



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

4 April 2024

AGENDA

The 207th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 4 April 2024

Commences: 11 AM

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10 Draft National Health and Safety Policy for Rangers (12.05PM, 10min)	(I/D) 26
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Working Lunch (12.25PM – 12.45PM)	
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14 Liaison Officers Reports (1.35 PM, 10 min)	(I) 61
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R = resolution required, D = for discussion/advice, I = for information only

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 206th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 11.00 AM**

- **Present**

Crs. Ngahi Bidois, Debbie Oakley, Alan Simmonds, Scott Nicol, Mike Jarvie, Mark Sceats, and Murray Ferris.

- **In attendance**

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert, Matt Osborne, Anthony van Dorp (Eastern Fish & Game); and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois opened the meeting at 11.12 am with a karakia and welcomed all present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Lindsay Lyons, Jay Tapsell, and Kevin Counts; Ken Raureti (Te Arawa Lakes Trust); Sara Carley (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board).

2.2 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mark Sceats) that the apologies for the 206th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [24/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 DECEMBER 2023)

3.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [24/02/3.1]*

3.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy from the minutes of the meeting held 7 December 2023.

3.3 MATTERS ARISING

Cr Alan Simmonds queried the impact on licence sales from the temporary closure of Lake Okataina due to the Golden clam. Cr Ngahi Bidois asked for this to be discussed when the licence sales report is being discussed.

4.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

Mark Sceats – Identify existing policies and review process.

5.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

5.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.

6.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

6.1 Health and Safety Report – Arash Alaeinia informed Council that a review of Health and Safety policies is occurring at a national level. Arash was pleased to report no incidents for the reported period but commented on a more recent event (near miss) involving the mower being utilised too close to the stream. This was being reviewed and would be included in the next report. Cr Ngahi Bidois was pleased with the health & safety results to date and acknowledged that the health and safety of our staff and organisation is a high priority for the Council.

6.2 *Council received the Health and Safety report.*

7.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

7.1 Council discussed the issue raised regarding the perceived high catch rate using the method of “Czech Nymphing”. Cr Alan Simmonds believed that this method was very successful at catching high numbers of juvenile trout and was concerned it could wipe out a juvenile population. Matt Osborne was asked for his opinion, he advised that as with jigging it is a difficult method to define. Matt questioned whether it is creating an issue as his view was that we are wanting anglers to catch fish, and we are wanting to increase participation. Council also questioned whether regulations could be changed pertaining to equipment used or limits set around how many fish could be caught and released per day, however adoption of these rules would be difficult to enforce. Matt Osborne had not witnessed any impacts of Czech nymphing on the fisheries and commented that many of our fisheries were underutilised.

7.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Mark Sceats) that Council agrees with the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2024-2025 Anglers Notice. [24/02/7.2]*

7.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Mark Sceats) that Council was in favour of progressing the item on “Czech Nymphing” to the next stage of consultation for feedback and did not identify any other issues for further discussion. [24/02/7.3]*

7.4 *Council adjourned for lunch at 11.43am, reconvened at 12.15pm.*

8.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

8.1 Arash Alaeinia provided an overview of the proposed application to the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the purchase of an electric fishing machine (EFM) to assist with river fisheries investigations within the Wairoa catchment and more widely in due course.

8.2 Matt Osborne advised that recent focus had been on “lakes” research, and we are now looking to move back to river investigations particularly following cyclone Gabrielle. The EFM will allow analysis of the smaller streams and rivers and the data collected will feed into Niwa’s freshwater database. Matt commented on the benefit of owning a machine versus hiring the equipment and timing it when conditions were right to undertake the work.

8.3 While Council supported the purchase of the EFM, discussion occurred around whether external funding should be sought for this type of purchase in future. Crs. Debbie Oakley and Alan Simmonds felt that this was good use of the Waikaremoana fund. Kate Thompson suggested that charitable funding for this type of equipment may be difficult to obtain as the project being funded usually needed to benefit the whole community rather than a specific group eg anglers.

8.4 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the application to the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for additional funding in this financial year, 2023-24, of up to \$25,000 for the purpose of procuring an Electric Fishing Machine. [23/12/8.4]*

9.0 GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2024-2025 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

9.1 Arash Alaeinia informed Council of the process undertaken each year to review Council’s current priorities and advised that this was the opportunity for Council to provide input into the goals and priorities planned for the 2024-25 operational year.

9.2 Council discussion covered the following:

- Opportunities - remove reference to Waikato River as an example for underutilised fisheries considering Golden clam issues.
- Assisted habitat on non-public land – include Hort NZ for development of working relationship.
- Statutory Liaison – amendment required “Provide support to NZ Fish & Game representative at Taupo Fisheries Advisory meetings”.

- Use and hireage of facilities and risks associated with this such as disease and health & safety.
 - Considerable staff time dealing with Access particularly recent concerns about Golden clam.
 - Prioritisation of activities with the limited resources available.
- 9.3 With no changes to Council’s primary priorities declared Arash Alaeinia advised that today’s discussions will be taken into consideration for the next draft of the 2024-25 Operational Work Plan which will be reviewed at the next meeting.

10.0 DRAFT PREVENTION OF BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY

- 10.1 Arash Alaeinia provided background to the Draft Prevention of Bullying and Harassment Policy which in short defines the behaviours we do not support and processes to deal with these.
- 10.2 Council did not have any feedback on this policy noting that the issues with Bullying and Harassment is also covered in employment law.

11.0 DRAFT DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

- 11.1 Council discussion focussed primarily on staff needing management approval to consume alcohol after hours when working away from home.
- 11.2 Cr Debbie Oakley felt that the policy’s primary should focus on alcohol and use of vehicles and suggested that it incorporates a requirement that staff remain within legal driving limits.
- 11.3 Eben Herbert understood this was also covered in employment law but how the draft policy is written meant that because staff are salaried, when working away from home, they are unable to consume alcohol after hours unless they had express permission from their manager. Eben questioned when staff are not driving should they be required to be under the legal driving limit?
- 11.4 Cr Mark Sceats described the alcohol driving limits and agreed this is certainly a work issue if you exceed them, but if you are not breaking the law then there is no real issue.
- 11.5 Council supported Cr Scott Nicol’s suggestion to amend policy under section 4 “Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace” to remove the first sentence of second paragraph relating to approval to consume alcohol.
- 11.6 Suggestion was also made to remove the wording of “and accommodation” in the first paragraph under section 4 and to add “paid” in between “performs” and “work” on the first line in the first paragraph. This would eliminate the contention of defining the place of accommodation as a work environment.

12.0 DRAFT GOVERNANCE CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

- 12.1 Council had reviewed the Draft Governance Code of Conduct Policy and had no further comments. Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested Council could feedback to Arash Alaeinia directly if they had any feedback on this policy.

13.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Finance Report

- 13.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois called for questions on the finance report. There were no questions, Council proceeded with confirming the recommendations.

13.2 Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Debbie Oakley) that Council receives the Finance Report. [24/02/13.2]

13.3 Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that Council approves payments for November and December 2023 totalling \$360,598.70. [24/02/13.3]
Management Report

- 13.4 Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked the team for the well-constructed and informative reports. Arash Alaeinia highlighted that we will be adding more photos and information about what we do. Arash thanked his team for their efforts over the holiday period acknowledging the work that goes into summer surveys, game bird monitoring, and compliance at this very busy time of year.

Licence Sales Report

- 13.5 Arash Alaeinia provided an update to the licence sales report noting another improvement in sales since the last report but also highlighting that sales are still down on a poor season last year which is concerning. He advised that an email is scheduled to be sent in the next couple of days to lapsed participants promoting the excellent fishing opportunities to be had in the Region with fishing at stream mouths and lakes returning great results. Arash had also gained permission to send the communication to Auckland/Waikato and Hawke's Bay regions lapsed participants which he hoped would benefit all three regions. Arash added that non-residents had not yet returned to pre- covid levels and there appeared to be an increase in short term licences over family and season categories.
- 13.6 Kate Thompson commented on the graphs in the report which showed good sales over the summer period following the slow opening. She wondered if some participants had delayed purchasing their season licence due to the Golden clam and access issues that had occurred on opening of the season and possibly they had chosen short term this year. Her feeling was that these small improvements will continue over the next month assuming the weather stays as stable as it has been.
- 13.7 Discussion also occurred around the return of non-residents and sales results nationally.

14.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 *Report from New Zealand Council*

Cr Debbie Oakley report covered:

- Two working groups still in discussion – Future Structure and Finance Working Groups.
- CEO and Chair have met with Minister of Hunting & Fishing Hon. Todd McLay.
- NZC advertise for Governance position.

Discussion occurred about the Ministerial review and outcomes achieved without legislative changes. CEO and NZ Chair have communicated with Minister about appetite for legislative change.

- 14.2 Matt McDougall informed Council of talk of the Department of Conservation shutting down Game Bird Hunting if avian influenza arrives in New Zealand. He advised that Fish & Game needed to have established well thought out plans in place if this were to happen otherwise, we risk DoC taking over the process. Matt provided some background to what was occurring overseas and possibilities of it coming to NZ.

15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 15.1 Arash Alaeinia provided Council with an update on current access arrangements for Lake Okataina which are in place until the end of February. He has reached out to various parties for discussion on short/long term arrangements. Arash advised that the eDNA result on all the lakes tested were negative and MPI and TALT will test again in March.
- 15.2 Cr Mark Sceats requested his item regarding Council Policy review be considered at a later meeting.

16.0 MEETING CLOSED

16.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois closed the meeting with a karakia at 1.35pm.

.....
Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

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8.4 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the application to the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for additional funding in this financial year, 2023-24, of up to \$25,000 for the purpose of procuring an Electric Fishing Machine. [23/12/8.4]*

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5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

18 January 2024

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;

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Recommendation

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

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

17 March 2024

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.

December – January 2023

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:	
Streams opening ranging	
Feeding out/duck banding	
Maintenance to fish trap	
2024-2025 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000	

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	17/03/2024
Number of Workplace injuries in 2023-2024 year	0
Number of Workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	4
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	1
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
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	55
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	5
Total number of days since last lost work injury	326
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 26/04/23	767
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
Days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury 7/12/13	6,672

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

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

15 Jan 2024 Hydrate, Slip, Slop , Slap & Wrap
22 Jan 2024 Beware of wasps, antihistamines for utes, fish moving to streams 2-3 up where nec
30 Jan 2024 A lot of poaching occurring – double up where possible
5 Feb 2024 Repair nails exposed on seating near Octagon
12 Feb 2024 Compliance issues – Ohau channel, continue two up ranging
19 Feb 2024 Compliance issues in streams, rain due later this week
26 Feb 2024 Mindful of aggressive fishers, rain expected care with access to streams
4 Mar 2024 Nil new
11 Mar 2024 Nil new

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

A near miss was reported 24 January 2024 relating to loss of traction of grounds lawn mower, no injury was sustained. The incident was reviewed and staff member reminded of operating procedures for mowing including mowing map restrictions

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

7. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

File: 1.07.01

11 March 2024

1. Purpose

To review the 2023-2024 Anglers Notice and identify any changes to the current regulations that might be warranted in the 2024-2025 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, and the process is as follows;

1. At the February Council meeting, one discussion point was received to the Anglers Notice and presented to the Council. The Eastern Council wished to gauge feedback from angling clubs regarding the check nymphing method.
2. Prior to the April meeting, Councillors will receive feedback from staff and submitters through an Agenda item. At the April meeting, all submissions received will be debated and the Council will decide if these are to be accepted following resolution or require further examination.
3. At its June 2024 meeting, the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council will receive any additional correspondence from new submitters along with a draft to the Minister of the changes to the 2024-25 Anglers Notice. Council will accept resolutions on remaining proposals and finalise the 2024-25 Anglers Notice.

3. Initial suggestions for consideration

3.1 Czech nymphing

A comment regarding Czech nymphing being a particularly effective method was raised at the February meeting.

Short Recap of the Czech nymphing method.

‘Czech nymphing’ is a method designed to deliver heavily weighted nymph patterns on a short line quickly into deep water. The method allows fairly direct contact with the nymphs due to the short line and delivery style. Little, or no flyline actually contacts the water during delivery of the flies to the water. Although longer rods are preferred, standard flyfishing setups and medium length rods can prove suitable for this method.

