



**EASTERN  
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING  
AGENDA***

**17 October 2019**

# AGENDA

## The 178th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

**Date:** Thursday, 17 October 2019

**Commences:** 12.00 PM

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19 General Business (1.55 PM, 5 min)	

- 20 Public Excluded Session (2.00 PM, 60 min) (R)
  - 20.1 Confirmation of public excluded minutes 25 May 2000
  - 20.2 Licence Administration Sub Committee Report
  - 20.3 Manager's Performance Review
  - 20.4 Council's Self Appraisal Review
  - 20.5 Vacancies on Eastern Fish and Game Council
- 21 Meeting Closes (3.00 PM)

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 177<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH  
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME  
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019 AT 12.00PM**

**Present**

Crs Murray Ferris, Barry Roderick, Lindsay Lyons, Geoff Thomas, David Woolner, Ngahi Bidois, Adam Rayner, and Alan Baird.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Anthony van Dorp, Lynne Sands, Mark Sherburn, John Meikle, Eben Herbert, Matt Osborne, John Meikle, Carmel Veitch, and Lloyd Gledhill (Eastern Fish & Game); Martin Taylor (New Zealand Fish & Game); Mark Venman (Department of Conservation), Shane Grayling (Bay of Plenty Regional Council); Don Atkinson and John Gifford (Lakes Water Quality Society).

**1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA**

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.05pm, and welcomed all present introducing Martin Taylor, Shane Grayling, Mark Venman, Don Atkinson, and John Gifford. Cr Ngahi Bidois opened with a karakia.

**2.0 APOLOGIES**

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Laurance Tamati and Ken Coombes; Helen Neale and Dave Conley (Department of Conservation); and Ken Raureti (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board).

2.2 *Agreed (Alan Baird/David Woolner) that the apologies for the 177<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/08/2.2]*

**3.0 TRIBUTE TO RAY BUSHELL**

3.1 Cr Murray Ferris asked that Council stand for a moments silence in memory of Ray Bushell, past Councillor and long-standing supporter, who had recently passed away.

3.2 Cr Barry Roderick spoke a few words on behalf of Ray providing some history to his contribution to Fish & Game and conservation.

**4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (13 JUNE 2019)**

4.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to a correction to spelling of Alan Baird's name under Item 6, General Business. [19/08/4.1]*

**5.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY**

5.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

**6.0 MATTERS ARISING**

6.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019.

**7.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Cr Lindsay Lyons – R3
- Andy Garrick – Indigenous Freshwater Fish Amendment Bill

## **8.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

8.1 No conflicts of interest were identified.

## **9.0 2019 – 2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

9.1 Andy Garrick informed Council that the final draft of the OWP had been circulated to clubs and other interested organisations and no feedback had been received. With no changes to consider he advised that it was appropriate for Council to formally approve the final draft if it was agreeable to doing so.

9.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves the Operational Work Plan and Budget for the 2019-2020 year. [19/08/9.2]*

9.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council delegates authority to the Manager to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and Budget. [19/08/9.3]*

## **10.0 CATFISH INCURSIONS AND ISSUES ARISING**

10.1 Andy Garrick introduced speakers Shane Grayling (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Mark Venman (Department of Conservation), and Don Atkinson and John Gifford (Lakes Water Quality Society) who would be presenting to Council today.

10.2 Shane Grayling (Bay of Plenty Regional Council) presented via Powerpoint and provided a brief overview of Regional Council's Biosecurity team and their role in managing pests under the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP). The new RPMP was currently being developed having been through the public consultation stage and with a workshop scheduled for late September 2019 the plan was likely to be endorsed early in 2020. Shane briefly covered some of the proposed "strengthened rules" relating to boat trailers and potential offences for leaving boat trailers in the water and the transportation of ballast water between water bodies by the likes of wakeboard boats. Shane also advised of the Regional Council's plan to include perch and tench in the RPMP as they were considered to have the potential to impact native fish populations and recreational fisheries. Perch and tench were not well established in the region and the recent discovery of perch in Papamoa appeared to have been a one-off incident. The Regional Council was planning to make a case for amending the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 and declassifying these species from the sports fish schedule within its area of responsibility.

10.3 Shane advised that the first catfish incursion was discovered in Lake Rotoiti in 2016 by the Regional Council's weed harvester, and in late 2018 were found in Lake Rotorua. By early 2018 the population in Lake Rotoiti had increased dramatically where some 35,000 were caught. The catfish incursion was Regional Council's largest biosecurity project within the Bay of Plenty with \$300,000 being spent annually following the \$450,000 spent last year in attempts to contain and prevent the spread to other lakes. Discussion points included:

- risk to other lakes;
- projects currently underway including working with other groups;
- investment in science and innovation for alternative methods of control;
- eradication not feasible with budgets allocated over the next 10 years;
- Waikato Regional Council's involvement with the Lake Taupo incursion;
- effect on koura populations.

10.4 Don Atkinson and John Gifford addressed Council on behalf of the Lakes Water Quality Society (LWQS). Their concern is about the huge risk that catfish (and other aquatic pests) could be spread into lakes not currently affected. They felt that aside

from the Regional Pest Management Plan there was nothing specific requiring individuals to be involved and do their bit to reduce the risks of pests being introduced or transferred into lakes in which they're not currently present. Providing an example of a programme specific to Lake Tahoe in the United States, the LWQS is advocating for setting up a certification system here to engage boat users and remind them to check their boat before they launch. This might be by way of a cell phone app and instant fines for those who did not comply with the certification process. They advised that the upcoming workshop and LWQS Symposium scheduled for November would provide the opportunity to consider the concept in greater detail.

10.5 Don Atkinson left the meeting at 1.15pm.

10.6 Mark Venman (Department of Conservation) presented via Powerpoint some historic research into the catfish incursion in Lake Taupo where they were first identified in 1985. A previous study had indicated that catfish preferred shallow, weedy, and rocky areas, but in 1997/98 summer they appeared to have vacated the traditional shallow habitat and were seen schooling midwater above the sandy bottom. Initial concerns were that catfish preyed on juvenile trout when they shared the same habitat, but analysis of the diet of catfish found that those found in shallow areas fed mainly on plant material, snails, and insects while bullies appeared to be the main diet of those found in deeper water. A study which monitored catfish movement using transmitters concluded that the catfish in Lake Taupo were primarily found between the surface and a depth of 17 metres. They were most active during hours of dim light, and were less active during winter when they moved into deeper water. A substantial seasonal migration in spring was identified which was possibly related to spawning, and fyke netting during this time of year might be an effective means of controlling catfish as it selected for larger individuals. The results of ongoing monitoring show no obvious signs of the population in Lake Taupo increasing in size.

10.7 Shane Grayling and John Gifford left the meeting at 1.45pm.

#### **11.0 PRESENTATION BY CARMEL VEITCH "REGIONAL & NATIONAL FINANCE PROCESSES"**

11.1 Due to time constraints it was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

#### **12.0 DISCUSSION WITH MARTIN TAYLOR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE NZ COUNCIL**

12.1 Martin Taylor, Chief Executive for the New Zealand Fish and Game Council presented to Council on the challenges and risks facing Fish & Game as he saw them. These included:

- licence sales – declining participation, aging participants, licence fee has exceeded CPI over the last twenty years, maximum licence price threshold has effectively been reached;
- political – Indigenous Freshwater Fish Amendment Bill, NZ Biosecurity Strategy, firearms reforms;
- internal – quality of governance, appropriateness of structure and shortcomings in electoral system;
- climate – effects of climatic warming on lakes and rivers and the species Fish & Game manages.

12.2 Matters raised and discuss by Councillors and staff included:

- current maximum licence fee that a participant is willing to pay now or next year will change within a relatively short period of time because society is conditioned to costs of everything increasing over time;
- value of what Fish & Game delivers to the licence holder for their licence fee needs to be conveyed more effectively;
- comparison of New Zealand's licence fees to other countries;
- increasing participation rather than licence fees;
- revenue could be significantly increased if greater effort put into compliance work in some regions and Fish & Game has a statutory obligation to do this;
- Government budget of \$229m for cleaner waterways tagged for rural sector and could Fish & Game be applying for some of this?
- impacts of population growth, urban expansion, and urbanisation on habitats and resources, social licence and participation are also risks to the organisation;
- access to the resource and individual success tends to be of greater importance to licence holders than the licence fee itself;
- difficulty in making universal changes across a geographically disparate organisation structured as it is, what are Martin's aspirations in terms of the changes he considers necessary? Martin noted it was the role of governors to determine what change was required and for regional councils to direct managers to get in behind the changes they deem to be required;
- the success of an organisation is dependent on more than simply how it is structured – it's dependent on its policies and processes and how all of its different parts interact with each other, and thirdly and critically, it is dependent on the knowledge, skills, experience, motivation and commitment of its staff which increasingly appears to be overlooked or dismissed as being unimportant more recently;
- the strength of the organisation is in its staff in addition to its governors, and staff are the interface between Council and licence holders;
- generic issues identified in recent audits of three regions do not imply that the organisation is broken or in need of major restructuring;
- Fish & Game's portrayal of itself as an environmental champion/extremist and the negative effect of this on its social licence to operate within certain sectors of the community is disturbing;
- public statements made on behalf of the organisation and lack of consultation with staff with significant experience prior to such communications;
- potential role Fish & Game's wetlands could play as carbon sinks;

**12.3 Agreed (Adam Rayner/Alan Baird) that the meeting time be extended for one half hour to close at 3.30pm. [19/08/12.3]**

12.4 Further matters discussed:

- we don't have a good relationship with farmers, when is this going to change? Martin advised the messaging going out would not change until legislation changes and new rules are in place requiring regional authorities to enforce new standards around water quality;
- concern was expressed that it will take a great amount of effort and a lot of time before some members of the farming community regain confidence in, and support for Fish & Game, if they ever do;

- Council make up needs to be more representative, e.g. need more women governors;
- future of upland game property operations was queried, and Martin advised the organisation representing the interests of operators appeared to be very busy behind the scenes and it would be a question of waiting to see what they came up with over the next 2-3 years;
- the Chairman requested that greater dialogue was required between national and regional staff, and staff needed to be consulted and involved more in what Fish & Game puts out nationally.

### **13.0 DATES FOR SETTING LICENCE FEES IN 2020**

13.1 Andy Garrick noted that since this agenda item had been prepared, the NZ Council had approved a 2019/20 Budget and Meeting Schedule for consultation with regions that overlooked and was inconsistent with the letter received by the Chair of the Eastern Region Council dated 12 June 2019. Martin Taylor advised that he was unaware of that letter, but regional Fish & Game Councils would be invited to comment in due course on the more recently drafted schedule.

**13.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/David Woolner) that Council agrees to the proposed schedule for setting licence fees in 2020 as set out in the Chairman of the NZ Council's letter to the Chair of the Eastern Fish and Game Council dated 12 June 2019. [19/08/13.2]***

### **14.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORT**

14.1 Council received the Summary for the 2019 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report.

### **15.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

#### **15.1 *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board***

No report.

#### **15.2 *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board***

Ken Raureti had emailed his report to Andy who highlighted key items;

- The Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy had been populated with key stakeholders, Fish & Game included, and full consultation was planned for late October/November.
- DOC is working on a NZ Biosecurity Strategy to *Protect & Restore* nature from the Mountain Tops to the depths of the Oceans
- Conservation week 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Conservation Week. Event will be hosted at Wairaka, Te Manuka Tutahi Whakatane.
- Management of Treaty Settlements, Partnerships and relationships is significant in this rohe with several overlapping Waka, multiple iwi, and numerous Hapu. The legislative requirements to resource Treaty Settlement obligations was resource demanding.

#### **15.3 *Department of Conservation***

Mark Venman spoke briefly on behalf of the Department of Conservation fishery team. He said the fish traps were currently in full swing and that fish trapped were on average 2.5cm longer and 300 grams heavier than last year. Recent drift dives had identified fish in the deeper pools which generally indicated that they were not really spawning yet. Compliance work was currently at a very high level for all of DOC.



#### **15.4 *New Zealand Fish and Game Council***

Cr Lindsay Lyons thanked Martin for the presentation and following discussion, adding that it was great to see the New Zealand Council CEO at regional meetings. As the Chairman of the New Zealand Council he advised that there was no intent to restructure the organisation rather it was about a re-set. He said that there was a need to look at where Fish & Game is heading and what it wants and needs to do to look after the resource, and get behind the R3 programme to maintain and increase participation. Lindsay advised that the recent audit of Hawke's Bay, which came about as the other two audits did from concerns relating to governance and conflicts of interest, was nearing completion, and in due course the Minister of Conservation would address this with Fish & Game. He highlighted the need for confidentiality in relation to legally embargoed and politically sensitive information, and commented on the positive relationship Fish & Game has with both the Department of Conservation and the Minister of Conservation.

#### **16.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

16.1 Due to time constraints there was no discussion of the Operational Reports.

16.2 ***Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Management and Health and Safety reports. [19/08/16.2]***

16.3 ***Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for May and June 2019 totalling \$328,334.80. [19/08/16.3]***

16.4 Council also received the Licence Sales report.

#### **17.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

17.1 Martin Taylor noted that the issues raised by Eastern Region staff in relation to recently inserted provisions in the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill which appear to be of concern to this region, have been circulated to other regions for their views. He noted there is still time to deal with these, and Andy Garrick appealed for New Zealand Council staff to take the matters raised seriously, as the implications for both this region and the Taupo fishery are considerable.

17.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons spoke of the tagged trout event which has been hosted by the Eastern Region each opening for the past four years, and noted its alignment with the R3 strategy. Lindsay queried the possibility of the New Zealand Council underwriting the major prize of \$10,000. Martin Taylor responded that he thought this was a great idea. Andy Garrick noted that the New Zealand Council had previously rejected this proposition, and queried whether Martin considered the Council would be comfortable being accountable to licence holders in the event the major prize was won. He asked Martin whether he had considered the cost benefits of the event as it is currently operated. Martin Taylor stated that it was about more than just licence sales, and said this would be a matter for the Council to consider.

17.3 Cr Adam Raynor advised a duck calling competition would be held at the Sika Show in late September and advised that he would have a stand available for Fish & Game if the region wished to be involved.

**18.0 MEETING CLOSED**

18.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois closed the meeting with a karakia.

18.2 The meeting closed at 3.46pm.

.....  
**Murray Ferris**  
**Chairman**

## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

### 2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Alan Baird/David Woolner) that the apologies for the 177<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/08/2.2]*

### 4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (13 JUNE 2019)

- 4.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to a correction to spelling of Alan Baird's name under Item 6, General Business. [19/08/4.1]*

### 9.0 2019 – 2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 9.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves the Operational Work Plan and Budget for the 2019-2020 year. [19/08/9.2]*
- 9.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council delegates authority to the Manager to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and Budget. [19/08/9.3]*

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## 7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

27 September 2019

### 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 revised its 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 matter<sup>1</sup> i.e:

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

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

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;
- (ii) The member’s other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;

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<sup>1</sup> “Matter” means:

(i) The Council’s performance of its functions or exercise of its powers as set out in Part 5A of the Conservation Act 1987, subject to the Council’s statutory purpose set out in section 26P(1) of the Conservation Act; or

(ii) An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.

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

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

- 1.13.1 Every member present at a meeting must declare any direct or indirect conflict of interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.
- 1.13.2 When a conflict of interest arises in respect of a matter, the affected member will:
  - (i) not vote on issues related to the matter;
  - (ii) not discuss the matter with other members;
  - (iii) conform to the majority view of other members present as to whether to be excluded from discussions regarding the matter and/or leave the room when the matter is discussed;
  - (iv) not, subject to the discretion of the Chairperson, receive further papers or other information related to the matter.
- 1.13.3 Where a member can be shown to have a potential conflict of interest, the Council (excluding the affected member) will determine an appropriate course of action, which may include the following:
  - (i) applying some or all of the actions applied to a member with a conflict of interest (set out in 1.13.2 i) – iv) above);
  - (ii) providing a written explanation outlining why there is no legal conflict of interest that can be made available to all Fish and Game Councils, licence holders and other interested parties.
- 1.13.4 The conflicted member will be given the opportunity to be heard by the Council on the points raised and the member's submissions will be taken into consideration by the Council.
- 1.13.5 The minutes must record the declaration and member's subsequent abstention from discussion and voting.

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

**3. Recommendation**

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

## 8. 2020 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

Ref: 1.07.03

27 September 2019

### 1. Purpose

To review the 2019 Eastern Game Season Conditions (see Appendix 1) and highlight any issues concerned with the 2020 game season that will need to be considered further at Council's December 2019 meeting.

### 2. Introduction

Issues relating to game season regulations for the upcoming season need to be identified at this meeting of Council. From time to time Council reviews its policies and criteria for setting regulations (see resolutions Appendix 2). Council has previously determined that where it could it would set mallard & grey duck (mallard) regulations based on predicted population sizes of game bird populations ("threshold management"), with three sets of regulatory constraints, these being restricted, intermediate, and relaxed conditions. If, for example, the Eastern mallard population was predicted to be equal to, or below 350,000 birds then a restricted set of conditions would apply. If it was projected it will be above 350,000 and below 450,000 birds at the commencement of the season following, an intermediate set of conditions would apply, and if it was predicted it was likely to be greater than 450,000 birds this would trigger a relaxed set of conditions (see Figure 4).

Paradise shelduck and black swan regulations are also a function of their respective population estimates. Criteria for setting regulations for these species are given in Appendix 2.

National monitoring of shoveler populations indicates the population is stable so there is no reason to depart from historic regulations (one-month season and a two bird daily limit).

Game season conditions are generally finalised for recommendation to the Minister of Conservation once population information is available from summer monitoring programmes.

### 3. Issues

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

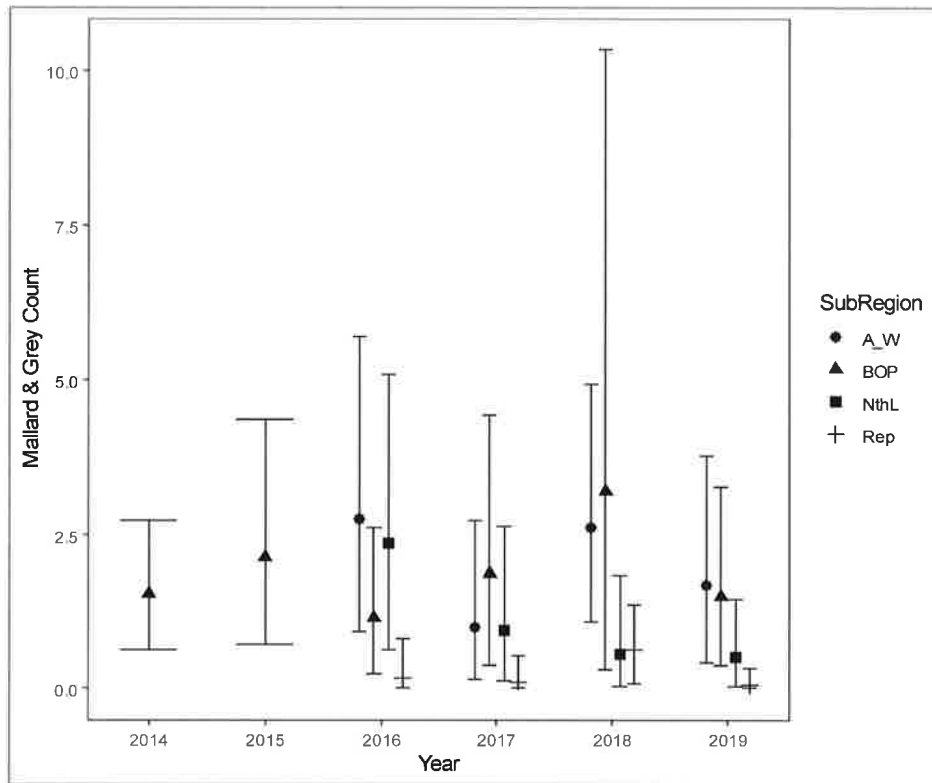
#### 1. Reporoa/Broadlands

At its November 2015 meeting, Council discussed the apparent paucity of mallard and grey duck in the Reporoa/Broadlands area. Council agreed *(Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the proposal to constrain the mallard and grey duck bag limit in the Reporoa/Broadlands/upper Waikato River areas be reviewed in November 2016 following further investigations by staff and the establishment of baselines for monitoring populations in these areas. [15/11/12.9]*. Aerial counts undertaken in April 2016 through to April 2018 provided no support for departing from the restricted set of conditions imposed in the 2016 game season and retained ever since.

