



**EASTERN  
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING  
AGENDA***

**7 April 2016**



## AGENDA

### The 157<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

**Date:** Thursday, 7 April 2016

**Commences:** 12.00 PM

	<u>Page Number</u>
1 Welcome (12.00 PM)	
2 Apologies	
3 Minutes of the previous meeting (18 February 2016)	5
(i) Identification of items for Council Policy	
4 Matters Arising	
5 Notification of Items of General Business	
6 Conflict of Interest Register	14
7 Anglers Notice Review (12.15 PM, 30 min)	15
8 2016-17 Operational Work Plan (12.45 PM, 20 min)	27
9 Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund (1.05 PM, 10 min)	33
10 Issues and Options for Producing Trophy Trout (1.15 PM, 30 min)	35
11 Liaison Officers Reports (1.45 PM, 15 min)	46
12 Operational Reports (2.00 PM, 15 min)	
12.1 Management Report	47
12.2 Finance Report	65
12.3 Licence Report	75
15 General Business (2.15 PM, 15 min)	
16 Presentation from Jenn Sheppard on Mallard Research (2.30 PM)	
17 Meeting Closes (3.00 PM or before)	



**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 156<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH  
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME  
NEW ZEALAND ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 AT 12.00PM**

**Present**

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Neal Hawes, Peter Storey, Steve Scragg, Laurance Tamati, David Woolner, Ken Coombes, and Sandy Bull.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Eben Herbert, Matthew McDougall, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Mark Sherburn, Anthony van Dorp, Matt Osborne, Nigel Simpson, Lynne Sands, Carmel Veitch (Eastern Fish & Game); Colin Paton (Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board); and Ray Bushell.

**1.0 WELCOME**

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 12.00pm and welcomed all present to the first full meeting of the newly elected Council for 2016.

**2.0 APOLOGIES**

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Annaka Davis and Alan Baird.

2.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Sandy Bull) that the apologies for the 156th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/02/2.2]*

**3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (18 NOVEMBER 2015)**

3.1 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Steve Scragg) that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [16/02/3.1]*

3.2 There were no resolutions identified for inclusion in Council Policy.

**4.0 MATTERS ARISING**

Cr Barry Roderick wished to congratulate staff on another successful audit.

**5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Andy Garrick – Update on Hawke's Bay Fish & Game.

**6.0 OATH OF OFFICE**

6.1 Council briefly discussed the "Oath of Office" and declaration forms were distributed.

**7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

7.1 No conflict of interest items were identified. Andy Garrick raised a proposal for Councillors to complete a detailed annual declaration of interest which is something that had recently been adopted by the New Zealand Council. He said that the proposed annual declaration would detail any general and/or potential conflicts of interest and that he could present this for consideration at the next meeting of Council. Cr David Woolner queried whether the Conflict of Interest register should be signed to confirm "No conflicts", and Cr Laurance Tamati suggested that this declaration should be included within the papers for the meeting.

**8.0 CHANGES TO AGENDA ORDER**

8.0 Cr Murray Ferris recommended that Items 11 "Governance Induction Presentation" and 12 "2015 Fish and Game Election Process" which had been scheduled for later in the meeting be considered prior to Item 7 "Council Priorities". No opposition was expressed to this occurring.

**9.0 GOVERNANCE INDUCTION PRESENTATION**

9.1 Andy Garrick introduced Robert Sowman (New Zealand Fish & Game Policy and Planning Manager) to the meeting commenting briefly on his role within the New Zealand Fish & Game Council and his involvement with the development of the Fish & Game Governance Manual and Standing Orders.

9.2 Robert Sowman delivered his presentation on the principles of governance and provided an overview of Fish and Game's Governance Policies and the Standing Orders that Fish & Game operates under.

**10.0 2015 FISH AND GAME ELECTION PROCESS**

10.1 Council discussed the report provided by the Returning Officer for the 2015 Fish & Game Elections, Warwick Lampp, in addition to considering the following points:

- Should the tick box within the online licence sales system be retained every year rather than in the year immediately preceding the election only? Robert Sowman noted that agents tend to get frustrated with the need to tick various boxes so do not always ask the question, but there is a need to be able to produce an electoral roll outside of the 3 year cycle.
- Should the secondary licence holder on a family licence be eligible to vote? This item was put to the vote and lost the reasoning being that it could mean one licence holder would effectively have two votes.
- Should there be a default position in the tick box that means all season licence holders are registered to vote unless they choose not to? Robert Sowman advised that the Privacy Act requires that the licence holder is given the right to decide. He added that the need to tick a box was an historical decision, and based on (i) the considerable cost associated with providing voting papers to all licence holders, and (ii) our knowledge from return rates over the years that the greater proportion of eligible licence holders don't vote. If there was a move to electronic voting the cost would no longer be prohibitive, but under the current legislation we were required to post out voting packs.
- Should the candidates disclose potential conflicts of interest on their candidate profiles and should staff who have recently resigned or been dismissed be entitled to stand for Council? Robert Sowman confirmed that these had been identified as issues in the recent election, and said that while the legislation is silent on this, national policy relating to these matters could be developed though any policy would require buy in from all regions.

- The ability for licence holders in one region to enrol and vote in another region if an election is not required in the region in which they purchased their licence, or potentially, to vote in every region, are matters that have previously been identified. General support was expressed for limiting licence holders to casting one vote per licence in the region in which they purchased that licence only.
  - The lack of knowledge/interest by licence holders in the makeup and role of Council and the importance of the Council election process was identified as an ongoing issue.
- 10.2 In conclusion Council supported the recommendations put forward by Warwick Lampp but also suggested that licence holders be given the option to choose to receive voting papers by electronic means.
- 10.3 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports Recommendations 2 through to 7 as noted in the Returning Officer's Report for Fish and Game New Zealand's 2015 Regional Council Elections subject to an amendment to Recommendation 2 wording from "or allow registration up to the close of voting date" to "and allow registration up to the close of voting date". Council also suggested that licence holders be provided with the opportunity to choose whether they wish to receive voting packs by electronic means or by the current postal method. [16/02/10.3]***
- 11.0 COUNCIL PRIORITIES**
- 11.1 Andy Garrick opened the Council priorities discussion and informed Council that this was an opportunity to review progress on current priorities, and review the priorities themselves as a first step towards developing the 2016-17 operational work plan. Andy sought an indication from Council whether it wished to retain all existing priorities as is or amend some, or whether there were changes it wanted to work areas or projects for incorporation into the 2016-17 OWP. Andy advised that Council feedback from this meeting will be used in the drafting of a preliminary OWP which will be presented for further consideration at Council's April meeting.
- 11.2 *Enhancing Habitat for Greylard Production:* Cr Barry Roderick spoke briefly about the mallard work currently being undertaken, and would like to see more effort directed to the Reporoa/Broadlands area. He suggested that releasing of captive reared mallards should be provided for in the new work plan. He also advised that the Regional Council was intending to undertake planting along drains at Kaituna and that it would be worthwhile for Fish & Game to be involved in this. Andy Garrick confirmed that Fish & Game was currently involved in discussions relating to this initiative and would continue to be. Barry had attended a presentation on mallard research in the Waikato and Southland by Jenn Sheppard and suggested that it would be useful to have her and/or David Klee present this to our Council. Andy Garrick informed Council of an additional research programme getting under way which he had been having input to, this being a MSc by Katie Gibb looking at heavy metal accumulation in mallards (cadmium, arsenic, zinc, selenium, mercury, lead).
- 11.3 *Water Quality and Quantity:* Cr Lindsay Lyons reiterated his concerns over the water quality in the Rangitaiki river and felt that this "Blue Ribbon" river should continue to be a priority for Council. Matt Osborne provided a brief overview of the current drift dive programme and of the monitoring being undertaken by the Regional Council at

- two sites on the river. Lindsay would like to see greater effort being directed towards this in 2016-17.
- 11.4 Cr Sandy Bull reiterated concerns about the state/collapse of the Motu fishery and was advised that staff have this in their sights and have been endeavouring to undertake drift dive surveys there and in the Takaputahi.
- 11.5 *Angler and hunter access:* Cr Laurance Tamati expressed his concern over the lack of access to areas such as Lake Rotomahana and the Kaingaroa Forest, and the permit fees being charged. He questioned why are these areas gazetted if they are not able to be accessed? Andy Garrick spoke briefly of a recent and productive meeting with Timberlands that he and Anthony van Dorp had attended, adding that he hoped staff would have more detail to share at the next meeting of Council.
- 11.6 Cr David Woolner queried how staff and Council prioritised access work particularly decisions around what is to be maintained or developed. An example provided was the access work undertaken on the Rangitaiki and whether emphasis should shift to waters that have year round access. Anthony van Dorp advised that access tracks on the Rangitaiki were well established and he felt that this fishery was too important to anglers to let the current maintenance programme lapse. He said that Kaingaroa Timberlands currently allow six months of weekend access and Fish & Game was hopeful this could be extended in the future. Anthony noted that Timberlands also makes a financial contribution towards the maintenance of these tracks. Anthony welcomed suggestions for improvements or new opportunities but also reminded Council that resources and funding for access work were already very stretched.
- 11.7 *Maximising Fishery Opportunities:* Cr Peter Storey spoke to Council about his concerns, and those of anglers he has spoken to, over the management of the Tarawera Selective Breeding Programme and their perception that Eastern Fish & Game favours quantity over quality. He requested that Council clearly redefines what the TSBP's aim is in 2016 and how these aims will be achieved. He said that he would like to see each Rotorua lake managed to provide the most logical angling opportunity it can provide.
- 11.8 Considerable discussion followed, topics including:
- What interest there was in managing different lakes for different purposes?
  - That passionate anglers favour trophies over quantity.
  - Fish & Game's requirement to monitor angler success and satisfaction.
  - Past attempts to manipulate fish size at Okataina.
  - Environmental factors play a significant role in the performance of fisheries e.g. Lake Aniwhenua in the 90s.
  - Fish & Game should always be looking for ways to improve opportunities and maybe the only way to find out is to try something. Is it appropriate for Council to do this and make dramatic changes with so many unknown factors?
  - Should we take another look at a matrix approach as suggested by ex Councillor Richard Montgomery?
  - A high number of small fish were taken on opening day last year.
  - The Rotorua lakes are predominantly boat based fisheries.
  - Trophy fish are generally 4 years plus, but current angling pressure on the lakes allows few fish to get to this age.
  - What are the effects of reduced bag limits?
  - Reduced pressure on Okataina due to its inaccessibility may have resulted in larger fish.



- Myths/misconceptions associated with the so called "R strain".
- 11.9 In conclusion Murray Ferris said that Council needed to provide direction, but it should be left with staff to review the issues and options for Council to consider. If Council agrees to a particular course of action it will need to accept the resulting outcomes, not all of which may be positive. Andy Garrick reviewed the questions staff need to consider, these being;
- (i) What are the factors that make a big fish?
  - (ii) Can we influence these, and what means do we have at our disposal?
  - (iii) What are the likely and/or potential implications, both positive and negative, of these options?

Andy advised that staff would prepare a paper addressing these questions for consideration at Council's next meeting.

- 11.10 Cr Laurance Tamati requested that consideration be given to reviewing the Okawa Bay fishery on Lake Rotoiti noting concerns within the local community over trout numbers in the area. Matt Osborne advised that he was not aware of any historic data that was available that comparisons could be made with, but commented on the release a year ago of 500 tagged trout at the western end of Rotoiti. He said that early indications had shown movement of these fish to the Hinehopu/Gisborne Point end of the lake and that this was likely to be a result of food availability. More information would be available when these fish returned as 2-3 year olds. Mark Sherburn agreed Okawa Bay did not appear to be as productive as it has been in the past but noted that most information to hand is anecdotal. Andy Garrick suggested that staff would discuss with a view to identifying if there was anything practical that we could do to investigate this further, and that we would report this back to Council in due course.
- 11.11 In light of the success of the Red Tag Trout promotion for the opening of the 2015-16 season Cr Lindsay Lyons requested that this be considered for inclusion in the plan for the 2016-17 operational year.

## **12.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- 12.1 Council discussed timing of the election of officers, and questioned the need to repeat the process in the February following the inaugural meeting of Council in November. Council was in favour of those officers elected at the inaugural meeting held in November being carried through to the following November.
- 12.2 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Neal Hawes) that the incumbent officers elected at the inaugural meeting in November 2015 shall remain in place until the November 2016 meeting at which time the election of officers will be revisited. [16/02/12.2]***

## **13.0 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE**

- 13.1 Council considered the proposed 2016 Meeting dates and in particular the importance of timing in relation to setting of Game Season conditions in January.
- 13.2 Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Steve Scragg) that meeting dates for 2016 will be as set out below:***

### ***Confirmed 2016 meeting dates***

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Issues</b>
<b>1</b>	<i>18 February 2016</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council Priorities</li><li>• Anglers Notice</li></ul>
<b>2</b>	<i>7 April 2016</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OWP (initial draft)</li></ul>
<b>3</b>	<i>16 June 2016</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licence Fees</li><li>• OWP (2<sup>nd</sup> draft)</li><li>• Finalise Anglers Notice</li></ul>
<b>4</b>	<i>11 August 2016</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalise OWP</li></ul>
<b>5</b>	<i>20 October 2016</i>	East Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Game Conditions (initial consideration)</li><li>• Draft Annual Report</li></ul>
<b>6</b>	<i>1 December 2016</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalise Game Conditions</li></ul>
<b>Public AGM</b>	<i>1 December 2016</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Report</li></ul>

*[16/02/13.2]*

#### **14.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW**

14.1 Matt Osborne briefly outlined the process and timeline for the review of the Anglers Notice for the 2016-2017 season. Matt noted that this meeting was to identify matters that would be included in the first round of options to be put out for consultation with other interested parties. Matt provided background as to why the Eastern Council had moved to a biennial review of the Anglers Notice but advised that an annual review is also possible if circumstances required it.

#### **15.0 EXTENSION TO MEETING TIME**

15.1 Cr Murray Ferris asked that the Council agree to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. Cr Steve Scragg advised that he would need to leave the meeting at 3.30pm due to other commitments.

15.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Lindsay Lyons) that the meeting be allowed to proceed over the 3 hour time limit by an extra 30 minutes. [16/02/15.2]*

#### **16.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS**

##### **16.1 Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board**

Colin Paton informed Council that he would only be attending two further meetings with the Conservation Board as was not eligible to re-stand having served two terms already. Colin was keen to see Fish & Game representation on the board and understood that Cr Annaka Davis had put her name forward. He said the current issue causing consternation around Taupo was around the carp project and felt that the public needed to be better informed.

##### **16.2 Bay of Plenty Conservation Board**

Not represented and no report available.

**16.3 East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board**

Not represented and no report received.

**16.4 Department of Conservation, Central and Lower North Island Regions**

Not represented and no report received.

**16.5 Report from the New Zealand Council**

Lindsay Lyons' report had been pre-circulated. Lindsay advised that there were 5 new members to the New Zealand Council and he was positive about the way in which the last meeting had gone. Lindsay advised that the key focus of the New Zealand Council's next meeting next week would be around governance.

**17.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

17.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried the pheasant call counts graph which suggests a nearly 50% decline in counts over the past five years and whether this reflected an actual decline in pheasant numbers in Kaingaroa or whether it might be due to other factors. Eben Herbert advised we don't have sufficient information to say whether populations have declined but we suspect low counts recorded on some of the transects are likely to have been due to harvesting operations and other disturbances taking place within the vicinity.

17.2 Cr Sandy Bull spoke to Council on behalf of the Federation of Freshwater Anglers about the large concern within the angling community over an application to farm grass and silver carp near Taupo. He said the consensus of the angling community was that they could not believe that consideration would be given to allowing this farm to be set up within the world class Taupo and Rotorua lakes fisheries.

17.3 Matt Osborne advised that Adam Daniel from the Auckland-Waikato region had been more closely involved with this proposal than anyone else within Fish & Game due to his greater knowledge and experience of the species concerned. Adam had worked for two years with the US Army Corps of Engineers on the design of barriers to prevent the spread of silver carp along the Mississippi River and had reviewed the risks of the proposed farm in conjunction with Michel Dedual, DOC's Taupo fisheries scientist. Matt proceeded with a power point presentation outlining the background to the application and the reasoning behind Fish & Game's position which was to not oppose the application subject to certain conditions being met. Council discussed the various concerns that had been raised, the perceived effects, and noted that there had been a great deal of emotive information being circulated much of which had no science underlying it.

*17.4 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales Reports, and approves the payments for October, November, and December 2015 totalling \$489,939.27. [16/02/17.4]*

*17.5 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2015-2016 financial year. [16/02/17.5]*

**18.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

18.1 Andy Garrick provided an update on the Hawke's Bay staffing situation advising that two very well qualified staff had been appointed as senior field officers. They were Nathan Burkepile from Northland Fish & Game, and Mark Venman from the DOC fisheries team at Turangi. He commented that these appointments were not only exceptionally good news for Hawke's Bay, but having them as close neighbours would

be great for the Eastern Region as well. Andy took the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of his Eastern Region team and the contribution and personal sacrifices they had made to keep Hawke's Bay Fish & Game going over the past six months or so.

