

MINUTES OF THE HAWKES BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Councillors Bates (Chairman), Williams, Duley, Hern, Niblett and Lumsden. Councillor Mackie joined the meeting at 7.35pm.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Venman (Regional Manager), Nathan Burkepile, Christine Tuck (Hawkes Bay Fish and Game staff), and Glenis Phillips (Minute Taker).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Fred Nichol, Blair Slavin, Aiden Skudder, Rob Beard, Andrew Russell and Brad Pinker.

1.0 WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.00 pm and welcomed members of the public.

Cr Bates advised Councillors that this meeting will be recorded.

2.0 APOLOGIES

No apology was received from Cr McIntosh.

Councillor Mackie gave an apology and said he will be in attendance around 8.00pm.

3.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (TUESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2017)

3.1 *That having previously been circulated to members, the Minutes of the meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on Tuesday, 30th November 2017 are a true and accurate record.*

Duley/Hern

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman brought up the subject of camouflaged row boats and it appears that no changes are going to be made.

Mark referred Councillors to the draft Game Season Conditions in the Papers for Information that had been sent to the Minister of Conservation for comment. The Minister came back with comments regarding what we were proposing for the junior paradise shelduck shoot. We have got the Junior hunters only at "designated sites" and it appears that we have to be more specific. Mark added that he has spoken to Matt McDougall and he has suggested operating it under a permit to disturb system and removing any reference to it in the Game Season Conditions. That would allow us to select potential sites in January and February 2019. Mark was looking for feedback and making sure that Councillors were comfortable with this proposal, because it was a change to what was agreed at the previous Council meeting.

Discussion amongst Councillors took place around how the junior shoot was going to be advertised. Mark said that it could be advertised through the newsletter, magazine, Facebook, and website. Councillors asked about the proposed timing of the junior paradise shelduck shoot and Mark said that it was proposed for the weekend of the 23 and 24 February 2019. If it was to happen via the regulations, then it had to be included in the 2018 Game Season Conditions. The 2-page magazine supplement and the 2018 game season newsletter articles are being written at the moment with proofs due shortly, but any necessary changes can be made when we receive the proof. Councillors all agreed that any junior event needs to be well advertised. Staff said that we could notify our juniors via email given that there are approximately 180 of them.

5. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

Nothing tabled.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST REGISTER

The Conflict of Interest Register was passed around to Councillors to sign. Cr Bates declared a conflict of interest regarding the Angler Notice agenda item regarding backcountry fisheries and Cr Niblett declared a conflict of interest regarding the agenda item on Captive Reared Mallards.

7. 2018 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The Chairman asked about the June Council meeting and Mark explained that Thursday 14 June had been proposed as an alternative date and Councillors confirmed this as the new date.

Cr Lumsden asked if it would be possible to move the October meeting from a Tuesday. It was agreed to hold this meeting on Wednesday 17 October.

8. COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Cr Williams started the discussion and he said that although we have got a list of priorities he thought that we as a Council, needed to re-examine our priorities and get back to basics. He believed that the number one priority in this region is wetlands and said that we have got to evaluate our wetland habitats and enhance them as much as we can. He advised Council that he has put together a list which he believes we should have a look at and discuss.

Cr Williams said that we need to start by creating an inventory of what wetlands exist in Hawkes Bay and we have to put every effort into encouraging the owners of those wetlands to improve them and make them perfect breeding habitats for both upland game and waterfowl. He went on to say that he believed we have to investigate every funding possibility including trusts, the Game Bird Habitat Trust and the Hawkes Bay Regional Council. He added that staff should investigate options to work with groups such as EIT to kickstart a plant nursery here at the Game Farm. Cr Williams added that predator control was also important.

