



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

7 April 2022

AGENDA

The 195th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 7 April 2022

Commences: 1.00 PM

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 194th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON
THURSDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Debbie Oakley, Ken Coombes, Lindsay Lyons, Jay Tapsell, and Mark Sceats.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matthew Osborne (Eastern Fish & Game); Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.00pm with a karakia and welcomed all present

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 An apology was received from Crs Scott Nicol, Kevin Coutts, and Geoff Thomas. Cr Mike Jarvie was unable to join the meeting due to computer access issues.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 194th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (9 DECEMBER 2021)

3.1 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendments:*

14.4 Amend “Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie)” to “Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Mike Jarvie)”, and

9.1 Amend “Cr Ken Coombes queried who was ultimately responsible...” to “Cr Kevin Coutts queried who was ultimately responsible...” [22/02/3.1].

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Cr Debbie Oakley informed Council that her summary for the Regional Structure review had been sent to the review panel and she would now circulate this to Council. Cr Ngahi Bidois also advised that he had responded to the review panel outlining this Council’s preferences as confirmed at the 9 December meeting.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Ngahi Bidois - Cr Kevin Coutts’ resignation
- Cr Lindsay Lyons - Recording meetings

6.1 The matter of recording meetings was discussed immediately, and Council supported Kate Thompson retaining a digitally recorded copy of meeting proceedings to assist with accuracy of minute taking and that this would be retained until the minutes of that meeting were accepted, after which the recording would be deleted.

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 7.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded. Cr Ngahi Bidois reminded Council that if during discussion anyone recalled or realised that they may be conflicted they need to notify the meeting at that time.

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell) that Council receives the Health and Safety reports. [22/02/8.1]*

- 8.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked Elon Musk for improving the office's communications through the new Starlink satellite internet service. He was also pleased to see licence revenue sitting ahead of budget. Cr Lindsay Lyons queried this as the sales report was showing a decline of 6.7% on last season's results. Kate Thompson clarified advising that licence revenue targets for the 2021-22 Season had been budgeted at a lower level than sales achieved in 2020-21 as a downward trend had been seen between the prior seasons with Covid 19 affecting sales results. So, while sales were down on last season the sales target had also been set at a lower level.

- 8.3 Cr Debbie Oakley queried the significant change in balance of the Waikaremoana Fund term deposits? Kate Thompson advised that with such poor returns on investments recently she had intentionally held off renewing one of the fund term deposits as she was aware through news media of likely increases to rates over the coming months. The funds were being held on call for a short period.

8.4 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2021 totalling \$322,835.84. [22/02/8.4]*

- 8.5 The Management and Licence Sales Reports were taken as read.

9.0 GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2022-2023 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 9.1 Andy Garrick informed Council of the process undertaken each year to review Council's current priorities, and whether Council wished to carry the current priorities forward into the 2022-23 Operational Work Plan (OWP) process or if there was a desire to change these. He said that the feeling from regional managers across the country was that it would be wise to once again run conservative budgets in light of licence revenues and uncertainties around international travel. Andy advised that balanced budgets and bids for contestable funds from all regions needed to be submitted to the National Office Chief Financial Officer by 23 March to enable her to collate and interpret these for presentation to the Managers and joint Managers/NZC meetings on 28 and 29 April. He said that while we had to submit our budget and bids prior to these being signed off at our next Council meeting on 7 April, Council still had the option to make amendments to both the budget and the bids and advise these changes to the CFO prior to the Managers and New Zealand Council meetings at the end of April.

- 9.2 Andy provided a heads up that there were at least three bids or applications to use reserves we were likely to be recommending for this budget round, these being:

- Compensation for loss of interest income. We also made a one off bid for this last year, and while we're proposing the same again this year the amount we'll

be applying for is likely to be somewhat less as interest rates have recently been increasing.

- CPI on staff salaries. Currently the CPI is reaching record highs and full CPI adjustments may not be affordable, but this is a conversation that needs to take place nationally.
- Contracting a provider to assist with the development of a regional R3 roadmap and./or business development plan. There may also be merit in contracting someone part time to assist with our social media presence.

- 9.3 Cr Lindsay Lyons asked Council to consider changing the order of priorities and make Increasing Revenue into our top priority, and that revenue be separated into “Increasing licence sales” and “Increasing other revenue”. He also suggested that we should drop or ease back on the Water Quality priority as he felt that this was currently being adequately addressed at a national level and there was little regions could do presently.
- 9.4 Andy noted that the current priorities hadn’t been listed in order of most important to least important by Council, though Council had recognised Increasing Revenue along with Access and Maximising Fisheries Opportunities as being of greater significance than the others, the reasoning being improving access and maximising fisheries opportunities were means by which licence revenue could be increased.
- 9.5 Cr Debbie Oakley felt that all priorities should remain in place but should be prioritised. Debbie also suggested that we should investigate whether Fish & Game can obtain funding support from central government.
- 9.6 Cr Ken Coombes considered all existing priorities were important but water quality was being picked up by others currently and we could perhaps back off a bit from this.
- 9.7 Cr Jay Tapsell suggested that other Councils could contribute to costs.
- 9.8 Barry Roderick commented that the Rotorua lakes are the jewel in the crown and we should be promoting the lakes as the place to go to. He thought it would be a good idea to contract someone to assist with promoting what we’ve got.
- 9.9 Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested dropping into local agents with chocolates and cards from Council to show appreciation for what they do. Cr Lindsay Lyons said he could donate some avocados too. It was proposed Councillors do these visits as staff are currently too busy to do so.
- 9.10 No consensus was declared, or resolutions taken on amending priorities or Council direction at this point in time.

10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

- 10.1 Matt Osborne noted that this year a full review of the Anglers Notice was due. He commented on the significant changes that had been implemented from the last review and provided an overview of the process this year. He advised that submissions recommended from today’s meeting would be distributed to interested parties and stakeholders for feedback which would be presented at Council’s next meeting in April.

10.2 *Permit the use of all ‘soft baits’ (scented and unscented) within Eastern Region’s lure fishing waters.*

Discussion centred around the current ability to determine whether a soft bait is scented or not while in the field, especially if no packaging is available. Council agreed that the current regulation is difficult to enforce. Cr Mike Jarvie who was not present today

had requested through Andy Garrick to retain the status quo in the meantime but put the topic forward for further discussion.

10.3 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Lindsay Lyons) that Council was in favour of progressing Item 3.3 through to the next stage of consultation. [22/02/10.3]*

10.4 *Restrict Spinning*

Matt Osborne informed Council that two separate emails had been received requesting Fly/Spin fishing areas revert back to Fly only. Matt advised that staff had seen the combination working well in the areas concerned, but these submissions provided an opportunity for Council to review the changes that had been made. Council supported retaining the status quo as the new rules appeared to be working well and achieved two goals – simplification of regulations, and providing greater opportunity for all anglers (including those new to the sport). It was important to recognize that spin anglers make up a significant proportion of the region's licence holders.

10.5 Andy Garrick asked whether there were any other submissions Council might want to put forward for consideration at April's meeting. Cr Debbie Oakley suggested the use of treble hooks in the Eastern Region as this had been raised with her by another angler. Andy Garrick advised that this had been well litigated by this Council in the past and the results of studies on the impacts of treble hooks were quite ambivalent. He said there was little science to support either one view or the other. Matt Osborne understood many chose not to use treble hooks, and noted that the rules around authorised tackle were located in the First Schedule which was to be reviewed by Fish & Game over the coming year. That would be the appropriate time to review the use of treble hooks if Council felt there was a need to do so.

11.0 PROGRESS REPORT ON RECRUITMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

11.1 Murray Ferris provided Council with an update on progress towards recruiting a replacement manager for Andy Garrick who had signalled his intention to retire in the near future.

12.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

12.1 *Report from the New Zealand Council*

Cr Debbie Oakley advised that the February meeting had been deferred but reported briefly on the following:

- Governance training
- Forestry vs natives, carbon credits for forestry, restrictions on access
- Research
- Remuneration committee

13.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

13.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois informed Council of an upcoming meeting that he had planned with the Te Arawa Lakes Trust Chair, Sir Toby Curtis. This was to be an informal meeting but he hoped he'd be able to get Ta Toby to a meeting of this Council in the future.

13.2 Andy Garrick advised that Sara Carley from the BOP Conservation Board was disappointed not to be able to attend this meeting but was very keen to be involved in the future.

13.3 Cr Ngahi Bidois confirmed the resignation of Cr Kevin Coutts and provided a brief explanation. Andy Garrick advised that he would follow up on the process to inform the Minister of Cr Coutts' resignation.

13.4 Cr Debbie Oakley suggested the number of members of Council remain at 11 following Cr Coutts' resignation. Cr Ngahi Bidois proposed that this be discussed at a later date.

14.0 MEETING CLOSED

14.1 The meeting closed at 1.46pm with a closing karakia by Cr Ngahi Bidois.

.....
Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 194th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/02/2.2]*

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8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 8.1** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell) that Council receives the Health and Safety reports. [22/02/8.1]*
- 8.4** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2021 totalling \$322,835.84. [22/02/8.4]*

10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

- 10.3** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Lindsay Lyons) that Council was in favour of progressing Item 3.3 through to the next stage of consultation. [22/02/10.3]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

21 March 2022

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

In 2016 the Eastern Fish and Game Council adopted a revised policy and rules for dealing with Conflicts of Interest and these include providing a standing agenda item to allow Councillors to disclose any Conflict or highlight any potential conflict. The “Interest Register” ring binder will be circulated in the first part of each meeting for Councillors to record any interests. The Council should then discuss how it wants to deal with any interest or perceived interest identified.

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

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

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

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;
- (ii) The member’s other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;
- (iii) A fair-minded lay observer might reasonably consider that the member’s private interest or duty may influence or motivate the actions of the member in relation to a matter; and

¹ “Matter” means:

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

- (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. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

21 March 2022

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 and 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.

January 2022 - March 2022

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan
Regular (weekly) staff meetings. Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of the meeting are emailed to all staff. Visitors to the office and contractors are required to sign our desk register, and our hazard register is updated as required.
Tail Gate forms completed for: February 2022 Rangitaiki Water Quality Monitoring
2021-2022 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	
	28/02/2022
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	0
Number of Workplace injuries in 2020-2021 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	1
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	50
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	4
Total number of days since last lost work injury	313
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 21/3/21	245
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 19/7/20	1,053
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 31/8/17	1,363
Total number of days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury on 7/12/13	6,672

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

COVID 19

Complete Health & Safety Plan was developed 2 February 2022 to operate under the new “Red” alert level. Objective - to minimise transmission of Covid 19 and to maintain continuity in the workplace so as to maintain Eastern Fish & Game operations, and reduce the potential impact on health services.

Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting and emailed to all staff:

- 24 Jan 2022 Gate to be closed under Red Light and discussion to occur regarding site operation under Omicron. Sanitiser/mask supplies to be reviewed. Mail to be delivered to carport.
- 31 Jan 2022 No new hazards identified
- 7 Feb 2022 Arborist on site to drop a tree near Fort Knox, satellite dish to be installed on roof of lab.
- 14 Feb 2022 Arborist on site to drop a tree near Fort Knox after no show last week. Tree down at “V” notch and another smaller behind hatchery, both able to be dealt with safely by staff. Contract worker R Mallinson spraying reserves- his contact is John Meikle. Nigel Simpson to update white board as weather permits to access reserves.
- 21 Feb 2022 Nigel Simpson to update white board each day as to the reserves he is heading to and will report in on completion.
- 28 Feb 2022 Wasp incident – reserves contractor. Kate Thompson to purchase antihistamines to replace those expired in vehicles and to purchase RAT’s test kits.
- 7 Mar 2022 RAT’s tests made available to staff who haven’t already got some. Matt McDougall to liaise with Andy Garrick re obtaining Epipen. Status quo remains in place for Covid requirements on site, to be reviewed again end of March. Although isolation rules have changed we will review case by case requirements for isolation above and beyond MOH guidelines to ensure continuity of hatchery programme.
- 14 Mar 2022 Take care on roads, sunstrike
- 21 Mar 2022 No new hazards identified

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Nil

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

8.2 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

25 March 2022

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the end of year financial position and approve payments for the months of January and February 2022.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 28 February 2022
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2022
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 28 February 2022
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions January and February 2022
Table 6	Credit Card Transactions 1 January to 28 February 2022

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 28 February is attached (Table 3).

Income

Licence revenue is reporting just ahead of budget (\$8,680) and includes \$16,283 collected for game hunter ballots. A more up to date and detailed picture of licence sales performance YTD can be found within the licence sales report.

Revenue from other sources over the period totalled \$28,490 and was made up of the following: hatchery (\$10,092), fishing competitions (\$418), and rentals (\$9,348). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$993 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery, and junior education programmes (\$100 and \$350 respectively). The Datawatch programme was kindly sponsored by Mr Barry Roderick (\$2,000), interest income for the period totalled \$2,691, and additional income was also received from mowing (\$878), Zon gun hire (\$90), and the sale of hay (\$460) from the cottage paddock.

Species Management

The Population Monitoring expenditure includes aircraft hire for trend counts, and wages, fuel, duck bands, and miscellaneous items for the duck banding project. Two ballot licence purchases were refunded from this budget for two of this year's lucky licence winners for the return of duck bands. The Population Monitoring budgets are reporting to be \$4,658 over budget YTD and this is due to a number of factors including increased costs associated with flights for trend counts, and wages and fuel for the banding project.

The most significant expense for the Hatchery for the period was for fish food (\$8,344), followed by materials which were purchased for the construction of the emergency water supply pipeline (\$4,213). Various pipes, fittings, LED lights, and maintenance materials were purchased for: hatchery maintenance, an upgrade to the clipping station, repairs to pond 9, replacement of netting on boardwalks, and repairs to structures around the spring. Expenses are also reported relating to fencing materials for the refurbishment of the Fort Knox fish holding facility. The usual expenses associated with fuel, rates, electricity, Aqui-S and oxygen are also reported. The Hatchery operations budgets are overspent YTD \$6,596, due primarily to unbudgeted expenses associated with the hatchery emergency water reticulation works (which are to be funded from the reserve set up for this purpose).

Habitat

Works and Management spending for the period related to water reticulation and track maintenance at the Awaiti WMR. Within budget YTD.

Participation

Access spending for the period relates to our contribution to funding of a contractor for track and road clearing on the Rangitaiki and a good proportion of this work was funded directly by Kaingaroa Timberlands. Hut expenses related to electricity. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

There was no Public Interface expenditure during the period reported.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The Licensing cost includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. Within budget YTD.

Council

Minor expenses reported within the Council budget relate to a Christmas gift basket for staff, and chocolates and cards for agents visited by Councillors.

Planning

Fish & Game levies were paid to the New Zealand Council as budgeted. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Salaries	Recruitment costs for the staff vacancy have been recorded under the administration salaries budget. Within budget YTD.
Staff Expenses	Expenses are reported for staff clothing, meal expenses, and the staff Christmas BBQ. Health & safety expenses were incurred for sanitiser, masks and sunscreen. The advertising costs for the staff vacancy are also reported within the employment budget. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Staff houses spending for the period relates to a replacement ceiling fan kit for the timber house. Within budget YTD.
Office Premises	The usual expenses relating to rates, electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring were incurred.
Office Equipment	Office equipment expenses were higher than usual over the last two months with the install of the Starlink satellite dish, and cell phone covers and chargers for the upgraded cell phones. The phone system and eftpos lease expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Computer expenses were incurred relating to IT services for the integration of Starlink to our server, and server issues created by a faulty UPS. Within budget YTD.

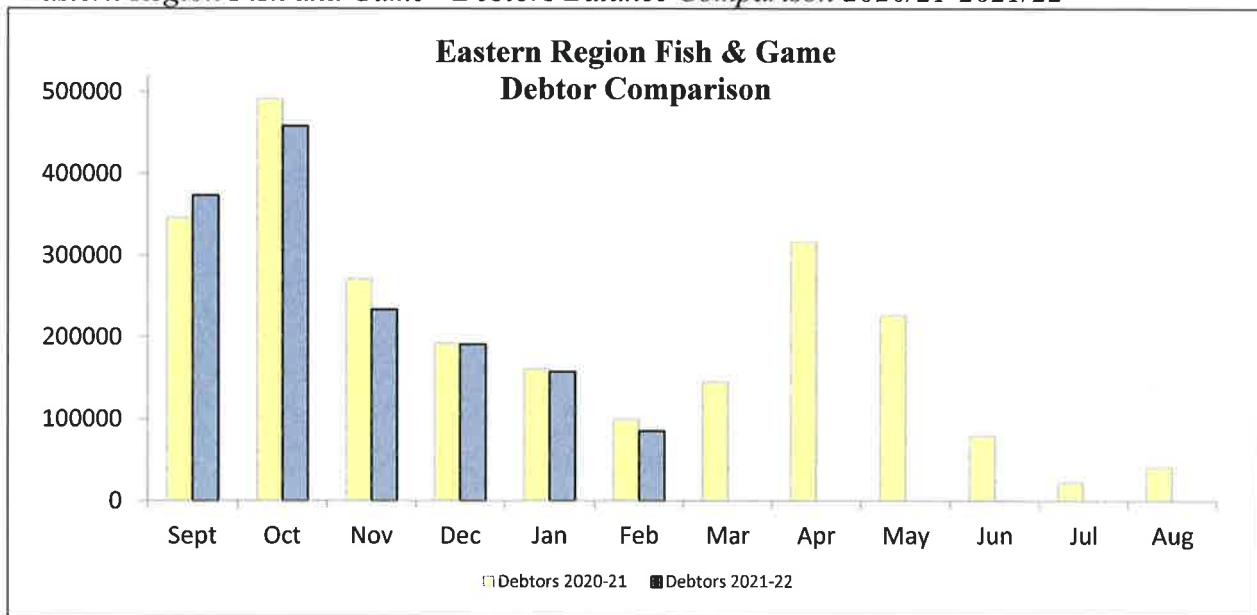
General	Minor expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, and bank fees. Over budget \$715 YTD due to increased insurance costs.
General Equipment	Equipment expenses include a set of waders, and repairs and maintenance materials for the line trimmer, water blaster, spray unit, chainsaw, mower, tractor and trailers. A battery was replaced in the existing PLB and costs are also reported for a medical for a launch operators certificate. Field equipment and boat fuel expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of three vehicles, registration for one, insurance premiums for the two new vehicles, and fuel/RUCs. The Vehicles budgets are overspent by \$2,955 and this relates to increased fuel costs.

Cash Position: As at 28 February 2022

\$ 958,116 (includes \$86,785 Asset Replacement Reserve)
\$ 464,008 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,422,124 Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$84,999 as at 28 February 2022 (\$99,043 as at 28 February 2021).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2020/21-2021/22



Debtors outstanding as at 28 February relate primarily to licence sales and hatchery income from other Fish & Game regions. Three small debtors are overdue and have been followed up by staff.

3. Variance Report (Table 1)

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.

TABLE 1
2021/2022 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME
 as at 28 February 2022

