



**EASTERN  
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING  
AGENDA***

**19 October 2017**

## AGENDA

### The 166th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

**Venue:** Tauranga Sport Fishing Club  
66 Keith Allen Drive  
Sulphur Point  
TAURANGA

**Date:** Thursday, 19 October 2017

**Commences:** 12.00 PM

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19	Meeting Closes (3.00 PM)		

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 165<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH  
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME  
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017 AT 12.00PM**

**Present**

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, David Woolner, Neal Hawes, Annaka Davis, Barry Roderick, and Steve Scragg (arrived 12.54pm).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, John Meikle, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert, Anthony van Dorp, Lynne Sands, and Matt Osborne (Eastern Fish & Game); Peter Shepherd, Tom Scott-Simmonds (Department of Conservation, Taupo), Ross Mackay.

**1.0 WELCOME**

Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 12.15pm. At this time the quorum requirement of seven Councillors had not been met but would be when Cr Steve Scragg arrived. Andy Garrick advised that Steve was on his way from Gisborne but had been delayed due to closure of the Waioeka Gorge. Cr Murray Ferris informed those present that the meeting would continue in the meantime with liaison officers reports being brought forward as no resolutions were required for these. He said the main agenda would be put on hold for 40 minutes as stipulated within the Standing Orders and that the usual order would resume following the arrival of the seventh Councillor, or business would be adjourned.

Murray welcomed Ross Mackay from the Hawke's Bay, and Pete Shepherd and Tom Scott-Simmonds from the Department of Conservation.

**2.0 APOLOGIES**

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Ken Coombes, Sandy Bull, Peter Storey and Alan Baird, and Steve Scragg had informed the manager that he would be delayed due to road closures; Helen Neale (Department of Conservation); Ken Raureti (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board); Mark Sherburn (Fish & Game); and Ray Bushell.
- 2.2 Apologies would be accepted once a quorum was present.

**3.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

**3.1 Report from the New Zealand Council**

Cr Lindsay Lyons spoke on behalf of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and provided an update on the recruitment of a new CEO to replace Bryce Johnson. He expected that an announcement would be able to be made either tomorrow (Friday 11 August) or on Monday 14th and outlined the release plan for this. Other matters Lindsay spoke to included;

- Bryce Johnson's recent meeting with Katie Milne of Federated Farmers.
- F&G needing to be future focussed in its Public Awareness, rather than reactive.
- The 2018 Fish and Game Council election process.
- Recent radio announcement by a DOC staff member describing trout as "ferrets of the waterways".

Referring to the new licence categories that had been introduced in 2015, Cr Annaka Davis queried what licence type was required to be eligible to vote and to stand for Council, and whether it was necessary to hold this licence type for the duration of the Council term? Lindsay advised that the New Zealand Council had resolved that the following licence categories would be eligible to vote or stand for Council in the upcoming election - Fish Adult Whole Season, Fish Local Area Adult, Fish Senior Loyal, Fish Family (but primary holder only) and Game Adult Whole Season. It was noted the current legislation refers to the holder of an "adult season licence" rather than a specific category, and that New Zealand Council Policy had in the past identified which categories sat under the "adult season" umbrella. It was also confirmed that a Councillor must hold the appropriate licence type for the duration of their term on Council.

Lindsay spoke of concern over falling licence sales and recruitment, particularly of those in the younger age groups. He felt that as an organisation we should be looking at ways to increase participation by youth, and highlighted opportunities that are currently available in Australia and the South Island for easy access fishing such as stocked fish out ponds and lakes. Discussion covered:

- Opportunities of this nature in the Eastern Region;
- Other avenues for introducing youth such as education in schools;
- Inability to release fish into areas not currently stocked;
- The success of recent Gisborne kids fishing at the Ngongotaha hatchery;
- Removing barriers such as complicated regulations;
- Feedback from staff attending the recent conference in Dunedin in relation to the 3 Rs (Recruitment, Retention, Reintroduction).