Cr Duley mentioned that there is a lot happening over the next couple of years regarding predator control with regional councils looking to release a new strain of Calicivirus. He added that when it was last released around 2000, the duck population plummeted that year due to predator switching and stressed that this could have similar impacts again. There is a need for us to have a chat with regional councils about our concerns to explain the potential wider implications. Rats, stoats, weasels and similar predators are all going to be looking for alternative prey items once the rabbit population has declined.

Nathan said that Fish and Game has supported a funding application by the regional council and if successful predator control will be significantly ramped up in this region. Nathan added that a lot of different options were being trialled and considered for predator control that included feral cats.

Cr Williams added, that we have to get alongside farmers and farm owners. We need to improve our habitat, our water quality and our fisheries, and our hunting, which will hopefully improve our future licence sales. Cr Williams said that we need to better understand the fish stocks across the region's rivers and create an inventory for that too.

Cr Williams then spoke about RMA issues and mentioned Plan Change 5 and the definition of a wetland. Nathan provided an update on the current status of PC5. Cr Williams said that we need to keep pressure on HBRC to ensure that water quality and quantity is at the forefront. He added that we should investigate having Riverwatch dataloggers in our rivers to monitor what is happening. Nathan discussed the TANK process and also provided some insight into some other future processes that will require our time and resources.

Cr Williams went on to say that we have got to increase our compliance checks across the region but added that he wasn't sure whether that was possible but perhaps we should look at allocating more resources towards that.

The Chairman thanked Cr Williams for his input and said that a lot of that already existed in the current list of priorities but acknowledged that it was more of a reprioritisation.

Cr Niblett said that he would like to see a licence holder satisfaction survey done covering both anglers and hunters and questioned whether this be possible as this has not been done. Cr Williams said that all it would take would be perhaps an e-mail or a letter to NZ Council. Cr Niblett was also concerned that fishing and hunting licences are generally declining over time and we need to better understand why this is happening before we can attempt to address it. Understanding more what licence holders want could help us improve licence sales in the future. A national survey could be coordinated by NZ Council each year but one specific for the Hawkes Bay region would be a good starting point. The Chairman added that a survey needs to capture those licence holders that are on the fringes and not just our die-hard supporters.

Cr Niblett said that it was timely that we discuss the duck management units. Nathan replied by saying that Matt McDougall was working on the data and the data would suggest that it was one population as in the East Coast. Cr Niblett thought that the banding data suggests that you have many localised populations. Cr Niblett said that there needed to be an independent review of the current banding process. He acknowledged that the mallard research group are looking at ways of counting ducks, but he was concerned about the time this has taken and we still don't seem to have got the answers that we need. Cr Niblett said that he still hasn't received an answer to his original question of how many ducks do we need to band to accurately estimate the population. The credible limit needs to be so small so that when we set our limits we are correct. He added that we should be managing the ducks as localised populations not just as a big region as that is where you are likely to make a difference.

Cr Niblett said that we spend a lot of money on banding and questioned whether it is providing us with useful information. The Chairman asked who should pay for an independent review? The question was also asked about the usefulness of the aerial surveys. Cr Duley then asked how should we monitor our game bird populations? Cr Niblett said that it would be useful to target areas where productivity was high as that is where we could see potential gains. We should also focus on harvest and hours hunted and investigate survey options. Nathan suggested that a mid-winter aerial count could be useful to estimate the population size heading into the breeding season as the birds start to pair up.

Cr Lumsden made a comment regarding our duck management. He said that Matt was basing our shooting season limits on last season, not this season. He said that we really need to be basing our regulations on what is happening this season.

9.0 ANGLER NOTICE REVIEW

The purpose of the Anglers Review Notice is to identify any changes to the current regulations that might be warranted in the 2018/19 season.