Schedule B	Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		Variance	%
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
	1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 39,450	\$ 29,808	2,150	1,082	\$ 136,855	\$ 73,557	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,959	\$ 168,305	\$ 99,406	\$ 68,899	\$ 68,899	59.7	
	1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 21	793	487	\$ 50,477	\$ 33,115	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,377	\$ 33,136	\$ 20,241	\$ 20,241	62.1	
	1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 75,020	\$ 48,616	3,564	2,098	\$ 226,862	\$ 142,678	\$ 56,500	\$ 42,996	\$ 245,392	\$ 148,297	\$ 97,094	\$ 97,094	60.4	
	1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	234	64	\$ 14,895	\$ 4,318	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,895	\$ 4,318	\$ 10,577	\$ 10,577	29.0	
	1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	133	26	\$ 8,466	\$ 1,768	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,466	\$ 1,768	\$ 6,698	\$ 6,698	20.9	
	1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ 568	36	28	\$ 2,292	\$ 1,734	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,792	\$ 2,302	\$ 490	\$ 490	82.4	
		TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 117,870	\$ 79,012	6,910	3,782	\$ 439,847	\$ 257,170	\$ 64,500	\$ 46,955	\$ 493,217	\$ 289,228	\$ 203,989	\$ 203,989	58.6	
	1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ -	1,412	577	\$ 89,879	\$ 39,235	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,079	\$ 39,235	\$ 50,844	\$ 50,844	43.6	
	1220	Works & Management	\$ 18,000	\$ 4,380	934	528	\$ 59,453	\$ 35,767	\$ 12,150	\$ 6,781	\$ 65,303	\$ 33,366	\$ 31,936	\$ 31,936	51.1	
	1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ -	770	170	\$ 49,013	\$ 11,560	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,713	\$ 11,560	\$ 40,154	\$ 40,154	22.4	
	1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	72	\$ 4,583	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,583	\$ -	\$ 4,583	\$ 4,583	0.0	
	1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	
		TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 20,900	\$ 4,380	3,188	1,273	\$ 202,928	\$ 86,562	\$ 12,150	\$ 6,781	\$ 211,678	\$ 84,161	\$ 127,517	\$ 127,517	39.8	
	1310	Access	\$ 10,700	\$ 2,700	702	410	\$ 44,685	\$ 27,879	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,385	\$ 30,579	\$ 24,806	\$ 24,806	55.2	
	1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	318	102	\$ 20,242	\$ 6,956	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,242	\$ 6,956	\$ 13,306	\$ 13,306	34.3	
	1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ -	44	44	\$ 2,801	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,801	\$ -	\$ 4,801	\$ 4,801	0.0	
	1350	Training	\$ 800	\$ -	826	234	\$ 52,578	\$ 15,912	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,787	\$ 46,378	\$ 13,125	\$ 33,253	\$ 33,253	28.3	
	1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	5	\$ 2,037	\$ 340	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,037	\$ 340	\$ 1,697	\$ 1,697	16.7	
	1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 580	46	10	\$ 2,928	\$ 697	\$ 400	\$ 182	\$ 3,978	\$ 1,105	\$ 2,873	\$ 2,873	27.8	
		TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 14,950	\$ 3,280	1,968	761	\$ 125,270	\$ 51,764	\$ 7,400	\$ 2,959	\$ 132,820	\$ 52,085	\$ 80,735	\$ 80,735	39.2	
	1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	14	\$ 4,583	\$ 952	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,583	\$ 952	\$ 3,631	\$ 3,631	20.8	
	1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ 480	116	32	\$ 7,384	\$ 2,176	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,884	\$ 2,656	\$ 5,228	\$ 5,228	33.7	
	1440	Public Promotions	\$ 4,500	\$ -	122	20	\$ 7,766	\$ 1,360	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,266	\$ 1,360	\$ 10,906	\$ 10,906	11.1	
	1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 45	454	51	\$ 28,899	\$ 3,468	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,399	\$ 3,513	\$ 25,886	\$ 25,886	11.9	
		TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 5,500	\$ 525	764	117	\$ 48,631	\$ 7,956	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,131	\$ 8,481	\$ 45,651	\$ 45,651	15.7	
	1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 447	956	431	\$ 60,853	\$ 29,307	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,853	\$ 29,754	\$ 32,099	\$ 32,099	48.1	
	1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	108	24	\$ 6,875	\$ 1,598	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,875	\$ 1,598	\$ 6,277	\$ 6,277	20.3	
	1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,075	336	128	\$ 21,388	\$ 8,704	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,739	\$ 20,388	\$ 8,040	\$ 12,348	\$ 12,348	39.4	
		TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,522	1,400	583	\$ 89,115	\$ 39,609	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,739	\$ 90,115	\$ 39,392	\$ 50,723	\$ 50,723	43.7	
	1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	134	58	\$ 8,530	\$ 3,927	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,130	\$ 3,927	\$ 5,203	\$ 5,203	43.0	
	1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	158	27	\$ 10,057	\$ 1,802	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,057	\$ 1,802	\$ 8,255	\$ 8,255	17.9	
		TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ -	292	84	\$ 18,587	\$ 5,729	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,187	\$ 5,729	\$ 13,458	\$ 13,458	29.9	
	1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	4	1	\$ 255	\$ 68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 255	\$ 68	\$ 187	\$ 187	26.7	
	1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,825	477	188	\$ 30,363	\$ 12,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,363	\$ 16,575	\$ 19,788	\$ 19,788	45.6	
		TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,825	481	189	\$ 30,617	\$ 12,818	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,617	\$ 16,643	\$ 19,975	\$ 19,975	45.5	
	1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ -	240	4	\$ 15,277	\$ 272	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,777	\$ 782	\$ 23,505	\$ 23,505	1.1	
	1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	66	12	\$ 4,201	\$ 782	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,201	\$ 782	\$ 3,419	\$ 3,419	18.6	
	1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,750	\$ -	429	187	\$ 27,307	\$ 12,682	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,057	\$ 12,682	\$ 24,376	\$ 24,376	34.2	
	1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ -	242	39	\$ 15,404	\$ 2,652	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,504	\$ 2,652	\$ 12,852	\$ 12,852	17.1	
		TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,350	\$ -	977	241	\$ 62,190	\$ 16,388	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,540	\$ 16,388	\$ 64,152	\$ 64,152	20.3	
		TOTAL	\$ 191,170	\$ 92,554	15,980	7,030	\$ 1,017,186	\$ 477,996	\$ 90,050	\$ 58,444	\$ 1,118,306	\$ 512,106	\$ 606,200	\$ 606,200	45.8	

	EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		Variance	%
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1910 Salaries	\$ 925,841	\$ 452,491	\$ 11,700	\$ 17,366	\$ 914,141	\$ 435,125	\$ 479,016	\$ 476	47.6	
1920 Staff Expenses	\$ 26,000	\$ 4,813	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,000	\$ 4,813	\$ 21,187	\$ 18.5	18.5	
1930 Staff Houses	\$ 13,060	\$ 4,216	\$ 50,000	\$ 28,984	\$ (36,940)	\$ (24,768)	\$ (12,172)	\$ 67.0	67.0	
1940 Office Premises	\$ 18,750	\$ 10,965	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,750	\$ 10,965	\$ 7,785	\$ 58.5	58.5	
1950 Office Equipment	\$ 4,100	\$ 2,670	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,100	\$ 2,670	\$ 1,430	\$ 65.1	65.1	
1960 Communications/Consumables	\$ 18,307	\$ 7,620	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,307	\$ 7,620	\$ 10,687	\$ 41.6	41.6	
1970 General	\$ 11,278	\$ 10,129	\$ 1,500	\$ 6,309	\$ 9,778	\$ 3,820	\$ 5,958	\$ 39.1	39.1	
1980 General Equipment	\$ 17,700	\$ 8,745	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,700	\$ 8,745	\$ 8,955	\$ 49.4	49.4	
1990 Vehicles	\$ 45,350	\$ 29,005	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,350	\$ 29,005	\$ 16,345	\$ 64.0	64.0	
Administration	\$ 1,080,386	\$ 530,655	\$ 63,200	\$ 52,659	\$ 1,017,186	\$ 477,996	\$ 539,190	\$ 47.0	47.0	
Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,017,186	\$ 477,996				
Total Outputs Staff Hours					\$ 15,980	\$ 7,030				
Internal Cost Per Hour					\$ 63.65	\$ 68.00				

TABLE 1 2021/2022 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		Variance	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1	Species Management	\$ 117,870	\$ 79,012	6,910	3,782	\$ 439,847	\$ 257,170	\$ 64,500	\$ 48,955	\$ 493,217	\$ 289,228	\$ 203,989	\$ 58.6	58.6	
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 20,900	\$ 4,380	3,188	1,273	\$ 202,928	\$ 86,562	\$ 12,150	\$ 6,781	\$ 211,678	\$ 84,161	\$ 127,517	\$ 39.8	39.8	
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 14,950	\$ 3,280	1,968	761	\$ 125,270	\$ 51,764	\$ 7,400	\$ 2,969	\$ 132,820	\$ 52,085	\$ 80,736	\$ 39.2	39.2	
4	Public Interface	\$ 5,500	\$ 525	764	117	\$ 48,631	\$ 7,956	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,131	\$ 8,481	\$ 45,651	\$ 15.7	15.7	
5	Compliance	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,522	1,400	583	\$ 89,115	\$ 39,609	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,739	\$ 90,115	\$ 39,392	\$ 50,723	\$ 43.7	43.7	
6	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	292	84	\$ 18,587	\$ 5,729	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,187	\$ 5,729	\$ 13,458	\$ 29.9	29.9	
7	Councils	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,825	481	189	\$ 30,617	\$ 12,818	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,617	\$ 16,643	\$ 19,975	\$ 45.5	45.5	
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,350	\$ -	977	241	\$ 62,190	\$ 16,388	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,540	\$ 16,388	\$ 64,152	\$ 20.3	20.3	
9	Administration			7,156	3,203										
	Total Overhead Staff Hours														
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 191,170	\$ 92,554						\$ 59,444	\$ 1,118,306	\$ 512,106	\$ 606,200			
	Licence Income 2021-2022														
	2021-22 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,019,001	\$ 886,396							\$ 1,118,306	\$ 512,106	\$ 606,200	46%		
	Less Commission	\$ 45,855	\$ -												
	Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 973,146	\$ 886,396												
	2022 Game Licence Income	\$ 229,867	\$ 16,283												
	Less Commission	\$ 10,344	\$ -												
	Net Game Licence Income	\$ 219,523	\$ 16,283												
	Total Licence Income	\$ 1,248,868	\$ 902,679												
	Total Commission	\$ 56,199	\$ 33,040												
	Total Net 2021-22 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,192,669	\$ 869,639												

Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund		Subtotal	
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ (4,174)		\$ (256,315)
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses	\$ 8,000		\$ 35,886
Adjusted Budget	\$ 124,324	\$ 120,498	\$ 256,410

Adj to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget		% of OWP budget spent	
less Interest	\$ (2,797)		\$ 512,106
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies	\$ 134,951		\$ 67,476
Less Licence Revenue	\$ (1,248,868)		\$ (902,679)
Plus Commission Expense	\$ 56,199		\$ 33,040
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/reevaluation	\$ (8,154)		\$ -
Depreciation	\$ 70,861		\$ 35,886

