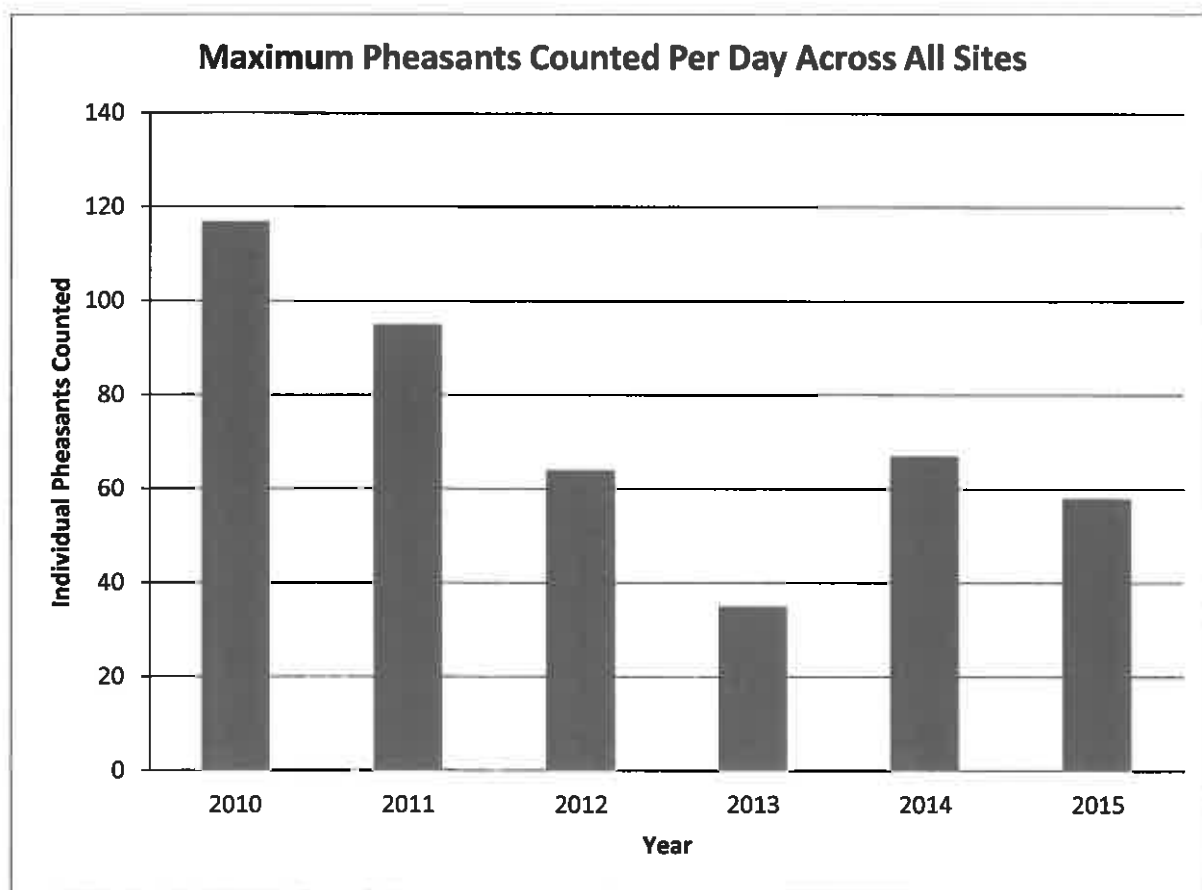
At the time of writing, trapping and banding has not quite been completed within the Eastern Region, but total number of greylards banded to date is 1,216. An update will be provided at the upcoming meeting.

1119 Upland Game & Forest Management

Pheasant Call Counts

Annual spring pheasant call counts were conducted in Kaingaroa Forest during the first week of November. This involves a person driving along a pre-determined transect route in the forest with a five minute listening stop every 2km to count the number of individual cock pheasants calling. There are four transect routes and the counts occur between half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunrise on 3 mornings within a week.

The graph below shows that the maximum number of birds located on any day across all sites is similar to that recorded in 2012 and 2014.



1121 Lakes Fisheries Creel Surveys

Winter Creel Survey 2014-15

Executive Summary

- The creel survey of winter shoreline anglers on Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera has been undertaken relatively unchanged for the past nineteen years. Staff resourcing for 2015 winter creel was shifted due to other key focus work outputs meaning winter contacts (293 angler interviews) were slightly lower than in previous recent winters.
- Lake Rotoiti anglers experienced a lower average catch rate compared to the 2014 winter. The fish caught by Rotoiti anglers during the 2015 winter were larger and heavier on average than those caught in 2014 and were just 3mm smaller than the past 10-year average (596mm). Anglers perceived their catch rates to be lower compared to the 2014 winter. Perceptions of fish size were significantly improved ($P=0.012$) whilst the average satisfaction level was slightly lower than during the 2014 winter. A total of 97% of Rotoiti winter anglers said they were satisfied or highly satisfied with their fishing.
- Lake Okataina creel surveys during the 2015 winter produced a low number of angler encounters, but nevertheless double that surveyed during the 2014 winter. Catch rates at Lake Okataina during winter 2015 were ahead of the 2014 season but just behind the previous 10 year average (0.24 fish/hr). A higher percentage of legal sized fish were returned to the lake compared with the 2014 winter (58% OSRT) and no undersized fish were reported during surveys. The average fish measured was significantly smaller

(P=0.019) and lighter. The three year old fish measured were also smaller than during the 2014 winter. Anglers fishing Lake Okataina during the 2015 winter perceived that their catch rate and the size of the fish they caught were just a bit better than during the 2014 winter. Anglers rated their level of satisfaction unchanged from the 2014 winter and all responding anglers stated they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with their 2015 winter's fishing at Okataina.

- Lake Tarawera anglers experienced a higher catch rate during the 2015 winter than that recorded during the 2014 winter. The average fish measured was 25mm smaller and 420g lighter than the average 2014 winter fish. The spawning run recorded through the Te Wairoa fish trap also indicated smaller and lighter fish over the winter, and illustrates a drop in lake productivity over the past year exacerbated by the elongated liberation strategy carried out over the past three seasons. The average angler's perceptions during the 2015 winter were poorer for catch rate and significantly lowered for fish size and condition compared with 2014 ratings (P<0.001). Anglers rated their level of satisfaction as being lower to that in the 2014 winter. A total of 86% of anglers stated they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with their winters fishing.

Opening Day Creel Survey 2015-16

The 2014-15 Opening Day Survey information has been analysed, and report writing has been commenced. Results will be reported to a later meeting of Council.

Summer Creel Survey 2015-16

The summer angler creel surveys started in November and will continue until April. To mid January 2016, 396 angler interviews were carried out over 20 survey events across the four surveyed lakes. A total of 246 fish were presented for measuring. This number of contacts is slightly down compared to the same period during the 2014-2015 summer surveys (440 contacts from 17 surveys). Windy conditions have predominated over the early summer making it difficult for anglers to venture onto areas of the lakes. A much higher number of fish have been encountered this summer indicating better angling. License holder contacts during surveys have been higher on Lake Rotoiti than Lake Tarawera, but Tarawera anglers have produced more fish to measure. The summer stream mouth fly fishing around Lake Rotorua has been slow to start at the Hamurana and Awahou stream mouths again, due to windy and at times wet conditions reducing the warm water conditions that drive the fishing at these locations. Angling from boats off Awahou and Hamurana Stream mouths has produced reasonable fish numbers.

Awahou Stream angling gained momentum on 24 January with good catches of trout reported. Fish were observed stacked up into the cool water well upstream of the stream mouth. Trout caught from Lake Rotorua have been in good condition. Lake Tarawera fish have also been in good condition for anglers following the opening period, and some positive comments have been received.

1141 Hatchery Operations

Rearing ponds have been stocked with fingerling rainbow trout for the autumn 2016 liberations. Spring releases and external orders will be moved outside after pond repair work is completed next month.

Liberations to the Eastern Region were completed as per the following table, and included rainbow trout being moved to key shoreline fishing locations by boat on Lake Tarawera in

November. Additionally, fish were liberated to the Auckland/Waikato and Hawke's Bay regions.

Hatchery maintenance included re-sealing of Pond 7 and decluttering of the storage and freezer areas. A successful rodent eradication programme commenced in 2015 with aim of reducing damage to nets and equipment.

Three children's fishing events were held for the period and the pond was re-stocked with 2,000 rising two year old rainbow trout. Children's fishing dates for 2016 have been set by the Rotorua Angler Association.

Fish locations at 20 January 2016:

| Location | Type | Qty (approx) | Comment |
|-----------|----------|--------------|--|
| Tank A | 0+ Brown | 2,000 | Eastern and Hawke's Bay 2016 liberations |
| Tank B | 1+ Brown | 100 | Auckland/Waikato 2016 as 2+ |
| Tank C | 0+ Tiger | 2,000 | Eastern autumn liberations |
| Tanks 4-8 | 0+ Rt | 45,000 | Eastern spring liberations and orders |
| Tank 9 | 0+ Rt | 1,500 | Eastern early Rt, summer release |
| Pond 4 | 0+ Rt | 10,250 | Eastern and Hawke's Bay autumn liberations |
| Pond 5 | 0+ Rt | 10,750 | Eastern autumn liberations |
| Pond 6 | 0+ Rt | 10,250 | Eastern autumn liberations |
| RW 2 | 1+ Rt | 4,000 | Other regions as 2+ in 2016 |

Liberations for 3 October 2015 – 20 January 2016 :

| Date | Location | Qty | Age | Species | Tag | Clip/mark |
|---------|----------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----------|
| 2/12/15 | Tuai | 500 | 1+ | RT | - | Lp |
| 2/12/15 | Tuai | 200 | 1+ | BT | - | Lp |
| 6/12/15 | McLaren | 500 | 1+ | RT | - | Lp |
| 6/12/15 | McLaren | 200 | 1+ | BT | - | Lp |
| 8/12/15 | Kents | 200 | 1+ | RT | - | Lp |

1141 Regulations

Anglers Notice

Notice of the review of the current 2015-16 angling regulations for the upcoming 2016-17 season was sent to local clubs on 11 January 2016. The process which begins at the February 2016 Council meeting and is finalised at the June Council meeting, has also been advertised in the February Reel Life ezine, on Eastern Fish & Game's web page, and in the 2015-16 Eastern Region Newsletter (page 7) which was sent to whole season licence holders prior to the start of the current 2015-16 season.

Game Season Conditions

Recommendations based on resolutions made at Council's November 2015 meeting and the results of monitoring undertaken in January were submitted to the NZ Council Office on 5 February. These and the information supporting the recommendations are provided in the pages following.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR THE RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS FOR
THE 2016 GAME BIRD SEASON**

This paper outlines Eastern Fish and Game Council's policy in relation to game season regulations, and where applicable the results of summer monitoring.

