



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

5 April 2018

AGENDA

The 169th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 5 April 2018

Commences: 12.00 PM

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 168th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2018 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Alan Baird, Barry Roderick, Neal Hawes, Ken Coombes, Peter Storey, Sandy Bull, David Woolner, Laurance Tamati, and Steve Scragg.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Matt McDougall, Kate Thompson, Lynne Sands, Nigel Simpson, Eben Herbert, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Anthony van Dorp, Matt Osborne, and Mark Sherburn (Eastern Fish & Game); Peter Shepherd (Department of Conservation), Jeff Hay, Ray Bushell, and Margaret Woolner.

1.0 WELCOME

Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 12.05pm and welcomed Councillors, staff, Margaret Woolner, Jeff Hay, and Ray Bushell.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Annaka Davis, and Nicki Douglas (Te Arawa Lakes Trust).

2.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 168th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/02/2.2]*

2.3 Cr Murray Ferris thanked Lindsay Lyons for his chairing of the November meeting in Murray's absence.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (30 NOVEMBER 2017)

3.1 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Neal Hawes) that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [18/02/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 There were no items for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 November 2017.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Laurance Tamati – brown trout and catfish, Te Weta Bay
- Laurance Tamati – security cameras on private land

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

7.1 No conflicts of interest were identified at this point, but later in the meeting when Agenda Item 9 (B9) in relation to use of GPS outboards was being considered Cr Steve Scragg advised he had a potential conflict of interest and would abstain from any vote taken. When Agenda Item 11 came up, and in response to a query from Cr Lindsay Lyons, Cr Alan Baird also declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to captive reared mallards. Cr Laurance Tamati also declared a conflict of interest

during the course of his presentation on Te Arawa Fresh Water Fisheries Bylaws (Agenda Item 14).

8.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

8.1 Andy Garrick kicked off Council discussion providing a brief overview of the process and timeline for the development of the 2018-2019 Draft Operational Work Plan. At this meeting Council was being asked to review its current priorities and identify if there were other areas or projects it would like to incorporate into the 2018-2019 planning process. He noted that much of our work was reactive and/or focussed on core activities, and to accommodate new projects may mean we need to reduce effort and resources elsewhere. Items raised at this meeting would be given further consideration by staff and included in the April agenda for further discussion by Council.

8.2 Cr Barry Roderick asked that Council consider scheduling a strategy meeting annually for the purpose of reviewing and planning for the Operational Work Plan. Cr David Woolner endorsed this and felt that it was important that Council doesn't just do 'business as usual' but looks for new, innovative, or different objectives. Council discussed the merits of doing this and the following comments were made:

- the New Zealand and Otago Fish & Game Councils undertake a strategy/planning meeting annually,
- milestones are identified for both short term and long term objectives;
- ideas and discussion generated from similar exercises elsewhere in the country may be of benefit to this Council and vice versa;
- governance is about setting strategic direction; and
- any strategic discussion should also involve staff.

Council supported the concept of a strategic planning meeting and the flow on that it would have to the following Operational Work Planning process. Andy Garrick advised that the agenda item prepared for this meeting was an attempt to stimulate strategic thinking ahead of the current OWP process, but agreed there wasn't really sufficient time available in a normal meeting to do justice to the exercise, and an additional meeting set up and dedicated solely to this purpose had merit. He noted that we are typically committed to a tight national timetable for preparation of OWPs and we wouldn't have sufficient time to set up a special meeting for the current planning round, but Council could consider meeting later in the year to undertake a strategic review and identify objectives and timelines for incorporating into the planning process for the year after. Council acknowledged there would be additional costs associated with having a special meeting, but noted these could be reduced by having a meeting on the same day as one of Council's regular bi-monthly meetings. There was support for Council having its first annual meeting on the morning of 18 October 2018 in the Rotorua office. It was noted this would mean some Councillors would need to come over the night before and would require accommodation.

8.3 Cr Barry Roderick asked that Council consider rewarding those ballot holders who do significantly more work in the reserves than others by providing them a further year in the same stand. Cr Murray Ferris recalled that this topic had been discussed at length in the past and it had been recognised that there was great difficulty in establishing the level of work undertaken by individual ballot holders. He said that while some need to, or do do a lot of work, some stands/areas did not need a lot of work and we need to ensure those stand holders are not penalised. John Meikle acknowledged the issue

- raised but reminded Council of its support for a habitat maintenance contribution fee which would provide for general reserve maintenance meaning the only requirement of ballot holders would be to maintain the stand itself. He said that this would alleviate the need to establish a process to address the concern of some ballot holders doing more than others, and asked that Council give this proposal a go first. Council reconfirmed this course of action, and Andy Garrick suggested that if Council still had concerns at a later point in time it could be put onto a future agenda for consideration.
- 8.4 Cr Barry Roderick queried whether it was possible to use funds from the region's non-resident licence reserve for proposed research on Lake Tarawera for which funding was still sought. Andy Garrick agreed this is an option given that Lake Tarawera ranks quite highly as a fishery eligible for funding from the reserve using the framework Council recently approved for assessing eligibility.
- 8.5 Cr Barry Roderick noted staff concerns relating to the water supply for the hatchery and its vulnerability during significant weather events, and suggested there needed to be a long-term strategy in place to reduce risks. Andy Garrick advised that staff have a risk assessment and management process underway which will identify specific elements of the system which are of concern, whether there are options for reducing the risks identified, and prioritise actions needing to be taken to do this.
- 9.0 **ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW**
- 9.1 Andy Garrick briefly outlined the process and timeline for the review of the Anglers Notice for the 2018-2019 season. Andy advised that the purpose of the current meeting was to identify the submissions to be included in the issues and options paper to be put out for consultation with clubs and other interested parties.
- 9.2 Cr Steve Scragg queried what had happened to an undertaking made in 2014 to undertake further consultation in relation to spin fishing in the lower Ruakituri River. Cr Murray Ferris advised that the intention had been to gather further information and go to a public meeting for feedback from all interested parties, Council's resolution being:
- "Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Barry Roderick) that regulations for the Ruakituri River shall remain the status quo until more information is gathered and disseminated. [14/06/8.8]"***
- Councillors indicated their support for undertaking this consultation with interested parties as soon as possible. Andy Garrick advised that timing would be very tight if the intention was to do this as part of the 2018-19 Anglers Notice review process. Matt Osborne suggested for practical reasons that gathering and disseminating information and consulting with interested parties should be deferred until the following review of the Anglers Notice. Council voted in favour of postponing the exercise for a further year so that dialogue could take place with interested parties in the meantime.
- 9.3 Cr Sandy Bull queried the submission which related to opening Lakes Tuai and Kaitawa to spin fishing, his understanding being that this had previously been rejected by both the Gisborne and Wairoa Angling Clubs. Matt Osborne noted that some spin fishing was already allowed at Kaitawa, but added that whether or not submissions had previously been considered, all submissions received for the current review needed to be presented to Council for discussion and a decision made as to whether they were to be included for consultation with clubs and interested parties, or dismissed.
- 9.4 Cr Barry Roderick suggested that Council did not require further discussion on items B1, B2(a), B3, B4, B5 as these items had been considered at meetings last year and

- Council had agreed that they would be included in the 2018-19 issues and options paper.
- 9.5 Cr Laurance Tamati spoke to Item B2(b), a submission from the Ngati Pikia Fishing Club, which suggests that the entire Ohau River Channel should be opened to spin fishing to provide opportunities for children to get involved in trout fishing, and for other anglers who do not fly fish. He advised that the land bordering the lower parts of the channel was Maori land and by opening this area to both fly and spin angling, opportunities would be enhanced greatly, particularly for children. Council conducted a show of hands and agreed that this item be included in the issues and options paper.
- 9.6 Item B6 was discussed and Council supported the staff recommendation that the current position of the landmark pole on the Takinga Street side of the Ohau River Channel is acceptable and that no change was needed. Council agreed there was no need for this item to proceed to the next round of consultation.
- 9.7 Item B7, relating to the addition of a definition for the downstream extent of the Mangakino River where it enters Lake Maraetai was discussed, Council agreeing with the staff recommendation that there was little to be gained from this proposal and that regulation was not seen to be necessary. The basis for this was that angler use was not high in the area concerned, and the issue was primarily a concern for the operation of a fishing competition than anything else. Staff suggested the issue could be addressed within the competition's rules rather than adding more regulations. Council voted by a show of hands and agreed that this item would not proceed to the next round of consultation.
- 9.8 Item B8 relating to the opening of Lakes Tuai and Kaitawa to spin fishing was considered to be similar to the situation that had arisen in relation to the Ruakituri four years ago, and had the potential to stir up a lot of emotion. Council agreed to set this aside for now pending the outcomes of proposed changes within the Rotorua lakes fisheries. Accordingly, this item would not be included in the issues and options paper for the 2018-19 anglers notice.
- 9.9 Item B9 relating to the inclusion of electric GPS outboards within the definition of being "anchored" was also rejected. Council agreed with staff's compliance concerns and the difficulties that would be experienced trying to determine from a distance whether a vessel was anchored or not if physical anchor ropes were not visible. Council agreed by a show of hands that the "status quo" should be retained. Cr Steve Scragg abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest, i.e. his involvement in the marine industry and the selling of these types of motors.
- 9.10 Cr Barry Roderick spoke to Item B10 advising that this submission had been considered during the 2015-16 anglers notice review and had been put on hold pending additional monitoring being undertaken at Waikaremoana. He said that the additional survey work had been completed and that the staff recommendation, based on that work, was that there was no reason to alter the regulations relating to the Lake Waikaremoana spawning tributaries. Cr Sandy Bull asked whether the Waiotukupuna fish trapping programme will continue which he felt it should do. Matt Osborne advised that the trapping operation as presently undertaken was not providing robust information and we had been investigating alternative and more effective monitoring approaches with Genesis. Council voted in favour of retaining the status quo for B10.
- 9.11 Cr Neal Hawes spoke to his submission which was tabled at the meeting in relation to prohibiting the use of treble hooks within the Eastern region. Neal highlighted in particular, situations such as the Te Wairoa stream mouth where catch and release of jacks was mandatory and the potential damage that could be caused to fish while

playing, landing, and removing hooks. Matt Osborne provided some background to how treble hooks came to be allowed in the Eastern Region and the national review that took place in 2002-03. The review had noted that mortality was no higher using treble hooks than not, and led to the First Schedule provision enabling their use in all regions. Cr Neal Hawes proposed that if treble hooks could not be outlawed, would Council consider re-introducing fly fishing only to the Te Wairoa Stream mouth and other such areas? Cr Steve Scragg advised that historically this Council had not supported the change and Cr Murray Ferris queried whether a further review should be undertaken. Steve said that there would be no point in carrying out a review if there was no means of altering the regulations. Matt Osborne advised that he enquire as to whether a regulation could be made under the Second Schedule of the Anglers Notice which prohibited the use of treble hooks. Council voted in favour of undertaking a review of the use of treble hooks so long as there was leeway to alter the regulations depending on the outcomes of that review.

- 9.12 Matt Osborne spoke to a second submission tabled at the meeting in relation to an amendment to Section 3.0 Closed Waters. Following some illegal activity that had occurred on our premises, staff had identified a need to set a higher level of protection for properties such as the Fish & Game Hatchery site and those that hold fish in captivity for display purposes such as Rainbow Springs and the like. Matt also requested that Council consider altering the wording for the Closed Waters area at the Tarawera Outlet which currently identified the area between the landmark poles at the outlet extending approximately 150 metres downstream to landmarks in the river. As there were no landmarks in the river Matt suggested that the wording be amended to the area from the landmark poles located at the outlet extending to the Tarawera walking bridge. Council supported these proposed amendments for inclusion in the issues and options paper.

10.0 DATES AND VENUES FOR AUGUST AND OCTOBER 2018 MEETINGS

- 10.1 Andy Garrick noted that at its last meeting Council had discussed the extent to which meetings held out of town had been attended in the past, and that the question had been raised as to whether Council needed to go away at all. Cr Sandy Bull advised that he had since been in touch with the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association, and the Gisborne and Wairoa Angling Clubs and they were all supportive of having Council meet at least once in Gisborne or Wairoa. Sandy suggested that giving greater notice beforehand and advertising might improve attendance, but Cr Murray Ferris advised that out of town meetings are typically if not always advertised in advance and that this had never produced great results. Cr Steve Scragg added that meetings in Wairoa and Gisborne had taken place on a number of occasions, and that it had been a long time since Council had met in Whakatane. Cr Barry Roderick suggested that meeting on a weekday was likely to be a prohibiting factor. Cr Alan Baird queried whether 'local' concerns of members of the public could be raised via their local Councillor rather than having to set up an out of town meeting?
- 10.2 It was noted that Council had agreed earlier in this meeting (refer 8.2 above) that Council would meet for the full day in Rotorua on 18 October 2018 so an out of town meeting would not be an option for that occasion.
- 10.3 ***Agreed (Alan Baird/David Woolner) that Council's meeting on 16 August 2018 would be held in Rotorua, and meetings out of Rotorua will not be scheduled unless they were specifically requested by a group and assurance is given that they will be well attended. [18/02/10.3]***

11.0 RELEASE OF CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS

- 11.1 Prior to the discussion Cr Lindsay Lyons wished to confirm with Cr Alan Baird that he did not have a conflict of interest with this item as he had heard that he might be interested in setting up a preserve type hunting operation if it was an option to do so. Cr Alan Baird considered he did not have a conflict as this was not something he was considering at this point in time, and that this discussion was about "Release of Captive Reared Mallards". Cr Lindsay Lyons believed there was potential for conflict as per the conflict of interest rules. After some discussion Council and Cr Alan Baird agreed that it would be appropriate to declare a potential conflict of interest and added this to the Conflict of Interest register.
- 11.2 Andy Garrick informed Council of the need to consider, and provide responses to the five New Zealand Council questions listed on pages 45-46 of the agenda in addition to a further question raised by Mr Jeff Niblett in his submission as a Director of NZ Gamebirds Ltd. Andy informed Council that Fish & Game had concerns relating to DOC's performance in relation to permitting and compliance monitoring for the rearing and releasing of game birds, but this was a secondary issue that we did not need, or would have time to focus on in this meeting.
- 11.3 Cr Barry Roderick asked for confirmation that pheasant preserves, which have been in operation for many years now, had originally been established on a trial basis. Andy Garrick advised that this was his understanding, and added that the NZC had signalled its intention to review the policy, guidelines and terms and conditions associated with upland game properties later this year.
- 11.4 In relation to the first question posed, Council discussion focussed on the lack of scientific evidence available to support the proposition that captive reared mallards released in New Zealand could be a viable way of significantly enhancing wild populations. It was noted that there was a large body of scientific evidence showing this was not the case elsewhere in the world. Cr Barry Roderick suggested that those with financial interests in breeding and selling CRMs needed to prove scientifically that the release of captive reared mallards will increase populations, e.g. by tracking CRMs fitted with radio transmitters. He felt that the onus should be on them as there would be a significant cost in undertaking this research.

Cr Lindsay Lyons queried the Eastern Region's 2017-18 OWP objective "to investigate further, the merits of releasing captive reared mallards into areas where populations are depressed". Andy Garrick advised that staff have been recording two years' of live trapping and game season band recoveries from c.200 CRMs released at two sites in Reporoa in 2016, and Nigel Simpson has been regularly observing the ponds on which 100 of these birds had been released. The band recoveries have provided some limited insight into the survival and dispersal of these birds, but because the CRMs can't be distinguished from wild birds unless they're in the hand, no conclusions can be drawn as to the extent to which they might be adding to wild populations. He said that the intent of the first question being asked was to determine whether Council endorsed the releasing of CRMs as a tool to augment wild populations based on the information currently available, as this is the justification for releasing CRMs that is being promoted widely. Andy suggested that while it is the prerogative of individuals holding the appropriate permit from DOC to purchase birds, Fish & Game has a moral obligation to those individuals and others contemplating the purchase of birds to be aware of whether or not Fish & Game considers the releasing of CRMs to be an effective option for achieving the outcomes being promoted. Cr

David Woolner noted that the information available to date did not show that releases of CRMs were successful in augmenting wild populations, though it could be that the New Zealand environment may produce different results.

Cr Sandy Bull wondered whether the demise of mallards and waterfowl in general was a result of a loss of habitat, and if so, was there any point in releasing more birds? He advised that there had been releases in Gisborne, and he had received a letter (circulated to Councillors at this meeting) indicating that the game bird hunters involved believed that the majority of the birds they had released had dispersed or remained on site to breed and enhance the wild population. Andy had also received correspondence from western Bay of Plenty hunters who had released CRMs stating their belief that they had made a significant difference to local mallard populations and opportunities for other hunters. Andy commented that band returns did not support the claim that other hunters elsewhere in the district had benefitted significantly, but noted that it is very likely that there will have been birds shot that have not been reported. He commented that all information that we have received to date from hunters and those releasing CRMs in support of their conclusions that CRM releases are making a significant difference is anecdotal, and speculative.

Nigel Simpson commented that it appeared that people applying for permits from DOC to release mallards have been advised to state that the purpose for releasing birds was to augment wild populations as this was likely to be more favourably looked on by the Department than if the stated intention was to have more birds to shoot that season.