Cr Bates started off the discussion by saying he felt he had a conflict of interest here and it was to do with the headwaters of the Mohaka River and the Ngaruroro River and the proposal to class them into backcountry fisheries and asked what the benefit of doing so would be. He added that in his opinion, a backcountry classification on the Rangitikei River has made things harder for every day anglers wanting to fish that particular river. The benefit is perhaps that when you have a backcountry licence some of that money comes back to us. Christine advised Council that there is no charge for anglers wanting to fish backcountry fisheries. She added that we get \$37 per licence from non-resident licences regardless of whether we have designated backcountry fisheries or not and that money sits in our reserves.

Mark advised Council that if you want to do backcountry fishing you don't have to pay more money, but you do need to have your licence endorsed. You cannot go out there just with a 24-hour day licence, it must be a full season licence. Christine said that non-residents currently do not need to have a full licence because it states, that "several days" can be fished on consecutive day licences. It has left us open to different interpretation. Councillors agreed that it is something for NZ Council to investigate further. Councillor Williams said that the Licence Working Party is currently investigating this, and Fish and Game needs to ensure that overseas anglers pay their dues when fishing in this country. He added that \$165 for a non-resident licence is cheap compared with what you have to pay overseas.

Christine advised Council that it is imperative that non-resident anglers are asked exactly what fishing licence they require at the point of sale so that we don't have to keep issuing refunds. If we sell them a full licence, then they are not penalised further down the track if they continue to fish around NZ and end up fishing in designated backcountry fisheries.

Cr Williams was of the opinion that the Mohaka River and the Ngaruroro River should be classed as backcountry fisheries. Councillors discussed the potential issue of not being able to fish areas closer to town on a day licence and the need to ensure that consideration was given to where these backcountry areas would start as there was little point of having it cover the Blue Gums area on the Mohaka River given its popularity with visiting anglers during the holidays. A starting point further upstream would need to be selected. A similar issue could be faced on the Ngaruroro if a site near Kuripapango was selected due to its popularity with visitors especially during the busy holiday periods.

Cr Williams was concerned that the Ngaruroro trout fishery was deteriorating in terms of trout size and numbers and he was unsure whether it was due to too much fishing pressure. He added that if someone wants to fly in there to fish then they should purchase a full season licence. There was a discussion about who was overfishing the Ngaruroro with suggestions that it was more likely to be fishing guides. Cr Duley said that in the last couple of years, approximately 95% of anglers that he has encountered fishing in the headwaters of the Ngaruroro River have all been guides with their clients.

There was a discussion about the impact hunters might be having on the numbers of trout in and around the huts on the upper Ngaruroro, but hunters have always taken trout in these pools close to the huts and so this can't explain any perceived deterioration in the fishery over time. Fishing guides will fish entire stretches of river which is different to a hunter fishing a pool within close vicinity to a hut. The fish are coming under more pressure from anglers and guides that fish entire sections of the river from one hut to the next.

Cr Lumsden said that on the Ngaruroro River, a backcountry area could start at Kiwi Mouth so that it had less of an impact on those anglers that wanted to fish day trips or those anglers that drive in and walk in from road ends. Similarly, a backcountry area could start at the Makino River or the Mangatainoka River on the Mohaka River. Cr Duley said that it was still important to leave an area where an angler can go for a day fish into a wilderness area. Councillors discussed that a survey could be useful to work out who is using the fisheries should they be classified as backcountry fisheries.

Mark talked to Councillors about the option of a web-based survey that gets sent out by e-mail to those anglers that have had their licences endorsed. When you get your licence endorsed you must add an e-mail address and if you do not complete the survey some of the other regions are saying that it could perhaps hurt your chances in the future of getting a backcountry endorsement again. That is how it reads on the Fish and Game website and several of the regions say this. Council wanted to know how much work this would be and if this is something we want to do or not. Councillors said we need to know what we are going to use the backcountry licence for and the cost.

Mark was asked by the Council to find out more information regarding how other regions are coping with backcountry fisheries and to discuss this at more length at the April meeting after he has got

some facts together. Cr Duley said that he thought that it would be a good idea to have the Ngaruroro classified as a backcountry fishery above Cameron or Kiwi Mouth and for the Mohaka above Mangatainoka.