November 2015 Council Resolutions

- 12.2** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [15/11/12.2]*
- 12.3** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [15/11/12.3]*
- 12.4** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [15/11/12.4]*
- 12.5** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [15/11/12.5]*
- 12.6** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the 2016 season conditions for shoveler duck be a two bird bag limit for four weeks. [15/11/12.6]*
- 12.7** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council approves the continuation of hunting of pukeko with Australasian harriers. [15/11/12.7]*

MALLARD AND GREY DUCK

The mallard and grey duck population going into the 2016 game bird season is predicted to be 405,000 based on modelling of the population (see figure below).

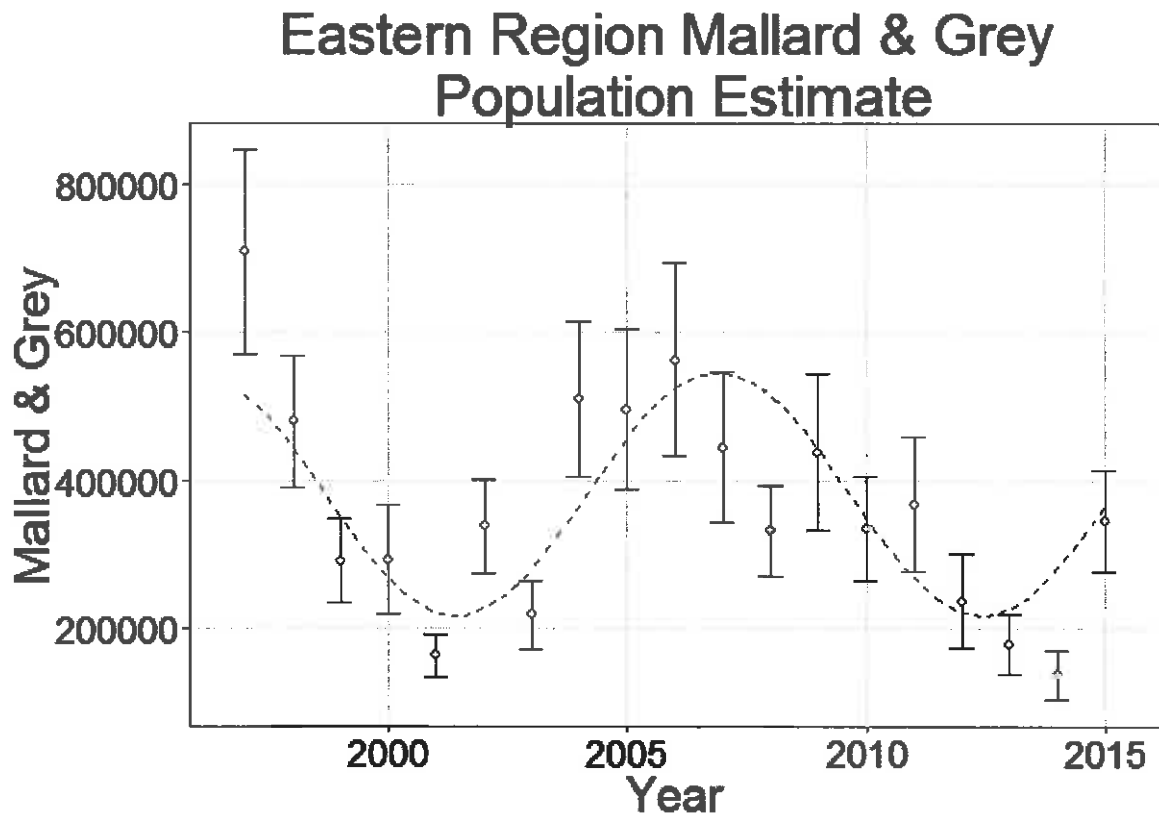


Figure 1: Estimate of the mallard and grey population (mean \pm 95% confidence interval) in the Eastern Fish and Game Region 1997 – 2015. The dashed line is a model predicting the population is cyclic (11 years).

PARADISE SHELDUCK

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Paradise Long term trend | Season Conditions |
| Negative i.e. population declining | Restricted |
| Zero i.e. population stable | Intermediate |
| Positive i.e. population growing. | Relaxed |

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

| Long term Trend (14 Years) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Area | A1 | A2 | B1 | B2 |
| Mean | -0.0329 | -0.0552 | -0.1034 | 0.0566 |
| SE | 0.0629 | 0.0291 | 0.0694 | 0.0692 |
| SD | 0.2593 | 0.0824 | 0.3026 | 0.1695 |
| n | 17 | 8 | 19 | 6 |
| t (0.05) (2) n-1 | 2.1199 | 2.3646 | 2.1009 | 2.5706 |
| 95% CI | -0.1536 | -0.1181 | -0.2251 | -0.1155 |
| 95% CI | 0.1051 | 0.0122 | 0.0374 | 0.2623 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| | | | | | B1 North of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth |
| | A1 | A2 | B1 | B2 | |
| Population Trend | Stable | Stable | Stable | Stable | Fixed |
| Season Length weeks | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| Bag Limit | 6 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 20 |

BLACK SWAN

| Black swan Population Size | Trend | Season Conditions |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Low (below 1,000) | Negative | Restricted |
| Low (below 1,000) | Zero | Restricted |
| Low (below 1,000) | Positive | Restricted |
| Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000) | Negative | Intermediate |
| Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000) | Zero | Intermediate |
| Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000) | Positive | Relaxed |
| Greater than 3,000 | Negative | Relaxed |
| Greater than 3,000 | Zero | Relaxed |
| Greater than 3,000 | Positive | Relaxed |

| Season Conditions | Area | Season Length (weeks) | Bag Limit |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Restricted | All Areas | Nil | Nil |
| Intermediate | A1, A2 & B1 | 8 | 2 |
| | B2 | 6 | 4 |
| Relaxed | All Areas | 16 | No Limit |

| Long term Trend (14 Years) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Area | A1 | A2 | B1 | B2 |
| Mean | -0.0305 | -0.0208 | -0.1240 | -0.0605 |
| SE | 0.0261 | 0.0178 | 0.0827 | 0.0359 |
| SD | 0.1225 | 0.0591 | 0.2866 | 0.0950 |
| n | 22 | 11 | 12 | 7 |
| t (0.05) (2) n-1 | 2.0796 | 2.2281 | 2.2010 | 2.4469 |
| 95% CI | -0.0817 | -0.0589 | -0.2699 | -0.1395 |
| 95% CI | 0.0237 | 0.0189 | 0.0510 | 0.0258 |
| Total 2016 | 7152 | 1852 | 64 | 380 |

| Area | A1 | A2 | B1 | B2 |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Season Condition | Relaxed | Intermediate | Restricted | Restricted |
| Season Length | 16 | 8 | Nil | Nil |
| Bag Limit | No Limit | 2 | Nil | Nil |

EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION¹

1 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2016/2017 Season

| Species | Season Duration (dates inclusive) | Daily Bag Limit | Hunting Area |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Grey/mallard duck | 7 May to 19 June 2016 | 8 | All areas |
| NZ shoveler duck | 7 May to 6 June 2016 | 2 | All areas |
| Paradise shelduck | 7 May to 3 July 2016 | 6 | Area A1, A2 |
| | 7 May to 3 July 2016 | 10 | Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay |
| | 7 May to 17 Jul 2016 | 20 | That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay |
| Pukeko | 7 May to 28 Aug 2016 | 10 | All areas |
| Black swan | 7 May to 28 Aug 2016 | No limit | Area A1 |
| | 7 May to 3 July 2016 | 2 | Area A2 |
| | Closed season | 0 | Area B1 & B2 |
| Bobwhite (Virginian) quail | 7 May to 28 Aug 2016 | No limit | All areas |
| Brown quail | 7 May to 28 Aug 2016 | 5 | All areas |
| California quail | 7 May to 28 Aug 2016 | No limit | Area A1 & A2 |
| | 7 May to 28 Aug 2016 | 5 | Area B1 & B2 |
| Cock pheasant | 7 May to 28 Aug 2016 | 5 | All areas excluding upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region |
| Pheasant, both sexes | 7 May to 28 Aug 2016 | No limit | Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region |
| Cock pheasant | 29 Aug to 18 Sep 2016 | No limit | Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region (junior hunters only) |
| Red legged partridge | 7 May to 28 Aug 2016 | No limit | Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region |

¹Reference to Description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 22 May 1990, at page 1861

2 Definition of Areas

The following descriptions refer to Local Authority Boundaries described on the Infomap 242B-2 Land Information New Zealand for the Eastern Fish and Game region.

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

3 Shooting Hours

6.15am to 6.15pm.

4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

5 Special Conditions

- (1) Unpinned magazine shotguns may be used.
- (2) Hunters in the Eastern Region are encouraged to observe a voluntary limit to magazine shotguns capable of holding no more than three shells with no more than two shells in the magazine and one shot in the chamber. A voluntary phase-in period is in place for the 2016 season, with it to become compulsory in the 2017 season.
- (3) No maimai shall impede the use of navigable channels in the Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua and Lake Taupo.
- (4) Maimais erected in the Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua, Ohiwa Harbour, Stump and Waihi bays of Lake Taupo must be dismantled and removed within 2 weeks of the close of the season (ie by 11 September 2016).
- (5) Any licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take Pukeko. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for Pukeko specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.

6 Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions

- (1) **Pirini Family Trust:** The property is located 8 kilometres up the Bush Road from Pongokawa. It is bounded by Pongakawa River, Rotoehu Forest and Bush Road, Sections 4, 5 and 7 SO 7437 Block IX Waihi South Survey District. The property is leased by N. Raven.
- (2) **Equine Farm:** The property is located approximately 6 kilometres in a north-west direction from Lake Rotoehu with Rotoehu Road and Fletcher Challenge's Rotoehu Forest on the main boundaries. It is made up of 283 hectares being entirely enclosed within deer fence, DPS 17091. The property is owned by Equine Estate Limited.

- (3) **Prime Pine:** The property is located on the Matata Highway and consists of some 120 hectares of pine forest. DPS 58240. It is bounded by Hingston, Fraser, Prinz and Knight properties. The property is owned by Prime Pine Partnership.
- (4) **Harakeke Station:** 1034 State Highway 1, RD 1, Wairakei, being 946.37 hectares in total and consisting of Tatua East No 25 Block, Tatua East No 27 Blocks I, II and VI Tatua Survey District, Tatua East No 29 Blocks V and VI Tatua Survey District, Tatua East No 28 Block V Tatua Survey District, Part X2A Block V Tatua Survey District, Lot 1 DP 330092, Lot 2 DPS 11900, Part Tatua East 11E1B MI 16902, Block V, Tatua Survey District, Lot 1 DPS 90819 Lot 1 DPS 10147 Part Tatua East 8 ML 14696, Block V, Tatua Survey District, Tatua East 11C1 ML 14696 Block V, Tatua Survey District 11B ML 14696 Tatua East Survey District 11A ML 14696 Tatua East Survey District Tatua East 12E1 MI. The property is owned by Harakeke Company Limited.
- (5) **Totara Lodge Taupo:** 1093 State Highway 1, RD 1, Wairakei, being 1,478 hectares in total and consisting of Tatua East No 17 Blocks II and IV Tuhingamata West Survey District, Lots 1, 2, 4 and 5 DPS 61926 Tatua East No 18 Block V Tatua Survey District Blocks II and IV Tuhingamata West Survey District, Lot 3 DP 338327. The property is owned by E. F. Deadman Limited.