Other variants of ‘Czech nymphing’ may involve the use of a longer leader than common in other forms of fly fishing (maybe 3-9m) and can incorporate a brightly coloured section of line (maybe braid) known as an indicator or sighter that helps detect strikes. The section of ‘fly line’ (minimum 3m within Eastern Regulations) may be extremely thin, light running line (00 weight) that allows nymphs to cast a great distance. Anglers prefer not to cast fly line as it causes drag and therefore indirect contact with the flies. They are casting using the weight and momentum of the nymphs to shoot the line rather than the weight of line to carry the nymphs. Anglers tend to use longer, lighter rods for this method.

In principle, Czech nymphing methods, or one of the many slight variations of the same method can be replicated with standard fly-fishing gear. Technical issues pertaining to the use of this method only apply to areas which are exclusively fly fishing only, as the same results can be achieved with spin fishing gear.

Staff Recommendation.

The base method of ‘Czech nymphing’ has been around for decades, with anglers approaching fish in a stealthy manner and presenting a short line to fish in which the ‘fly line’ may never leave the reel. Most of Eastern Region’s fisheries are now fly and spin. This has been actioned to simplify regulations, allow greater diversity, and enable more anglers to participate. Current Fish & Game regulations allow the use of Czech nymphing. Bag limits are in place to protect fish populations (if the method is that much more efficient catch rate wise than others), and staff see no need to undertake action to change regulations at this time. Staff would recommend keeping watch of developments over time and react through regulations if it becomes an issue.

Clubs Response

Clubs were asked for any feedback they wished to communicate regarding whether any changes were warranted around the method of Czech nymphing.

One reply was received from the Gisborne Anglers Club that Czech nymphing had its place in the fishing toolbox beside other types of fly fishing and was not a go to method for all occasions. Therefore, no changes to current regulations were required. There were also some very welcome comments around the state of the East Coast fisheries post the Cyclones one year ago.

Resolution

3.1(i) Maintain status quo.

3.1(ii) Carry through to the June Council Meeting for further consideration.

3.1(iii) Consider action to alter Czech nymph method.

4. New items for discussion

4.1 Whether 'GPS anchoring systems' should be considered 'anchors'

Staff have raised this question as in recent years the use of electric 'Minn kota' type outboards have become very common across the Rotorua lakes.

Within the Sportfishing regulations -both Schedule 1 (National – generally common) and Schedule 2 (Eastern specific), there is no definition of what an 'anchor' actually is. Eastern Region's interpretation has been that an 'anchor' when fishing within for example 200m of a landmark, should be a physical anchor that is connected solidly to the lakebed, is readily visible for all to see that that vessel is neither trolling nor drifting through an area. This is notable as moving vessels could cause social conflict with shore-based anglers (as per the Anglers Notice Policy 2018).

With recent advances in technology and the number of electric outboards now in public use, it is well worth having a discussion on Eastern Region's interpretation of what constitutes an anchor. If Council chose to permit GPS anchoring systems as legal anchors it could be undertaken through Note 5.4 being altered from;

Note 5.4 Anchored boats should be securely anchored with no more than two anchors.

to,

Note 5.4 Anchored boats should be anchored with no more than two anchors or a GPS anchor system.

Staff Recommendation

These electric motors with the 'spot lock' type GPS anchoring function are very commonly encountered across the Rotorua lakes fishery and used by jiggers and soft bait anglers. At areas where boats are required to anchor (e.g. within 200m of a landmark pole), the disturbance to other shore-based anglers of swinging on the radius around a traditional anchor would actually be lessened as would the tangling of lines around an anchor rope. There may be slight noise and vibration in shallow water, though this is considered minimal. Most angling from 'anchored vessels' within 200m from landmark's would be expected to occur in 10-30m depth. Staff suggest adopting change to allow use of electric outboards with GPS anchoring systems.

Resolution

4.1(i) Retain status quo.

4.1(ii) Carry through to June Council Meeting to consider further.

4.1(iii) Allow the use of GPS anchoring systems.

4.2 Definition of Rotorua lakes

Within Eastern Region's Schedule 2, '1. Definitions' there is currently no description of which lakes constitute the 'Rotorua lakes'. As the Rotorua lakes are mentioned within Note 7.1 Size limits for waters, the Rotorua lakes should be clearly defined.

Recommendation

Under 1. **Definitions** include;

'Rotorua lakes' means Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoma, Rotoehu, Rotomahana, Rerewhakaaitu, Okareka, Okataina, Okaro, Ngahewa, Ngapouri, Tarawera and Tikitapu.

Resolution

4.2(i) Maintain status quo.

4.2(ii) Insert definition of Rotorua lakes under 1. Definitions.

4.3 Update of Anglers Notice Policy 2018

During the 2022-23 Anglers Notice deliberations for the current 2023-24 season, Council resolved to permit the use of scented soft baits within lure (spin) fishing waters. This has been very well-received by anglers.

However, within the Anglers Notice Policy 2018, scented soft baits are still listed within the definition of 'baits' that would be prohibited in all waters other than bait fishing waters.

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).

Recommendation

To resolve this, a simple deletion of 'Scented Soft Baits' from Policy 3.2(ii) is required.

Resolution

4.3(i) Maintain status quo.

4.3(ii) Update Anglers Notice Policy to remove Scented Soft Baits from 3.2(ii) Definition of Baits.

5. Recommendations

5.1 That Council identifies any proposals requiring further information and discussion following this meeting.

5.2 That Council identifies any changes that they are satisfied to adopt and incorporate into the 2024-25 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 spend 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-

Eastern Fish and Game Council Meeting April 2024

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.

8. 2024-2025 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

21 March 2024

1. Purpose

To consider proposed projects, budgets and contestable funding bids for the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 year and an update of where we're at in relation to these are as follows:

1. Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (*completed at 1 February 2024 meeting*).
2. 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*).
3. CF bids, proposals to utilise reserves, and draft budget submitted to the NZ Council CFO by 21 March (*done*) for consideration at the Managers and combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 18 and 19 April respectively.
4. 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 18 April.
5. Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 19 April, and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its May 30 meeting.
6. The second draft of the OWP is considered at the May meeting and projects, budgets and targets are reviewed and refined as necessary.
7. This draft is then circulated to clubs and other parties for comment if they wish to.
8. Any feedback received is considered by Council at its 10 August 2024 meeting and if deemed appropriate, is provided for in the final OWP which it approves at that meeting.

A draft budget, and contestable funding bids and applications to use reserves, are provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda. A copy of the draft OWP for 2024-2025 will be sent electronically separately and printed copy available at the meeting.

3. Outcomes from Council's Meeting in February

Council did not have any additional input to add to its current priorities or programmes for the 2024-2025 OWP, the outcome of its February 2024 meeting being to retain the key regional priorities it has subscribed to for several years now. Increasing revenue with a focus not only on licence income but the development of other sources of revenue remains a top priority for the Council.

4. NZ Council Recommendation to reduced expenditure by 3%

On the 20 February 2024 the Chairs of all Regional Fish and Game Councils received a letter from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council recommending a reduction to base funding of 3% to create a larger pool for Contestable Funding Applications that will not have a direct impact or need for an increase in licence fee (copy provided in PIF) . Also to create a more equitable form of redistribution of funds within the regions. NZC stipulated in their letter that they wanted to ensure that the priority to Staff remuneration was able to be maintained.

A 3% reduction in Eastern's base funding is \$38,368. Taking fixed costs out (overheads and salaries) this reduction equates to approximately 20% of the Region's total project expenditure.

A complete review of expenditure was undertaken in early March and while savings have been able to be achieved of \$14,882, overhead costs going into the 2024-25 OWP year have increased by \$29,382. The net difference of \$14,500 is able to be offset by increasing revenue from the New Zealand Council, Other Fish & Game regions and outside agencies for contract services.

While the requested reduction to the Region's bulk fund of 3% was not achieved, increases to operational costs have been absorbed without the need to apply to the contestable fund for these.

Full details of savings and increased costs is shown in the following section.

4. Direct Costs

Points to note in relation to direct/external costs in the draft budget prepared for the 2024-2025 OWP year as compared to the 2023-2024 plan we're currently operating to are as follows:

- The Species Monitoring output expenditure has been reduced by \$24,200, of which \$20,000 relates to the Lake Tarawera related research programmes which was funded from non-resident levy reserves. A further contestable fund bid has been submitted for the Tarawera research and this will be applied for from the Non-Resident Levy reserves once again (\$10,000). A reduction to the Waterfowl monitoring budgets of \$4,200 was achieved by moving aerial trend counts of black swan and paradise shelduck to biennial meaning half would occur in one year and the other half the next.
- Harvest Assessment budgets remain unchanged, costs being those associated with angler and game hunter surveys.
- Hatchery costs have been increased by \$1,700 due to increased insurance and rates costs. A new supplier of oxygen has meant a reduction in the "Supply Other F & G Regions" budget of \$1,800 and these funds have been transferred to Hatchery Vehicle Maintenance for replacement of tyres on the tanker.
- Game bird control budget is reduced by \$100 and is for the purpose of zon gun servicing and miscellaneous expenses.
- Habitat expenditure budgets remain unchanged, with costs associated with reserves management, landowner assistance, habitat creation and enhancement.

- Access budgets are reduced on \$200 with cost savings to occur on Game hunter ballot postage requirements. Some access work continues to be this supported by Timberlands.
- 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 and Visitor Facilities remain unchanged.
- The Ranging budgets are unchanged and relate to compliance equipment, training, and legal fees associated with prosecutions.
- Licensing output is reduced by \$13,054 which was a contestable fund application in the 2023-24 year from non-resident reserves to fund the development of the Designated Waters system. This was applied to all regions and will drop off for the 2024-25 OWP year.
- Council’s Meetings budget is unchanged as it is unknown as to what the requirements will be following the upcoming Fish & Game Council elections.
- The Management/Strategic Planning budget is reduced by \$3,500 which related to funds allocated for our R3 activities. The regions R3 work will continue and we will look at leveraging and relationships to assist with value output.
- Reporting, Audit and National Liaison budgets have increased \$892 relating to primarily to the audit fee.

Summary of adjustments

	Total Savings	Increased expenses	Net change
Operational Outputs	\$10,100	\$4,692	-\$5,408
Administration	\$4,782	\$24,690	\$19,908
Total	\$14,882	\$29,382	\$14,500

Overall Operational Output expenditure in this preliminary budget after removing one off contestable fund bids for the 2023-24 year has been reduced by net \$5,408.

Administration expenses increase by net \$19,908 after incorporating savings and accommodating increases to fixed commitments. These increased costs include \$12,500 for FBT which was not applied for in last year’s budget round due to changes to staff contracts occurring mid FBT year, \$2,500 for the new Sea Flux app required to comply with Maritime NZ requirements, and the balance is small increases across a number of budgets primarily related to inflation.

The net increase to the overall budget of \$14,500 is offset by additional income budgeted for staff contracts with other regions and outside organisations.

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

Provision for staff contracts to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the Hawke’s Bay Fish and Game Council will continue and have been budgeted at \$25,680 for the year. The services to be provided at this stage are administration and technical/operational assistance

subject to staff availability to Hawke's Bay Fish & Game, and licensing and CLE assistance to the New Zealand Council. While support to the New Zealand Council can be confirmed it is unknown at this time the level of assistance to be or able to be provided to the Hawke's Bay Council.

6. Resourcing

6.1 Bulk Funding

Eastern Region currently (2023-2024 OWP year) has a bulk funded operational budget of \$1,278,944 after removing one off contestable funds for that year. Our first draft of the operational budget for the 2024-2025 year remains set at this level, but may increase subject to this Council, and/or the NZC's approval of two proposed CF bids.

6.2 Contestable Funding Bids and Applications to Use Reserve Funds

To operate beyond our bulk fund of \$1,278,944, 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.

The first CF bid is for our staff remuneration so as to maintain our investment in our team. Strategic pay has indicated that 2% increase in the market rate is most likely. The Managers have supported a 3% increase on budget (not to include the CEO's) so that regions can offer an additional increase to those who are in the lower pay band percentages and for performance.

The second CF bid is for the continued analysis of data gained through the acoustic smelt monitoring programme undertaken in Lake Tarawera. The amount applied for in the 2023-24 year is not going to be fully utilised this year therefore a further bid to use non-resident reserves is being sought to continue this work into the 2024-25 operational year.

The details of these CF bids 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 2024-2025 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 supports managements approach to the cost saving measures and absorption of increased operational costs.

7.2 That Council considers the draft OWP for the 2024-2025 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.

9. DRAFT NATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

14 March 2024

1. Purpose

Fish and Game NZ is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for employees, volunteers and the public, by complying with relevant health and safety legislation (Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) and associated regulations), and various New Zealand standards and approved codes of practice.