Table 2	Balance Sheet	
	Eastern Fish and Game Council	
	As at 28 February 2022	
	28 Feb 2022	31 Aug 2021
Assets		
Bank		
Investments	\$954,285.82	\$760,162.98
Petty Cash	\$586.90	\$132.40
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	\$356,327.84	\$475,375.43
Westpac Call Account	\$91,500.49	\$23,726.55
Westpac Current Account	\$21,043.02	\$33,328.28
Total Bank	\$1,423,744.07	\$1,292,725.64
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	\$84,998.74	\$40,875.49
Accounts Receivable - Hawkes bay & External parties	-\$793.34	\$0.00
Inventory - Fish Stock	\$171,007.00	\$171,007.00
Prepayments and Accrued Income	\$0.00	\$5,139.57
Total Current Assets	\$255,212.40	\$217,022.06
Fixed Assets		
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	-\$715,480.84	-\$701,567.23
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	-\$142,248.28	-\$126,823.59
Accum Dep Office Equipment	-\$50,871.70	-\$48,540.17
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	-\$156,569.47	-\$152,353.57
Buildings	\$1,043,849.38	\$1,043,849.38
Land	\$102,000.00	\$102,000.00
Motor Vehicles	\$425,167.11	\$351,510.30
Office Equipment	\$57,595.20	\$57,105.20
Plant & Equipment	\$193,768.74	\$193,768.74
Total Fixed Assets	\$757,210.14	\$718,949.06
Total Assets	\$2,436,166.61	\$2,228,696.76
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$16,188.97	\$36,944.48
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	\$80,561.00	\$106,397.06
Business Credit Card	\$1,620.07	\$370.74
Employee Entitlements	\$92,407.36	\$99,051.59
GST	\$2,031.94	-\$12,103.05
PAYE Clearing	\$21,894.49	\$31,742.64
Rounding	\$0.10	\$0.00
Staff Social Club	\$2,488.30	\$3,729.32
Total Current Liabilities	\$217,192.23	\$266,132.78
Total Liabilities	\$217,192.23	\$266,132.78
Net Assets	\$2,218,974.38	\$1,962,563.98
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	\$1,237,773.73	\$1,193,406.53
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$92,797.00	\$92,797.00
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	\$129,068.98	\$127,266.65
Breeding Programme Reserve	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Current Year Earnings	\$256,410.40	\$46,169.53
Fish for Gold Reserve	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	\$23,640.00	\$23,640.00
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	\$463,784.27	\$463,784.27
Total Equity	\$2,218,974.38	\$1,962,563.98

Table 3 Profit and Loss

Eastern Fish and Game Council for the 2 months ended 28 February 2022

Income	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	91,382	41,222	900,877	894,000	1,248,868	6,877	1%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	253	284	1,802	0	0	1,802	0%
Other Income	14,635	13,855	113,342	91,950	168,375	21,392	23%
Total Income	106,270	55,361	1,016,022	985,950	1,417,243	30,072	3%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	6,338	6,338	35,886	35,430	70,861	456	1%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	13,845	4,528	29,808	25,150	39,450	4,658	19%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	21	900	2,900	(879)	-98%
1140 Hatchery Operations	10,740	6,300	48,616	42,020	75,020	6,596	16%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	568	500	500	68	14%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	24,586	10,828	79,012	68,570	117,870	10,442	15%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1210 Resource Management Act	0	0	0	0	200	0	0%
1220 Works & Management	0	2,770	4,380	6,500	18,000	(2,120)	-33%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	0	1,600	10,700	(1,600)	-100%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT	0	2,770	4,380	8,100	28,900	(3,720)	-46%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	1,250	0	2,700	7,600	10,700	(4,900)	-64%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0%
1350 Training	0	0	0	350	800	(350)	-100%
1370 Huts	130	108	590	800	1,450	(210)	-26%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	1,380	108	3,290	8,750	14,950	(5,460)	-62%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1420 Communication	0	0	480	300	500	180	60%
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	0	0	4,500	0	0%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	0	0	45	250	500	(205)	-82%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	0	0	525	550	5,500	(25)	-5%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	68	68	447	525	1,000	(78)	-15%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0%
1530 Compliance	0	0	1,075	2,500	5,000	(1,425)	-57%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	68	68	1,522	3,025	7,000	(1,503)	-50%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	0	600	0	0%
1630 Commission	3,207	1,409	33,040	40,230	56,199	(7,190)	-18%
Total 1600 LICENSING	3,207	1,409	33,040	40,230	56,799	(7,190)	-18%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	87	33	3,825	3,000	6,000	825	28%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	87	33	3,825	3,000	6,000	825	28%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	0	0	0	0	8,500	0	0%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	0	300	9,750	(300)	-100%
1840 National Liaison	33,738	0	67,476	67,526	135,051	(50)	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	33,738	0	67,476	67,826	153,301	(350)	-1%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	113,477	71,335	452,491	455,996	925,841	(3,505)	-1%
1920 Staff Expenses	263	908	4,813	7,350	26,000	(2,537)	-35%
1930 Staff Houses	632	141	4,216	4,360	13,060	(144)	-3%
1940 Office Premises	1,948	732	10,965	10,903	18,750	62	1%
1950 Office Equipment	1,209	448	2,670	2,802	4,100	(132)	-5%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,118	1,610	7,620	9,690	18,307	(2,070)	-21%
1970 General	85	96	10,129	9,414	11,278	715	8%
1980 General Equipment	1,233	1,217	8,745	10,700	17,700	(1,955)	-18%
1990 Vehicles	5,020	5,473	29,005	26,050	45,350	2,955	11%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	124,986	81,959	530,655	537,265	1,080,386	(6,610)	-1%
Total Operating Expenses	194,389	103,512	759,611	772,746	1,541,567	(13,135)	-2%
Net Profit	(88,119)	(48,151)	256,410	213,204	(124,324)	43,206	20%

8.3 MANAGEMENT REPORT

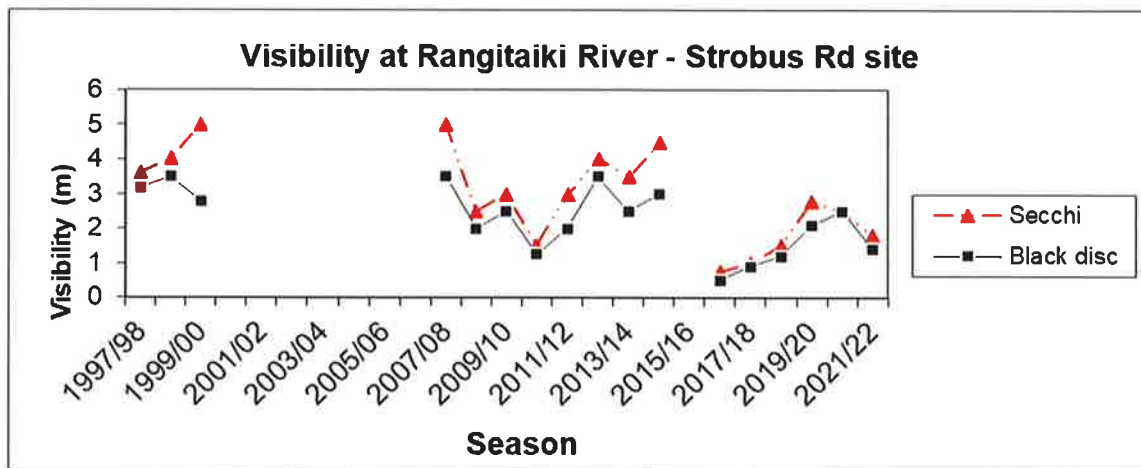
24 March 2022

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

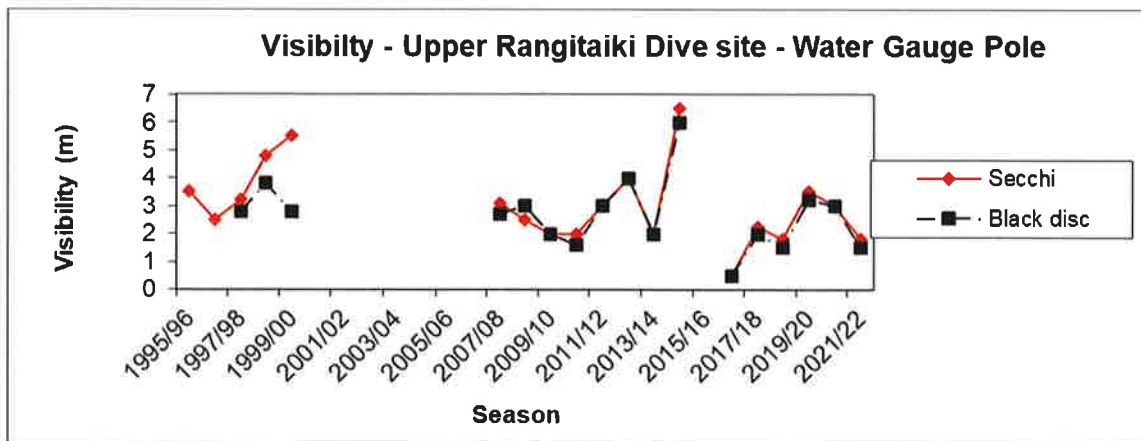
1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Rangitaiki River monitoring

Drift dive trout counts have not been able to be undertaken in the Rangitaiki River during the 2021-22 summer due to poor water clarity. On 25 February staff visited a number of locations along the mainstem Rangitaiki River, Otamatea Stream and Otangimoana Stream within Kaingaroa Forest and took water parameters including secchi disc, temperature and dissolved oxygen readings.



In the period spanning 2017 to 2020, the Rangitaiki was monitored in this way before visibility was deemed sufficient to drift dive it during the 2020-21 summer. The 2021-22 summer saw a marked deterioration once more. The drift dive assessment method recommends a through water visibility (secchi disc) of no less than 3m.



On 10 March, further readings were taken along the upper Rangitaiki River in SF70 above and below the Lake Pouarua Outlet. The discharge from Lake Pouarua into the Rangitaiki River is noticeably coloured and likely to be due to an algal bloom occurring within that waterbody.

1112 Datawatch

During the six months following the season opening, a total of 260 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake McLaren	2
Lake Okareka	3
Lake Okataina	80
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	11
Lake Rotoehu	6
Lake Rotoiti	44
Lake Rotoma	18
Lake Rotorua	9
Lake Tarawera	84
Lake Tutira	3
Lake Waikaremoana	0

*tags entered in datawatch database to 03/3/2022

Compared with returns received at this stage last year (mid-March 2021), the total number of tags returned is down by 21 (7.5%). Lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera are the most behind the 2021 totals to date (down 21 and 15 returns respectively). Lake Okataina is up by 20 returns compared to the 2021 season.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The monitoring buoy sensors and control console along with solar charging array were retrieved from the anchoring system by staff on 16 February. These have been delivered to Limnotrak for identification of the fault that is causing it to malfunction. Quotes have also been requested for the re-installation of a weather station to the top mast to replace the unit that was vandalised in 2021. The weather station provides current wind, rainfall and barometric readings useful to anglers, boat users and staff who are planning excursions as well as aiding evaluation of water quality data.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Fish Trap

During January 2022, the Ngongotaha trap was operated for four consecutive nights. A very low run of fish was recorded with just five rainbows and four brown trout being recorded during this period. This follows what was a typically high December run of brown trout in particular exiting the warming Lake Rotorua. Because temperatures have been so high and prolonged with settled conditions predominating for such an extended period its possible that fish have sought cold water refuge earlier than usual. This could explain why the January run was lower than expected. The largest fish trapped in this period was a 630mm, 3.4kg brown male.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (January 2022)

	<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>	485	1.50	3	1	0	
<i>Brown</i>	575	2.46	4	1	0	57%

The Ngongotaha fish trap was not operated during February 2022.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

The results of the 2022 aerial trend counts of paradise shelduck and black swan within the Eastern Region in January have been written up and a summary of these is provided in Agenda Item 12. A full copy of the report is available in this meeting's Papers for Information.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

The results of the Rotorua Lakes 2021 Opening Day survey have been analysed and a report produced of these. A summary of results is provided in Agenda Item 12 and a full copy of the report is available in this meeting's Papers for Information.