Aerial transect counts just prior to the 2019 game season indicated that the Reporoa mallard population is still very low relative to other areas (Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Northland) in which counts are conducted (Figure 1). The extremely low count recorded this year

however, may have been influenced by poor light conditions on the day which made some sections difficult to count.

Council needs to determine if it wishes to continue with the restricted (4-week season, 4 bird daily limit) for greylard (mallard and grey duck) in this area.



**Figure 1. Transect counts of mallard per kilometre (median± 95% credible limit) for the Waikato (A\_W), Bay of Plenty (BOP), Reporoa (Rep) and Northland (NthL) 2014-2019. The majority of counts were from 10km transects however some transects had to be shortened due to difficult terrain and the counts adjusted accordingly.**

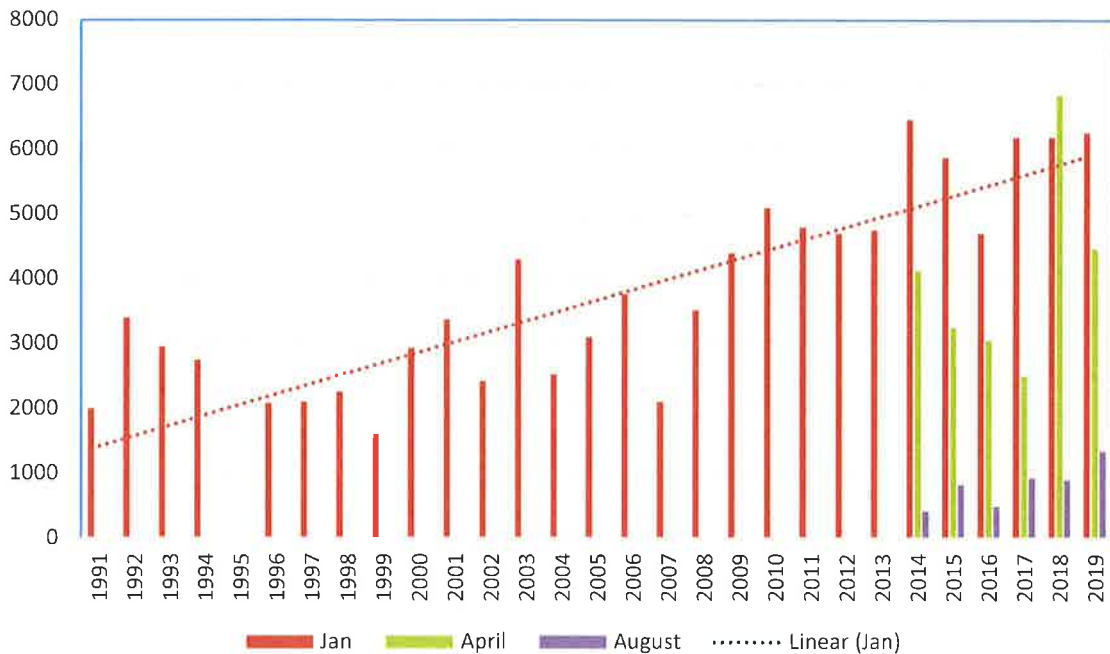
## 2. *Special black swan season*

A special black swan season has been gazetted for the weekend of 29 February – 1 March 2020 in Area A1 where there has for many years been an unlimited daily bag during the regular season. The special season was proposed in 2018 following rapidly increasing numbers on Tauranga Harbour (Figure 2).

The Western Bay of Plenty Fish and Game club held an organised shoot over the special season in February this year with the aim of reducing numbers on the harbour, but despite a good turnout of hunters, the weather wasn't favourable and only about 140 birds were taken. Nevertheless, this is about a quarter of the total number of swan harvested within the entire region during the 2019 game season (417; 95% CI 218 – 1017; 2019 Game Bird Hunter Survey results *in prep*).

Council needs to consider whether it wishes to hold another special season in February 2021.

## Tauranga Aerial Swan Counts



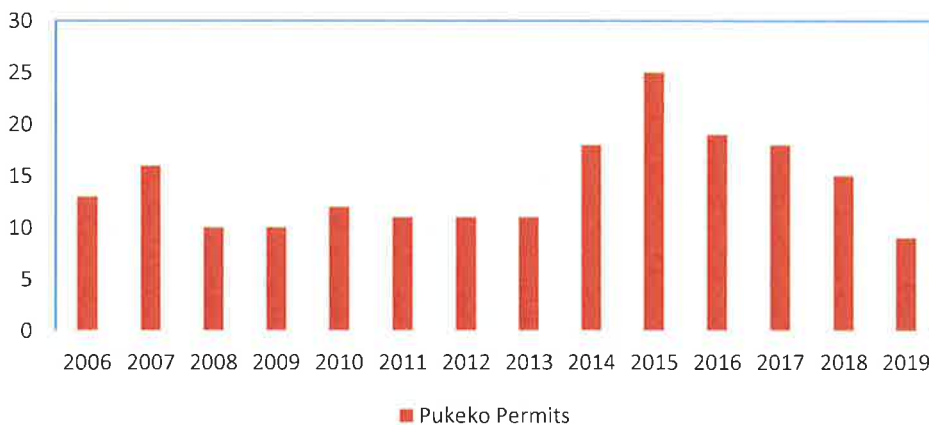
**Figure 2. January, April and August aerial counts of black swan on Tauranga Harbour (2003-2019)**

### 3. *Special pukeko season*

A special season for pukeko was also held this year on the weekend of 23-24 February 2019 with a daily bag limit of 10 across the entire region. This season was initially proposed to alleviate crop damage, reduce mallard and grey duckling predation, and was based on the limited harvest recorded during the game bird season (2018 season: 1,324; 95% CI 768–2,280). It is not clear if hunters chose to participate.

The number of permits issued over the period 2015–2018 has been decreasing (Figure 3). Council needs to decide if it wishes to hold another special season in 2021.

## Pukeko Permits



**Figure 3. Pukeko Permits issued by year**



4. *Coastal boundaries*

It appears that the Management Area definitions for A1, B1 and B2 gazetted each year and presented in the regulation guide may not incorporate the estuaries and harbours. Currently the boundary descriptions are based on District Council boundaries which don't extend into the sea. Staff need to review the descriptions of the management units and suggest alternative wording for consideration at the next Council meeting.

5. *Upland game season length*

The upland game season (and the pukeko and relaxed swan seasons) has for many years finished on the last full weekend in August. The consequence of this is that in some years it will be of 17 weeks duration (7/19 seasons since 2001) while in others it's a week shorter. This was the case this year (2019) with the season finishing on 25 August, six days shy of the end of August. We have had a request to extend the upland game season when it falls short of the end of the month so that it is closer to being a fixed length each year (i.e. 17 weeks). The 2020 season opens on 2 May and provisionally ends on 30 August, and will therefore be of 17 weeks duration. Nevertheless the enquiry we have received begs the question are we unreasonably restricting opportunity for upland game, pukeko and black swan hunters in some years but not others?

Matters needing to be considered:

- (i) Extending the season by a few days is highly unlikely to impact negatively on the game bird populations concerned;
- (ii) Hunters are not very good at reading their regulation guides and there is a small percentage that continue to hunt after the close of the season. At the moment the last full weekend in the month is easy to understand and remember. Having a floating end point may create confusion for some hunters. Council needs to weigh off the additional opportunities (up to an extra six days in some years) versus the issues that may arise from the season finishing on a different day of the week from year to year.

6. *Brown quail* can be harvested in all management areas within the Eastern Fish and Game Region. Despite this, the annual Game Bird Hunter Survey has not recorded any brown quail having been harvested within the region since 2007. The few small pockets of brown quail that staff are aware of have either been reduced to very low numbers or are no longer in existence. Council might wish to consider whether an open season on this species is still warranted.

7. *Game Bird Carcasses*

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game has a clause in its Gazette Notice that prohibits leaving game bird carcasses on the hunting ground. Following the controversy arising from 40 or more pheasants being dumped on a Hawke's Bay beach last year and the periodic dumping of other game bird species in various locations each year, staff discussed if we should include a similar clause in the Eastern Region Gazette Notice. Every year we are made aware of hunters dumping carcasses but seldom (if ever), have enough evidence to ascertain who were the culprits. Although it is not very likely that we will catch (many) hunters in the act it is probably appropriate that this Council signals that it does not condone, and will not tolerate, such behaviour.

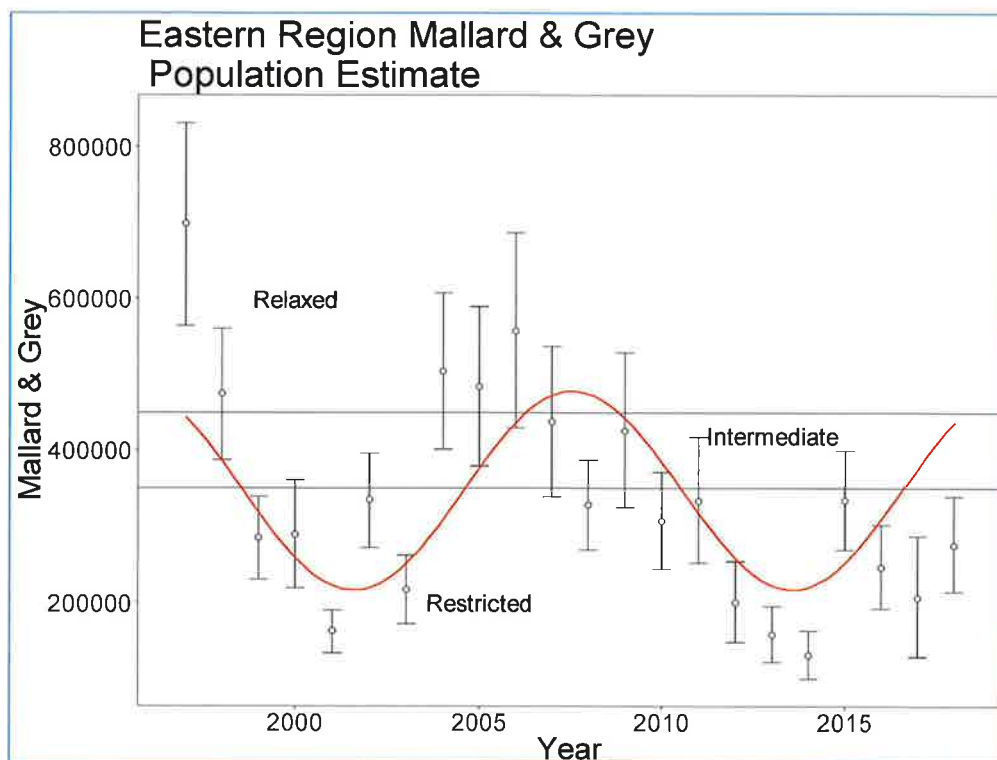
After today's meeting, clubs will be invited to comment on any issues they wish to raise for consideration at Council's next meeting on 5 December 2019.

#### **4. Additional Information**

##### **Threshold Approach and Mallard and Grey Duck Population Estimates**

Threshold management (see Introduction and Figure 4) relies on estimates of population size and an ability to predict the population going into the next game season (in this instance 2020). Population estimates are based on Lincoln-Petersen estimates. This method relies on band returns, estimates of band reporting rates, and harvest data. Predicting what populations are going to do is not an exact science as there are many variables that can come into play, interact and influence population size, and there are uncertainties in relation to the relative role each plays. Currently we have three hypotheses or ways in which we're look at this:

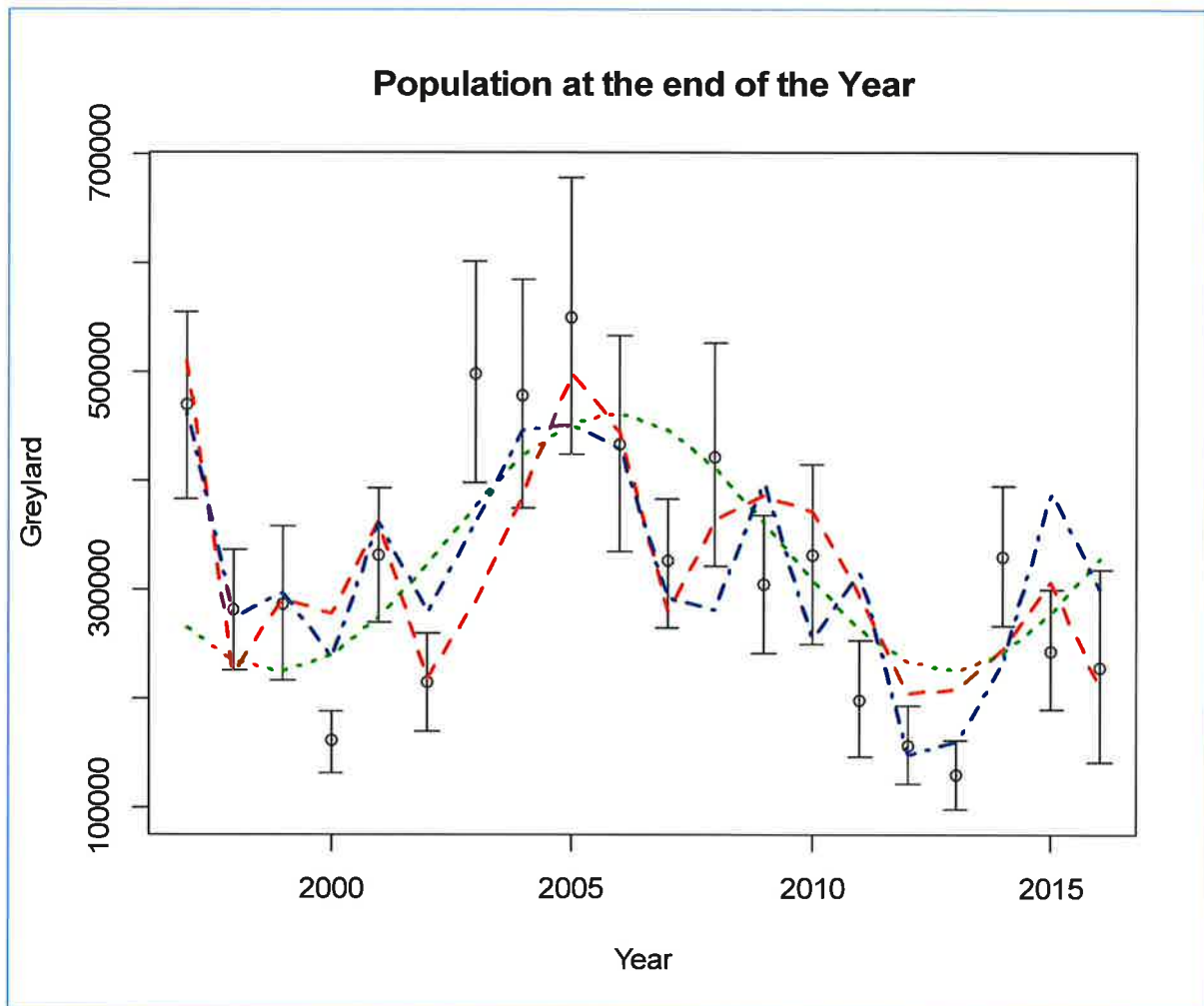
- (i) that the population is trending in a particular direction i.e. it is increasing or decreasing over time (linear trend);
- (ii) that the population is cyclic i.e. it is in some sort of long-term cycle (e.g. as a function of a repetitive climatic or predator abundance cycle);
- (iii) that the population is fluctuating as a function of climatic and harvest variables.



**Figure 4. Population estimates (mean  $\pm$ 95% credible interval<sup>2</sup>) of mallard and grey duck in the Eastern Region 1997-2018 with the three levels of regulation constraint: relaxed, intermediate, and restricted. The population levels (or thresholds) that separate these regulation constraints are shown by the two black solid lines (350,000 and 450,000).**

<sup>2</sup> Credible interval is a Bayesian statistic that is similar to but not the same as a confidence limit. There is a 95% chance that the mean (in this instance) is within the interval.

At the moment we have several models for which there is a measure of statistical support (refer Figure 5). The most supported model suggests the population at the end of the year, along with being a function of what the population is at the beginning of the year, is positively related to average summer rainfall and negatively related to average winter temperature. The second ranked model simply suggests that the population may follow a more regular cycle like a sine wave. The third ranked model reflects more contemporary thinking that population change is a function of adult female survival and spring rainfall in addition to population size at the beginning of the year.



**Figure 5.** The population at the end of the year after the breeding season (black circle and horizontal lines; mean±95% BCI) 1997–2016. The red dashed line is the model N+SuR+WT (N=Population at the beginning of the year, SuR=average summer rain at the Whakatane weather station, WT=average winter temperature at the Whakatane weather station). The green dotted line is the Sine wave model and the blue dash-dot model is AFS+N+SpCR (AFS=adult female survival, N=greyhound population at the beginning of the year, SpCR=average spring rain in the current breeding year – Whakatane weather station).

## **5. Recommendation:**

**5.1** *That Council identifies any other game season condition matters it would like further information on, or consultation with hunters about, before its 5 December 2019 meeting.*

# Appendix 1

## FIRST SCHEDULE 2019 GAME SEASON

### Hunting conditions generally common to all fish and game regions

#### 1 Bag limits

- (1) No person shall possess on any one day, more than the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for the Fish and Game Region in which the game is taken, except on Sunday 5 May 2019, when that person may have in his or her possession twice the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for Saturday 4 May 2019.
- (2) A person may possess more game than specified in sub-clause (1) of this Schedule, if all such game is labelled with the following details:
  - (a) The name and address of the person by whom the game was taken;
  - (b) The number of the licence to hunt or kill game held by the person by whom the game was taken;
  - (c) The name of the Fish and Game Region by which that licence was issued;
  - (d) The name of the Fish and Game Region in which the game was taken; and
  - (e) The date on which the game was taken.

#### 2 Waiver of Restrictions on Baiting for Waterfowl

A person<sup>3</sup> may hunt or kill game of the family Anatidae (waterfowl) during the open season for game in all Fish and Game Regions, except Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, where food has been cast, thrown, placed or planted any time during the year. In the Second Schedule, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, Special Condition 4(9), applies to restrictions on baiting.

