

One hundred and fifty eighth meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
16 June 2022
via Zoom

PRESENT

NZ Councillors:

Ray Grubb (Chair), Debbie Oakley, Dave Harris, Richard McIntyre, Dave Coll, Gerard Karalus, Greg Duley, Barrie Barnes, Dean Phibbs, Darryl Reardon.

NZC Staff:

Brian Anderton, Acting Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch CFO, Jack Kós Senior Policy Advisor

Guests:

-

1. Welcome and CE's Introduction

- Meeting started 7:02pm

2. Apologies

- Apology received from Crs. Koevoet & Kroos.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Agree that apologies from Crs. Koevoet & Kroos be received.

Moved: Crs. Oakley/Duley

Carried unanimous

3. Declaration of Interest & Oath of Office

- No new declarations of interest or in relation to specific items of business.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Note any conflicts

Moved: Crs.

Carried

4. Approve Minutes for Meeting 157

- Bottom p2 number 5 – agree to approve in principle the CF application to continue with the CURRENT field officer.
- Continuation of agenda item 11 – Annual fee for whole season licence fee recommended for CONSULTATION. Same on p 3 recommendation 3.
- P.5 point 2 Note that working party report received on non-resident angler options.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Approve minutes for meeting 157 subject to the above amendments.

Moved: Crs. Phibbs/Barnes

Carried unanimous

- Matters arising from the minutes:

- Query around whether CFO had visited Northland but confirmed that the timeframe for this is ahead of next FY budget rounds so will be done next year.
- Query around the policy justification for the recommendations of NZC and confirmed this along with working party report was communicated to regional Fish and Game Councils.
- Action points from Chair:
 - Writing to MOC about devising formula for licence fee increases
 - Reviewing individual licence categories
 - Asking regions to review PSF
 - Planning and risk process
 - Angus proposal
 - Cawthron Board
 - National Policy Subcommittee
 - Fish Passage
 - MOU with DOC
 - Environment Aotearoa Trust
 - Cawthron risk analysis
 - RMA group training.
- Request for report on above for August and CE confirmed this will occur.

5. Licence Fee Recommendation

- Staff spoke to paper on this and outlined that there is a majority of support from Councils for CPI adjustment - \$145 and \$107. Noted strong consensus for regions to go for recommendations as consulted on.
- Crs comments that there were a variety of views expressed within their Councils in reaching their feedback.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Receive the information.*

AND

2. *Agree to recommend a resident sports fishing whole season licence fee of \$145 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$107 (inclusive of \$5 GBHT stamp) to the Minister, with all corresponding categories priced on existing ratios.*

Moved: Crs. Oakley/Coll

Carried unanimous

- Substantial debate around non-resident day licence fees, particularly for large lake fisheries such as Rotorua and Wakatipu.
- Crs. clarified that the fees were not a mechanism to reduce pressure but intended to achieve parity with comparable fisheries internationally and to offset resident fee in future years.
- CE spoke to the day licence pricing and noted the conversations had with the regions most impacted. Believe that at this stage there is not room for the non-resident day licence to be increased at all. Noted past changes to ratios and the impacts on licence sales. Staff view, supported by managers, is that we are at price sensitivity for the day licence. Outlined risk of sale of more day licences in lieu of a whole season licence. Noted this has no budgetary implications.

- CFO confirmed no budgetary implications – regardless of what price we set it at the amount going into our base funds remains the same because of the non-resident levy system.
3. *Agree to recommend an adult whole season non-resident sports fishing licence fee of \$250 to the Minister.*
Moved: Crs. Grubb/Phibbs
Carried
 4. *That all NR day licence categories are held at the 2021/22 levels.*
Moved: Crs. Phibbs/Harris
Carried (Cr. McIntyre against)
- Brief discussion on reducing the fee for NR child day licences, but agreed this will be considered for next year.