Cr Alan Baird queried whether our banding recoveries of wild mallards have been compared to those for released birds? Matt McDougall advised that we banded approximately 50 wild birds at St Legers in 2017 where CRMs have been released since December 2015, and we also band at another site in the Gisborne area, Grandieks, which is just over the hill from a recently established CRM release site. He said we have also trapped and banded at the two sites at Reporoa where CRMs were released in 2016. Matt commented that we had insufficient data at this stage to make meaningful comparisons of wild birds and CRMs. Andy Garrick advised that of the 203 CRMs released at the two sites at Reporoa, neither of which is shot over, four were shot elsewhere in 2016, none were reported shot during the 2017 game season, 47 were re-trapped in January 2017, and 10 were re-trapped in February 2018. Supplementary feeding was undertaken for one year at one of these sites but has been ongoing at the other ever since the birds were released, and predator trapping is undertaken at both locations. At St Legers, the permit holder reports that 500 CRMs have been released and about 10% of these are shot. Banding recovery data indicates that eight birds have been reported shot 'offsite', seven of these within 3-7 kms, and one 230 kms away in the Waikato.

Cr Alan Baird advised that he shoots on a couple of game preserves that release mallards and had queried their breeding success rate. He was advised that both had seen an increase in the number of broods produced on their properties with one in Cambridge reporting their CRMs had produced 150 ducklings. Andy Garrick queried how they knew whether the birds with the broods were CRMs versus wild banded birds? Matt McDougall added that it would be difficult to determine without

transmitters on them and noted also that this year appears to have been a very good breeding year. Cr Murray Ferris queried whether coloured bands could be used. Andy advised that radio telemetry was probably the most effective method currently available.

Cr Alan Baird said you can't say definitively that wild mallards are being decoyed to properties on which CRMs have been released, and commented that if duck populations continue to diminish, licence sales will reduce, and staff will be made redundant.

Cr Lindsay Lyons noted that it was ludicrous that DOC was issuing permits to release game birds, and that Fish & Game should be the issuing authority.

- 11.5 ***Agreed (Steve Scragg/Peter Storey) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council does not support the release of captive reared mallards as a tool to augment wild populations. Carried seven/three, Sandy Bull abstained [18/02/11.5]***
- 11.6 Cr Murray Ferris wished to move an amendment to incorporate into the resolution the concept that until such time as additional information was available Council could not support this. Cr Neal Hawes stated that Council was not suggesting CRMs can't be released, it was simply saying that it didn't support their release as a means of increasing populations. Cr Steve Scragg advised that the motion was put and the question had been answered. Andy Garrick advised that the NZ Council appreciates feedback on matters discussed, so in addition to advising whether this Council had voted Yes or No to each question he would provide them with some insight into the discussions underlying each of the decisions this Council had made.
- 11.7 In relation to the second question some Councillors felt that if Council did not support question one they couldn't then support question two.
- 11.8 ***Agreed (Peter Storey/Barry Roderick) that Eastern Fish and Game Council does not support releasing CRMs as a tool to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels. Carried four/three, four abstained. [18/02/11.8]***
- 11.9 Andy noted that Council might have misinterpreted what this second question was concerned with, it being about populations that had been severely affected by, for example, a major botulism outbreak or avian epidemic of short duration but serious consequences, and most importantly, where habitat values and carrying capacity had not been diminished. Andy noted that in these circumstances it would be highly likely that hunting, if any, would have to be very restricted for a period while the population was being nursed back to former levels.
- 11.10 The third question generated concern that large 'put and take' operations could impact adversely on opportunities for neighbouring hunters by decoying wild mallards to the 'put and take' property. It was also noted however, that this can occur in situations where landowners heavily pond feed.
- 11.11 ***Moved (Ken Coombes/Steve Scragg) that Eastern Fish and Game Council does not support the concept of 'put and take' operations where CRMs are released for the principal purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity. Motion lost two/eight, 1 abstained. [18/02/11.11]***
- 11.12 Crs Ken Coombes thought it highly likely that released birds would draw in wild birds, and that it would be highly unlikely that overall populations would be enhanced as habitat availability already limited the numbers that could be supported. Cr Steve Scragg agreed that the feeding of CRMs would draw more wild birds to a site from what was an already depressed population elsewhere. Andy Garrick said he was

unaware to what extent operators provided feed beyond the end of the game season. Matt McDougall believed that some did, and Steve Scragg noted that some did in Gisborne. Jeff Hay asked Cr Alan Baird whether he knew if the Cambridge preserve he had been to was fed? Cr Alan Baird said he had seen feed buckets but could not confirm if they were in use. Jeff Hay queried how otherwise could they keep the released mallards there? Andy suggested that unless supplementary feeding was provided year round it was unlikely birds were going to be present in large numbers beyond the hunting season or whenever feeding came to an end.

11.13 Agreed (Ken Coombes/Steve Scragg) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council supports the concept of 'put and take' operations where CRMs are released for the principle purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity. Carried eight/two, 1 abstained. [18/02/11.13]

11.14 Cr Peter Storey left the meeting at 2.49pm.

11.15 The fourth question related to whether or not Council would accept 'put and take' operations, if allowed, being commercialised and run along the lines of many upland game properties. Cr Lindsay Lyons suggested that put and take operations could be seen as a pre-cursor to commercial duck hunting in NZ.

11.16 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that 'put and take' operations are to be of a non-commercial nature only. Carried six/four, Cr Alan Baird abstained. [18/02/11.16]

11.17 The fifth question was concerned with the manner in which CRMs in 'put and take' operations are hunted, i.e. some practices could be seen as unethical and unacceptable in the eyes of many, and this could discredit and be damaging to the wider hunting community and game bird hunting more generally. Eben Herbert noted that it's illegal to drive game birds unless a special permit is issued to allow this. Cr Barry Roderick proposed a motion that Council does not support driven hunts for CRMs in 'put and take' operations. The motion was not seconded, and not put.

11.18 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Sandy Bull) that if 'put and take' is allowed for non-commercial operators then those birds need to be hunted according to the game season regulations in place at the time. [18/02/11.18]

11.19 In response to the question raised by Jeff Niblett's query "Do you think you have been supplied with enough information to make informed decisions on the five questions that the NZ Council has asked surrounding Fish and Game's position relating to captive reared mallards?" the consensus of Council was "yes" in the sense that it was able to take a position based on the evidence and information that is currently available. Councillors who spoke to this noted that the anecdotal and unsubstantiated information that had been provided by NZ Game Birds and other parties was insufficient for them to reject the body of science available from overseas relating to question one, though some acknowledged that although they considered it very unlikely, the situation in NZ could be unique as there was no science available to demonstrate this one way or the other. Further to this Council agreed that if the release of CRMs was for the purpose of augmenting wild populations then the operators needed to provide evidence to support this.

11.20 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Steve Scragg) that it is up to those who breed and sell mallards to provide the evidence that the release of captive reared mallards augments wild populations. [18/02/11.20]

12.0 EXTENSION OF MEETING TIME

Cr Murray Ferris asked that the Council agree to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

- 12.1** *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that the meeting be allowed to proceed over the 3 hour time limit by an extra 30 minutes. [18/02/12.1]*
- 12.2** Cr Murray Ferris indicated that it was looking like there would be insufficient time to cover all of the agenda items for this meeting and suggested deferring items 12 and 13 relating to the National Salmon Committee and Species Monitoring Report to the end of the meeting where they would be considered if time permitted.
- 13.0** **TE ARAWA FRESH WATER FISHERIES BYLAWS**
- 13.1** Cr Laurance Tamati tabled a hard copy of a power point presentation on the Proposed Bylaws for the Management of Ngā Taongā Ika (treasured fish species). Laurance spoke to the document providing the background of how it came about, the lakes and the Ngā Taongā Ika to be covered by the bylaws, and the management measures and objectives proposed. He also provided an overview of the time line and action to be taken commencing with public consultation 24 January through to 16 March, with the expected implementation once approved being June 2018.
- 13.2** Cr Lindsay Lyons queried a rumour that he had heard that removal of trout in some lakes was being suggested. Laurance advised that there was a need to undertake some research which might result in proposals for the removal of trout from some locations, e.g. Lake Okataina, but he emphasised this didn't mean it would happen. Andy noted that staff would address issues such as this in the submission it prepared on behalf of Council. Other questions/matters raised that Laurance elaborated on included:
- definition of traditional methods;
 - compliance;
 - definition of inanga;
 - where smelt fitted within the proposal;
 - the difference between trout and taongā species living in the same waterways.
- 13.3** Laurance advised that he wished to declare a conflict of interest and withdraw from future discussion and voting pertaining to any submission the Council might wish to make. He felt it was important that the relationship between Council and Te Komiti Whakahaere (Te Arawa Lakes Fisheries Management Committee) was beneficial to both parties and would like to lead the development of that relationship. Andy Garrick noted that staff have a relationship with the Te Arawa Lakes Trust at an operational level but not at a governance level.
- 13.4** Laurance thanked Fish & Game staff for their support at the recent Tangaroa Fishing Competition.
- 14.0** **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**
- 14.1** With time being of the essence the Operational Reports were accepted and required no further discussion.
- 14.2** *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [18/02/14.2]*
- 14.3** *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports, and approves payments for October, November and December 2017 totalling \$486,260.78. [18/02/14.3]*

15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 15.1 Cr Laurance Tamati queried rumours he had heard of a proposal to release brown trout into Te Weta Bay to assist with the control of catfish found there. He informed Council of Te Arawa's view that it did not want brown trout released into any of the Te Arawa lakes. Andy Garrick advised that brown trout were already in these waters and Laurance responded that while that might be the case they did not want any more put into the system.
- 15.2 Cr Laurance Tamati queried the use of CCTV on private land, such as on the various streams running through private land on Lake Rotoiti, and whether Fish & Game followed protocols or obtained permission to undertake these activities. Anthony van Dorp advised that Fish & Game's use of CCTV/security camera surveillance was governed by the Search and Surveillance Act 2012. He said that installation of surveillance equipment could be undertaken 'as of right' on public land, but not on private land unless the land owner had provided authority to do so.

16.0 LIAISON OFFICERS' REPORTS CONTINUED

16.1 Reports from other agencies

16.2 Department of Conservation

Pete Shepherd provided Council with an update on the Taupo fishery saying that last season was exceptional, and fishing was good up until Christmas. Since then he had heard anecdotal reports of mid summer being a mixed bag with a lot of recovering fish being caught. Access to the river via Troutpool Road had been reinstated and agreement gained from the landowner to put the toilet facility back in. The Department was continuing to work on this and was also looking at options for access to Lake Otamangakau. Cr Neal Hawes understood that there was no road access to the lake but there was a Queens Chain around it. Pete confirmed this and advised that people were within their rights to access the shoreline by boat and camp on it. He advised the Department was also working with Genesis Energy on the possibility of establishing alternative camping opportunities on its land.

17.0 GENERAL BUSINESS CONTINUED

- 17.1 Cr Sandy Bull queried whether staff had investigated what appeared to be unlawful earth works on the Motu River with the Gisborne District Council. There had been further work on the bridge approaches and he understood that no resource consents had been obtained. John Meikle confirmed that the Gisborne District Council had phoned him as soon as they became aware of this and had placed an abatement notice on the works. John advised that the GDC had been in touch with Fish & Game since then too, and confirmed that staff were maintaining a close watch on what was happening.

18.0 MEETING CLOSED

- 18.1 With the meeting having run overtime, Cr Murray Ferris asked that Councillors submit any views they might have on the proposed National Salmon Committee directly to Andy. Andy noted that this item was not particularly relevant to this region but advised that he would consult with staff before communicating any issues raised by staff or Councillors to the NZ Council.

Murray advised Council that the Species Management Report included in the agenda was primarily for information and did not require further discussion at this point in time.

18.2 The meeting was closed at 3.38 pm.

.....
Murray Ferris
Chairman

DRAFT

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- 2.0 APOLOGIES
- 2.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 168th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/02/2.2]*
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (30 NOVEMBER 2017)
- 3.1 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Neal Hawes) that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [18/02/3.1]*
- 10.0 DATES AND VENUES FOR AUGUST AND OCTOBER 2018 MEETINGS
- 10.3 *Agreed (Alan Baird/David Woolner) that Council's meeting on 16 August 2018 would be held in Rotorua, and meetings out of Rotorua will not be scheduled unless they were specifically requested by a group and assurance is given that they will be well attended. [18/02/10.3]*
- 11.0 RELEASE OF CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS
- 11.5 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Peter Storey) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council does not support the release of captive reared mallards as a tool to augment wild populations. Carried seven/three, Sandy Bull abstained [18/02/11.5]*
- 11.8 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Barry Roderick) that Eastern Fish and Game Council does not support releasing CRMs as a tool to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels. Carried four/three, four abstained. [18/02/11.8]*
- 11.11 *Moved (Ken Coombes/Steve Scragg) that Eastern Fish and Game Council does not support the concept of 'put and take' operations where CRMs are released for the principal purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity. Motion lost two/eight, 1 abstained, [18/02/11.11]*
- 11.13 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Steve Scragg) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council supports the concept of 'put and take' operations where CRMs are released for the principle purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity. Carried eight/two, 1 abstained. [18/02/11.13]*
- 11.16 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that 'put and take' operations are to be of a non-commercial nature only. Carried six/four, Cr Alan Baird abstained. [18/02/11.16]*
- 11.18 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Sandy Bull) that if 'put and take' is allowed for non-commercial operators then those birds need to be hunted according to the game season regulations in place at the time. [18/02/11.18]*
- 11.20 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Steve Scragg) that it is up to those who breed and sell mallards to provide the evidence that the release of captive reared mallards augments wild populations. [18/02/11.20]*
- 12.0 EXTENSION OF MEETING TIME
- 12.1 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that the meeting be allowed to proceed over the 3 hour time limit by an extra 30 minutes. [18/02/12.1]*
- 14.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS
- 14.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [18/02/14.2]*
- 14.3 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports, and approves payments for October, November and December 2017 totalling \$486,260.78. [18/02/14.3]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

22 March 2018

1. Purpose

A standing agenda item to disclose any Councillor (“Member”) Conflict of Interest or potential Conflict of Interest, and record this in the Councillor Conflict of Interest Register.

2. Background

The Eastern Fish and Game Council at its October 2016 meeting adopted a policy and rules for dealing 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.

Conflict of Interest (refer s2.7 Governance Policies) means when the member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias in respect of a matter¹ i.e:

- (i) A member can be shown to have actual bias when a member’s decision or act in relation to a matter could give rise to an expectation of financial gain or loss (that is more than trivial) to the member (and/or to the member’s parent(s), child(ren), spouse, civil union partner, de facto partner, business partner(s)/associate(s), debtor(s) or creditor(s)).
- (ii) A member can be shown to have apparent bias when a member’s official duties or responsibilities to the Council in relation to a matter could reasonably be said to be affected by some other interest or duty that the member has.
- (iii) A member’s “interest or duty” includes the interests of that member’s parent(s), child(ren), spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner that may be affected by the matter at issue. It also includes the interests of a person with whom the member has a close, personal relationship where there is a real danger of personal favouritism.
- (iv) There is no Conflict of Interest where the member’s other interest or duty is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence him or her in carrying out his or her responsibility.

A potential conflict of interest (refer s2.8 Governance Policies) arises when:

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;

¹ “Matter” means:

- (i) The Council’s performance of its functions or exercise of its powers as set out in Part 5A of the Conservation Act 1987, subject to the Council’s statutory purpose set out in section 26P(1) of the Conservation Act; or
- (ii) An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Recommendation

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

8. 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

22 March 2018

1. Purpose

To consider proposed projects, budgets and performance targets for the 2018-2019 Operational Work Plan (OWP).

2. Background

Operational Work Plans (which come into force on 1 September each year) are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic priorities, core functions, project objectives, allocation of resources, and performance measures. The process frequently includes seeking Council's approval for the submission of applications to the national Contestable Fund to increase bulk funding for specific purposes.

The steps involved in developing the OWP for the 2018-2019 year are as follows:

- Council reviews priorities and project themes/areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (15 February 2018 meeting).
- Council reviews draft projects and budgets excluding internal costs at this (5 April) meeting.
- Contestable funding bids and draft regional budgets (revised if necessary following current meeting) submitted to the NZ Council prior to 9 April for consideration at the Managers Meeting on 26-27 April.
- Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the contestable fund bids, and circulate second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 14 June meeting.
- Second draft of the OWP considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets reviewed and refined as necessary.
- Penultimate draft of OWP circulated to clubs for comment.
- Club comments considered and incorporated if appropriate into final OWP presented for approval at Council's meeting on 9 August.