**19.0 MEETING CLOSED**

19.1 The meeting was closed at 3.55pm.

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

.....  
**Date**

## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

### 2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Sandy Bull) that the apologies for the 156th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/02/2.2]*

### 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (18 NOVEMBER 2015)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Steve Scragg) that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [16/02/3.1]*

### 10.0 2015 FISH AND GAME ELECTION PROCESS

- 10.3 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports Recommendations 2 through to 7 as noted in the Returning Officer's Report for Fish and Game New Zealand's 2015 Regional Council Elections subject to an amendment to Recommendation 2 wording from "or allow registration up to the close of voting date" to "and allow registration up to the close of voting date". Council also suggested that licence holders be provided with the opportunity to choose whether they wish to receive voting packs by electronic means or by the current postal method. [16/02/10.3]*

### 12.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 12.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Neal Hawes) that the incumbent officers elected at the inaugural meeting in November 2015 shall remain in place until the November 2016 meeting at which time the election of officers will be revisited. [16/02/12.2]*

### 13.0 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

- 13.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Steve Scragg) that meeting dates for 2016 will be as set out below:*

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Issues</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>18 February 2016</i>	<i>Rotorua</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Council Priorities</i></li> <li>• <i>Anglers Notice</i></li> </ul>
<i>2</i>	<i>7 April 2016</i>	<i>Rotorua</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>OWP (initial draft)</i></li> </ul>
<i>3</i>	<i>16 June 2016</i>	<i>Rotorua</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Licence Fees</i></li> <li>• <i>OWP (2<sup>nd</sup> draft)</i></li> <li>• <i>Finalise Anglers Notice</i></li> </ul>
<i>4</i>	<i>11 August 2016</i>	<i>Rotorua</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Finalise OWP</i></li> </ul>
<i>5</i>	<i>20 October 2016</i>	<i>East Coast</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Game Conditions (initial consideration)</i></li> <li>• <i>Draft Annual Report</i></li> </ul>
<i>6</i>	<i>1 December 2016</i>	<i>Rotorua</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Finalise Game Conditions</i></li> </ul>
<i>Public AGM</i>	<i>1 December 2016</i>	<i>Rotorua</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Annual Report</i></li> </ul>

*[16/02/13.2]*

### 15.0 EXTENSION TO MEETING TIME

- 15.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Lindsay Lyons) that the meeting be allowed to proceed over the 3 hour time limit by an extra 30 minutes. [16/02/15.2]*

### 17.0 OPERATIONS REPORTS

- 17.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales Reports, and approves the payments for October, November, and December 2015 totalling \$489,939.27. [16/02/17.4]*

- 17.5 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2015-2016 financial year. [16/02/17.5]*

## **6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

Ref: 7.02.01

16 March 2016

### **1. Purpose**

A standing agenda item to disclose any Councillor Conflict of Interest or potential perceived Conflict of Interest, and record this in the Councillor Conflict of Interest Register

### **2. Background**

The Eastern Fish and Game Council has developed a policy to deal with Conflict of Interest and must provide a standing agenda item to allow Councillors to disclose any Conflict or highlight any potential conflict. The "Interest Register" ring binder will be circulated in the first part of each meeting for Councillors to record any interests. The Council should then discuss how it wants to deal with any interest or perceived interest identified.

For Crown entities the definition of 'interested' is;

4. *Board members [Councillors] of Crown Entities should be aware of the very wide scope of what 'interested' means under the Crown Entities Act. A person is interested in a matter if he or she:*
  - *May derive a financial benefit from the matter;*
  - *Is the spouse, defacto partner (whether of the same or different sex), child or parent of a person who may derive a financial benefit from the matter;*
  - *May have a financial interest in a person to whom the matter relates;*
  - *Is a partner, director, officer, board member, or trustee of a person who may have a financial interest in a person to whom the matter relates;*
  - *May be interested in the matter because the entity's Act so provides; or*
  - *Is otherwise directly or indirectly interested in the matter.*

And any Conflict of Interest can be dealt with as follows.

- 6.6** *Members agree that the Council may, where appropriate, decide that a Council Member who has declared an interest in matters to be discussed by the Council*  
*[1] should leave the meeting room for the duration of discussion on such matters or; [2] remain in the room and contribute to the discussion and be allowed to vote or;*  
*[3] remain in the room and contribute to the discussion but not be allowed to vote.*

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

### **3. Recommendations**

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

## **7. 2016-2017 ANGLER'S NOTICE**

**Ref: 1.07.01**

**22 March 2016**

### **1. Purpose**

To consider changes to the Anglers Notice regulations for the 2016-2017 angling season and identify suggestions meriting further discussion and consultation.

### **2. Background**

The Anglers Notice sets regional sports fishing regulations and any changes from one season to the next go through a consultation process with licence holders and interested parties before being recommended to the Minister of Conservation. Sports fishing regulations are set to ensure the sustainability of fisheries without unnecessarily restricting angler opportunities. Eastern Fish & Game established an Anglers Notice Policy in 2003 after several years of consultation with licence holders on how fishing regulations should be applied and what should be considered to warrant a change to any regulations. The policy identifies two functional groups of regulations within the Anglers Notice. The first group of regulations are those that serve a social function and relate to the way anglers interact with each other. The second group of regulations are those that have a biological effect on the fisheries and more direct effects on trout populations. Suggested changes to the Anglers Notice from year to year are then considered within the guidelines of this Anglers Notice Policy. The Anglers Notice Policy is included as Appendix 1 to this agenda item.

This policy approach has greatly simplified the task of reviewing the anglers notice and enabled regulations to be applied consistently across the region.

### **3. Review of 2015-2016 Anglers Notice**

At the February 2016 Council Meeting a number of ideas were raised as possible changes to the 2016-17 Anglers Notice that could be considered. Nine suggestions were identified by Council for including in an 'Issues and Options' paper for discussion and consultation with clubs and interested parties.

This 'Issues & Options' paper was mailed to clubs and interested parties on 10 March 2016 asking for submissions on suggested changes and further suggestions relating to the 2016-2017 Anglers Notice. In addition to the mail out we advertised the Issues and Options paper on the Fish & Game web site and put a notification item in our Reel News e-zine that is emailed to licence holders.

#### **3.1 Recipients of Issues and Options Paper**

##### ***Letter sent to:***

- David Wise (CHB Anglers) Waipukurau
- The Secretary (Hamilton Anglers Club) Hamilton
- The Secretary (Rotorua Anglers Association) Rotorua
- Steve Simpson (Taupo Fishing Club Inc.) Taupo
- The Secretary (Tauranga Anglers Club) Tauranga
- Scott Flatt (Te puke Fish & Game Club) Te Puke

- Johanna Wilkes (Waikaremoana Boating and Fishing Assoc.) Gisborne
- The Secretary (Wairoa and District Anglers Club) Frasertown
- The Secretary (Whakatane Trout Fishing Club) Whakatane
- Roha Lake (Tuai)
- Sid Van der Werf (Kawerau Anglers Club)

***Emailed to:***

- Gus Van der Staak (Ohinemuri Fish & Game Assoc. Inc.)
- Gavin Murphy (Gisborne Anglers)
- Peter Frizzell (Hastings District Anglers Club)
- Elaine Hebblerley - (Napier Freshwater Anglers Club)
- Mark Webb (Ohau Anglers Club)
- Jackie Bushett - (Rotorua Fishing Club)
- Oriwia Taylor (Waikaremoana Tribal Authority)

***Correspondence to other organisations (11 March 2016):***

- Ngai Tuhoe
- Te Arawa Lakes Trust
- Te Arawa Komiti Whakahaere (Fisheries Committee)
- Department of Conservation
- TARIT (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust)

**4. Submissions Received on the Preliminary 2016-17 'Issues and Options' paper**

As at 24 March 2016 we have received two submissions in response to the 'Issues and Options' paper, one in regard to the proposed Te Wairoa Stream mouth closure at Lake Tarawera, the other in relation to the use of lead sinkers and downrigger weights. We have summarised the submitters' rationale for the positions they have taken, and provided staff comment on the points raised in sections 5.1 and 5.8 below. The respondents' full submissions are included in the April Papers For Information.

**5. Issues and Options Paper**

**5.1 Prohibit the use of lead sinkers and lead downrigger weights used during trout fishing within the Rotorua lakes/Eastern Region**

**5.1.1 Background**

Jigging is the most highly utilized method of angling accounting for greater than 50% of methods used in the deeper Rotorua lakes (summer creel surveys). Downrigger trolling has been recorded as contributing between 8-12% to total method use on the deeper lakes over the summer period. All anglers fishing via these methods are likely to be using lead sinkers (jigging) or lead downrigger weights (downrigger trolling). The environmental effects of lost sinkers/downrigger weights are difficult to quantify though much research has been undertaken in America and Australia on alternative options (non-toxic alternatives or encapsulating with plastic).

**5.1.2 Discussion**

If Council chose to bring in a rule of this sort, there could be wider ramifications of doing so, for example, it could lead to a call for lead line (trollers) and split shot (fly anglers) to be banned also.



### 5.1.3 Options

- (i) Retain the status quo and allow the continued use of lead weights, or;
- (ii) Prohibit the use of lead weights for angling within the Eastern Fish & Game Region

<i>(i) Submissions in support of status quo (retain continued use of lead weights)</i>	<i>(ii) Submissions supporting change (Prohibit use of lead weights for angling)</i>
1	0

#### ***Submitter's reasons for retaining status quo:***

Banning the use of lead will affect all fishermen in way or another. Losing a sinker while jigging is very slim. There is only a small minority using downriggers so risk of large numbers of downrigger balls being lost is slim.

## **5.2 Extend the winter shoreline area on Lake Okataina to include the western rocky point (600m west of boat ramp)**

### 5.2.1 Background

The current open winter shoreline area at Lake Okataina is open 1 October to 30 September and extends 200m offshore between landmark poles off the main beach at the end of Okataina Road. It is open to angling from both the shoreline and anchored boats from 1 October to 30 June, and solely from the shore for the remainder of the season 1 July to 30 September. The eastern end landmark is only accessible at extremely low lake levels. The western end is currently at the end of the main beach and is accessible at all lake levels.

### 5.2.2 Discussion

If the western landmark was shifted further to the west it would provide greater opportunity for anglers when lake levels are low as occurs at the eastern end of the area. This would be very unlikely to affect biological sustainability or create additional compliance issues.

### 5.2.3 Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the Lake Okataina winter Shoreline fishing area remains unchanged, or;
- (ii) Alter the area of the Lake Okataina winter shoreline fishing area to include the western rocky point (600m west of boat ramp).

## **5.3 Prohibit the use of motorized craft while fishing upstream of the Hopuruahine Stream mouth (Lake Waikaremoana)**

### 5.3.1 Background

The Hopuruahine landmark pole is approximately 900m from the mouth of the stream at moderate lake levels. At high lake levels, the flood plain is pushed further up the stream. Some boat based anglers may attempt to troll up the lower stream which could conflict with anglers fishing the lower stream from the river bank.

### 5.3.2 Discussion

The Hopuruahine Stream shallows quickly at moderate lake levels and for much of its length below the existing landmark would be difficult to navigate and turn around in. Due to this there is likely to be minimal boat trolling occurring within the confines of the lower stream. Fish & Game staff have not witnessed angling from motorized craft within the Hopuruahine Stream.

### 5.3.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo, i.e. angling from a motorized vessel is not prohibited within the Hopuruahine Stream, or;

(ii) Prohibit angling from a motorized vessel upstream of the Hopuruahine Stream mouth under Regulation 7 Use of Boats.

## 5.4 **Move the Hopuruahine landmark pole 200m downstream from current position to remove ambiguity between spin/fly demarcation**

### 5.4.1 Background

The current regulation stating demarcation of the fly/spin limits is ambiguous and reads "fly fishing only above and within 200m below landmark" (as also is the case in the Mokau Stream).

### 5.4.2 Discussion

If the landmark was moved 200m downstream from its current position, anglers would lose opportunities to engage in river fishing during the closed season (1 July to 30 November). There are only three sections of Lake Waikaremoana tributaries that remain open throughout the spawning period. These are Aniwanuiwa below the falls, Mokau below the landmark, and Hopuruahine below the landmark. To make the rule clearer and promote opportunity, the landmark could remain where it is currently situated and become fly and spin below the landmark 1 October to 30 September, and fly fishing only above the landmark 1 December to 30 June.

### 5.4.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the Hopuruahine landmark pole remains in its current position with existing fly/spin designations, or;

(ii) Reposition the Hopuruahine landmark downstream 200m with fly fishing only above the landmark over the period 1 December - 30 June, and fly fishing only all year round within the 200m section of the river downstream of the landmark, or;

(iii) Retain the Hopuruahine landmark pole in its current position with fly fishing only above the landmark from 1 December - 30 June, but both fly and spin allowed all year below the landmark.

## 5.5 **Reduce the bag limit at Waikaremoana from 8 fish to 3 fish per day**

### 5.5.1 Background

The current bag limit is an 8 fish aggregate limit with 2 brown trout permitted.

### 5.5.2 Discussion

During the 2015 winter, staff undertook the first of an ongoing series of investigations within the key Waikaremoana spawning tributaries and this is providing an understanding of angling pressure and harvest. The work will in due course enable the evaluation of concerns that have been raised in David Dods' submission that there has been a demise in early spawning rainbows (see 3.7 below also). Over the 2015 winter, staff encountered low angler pressure and low harvest at both the Hopuruahine and Mokau Streams. Eastern Fish and Game Council Policy (2003) dictates that bag limits within fisheries fall into thresholds given population size and angler pressure/harvest. Lake Waikaremoana sits within the high demand and high availability bracket for harvest allocation. The recommended daily angler allocation is an 8 fish aggregate bag.

### 5.5.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo i.e. the bag limit remains an 8 fish aggregate bag as per Council Policy, or;

(ii) Reassess Council's policy and alter the Lake Waikaremoana and tributaries bag limits.

## 5.6 *Adjust the season opening date for Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina so that it falls on the first Saturday in October each season*

### 5.6.1 Background

Currently the trout fishing season opens on 1 October each year excluding some areas of special spawning significance that open 1 December. It has been suggested that moving the opening date for the three 'renowned' Rotorua lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) to the first Saturday in October would enable more anglers to participate in the occasion, and Fish & Game could take advantage of this and generate more of a 'carnival' atmosphere to attract new licence holders and/or retain a proportion of those who might otherwise not bother to renew their licence.

### 5.6.2 Discussion

There are some significant downsides to this proposal from a compliance perspective and the dissatisfaction that might arise from the additional pressure brought to bear on facilities such as ramps and parking (which are already at capacity), and overcrowding on the lakes more generally. Further angler dissatisfaction would be likely to result from compliance actions against anglers that have engaged in the tradition of 1 October openings for many years who have not picked up on this change to the regulations if it was enacted.

### 5.6.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo i.e. Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina open 1 October, or;

(ii) Change the season opening date for Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to the first Saturday falling in October each season.

**5.7 David Dods' submission regarding the perceived demise of early spawning rainbow trout at Lake Waikaremoana**

**5.7.1 Background**

Several questions were raised by David Dods in his submission signed by a large number of anglers and others concerned with Lake Waikaremoana spawning runs and the sustainability of the Waikaremoana fishery. This petition was presented to Council at its April 2014 meeting.

Mr Dods has suggested the following changes as a means of addressing his concerns:

1. Reduce the limit bag at Lake Waikaremoana from 8 rainbow trout to 4 rainbow trout and reduce the limit of brown trout from 2 brown trout (within current 8 fish aggregate bag) to 1 brown trout per day;
2. Close spawning rivers from 1st May instead of 1st July to protect early spawning rainbow trout;
3. Open rivers from 1 November to harvest late spawning rainbow trout which are protected at the present time.

**5.7.2 Discussion**

This submission is still under investigation. Further field work is required to acquire the information needed to assess Mr Dods' comments and perceptions. Monitoring in 2015 showed that rainbows were in the spawning streams and involved in spawning activity from early May, and that angler pressure on the streams and trout harvest during the winter months was extremely low.

**5.7.3 Recommendation**

Defer further consideration of the proposed changes to the angling regulations until sufficient information is available to properly assess the validity of the perceived decline in early spawning rainbow trout.

**5.8 Close the Te Wairoa Stream mouth (Lake Tarawera) within 200m of the landmark pole from 1 April to 30 September**

**5.8.1 Background**

The current angling regulations for Lake Tarawera within 200m of the Te Wairoa landmark state that the lake and lake edge is open 1 October to 30 June, with fly fishing only being permitted from 1 April to 30 June. The Te Wairoa Stream is gazetted as closed waters year round. Fish & Game operates a fish trap in the Te Wairoa Stream from 1 April to 31 August for the purpose of brood stock collection toward the hatchery stocking programme. The trap also aids monitoring of the Tarawera spawning runs and recruitment. Male fish are prohibited from being taken within 200m of the landmark pole due to the more aggressive nature of these fish and the likelihood that many of these fish may be captured and therefore excluded from the hatchery breeding programme. A submission has been received that asks for all angling within 200m of the Te Wairoa landmark to be prohibited from 1 April to 30 September. The rationale for this is that fish that are taken from the stream mouth up

until 30 June will not be available for use in the breeding programme, and that some of these fish may have been highly valuable specimens to use as brood stock.

### 5.8.2 Discussion

During recent winter creel surveys, Fish & Game staff have encountered very low angler pressure at the Te Wairoa stream mouth over the past few years, and hen harvest is likely to have been low (male fish already being protected by regulation). Trout spawning runs have increased over the past three winters within the Te Wairoa Stream, and 1,040 fish in total were measured during the 2015 winter. The hatchery programme requires 80 - 90 crosses which needs 160-180 mature trout to complete. There are ample 3 year + maturing fish available to provide the number of trout required. By shortening the open season around the Te Wairoa landmark, three months of angler opportunity at a traditional winter shoreline angling location would be lost.

### 5.8.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the regulation continues to read “Tarawera Lake: within 200m of Te Wairoa Stream mouth 1 October - 30 June”, or;

(ii) Change the regulation to read “ Tarawera Lake: within 200m of Te Wairoa Stream mouth 1 October - 31 March”.

<i>(i) Submissions in support of status quo (retain current open season)</i>	<i>(ii) Submissions supporting change (change open season 1 October - 31 March)</i>
1	0

**Submitter’s reasons for retaining the status quo:** There is already sufficient protection for mature fish within 200m of the Te Wairoa stream in autumn under the existing regulations. The current runs through the trap are more than sufficient to sustain the present brood stock requirements. The decline in the size of Tarawera fish has resulted in much reduced angling pressure at the Te Wairoa stream mouth each autumn, which must have allowed more fish to enter the trap, which may explain the increased runs. There are more than sufficient fish available in Lake Tarawera for the available food supply at present and the protection of additional stock at the Te Wairoa stream mouth would further depress the size of fish available to anglers.