#### 3 Magazine Shotguns

A person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, in any Fish and Game Regions with any magazine shotgun of a calibre 10 gauge or less, which includes magazine extensions<sup>4</sup>, other than in the:

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

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

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<sup>3</sup>Section 17 of the Wildlife Act 1953

<sup>4</sup>Amended notification to section 18(1)(c) (iii) and (v) of the Wildlife Act 1953 as authorised by the Minister of Conservation under section 18(1) of that Act

#### **4 Shot Size**

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

#### **5 Use of Lead Shot Prohibited**

(1) No person may possess lead shot, or use lead shot, while hunting or killing waterfowl within 200 metres of open water, with any gun using a 10 or 12 gauge cartridge. Non-toxic alternative shot may be used, including steel.

(2) For the purposes of this requirement, “waterfowl” means any of the following game species:

Black swan (*Cygnus atratus*);

Grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;

Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;

Paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) also known as Paradise duck;

Australasian shoveler duck (New Zealand shoveler) (*Anas rhynchotis*);

Pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*).

(3) For the purposes of this requirement, “open water” means either:

(a) any area of land or seabed covered permanently or seasonally by water wider than 3 metres; or

(b) any area which is temporarily covered by water wider than 3 metres at the time of such possession or use, and that is contiguous to an area referred to in paragraph (3)(a).

#### **6 Shotguns of a Bore Smaller Than 12 Gauge and Muzzle Loaders Exempt in Relation to Use of Lead Shot**

Hunters are encouraged not to use lead shot in shotguns of a bore smaller than 12 gauge (including 16, 20, 28,) or muzzle loaders within 200m of all waterways and wetlands for the 2019 season.

This remains voluntary in 2019 for smaller-gauge users but will become mandatory (lead shot prohibited) for the 2020 season across all Department of Conservation and Fish and Game administered lands. In 2021 lead shot will be prohibited for all licence holders (irrespective of gauge used) across all lands (public and private) hunting game birds within 200m of all waterways and wetlands.

#### **7 Camouflaged Rowboats**

A person<sup>5</sup> may hunt or kill game within the following Fish and Game Regions, from unmoored camouflaged rowboats, subject to the excluded periods for the regions specified below:

Northland – no excluded period

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<sup>5</sup>Section 18(1)(f)(vi) of the Wildlife Act 1953

Auckland/Waikato – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019  
Eastern – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019  
Hawke’s Bay – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019  
Taranaki – no excluded period  
Wellington – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019  
Nelson/Marlborough – no excluded period  
West Coast – no excluded period  
North Canterbury – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019  
Central South Island – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019  
Otago – excluding Clutha River 4 to 12 May 2019 inclusive  
Southland – excluding the Matarua, Aparima, Oreti, Waiau and Waimatuku rivers and their tributaries 4 to 31 May 2019 inclusive.

## **8 Restriction on Taking of Game**

No person shall use any vehicle propelled by mechanical power (including motorised watercraft)<sup>6</sup> to chase or kill game, except in such circumstances and at such times as authorised by the Conservation Act 1987 and Wildlife Act 1953.

## **9 Pegging Day**

- (1) Stand claimants who claimed and occupied a stand during the 2018 Game Season may claim that stand at any time prior to pegging day (up to 10.00 a.m. on 7 April 2019) following the purchase of the 2019 game licence. If you are in the Auckland/Waikato Region, then the above mentioned applies **only to Adult Whole Season Licence Holders** and does not apply to Junior Licence Holders as it does in all other Fish and Game Regions.
- (2) Otherwise, unclaimed stands can only be claimed any time after 10.00am on 7 April 2019 in all Fish and Game Regions.
- (3) A stand may be claimed by planting on it a stake having either a board or identifying label attached, plainly identifying the name of the claimant and the number of his/her licence. The hunting stand claim tag provided with the licence must be completed with the name of the claimant and affixed to the board or identifying label.
- (4) The licence holder claiming a stand must be present in person at the stand when marking it up.
- (5) No one can claim more than one stand.
- (6) A stand cannot be claimed closer than 90 metres to a stand already claimed by another person without that person’s consent.
- (7) Any stand not occupied by the claimant within one hour after the opening hour of hunting, on any day, can be occupied by another licence holder for the remainder of the day.

## **10 Conditions**

These conditions will expire at the end of the open season for game specified under the Second Schedule for each Fish and Game Region.

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<sup>6</sup>Section 18(1)(f)(v) of the Wildlife Act 1953

## SECOND SCHEDULE 2019 GAME SEASON

### EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION<sup>7</sup>

#### 1 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2019/2020 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	4 May to 3 Jun 2019	8	All areas except the Reporoa Area
	4 May to 3 Jun 2019	4	The Reporoa Area
NZ shoveler duck	4 May to 3 Jun 2019	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	4 May to 30 Jun 2019	6	Area A1, A2
	4 May to 30 Jun 2019	10	Area B2 and that part of B1 which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
	4 May to 14 Jul 2019	20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pukeko	4 May to 25 Aug 2019	10	All areas
	29 Feb and 1 Mar 2020	10	All areas
Black swan	5 May to 26 Aug 2018	No limit	Area A1
	29 Feb and 1 Mar 2020	No limit	Area A1
	4 May to 30 Jun 2019	5	Area A2
	Closed season	0	Area B1 & B2
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	4 May to 25 Aug 2019	No limit	All areas
Brown quail	4 May to 25 Aug 2019	5	All areas
California quail	4 May to 25 Aug 2019	No limit	Area A1 & A2
	4 May to 25 Aug 2019	5	Area B1 & B2
Cock pheasant	4 May to 25 Aug 2019	5	All areas

<sup>7</sup>Reference to Description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 22 May 1990, at page 1861

## 2 Definition of Areas

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

- (1) **Area A1:** Tauranga District, Western Bay of Plenty District, that part of the South Waikato District within the Eastern Fish and Game region and east of State Highway 1, Rotorua District, Kawerau District, Whakatane District and Opotiki District.
- (2) **Area A2:** Those parts of the South Waikato District west of State Highway 1 within the Eastern Fish and Game region, Taupo District and Ruapehu District, which lie within the Eastern Fish and Game region.
- (3) **Area B1:** Gisborne District.
- (4) **Area B2:** That part of Wairoa District within the Eastern Fish and Game region.
- (5) **Reporoa Area:** That area bounded by Waikite Valley Road (Waiotapu) to State Highway 5 to Settlers Road which becomes Broadlands Roads to State Highway (Taupo Bypass) to State Highway 30 to Whirinaki Valley Road (Ngakuru) to Waikite Valley Road.

## 3 Shooting Hours

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

## 4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

## 5 Special Conditions

- (1) No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the Eastern region with any magazine shotgun unless the shotgun:
  - (a) has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
  - (b) the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Act; so that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than 2 shells in the magazine, with no more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.
- (2) No maimai shall impede the use of navigable channels in the Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua and Lake Taupo.
- (3) Maimais erected in the Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua, Ohiwa Harbour, Stump and Waihi bays of Lake Taupo must be dismantled and removed within 2 weeks of the close of the season (ie by 8 September 2019).
- (4) Any licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.



## NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

### **Open Season for Game in Fish and Game Regions Amendment (No. 1)**

Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the Wildlife Act 1953, the Minister of Conservation amends the entry for the Eastern Fish and Game Region in the notice titled "Open Season for Game in Fish and Game Regions", published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, 6 March 2019, Notice No. 2019-gs743, as follows:

Amend under the **Eastern Fish and Game Region** heading "**5. Special Conditions**" by adding clause 5(5), as shown below:

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

Dated this 25th day of March 2019.

HON EUGENIE SAGE, Minister of Conservation.

2019-gs1390

01-04-2019 14:30

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## Appendix 2

### GAME SEASON CONDITION POLICIES FOR SPECIES

#### 2.1 Mallard and Grey Duck (greylard)

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

#### 2.2 Other Species

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

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

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

- (iii) *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the “Intermediate” regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e,*

*when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*

### **2.3 Threshold Criteria for Paradise shelduck**

**Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels**

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

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

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

### **2.4 Threshold Criteria for Black Swan**

**Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels**

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

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

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

## 9. 2019 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES REPORT

Ref: 3.01.06

3 October 2019

### 1. Purpose

To review harvest and hunter effort during the 2019 season for two of the five previously gazetted Upland Game Properties with special conditions within the Eastern Region.

### 2. Background

Each year the Council reviews the operations of the Upland Game Properties gazetted for that game season within the Eastern Region. These properties are operated in accordance with Council Policy and have a list of criteria they need to meet which includes maintaining and submitting an annual register of hunter activity and harvest. This report summarises results for the past 19 years on Upland Game Properties for which returns are available. During the 2018 game season there were five gazetted Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions within the region but only one of these, the Pirini Family Trust, was included in the gazette notice for the current (2019) game season. The other four properties opted to operate this year, and through to and including the 2021 game season, under a new regime prescribed in an Order of Council issued in August 2019 (see Papers for Information accompanying this agenda) which reclassified pheasants and red-legged partridges within the boundaries of these properties from Schedule 1 (Wildlife Declared to be Game) of the Wildlife Act to Schedule 3 (Wildlife that may be Hunted or Killed subject to Minister's Notification). This removed all jurisdiction Fish & Game previously had over the upland game operations at these locations including the requirement for hunters to hold a current game season licence to hunt these species.

While there was a mandatory requirement for only one of the operators (the Pirini Family Trust) to submit a return this year, Equine and Cropp Farms voluntarily chose to in the interests of preserving continuity. Equine also chose to require its clients to hold a current 2019 game licence to hunt within its boundaries.

### 3. Results

The 2019 returns for two of the four or possibly five properties hunted this year have been received and summary results are presented in the tables below. Hunter activity and harvest overall is shown in Table 1. A comparison of total harvest and total birds released is shown in Table 2.

**Table 1: Summary of hunter effort and harvest annually**

Season	# Days Hunted	Number of Hunter/Days	Pheasants Shot				Birds Per Hunter/Day
			Cocks	Hens	Total	% Hens	
2001	31	209	828	631	1,459	43.25	7.0
2002	34	220	1,633	1,440	3,073	46.88	14.0
2003	30	251	2,815	2,440	5,255	46.43	20.9
2004	44	320	3,004	3,526	6,530	54.00	20.4
2005	36	334	4,304	3,265	7,569	43.14	22.7
2006	41	263	2,728	1,853	4,581	40.45	17.4

2007	54	399	3,682	3,575	7,257	49.26	18.2
2008	70	556	5,203	4,837	10,040	48.18	18.1
2009	60	496	4,665	4,351	9,016	48.26	18.2
2010	58	475	3,613	3,307	6,920	47.80	14.6
2011	67	532	5,165	4,894	10,701	45.73	20.1
2012	73	548	5,350	5,588	10,484	53.30	19.1
2013	92	655	6,642	6,279	12,916	41.55	19.7
2014	104	733	7,242	6,615	13,877	47.67	18.9
2015	91	613	6,699	5,641	12,340	45.71	20.1
2016	77	561	4,936	3,633	8,569	42.40	15.9
2017	90	607	6,872	6,416	13,294	48.26	21.9
2018	98	615	6,582	5,750	12,340	46.60	20.1
2019 <sup>8</sup>	32	200	2,543	1,608	4,151	38.74	20.8

**Table 2: Summary of harvest annually**

Season	Pheasants Released	Birds Shot & Recovered	% Harvested
2001	5,938	1,459	24.6
2002	7,400	3,073	41.5
2003	12,400	5,255	42.4
2004	15,200	6,473	42.6
2005	19,400	7,569	39.0
2006	15,200	5,319	35.0
2007	19,700	7,257	36.8
2008	24,436	10,040	41.1
2009	22,004	9,016	41.0
2010	18,200	6,920	38.0
2011	26,389	10,701	40.6
2012	26,820	10,484	39.1
2013	31,084	12,564	40.4
2014	31,084	13,877	44.6
2015	24,631	12,340	50.1
2016	26,800	8,569	32.0
2017	29,240	13,294	45.5
2018	27,700	12,340	44.5
2019 <sup>8</sup>	10,150	4,151	40.9

<sup>8</sup> Note, of the five previously designated Upland Game Properties within the Eastern Region only one (Pirini Family Trust) was required to furnish a hunting register at the conclusion of the season this year. One other however (Equine and Cropp Farms) did so voluntarily. These statistics therefore, do not provide a comprehensive picture of birds released or harvested within the region as a whole in 2019.

**4. Total Reported Numbers of Pheasants Released and Harvested on Gazetted Upland Game Properties within the Eastern Region 2001-2009 inclusive**

No. birds released	393,776
No. birds harvested	160,701 (41%)
No. unaccounted for	233,075s

**5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 That Council receives the summary of hunter effort and harvest on the two Upland Game Properties that provided records for the 2019 season.***

## **10. DRAFT 2018-2019 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Ref: 8.03.04**

**3 October 2019**

### **1. Purpose**

To review the draft Statement of Service Performance report and draft Financial Statements for the 2018-2019 Performance (Annual) Report.

### **2. Background**

The finalised Performance Report for the 2018-2019 year will be presented to the public annual general meeting to be held on 5 December 2019 as per the requirement of Sections 26W and 26ZD(7) of the Conservation Act 1987.

The annual Performance Report contains a Statement of Service Performance (SOSP) so that readers can assess the performance of the Council against the targets set out in the 2018-2019 Operational Work Plan (OWP). The Performance Report aligns with the OWP to clearly show actual outcomes against targets identified in the annual work planning process.

The purpose of this paper is to enable early consideration of the material being developed for inclusion in the Performance Report. A draft of the SOSP has been prepared, along with draft unaudited Financial Statements, and these will have been circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

The reports will be revised after Council consideration and feedback from the independent external Auditor then compiled into the final Performance Report. This then needs to be approved at the 5 December 2019 meeting held immediately prior to the public annual general meeting where it will be presented to the public.

### **3. Recommendation:**

***3.1 That Council receives the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance and Financial Statements for the 2018-2019 year, and provides any feedback it might have on the drafts before the Performance Report for the 2018-2019 year is completed.***

## 11. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

5 October 2019

### 1. Purpose

To provide an end of year summary of expenditure of funds from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund during the 2018-2019 year.

### 2. Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

The table below shows expenditure on projects and work areas since 2001. The items highlighted in yellow are projects undertaken/expenses incurred in 2018-2019.

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



2012 Angler Creel Survey	5,944
Lagarosiphon Project	1,000
Water Quality Monitoring Report	4,990
Waikaremoana Buoy Maintenance	250
2014-15 Wairoa Catchment Access Investigations	5,204
2015-16 Survey Project	13,521
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,560
2015-16 Wairoa Access work and brochure	2,920
2016-17 Survey, Monitoring and Access	12,010
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,459
Lowrance Transducer/Transceiver - Parera	7,129
2017-18 Survey and Monitoring	5,061
2018-19 Survey, Monitoring, Access and 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> share of Buoy repairs	10,885
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148,774</b>

### **3. Discussion**

#### **3.1 Overview of 2018-2019 Expenditure**

At its meeting in April 2018, Council approved funding of up to \$8.5k for the 2018-2019 OWP year from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for ongoing survey and monitoring of key spawning tributaries at Waikaremoana, the continuation of access related work within the Wairoa catchment, and buoy maintenance [18/04/8.7]. In November 2018, Council also approved [18/11/11.6] the carryover of unspent funds (c. \$10k) from the 2017-18 OWP year to repair and upgrade the Water Quality Monitoring Buoy that had previously become stuck fast to a structure protruding from the lakebed.

Staff reinstated the buoy after substantive repairs had been made to it in mid November 2018, but it malfunctioned shortly after and had to be removed again in December 2018 to repair another issue that had arisen with it. It was re-installed in April this year and operated well for a month or so before going offline again which necessitated its removal once more. Total cost for repairs recoverable from Fish & Game and the other two parties with whom costs are equally shared (Genesis Energy and Hawke's Bay Regional Council) was \$10,825.98.

Of the c.\$18.5k funding approved for expenditure during the 2018-2019 OWP year if required, \$10,885 was ultimately drawn down from the Fund. Reports on other activities undertaken at Waikaremoana during the year were reported in the bi-monthly Operational Reports provided in Council's 2018-19 agendas.

#### **3.2 Outstanding Commitments to the Fund**

\$12,000 was approved in April 2016 for the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association to replace four safety/navigation markers at Waikaremoana [16/4/11.4], but the Association has not been able to proceed with its proposal as Te Uru Taumatua and/or the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority had an issue with it at the time it was put forward. Enquiries will be made to establish whether any progress has been made more recently on obtaining approval or whether the Association has decided to abandon the undertaking.

### **4. Recommendation**

#### **4.1 That Council receives this update.**

## **12. LICENCE FEES AND BUDGETS**

**Ref: 8.02.01**

**6 October 2019**

### **1. Purpose**

To discuss Southland Fish and Game Council's proposal to reduce licence fee increases by encouraging regions to reduce their Operational Work Plan budgets for 2020-2021 by 1%.

### **2. Background**

Refer to the letter enclosed with Papers for Information from the Chairman of the Southland Fish and Game Council dated 26 September 2019.

Points to consider:

- 1% of Eastern Region's current OWP budget equates to c.\$11.3k;
- Nationally a reduction of 1% equates to c.\$110k, a saving of \$1 per LEQ (Whole Season Licence Equivalent);
- Eastern Region's external costs budgeted for 2019-2020 total \$196k across all operational outputs (\$81k of which is directly related to running the hatchery programme);
- Internal costs for overheads/inputs (salaries, premises, vehicles, office and staff expenses etc) amount to \$1.07m;
- In addition to revenue generated from licence sales and interest, Eastern Region's budget is supported by income from other sources including the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund, the Non-Resident Anglers Levy Reserve, Ballot Holders' Habitat Management Contribution Fee, rental income from two dwellings, the Fire Depot and reserve grazing, sale of fish to other Fish & Game regions, kids' fishing and fishing competitions, prosecutions, periodic contracts with other parties such as Genesis Energy, Hawke's Bay Fish & Game and NZ Fish & Game, sponsorship, occasional donations, and periodic grants from external funding agencies e.g. WCEET, NZGHT. We also leverage substantial resourcing in kind from agencies such as BOP Regional Council in exchange for providing technical input and project management services to a number of interagency/collaborative programmes;
- We have incorporated several R3 driven projects into this year's OWP and will be putting more focus into initiatives of this nature as time progresses;
- Eastern Region's levy payable to the NZC for supporting national initiatives and those Fish & Game regions that generate insufficient funds to meet their annual budgets will be \$215k this year. Eastern Region staff also make a significant contribution in the form of expertise, advice and time to a variety of regional projects and national initiatives;
- Eastern Region external costs are tightly controlled and far from extravagant, and if we were to tighten our belt further, the questions to be answered are where would we do this and what would Council be prepared to forego?

### **3. Recommendation**

**3.1 *That Council determines its position on reducing its annual budget for 2020-2021.***

### **13. ARMS LEGISLATION BILL**

**Ref: 8.04.04**

**6 October 2019**

#### **1. Purpose**

To provide background information relating to the arms law reform bill prior to submissions on it to the Select Committee being closed on 23 October, the NZ Council's position in relation to it at the time of preparing this agenda, and staff's preliminary assessment of the implications of the bill.