3. Outcomes from Council's Meeting in February

Council did not raise any concerns or recommend changes in relation to current priorities or project objectives for the 2018-19 OWP at its February meeting, but agreed an annual meeting dedicated to strategic planning was needed (see February minutes). The current regional priorities are enhancing habitat for greyhound production, water quality and quantity, angler and hunter access, maximising fishery opportunities, and increasing licence revenue. As is the case presently, there will be an ongoing focus on quality of habitat rather than quantity, increased efforts in the area of reserves management and maintenance of balloted open water habitat using funds generated from the habitat management fee that will apply to balloted stand hunters next year, management and enhancement of drains, and enhancement of habitat on farmland. Ongoing monitoring will be undertaken at Waikaremoana but to a lesser extent than that which has applied over the past three years, and further effort will be put into investigating and improving access to Wairoa catchment fisheries and investigating East Coast fisheries north of Gisborne (hours permitting). Staff will continue to press for

greater access to the Rangitaiki River fishery, and will endeavour to increase the amount of creel survey data collected from winter shoreline and summer creel surveys. The Lake Tarawera fishery research programme developed this year will hopefully be up and running in 2018-19 subject to supplementary funding being secured from other agencies. Another tagged trout fishing promotion has been programmed for the opening of the 2018 fishing season and opportunities will again be made available for junior hunters during the 2019 game season subject to Council's approval. A new project has been provided for in the draft OWP, this being development of a 'fish out' facility of some sort in the western Bay of Plenty subject to the outcome of investigations that will be undertaken during the remaining half of the current OWP year.

Eastern Region will continue to support national projects associated with species monitoring and management, compliance and licensing outputs, Health and Safety, and national priorities concerned with increasing public awareness and encouraging greater participation. The latter will be informed from a consultant's report commissioned by the National Office to explore ways of increasing participation, and a report from Ian Hadland (Otago Fish & Game) on his findings from a recent study tour to the United States to investigate 3R initiatives (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation of hunters and anglers) which should be available shortly.

A hard copy of the first draft of the 2018-19 OWP will be mailed to Councillors prior to the 5 April meeting.

4. Direct Costs

Points to note in relation to direct/external costs in the first draft of the 2018-19 OWP as compared to the current 2017-18 plan are as follows:

- The Species Monitoring output has remained unchanged.
- Harvest Assessment budgets have been increased by \$5,000 to generate more contacts with winter shoreline and summer anglers, and the quantity of data collected from creel surveys to make these more robust statistically.
- Hatchery costs have been increased by \$1,900. The fish food budget has been increased (\$2,500) to align with actual costs which have seen increases in the past few years due primarily to fluctuating exchange rates and rising freight costs. Electricity and vehicle registration budgets have been reduced (\$800), and an anticipated increase in the rates budget has been provided for (\$200). The hatchery maintenance budget remains unchanged at this point along with other maintenance allocations pending review and prioritisation of all property maintenance.
- The Releases budget has been reduced by \$500 as supplementary feeding of captive released mallards at Broadlands will no longer be undertaken.
- Game Bird Control budget has been increased by \$300 to service the Zon guns annually as there has been an increased requirement for these.
- Within the Habitat output \$7,000 has been allocated to supplement the maintenance of balloted wetlands, and this is to be funded from the habitat management contribution fee

to be levied on balloted stand hunters. The Landowner Information budget has been reduced by \$700.

- Access budgets remain unchanged.
- Newsletter budgets have reduced by \$1,500 as a result of a reduction in the number of game bird newsletters printed. This is a result of newsletters now being able to be emailed to a large number of licence holders (copies for other licence holders available from retail agents and/or off the Fish & Game website). Previously the newsletter was included with the mailout of the magazine, but there was a need to distribute this information closer to the commencement of the season than was possible sending it out with the magazine.
- The Pamphlets budget is increased by \$500 to enable further reprints and updates to brochures still displaying the old website information.
- Training budgets are reduced by \$1,250 due to one off expenses for 2016-17 year no longer being required.
- Hut budgets unchanged.
- Communications budgets unchanged.
- Public Promotions budget has been increased by \$1,000 as we see merit in establishing a marketing relationship with Destination Rotorua through their partner programme which requires an annual subscription. The actual cost has still to be negotiated/determined.
- Visitors/Education budget increased by \$1,500 for ongoing removal of oversize trees within the grounds (primarily large eucalypts).
- Compliance budget unchanged at this point, but it is recommended that a CF bid of \$3,000 be lodged to cater for anticipated higher prosecution costs (see below).
- A small reduction to the Licensing budget to align with actual costs (\$100).
- Council Meetings no change. It is anticipated that the proposed annual strategy meeting can be provided for within the existing budget.
- Reporting and Audit budget reduced (\$15) to align with confirmed audit pricing.
- National Liaison budget unchanged.

Overall operational output expenditure in this preliminary budget has increased by \$13,135 but is partially offset by revenues increasing by \$4,550 in the operational area. Revenue changes include the reduction in project income from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund (\$3,600), increased hatchery income (\$500), the addition of the ballot holder habitat maintenance fee (\$7,000), and realignment of reserves grazing income with

actuals (\$650). The remaining increase in output expenditure is offset by increased revenues in the administration area such as rentals.

5. Hawke's Bay Management Agreement

Draft budgets for 2018-19 for both the Eastern and Hawke's Bay Regions have been prepared on the basis that agreement has been reached at regional manager level to continue the reciprocal service arrangement between the regions that has been in place for several years now. This year (2018-19) Eastern Region have agreed to contribute 450 hours of financial, administrative, and operational support to Hawke's Bay and this has been incorporated into each region's budget (\$25,200 plus GST worth of services). Hawke's Bay undertake to contribute 45 hours of operational support to Eastern Region and this too is incorporated into the 2018-19 budgets (\$2,520 plus GST). The results in a net reduction of \$5,625 and this is offset primarily from increased rental income budgets and reduced vehicle budget requirements. In 2018-19 the following arrangement is proposed:

Eastern provides Hawke's Bay with:

Administrative services	300 hrs
Operational support	150 hrs

Hawke's Bay provides Eastern with:

Operational support	45 hrs
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6. Resourcing

6.1 Bulk Funding

Eastern Region currently (2017-2018 OWP year) has a bulk funded operational budget of \$1,098,578. The bulk funded operational budget for the 2018-2019 year will revert to \$1,093,578 as a result of "one off" funded items in the 2017-2018 year being removed. To accommodate projected salary adjustments, and address anticipated cost increases associated with prosecutions, we will need to lodge two contestable fund bids. An application to the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund will also be required (see Agenda Item 9 below).

6.2 Proposed Contestable Funding bids

To operate beyond our bulk fund of \$1,093,578, Eastern Region must enter into the contestable fund (CF) bidding process involving other Fish & Game Regions and the NZ Council. All CF bids received are ranked by the regional managers/chief executives after which the rankings are reviewed by the NZ Council. The NZ Council decides where the cut-off point for supporting bids will be and determines what the necessary licence fees will be to meet the combined budgets of the regional and national offices.

Last year we lodged two contestable funding bids, one for staff salary and CPI adjustments, and another to install surveillance cameras within the office and in selected parts of the grounds to protect staff and property. This year we wish to apply for contestable funding totalling \$20,346 made up as follows:

6.2.1 Staff Salaries

The annual CPI rate to December 2018 was 1.6% and this is the rate that Fish & Game will use nationally to determine the appropriate CPI adjustment for the 2018-19 operational year. This will require a CF bid of \$14,346. In addition to this, \$3,000 is sought for anticipated salary performance adjustments and to make up for a reduction in hours contracted to Hawke's Bay.

6.2.2 Prosecution Expenses

As a consequence of no longer being able to use reparation as an alternative to prosecuting some cases, prosecution costs could rise substantially. To offset this we propose lodging a contestable fund bid of \$3,000 for this purpose.

6.3 Allocation of staff hours

Staff hours will be reviewed and adjusted where necessary in the second draft of the 2018-2019 OWP. Hours will be allocated in accordance with the project areas and priorities Council has determined to the extent this can be accommodated without compromising our ability to deliver on our core activities and statutory functions including monitoring, licensing, compliance, Council support, planning and reporting, and administration of the Council. The Eastern Region will continue to contribute a component of its overall staff hours to assisting with national Fish & Game programmes including waterfowl monitoring and research, compliance, licensing, Health and Safety, and other tasks as may arise. Eastern's contribution to these national projects is justifiable on the basis of its size and the number of staff it employs, which has enabled it to retain specialists in a number of fields. Some of this assistance is cost recoverable but a substantial component is not, and is made for the benefit of other regions and that of the organisation as a whole.

7. Recommendations

7.1 *That Council considers the initial OWP draft for 2018-19, identifies any issues it might have with it, and approves the proposed bids for contestable funding.*

9. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

22 March 2018

1. Purpose

To consider an application for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to incorporate into the 2018-19 OWP.

2. Background

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

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

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

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

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

The Fund contained an initial investment of \$250,000. When the Fund was established in 2000 the Council agreed that the principal should be protected with an inflation-based adjustment and spending from the Fund should be maintained within the interest generated. The balance of the Fund stands at \$441,975.50 as of 31 August 2017.

3. Discussion

3.1 Approved Funding for 2016-17 and 2017-18

At its meeting in April 2016, Council approved in principle [16/4/11.2], proposed expenditure from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to the value of \$19k for ongoing survey and monitoring of key spawning tributaries at Waikaremoana, the continuation of access related work within the Wairoa catchment, and costs associated with the extraction and repair of the Water Quality Monitoring Buoy that was stuck fast to an unknown obstacle or lake bed structure and no longer transmitting data. The \$19k sought was subsequently confirmed and approved at Council's meeting in August 2016 [16/8/10.2].

At its April 2016 meeting Council also approved an application for \$12k from the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association to replace four navigation markers at Waikaremoana [16/4/11.4].

In December 2016, Council approved an application from staff to draw down an additional \$6k from the Fund to deploy a ROV (remotely operated vehicle) to recover the sensors suspended from the buoy and contribute to the costs of any repairs that might be required [16/12/12.3].

In April 2017, Council approved two further applications to the fund, one for \$6,500 to purchase a 3D mapping echo sounder for deployment at the lake [17/4/9.3], the other for \$12,000 to incorporate into its 2017-18 budget [17/4/9.4] to finance the ongoing Waikaremoana survey and monitoring programme planned and compensate for activities that staff would otherwise be undertaking elsewhere within the region.

3.2 Application for Funding towards Eastern Region's 2018-19 OWP

The relatively intensive three year survey and monitoring programme instigated in early winter 2015 at Waikaremoana drew to a close towards the end of the 2017 calendar year, and was replaced by an ongoing but less intensive monitoring regime. The draft 2018-19 OWP provides for an ongoing compliance, monitoring, access and buoy related work programme at Waikaremoana, and Eastern Region would like to apply for up to \$8,500 from the Fund to incorporate into its 2018-19 budget to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy components of the exercise (compliance activities not eligible for funding from this source).

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council reviews and approves this application for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

10. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

Ref: 8.02.01

21 March 2018

1. Purpose

To review the 2017-2018 Anglers Notice and identify any changes to the current regulations that might be warranted in the 2018-2019 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.

In 2003 Council developed a comprehensive approach and policy for dealing with the Anglers Notice (see Appendix 1, page 31 of February 2018 agenda). The policy 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 was developed that takes into account biological objectives associated with sustainability, harvest allocation, and specific population manipulations.

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

Any changes to the Anglers Notice that depart from the Anglers Notice policy will require a change(s) to the policy. This will apply to the review currently underway if Council decides to proceed with changes it discussed over the course of two meetings in 2017 concerned with simplifying social rules and more particularly those relating to fishing methods. This will be discussed in Section 6 of this item.

A full review of the regional (Second Schedule) sports fishing regulations is undertaken every second year. A less comprehensive process is conducted in the year between. This year, a full review is required which has, or will involve:

1. At the February Council meeting, a number of previously discussed items as well as 'carry over' proposals to the Anglers Notice were presented to the Council for discussion. The Council considered which submissions had merit and warranted further investigation. Staff produced an 'Issues and Options' paper that was distributed to clubs and public via website, ezine and press avenues.
2. At this, Council's April meeting, Councillors will discuss the feedback received from the consultation undertaken along with comment from staff on the matters raised. This has been provided in the pre-circulated agenda and Papers for Information. Council will resolve whether to adopt some or all of the changes proposed, or to defer some of these until the June meeting for further discussion.

3. At its June 2018 meeting, Council will receive any additional information it might have required and finalise the recommendations to be submitted to the Minister of Conservation for the 2018-19 Anglers Notice.

4. Proposals to be considered

The proposals identified by Council at its February 2018 meeting to be considered further are as follows:

4.1 Remove the 'Fly Fishing Only' designation from Rotorua lakes shoreline areas

Background

There are a number of fly fishing only areas around the shorelines of Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Tarawera. These fly fishing only areas create confusion and reduce opportunity for some licence holders who would prefer to spin fish. On Lake Rotorua, the Awahou, and the area within 200m of the Ohau Channel, are designated 'fly fishing only' all year. On lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera, high use areas such as Ruato Bay Stream mouth (Rotoiti) and The Landing (Tarawera) are fly and spin from 1 October to 31 March, becoming fly only from 1 April to 30 September when higher intensity use kicks in. This adds confusion and complexity to the regulations. The Eastern Council has previously indicated that it is keen to reduce confusion, simplify regulations, and enhance angler participation.

Staff Comments

Removal of fly fishing only status around the Rotorua lakes shoreline would increase participation in angling and alleviate some complexity in the rules, both which are goals of the Council. The Eastern Council has strongly supported taking this proposal forward for wider consultation.

The 'fly only' designation is an historic practice which converted to a social rule under the Anglers Notice Policy 2003. The angling pressure at a site reaches a threshold level of use, above which the fly only designation kicks in to, theoretically, reduce conflict between angler groups. Council may need to review the Anglers Notice Policy and criteria relating to threshold levels.

Where fly fishing and spin fishing already co-exist e.g. Hamurana, Ngongotaha and Waiteti on Lake Rotorua, and the 'Transformer' at Lake Rotoiti, issues rarely arise between anglers using these fishing methods. The majority of spin angling occurs within daylight hours, whereas a large proportion of fly angling occurs after dark, at least at winter shoreline destinations. Even where fly and spin fishing co-exist, by far the majority of angling is fly fishing.

There may be a negative response from fly anglers to this proposal who feel they are losing 'rights'. Conversely, spin anglers can argue that they pay the same price for their licences as fly anglers but are discriminated against as they are unable to use their preferred method at all locations fly anglers are able to.

The Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council made all of its fly fishing only areas open to fly and spin some years ago. This generated negative comment from some quarters for a period before becoming generally accepted.

From a biological perspective there have been numerous studies which have looked at catch rates and hooking induced mortality of fish caught by fly fishing versus those caught by spin fishing. The consensus is that spin fishing is no more effective than fly fishing in terms of catching fish, and spin fishing does not result in greater mortality of fish released compared to fly only methods. Research is clear that permitting the use of spin fishing in a water does not affect the biological sustainability of a fishery.

The regulations pertaining to fly fishing only areas at the winter shoreline areas on Lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera were relaxed for the 2012-13 season to allow spin fishing for part of the season and have remained so since. While this was timed to reduce potential angler conflict during the higher intensity periods when spawning fish are aggregating in these areas we have never received reports of conflict arising as a consequence of relaxing the regulations. We are aware however, that having differing regulations over the course of the season creates confusion around what may be used where and at what times.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo and retain all ‘Fly Fishing Only’ areas around the shorelines of the Rotorua lakes, or;
- (ii) Remove the Fly Fishing Only designation from all lake shoreline areas around the Rotorua lakes, or;
- (iii) Remove the Fly Fishing Only designation from some lake shoreline areas around the Rotorua lakes.

Feedback

(i) Retain status quo 8 submissions in support	(ii) Implement change 7 submissions in support
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Submitters’ Comments re retaining status quo

Spin fishing unsettles the water. Allowing spin in ‘Fly only’ waters would severely reduce the water that I wish to fish. There are ample opportunities for spin anglers already existing.

Submitters’ Comments re implementing change

No issues with spin anglers having more access. They pay the same licence fee. I support as there is a misconception that fly fishing is somehow superior to all other legal forms of fishing.

4.2(a) Allow artificial fly/spinner in the lower Ohau Channel (River) downstream of the SH33 bridge

Background

The Ohau Channel (River) is currently fly fishing only between the landmarks at the Lake Rotorua end and the delta landmark where the water quality diversion wall begins at Lake Rotoiti. Since the diversion wall was built in 2008, the majority of angling occurs within the top 500m of the river where it exits Rotorua. This is due to the loss of the drop off into Rotoiti and the silting up of the lower river. High intensity angling occurs at the top end during October, November and at the end of the season (April, May and June). Given the lesser amount of angling within the lower channel there appears to be no reason why some or all of that area should not become fly and spin.

This would create greater opportunity for anglers, especially junior anglers, to utilise the fishery.

4.2(b) The Ngati Pikiao Fishing Club has entered a submission to the anglers notice to open Ohau Channel in its entirety to spin fishing

Background

The Ohau Channel (River) is currently 'fly fishing only' between the landmarks at the Lake Rotorua end and the delta landmark where the water quality diversion wall begins at Lake Rotoiti. Since the diversion wall was built in 2008, the majority of angling occurs within the top 500m of the river where it exits Rotorua. This is due to the loss of the drop off into Rotoiti and silting up of the lower river. High intensity angling occurs at the top end during October, November and at the end of the season (April, May and June). Given the lesser amount of angling within the lower channel there appears to be no reason why some if not all of that area should not become fly and spin. This would create greater opportunity for anglers, especially junior anglers, to utilise the fishery.