Summer Creel Survey 2021-22

The summer angler creel surveys for the 2021-22 season got underway in late October and will conclude in mid-April. Reporting is due end of August 2022.

National Angler Survey 2021-22

The 2021-2022 National Angler Survey, a phone based randomised survey of Fish & Game licence holders to provide an estimate of angler use/pressure on waterways is currently underway. These surveys are generally taken every seven years. The survey design splits the season into two-monthly blocks. So far only the statistics collated for October/November 2021 have been forwarded to staff for quality control checking (e.g. for identifying obvious or suspected errors and making follow up enquiries to the anglers interviewed to confirm locations fished and/or other details). The next data collection phase was delayed due to a long weekend at the beginning of the period and Covid related call centre staffing issues.

1141 Hatchery Operations

The Fort Knox brood fish holding facility has been refurbished with funds bequeathed from an angler. It will be completed in April in time for winter spawning.

February and March liberations have been successfully undertaken as per the table below. Fish were also transported from Turangi to Wellington for a children's fishing event.

Assorted maintenance tasks have been completed and preparation for installing the Te Wairoa fish tarp at the end of March has been commenced.

Fish locations at 17th March 2022:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	0+	10,000	2021 season fry, 0+, Northland
Tank A	Rt	0+	500	0+ 'best of' progeny
Tank B	Rt	0+	200	Brook
Tank C	Tiger	0+	800	Autumn liberations 2022
Tank D	Rt	0+	1,000	Akd/Wai F&G liberation spring 2022
Tank E	Rt	1+	10	Best of brood, 1+ for 2023
Tank F	Bt	0+	1,050	0+ for 2022 liberation
Pond 2	Rt	0+	18,300	0+ for 2022 spring liberation
Pond 3	Rt	0+	18,300	0+ for 2022 spring liberation
Pond 4	Rt	0+	6,000	0+ for 2022 autumn liberation
Pond 5	Rt	0+	7,000	0+ for 2022 autumn liberation

Pond 6	Rt	0+	6,750	0+ for 2022 autumn liberation
Pond 7	Rt	0+	7,000	0+ for 2022 autumn liberation
RW1	Rt	1+	800	Rising 1+ for Akd/Wai
RW2	Rt	1+	5,700	Rising 1+ for KF programmes
Kids	Rt	2+	2,000	2+ for Eastern KF programme 2022

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 20 January – 17 March 2022

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Number
Rotoiti	16/03/2022	RpAd	-	RT	1+	4,000
Okataina	15/03/2022	RpAd	-	RT	1+	250
Tarawera	15/03/2022	RpAd	-	RT	1+	1,000
Rotoiti	10/02/2022	Ad	N22	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	10/02/2022	Ad	-	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	9/02/2022	Ad	X22	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	9/02/2022	Ad	-	RT	1+	1,000

Fish were also transported from Turangi to Wellington.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Consultation with the RESOF group has continued via a zoom meeting, supply of background material, meeting notes, and online presentations. Discussions on mapping important trout habitat has also been ongoing

Waikato Regional Council

Waikato Healthy Rivers plan has stalled due to the recent and upcoming national legislation. There is some concern over the legitimacy of OVERSEER for nitrogen modelling which has been raised through the healthy rivers process. Discussion among the Fish and Game RMA group on this topic is starting.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
11 Feb 22	WRC	Contact Energy Ltd	WP/DP – cooling water and heated water discharge	Waikato River	Submission made

Consents of Note:

- Contact Energy is seeking resource consent renewal for the Wairakei Power Station taking water from the Waikato River for cooling and continuing to discharge to the Waikato River with contaminants until 2026, and thereafter heated water only until 2031. The long term draft proposal is to decommission the Wairakei station and construct a new station that won't require these consents.

We are of the opinion that this renewal means status quo for the next five years and won't increase potentially adverse effects on trout and game birds. Post 2026 there are likely to be beneficial changes to the ecology of the river as a consequence of contaminant inputs being lowered substantially.

Contact is also seeking ongoing approval for maintaining instream physical barriers within the Wairakei Stream to prevent incursion of predatory fish. We support this as it protects our vulnerable and valued population of brook char in the upper stream. A written submission has been lodged not opposing these consent renewals.

- BOPRC Rivers and Drainage has investigated a number of options for discharging farm drain water to the lower Kaituna River. The most viable option is to re-direct water from the Ford Road pump station to the Diagonal Drain (adjacent to the Lower Kaituna WMR) and construct an additional pump shed next to the wetland. While it is Regional Council land on which they're proposing to build, we have expressed concerns relating to building height and colour as this could affect bird flight behaviour. To offset this we have promoted screen planting and restrictions on timing of construction (i.e. not during trapping/banding and or the game season). A timeline has yet to be set for this project.

1221 Reserves Management

The third round of reserve mowing has been undertaken, and access track and drain spraying carried out. Additional habitat spraying and track works have also been completed as part of the contribution fee from ballot holders.

We have been advised that the organic farmer adjacent to the Awaiti wetland has sold his farm and we are currently working with DOC to secure an easement over the water inlet pipe to provide certainty and security of this crucial asset. The new owner of the land will not be running an organic operation so this should make it easier to obtain permissions and access to undertake pest plant spraying and maintenance of water reticulation channels than it has been.

BOPRC Rivers and Drainage has undertaken stop bank works adjacent to the Orini wetland. While onsite they have offered to redress erosion issues around the wetland's outlet culverts entering Reids Central Canal, at no cost to us. These works are crucial for maintaining water management levels within the wetland.

Coastal Solar is currently charging batteries for the Awakaponga water supply system which had been drawn down due to low level by a blown fuse so this will be out of action for a period of time.

Fortnightly inspections of all of the managed wetlands will be undertaken prior to the hunting season to ensure there are no issues with access and water levels are optimal.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

No new landowner requests have been received since the last Council meeting, but a number of phone conversations have been had with hunters wanting advice on how best to improve their wetland for the upcoming hunting season.

Three outstanding habitat designs/requests are being followed up with further advice including a NZGBHT funding application for one.

1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement

Downers Contractors is undertaking significant works under Emergency Works provisions in, and adjacent to the Mangakakahi Stream (a significant spawning tributary of the Uthina Stream) on behalf of the Rotorua Lakes Council. Works have unavoidably been drawn out and will be ongoing through the 2022 spawning season. Downers have been receptive to Fish & Game advice around ensuring adequate water flows passage and minimising impacts on the fishery.

Discussions with, and submissions to BOPRC regarding Rivers & Drainage river protection works have anecdotally started to yield positive outcomes. We have recently received photos of stub groynes and grade controls installed within the Otara River (one of the most severely flood control affected rivers in our region). These structures provide flow and habitat diversity beneficial to many aquatic species. More are likely to be constructed in the near future.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Access maintenance and enhancement work in the Rangitaiki River system within Kaingaroa Forest is nearing completion for this year. Works have involved spraying blackberry, broom and gorse re-growth at angler access points and tracks, and identifying and re-opening an historic access point which will be sign posted ahead of the winter recreational access season.

The Whirinaki River access project in the Minginui area approved from non-resident reserves funding is due for completion in mid-March. This has entailed opening up a track along the river and providing an extra access point and track to the river from the road. Work has been carried out by both contractors and Fish & Game staff. The Covid related rahui that had been in place in the Whirinaki/Minginui area was lifted in February, and this enabled visitor access to recommence in this area other than to the Mangamate Falls camp site which remained closed to the public for some time afterwards. Liaison with Ngati Whare regarding access has been ongoing.

Access to Waikaremoana and the Te Urewera fisheries also reopened in February.

Access points in the Tauranga area and the Waikato River and hydro lakes have been checked and maintained.

Other signage around the region has been updated and maintained as required.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life E-zine was produced for February covering local fishing opportunities and tips, access, angler etiquette, catch and release techniques in summer, and the anglers notice process.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, and the creation of a page covering the Anglers Notice review process.

1334 Social Media

Facebook continues to attract good traffic with over 1,300 organic followers. Our Instagram page is also increasing in popularity with almost 200 followers now.

1354 Fishing Competitions

One fishing competition permit was processed for the period.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

No events were held for the reporting period.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

No club visit was conducted during the reported period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

No issues with the huts, and maintenance carried out as required. Wairua Hut is being used by anglers and is in good condition going into winter when it receives greater use.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1421 Public Communications

At the invitation of Dairy NZ, Manager critiqued a draft Wetland Practitioner guide for farmers prepared by NIWA and Dairy NZ with input from other parties. This is a technical publication primarily concerned with the construction of wetlands to strip sediments, dissolved nitrates and total phosphorus (and to a lesser extent faecal microbes) from farm runoff.

1451 Education

No school visits were made for the reported period (due to closure of the property under the "Red" traffic light level).

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Ranging by staff and honorary rangers in various parts of the region was ongoing. Angler surveys continued to be undertaken on the Rotorua Lakes. Angler numbers at Rotorua Stream mouths (Hamurana, Awahou, and Waiteti in particular) dropped considerably from the peaks in early February due to cooling weather and trout dispersing from the stream mouths. Nevertheless, good fishing continued to be experienced by persistent anglers. Few offences were dealt with, and overall compliance was very good.

Contacts Year to Date 2021-2022.

To end of February 1,509 persons had been checked for compliance. Overall compliance has been in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2021-2022

Month	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Last 5 yr average
September	21	21	46	16	51	31
October	836	893	726	724	718	779
November	69	20	126	16	66	59
December	390	309	237	287	182	281
January	195	442	246	404	352	328
February	137	307	265	155	140	201
March	199	180	23	164		142
April	178	124	7	153		116
May	226	252	143	297		230
June	172	168	162	124		157
July	80	63	75	45		66
August	33	54	20	22		32
Total	2,536	2,833	2,076	2,407	1,509	2,272

National CLE Liaison Role

Anthony is currently liaising with Police regarding application of the recently amended Arms Regulation changes to ranging in relation to transportation requirements of seized firearms. CLE and prosecution advice has been provided to various regions on request.

1521 Ranger Training

A CERT training (Ranger safety and communications) refresher day was hosted at Eastern Region on 5 March. Rangers attending came from Northland, Taranaki, and Eastern Regions.