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) and each of the Regional Fish and Game Councils (Regional Councils) are PCBUs for the purposes of the HSWA. PCBUs have a requirement to work with each other where there are overlapping duties. This requirement relates not only to Fish and Game Councils but to other organisations that the Councils work with.

The NZ Council also has the function of developing national policies in consultation with the regions and has particular responsibilities as the only Council with an overview across the organization.

2. Background

The Chief Executive of the NZ Council is not a PCBU with respect to Regional Council employees except when they are undertaking ranger duties. However, one of the NZ Council's functions is to develop, in consultation with Regional Councils, national policies for the carrying out of the NZ Council's functions for sports fish and game. It is also a function of the NZ Council to audit the activities of the Regional Councils.

In line with these functions, the NZ Council expects the Regional Councils to be model employers and to ensure that the Regional Councils' working environments are healthy and safe for all employees, not just rangers.

This policy applies to all Regional and NZ Council employees and all other workers (such as contractors or volunteers) where applicable.

3. Recommendation

That Council review the Draft National Health and Safety Policy and provides feedback to NZC prior to the 31 May deadline.

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	

1. Introduction

Fish and Game NZ is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for employees, volunteers and the public, by complying with relevant health and safety legislation (Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) and associated regulations), and various New Zealand standards and approved codes of practice.

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) and each of the Regional Fish and Game Councils (Regional Councils) are PCBUs for the purposes of the HSWA. PCBUs have a requirement to work with each other where there are overlapping duties. This requirement relates not only to Fish and Game Councils but to other organisations that the Councils work with.

The NZ Council also has the function of developing national policies in consultation with the regions and has particular responsibilities as the only Council with an overview across the organization.

The Chief Executive of the NZ Council is not a PCBU with respect to Regional Council employees except when they are undertaking ranger duties. However, one of the NZ Council's functions is to develop, in consultation with Regional Councils, national policies for the carrying out of the NZ Council's functions for sports fish and game. It is also a function of the NZ Council to audit the activities of the Regional Councils.

In line with these functions, the NZ Council expects the Regional Councils to be model employers and to ensure that the Regional Councils' working environments are healthy and safe for all employees, not just rangers.

This policy applies to all Regional and NZ Council employees and all other workers (such as contractors or volunteers) where applicable.

2. POLICY

Duties of Regional Councils and the NZ Council

The Council will, as far as is reasonably practicable, comply with the provisions of legislation dealing with health and safety in the workplace, by:

- providing a safe physical and emotional work environment;
- ensuring a health and safety plan is in place in relation to specific activities which include ; fieldwork; working alone, ranging; motor vehicles; boating; office security; and hatchery operations where relevant
- ensuring that engagement and consultation with staff on the plan occurs;

- providing adequate facilities and any safety equipment deemed necessary, including ensuring access and ensuring property and equipment is safe to use and workers are not exposed to risks;
- ensuring there is an effective method in place for identifying, assessing and controlling risks. This includes the recording and investigating of injuries, and reporting incidents and accidents including serious harm incidents;
- ensuring that a drug and alcohol policy, a fatigue management plan, and a prevention of bullying and harassment policy is in place.
- ensuring that health and safety plans have been agreed with other agencies to cover overlapping health and safety issues
- having a commitment to a culture of continuous improvement.

The Regional Manager/Chief Executive, as an Officer, is also responsible for implementing this policy and therefore must:

- exercise due diligence in accordance with the provisions of the health and safety legislation;
- ensure that operational plans and procedures such as first aid and emergency evacuation procedures are in place;
- take all reasonable steps to protect workers, volunteers and visitors in the workplace from unsafe or unhealthy conditions or practices;
- ensure there are effective processes to deal with unacceptable behaviour, such as non-compliance;
- ensure that workers have adequate training, supervision and information to undertake their activities
- keep Council fully informed;
- advise the Council Chair of any emergency situations as soon as possible.

The Regional Manager/Chief Executive and the Council, may be liable if they fail to meet or comply with health and safety obligations.

All workers (employees, contractors, and volunteer workers) are expected to play a vital and responsible role in maintaining a safe and healthy workplace through:

- being involved in improving health and safety systems at work;
- following instructions, rules, procedures and safe ways of working;
- reporting any pain or discomfort as soon as possible;
- reporting all injuries, incidents and near misses;
- helping new staff members, trainees, volunteers and visitors to the workplace understand the risks and risks and why they exist;
- reporting any health and safety concerns or issues through the reporting system;
- keeping the workplace tidy to minimise the risk of any trips and falls;
- wearing protective clothing and equipment as and when required to minimise exposure to workplace risks;
- take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of others in the workplace.

Workers may be personally liable if they fail to meet or comply with their health and safety obligations.

All others (e.g. visitors) in the workplace must:

- follow all instructions, rules and procedures while in the workplace;;
- report all injuries, incidents and near misses to the Manager/Chief Executive;
- wear protective clothing and equipment as and when required to minimise their exposure to risks.

Councils must have a comprehensive health plan in place that is specific to their region covering the topics and policies set out in the Appendix to this Policy.

Health and Safety incidents will be reported to the National Health and Safety Committee, except for Serious Harm incidents which will be reported to NZC straight away. When there is a health and safety incident, the Regional Council will consider whether changes to the Health and Safety Plan are required to minimize the risk of such an incident occurring again in future, will make such changes as are necessary.

To support consistency of approach, the NZ Council and the Regional Councils will establish a **National Health and Safety Committee**, comprising regional representatives and a representative from the NZ Council. The Committee will monitor incidents, review Council policies and plans, and share practices and learnings.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: Jane Hutchings, HR Business Partner
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation):
Next Review:

Appendix 1

A Health and Safety Plan should cover:

1. The process for receiving and considering information regarding health and safety incidents, hazards, and risks, and responding in a timely way;
2. Staff involvement
3. Training and supervision;
4. Procedures for managing health and safety risks that arise in the specific region, for example (and only as applicable to the region): fieldwork; working alone; ranging; motor vehicles; boating; office security; and hatchery operations;
5. The requirement under HSWA to engage with other agencies the Council may work with from time to time and who may also have overlapping health and safety duties;
6. Availability of first aid assistance and training;
7. Emergency evacuation procedures;

Plus additional policies and guidelines covering:

1. Drug and alcohol use;
2. Fatigue management
3. Prevention of bullying and harassment.
4. Lone worker SOP
5. Safe driving policy
6. Intentions template or App
7. Tailgate forms
8. Boat training manual
9. Boat safety plans
10. External contractors induction checklist
11. External contractors health and safety agreement
12. Drift diving safety plan
13. Plan for controlling hazardous substances
14. A storage and spill plan
15. Hazard control plans
16. Drone use guidelines

10. DRAFT HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR RANGERS POLICY

14 March 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the health and safety responsibilities of the NZ Council, and the Regional Councils, to avoid, so far as reasonably practicable, any gaps in the overall health and safety scheme as it relates to fish and game rangers.

To the extent that it relates to rangers, this Policy is implemented pursuant to sections 26HA of the Conservation Act 1987 (Act), which allows the NZ Council to develop a national policy relating to fish and game rangers.

2. Background

The NZ Council and the Regional Councils have overlapping duties in relation to fish and game rangers, who are appointed by the Director of the NZ Council but are usually managed, and trained, by the Regional Councils.

HSWA requires PCBUs with overlapping duties to consult and co-operate with each other, and to coordinate their activities.

3. Recommendation

That Council review the Draft Policy on Health and Safety for Rangers and provides feedback to NZC prior to the 31 May deadline.

National Health and Safety Policy for Rangers

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	

1. PURPOSE

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (**NZ Council**) and each of the Regional Fish and Game Councils (**Regional Councils**) are PCBUs for the purposes of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (**HSWA**). The NZ Council and the Regional Councils have overlapping duties in relation to fish and game rangers, who are appointed by the Director of the NZ Council but are usually managed, and trained, by the Regional Councils.

HSWA requires PCBUs with overlapping duties to consult and co-operate with each other, and to coordinate their activities. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the health and safety responsibilities of the NZ Council, and the Regional Councils, to avoid, so far as reasonably practicable, any gaps in the overall health and safety scheme as it relates to fish and game rangers.

To the extent that it relates to rangers, this Policy is implemented pursuant to sections 26HA of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**), which allows the NZ Council to develop a national policy relating to fish and game rangers.

2. POLICY

Under section 26FA of the Act, the Director (i.e. the NZ Council Chief Executive) has the power to appoint Fish and Game rangers. Under HSWA, rangers are workers whose activities are influenced by the NZ Council, and the NZ Council owes them a duty of care, even where the rangers are employed by a Regional Council or are honorary rangers carrying out activities under the supervision of a Regional Council.

Duties of Regional Councils

Regional Councils have primary responsibility for managing the on-the-ground health and safety of rangers who are employed by them or are carrying out activities in their region (including honorary rangers). The Regional Council's responsibilities include:

- providing training, support and appropriate supervision to rangers;
- ensuring that Rangers and Regional Councils understand and comply with the Ranger Guide and Health and Safety Guidelines for Rangers
- ensuring that the necessary personal protective equipment (**PPE**) is available for use by the rangers, and that rangers are knowledgeable in the proper use of the PPE;
- managing any other matters of day to day health and safety, including hazards and risks, that arise in the Regional Council's workplace or in locations where the rangers will be operating.

Regional Councils must have a comprehensive health and safety policy and plan in place that is specific to their region, and at a minimum, covers the following topics:

1. The process for receiving and considering information regarding health and safety incidents, hazards, and risks, and responding in a timely way to that information;
2. Training and supervision;
3. Procedures for managing health and safety risks that arise in the specific region, for example (and only as applicable to the region): fieldwork; working alone; ranging; motor vehicles; boating; office security; and hatchery operations;
4. The requirement under HSWA to engage with other agencies the Regional Council may work with from time to time and who may also owe overlapping health and safety duties;
5. Availability of first aid assistance and training;
6. Emergency evacuation procedures;
7. Drug and alcohol use;
8. Workplace stress and fatigue management; and
9. Bullying and harassment.

On an annual basis beginning on **DATE**, the Regional Councils must complete the declaration attached to this Policy and titled "Annual Declaration of Health and Safety Compliance", and provide it to the Chief Executive of the NZ Council. The Declaration will confirm that:

- the Regional Council has health and safety policies and a plan in place that cover all matters required by this Policy, and that it has been complied with in the preceding 12 months;
- all health and safety incidents that have occurred in the preceding 12 months have been reported to *the Health and Safety Committee* and will record such incidents (and any changes to the Regional Health and Policy that may have resulted);
- all rangers have been provided with ongoing training in the 12 months preceding the declaration, and provide details of training completed and by which rangers.

Duties of NZ Council

The NZ Council has a duty to ensure that all reasonably practicable steps have been taken to ensure the health and safety of the rangers it appoints. This means:

- undertaking due diligence with respect to the suitability of prospective rangers before they are appointed; and
- ensuring that the Regional Councils are meeting their health and safety responsibilities as set out in this Policy.

Before the NZ Council Chief Executive signs a ranger warrant, the Chief Executive must be provided with:

1. a Fit and Proper Person form completed by the prospective ranger;
2. confirmation from the Regional Manager/CE that the prospective ranger has met the criteria set out in the Recruitment Guide for rangers and
3. evidence that the prospective ranger has completed the CERT Situational Safety and Tactical Communications course.

The Chief Executive of the NZ Council will keep an appropriate record as evidence that she undertook this due diligence before the ranger's warrant was signed.

The Chief Executive of the NZ Council will receive the "Annual Declaration of Health and Safety Compliance" provided by Regional Councils. If any issues arise from the Declaration (or a Regional Council's failure to provide it), the Chief Executive will take such further steps, or make such further enquiries, as may be appropriate in the circumstances. This may include an approach to WorkSafe or to the Minister of Conservation.

Annexed to this Policy is the Annual Declaration of Health and Safety Compliance.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by:
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation):
Next Review:

DRAFT

11. DRAFT PROTECTED DISCLOSURES POLICY

14 March 2024

1. Purpose

To comply with the Protected Disclosures Act 2022, to facilitate the disclosure and investigation of serious wrongdoing in the workplace, and to provide protection to employees/workers who report concerns.