This submission is focussed on opening the entire Ohau Channel (River) to fly and spin year-round allowing more local kids to participate in trout angling as spin fishing is considered to be their preferred method. Opening the channel to spin fishing would also provide opportunities for other anglers who don't fly fish. Much of the land adjacent to the Channel is privately owned Maori land accessible solely by owners, and Ngati Pikiao believe they should have the choice of being able to fly fish or spin fish from their land.

Staff Comments

For much of the season, when angling pressure is low, being able to use fly and spin methods within the Ohau Channel (River) would cause few issues. However, being a flowing channel containing back eddies, variable current zones and a sweeping bend, angler conflict could occur at key high intensity angling times, e.g. on Opening Day, during the first few weeks of the season, and towards its closing period. The area where conflict would be most likely to occur is in the first 100m of the channel below the weir at the Lake Rotorua outflow. On Opening Day, there can be up to 100 anglers fishing in this stretch on both sides and across the weir system at the head. Both spin and fly anglers casting across the channel and allowing their lines to swing or drift well downstream could entangle other anglers' lines if particular care is not exercised.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. entirety of the Ohau Channel (River) remains Fly Fishing Only between landmark poles at either end, or;
- (ii) The section of the Ohau Channel downstream of the SH33 Bridge to the landmark pole at the Rotoiti end is opened to fly and spin methods. The section from the land mark poles at Lake Rotorua Outlet to the SH33 Bridge would remain Fly Fishing Only, or;
- (iii) The entire Ohau Channel (River) is opened to fly and spin methods.

Feedback

(i) Retain status quo	(ii) Allow fly/spin in Ohau Channel below SH33 Bridge	(iii) Allow fly/spin in entire Ohau Channel
5 submissions in support	5 submissions*	5 submissions**

Submitters' Comments re retaining status quo

Spin fishing will ruin the solitude and increase conflict.

Channel fishery is rebuilding, spin fishing will compromise this due to removing larger specimens from the system that are currently non-targetable by fly anglers.

Submitters' Comments re implementing change

Allows inexperienced anglers to fish a 'River Fishery' close to Rotorua. Most of the open season, the Channel sees very low numbers of anglers. Generally, not in favour of spinning in Channel, but a compromise would be to allow spinning below the SH33 road bridge.

* suggest compromise to designate upper Channel fly only for first few days to reduce conflict until pressure drops.

** suggest fly fishing only at top of Channel (100m below Rotorua). Fly/spin downstream of Ramada Resort below public access area.

4.3 Amend the wording for 7.2(a) Use of Boats

Background

Currently there are three subsections to section 7.2. Regulation 7.2(a) states "No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat in waters that, at any time of year are reserved for artificial fly fishing only except in lake Whakamarino (Tuai)" and the complexity of this statement can be confusing. Section 7.2 (b) and (c) only add to the apparent complexity.

The purpose of the 'No fishing from unanchored boats' rule is to prevent boat fishers trolling or drifting over the top of shoreline anglers. Most, if not all of the high intensity shoreline areas have land mark poles covering them. Therefore, if Regulation 7.2(a) was changed to "No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat within 200m of a landmark pole", all the boat fisher would require knowing is that a black/yellow/white pole is present and that this means no unanchored fishing within 200m of it².

Staff Comments

The wording under Regulation 7.2(a) presents a very complex statement and assumes licence holders not only have a solid understanding of regulations but are able to recognise geographical locations from the water. The wording should be changed.

There are several landmark poles that solely denote the end of winter shoreline fishing locations on Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina. Despite having a different meaning to the rest of the landmarks, they are easily recognisable, and anglers should not be compromised by keeping a distance from them.

This would also bring Fish & Game's regulation into line with the DOC Taupo fishery rule.

² This would mean that Regulations 7.2(b) and 7.2(c) could be dropped altogether also.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. retain the current wording for Regulation 7.2(a) “No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat in waters that, at any time of year are reserved for artificial fly fishing only except in lake Whakamarino (Tuai)”, or;
- (ii) Alter the current wording of Regulation 7(a) Use of Boats to read “No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat within 200m of a landmark pole”.

Feedback

(i) Retain status quo 1 submission in support	(ii) Implement change 9 submissions in support
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Submitters’ Comments re retaining status quo

The Okataina/Rotoiti shoreline too deep to shoreline fish successfully.

Submitters’ Comments re implementing change

Would make the regulation much clearer.

4.4 Amend the wording under 7.2(c) Use of Boats

Background

Currently Regulation 7.2(c) require that no licence holder shall fish for trout from any unanchored boat “in waters that are within the section of Rangiuru Bay defined by landmarks at Stoney Point and Kariri Point and extending 200m offshore in Lake Tarawera.” Within this zone is a boat ramp at Stoney Point, a ‘swimming only/no boating zone’ near the ramp, a number of jetties, and a very shallow shelf at the Kariri Point end where shoreline anglers wade a distance offshore. Few anglers would understand this rule, and the real reason behind it is to reduce conflict between the shoreline-based anglers on the Rangiuru Shelf and boats trolling.

Staff Comments

This regulation is poorly understood, and many anglers are unaware of it. The proposal is that Regulation 7.2(c) be deleted. If Regulation 7(a) was amended as proposed in 4.3 above, and the landmark pole presently in place at Kariri Point was retained to protect the shoreline-based anglers at the shelf from having boats troll through them, Regulation 7(c) could be deleted. There is enough buoyage and jetties to keep boats fishing under power out from shore and clear of the boat ramp and swimming area.

Options³

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. no unanchored boat fishing within 200m of the shore between the Kariri Point to Stoney Point landmark poles, or;
- (ii) Delete Regulation 7.2(c).

Feedback

(i) Retain status quo 1 submission in support	(ii) Implement change 8 submissions in support
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³ If Regulation 7(a) was amended as proposed, a further option would be to delete Regulation 7(b) as it would be unnecessary also (though there was no consultation specifically undertaken in relation to this).

Submitters' Comments re retaining status quo

Need to protect shoreline angling areas from trolling boats.

Submitters' Comments re implementing change

Support as long as Kariri Point landmark is retained. Support as long as swimmers and shoreline anglers not inhibited.

4.5 Remove the maximum wild size limit for wild trout on Lake Tarawera (Rule 9.4)

Background

There is a maximum size limit for wild trout on Lake Tarawera and within the upper section of the Tarawera River of 620mm. The intent of this rule has been to preserve large wild rainbows so that they may survive to spawn either naturally or to be available for selection into the hatchery breeding programme. These fish have a higher genetic fitness than hatchery liberated stock as they have already survived and passed a rigorous selection process. The maximum size limit was 650mm up until a few years ago when the limit was lowered due to the reducing size of Tarawera's trout stocks. There are two issues with this rule. Firstly, given growing conditions presently within Tarawera, wild trout will struggle to reach this size. Secondly, most anglers are unable to distinguish a wild trout from a hatchery liberated trout. Therefore, the maximum wild size rule at Tarawera is creating a confusing and superfluous rule that should be removed from the regulations.

Staff Comments

This regulation is poorly understood and many anglers are unaware of it. It is also redundant given the current size of Tarawera stock. It should therefore be removed.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo i.e. the maximum size limit for wild trout on Lake Tarawera (Regulation 9.4) is retained, or;
- (ii) The maximum size limit for wild trout on Lake Tarawera (Regulation 9.4) is deleted.

Feedback

(i) Retain status quo	(ii) Implement change
3 submissions in support	5 submissions in support

Submitters' Comments re retaining status quo

Worth making a stand about preserving wild fishery. Wrong approach to remove rule because some don't know it. More education necessary. Need to first completely identify why size of fish in lake has dropped. You don't get rid of your best bulls.

Submitters' Comments re implementing change

Rule seems irrelevant.

4.6 Amend Section 3.0 'Closed Waters' to provide greater protection to trout that are contained in ponds or structures for management and educational purposes

Background

Staff have identified an anomaly within the current regulations needing to be rectified. This relates to offence provisions, penalties and deterrents for illegal fishing for and taking of

sports fish from facilities such as display ponds, rearing facilities and the Ngongotaha Hatchery children’s educational fishing pond. A recent legal opinion states that many rearing and display ponds do not have ‘Closed Waters’ Protection. Apart from constituting theft and unlawfully being on private property without permission, there is an unacceptable disease risk from fishing tackle being illegally brought into the Hatchery grounds. This could be remedied by adding the following to Section 3.0 Closed Waters “No licence holder shall fish for sports fish at any time from the following waters”:

“3.6 Any waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, breeding, hatching, monitoring or other purposes (excepting 3.7 below).”

“3.7 Ngongotaha Hatchery Educational Fishery (known as Children’s Fishing Pond) except by special authorization.”

Staff Comments

By adding these layers, hatchery site security will be enhanced along with security around fish traps where monitoring of fish and taking of ova is undertaken during the spawning season. Other properties where sports fish are held such as Paradise Valley Springs, Rainbow Springs and Huka Prawn Farm will also be covered.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo i.e. current Closed Waters Status, or;
- (ii) Adopt draft regulations 3.6 and 3.7 above.

Feedback

(i) Retain Status quo	(ii) Implement Change
No submissions received	7 submissions in support

Submitters’ Comments re retaining status quo

No submissions or comments received.

Submitters’ Comments re implementing change

Support extra protection for captive fish, especially if they are there for the management of the fishery.

4.7 Amend Regulation 3.1 ‘Closed Waters’ to redefine the downstream limit of the Lake Tarawera Spawning Sanctuary as the Tarawera River Walk Bridge approximately 150m downstream of the Lake Outlet

Background

Regulation 3.1 currently states “All Streams flowing into Lake Tarawera and that portion of the Tarawera River enclosed by landmarks at the Lake Tarawera Outlet and extending approximately 150m downstream to landmarks in the river, otherwise known as the Tarawera Outlet Spawning Sanctuary.” The current downstream limit of the sanctuary is not well defined, and we are aware of a number of instances where anglers have misinterpreted its location. Rewording the regulation to define the downstream limit as the Tarawera River Foot Bridge approximately 150m downstream of the mouth, would overcome this issue.

Staff Comments

By adopting this change, the location of the spawning sanctuary will be more clearly defined. The distance between the current downstream limit and the bridge is approximately 1m.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, or;
- (ii) Alter Regulation 3.1 to define the downstream limit of the Lake Tarawera Spawning Sanctuary as “the Tarawera River Walk Bridge approximately 150m downstream of the Lake Outlet.”

Feedback

(i) Retain status quo	(ii) Implement change
No submissions received	6 submissions in support

Submitters' Comments re retaining status quo

No submissions or comments received.

Submitters' Comments re implementing change

No comments received.

4.8 Prohibit the use of use of multi-point hooks within Eastern Region Fish & Game waters

Background

It has been submitted that multi-point or treble-hooks cause greater harm and distress to sports fish needing to be released. Within Eastern Region Fish & Game Waters, the Rotorua lakes have a 350mm size limit. Any fish under that size must be released, and it has been suggested that damage to these fish may affect their post release survival. Currently, wild male trout caught at the Te Wairoa Stream Mouth at Lake Tarawera must also be released along with all wild fish in excess of 620mm caught on the lake. The Te Wairoa trap provides the bulk of the breeding stock used for the Ngongotaha Hatchery, and it has been argued that the use of multi-point hooks may affect the viability of the breeding programme as a consequence of a greater number of spawning males being injured or killed during the process of unhooking and releasing them.

Staff Comments

Multi-point hooks were legalised within Eastern Region waters fifteen years ago in a national move to standardise regulations between regions. At the time the Eastern Fish and Game Council opposed the move but was outvoted by other regions. Published literature suggests there is no greater mortality to fish following release from multi-point hooks than from single-point hooks. Public and angler perception concerned with animal stress and what is or isn't considered to be humane treatment are however, topics worthy of discussion. Catch and release is an important element of freshwater sports fishing, and whether a fish is hooked with a single or a multi-point hook, anglers need to be aware of the need to promptly and gently release fish that they are unable, or not wanting to keep, and how to go about this.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the use of multi-point hooks (doubles, trebles) remains legal within Eastern Region Fish & Game waters, or;

- (ii) Prohibit the use of multi-point hooks (anything other than a single hook) within Eastern Region Fish & Game waters.

Feedback

(i) Retain Status quo	(ii) Implement Change
1 submission	13 submissions*

Submitters' Comments re retaining status quo

If anglers are concerned around the stress and/or damage to fish especially when they are catching and releasing excessive numbers, they should perhaps consider barbless hooks instead.

Submitters' Comments re implementing change

Multi point hooks definitely cause more injury and are harder to remove from fish. Will need tackle store retailer support.

* If trebles are banned, it will make it harder to travel between regions, and anglers should only be able to use one fly or lure (e.g. when jigging) to make it equitable.

5 New proposals received

Alongside the comments received from licence holders and clubs regarding proposed changes identified in the Issues and Options paper, several new suggestions were put forward. Council may choose to consider these suggestions at this April meeting, or defer them for carryover to the next Anglers Notice review process in 2018-19. A consideration to take into account should Council decide to incorporate them into the current review, is that it's probably impractical to publicly notify and consult with other parties within the time frames remaining.

5.1 Bring forward the opening hour of sportfishing from 5am to 4am around the Rotorua lakes

Rationale

Some keen anglers don't get the opportunity to fish the early morning sessions as they have to go to work. The hours of darkness are the best times to catch a large fish, and the evenings are always crowded, so this would help people who are unable, or not wanting to fish evenings and have to start work early.

Staff Comment

The no-fishing exclusion period is in place to allow sports fish to enter tributaries or to spawn on shorelines in lakes lacking inflowing streams without disturbance from anglers. The proposal would only benefit a handful of anglers that may wish to fish at that hour and may create further compliance issues.

5.2 Boat fishing anglers when fishing solo should be able to fish with two rods

Rationale

If fishing alone from a vessel, an angler should be able to use two assembled rods if they were of differing line material and running at two different depths. The strike rate shouldn't increase so much as to cause the fishery to suffer.

Staff Comment

One rod in operation per angler as clearly defined in Regulation 2.3.1 of the First Schedule precludes a number of issues from arising and fits with the ethos of freshwater sports fishing, e.g. to allow only boat anglers the right to fish with two rods would be inequitable, and if allowed, would in some situations enable an angler(s) to monopolise the available water and exclude other anglers from accessing it by for example, anchoring and casting a heave and leave rig in one direction and then spin or fly fishing in another.

5.3 Close the Te Wairoa Stream Mouth area (Lake Tarawera) from 1 May to 30 September

Rationale

The Te Wairoa stream and fish trap are essential to the Eastern Region Fishery for providing brood stock to the hatchery programme. This relies upon the best brood stock being available. The closure of the Te Wairoa area at the end of June does not do enough to protect the largest specimens that arrive during May and June to the Te Wairoa Stream mouth. The downturn in size and quality of the Lake Tarawera trout is putting the resource under pressure. Closing the Te Wairoa Stream mouth area from 1 May would allow these early spawners to be trapped for the programme. It would also eliminate the requirement for a 'hens only' policy, which is believed to be flouted on a regular basis.

Staff Comment

The Te Wairoa Stream is one of three major spawning tributaries (including the Outlet) at Tarawera. There are also a number of minor ones. There is the chance that some larger early running trout may be removed by anglers prior to them reaching the trap where they may or may not have been selected as hatchery brood stock. The area in front of the Te Wairoa Stream receives low angler pressure (from both shoreline and boat) but would cause a loss in angler opportunity if closed earlier. To fully protect all trout entering this area, Council would have to close the area of Lake Tarawera within 200m of the Te Wairoa landmark pole from 1 May to 30 September. This would add another layer of complexity to the rules and run counter to what Council is trying to achieve. The earlier closure of the area would be of minimal biological advantage to the brood stock programme.

On the other hand, removal of the 'hens only' rule at Te Wairoa by implementing this proposal would reduce one other complexity in the regulations, i.e. one would be traded off for another.

6 Potential change required to Anglers Notice Policy 2003

If Council wishes to make changes to the fly fishing only areas within the Rotorua lakes and/or Ohau Channel, elements of the Anglers Notice Policy 2003 will need to be revisited. Section 2 of the policy is concerned with Social Regulations which are intended to address potential conflict between anglers, and it is under these that method restrictions are dealt with, more particularly Policy 2.1 dealing with Fishing Methods. Level of use of water as measured by number of anglers per 100 m of shoreline or river beat per season determines what methods can be used in that water as shown below:

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

Water Category	Level of use of water (threshold)	Methods Available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake edge fisheries and associated migratory spawning waters 	Low Intensity Use (< 10 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods, Bait*
	Moderate Intensity Use (10-200 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly, Bait*, Spin No unanchored boats
	High Intensity Use (>200 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

To accommodate changes to fly fishing only areas, the Anglers Notice Policy could either be modified by deleting Policy 2.1, or by altering the threshold criteria for level of use of water to something along the lines of the following:

Water Category	Level of use of water (threshold)	Methods Available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake edge fisheries and associated migratory spawning waters 	Low Intensity Use (< 30 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly, Spin, Bait*
	Moderate to High Intensity Use (>30 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly, Spin, Bait* No unanchored boats at stream mouths, high intensity locations and lake outlets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower density river fisheries based on resident trout populations 	Any Intensity Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly, Spin, 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.