1531 Prosecutions

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

Offences 2021-2022 Year:

18 persons were dealt with for 20 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2021-2022 year to 15/03/2022

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	9
Fishing in closed waters	4
Fishing with more than 1 rod	2
Possession of spear	7
Total number of offences	22

Offences Pending Resolution

To date (15/03/2022) 23 separate offences by 12 offenders are pending resolution, details as per the table below. Some are historic and have warrants for arrest, while the others include court prosecutions and diversion processes.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	13
Illegal tackle	1
Possess net-spear-gaff	1
Fish closed waters	4
False details	2
Obstruction	2
Total number of offences	23

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. All retail licence agents were visited by staff, or by Murray Ferris in Gisborne, to distribute Game Bird regulation guides and answer any questions that agents might have regarding the upcoming Game Bird season.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1821 OWP Preparation

A draft budget for 2022-2023 along with two accompanying contestable funding bids and three applications to use Eastern Region reserves was prepared and submitted to the National Office CFO (see Item 9 this agenda and the April PFI).

1841 NZ Fish & Game Liaison

Kate Thompson continued to provide regular updates of licence sales and other information requests to the New Zealand Council and regions. During the last period she has co-ordinated the collation and preparation of databases for distribution of the 2022 Game Bird Magazine distribution and Game Season emails to licence holders, as well as providing ongoing input to discussions regarding the licence system upgrade.

8.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

25 March 2022

1. 2021-2022 Fish Licence Sales

1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2021-22 season comparison against the 2020-21 season YTD are summarised in Table One and are reporting to be 7% below 2020-21 season results. Nationally the current variance YTD is 3.3% below last season.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2021-22 vs 2020-21 YTD results to 24 March 2022

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2020-21	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2021-22	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family Season	1,202	1,368	2,570	1,089	1,375	2,464	-106
Season Non-Resident	1,044	1,203	2,247	965	1,139	2,104	-143
Loyal Senior	19	24	43	4	20	24	-19
Local Area Adult	272	247	519	267	266	533	14
Winter Adult	980	667	1,647	885	607	1,492	-155
Long Break Adult	5	12	17	4	7	11	-6
Short Break Adult	21	31	52	11	21	32	-20
Day	283	543	826	171	398	569	-257
Day Non-Resident	887	1,762	2,649	672	1,634	2,306	-343
Total Adult	4,722	5,923	10,645	4,080	5,527	9,607	-1038
Fish Junior							
Season	187	189	376	158	182	340	-36
Season Non-Resident	2	2	4	0	3	3	-1
Day	87	171	258	67	134	201	-57
Day Non-Resident	3	4	7	2	5	7	0
Total Junior	279	366	645	227	324	551	-94
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Day Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Total Child	0	0	0	0	5	5	5
Total Fish	5,001	6,289	11,290	4,307	5,856	10,163	-1127
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			8,249			7,669	-580
Variance between Seasons							-7.0%
\$ (excl GST)			\$954,073			\$913,613	-\$40,460

Summary 2021-2022 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2021-22 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,554	100.0%	\$1,019,001
2021-22 Actual	7,669	89.7%	\$913,613
Variance to budget	-885	-10.3%	-\$105,388

Estimate of Complete Season 2021-22 vs Total Budget 2021-22 based on current YTD variance

2021-22 Budgeted LEQs	8,554	100.0%	\$1,019,001
2020-21 Complete Season LEQs	9,199		\$8,171,225
2021-22 Est. year end based on current variance	8,552	100.0%	\$1,018,767
Est Shortfall/Surplus 2021-22 Season vs Budget	-2	-0.0%	-\$234

- 1.2 We have been unable to regain the ground lost resulting from lockdowns in late 2021 with all North Island regions reporting a decline in licence sales against last season, in fact only two regions nationally are reporting positive results (Otago and Southland). The 2020-21 season saw good increases in sales across all regions during a time when overseas travel was not recommended, and more Kiwis were getting out exploring their own backyards with relative freedom to do so. The 2021-22 Season has seen a decline in sales with the restrictions imposed due to the emergence of Omicron in August last year.
- 1.3 Fortunately licence sales budgets for the 2021-22 year were set at conservative levels and as a result it is anticipated that Eastern Region's sales will meet the adjusted sale targets.

2. 2022 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 Game licence sales for the initial period of the 2022 Game Bird Hunting season comparison against the 2021 season YTD are summarised in Table Two and are reporting to be 6.9% below 2021 season results. Nationally the current variance YTD is 17.2% below last season.
- 2.2 It is too early to form any conclusions on these results.

Table Two: Game Licence Sales 2021-22 vs 2020-21 YTD results to 24 March 2022

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2020-21	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2021-22	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Game							
Adult Season	553	84	637	521	74	595	-42
Adult Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Junior Season	44	4	48	30	5	35	-13
Junior Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Season	28	7	35	24	2	26	-9
Total Game	625	95	720	575	81	656	-64
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			647			602	-45
Variance between Seasons \$ (excl GST)			\$52,861			\$50,248	-6.9%
							-\$2,613

Summary 2021-2022 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2021-22 Annual Budgeted Game LEQs	2,754	100.0%	\$229,867
2021-22 Actual	602	21.9%	\$50,248
Variance to budget	-2,152	-78.1%	-\$179,619

9. 2022-2023 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

20 March 2021

1. Purpose

To consider proposed projects, budgets and contestable funding bids for the 2022-2023 Operational Work Plan (OWP).

2. Background

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

The steps involved in developing the OWP for the 2022-2023 year and an update of where we're at in relation to these are as follows:

- Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (*completed at 10 February 2022 meeting*).
- Staff compile a draft work plan and balanced budget (excluding internal costs and incorporation of any bids or proposals to increase bulk funding) and identify potential contestable funding (CF) bids or proposals to utilise reserves (*done*).
- CF bids, proposals to utilise reserves, and draft budget submitted to the NZ Council CFO by 23 March (*done*) for consideration at the Managers and combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 28 and 29 April respectively.
- This Council reviews draft projects, budget, and contestable funding/proposals to utilise reserves (*this meeting*). If Council chooses to make changes to the draft budget or the proposed CF bids/reserve notifications these will be communicated to the NZC ahead of its meeting with Managers on 28 April.
- Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 29 April, and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 9 June meeting.
- The second draft of the OWP is considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets are reviewed and refined as necessary.
- This draft is then circulated to clubs and other parties for comment if they wish to.
- Any feedback received is considered by Council at its 11 August 2022 meeting and if deemed appropriate, is provided for in the final OWP which it approves at that meeting.

A copy of the draft OWP for 2022-2023, the draft budget, and contestable funding bids and applications to use reserves, are provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.

3. Outcomes from Council's Meeting in February

Council did not arrive at a consensus for change to its current priorities or programmes for the 2022-2023 OWP, the outcome of its February 2022 meeting being to retain the key regional

priorities it has subscribed to for several years now. There appeared to be general agreement however, that increasing revenue with a focus not only on licence income but the development of other sources of revenue was a top of the list priority. This being so the draft 2022-2023 OWP and budget makes provision for greater effort being put into R3 initiatives concerned with increasing public awareness, encouraging greater participation, and increasing licence income and revenue more generally. Very few changes have been made to direct costs this year.

4. Direct Costs

Points to note in relation to direct/external costs in the draft budget prepared for the 2022-2023 OWP year as compared to the 2021-2022 plan we're currently operating to are as follows:

- The Species Monitoring output expenditure has been reduced by \$8,750 overall which includes a \$13,000 reduction in spending for Lake Tarawera related research programmes which will have largely been funded from non-resident reserves by the conclusion of this OWP year (2021-2022). The Waterfowl monitoring budget has been increased by \$4,600 to provide for increased costs associated with the various projects captured within this budget. While the primary reason for the increase is costs associated with flights for aerial counts, we have seen increases to the minimum wage, and inflationary increases to fuel, maize etc.
- Harvest Assessment budgets remain unchanged, costs being those associated with angler and game hunter surveys.
- Hatchery costs have been increased by \$8,330 due primarily to the increasing freight/shipping costs on fish food (\$5,000), an allowance made for the gradual replacement of rusting gates on the Te Wairoa Trap (\$1,100), and removal of problematic Douglas Fir trees above the rearing ponds (\$1,300). The balance of the increase is related to small inflationary adjustments across several budgets.
- Game bird control budget is unchanged and is for the purpose of zon gun servicing and miscellaneous expenses.
- Habitat expenditure budgets remain unchanged, and are for the purpose of reserves management, landowner assistance, habitat creation and enhancement.
- Access budgets have been reduced with the removal of funds allocated in the 2021-2022 OWP for the new access tracks to the Whirinaki River (\$5,000).
- The information pamphlets budget remains unchanged and is utilised for updates/reprints of printed information as required.
- Angler/hunter training, Huts, and Communications budgets are unchanged.
- The Public Promotions budget is reduced by \$3,500 to contribute to offsetting rising costs elsewhere. This amount had been transferred to a reserve for a Fish for Gold promotion in each of the last three work plans. With funds in the reserve now sitting at \$10,500 and no

event currently planned for the current year it's proposed that no further allocation be made to this budget until an alternative or revamped event along these lines is devised.

- Visitor Facilities remain unchanged.
- The Ranging budgets remains unchanged and relate to compliance equipment, training, and legal fees associated with prosecutions.
- Licensing budget is unchanged and relates to the printing of the A4 regulation pads.
- Council's Meetings budget is reduced by \$1,000 with fewer face to face meetings occurring in recent times and accordingly no requirement for reimbursement of travel. This may need to be revisited prior to finalisation of the OWP.
- The Management/Strategic Planning budget remains unchanged at \$8,500 (direct costs) and was established in the 2020/21 OWP year for the purpose of developing and implementing R3 initiatives, the latter of which are anticipated to ramp up in 2022-23, and drafting a preliminary Business Development Strategy/Plan.
- Reporting, Audit and National Liaison budgets have seen minor changes relating to the audit fee and travel.

Overall operational output expenditure in this preliminary budget has been reduced by \$11,120 (\$15,000 being a reduction related to 'one off' funding from reserves approved for the 2021-22 operational year). Overall revenue from sources other than licence sales has reduced by \$6,500 and this is due to a change in the way we account for work funded by the Waikaremoana Sport Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund (\$8,000) and an increase in hatchery revenue of \$1,500.

Revenue in the Administration area has been increased by \$4,980, and incorporates an increase to the rental income budget of \$5,000 which is in line with current rental agreements. Forecasted interest income has increased \$6,708 and a small reduction is shown for asset replacement of \$613.