DRAFT

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning and Consents

Gisborne District Council – Freshwater Advisory Group and Freshwater Plan

Following the work of the Freshwater Advisory Group the Gisborne District Council notified the proposed freshwater plan on 12 October 2015. Overall the notified plan is pretty good from a Fish and Game perspective, although we did lodge a submission to it in early December covering a number of topics.

Kaimai Catchments Forum

The forum has now created several smaller focus groups to address areas of particular concern with a more manageable sized group. No new developments.

Whakatane District Council

Submissions were lodged on the Proposed Whakatane District Plan in September 2013. Concerns with the plan were generally in relation to barriers to the enhancement of scheduled wetlands on public and private land, and also to the ongoing maintenance of wetlands. Additionally we have some concerns with the activity status of maimai requiring resource consents in some zones, including areas such as Ohiwa Harbour, large parts of the coastal area, and in most of our balloted hunting areas. The majority of our concerns have been accepted in the decisions which continue to be released periodically.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has recently established a Regional Water Advisory Panel. This is a collaborative group with representatives from a wide range of sectors which has been set up to provide context and direction for how freshwater resources are managed in the Bay of Plenty. Bay of Plenty Regional Council is planning to notify a freshwater plan during 2016.

Water Quality

Following the adoption of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management in 2014, Regional Councils are now required to implement its provisions. Fish and Game remains involved in the Gisborne Freshwater Advisory Group and the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel. These collaborative groups comprise representatives from a wide range of sectors and have been established to assist the councils with freshwater management planning, to provide context and direction for how freshwater resources are managed, and to assist in the implementation of the National Policy Statement.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established community groups to look at values and limits within the Rangitaiki, Kaituna/Maketu and Pongakawa/Waitahanui Water Management Areas. Fish and Game representatives have been accepted on each of them including Cr Barry Roderick (Kaituna/Maketu Freshwater Futures Community Group). Community groups will also be established in the other seven Water Management Areas in the future.

The Gisborne District Council has identified ten Water Management Areas and is expected to follow a similar process of establishing community groups.

Resource Consents

| Date In | Authority | Applicant | Type | Resource Involved | Action |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| 5-Nov-15 | EBOP | Claymark Ltd | DP- wood processing chemicals | Utuhina Stream | On going |
| 11-Nov-15 | EBOP | Kawerau Jet Ltd | LUC- hole in one golf | Lake Rotorua lake front | S95E3A |
| 18-Nov-15 | EBOP | Pauls Farms Ltd | WP- irrigation consent renewal | Pongakawa Stream | S95E3A |
| 14-Dec-15 | EBOP | Karaponga Hydro Ltd | WP- mini hydro scheme renewal | Karaponga Stream, Pongakawa | S95E3A |

Koaro Monitoring

A date for the next koaro restoration group meeting is yet to be set. Relocation of trout from above the trout barrier on the Waitarere Stream, a tributary of the Hamurana Stream, was undertaken on 11 and 12 December under permit. A total of 16 rainbow trout were captured and relocated below the trout barrier. Of particular concern to the group (once again) was the fact that eight of the 16 trout captured had fin clips from previous relocation events. This shows that the 'barrier' is currently ineffective at preventing trout from accessing the tributary. The algal proliferation in the stream has continued to worsen since the placement of the barrier lifted the stream level and lowered flow rates.

Grass Carp/Silver Carp Farm Application

A Freshwater Fisheries Regulations application for a grass carp/silver carp farm for fish out days and Asian restaurant supply was received via the Department of Conservation and Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game. The site that has been proposed is in Wairakei (Taupo).

Fish & Game has not objected to the application, the principal reasons for this position being:

- The young stock are propagated at Mahurangi Technical Institute north of Auckland and transported in secure, specially designed fish transport units which will negate escape of fish in transit.
- The site chosen for the facility is securely fenced Contact Energy land.
- The holding ponds are not natural waterbodies but artificial man made ones.
- All ponds will be screened to stop the smallest fish from escaping.
- The Waikato River is 2.5km away so no potential overflow of live fish to the Waikato River or other waterway can occur.
- Lake Taupo is a distance of 6km away.
- There is enough overflow capacity to ensure all water would be held on site in the event of a pond collapse.
- All discharge and effluent from the ponds will be discharged to and processed in purpose designed land treatment facilities.
- NIWA state grass carp and silver carp cannot breed in New Zealand conditions/ waterways.
- Any release of fish from the facility outside of licensed permit holders (restaurants) must have the approval of the Department of Conservation and Fish & Game.

- The venture may foster angling in persons that haven't otherwise fished before and lead to them becoming Fish & Game licence holders.

1221 Reserves Management

General

Scheduled summer works have commenced with Lower Kaituna WMR water reticulation channels cleared of weed by excavator late November 2015. Orini and Bregmans water reticulation channels are to be excavator cleaned in February 2016. Due to significant weed growth, the main water inlet channel within the Awaiti WMR requires excavator cleaning and this too is planned for February. Awaiti channels are normally cleaned two yearly with the last being in January 2015. The scheduled mowing of vehicle tracks within the managed reserves has been completed with another to be undertaken in late March. The locked gates at the Kaituna, Awaiti and Thornton WMR's were opened as of 30 January for two months to enable ballot holders access for maintenance. Should the tracks within the Kaituna and Awaiti become too knocked around, access will be restricted to quad/mule access only.

Renewal of gazette notices for management of the Crown owned wetlands within the Eastern Region between DOC and Fish & Game continues to be stalled as DOC is still to determine who is to take charge of this and liaise with Fish & Game staff.

Awakaponga WMR

Nearly \$30,000 of funding was approved by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Innovation Fund for the Awakaponga Water Proposal. This is considered to be an innovative project utilising solar energy and compressed air pumping to enhance water levels within Awakaponga Wildlife Management Reserve. The system is now operational except for some minor calibration work and fine tuning which will be undertaken over the next couple of months.

1231 Maintain and Enhance Game Bird Habitat

Landowner Information

Two landowner requests have been received since the last Council meeting. The first required a site visit to advise on small modifications required to the significant excavator works already undertaken to create waterfowl friendly habitat within a one hectare open water pond. Planting advice was given and an invitation to the BOPRC land management officer to assist with planting funds was generated.

The second landowner has requested an evaluation of a 2.4 hectare series of wetland ponds to enable better water inflows. This will require significant profiling and will occur in February. The landowner has also requested that we review a biodiversity management plan of the site prepared by a BOPRC land management officer to ensure what is proposed is waterfowl friendly.

1232 Habitat Creation Projects

East Coast Pond Trial

Nothing new to report.

1233 Drain Management

Brigitta Nieuwboer completed the investigation we commenced earlier in the season of the utilisation of drains by mallards in the coastal Bay of Plenty area. This project has generated a large amount of data that will be analysed and reported to Council later in the year.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

General

Annual angler access work continues with maintenance on tracks and access points taking place at various locations. Maintenance work was done on access tracks in the Waioeka River system in November and these are now in good condition. Track maintenance work on the Rangitaiki River system is in progress. Timberlands Limited again donated a contribution of \$2,500 to angler access maintenance, and this has been spent on contractors carrying out work including vehicle based spraying, and track clearance and grooming on the Tautika swingbridge track and the Wheao River access track. Staff time and effort is also going into maintaining tracks in this system to ensure they are usable during the winter season when weekend access is permitted into the forest.

Kaingaroa Forest (Rangitaiki River system), and Waimangu Forest access (to Lake Rotomahana) remain closed. Access conditions imposed by forest managers remain the same as in previous years i.e. unless there is a prolonged period of low fire risk, recreational access will not be open over the summer period. Staff have a meeting scheduled with Timberlands in mid February to discuss access issues.

A number of other access matters have been dealt with including enquiries from anglers, and issues have been resolved as they arise.

Hunting Ballots

Ballots have been drawn and a briefing to successful ballottees will be held at the Hatchery offices in mid February.

1331 Inform Anglers and Hunter

Reel News, Both Barrels

Reel Life was produced in November, December and January covering summer prospects, fishing tips, boat fishing tuition at Tarawera, dinghies return at Waikareiti, licence categories available, brown trout runs in the Ngongotaha, hatchery grounds and tours, and commencement of the Anglers Notice review process in February 2016.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Articles have been drafted and submitted for the 2016 Game Magazine supplement, and are close to being finalised for the newsletter.

1333 Fishing Reports

Fishing reports were included in Reel Life and numerous others featured on Twitter.

1334 Maintain & Update Content on Web Site

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, boat fishing tuition at Lake Tarawera, brown trout runs and summer prospects, access and row boat availability at Waikareiti, access update and track work completed. Nineteen tweets were sent out for the period. Our Twitter account now has 315 followers and received 18, 000 impressions (number of times users saw the tweet on Twitter) for the reporting period.

1341 Information Pamphlets

A stock take of the pamphlets has been carried out and modifications to the Lake Rotorua and Tributaries brochure re-print are currently being made.

1352 Angler Training/Seminars

A tuition day for boat fishers was held at Tarawera on 3 January. Approximately 25 people attended despite very wet conditions.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Eight fishing competition permits were processed for the period. Staff attended weigh-ins at three competitions.

1361 Fish & Game Club relations

Contacts with three clubs were made during the period.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

Members of Parliament

Andy Garrick spent an hour with Todd McLay in November discussing local issues and matters of wider significance including trout farming.

Te Urewera

Andy attended the launch of Te Kura o Te Urewera in November, a draft framework which Te Urewera Board and Te Uru Taumatua will use during the consultation process that will get underway shortly as the first step in the preparation of a management document for Te Urewera. The launch was attended by Cabinet ministers Maggie Barry and Chris Finlayson.

More recently Andy, Matt Osborne and Anthony Van Dorp met with the Chair of Te Urewera Board Tamati Kruger, two Board members (Breese and Bolger), the Chief Executive of Te Uru Taumatua Kirsti Luke, and two Tuhoe kaumatua and Ruatahuna Tribal Authority members to further relationship building. The meeting was productive and very encouraging, and will be followed up with further meetings with Te Uru Taumatua staff. Andy, Matt and Anthony are scheduled to meet with Waikaremoana Tribal Authority leaders on 9 February.