Removing the “fly only” option at high levels of angling intensity from the current Social Regulations Framework would not prevent the ongoing declaration of current fly fishing only waters, but would give Council greater flexibility to determine which methods it wishes to allow, or exclude, at specific locations.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That Council identifies any changes required to the Anglers Notice Policy 2003.**
- 7.2 That Council identifies any proposals that should be eliminated from the 2018-19 Anglers Notice process.**
- 7.3 That Council identifies any changes it agrees should be adopted and incorporated into the 2018-19 Anglers Notice Regulations for Ministerial signoff.**
- 7.4 That Council identifies which if any proposals require further information and discussion following this meeting.**

FIRST MEETING OF NEW COUNCIL

Ref: 7.02.01

25 March 2018

1. Purpose

To reprogramme the dates of the fifth and sixth meetings of Council and the annual public meeting this year.

2. Background

At Council's last meeting on 15 February, dates and venues were 'finalised' for 2018 as below:

	Date	Venue	Key Issues
1	15 February 2018	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities
2	5 April, 2018	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP – initial draft• Anglers Notice – initial consideration
3	14 June 2018	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fee• OWP – 2nd draft• Anglers Notice – finalise recommendations
4	16 August 2018	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	18 October 2018	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – initial consideration• Annual Performance Report – draft <p><i>Note, meeting to be preceded by a strategic planning discussion in the morning.</i></p>
6	29 November 2018	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – finalise recommendations
APM	29 November 2018	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

Since then we have received the 2018 regional Fish and Game Council Election timetable (see April Papers for Information) and this indicates that elected members take office on 31 October 2018, and that the last day for the new Councils to meet and appoint a Councillor to be a member of the NZ Council is 21 November 2018. This being so we could bring forward our scheduled November meeting two weeks and conduct it on 15 November, but in doing so we would have insufficient time to consult with licence holders on game season conditions discussed or proposed at our scheduled October meeting. We cannot bring our October meeting forward two weeks to compensate, as this will leave insufficient time for us to draft our end of year annual report which we present to Council for preliminary consideration at this meeting prior to finalising it for the final meeting of the year and public AGM. Taking all of these constraints into account the most pragmatic option is to reschedule the 18 October meeting to Thursday 1 November, and defer the 29 November meetings to Thursday 6 December. This would mean the first meeting of the newly elected Council would be held on 1 November and be a combined meeting of both the current and newly elected Council as would the 6 December meeting. It would also mean that newly elected Councillors would be in attendance at the strategic planning workshop programmed to be undertaken on the same day as the 18 October/now 1 November meeting.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Council confirms the revised dates proposed for its last two meetings of the year, and the public AGM.**

11. SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

Ref: 1.06.01

26 March 2018

1. Purpose

To receive the Executive Summaries for the 2017 Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Creel Survey Report and the 2018 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts.

2. Background

The Council annually resources a number of key species management programmes to assess and monitor sports fish and game populations and the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource. The information collected from these programmes enables the Council to make informed decisions on species management to ensure sustainable populations are maintained for recreational harvest. These programmes also provide valuable information for other parties such as Regional Councils who can use sports fish and game bird data to assess the effects of habitat changes on biological systems. The programmes provide credible datasets not only to underpin management decisions, but are vital for statutory advocacy and public awareness. This agenda item presents the executive summaries for the 2017 Opening Day Creel Survey report and the 2018 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts report. Copies of the full reports are provided with the Papers for Information for this meeting.

3. Report Summaries

3.1 2017 Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Creel Survey Report

- Fish & Game staff conducted 867 interviews with anglers who had fished for 3709.5 hours in total and produced 695 fish for measurement during the Opening Day Creel Survey on Sunday, October 1, 2017.
- Lake Tarawera anglers experienced catch rates that were higher than the 2016 opening and superior to the past 10-year average with one fish caught for every 2.7 rod hours. The average sized fish caught was longer but lighter ($P=0.059$) compared to the fish weighed in at the 2016 opening. This was due to a higher proportion of 3-year-old fish in the catch. Hatchery released fish made up a lesser proportion of the catch (65%) compared with the 2016 opening and the hatchery contribution was just below the past 10-year average (71.4%). The two-year-old hatchery fish caught this Opening Day were both significantly smaller ($P=0.042$) and lighter ($P<0.001$) than the 2016 two-year-olds, and at an average length of 482mm were smaller than the past 10-year average (489mm).
- Lake Rotoiti anglers had a marginally slower Opening Day catch rate compared to the 2016 opening with one fish caught for every 4.55 rod-hours fished. This catch rate was in line with the past 10-year average catch rate. The average fish caught was smaller and significantly lighter ($P=0.025$), but in significantly poorer condition ($P=0.02$) than those from the 2016 opening. The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish were smaller, lighter and in significantly poorer condition ($P=0.014$) than the 2016 caught two-year olds. At 495mm they were behind the past 10-year average length (502mm). The

autumn liberated two-year olds were larger but lighter and in significantly poorer condition ($P=0.023$) than their 2015 counterparts.

- Lake Okataina anglers experienced an improved catch rate during the 2017 opening compared to the 2016 opening with one legal sized fish caught for slightly less than every 4.35 hours effort. This catch rate was lower than the past 10-year average of one fish per 4.0 hours effort. A lower proportion of hatchery fish were weighed in (68%) compared to the 2016 Opening Day. This was just above than the past 10-year average (65% hatchery released). The average fish caught was both significantly smaller ($P=0.008$), lighter ($P<0.001$) and in significantly poorer condition ($P<0.001$) than the average 2016 opening day fish measured. The two-year-old hatchery fish were also both significantly smaller ($P=0.001$), lighter ($P<0.001$), and in significantly poorer condition ($P=0.01$) than those from the 2016 opening.

3.2 2018 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report

Trend counts of paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) and black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) were conducted in the Eastern Fish and Game Region over the period 11 to 31 January 2018. Sites were counted (or photographed if a reasonable count could not be obtained) from a plane. Results were analysed and presented using three different methodologies, total count with a fitted regression line, total count of sites counted each year since 1991, and a variant of the route regression method (Geissler and Sauer, 1990), referred to as a trend count.

Season regulations are set as a function of the long term trend for paradise shelduck and black swan but swan also incorporate population size thresholds.

The paradise populations, reported by management unit (A1, A2, B1, B2), were stable over the long term (16 years), although A2 may have decreased. The short term (two years) trend confidence intervals span zero suggesting no detectable change. The total for sites that have been counted each year since 1991 was the lowest on record (4,760).

Paradise counts from sites that have been counted each year in the Eastern Region ($n=19$) since 1991 indicate the population may be in a 15 year cycle (17 times more support than the GLM model).

Long-term counts of black swan indicate that the population is fairly stable in all Management Units. Populations in B1 and B2 are below the threshold (1,000 birds) to hold a season, while A1 is above the relaxed season threshold of 3,000.

Sites where black swan have been counted each year since 1991 ($n=20$) show a cyclical pattern (11 years; 12 times the support of the GLM model).

Recommended game season conditions for paradise shelduck and black swan in the Eastern Region are provided.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council receives the 2017 Executive Summary for the Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Survey Report and the Summary for the 2018 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report.

13. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Conservation Boards

- *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*
- *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*
- *East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board*

13.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

13.3 Report from New Zealand Council

14. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

14.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

23 March 2018

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Rangitaiki River Water Quality Monitoring

Fish & Game staff visited the Rangitaiki River on 8 February 2018. The river was still just below the standard required for drift dive monitoring at the bottom site (Strobus Road end) in particular. However, the overall state of the river was much improved from early March 2017 when it was discovered highly nutrient laden water was exiting Lake Pouarua on Lochinver Station above SH5.

Strobus Road water quality parameters

Parameter	3-March-2017	8-Feb-2018
Secchi disc	0.75m	1.0m
Black disc	0.5m	0.9m
Oxy % Sat	97%	107%
Oxy (ppm)	9.7	11.4
Temp (°C)	14.3	12.6

Water Gauging pole (D/S Napier Taupo Road)

Parameter	3-March-2017	8-Feb-2018
Secchi disc	0.5m	2.25m
Black disc	0.5m	2.0m
Oxy % Sat	87%	99%
Oxy (ppm)	8.9	10.6
Temp (°C)	13.7	12.2

East Coast River Fisheries Monitoring

The East Coast river monitoring programme was unable to be undertaken as programmed due to flooding in the Motu, Waioeka and Ruakituri catchments. The level of visibility required for drift dive monitoring is higher than that required for waters to be fishable.

Waikaretaheke Fishery Monitoring

The Waikaretaheke River is due to be drift dived on 21 April 2018 (Genesis Energy contract).

Didymo Monitoring

Staff completed the quarterly didymo delimiting survey in the Ngongotaha Stream on 21 March. Didymo remains absent from/has not been detected in North Island waters according to the most up to date survey results available.

1112 Datawatch

During the six months since the season opening, a total of 231 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	6
Lake Okataina	53
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	11
Lake Rotoehu	5
Lake Rotoiti	62
Lake Rotoma	16
Lake Rotorua	10
Lake Tarawera	65
Lake Tutira	0
Lake Waikaremoana	3

**Datawatch returns (entered to 19/03/2018)*

Compared with returns received at this stage last year (mid-March 2017), the total number of returns is down by 28, but is similar to that during returned during the 2014-15 season. Lakes Rerewhakaaitu, Rotoma, Rotorua and Waikaremoana are slightly ahead at the current time. Lakes Okataina, Rotoiti and Tarawera have had fewer tags returned.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy is currently being rebuilt at the University of Waikato. It has taken time as it joined the queue of other monitoring systems being upgraded and repaired.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Stream Trap

The Ngongotaha fish trap was unable to be operated during January and February 2018 due to environmental conditions. The trap is currently in operation for the March sampling period.

Lake Rerewhakaaitu Fish Kill

Visiting anglers and members of the Tauranga Anglers Club alerted staff to fish kills at Lake Rerewhakaaitu on 3 and 21 February 2018. Approximately 200 fish of all age cohorts were collected and buried with the assistance of anglers. All fish were found in the vicinity of the Ashpit Road Campground. Regional Council's monitoring buoy showed that several deoxygenation events had occurred, and water samples collected by Council staff revealed that the brown water colour evident in these samples was due to iron and manganese that had been released from the sediment during the deoxygenation events.

Lake Rotoiti Catfish Update

Staff attended a meetig convened by Regional Council on the Rotoiti catfish situation on 20 March. There has been an alarming increase in the number of catfish caught over the past two months and where the catfish have been caught. A much higher incidence of catfish were detected in fyke netting operations in the area from Okawa Bay to Okere Falls Store, and at the Ohau Delta area and within the Ohau Channel itself. Most alarming is a number of catfish have been caught in the Ramada Resort boat parking facility 70m from Lake Rotorua's outflow.

Upcoming efforts to suppress the population will include looking at the feasibility of using biocontrol species (e.g. brown trout and longfin eel), electric fishing for juveniles, and the use of traditional methods “whakaweku” (fern bundles) to provide artificial habitat where catfish can be targeted. Efforts to prevent spread into Lake Rotorua if they are not already present, may include trialling bubble curtains and/or electric fence technology to stop migration over the weir. Surveillance will be stepped up and could involve the use of pheromone attractant baits on fyke nets and deploying environmental DNA (eDNA) technology.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Band Advisory Committee

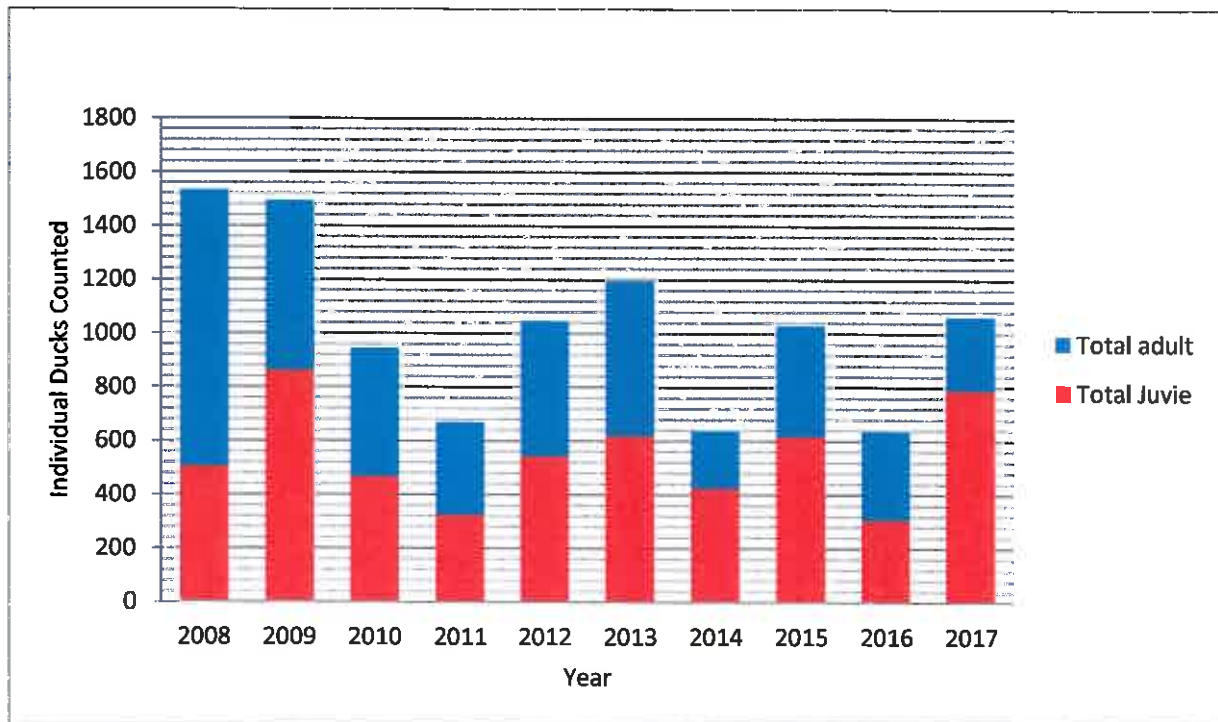
The Band Advisory Committee is made up of representatives of organisations that band birds. The committee meet once per year and amongst other things evaluate individuals’ competence to band, provide advice on data management and other topical matters. Matt McDougall is the rep for Fish & Game and attended this year’s meeting in Wellington.

Avian Influenza

MPI has prepared a paper presenting the results of avian influenza monitoring which we have been part of for many years. MPI sample ducks during our trapping and banding operations and invited Matt McDougall to be one of the co-authors.

Brood Counts

Waterfowl brood counts were undertaken in October 2017 on a series of drains in the region to assess productivity across various drain types, and to monitor the effects of drain management and habitat improvement work. With 787 juvenile greylards counted across all sites the overall counts obtained this year were about over 150% up on last year’s counts, and 52% higher than the average for the last nine years.

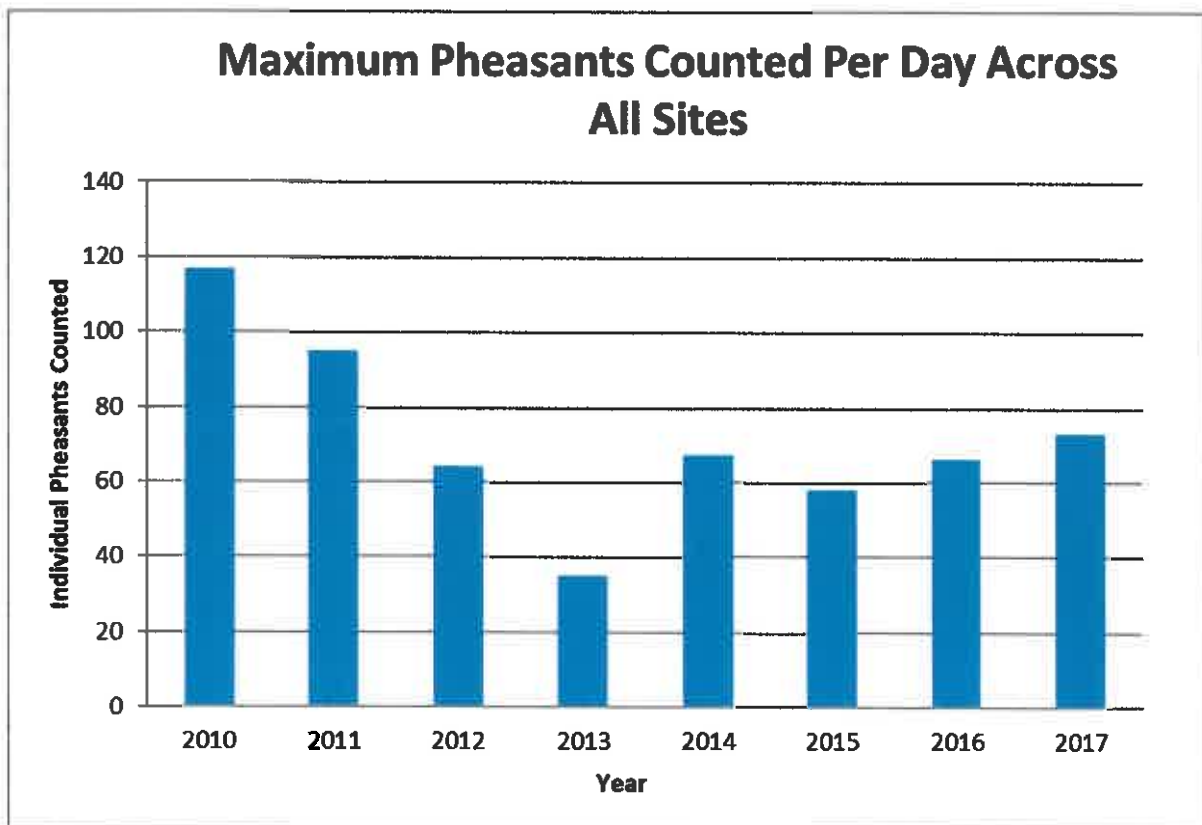


1117 Botulism

Staff attended a number of botulism incidents and asked the general public through the media to assist in removing carcasses of dead birds. Over a five week period from the beginning of February staff picked up 21 swan, 71 mallards and 7 parries in the Rotorua area, and the Te Maunga Wastewater Plant advised they had picked up 68 mallards/parries, 32 swan and 80 geese around their ponds during the period January to mid February. The situation could have been much worse, though we may not be entirely out of the woods yet subject to what the remainder of the summer/autumn brings.