#### **2. Background**

As advised by the CE of the NZ Council in his email to all staff and Councillors on 20 September 2019, the second round of the arms law reform has come out and the bill can be viewed at:

[http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2019/0177/latest/LMS256577.html?search=ta\\_bill\\_A\\_bc%40bcurn%40bn%40rn\\_25\\_a&p=1.](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2019/0177/latest/LMS256577.html?search=ta_bill_A_bc%40bcurn%40bn%40rn_25_a&p=1)

Martin Taylor also attached to his email the preliminary position on the bill developed by the NZ Council at its meeting on 9/10 August 2019, which was well before the public release of the bill. Martin intimated that as Fish & Game (the NZC?) understands the bill in more detail it may change its position on certain clauses. He noted as a starting position that the bill seemed to be imbalanced in terms of police powers, but as there was a long way to go before this becomes law he/they trust the select committee process will iron any issues out.

Martin has subsequently advised that we need to understand what our licence holders' views are and what Fish and Game regional councils' views are. To assist with the first aspect the NZC agreed that a survey be undertaken to canvas licence holders' views on the proposed changes. NZC staff advised that this would be going out to all licence holders including those who don't hold a game bird licence. The questionnaire that was developed for this purpose with the intention that it be emailed out either on 27 September or early the following week, generated considerable concern from a number of regional managers, on the grounds firstly of the questions being asked and lack of information provided to enable licence holders to make informed decisions, and secondly that it go to all licence holders the large majority of whom are not game bird hunters. In recognition of these concerns, Lindsay Lyons, as Chair of the NZ Council, delayed the survey from being sent out until 7 October to enable further discussion around this and an analysis of the bill to be undertaken by Anthony van Dorp and provided to NZC staff.

The NZ Councils' starting position on the bill is provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda. Anthony van Dorp's comments are as follows:

#### **Regarding the Arms Legislation Bill and the Proposed Fish & Game Survey of Licence Holders**

*If a survey is conducted of licence holders we should provide some analysis of the Bill and its implications so that people are adequately informed and in a position to answer questions with greater insight than they might otherwise have. Below are the main points we have identified as*

impacting on most Firearms Licence Holders (FAL) and have implications for game bird licence holders. There are additional matters which could be addressed but we don't consider these likely to impact on the majority of our Fish & Game licence holders.

1. Registration of firearms is proposed – there are pros and cons to doing so. There are, arguably, some benefits of registration but some commentators will point to international experience to argue against registration as being of little benefit in addressing criminal behaviour and criminal ownership and use of firearms unlawfully. F&G can probably take a generally neutral position, although it will no doubt cost firearms licence holders considerably more if registration is introduced. Transparency will be required around the basis and justification for whatever costs are imposed.
2. Firearms licence required to possess firearm parts. The definition of parts is widened to include 'silencers' (suppressors) – a firearms licence will be required to possess a suppressor or silencer, along with any other firearm part including magazines which is a change from the status quo. Again there are pros and cons to this change that could be argued but it could mean some people will inadvertently be committing a criminal act if using a firearm under supervision of a FAL holder and inadvertently end up later with a magazine for instance accidentally in their possession, even if unloaded.
3. Vetting of FAL applicants. Factors which may be used to reject an application for a FAL include having been charged with or convicted of a range of offences. Note 'charged with or convicted' – and includes any offence against the Wildlife Act 1953. It is not necessary to have been convicted of that offence, and does not specify the seriousness of the offence. This would leave it open for rejection of a FAL on the basis of having been charged with a minor Wildlife Act offence, even if the subject has been diverted or the prosecution did not otherwise proceed. Of note Wildlife Act offences are almost all strict liability – including game notice offences, and a person could potentially inadvertently commit a Wildlife Act offence, be charged with it, be given diversion or the charge otherwise not proceeded with, but still potentially face rejection for a FAL application for either a new or renewal application on that basis. Our view is that criteria around offences should provide greater clarity and apply to 'serious' offences unless other factors also apply to disqualify the applicant. Non compliance of any other requirements of the Arms Act or regulations could also result in a rejection.

Other reasons to find a person not fit and proper include 'the applicant has shown patterns of behaviour demonstrating a tendency to exhibit, encourage, or promote violence, hatred, or extremism'. On the face of it this is a worthy thing to include and it is clear to see the reasoning for this clause. However, definitions around 'hatred' and 'extremism' in particular need to be carefully set out to ensure the use of this is in accordance with the intention of the law. Where does freedom of speech and opinion start and finish as opposed to what some will say is hate speech or extreme views? Society is full of persons who have differing views on all manner of subjects. Views or tendencies of 'hatred or extremism' can be interpreted pursuant to the prevailing political climate at the time in regard to whether or not they may trigger this clause. We suggest clear definitions need to be used with this section, as at present it is arguably too open to interpretation, but should be worded so that the tendencies exhibited, encouraged, or promoted clearly have an end point in promotion of violence, which is where clearly the intent of the clause is pointing.

4. General conditions of holding a FAL. A proposed condition of a FAL will include the ability for any member of Police, without a search warrant, and without any reasonable grounds to suspect any offence or wrong doing, to at any 'reasonable time', to enter a FAL holders private premises/home, to inspect firearms and their security/places they are stored. The conditions of

Police exercising this power are that they 'give notice' of the proposed inspection, identify themselves to the licence holder, and inform them of the power being exercised, and if not in uniform produce ID. It is clear that all these requirements can be carried out at the same time, i.e. that the 'notice' need not be an advance notice. This is a significant departure from the current powers of entry as pursuant to the Search and Surveillance Act 2012, which require a good reason for invoking a warrantless power of entry – such as suspecting a breach of the Arms Act, or that a person is incapable of proper control of firearms, or that a family violence situation exists. Arguably this proposal is in conflict with Section 21 of the Bill of Rights Act which states “everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure, whether of the person, property, or correspondence or otherwise.” (A power of entry is deemed a power of search). We question is it reasonable for a law abiding FAL holder, to be potentially subject to Police entry to their home, even at any reasonable time (which is arguably any time except the depths of night) without any reason other than to inspect their firearms and security, without advance notice. We suspect if the clause was amended to require Police to give notice in advance of inspections that this would be more palatable. A power of entry without warrant, without advance notice, should only be reserved for circumstances such as those outlined in the current legislation as per the Search and Surveillance Act.

5. Provisions around shooting clubs and ranges seem very extreme and restrictive given that there have historically been very few, if any, issues caused by bona fide clubs and shooting ranges. A shooting club by the proposed definition will capture most if not all gun clubs, clay shooting clubs, Deer Stalkers Associations, small bore target clubs and so on. If they shoot on a 'range' which is “a facility (whether indoor or outdoor), or a designated area of land, used by a shooting club or members of the public for the primary purpose of carrying out shooting activities”, the club itself will need to have a certificate of approval issued by the Police Commissioner, with much bureaucracy, no doubt with costs, and report annually back to the Commissioner of Police on its operation as a club. The question needs to be asked, 'why is this necessary?'
6. All shooting ranges, as defined above, used by a shooting club, or members of the public, will be required to be certified and approved by the Commissioner of Police. Again with considerable process. Shooting ranges will not be able to be used unless a manager is on duty, and the manager hold a firearms licence, and is trained in shooting range management. What this means, is that unlike currently, where many ranges are able to be used by members or even members of public, at almost any time, as individuals, shooting will be restricted to specified times when a range manager is on duty. Again, the reason for this is questionable. Currently members of clubs who have ranges ( and in some cases member of the public as well) will generally be able to access their own range, in their own time, to shoot, pattern guns, zero rifles etc, however this requirement will mean range operations will be severely restricted. An unfortunate consequence is likely to be that many people who would otherwise use a range will find it 'too hard' and result in shooting in other places, which may well not be as safe or appropriate as proper ranges, or have to seek private land to shoot on as an individual. Along with this Police may impose conditions on maintenance of the range, public access to it, restrictions on types of firearms and ammunition that may be used, and competitions that may be conducted at the range. It is difficult to see the reasoning behind such a restrictive system.
7. Access of Govt agencies to the registry (of firearms licence holder) information. DOC, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Customs Service will have direct access to the firearms licence registry. In the case of DOC this is proposed to provide administrative assistance in relation to issue of hunting permits. It has never been, and is not, a legal requirement to hold a firearms licence to obtain a DOC hunting permit. This is a questionable

clause. Information provided will be the licence holders name, date of birth, residential address, FAL number, FAL expiry date, and any endorsements on the FAL.

8. Reduction of FAL period from 10 years to 5 years. Existing FAL holders will be able to see out current licence terms, thereafter renewals will be for 5 year terms. There is questionable value in this, if any, and will result in increased costs to FAL holders, and any change from 10 years should be well justified.
9. Health Practitioners will have to consider notifying Police in regard to patients they consider should not be permitted to possess or use firearms or do so with limitations. While this may have value, it could also have a negative impact in regard to dissuading those with health issues seeking medical assistance if they think they may lose their FAL. This would need to be very well thought through. Applicants applying for a FAL will have to advise Police of the details of their health practitioner.
10. The bill enables cost recovery of certain costs in administering the FAL system and registration system. Costs on FAL holders are certain to rise, the question is what is fair and reasonable. The costs recently attributed to firearms administration were inflated with the inclusion of other activities and that cannot be regarded as fair and reasonable.

With regard to the intention to email all licence holders including those who fish only, regional managers raised a number of concerns including the rationale for this and how the results of the survey were going to be used given there are many more anglers than game bird hunters in our database who are unlikely to be in a position to make an informed response, but may say they support tightening of the regulations and the proposed amendments in the interest of making communities safer. Its likely too, that many hunters won't have delved into, or be aware of the potential implications of a number of provisions in the bill either, and may take the amendments at face value – unless these are explained to them. If so, the concern than is that the statistics could significantly skew the picture at the expense of game bird licence holders, and be marketed in a manner that dismisses or downplays regional Fish & Game councillors and staff's positions in relation to the bill. There was also concern about how well received a mass direct email out to licence holders would be based on the impacts in some regions of the last one. On that basis the Otago Fish and Game Council has advised it will not approve their licence holders being emailed unless the survey is confined to a smaller, random selection of licence holders nationally.

Martin Taylor has requested feedback from regional councils, both Councillors and staff, on their views on the bill, this being required by Friday 11 October, six days prior to Council's meeting. To accommodate this Andy Garrick will email Councillors in advance of the 11<sup>th</sup> to invite feedback and compile a response on behalf of the Eastern Region.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 ***That Council receives and discusses this information for additional feedback to NZC staff prior to submissions to the Select Committee hearing the bill being closed off on 23 October***

## **14. NOMINATIONS FOR NZ GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST**

**Ref: 2.04.03**

**6 October 2019**

### **1. Purpose**

To consider supporting the nomination of ex Eastern Fish & Game Councillor Steve Scragg for ongoing membership on the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust.

### **2. Background**

At its meeting on 16 June 2016, the Eastern Fish and Game Council resolved to nominate Steve Scragg for appointment to the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board as below:

*Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Laurance Tamati) that Council supports the nomination of Cr Steve Scragg to the Game Bird Habitat Trust and requests that this be forwarded to the New Zealand Council for inclusion in the NZC agenda for its July meeting. [16/06/14.2]*

Trustees are appointed for a three year term and that has now expired. Steve has expressed an interest in being re-appointed to the Trust for its next three year term, and the NZ Council has agreed to nominate him as their fourth candidate for membership on the Trust. They agreed to put forward the first name on their list as a recommended Chairperson. If the Minister accepts their recommendation for Chair, then the remaining three names become the names the Council puts forward as members appointed in consultation with Fish & Game. If the Minister does not accept the NZC's recommended person for Chairperson, then the first three candidates (which excludes Steve) become those members.

Steve, who was a longstanding member of the Eastern Fish and Game Council has filled in a nomination form and this is provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda. If Council agrees to support Steve's nomination that form needs to be signed off and returned to the NZC office as soon as possible.

### **3. Recommendation**

**3.1 *That Council supports the nomination of Cr Steve Scragg to the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust.***

## **15. DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2020**

**Ref: 7.02.01**

**5 October 2019**

### **1. Purpose**

To assess the implications for the Eastern Fish and Game Council of the New Zealand Council's proposed deadlines and meeting schedule for 2020.

### **2. Background**

Fish and Game Councils are required to meet on at least six occasions each year. Eastern Region's meetings, and most other regions', have customarily been held at bi-monthly intervals in February, April, June, August, October and late November/early December to consider, amongst other matters, the topics listed in the table appended to this item. This timing has suited all parties previously, avoids undue pressure being put on staff during particularly demanding times of the year, and the relatively even spread of meetings ensures operational reports and advice relating to topical issues arising between meetings can be received, and addressed by Council in a timely and appropriate manner.

In 2018 the NZ Council, as did regional managers, saw merit in having a one day joint meeting to discuss contestable funding bids in addition to other budgets, and this was conducted in late April which from a timing point of view worked well for Fish & Game as a whole. This year however, the NZC decreed the joint meeting would take place on 5 April 2019, which meant the Eastern Council would either have to pull its April meeting back by 3-4 weeks this year to mid March to review staff's draft budget and contestable funding bids prior to these being forwarded to the National Office by 20 March, or forego this function. Council resignedly chose to do the latter and agreed to the Executive Committee reviewing and signing off on the papers concerned on its behalf. In addition to bringing its April 2019 meeting forward to early in the month and prior to most region's having had their own meetings in April, the NZC also advised that it was bringing forward to 7-8 June 2019 the meeting in which it finalises its recommendations to the Minister on licence fees for the year commencing 1 October, and that it required regions to submit their feedback on the proposed licence fees by 29 May. The consequence of this was that Eastern and most other regions were unable to discuss the proposed fees during their customary June meeting and had to resort to individually advising their position via email without the benefit of a round table discussion.

The rationale for the NZC bringing forward its meeting dates and regional deadlines for receiving provisional budgets, contestable funding bids and feedback on proposed licence fees, is to provide government officials and the Minister of Conservation with sufficient time to consider the recommended fees and enable the finalised fees to be gazetted 28 days ahead of the regulations coming into force, i.e. around the beginning of September in this case. The officials and Minister require in the order of 16 working days or just over three weeks meaning the NZC needs to submit its recommendations to the Department of Conservation around about the beginning of August.

On 29 May this year Eastern Region's feedback on the proposed licence fees was forwarded to NZC staff along with the following comments (as instructed by Council):



*“Timing meant consultation was unable to be undertaken via a roundtable discussion and had to be conducted by email which generated responses from 8 out of our 10 Councillors. Several Councillors expressed considerable concern that they were unable to debate what they considered to be a significant item on their annual agenda amongst themselves as proposed fee increases have been very contentious in some years. They appealed for this to be remedied in future years and more consideration given to the timing of NZC meetings and deadlines.”*

In mid June 2019, the Chairman of Eastern Fish and Game received a letter from the Chair of the NZ Council responding to concerns raised by regional Fish and Game Councils in relation to the deadline for providing feedback on proposed licence fees. The letter set out the needs of officials, the Minister and Cabinet, and asked whether the third week was a workable deadline for regions, meaning they would need to hold their June meeting in the middle two weeks of the month. That letter was considered at Council’s last meeting on 15 August, and resulted in the following resolution:

***Agreed (Barry Roderick/David Woolner) that Council agrees to the proposed schedule for setting licence fees in 2020 as set out in the Chairman of the NZ Council’s letter to the Chair of the Eastern Fish and Game Council dated 12 June 2019. [19/08/13.2].***

More recently (3 September 2019), a schedule of the proposed 2020 meeting dates for the NZC and for regional managers (agreed to by the NZC at its meeting on 10 August 2019), was forwarded to regions along with the miscellaneous deadlines needing to be met in 2020. This is provided on the pages following.

The dates proposed are inconsistent with the NZC’s letter date 12 June which was apparently overlooked when this schedule was drafted and considered by the NZC. Of much greater concern however, is the observation that regional Fish & Game Councils will be confronted with the same issues that applied this year; a joint meeting between managers and the NZC on 3 April with draft budgets and contestable fund applications due to be submitted to NZC staff on 13 March; and 25 May being the final date for submission of regional Fish & Game responses to proposed licence fees (rather than the third week in June as advised in the letter of 12 June from the Chairman of the NZC).

If the NZC is unwilling to amend its proposed schedule this means the options for this Council will either need to be:

- Council discusses the draft budget and any contestable funding bids for the 2020-2021 OWP year, and proposed licence fees for 2020-2021 via email or teleconference, or;
- agrees to delegate these functions to its Executive Committee, or;
- brings its April meeting forward to earlyish in March (5<sup>th</sup> or possibly 12<sup>th</sup>), and its June meeting to 21 May possibly, or;
- brings the consideration and development of its draft budget and CF bids for 2020-2021 forward to its meeting on 5 December 2018 and its meeting tentatively planned for 13 February 2019 respectively, and bring its June meeting forward to 21 May or thereabouts.



3 September 2019

Fish and Game Councils

**Consultation on 2020 meeting dates**

The attached schedule of meeting dates for 2020 was considered at the August meeting of the NZ Fish and Game Council, where it was agreed to circulate for consultation with regions and received feedback before the NZ Council's November meeting.

It is noted that this schedule differs from dates outlined in my earlier letter. This is due to attempts to bring the consideration of new licence fees and budgets forward to allow for more time for it to be considered by Department of Conservation officials and sign-off by the Minister.

Please submit your feedback on these dates by Friday 8 November.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Lyons'.

Lindsay Lyons  
Chairperson

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

**New Zealand Council**

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## 2019/20 Budget & Meeting Schedule

New Zealand Fish and Game Council, August 2019

Prepared by: Carmel, Finance- NZ Fish and Game Council

A draft timetable for 2019/20 budget consultation is set out below to fit with the budget round process. In determining these meeting dates, please remember that:

- 1 The first managers meeting of the year is scheduled for February 18 – 19<sup>th</sup>. Followed by a joint NZC/Managers meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April to recommend the licence fee (requires prompt licence fee memo being sent out to Fish & Game Councils to allow consideration in April meeting cycle).
- 2 June meetings of NZ Council requires Fish & Game Councils to respond to proposed Licence Fee recommendations by 4<sup>th</sup> June (this prevents Councils meeting in June to provide licence fee feedback).
- 3 NZ Council to consider feedback and confirm fee to Minister 12 - 13 June.

The other important set of dates to factor into regional Fish and Game Council consideration are sign-off on regulation details for draft Notice preparation. Details to be provided by:

- 1 **31<sup>st</sup> January** for the Game Notice
- 2 **30<sup>th</sup> June** for the Anglers Notice.