AGREED

9.1 That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes in the 2018/2019 Anglers Notice.

9.2 That Council identifies any issues for further discussion in the initial "Issues and Options" paper to be prepared in April.

Hern/Williams

10. NGARURORO WATER CONSERVATION ORDER (WCO)

Mark gave Council an update and an opportunity to discuss where to from here. Mark advised that he did speak to Martin Taylor approximately two weeks ago regarding the water conservation order application. He informed Councillors that the application for the Ngaruroro water conservation order is one despite the hearing being split into two. Forest and Bird will lead the application for the lower Ngaruroro with support from the jet boaters and other applicants and Fish and Game will be quite muted for the lower river.

NZ Council will be paying for the legal costs of this and Martin Taylor and Sally Gepp will be leading the process and instructing the lawyers. We are committed to the process until the end of stage two which will commence in July 2018. There is a need for us to engage with all parties for the upper and lower sections to resolve any key challenges.

Cr Niblett questioned the sign off of the application for the lower reaches by the Council. Mark said that the WCO application was for the entire river and so far, we have presented at the hearing for the upper river as this is where F&G's main focus has been. There was discussion around how it went from an application for the upper river to an application that covered the whole river when Hawkes Bay Fish and Game's main interests were focussed on the upper river. The Chairman said that the decision never went through this Council but had been signed off by the acting Regional Manager. Councillors wanted to make sure that the correct process was followed in the future.

Cr Williams said that the WCO and the TANK process can work hand in hand. There was a discussion around the fact that a decision for the upper river is not going to be made until the science from the TANK group is concluded which is due around April/May 2018. A hearing for the lower river will then be held in July and only after that second hearing will any decisions be made.

A lengthy discussion occurred on this subject and the Chairman commented that the process seems to be working and hopefully we will get the right outcome in the end. He added that the Special Tribunal has taken notice of people giving evidence and at the end of the day that it is all that we can hope for.

11. CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS

Cr Niblett immediately said that he had a conflict of interest regarding this particular agenda item as he rears captive reared mallards. The Chairman said that he would personally like to hear Cr Niblett speak as he is very knowledgeable on the topic of CRM's. Cr Williams said that it would be hard to argue that if you released CRM's then you didn't have a conflict of interest. The Chairman said that releasing CRM's was a legal thing to do and so there shouldn't be a conflict of interest. Cr Duley said that there was a conflict where it was commercial as in Cr Niblett's case. Cr Williams discussed

perceived conflicts of interest. He added that if you don't want to declare a conflict of interest then no-one can force you. He added that it is only contestable in an audit process.

The Chairman said that he releases CRM and has a permit from DOC to do so and doesn't make any money from releasing the birds and doesn't see how that would be a conflict of interest. Cr Duley said that for the purposes of this particular discussion that unless you have a commercial interest in CRM's then you should be able to participate in this discussion. Cr Niblett would need to be asked to participate in the discussion given his commercial conflict of interest. Cr Hern said that there were three Councillors present that release CRM's and so do they have a perceived conflict of interest and how many Councillors would that leave to have a discussion on the matter. Cr Hern asked whether a quorum was still required to have a discussion about CRM's. Cr Williams replied by saying that you don't need to have a quorum to have a discussion but that you do need a quorum to have a resolution. Cr Duley suggested that anyone that feels that they have a perceived conflict of interest should declare that now so Councillors can invite them to participate in the discussion. Councillors Hern and Bates declared that they have a perceived conflict of interest. Thus, one full conflict of interest and two perceived conflicts of interest exist.

The Chairman asked Councillors if they were comfortable with Cr Niblett staying and being part of the discussion given his declared conflict of interest. The two Councillors with a perceived conflict of interest were not able to vote on this matter. It was unanimously agreed that Cr Niblett be allowed to enter into this discussion as we are only looking for feedback at the present time and we are not voting on anything. The Chairman then quickly pointed out to Council that decisions can be overturned if the correct procedures are not adhered to and done in the correct manner.