2. Background

This policy provides for an employee, a former employee, a volunteer, a contractor of Fish and Game NZ or a Council member to be protected from dismissal and any other punitive acts by Fish and Game for disclosing a serious wrongdoing. The serious wrong doing may be committed either by Fish and Game or within Fish and Game by an employee or contractor. Fish and Game NZ:

- protects those who, in good faith, raise concerns about serious wrongdoing.
- maintains confidentiality of the discloser's details
- ensures allegations of serious wrongdoing are properly investigated and addressed.
- complies with the principles of natural justice.
- sets out a standardised process for making a protected disclosure.
- identifies who a protected disclosure of serious wrongdoing may be made to
- complies with the requirements of the Act

A protected disclosure is defined as where the discloser:

- believes on reasonable grounds that there is, or has been, serious wrongdoing in or by the discloser's organisation; and
- discloses information about that in accordance with this Act; and
- does not disclose it in bad faith.

Those who provide support information are generally also protected if they disclose in the same manner.

3. Recommendation

That Council review the Draft Protected Disclosures Policy and provides feedback to NZC prior to the 31 May deadline.

Section	Governance
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	

1. PURPOSE

To comply with the Protected Disclosures Act 2022, to facilitate the disclosure and investigation of serious wrongdoing in the workplace, and to provide protection to employees/workers who report concerns.

2. POLICY

This policy provides for an employee, a former employee, a volunteer, a contractor of Fish and Game NZ or a Council member to be protected from dismissal and any other punitive acts by Fish and Game for disclosing a serious wrongdoing. The serious wrongdoing may be committed either by Fish and Game or within Fish and Game by an employee or contractor.

Fish and Game NZ:

- protects those who, in good faith, raise concerns about serious wrongdoing.
- Maintains confidentiality of the discloser's details
- ensures allegations of serious wrongdoing are properly investigated and addressed.
- complies with the principles of natural justice.
- sets out a standardised process for making a protected disclosure.
- identifies who a protected disclosure of serious wrongdoing may be made to
- complies with the requirements of the Act

3. What is a Protected Disclosure?

A protected disclosure is defined as where the discloser:

- believes on reasonable grounds that there is, or has been, serious wrongdoing in or by the discloser's organisation; and
- discloses information about that in accordance with this Act; and
- does not disclose it in bad faith.

Those who provide support information are generally also protected if they disclose in the same manner.

The discloser will not be liable to any civil, criminal, or disciplinary proceedings because they made or referred a protected disclosure. However, if they have been personally involved in the serious wrongdoing about which they are disclosing information, the Protected Disclosures Act does not protect them from disciplinary action, or from civil or criminal proceedings arising from that wrongdoing.

A discloser is entitled to protection even if:

- they are mistaken and there is no serious wrongdoing; or
- they do not refer to the Act when making the disclosure; or
- they also make the disclosure to another person if they do so—
 - on a confidential basis; and
 - for the purposes of seeking advice about whether or how to make a protected disclosure in accordance with this Act.

4. Who is a Protected Disclosure made to?

The disclosure made to the Chief Executive of the NZ Council, to a Regional manager/Chief Executive or Regional Council Chair, or to an Appropriate Authority (see the Procedures for Appropriate Authorities).

5. What is Serious Wrongdoing?

An unlawful, corrupt, or irregular use of funds or resource of a public sector organisation; or Acts, omissions, or courses of conduct:

- that constitute a serious risk to public health or public safety or health or safety of an individual, or to the environment; or
- that constitute a serious risk to the maintenance of law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial; or
- that constitute an offence; or
- that is oppressive, unlawfully discriminatory, or grossly negligent, or gross mismanagement by a public sector employee or person performing a function or a duty or exercising power on behalf of a public sector organisation or the Government

6. What is not Serious Wrongdoing?

Things like dissatisfaction with the leadership of an organisation or more minor misconduct matters may not amount to serious wrongdoing and would therefore not be covered by the Act. The Act does not cover employment issues that are covered by the Employment Relations Act.

7. Natural Justice

Fish and Game NZ, will adhere to principles of 'Natural Justice', meaning that those involved:

- are not judges in their own cause. If the person involved in considering a protected disclosure is in any way involved with the alleged serious wrongdoing, then that person cannot give an objective view of the matter and will not be part of the process; and
- will hear both sides of the argument. The process should hear both sides of any assertions made by the complainant and by any person who is involved in the alleged serious wrongdoing.
- will give a reasoned decision in a timely manner.

8. Protection from Victimisation and Retaliation

Fish and Game NZ must not retaliate, or threaten to retaliate, against a discloser who is an employee; and no person may treat another less favourably because of a protected disclosure. This applies even if it transpires that the disclosure is not protected by the Act.

If the discloser feels that their protected disclosure has caused them to suffer retaliatory action, they may have a personal grievance under the Employment Relations Act 2000.

Similarly, if they feel that they have been victimised because of their protected disclosure they may make a complaint under the Human Rights Act 1993.

9. Confidentiality

Where a protected disclosure is made, the recipient of the disclosure, must use their best endeavours not to disclose information that may identify the discloser.

This obligation exists unless the discloser consents in writing to the disclosure of their identity or :

- for the effective investigation of the disclosure

- in order to prevent serious risk to public health, or public safety, the health and safety of the individual, or the environment
- to comply with the principles of natural justice
- to aid an investigation by a law enforcement or regulatory agency for the purpose of law enforcement.

10. Important Notes

The protection of the Act will not apply where a disclosure is made in bad faith.

The Act does not provide immunity from prosecution for the serious wrongdoing itself – only for the making or referring of the disclosure.

If the information is disclosed to someone other than those people specified in the Act (for example, directly to the media or on social media), the discloser may lose the protection of the Act.

The discloser must ensure that any disclosure of information is made strictly in accordance with the procedures of this policy.

If the discloser is unsure about any part of this policy, then they should refer to the NZC HR Advisor.

Refer to the Protected Disclosures Procedures for a step by step process on making a disclosure

See also: [Office of the Ombudsman Protected Disclosure Guidance](#)

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: HR Business Partner
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation):
Next Review:

12. LAKE ŌKATAINA ACCESS AND TE ARAWA LAKES SETTLEMENT ACT 2006

20 March 2024

1. Purpose

To discuss the relationship of the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006, understand the concerns of Ngati Tarawhai and the wider Te Arawa iwi and find a pathway that operates within the law and the agreement of the Settlement Act that will advocate for anglers to access Lake Okataina and others in a safe manner.

2. Background

The Te Arawa Lakes Deed of Settlement is the final settlement of all Te Arawa's historical claims relating to 14 lakes, resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown prior to 21 September 1992, and any remaining annuity issues from 21 September 1992. It is made up of a package that includes:

- *An agreed historical account and Crown acknowledgements, which form the basis for a Crown Apology to Te Arawa;*
- *Cultural redress, including the transfer of 13 lakebeds with public access protected; and*
- *Financial and annuity redress.*

No private land was involved in the redress, only Crown assets. Existing rights of public access will be preserved.

The benefits of the settlement will be available to all members of Te Arawa, wherever they live.

Crown Apology

The Crown apologises to Te Arawa for past dealings that breached the Crown's obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. These include the Crown's failure to legislate for a sufficient number of fishing licences for Te Arawa in 1908 when it promoted legislation to address the problem of hardship, and the Crown's failure to review the annuity paid to Te Arawa as part of the 1922 Te Arawa lakes agreement when it materially lost value as a result of inflation.

Cultural Redress

Transfer of Lakebeds

Title to 13 lakebeds will be returned to Te Arawa. The title includes the ownership of the lakebeds (including plants attached to the lakebeds) and subsoil (referred to as the Te Arawa stratum). The title specifically excludes the water column (the space occupied by the water) and the airspace, which will remain in Crown ownership (referred to as the Crown stratum).

Lake Ōarao

The Crown has written to the Rotorua District Council encouraging them to come to an agreement with Te Arawa regarding the future status, management and ownership of the 14th lake, Lake Ōkaru, which is currently vested in the Council.

Statutory Acknowledgement

This registers Te Arawa's special association with an area. Statutory Acknowledgements are recognised under the Resource Management Act and the Historic Places Act.

One Statutory Acknowledgement will cover those parts of the 13 lakes remaining in Crown ownership (i.e. the water column and airspace).

Placenames

The Deed of Settlement will provide for the official amendment of various place names relating to the lakes. The spelling of some names will be changed (e.g. Awahou Point to Te Awahou Point), some sites without official names will be named (e.g. Kaikaitāhuna Bay), and some names will become dual names (e.g. Lake Rotorua/Te Rotorua nui a Kahumatamomoe).

The long form of the dual names will be acknowledged as the 'official' place names, but the short form of these place names will be accepted as remaining in common usage and can be used in publications and databases.

Fisheries

The Deed of Settlement provides for the making of regulations to allow Te Arawa to manage the non-commercial fishing of certain indigenous species in the 14 lakes.

The Settlement also includes a capitalised sum of \$400,000 to provide for the purchase of 200 fishing licences per year from the Eastern Regional Fish and Game Council.

Financial Redress

This redress recognises the economic loss suffered by Te Arawa arising from breaches by the Crown of its Treaty obligations in relation to the lakes. It is aimed at providing Te Arawa with resources to assist them to develop their economic and social well-being. Te Arawa will receive \$2.7 million in cash.

Lakes Covered

Lakes Rotoehu, Rotomā, Rotoiti, Rotorua, Ōkātina, Ōkareka, Rerewhakaaitu, Tarawera, Rotomahana, Tikitapu, Ngāhewa, Tutaeinanga, Ngāpouri and Ōkaro are covered by the settlement.

Public Access

Public access for recreational purposes (e.g. swimming, watersports, fishing, duckshooting, boating, aircraft landing), rights of navigation, existing structures (e.g. jetties, boat ramps and boat sheds) and existing types of commercial activities will be protected by the settlement legislation.

Public utility activities including network utility operation, any project or works relating to electricity generation, harbourmaster functions and structures, navigation aids and structures and activities of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Transit New Zealand and the Department of Conservation, will also be protected.

Lakes Strategy Group

The Group is made up of two representatives from each of the following bodies: the Rotorua District Council, Environment Bay of Plenty and Te Arawa Māori Trust Board. It was established (initially as the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Joint Committee) to give effect to the vision of the Strategy for the Lakes of the Rotorua District. The Deed provides for the settlement legislation to deem the Group to be a joint committee under the Local Government Act 2002.

Position of the Act

Both (Crown and Te Arawa) parties agree that the Deed of Settlement is fair in the circumstances and will be a final and comprehensive settlement of all Te Arawa's historical (relating to events before 21 September 1992) Treaty claims in relation to the lakes. It will also settle any annuity-related issues regardless of when they arose. The settlement legislation, once passed, will prevent Te Arawa from re-litigating their historical claims or any remaining annuity issues before the Waitangi Tribunal or courts.

The settlement will still allow Te Arawa or members of Te Arawa to pursue their historical non-lakes claims. These will be negotiated separately.

The settlement will also allow Te Arawa or members of Te Arawa to pursue claims against the Crown for acts or omissions after 21 September 1992 (other than annuity-related issues), including claims based on the continued existence of aboriginal title or customary rights. The Crown also retains the right to dispute such claims or the existence of such rights.

(All above information is taken from Te Arawhiti, The Office for Māori Crown Relations web site)

3. Recommendation

That Council gives direction of next appropriate pathway engagement.

13. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

13.1 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

14 March 2024

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the months of January and February 2024.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 29 February 2024
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 29 February 2024
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 29 February 2024
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions January and February 2024
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions January and February 2024

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 29 February is provided in Table 3.

Summary

The net position YTD is \$252,230 surplus against the YTD budgeted surplus of \$233,122, net variance \$19,108.

The net variance of \$19,108 is a result of income received higher than that budgeted of \$13,615, and reduced expenditure \$5,493.

Income	Var YTD	Expenses	Var YTD
Licence Sales	16,592 ▼	Depreciation	610 ▼
Other Income	30,207 ▲	Operating Expenses	18,595 ▼
		Administration Expenses	13,711 ▲
	13,615 ▲ 1%		5,493 ▼ -1%
		Net	19,108 ▲ 8%

A more detailed summary is provided in the following notes.

Income

Licence Sales

Fish licence revenue is reporting to be below budget YTD (\$16,592). A more up to date and accurate picture of fish licence sales performance can be found within the licence sales report.