## 5.9 Reclassify the Awahou Stream Lake Rotorua as closed waters

### 5.9.1 Background

The Awahou Stream (Lake Rotorua) is a spring fed water providing a strong cold water plume into Lake Rotorua. During the summer period, the water temperature of Lake Rotorua can exceed 25° Celsius. When this occurs, trout become thermally stressed and seek cold water refuge to survive. The Awahou Stream and lake edge fishery is accessed via Gloucester Road. This road and the adjoining land through which the stream runs is privately owned and all access is due solely to the goodwill of the landowners. During the hottest summer months (January/February), many anglers are attracted to this fly fishing only location. Locals also use the stream area for swimming and bathing as it is a very clean and cool area. Due to the convergence

of locals, anglers and general public, conflict can arise alongside the stream. The very visible, accessible trout schools within the stream also attract the attention of poachers who use a variety of techniques to remove trout from this location. Locals have retrieved a variety of weighted treble hooks used to jag fish. Some of these have been embedded in logs which pose a very real hazard to swimmers. An accumulation of angling litter (nylon and dead fish) has also been dumped at, and alongside the environs of the stream. Local children swimming in the stream have also been verbally abused by visiting anglers. This submission has been received from the local community (Rangiwewehe locals) in an attempt to alleviate issues occurring at the stream.

#### 5.9.2 Discussion

Closure of the Awahou Stream will not affect the opportunity for anglers to visit and fish the lake edge downstream of the Awahou Stream mouth. Over the hottest months January/February, there is an abundance of fish residing within the cool water plume located within the lake itself which can be targeted by anglers. If anglers were confined to fishing within the lake it would enable the ready detection of offending taking place within the stream, and greatly facilitate compliance and law enforcement activities. Most angling occurs within the lake, not in the stream, so while some anglers would be affected, overall benefits to the fishery and local community (including the landowners who have been generous enough to allow ongoing public access to the area) from closing the stream would be substantial.

#### 5.9.3 Options

(i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the Awahou Stream downstream of Hamurana Road remains open all year for fly fishing only, or;

(ii) Alter Regulation 3.3(a) to include Awahou Stream as closed waters.

### **6. Other Suggestions Raised**

No other suggestions for changes to the Anglers Notice for the 2016-17 season have come forward since development of the Preliminary 2016-17 Issues and Options Paper.

### **7. Recommendation**

***7.1 That Council identifies proposals for changes to the Anglers Notice for the 2016-2017 season warranting further consideration and inclusion in a 'second 2016-2017 Anglers Notice Discussion paper for distribution to clubs and interested parties.***

## APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy

Ref: 1.07.01

21 May 2003

### 1. Background

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

The policy has been established around two key groups of regulations within the Angler's Notice. The first group of regulations are those that serve a social function and relate to the way anglers interact with each other. The second group of regulations are those that have a biological effect on the fisheries and have more direct effects on trout populations.

### 2. 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).

The Council has developed policy for determining social based regulations based on the intensity of the angling that occurs, and therefore the potential for anglers to impact upon each other. Angling intensity has been established using known information from levels of angler use and the amount of water available for fishing.

#### *Fishing methods*

**Policy 2.1** Setting of method restrictions for waters shall be based upon the following framework.

<b>Water Category</b>	<b>Level of use of water (threshold)</b>	<b>Methods Available</b>
• Lake edge fisheries and associated migratory spawning waters	Low Intensity Use ( <i>&lt; 10 anglers/100m/season</i> )	• All methods, Bait*,
	Moderate Intensity Use ( <i>10-200 anglers/100m/season</i> )	• Fly, Bait*, Spin • No unanchored boats
	High Intensity Use ( <i>&gt;200 anglers/100m/season</i> )	• Fly only, Bait* • No spin fishing • No unanchored Boats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower density river fisheries based on resident trout populations</li> </ul>	Low Intensity Use <i>(&lt;24 anglers/100m/season)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All methods, Bait*,</li> </ul>
	High Intensity Use <i>(&gt;=24 anglers/100m/season)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fly only, Bait*</li> </ul>

\*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 2.2 (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), and fish can only be sourced from the water where the fishing is to occur).
  - Uncoloured bread dough.

***Boats in winter shoreline areas***

**Policy 2.3** Fishing from a boat shall not be permitted in designated winter shoreline fishing areas.

**3. 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 3.1** The biological regulations applied to waters shall be based upon the following table.



<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Regulation Applied</b>
<b><i>Sustainability I</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure adequate recruitment of juveniles to provide later harvest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect spawning rearing waters.</li> <li>Closure of waters and season length most effective tool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close waters to fishing if they provide significant proportion of recruitment.</li> <li>Length of closure related to importance of contribution, availability of other spawning, fishing opportunity potentially provided and duration of spawning.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Sustainability II</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure adequate survival of adults to spawn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect sufficient fish through to maturity to enable them to spawn.</li> <li>Size limits most effective tool for protecting fish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size limits guarantee protection of fish to maturity.</li> <li>Size limits can be adjusted based upon knowledge of harvest rates.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Harvest Allocation</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To share available harvest</li> <li>Bag limit most effective.</li> </ul>	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.
<b><i>Management Objective</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance specific component</li> </ul>	Enhance specific component of fishery for deliberate management objective, e.g. Okataina size limit.	Combinations of size limits, season length and bag limits. Requires specific project proposal and justification.

#### **4. Review Process**

Following the formal adoption of this policy, the first step is to review the existing regulations and identify any changes that will be necessary to ensure that they comply.

In future, changes to regulations will be based upon this policy framework. Future reviews of the Anglers Notice will be guided by the policies adopted. Changes will occur if there are either changes in intensity of angler use or changes in biological factors influencing a fishery. The other mechanism to cause change would be through the review of the threshold criteria that differentiate the various categories of regulation.

An example of how changes might occur in future is given below.

- The current level of angling intensity on River X has been calculated to be 135 visits per 100m per season. This is derived from a National Angler Survey estimate of 2030 angler visits and a 1500m fishable length (Angler Access Database Information) and therefore fits the stream into the Lake based fisheries moderate intensity category.
- New Angler Survey figures are obtained that shows angler use has increased to 4500 visits per season. An additional 300m of fishable water has been opening due to a new esplanade reserve being created as a result of subdivision. When both these factors are taken into account the angling intensity has now increased to 250 visits per 100m per season.
- Angling Intensity on River X has gone from the Lake Fisheries moderate category (10-200 visits per 100m per season) to the high category (>200). As a result the River X would become a water which was designated fly fishing only.

## **8. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016-2017 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

**Ref: 8.02.01**

**24 March 2016**

### **1. Purpose**

To consider proposed projects, budgets and performance targets for the 2016-2017 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 in addition to core functions, project themes, allocation of resources, and any applications Eastern may wish to make to the Contestable Fund to increase its bulk funding. The steps involved in developing the OWP for the 2016-2017 year are as follows:

- Council reviews priorities and project themes/areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (done, 18 February meeting).
- Council reviews draft projects and budgets excluding internal costs at 7 April meeting.
- Contestable funding bids and draft regional budgets (revised if necessary post 7 April meeting) submitted to the NZ Council prior to 11 April for consideration at the Managers Meeting on 26-27 April.
- Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the contestable fund bids, and circulate 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 16 June meeting.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the OWP considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets reviewed and refined as necessary.
- Penultimate draft of OWP circulated to clubs for comment.
- Club comments considered and incorporated if appropriate into final OWP presented for approval at Council's meeting on 11 August.

### **3. Outcomes from Council's Meeting in February**

A key outcome of Council's first meeting to consider the 2016-17 OWP in February 2016, which reviewed priorities and indicative project areas/themes, was that Council did not identify a need to depart from the current set of regional priorities (enhancing habitat for waterfowl, water quality and quantity, access, and maximising fishery opportunities) nor key projects. As is the case in the current 2015-16 year, support was indicated for an ongoing focus on quality of habitat rather than quantity, increased efforts in the area of reserves management and maintenance of balloted open water habitat, management and enhancement of drains, and enhancement of habitat on farmland. Council supported staffs' ongoing implementation of the more intensive Lake Waikaremoana fishery monitoring programme instigated last winter, and the greater effort being directed to investigating and improving access to East Coast fisheries. It also indicated its desire to see staff continue to press for greater access to the Rangitaiki River fishery, and the Otamatea summer fishery in particular. Council confirmed its interest in acquiring more insight into the status of mallard populations in the Reporoa/Broadlands areas, and the merits of releasing captive reared mallards into areas where mallard populations are depressed. Council expressed its desire to see monitoring of both the Motu and Rangitaiki fisheries, and ongoing advocacy for the

protection and improvement of water quality in these catchments. Other initiatives proposed in the 2016-17 OWP include investigation of new techniques being developed for monitoring of smelt populations in lake fisheries, running another 'red tagged trout' fishing promotion, and running a hunter 'open day'.

Eastern Region will continue to support national projects associated with species monitoring and management, compliance and licensing outputs, Health and Safety, and national priorities concerned with increasing public awareness and encouraging greater participation.

A hard copy of the first draft of the 2016-17 OWP has been mailed out with the Papers for Information.

#### **4. Direct Costs**

Points to note in relation to direct/external costs in the first draft 2016-17 OWP as compared to the current 2015-16 plan are as follows:

- Species monitoring has been reduced by \$14,900 at this point in time due to \$6,000 of the 2015-16 budget being made up of one-off contestable funds (CFs) acquired for the purpose of aerial mallard transect counts in the Eastern and Northland Regions (\$3k each) not being automatically renewable; \$1,500 no longer being required for the Tauranga black swan monitoring project; and the \$7,400 remaining having been sourced from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund (WSFHEF) to offset additional work being undertaken at Lake Waikaremoana. Reinstatement of some of these funds will be sought from a contestable bid to the NZ Council and another bid to the WSFHEF.
- Harvest assessment budgets unchanged.
- Hatchery costs reduced by \$900 as a result of lower insurance costs.
- Releases budget up \$500 to accommodate captive reared mallard release trials in the Reporoa/Broadlands area (subject to availability of mallards).
- Game bird control unchanged.
- All habitat related budgets unchanged.
- Physical access projects dropped by \$1,500 at this stage, as the 2015-16 budget includes funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund used to offset the additional staff time directed to monitoring of the Waikaremoana fishery this (current) OWP year.
- Newsletter and pamphlet budgets unchanged at this stage.
- Angler and hunter training increased by \$750 to run a hunter open day.
- Public communications budget reduced by \$300 as this can be better utilised elsewhere.

- Public promotions remain unchanged though this budget will be redirected to running the red tag promotion rather than being used to attend the Auckland Boat Show.
- Visitors/education budget increased by \$600 for essential maintenance of grounds and facilities (though overall maintenance budgets for assets unchanged).
- Compliance budget unchanged though we wish to apply for a \$1,000 CF bid to meet increasing costs associated with prosecutions.
- Licensing no change.
- Council meetings no change.
- Reporting and audit budget reduced by \$300.
- National liaison no change.

Overall output expenditure in this preliminary budget, which excludes expenditure in 2015-16 covered by income from the WSFHEF and CF support of \$6k, is down by \$50. Projected income is down by \$10,500 (\$19,000 ex the WSFHHEF less \$8,500 anticipated increase in hatchery revenue).

#### **5. Hawke's Bay Management Agreement**

Draft budgets for 2016-17 for both the Eastern and Hawke's Bay Regions have been prepared on the basis that a reciprocal service arrangement will be re-instated with Hawke's Bay. This year (2015-16) Eastern Region agreed to contribute 435 hours of financial, administrative, and operational support to Hawke's Bay and this was incorporated into each region's budget (\$24,360 plus GST worth of services). Over and above that, Eastern Region has invoiced Hawke's Bay on a cost recovery basis for unprogrammed management services and other technical assistance. In 2016-17 the following arrangement is proposed:

#### **Eastern provides Hawke's Bay with:**

Administrative services	340 hrs
Management oversight	200 hrs
Banding	100 hrs
Drift diving	50 hrs
RMA related	25 hrs

#### **Hawke's Bay provides Eastern with:**

Compliance	40 hrs
Banding	30 hrs
Landowner advice	10 hrs

## **6. Resourcing**

### **6.1 Bulk Funding**

Eastern Region currently (2015-2016 OWP year) has a bulk funded operational budget of \$1,074,372. The bulk funded operational budget for the 2016-2017 year will revert to \$1,063,873 as a result of "one off" funded items in the 2015-2016 year being removed. To accommodate projected salary adjustments, undertake aerial mallard transect counts, meet costs associated with increasing numbers of prosecutions, address some fundamental Health and Safety measures, and enhance our reserves we will need to lodge a number of contestable fund bids. An application to the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund will also be required (see Agenda Item 9 below).

### **6.2 Proposed Contestable Funding bids**

To operate with more than our bulk fund of \$1,063,872, Eastern Region must enter into the contestable fund (CF) bidding process involving other Fish & Game Regions and the NZ Council Office. All CF bids received are ranked by the regional managers/chief executives after which the rankings are reviewed by the NZ Council. The NZ Council decides where the cut-off point for supporting bids will be, and determines what the necessary licence fees will need to be to meet the combined budgets of the regional and national offices.

Last year we sought five contestable funding bids, one for staff salaries CPI adjustment, asset replacement funding resulting from reduced revenue from the sale of fish to other regions, Ferret document filing and management software, aerial transect surveys, and one to restore the region's reserves to adequate levels for resourcing of the work plan.

For the 2016-17 operational year we will need to seek contestable funding totalling \$10,700, and \$30,000 for reinstatement of reserves.

#### **6.2.1 Staff Salaries**

The annual CPI rate to December 2015 was 0.1% and we expect this rate to be used nationally to determine the appropriate CPI adjustment for the 2016-17 operational year. If so a CF bid of \$1,000 will be required. In addition to this \$4,000 is required for a shortfall in anticipated salary performance adjustment.

#### **6.2.2 Mallard Monitoring**

In 2015-16 Eastern received \$6,000 from the Contestable Fund to undertake aerial transect surveys in the Eastern and Northland Regions. Northland will take care of its own requirements in 2016-17, but Eastern will need to bid for \$3,200 on an ongoing basis for the next 2-3 years to implement this programme in accordance with national guidelines.

#### **6.2.3 Prosecution Expenses**

Our prosecutions budget has been inadequate to meet the rising number of prosecutions Eastern Region is having to take over past years as a result of not having an Infringement Notice system, and an increase in the number of offenders not choosing to take up offers of reparation. Eastern is seeking contestable funding of \$1,000 to top up its prosecution budget for 2016-17.

#### 6.2.4 Protective Personal Equipment (PPE)

Eastern Region staff are constantly reviewing Health and Safety needs and obligations all the more so with new Health and Safety legislation coming into effect as of 4 April 2016. There is a need to upgrade miscellaneous PPE and we wish to submit a CF bid for \$1,500 to meet this need.

#### 6.2.5 Regional Reserve

It will again be necessary to seek additional funds to restore Eastern's regional reserves to a level that provides security for managing cash-flow during the 2016-2017 operational year.

The national Fish & Game policy on regional reserves is that a region should retain between 30% and 50% of its licence revenue. Eastern's current reserves for this calculation (general reserve plus asset replacement funds) sits at \$230,214, or 16% of licence revenue as at 31 August 2015. In the 2014-15 budget round a contestable fund bid of \$65,000 for restoration of the region's reserves was approved which, assuming that the 2014-15 revenue targets were met, would increase the region's reserves for the year ending 31 August 2015 to 20%. However, although the region's licence revenue exceeded the target for that year, the region's reserves only increased by \$20,000 to 16% of licence revenue. This was due to the actual reserves for the 2013-14 year being underestimated by some \$30,000 as a result of a vehicle being sold in that year and its replacement not being purchased until the following year. In addition to this, licence revenue had increased between the two years by \$37,573 meaning the reserve level in the second year was calculated against a higher licence revenue figure which generated a lower percentage by comparison.

In the 2015-2016 budget round a further reinstatement of reserves of \$65,000 was granted as the region's reserves remained below the levels set by policy, and due to uncertainties in what effects the new licence categories might have on licence revenue. Currently, licence revenue for the 2015-2016 year is tracking to end the year approximately \$13,500 below budget so it is expected that this reinstatement of reserves will see only \$50,000 of reserve restored.

To restore our reserves to the full 30% level would require an additional \$125,000 to be sought in the 2016-17 budget round. Previously Eastern Region has agreed that approximately 25% of licence revenue constitutes an adequate reserve, and on this basis we consider that a top up of \$30,000 would be sufficient to give us security of managing cash flows during the 2016-2017 year. In due course the financial review committee will be reviewing the method used for calculating reserves as it is suggested that a comparison against bulk fund expenditure rather than licence revenue would be more appropriate. In that case this reinstatement would see Eastern Region's reserves increase to an estimated 30% of its bulk fund.

We recommend that a funding bid for \$30,000 for reserve restoration should be sought.

### 6.3 Allocation of staff hours

Staff hours will be reviewed and adjusted where necessary in the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the 2016-2017 OWP for consideration at Council's next meeting on 16 June. 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, lead shot related investigations, compliance, 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 made for the benefit of other regions, and that of the organisation as a whole.

## 7. Recommendations

**7.1** *That Council considers the initial OWP for 2016-17, identifies any issues it might have with it, and approves the contestable funding bids that have been proposed.*



## 9. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

27 March 2016

### 1. Purpose

To review the work resourced from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund and consider applications for funding.

### 2. Background

In 1999, the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand made a commitment to create a trust known as the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Trust ("Trust") in association with its consent to operate the Waikaremoana Power Scheme prior to its transfer to Genesis. The Trust was set up in response to concerns about the environmental, recreational, social, cultural and economic effects of the Waikaremoana Power Scheme ("WPS"). Due to Inland Revenue issues and the Trust being subject to taxes on interest, the Trust was disbanded soon after formation and the settlement transferred to Fish & Game for the purpose of forming the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund ("Waikaremoana Fund")

The objective of the Trust and since then the Waikaremoana Fund is:

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

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

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

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

The table below shows projects and work areas that have been funded since 2001.