Before opening up the discussion Cr Lumsden just had one question which he wanted an explanation before starting on the six questions for discussion. Cr Lumsden referred to "Background". He went on to say that we talked about there being a wish to develop policy that can be followed in a consistent way across all Fish and Game in our Agenda. In our Papers for Information I am reading a letter here that says Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council have some concerns over genetics, disease, wild birds etc but to me they seem very contradictory. We do not have a policy, yet we have a letter here sent to DOC on behalf of the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council telling them that we have these concerns which is confusing. Mark answered Cr Lumsden's concern and believed that this was a mistake as it should have referred to staff and not Councillors. Mark apologised for this error. He went on to say that it refers to staff in the remainder of the letter.

Cr Williams said that he has read through Dr Murray William's report and he has also read through a submission from Cr Niblett that contains very little data or scientific evidence about the releasing of CRM's. Cr Lumsden said that Dr Williams refers to overseas studies in his report and said that we should be talking to those people that are regularly releasing the birds to get more information about the reasons for releasing CRM's in NZ. Cr Niblett said that there are a number of people that release birds and they should be contacted to get information from them. Cr Niblett added that disease has been mentioned in the report, but it hasn't been addressed in the memorandum. Information is lacking about the types of diseases and what risks they actually pose in NZ. If we are being asked to make a decision on whether CRM's are going to be detrimental then we really need some more information to help us make informed decisions. Cr Lumsden was concerned that other F&G regions would be trying to make informed decisions based purely on Dr William's report that lacked information specific to NZ. We haven't tapped in to the information available in NZ so that other F&G Councils can use that to provide meaningful feedback.

Cr Duley said that a few years ago this Council agreed that if releasing CRM's was going to have a negative effect on the wild mallard population then they were not going to support it. He added that nothing has changed and that he has yet to see anything that says that it will have a detrimental effect on wild populations. Cr Williams said that we now have a report from Dr Williams that says that releasing CRM's won't have a negative impact on wild mallard populations. Cr Williams questioned

why we need further information regarding diseases. Cr Niblett questioned why F&G don't have a management plan for dealing with diseases.

There was discussion around those that release CRM's protecting their investment by improving habitat and undertaking predator control which will ultimately benefit all ducks in the area. Members of the public said that this was a great opportunity for F&G to support that could help improve licence sales in the future. Cr Duley said that there could be some potential gains and F&G should be supporting the release of CRM's while keeping a watching brief.

Nathan described the importance of habitat and Cr Niblett discussed the importance of ongoing predator control. The Chairman said that the releasing of CRM's isn't costing F&G anything and so there is still money for habitat improvement and other key projects. Cr Duley said that releasing CRM's is going to help Hawkes Bay get more habitat created and undertake more predator control.

Cr Hern said that he had an issue with the development of a National Policy as different regions have different habitats and environments and so a "one size fits all" approach isn't likely to work. We need to listen to what our licence holders want. Cr Williams said that it is going around the regions for their feedback and will be considered by NZ Council at their next meetings so that a draft policy can be developed. Any draft will then be circulated amongst regions for further feedback.

Councillors worked through each question with discussion.

1. Is Fish and Game supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool to augment wild populations – **YES**

The Chairman said that it is about put and take and if we get some growth of the wild population then that is an additional bonus. He added that F&G are unlikely to put money into releasing CRM's.

2. Is Fish and Game supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels as a consequence for example, of a series of very poor breeding seasons or serious botulism outbreaks arising from climatic conditions, or over harvesting – **YES**

Cr Duley added that we have moved on from just tipping out animals to introduce them – either they establish, or they don't. If there are specific reasons for a decline in the population then this is one way that the population could be increased.