Lindsay advised that he wanted to introduce the idea of stocked fish out ponds to this Council as he was keen to put the concept on the table for discussion at the New Zealand Council.

4.0 Cr Steve Scragg arrived at 12.54pm which enabled continuation of the meeting and agenda as planned.

#### 5.0 APOLOGIES

5.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Ken Coombes, Sandy Bull, Peter Storey, Alan Baird; Helen Neale (Department of Conservation); Ken Raureti (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board); Mark Sherburn (Fish & Game); and Ray Bushell.

5.2 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Barry Roderick) that the apologies for the 165th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [17/08/5.2]*

#### 6.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 JUNE 2017)

6.1 *Agreed (David Woolner/Lindsay Lyons) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to an amendment to resolution 17/06/10.6. Amended from "Council reaffirms its earlier intention" to "Council reaffirms its earlier policy". [17/08/6.1]*

#### 7.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

7.1 There were no items for inclusion in Council policy.

**8.0 MATTERS ARISING**

8.1 There were no matters arising.

**9.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

9.1 No conflicts of interest were identified.

**10.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**

10.1 Defibrillator – Cr Barry Roderick

Cr Barry Roderick expanded on what he wished to raise, this being that Council consider looking into the purchase of a defibrillator for the Fish & Game site noting the number of people that visit here each year and use its facilities. Andy Garrick suggested it was unlikely that anyone would disagree to the concept of having a defibrillator on site, and noted that while there was no provision within this or next year's OWP to purchase a unit, it may be possible to obtain funding externally and staff would look into this.

**11.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2017-2018 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

11.1 Andy Garrick provided a brief overview of the process for the 2017-18 OWP since the previous meeting and provided details of the two submissions received which had been included in the August Papers for Information. Andy noted that most of the points raised in the submissions were of a general nature or proposed actions that were already provided for in the OWP, the exception being a suggestion that we should approach Landcorp and other large runholders and compile a register of landowners sympathetic to making their properties available for upland game hunting. Andy suggested that prior to doing this Fish & Game needed to develop relationships with landowners rather than cold calling them and requesting access for licence holders.

11.2 Andy also informed Council that the Eastern bulk fund as recorded within the final draft of the Operational Work Plan may need to be increased by \$3,000 being an amount allocated for Northland Region's aerial transect mallard counts. In the past two operational years these funds had been incorporated into the Eastern bulk fund but Andy felt it was timely and more appropriate to have funds for this ongoing project allocated to the region in which the project was being undertaken. He was awaiting clarification on whether this transfer had been made through the National budgeting process, but wished to highlight that if this had not occurred or couldn't be done this year the budget would need to remain within the Eastern Region bulk fund for a further year and payments made as required on behalf of Northland Region.

11.3 *Agreed (David Woolner/Neal Hawes) that Council approves the Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2017-2018 year. [17/08/11.3]*

11.4 *Agreed (David Woolner/Neal Hawes) that Council delegate authority to the Regional Manager to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget. [17/08/11.4]*

**12.0 HABITAT MAINTENANCE IN WETLAND RESERVES**

12.1 Andy Garrick informed Council that Health and Safety was a key driver needing to be taken into account in resolving the best approach to undertaking annual maintenance requirements in Fish & Game managed wetlands, and we need to review whether our expectations of ballot holders are still appropriate. Council discussed its potential liability when we ask unpaid volunteers to undertake certain works as a condition of

ballot, and whether that liability is removed if they are not explicitly instructed or required to do so? Andy Garrick suggested that might well reduce our duty of care and liabilities, but this approach is less likely to result in annual and/or essential maintenance tasks being undertaken to the standard required if at all, as not all ballot holders put in the same amount of effort as others, and quality of job varies considerably even with the current approach. Andy confirmed that the current budget we put aside for habitat maintenance in reserves falls well short of what is needed if Fish & Game was to undertake the work itself or contract it out, and provided an overview of the possible options to fund this as detailed in the agenda item. Council discussion covered:

- the number of stands and ballot holders that costs could be spread over;
- retaining an option for ballot holders to pay for additional works should they wish to do so;
- the cost to maintain a maimai in general;
- the makeup of balloted stands e.g. dad and kids;
- the need to review the level of funding required as annual requirements and costs likely to be variable;
- working bees not viable due to the level of staff involvement required to co-ordinate these for all of the reserves in our region;
- the extent of churn within the ballot and number of stand holders who pull out after only a year or so;
- the extent to which maintenance requirements vary from one stand to another;
- the inability of many hunters to distinguish between what is a weed and what is a desirable plant species that shouldn't be removed,
- funding from contestable fund and resulting increase across all licence fees.

12.2 After considerable discussion Council agreed that the most appropriate solution was to introduce an annual Habitat Management Contribution fee for those using balloted stands within Fish & Game reserves which would be used to cover the costs of employing short term staff appropriately qualified and experienced to undertake all of the weed spraying and physical maintenance works required. Maimai maintenance would at this stage continue to be the responsibility of the stand holders. The fee would be applied to each of the hunters holding the stand. Council discussed what it might be fair to charge ballot holders, and there was general agreement that subject to the sum required to undertake the works needing to be done, a fee in the order of \$30 per adult per year with a lesser amount for juniors would not be unreasonable. Councillors noted that this is likely to be less than what it would cost many ballot holders to undertake the annual maintenance activities expected of them if mileage, herbicides and other expenses are taken into account for each trip they make to work on their stand and surrounds. Council noted that some ballot holders might want, or be prepared to pay for additional work to be undertaken, and the option should be open for hunters to arrange for this in consultation with staff. Council concluded that staff should determine what the annual fee should be, and Andy suggested it would be appropriate for the sum proposed each year to be reviewed by Council in advance of the balloting process.

12.3 ***Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the concept of a levy on ballot holders for maintenance required in Fish & Game managed wetlands. [17/08/12.3]***

**12.4** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/David Woolner) that Council agrees that the levy on ballot holders for maintenance in Fish & Game managed wetlands shall be a scaled charge for Adult, Junior, and Child licence categories, and that staff will determine the appropriate fee for each. [17/08/12.4]*

12.5 Andy Garrick confirmed that staff would develop a proposal endeavouring to minimise cost to ballot holders and suggested that this should be reviewed by Council or brought to its attention annually.

### **13.0 DEFINING BACK COUNTRY FISHERIES**

13.1 Cr Murray Ferris suggested that the “Back Country” title did not really define all waters that could potentially benefit from the non-resident licence levy in Eastern Region. Andy Garrick noted that this title was coined early on when the levy was first approved, and outlined the three criteria for qualifying waters set out in a more recent resolution (July 2014) by the New Zealand Council. This resolution makes it clear there is considerable flexibility when it comes to defining what is a “back country fishery”, and there is probably a much better term for categorising these. Andy suggested that before staff and Council start identifying waters and fisheries in the Eastern Region we intuitively think might qualify for this status, we should first identify the attributes that we consider a “back country fishery” should have, and the criteria we are going to use to distinguish them.

13.2 Council broke for five minutes at 2.00pm.

13.3 Matt Osborne presented via power point some of the results of a study entitled an “Analysis of the Recreational Freshwater Angling Behaviour of Overseas Tourists to NZ” completed by Stuart Hayes and Brent Lovelock for Otago Fish & Game. Data from the 2014-15 National Anglers Survey (NAS) had been utilised and features important to non-resident anglers quantified. These formed the basis for identifying the key attributes that could be used to define “Back Country Fisheries”. Matt proposed that numerical values be assigned to each attribute and a matrix approach used to rank waterways with those scoring above a certain threshold being deemed to be the region’s “Back Country Fisheries”.

13.4 Council discussion followed covering:

- consideration needs to be given not only to what’s important to the non-resident angler, but what is important to or would benefit resident anglers as well;
- what the funds could be directed towards, e.g. baseline surveys, monitoring, research, promotion, compliance, back country licensing/administration;
- possibility of having to limit number of anglers accessing some of waterways;
- benefits of labelling waters as “back country sensitive fisheries” should they come under threat;
- whether the key purpose of the levy is improve angler experience or protect sensitive fisheries?