### Timetable for 2019/2020

Month	Day	Subject
<b>2019/20</b>		
September	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Financial year for Fish & Game
October	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> -Opening of Fishing Season</b>	
	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Labour Day</b>	
Oct – Nov	Audit time for all Regions	
November	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Meeting of the NZ Council in Christchurch</b>
	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Forum meeting of Fish &amp; Game Chairs with NZ Council in Christchurch</b>
December	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Final date for receipt of 2018/19 Variance Reports to CV
	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>st</sup>, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> -Xmas &amp; Boxing Day</b>	
	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last day to hold Public Annual General Meeting and present Annual Report & Financial Statements for year ended 31 August 2019
<b>2020</b>		
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January -New Year's Day &amp; Day After NY</b>		
January	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	CV to return summary of Variance Reports to Managers with queries.
	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Final day for regulation details from Fish & Game Councils for Game Notice
February	<b>Thursday 6 February - Waitangi Day</b>	
	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Final circulation of VRs to Managers
	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Draft Game Notice submission to DOC officials
	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Adjust submission following consultation with DOC & submit to MOC
	<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> &amp; Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting of the NZ Council in Wellington</b>
	Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting of Managers in Wellington
March	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Publish Game Notice in NZ Gazette
	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Game licences go on sale
	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Final date for receipt of draft budgets and contestable fund applications

	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Circulation of Budgets, contestable fund applications & budget summaries
April	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Meeting of Managers in Wellington
	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Joint NZ Council &amp; Managers Meeting s in Wellington</b>
	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NZ Council Meeting s in Wellington</b>
		<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Mark-up day for hunting stands</b>
		<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April- Good Friday</b>
		<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April -Easter Monday</b>
		<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Anzac Day</b>
May		<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Opening of Game Season</b>
	Monday 25 <sup>h</sup>	Final date for receipt of Fish & Game council responses to licence fee proposals
June		<b>Monday 1st June – Queens Birthday</b>
	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> & Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Meeting of the NZ Council in Wellington</b>
	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Draft licence fee submission to DOC officials
	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Adjust licence fee submission following consultation with DOC & submit to MOC
	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Final day for submission for <b>GBHT Grant applications</b>
	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Final day for regulation details from Fish & Game Councils for Anglers Notice
July	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Draft Anglers Notice submission to DOC officials
	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Send out submissions to GBHT Board
	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Adjust Anglers Notice submission following consultation with DOC & submit to MOC
	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>GBHT Board Tel Conference @11am</b>
	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Publish Anglers Notice in NZ Gazette
August	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting of Managers in Wellington
	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Fish licences go on sale
	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GBHT Board Meeting in Wellington</b>
<b>2020/21</b>		
September	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Financial year for Fish & Game
	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> & Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Meeting of the NZ Council in Wellington</b>
October		<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> -Opening of Fishing Season</b>
		<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Labour Day</b>
Oct – Nov		Audit time for all Regions
November	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Meeting of the NZ Council in Taranaki</b>
December	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Final date for receipt of 2019/20 Variance Reports to CV
		<b>Friday 25<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> -Xmas &amp; Boxing Day</b>
	Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last day to hold Public Annual General Meeting and present Annual Report & Financial Statements for year ended 31 August 2019

#### Recommendation:

That Managers

1. Note NZ Council meeting dates proposed for 2020 are:
  - February 14 & 15 in Wellington
  - April 3 & 4 in Wellington
  - June 12 & 13 in Wellington
  - September 11 & 12 in Wellington
  - November 20 to 22 in Taranaki region.
2. Note all dates to be confirmed in November by NZ Council following consultation with Managers & Fish & Game Councils.

Each of the options presented on page 42 presents issues for Council and/or staff.

If the Eastern Fish and Game Council continued to meet bi-monthly on a Thursday in the months it traditionally has, 2020's meeting schedule would look much like the following:

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Key Topics</b>
<b>1</b>	<i>13 February 2020</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Priorities</li> <li>• Initiate biennial review of Anglers Notice</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<i>9 or 16 April 2020</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OWP – first draft plus proposed bids for contestable funds</li> <li>• Consider submissions on Anglers Notice</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<i>11 or 18 June 2020</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licence Fees</li> <li>• OWP – second draft</li> <li>• Finalise recommendations on Anglers Notice</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<i>6 or 13 August 2020</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise OWP</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<i>15 October 2020</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Game Conditions – initial consideration</li> <li>• Annual Performance Report - draft</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<i>3 December 2020</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Game Conditions – finalise recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>AGM</b>	<i>3 December 2020</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present Annual Performance Report</li> </ul>

It would appear that both Eastern Fish & Game's and the NZ Council's concerns and needs would be resolved if the NZ Council altered its dates as follows:

- reschedule the joint meeting of managers and NZC from 3 April to 17 April 2020;
- reschedule the June meeting of the NZC from 12-13 June to 19-20 June.

Deadlines for submitting draft regional budgets and contestable funding bids to NZC staff could then be shifted from 13 March to 27 or 30 March 2020 (and reaffirmed at joint meeting on 17 April), and feedback on proposed licence fees shifted from 25 May to the mid or third week in June 2020.

Council needs to determine what dates it will meet on in 2020, but before it can do this it needs to submit any concerns it might have about the NZ Council's currently proposed schedule, and be advised of its finalised programme when this is decided at its meeting on 21-23 November 2019.

### **3. Recommendation**

**3.1 That Council needs to determine its position on the New Zealand Council's proposed deadlines and meeting schedule for 2020 for feedback to the NZC by 8 November 2019.**

## **16. SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS**

**Ref: 1.01.06 and 1.01.08**

**4 October 2019**

### **1. Purpose**

To receive the report summaries for the 2018-19 Summer Creel Survey and the 2019 National Shoveler Count.

### **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, for staff to use to advocate for habitat protection, and for other agencies such as Regional Councils to assess the effects of environmental changes on biological systems. Copies of the full reports are available in this meeting's Papers for Information.

### **3. Report Summaries**

#### **3.1 Executive Summary for the 2018-2019 Rotorua Lakes Summer Creel Survey**

The Council runs a number of long term species monitoring programmes that are used to assess the state of the fisheries in key lakes and develop strategies or responses to various issues and external factors that may be affecting the fisheries. The creel surveys are great examples of angler and fishery surveys that provide a wide range of information on high-use fisheries, and allow us to effectively monitor the effect of management actions and provide sound data for informed decision making on angler issues. Fishery monitoring provides a valuable top-down assessment of productivity changes in lakes and accordingly has relevance to other agencies' water quality actions in the Rotorua lakes. The summer creel survey is a key species monitoring tool for Council, and provides us with an opportunity to monitor angler participation and satisfaction and undertake compliance work in addition to monitoring the fishery itself.

#### **Lake Rotoiti**

Anglers fishing Lake Rotoiti over the 2018-19 summer experienced lower catch rates than during the 2017-18 summer. Catch rates were just above the past ten-year average (0.26 fish/hr). Deeper fishing methods were most successful with jigging (60% use) producing highest catch rates followed by downrigger trolling (8% use) and wire line trolling (4% use). Overall, the 2018-19 average sized fish was just smaller and lighter than the average 2017-18 summer fish. Both autumn and spring released rising 2-year-olds were smaller compared to their same aged counterparts from the 2017-18 summer. Angler satisfaction appeared to be marginally up on last year's with 97% of anglers stating they were satisfied with their summer's fishing on Lake Rotoiti (P=0.051).

#### **Lake Tarawera**

Lake Tarawera anglers surveyed over the 2018-19 summer experienced catch rates that were higher than during the 2017-18 summer. The average fish measured was just longer (1mm) but significantly heavier (P<0.001) than the 2017-18 summer fish. Wire

line trolling (<1% use) produced highest catch rates followed by jigging (62% use), shallow trolling (1% use) then downrigger trolling (18% use). Hatchery released fish were larger than those recorded during the 2017-18 creel. Wild fish however, were smaller on average. Angler satisfaction was significantly better than that recorded during the 2017-18 summer with all anglers interviewed stating they were satisfied with their 2018-19 summer's fishing on Lake Tarawera ( $P=0.029$ ).

### **Lake Rotorua**

Anglers fishing Lake Rotorua over the 2018-19 summer had better catch rates than anglers those who fished during the 2017-18 summer. The summer stream mouth angling was improved with fly fishing proving the most successful summer method. The average sized trout caught during the 2018-19 summer was slightly shorter but significantly heavier ( $P=0.03$ ) than the average 2017-18 summer fish. Anglers' level of satisfaction was statistically less than that recorded during the 2017-18 summer but still high with 92% of anglers interviewed stating they were satisfied with their 2018-19 summer's fishing on Lake Rotorua compared to 100% the summer before ( $P=0.009$ ).

### **Lake Okataina**

Lake Okataina anglers surveyed over the 2018-19 summer experienced better catch rates than were recorded during the 2017-18 summer. Wire line trolling proved to be the most successful method (21% use) surveyed followed by fly fishing (1% use) and downrigger trolling (8% use). The average fish caught was smaller and lighter than measured during the 2017-18 summer. Angler satisfaction was statistically reduced with 94% of anglers surveyed stating they were satisfied with their angling during the 2018-19 summer on Lake Okataina compared to 100% the previous summer ( $P=0.02$ ).

## **3.2 Summary for the 2019 National Shoveler Count**

Fish and Game New Zealand conducted a national count of kuruwengi, the New Zealand shoveler duck (*Spatula rhynchotis*) on 5 August 2019. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> annual count (2000 – 2019) to investigate change in the New Zealand population. Population change was examined using two methods (i) a variant of the Route Regression method (Geissler and Sauer, 1990), and (ii) totals from 85 sites that have been counted each year for the past 20 years.

A total of 13,617 were counted at 255 sites. Over the 20 years the population at these sites appears to be stable (percentage change = -1.4; 95% credible interval = -2.7 to -0.0009;  $n = 252$ ). Short term (2018-2019) there was no detectable change as the Bayesian credible interval (BCI) estimate spans zero (mean = -15.7%; 95% BCI = -21 to 3.4;  $n = 246$ ). The 2019 total count for sites that have been counted every year however ( $n = 85$ ), was 15% above the average for the period 2000 – 2018 and was up 41% on last year's count. The long-term trend at these 85 sites indicates a small linear increase over the last 20 years ( $\beta_{yr} = 124.5$ ,  $t = 2.406$ ,  $P = 0.027$ ).

Sex ratios were examined using a chi-squared test. Males were significantly more numerous ( $P<0.001$ ) with a ratio of 1.6 males to female. This sex imbalance is consistent with counts in previous years (1.58 males to females).

Count sites were not randomly selected so inference about national shoveler populations is left to the reader. In future staff are encouraged to record shoveler habitat (name and

grid reference) where shoveler are observed). This data could form the basis for a shoveler habitat database to improve survey design.

**4. Recommendation**

**4.1 *That Council receives the summaries for the 2018-19 Summer Creel Survey and the 2019 National Shoveler Count.***



## **17. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **17.1 Conservation Boards**

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

### **17.2 Reports from Other Agencies**

- Department of Conservation

### **17.3 Report from New Zealand Council**

## 18. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

### 18.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

30 September 2019

#### SPECIES MANAGEMENT

##### 1112 Datawatch

Since 1 October 2018, a total of 889 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	16
Lake Okataina	141
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	30
Lake Rotoehu	7
Lake Rotoiti	117
Lake Rotoma	30
Lake Rotorua	23
Lake Tarawera	470
Lake Waikaremoana	1
Lake Tutira (HB)	51
Hawkston (HB)	3
Maraetotara (HB)	0

*data entered to 24 September 2019*

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

Tag returns for the season 1 October - 24 September 2019 were ahead of the 2017-18 returns by 232 tags. Returns from Lake Tarawera were up 169 tags but these also include returns via the Te Wairoa trap. Other lakes were close to their totals from the previous season apart from Lake Tutira (Hawke's Bay) that had 51 returned during the 2018-19 season compared to only 12 tags the season before. Note, the totals in the 2017-18 financial year are different to the 2017-18 draw numbers as the time periods applying to each differ.

##### 1113 Lake Waikaremoana

###### Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The Lake Waikaremoana monitoring buoy sensor chains were removed on 9 August following a period of non-transmission. These have been returned to the University of Waikato for diagnosis of the issue. There is a broken wiper arm on one of the sensor clusters that cleans the turbidity and algal fluorometer lenses. It also appears that the controller for the temperature string is unresponsive.

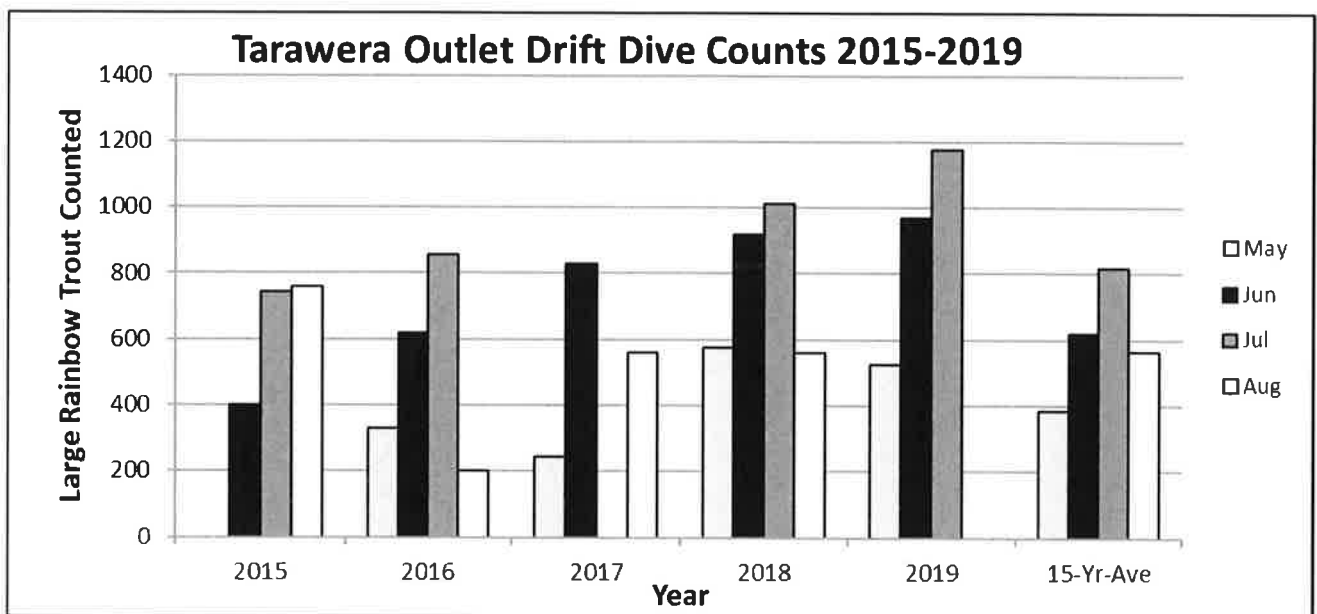
## 1114 Lake Tarawera

### Tarawera Outlet Drift Dive Survey

Conditions precluded Fish & Game staff from undertaking a count during August 2019 but the monthly tallies for the season were as follows:

	Size range			2019	2018	2017
	Small	Medium	Large	Total	Total	Total
May	6	8	523	531	633	695
June	0	0	968	968	930	636
July	0	0	1011	1177	1011	860
August	-	-	-	-	561	203

Trout counts in the Tarawera Outlet during the 2019 winter were above the past 15-year average for the months of May, June and July. High numbers of spawning trout were recorded in the Outlet during both the 2018 and 2019 winters and mirror the escapement counts recorded through the Te Wairoa trap.



### Lake Tarawera Fishery Research Update

The fourth and final collection round of benthic and pelagic samples for the Lake Tarawera foodweb study in association with Cawthron Institute and University of Waikato is scheduled to be undertaken in mid-October. Acoustic surveys of the lake are programmed to be undertaken in late November.

## 1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

### Ngongotaha Trap-run

The trap was operated for 8 nights during August 2018. Largest fish was a 660mm, 3.0kg rainbow male. During September 2018 the trap was operated for 8 nights. The largest fish trapped then was a 630mm, 2.85kg rainbow male.

### ***Ngongotaha Stream trap run (August 2019)***

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	478	1.42	71	9	0	
<i>Brown</i>	540	2.20	2	<1		3%

### ***Ngongotaha Stream trap run (September 2019)***

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	479	1.34	90	11	0	
<i>Brown</i>	-	-	-			0%

### **Lake Rotoiti Catfish Update**

Bay of Plenty District Council's fyke netting programme to fish down biomass restarted at the end of September 2019. Catfish become more active at this time with warming water temperatures and the beginning of the spawning period increasing catchability.

Shane Grayling's MSc thesis tracking movement of spawning catfish to identify spawning zones will be ongoing through the 2019-20 spring-summer. It is hoped this work will enable better targeting of catfish aggregations.

On Opening Day (1 October) Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) and iwi advocates led by William Anaru joined Fish & Game staff and BOPRC staff to spread the message about catfish presence and protocols to reduce the spread of these and other aquatic pests to other lakes and waterbodies. TALT manage the community led fyke netting programme and oversee the operation of a large number of fyke nets in an attempt to keep catfish biomass at a lower level than would otherwise be the case in Rotoiti and Rotorua.

### **1116 Waterfowl Monitoring**

#### **Trend Count Reports**

Summary statistics from the summer monitoring of paradise shelduck and swan were provided in the February PFI and agenda material. The final report is provided in the PFI for this meeting.

Eastern Fish & Game co-ordinates conducts a national count of shoveler duck on the first Monday in August. A summary of this year's results is provided in Agenda Item 16 and a copy of the full report is included in the Papers for Information.

#### **Black swan**

Black swan continue to be controversial in the Eastern Region. Most of the rhetoric appears ill informed. Matt McDougall was asked to give a talk to two committees with oversight of the Tauranga and Ohiwa harbours respectively. Both committees had Regional and District Council representatives so having the opportunity to talk directly to the politicians is always helpful. The power point presentations are available to Councillors should they want them.

#### **MPI and BAC meetings**

Matt McDougall was asked to attend an avian disease surveillance meeting with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), and has had a subsequent follow up meeting on the avian influenza monitoring programme. The initial meeting was to establish a collective of organisations that deal with sick birds. The thinking is that improved networking may help

establish prevalence and location of disease outbreaks. It is unlikely that Fish & Game will be involved further at this stage as we don't have the diagnostics expertise, nor does it fit with our operational model.

Matt is also on an advisory panel for the Department of Conservation Banding Office which met recently in Wellington. There are some individuals in the bird banding community that like being regulated so it is important that Fish & Game continues to be represented to maintain a level of common sense within the bureaucracy.

### **Mallard monitoring**

Hunting & Fishing NZ put up five prizes of hunting jackets and a set of decoys for those returning duck bands. This is a great incentive for hunters to return bands and provides Fish & Game with a real opportunity to promote its message re reporting bands. However, before the draw could be done Matt needed to devote a considerable amount of effort to fixing up some of the data from that had been supplied from other regions.

It is not clear how successful the promotion has been in respect to Eastern band returns, but the initial feeling is that we could be doing better. We have promoted the prizes in the magazine and many of the Both Barrels emails, but we are not convinced that this is working. David Klee (Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game) commented that he had had a good response following a post on Facebook. Social media has been embraced by the younger generation of hunters and it is perhaps time the we started using it more to get out important messages such as reporting your band recoveries.

## **1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys**

### **Ohau Creel Survey**

Analysis of the 2018-19 Ohau Creel has been completed and a report on the survey is in the process of being written. The new Expert Fisheries Panel consisting of Michel Dedual (DOC Taupo), Ian Kusabs (Fisheries Consultant) and Dave Rowe (ex NIWA Fisheries Scientist), are likely to meet in November though at this stage the date has not been advertised to attendees. Aquatek will again be undertaking the contracted surveys funded by Regional Council over the 2019-20 season.

### **Winter Creel Surveys**

The 2018-19 winter creel data has been entered into a database and analysis is underway.

### **Opening Day 2019 Creel Surveys**

The Opening Day 2019-20 creel surveys of lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina were organised and undertaken. Fish & Game staff were joined by volunteers, honorary rangers, Councillors Roderick and Lyons, University of Waikato students, and DOC Taupo Fisheries staff. Media coverage was organised with the Breakfast News team (TV One), the NZ Herald and the Daily Post. Despite highly variable weather conditions the day went well (see update below).

### **Special Opening Promotion**

Tagged fish carrying the special opening event tags were released into lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina on 27 September 2019. A total of ten fish were released into each lake as per previous years.

## **Preliminary Results from Opening Day**

529 anglers were interviewed across the three lakes and 515 fish measured. All lakes showed improvement in size and condition of younger one year plus fish and two-year-old fish. There was a high number of larger spent fish (slabs) at Tarawera given the higher than usual spawning runs taking place over the 2019 winter.