3. Does Fish & Game support the concept of "put and take" operating where CRMs are released for the principal purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity – **YES**

Cr Lumsden said that F&G should be supportive of the concept to augment the wild population as it increases the opportunities for people who chose to do it. It comes at no cost to F&G, has no obvious negatives and mainly positives and if it helps generate more interest in hunting and shooting and increases licence sales then its got to be a good thing.

4. If the latter is something Fish & Game wishes to facilitate, support or promote, would we accept the development of commercial enterprises run along the lines of many upland game operations, or would we require "put and take" operations to be a non-commercial nature only. An argument to consider is if Fish & Game allows commercial pheasant/quail/partridge hunting, should it not also allow commercial exploitation of mallards or other gamebirds and change the law to enable this if necessary.

Cr Duley discussed that the released birds are currently shot under the game season conditions. If hunters need to adhere to the game season conditions, then what is the problem? Cr Williams said that mallards of any description are not to be shot on a game preserve under the current national policy. Cr Williams suggested that Cr Niblett should consider contacting

people who release CRM's and their surrounding neighbours to gather feedback for NZ Council to consider at their next meeting.

Cr Lumsden said that there was nothing in there about selling shooting rights, or selling mallards that have been shot (CRM or wild) and so where is the problem? Councillors agreed that you shouldn't be able to shoot more than a daily bag limit on a preserve. Cr Williams said that there is an argument here and overseas that some hunters claim that they own the ducks that they have released and so they claim that they want to shoot as many as they like regardless of any bag limits that are set for the season. The Chairman said that the situation in the UK is quite a bit different to what occurs in NZ with almost as many birds released as occur in the wild over there. He also questioned in the report why someone would spend \$10 purchasing a CRM and then do all the habitat work and predator control work just to shoot it at night using a spotlight.

Cr Niblett questioned what law change was required to enable the commercial exploitation of mallards. The Chairman said that it was important for hunters only to be able to shoot the bag limit that was set by F&G in the game season conditions. A member of the public asked what the Council thought of driven mallard shoots. The Chairman said that if they stick to the daily bag limit and they are not shooting out of season then does it really make any difference? He added that you cannot be charged to shoot these released birds. He emphasised that ducks are important to our licence holders.

5. If Fish & Game allows release of "put and take" operations, would we wish to see the birds hunted in a similar way to how wild mallards are hunted now, or would we be accepting of the upland game equivalent of "driven hunts", or where birds are encouraged to fly over hunters from point A to B, or some other approach.

The Chairman said that F&G shouldn't get involved in how ducks are hunted, and Councillors discussed how is that different to scaring wild mallards from one pond to another so that the birds can be shot. If there is no charge for the shoot, then what is the issue?

Cr Niblett's agenda question "*Have Councillors been supplied with enough information to make informed decision in the five questions that the NZ Council has asked surrounding Fish and Game's position relating to Captive Reared Mallards*" was then discussed.

Cr Duley said that he felt that he did have sufficient information as we are not going to make any actual decisions but rather keep a watching brief over the situation. Cr Duley did not believe that there was a huge amount of science that is still required but stated that being pragmatic and using common sense he personally does not see any issues with any of it at this stage so far, as he believes we are not making any rules that we have to stick to. He said we are looking at what we have got here and now, what's happening currently and whether or not we think there are any issues.

Cr Niblett said that there were still concerns over genetics, disease, animal welfare and so on that have yet to be addressed. Cr Niblett said that if Councillors felt that the report covered these issues then that was fine, but he would have liked to have known more about what diseases we actually have and whether they are actually an issue here in NZ. Nathan said that he had spoken with Murray Williams about 6 months ago regarding diseases and Nathan agreed that diseases should have been addressed in the report. Cr Niblett said that it was critical that any releases of CRM's were not going to be detrimental to the wild population and is why the disease issue needs to be clarified so that all regions can better understand any potential risks.