Work Area	Amount funded
Information & access pamphlets	6,177
Signage & Information panels	7,046
2002 Angler Creel Survey	4,130
Contributions to Access through jetties, gangplanks, carparks etc	13,333
Habitat studies (Lake & River (2) Inventories, Wildlands reports)	9,521
2007 Angler Creel Survey	5,376
Fish research (River fish age/source otolith analysis)	928
Buoy construction share and installation	21,577
Buoy maintenance/servicing expenses	6,752
2012 Angler Creel Survey	5,944
Lagarosiphon Project	1,000

Water Quality Monitoring Report	4,990
Waikaremoana Buoy Maintenance 2014-15	250
2014-14 Wairoa Catchment Access Investigations	5,204
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92,228</b>

### **3. Discussion**

#### **3.1 Approved Funding for 2015-2016**

At its meeting in October 2016, Council approved proposed expenditure from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund relating to servicing of the Water Quality Monitoring Buoy, the Lake Waikaremoana Lagarasiphon Incursion Programme (\$39,000), and the continuation of surveys and monitoring of key spawning tributaries and access initiatives in the upper Waikaretaheke (\$19,000 less costs for servicing the monitoring buoy) [15/10/11.1]. Expenditure for 2015-16 will be reported at Council's meeting in October 2016. The balance of the Fund currently stands at \$451,512 less expenditure to date for this year.

#### **3.2 Application for Funding for Eastern Region's 2016-17 OWP**

Eastern Region is planning to continue its surveys and monitoring of key spawning tributaries at Waikaremoana for at least two more years, and will continue to be investigating and developing new access opportunities in the Wairoa catchment. As reported previously, the Water Quality Monitoring Buoy has become stuck fast to an unknown obstacle or lake bed structure and is no longer transmitting data. Other interested parties have been notified (Waikato University, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Genesis Energy) and an attempt to free the buoy, probably involving a combination of divers and lifting gear, will need to be planned and implemented. There is a very real prospect this will result in costs and repairs, some of which may not be incurred until the 2016-17 OWP year comes into play. Eastern Region would like to apply to the fund for up to \$19,000 for incorporation into its 2016-17 budget, as was granted last year. A more precise figure should be available prior to finalisation of the OWP in August.

#### **3.3 Application for Funding for Upgrading Navigation Aids at Waikaremoana**

A request has been received from the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association for financial assistance towards the replacement of four navigation markers on Waikaremoana (see Papers for Information). The Association is looking for \$12,000 to do this and is seeking financial assistance from other sources also.

### **4. Recommendation**

**4.1 *That Council reviews these applications for funding and determines whether it wishes to support one or both, and if so, in whole or part.***

## **10. OPTIONS FOR PRODUCING ‘LARGE’ AND/OR ‘TROPHY’ SIZED TROUT**

Ref: 1.00.01

24 March 2016

### **1. Purpose**

To consider the options available for increasing the abundance of large and/or trophy sized rainbow trout in Eastern Region’s traditional trophy fish lakes i.e. Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti, and some of the implications of doing so.

### **2. Background**

In December 2015 a group of concerned Lake Tarawera anglers met with Eastern Region staff to discuss concerns relating to what appears to be an ongoing decline in the size and condition of rainbow trout in recent years, and potential management options. Records from this meeting along with notes prepared by Cr Peter Storey were presented to the last meeting of Council in February. Cr Storey presented an argument for managing Rotorua’s lakes for ‘logical’ outcomes, and has submitted that Lake Tarawera should be restored to, and managed as a trophy trout fishery. Other members of the Lake Tarawera group indicated their desire was to see a return to the days when greater numbers of 3kg plus fish featured in the catch. Council discussed this at some length and asked staff to prepare a paper which provides an overview of what it is that makes a big fish, what we can do if anything to facilitate this, and what the consequences of the various management options might be.

### **3. Current Status of the Three “Trophy Fisheries”**

Over the past 50 years, Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina have undergone changes, some of them substantial. These include changes in water quality, invasion and spread of aquatic weeds, climatic variability, changes in angling pressure, regulation changes, evolution in angling methods, technological developments, and many other pressures. Lakes Rotoiti and Okataina continue to produce fish in excess of 10 pounds plus each season, and Okataina produced several fish exceeding 5kg during the 2015 winter. Lake Tarawera is of greater concern, as no fish exceeding ten pounds have been observed in the Te Wairoa fish trap since 2012, or measured during Angler Creel Surveys since the 2011-12 summer when a single 4.6kg 700mm male was encountered. There have been second hand reports of large fish being caught but none of these have been substantiated. In 2012, the Te Wairoa trap run produced five fish that exceeded 4kg, the largest of these being 4.3kg following a burst in lake productivity during 2011. Given the current status of the Tarawera fishery this paper will address the fundamental question being asked “what can we do to produce a big fish” by focussing largely on that fishery.

### **4. What Constitutes a Large Fish Versus a Trophy Fish?**

What constitutes a big fish is really in the eye of the individual angler. Historically, and for many still, a trophy is a fish that is 10lbs or greater. For others a trophy fish may be a well conditioned but somewhat smaller fish. A number of Tarawera anglers simply want to be able to catch 6-7lb trout more often than they have done in recent years. To produce lots of 10lb plus fish (if achievable) versus greater numbers of 6-7lb fish is likely to require a more drastic management regime.

## **5. What are the Factors that Enable a Fish to Grow to a Large Size?**

The factors ability for trout to grow to a large size is a combination of genetics, water temperature and clarity, food supply, survival and age at maturity.

### **5.1 Genetics**

New Zealand rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are derived from several importations of fish from California. These fish were spread far and wide and have been well intermixed. Taupo and Rotorua fish have a particularly close link with ova from Lake Taupo having been used to stock the Rotorua lakes up until the late 1970s. During the 1980s an ill advised brood stock selection programme was implemented as part of the Tarawera Selective Breeding Programme. This involved using 100 brood fish over a three year period, a third of which were males, to produce all hatchery requirements. Some brood fish were held over at the hatchery, used multiple times, and over several years. In 1984 and 1985 a total of just seven male fish were used. To avoid the risk of reducing genetic variability and introducing undesirable traits to stocked fisheries, this was subsequently abandoned in favour of the current approach which involves the use of a much larger number of selected sires. Currently the selective breeding programme utilises approximately 500 different brood fish over a three year period, about half of which are males.

### **5.2 Water Temperature and Clarity**

Water temperature and clarity are very important. Trout grow best between 15-17°C. Above and below these temperatures the demands of catching prey and carrying out metabolic processes result in reduced growth rates. Good water clarity enables trout to hunt more effectively as they are largely sight feeders. If they cannot sight their prey, their hunting strategy is much less successful.

### **5.3 Food Supply**

Having ready access to plentiful, large food items is also a key contributor to trout growing large. Trout are able to consume food items as large as 1/10th of their body length. By eating one large food item as compared to 10 smaller food items, trout are able to save on energy directed to foraging and metabolic processes. In the Rotorua lakes, smelt, bullies, koura, goldfish, gambusia, small trout and invertebrates are present. Smelt are the major prey items as rainbow trout are open water pelagic feeders and smelt are the most abundant prey species in this part of the system. Like all populations, size and abundance of prey species can be highly variable. Water quality and clarity play a role in driving lake food web interactions, and turbidity/siltation can impact on smelt spawning success in particular.

### **5.4 Survival and Delaying Age at Maturity**

Avoiding harvest (prolonging survival) and delaying the age at which sexual maturity occurs are also important factors affecting the size trout grow to. If trout are harvested at a young age, like any creature they will not reach their potential for size. If trout maturity (breeding age) can be delayed until at least 3 years, then length and size will be superior compared to trout that reach sexual maturity at age 2. This is because formation of gonad requires a large investment in energy. So very little growth is achieved once fish reach maturity. It is a key goal of the hatchery programme to select 3 year plus and if possible 4 year plus maturing fish.

## **6. What Factors Can We Control or Influence?**

### **6.1 *What Fish & Game cannot influence, or has little influence over***

- Nutrient enrichment and trophic state (can advocate for measures to enhance these parameters in the long term but can't influence in the short to medium term)
- Weed growth
- Sedimentation
- Climate change

### **6.2 *What Fish & Game can influence***

- Genetics (via selection of brood stock)
- Prey abundance:trout ratio (via stocking strategy i.e. size and timing of liberations)
- Number of large fish harvested and/or age at which harvested (via bag and/or size limits)
- Number of large fish harvested and/or age at which harvested (via duration of open season)
- Number of large fish harvested (via method restrictions)

## **7. Management Options for Producing More Large and/or Trophy Sized Fish**

### **7.1 Selection of Brood Stock**

#### ***Overview:***

There is no indication that the genetic profile of fish is any different in one lake compared to any other. Rotoiti and Okataina produce some exceptional trophy fish from year to year. Many of these fish are hatchery liberated fish (clipped/tagged) that resulted from crosses of Tarawera fish. When breeding crosses are taken in the hatchery, they form a batch of fry (offspring). A number of batches (crosses) are combined together to form a seasonal cohort (liberation pool). That liberation pool is distributed amongst all of the liberation destinations. So, fish of the same parentage (cross) will be distributed to each lake. The offspring from the 'biggest and best' don't all head off to one location. The environment within lakes is crucial to development of large fish.

Currently, most of the rainbow stock for the breeding programme are sourced from the Te Wairoa fish trap but some fish are donated to the hatchery. Eastern Fish & Game could widen the parameters of the selection areas by operating fish traps in other spawning locations or by gathering brood stock via other means. It has been suggested that fish could be sourced from the Rotokakahi (Green Lake) Outlet as this is a 'Big Fish Lake'. Rotokakahi does produce some very large fish at times, but the outflow of the lake forms the Te Wairoa Stream that feeds Lake Tarawera so these populations are already linked. Fry that venture downstream of the outlet are more than likely capable of surviving the trip to Tarawera via the Te Wairoa Falls and it is probable that many fry do make this journey. Rotokakahi is subject to a management regime that promotes large fish. Restrictive measures mean the fishery receives little pressure, harvest is very low, season length is short, and only trolling is permitted.

***Implications:***

Sourcing brood fish from additional or alternative locations to Te Wairoa Stream would incur significant costs in resources and staff hours. Staff do not believe there is an issue with either the gene pool or the selection of brood stock, or that this extra effort is warranted at this stage.

**7.2 Stocking Strategy (Reduce the Number of Trout Liberated)**

***Overview:***

Trout are liberated to the Rotorua lakes to make up for lack of natural spawning habitat and provide fish for anglers to catch. Fish & Game aims to be conservative with stocking rates and adjusts these from time to time in accordance with angling pressure as best it can. When angler usage increases or decreases stocking can and has been altered. This was recently actioned in Lakes Tarawera and Rotoiti following a drop in Tarawera angler numbers and an increase in Rotoiti (post 2007-08 National Angler Survey).

Some anglers perceive that decreasing fish size in lakes such as Tarawera is due to the trout population being too large for the food available (smelt in particular), i.e. food is a limiting factor. They submit that numbers released should be reduced, the rationale being that if fewer trout were in the lake there would be more smelt for trout to eat and this would enable fish to grow larger. If food/smelt were in extremely short supply this might be the case, but we would expect to see a large proportion of fish in very poor condition also. To focus on smelt numbers alone is simplistic, because if smelt are small due to lake conditions not being conducive to their growth, or smelt are spread widely and not concentrated in dense schools, trout foraging costs are likely to be higher than if smelt are larger and/or available in dense aggregations and this can affect growth too as indicated earlier. Fewer and more widely dispersed schools of smelt have been reported at Tarawera so this could be a factor. So too could lake water clarity. Deteriorating water quality and denser algal blooms may be affecting the ability of trout to sight prey, and if this is the case reducing numbers of trout will not improve trout growth or the condition of fish unless smelt populations really are depressed.

The recent move to staggered liberations in which traditional one-off releases have been spread over four months to enhance survival rates has affected average fish sizes and confounded the situation. Fish have been smaller across year classes since this was introduced in 2012 due to some fish being in the lake for up to 3 months less than others of the same age class/seasonal cohort. From 2015, the spring liberation schedule was altered to bring forward the previously programmed release of 5,000 fish in November and December to September and October. This should have the effect of raising the average size of the spring liberated fish. Notwithstanding this, growth rates within Lake Tarawera have undoubtedly changed. The length of datawatch tagged fish reported has dropped indicating there definitely are other issues at play.

Currently Lake Tarawera is stocked at 3.66 fish/ha and is the second lowest stocked lake in the Rotorua area, just behind Okataina (3.23 fish/ha). Lake Rotoiti is the highest stocked lake at 8.3 fish/ha. A reduction in liberations to Lake Tarawera from 15,000 fish to 12,500 fish per annum is currently being considered, and this would

drop the stocking rate to 3.05 fish/ha. Tarawera was historically stocked at this level during the periods 1967-69, 1971-72, 1984-85 and 1988-1994.

The status and dynamics of smelt populations in the Rotorua lakes need to be better understood. Later this year staff will review the outcome and potential of trials that are being conducted in Lake Taupo to monitor the size and abundance of smelt in lake environments using more advanced technology than has previously been available. A better understanding of upturns and downturns in smelt populations and what prompts these would provide useful information to factor into decision making in relation to stocking.

***Implications:***

While it is a simple matter to reduce the numbers of trout liberated into Tarawera, a large reduction is likely to have a significant impact on both existing and new licence holders. A significant reduction in the number of fish liberated is likely to result in significantly lower catch rates for many anglers. Both summer and winter angler surveys show that while catching big fish is important to anglers, actually catching fish is more important in contributing to angler satisfaction. It has been a goal of Council for many years to promote the Rotorua lakes fisheries and bolster participation and uptake of trout fishing. National Angler Survey results indicate Tarawera receives about 38,000 angler days per annum. If catch rates are significantly reduced, there is a risk that many of these anglers may forego the sport if their prospects of catching a fish at a location as attractive as these use statistics indicate are seriously diminished.

A drastic reduction in liberations to Tarawera would also impact on the ability of the breeding programme to select from a wide range of known three year plus hatchery bred fish. The number of wild fish running through the trap might remain the same, but we would be less able to select fish that we can confidently say are three years or older. This could have a reverse effect on the objective of producing larger and/or trophy sized fish. Fewer fish to choose from might also result in a greater proportion of the run having to be used in the breeding programme, and lower selection criteria.

**7.3 Reduce Harvest/Enhance Survival of Larger Fish and/or Age at Which Fish are Harvested (Lower the Bag Limit)**

***Overview:***

Currently there is an eight fish bag limit for the Rotorua lakes. This is based on Council Policy (2003) requiring sustainable harvest within high demand fisheries. The intention of this moderate to high bag limit is to provide opportunity while avoiding over harvest. The reality is that relatively few daily bag limits are achieved over most of the lakes. To significantly reduce overall harvest and harvest of older/three year plus fish, bag limits would need to be significantly lowered, e.g. to two fish.

A differential limit could be employed, e.g. allow four fish up to 2kg (550mm) and one fish only over 2kg (550mm).

***Implications:***

If bag limits needed to be restricted to as few as two fish to effectively reduce harvest and increase the availability of older (=larger) fish, it is likely this would impact on angler satisfaction. Also, lower bag limits can sometimes have the unintended effect of increasing harvest by setting a more achievable goal for anglers to aspire to than is the case with higher less attainable limits.

All fish start out small and grow to a larger size if they are able to, and catching younger, smaller fish is part of angling. If a lake is incapable of growing large/trophy fish due to lake conditions (e.g. water quality/nutrient balance/food webs), restricting the numbers of fish harvested per se is unlikely to result in larger fish being produced.

A significant reduction in harvest would result in a lesser need for supplementary stocking (particularly if the lakes are food limited and carrying capacity is exceeded) and liberation numbers may need to be reduced dramatically. As previously discussed, if hatchery liberations were heavily reduced in Lake Tarawera, this would have a significant impact on the selective breeding programme..

A differential bag limit would complicate regulations that are already complex, and generate substantive compliance issues.

**7.4 Reduce Harvest/Enhance Survival of Larger Fish and/or Age at Which Fish are Harvested (Manipulate Size Limits)**

***Overview:***

A larger minimum size limit could be introduced as was trialled for a period on Lake Okataina (initially 580mm, later 550mm) to limit the harvest of younger fish and enhance the numbers of these able to grow to a larger size. Stocking rates would probably need to be reduced concurrently, particularly if there was evidence to suggest food supplies were limiting.

An alternative would be to create 'slot limits' between say 550mm and 620mm to protect rising three year old fish. Younger fish between 350mm and 549mm would be takeable, as would fish over 620mm (approximate size at which trout reach around 3kg). If the upper slot limit was 650mm this would equate to a weight in the order of 8 pound plus.

***Implications:***

The Okataina trial was abandoned due to a lot of slabby fish turning up in anglers' catches. Stocking rates were not reduced which may have contributed to the issue and/or the productivity of the lake may have crashed about this time. Harvest of trout was certainly dramatically reduced after a period of time as a consequence of the larger minimum size limit.

Slot limits, as with differential size related bag limits is likely to introduce confusion, uncertainty, and compliance issues.

If lake conditions are not conducive to growth there is no guarantee that either of these approaches will produce 10 pound plus fish.



## **7.5 Reduce Harvest/Enhance Survival of Larger Fish and/or Age at Which Fish are Harvested (Reduce the Duration of the Open Season)**

### ***Overview:***

Restricting season length has the potential to contribute considerably to the production of greater numbers of large fish within the trophy lakes. Currently the three 'trophy' lakes are open for a nine month period (1 October - 30 June), and restricted areas of shoreline are open 12 months to land based anglers (fly and spin).

If Council restricted the open season further, this would result in a dramatic reduction in harvest and trout would have additional time in the lake to grow before being targeted.

Rotokakahi (Green Lake), which has been known to produce some very large fish, opens on 1 December, is generally only fished for several weeks, and is open to boat trolling methods only. This limits pressure and harvest, and enhances the prospects of trout growing to a larger size if environmental conditions are favourable. On opening day 1 December 2013 there were a number of 10 pound 70+cm fish caught on the day. However, during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 summers two large algal blooms were experienced on the lake and these appear to have adversely affected trout growth. On opening day 1 December 2015 fish did not exceed 65cm and just one fish was recorded in excess of 10 pounds in weight (Dr. Ian Kusabs pers. comm.)

If anglers are significantly restricted in their ability to target fish, the size of liberations should also be reduced as overall harvest will be reduced.