1119 Upland Game Assessments

A week of pheasant call counts was undertaken by Fish & Game staff in Kaingaroa Forest in November 2017. At this time of year male pheasants call frequently to mark their territories, particularly early in the morning. These counts are undertaken annually to provide an index of pheasant populations and monitor any changes. With a maximum of 73 different cock pheasants encountered on any one day across the 28 sites, this year's surveys were about 11% up on last year's counts and 1% above the average from the previous seven years.



1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Summer Creel Survey

The summer angler creel surveys for the 2017-18 season started in November and will conclude in mid-April. Summer survey angler contacts have been down due to staff being busy with other projects. Up to date tallies are not available at time of writing this report. Lake Rotorua has fished well for both shoreline and boat-based anglers. Fish condition has

been excellent. Rotoiti anglers have commented that fishing has been a bit hard, but fish are solid. Tarawera has produced high catch rates and fish condition has improved markedly since the holiday period. Okataina continues to provide the best quality fish from the Eastern Region. Waikaremoana has produced rainbows of poorer condition following the large flooding in the catchment. An interrupted summer due to weather extremes slowed the cicada fishing.

Winter Creel Survey

The 2018 winter creel shoreline survey schedule has been developed and will run on similar lines to that of the last few years. The surveys will begin in April and will run through until the end of June on Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Tarawera.

Opening Day Angler Survey

The 2017 Opening Day survey report has been written up and the executive summary is presented in the main body of this agenda. A full copy of the report has been circulated with the April Papers for Information.

1141 Hatchery Operations

Rising one-year old rainbows moved to the rearing ponds earlier this year are growing well towards their target release sizes and the partial pond netting installed last year appears to be working well to prevent predators.

Summer fish releases took place in February to Lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera, as shown in the table below. Autumn liberations for Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera commenced in March and will continue until May of this year when most of the region's lakes will receive releases. Fish were also transported to Wellington Fish & Game Region on behalf of DOC Turangi.

The leaf and debris screen at Headbox 2 has been measured for replacement. Staff will need to make a wooden template for this before the final screen can be produced from stainless steel.

Preparations are underway for the collection of brood fish from both the Ngongotaha and Te Wairoa fish traps. Trapping at the Te Wairoa Stream will begin on 1 April and continue until the end of August 2018.

Fish locations at 15 March 2018:

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank A	1+ Brook	20	Brood
Tank B	0+ Tiger	500	Eastern liberations 2018
Tank C	1+ Bt	200	Orders 2018
Tank D	2+ Rt	10	Brood
Tank E	0+ Bt	1,000	Eastern liberations and orders 2018
Tank F	0+ Bt	1,000	Eastern liberations 2018
Pond 2	0+ Rt	23,000	Spring liberations and orders 2018
Pond 3	0+ Rt	23,000	Spring liberations and orders 2018
Pond 4	0+ Rt	9,400	Autumn liberations and orders 2018
Pond 5	0+ Rt	9,400	Autumn liberations 2018

Pond 6	0+ Rt	7,000	Autumn liberations 2018
Pond 7	1+ Rt	4,000	Autumn liberations 2018
Pond 9	1+ Rt	5,000	Various for 2+ in 2019

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 24 January – 15 March 2018

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Number
Rotoiti	14/03/2018	RpAd	-	Rt	1+	4,000
Okataina	13/03/2018	RpAd	-	Rt	1+	250
Tarawera	13/03/2018	RpAd	-	Rt	1+	1,000
Rotoiti	19/02/2018	Ad	N18	Rt	1+	500
Tarawera	19/02/2018	Ad	-	Rt	1+	500
Tarawera	19/02/2018	Ad	X18	Rt	1+	500

1172 Game Bird Regulations

Game season recommendations for the 2018 Gazette were submitted to the National Office and a copy of the accompanying notes is included in the April Papers for Information.

1173 Game Bird Authorities

Captive Reared Mallard

We have recently become aware of another two authorities DOC has issued to release CRMs within the Eastern Region that we had not been consulted on nor subsequently supplied with a copy of the permit. We have contacted DOC's permissions office to once again remind them that Fish & Game needs to be consulted in relation to these applications. We also took the opportunity to enquire on progress with processing our application to issue Authorities to Disturb, a process we commenced nearly five years ago in June 2013. We have been assured that it should be finished by the end of this month.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Gisborne District Council – Freshwater Advisory Group and Freshwater Plan

Hearings decisions were released in August 2017. An appeal on parts of these decisions was lodged in September 2017. The appeal points relate to some fish passage provisions, the activity status for new maimai, crop survival water allocation provisions, and activities in riparian margins. Mediation has been set down for May 2018. An application to the National Legal Fund for \$82,829 to engage external planning and legal assistance for this appeal was prepared and submitted to the Managers Meeting, and has since been approved by the NZ Council.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Proposed Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) submissions were lodged in mid-December 2017 and we were heard in support of our submission earlier this month.

Waikato Regional Council

In March Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Councils lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1.

Fish & Game remains involved in the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel, and community catchment groups.

A submission was lodged on the Gisborne District Council Proposed Pest Management Plan in 2017 opposing the inclusion of sports fish (perch and tench) in the document. The submission was largely ignored, and perch and tench remain classified as exclusion pests.

Comments were lodged on the Bay of Plenty Draft Regional Pest Management Plan in 2017 opposing the inclusion of sports fish (perch and tench) in the document. The existing Pest Management Plan remains in operation until September 2018. Council intends to notify the next plan before the current one expires.

1212 Consent Applications

Date In	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
19-Feb-18	BOPRC	Bourke J&R	LUC- consent renewal, retaining wall	Okawa Bay, Lake Rotoiti	APPROVED S95E3A

Resource consents of note

Awaiti Canal

At Fish & Game and DOC's request, all water abstractors on the Awaiti Canal are renewing their applications concurrently to ascertain how and if their water takes affect the water inflows into the Awaiti Wetland WMR. Inflows are not clear, and we have engaged an engineering consultant to determine minimum flows required to sustain the wetland within its minimum and maximum permitted water levels. By having this information, we can work with abstractors to ensure water continues to supply the wetland and enable them to irrigate their properties during dryer periods. All parties are working co-operatively to find a workable solution. Council will be informed of progress of this process as Awaiti WMR is a key wetland that we manage.

1221 Reserves Management

Mowing of all managed wetland access tracks was undertaken in late February to enable ballot holder access during the stand maintenance period. Another final mow prior to the hunting season will occur in early April.

The wetland sites with padlocked gates remain open during the ballot holder maintenance period. The gates will be locked during the month of April restricted access so as not to disturb birds. All gates will be unlocked the Thursday before opening allowing hunter access.

A contract worker has been employed during early March to spray invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants within the Bay of Plenty wetland reserves. Funds were derived from the reserves budget for wage payments, and a Fish & Game vehicle and spray unit and chemicals was provided for these works. This work was a precursor to the habitat contribution fee

funded works programme which will kick in next year. and gives us an idea of time and quantity of chemicals needed, and was an opportunity for our preferred contractor to familiarise himself with what we require. The spraying was completed successfully and the contractor is happy with what is required. A schedule of works can now be prepared for the work programme in early 2019.

Water reticulation works within the Bregmans, Kaituna and Orini WMR reserves have been completed by excavator and weed rake, as per schedule. An additional quick weed extraction of the Awaiti inlet area and first few hundred metres of channels will occur in late March as this area cannot be chemically sprayed due to proximity to the organic farm adjoining the reserve. This additional work is required to ensure sufficient water flow into the reserve and enable accurate flow readings required for water abstraction resource consent requests on the Await Canal which also feeds the wetland (as stated above).

The Lower Kaituna WMR mitigation contouring of the sand borrow pit and adjacent wetland development works has been completed. Due to the creation of a new water channel from the upper oxbow and the borrow pit, the south western section of the wetland is significantly wetter than before which provides further opportunity to create more open water habitat and hopefully will suppress further pest plant growth. Native planting of the developed area is planned for August 2018, and we continue to work with DOC and BOPRC in relation to further opportunities to convert the grazed area of the reserve to wetland. Direct funding of this project is derived from BOPRC.

The Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga lakes restoration project continues with landowner fencing contracts completed and fencing to be undertaken in April 2018. Planting is scheduled for September 2018 with a contractor engaged to plant and release spray for the next three years. Fish & Game staff continue to manage day to day operations of the project.

BOPRC, DOC and Fish & Game staff met regarding the installed fish passage culverts into the Thornton Lagoon WMR. It was agreed that not all of the monitoring conditions for the site had been met with BOPRC agreeing to get monitoring undertaken in April to determine if the additional fresh water/saline water inflows are having a detrimental or positive effect on the lagoon. Once this assessment has been completed another meeting will be scheduled to determine what happens next. This is likely to be in September 2018.

1231 Maintain and Enhance Game Bird Habitat

Landowner Information

No new wetland development or enhancement requests have been received since the last Council meeting. Proposed wetland development works for a Waikite Valley land owner that we had been involved with have been abandoned due to the cost of resource consent information requirements being out of proportion to the development proposal in the eyes of the landowner.

Invitations have been extended to Fish & Game by two Maori Trust land groups within the Horahora area to visit and explore options to enhance swampy areas and convert existing stock ponds to wetland areas. We are planning to visit these properties in April.

For the second consecutive year, the Hardcastles Lagoon and the Mihi Bridge wetland lily spray programme has been postponed. This is due to lower than expected lily growth as a

result of prolonged high Waikato River levels in this area. We will continue to monitor growth and water levels with the hope of undertaking the spray programme later in the year,

1232 Habitat Creation

Effluent Treatment and Reservoir Management

Jacobs Engineering invited Fish and Game, DOC, NIWA, and Regional and District Councils to a presentation on effluent treatment and reservoir management. The presentation was by one of Jacobs US engineers and covered some of the latest thinking in this field. We took the opportunity to attend given our statutory involvement in consenting of effluent treatment ponds and the possibility of incorporating these into our own wetland developments for treating runoff. Unfortunately, the seminar was not well tailored for the audience but it did provide some insight into where current thinking lies.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Annual access track and access point maintenance continues as time allows. Other access matters such as access difficulties have been dealt with as they have arisen.

1312 Signage

Sign maintenance was carried out as required.

1313 Hunter Ballots

Ballot holder meeting

Staff met with new ballot holders and those that had not attended a meeting before. We took the opportunity to explain the expectations of them as detailed in their permit along with Health and Safety matters and the proposal to charge a nominal fee to cover habitat works from next year.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was produced for January and February covering prospects and fishing news, Tarawera boat fishing tuition, angler's notice submissions, fishing tips.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

The 2018 Eastern game bird newsletter was completed and has been delivered to retailers. Hunters that have indicated they wish to receive material from Fish & Game will be emailed a link to the PDF on the Eastern's web page <https://fishandgame.org.nz/eastern/game-bird-hunting-in-new-zealand/hunting-news-and-events/eastern-game-bird-hunting-newsletters/>

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates and changes to the Eastern website included Council agendas and minutes, health warnings for Ohakuri and Maraetai, health warning lifted for Okaro, angler's notice process, banding results, and hunting ballot information. The 2018 Eastern game newsletter was also

uploaded to it. Our Twitter account has 464 followers and received approximately 2,250 impressions for the reported period.

1334 Social Media

Fishing prospects were added to the web via the Reel News for the period and numerous reports featured on Twitter.

1341 Information Pamphlets

The re-printed version of the Waioeka brochure has been received and will be distributed as required. Work is underway on a revised Waikaremoana area brochure.

1351 Children's Fishing Programme

Fishing tackle and instructional material was provided to Ronald McDonald House in Ngongotaha for use by attendees.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Seven fishing competition permits were processed for the period. Staff attended two fishing competition weigh-ins.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Two club visits were undertaken during the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Wairua Hut

The concession process for the site the hut occupies is still in progress but is expected to be concluded soon. Maintenance has been carried out including ceiling repairs, and routine general cleaning.

Waikaremoana Hut

Maintenance was carried out including some minor electrical repairs.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

Meetings were held with Waikato Regional Council staff re Mercury Energy monitoring programmes on the Waikato River, Te Komiti Whakahaere (Te Arawa Lakes Trust) re proposed Te Arawa Fresh Water Fisheries Bylaws (see subsequent submission to TALT in Papers for Information), the Taupo Fisheries Advisory Committee, and Fire and Emergency senior staff re the DOC fire depot sited on the Hatchery grounds.

1421 Public Communications

Balance Farm Environment Awards

The supreme winners of the Bay of Plenty Balance Farm Environment Awards for 2018 were kiwifruit growers Mark and Catriona White of 'Coastal Kiwis', Opotiki. The public field day at 25 Walker Road, Opotiki will be held on 11 April 2018 starting at 9:30am.

Media Releases

Around half a dozen media releases were issued over this period, the most recent being focused on an appeal to junior licence holders to take up the opportunity to hunt the Waewaetutuki wetland.

The release included a link to a comprehensive information package covering conditions for licence holders to meet, hazards and access.

In late February, a release was issued to cover proposed changes to Eastern's fishing regs, including the potentially contentious removal of fly fishing only areas at the Rotorua lakes. This was widely distributed to media and Facebooked. Copies of the release were sent to meet early magazine deadlines at Sun Media and The Adventurer. The release was picked up by a variety of other media including the Daily Post and Opotiki News.

In mid-February, a release quoting Matthew McDougall was widely distributed that focused on record numbers of mallards banded in the Eastern Region, sparking hopes of a good game bird season.

Another release sent out at the end of January featured an appeal from Eastern staff on any botulism outbreaks the public might encounter.

Grant Dyson liaised extensively with staff from media including The Adventurer (North Island paper), Waterline (Tauranga-based Sun Media publication), Coast & Country News (Sun Media), Bay of Plenty Times, Daily Post, etc.

Grant also undertook a major review of game bird hunting pages in advance of the new season, updating regulations, key dates, non-toxic shot and other pages. This included adjustments to Eastern website headings, ballot information, etc. A table with all regions' seasons, bags and other information was updated with 2018 details. New material added to Hunting Resources included Eben Herbert's excellent article on how to distinguish mallards from greys. Grant also oversaw the editing of regional copy and photos for Reel Life newsletter, and assisted with the editing of Eastern magazine supplement stories.

1451 Education

No tours of the hatchery facility were provided for the period.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Compliance has focused on monitoring summer angling locations, particularly inflow streams and mouths on Lake Rotorua. These have been relatively quiet with few issues evident.

Summer surveys have continued on the Rotorua Lakes, with only low angler numbers encountered at times, due generally to weather conditions not being conducive to angling.

Enquiries have been concluded into the gill netting incident at the Hopuruahine Stream mouth at Lake Waikaremoana, with the result being that one person, the main offender, has been charged with offences in relation to this and has been summonsed to appear in the Wairoa District Court in April.

Enquiries have also been concluded into the group of offenders who had been accessing the F&G hatchery grounds after hours in January, and fishing in ponds onsite. The four persons involved have now been charged with offences in relation to this, including being unlawfully on property, and are due to appear in the Rotorua District Court in late March.

Rangers have made visits to many other areas around the region including Waikaremoana, and several river systems.

Liaison and co-operation with Police is ongoing, including planning processes for the upcoming game hunting season.

Overall compliance rate continues to be in excess of 98 %.

Contacts Year to Date

Angler contacts to end of February 2018 number 1,648. (March figures not yet available).

Contacts: Year 2017-2018 to 28/02/2018.

Month	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Last 5 yr average
September	66	50	59	29	21	57
October	984	960	1223	903	836	1013
November	175	112	20	62	69	100
December	387	392	293	310	390	396
January	355	381	335	217	195	357
February	151	395	418	293	137	298
March	279	275	253	191		260
April	299	264	53	214		205
May	446	498	272	292		405
June	325	203	277	171		237
July	79	120	107	94		104
August	77	76	42	27		71
Total	3623	3726	3352	2803	1648	3502

1521 Ranger Training

Ranger safety training courses comprising one two day event and a one day refresher course, were held in March at the Eastern Fish & Game office in Rotorua. These courses were attended by Fish & Game regions as well as Eastern.