Department of Conservation and Conservation Boards

Both the Regional Manager and staff met with the Department of Conservation in relation to various matters, and Andy is scheduled to give a presentation to the next meeting of the East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board in Napier on 12 February.

1421 Public Communications

Non-Statutory Groups

A meeting will take place with Timberlands in mid February for further discussions relating to access.

Media Releases

Eight releases were issued over November and December, with the first previewing the traditional 1 December opening of Lake Rotorua's trout streams, and Fish & Game's ranging operation. A follow up release noted a "positive start" to the opening.

Several releases focused on liberations carried out during the two month period, including the more unusual liberation of fish from a boat on Lake Tarawera. This release contained a link to a short video in which Matt Osborne explained the work.

Another release covered the long road trip to transport a truckload of young trout from Rotorua to small hydro lakes south of Waikaremoana. The re-stocking of Lake McLaren near Tauranga was also covered; the liberation had been delayed out of respect for two men who drowned in the lake.

In early December a release which summarised fishing-related offences in the Eastern Region, and emphasised the risks that Fish & Game officers can face, drew a strong response from the media. A number chose to highlight the fact that wearing stab proof vests is now "routine."

As the interim managers of Hawke's Bay Region, a release was issued quoting Andy Garrick to cover the inaugural meeting of the new council, the "challenges ahead", and moves to hire a senior Fish & Game officer for the region.

In late December, a release also applauded the reinstatement of dinghies for hire at Lake Waikareiti, and the re-opening of the Hopuruahine suspension bridge at Lake Waikaremoana.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Compliance

Compliance programmes have been ongoing with angler checks and survey work on the lakes and popular stream locations. Over the summer holiday period on the Rotorua Lakes anglers exhibited a high level of compliance with no offences found during this time.

The Upper Utuhina, Waiteti and Ngongotaha Streams opened on 1 December and ranging was carried out in these areas on opening morning. No issues were detected with all anglers compliant in these areas.

The Waikaremoana summer monitoring and compliance programme is well underway and involved visits by staff during December, January and early February. No issues have been found in this area with all anglers encountered compliant. Waikaremoana work is scheduled

to continue in late February and into March. Angler access work is also scheduled in the area, with work due to start on the Waikaretaheke angler access enhancement.

Angler contacts to 31 December totalled 1,587. Angler survey numbers during November and December were somewhat down due to being one staff member being off work due to injury.

Summer monitoring of the Rotorua stream mouths, particularly the Awahou and Waiteti mouths is ongoing. These areas last summer presented ongoing compliance issues, particularly at Awahou when trout congregated in the stream in large numbers to seek refuge from warmer temperatures in Lake Rotorua, and in doing so making themselves readily available to poaching and illegal fishing. During hot weather at the end of January (25th/26th) trout moved into the Awahou Stream. Angler numbers have since increased in this area and we have also increased compliance monitoring there.

We have maintained liaison with local owners of the land at the Awahou Stream mouth, who are very supportive and generously provide angler access to the stream mouth area through their private property.

Compliance checks have been carried out in other locations around the region with no issues. These have included key fisheries such as the Waioeaka River, Ruakituri River, McLarens Falls Lake, and the Ruahihi Canals.

Contacts: Year 2015-2016 to 31/12/2015

| Month | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | Last 5 yr average |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| September | 96 | 82 | 66 | 50 | 59 | 71 |
| October | 1,183 | 997 | 984 | 960 | 1,223 | 1,069 |
| November | 223 | 129 | 175 | 112 | 20 | 132 |
| December | 494 | 598 | 387 | 392 | 285 | 431 |
| January | 466 | 497 | 355 | 381 | | 425 |
| February | 170 | 234 | 151 | 395 | | 238 |
| March | 184 | 300 | 279 | 275 | | 260 |
| April | 340 | 195 | 299 | 264 | | 275 |
| May | 503 | 516 | 446 | 498 | | 491 |
| June | 422 | 209 | 325 | 203 | | 290 |
| July | 224 | 120 | 79 | 120 | | 136 |
| August | 74 | 131 | 77 | 76 | | 90 |
| Total | 4,379 | 4,008 | 3,,623 | 3726 | 1,587 | 3,934 |

1520 Ranger Training

Regional Honorary Rangers

Two new ranger trainees have been approved. One of these is based in Rotorua and the other near Mangakino. They have had a period of initial training, must spend time with staff, and must prove satisfactory for the role before they are considered for issue of a ranger's warrant which initially is for a period of 1 year.

North Island/National CLE role

The North Island/National CLE role continues with input into CLE/training/prosecutions and legal matters.

1531 Prosecution of Offenders

Prosecutions

Currently 6 offenders are proceeding through the court system for a variety of offences. The most common offences remain fishing without licence, fishing closed waters, and using illegal tackle. Generally reparation uptake continues to be slow with considerable effort being required in most cases to conclude matters via this option. Several offenders have warrants to arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in court, and some of these warrants to arrest have been in existence for some time.

Offences 2015-2016 Year

For the year 2015- 2016 year to date we have dealt with 19 persons for 38 offences as tabled below.

Offences for the Year 2015-2016 to 31/12/2015:

| Offence name | Numbers |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Fish without licence | 12 |
| Fish closed waters | 9 |
| Fish with illegal tackle | 8 |
| Fish more than 1 rod | 2 |
| Fish with unattended rod | 1 |
| Disturb spawning gravels | 2 |
| Take trout with net/spear/device | 3 |
| False details | 1 |
| Total | 38 |

Offences Pending Resolution

As at 31 December 2015, 31 separate offences by 15 offenders were pending resolution.

Offences pending resolution as at 31/12/2015:

| Offence name | Numbers |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Fish without licence | 11 |
| Illegal tackle | 5 |
| Fish closed waters | 6 |
| False details | 2 |
| Disturb spawning grounds | 2 |
| Possession of net | 1 |
| Take trout with net/spear/device | 2 |
| Failure to answer District Court bail | 2 |
| Total | 31 |

LICENSING

1612 National Licence Management

Staff involvement with the Licence Working Party has continued with the focus of the last two months being on analysis of sales and reporting. Kate Thompson provides weekly national sales updates and more detailed monthly information to managers and staff.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Staff continue to communicate with agents in relation to licence queries and assistance with Agency Online.

COUNCILS

1721 Council Meetings

Minutes for the November Council meeting and Annual Public meeting were prepared and circulated, and the confirmed October meeting minutes and unconfirmed November minutes were posted on the web site.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1841 New Zealand Fish & Game Liaison

Several staff provided ongoing input to national projects including Kate Thompson, Carmel Veitch, and Anthony van Dorp. Andy Garrick continued to provide managerial services to the Hawke's Bay Region, and most other staff provided remote assistance or were directly involved in the field there in connection with matters ranging from CLE and access enquiries, administration and accounting, RMA and consent processes, fisheries related work, aerial trend counts, and trapping and banding of mallards and grey duck.

ADMINISTRATION

1920 Annual Leave

Staff annual leave accruals are reported each month. Due to employment anniversary dates, the leave accruals for individuals vary depending on the time of the year. We have established leave for individual staff as at 25 January 2016. We currently have two staff members three weeks behind where we would like them to be, and four staff members one week behind. The remainder are in a neutral leave position.

1922 Staff Training

One Agrichemicals Approved Handler certificate renewed.

1924 Health and Safety

Work Place Accident Register

As at 29 January 2016

| | |
|---|-------|
| Number of workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year | 0 |
| Number of workplace injuries in 2014-2015 year | 1 |
| Number of workplace injuries in 2013-2014 year | 3 |
| Total number of workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995 | 28 |
| Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995 | 1 |
| Total number of days since last lost-work injury (7/12/13) | 784 |
| Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995 | 6,672 |

ACTION SCHEDULE

| | Meeting | Action Required | Progress/ Deadline |
|----|---------|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | C15/10 | Finalise previous minutes and post to web | Done |
| 2 | C15/11 | Complete & circulate draft minutes | Done |
| 3 | C15/06 | Update policy database | Done |
| 4 | C15/11 | Record any Conflict of Interest on Register | Done |
| 5 | C14/08 | Opening 1st Saturday - background national position | Ongoing |
| 6 | C14/06 | Region name change – query NZC | Ongoing |
| 7 | C14/06 | Meeting with hunters re Mangawhio lagoon | On hold |
| 8 | C14/04 | Back Country Fisheries – identify | Pending |
| 9 | C13/06 | Tauranga Harbour Swan Management Plan | On hold |
| 10 | C11/04 | Waikato River wetland opportunities | Ongoing |
| 11 | C14/11 | Lake Waikareiti dinghies | Concluded |
| 12 | C15/10 | Rangitaiki - meet with CNI/owners re access | Pending |
| 13 | C15/02 | Consider extra Council meeting for strategic planning | Pending |
| 14 | C15/02 | Destination Rotorua – liaise re lake fisheries marketing | Pending |
| 15 | C15/02 | Invite neighbouring Councils to attend our meetings | Ongoing |
| 16 | C15/10 | Identify issues associated with F&G election process | February 2016 |
| 17 | C15/10 | Liaise with National Office re new H&S legislation | Ongoing |
| 18 | C15/10 | Email all participants in red-tagged fish promotion | Pending |
| 19 | C15/10 | Prepare policy paper for Council on cultural harvest | 2016 |
| 20 | C15/11 | Discuss expectations of Councillors incl. meeting attendance | February 2016 |
| 21 | C15/11 | Obtain more information on status of mallards in Reporoa/ Broadlands area | October 2016 |

14.2 Finance Report

Ref: 8.03.01

27 January 2015

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the current financial position, and approve payments for the months of October, November, and December 2015.

2. Finance Report

The cash flow summary and variance report for the month ending 31 December 2015 are attached. These reports document the income and expenditure for the period.

Income

Licence revenue reported to the end of December is under budget by \$14,843 although is ahead of revenue reported for the same period last year by \$148,455. With the significant shift to online sales this season the monthly budget targets are best estimates and will become more accurate in the next season when the aim is to have all agents online. The increased use of the Public Online facility also contributes to this improvement in cash flow as proceeds of these sales are paid to the region soon after the completion of each month. Licence sales by category and LEQ are reported in detail within the licence sales report and will provide a more accurate picture of licence sales YTD.

Revenue from other sources over the three month period was significant at \$89,539 and this was made up of the following: fishing competitions (\$1,184), tours (\$30), rentals (\$5,587), fines and reparation (\$2,772), kids fishing (\$485), funds received from The New Zealand Council for the Red Tag promotion (\$1,000), interest (\$4,580), and staff contracts (\$47,570). Staff contracts income is ahead of budget YTD (\$41,480) and is due to significant field and admin staff involvement with Hawke's Bay Region, Carmel Veitch's work with the financial review committee and Annual Reporting requirements, and minor assistance to North Canterbury region at year end. A portion of this income will offset additional staff requirements over this period.