There are two options worthy of consideration:

### **7.5.1 Restricting Summer Season (Boat Angling) Opportunities**

Boat anglers make up the overwhelming majority of the angling on the Rotorua 'Trophy Lakes'. By shortening the current boat fishing season (1 October - 30 June), overall fish harvest and harvest of older (= larger) fish could be dramatically reduced.

### **7.5.2 Restricting Winter Season (Shore Line) Opportunities**

If the aim was to provide larger fish for the anglers who contribute to 90% or more of the angling effort on Lake Tarawera (the boat anglers), this could be achieved by restricting the ability of shoreline anglers to catch and harvest fish during the spawning period. The largest fish caught each season are predominantly caught by fly fishing anglers from the spawning beaches when mature trout return to reproduce. These trout are in prime condition for spawning. If these trout were not targeted by anglers over the winter period, they would spawn naturally and/or be available for the hatchery programme. Many of these 3+ year old fish recover after spawning and would be available for boat based anglers. One option could be to close winter shoreline fishing areas to restrict the harvest of larger spawning individuals from those locations. On Tarawera the Orchard, the Landing, and Te Wairoa Stream mouth areas could be closed from 1 April-30 September.

**Implications:**

The consequences of further restricting boat anglers who are currently already limited to a lesser season than shore based anglers (75% of latter's) is likely to result in large numbers of highly dissatisfied anglers. Compliance issues could be substantial.

If winter shoreline restrictions were brought in however, a smaller number of anglers would be inconvenienced. A larger number of slabby fish would probably be caught at the season opening in October and for a period thereafter.

**7.6 Reduce Harvest/Enhance Survival of Larger Fish (Prohibit Methods that Catch Larger Fish)**

**Overview:**

The majority of larger fish caught over the summer period are caught using deeper angling methods as indicated in Tables 1 and 2 below.

<i>Method</i>	<i>n (number)</i>	<i>Average length</i>	<i>Average weight</i>
Downriggers	11	560	2.13
Fly fishing	7	574	2.49
Jigging	73	547	1.90
L.E.D. Line	1	545	1.80
LL (Lead line)	27	506	1.49
Shallow trolling	5	489	1.42
Wire line	15	562	2.10

Table 1. Average weight of fish caught by summer methods (2011-12 summer creel surveys Tarawera)

	Downrigger	Fly fishing	Jigging	L.E.D	Lead line	Shallow troll	Wire line
Age 3		2	1				2
Age 4	1	1	4				

Table 2. Number of hatchery liberated 3 and 4 year old fish caught by each surveyed method from Lake Tarawera over the 2011-12 summer.

Of the 4 year old fish recorded in Table 2, the one caught by downrigger measured 700mm, 4.6kg, while the other which was caught jigging measured 690mm, 4.1kg.

If the objective of Council is to produce greater numbers of larger fish, this may be achieved by restricting the ability of summer anglers to target fish using some of the deep angling methods currently employed. Through the bulk of the summer (and summer holiday period), the majority of trout sit at or below the thermocline during much of the day. The thermocline is a band of water between 15-20m depth where the greatest rate of temperature change occurs. The thermocline is located between the warm upper water layers (epilimnion) and cold bottom waters (hypolimnion). It is the region within the water column where temperatures are most favourable for trout growth (over summer) and where most biological activity occurs. It is also the area where the predominant prey species are found through much of the summer. The largest fish are usually close to the lake bed where their predominant prey (koura and large bullies) are located.

Steps that could be taken to restrict summer boat anglers from targeting fish sitting deep include regulating against:

1. The use of downriggers, wire lines and paravanes.
2. Jigging (the predominant boat based method of fishing on the trophy lakes).

Jigging is difficult to regulate against, as it is difficult to define with such precision that it is distinguishable from other methods. It effectively involves twitching flies or lures regularly or irregularly in a vertical or off vertical fashion at varying depths within the water column. To meaningfully restrict the ability of anglers to jig Council would have to restrict the way anglers fish from a boat, i.e. by prohibiting angling from an anchored, drifting or stationary boat.

If anglers are significantly restricted in their ability to target fish, the size of liberations should also be reduced as overall harvest will be reduced.

**Implications:**

To prohibit jigging by restricting the way in which angling from boats can be undertaken, Council would effectively be prohibiting fly fishing, spinning and globugging from boats also.

If these method restrictions were implemented, anglers would be able to troll using harling or lead line methods, or fish from the shore by fly fishing or spinning. However their inability to target fish using what have become very popular methods is likely to cause massive dissatisfaction.

On Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina, summer creel surveys indicate that 50-65% of the summer anglers fish using jigging, downrigger and wire line trolling methods.

Over the past five summers on Lake Tarawera, 51% of total summer angling effort surveyed has comprised jigging, 5% wire line trolling, and 8% downrigger trolling. On Lake Rotoiti 50% of the summer effort has comprised jigging, 5% wire line, and 6% downrigger trolling. On Okataina, 42% of the summer effort has involved jigging, 5% wire line, and 6% downrigger trolling (see Table 3).

<i>Method</i>	<b>Tarawera</b>		<b>Rotoiti</b>		<b>Okataina</b>	
	<i>effort</i>	<i>cpue</i>	<i>effort</i>	<i>cpue</i>	<i>effort</i>	<i>cpue</i>
All methods combined		0.20		0.29		0.21
Fly Fishing	2%	0.17	1%	0.61	6%	0.11
Shallow trolling	6%	0.09	4%	0.23	7%	0.10
LED Line	1%	0.05	6%	0.09	4%	0.39
Jigging	51%	0.24	50%	0.36	42%	0.23
Wire lines	5%	0.31	5%	0.41	5%	0.19
Lead lines	27%	0.14	31%	0.17	33%	0.13
Glow bugs	1%	0.09	1%	0.44		
Downriggers	8%	0.26	6%	0.33	6%	0.70

Table 3. Past 5 year average effort and catch rates on Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina

Jigging, downriggers and wire lines produce higher catch rates during the summer period and contribute more to harvest than other methods.

By restricting anglers from catching larger fish over the summer period and reducing harvest overall, trout will have the chance to grow older and have a greater potential to reach a larger/trophy size.

National Angler Survey statistics tell us that Lake Tarawera has in the vicinity of 38,000 angler days per annum. Assuming 90% (a conservative estimate) of angling is boat based, this equates to 34,200 summer anglers (angler days). If implemented, the method restrictions described would mean approximately 64% of summer anglers (21,888 angler days) will no longer be able to fish in the manner they previously have. This potentially means a very large number of affected and potentially dissatisfied licence holders.

If Council makes changes of this nature to the regulations there will also be issues associated with compliance. In addition to blatant disregard there will be many confused and unaware anglers confronted with compliance actions that are likely to generate further dissatisfaction. Compliance actions also generate net costs to Fish & Game.

#### **7.7 Implement a Combination of Method Restrictions, Slot Limits, and Shorter Season Lengths**

##### ***Overview:***

Another path to generating greater numbers of larger fish in the trophy lakes would be by implementing a combination of all of the above methods.

A shorter open season for boating anglers where anglers were only able to fish by trolling with lead line or harling methods and were restricted from harvesting fish falling into a mid-sized range could be effective.

##### ***Implications:***

A move to introduce these measures is likely to enhance opportunities for winter shoreline anglers but at the expense of summer boat based anglers. If implemented, the least utilized lake in terms of angling activity should be the location to do so as the least number of anglers would be adversely affected.

One of the difficulties in implementing a raft of changes, if successful, would be determining which of the changes, if any, produced the key outcome sought.

#### **7.8 Other Possibilities for Producing More Large Fish**

- Raise trout to a large size in the hatchery grounds with artificial foods and release a number of trophy size fish each year for anglers to catch. This has been undertaken in small scale (not specifically for this purpose). Would be costly to undertake in terms of \$\$, space and resources.
- Investigate importation of new genetic material to promote hybrid vigour/produce larger fish. Within New Zealand, rainbow trout were established from relatively few introductions. It might be possible to import fresh ova/milt from overseas but this would require a rigorous MPI/DOC/Iwi consultation process and at the end of the day make no change to the status quo. The population that we have and breed from within

the Rotorua lakes has every opportunity to produce large/trophy individuals if lake conditions are conducive, as has recently been seen in Rotoiti and Okataina.

- Place large pellet feeders out in the 'trophy' lakes that would provide extra nutrition for trout when prey populations are at low levels.
- Further manipulate liberation timing. Decrease some of the spring liberation and release instead in February (Ad clip). Also, instead of all being released at The Landing, release 1,000 at another location (e.g. Otumutu Lagoon, Stoney Point or Twin Creeks). We know from past experience, that the summer liberation previously dominated the early trap run at Tarawera and demonstrated good growth characteristics though relatively low numbers were subsequently caught by anglers.
- Produce triploid trout. By heat or pressure shocking eggs at early development, sterile fish can be produced. As most of these fish don't reach maturity they have the ability to grow very large. However, the downsides are that male fish resulting from the process can still go through the process of maturing and while remaining infertile don't grow to maximum attainable size. Triploid may also interfere with natural spawning and prevent desirable fish from spawning. In 2011, triploid fish were investigated by Council but rejected as it was thought this would invoke fears around Genetic Engineering (GE).

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1** *That Council discusses the options available for increasing the abundance of large and/or trophy sized rainbow trout in Eastern Region's traditional trophy fish lakes i.e. Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti.*

## **11. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **11.1 Conservation Boards**

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

### **11.2 Reports from other agencies**

- Department of Conservation

### **11.3 Report from New Zealand Council**

## 12. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

### 12.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

17 March 2016

#### SPECIES MANAGEMENT

##### 1111 River Fisheries Investigations

###### Rangitaiki River Water Quality Monitoring

The Rangitaiki River drift dives within the Kaingaroa forest were unable to be completed this year.

###### East Coast River Fisheries Monitoring

The scheduled Motu River and Takaputahi River drift dive monitoring was not able to be undertaken due to flooding in the catchment in mid February. Due to workload of staff, this project will not be completed until late summer 2017. It needs to be undertaken in the summer period to compare results with previous work undertaken in this area.

###### Didymo monitoring

Staff completed the quarterly didymo delimiting survey in the Ngongotaha Stream on March 10. Didymo remains absent from North Island waters according to the most up to date survey results.

##### 1112 Datawatch

During the six months following the season opening, a total of 316 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	8
Lake Okataina	63
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	12
Lake Rotoehu	24
Lake Rotoiti	88
Lake Rotoma	10
Lake Rotorua	16
Lake Tarawera	92
Lake Tutira	3
Lake Waikaremoana	0

\*tags entered in datawatch database to 11/3/2016

Compared with returns received at this stage last year (mid March 2015), the total number of returns is up by 75. Lakes Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu, Rotorua, Rotoma and Tutira have produced the same amount of tag returns to date. Lakes Okataina, Rotoiti, Tarawera and Rotoehu have produced more tags returned in comparison to the 2014-15 summer. This is most likely attributable to much better fishing especially in the deeper lakes over the summer period. No tags have been returned from the Lake Waikaremoana release that occurred in April 2015. Another 500 tagged fish are due to be liberated at the Hopuruahine mouth in April 2016 as part of the Waikaremoana fishery monitoring programme. Two 'Fish for Gold'

tags from the 2015-16 season opening promotion have also been entered in the database. Another two have arrived in the office and have yet to be entered.

### 1113 Lake Waikaremoana

#### Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy requires removal. The sensor chains appear fouled on bottom structure or submerged trees. University of Waikato and contractors are required to complete retrieval. Due to Health & Safety concerns, special planning and safety measures will be required to support a dive operation.

### 1115 Lake Fisheries Research

#### Ngongotaha Stream Trap

The Ngongotaha Stream fish trap was operated for 12 nights during January 2016. 90% of the run was made up of brown trout, though numbers of browns were lower than during December that showed the peak of the brown trout exodus from Lake Rotorua to escape the warming lake water. No 10 pound plus fish were recorded through the trap during January. The largest fish through the trap during January was a 645mm 4.1kg brown trout female. The largest rainbow was a 600mm, 3.4kg female.

#### Trap run January 2016

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	529	2.01	13	1		
<i>Brown</i>	598	3.06	121	10	0	90%

During February the trap was operated for 10 nights. The trapping period was again dominated by brown trout (80% of fish sampled). The Ngongotaha trap was run for ten nights in February. No ten pound plus fish were recorded through the trap. The largest fish was a 645mm, 4.1kg female brown trout. Both rainbow and brown trout over the course of the past years trapping have been larger and heavier on average indicating an improvement in the Rotorua fishery. Over the past year rainbows on average have been 9mm and 50g heavier and browns 14mm longer and 160g heavier.

#### Trap run February 2016

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	539	1.84	15	2		
<i>Brown</i>	579	2.63	60	6	0	80%

#### Catfish Located in Lake Rotoiti

Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) contractors operating a weed harvesting boat at Te Weta Bay, Lake Rotoiti encountered a catfish (approximately 27cm fork length) on 15 March. The catfish was brought on board the weed harvester amongst a large amount of weed and a second catfish was sighted. This is the first confirmed account of a live catfish being present in the Rotorua lakes and within Bay of Plenty waters. Catfish are present in the Waikato River and Lake Taupo. It is possible this fish arrived as the result of accidental transfer as fish eggs on weed fragments attached to an unclean boat, trailer or other water sports equipment or may have been the result of a deliberate release. Catfish are omnivorous and will likely compete with trout for some of the food resources such as snails, invertebrates and



koura. Trout will eat small catfish as will shags, though larger catfish have hard pectoral and dorsal defensive spines that make ingestion difficult.

Catfish are defined as a pest fish in New Zealand waters and within the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan. They are most associated with slow moving water bodies/lakes with extensive weed bed areas. In large densities they can stir up silt/mud leading to reduced water quality.

BOPRC staff will be carrying out further monitoring using fyke nets within Te Weta Bay, Okawa Bay and Okere Arm in the week of 28 March to 1 April. Waikato University will operate its electric fishing vessel also in an attempt to find/capture other catfish. Further monitoring work within Rotoiti, Rotorua and the Kaituna River will be looked into after the initial Te Weta Bay monitoring.

### **1116 Game Bird Trend Counts**

#### **Paradise and Black Swan Counts**

Matt McDougall completed flights and counts for both Eastern and Hawke's Bay Regions. Results were analysed and recommendations sent to NZFGC. Weather and an existing booking of the plane resulted in two days of the flying bundled into one 11 hour day which meant a couple of sites could not be counted. Matt is working on the final report which will be circulated to Council once completed.

### **1118 Waterfowl Monitoring Programme**

#### **Mallard and grey duck monitoring**

Population modelling predicted that the 2016 mallard and grey duck population was expected to increase on the 2015 estimate. The catch (mallard and grey banded) per unit effort corroborates these findings with the total caught so far the highest since 2011. The final trap (Waikite Valley site) has been delayed due to the presence of a predator, but it is expected to be completed shortly.

Staff were also heavily involved in the Hawke's Bay trapping and banding this year. A lot of effort was spent on modelling covariates to predict the mallard population given that one year's data was missing. Some interesting results came out of this which may have implications for the Eastern Region particularly the East Coast. It appears that recruitment may be influenced by winter rainfall. This warrants follow up in this region as it has ramifications for regulation setting, population monitoring, habitat development and RMA planning.

Matt McDougall is working on the final report which will be circulated to Council once completed.

#### **Application to Band Game Birds**

Matt McDougall has been trying to obtain a blanket permit to band game birds for the whole of the country (i.e. for all of Fish & Game). We are now in the second year of this process and DOC's track record has been abysmal.

### **Authorities to Hold, Release and Capture Game Birds**

Staff have provided feedback on 12 permit applications, six for mallards and six for pheasants. Seven of these were in the Eastern Region and five in the Hawke's Bay.

### **Duck Management Units**

Auckland/Waikato and Eastern staff met to further develop monitoring protocols for duck management units (DMUs) common to each region. The aerial counts in the Reporoa district will be included in one of the DMUs. Aerial counts are planned for April.

### **1121 Lakes Fisheries Creel Surveys**

#### **Opening Day Survey**

The opening day creel survey data has been analysed but the report has not yet been completed.

#### **Summer Creel Survey**

The summer angler creel surveys for the 2015-16 season started in November and will conclude in mid April. Angling on the lakes appeared better over the 2015-16 summer compared to the 2014-15 summer. Lake edge fishing around Lake Rotorua picked up from mid January and continued through to 12 March when the lake cooled sufficiently to encourage fish to leave the cold water plumes. Anglers enjoyed very high catch rates particularly around the Hamurana and Awahou Stream mouths.

#### **Winter creel survey**

The winter creel shoreline survey schedule has been developed on a similar basis as the last number of years. The surveys will begin during April and will run through until the end of June on Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Tarawera. A winter creel survey investigation will also be instigated at Lake Waikaremoana spawning tributaries (Hopuruahine/Mokau Streams).

### **1141 Hatchery Operations**

Fingerlings for spring releases and external orders have been moved outside rearing ponds and netting installed to minimise predation.

Liberations to the Eastern Region were completed as per the following table and trout were transported from Turangi to Taranaki and Wellington Fish & Game regions.

Maintenance has been undertaken on the TeWairoa trap equipment in preparation for its installation on April 1.

#### *Fish locations at 15 March 2016:*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Qty (approx)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Tank A	0+ Brown	2000	Eastern, HB liberations 2016
Tank B	1+ Brown	100	Auckland/Waikato 2016 as 2+
Tank C	0+ Tiger	2000	Eastern autumn liberations
Tanks 4-8	0+ Rt	45,000	Eastern, spring and orders
Tank 9	0+ Rt	500	Eastern early Rt, Waikaremoana
Pond 2	0+ Rt	20,000	Eastern and HB spring liberations
Pond 2	0+ Rt	20,000	Eastern and HB spring liberations
Pond 4	0+ Rt	10,250	Eastern and HB autumn liberations

Pond 5	0+ Rt	10,750	Eastern autumn liberations
Pond 6	0+ Rt	5,000	Eastern autumn liberations
Pond 7	0+ Rt	6,000	Eastern spring liberations
RW 2	1+ Rt	4000	Other regions as 2+ in 2016
RW 1	1+ Rt	1000	Auckland/Waikato 2+ in 2016

*Liberations for 20 January 2016 – 15 March 2016:*

Date	Location	Qty	Age	Species	Tag	Clip/mark
14/3/16	Rotoiti	4000	1+	RT	-	Rpad
8/3/16	Okataina	250	1+	RT	-	Rpad
8/3/16	Tarawera	1000	1+	RT	-	Rpad
9/2/16	Tarawera	500	1+	RT	-	Ad
9/2/16	Tarawera	500	1+	RT	X16	Ad

### 1171 Regulations

#### Anglers Notice

See Agenda Item 7.