On Lake Tarawera 245 anglers produced 231 fish. The harvest rate was 1.08 fish per hour (excluding result recorded in the boat surveys as they are generally incomplete angling trips). Anglers said that fishing was a bit hard and the harvest rate was close to, but just below last opening (1.14 fish/angler). The two-year old fish (spring released fish) were in much improved condition to the 2017 opening. Quick figures suggest they were 14mm larger on average, 160g heavier and in better condition. Average size of the 2-yr-olds was 500mm and 1.45kg. The largest fish surveyed was 2.98kg. Trolling was the 'go to' method of the day. Shallow trolling in particular produced the goods early in the day. Numbers of anglers were certainly down on Opening compared to most other years. This was very probably due to a pretty dire forecast for the weather in the leadup that never really eventuated on the day. Fish & Game staff encountered fewer children on the lake compared with most years given school holidays were newly started.

On Rotoiti, 194 anglers were surveyed and 129 fish presented for measuring. The harvest level was less than that of the 2018 opening but better than the norm for Rotoiti at this time of year as it is usually a slow starter. Harvest rate was 1.04 fish per angler (excluding boat interviews). The two-year-old fish were 13mm larger, 170g heavier and in better condition. They were the best fish across the three lakes surveyed coming in at 510cm and 1.70kg. Heaviest fish measured from surveys on the day was a 4.1kg specimen.

At Okataina, 90 anglers were interviewed and 155 fish measured. This harvest rate is a little inflated as anglers who hadn't caught fish might not have come up to the weigh in for the competition which would have ballooned the figure out somewhat. HPUE (harvest per unit effort) was up therefore to 1.72 fish per angler. The two-year-olds measured were 20mm larger, 300g heavier and condition factor was vastly improved from the 2018 opening. At the 2018 opening the two-yr-olds showed the results of poorer than usual growth. The two-year-olds at the 2019 opening measured 507mm and 1.65kg. Largest fish measured was 3.3kg.

One white 'Fish for Gold' promotional tag was caught from Lake Rotoiti on the opening day. There is another week to go before the promotional period finishes on 13 October and the prize reveal on Monday 14 October.

Follow up surveys were carried out over the week following the opening to gain additional data.

## **Summer Creel Surveys**

The 2018-19 summer creel survey schedule has not yet been put together. The strategy for the 2019-20 summer is to retain coverage of the four large high use lakes, and if possible, provide some level of presence/monitoring across some of the lesser utilised lakes. An angler diary scheme is running in the expectation of gaining additional data from these lesser covered waters within the Eastern Region.

### 1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey

Data collection (840 randomised phone surveys) for the game bird hunter survey has been completed. The final report is still in the process of being written up but it appears the harvest of most species was either down on or the same as that as last season. Hours hunting waterfowl were significantly lower than last year which will have a bearing on harvest of waterfowl species, particularly mallards.

### 1141 Hatchery Operations

Yearling fish have been moved internally to manage available space and enhance growth.

*Fish locations at 30 September 2019:*

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank A	1+Rt	15	Best of selection
Tank C	1+ Bt	1,650	Liberations, various 2019
Tank E	1+ Bt	1,680	Liberations, various 2019
Tank D	0+ Bt	3,000	Liberations
Tank F	1+ Brook	100	Display/sales
Pond 2	1+ Rt	15,000	Spring liberations 2019
Pond 3	1+ Rt	3,000	Spring liberations 2019
Pond 9	1+ Rt	5,500	Sales and children's fishing 2020

### 1143 Te Wairoa Trap

The Te Wairoa Fish Trap (Lake Tarawera) was removed on 31 August. The total run this year was 2,757 fish. This total was higher than the number of trout trapped during the 2018 winter (2,122 fish) and all previously recorded totals. The largest fish through the trap was a 670mm, 3.5kg LpAd male (3-year-old). The average size of the fish trapped this winter was significantly larger (17mm) and significantly heavier (230g per fish,  $P < 0.001$  for both indices) and in significantly better condition (45.15 versus 44.22,  $P < 0.001$ ) than the average size of fish trapped during the 2018 winter. Hatchery fish trapped over the 2019 winter measured 560mm and 2.18kg compared to 547mm and 1.99kg during the 2018 winter. Hatchery fish trapped over the 2019 winter were both significantly larger (13mm) and heavier (190g) ( $P < 0.001$  for both variables) and in significantly better condition ( $P < 0.001$ ). The average size of the wild fish trapped over the 2019 winter measured 521mm and 1.83kg compared to 496mm and 1.55kg during 2018. As with the hatchery fish, wild fish were both significantly larger (25mm) and heavier (300g) on average ( $P < 0.001$  for both variables), and in significantly better condition ( $P = 0.025$ ).

Year	Total run	Wild run	Wild %	Ave length	Ave weight
2015	1,040	339	32.6	541	1.95
2016	1,112	323	29.0	541	2.01
2017	801	189	23.6	538	1.82
2018	2,122	626	29.5	532	1.86
2019	2,757	740	26.8	549	2.09

## 1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Spring liberations during September are as below:

### *Liberations, Eastern Region 4 September – 27 September 2019*

<b>Water</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Tag</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>
Tarawera	4/09/2019	Lp	H19	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	4/09/2019	Lp		RT	1+	4,000
Okataina	5/09/2019	Lp	E19	RT	1+	500
Okataina	5/09/2019	Lp		RT	1+	1,000
Rotoiti	10/09/2019	Lp	B19	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	10/09/2019	Lp		RT	1+	6,500
Rotoma	12/09/2019	Lp	D19	RT	1+	500
Rotoma	12/09/2019	Lp		RT	1+	2,000
Okareka	16/09/2019	Lp	G19	RT	1+	500
Okareka	16/09/2019	Lp		RT	1+	2,000
Rotoehu	17/09/2019	Lp	C19	RT	1+	500
Rotoehu	17/09/2019	Lp		RT	1+	2,000
Rerewhakaaitu	18/09/2019	Lp	I19	RT	1+	500
Rerewhakaaitu	18/09/2019	Lp		RT	1+	3,500
Rotorua	25/09/2019	Lp	A19	RT	1+	1,000
Rotoiti	27/09/2019		FISH 4 GOLD WHITE	RT	2+	10
Okataina	27/09/2019		FISH 4 GOLD WHITE	RT	2+	10
Tarawera	27/09/2019		FISH 4 GOLD WHITE	RT	2+	10

Fish were also despatched or delivered to Wellington Fish & Game, Staglands Wildlife Park, and NIWA for research purposes.

## **HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE**

### **1211 RMA Planning**

#### **Bay of Plenty Regional Council**

Proposed Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) submissions were lodged in December 2017. The Hearing was attended in March, and recommendations from the Panel were released in October 2018. An appeal was lodged in November relating to the allocation of surface water after minimum flows are reached. Following positive pre-mediation discussions, Council have proposed some amendments to address our concerns. We have good agreement in principle to resolve our appeal and are currently working through wording.

#### **Waikato Regional Council**

In March 2018, the 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. Council hearings begin in March and are expected to continue for several months.

### **Gisborne District Council**

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, it is expected that the catchment planning processes should be getting underway in the near future. Enquiries have been made to get some timeframes around dates for these processes.

### **Bay of Plenty Water Advisory Panel**

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

### **Bay of Plenty Draft Regional Pest Management Plan**

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's existing Pest Management Plan has recently expired and a new Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan released. Submissions on the proposed plan were lodged in November opposing the inclusion of sports fish (perch and tench) in the document. Discussions are ongoing with other parties in relation to improving the management of the accidental transfer of aquatic pests on boats and trailers in the Rotorua Lakes area and we participated in a very useful all day workshop was held on 3 October.

### **Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy**

We recently received a pre-notification copy of the Department of Conservation's Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy for review. We have also received a copy of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Draft Conservation Management Strategy for review. Feedback has been provided.

Considerable time has recently been devoted to reviewing and providing feedback or submissions on national documents including the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, the proposed Action for Healthy Waterways documents (including amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and National Environmental Standards), and we have commenced doing the same for the Resource Management Amendment Bill.

### **1212 Consent Applications**

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
Jul-19	BOPRC	RLC	LUC- jetty maintenance	Lakes Rotoma and Rotoehu	No concerns email
Jul-19	BOPRC	WBOPDC	DP- stormwater network consent renewal	Te Puna area, Tauranga	No action required
Jul-19	BOPRC	J Donald	LUC- jetty replacement	Spencer Rd, Lake Tarawera	No concerns email
Aug-19	BOPRC	N&L Meiklejohn	LUC- jetty replacement	Spencer Rd, Lake Tarawera	No concerns email
Aug-19	GDC	Juken NZ Ltd	LUC- forest harvest	Railway Rd, Nuhaka	No concerns email
Aug-19	BOPRC	D&K Walker	DP- effluent irrigation	Kaikokopu Canal, Pongakawa	No concerns email
Aug-19	RLC	S Thompson	LUC- bridge installation	Paradise Valley, Rotorua	No concerns email
Sept-19	BOPRC	Mitai Holdings	LUC- jetty installation	Waiowhiro Stream, Rotorua	Approval email

Sept-19	BOPRC	BoP Rowing Club	LUC- jetty construction	Wairoa River, Tauranga	No concerns email
Sept-19	GDC	Juken NZ Ltd	LUC – forest harvest and stream crossings installs	Mangapoike Stream	Ongoing discussions

### **Consents of note**

Since the initial application for Fonterra’s Edgecumbe factory wastewater discharge by truck to farms within Bay of Plenty and Taupo (BOPRC region) was lodged a year ago, discussions have led to final agreement between BOPRC, Fish & Game and Fonterra on appropriate resource consent conditions and environmental monitoring. Significant reduction in N and P levels have been achieved, especially in low retention soils, plus good digital recording of discharge flows and tracking of on farm truck movements.

### **Koaro Monitoring**

No dates have been set for future koaro restoration meetings.

## **1221 Reserves Management**

### **Lower Kaituna WMR**

BOPRC is currently planting 13,000 native plants in designated wetland areas already developed, and additional earthworks to construct more ephemeral wetland areas and water canals in two small paddocks has been undertaken. Resource consents for large scale earthworks for wetland development in currently grazed areas are being lodged (slightly later than anticipated) with works planned for summer 2019/20. Water flow rates and culvert sizes have been modelled and weirs are currently being designed, in preparation for installation in summer 2019/20. During this period approximately 40 hectares will be converted to a series of perennial canals replicating old oxbows and ephemeral wetlands adjacent. During the summer of 2020/21, and another 45 hectares will be converted to a similar design.

### **Awakaponga WMR**

The innovative solar water lift system, previously installed at Awakaponga and subsequently stolen twice, will be reinstated before the end of the year if possible. Improved security has been installed with another steel security gate erected and large rocks deposited along a fence line to prevent unauthorised vehicle access. Quotes are currently being obtained to upgrade the shed door, install a surveillance camera and alarm, and the solar panels and pump hardware. This is a small but significant wetland that has undertaken a full ecological restoration by Fish & Game, produces large numbers of ducks and provides good hunting

### **Other Reserves**

Regular reserve inspections have recommenced with onsite floodgate maintenance being undertaken and water inlet/outlet areas being sprayed. Other summer spray and track maintenance works are currently being planned.

### **Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga**

Regular inspection of the 17,000 native plants and fence lines has occurred, and the restoration project progresses within budget and timeframes.

### **1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance**

Three new wetland enhancement requests have been received since the last Council meeting, two locally, and one other in the Gisborne district. Site visits for two have occurred with the other planned for late October.

Four projects in the Gisborne district are ongoing, with one receiving 50% funding from the Game Bird Habitat Trust for earthworks to be undertaken this summer. One landowner has fenced off and planted sections around a stock pond with Fish & Game financially assisting, with another planned later this year. All of the four larger projects within this district require resource consents for earthworks as the threshold for this district is very small (50m<sup>3</sup>), and this is requiring additional visits from staff to provide the landowners with the assistance they require.

### **1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects**

#### **In Stream Trout Habitat**

Fish & Game continues to work with the Rivers and Drainage division of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council on enhancement of trout habitat within Rotorua streams. Flood mitigation works within both the Waiteti and Ngongotaha streams have provided opportunities to enhance trout habitat and angler access without compromising flood control.

## **ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION**

### **1311 Maintain & Enhance Access**

Access for anglers through Kaingaroa Forest will close as of the last weekend in September. If the fire risk remains low there is a possibility that access for recreational purposes could remain open into October, but this is determined by forest managers on a case by case basis.

Signage updates and maintenance work is under way around the region.

Annual angler access track maintenance work around the region will commence in October.

The Putere Lakes access matter is still in the course of being resolved by DOC – we are awaiting confirmation that a joint Fish & Game and DOC access sign has been erected at Lake Rotorua, Putere by DOC which they undertook to do.

### **1331 Electronic Newsletters**

Reel Life was produced for September and October covering local fishing reports and season prospects.

### **1332 Fish & Game Publications**

The 2019-20 Fish Magazine supplement and newsletter was distributed in early September for 2018-19 Full Season licence holders and a number of lapsed participants from the prior season. The newsletter was distributed to agents in late August.

### **1333 Fish & Game Website**

Updates or changes to the Eastern website included Council agendas and minutes, Fish for Gold event, and children's fishing updates.

### **1334 Social Media**

7 Tweets and 10 Facebook posts were sent for the period.

### **1352 Angler Hunter Training**

A fly-fishing workshop was held in Gisborne and a boat fishing talk given at Rotoiti during September.

### **1354 Fishing Competitions**

Seven fishing competition permits were processed.

### **1361 Fish & Game Club Communications**

One club visit for the period.

### **1371 Fish & Game Huts**

#### **Wairua**

Maintenance was carried out as required at both Wairua and Waikaremoana.

The Wairua Hut had a rat infestation earlier in the winter and following work to counter this a recent inspection has found no further rat infestation or damage in the hut.

## **PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness**

Conversations and/or meetings were conducted with senior staff in DOC, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Arawa Lakes Trust staff and FENZ in relation to a number of matters. The Manager also met with DOC and the Kapenga M Trust Board to discuss Fish & Game's future involvement with Kapenga when DOC's lease expires there in the near future.

Andy Garrick, Anthony van Dorp and Matt Osborne were audio interviewed (with Ken Raureti Chair of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board in attendance for part of the meeting) by a social scientist from Landcare commissioned by Te Urewera Board to obtain feedback on our experience and observations in relation to the new regime at Te Urewera since Tuhoe had taken over its administration and management. Other parties are also being interviewed for the purpose of informing a 'Summit' Conference being convened in the near future to review progress on the implementation of Te Kawa and the relationships between these parties and Tuhoe.

A one day "Lakes Resilience Symposium" convened by the University of Waikato was attended as was an Awards Ceremony convened by DOC to celebrate Conservation Week.

## 1421 Public Communications

Six media releases were prepared by staff and several others generated from approaches by staff.

## 1451 Education

Two school tours were undertaken in September.

## COMPLIANCE

### 1511 Ranging

Late winter into spring has seen compliance activities focus on checks around spawning areas, closed waters areas, along with areas which had remained open to fishing through winter. August through into October has seen spawning fish present in streams in varying numbers; while in most areas spawning has practically finished there are still some late spawning fish in various areas particularly in the Lake Rotorua catchment. Monitoring of these areas, which includes the use of covert surveillance cameras where appropriate, is ongoing.

Angler checks have continued but most areas have been very quiet with low numbers of anglers generally encountered during this period.

Figures for the 2018–19 year show 65 offenders have been dealt with for a total of 93 offences. This is an increase on the number of offenders and offences dealt with during the previous year. Some of this is due to a spate of juvenile offending dealt with during spring 2018, and some of this was committed by groups of offenders. We also checked more persons this year than we did last year.

For 2018-19 we checked 2,833 persons for angling or hunting compliance. This is an increase of nearly 300 on the previous year. Our overall compliance rate continues to be approximately 98% of persons checked.

Co-operation and liaison with Police around the region continues in relation to a number of matters. Ranging has been undertaken by staff and honorary rangers widely, including at Waikaremoana.

The game bird season concluded at the end of August with no further compliance issues detected.

### Contacts: Year 2018-2019

<i>Month</i>	<i>2014-15</i>	<i>2015-16</i>	<i>2016-17</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>Last 5 yr average</i>
<b>Sept</b>	50	59	29	21	21	45
<b>Oct</b>	960	1,223	903	836	893	981
<b>Nov</b>	112	20	62	69	20	88
<b>Dec</b>	392	293	310	390	309	354
<b>Jan</b>	381	335	217	195	442	297
<b>Feb</b>	395	418	293	137	307	279

<b>Mar</b>	275	253	191	199	180	239
<b>Apr</b>	264	53	214	178	124	202
<b>May</b>	498	272	292	226	252	347
<b>June</b>	203	277	171	172	168	230
<b>Jul</b>	120	107	94	80	63	96
<b>Aug</b>	76	42	27	33	54	51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>2,536</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>3,208</b>

### **Contacts Year to Date 2018-2019**

Figures to date i.e. for September 2019 were unavailable at time of writing.

### **North Island/National CLE liaison role**

This role continues with input into CLE/training/prosecutions and legal matters.

### **1521 Ranger Training**

#### **Rangers**

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute around the region, with some assisting in the Rotorua area on opening day of the fishing season, and others ranging in their local areas.

The rangers' annual training day was held in mid-August, was well attended, and went well. All annual training days with rangers include a ranger safety refresher which is incorporated into the other training with a focus on field procedures and practice, and law.

We currently have 10 honorary rangers, five based in the Gisborne East Coast/Hawkes Bay, one at Opotiki, two in Rotorua, and two in the Tauranga area. It is becoming more difficult to attract suitable rangers, and with training and Health and Safety obligations we can only take on applicants who are committed to the ranger programme and the required training and performance obligations.

### **1531 Prosecutions**

Prosecutions have been proceeding well with most matters resolved via diversion processes.

With regard to prosecution matters not resolved via diversion, a typical outcome for a fish without licence is fines of \$400 to \$500 being imposed, plus court costs of \$130, and prosecution costs of usually around \$150, as well as orders for forfeiture of gear used.

In August a person found fishing in a closed spawning stream, who was a repeat offender having been dealt with for poaching offences in 2008, was sentenced to 150 hours community work on charges of fishing without licence and in closed waters.

### **Offences 2018-2019 Year:**

For the 2018-2019 year to date we have dealt with 65 persons for 93 offences as tabled below.

#### **Offence table 2018-2019**

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Number of offences</b>
Disturbing spawning grounds	14
Exceed bag limit - Game	1

Fish with illegal Tackle	6
Fishing closed waters	11
Fishing with an unattended rod	1
Fishing with more than one rod	2
Fishing without a licence	25
Gives false details to a ranger	2
Possession of net/spear/implement at a spawning stream	2
Shooting protected or not permitted species	2
Take spawning fish with net/spear/implement	11
Hunt with unpinned shotgun magazine	9
Hunt using lead shot ammunition	6
Hunting without a licence	1
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>93</b>

### Resolution of Offenders 2018-2019 year

The table below shows Resolution of offences, by offender, for the 2018–19 year:

Resolution Type	Number of offenders
Prosecution – no diversion	11
Prosecution – diversion	16
Warning - adult	17
Warning- youth	20
No prosecution – false information	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>

All matters which met the prosecution guidelines test for prosecution were dealt with in that manner, with diversion offered as appropriate to persons who were eligible for that.