13.5 Cr Barry Roderick proposed that Council agree to the matrix approach to rank waterways within the Eastern Region as suggested by staff, and that the key attributes presented be used. Council supported this course of action and Andy Garrick advised that staff would develop this further and bring it back to Council.

**14.0 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPORTS FISHING**

14.1 Council considered the draft Code of Conduct for sports fishing developed by Helen Trotter from Otago Fish & Game, and Cr Neal Hawes commented that he thought that she had done a brilliant job and he supported it whole heartedly. Cr David Woolner provided some useful feedback on a number of points including the need to remove the term “ethical” and other related statements that are opinions rather than matters of code or conduct; the wording relating to taking no more than enough for and angler’s immediate needs; “requiring” participation; and the wording concerned with being safety conscious. Andy Garrick asked David if he could set these comments out in an email to him so he could forward his feedback to the New Zealand Council.

**15.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS**

15.1 The full reports were provided within the August Papers for Information.

15.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the 2017 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report and the 2017 Aerial Transect Counts of Mallard and Grey Duck Report. [17/08/15.2]*

**16.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS CONT...**

**16.1 Reports from other agencies**

*Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*

Cr Annaka Davis advised that the Board had not met since the previous meeting of Council so she had little to report at this stage.

*Department of Conservation, Taupo*

Tom Scott-Simmonds spoke on behalf of the Taupo fisheries team introducing himself and providing Council with an update on the Taupo fishery. He said that recent surveys had returned some very good condition fish with rainbows seeing an increase in body weight of 30% and browns 35%. These results had been attributed to good growing conditions in the lake with smelt surveys in April and November showing good populations. Cr Annaka Davis who fishes Taupo frequently agreed that there were more smelt evident and asked whether this was likely to continue? Tom advised that the lake is cyclical and that they are encouraging anglers to take more. He said that it was too early to see any results from regulation changes that had been implemented this season. Cr Lindsay Lyons wanted to acknowledge and thank the DOC staff for their attendance at the Eastern Council meetings noting that only four Fish & Game regions had DOC representation at their meetings.

**17.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

17.1 Cr Barry Roderick’s item for General Business had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

**18.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

18.1 Cr Barry Roderick queried the delay in getting the Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy operational and back in the water. Andy Garrick advised that staff were waiting on a quote from Waikato University and that this was taking some time to obtain. Cr Steve Scragg added that recently the water had appeared to be dirty.

18.2 Cr Steve Scragg asked whether the new boat electronics had been installed yet. Andy confirmed that the equipment had been installed and staff now needed to become familiar with its operation.

18.3 Cr Barry Roderick was concerned that the datawatch returns were reporting to be 30% down on previous years and queried staff on why this might be occurring? Cr Neal



Hawes queried survivability? Andy Garrick said that our handling of liberations was unchanged so if survivability was a factor this could be affected by environmental conditions. Matt Osborne also suggested that this year's weather may have contributed with reduced angler effort and reduce catch rates. Cooler weather meant no real thermocline in the larger lakes and reduced numbers of fish stacking at cold water inlets to the shallower lakes such as Lake Rotorua. He also commented on bulk tag returns affecting the results as some anglers saved their tags for up to two years before sending them in all at once.

18.4 Cr Barry Roderick commented on water quality at Lake Tarawera and what was happening there, and Andy Garrick noted that \$6.5 million had just been pledged from the Government's Freshwater Improvement Fund towards assisting with reticulated sewerage for the lakeside community.

18.5 Cr Barry Roderick was pleased to see the linking of weather data to licence sales within the licence sales report which had provided an interesting aspect.

18.6 ***Agreed (Steve Scragg/Neal Hawes) that Council receives the Management, Health and Safety, Finance, and Licence Sales reports and approves the payments for May and June 2017 totalling \$339,347,78. [17/08/18.6]***

**19.0 OCTOBER MEETING VENUE**

19.1 Andy Garrick reminded Council that the October meeting of Council would be held in Tauranga and the venue for this would be advised in due course.