5. Contracting to Hawke's Bay Fish & Game and the New Zealand Council

Provision has been made to provide ongoing but more limited administrative support to Hawke's Bay Fish & Game than has been the case in more recent years, and technical/operational assistance subject to staff availability. Licence sales analyses and other related services up to the value of \$10,000 are currently provided to the NZC and it is anticipated but yet to be confirmed that this will continue into 2022-2023.

6. Resourcing

6.1 Bulk Funding

Eastern Region currently (2021-2022 OWP year) has a bulk funded operational budget of \$1,083,357. Our first draft of the operational budget for the 2022-2023 year remains set at this level in accordance with NZC's recent request for all regions do so, but may increase subject to this Council, and/or the NZC's approval of two proposed CF bids, two proposals to utilise general reserve funds, and one proposal for non-resident reserve funding. Details of these are set out in the section following.

6.2 Contestable Funding Bids and Applications to Use Reserve Funds

To operate beyond our bulk fund of \$1,083,357, Eastern Region must either enter into a contestable funding process for projects that ultimately will, or are likely to require funding from licence fee increases, or draw down funds from its own reserves.

Due to circumstances thrust upon us by the COVID pandemic in the 2020-21 year, Eastern Region and virtually all others refrained from putting CF bids forward that year including bids for CPI adjustments to staff salaries. Last year however (2021-2022), there were two budgetary items that virtually all regions sought to address, one being CPI adjustments to staff salaries, the other being loss of income as a consequence of much reduced interest rates on funds invested. Given the significant increase in the cost of living and loss of income from funds invested in term deposits, National Office, 'without prejudice', has suggested regions consider lodging bids for both of these items. Accordingly a draft CF bid has been produced for CPI adjustments for the year ending 31 August 2022 (\$37,308), and an application to use General Reserves has been prepared to compensate for loss of interest derived income (\$2,994).

A CF bid for \$10,000 has also been drafted and forwarded to the national CFO for the purpose of contributing to the reinstatement of the part time (weekend) hatchery assistant/grounds maintenance position. This was temporarily disestablished in mid 2020 as one of a number of Covid responses we needed to make in order to achieve a NZC request to regions to reduce their baseline budgets by 5% if they possibly could.

Two other applications to use reserves have also been submitted to National Office, one of these to draw down \$10,000 from our General Reserves to offset increases that have come to bear for fuel costs, the other for \$5,000 from our Non Resident Levy Reserve. The latter has been sought to acquire a part share with DOC Taupo fisheries in the acoustic transceiver DOC holds on loan from NIWA, Wellington which NIWA has more recently decided to dispose of. We pay a modest hireage fee to NIWA to borrow this unit twice yearly to conduct our smelt monitoring programme in Lake Tarawera and it would give us greater security if we were to be a part owner. These proposals, along with the two proposed CF bids and other application to use reserve funds we've submitted are provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.

6.3 Allocation of staff hours

Staff hours will be reviewed and adjusted where necessary in the next draft of the 2022-2023 OWP. Hours will be allocated in accordance with the project areas and priorities Council has determined to the extent this can be accommodated without compromising our ability to deliver on our core activities and statutory functions including monitoring, licensing, compliance, Council support, planning and reporting, and administration of the Council. The Eastern Region will continue to contribute a component of its overall staff hours to assisting with national Fish & Game programmes including waterfowl monitoring and research, compliance, environmental planning, licensing, Health and Safety, and other tasks as may arise. Eastern's contribution to these national projects is justifiable on the basis of its size and the number of staff it employs, which has enabled it to retain specialists in a number of fields. Some of this assistance is cost recoverable but a substantial component is not, and is provided for the benefit of other regions and that of the organisation as a whole.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That Council considers the draft OWP for the 2022-2023 year and the accompanying contestable funding bids and proposals to draw down some of Eastern Region's reserve funds, and approves these in their present or an amended form.**

10. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

21 March 2022

1. Purpose

To consider an application for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to incorporate into the draft budget for the 2022-23 OWP once it has been approved.

2. Background

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

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

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

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

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

The Fund contained an initial investment of \$250,000. When the Fund was established in 2000 the Council agreed that the principal should be protected with an inflation-based adjustment and spending from the Fund should be maintained within the interest generated. The balance of the Fund stood at \$463,784 as of 31 August 2021.

3. Overview of Approved Offset Funding for 2021-22

Since 2017, Council has approved applications from staff each year for funding from this restricted reserve to incorporate into its OWP budget for the year coming to finance ongoing Waikaremoana survey and monitoring programmes, and to compensate for activities that staff would otherwise be undertaking elsewhere within the region, a principle that Council recommended and endorsed in 2016 [16/4/11.2].

Last year Council approved a draw down from the Fund of up to \$8,000 to support the ongoing monitoring, access and buoy related programme during the 2021-22 year.

4. Application for Funding towards Eastern Region's 2021-2022 OWP

The draft 2022-23 OWP provides for an ongoing compliance, monitoring, access and buoy related work programme at Waikaremoana, and Eastern Region wishes to once again apply for \$8,000 from the Fund to incorporate into this budget to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy components of the exercise (compliance activities not eligible for funding from this source).

Staff also wish to apply for an additional \$2,400 from the Fund to enable the purchase of a portable handheld oxygen and temperature meter to replace the aging (≥ 25 year old) meter we currently own. The oxygen meter is designed to measure dissolved oxygen and temperature within water bodies/aquaria and fish rearing tanks. Current and future applications involve field monitoring of streams and rivers such as those sampled in conjunction with the winter spawning tributary monitoring programme we operate at Lake Waikaremoana, drift dive surveys within the Wairoa catchment and elsewhere, and monitoring of lake thermoclines and deoxygenation levels during stratification events (the latter becoming more of an issue with nutrient enrichment and increasing summer temperatures). The oxygen meter we currently operate is also a vitally important tool used for measuring oxygen levels in our hatchery rearing facilities.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That Council reviews and approves this application for funding of up to \$10,400 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

11. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

File: 1.07.01

24 April 2022

1. Purpose

To review the 2021-2022 Anglers Notice and identify any changes to the current regulations that might be warranted in the 2022-2023 season.

2. Background

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

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

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

A full review of the regional regulations (Schedule 2) is undertaken every second year. A less comprehensive process is conducted in the year between. This year, a full review is required which will involve:

1. At the February Council meeting, two submissions on the Anglers Notice were presented to Council for discussion and one of these, to permit the use of soft baits in all waters other than fly fishing only waters, has been carried forward to this meeting. Immediately following the February meeting staff emailed regional angling clubs, DOC Offices, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, and Tuhoe (Te Uru Taumatua) to advise progress on the Anglers Notice review underway, and invite feedback. This was also advertised in social media (website/Facebook/twitter) for wider distribution to both anglers and the public. Feedback was required by 20 March 2022.
2. At this, Council's April meeting, Councillors will discuss the feedback received from the consultation undertaken along with comment from staff on the matters raised. This has been provided in the pre-circulated agenda and Papers for Information. Council will resolve whether to adopt any the changes proposed, or whether it requires further information on matters raised.
3. At its June 2022 meeting, Council will receive any additional correspondence from submitters along with a draft submission to the Minister of any changes it wishes to see

in the 2022-23 Anglers Notice. Council will review and determine its position on any new proposals tabled at this meeting before finalising its recommendations.

3. Proposals

3.1 Permit the use of all ‘softbaits’ (scented and unscented) within Eastern Region’s lure fishing waters

3.1.1 Background

Soft bait fishing is highly popular in the marine fishing sector and is catching on with freshwater anglers. Soft baits or soft plastics come in a range of scented and non-scented versions. Scented soft baits or chemically treated soft baits are more common.

Presently, Eastern Region Fish & Game prohibits the use of scented soft baits outside of ‘bait’ fishing waters. This is due to the lure being treated with a chemical preparation (Regulation 2.3.5, First Schedule Sports Fishing Regulations 2021/2022).

Scented soft baits (containing chemical attractant) are permitted to be used within fly/spin waters in Southland, North Canterbury and the Auckland/Waikato regions. Soft baits tend to be either dropped and jigged, or cast and retrieved by the angler. An angler having a direct line to the lure will hook fish in the mouth rather than the lure being taken deep. This allows release of undersized or unwanted fish.

It is all but impossible to distinguish scented from unscented soft baits when removed from packaging. Labelling on the packaging of imported products purchased online can also make it difficult to determine whether or not the lure contains an attractant. This is due to the wording used, the placement and size of text and/or the language its in.

Staff Comments

Participation in angling is declining. Regional licence sales indicate an ongoing downward trend in public participation in freshwater sports fishing. Complexity and confusion around regulations are barriers to inclusion. Removing restrictions on scented soft baits would reduce confusion as to whether a soft bait was legal or illegal. Success leads to further success and enjoyment, and these experiences enhance licence sales. Fish & Game wants anglers to be successful and catch fish, and having the ability to use scented soft baits whether successful or not, may inspire anglers to ‘give it a go’ or continue to be an angler.

The Eastern Council in recent years has been very keen to reduce confusion, simplify regulations and enhance angler participation.

Where scented artificial lures are permitted (Southland, North Canterbury and Auckland/Waikato) it is on the basis that they are “actively retrieved so as to imitate a bait fish”. If not they are considered to be “bait” as defined in the First Schedule. The intention of requiring they be actively retrieved is aimed at preventing “bait fishing” e.g. drifting a scented fly under a bubble float, and to promote mouth hooking. This is largely unenforceable - if somebody approaches, the rod can easily be picked up and given a twitch and a wind to make it appear the lure is being actively retrieved.

Staff are unable to categorically say that allowing scented baits would be any more effective than non-scented soft baits but note that it's not uncommon for a lot of marketing hype to be placed around new or innovative products that come onto the market.

Increased scented soft bait use potentially could lead to greater post release mortality but we already see high level catch and release (particularly in our lakes fisheries) by some experienced jiggers and fly anglers motivated by 'big fish catch' days. Monitoring of the fisheries would give an indication of this.

North Canterbury Region has noted an increase in the use of soft baits and numbers of skilled spin/soft bait users and the catch rates of these anglers have been elevated. However, due to increased hooking and harvest pressure in back country waters, there may in time be constraints placed on soft bait use within certain fragile fisheries with low numbers of fish per kilometre.

Some anglers are always looking to gain the next edge in angling and push the limits, and its possible a small number of anglers perhaps could formulate their own homemade chemical applications and apply them to artificial lures or flies. If permitted and intended solely for soft baits, the regulation would require specific wording to ensure only soft plastics were 'scented'.