#### Game Season Conditions

The 2016 Game Season recommended regulations for Eastern and Hawke's Bay Regions were sent to NZFGC on 5 February 2016.

### 1181 Game Bird Control

#### Crop Permits

Thirty six crop permits have been issued so far this financial year, 25 of these in Eastern and 11 in Hawke's Bay.

#### Tauranga Airport

Matt McDougall met with Tauranga Airport staff to discuss a build up of swan at the end of the runway. Although it appears there is no imminent threat, swan do appear to be utilising this end of the harbour more than they have done in recent years (personal observation during aerial counts). The Airport staff considered the organised hunts made a difference to the population at the end of the runway. Historically there has been a lot of negative publicity over the harbour hunts and NZFGC public relations staff asked us to no longer enable these. If however the population can support the hunt and it reduces the risk to aircraft around the airport then the hunt should be reconsidered.

## HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

### 1211 RMA Planning and Consents

#### Gisborne District Council – Freshwater Advisory Group and Freshwater Plan

Following the work of the Freshwater Advisory Group the Gisborne District Council notified the proposed freshwater plan on October 12 2015. Overall the notified plan is pretty good from a Fish & Game perspective, although a submission was lodged in early December covering a number of topics. Further submissions were lodged in February.

### **Kaimai Catchments Forum**

The forum has now created several smaller focus groups to address areas of particular concern with a more manageable sized group. No new developments.

### **Whakatane District Council**

Submissions were lodged on the Proposed Whakatane District Plan in September 2013. Concerns with the plan were generally in relation to barriers to the enhancement of scheduled wetlands on public and private land, and also to the ongoing maintenance of wetlands. Additionally we have some concerns with the activity status of maimai requiring resource consents in some zones, including areas such as Ohiwa Harbour, large parts of the coastal area, and in most of our balloted hunting areas. The majority of our concerns have been accepted in the decisions which continue to be released periodically.

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

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has recently established a Regional Water Advisory Panel. This is a collaborative group with representatives from a wide range of sectors which has been set up to provide context and direction for how freshwater resources are managed in the Bay of Plenty. Community groups to consider catchment specific regulations have been established in three catchments. Fish & Game representatives have been accepted on each of them. Bay of Plenty Regional Council is hoping to notify a freshwater plan during 2016.

Fish & Game has been invited to comment on the proposed Bay of Plenty Regional Council navigational safety bylaws. Issues arise with the potential to lift speed restrictions off some protected river areas, and a proposal to make the wearing of life jackets compulsory at all times in a boat less than six metres while under power. Fish & Game staff believe this may impact on our licence holders, but as views may be very varied within our anglers, we will explain to BOPRC our user group activities, but not make recommendations on safety issues. We will promote the bylaw submission process, should licence holders wish to make personal submissions on life jacket wearing.

### **Water Quality**

Following the adoption of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management in 2014, Regional Councils are now required to implement its provisions. Fish and Game remains involved in the Gisborne Freshwater Advisory Group and the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel. These collaborative groups comprise representatives from a wide range of sectors and have been established to assist the councils with freshwater management planning, to provide context and direction for how freshwater resources are managed, and to assist in the implementation of the National Policy Statement.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established community groups to look at values and limits within the Rangitaiki, Kaituna/Maketu and Pongakawa/Waitahanui Water Management Areas. Fish & Game representatives have been appointed to each of them. Community groups will also be established in the other seven Water Management Areas in the future.

The Gisborne District Council has identified ten Water Management Areas and is expected to follow a similar process of establishing community groups.

## Resource Consents

Date In	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
15-Feb-16	EBOP	Rotorua Lakes Council	LUC- re-consenting existing jetties	Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Rotoma	S95E3A
22-Feb-16	EBOP	Lake Rotoiti Hot Pools	LUC- new jetty construction	Lake Rotoiti	S95E3A
04-Mar-16	GDC	NZTA	LUC – bridge replacement	Motu River, Matawai	S95E3A

### Lake Waikaremoana Lagarosiphon Project

Fish & Game staff attended a Waikaremoana lagarosiphon meeting at Aniwanuiwa on March 4. Updates were given regarding the recent surveying operations. The dive team sought to conduct operations over the week beginning 16 November 2015. However, due to particularly poor lake conditions with very limited visibility, the November monitoring had to be abandoned. The next monitoring round was scheduled 14-18 December 2015 but did not proceed due to the unavailability of divers.

Successful monitoring did occur over the week starting on 22 February 2016. Perfect conditions and lake levels were found that greatly aided the work undertaken. More thorough searches were possible than at other 'recent' monitoring events. Unfortunately three new infestation sites were picked up that are likely to have been present for several years. The first and most alarming site is within the Home Bay weed cordon with several plants identified in amongst other vegetation. Because of this locality, it is essential quick action is undertaken before boats launching within the cordon transfer weed fragments further around the lake. Also the shallow nature of Home Bay would be a perfect growing area for lagarosiphon. The second new infestation area is adjacent to the sewerage pumping station approximately 1km from the home Bay ramp on the southern shore. This weed bed covers an area of 75m by 2m. The third new find is in Mokau Bay 230m west of the boat ramp. This is an area that boats tie up in where public are camped in the Western section of the Mokau camp.

Aside from the new finds, reports from the other known areas of lagarosiphon control have been positive with decreasing numbers of plants found, and all plants found were near stakes of previously known finds. There was a plant found within the narrows area that shows a slight extension of the bed north-east of Te Raoa Bay. The new infestation sites will have suction dredging carried out as soon as feasible and some bottom lining material placed to suppress further growth.

### Koaro Restoration Group Meeting

Koaro monitoring was carried out on the 10 and 11 February in the Waitarere Stream above the trout barrier (tributary of Hamurana Stream). A total of 60 koaro were trapped using gee minnow traps. This is 19 more than the previous highest number trapped (July 2015 - 41 koaro). A further five 5 spare traps were placed in the main stem of the Hamurana Stream (below the trout barrier) and a further 13 koaro were trapped.

Algae issues and trout getting past the barrier continue to be an issue. Trout that were previously caught above, fin clipped and then placed below the barrier (under permit) have been recaptured back above the barrier during trout removal operations.

### **Dairy Effluent Conversion Project Open Day**

Staff attended a field day hosted by Bay of Plenty Regional Council along with Dairy NZ, NIWA, Raglan Eels and farming public on new technology that could be used to further utilize nutrient by-product from dairy effluent. The host farm had been equipped with a system that extracted diffuse watery effluent from the dairy oxidation pond. The diffuse effluent was then introduced to a shallow circulating pond that allowed algae to thrive and take up nutrient from the water. After a period of time (6 days?) algae was stripped from the pond and presented into a drain where invertebrates could digest the algae. From there fish (mosquito fish, inanga, eels) could eat the invertebrates. The idea of the system is to convert nutrient from effluent into fish flesh. There could be commercial possibilities if the system is further fine-tuned and taken up. Cost of production could be cheaper than existing effluent systems. There could be potential to lessen nutrient leaching in farm situations where nutrient levels are already at saturation point. Consenting and compliance monitoring will be important undertakings to ensure excess nutrient isn't being delivered into drains rather than being taken up by algae.

## **1221 Reserves Management**

### **General**

Scheduled summer works are ongoing with Awaiti, Bregmans and Orini water reticulation channels successfully excavated in early February 2016. These same three wetlands are now within agreed water level ranges. The scheduled mowing of vehicle tracks within the managed reserves has been completed with another to be undertaken in early April. Pest plant spraying is currently occurring within the reserves. Ballot holders have been regularly accessing reserves for stand maintenance with some of the vehicle access tracks starting to deteriorate within the Kaituna and Awaiti wetlands. To preserve these tracks we will have to restrict vehicle access to quad/mule access only post opening weekend. No access track issues are occurring in other wetland reserves. A full site inspection will occur in each managed wetland in mid April to ensure conditions are optimal for hunting opening weekend.

Renewal of gazette notices for management of the Crown owned wetlands within the Eastern Region between DOC and Fish & Game continues to be stalled a little as DOC is still to ascertain who is to take charge of this and liaise with Fish & Game staff. The process is ongoing and we will update the Council of progress as it occurs.

### **Awakaponga WMR**

Nearly \$30,000 of funding was approved by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Innovation Fund for the Awakaponga Water Proposal. This is considered to be an innovative project utilising solar energy and compressed air pumping to enhance water levels within Awakaponga Wildlife Management Reserve. The system is now operational except for some minor calibration work and fine tuning which should be completed over the next month.

An on-site presentation of the system to Regional Council staff is scheduled in March.

## **1231 Maintain and Enhance Game Bird Habitat**

### **Landowner Information**

No requests have been received since the last Council meeting;

## **1232 Habitat Creation Projects**

### **East Coast Pond Trial**

Nothing new to report.

### **Waikato Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET)**

Matt McDougall has continued to have input into a number of habitat projects that he is managing on behalf of the Trust. Due to clashes with the Waikato River Authority funding round and the difficulty of a January 31 close off date (for most people) the WCEET funding close off has been moved to 31 March. This is greatly appreciated for many reasons not the least that it is difficult to do the applications justice with the existing work load at this time of the year.

## **1233 Drain Management**

Support has been given to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council at local public meetings regarding the trial planting of drains within the Kaituna catchment, to enhance biodiversity and improve water quality. Some opposition has come from local drainage scheme farmers and BOPRC requested our support, as they are well aware of Fish & Game's desire to see drains better utilised for waterfowl productivity. A full plan is currently developed to shape, plant and maintain the Kaituna Extension Road drain which will be monitored, and promoted, as a future model of drain management in the region. Fish & Game is providing advice on the drain modelling.

## **ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION**

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

#### **General**

Annual angler access work continues with maintenance on tracks and access points taking place at various locations. Track maintenance work on the Rangitaiki River system is in progress as time allows. The Wheao walking track has been sprayed for weed growth.

Kaingaroa Forest (Rangitaiki River system), and Waimangu Forest access (to Lake Rotomahana) remain closed. Access conditions imposed by forest managers remain the same as in previous years in that unless there is a prolonged period of low fire risk recreational access will not be open over the summer period. Access is due to reopen on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of May and should be open through to the end of September, weekends only.

Angler access work on the Waikaretaheke angler access enhancement is underway (track work and signage) and should be completed in mid March.

#### **Hunting Ballots**

A meeting (13 February 2016) was held with new hunters to the ballot system and those hunters that have not attended a meeting before. The meeting covers what Fish & Game

expects (in relation to habitat and maimai maintenance and construction) and what they are allowed and not allowed to do (such as lighting fires).

### **1331 Inform Anglers and Hunter**

#### **Reel News, Both Barrels**

Reel Life was produced in January and February covering summer prospects especially the summer shoreline angling, fishing tips, Anglers Notice process and submissions for 2016.

### **1332 Fish & Game Magazine**

A two page Fish & Game magazine supplement was prepared and sent away for printing (25 January 2016) for both Hawke's Bay and Eastern Regions as were two 12 page newsletters (15 February 2016).

### **1333 Fishing Reports**

A fishing prospects was added to the Reel Life for the period and numerous reports featured on Twitter.

### **1334 Maintain & Update Content on Web Site**

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included council agendas and minutes, 'Teacher Science' article, water level notice for Aniwhenua (2), anglers notice process and submissions. 15 tweets were sent out for the period. Our Twitter account now has 328 followers and received 12,650 impressions for the reported period.

### **1341 Information Pamphlets**

A stock take of the pamphlets has been carried out and modifications to the Lake Rotorua and Tributaries brochure re-print are currently being made.

### **1352 Children's Fishing Programme**

No children's fishing events were held for the period.

### **1352 Angler Training/Seminars**

No angler hunter training seminars were held for the period.

### **1354 Fishing Competitions**

Six fishing competition permits were processed for the period. Staff attended weigh-ins for four competitions.

### **1361 Fish & Game Club relations**

Four club visits were made during the period.



## **PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **1421 Public Communications**

#### **Non-Statutory Groups**

A meeting took place with Timberlands in mid February to further discussions relating to access. Outcomes are still be negotiated and will be reported later.

#### **Media Releases**

A media release reporting that stream mouth fishing had “hotted up” on Lake Rotorua received good coverage in early February. A release was also issued for Hawke’s Bay Region around the same time with the results of ranging operations, and reminding anglers to carry licences. A third release in February aimed at publicising the latest Fish & Game habitat stamp, referred to Eastern staff’s innovative work at the Awakaponga Wildlife Management Reserve in the Bay of Plenty. The project features an innovative water supply system which makes use of solar energy and air-lift technology.

Negative publicity was generated over the proposed grass and silver carp farm near Taupo and Andy Garrick and the communications team in particular, spent some time preparing material to make Fish & Game’s view clear.

The resignation and departure of the South Island communications advisor Andrew Currie has meant the remaining communications team members have had to pick up work normally handled by Andrew.

For North Island communications advisor Grant Dyson, this has meant taking over much of the work on the monthly fishing e-zine, Reel Life, gathering contributions from specialist contributors and staff around the country and preparing them for publication.

Grant Dyson has also written regional Reel Life content where necessary, such as for Hawke’s Bay Region in the absence of local Fish & Game Officers. Grant has also written pieces on the appointment of two new officers to the Hawke’s Bay office – both for Fish & Game’s newsletter and for a media release to go out shortly.

Grant has been working with Matt McDougall to prepare for the re-launch of the Banding Together promotion run with Hunting and Fishing NZ, which rewards hunters for returning duck bands. The pair have also begun to assemble material for our game bird electronic newsletter, Both Barrels.

### **1441 Public Promotions**

#### **Balance Farm Environment Awards**

The Bay of Plenty Balance Farm Environment Awards ceremony took place on 26 February. The Supreme winners were Leighton Oats and Matt Nelson of BAYGOLD Limited (kiwifruit growing operation) based in Paengaroa. Farm Environment Award judges described BAYGOLD Ltd as a resilient and well-governed business that “survived Psa by demonstrating excellence and innovation”, The Public field day at Highlands Station 171 Highlands Road, RD3, Rotorua will be held on 5 April 2016.

## COMPLIANCE

### 1511 Compliance

Compliance has continued primarily with angler checks and survey work on the lakes and popular stream locations. Trout seeking cool water refuge had again moved in large numbers into the Awahou Stream. This again created a compliance problem as large numbers of clearly visible trout became a magnet for anglers, and for illegal fishing and poaching. While the Hamurana Stream mouth also attracted large numbers of anglers, it was the Awahou Stream which had the compliance issues, and this has required regular compliance visits since late January through to the present, and at this point still ongoing. The main offending in this area is fishing without licence, and using illegal tackle or methods.

Waikaremoana summer monitoring continued with visits to Waikaremoana. This also included liaison with the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority.

Angler contacts to end of February total 2,337 checks.

Compliance checks have been carried out in other locations around the region with no issues, most of this by honorary rangers.

Planning is underway for the game bird hunting compliance operations – which are 07 & 08 May 2016. This includes most of the preliminary planning for Hawkes Bay as well as Eastern's.

#### Contacts: Year 2015-2016 to 29/02/2016

Month	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Last 5 yr average
September	96	82	66	50	59	71
October	1183	997	984	960	1223	1069
November	223	129	175	112	20	132
December	494	598	387	392	285	431
January	466	497	355	381	324	405
February	170	234	151	395	418	274
March	184	300	279	275		260
April	340	195	299	264		275
May	503	516	446	498		491
June	422	209	325	203		290
July	224	120	79	120		136
August	74	131	77	76		90
<b>Total</b>	<b>4379</b>	<b>4008</b>	<b>3623</b>	<b>3726</b>	<b>2337</b>	<b>3,934</b>

### 1520 Ranger Training

#### Regional Honorary Rangers

Honorary rangers continue to contribute around the region.

**North Island/National CLE role**

The North Island/National CLE role continues with input into CLE/training/prosecutions and legal matters.

**Hawkes Bay work**

Continuing input into Hawkes Bay region rangers and CLE operations, and into Hawkes Bay access matters as they arise.

**1531 Prosecution of Offenders****Prosecutions**

Currently 20 offenders have offences pending resolution. The most common offence remains fishing without licence, fishing closed waters and using illegal tackle. Generally reparation uptake remains slow with considerable effort being required in most cases to conclude matters via reparation, if they are resolved in that manner. Several offenders have warrants to arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in court, and some of these warrants to arrest have been in existence for some time. A number of matters are currently before the court with more matters likely to have charges filed soon due to failure to complete reparation, or due to the nature of offences.

**Offences 2015-2016 Year**

For the year 2015- 2016 year to date we have dealt with 31 persons for 53 offences as tabled below.

*Offences for the Year 2015-2016 to 10/03/2016:*

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Fish without licence	22
Fish closed waters	9
Fish with illegal tackle	14
Fish more than 1 rod	2
Fish with unattended rod	1
Disturb spawning gravels	2
Take trout with net/spear/device	3
False details	2
Obstruction	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>

**Offences Pending Resolution**

To date (10/03/2016) 35 separate offences are pending resolution, by 20 offenders.

*Offences pending resolution as at 10/03/2016:*

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Fish without licence	15
Illegal tackle	8
Fish closed waters	4
False details	2
Disturb spawning grounds	1
Possession of net	1
Take trout with net/spear/device	1
Failure to answer District Court bail	2

<b>Obstruction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>

**LICENSING**

**1612 National Licence Management**

Kate Thompson remains involved with the Licence Working Party and attended a meeting of the group in Wellington on 24 February 2016. Unfortunately due to flight delays an earlier meeting with the Fish & Game licence group was not attended. However this was followed by a meeting at Eyede which covered operational licensing processes for the upcoming game season, introduction of a controlled fisheries booking system (not currently utilised in the Eastern region), planning for system outages, sales reports, schedule of fixes and changes, and new development.