**20.0 MEETING CLOSED**

20.1 The meeting was closed at 3.03pm.

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

.....  
**Date**

## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

### 5.0 APOLOGIES

- 5.2 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Barry Roderick) that the apologies for the 165th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [17/08/5.2]*

### 6.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 JUNE 2017)

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## 7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

3 October 2017

### **1. Purpose**

A standing agenda item to disclose any Councillor (“Member”) Conflict of Interest or potential Conflict of Interest, and record this in the Councillor Conflict of Interest Register.

### **2. Background**

The Eastern Fish and Game Council at its October 2016 meeting revised its policy and rules for dealing with Conflicts 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.

**Conflict of Interest** (refer s2.7 Governance Policies) means when the member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias in respect of a matter<sup>1</sup> i.e:

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

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

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;

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<sup>1</sup> “Matter” means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**3. Recommendation**

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

## **8. 2018 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**

**Ref: 1.07.03**

**5 October 2017**

### **1. Purpose**

To review the 2017 Eastern Game Season Conditions (see Appendix 1), and highlight the 2018 game season issues for consideration at Council's November meeting.

### **2. Introduction**

Issues relating to game season regulations for the upcoming season need to be identified at the October meeting of Council. From time to time Council reviews its policies and criteria for setting regulations as it did in 2016 in relation to the setting of mallard and grey duck (greylard) harvest regulations (see resolutions Appendix 2). Council confirmed it would set regulations based on the predicted population size (Threshold Management) with three sets of regulation constraints; restricted, intermediate, and relaxed. If the Eastern mallard and grey duck population is predicted to be equal to, or below 350,000 birds then a restricted set applies. Above 350,000 and below 450,000 the intermediate set applies, and above 450,000 birds a relaxed set of conditions is triggered (Figure 1).

Paradise shelduck and black swan regulations are also a function of their respective population estimates. Criteria for setting regulations for these species are provided in Appendix 2.

National monitoring of shoveler populations indicates the population is stable so there is no reason to depart from historic regulations (one month season and two bird daily limit).

Game season conditions are generally finalised for recommendation to the Minister of Conservation once population information is available from summer monitoring programmes.

Last year there were two major changes to the Eastern game regulations (i) the introduction of a three shell maximum, and (ii) a reduced limit in the Reporoa area. In addition, Council agreed to set Waewaetutuki aside as a novice hunter training area.

Both regulation changes appeared to have been generally accepted by hunters, and during the game season rangers encountered a pleasingly high level of compliance. Aerial pre-season (April) counts of mallard and grey duck in the Reporoa area were consistent with the 2016 count and statistically lower than the other three areas we were counting (Figure 3). The only feedback we had on the Reporoa area regulation was that it should perhaps, be extended further to the east to accommodate the whole Reporoa basin. We did look at this when the restriction was first mooted, but considered that it would be difficult to describe it clearly enough for most hunters to understand. We could however, have another look at this.

In addition to any other issues that Council might want to discuss, there are five topics that require Council's consideration and input to as follows:

1. Swan numbers in the Bay of Plenty are concerning some individuals and organisations. There is probably an opportunity for a special season, perhaps one weekend in March.