Regulation changes required to implement if adopted

A note would need to be included in "Additional Requirements" for the Second Schedule of the Sports Fishing Regulations for Eastern Fish & Game Region with wording to the effect:

"Artificial lures (known as soft baits) treated with a chemical preparation may be used in fly/spin waters."

3.1.2 Feedback from Consultation

Five submissions were received as follows:

Steve Moss supported the approval of scented soft baits as he believed they added to anglers' enjoyment, didn't believe they performed any better than other lures, and by being able to use different techniques and methods enhanced his experience. He uses them in other regions, had them in his tackle bag, and did not want to be pulled up for having them on his person.

The BOP Conservation Board provided feedback and did not feel it necessary to make a submission but noted there may be extra plastic lost to the environment by adopting the method.

The Oak Club (Ohau Channel) did not object to the adoption of scented soft bait use in waters designated for spin fishing. They felt it would simplify the current ambiguity some find where local fishing shops sell scented soft baits but not unscented resulting in inadvertent breaches of the fishing regulations.

The Taupo Fishing Club discussed the letter and were happy with the adoption of scented soft baits excluding fly fishing only waters.

The Gisborne Anglers Club committee were equally divided in opinion and not in a position to support or oppose the option to allow scented soft baits, therefore did not make a formal submission.

3.1.3 Options

- (i) Retain the status quo and prohibit the use of scented soft baits in waters designated fly/spin. They would remain legal in bait fishing designated waters.
- (ii) Permit the use of scented soft baits in all lure (fly/spin) fishing waters.

3.2 Ban Treble Hooks

3.2.1 Background

A submission was received on 25 February from Noel Thomas requesting multiple (treble) hooks be prohibited from all waterways in the Eastern Region. He stated that only single hooks were permitted in the Taupo fishery and some Wellington Fish & Game waters, and this hadn't detracted from anglers' success or enjoyment. He commented that treble hooks cause significant damage to any trout caught, and as sportsmen, anglers should keep any trauma and physical damage to the minimum whether fish are to be kept or released.

Staff Comment

The use of treble hooks was discussed at the February meeting. Multiple hooks including trebles are not commonly used (or seen by staff). There is literature that states the amount of physical damage caused by treble hooks is not dissimilar to that from single hooks. That being said it was noted that the rules around authorised tackle were located in the First Schedule and this was to be reviewed by Fish & Game over the coming year. Council considered that would be the appropriate time to review the use of treble hooks if it felt there was a need to do so.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 *That Council identifies if it requires any further information on any matter raised.***
- 4.2 *That Council identifies any changes that it agrees should be adopted and incorporated into the 2022-23 Anglers Notice Regulations for Ministerial signoff.***

APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy

Ref: 1.07.01

Updated 14 June 2018

1. Background

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

The policy has been established around two key groups of regulations within the Anglers Notice. The first group of regulations are those that have a biological effect on the fisheries and may have direct effects on trout populations. The biological regulations are the primary focus of the Anglers Notice Policy and have been developed to ensure ongoing sustainability of the fishery resource.

The second group of regulations are those that serve a social function and relate to the way anglers interact with each other.

2. Biological Regulations

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

Policy 2.1 The biological regulations applied to waters shall be based upon the following table;

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

3. Social Regulations

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

Council has stated a desire to reduce barriers to participation such as overregulating by making rules simpler for anglers to understand. Measures of angler use have been reworked and greater clarity given to where anglers may fish from unanchored boats so that shore-based anglers are not disproportionately affected by boats drifting or trolling within close proximity.

The Policy no longer preferentially allocates ‘fly fishing only’ waters at stated pressure levels, however, this does not preclude Council from recognising ‘fly fishing only’ areas. What it does

allow is for Council to exercise greater flexibility in which waters are reserved solely for fly only anglers.

Fishing methods

Policy 3.1 Setting of method restrictions for waters shall be based upon the following framework.

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

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

Bait

Policy 3.2 (i) Bait fishing will only be permitted in waters that have no bag limits or no size limits.

- (ii) Bait in the Eastern Region shall only include;
 - Natural fly.
 - Natural insect.
 - Natural spider.
 - Natural worm or worms.
 - Natural crustacean.
 - Natural fish (excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc). Fish can only be sourced from the water where the fishing is to occur).
 - Uncoloured bread dough.
 - Scented Soft Baits (Artificial lures that are biodegradable and/or contain chemical attractants).

Boats in winter shoreline areas

Policy 3.3 Fishing from a boat shall not be permitted in designated winter shoreline fishing areas from 1 July to 30 September.

12. SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

Refs: 1.02.02, 1.06.01

25 March 2022

1. Purpose

To receive the summaries for the 2021 Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Creel Survey report and the 2022 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts report.

2. Background

The Council annually resources a number of key species management programmes to assess and monitor sports fish and game populations and the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource. The information collected from these programmes enables the Council to make informed decisions on species management to ensure sustainable populations are maintained for recreational harvest. These programmes also provide valuable information for other parties such as Regional Councils who can use sports fish and game bird data to assess the effects of habitat changes on biological systems. The programmes provide credible datasets not only to underpin management decisions, but are vital for statutory advocacy and public awareness. This agenda item presents the executive summaries for the 2021 Opening Day Creel Survey and 2022 Trend Counts reports. Copies of the full reports are provided in the Papers for Information for this meeting.

3. Executive Summary for the 2020 Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Creel Survey Report

- Fish & Game staff conducted 695 interviews with anglers who had fished for 3,192 hours in total and produced 548 fish for measurement during the Opening Day Creel Survey on Saturday, 2 October, 2021.
- Lake Tarawera anglers experienced catch rates that were slightly behind the 2020 opening but better than the past 10-year average with one fish caught for just over every 3 rod hours. The average Tarawera fish caught at the 2021-22 opening was significantly longer (11mm, $P<0.001$) and significantly heavier (100g, $P<0.001$) but in slightly poorer condition compared to the fish weighed in at the 2020 opening. Hatchery released fish made up a greater proportion of the catch (63%) compared with the 2020 opening (48%) and the hatchery contribution was less than the past 10-year average (67%). The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish caught this Opening Day were significantly larger (25mm, $P<0.001$), significantly heavier (190g, $P<0.001$) but in poorer condition compared to the 2020 Opening Day 2-year-olds. The autumn released 2-yr-olds were significantly larger (41mm, $P<0.001$), significantly heavier (370g, $P<0.001$) but had lower condition factor compared to the same aged 2020 autumn released cohort.
- Lake Rotoiti anglers had a slower Opening Day catch rate compared to the 2020 opening with one fish caught for every 5.5 rod-hours fished. This catch rate was less than the past 10-year average catch rate (0.23 fish/hr). The average fish caught was 11mm longer and 50g heavier, but in significantly poorer condition than those caught at the 2020 opening ($P=0.001$). The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish were on average 2mm smaller, 20g lighter and in poorer condition than the same aged fish caught on the 2020 opening day. At 508mm they were 11mm larger than the past 10-year average length (498mm). The autumn liberated two-year olds were on average shorter (4mm), lighter (120g) and in

poorer condition than the same aged fish caught on the 2020 opening day. Rotoiti produced the largest fish weighed in across the three lakes (3.5kg).

- Lake Okataina anglers experienced a slower catch rate at the 2021 opening compared to the 2020 opening with one legal sized fish caught for every 3.13 hours effort. This catch rate bettered the past 10-year average of one fish per 3.45 hours effort. Hatchery liberated fish contributed a lower percentage of the catch (71%) compared to the 2020 Opening Day (75%) but this narrowly exceeded the past 10-year average (69.9% hatchery fish weighed in). The average fish caught was slightly larger (6mm) and 30g heavier, but in slightly poorer condition than at the 2020 opening. The two-year-old hatchery fish were slightly larger (2mm), and 10g heavier, but these fish were in marginally poorer condition than the 2-year-olds caught during the 2020 Opening. The 2021 autumn released RpAd clipped fish were smaller (5mm), 60g lighter and again in slightly poorer condition than the same aged fish caught on 1 October 2020.

4. Summary for the 2022 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report

Monitoring of paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) and black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) was conducted in the Eastern Fish and Game Region over the period 7 – 9 January 2022. Paradise shelduck were counted at 64 known moult sites from aerial photos, and black swan numbers recorded at 72 ponds, lakes, and estuaries. Results were analysed and presented using three different methodologies, total count with a fitted regression line, total count of sites counted each year since 1991, and, a variant of the route regression method (Geissler and Sauer 1990), referred to as a trend count in this paper.

Season regulations are set as a function of the long-term trend for paradise shelduck and black swan, while swan harvest regulation criteria also incorporate population size thresholds.

The paradise populations, reported by management unit (A1, A2, B1, B2), were reasonably stable (although this is equivocal) over the long term (20 years), though A1 and B1 and B2 may have decreased and the total count for A2 has shown a consistent decline since 2003. The short term (two years) trend confidence intervals span zero suggesting no detectable change. For the sites that have been counted each year since 1991 ($n=19$), the 2022 paradise shelduck count was the lowest yet recorded (4,758). Two models were fitted to this data set. A cyclical (Sine; 17-year cycle) and linear model. The linear model fitted the data almost 3 times better than the cyclical model. The linear model indicates that the population at the sites counted every year has decreased ($P=0.006$). Council should consider if the bag limits in all Management Units warrant review before the 2023 season given the possible long-term decline of paradise shelduck in the Eastern Region.

Long-term counts of black swan indicate that the population is fairly stable in all Management Units. Although there was an increase in Management Area A1 between the 2021 and 2022 counts (6,543 cf. 9,806), the 2022 count was similar to that in 2020 (9,113). Swan populations in B1 and B2 are below the threshold (1,000 birds) to hold a season, while A1 is above the relaxed season threshold of 3,000. There was no evidence that the sites where black swan have been counted each year since 1991 ($n=20$) have undergone any consistent change.

Recommended game season conditions for paradise shelduck and black swan in the Eastern Region are given in Table 9 (page 10) and Table 12 (page 11) of the main report.

13. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

13.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

13.3 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Debbie Oakley to provide verbal update

15. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Ref: 9.01.01

23 March 2022

1. Purpose

To receive an update on the recruitment process for a successor to replace the incumbent Eastern Fish and Game Council Manager, interim arrangements prior to an appointment being made, and to discuss Council's interview earlier in the day with a short-listed candidate.

2. Resolution

2.1 *That pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at ... pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss progress on recruiting a replacement manager, interim arrangements, and assessment of a short-listed candidate.*

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

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Recruitment process for a new manager and discussion re a potential candidate.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

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

ITEM	REASON UNDER ACT	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

Note: Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”