Other Income

Revenue from other sources over the two months totalled \$42,803 and was made up of the following:

Hatchery	\$6,003	Interest	\$839
Fishing competitions	\$514	Fish food, tours, habitat fees	\$190
Rentals	\$8,661	Contract services (NZC)	\$14,835
Fines & diversions	\$1,081	General	\$10,680
		Total	\$42,803

The General income total is made up from contributions from: the Department of Conservation for water reticulation and maintenance works in the Awaitei WMR (\$8,000), Ministry for Primary Industries for maize for the banding programme (\$1,680), and Intrinsic Events for last year's support of the 4x4 Expo (\$1,000).

Species Management

The population monitoring projects were in full swing over the summer period and expenditure here incl the cost of flights for the swan and paradise shelduck trend counts, and wages and supplies for feeding out and banding. Within budget YTD.

Hatchery spending for the period includes fish food, vehicle maintenance and fuel, oxygen and the cost of various materials for repairs and painting. Within budget YTD.

Habitat

Within the Habitat output expenses are reported relating to repairs to the Awakaponga WMR gate, and signage for the new accessible maimai. February's costs were for pest plant spraying in: Kaituna, Ngaopouri, Bregmans, Awaitei, and Ohaaki reserves. Within budget YTD.

Participation

Participation spending for the period relates to spray for access track maintenance and a small contribution to the Wheao access track maintenance (\$36), this work was undertaken by a contractor and subsidised by Timberlands. Two brochure reprints were ordered within the period and minor costs incurred for chair hire for boat fishing tuition, and to replace gas cooker and bottles stolen from the Wairua hut. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

The spending within the Public Interface output was related to grounds maintenance, primarily the fire store buildings which required repair prior to rental. These costs are not budgeted and will be recouped when a new tenancy for the facility is arranged. Over budget YTD \$1,206.

Compliance

Compliance expenditure relates to travel reimbursement for ranger training and the usual 0800 Poaching service and cell phone costs. Legal fees are also reported within the prosecution budget. The Compliance output is within budget YTD.

Licensing

Licensing costs include agent commissions, and the fees associated with the Public Online sales. Within budget YTD.

Council

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the December/February meetings of Council. Minor expenses are also reported for meetings with the Chair. Within budget YTD.

Planning

Management and Strategic Planning costs related to the cost to set up and distribute a email lapsed fish licence participants. NZ Fish & Game levies were paid as budgeted. Within budget YTD.

Administration

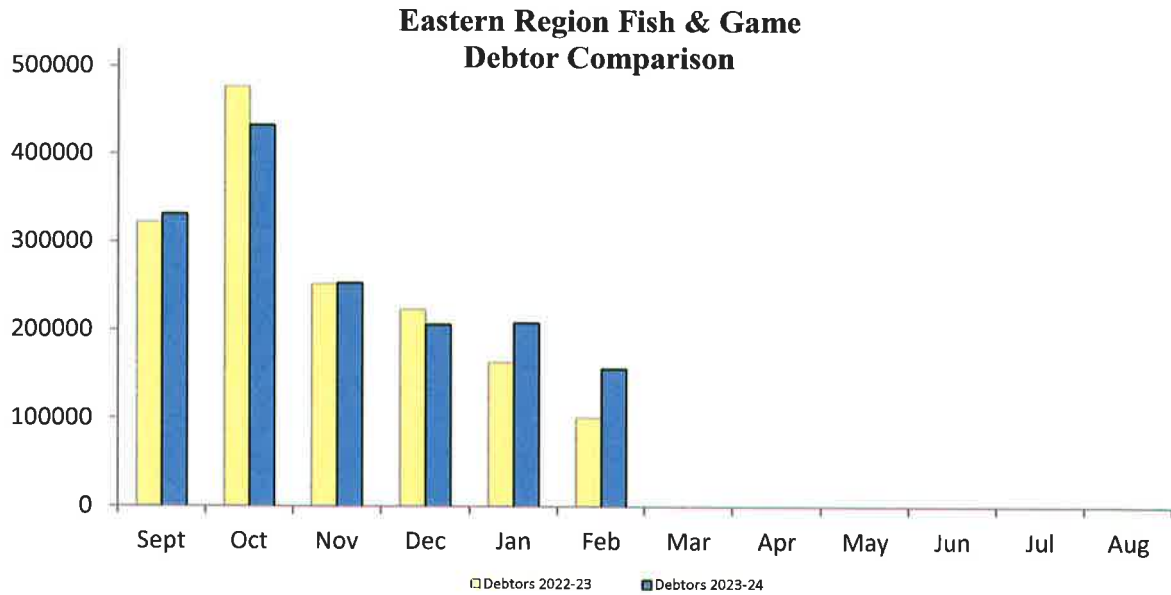
Salaries	Within budget.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses related to first aid supplies and meals for banding project. Mole map vouchers were purchased at a discounted rate for staff who wished to utilise the service. The staff expenses output is over budget YTD \$1,715 and is offset by increased revenue through staff contracts.
Staff Houses	Rental agent commission and fees and property rates are reported within the Staff Houses expense budgets. Over budget YTD \$2,138 and this is due primarily to an increase in rates and insurance.
Office Premises	Rates were paid in January and the usual expenses relating to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring were incurred. Over budget YTD \$838 and this is due primarily to increased rates and insurance.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs. An air conditioning unit was repaired and three were serviced within the period. Over budget YTD \$627 due to an upgrade of the phone system at a slightly higher cost.
Communications/ Consumables	Telephone expenses are made up of cell phones, 0800 service, Garmin InReach, and 2Talk calling plan needed to utilise the IP phones. Expenses are also reported relating to Starlink, stationery, and photocopying. Under budget YTD \$1,472.
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. A small expense is also reported for a glass shelf for the display cabinet. Over budget YTD \$2,650 due to increased insurance costs.
General Equipment	General equipment and maintenance spending related to repairs and WoF's for boat trailers, equipment maintenance, ranging equipment, and monthly charges for the new Seaflux approver budget YTD \$412.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included servicing of two vehicles, and 13k in RUC's. The vehicles budgets are overspent YTD \$8,932 and we expect that this variance will reduce as over the coming months.

Cash Position: As at 29 February 2024

\$ 799,228 (includes \$93,543 Asset Replacement Reserve)
\$ 481,784 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,281,012 Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$156,901 as at 29 February 2024 (\$100,642 as at 29 February 2023).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2022/23-2023/24



Debtors outstanding as 29 February related primarily to licence sales (\$123,864). One agent remains overdue \$556 and this is being followed up by administration staff.

3. Variance Report (Table 1)

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. The complete year 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 2023/2024 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

as at 29 February 2024

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	%
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 53,700	\$ 32,871	2,119	1,136	\$ 158,476	\$ 87,771	\$ -	\$ 1,680	\$ 212,176	\$ 118,962	\$ 93,214	56.1
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 607	690	588	\$ 51,604	\$ 45,402	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,504	\$ 46,009	\$ 8,495	84.4
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 97,050	\$ 53,086	2,996	1,523	\$ 224,066	\$ 117,646	\$ 68,000	\$ 31,687	\$ 253,116	\$ 139,045	\$ 114,070	54.9
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	116	\$ 10,022	\$ 8,961	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,022	\$ 8,961	\$ 1,061	89.4
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	76	75	\$ 5,684	\$ 5,755	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,684	\$ 5,755	\$ (71)	101.2
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	36	11	\$ 2,692	\$ 811	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,192	\$ 811	\$ 2,381	25.4
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 154,150	\$ 86,564	6,051	3,448	\$ 452,544	\$ 266,346	\$ 68,000	\$ 33,367	\$ 538,694	\$ 319,543	\$ 219,151	59.3
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,432	787	\$ 107,097	\$ 60,793	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107,097	\$ 60,793	\$ 46,304	56.8
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 7,615	940	589	\$ 70,301	\$ 43,973	\$ 11,650	\$ 16,381	\$ 76,151	\$ 35,207	\$ 40,944	46.2
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 700	\$ -	770	110	\$ 57,587	\$ 8,458	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,287	\$ 8,458	\$ 49,828	14.5
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	72	\$ 5,385	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ -	\$ 5,385	0.0
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 18,200	\$ 7,615	3,214	1,466	\$ 240,370	\$ 113,224	\$ 11,650	\$ 16,381	\$ 246,920	\$ 104,458	\$ 142,462	42.3
1310	Access	\$ 5,500	\$ 1,779	708	337	\$ 52,950	\$ 26,032	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,450	\$ 27,811	\$ 30,639	47.6
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	342	77	\$ 25,578	\$ 5,909	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,578	\$ 5,909	\$ 19,668	23.1
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,019	38	38	\$ 2,842	\$ 97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,842	\$ 1,116	\$ 3,726	23.0
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 248	775	307	\$ 57,961	\$ 23,715	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,278	\$ 51,811	\$ 22,685	\$ 29,126	43.8
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	94	\$ 2,393	\$ 7,223	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,393	\$ 7,223	\$ (4,829)	301.8
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 865	46	13	\$ 3,440	\$ 966	\$ 400	\$ 157	\$ 4,490	\$ 1,674	\$ 2,817	37.3
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 9,800	\$ 3,911	1,941	828	\$ 145,164	\$ 63,941	\$ 7,400	\$ 1,435	\$ 147,564	\$ 66,417	\$ 81,147	45.0
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	36	\$ 5,385	\$ 2,742	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ 2,742	\$ 2,643	50.9
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	116	27	\$ 8,675	\$ 2,086	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,675	\$ 2,086	\$ 6,589	24.0
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 105	114	39	\$ 8,526	\$ 2,993	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,526	\$ 3,098	\$ 6,428	32.5
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 2,201	633	154	\$ 47,341	\$ 11,896	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,841	\$ 14,097	\$ 33,744	29.5
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,306	936	255	\$ 69,927	\$ 19,717	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,427	\$ 22,023	\$ 49,404	30.8
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,551	930	323	\$ 69,553	\$ 24,931	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,553	\$ 26,482	\$ 44,071	37.5
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 203	104	51	\$ 7,778	\$ 3,901	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,778	\$ 4,104	\$ 4,674	46.8
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,000	\$ 600	336	85	\$ 25,129	\$ 6,566	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,278	\$ 24,129	\$ 4,868	\$ 19,241	20.3
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,354	1,370	458	\$ 102,460	\$ 35,398	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,278	\$ 103,460	\$ 35,474	\$ 67,986	34.3
1610	Licensing	\$ 13,654	\$ 8,620	124	63	\$ 9,274	\$ 4,867	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,928	\$ 13,486	\$ 9,442	58.8
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	148	15	\$ 11,069	\$ 1,178	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,069	\$ 1,178	\$ 9,891	10.6
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 13,654	\$ 8,620	272	78	\$ 20,342	\$ 6,045	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,996	\$ 14,664	\$ 19,332	43.1
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,500	\$ 2,614	474	167	\$ 35,450	\$ 12,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 15,514	\$ 26,435	37.0
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,500	\$ 2,614	474	167	\$ 35,450	\$ 12,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 15,514	\$ 26,435	37.0
1810	Management Planning	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,794	281	92	\$ 21,016	\$ 7,068	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ 29,516	\$ 12,262	\$ 17,253	41.5
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	64	18	\$ 4,786	\$ 1,352	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,786	\$ 1,352	\$ 3,435	28.2
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 10,100	\$ -	406	243	\$ 30,514	\$ 18,771	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,614	\$ 18,771	\$ 21,843	46.2
1840	National Liaison	\$ 50	\$ 132	228	109	\$ 17,052	\$ 8,381	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,102	\$ 8,513	\$ 8,588	49.8
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,650	\$ 6,926	981	461	\$ 73,367	\$ 35,572	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ 92,017	\$ 40,898	\$ 51,119	44.4
	TOTAL	\$ 228,454	\$ 120,910	15,238	7,161	\$ 1,139,624	\$ 553,143	\$ 92,050	\$ 55,061	\$ 1,276,028	\$ 618,991	\$ 657,037	48.5