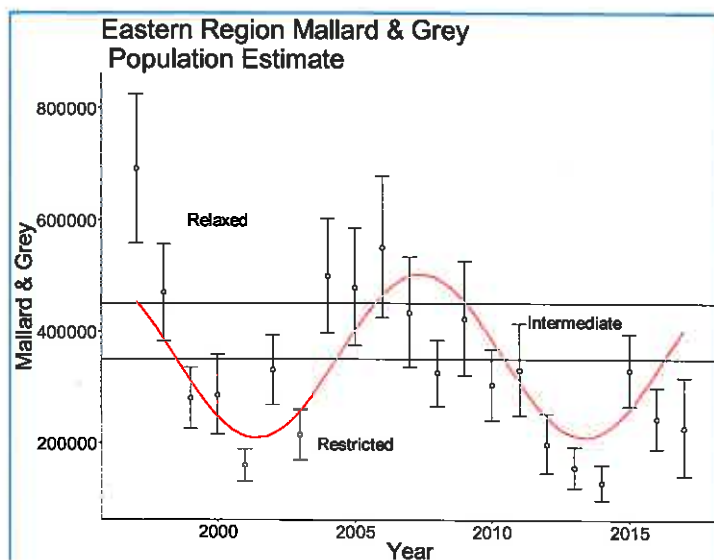
2. A special season on pukeko over the same weekend may alleviate some of the crop damage issues and provide additional hunter opportunity too.
3. Equine Estate Ltd is a registered upland game property. Equine has written to Eastern Fish and Game requesting a one month early start to the game season for upland game properties.
4. Jan Champion has approached Eastern Fish & Game requesting approval for a property in Waikite Valley to be set up and registered as an upland game property.
5. Waewaetutuki has been set aside for novice hunters. It is appropriate that Council reviews the outcome of this year's programme and it's future.

After today's meeting, clubs will be invited to comment on any issues they wish to raise for consideration at Council's next meeting (30 November 2017).

### **3. Additional Information**

#### **3.1 Threshold Approach and Mallard and Grey Duck Population Estimates**

Threshold management (Figure 1) relies on estimates of population size and an ability to predict the population going into the next game season (in this instance 2018). Population estimates are based on Lincoln-Petersen estimates. This method relies on band returns, estimates of reporting rates, and harvest data. Predicting what the population is going to do is fraught with difficulties and uncertainties. At the moment we have two hypotheses or ways in which we look at this:



**Figure 1. Population estimates (mean  $\pm$ 95% credible interval<sup>2</sup>) of mallard and grey duck in the Eastern Region 1997-2017 with the three levels of regulation constraint: relaxed, intermediate, and restricted. The population levels (or thresholds) that separate these regulation constraints are shown by the two black solid lines (350,000 and 450,000).**

- (i) that the population is increasing or decreasing over time i.e. a linear trend;
- (ii) that the population is cyclic i.e. it is in some sort of long term cycle (Figure 2).

<sup>2</sup> Credible interval is a Bayesian statistic that is similar, but not the same as, a confidence limit. There is a 95% chance that the mean (in this instance) is within the interval.

Analytical comparison of these two models indicates that the cyclic model is almost 10 times better supported than the linear model. If we are prepared to accept that the population is in some sort of cycle then we can use this information to predict the 2018 mallard and grey duck population as in Figure 3. The cyclic model we have been using predicts that the 2018 population will be in the order of 465,000 birds, but in retrospect this model has not performed at all well over the last two years. Staff will investigate alternative models (for the November meeting) to see if we can find a better fit that will enable us to more accurately predict population change.