North Island/National CLE role

This role continues with input into CLE/training/prosecutions and legal matters. Considerable effort was also put into the infringement system proposal (Draft Infringement Notice Guidelines) as well as other related matters including reparation and prosecution processes.

Rangers

The ranger team continues to contribute to overall ranging effort.

1531 Prosecutions

Currently nine offenders have offences pending resolution, details as per the table below.

Some of these offenders have warrants to arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in court. Others are pending resolution in the courts.

Of note is that after a review of reparation following a recent Supreme Court decision on the Pike River matter (Worksafe prosecution and subsequent appeal to the Supreme Court), reparation has been nationally halted as a resolution option. The implications of this is that all offences which meet the prosecution standard will have to be put through Court prosecution, and this will mean greater prosecution costs both in preparation time and legal costs.

Work is ongoing in regard to the Conservation (Infringement Systems) Bill which is currently before parliament. There is a possibility that Fish & Game may become part of this infringement system along with DOC, and if so, this will provide an ability to deal with low level offences without having to file charges in court. However, if this does proceed it will be some time off before it will be implemented.

For the year 2017- 2018 year to date we have dealt with 18 persons for 32 offences as tabled below. Note some of these offences are representative of multiple offences by the same offenders.

Offence name	Number of offences
Fish without licence	15
Fish closed waters	5
False details	1
Disturb spawning gravels	1
Take sports fish with net, spear, gaff or device.	1
Possession of net/spear	1
Illegal tackle	2
Obstruction	1
Exceed bag limit - fish	1
Unlawfully on property	4
Total	32

Offences Pending Resolution

To date 15 separate offences are pending resolution, by nine offenders.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution, as at 21/03/2018:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	8

Possess spear-net- gaff	1
Fish closed waters	1
False details	1
Unlawfully on property	4
Total	15

LICENSING

1612 Analysis of Licence Information

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales for all regions. Additional reports are also supplied to the Licence Working Party.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Administration staff continued to liaise with licence agents as required and field staff drop in to various retail agents when in the area.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1821 Operational Work Planning

A first draft of the 2018-19 OWP and budget was prepared along with potential contestable funding bids (see main Agenda Item 8).

1841 National Liaison

In addition to staff's ongoing contribution to a wide range of national projects and work areas, Andy Garrick provided ongoing input to enquiries and discussions concerned with the release of captive reared mallards

ADMINISTRATION

1923 Training

Five staff attended a Power Boat Level 2 re-assessment day in late March, this being a three yearly certification requirement for operating vessels.

14.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

23 March 2018

1. Background

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace, the Eastern Fish and Game Council is provided with a report at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety plan – including Health and Safety as an agenda item for staff & ranger meetings;
2. Monitoring and Reporting – in accordance with the Health and Safety plan;
3. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed;
4. Training programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers;
5. Health and Safety incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events;
6. Recommendations.

2. January/February/March 2018 Update

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Tail Gate Forms were used by staff out on site for Banding, Fin Marking and Loading Fish for Liberations & Fish Trap work

Regular (weekly) staff meetings.

New Contractors issued with H & S agreement and inductions.

The new whiteboard has improved communication between staff and makes it easier to know where staff are.

A draft document (6/3/18) has been prepared by MS “Safe Procedure for Operators of the Fish Traps, Eastern Fish and Game Region”. At present this is a draft document that has been circulated for comment amongst fisheries staff.

The “Ngongotaha hatchery Water Emergency Protocol” which includes aspects of health and Safety was updated by MS in February 2018.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

	23/3/18	31/12/17
Number of workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	1	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2016-2017 year	2	2
Number of workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year	1	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2014-2015 year	1	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2013-2014 year	3	3
Total number of workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	35	34
Total number of days lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	9	9
Total number of days since last lost work injury (31/8/2017-23/03/2018). <i>Note the lost work days were in Dec/Jan 17/18 after remedial surgery, not immediately after the injury.</i>	204	122
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	8,035	8,035

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting:

8/1 – Inspection of trees and site after big storm (5 Jan 2017). Treescape called into cut down trees and area taped off to discourage staff, tenants, and visitors from entering the area. More trees to be cut down shortly. Visitors verbally warned not to go into taped off areas. Staff and tenants made aware of the slips and debris after the storm.

15/1 - Beware of tree fall and damage after storms – tracks taped off where unsafe areas have been identified.

22/1 – as per 15/1

30/1 – Need to range in pairs in the Waiteti and Hamurana areas.

30/1 – Identified that when working in duck traps eye protection must be worn to prevent eye infections.

12/2 – Staff had discussion as to the level that near misses need to be reported. It was generally agreed that near misses for out of ordinary events need to be recorded.

19/2 – Investigation re Lloyd's slipping off tanker.

26/2 - Staff reminded last to leave to lock the front gate – for security of the site

5/3 - Staff notified of spraying around the grounds and that the signs would be on display when this is taking place. Top track beyond Hatchery is closed due to trees over the track – this is still taped off.

12/3 – As per 5/3 and staff also notified to take care on slippery decks.

19/3 - As per 5/3

4. Training Programme

Nothing to report.

5. H&S Incidents

On 17 February 2018, LS slipped/misplaced a step getting off the tanker. He hit his leg and thigh in the incident. The outcome was a badly bruised thigh but otherwise no serious injury. The incident has been investigated by AG. Although no serious injury for this incident it was noted that given the height of the tanker extreme care must be taken when getting into and out of the tanker. No new controls were identified that could be put in place to reduce the incidence of this occurring again.

Following up from the 21 December 2017 incident with BR in the Kaituna Wetland, a digger was on-site in late February and has fixed the hole.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

14.4 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

20 March 2018

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the current financial position, and approve payments for the months of January and February 2018.

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 28 February 2018 is attached. This report documents the income and expenditure for the period.

Income

Licence revenue is reporting at \$31,353 below budget and \$24,963 below revenue reported for the same period last season. Licence sales by category and LEQ are reported in detail within the licence sales report and this provides a more up to date picture of licence sales YTD.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following; hatchery (\$14,361), fishing competitions (\$130), rentals (\$6,791), reparations (\$304), children's fishing (\$171), and fines (\$526). Hawke's Bay and the New Zealand Fish and Game Councils were invoiced for contract work (\$10,157), and Rainbow Springs for the sponsorship of the children's fishing programme. Interest received on maturing term deposits totalled \$5,404.

Species Management

Expenses associated with the banding and trend count projects are reported within the period and related to aircraft hire, wages and fuel for feeding out, meals for staff working in Gisborne, and various minor purchases of materials for banding. Customs clearance fees for the datawatch tags are also reported within the period. Within budget YTD.

Hatchery expenses for the period related to fish food (\$3,207), repairs to the hatchery water supply (\$1,470), various materials for covering rearing ponds with bird netting (\$629), Aqui-S (\$301), and servicing of the tanker (\$729). Expenses are also reported relating to rates, vehicle registration, and the regular expenses for rubbish removal, electricity, fuel, and oxygen.

Habitat

Spending in the Reserves budget was significant for the period and related to:

- Various weed control sprays (\$1,100);
- Fitting of hose and reel onto spray unit (\$317);
- Digger works – Bregmans (\$2,000);
- Re-contour sand borrow pit, drain construction, and wetland creation Kaituna WMR (\$15,658).

A small meal expense is reported within the Habitat Enhancement budget for work undertaken in Hawke's Bay. The Habitat area as a whole is within budget YTD.

Participation

Access and signage spending for the period related to spray, and access and office signs. The updated 'Waioeka' and 'Lake Rotorua and Tributaries' pamphlets were printed and, minor

expenses are reported relating to the children's fishing programme and hut electricity. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

The expense reported in February includes cleaning of the public toilets and the purchase of various materials related to property maintenance. This area as a whole is within budget YTD.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone. Legal fees are also reported relating to two prosecutions and obtaining a statement from an offender residing in Auckland. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The Commission budget includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. The total for commission and fees paid YTD is under budget as a result of reduced licence sales but also due to the increased use of Public Online and reduced costs associated with these sales.

Council

Council expenditure for the period related to catering and travel expenses for the February meeting of Council. Within budget YTD.

Planning

The expenditure reported within the Planning budgets in January related to the 2016/17 audit fee and levies which were paid to the New Zealand Council.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

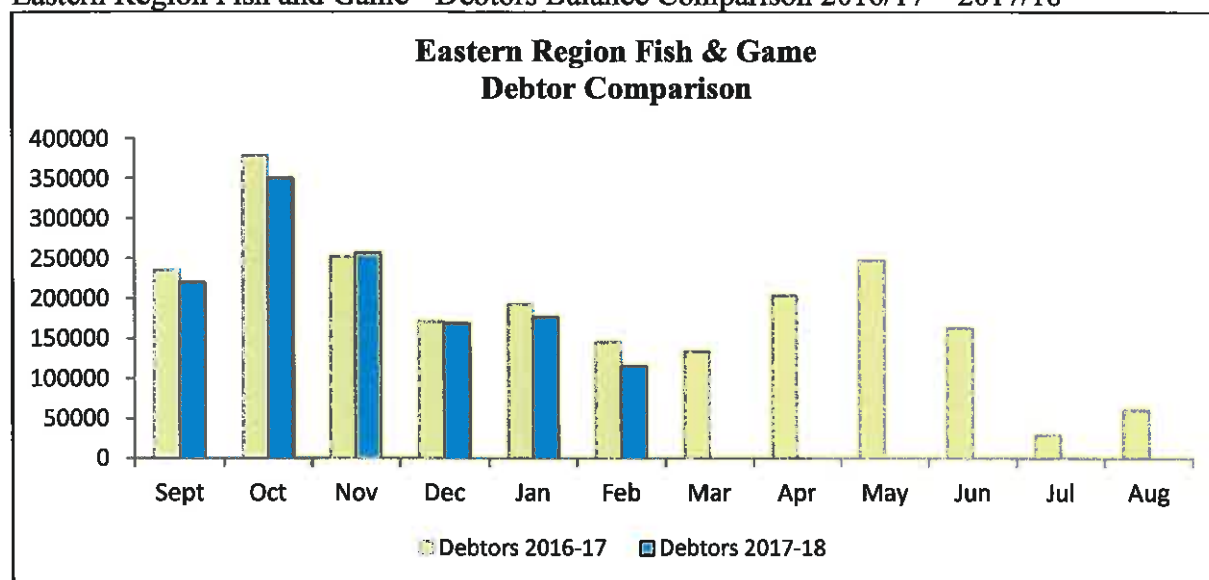
Salaries	Within Budget YTD.
Staff Expenses	Meal expenses are reported relating to time working away from the office for meetings and fish transportation. Other staff expenses related to airport parking, staff clothing, and flowers for Alison Lyall, NZ Council. Health and Safety expenses for the period included; steel capped boots, gloves, safety glasses, an accident register, and costs associated with felling of five at risk gum trees near the kids fish out pond. This has resulted in the YTD budget being exceeded by \$1,202.
Staff Houses	Staff Houses maintenance included plumbing repairs at the timber house (\$441), and cleaning of the staff quarters (\$240). Rates were paid in January and a small expense is reported relating to staff quarters electricity. Within budget YTD.
Office Premises	Rates were paid in January and the usual electricity, cleaning, and security expenses are reported for the period. Office premises expenses are over budget YTD (\$326) and this is due to timing of electricity accounts.
Office Equipment	Two air conditioning units were serviced and the phone system required a replacement truck card during the period. The usual expenses relating to the phone and eftpos lease are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, postage and photocopying. The PO Box renewal was also paid in February.

	Within Budget YTD.
General	Minor expenses are reported for morning teas and bank fees. This area is over budget (\$886) due to increased insurance costs which are offset by reduced insurance costs elsewhere e.g. Vehicles
General Equipment	Equipment maintenance expenses related to servicing of the spray unit and materials for mower maintenance. Field equipment fuel expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle maintenance expenses for the period included servicing of five vehicles, one wheel alignment, a set of tyres, and a high lift towbar tongue. Insurance was paid for two new vehicles which were purchased in January and registration on three vehicles. The standard fuel expenses are reported which include RUC's on two vehicles. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: \$1,083,030 (includes \$117,011 for asset replacement reserve and \$439,802 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 28 February 2018.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$115,490 as at 28 February 2018 (\$176,024 as at 28 February 2017).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2016/17 – 2017/18



December debtors are made up primarily of licence sales. Three debtors are overdue with their payments totalling \$621. Staff have been active in following up on these outstanding accounts.

Fixed Assets

The following assets were purchased/sold within the period:

Asset purchased	Asset sales
2018 Mazda BT 50 LDD864	HWQ63 awaiting sale
2018 Mazda BT 50 LDD865	HUG500 awaiting sale
	HRQ307 awaiting sale

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.

2017/2018 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

As at 28 February 2018

Schedule & Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST Variance	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 34,000	\$ 15,574	2,368	1,164	\$ 136,761	\$ 62,888	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 158,761	\$ 78,461	\$ 80,300	49.4
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,150	\$ 260	850	536	\$ 49,070	\$ 28,925	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,220	\$ 29,215	\$ 22,005	57.0
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 69,850	\$ 52,381	2,925	1,714	\$ 188,888	\$ 92,586	\$ 78,500	\$ 45,879	\$ 180,009	\$ 98,088	\$ 60,911	61.9
1150	Game Farm	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1160	Releases	\$ 500	\$ -	220	101	\$ 12,700	\$ 5,429	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,200	\$ 5,429	\$ 7,772	41.1
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	156	69	\$ 9,006	\$ 3,727	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,006	\$ 3,727	\$ 5,279	41.4
1180	Control	\$ 200	\$ -	52	10	\$ 3,002	\$ 513	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,202	\$ 513	\$ 2,689	16.0
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 106,500	\$ 68,244	6,572	3,593	\$ 379,388	\$ 194,078	\$ 90,500	\$ 45,879	\$ 395,398	\$ 216,443	\$ 178,955	54.7
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ 444	1,154	371	\$ 66,820	\$ 41,660	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,820	\$ 42,104	\$ 24,716	63.0
1220	Works & Management	\$ 31,580	\$ 23,568	1,048	512	\$ 60,501	\$ 27,670	\$ 23,080	\$ 18,527	\$ 69,001	\$ 32,711	\$ 36,290	47.4
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 9,400	\$ 295	1,004	276	\$ 57,960	\$ 14,881	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67,360	\$ 15,176	\$ 52,184	22.5
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	120	5	\$ 6,928	\$ 270	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,928	\$ 270	\$ 6,657	3.9
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 41,180	\$ 24,307	3,326	1,564	\$ 192,008	\$ 84,480	\$ 23,080	\$ 18,527	\$ 210,108	\$ 90,261	\$ 119,848	43.0
1310	Access	\$ 7,500	\$ 4,793	648	403	\$ 37,409	\$ 21,782	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,909	\$ 26,575	\$ 18,334	59.2
1330	Newsletters	\$ 13,000	\$ 7,664	411	103	\$ 23,727	\$ 5,564	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,727	\$ 13,228	\$ 23,499	36.0
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,310	116	26	\$ 6,697	\$ 1,377	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,697	\$ 3,667	\$ 5,009	42.4
1350	Training	\$ 1,850	\$ 49	978	376	\$ 58,459	\$ 20,310	\$ 13,500	\$ 5,285	\$ 44,809	\$ 15,074	\$ 29,735	33.6
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	95	28	\$ 5,484	\$ 1,512	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,484	\$ 1,512	\$ 3,972	27.6
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 728	36	34	\$ 2,078	\$ 1,661	\$ 400	\$ 108	\$ 3,128	\$ 2,281	\$ 847	72.9
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 25,800	\$ 15,544	2,294	967	\$ 131,854	\$ 52,206	\$ 13,900	\$ 5,393	\$ 143,754	\$ 62,357	\$ 81,397	43.4
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	216	111	\$ 12,470	\$ 5,982	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,470	\$ 5,982	\$ 6,487	48.0
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ -	249	80	\$ 14,375	\$ 4,335	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,875	\$ 4,335	\$ 10,540	29.1
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 3,500	\$ 400	176	103	\$ 10,160	\$ 5,537	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,660	\$ 5,937	\$ 7,724	43.5
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 1,000	\$ 252	568	281	\$ 32,790	\$ 15,165	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,790	\$ 16,017	\$ 17,773	47.4
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,252	1,209	574	\$ 69,795	\$ 31,018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,795	\$ 32,270	\$ 42,525	43.1
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,100	\$ 345	830	395	\$ 55,189	\$ 21,336	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,289	\$ 21,679	\$ 35,611	37.8
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	108	41	\$ 6,235	\$ 2,215	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,235	\$ 2,215	\$ 5,020	30.6
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,603	344	129	\$ 19,659	\$ 6,968	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,451	\$ 18,359	\$ 7,089	\$ 11,270	38.6
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,600	\$ 1,948	1,408	565	\$ 81,283	\$ 30,519	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,481	\$ 82,683	\$ 30,982	\$ 51,901	37.4
1610	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	322	140	\$ 18,589	\$ 7,562	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,389	\$ 7,562	\$ 11,827	39.0
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	200	82	\$ 11,546	\$ 3,322	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,546	\$ 3,322	\$ 8,224	28.8
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 800	\$ -	522	202	\$ 30,135	\$ 10,884	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,935	\$ 10,884	\$ 20,051	35.2
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	4	0	\$ 231	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 231	\$ -	\$ 231	0.0
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,286	880	382	\$ 50,802	\$ 21,188	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,802	\$ 24,474	\$ 36,328	40.3
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,286	884	382	\$ 51,033	\$ 21,188	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,033	\$ 24,474	\$ 36,559	40.1
1810	Management Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	125	24	\$ 7,216	\$ 1,296	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,216	\$ 1,296	\$ 5,920	18.0
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,200	\$ 6,702	528	215	\$ 30,481	\$ 11,586	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,681	\$ 18,288	\$ 21,393	46.1
1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ 32	422	147	\$ 24,382	\$ 7,940	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,462	\$ 7,972	\$ 16,490	32.6
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 9,300	\$ 6,734	1,075	386	\$ 62,059	\$ 20,823	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,359	\$ 27,557	\$ 43,802	36.6
		\$ 206,180	\$ 121,312	17,280	8,242	\$ 987,566	\$ 445,197	\$ 133,480	\$ 71,280	\$ 1,070,266	\$ 495,229	\$ 575,037	46.3