Warnings were given for offences where the prosecution guidelines test for prosecution – in terms of public interest - was not met, even though the offence had been committed.

Youth warnings apply to persons who are aged under the age of adult criminal liability. Until 1 July 2019 that applied to persons aged under 17 years. From 1 July legislation changes changed the definition of youths to persons aged under 18 years of age and this applies to all offending except some serious criminal matters. This means to be able to charge a person in court with an offence they have to be at least 18 years old. Previously we would however have looked for alternative resolution rather than prosecution for those aged 17 years unless the offending was serious.

### Offences Pending Resolution

To date (27/09/2019) 15 separate offences are pending resolution, by nine offenders.

Five of these nine offenders are wanted on warrants to arrest, therefore their offences are pending resolution. The other four offenders have matters currently pending resolution.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	9
Illegal tackle	1
Possess spear-gaff	1

Fish closed waters	2
False details	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

#### **Offences 2019-2020 Year:**

To date for September, three persons have been dealt with for four offences.

#### ***Offence table 2019-2020 year***

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Number of offences</b>
Fishing closed waters	1
Fishing without a licence	3
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>4</b>

## **LICENSING**

### **1612 Analysis of Licence Information**

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales for all regions. Additional reports have also been supplied to Robert Sowman for reporting to the New Zealand Council.

### **1621 Licence Agent Support**

Administration staff continue to liaise with licence agents as required. The new season regulation guides were distributed by staff to agents in mid August followed by the regional newsletter a week later. One new charter operator was signed up as a new agent in time for opening of the new fishing season.

## **PLANNING AND REPORTING**

### **1841 New Zealand Fish & Game Liaison**

Staff provided responses or support to a number of initiatives including the NZ Biodiversity Strategy, the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill, and the Arms Legislation Bill.

Mark Sherburn undertook a site visit to three of North Canterbury Fish & Game's hatcheries in conjunction with and at the invitation of the region's new CE, Rasmuss Gabriellsson who will formally be taking up office in mid October. The purpose of the visit was to assess the condition of the hatcheries and provide expert advice on related matters to the new manager.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Staff Training**

In September all staff have had a boat operator training refresher session, along with a CLE refresher and a ranger safety refresher.



## 18.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

30 September 2019

### 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.

### August/September 2019

#### 1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Regular (weekly) staff meetings.

Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of meeting are emailed to all staff.

Visitors required to sign register; site hazard register updated as required.

Tail gate forms were prepared for:

26/07/19	Kayak Ngongotaha Stream to inspect Drainage
01/08/19	Drift Dive Tarawera Outlet
14/08/19	Waikaremoana Buoy Work
14/08/19	Waikaremoana Spawning Monitoring
29/08/19	Removal of Small fallen Tree on main track
04/09/19	Drift Dive Lake Tarawera Sampling

All Staff that attend call outs have been issued with their own Stab resistant vests. An email reminding staff regarding location of radios and to show caution at call outs.

## 2. Monitoring and Reporting

### Work Place Accident Register

	30/09/2019	29/07/2019
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	1	1
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	35
Total number of days since last lost work injury 31/8/17	<b>760</b>	<b>697</b>
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	8035	8035

Budget for 2018/19 for Health & Safety is \$2,000 - of this \$1,450 is spent to 30 June 2019. The largest expense to date is for tree removal.

## 3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

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

05/08/19	Care to be taken for loading fish for Wellington on Thursday. Take care driving with sun strike
12/08/19	No H & S identified
19/08/09	Nil
26/08/19	Nil
02/09/19	Fallen Tree on Track has been removed
09/09/19	Vehicle recall for KHM138, KHM139 and KFY173
16/09/19	Treescapes onsite today, School tour Tuesday & Thursday
30/09/19	Water on Roads – take care driving. Slippery boardwalks

## 4. Training Programme

Ranger Training Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August on site  
Peak Safety First Aid training for all staff on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 on site.  
Boat CLE refresher 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
Opening Day briefing 30<sup>th</sup> September

## 5. H&S Incidents

None to report.

## 6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

## 18.3 Finance Report

Ref: 8.03.01

5 October 2019

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the current financial position and approve payments for the final two months of the 2018-2019 financial year. The end of financial year accruals have been completed and are included within this report. Adjustments that are outstanding at the time of writing relate to the revaluation of the forestry asset and any items that have not yet come to notice.

### 2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 August is attached. This report documents the income and expenditure for the period.

#### *Income*

Licence revenue is reporting to be below budget for the year (\$53,463) and this is made up of Fish licence sales (\$52,651) and Game licence sales (\$811). Non-resident levy revenue is also down on the estimated budget by \$4,308. This is the final result for the financial year and includes September 18 sales of 2017-18 licences as well as adjustments for refunds and complimentary licences.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following; hatchery (\$12,629), fishing competitions (\$683), rentals (\$8,903), reserves grazing \$5,200, and donations for the children's fishing programme (\$375). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$545 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery and junior education programmes (\$300 and \$1,050 respectively). Contract revenue from Hawke's Bay and the New Zealand Fish and Game Councils totalled \$4,015, and sponsorship of the children's fishing programme was received from Rainbow Springs (\$2,000). The New Zealand Fish & Game Council have also reimbursed expenses related to the Lake Tarawera research project from the National Research fund (\$6,065) and funds have been transferred from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for staff time and expenses associated with Waikaremoana access, surveys and the water quality monitoring buoy (\$7,040). Interest income for the period includes year end accruals and totalled \$6,569 for the Waikaremoana fund term investments and \$8,513 on general investments.

Revenue from other sources is ahead of budget YTD (\$41,077) and this relates primarily to the following;

- NZC funding re Gisborne Fresh Water Plan appeal – offsetting expenses incurred (\$9,076)
- NZC funding re Tarawera Research Project – offsetting expenses incurred (\$6,065)
- Rentals – change of tenants (\$4,219)
- Genesis Energy – drift dive and report writing (\$4,341)
- Interest income – term deposits (\$6,634)
- Donation J B Galbraith (\$5,000)
- Gain on sale of fixed assets (\$5,512).

### *Summary of revenue vs budget from other sources 2018-2019 Financial Year*

<b>Account</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Children's Fishing	4,000	4,000	0
Contracts	31,251	30,060	1,191
Donations	6,662	500	6,162
Fines	3,372	6,000	(2,628)
Fishing Competitions	4,570	4,500	70
Funding NZC Legal & Research funds	15,141	0	15,141
Gain on sale of vehicles	8,471	2,959	5,512
Gamebird Habitat Fee	6,555	7,000	(445)
General	761	750	11
Habitat Grazing	6,147	6,150	(3)
Hatchery Revenue	82,392	79,000	3,392
Interest Income	15,542	13,408	2,134
Junior Hunter/Angler Programmes - Diversion	5,650	2,500	3,150
Legal & Expense Recovery from Diversion	1,900	2,000	(100)
Rentals	38,049	33,600	4,449
Waikaremoana Interest	15,908	11,408	4,500
Waikaremoana Projects	7,040	8,500	(1,460)
	253,412	212,335	41,077

### **Species Management**

Population Monitoring expenses for the period related to consumables and travel expenses for the Lake Tarawera Research project, food for staff working at Waikaremoana, drift dive equipment, and a contribution to volunteer travel expenses for Shoveler counts. Spending within the Population Monitoring budgets ended the year \$20,907 under budget and this is due to the funding allocated from the non-resident levy reserve for the Tarawera Research project being unspent to date (\$20,000). While there are expenses reported against the Lake Tarawera project these have been all reimbursed by funding received through the National Research fund.

Within the Harvest Assessment budgets Game Bird hunter survey expenses are reported. The Harvest Assessment area has ended the year \$5,175 below budget due to funds which had been allocated for a contractor to undertake creel surveys not being required with staff undertaking this work themselves.

Hatchery expenses for the period related to fish food (\$3,243), fuel, rates, electricity, oxygen and minor consumable/equipment purchases. New lights and hoods were purchased for the hatchery aquarium in August. Hatchery expenditure has ended the year over budget (\$16,493) and this is primarily a result of the increased price of fish food and variable exchange rates with the food now being source from Chile (\$15,530). The increase in the fish food expense has been provided for within the 2019-20 budget and as a consequence an increase in the price of trout supplied to other regions is required. Hatchery income was \$3,392 over budget which offsets a portion of the Hatchery output overspend.

The Species Management area as a whole ended the year \$9,921 under budget.

### **Habitat**

Works and Management spending for the period included the purchase of an engineered gate, and excavator work was undertaken to improve security at the Awakaponga Reserve. Predator traps and bait were also purchased for general predator control. A credit is shown in July within the Assisted Habitat budget which relates to reimbursement from Genesis Energy for its contribution to the repair costs of the Lake Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy. Assisted Habitat spending included a contribution to habitat works at a private landowners farm in Gisborne (\$600), and an excavator was hired to shift the spray magazine on the Fish & Game site in order for work to be undertaken on it before use or disposal elsewhere.

The Habitat output ended the year \$16,088 under budget. Budgeted costs to be drawn from the Waikaremoana Sport Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund were \$19,615 under budget, Habitat Creation projects were down on budget \$5,269 with the difference being the costs associated with the Gisborne Fresh Water Plan appeal which were funded by the NZ Fish & Game legal fund.

### ***Participation***

Access spending for the period related to Eastern Region boundary and “No Camping” signs, and metal/rock for track maintenance at the Tumurenu WMR and Lake Ngapouri access points. The expense shown with the Other Publications relates to a reprint of the Rotorua Lakes Fishery brochure (\$1,000). A new trestle table, chairs and a gas bottle were purchased for the Children’s Fishing Programme, and minor maintenance expenses and electricity costs are reported within the Huts budgets. The Participation output has ended the year \$4,220 under budget which was primarily due to the Game Bird newsletter not being printed this year as a result of an increased number of pages available within the Fish & Game Magazine as well as no requirement to contribute to the cost of the Fish & Game Magazine publication as this was funded by the New Zealand Council.

### ***Public Interface***

The expenditure reported within the Public Interface output related to cleaning of the public toilets, cleaning product for timber walkways, and trimming of low hanging tree branches over driveways. The Public Interface area is under budget for the year (\$5,163) as funds which had been allocated for insurance of the Fish for Gold promotion have not been utilised due to the difficulty in obtaining insurance for the event and private sponsorship being subsequently confirmed.

### ***Compliance***

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone, the purchase of a further two stab proof vests, and legal fees for three prosecutions. The Compliance output has ended the year below budget (\$2,986) and this is due to a reduced number of prosecutions going through the courts following the introduction of the diversion process. This reduction in legal expense is offset by a similar reduction in revenue from court fines.

### ***Licensing***

The Commission budget includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. The Licensing output is below budget for the year by \$7,316 which is in line with the reduction seen in licence revenue.

### ***Council***

Council expenses for the period included catering and travel reimbursement for the August Council meeting and a koha made for the tangi of long-standing supporter of Fish & Game, Mr Ray Bushell. The Council output has ended the year under budget (\$5,086) resulting from reduced travel expenses associated with the Gisborne and Wairoa sub regions following a change in the makeup of Council after the 2018 election.

### ***Planning***

Within the reporting budget the accrual for the audit fee (\$2,145) is reported in August and minor expenses are reported relating to airport parking and taxi fares within the Liaison Travel budget. Levies were paid to the New Zealand Council in July as budgeted. The Planning output ends the year \$691 under budget.

## ***Administration***

### Notes on individual areas:

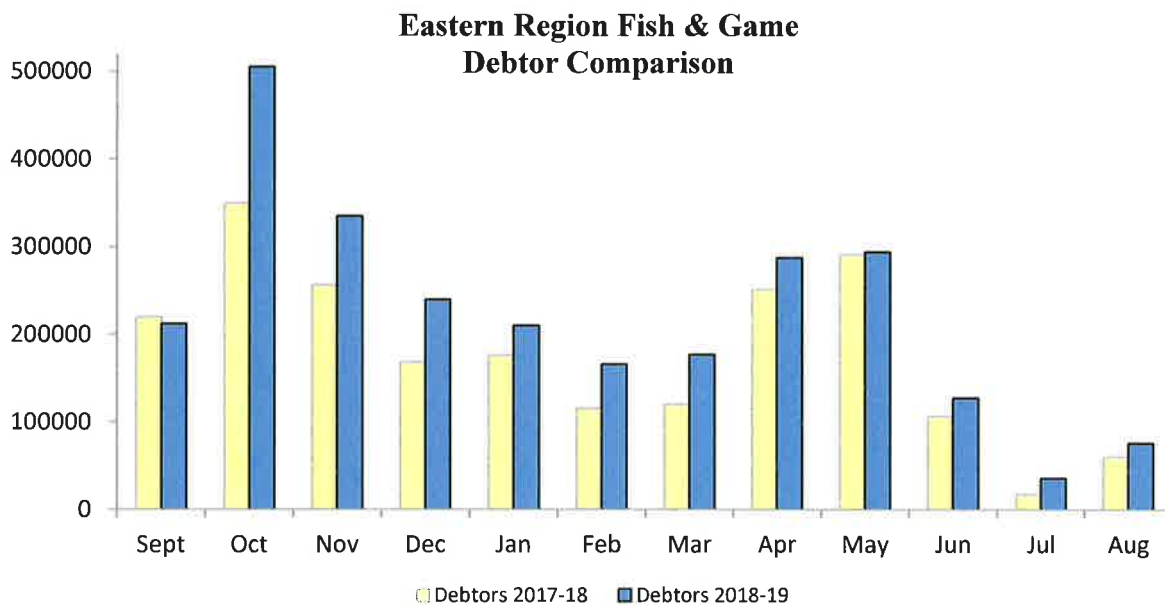
Salaries	The salaries budgets ended the year \$8,791 under budget. This variance is primarily due to changes to work arrangements with the Hawke's Bay Council which is offset by a reduction in contract revenue. The staff annual leave accrual also improved contributing to this result.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses for the period included ACC levies, first aid training for all staff, clothing, and meal expenses. Staff expenses ended the year below budget \$3,090 due to reduced FBT/ACC costs and reduced staff training.
Staff Houses	Expenses are reported within the staff houses budgets relating to electrical repairs and installation of a sensor light, soak hole rings, the insurance excess for the damaged insulation, and fire equipment servicing in all buildings. The overspend for the year totals \$18,267 and this is partially offset by increased rental income for this financial year of \$4,200, and while the balance will be recovered over the next financial year, this year it is offset by reduced spending in other areas of the budget.
Office Premises	The standard expenses for electricity, rubbish removal and cleaning are reported. Within the maintenance budget the cost of servicing the fire equipment is also reported. The Office Premises area is over budget \$1,249 for the year and this is due primarily to an increase in maintenance requirements but also cleaning and rubbish removal costs have increased as a result of the increase to the minimum wage.
Office Equipment	Two staff cell phones were updated within the period and the usual expenses relating to the phone system and eftpos leases are reported. The Office Equipment area is over budget \$220 for the year which is due to the need to replace the hot water heater in the staffroom with the balance being offset by a reduction in costs of the phone system lease.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Computer expenses relate to the Survey Monkey subscription. The credit shown in August is a result of transferring the cost of envelopes purchased in June (ahead of postage increase) to the new financial year. Overbudget for the year \$82.
General	Within the General budgets, expenses are reported for bank fees and morning teas. This area has ended the year over budget by just \$98, however this variance is expected to increase when the fee to revalue the forestry asset comes through (yet to be confirmed).
General Equipment	Equipment maintenance expenses included the cost of two trailer WoFs, servicing and replacement lights for Parera, a mower battery, high tension lead for Kotare, and fire equipment servicing for the boats, boat shed, and workshop. Equipment purchases included a platform ladder, dive wetsuit and boots, waders, flares and trickle charger for boats, and a drill for the workshop. The usual fuel expense for boat and field equipment is also reported. Under budget \$167 for the year.

<b>Vehicles</b>	Vehicle expenses for the period included servicing of four vehicles, one puncture repair, and replacement headlight bulbs. The credit shown in August is a result of transferring the cost of the additional road user charges purchased in June (ahead of price increases) to the new financial year. The vehicles budgets are underspent for the year \$1,909 due to reduced maintenance requirement.
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**Cash Position:** \$1,026,708 (includes \$99,541 for asset replacement reserve and \$468,916 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 31 August 2019.

**Debtors:** Outstanding Debtors \$76,081 as at 31 August 2019 (\$60,623 as at 31 August 2018).

*Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2017/18 – 2018/19*



From October last year we have processed our Public Online licence sales through our debtor ledger in order for those licence sales to be reported within the month that they were sold. This change meant that our debtors ledger will be higher than it has been previously as these licence proceeds do not get settled to the region until the 9-10<sup>th</sup> of the month following. Of the total debtors outstanding as at 31 August, \$50,457 related to licence sales which had been paid in full at the time of writing this report, and all other debtor accounts are current.

**Fixed Assets**

The sale of the hatchery Mazda JPF257 was completed in August.

**3. Variance Report**

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. The year to date 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. Please note however that staff hours are checked at year end which may result in some adjustments being required.