Table 1 Cont...		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		NET COST	
OVERHEADS		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance
1910	Salaries	\$ 1,042,994	\$ 500,868	\$ 11,680	\$ 20,308	\$ 1,031,314	\$ 480,560	\$ 1,031,314	\$ 480,560	\$ 550,754	\$ 46.6
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 29,000	\$ 7,763	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,000	\$ 7,763	\$ 29,000	\$ 7,763	\$ 21,237	\$ 26.8
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 14,600	\$ 9,946	\$ 59,500	\$ 29,658	\$ (44,900)	\$ (19,712)	\$ (44,900)	\$ (19,712)	\$ (25,188)	\$ 43.9
1940	Office Premises	\$ 21,710	\$ 14,372	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,710	\$ 14,372	\$ 21,710	\$ 14,372	\$ 7,338	\$ 66.2
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,227	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,227	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,227	\$ 373	\$ 85.7
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 16,200	\$ 7,128	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,200	\$ 7,128	\$ 16,200	\$ 7,128	\$ 9,072	\$ 44.0
1970	General	\$ 12,900	\$ 13,726	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,628	\$ 11,400	\$ 11,098	\$ 11,400	\$ 11,098	\$ 302	\$ 97.4
1980	General Equipment	\$ 16,800	\$ 10,629	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,800	\$ 10,629	\$ 16,800	\$ 10,629	\$ 6,171	\$ 63.3
1990	Vehicles	\$ 55,500	\$ 39,077	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,500	\$ 39,077	\$ 55,500	\$ 39,077	\$ 16,423	\$ 70.4
	Administration	\$ 1,212,304	\$ 605,737	\$ 72,680	\$ 52,594	\$ 1,139,624	\$ 553,143	\$ 1,139,624	\$ 553,143	\$ 586,481	48.5
	Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,139,624	\$ 553,143				
	Total Outputs Staff Hours					15,238	7,161				
	Internal Cost Per Hour					74.79	77.25				

Table 1 cont... 2023/2024 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance
1	Species Management	\$ 154,150	\$ 86,564	6,051	3,448	\$ 452,544	\$ 266,346	\$ 68,000	\$ 33,367	\$ 538,694	\$ 319,543	\$ 219,151	\$ 59.3
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 18,200	\$ 7,615	3,214	1,466	\$ 240,370	\$ 113,224	\$ 11,650	\$ 16,381	\$ 246,520	\$ 104,458	\$ 142,462	\$ 42.3
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,800	\$ 3,911	1,941	828	\$ 145,164	\$ 63,941	\$ 7,400	\$ 1,435	\$ 147,564	\$ 66,417	\$ 81,147	\$ 45.0
4	Public Interface	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,306	935	255	\$ 69,927	\$ 19,717	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,427	\$ 22,023	\$ 49,404	\$ 30.8
5	Compliance	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,354	1,370	458	\$ 102,460	\$ 35,388	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,278	\$ 103,460	\$ 35,474	\$ 67,986	\$ 34.3
6	Licensing	\$ 13,654	\$ 8,620	272	78	\$ 20,342	\$ 6,045	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,986	\$ 14,664	\$ 19,332	\$ 43.1
7	Councils	\$ 6,500	\$ 2,614	474	167	\$ 35,450	\$ 12,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 15,514	\$ 26,435	\$ 37.0
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,650	\$ 6,926	981	461	\$ 73,367	\$ 35,572	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ 92,017	\$ 40,888	\$ 51,119	\$ 44.4
9	Administration				7,084		3,547						
	Total Overhead Staff Hours												
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 228,454	\$ 120,910	22,922	10,708	\$ 1,139,624	\$ 553,143	\$ 92,050	\$ 55,061	\$ 1,276,028	\$ 618,991	\$ 657,037	
	Licence Income 2022-2023												
	2022-23 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,152,577	\$ 971,236										
	Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 51,866										
	Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,100,711	\$ 919,370										
	2023 Game Licence Income	\$ 282,866	\$ 20,172										
	Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 12,729										
	Net Game Licence Income	\$ 270,137	\$ 7,443										
	Total Licence Income	\$ 1,435,443	\$ 991,408										
	Total Commission	\$ -	\$ 64,595										
	Total Net 2022-23 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,370,848	\$ 957,529										

Licence Income 2022-2023		Budget	Actual
2022-23 Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,152,577	\$ 971,236
Less Commission		\$ -	\$ 51,866
Net Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,100,711	\$ 919,370
2023 Game Licence Income		\$ 282,866	\$ 20,172
Less Commission		\$ -	\$ 12,729
Net Game Licence Income		\$ 270,137	\$ 7,443
Total Licence Income		\$ 1,435,443	\$ 991,408
Total Commission		\$ -	\$ 64,595
Total Net 2022-23 Licence Revenue		\$ 1,370,848	\$ 957,529

2023/2024 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME		Budget	Actual	% of OWP budget spent
OWP Bulk Fund		\$ 1,276,028	\$ 618,991	48%
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget		\$ -	\$ (4,635)	
less Interest		\$ (31,617)	\$ -	
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies		\$ 124,451	\$ 62,226	
Less Licence Revenue		\$ (1,435,443)	\$ (991,408)	
Plus Commission Expense		\$ 64,595	\$ 33,879	
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation		\$ (13,847)	\$ (8,773)	
Depreciation		\$ 80,674	\$ 39,728	
Subtotal		\$ 64,841	\$ (249,990)	
Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund		\$ -	\$ (2,240)	
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest		\$ (20,991)	\$ -	
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses		\$ 8,500	\$ -	
Adj to OWP budgets - Non Res Reserve - Lake Tararua Project 4.1		\$ -	\$ -	
Adjusted Budget		\$ 52,350	\$ (252,230)	

Table 2**Balance Sheet**

Eastern Fish and Game Council

As at 29 February 2024

Assets	29-Feb-24	31-Aug-23
Bank		
Westpac Current Account	5,769	101,445
Westpac Call Account	63,011	170,930
Petty Cash	572	170
Investments	729,876	579,406
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	481,784	368,823
Total Bank	1,281,012	1,220,774
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	156,901	105,483
Accounts Receivable - Hawke's Bay & External parties	1,715	0
Inventory - Fish Stock	190,527	190,527
Prepayments and Accrued Income	0	18,978
Total Current Assets	349,143	314,989
Fixed Assets		
Buildings	1,043,849	1,043,849
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	481,838	415,992
Office Equipment	69,894	58,606
Plant & Equipment	224,834	198,899
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(771,135)	(757,222)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(146,107)	(140,776)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(48,361)	(45,234)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(159,828)	(167,610)
Total Fixed Assets	796,984	708,505
Total Assets	2,427,139	2,244,268
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	26,058	30,127
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	81,194	154,813
Employee Entitlements	75,122	87,798
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy Clearing	9	0
GST	16,036	(2,560)
PAYE Clearing	25,940	21,104
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	191	0
Staff Social Club	6	1,796
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	152	618
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	655	2,317
Rounding	(0)	0
Designated Waters Clearing Acc	1,292	0
Total Current Liabilities	226,654	296,014
Total Liabilities	226,654	296,014
Net Assets	2,200,485	1,948,255
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,174,617	1,150,098
Asset Replacement Reserve	93,543	93,543
Non Resident Levy Reserve	167,182	167,182
Breeding Programme Reserve	1,018	1,018
Fish for Gold Reserve	14,000	14,000
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	16,109	16,109
Hunter Ballot Reserve	4,814	4,814
Waikaremoana Sportfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Res	476,971	476,971
Current Year Earnings	252,230	24,519
Total Equity	2,200,485	1,948,255

Table 3 Profit and Loss - Council

Eastern Fish and Game Council

For the 2 months ended 29 February 2024

Income	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var %
Licence Income	125,324	71,947	991,129	1,008,000	1,435,443	(16,871)	-2%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	0	0	279	0	0	279	0%
Other Income	13,409	29,394	123,303	93,096	231,185	30,207	32%
Total Income	138,733	101,341	1,114,711	1,101,096	1,666,628	(13,615)	1%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	7,114	7,327	39,728	40,338	80,674	(610)	-2%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	11,344	4,704	32,871	34,500	53,700	(1,629)	-5%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	4	607	760	2,900	(153)	-20%
1140 Hatchery Operations	6,381	1,319	53,086	53,590	97,050	(504)	-1%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	0	500	0	0%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	17,724	6,026	86,564	88,850	154,150	(2,286)	-3%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MGT							
1220 Works & Management	578	5,002	7,615	5,000	17,500	2,615	52%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	0	3,000	9,200	(3,000)	-
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION	578	5,002	7,615	8,000	26,700	(385)	-5%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	0	262	1,779	3,600	5,500	(1,821)	-51%
1340 Other Publications	1,019	0	1,019	1,000	2,000	19	2%
1350 Training	156	0	248	550	850	(302)	-55%
1370 Huts	106	363	865	750	1,450	115	15%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	1,281	624	3,911	5,900	9,800	(1,989)	-34%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	105	600	1,000	(495)	-83%
1450 Visitor Facilities	63	1,718	2,201	500	500	1,701	340%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	63	1,718	2,306	1,100	1,500	1,206	110%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	218	68	1,551	480	1,000	1,071	223%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	203	500	1,000	(297)	-59%
1530 Compliance	0	600	600	1,800	4,000	(1,200)	-67%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	218	668	2,354	2,780	6,000	(426)	-15%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	8,620	13,054	13,654	(4,434)	-34%
1630 Commission	3,920	2,858	33,879	44,550	64,595	(10,671)	-24%
Total 1600 LICENSING	3,920	2,858	42,499	57,604	78,249	(15,105)	-26%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	0	916	2,614	3,500	6,500	(886)	-25%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	916	2,614	3,500	6,500	(886)	-25%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	0	153	6,794	5,500	8,500	1,294	24%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	0	100	10,100	(100)	-
1840 National Liaison	31,113	0	62,358	62,276	124,501	82	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	31,113	153	69,151	67,876	143,101	1,275	2%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	76,670	79,341	500,868	502,998	1,042,994	(2,130)	0%
1920 Staff Expenses	1,651	160	7,763	6,048	29,000	1,715	28%
1930 Staff Houses	599	554	9,946	7,808	14,600	2,138	27%
1940 Office Premises	2,090	575	14,372	13,534	21,710	838	6%
1950 Office Equipment	238	737	2,227	1,600	2,600	627	39%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,020	1,006	7,128	8,600	16,200	(1,472)	-17%
1970 General	142	366	13,726	11,076	12,900	2,650	24%
1980 General Equipment	688	1,507	10,629	10,217	16,800	412	4%
1990 Vehicles	4,617	2,730	39,077	30,145	55,500	8,932	30%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	87,716	86,976	605,737	592,026	1,212,304	13,711	2%
Total Operating Expenses	149,728	111,413	861,624	867,974	1,718,978	(5,493)	-1%
Net Profit	(10,995)	(10,928)	252,230	233,122	(52,350)	19,108	8%

13.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

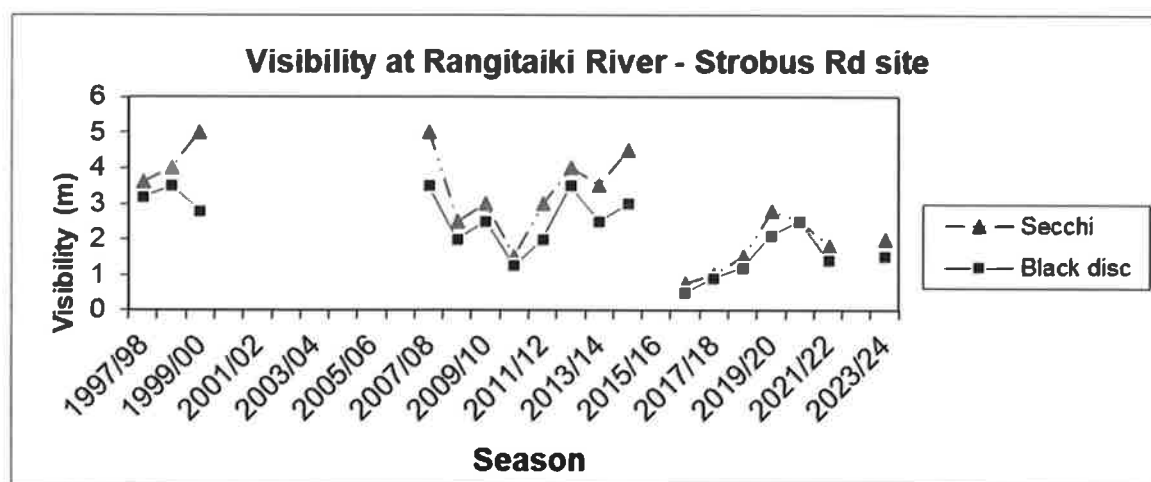
21 March 2024

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Rangitaiki River Water Quality monitoring

Drift dive trout counts have not been achieved in the Rangitaiki River during the 2023-24 summer due to poor water clarity. On the 21st of February, staff visited the Rangitaiki River and its tributaries (Otamatea and Otangimoana) within Kaiangaroa Forest and took temperature, and dissolved oxygen parameters. Secchi disc and black disc water visibility readings were also estimated at regularly visited sites. Visibility within the Rangitaiki River was estimated at 2m.