Species Management

Within the Population Monitoring budgets expenses are reported in November and December relating to the purchase of maize, and wages for temporary staff assisting with waterfowl monitoring projects. Minor staff expenses are also reported relating to Waikaremoana survey work. Within budget YTD.

The Harvest Assessment spending reported within the period is related to game bird hunter surveys, and expenses associated with opening of the fish season. Within budget YTD.

Hatchery expenditure was significant over the period with a change imposed by fish food suppliers to order bulk food (\$27,386). Other hatchery expenses included rates, fuel and registration, electricity, oxygen, and various materials were also purchased for hatchery maintenance. Within budget YTD.

Habitat

Reserves expenses for the period related to release spraying at Ngapouri (funded by remediation), concrete fittings and spraying of willow at Awakaponga, release spraying at Thornton, and replacement of lock and gate repairs at Waewaetutuki.

Within the Assisted Habitat area expenses are reported relating to possum traps and digger works at Simpson wetland. This project has been approved for funding by the Waikato Catchment Environment Enhancement Trust and will be reimbursed in due course.

Customer Services

The Access expenses for the period relate to signage decals, safety equipment, and accommodation and food for Waioeka access work and East Coast/Gisborne signs maintenance. The cost to advertise and post the hunter ballot papers are also reported within the period. Within the Training budgets the oven and BBQ for the Octagon have been replaced for the kids fishing programme and the hut expense related to electricity. The customer services area is within budget YTD.

Public Interface

Within the Public Interface budgets, expenses related to advertising of the Fish for Gold promotion and grounds maintenance. The unbudgeted cost of the Fish for Gold advertising is offset by additional income from the NZ Fish & Game Council for this promotion.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the month related to the 0800 Poaching service, polo shirts for honorary rangers, and a stab proof vest. Legal fees associated with two prosecutions are also reported. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The fees associated with the 0800 and Internet sales are included within the commission expenditure and these costs are in line with the YTD sales totals.

Council

Catering and travel expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to the October and November meetings of Council. The November expense was higher than budgeted due to costs associated with changes to the incoming Council. The Council meeting expenses are currently \$1,175 over budget.

Planning

Levies were paid to the New Zealand Council as budgeted. The AGM advertising and catering, and audit fees are also reported within the period. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

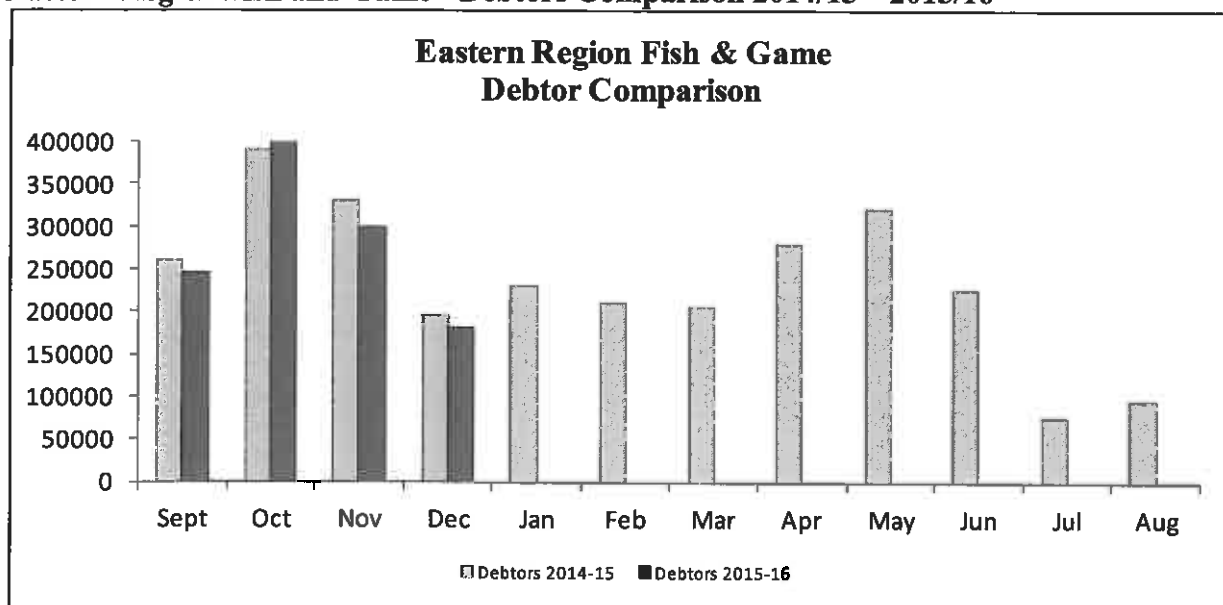
| | |
|----------------|--|
| Salaries | The Salaries area is currently reporting to be over budget due to increased staff time, including casual staff resulting from increased assistance to NZ Fish & Game, and Hawke's Bay and North Canterbury Fish & Game Regions. This budget variance is offset by increased revenue received from these regions. |
| Staff Expenses | Staff expenses for the period were made up of airport parking, staff clothing, and food and refreshments for end of year staff function. Within budget YTD. |
| Staff Houses | Staff houses expenses included gas cylinders and painting |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| | materials for staff quarters, and plumbing repairs to brick house. Rates and electricity costs are also reported. The staff houses area is currently over budget \$471 and this variance will reduce as the year progresses. |
| Office Premises | The standard electricity, cleaning and security expenses are reported within the period. Rates were paid in October, document destruction bins paid for in December. This area is currently over budget \$544 as a result of timing of accounts. |
| Office Equipment | Four cell phones were updated during the period and monthly expenses relating to the phone and eftpos leases are reported, as is the non cash transfer to asset replacement reserves of \$1,017. A small variance is reported within the equipment area (\$173) and will resolve on receipt of credits due from Vodafone. |
| Communications/ Consumables | Communications expenses for period include phones, broadband, stationery, prepaid envelopes, and photocopying. Computer expenses totalled \$463 and include the monthly subscription to Xero, the IMS payroll licence, and the cost of an external hard drive. Within budget YTD. |
| General | Expenses are reported relating to morning teas and bank fees. Within budget YTD. |
| General Equipment | Equipment expenses for the period related to repairs to Whio fuel lines, Parera trailer repairs and WOF, spray unit servicing, life jacket recertification, dive boots, and minor equipment purchases. Asset replacement funding totalled \$681 for the period. Within budget YTD. |
| Vehicles | The expenditure reported within the vehicles budgets for the period relates to six vehicle services, two registrations, eight replacement tyres, and two puncture repairs. The standard fuel expense is reported and includes seven vehicles for RUC's. Asset replacement funding totalled \$5,535 for the period. Within budget YTD. |

Cash Position: \$956,328 (includes \$79,423 for asset replacement reserve and \$451,512 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 31 December 2015.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$182,395 as at 31 December 2015 (\$195,402 as at 31 December 2014).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Comparison 2014/15 – 2015/16



The Region's debtors total for December 2015 is primarily made up of agent debtor invoices for licence sales (\$176,878). All agents are up to date with payments, however we do have one agent who has failed to return books from the previous season and administration staff are following up on this. We can see an overall reduction in debtors due in this new season and this is likely to have been influenced by the increased use of the Public Online purchasing facility.

3. Variance Report

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. YTD actual including staff hours are entered for each project area to provide Council with an overview of the staff time component of the Operational Work Plan.