**2018/2019 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

as at 31 August 2019

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 54,000	\$ 34,013	2,341	2,499	\$ 137,216	\$ 147,238	\$ 9,500	\$ 7,040	\$ 182,716	\$ 174,211	\$ 8,505	95.3	
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 7,150	\$ 1,975	884	815	\$ 51,815	\$ 48,004	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,965	\$ 49,979	\$ 8,987	84.8	
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 69,050	\$ 85,543	3,078	3,531	\$ 180,415	\$ 208,013	\$ 79,000	\$ 82,422	\$ 170,465	\$ 211,134	\$ (40,668)	123.9	
1150	Game Farm	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	154	136	\$ 9,027	\$ 8,013	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,027	\$ 8,013	\$ 1,014	88.8	
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	140	105	\$ 8,206	\$ 6,172	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,206	\$ 6,172	\$ 2,034	75.2	
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ 169	52	53	\$ 3,048	\$ 3,137	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,548	\$ 3,306	\$ 242	93.2	
	<b>TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	\$ 130,700	\$ 121,700	6,649	7,138	\$ 389,727	\$ 420,577	\$ 87,500	\$ 89,462	\$ 432,927	\$ 452,814	\$ (19,887)	104.6	
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ 9,521	1,160	1,750	\$ 67,993	\$ 103,108	\$ -	\$ 9,076	\$ 68,193	\$ 103,553	\$ (35,360)	151.9	
1220	Works & Management	\$ 21,000	\$ 20,866	1,122	876	\$ 65,765	\$ 51,613	\$ 13,150	\$ 18,767	\$ 73,615	\$ 53,512	\$ 20,103	72.7	
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 8,700	\$ 3,240	912	783	\$ 53,456	\$ 46,148	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,156	\$ 49,388	\$ 12,768	79.5	
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	120	12	\$ 7,034	\$ 707	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,034	\$ 707	\$ 6,327	101.1	
	<b>TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION &amp; MAN</b>	\$ 29,900	\$ 33,427	3,314	3,421	\$ 194,248	\$ 201,576	\$ 13,150	\$ 27,843	\$ 210,998	\$ 207,161	\$ 3,838	98.2	
1310	Access	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,436	592	586	\$ 34,700	\$ 34,526	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,200	\$ 39,962	\$ 2,237	94.7	
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ 11,500	\$ 8,666	350	220	\$ 20,515	\$ 12,977	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,015	\$ 21,643	\$ 10,372	67.6	
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,250	72	67	\$ 4,220	\$ 3,918	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,720	\$ 6,168	\$ 552	91.8	
1350	Training	\$ 600	\$ 473	996	780	\$ 58,380	\$ 45,957	\$ 11,500	\$ 14,354	\$ 47,480	\$ 32,076	\$ 15,404	67.6	
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	72	20	\$ 4,220	\$ 1,178	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,220	\$ 1,178	\$ 3,042	27.9	
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 2,505	36	43	\$ 2,110	\$ 2,534	\$ 400	\$ 631	\$ 3,160	\$ 4,408	\$ (1,247)	139.5	
	<b>TOTAL - ANGLER &amp; HUNTER PARTICIP</b>	\$ 23,550	\$ 19,330	2,118	1,716	\$ 124,145	\$ 101,090	\$ 11,900	\$ 14,985	\$ 135,795	\$ 105,435	\$ 30,361	77.6	
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	216	243	\$ 12,661	\$ 14,288	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,661	\$ 14,288	\$ (1,627)	112.9	
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ -	204	201	\$ 11,957	\$ 11,813	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,457	\$ 11,813	\$ 644	94.8	
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 4,500	\$ 333	158	85	\$ 9,261	\$ 5,023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,761	\$ 5,356	\$ 8,405	38.9	
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,504	594	295	\$ 34,817	\$ 17,381	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,817	\$ 18,885	\$ 17,932	51.3	
	<b>TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,837	1,172	823	\$ 68,696	\$ 48,505	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,696	\$ 50,342	\$ 25,354	66.5	
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,843	940	999	\$ 55,098	\$ 58,845	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,198	\$ 61,688	\$ (4,491)	107.9	
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 804	108	98	\$ 6,330	\$ 5,774	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,330	\$ 6,578	\$ 752	89.7	
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 7,500	\$ 4,057	360	334	\$ 21,101	\$ 19,679	\$ 8,000	\$ 5,272	\$ 20,601	\$ 18,464	\$ 2,137	89.6	
	<b>TOTAL - COMPLIANCE</b>	\$ 10,600	\$ 7,704	1,408	1,431	\$ 82,529	\$ 84,298	\$ 8,000	\$ 5,272	\$ 85,129	\$ 86,730	\$ (1,601)	101.9	
1610	Licensing	\$ 700	\$ 599	322	256	\$ 18,874	\$ 15,054	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,574	\$ 15,653	\$ 3,921	80.0	
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	184	126	\$ 10,785	\$ 7,438	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,785	\$ 7,438	\$ 3,347	69.0	
	<b>TOTAL - LICENSING</b>	\$ 700	\$ 599	506	382	\$ 29,659	\$ 22,492	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,359	\$ 23,091	\$ 7,268	76.1	
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	20	0	\$ 1,172	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,172	\$ -	\$ 1,172	0.0	
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,914	878	878	\$ 51,463	\$ 51,716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,463	\$ 56,530	\$ 4,934	92.1	
	<b>TOTAL - COUNCILS</b>	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,914	898	878	\$ 52,636	\$ 51,716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,636	\$ 56,630	\$ 6,006	90.4	
1810	Management Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	51	\$ -	\$ 295	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 295	\$ (295)	#DIV/0!	
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	126	85	\$ 7,385	\$ 5,023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,385	\$ 5,023	\$ 2,363	68.0	
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,185	\$ 8,452	551	421	\$ 32,297	\$ 24,820	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,482	\$ 33,272	\$ 8,210	80.2	
1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ 141	446	683	\$ 26,142	\$ 40,242	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,242	\$ 40,383	\$ (14,140)	153.9	
	<b>TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	\$ 9,285	\$ 8,593	1,123	1,195	\$ 65,824	\$ 70,378	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,109	\$ 78,971	\$ (3,862)	105.1	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 221,735	\$ 198,104	17,188	16,983	\$ 1,007,465	\$ 1,000,632	\$ 120,550	\$ 137,562	\$ 1,108,650	\$ 1,061,174	\$ 47,476	95.7	



OVERHEADS		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
1910	Salaries	\$ 919,325	\$ 910,534	\$ 26,910	\$ 889,624	\$ 889,624	\$ 5,641	\$ 889,624	\$ 5,641	99.4
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 23,900	\$ 20,809	\$ -	\$ 20,809	\$ 20,809	\$ 3,091	\$ 20,809	\$ 3,091	87.1
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 13,650	\$ 31,918	\$ 37,419	\$ (19,550)	\$ (19,550)	\$ (14,049)	\$ (19,550)	\$ (14,049)	28.1
1940	Office Premises	\$ 21,300	\$ 22,549	\$ -	\$ 21,300	\$ 22,549	\$ (1,249)	\$ 21,300	\$ (1,249)	105.9
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,220	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,220	\$ (220)	\$ 4,000	\$ (220)	100.5
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 17,750	\$ 17,832	\$ -	\$ 17,750	\$ 17,832	\$ (82)	\$ 17,750	\$ (82)	105.5
1970	General	\$ 9,250	\$ 9,152	\$ 750	\$ 8,500	\$ (2,448)	\$ 10,948	\$ 8,500	\$ (2,448)	-28.8
1980	General Equipment	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,133	\$ -	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,133	\$ 167	\$ 16,300	\$ 167	99.0
1990	Vehicles	\$ 46,000	\$ 43,413	\$ -	\$ 46,000	\$ 43,413	\$ 2,587	\$ 46,000	\$ 2,587	94.4
	Administration	\$ 1,071,475	\$ 1,076,560	\$ 64,010	\$ 75,929	\$ 1,007,465	\$ 1,000,632	\$ 1,007,465	\$ 1,000,632	99.3
	Total Overhead Net Cost				\$ 1,007,465	\$ 1,000,632		\$ 1,007,465	\$ 1,000,632	
	Total Outputs Staff Hours				17,188	16,983		17,188	16,983	
	Internal Cost Per Hour				58.61	58.92		58.61	58.92	

**2018/2019 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

Schedule C	Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		%	
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
	1	Species Management	\$ 130,700	\$ 121,700	6,649	7,138	\$ 389,727	\$ 420,577	\$ 87,500	\$ 89,462	\$ 432,927	\$ 452,814	\$ (19,887)	104.6
	2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 29,900	\$ 33,427	3,314	3,421	\$ 194,248	\$ 201,576	\$ 13,150	\$ 27,843	\$ 210,998	\$ 207,161	\$ 3,838	98.2
	3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 23,550	\$ 19,330	2,118	1,716	\$ 124,145	\$ 101,090	\$ 11,900	\$ 14,985	\$ 135,795	\$ 105,435	\$ 30,361	77.6
	4	Public Interface	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,837	1,172	823	\$ 68,696	\$ 48,505	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,696	\$ 50,342	\$ 25,354	66.5
	5	Compliance	\$ 10,600	\$ 7,704	1,408	1,431	\$ 82,529	\$ 84,298	\$ 8,000	\$ 5,272	\$ 85,129	\$ 86,730	\$ (1,601)	101.9
	6	Licensing	\$ 700	\$ 599	506	382	\$ 29,659	\$ 22,492	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,359	\$ 23,091	\$ 7,268	76.1
	7	Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,914	898	878	\$ 52,636	\$ 51,716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,636	\$ 56,630	\$ 6,006	90.4
	8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,285	\$ 8,593	1,123	1,195	\$ 65,824	\$ 70,378	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,109	\$ 78,971	\$ (3,862)	105.1
	9	Administration												
		Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,327	6,517								
		TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 221,735	\$ 198,104	23,515	23,500	\$ 1,007,465	\$ 1,000,632	\$ 120,550	\$ 137,562	\$ 1,108,650	\$ 1,061,174	\$ 47,476	

Licence Income 2018-19		Budget	Actual	% of OWP budget spent	
2018/19 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,207,369	\$ 1,150,410		100%	96%
Less Commission	\$ 52,375.00	\$ -			
<b>Net Fish Licence Income</b>	\$ 1,154,994	\$ 1,150,410			
2019 Game Licence Income	\$ 255,022	\$ 254,211			
Less Commission	\$ 11,476.00	\$ 56,636			
<b>Net Game Licence Income</b>	\$ 243,546	\$ 197,575			
Total Licence Income	\$ 1,462,391	\$ 1,404,621			
Total Commission	\$ 63,851	\$ 56,636			
<b>Total Net 2018/19 Licence Revenue</b>	\$ 1,398,540	\$ 1,347,985			
				Subtotal	
				\$ 10,264	\$ (15,994)
<b>Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund</b>					
				\$ (11,408)	\$ (15,908)
				\$ 30,500	\$ 10,885
<b>Adjusted Budget</b>				\$ 29,356	\$ (21,017)

**Profit and Loss**  
**Eastern Fish and Game Council for the 2 months ended 31 August 2019**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Jul 2019</b>	<b>Aug 2019</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Variance YTD</b>	<b>Var YTD %</b>
Licence Income	8,133	1,883	1,365,455	1,418,918	1,418,918	(53,463)	-4%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	424	389	39,165	43,473	43,473	(4,308)	-10%
Other Income	19,663	48,778	253,412	212,335	212,335	41,077	19%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28,220</b>	<b>51,050</b>	<b>1,658,033</b>	<b>1,674,726</b>	<b>1,674,726</b>	<b>(16,693)</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
Depreciation	5,980	5,949	74,246	72,378	72,378	1,868	3%
Trout Inventory Revaluation	0	(23,559)	(23,559)	0	0	(23,559)	0%
<b>1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>							
1110 Population Monitoring	17	158	33,093	54,000	54,000	(20,907)	-39%
1120 Harvest Assessment	720	775	1,975	7,150	7,150	(5,175)	-72%
1140 Hatchery Operations	5,083	1,432	85,543	69,050	69,050	16,493	24%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	169	500	500	(331)	-66%
<b>Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>5,820</b>	<b>2,365</b>	<b>120,779</b>	<b>130,700</b>	<b>130,700</b>	<b>(9,921)</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT</b>							
1210 Resource Management Act	0	0	9,521	200	200	9,321	4660%
1220 Works & Management	527	5,175	20,666	21,000	21,000	(,334)	-2%
1230 Assisted Habitat	(1,805)	8,305	14,125	39,200	39,200	(25,075)	-64%
<b>Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MNGMNT</b>	<b>(1,278)</b>	<b>13,480</b>	<b>44,312</b>	<b>60,400</b>	<b>60,400</b>	<b>(16,088)</b>	<b>-27%</b>
<b>1300 PARTICIPATION</b>							
1310 Access	508	1,272	5,436	7,500	7,500	(2,064)	-28%
1330 Newsletters	0	0	8,666	11,500	11,500	(2,834)	-25%
1340 Other Publications	0	1,000	2,250	2,500	2,500	(250)	-10%
1350 Training	193	46	473	600	600	(127)	-21%
1370 Huts	115	182	2,505	1,450	1,450	1,055	73%
<b>Total 1300 PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>19,330</b>	<b>23,550</b>	<b>23,550</b>	<b>(4,220)</b>	<b>-18%</b>
<b>1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>							
1420 Communication	0	0	0	500	500	(500)	-100%
1440 Public Promotions	0	61	333	4,500	4,500	(4,167)	-93%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	101	732	1,504	2,000	2,000	(496)	-25%
<b>Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>(5,163)</b>	<b>-74%</b>
<b>1500 COMPLIANCE</b>							
1510 Ranging	815	57	2,843	2,100	2,100	743	35%
1520 Ranger Training	0	420	804	1,000	1,000	(196)	-20%
1530 Compliance	0	360	4,057	7,500	7,500	(3,443)	-46%
<b>Total 1500 COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>7,704</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>(2,896)</b>	<b>-27%</b>
<b>1600 LICENSING</b>							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	599	599	700	700	(101)	-14%
1630 Commission	388	155	56,636	63,851	63,851	(7,215)	-11%
<b>Total 1600 LICENSING</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>57,235</b>	<b>64,551</b>	<b>64,551</b>	<b>(7,316)</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>1700 COUNCIL</b>							
1720 Council Meetings	206	683	4,914	10,000	10,000	(5,086)	-51%
<b>Total 1700 COUNCIL</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>4,914</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>(5,086)</b>	<b>-51%</b>
<b>1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>							
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	2,145	8,452	9,185	9,185	(733)	-8%
1840 National Liaison	61,074	51	244,284	244,243	244,243	41	0%
<b>Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	<b>61,074</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>252,736</b>	<b>253,428</b>	<b>253,428</b>	<b>(692)</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>							
1910 Salaries	69,610	183,510	910,534	919,325	919,325	(8,791)	-1%
1920 Staff Expenses	2,169	2,138	20,809	23,900	23,900	(3,091)	-13%
1930 Staff Houses	633	1,496	31,918	13,650	13,650	18,268	134%
1940 Office Premises	1,912	1,464	22,549	21,300	21,300	1,249	6%
1950 Office Equipment	150	1,039	4,220	4,000	4,000	220	6%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,128	(553)	17,832	17,750	17,750	82	0%
1970 General	77	76	9,152	9,250	9,250	(98)	-1%
1980 General Equipment	555	3,567	16,133	16,300	16,300	(167)	-1%
1990 Vehicles	1,853	(2,420)	44,091	46,000	46,000	(1,909)	-4%
<b>Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>78,087</b>	<b>190,317</b>	<b>1,076,562</b>	<b>1,071,475</b>	<b>1,071,475</b>	<b>5,764</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>152,009</b>	<b>197,096</b>	<b>1,637,016</b>	<b>1,704,082</b>	<b>1,704,082</b>	<b>(67,066)</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(123,789)</b>	<b>(146,047)</b>	<b>21,017</b>	<b>(29,356)</b>	<b>(29,356)</b>	<b>50,373</b>	<b>-172%</b>

## 18.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

Ref: 6.01.05

5 October 2019

### 1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2018-2019 licensing season YTD to 31 August 2019.

### 2. 2018-2019 Fish Licence Sales

- 2.1 Fish Licence sales for the 2018-2019 season comparison against the 2017-18 season are summarised in *Table One*.
- 2.2 The total 2018-19 fish licence LEQs ended the year 1.5% below sales reported for the 2017-18 season and 4.3% below budget. It should be noted however that the budget includes sales for a complete licencing year whereas this report includes sales up to and including 31 August.
- 2.3 Nationally at the same date YTD fish licence sales are reporting to be 2.3% below the 2017-18 season.
- 2.4 In terms of LEQs (Whole Season Licence Equivalents) the current season is 148 LEQs behind sales reported for the 2017-18 season. Resident licence types are down by 175 LEQs whereas the Non-resident categories are up by 27 LEQs.
- 2.5 The categories that have seen the largest reduction in the resident licence types are Family (108), Adult Season (53), long break (27) and Adult Day (131) and the category that has seen the largest improvement is the Local Area licence (53).
- 2.6 The Adult Non-resident Season licence sales are up 148 which offsets the decline in the Adult Non-resident day category of 770. Junior Non-resident Season licence sales are also up by 9 with the Non-resident junior day licences down by 40. The new child category contributes to the overall positive result for Non-residents with 20 Season and 35 Day licences sold.
- 2.7 Fish licence revenue, in dollar terms, for the 2018-19 Season is reporting higher than that of the 2017-18 Season by \$9,361 despite the negative LEQ variance 1.5%. This is due to the increase in licence price between these two seasons.

**Table One**

Fish Licence Sales 2018-19 vs 2017-18 Seasons YTD to 31 August 2019

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FWDJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total Fish
Agency Online	1589	1229	287	240	1130	307	64	574	2102	1362	269	8	254	67	0	0	9,482
Public Online	1277	943	189	161	479	212	44	596	2034	975	156	11	163	24	0	0	7,264
Eyede Call Centre	12	10	0	12	9	9	0	3	9	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	70
<b>Total YTD 2017-18</b>	<b>2878</b>	<b>2182</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>1618</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1173</b>	<b>4145</b>	<b>2341</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,816</b>
Agency Online	1507	1145	351	229	1121	253	37	564	1769	861	236	13	199	31	0	7	8,346
Public Online	1247	980	273	160	542	270	44	599	2220	709	159	15	200	20	0	13	7,463
Eyede Call Centre	16	4	0	13	8	8	0	3	25	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	81
<b>Total YTD 2018-19</b>	<b>2770</b>	<b>2129</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>1671</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1166</b>	<b>4014</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15,890</b>

**Summary LEQs YTD to 31 August 2019 (Whole Season Licence Equivalent)**

Season	Fish LEQ	Fish Var	Fish \$	Inc/Dec
Total YTD 2017-2018	10,000		\$1,104,311	
Total YTD 2018-2019	9,852	-1.5%	\$1,113,672	\$9,361

**2018-19 Summary Actual vs Total Budget 2018-19**

2018-19 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	10,296	100.0%	\$1,163,896
2018-19 YTD Actual	9,852	96.3%	\$1,113,672
Remaining to meet budget	-444	-4.3%	-\$50,224

**Resident Licence Categories**

FWF – Family Season, FWA – Adult Season, FLSA – Loyal Senior Season, FLAA – Local Area Season, FWIA – Adult Winter Season, FLBA – Adult Long Break, FSBA – Adult Short Break, FDA – Adult Day, FWJ – Junior Season, FDJ – Junior Day, FWC – Child Season

**Non-Resident Licence Categories**

FWNA – Adult Season, FDNA – Adult Day, FWNJ – Junior Season, FDNJ – Junior Day, FWNC – Child Season, FDNC – Child Day

### **3. 2019 Game Licence Sales**

- 3.1 Game Licence sales for the 2019 season comparison against the 2018 season YTD are summarised in *Table Two*.
- 3.2 The total 2019 game licence LEQs YTD are 2.8% behind the 2018 season results for the same period.
- 3.3 Nationally for the same period licence sales are reporting to be 2.3% below the same period of the 2018 season.
- 3.4 Game licence revenue, in dollar terms, for the 2019 Season is reporting to be lower than that of 2018 Season by \$1,575 despite the more significant LEQ variance of negative 2.8%. This is due to the increase in licence price between these two seasons.

***Table Two***

**Game Licence Sales 2019 vs 2018 Seasons YTD to 31 August 2019**

<b>Channel</b>	<b>GWA</b>	<b>GWJ</b>	<b>GWC</b>	<b>GDA</b>	<b>GDJ</b>	<b>Total Game</b>
Agency Online	2833	300	140	106	1	3,380
Public Online	312	30	14	76	1	433
Eyede Call Centre	3	0	0	1	0	4
<b>Total YTD 2018</b>	<b>3148</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3,817</b>
Agency Online	2740	269	144	94	8	3,255
Public Online	323	37	12	60	1	433
Eyede Call Centre	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total YTD 2019</b>	<b>3063</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3,689</b>

*GWA Season Adult, GWJ Season Junior, GWC Season Child, GDA Day Adult, GDJ Day Junior*

***Summary LEQ's YTD to 31 August 2019 (Whole Season Licence Equivalent)***

<b>Season</b>	<b>Game LEQ</b>	<b>Game Var</b>	<b>Game \$</b>	<b>Inc/Dec</b>
Total YTD 2017-2018	3,250		\$257,139	
Total YTD 2018-2019	3,158	-2.8%	\$255,351	-\$1,575

***2019 Summary YTD Actual vs Total Budget***

2019 Annual Budgeted GAME LEQs	3,154	100.0%	\$255,022
2019 YTD Actual	3,158	100.1%	\$255,351
Remaining to meet budget	2	0.1%	\$329

### **4. 2019-20 Licence Sales**

- 4.1 The initial licence sales report for the 2019-20 Season will tabled at the upcoming meeting and a full report on licence sales for the 2018-19 season will be made available in due course.