In the period spanning 2017 to 2020, the Rangitaiki was monitored in this way before it was deemed passable to drift dive during the 2020-21 summer. The 2021-22 summer saw a distinct deterioration once more and the measurement as at 9 March 2022 was <1m secchi. The drift dive assessment method recommends a through-water visibility (secchi disc) of no less than 3m. Secchi/ black disc readings undertaken by Fish & Game Staff between 1997/98 and 2023/24 are presented as a record of water clarity.

East Coast River Fishery Investigations

Waiau River Investigation

Staff travelled into the Waiau River to undertake a fishery investigation between the 29th of February and 2nd March 2024.

The upper river habitat was found to be in excellent shape and had largely escaped the most destructive impacts from the weather associated with cyclones Hale and Gabrielle.



Photo 1. Upper river flats



Photo 2. Invertebrate sampling

Invertebrates were found to be prolific in number and samples were taken for sorting and analysis.



Photo 3. Measuring a large rainbow.

Eight parties of anglers were reported to have been in the area since Christmas. Large size class (>450mm) fish were apparent in pools. The number of medium size class fish (180mm to 450mm) were fewer than expected and this may be a consequence of increased flows during the storm events. These fish would have been in the \approx 3-inch size range at the time of the cyclones. Small size class fish (within the 2–3-inch range) from the 2023 winter spawning event (post cyclone) were identified in the shallow backwater riffles where they were separated from larger trout habitat.

A full report will be generated once all the information has been collated

1112 Datawatch

During the six months following the season opening, a total of 281 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake McLaren	0	Lake Rotoiti	48
Lake Okareka	13	Lake Rotoma	14
Lake Okataina	43	Lake Rotorua	1
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	19	Lake Tarawera	140
Lake Rotoehu	3		

*tags entered in datawatch database to 6/3/2024

Compared with returns received at this stage last year (mid-March 2023), the total number of tags returned is down by 19 (6%). Lakes Tarawera and Okareka are the most improved on the 2023 totals to date (up by 30 returns (27%) and 8 returns (160%) respectively). Lake Okataina, which was closed at the start of the season followed by restricted access, is down by 24 returns (36%) and Rotoiti down by 36 returns (43%) compared to the 2023 season.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy Update

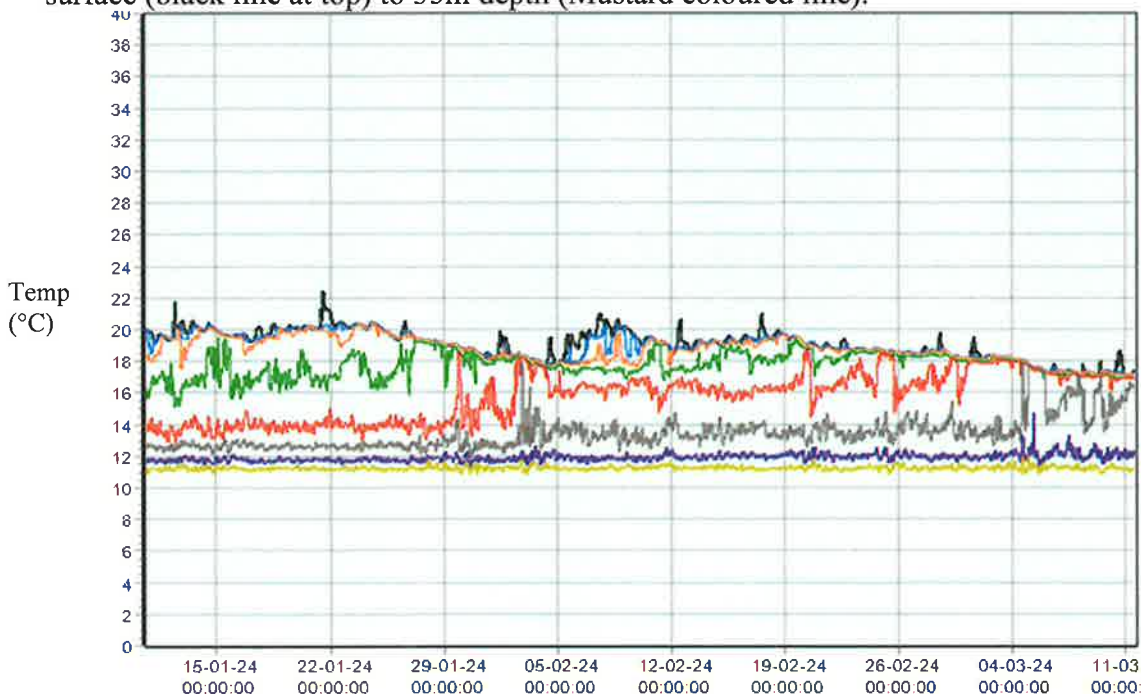
Creel Survey

Staff did not undertake creel surveys or spawning tributary monitoring during the 2022-23 winter. Work is scheduled to be undertaken with Genesis funding during the 2024-25 winter (Jun-Sept 2025).

Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The Lake Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy has been operating efficiently and transmitting regularly via the Vodaone cell Network over the past 2 months.

Figure 1. legend- Coloured lines denote temperature at depth profile every 5m depth from surface (black line at top) to 35m depth (Mustard coloured line).



The information from the temperature string indicates the surface waters are cooling and Lake Waikaremoana is preparing to become mixed, or more simply all waters that were separated by temperature during stratification once again returning to a closely homogenised waterbody. Nutrients are then able to move between layers driving algal growth and production. Shown in the graph are temperature readings from surface (black line) to 35m depth profile (mustard).

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Fish Trap

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for 7 nights during February 2024. Following recent flooding events, the trap structure required maintenance and removal of debris and silt. The largest rainbow trout was a 530mm, 1.65kg male. The largest brown was a 715mm, 4.2kg male.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (February 2024)

	Av. Length	Av. Weight	Trap Run	Fish/night	10 pound+		% Brown
Rainbow	468	1.26	27	4	0		
Brown	550	2.27	15	3	0		36%

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Mallard and grey duck banding is completed with a total of 1,703 new birds banded and 128 recaptures. This is the second highest number of new birds we have banded in one year only beaten in 2018 (1,935 new birds).

Trend counts were completed by the end of January and the 2024 Game Gazette notice was amended accordingly on the 30th of January 2024.

Staff assisted with banding in the Taranaki Region and have had discussions with Wellington and Auckland Waikato F&G regarding a “North Island” report/paper documenting band data analysis and waterfowl harvest management.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

HPAI has killed hundreds of millions of birds though-out the world in the last few years. Although the transmissibility to humans is currently low it is very virulent and has a high rate of mortality (>60%) should humans catch it.

The virus is now killing birds in Antarctica, so it is only a matter of time before it reaches New Zealand. Waterfowl are a key vector species and are very susceptible to the virus. Should it arrive in NZ it will likely have major consequences for game bird harvest and the whole Fish and Game funding model.

Matt McDougall has been in talks with staff throughout the country and is working to develop a HPAI response plan.

1121 Lakes Creel Surveys

Summer Creel Survey

The summer angler creel surveys for the 2024-25 season began in mid-October and will conclude toward the end of March. Reporting is due end of August 2024.

1122 2023 Opening Day Survey

Executive Summary

Fish & Game staff conducted 645 interviews with anglers who had fished for 2214.75 hours in total and produced 455 fish for measurement during the Opening Day Creel Survey on Saturday, October 1st, 2023.

Lake Tarawera anglers experienced catch rates that were significantly poorer than the 2022 ($P=0.001$) opening but above the past 10-year average with one fish caught for just over every 2.5 rod hours. The average sized fish caught at the 2023-24 opening was significantly larger (9.4mm, $P=0.046$) but lighter (28g) and in significantly poorer condition (2.2 condition points, $P<0.001$) than the fish weighed in at the 2022 opening. Hatchery released fish made up a slightly higher proportion of the catch (62%) compared with the 2022 opening (59%) and the hatchery contribution sits below the past 10-year average (66%) following recent changes to the liberation schedule. The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish caught at the 2023-24 Opening Day were larger (5mm), marginally heavier (20g), but in slightly poorer condition compared to the 2022 Opening Day 2-year-olds. The autumn released 2-yr-olds were larger (8mm) and heavier (110g) and in slightly improved condition compared to the 2021 autumn released 2-yr-olds recorded from the opening day of the 2022-23 season. Lake Tarawera produced the largest fish across the opening day surveys with a 650mm, 3.5 kg LP (2021 spring released) rainbow male.

Lake Rotoiti anglers had a slower opening day catch rate compared to the 2022 opening with one fish caught for just under every four and a half rod-hours fished. This catch rate was similar to the past 10-year average catch rate (0.23 fish.hr). The average fish caught was significantly longer (18mm, $P=0.014$), heavier (125g), and in slightly improved condition than those caught during the 2022 opening. The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish were longer (8mm), significantly heavier (110g, $P=0.034$) and in better condition than the 2022 caught spring 2-year-olds, and at an average length of 518mm were larger than the past ten-year average length (501mm). The autumn liberated two-year olds were on average marginally longer (1mm), heavier (50g) and in better condition than the same aged fish caught on the 2022 opening day. The largest fish presented for measurement during surveys from Rotoiti was a 650mm, 3.1kg RpAd rainbow male (from the 2020 autumn liberations).

Lake Okataina was not accessible to angling on 1 October for the traditional season opening as a Controlled Area Notice (CAN order) was placed on it by MPI. This was to restrict movement of vessels that may have been in areas of the Waikato River containing *Corbicula fluminea* (golden clam). Therefore, no surveys were undertaken.

1141 Hatchery Operations

Fish were moved from inside the hatchery to the rearing ponds. Summer liberations have been completed and autumn liberations commenced as per the table below. Site maintenance is underway and preparation has commenced for trapping brood fish over the coming winter.

Fish locations at 13 March 2024:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx.)	Comment
Tank 1	Rt	0+	900	Northland F&G
Tank 2	Rt	0+	2,000	Autumn Liberation 2024
Tank 7	Rt	0+	2,000	Spring liberation 2024
Tank A	Tig	0+	400	Autumn liberations 2024
Tank B	Bt	0+	850	Liberations, various in 2024
Pond 2	Rt	0+	17,500	Spring liberations 2024
Pond 3	Rt	0+	17,500	Spring liberations 2024
Pond 4	Rt	0+	6,600	Autumn liberations 2024
Pond 5	Rt	0+	6,600	Autumn liberations 2024
Pond 6	Rt	0+	6,600	Autumn liberations 2024
Pond 7	Rt	0+	1,500	Autumn liberations 2024

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 8 January to 13 March 2024

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age Class	Qty
Tarawera	13/03/2024	RpAd	-	RT	1+	1,000
Okataina	12/03/2024	RpAd	-	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	12/03/2024	RpAd	-	RT	1+	4,000
Rotoiti	23/02/2024	Ad	-	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	23/02/2024	Ad	N24	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	20/02/2024	Ad	-	RT	1+	1,000
Tarawera	20/02/2024	Ad	x24	RT	1+	500

Fish were also transported to Hawkes Bay Region Fish & Game

1171 Anglers Notice

Following the February 2024 Council meeting, letters were sent out to clubs and statutory organisations informing them that the Anglers Notice Process for the 2024-25 season was underway. This occurred on 2nd February 2024. Just one reply has been received from these sources at time of report writing.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Fish and Game is continuing to liaise with BoPRC on the review of the Schedule of Important Trout Habitats in the region. Consultation via the RESOF group is continuing. Regional Council's work to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM) is underway and early discussions are occurring on some early drafts of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and chapters of the Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP). Comments have recently been submitted on a draft version of the fish passage provisions for the RNRP. Comments have also been submitted on the *Changes to Freshwater Management in the Bay of Plenty* document. Due to the recent change in Government, BoPRC has recently put this freshwater management planning, extending planned notification of the RNRP until late 2025.

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Council's lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1. Council hearings were held mid-2019. Decisions were released in May. A/W Fish and Game Council, with support from Eastern, have appealed a number of matters. Environment Court hearings are currently under way.

Gisborne District Council

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, the Motu Catchment Plan process is now underway. Fish and Game has so far had some input in identifying values, and recently provided comments on a draft version of the catchment plan. Consultation has recently started on the Waiapu Catchment Plan. Additionally, stakeholder consultation is scheduled to begin shortly on the Regional Policy Statement, Freshwater Plan amendments, and the Waimata, Uawa, Waipaoa, Wharehika and Hangaroa catchments. GDC is also beginning a topic by topic review of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan. No new developments.