AND

5. *Agree to recommend a fee of \$5 for sea run salmon licence endorsements.*
Moved: Crs. Karalus/Reardon
Carried unanimous
- Substantial discussion amongst Crs. on the status of NR reserves currently, and the way that NR licence income is currently treated.
 - Chair noted there is \$1.1m accrued in NR reserves.
 - Staff clarified that this reserve can be used for any fisheries purpose.
 - Broad discussion had by Crs. on the process for consulting on the approach to non-resident licence income and agreed to consult with regions on how these funds are treated ahead of the 2023/24 seasons.
6. *Agree to consult with regions on bringing the non-resident levy amount into general licence income.*
Moved: Crs. Phibbs/Coll
Carried (Cr. Reardon against)
 7. *Agree to defer designated waters licence and consider it in conjunction with the pressure sensitive fisheries paper in readiness for the 2023/24 season.*
Moved: Crs. Harris/Grubb
Carried unanimous

6. Approval of NZC Budget 2022/23

- Chair queried whether there was any impact on budget based on licence fee recommendations.
- CFO clarified there was not.
- CE noted this was just codifying decisions made in April.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Receive this report*
2. *Approve the Budget of \$3,247,365 be approved as per Table 3. With the breakdown of \$1,158,765 NZC Budget and \$2,088,600 National budget.*
Moved: Crs. Oakley/Karalus
Carried unanimous

7. Public Excluded Motion

Recommendation:

1. *That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:*

(a) pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

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
Confirm Public Excluded minutes for meeting 157	As per PE motion in Public Minutes 157	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
Rem Committee Update (oral)	S9(2)(i) OIA Exclusion of the public is necessary to enable the organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
ESL Update (oral)	S9(2)(i) OIA Exclusion of the public is necessary to enable the organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

(b) And that staff remain to provide advice to the Council on all items

Moved: Crs. Harris/Coll

Carried unanimous

8. Rem Committee Update

- Cr. Oakley provided NZC with an oral update on the proceedings of the Rem Committee.

- It was noted that currently there are substantial discrepancies between regions as to what the cash and non-cash benefits that staff receive are. Strategic Pay will be undertaking an assessment of this information.
- Chair noted that this is about Fish and Game being good employers, correct pay and conditions and career paths. Legally, however, each region sets its own pay and conditions. From here there will be two sets of advice required – to chairs for employing managers and to managers for employing staff.

1. *That the report is received and that a further report is prepared for the August meeting.*
2. *That the Remuneration committee prepare a circular to be sent to staff.*
3. *To approve strategic pay to continue their work.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Reardon

Carried unanimous

9. ESL Update

- CE noted go live has been delayed, TBC, but initial suggestion is 11 July. Any further delays push us too close to fishing licence sales. Important thing is the risk factor is low because the current system is functional. No organisational risk facing ESL that would impact their ability to carry this out.
- Brief discussion amongst Crs. on risk, both financial and operational.

1. *Request staff to report back to November on licence sales system.*
2. *That the LWP are involved in this process.*

Moved: Phibbs/Harris

Resolutions to bring out of public excluded:

1. *That the report is received and that a further report is prepared for the August meeting.*
2. *That the Remuneration committee prepare a circular to be sent to staff.*
3. *To approve strategic pay to continue their work.*

Moved: Crs. Oakley/Harris

Carried unanimous

1. That NZC move out of public excluded.

Moved: Crs. Duley/Barnes

Carried unanimous

10. CE Report

- CE provided update and noted making progress on comms and branding working group.
- Group is close to having the comms strategy ready to be signed off for consultation by NZC. Little more thought required on brand strategy.

11. NZC Finance Report

- CFO noted that perceived surplus is based on underspent RMA fund and these funds will come through eventually. Overall year end position against budget is expected to be favourable.
- Chair: Outlined request from CSI Chair for governance support.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Receive** the NZC Finance report for the 9 months ended 31 May 2022 with a surplus of \$670,009.
2. **Reallocate** \$10,000 from Regional Audit (Governance) to CSI Support and Governance Training.

Moved: Crs. McIntyre/Reardon

Carried unanimously

- August meeting
 - **Next meeting dates: August as scheduled and 16/17 September strategic planning workshop (Cr. Karalus an apology)**

Meeting concluded 9:15pm

Minutes submitted by:

Brian Anderton

Date:

Minutes approved by:

Ray Grubb

Date:



18/10/2022