2015/16 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

As at 31 December 2015

| Schedule Code | Project | EXTERNAL COSTS | | HOURS | | INTERNAL COST | | NETABLE INCOME | | NET COST | | NET COST % | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | | Variance |
| 1110 | Population Monitoring | \$ 38,800 | \$ 6,353 | 2,356 | 471 | \$ 133,160 | \$ 27,212 | \$ 15,000 | \$ - | \$ 152,660 | \$ 34,065 | \$ 118,596 | 22.3 |
| 1120 | Harvest Assessment | \$ 2,160 | \$ 333 | 862 | 352 | \$ 50,373 | \$ 20,684 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 52,523 | \$ 21,027 | \$ 31,496 | 40.0 |
| 1140 | Hatchery Operations | \$ 67,050 | \$ 42,893 | 3,076 | 1,130 | \$ 173,707 | \$ 65,281 | \$ 70,000 | \$ 26,286 | \$ 170,757 | \$ 81,896 | \$ 88,861 | 48.0 |
| 1170 | Regulations | \$ - | \$ - | 216 | 185 | \$ 12,198 | \$ 853 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 12,198 | \$ 853 | \$ 11,345 | 7.0 |
| 1180 | Control | \$ 300 | \$ - | 72 | 0 | \$ 4,066 | \$ 289 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 4,266 | \$ 289 | \$ 3,977 | 6.8 |
| | TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT | \$ 107,900 | \$ 50,079 | 6,614 | 1,978 | \$ 373,504 | \$ 114,338 | \$ 89,000 | \$ 26,288 | \$ 392,404 | \$ 138,129 | \$ 254,275 | 35.2 |
| 1210 | Resource Management Act | \$ 200 | \$ - | 1,212 | 306 | \$ 68,444 | \$ 20,550 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 68,644 | \$ 20,550 | \$ 48,094 | 29.9 |
| 1220 | Works & Management | \$ 14,000 | \$ 2,748 | 1,014 | 418 | \$ 57,262 | \$ 23,671 | \$ 5,500 | \$ 947 | \$ 65,762 | \$ 25,473 | \$ 40,289 | 38.7 |
| 1230 | Assisted Habitat | \$ 9,400 | \$ 2,722 | 1,230 | 313 | \$ 69,460 | \$ 18,079 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 78,860 | \$ 20,801 | \$ 58,060 | 26.4 |
| 1240 | Assess & Monitor | \$ - | \$ - | 96 | 0 | \$ 5,421 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 5,421 | \$ - | \$ 5,421 | 0.0 |
| 1250 | Lake Waikaremoana | \$ - | \$ - | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 0.0 |
| | TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MANGROVES | \$ 23,600 | \$ 5,471 | 3,552 | 1,078 | \$ 200,568 | \$ 62,299 | \$ 5,500 | \$ 947 | \$ 218,668 | \$ 66,823 | \$ 151,844 | 30.6 |
| 1310 | Access | \$ 7,000 | \$ 1,902 | 787 | 538 | \$ 44,443 | \$ 18,220 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 51,443 | \$ 21,022 | \$ 30,421 | 40.9 |
| 1330 | Newsletters | \$ 13,000 | \$ 8,339 | 506 | 47 | \$ 28,575 | \$ 2,702 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 41,575 | \$ 11,037 | \$ 30,537 | 26.5 |
| 1340 | Other Publications | \$ 2,010 | \$ - | 102 | 0 | \$ 5,760 | \$ 202 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 7,760 | \$ 202 | \$ 7,558 | 2.6 |
| 1350 | Training | \$ 600 | \$ 664 | 888 | 338 | \$ 50,712 | \$ 19,162 | \$ 13,500 | \$ 3,246 | \$ 37,812 | \$ 16,600 | \$ 21,211 | 43.9 |
| 1360 | Club Relations | \$ - | \$ - | 124 | 0 | \$ 7,003 | \$ 116 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 7,003 | \$ 116 | \$ 6,887 | 1.7 |
| 1370 | Huts | \$ 1,450 | \$ 497 | 28 | 0 | \$ 1,581 | \$ - | \$ -400 | \$ - | \$ 2,631 | \$ 430 | \$ 2,201 | 16.3 |
| | TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIPATION | \$ 24,050 | \$ 11,251 | 2,445 | 716 | \$ 138,074 | \$ 41,403 | \$ 13,900 | \$ 3,246 | \$ 148,224 | \$ 49,408 | \$ 98,816 | 33.3 |
| 1410 | Liaison | \$ - | \$ - | 156 | 78 | \$ 8,810 | \$ 4,581 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 8,810 | \$ 4,581 | \$ 4,229 | 52.0 |
| 1420 | Communication | \$ 800 | \$ - | 320 | 79 | \$ 18,071 | \$ 2,818 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 18,871 | \$ 2,818 | \$ 16,053 | 14.9 |
| 1440 | Public Promotions | \$ 3,500 | \$ 2,950 | 172 | 38 | \$ 9,713 | \$ 1,893 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 13,213 | \$ 4,843 | \$ 8,370 | 36.7 |
| 1450 | Visitor Facilities/Education | \$ 400 | \$ 461 | 630 | 306 | \$ 35,577 | \$ 11,272 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 35,977 | \$ 11,723 | \$ 24,254 | 32.6 |
| | TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE | \$ 4,700 | \$ 3,401 | 1,278 | 356 | \$ 72,171 | \$ 20,564 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 76,871 | \$ 23,985 | \$ 52,906 | 31.2 |
| 1510 | Ranging | \$ 2,100 | \$ 896 | 916 | 306 | \$ 51,728 | \$ 17,818 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 53,828 | \$ 18,516 | \$ 35,312 | 34.4 |
| 1520 | Ranger Training | \$ 1,000 | \$ - | 108 | 14 | \$ 6,099 | \$ 809 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 7,099 | \$ 809 | \$ 6,290 | 11.4 |
| 1530 | Compliance Prosecutions | \$ 4,500 | \$ 900 | 348 | 144 | \$ 19,652 | \$ 6,720 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 2,303 | \$ 18,152 | \$ 5,327 | \$ 12,825 | 29.3 |
| | TOTAL - COMPLIANCE | \$ 7,600 | \$ 1,598 | 1,372 | 439 | \$ 77,479 | \$ 25,348 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 2,293 | \$ 79,079 | \$ 24,853 | \$ 54,427 | 31.2 |
| 1610 | Licensing | \$ 800 | \$ - | 468 | 108 | \$ 26,429 | \$ 10,584 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 27,229 | \$ 10,584 | \$ 16,665 | 38.8 |
| 1620 | Agent Servicing | \$ - | \$ - | 220 | 54 | \$ 12,424 | \$ 3,035 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 12,424 | \$ - | \$ 12,424 | 0.0 |
| | TOTAL - LICENSING | \$ 800 | \$ - | 688 | 235 | \$ 38,853 | \$ 13,599 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 39,653 | \$ 10,564 | \$ 29,089 | 26.6 |
| 1710 | Council Elections | \$ - | \$ - | 64 | 17 | \$ 3,614 | \$ 578 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,614 | \$ - | \$ 3,614 | 0.0 |
| 1720 | Council Meetings | \$ 10,000 | \$ 3,476 | 710 | 209 | \$ 40,095 | \$ 14,972 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 50,095 | \$ 18,147 | \$ 31,948 | 36.2 |
| | TOTAL - COUNCILS | \$ 10,000 | \$ 3,476 | 774 | 269 | \$ 43,709 | \$ 15,550 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 53,709 | \$ 18,147 | \$ 35,563 | 33.8 |
| 1810 | Management Planning | \$ - | \$ - | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 0.0 |
| 1820 | Annual Planning | \$ - | \$ - | 190 | 0 | \$ 10,730 | \$ 347 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 10,730 | \$ - | \$ 10,730 | 0.0 |
| 1830 | Reporting/Audit | \$ 9,700 | \$ 6,884 | 514 | 238 | \$ 29,027 | \$ 13,815 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 38,727 | \$ 20,709 | \$ 18,017 | 53.5 |
| 1840 | National Liaison | \$ 250 | \$ - | 284 | 0 | \$ 16,038 | \$ 5,636 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 16,288 | \$ 5,643 | \$ 10,645 | 34.6 |
| | TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING | \$ 9,950 | \$ 6,901 | 988 | 343 | \$ 55,794 | \$ 19,798 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 65,744 | \$ 26,352 | \$ 39,392 | 40.1 |
| | TOTAL | \$ 186,600 | \$ 81,876 | 17,711 | 5,413 | \$ 1,000,172 | \$ 312,899 | \$ 114,400 | \$ 32,774 | \$ 1,074,372 | \$ 350,041 | \$ 716,331 | 33.3 |

| OVERHEADS | | EXTERNAL COSTS | | NETABLE INCOME | | NET COST | | NET COST | | % |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| | | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | |
| 1910 | Salaries | \$ 867,117 | \$ 813,061 | \$ 24,360 | \$ 47,370 | \$ 842,757 | \$ 265,491 | \$ 577,266 | \$ 577,266 | 31.5 |
| 1920 | Staff Expenses | \$ 28,410 | \$ 1,357 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 28,400 | \$ 1,357 | \$ 25,043 | \$ 25,043 | 5.1 |
| 1930 | Staff Houses | \$ 6,320 | \$ 3,914 | \$ 20,240 | \$ 7,103 | \$ (13,920) | \$ (3,197) | \$ (10,723) | \$ (10,723) | 23.0 |
| 1940 | Office Premises | \$ 19,400 | \$ 8,884 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 19,400 | \$ 8,884 | \$ 10,516 | \$ 10,516 | 45.8 |
| 1950 | Office Equipment | \$ 7,965 | \$ 3,493 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 7,965 | \$ 3,493 | \$ 4,472 | \$ 4,472 | 43.9 |
| 1960 | Communications/Consumables | \$ 21,300 | \$ 6,758 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 21,300 | \$ 6,755 | \$ 14,545 | \$ 14,545 | 31.7 |
| 1970 | General | \$ 9,370 | \$ 6,222 | \$ 7,370 | \$ 5,832 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 380 | \$ 1,610 | \$ 1,610 | 19.5 |
| 1980 | General Equipment | \$ 19,722 | \$ 7,002 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 19,722 | \$ 7,002 | \$ 12,720 | \$ 12,720 | 35.5 |
| 1990 | Vehicle | \$ 74,548 | \$ 2,248 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 74,548 | \$ 22,724 | \$ 51,824 | \$ 51,824 | 30.5 |
| | Administration | \$ 1,052,142 | \$ 373,404 | \$ 51,970 | \$ 60,505 | \$ 1,000,172 | \$ 312,889 | \$ 687,273 | \$ 687,273 | 31.3 |
| | Total Overhead Net Cost | | | \$ 1,000,172 | \$ 312,889 | | | | | |
| | Total Outputs Staff Hours | | | \$ 17,711 | \$ 5,413 | | | | | |
| | Internal Cost Per Hour | | | 56.47 | 57.81 | | | | | |

2015/16 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

| Schedule C Code | Output | EXTERNAL COSTS | | HOURS | | INTERNAL COST | | NETABLE INCOME | | NET COST | | NET COST | | % |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------|--------|---------------|------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------|
| | | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | |
| 1 | Species Management | \$ 107,900 | \$ 50,079 | 6,614 | 1,978 | \$ 373,504 | \$ 114,338 | \$ 89,000 | \$ 26,288 | \$ 392,404 | \$ 138,129 | \$ 254,275 | \$ 254,275 | 35.2 |
| 2 | Habitat Protection & Management | \$ 23,600 | \$ 5,471 | 3,552 | 1,078 | \$ 200,588 | \$ 62,299 | \$ 5,500 | \$ 947 | \$ 218,688 | \$ 66,823 | \$ 151,864 | \$ 151,864 | 30.6 |
| 3 | Angler & Hunter Participation | \$ 24,050 | \$ 11,251 | 2,445 | 716 | \$ 138,074 | \$ 41,403 | \$ 13,900 | \$ 3,246 | \$ 148,224 | \$ 49,408 | \$ 98,816 | \$ 98,816 | 33.3 |
| 4 | Public Interface | \$ 4,700 | \$ 3,401 | 1,278 | 356 | \$ 72,171 | \$ 20,564 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 76,871 | \$ 23,965 | \$ 52,906 | \$ 52,906 | 31.2 |
| 5 | Compliance | \$ 7,800 | \$ 1,598 | 1,372 | 439 | \$ 77,479 | \$ 25,348 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 2,293 | \$ 79,079 | \$ 24,853 | \$ 54,227 | \$ 54,227 | 31.2 |
| 6 | Licensing | \$ 800 | \$ - | 688 | 235 | \$ 38,853 | \$ 13,599 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 39,853 | \$ 10,564 | \$ 29,089 | \$ 29,089 | 26.6 |
| 7 | Councils | \$ 10,000 | \$ 3,175 | 774 | 269 | \$ 43,709 | \$ 15,550 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 53,709 | \$ 18,147 | \$ 35,563 | \$ 35,563 | 33.8 |
| 8 | Planning, Reporting | \$ 9,950 | \$ 6,901 | 968 | 343 | \$ 55,794 | \$ 19,788 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 65,744 | \$ 26,352 | \$ 39,392 | \$ 39,392 | 40.1 |
| 9 | Administration | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total Overhead Staff Hours | | | 5,684 | 3,238 | | | | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL BUDGET | \$ 188,600 | \$ 81,876 | 23,395 | 6,711 | \$ 1,000,172 | \$ 312,889 | \$ 114,400 | \$ 32,774 | \$ 1,074,372 | \$ 358,041 | \$ 716,331 | \$ 716,331 | |

| Licence Income 2015/16 | | Budget | Actual |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| 2015/16 Fish Licence Income | | \$ 1,149,102 | \$ 849,867 |
| | Less Commission | \$ 37,455 | \$ - |
| Net Fish Licence Income | | \$ 1,081,647 | \$ 849,867 |
| 2016 Game Licence Income | | \$ 242,922 | \$ - |
| | Less Commission | \$ 12,146 | \$ - |
| Net Game Licence Income | | \$ 230,776 | \$ - |
| Total Licence Income | | \$ 1,382,024 | \$ 849,867 |
| Total Commission | | \$ 69,601 | \$ 11,948 |
| Total Net 2015/16 Licence Revenue | | \$ 1,322,423 | \$ 837,919 |

| Adjusted Budget | | Actual | Actual |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| % year complete | | % of OWP budget spent | 33% |
| OWP Bulk Fund | | Actual Net Cost YTD | \$ 368,941 |
| Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget | | | |
| | Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies | \$ 183,051 | \$ 45,763 |
| | Less Licence Revenue | \$ (1,392,024) | \$ (849,867) |
| | Plus Commission Expense | \$ 69,601 | \$ 11,948 |
| | Reinstatement of reserves | \$ 65,000 | \$ - |
| Approved Budget | | Subtotal | \$ (434,110) |
| Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund | | | |
| | Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest | \$ (12,317) | \$ (2,010) |
| | Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses | \$ 19,000 | \$ 210 |
| Adjusted Budget | | Total | \$ 143,919 |