Other

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established a group to provide advice in relation to policy development for NPSFM implementation. Fish and Game is part of this Rural and Environmental Sector Organisation Forum. A meeting of this group was attended in March.

A Forest Industry Discussion Group meeting was attended in November. These meetings are scheduled quarterly. The most recent meeting was attended in February.

Various Fish and Game regions have been collaborating on a submission to amend some parts of the NES-Freshwater 2020 that are viewed as unacceptable to us. Of particular interest to Eastern Region are some unreasonably strict regulations around physical works in wetlands, and on the construction of maimai. Work is currently underway to rewrite and submit some more workable provisions.

The new Government has suggested that a number of changes may be forthcoming with regards to the RMA and conservation legislation amendments that the previous Government was working through.

The Department is currently in the early stages of a Wildlife Act review process. Fish and Game staff have been collaborating at a national level to have input into the process. No new developments.

The NZ RMA team has been very active recently with a number of important workstreams on the go – including development and consultation on Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plans, freshwater fish species interaction and passage, water allocation and limit setting, and the development of practice notes.

We also provided assistance to other regional Fish and Game Councils in preparing submissions on the Otago Draft Land and Water Regional Plan.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
5 Feb	BOPRC	JL Murray & Sons Ltd	WP-Pasture irrigation	Tarawera River	No concerns email
23 Feb	BOPRC	SK Moore Ltd	WP- pasture irrigation	Tarawera River	No concerns email
8 Mar	GDC	PF Olsens	LUC – Matawai forest harvest	Trib of Motu River	No concerns email

Resource Consents of note: staff attended an onsite visit to the Wheao hydro power system with DOC specialists and Manawa operational and technical staff, to discuss the resource consent renewal and variations for the ongoing operation of the power scheme. Ecological reports have been provided but a thorough understanding of the proposed “sluicing” operations are crucial for the fishery before any submissions can be made – or suggestions to the applicant for more species friendly regime. Discussions are ongoing with the expiry date for the consent 2026.

Golden Clam update

Golden clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) has been present in a section of the Waikato River for 3 years or more and was identified in that area since May 2023. In efforts to restrict its spread into the Rotorua lakes, pressure has been put on the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) to put more restrictions at source. A Controlled Area Notice (CAN order) was issued on 24th Nov 2023 restricting Wake boats and vessels with internal ballast that had been in the infected section of the Waikato to not be able to use any other water way.

On 21 Dec 2023 Ngati Tarawhai with MPI issued an update that as of Fri 22 Dec access to Lake Okataina would be available from 6am to 8pm 7 days a week until the 29th Feb, with a review of the process in late Jan. This was a welcome change for our anglers, however access was still based on using the wash station on Te Ngai Rd prior to launching. Over the summer break TALT advertised a mobile wash station open every other day at the Rotoiti Rugby grounds for lake users and focused for Okataina access of those coming from the East coast. This was a welcomed process.

On the 29 Feb 2024, Ngati Tarawhai issues a communication to all stakeholders advising that they would continue to support access as previously for a further two weeks until Sat 16 March, manning the access at their own cost.

On Sat 16 March the iwi issued a media statement detailing that due to lack government funding they are reducing access to four days a week until the 29 April and down to three from 30 April to 30 June.

1221 Reserves Management

All those reserves requiring mowing have been mowed twice, with one final mow mid-April to enable good access for the season.

All reserves have been pest plant sprayed along access tracks and water reticulations channels – this being a thorough spray programme as our contract staffer doing this for the past six years has retired.

Water reticulation channels within Awaiti and Kaituna wetlands have been cleaned by excavator late March enabling good water inflows for the up coming season.

Water level management within Bregmans, Await and Kaituna over the past two months has been difficult with evapotranspiration high and water supply canals at low levels. In many periods of low tide cycles we have water levels below the legal minimum. Staff have undertaken weekly inspections to clear water inlet structure and working with BOPRC Rivers and Drainage to try and obtain better canal heights to create head pressure for inflows. We will continue to assess and improve wetland reserve water levels for the up coming season.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

No new landowner requests have been received since last Council meeting. To clarify for Council, the current NES-Wetland rules remain in place and continue to significantly inhibit progress for any wetland enhancement works. Fish & Game continue to work with Government agencies to modify the rules.

1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects

No specific habitat works have occurred within past two months, but we are working with BOPRC Rivers and Drainage to re-create a spawning stream area within the Rotorua catchment that received significant damage from severe flood events and the subsequent machinery work mitigating the flood effects. Ideally prior to spawning this stream area should be remedied to enable spawning.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Angler access work has continued over summer with some work carried out by contractors as well as staff, including contract work in Kaingaroa Forest at Rangitaiki River access. Staff led work was reduced due to a staff injury, but essential work is planned to be completed by the end of summer and in any event before the winter recreational forest access season opens in May in the Timberlands forests.

The Lake Okataina access has been open over the summer with conditions as imposed by the MPI controlled Area Notice order.

We had received a complaint from an angler regarding access to the Mangamate Falls campground, and therefore access to the Whirinaki River at Minginui, being blocked off by

large rocks placed across the access road. An inspection subsequently found that the rocks had been moved to the side of the road and access was open. We will monitor this going forward.

1312 Signage

Sign maintenance and enhancement is ongoing with replacements as required.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life copy was produced for January.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Staff prepared the annual Game Bird supplement for the F&G magazine. It is always a challenge pulling together inspirational hunting photos with staff having to dig into their personal library. We need to find a better way to gather good hunting photos as they can make a real difference to inspire hunters to buy a licence.

John Meikle built a wheelchair access maimai in Kaituna with the sponsorship of local businesses and the help of a few good men. An article on the process has been submitted to the main part of the magazine.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern website included Council agendas and minutes.

1334 Social Media

Social media posts continue to be made via Facebook and Instagram. Angler./hunter inquiries are being received via social media. Our Facebook has over 2,300 organic followers

1341 Information Pamphlets

Adequate stocks of all brochures are being held.

1352 Angler Hunter Training

Eastern Region staff will be organising a “duck hunters night” in Gisborne mid April. The evening will be focussed on presentations on improving success. Approaches have been made to local hunting retailers to assist with door prizes or support the cost of venue hire. Promotion of the event will be via social median and hunting store posters.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Seven fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Wairua Hut at Lake Tarawera was broken into and burgled during January 2024. A gas bottle and cooker were stolen, damage to the hut included a broken window. A police report was filed regarding this matter.

Waikaremoana hut is in good order, there is no further progress to report regarding any new agreement with the Te Urewera management relating to ongoing use of the site the hut sits on, however we are continuing as per the status quo.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

Continue to have regular meetings with Ngati Whakaue and Te Arawa Kumatua's to strengthen relationships and build better opportunities for collaboration. With the concern for Gold Clam, have also had a number of meetings with TALT CEO, Ngati Tarawhai Chair, Chamber of Commerce CEO and both Chair and CEO of Rotorua Tourism. A meeting with the new CEO of Rotorua Lakes Council has been set up for April. Also involved with the communications team of BOPRC, RLC, TALT and MPI as we all try to create a one source of updated info and education.

1441 Public Promotions

We supported a local school fishing experience at the Hamurana stream in February. We posted an article on Eastern regions upcoming Gamebird season in Godzone magazine. We continue to work collaboratively with the National office in all appropriate marketing opportunities. We hosted a TV Chef filming an episode of "Sachies Kitchen" of fishing and catching a trout and cooking it.

1451 Education

No educational tours were held for the reporting period.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Compliance work has continued over summer with the main focus on the Rotorua Lakes and the Rotorua stream mouths which experienced high angler use over summer. A number of offenders – mostly youths – have been dealt with for various offences, which are mostly fishing without licences. Our ranging capacity was reduced due to a staff member being off field duty for some time due to an injury, but regular ranging visits were maintained to these areas.

Contacts Year to date.

1494 contacts have been made for the 2023 – 24 year to end of January. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2022-2023

Month	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Last 5 yr average
September	46	16	51	35	36	34
October	726	724	718	520	856	716
November	126	16	66	16	161	49
December	237	287	182	182	224	239
January	246	404	352	212	217	331
February	265	155	140	12		176
March	23	164	93	111		114
April	7	153	238	25		109
May	143	297	203	203		220
June	162	124	141	52		129
July	75	45	57	36		55
August	20	22	32	13		28
Total	2076	2407	2273	1417	1494	2201

National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing led from this region. A draft re-write of the National Compliance Policy has been completed and is with NZ Council. Other work has been undertaken for NZ Council including review of a Ministerial complaint by 2 non-resident anglers, relating to actions taken by another region. We have led liaison with Police nationally in regard to the up-coming game season compliance work. Ranger re-warranting processes will commence shortly with existing honorary ranger warrants expiring at the end of September.

1521 Ranger Training

Planning is underway for ongoing ranger training later this year.

Rangers

Honorary Rangers strength remains sitting at 7 rangers and we are processing a new ranger application for a Rotorua based applicant. As ranger warrants are coming up for renewal we are working through this process and identifying those who will continue as rangers in the next ranger term of 2024 - 2027.

1531 Prosecutions

Other than several historic offences which have warrants to arrest, all offences have been resolved. The matter which was pending trial has been resolved by a change of plea to guilty, and other matters resolved either via diversion or warnings as appropriate such as with youth offenders.

Offences 2023-2024 Year:

For the 2023-24 year to early March 2024, we have dealt with 12 offenders for 19 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2022-2023 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	10
Fishing in closed waters	5
Fish with illegal tackle	2
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
False details	1
Total number of offences	19

Offences Pending Resolution

Other than several matters which are pre-2019 which have warrants for arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in Court, there are no matters currently pending resolution.

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. Agents were visited pre game bird season to distribute regulation guides and information.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

We continue to promote the fishing season through our usual media channels. As per the national ReWild campaign all our social media posts contain the #ReWild hash tag to increase awareness and following. We sent out a marketing email to previous licence holders in Eastern, Akl/Waikato and Hawkes Bay before the Waitangi weekend to promote the great fishing and entice them to buy a licence and get back into it. WE have an article and advert promoting Gamebird season in Godzone magazine.

1841 NZ Fish & Game Liaison

Licensing

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales and other information requests to the New Zealand Council and regions. Kate is assisting ESL with resolution of outstanding system issues.

13.3 LICENCE SALES REPORT

18 March 2024

1. 2023-2024 Fish Licence Sales

1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2023-24 season compared with the 2022-23 season to 17 March are summarised in Table One.

1.2 Fish licence sales are reporting to be 1.8% (141 LEQ's) below 2022-23 season results for the same period, an improvement of 3% since the last report.

1.3 86.6% of the annual sales target has been met YTD.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2023-24 vs 2022-23 YTD results to 17 March 2024

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2022-23	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2023-24	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family Season	965	1,297	2,262	917	1,221	2,138	-124
Season Non-Resident	864	994	1,858	760	990	1,750	-108
Loyal Senior	102	164	266	105	162	267	1
Local Area Adult	237	269	506	237	256	493	-13
Winter Adult	765	649	1,414	846	551	1,397	-17
Long Break Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short Break Adult	22	29	51	19	44	63	12
Day	129	366	495	179	440	619	124
Day Non-Resident	501	1,469	1,970	497	1,781	2,278	308
Total Adult	3,911	5,797	9,708	3,925	6,151	10,076	368
Fish Junior							
Season	165	191	356	157	253	410	54
Season Non-Resident	8	11	19	5	18	23	4
Day	50	201	251	90	261	351	100
Day Non-Resident	10	11	21	18	13	31	10
Total Junior	233	414	647	270	545	815	168
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	2	7	9	0	6	6	-3
Day Non-Resident	11	13	24	3	10	13	-11
Total Child	13	20	33	3	16	19	-14
Total Fish	4,157	6,231	10,388	4,198	6,712	10,910	522
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			7,645			7,504	-141
Variance between Seasons							-1.8%
\$ (excl GST)			\$963,895			\$998,308	\$34,413

Summary 2023-2024 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2023-24 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,663	100.0%	\$1,152,577
2023-24 Actual	7,504	86.6%	\$998,308
Variance to budget	-1,159	-13.4%	-\$154,269

14. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

14.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

14.3 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Debbie Oakley

16. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Ref: 9.01.01

20 March 2024

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 concerns of members relationships, interaction and expectations of roles and responsibilities.*

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
To discuss Council concerns of members relationships, interaction and expectations of roles and responsibilities.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) Sec. 9(2)(a)

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.”