**1621 Licence Agent Support**

Staff continue to communicate with agents in relation to licence queries and assistance with Agency Online. Recently staff visited game licence agents, delivering regulation guides and the 2016 Game Bird newsletter.

**COUNCILS**

**1721 Council Meetings**

Minutes for the February Council meeting prepared and circulated, and the confirmed November meeting minutes and unconfirmed February minutes were posted on the web site.

**PLANNING AND REPORTING**

**1841 New Zealand Fish & Game Liaison**

Several staff provided ongoing input to national projects including Kate Thompson, Carmel Veitch, and Anthony van Dorp. Andy Garrick continued to provide managerial services to the Hawke’s Bay Region, and most other staff provided remote assistance or were directly involved in the field there in connection with matters ranging from CLE and access enquiries, administration and accounting, RMA and consent processes, fisheries related work, and permits to disturb.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**1920 Annual Leave**

Staff annual leave accruals are reported each month. Due to employment anniversary dates, the leave accruals for individuals vary depending on the time of the year. We have established leave for individual staff as at 6 March 2016. We currently have two staff members four weeks behind where we would like them to be, two staff members two weeks behind and two staff members one week behind. The remainder are in a neutral leave position.

## **1922 Staff Training**

There was no staff training undertaken for the period.

## **1924 Health and Safety**

“Employees must take reasonable care in respect to personal health and safety and that of others in the workplace”.

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2016/0013/latest/DLM6727530.html?src=qs>

### **Why has the law changed?**

Too many New Zealanders die or are seriously hurt while working in this country and something has to change. In comparison with other similar countries, our workplace health and safety record is not good. Every year over 50 workers are killed undertaking their work while up to 900 individuals die from work-related diseases. Several hundred are also seriously injured while at work. There is a need to work together and find a solution to reverse this concerning trend.

On 4 April 2016, the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) came into force bringing new responsibilities for everyone in the workplace. The new law is part of a reform package aimed at reducing the number of serious work-related injuries and deaths by at least 25 percent by 2020. It's about ensuring that people come home healthy and safe from work to their families and loved ones.

### **Who will be responsible for workplace health and safety under the HSWA?**

Essentially, everyone will be responsible for health and safety in the workplace. In terms of the business itself, a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) is a business entity such as a company rather than an individual. Examples include an incorporated company, a self-employed person or an organisation created by legislation. The business will have the primary duty under this new law to ensure the health and safety of its workers and others affected by the work that it carries out. Therefore, it is important that separate businesses need to work together if they are sharing a worksite or are working with contractors to ensure that all workers are safe and healthy.

Directors and those people that make governance decisions that significantly affect a business are referred to as Officers. Officers have a duty of due diligence to ensure that their business complies with health and safety obligations. Workers must take reasonable care to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others and to comply with the business's instructions and policies. Visitors, customers or other people who enter the workplace also have some health and safety duties. Essentially it is about taking responsibility for the things that you can control.

NZ Fish & Game has obtained a legal opinion relating to the liabilities of Fish & Game Councillors and where we stand in relation to honorary rangers. The opinion has been provided with the April Papers for Information.

## **What are the other key changes?**

The Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) moves the focus from monitoring and recording health and safety incidents to proactively identifying and managing risks so everyone is safe and healthy. This might not necessarily mean significant changes to day-to-day operations, but it's the business's duty to think about who may be affected by its business. This includes workers, contractors, customers and visitors. The business will also need to engage workers in health and safety matters and implement effective participation practices to allow workers to contribute to health and safety on an ongoing basis.

## **What do we need to do?**

The business needs to proactively identify and manage its health and safety risks, and make sure information about health and safety is shared with workers, and workers are engaged in matters that could affect their health and safety. Examples include:

- Identifying health and safety hazards and risks and take steps to prevent these from happening.
- Make sure health and safety in your business is led from the top, has involved and is understood by staff, and is reviewed regularly.
- Hold regular training on health and safety matters.
- Engage workers in health and safety matters that affect them.
- Support all officers to get up to date with health and safety issues and key risk factors.
- Report and monitor health and safety goals.
- Regularly review any incidents.
- Carry out frequent health and safety audits.

Eastern Region have included a letter and a checklist this coming hunting season for hunters wishing to use and hunt at Fish and Game wetlands. As managers of certain wetlands, it is Fish & Game's responsibility to identify potential hazards and controls to minimise risks in and around their wetlands.

Eastern have identified a number of hazards to be aware of whilst visiting these managed wetlands. Many of these hazards are generic to outdoor recreation and may seem like common sense, but Fish & Game have a duty to comply with legislation.

Hunters are encouraged to become familiar with these hazards. Safety is paramount and must never be compromised. If new hazards are identified and or controls that may eliminate the hazard, hunters are encouraged to contact Fish & Game and inform us of these hazards.

Easter Region staff discuss health and safety at their weekly and monthly meetings as a set agenda item and any hazards raised are documented. Staff are also undertaking "Tool Box" talks in the field. These pre-work H&S discussions only take 5 minutes to complete but get everyone thinking about potential hazards of the job that day and have been shown to work well in other organisations such as DOC and forestry operations. It also forms a paper trail useful for audit purposes. Carmel Veitch is co-ordinating meetings with all staff to formalise and document Health and Safety processes that ensure we are compliant with the new legislation coming into effect on 4 April 2016.

## HAZARD IDENTIFICATION LIST

### FOR USERS OF FISH & GAME MANAGED WETLANDS

<i>Hazard (Potential harm)</i>	<i>Action required to Eliminate, Isolate or Minimise hazard</i>
<b>Cannabis plants found</b> ( <i>Booby traps, grower threats</i> )	Do not touch plants, leave area immediately. Contact Eastern F & G office who will report to NZ Police.
<b>Extreme weather</b> ( <i>exposure</i> )	Check weather forecast; Carry appropriate clothing and protection.
<b>Fences</b> ( <i>Sprains, strains, twisting and cuts. Electric jolt</i> )	Use gates if possible, cross fence onto stable ground. Be aware of electric fences.
<b>Firearms</b> ( <i>severe injury and death</i> )	Use in a responsible manner in line with normal operational practices. – Arms Act 1983. Be aware -firearms present in wetland.
<b>General Equipment and Tools -</b> ( <i>Injury, hearing loss, eye injury, cuts</i> )	Use safely and responsibly in line with normal operation practice. Use personal protection equipment (PPE) as required (e.g. earmuffs and safety boots).
<b>Illegally dumped rubbish</b> ( <i>sharps such as glass, tin cans, wire rope, bone can puncture skin</i> )	The use of gloves is recommended. Minimise skin contact or inhalation where possible. Contact Eastern F & G office.
<b>Off road driving</b> ( <i>drive into waterway, accident, stranding</i> )	Use only 4WD vehicle. Beware of hazards such as bull-rut-holes. Drive carefully and to the conditions. In low-visibility areas, (high grass), drive slowly and with caution on well-consolidated stop-bank or recognised tracks.
<b>Private land</b> ( <i>Crossing unsafe structures. Livestock farm hazards, Water drains</i> )	Contact landowner prior to visit; Discuss any out of the ordinary farming hazards and seek permission for access; Assess the risks and control accordingly.
<b>Spraying</b> ( <i>Poisoning</i> )	Wear appropriate PPE (respirator/mask, gloves, overalls); follow manufactures instructions; users are aware of code of practice
<b>Structures - maimais, boardwalks, nails, loose iron</b> ( <i>Fall, injuries, cuts</i> ).	Structures do deteriorate. Visually and physically test before access.
<b>Uneven terrain</b> ( <i>Long walk for some participants. Straining knees, back, hips</i> )	Wear suitable footwear; Beware of trip hazards, logs, exposed roots or other obstructions.
<b>Vegetation- blackberry, stinging nettle etc</b> ( <i>cuts, poison, scratches</i> )	Be aware of surrounds - stay clear of vegetations likely to cause harm. Use antihistamine if required.
<b>Wasp Nest</b> ( <i>severe stings</i> )	Do not antagonise hive and leave area immediately. Contact Eastern F & G office.
<b>Water bodies – courses</b> ( <i>drowning, hypothermia</i> )	Beware hidden holes and drains, steep drain sides, mud and water depth risks. Use wading safety stick to plumb depths. If in waders - wear wading belt. Boating: Use serviceable boat. Wear appropriate life-vest. Don't overload/overbalance. Implement "Man overboard" procedures; safety rope and life ring if required. If exposure symptoms, keep patient warm with blanket, remove from wind, give warm drinks, (not alcohol).
<b>Water Control Structures – Weirs/culverts/floodgates</b> ( <i>Drowning, limb injuries</i> )	Do not touch, alter or modify structures. F & G management job only.

## Work Place Accident Register

*As at 16 March 2016*

Number of workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2014-2015 year	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2013-2014 year	3
Total number of workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	28
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	1
Total number of days since last lost-work injury (7/12/13)	830
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	6,672



## **12.2 Finance Report**

**Ref: 8.03.01**

**22 March 2016**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Council of the current financial position, and approve payments for the months of January and February 2016.

### **2. Finance Report**

The cash flow summary and variance report for the month ending 29 February 2016 are attached. These reports document the income and expenditure for the period.

#### ***Income***

Licence revenue reported to the end of December is under budget by \$31,386 yet remains ahead of revenue reported for the same period last year. As advised previously with the significant shift to online sales this season the monthly budget targets are best estimates and will become more accurate in the next season when the aim is to have all agents online. The increased use of the Public Online facility also contributes to this improvement in cash flow as proceeds of these sales are paid to the region soon after the completion of each month. Licence sales by category and LEQ are reported in detail within the licence sales report and will provide a more accurate picture of licence sales YTD.

Revenue from other sources over the period was again significant at \$61,267 and this was made up of the following; sale of fish and product (\$15,158), fishing competitions (\$657), rentals (\$3,163), fines (\$741), interest (\$1,140) and staff contracts (\$38,384). Staff contracts income is ahead of budget YTD (\$73,774) and is due to significant field, admin and management staff involvement with Hawke's Bay Region, Carmel Veitch's work with the financial review committee and Annual Reporting requirements, and minor assistance to North Canterbury region at year end. A portion of this income will offset additional staff requirements and increased salaries expense over this period. Sponsorship of the children's fishing programme by Rainbow Springs was also received during the period (\$2,000).

#### ***Species Management***

Within the Population Monitoring budgets expenses are reported relating to the aircraft hire for trend counts, and grain, wages, and materials for banding. Minor costs are also reported relating to food for Waikaremoana work. A credit is shown in February (\$3,688) and this is due to wages being inadvertently coded to this budget for work undertaken by contracted staff for the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council. This has been re-coded to field salaries and is offset by reimbursement income from the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council. Within budget YTD.

Hatchery expenditure for the period included servicing of the flat deck and the tanker, vehicle and trailer registration, freight on fish food, and fuel. Maintenance expenses included the concreting of the bottom of pond seven, materials for covering/partially covering rearing ponds with bird netting, and materials for maintenance to the trout breeding holding pens. The standard expenses are also reported relating electricity, oxygen, and rates. Within budget YTD.

***Habitat***

Reserves expenses for the period related to the cleaning of drains at the Awaitei WMR (\$3,260), and work at the Awakaponga WMR included cleaning of drains and installation of culverts (\$595), and materials for the float sensor (\$103).

Within the Assisted Habitat area expenses are reported relating pest plant control at Simpson wetland. This project has been approved for funding by the Waikato Catchment Environment Enhancement Trust and will be reimbursed in due course.

***Customer Services***

The Access expenses for the period relate to a sign for Lake Whakamarino, and safety equipment. A contractor was paid for a portion of the Whaeo access track clearing, the balance being funded by Timberlands. The Game bird newsletter was produced and paid for in February. The customer services area is within budget YTD.

***Public Interface***

Within the Public Interface budgets expenses related the purchase of "Getting Started in Trout Fishing" DVD's and cleaning of the public toilets.

***Compliance***

The Compliance expenses for the month related to the 0800 Poaching service and legal fees associated with five prosecutions are also reported. Within budget YTD.

***Licensing***

The fees associated with the 0800 and Internet sales are included within the commission expenditure and these costs are in line with the YTD sales totals.

***Council***

Catering and travel expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to the November and February meetings of Council. The Council meeting expenses are currently \$127 over budget.

***Planning***

Levies were paid to the New Zealand Council as budgeted. A small expense is also showing for airport parking fees. Within budget YTD.

***Administration***

Notes on individual areas:

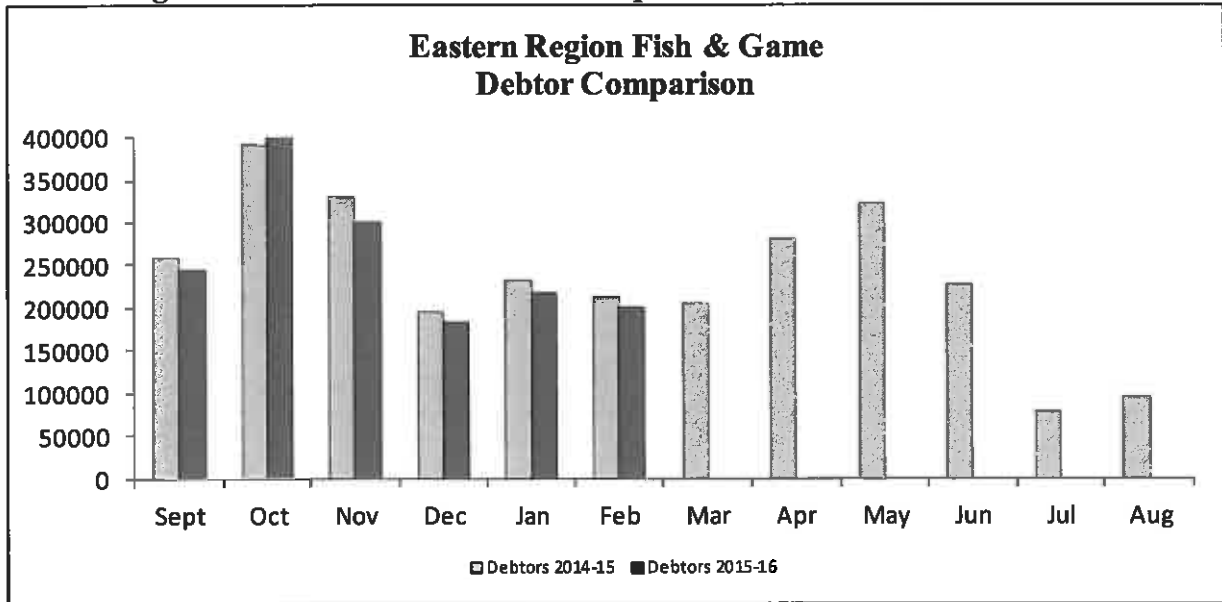
Salaries	The Salaries area is currently reporting to be over budget due to increased staff time, including casual staff resulting from increased assistance to NZ Fish & Game, and Hawke's Bay and North Canterbury Fish & Game Regions. This budget variance is offset by increased revenue received from these regions.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses for the period included a renewal of a chemical approved handler certificate and the purchase of sunhats for all field staff. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Rates were paid as budgeted. The staff houses area is currently over budget \$257 and this variance will reduce as the year progresses.
Office Premises	The standard electricity, cleaning and security expenses are reported within the period. Rates were paid in January, document destruction bins paid for in February. This area is over budget

	YTD by \$39.
Office Equipment	A credit was received from vodafone in January due to our need to purchase a replacement cell phone through a local supplier. Two call outs occurred for the phone system, one later being identified as a line fault outside of the property. The phone and eftpos lease expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Communications expenses for period include phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Letter head stationery and envelopes increased the total expense this period by \$1,136. which has resulted in an overspend YTD of \$352.
General	Expenses are reported relating to morning teas and bank fees. Within budget YTD.
General Equipment	Equipment expenses for the period related minor repairs and WOF to the transport trailer, grease and equipment for Pareara, and boat and field equipment fuel. Asset replacement funding totalled \$554 for the period. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	The expenditure reported within the vehicles budgets for the period relates to two vehicle services, four registrations, one replacement tyre, a wheel alignment, puncture repair, and a bumper repair. The standard fuel expense is reported and includes three vehicles for RUC's. Asset replacement funding totalled \$3,690 for the period. The Hawke's Bay region has reimbursed fuel expenses associated with staff working in the region and this contributes to the vehicles budget showing to be underspent by \$8,712 YTD.
Fixed Assets	Two vehicles were purchased and two sold within the period utilising the asset replacement fund.

**Cash Position:** \$915,036 (includes \$79,423 for asset replacement reserve and \$451,512 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 29 February 2016.

**Debtors:** Outstanding Debtors \$200,790 as at 29 February 2016 (\$211,889 as at 29 February 2015).

**Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Comparison 2014/15 – 2015/16**



The Region's debtors total for February 2016 is made up of primarily agent debtor invoices for licence sales (\$141,396), and invoicing of other Fish & Game regions for services and the sale of fish. Included within this debtor total is an invoice for one agent who has failed to return licence books for the 2015-16 Season, total value \$3,080. Further contact with this agent is to occur.

**3. Variance Report**

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. YTD 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.