Eastern Region 2015-16 Projected Cash Flow - Schedule B

| as at 31 December 2015 | Oct Budget | Oct Actual | Nov Budget | Nov Actual | Dec Budget | Dec Actual | YTD Budget | YTD Actual | Est. Final Position | Total Budget 15/16 | Var |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| INCOME | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Licence | 260000 | 257629 | 150000 | 148699 | 140000 | 128952 | 864710 | 849867 | 1377181 | 1392024 | -14843 |
| Other | 29209 | 33075 | 9299 | 48050 | 5979 | 8414 | 47432 | 95289 | 226544 | 178687 | 47857 |
| | 289209 | 290704 | 159299 | 196749 | 145979 | 137366 | 912142 | 945157 | 1603726 | 1570711 | 33015 |
| SPECIES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1110 Population Monitoring | 0 | 0 | 2200 | 2427 | 5000 | 4387 | 7200 | 6853 | 38153 | 38500 | -347 |
| 1120 Harvest Assessment | 0 | 288 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 550 | 333 | 1933 | 2150 | -217 |
| 1140 Hatchery Operations | 26091 | 27256 | 1391 | 1229 | 5691 | 3977 | 44964 | 42893 | 64979 | 67050 | -2071 |
| 1180 Control | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 200 | -100 |
| | 26141 | 27544 | 3591 | 3702 | 10741 | 8363 | 52814 | 50078 | 105164 | 107900 | -2736 |
| HABITAT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1210 RMA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 200 | 0 |
| 1220 Works & Management | 500 | 19 | 2000 | 1667 | 0 | 381 | 3282 | 2749 | 14149 | 14682 | -533 |
| 1230 Assisted Habitat | 0 | 0 | 400 | 0 | 400 | 2611 | 1000 | 2722 | 69122 | 67400 | 1722 |
| | 500 | 19 | 2400 | 1667 | 400 | 2993 | 4282 | 5471 | 83471 | 82282 | 1189 |
| CUSTOMER SERVICES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1310 Access | 1550 | 951 | 500 | 321 | 900 | 414 | 3050 | 1802 | 5752 | 7000 | -1248 |
| 1330 Newsletters | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8100 | 8335 | 13235 | 13000 | 235 |
| 1340 Other Publications | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2000 | 2000 | 0 |
| 1350 Training | 0 | 26 | 100 | 478 | 100 | 146 | 300 | 684 | 984 | 600 | 384 |
| 1370 Huts | 125 | 84 | 125 | 109 | 135 | 88 | 510 | 430 | 1370 | 1450 | -80 |
| | 1675 | 1061 | 725 | 908 | 1135 | 648 | 11960 | 11251 | 23341 | 24050 | -709 |
| PUBLIC INTERFACE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1420 Communication | 200 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 400 | 0 | 400 | 800 | -400 |
| 1440 Public Promotions | 0 | 950 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2000 | 2950 | 4450 | 3500 | 950 |
| 1460 Visitors/Education | 0 | 41 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 410 | 200 | 451 | 651 | 400 | 251 |
| | 200 | 991 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 410 | 2600 | 3401 | 5501 | 4700 | 801 |
| COMPLIANCE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1510 Ranging | 175 | 210 | 175 | 325 | 175 | 35 | 700 | 698 | 2098 | 2100 | -2 |
| 1520 Ranger Training | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1000 | 1000 | 0 |
| 1530 Compliance | 375 | 200 | 375 | 200 | 375 | 0 | 1500 | 900 | 3900 | 4500 | -600 |
| | 550 | 410 | 550 | 525 | 550 | 35 | 2200 | 1598 | 6998 | 7600 | -602 |
| LICENCING | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1610 Licence Production | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 800 | 800 | 0 |
| 1630 Commission | 13000 | 10166 | 7500 | 5205 | 7000 | 5560 | 43236 | 31288 | 57653 | 69601 | -11948 |
| | 13000 | 10166 | 7500 | 5205 | 7000 | 5560 | 43236 | 31288 | 58453 | 70401 | -11948 |
| COUNCIL | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1720 Council Meetings | 1000 | 1131 | 1000 | 2043 | 0 | 0 | 2000 | 3175 | 11175 | 10000 | 1175 |
| | 1000 | 1131 | 1000 | 2043 | 0 | 0 | 2000 | 3175 | 11175 | 10000 | 1175 |
| PLANNING & REPORTING | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1830 Reporting | 0 | 0 | 9700 | 8754 | 0 | 0 | 7840 | 6894 | 8754 | 9700 | -946 |
| 1840 National Liaison | 45788 | 45763 | 0 | 7 | 25 | 0 | 45838 | 45770 | 183233 | 183301 | -68 |
| | 45788 | 45763 | 9700 | 8761 | 25 | 0 | 53678 | 52664 | 191987 | 193001 | -1014 |
| ADMINISTRATION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1910 Salaries | 66701 | 65901 | 100050 | 108457 | 66701 | 71285 | 300153 | 313061 | 880025 | 867117 | 12908 |
| 1920 Staff Expenses | 308 | 28 | 608 | 92 | 708 | 437 | 2832 | 1357 | 24925 | 26400 | -1475 |
| 1930 Staff Houses | 615 | 0 | 140 | 74 | 1140 | 1216 | 3435 | 3906 | 6791 | 6320 | 471 |
| 1940 Office Premises | 1794 | 2063 | 1098 | 1014 | 1069 | 1807 | 8340 | 8884 | 19944 | 19400 | 544 |
| 1950 Office Equipment | 755 | 1080 | 580 | 560 | 830 | 1278 | 3320 | 3493 | 8138 | 7965 | 173 |
| 1960 Communications | 2115 | 2374 | 1765 | 1335 | 1464 | 1072 | 7109 | 6755 | 20946 | 21300 | -354 |
| 1970 General | 271 | 115 | 271 | 121 | 171 | 112 | 7517 | 6222 | 8075 | 9370 | -1295 |
| 1980 General Equipment | 1444 | 496 | 1444 | 1618 | 1494 | 594 | 8526 | 7002 | 18198 | 19722 | -1524 |
| 1990 Vehicles | 5428 | 4933 | 6229 | 6674 | 6429 | 4737 | 28014 | 22724 | 69258 | 74548 | -5290 |
| | 79431 | 76989 | 112185 | 119946 | 80006 | 82538 | 369246 | 373404 | 1056300 | 1052142 | 4158 |

4. Statement of Financial Position and Financial Performance & Statement of Cashflows– Budget 2015-16

The Public Finance Act 1989 requires that Council approve the Budget Statement of Financial Performance, Budget Statement of Financial Position, and Budget Statement of Cash flows. While this does not change any aspect of the OWP or the way we operate, it is necessary to complete this process.

Proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flows are set out on the following pages. This information is directly obtained from the expenditure budget approved by Council in August 2015 and the anticipated income as determined by the New Zealand Council. The Budget Statement of Financial Performance and Budget Statement of Financial Position are prepared using PBE-SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Public Sector).

There are a number of financial adjustments necessary to move from the OWP to the Financial Statements Budget. These adjustments include licence revenue, asset replacement reserves/ depreciation, levies and budgeted Capital purchases for the year. These items are not included in the Fish and Game budget (OWP), which is used to calculate licence fees.

The Budget Deficit for the 2015-2016 financial year is \$26,514.

The following assets are budgeted for replacement through the asset replacement fund:

| Asset | Budgeted Asset purchases (excl. GST) | Budgeted Asset sales (excl. GST) |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 2 Vehicles | \$73,000 | \$52,000 |
| 3 Computer work stations | \$3280 | |
| Total | \$76,280 | \$52,000 |

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

Reconciliation of OWP to Budget Financial Statements

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Approved Bulk Fund- per OWP | (1,074,372) |
| <u>Adjustments required for Financial Budgets:</u> | |
| Plus Licence revenue | 1,392,024 |
| Plus Waikaremoana Interest | 12,317 |
| Less Waikaremoana Exp | (58,000) |
| Less Commission | (69,601) |
| Less Levies | (183,051) |
| Less Depreciation | (75,092) |
| Plus Asset Replacement Allowance | 28,935 |
| Plus Profit on sale | 326 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit) | (26,514) |

Eastern Fish and Game Council - BUDGET

Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended

31 August 2016

| | Budget | Actual |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | \$ | \$ |
| REVENUE | | |
| Fish and Game licence sales | 1,392,024 | 1,417,987 |
| Grants and donations | - | 38,854 |
| Interest | 18,937 | 30,008 |
| Other revenue | 160,076 | 188,417 |
| Total Revenue | 1,571,037 | 1,675,266 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Outputs | | |
| Species management | 107,900 | 88,738 |
| Habitat protection & management | 81,600 | 66,804 |
| Angler & Hunter participation | 24,050 | 20,051 |
| Public interface | 4,700 | 10,431 |
| Compliance | 7,600 | 6,356 |
| Licensing | 70,401 | 67,535 |
| Council | 10,000 | 9,236 |
| Planning & reporting | 9,950 | 8,961 |
| Overheads | | |
| Employee related costs | 893,517 | 891,774 |
| Depreciation | 75,092 | 79,161 |
| Other expenses | 129,690 | 135,073 |
| Total Expenses | 1,414,500 | 1,384,120 |
| Operating Surplus/(Deficit) | 156,537 | 291,146 |
| Less Other Expenses | | |
| Levies to NZFGC | 183,051 | 233,908 |
| NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | (26,514) | 57,238 |

Eastern Fish and Game Council - BUDGET

Statement of Financial Position

As at

31 August 2016

| | Budget 2016 \$ | Actual 2015 \$ |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Bank accounts and cash | 174,665 | 142,079 |
| Debtors and prepayments | 140,000 | 141,841 |
| Investments | 500,000 | 521,179 |
| Inventory | 140,360 | 140,360 |
| Total Current Assets | 955,025 | 945,459 |
| Non-Current Assets | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 847,397 | 897,883 |
| Investments | - | - |
| Forestry Asset | 77,000 | 77,000 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | 924,397 | 974,883 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 1,879,422 | 1,920,342 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Creditors and accrued expenses | 140,000 | 159,333 |
| Employee costs payable | 120,000 | 115,073 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 260,000 | 274,406 |
| TOTAL LIABILITES | 260,000 | 274,406 |
| NET ASSETS | 1,619,422 | 1,645,936 |
| EQUITY | 1,619,422 | 1,645,936 |