Councillors discussed the need for other regions to be better informed before they can make informed decisions about the release of CRM's. The Chairman said that this region originally pushed for pheasant preserves and this has been a good thing for our region as there are a lot more pheasants present nowadays. He added that there are probably more ducks being released here than anywhere and suggested that we should put together a paper to provide more information to NZ Council. A

discussion on band information from CRM's followed. The report says that the release of CRM's isn't likely to be detrimental to the wild population and with increased hunting opportunities and increased satisfaction amongst hunters where is the problem? Cr Williams added that we should be sending information to NZ Council to show that hunters are having increased satisfaction.

Cr Niblett spoke about the concern of genetic dilution. Do we know enough about the genetics of the wild population and what is the impact going to be on the wild population from the release of CRM's? He felt that this issue should have been addressed in the report. Cr Niblett said that any policy developed could ensure that the breeding birds had to be first or second generation wild stock. He added that there is currently no selection pressure for anything.

The Chairman said that Hawkes Bay Fish and Game should put together a paper and suggested that staff talk to Cr Niblett in the first instance about what we think are good ideas and what we consider to be the main issues around the release of CRM's to better inform NZ Council when making decisions.

12. POLICY ON CONTROLLING SENSITIVE EXPENDITURE

The purpose was to review Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council's 2009 policy on controlling sensitive expenditure. Councillors have asked staff to review their policies throughout the year to ensure that they are kept up-to-date and adhered to.

The Chairman said that he had looked through this and was really happy with it. Cr Niblett informed Councillors that he did not agree with the issuing of free fishing and hunting licences as it could potentially cause issues.

AGREED

12.1 That complimentary fishing and hunting licences are not to be issued to anyone other than permanent Fish and Game staff and for this to be added to the Sensitive Expenditure Policy.

Niblett/Lumsden

13.0 DRAFT SPORTS FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mark said a committee of Councillors was required to review any submissions received on the draft 10-year Sports Fish and Game Management Plan. The Chairman asked Councillors who would like to do this. Councillors Lumsden, Niblett and Bates formed this committee.

Councillors asked if we have had received any submissions yet and Mark responded nothing yet, but he had heard from a few groups that were intending to submit on the plan. Submissions close on 2 March.

14.0 ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED DURING THE 2015/2016 YEAR

The Chairman said that we had 11 weeks of work done on banding and there was more money spent on banding than we had previously thought. He said that he had been approached by two Councillors regarding this and he had asked Mark to investigate it. The Chairman stated that the request was sent through quite quickly prior to this meeting so this matter could be addressed.

Cr Lumsden said what concerned him the most was that it seemed to have been hidden amongst all the numbers in the reports and it was only really when Councillors started going through it and asking lots of questions that we picked up that we had done a lot more work on banding than we had first thought.

Councillors all agreed that a letter of thanks is to be written to Andy Garrick and his team.

15.0 NATIONAL SALMON COMMITTEE

The Chairman started the discussion and said that it doesn't really affect us. He asked how much money was put into the symposium that they had recently, and Cr Williams said it was approximately \$10-20K. He also advised that it is a last-ditch attempt to try and salvage something out of the salmon fishing industry in the South Island which is in dire straits and they are doing everything they possibly can to try and figure out what's out there and said it is a fantastic thing. Cr Williams believes that we need to give them our full backing. Cr Bates asked Councillors if they were happy with this and the consensus was, yes. Cr Williams said they have done a wonderful job forming terms of reference and have been totally thorough and he suggested we give them our full support. All Councillors were happy with this.