2015/16 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

As at 29 February 2016

Schedule & Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST - Variations	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1110	Population Monitoring	\$ 38,500	\$ 11,780	1,009	2,358	\$ 133,160	\$ 54,400	\$ 19,000	\$ -	\$ 152,660	\$ 66,180	\$ 86,480	43.4
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,150	\$ 358	480	892	\$ 50,373	\$ 26,412	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,523	\$ 26,770	\$ 25,753	51.0
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 67,050	\$ 49,470	1,576	3,076	\$ 173,707	\$ 84,949	\$ 70,000	\$ 41,471	\$ 170,757	\$ 92,948	\$ 77,809	54.4
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	45	215	\$ 12,198	\$ 2,439	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,198	\$ 2,439	\$ 9,759	20.0
1180	Control	\$ 200	\$ -	72	72	\$ 4,066	\$ 970	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,266	\$ 970	\$ 3,296	22.7
	<b>TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	\$ 107,900	\$ 61,608	3,139	6,614	\$ 373,504	\$ 169,171	\$ 89,000	\$ 41,471	\$ 392,404	\$ 189,308	\$ 203,097	48.2
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ -	555	1,212	\$ 68,444	\$ 29,915	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,644	\$ 29,915	\$ 38,728	43.6
1220	Works & Management	\$ 14,000	\$ 6,707	622	1,014	\$ 57,262	\$ 33,540	\$ 5,500	\$ 947	\$ 65,762	\$ 39,300	\$ 26,462	59.8
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 9,400	\$ 6,896	343	1,230	\$ 69,460	\$ 18,475	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 78,860	\$ 25,171	\$ 53,688	31.9
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	0	96	\$ 5,421	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,421	\$ -	\$ 5,421	0.0
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	<b>TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION &amp; MANGROVES</b>	\$ 23,600	\$ 13,403	1,520	3,552	\$ 200,588	\$ 81,931	\$ 5,500	\$ 947	\$ 218,688	\$ 94,387	\$ 124,301	43.2
1310	Access	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,814	385	787	\$ 44,443	\$ 20,725	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,443	\$ 23,539	\$ 27,904	45.8
1330	Newsletters	\$ 13,000	\$ 11,738	111	506	\$ 28,575	\$ 5,966	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,575	\$ 17,694	\$ 23,881	42.6
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ -	14	102	\$ 5,760	\$ 728	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,760	\$ 728	\$ 7,032	9.4
1350	Training	\$ 500	\$ 684	451	898	\$ 50,712	\$ 24,283	\$ 13,500	\$ 5,904	\$ 37,812	\$ 19,063	\$ 18,749	50.4
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	2	124	\$ 7,003	\$ 108	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,003	\$ 108	\$ 6,895	1.5
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 866	28	28	\$ 1,581	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 2,631	\$ 666	\$ 1,965	25.3
	<b>TOTAL - ANGLER &amp; HUNTER PARTICIPATION</b>	\$ 24,050	\$ 15,992	981	2,445	\$ 138,074	\$ 51,800	\$ 13,900	\$ 5,904	\$ 148,224	\$ 61,788	\$ 86,428	41.7
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	115	156	\$ 8,810	\$ 6,212	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,810	\$ 6,212	\$ 2,597	70.5
1420	Communication	\$ 800	\$ 150	70	320	\$ 18,071	\$ 3,773	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,871	\$ 3,923	\$ 14,948	20.8
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,950	93	172	\$ 9,713	\$ 1,779	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,213	\$ 4,729	\$ 8,484	35.8
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 400	\$ 470	314	630	\$ 35,577	\$ 16,925	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,977	\$ 17,404	\$ 18,573	48.4
	<b>TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	\$ 4,700	\$ 3,579	532	1,278	\$ 72,171	\$ 28,699	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,871	\$ 32,288	\$ 44,603	42.0
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,100	\$ 768	486	916	\$ 51,728	\$ 26,210	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,828	\$ 26,978	\$ 26,850	50.1
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	17	108	\$ 6,099	\$ 916	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,099	\$ 916	\$ 6,183	12.9
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,068	151	348	\$ 19,652	\$ 8,153	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,034	\$ 18,152	\$ 7,187	\$ 10,966	39.6
	<b>TOTAL - COMPLIANCE</b>	\$ 7,600	\$ 2,836	655	1,372	\$ 77,479	\$ 35,279	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,034	\$ 79,079	\$ 35,081	\$ 43,999	44.4
1610	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	295	468	\$ 26,429	\$ 15,901	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,229	\$ 15,901	\$ 11,328	58.4
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	76	220	\$ 12,424	\$ 4,097	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,424	\$ 4,097	\$ 8,327	33.0
	<b>TOTAL - LICENSING</b>	\$ 800	\$ -	688	688	\$ 38,853	\$ 19,998	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,653	\$ 19,998	\$ 19,655	50.4
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	10	64	\$ 3,814	\$ 539	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,814	\$ 539	\$ 3,075	14.9
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,127	431	710	\$ 40,095	\$ 23,205	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,095	\$ 27,332	\$ 22,763	54.6
	<b>TOTAL - COUNCILS</b>	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,127	441	774	\$ 43,709	\$ 23,744	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,709	\$ 27,871	\$ 25,838	51.9
1810	Management Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	190	190	\$ 10,730	\$ 323	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,730	\$ 323	\$ 10,408	3.0
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,700	\$ 6,884	274	514	\$ 29,027	\$ 14,756	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,727	\$ 21,650	\$ 17,077	55.9
1840	National Liaison	\$ 250	\$ 30	82	284	\$ 16,038	\$ 4,858	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,288	\$ 4,989	\$ 11,299	30.6
	<b>TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	\$ 9,950	\$ 6,924	372	988	\$ 55,794	\$ 20,038	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,744	\$ 26,962	\$ 38,782	41.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 189,600	\$ 108,379	7,990	17,711	\$ 1,000,172	\$ 450,648	\$ 114,400	\$ 51,358	\$ 1,074,372	\$ 487,671	\$ 586,701	45.4

OVERHEADS		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance
1910	Salaries	\$ 867,117	\$ 453,748	\$ 24,360	\$ 85,954	\$ 842,757	\$ 367,795	\$ 474,962	\$ 474,962	\$ 474,962	43.6
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 28,400	\$ 1,720	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,400	\$ 1,720	\$ 24,680	\$ 24,680	\$ 24,680	6.5
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 6,320	\$ 4,397	\$ 20,240	\$ 10,267	\$ (13,920)	\$ (5,870)	\$ (8,050)	\$ (8,050)	\$ (8,050)	42.2
1940	Office Premises	\$ 19,400	\$ 11,293	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,400	\$ 11,293	\$ 8,107	\$ 8,107	\$ 8,107	59.2
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 7,985	\$ 4,464	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,965	\$ 4,464	\$ 3,501	\$ 3,501	\$ 3,501	56.0
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 21,300	\$ 10,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,300	\$ 10,890	\$ 10,410	\$ 10,410	\$ 10,410	51.1
1970	General	\$ 9,370	\$ 6,406	\$ 7,370	\$ 6,971	\$ 2,000	\$ (565)	\$ 2,565	\$ 2,565	\$ 2,565	-28.3
1980	General Equipment	\$ 19,732	\$ 8,063	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,722	\$ 8,063	\$ 11,659	\$ 11,659	\$ 11,659	40.9
1990	Vehicles	\$ 74,548	\$ 32,858	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,548	\$ 32,858	\$ 41,890	\$ 41,890	\$ 41,890	44.1
	Administration	\$ 1,052,142	\$ 533,840	\$ 51,970	\$ 103,192	\$ 1,000,172	\$ 430,648	\$ 569,524	\$ 569,524	\$ 569,524	43.1
	Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,000,172	\$ 430,648				
	Total Outputs Staff Hours					17,711	7,990				
	Internal Cost Per Hour					56.47	53.90				

**2015/16 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	\$ 107,900	\$ 61,608	6,614	3,139	\$ 373,504	\$ 189,171	\$ 89,000	\$ 41,471	\$ 392,404	\$ 189,308	\$ 203,097	48.2
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 23,600	\$ 13,403	3,552	1,520	\$ 200,588	\$ 81,931	\$ 5,500	\$ 947	\$ 218,698	\$ 94,387	\$ 124,301	43.2
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 24,050	\$ 15,902	2,445	961	\$ 138,074	\$ 51,900	\$ 13,900	\$ 5,904	\$ 148,224	\$ 61,798	\$ 86,426	41.7
4	Public Interface	\$ 4,700	\$ 3,579	1,278	532	\$ 72,171	\$ 28,589	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,871	\$ 32,288	\$ 44,603	42.0
5	Compliance	\$ 7,600	\$ 2,836	1,372	655	\$ 77,479	\$ 35,279	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,034	\$ 78,079	\$ 35,091	\$ 43,999	44.4
6	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	688	371	\$ 38,853	\$ 19,998	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,653	\$ 19,998	\$ 19,655	50.4
7	Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,127	774	441	\$ 43,709	\$ 23,744	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,709	\$ 27,871	\$ 25,838	51.9
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,950	\$ 8,924	988	372	\$ 55,794	\$ 20,038	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,744	\$ 26,962	\$ 38,782	41.0
9	Administration												
	Total Overhead Staff Hours			5,684	2,468								
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 188,600	\$ 108,379	23,385	10,458	\$ 1,000,172	\$ 430,648	\$ 114,400	\$ 51,356	\$ 1,074,372	\$ 487,671	\$ 586,701	

Licence Income 2015/16		Budget	Actual
2015/16 Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,149,102	\$ 1,067,757
Less Commission		\$ 57,455	\$ -
Net Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,091,647	\$ 1,067,757
2016 Game Licence Income		\$ 242,922	\$ 15,567
Less Commission		\$ 12,146	\$ -
Net Game Licence Income		\$ 230,776	\$ 15,567
Total Licence Income		\$ 1,392,024	\$ 1,083,324
Total Commission		\$ 69,601	\$ 40,336
Total Net 2015/16 Licence Revenue		\$ 1,322,423	\$ 1,042,988

% year complete		% of OWP budget spent	
OWP Bulk Fund		\$ 1,074,372	\$ 487,671
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget		\$ 183,051	\$ 91,526
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies		\$ (1,392,024)	\$ (1,083,324)
Less Licence Revenue		\$ 69,601	\$ 40,336
Plus Commission Expense		\$ 65,900	\$ -
Reinstatement of reserves		\$ -	\$ -
Approved Budget		\$ -	\$ (463,791)
Subtotal		\$ -	\$ -
Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund		\$ (12,317)	\$ (2,010)
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest		\$ 19,000	\$ -
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses		\$ 6,683	\$ (465,801)
Adjusted Budget		\$ 6,683	\$ (465,801)

## Eastern Region 2015-16 Projected Cash Flow - Schedule B

as at 29 February 2016	Jan Budget	Jan Actual	Feb Budget	Feb Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Est. Final Position	Total Budget 15/16	Var
<b>INCOME</b>									
Licence	160000	145653	90000	87696	1114710	1083324	1360638	1392024	-31386
Other	22129	13354	18409	47913	87970	156557	247274	178687	68587
	<b>182129</b>	<b>159007</b>	<b>108409</b>	<b>135609</b>	<b>1202680</b>	<b>1239881</b>	<b>1607912</b>	<b>1570711</b>	<b>37201</b>
<b>SPECIES</b>									
1110 Population Monitoring	6800	8615	3000	-3688	17000	11780	33280	38500	-5220
1120 Harvest Assessment	100	0	0	0	650	358	1858	2150	-292
1140 Hatchery Operations	3551	5136	2541	1442	51056	49470	65464	67050	-1586
1180 Control	0	0	50	0	150	0	50	200	-150
	<b>10451</b>	<b>13751</b>	<b>5591</b>	<b>-2246</b>	<b>68856</b>	<b>61608</b>	<b>100652</b>	<b>107900</b>	<b>-7248</b>
<b>HABITAT</b>									
1210 Resource Management Act	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	200	0
1220 Works & Management	0	0	3000	3958	6282	6707	15107	14682	425
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	0	3974	1000	6696	73096	67400	5696
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3000</b>	<b>7932</b>	<b>7282</b>	<b>13403</b>	<b>88403</b>	<b>82282</b>	<b>6121</b>
<b>CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>									
1310 Access	1100	899	0	113	4150	2814	5664	7000	-1336
1330 Newsletters	0	0	3400	3403	11500	11738	13238	13000	238
1340 Other Publications	0	0	0	0	0	0	2000	2000	0
1350 Training	0	0	0	0	300	684	984	600	384
1370 Huts	85	130	135	106	730	666	1386	1450	-64
	<b>1185</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>3535</b>	<b>3622</b>	<b>16680</b>	<b>15902</b>	<b>23272</b>	<b>24050</b>	<b>-778</b>
<b>PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>									
1420 Communication	0	0	150	150	550	150	400	800	-400
1440 Public Promotions	1000	0	0	0	3000	2950	3450	3500	-50
1460 Visitors/Education	200	14	0	14	400	479	479	400	79
	<b>1200</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>3950</b>	<b>3579</b>	<b>4329</b>	<b>4700</b>	<b>-371</b>
<b>COMPLIANCE</b>									
1510 Ranging	175	35	175	35	1050	768	1818	2100	-282
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	1000	1000	0
1530 Compliance	375	860	375	200	2250	2068	4318	4500	-182
	<b>550</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>3300</b>	<b>2836</b>	<b>7136</b>	<b>7600</b>	<b>-464</b>
<b>LICENCING</b>									
1610 Licence Production	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	800	0
1630 Commission	8000	5683	4500	3365	55736	40336	54202	69601	-15399
	<b>8000</b>	<b>5683</b>	<b>4500</b>	<b>3365</b>	<b>55736</b>	<b>40336</b>	<b>55002</b>	<b>70401</b>	<b>-15399</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>									
1720 Council Meetings	0	0	2000	952	4000	4127	10127	10000	127
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>4127</b>	<b>10127</b>	<b>10000</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>PLANNING &amp; REPORTING</b>									
1830 Reporting	0	0	0	0	7840	6894	8754	9700	-946
1840 National Liaison	25	45763	25	23	45888	91555	228968	183301	45667
	<b>25</b>	<b>45763</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>53728</b>	<b>98449</b>	<b>237722</b>	<b>193001</b>	<b>44721</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>									
1910 Salaries	66701	65379	66701	75309	433555	453749	887311	867117	20194
1920 Staff Expenses	208	363	208	0	3248	1720	24872	26400	-1528
1930 Staff Houses	565	0	140	0	4140	4397	6577	6320	257
1940 Office Premises	1845	1521	1069	887	11254	11293	19439	19400	39
1950 Office Equipment	580	234	580	737	4480	4464	7949	7965	-16
1960 Communications	1564	1230	1865	2906	10538	10890	21652	21300	352
1970 General	171	122	173	63	7861	6406	7915	9370	-1455
1980 General Equipment	1294	501	1244	559	11064	8063	16721	19722	-3001
1990 Vehicles	7428	3964	6128	6170	41570	32858	65836	74548	-8712
	<b>80356</b>	<b>73315</b>	<b>78108</b>	<b>86630</b>	<b>527710</b>	<b>533840</b>	<b>1058272</b>	<b>1052142</b>	<b>6130</b>

## **12.3 Licence Sales Report**

**Ref: 6.01.05**

**24 March 2016**

### **1. Introduction**

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2015-2016 season.

### **2. 2015-2016 Fish Licence Sales**

- 2.1 Fish licence sales for the 2015-2016 season YTD are summarised in Table One.
- 2.2 A total of 88.4% of the annual sales target has been achieved with total sales YTD reporting to be 3.2% below sales issued for the same period last year. The sole licence agent located at Lake Waikaremoana is currently utilising books therefore timing of the return of these will affect the 2015-16 YTD results.
- 2.3 Nationally to 22 March, fish licence sales have improved slightly to 3.9% below the 2014-2015 Season. Of this total decline in sales approximately 40% is attributed to the North Island regions. Auckland/Waikato and Wellington regions have seen the largest drop in LEQ's at approximately 10% down on last season YTD. Notably Eastern has gained approximately 151 LEQ's from Auckland/Waikato residents purchasing in the Eastern region or choosing the Eastern Local Area licence. This shift accounts for approximately 37% of the decline reported for the Auckland/Waikato region.
- 2.4 The Eastern Region has sold 132 more adult season category licences in 2015-2016 when compared to the previous season, however, due to the high uptake of the discounted Local Area licence this increase is not reflected in total LEQ's reported YTD.
- 2.5 3,660 Loyal Senior licences have been purchased nationally YTD from approximately 4,800 seniors who were identified to be eligible, based on purchasing history up to the 2014-2015 Season. An estimated 1,400 of these were previous buyers of the family licence. An earlier review of this category had showed that approximately 16% of the eligible Family licence buyers had chosen to the Loyal Season category, and in some cases both adult participants had purchased individual Loyal Senior licences. Interestingly of the previous Whole Season licence buyers who were eligible for the Loyal Senior option (3,340), 17% chose other adult options such as Local area (155) and Family (75), and 342 remained with the more expensive Whole Season option.
- 2.6 Over 25% or 1,964 of the Eastern Region's adult season purchasers YTD have chosen the Local Area licence. The next highest seller of this category is the Central South Island region with 12.1% or 1,230 adult season buyers choosing the cheaper Local Area option YTD. Southland, Hawkes Bay and West Coast regions have seen approximately 10% of total adult purchasers choosing the local area licence, while all other regions sit somewhere between 2% and 6%.



**Table One**

Comparison of Fish Licence LEQs to 22 March 2016

SALES CHANNEL	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult Local Area		Adult Winter Season	Adult Winter	Junior Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult 24 Hour	Junior 24 Hour	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2014-15
				Loyal Senior	Adult									
Agent Online Sales	1759	1088	326	212	1510	318	5	0	75	622	2592	194	5854	30.3%
Agent Book Sales	39	16	0	0	0	10					311	36	120	-95.3%
Direct Sales*	1169	824	133	144	454	117	8		54	378	1708	114	3443	28.6%
<b>Total Fish 2015-2016</b>	<b>2967</b>	<b>1928</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>1964</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>4611</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>9417</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>
Agent Online Sales	1438	1994	204			217	7				1834	80	4494	
Agent Book Sales	755	1074	0			115	1				2323	153	2561	
Direct Sales*	978	965	134			72	2				1409	69	2677	
<b>Total Fish 2014-2015</b>	<b>3171</b>	<b>4033</b>	<b>338</b>			<b>404</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>5566</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>9732</b>	

TARGETS	Family Season	Adult Season	Junior Season	Adult Winter	Junior Winter	Adult 24 Hour	Junior 24 Hour	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
2015-2016 Total	2760	2247	400	800	2100	400	400	10657	88.4%
Budget	3211	4036	387			7693	406	10884	86.5%
2014-2015 Total Sales									
2015-2016 Estimated year end								10531	98.8%

\* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800 Licence