Eastern Fish and Game Council - BUDGET

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended

31 August 2016

| | Budget 2016 \$ | Actual 2015 \$ |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Cash was received from: | | |
| Licence Sales | 1,393,865 | 1,434,217 |
| Grants, donations and fundraising | - | 54,997 |
| Interest | 18,937 | 18,305 |
| Other revenue | 159,750 | 210,894 |
| Cash was applied to: | | |
| Payments to suppliers | 676,221 | 695,028 |
| Payments to employees | 860,644 | 867,668 |
| GST (net) | - | (2,204) |
| Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities | 35,687 | 157,921 |
| CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Cash was received from: | | |
| Sale of property, plant and equipment | 52,000 | 56,899 |
| Sale of investments/deposits | 21,179 | - |
| Cash was applied to: | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | 76,280 | 148,736 |
| Purchase of investments/deposits | - | 86,704 |
| Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing | (3,101) | (178,541) |
| Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash | 32,586 | (20,620) |
| Opening Cash | 142,079 | 162,699 |
| Closing Cash | 174,665 | 142,079 |
| This is represented by: | | |
| Bank accounts and cash | 174,665 | 142,079 |

5. Recommendation

5.1 *That the payments for October, November, and December 2015 totalling \$489,939.27 be approved.*

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>October</i> | <i>\$116,196.07</i> |
| <i>November</i> | <i>\$261,015.21</i> |
| <i><u>December</u></i> | <i><u>\$112,727.99</u></i> |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>\$489,939.27</i> |

5.2 *That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance & Cash flow for the 2015-2016 financial year.*

14.3 Licence Sales Report

Ref: 6.01.05

5 February 2016

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2015-2016 season.

2. 2015-2016 Fish Licence Sales

- 2.1 Fish licence sales for the 2015-2016 season YTD are summarised in Table One.
- 2.2 A total of 80.2% of the annual sales target has been achieved with total sales YTD reporting to be 2.5% below sales issued for the same period last year. It should be noted that one of the Eastern Region's more significant agents, located at Waikaremoana, was unable to convert completely to Agency Online for the new season and as a result sales made via paper licence books for this agent will be excluded from our comparisons for the 2015-16 Season YTD. These sales will be reported on return of these books.
- 2.3 Nationally, fish licence sales are down on 2014-15 totals by some 4% with over half of the downturn attributed to two of the larger South Island Regions. While changes to licence categories and pricing will have impacted on licence revenues for this new season, it is noted that nationally a reduced number of licences have been sold YTD to adult season participants.
- 2.4 Eastern Region licence sales appear to be faring well when compared to other North Island regions. It is thought that Eastern may have seen an increase in "out of region" buyers, particularly those purchasing the local area licence through the Public Online facility. A review and comparison of licence holder residence will be made in due course to confirm whether this is in fact what is happening.

Table One

Comparison of Fish Licence LEQs to 31 January 2016

| SALES CHANNEL | Family Season | | Adult Season | | Adult NonRes | | Adult Loyol Senior | | Adult Local Area | | Adult Junior Season | | Adult Winter | | Adult Junior Winter | | Adult Long Break | | Adult Short Break | | Adult 24 Hour | | Whole Season Equiv. | % Increase/ Decrease on 2014-15 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | | |
| Agent Online Sales | 1685 | 1040 | 227 | 211 | 1424 | 294 | 56 | 489 | 1677 | 176 | 5324 | 29.7% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agent Book Sales | 29 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 193 | 24 | 88 | -96.1% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Direct Sales* | 1116 | 776 | 106 | 141 | 422 | 105 | 45 | 274 | 1208 | 90 | 3138 | 29.8% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Fish 2015-2016 | 2830 | 1832 | 333 | 352 | 1846 | 409 | 0 | 0 | 101 | 763 | 3078 | 290 | 8550 | -2.5% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agent Online Sales | 1373 | 1890 | 139 | 207 | 4106 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agent Book Sales | 713 | 970 | 0 | 101 | 2248 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Direct Sales* | 937 | 895 | 96 | 68 | 2417 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Fish 2014-2015 | 3023 | 3755 | 235 | 376 | 0 | 0 | 3725 | 261 | 8771 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| TARGETS | Family Season | | Adult Season | | Adult NonRes | | Adult Loyol Senior | | Adult Local Area | | Adult Junior Season | | Adult Winter | | Adult Junior Winter | | Adult Long Break | | Adult Short Break | | Adult 24 Hour | | Whole Season Equiv. | Actual to date % of Target |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------------|--------|------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------|--------|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|---------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | Season | | | |
| 2015-2016 Total | 2760 | 2247 | 400 | 800 | 2100 | 400 | 750 | 0 | 500 | 1200 | 4600 | 400 | 10657 | 80.2% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Budget | 3211 | 4036 | 387 | 416 | 1002 | 82 | 7693 | 406 | 10884 | 78.6% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2015-2016 Estimated year end | 10610 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 99.6% | |

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800 Licence

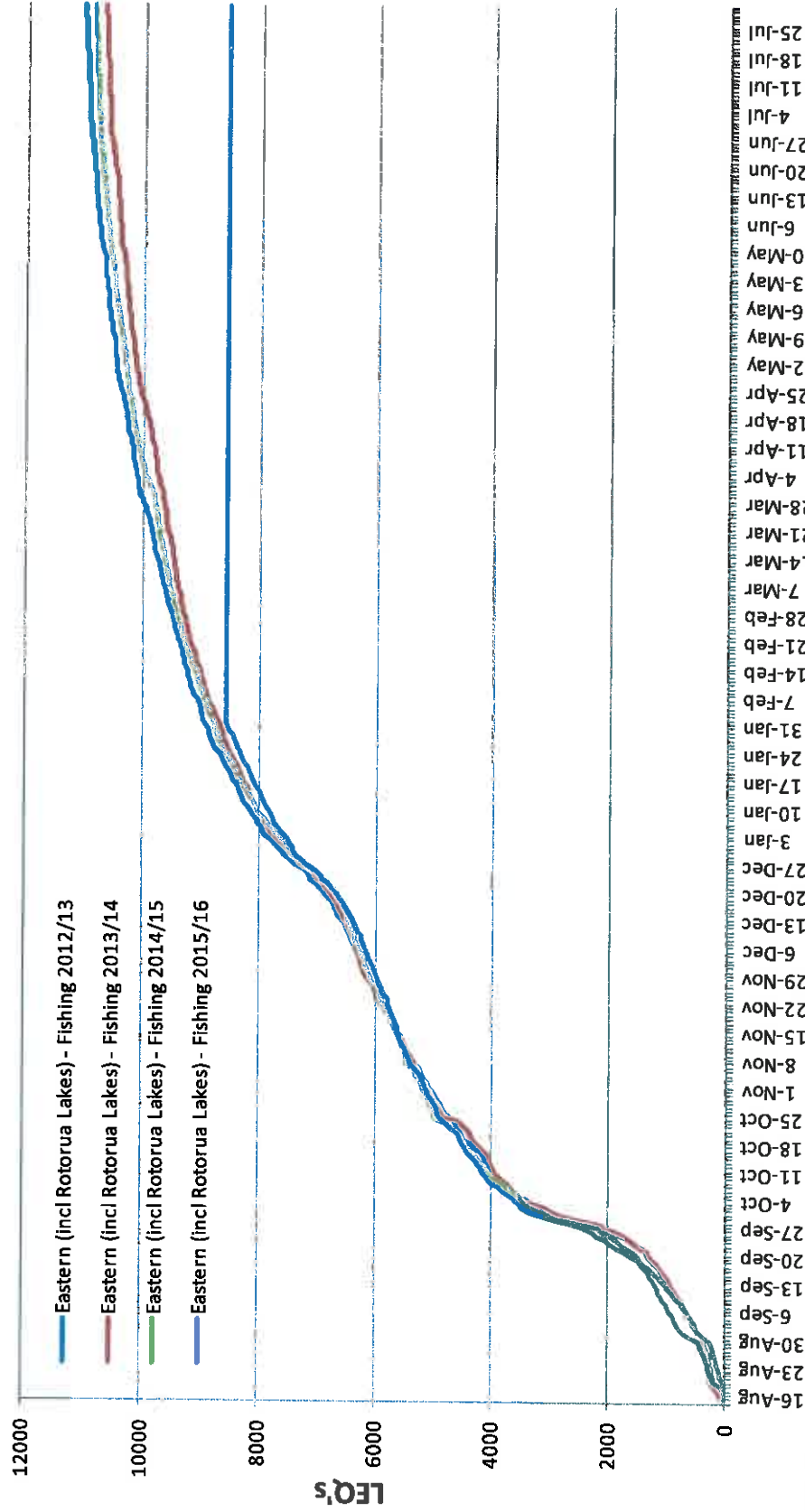
2.5 The Eastern region remains the largest seller of local area licences (1,846) in the country followed by Central South Island region (1,157 YTD) and Otago (608 YTD). The result of this is less revenue per licence, but ultimately it was anticipated the reduced licence price would see a reduction in anglers dropping out.

2.6 3,618 Loyal Senior licences have been purchased nationally YTD. Sales of this category within the Eastern region total 352 with North Canterbury, CSI, and Otago seeing sales in excess of 600 YTD.

- 2.7 While the totals for the short term categories of Adult - short break, long break, and day are just 87 LEQ's ahead of last season, these equate to a significantly higher number of days available for fishing. The total number of days purchased has increased from 3,725 days last season to 6,276 days YTD when we take into consideration the 3 and 9 day options. The question could be raised "are previous season licence buyers choosing to purchase these more affordable short term categories, or have the lower prices of these categories resulted in increased participation?" Recent analysis indicates that less than 5% of 2014-15 season licence purchasers have switched to short term categories this season YTD. This may change as the year progresses and more short term licences are sold.
- 2.8 The sale of the Non Resident Whole season licence continues to increase both within the Eastern Region (40%) and nationally (30%) when compared with 2014-15 YTD totals. The initial issues encountered early on last season and increased awareness of the category by overseas visitors may have contributed to this result.
- 2.9 The two graphs on the following pages show the daily increase in LEQ's both for the Eastern Region and nationally over the past four seasons. Nationally, sales appear to be tracking in line with results achieved in the 2013-14 season whereas the Eastern Region figures are reporting more favourably just below the 2014-15 results. National results for the 2014-15 Season were greatly influence by excellent sales results achieved by some of the larger South Island regions.

Graph 1: Eastern Daily Cumulative LEQ's

Eastern Daily Cumulative LEQ's updated to 1 February



Graph 2: National Daily Cumulative LEQ's

National Daily Cumulative LEQ's updated to 1 February