16.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

16.1 EAST COAST/HAWKES BAY CONSERVATION BOARD

Nothing tabled

16.2 REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Nothing tabled

16.3 REPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL

Nothing tabled

17.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

17.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

Cr Hern said that the Tukituki River has been fishing very well this summer compared to recent years. Cr Hern reported good numbers of juvenile fish and also adults in excellent condition in the 3-5lb range. He mentioned that last year there were good numbers of trout in the 2-2.5lb range and it could be those same fish maturing this year. Cr Hern added that there hadn't been any beach raking this year and there was plenty of insect food for trout along the river beds as the vegetation had grown up. Fish have been rising all day over the last 6 weeks in the Tukituki and Waipawa rivers. Mark added that the frequent freshes this season could have helped keep the river structure looking natural. The Chairman asked Mark where he had got to with the monitoring programme for beach raking. Mark said that he had recently met with HBRC staff to discuss some options. He said that it's not the easiest thing to monitor but said that HBRC have historical aerial photography data dating back over the last 30-40 years on several of the region's rivers that could be investigated to see if there have been any major changes that have occurred during that time. Mark explained that the rivers have been beach raked for the last 25 years and so some data exists prior to raking commencing. HBRC staff were going to analyse the data and hopefully that would show whether the number of pools has changed during that time. Mark added that he has made contact with the regions angling clubs to identify areas where pools have been lost over time due to beach raking. Mark said HBRC staff were looking at data recorded over the years regarding the height of the river bed and this data could also be useful for our monitoring purposes. He added that they were also open to the concept of creating artificial pools or deepening existing pools.

The Chairman asked about the auto renewal system for the both the fish and game licence system following on from a discussion at the previous Council meeting. Mark said that he was unsure whether it was best to wait for the Licence Working Party to investigate it further or whether it is something that we should push ourselves as a region. The Chairman indicated that the working party could take some time to get this going and perhaps we should look at doing something as a region. The Chairman asked if we were allowed to do this regionally. Christine explained that she has asked Robert Sowman and Kate Thompson via email before asking Mark to make a final decision on it. The

Chairman said that we could investigate it further especially if there was no significant cost associated.

AGREED

17.1.1 That the Management Report be accepted.

Niblett/Hern

17.2 HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

AGREED

17.2.1 That the Health & Safety Report be accepted.

Niblett/Hern

17.3 FINANCE REPORT

The Chairman made a quick comment regarding the staff house rental amount. Mark advised Council that it was only for the first third of the year hence the variance.

AGREED

17.3.1 That Council approves the following payments.

Niblett/Hern

November 2017	\$52,966.49
December 2017	\$41,839.14
TOTAL TO APPROVE	\$94,805.63

AGREED

17.3.2 That the Finance Report be accepted.

Niblett/Hern

17.4 LICENCE REPORT

Mark explained that the licence sales were 3.2% down on the same period last year. It has been a good season after a good opening with fine weather and clear rivers and we had been tracking quite well in terms of licence sales.

AGREED

17.4.1 That the Licence Report be accepted

Duley/Williams

18.0 MEETING CLOSES

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.08pm

CONFIRMED

CHAIRMAN



DATE: 3 / 4 / 2018.

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

AGREED

3.1 That having previously been circulated to members, the Minutes of the meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on Tuesday, 30th November 2017 are a true and accurate record.

Duley/Hern

AGREED

9.1 That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes in the 2018/2019 Anglers Notice.

9.2 That Council identifies any issues for further discussion in the initial "Issues and Options" paper to be prepared in April.

Hern/Williams

AGREED

12.1 That complimentary fishing and hunting licences are not to be issued to anyone other than permanent Fish and Game staff and for this to be added to the Sensitive Expenditure Policy.

Niblett/Lumsden

17.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

AGREED

17.1.1 That the Management Report be accepted.

Niblett/Hern

17.2 HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

AGREED

17.2.1 That the Health & Safety Report be accepted.

Niblett/Hern

17.3 FINANCE REPORT

AGREED

17.3.1 That Council approves the following payments.

Niblett/Hern

AGREED

17.3.2 That the Finance Report be accepted.

Niblett/Hern

17.4 LICENCE REPORT

AGREED

17.4.1 That the Licence Report be accepted

Duley/Williams