OVERHEADS		EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COSTS		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
1910	Salaries	\$ 912,561	\$ 415,706			\$ 19,650	\$ 396,059	\$ 869,876	\$ 473,817				
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 23,900	\$ 3,650			\$ -	\$ 3,650	\$ 23,900	\$ 20,250				
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 12,800	\$ 5,839			\$ 19,500	\$ (13,561)	\$ (8,420)	\$ 5,141				
1940	Office Premises	\$ 17,500	\$ 10,096			\$ -	\$ 10,096	\$ 17,500	\$ 7,405				
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 3,900	\$ 2,657			\$ -	\$ 2,657	\$ 3,900	\$ 1,244				
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 17,910	\$ 8,460			\$ -	\$ 8,460	\$ 17,910	\$ 9,451				
1970	General	\$ 8,450	\$ 7,832			\$ 750	\$ 1,927	\$ 7,700	\$ 1,786				
1980	General Equipment	\$ 16,500	\$ 7,513			\$ -	\$ 7,513	\$ 16,500	\$ 8,988				
1990	Vehicles	\$ 48,700	\$ 24,421			\$ -	\$ 24,421	\$ 48,700	\$ 24,280				
	Administration	\$ 1,062,021	\$ 486,274			\$ 64,455	\$ 41,077	\$ 987,566	\$ 445,197				
	Total Overhead Net Cost							\$ 997,566	\$ 445,197				
	Total Outputs Staff Hours							17,280	8,242				
	Internal Cost Per Hour							57.73	54.02				

2017/2018 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
1	Species Management	\$ 106,500	\$ 68,244	6,572	3,583	\$ 379,388	\$ 194,078	\$ 90,500	\$ 45,879	\$ 395,388	\$ 216,443	\$ 178,955	\$ 178,955	54.7
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 41,180	\$ 24,307	3,326	1,564	\$ 192,008	\$ 84,480	\$ 23,080	\$ 18,527	\$ 210,108	\$ 90,261	\$ 119,848	\$ 119,848	43.0
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 25,600	\$ 15,544	2,284	967	\$ 131,854	\$ 52,206	\$ 13,900	\$ 5,383	\$ 143,754	\$ 62,357	\$ 81,397	\$ 81,397	43.4
4	Public Interface	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,252	1,209	574	\$ 69,795	\$ 31,018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,795	\$ 32,270	\$ 42,525	\$ 42,525	43.1
5	Compliance	\$ 7,600	\$ 1,945	1,408	565	\$ 81,283	\$ 30,519	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,481	\$ 82,863	\$ 30,982	\$ 51,901	\$ 51,901	37.4
6	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	522	202	\$ 30,135	\$ 10,884	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,935	\$ 10,884	\$ 20,051	\$ 20,051	35.2
7	Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,286	884	392	\$ 51,033	\$ 21,188	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,033	\$ 24,474	\$ 36,559	\$ 36,559	40.1
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,300	\$ 6,734	1,075	386	\$ 62,059	\$ 20,823	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,369	\$ 27,557	\$ 43,802	\$ 43,802	36.6
9	Administration													
	Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,220	2,567									
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 206,180	\$ 121,312	23,500	10,809	\$ 997,566	\$ 445,197	\$ 133,480	\$ 71,280	\$ 1,070,266	\$ 495,229	\$ 575,037	\$ 575,037	

Licence Income 2017-18		Budget	Actual
2017/18 Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,149,957	\$ 954,647
Less Commission		\$ 57,488.00	\$ -
Net Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,092,469	\$ 954,647
2018 Game Licence Income		\$ 282,397	\$ 13,643
Less Commission		\$ 13,120	\$ -
Net Game Licence Income		\$ 249,277	\$ 13,643
Total Licence Income		\$ 1,412,354	\$ 968,290
Total Commission		\$ 70,618	\$ 38,680
Total Net 2017/18 Licence Revenue		\$ 1,341,736	\$ 929,610

% year complete		% of OWP budget spent	
OWP Bulk Fund	Actual Net Cost YTD	50%	46%
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget		\$ 1,070,266	\$ 495,229
less Interest		\$ (12,646)	\$ (4,210)
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies		\$ 243,158	\$ 121,579
Less Licence Revenue		\$ (1,432,354)	\$ (968,290)
Plus Commission Expense		\$ 70,618	\$ 38,680
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/Revaluation		\$ 33	\$ -
Depreciation		\$ 71,662	\$ 35,914
Subtotal		\$ 30,671	\$ (281,098)

Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund		Total	
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest		\$ (9,962)	\$ 2,173
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses		\$ 73,000	\$ -
Adjusted Budget	Actual/(surplus)/deficit/YTD	\$ 93,709	\$ (278,925)

Profit and Loss - Council
Eastern Fish and Game Council
For the 2 months ended 28 February 2018

Income	Jan-18	Feb-18	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	126,694	79,931	968,290	1,000,500	1,412,354	(32,210)	(3)
Other Income	19,654	20,193	114,395	109,941	221,246	4,454	4
Total Income	146,348	100,125	1,082,684	1,110,441	1,633,600	(27,757)	(2)
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	6,372	6,372	35,914	35,832	71,662	82	0
Loss on Disposal	0	0	0	0	670	0	0
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	6,982	5,517	15,574	17,500	34,000	(1,926)	(11)
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	290	300	2,150	(10)	(3)
1140 Hatchery Operations	4,573	4,422	52,381	52,640	69,650	(259)	(0)
1160 Releases	0	0	0	500	500	(500)	(100)
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	150	200	(150)	(100)
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	11,555	9,939	68,244	71,090	106,500	(2,846)	(4)
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1210 Resource Management Act	0	0	444	200	200	244	122
1220 Works & Management	740	18,334	23,568	24,580	31,580	(1,012)	(4)
1230 Assisted Habitat	18	0	295	3,680	82,400	(3,385)	(92)
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECT/MGT	758	18,334	24,307	28,460	114,180	(4,153)	(15)
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	90	135	4,793	5,250	7,500	(457)	(9)
1330 Newsletters	0	0	7,664	8,000	13,000	(336)	(4)
1340 Other Publications	1,000	1,000	2,310	2,000	2,000	310	16
1350 Training	5	0	49	1,100	1,850	(1,051)	(96)
1370 Huts	128	101	728	752	1,450	(24)	(3)
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	1,223	1,236	15,544	17,102	25,800	(1,558)	(9)
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1420 Communication	0	0	0	300	500	(300)	(100)
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	400	1,746	3,500	(1,346)	(77)
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	0	244	852	498	1,000	354	71
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	0	244	1,252	2,544	5,000	(1,292)	(51)
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	58	35	343	1,050	2,100	(707)	(67)
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0
1530 Compliance	379	913	1,603	2,250	4,500	(647)	(29)
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	437	948	1,945	3,300	7,600	(1,355)	(41)
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distribution	0	0	0	0	800	0	0
1630 Commission	4,634	3,074	38,680	50,025	70,618	(11,345)	(23)
Total 1600 LICENSING	4,634	3,074	38,680	50,025	71,418	(11,345)	(23)
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	0	1,338	3,286	4,998	10,000	(1,712)	(34)
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	1,338	3,286	4,998	10,000	(1,712)	(34)
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1830 Reporting/Audit	8,185	0	6,702	7,340	9,200	(638)	(9)
1840 National Liaison	60,790	0	121,610	121,632	243,258	(22)	(0)
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	68,975	0	128,312	128,972	252,458	(660)	(1)

	Jan-18	Feb-18	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var YTD %
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	67,890	67,988	415,709	422,400	912,561	(6,691)	(2)
1920 Staff Expenses	1,733	156	3,650	2,448	23,900	1,202	49
1930 Staff Houses	549	689	5,939	6,124	12,600	(185)	(3)
1940 Office Premises	1,501	855	10,096	9,770	17,500	326	3
1950 Office Equipment	194	1,167	2,657	2,700	3,900	(43)	(2)
1960 Communications	879	1,417	8,460	8,798	17,910	(338)	(4)
1970 General	126	112	7,832	6,946	8,450	886	13
1980 General Equipment	356	291	7,513	10,150	16,500	(2,637)	(26)
1990 Vehicles	5,134	4,514	24,421	27,700	48,700	(3,279)	(12)
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	78,362	77,190	486,274	497,036	1,062,021	(10,762)	17
Total Operating Expenses	172,316	118,675	803,759	839,359	1,727,309	(35,600)	(4)
Net Profit	(25,968)	(18,551)	278,925	271,082	(93,709)	7,843	2

16.5 LICENCE SALES REPORT

Ref: 6.01.05

23 March 2018

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2017-2018 season YTD. The following tables and charts show a comparison of sales between the 2017-2018 season and the 2016-2017 season as at 22 March 2018.

2. 2018 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 The early Game licence sales for the 2018 season YTD are summarised in Table One.
- 2.2 Total sales YTD are reporting to be 14.1% ahead of the 2017 season. Buyers are adapting to online purchasing following the complete removal of paper licence books and this will have influenced this early result. Therefore, it is too early to make assumptions about the 2018 game sales at this point.
- 2.3 The target for game sales has increased this season to 3,316 LEQ's from 3,101 LEQ's in 2017.

Table One

Comparison of Game Licence LEQs to 22 March 2018

SALES CHANNEL	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2017
Agent Online Sales	353	37	14			360	14.2%
Agent Book Sales						0	
Direct Sales*	59	4	2			60	12.8%
Total Game 2018	412	41	16	0	0	420	14.1%
<i>Agent Online Sales</i>	<i>309</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>17</i>			<i>315</i>	
<i>Agent Book Sales</i>						<i>0</i>	
<i>Direct Sales*</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>			<i>53</i>	
Total Game 2017	361	37	18	0	0	368	
TARGETS	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
2018 Total Budget	3200	352	142	220	10	3316	12.7%
2017 Total Sales	3097	342	138	214	8	3210	13.1%

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800, Mail order

3. 2017-2018 Fish Licence Sales (Table Two)

- 3.1 Fish Licence sales for the 2017-2018 season YTD are summarised in Table One and are currently reporting to be down on the 2016-17 season YTD results by 3.6% (340 LEQ's).
- 3.2 A total of 86.7% of the annual sales target has been achieved.
- 3.3 The downward trend in fish licence sales continued over the summer break with 556 fewer licences purchased. Within the season categories the Family licence and the Local Area licence have seen the most significant decline, 129 and 71 respectively. The short-term categories of Short Break and Day are also down 173 and 78 on 2017 results.
- 3.4 The 2018 post-Christmas summer period saw some terrible weather which will have contributed to the decline. The local weather has improved this last couple of weeks but unfortunately the peak sales period is largely over with Winter licences on sale now for 1 April.
- 5.5 Nationally Fish Licence sales are reporting to be 0.3% down on the previous season. Of the North Island regions, five have experienced a decline in 2018 and for the South Island, five regions have seen increased sales on 2017 results. Taranaki Region in the North are up on 2017 results and North Canterbury Region in the South are down.
- 5.6 The following chart provides a comparison of daily sales by LEQ compared to the 2016-17 season.

Chart 1: Cumulative Fish LEQ comparison 2016-17 and 2017-18 YTD

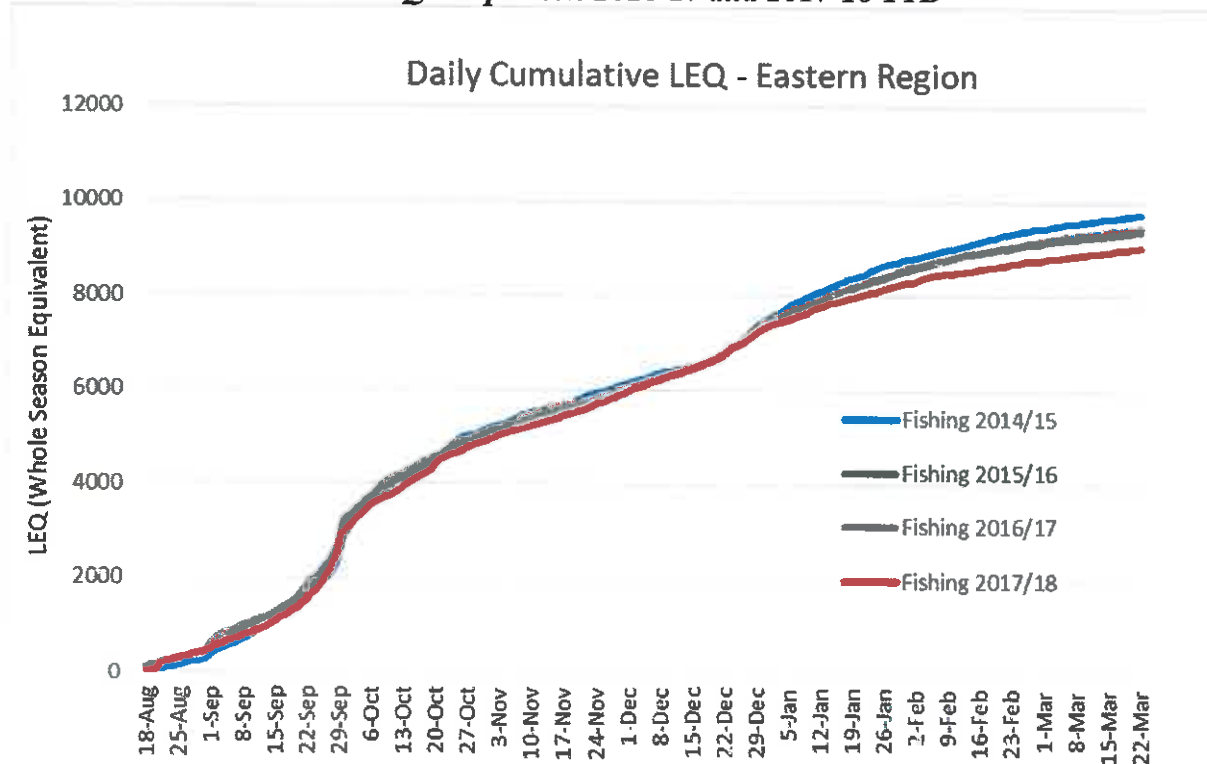


Table Two

Comparison of Fish Licence LEQs to 22 March 18

SALES CHANNEL	Family Season		Adult Season		Adult NonRes		Adult Loyal Senior		Adult Local Area		Junior Season		Adult Winter		Adult Long Break		Adult Short Break		Adult Day		Junior Day		Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2016-17
	1570	1220	263	240	1127	234	3	53	404	2426	214	5254	-5.3%											
Agent Online Sales	1570	1220	263	240	1127	234	3	53	404	2426	214	5254	-5.3%											
Agent Book Sales	1249	932	173	171	476	136	11	41	360	2059	124	0	-100.0%											
Direct Sales*	2819	2152	436	411	1603	370	14	94	764	4485	338	9031	-0.1%											
Total Fish 2017-2018	1690	1195	303	205	1210	275	1	63	545	2513	221	5551	-3.6%											
Agent Online Sales	1258	962	171	149	464	132	5	38	392	1906	161	3780												
Agent Book Sales	2948	2173	474	354	1674	410	6	101	937	4563	402	9371												
Direct Sales*																								
Total Fish 2016-2017																								

TARGETS	Family Season		Adult Season		Adult NonRes		Adult Loyal Senior		Adult Local Area		Junior Season		Adult Winter		Adult Long Break		Adult Short Break		Adult Day		Junior Day		Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
	2980	2248	500	400	1700	500	550	150	1500	6300	500	10413	86.7%											
2017-2018 Total Budget	2980	2248	500	400	1700	500	550	150	1500	6300	500	10413	86.7%											
2016-2017 Total Sales	2986	2202	554	357	1689	481	570	112	1394	6576	564	10397	86.9%											
2017-2018 Estimated year end												10020	96.2%											