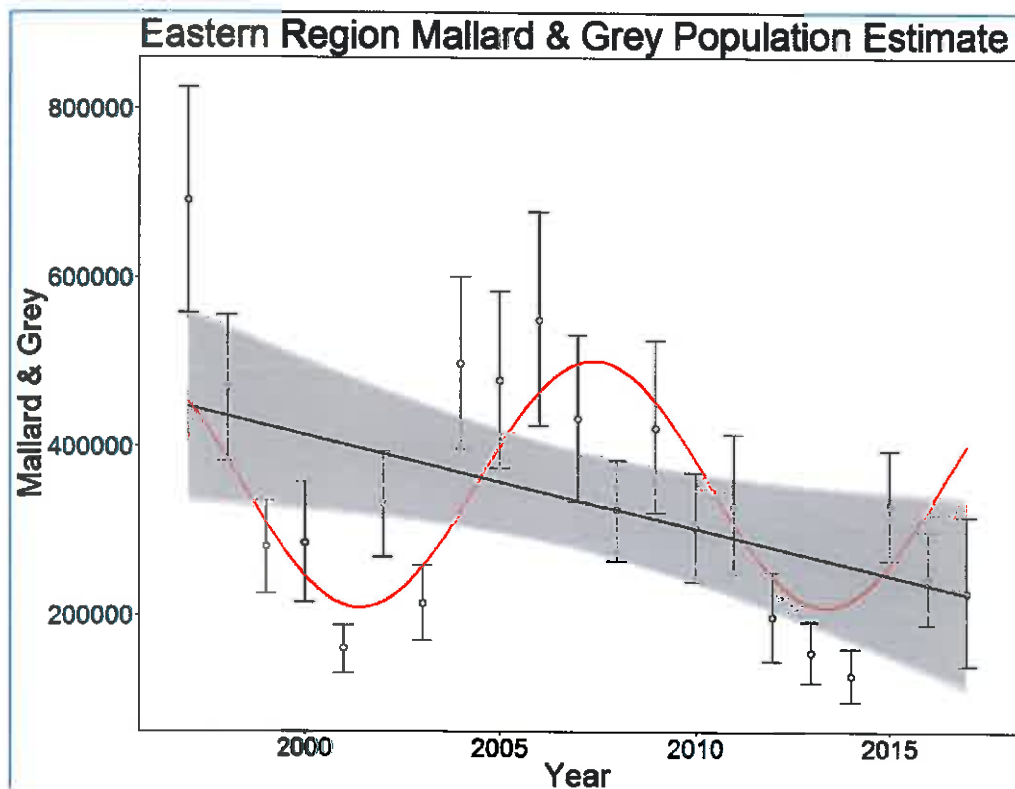


Figure 2 Estimate of the Eastern Region mallard and grey duck population (circles = mean  $\pm$ 95% credible interval) 1997-2017. The red solid line is the linear model ( $\pm$ 95% CI; grey shaded area) and the dashed line is the cyclical model.

### 3.2 Reporoa Mallard and Grey Duck Regulations

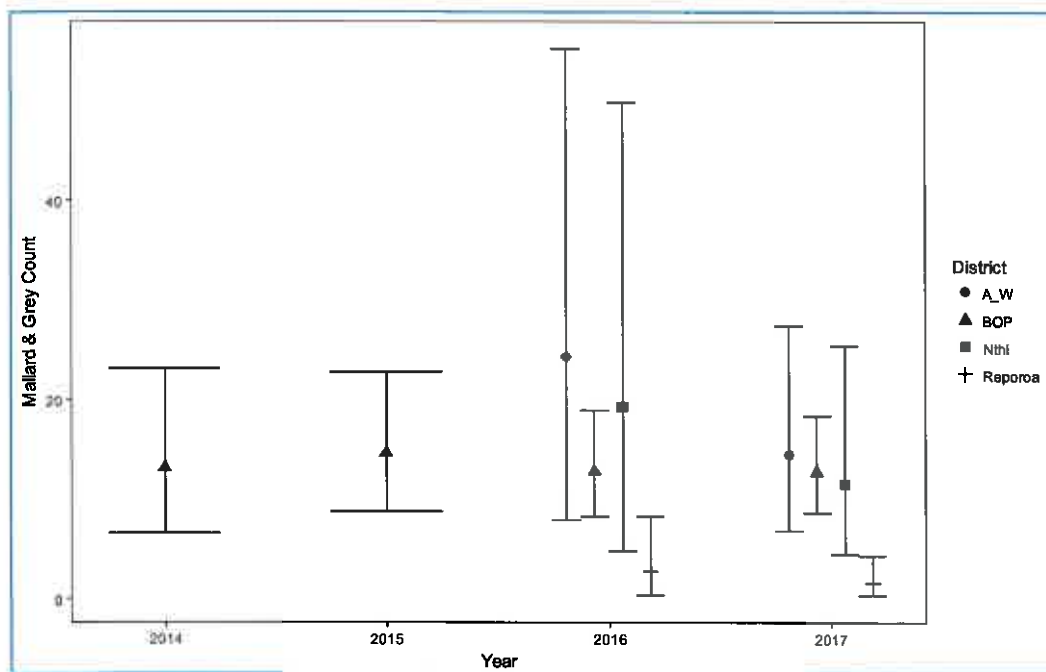
Anecdotal evidence and aerial transect counts indicate the mallard and grey duck population in the Reporoa area is lower than elsewhere in the Eastern Region (Figure 3). Consequently, for the 2017 season Council:

*Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that a restricted season, of 4 weeks/5 weekends with a 4 bird daily bag limit for greylards be applied to the area bounded by Waikite Valley Road, State Highway 5, State Highway 1 and State Highway 30, and voluntary methods such as targeting greenheads and avoiding the taking of paired birds be promoted. [16/12/10.13]*

The description in the minutes [16/12/10.13] needs to include Whirinaki Valley Road as per the following extract from the 2017 Game Gazette Notice:

**“Reporoa Area:** That area bounded by Waikite Valley Road (Waiotapu) to State Highway 5 to Settlers Road which becomes Broadlands Roads to State Highway 1 (Taupo Bypass) to State Highway 30 to Whirinaki Valley Road (Ngakuru) to Waikite Valley Road.”

This description does not include all of the Reporoa basin. It could however, if the description had the eastern boundary defined as “Goudies/High Level Road down to the Napier - Taupo Road (SH 5)”. The connection to Goudies/High Level Road from Broadlands Road would add a level of complexity to the description without picking up a lot of extra duck habitat. Council needs to advise whether it wishes to amend the current description and increase the extent of the Reporoa Area for the sake of capturing the entire catchment.



**Figure 3. Mallard and grey duck counts (mean± 95% credible interval) from aerial transects flown at 100m AGL 2014 –2017. AW=Auckland/Waikato Region, BOP=Bay of Plenty sub- region, NI= Northland Region, Re=Reporoa sub-region.**

### **3.3 Special Swan/Pukeko Season**

Swan numbers in the A1 Management area could handle a higher harvest. There is also, a segment of the community that would like to see the population lowered, particularly in Tauranga Harbour. A special season may be one way of doing this (for example one weekend in March). If the Council is interested in pursuing this option staff will present a more in depth discussion for the November meeting. The Council might consider it appropriate to include pukeko in this season too.

### **3.4 NZ Falconers Association**

The NZ Falconers Association has in the past been allowed to hunt game birds in the Eastern Region as per the following extract from the 2017 Game Birds Gazette Notice:

“Any licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for



game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.”

The NZ Falconers Association has requested that this provision be ongoing.

### **3.5 Waewaetutuki Wetland**

Council made the decision to make the Waewaetutuki wetland available to novice hunters only for the 2017 mallard hunting season, and that it was not to be shot on opening weekend or during the week following, meaning six weekends were able to be hunted. Junior novices were randomly drawn from entries to a juniors’ only competition held on our duck hunters’ day event in April. Each of the juniors drawn from the hat was entitled to hunt one full weekend in one of the two stands available.

Twelve youth were drawn, with ages ranging from 11 to 16. Each youth was required to have an appropriately qualified and experienced supervisor, and retain a diary of their two days’ hunting. Only two hunt diaries were ultimately returned, but staff spoke with the parents of a number of other hunters. One girl shot two ducks and five pukeko on one day, and a boy shot 13 ducks over two days hunting. The results for others varied from no ducks to a few. All stated that they enjoyed the experience.

The programme did not result in additional licences being sold, but provided wonderful opportunities for novices to experience what it is all about, obtain a few skills, and hopefully, develop some enthusiasm for taking up the sport.

Staff involvement was greatly reduced this year as we only inspected the stands to ensure they were in a safe condition and scrubbed them up, and did not supervise any novice hunters, as has occurred in previous years.

Staff’s recommendation is that the novice only hunting access to the Waewaetutuki wetland be retained for the 2018 season.

### **3.6 Application to Set Up an Upland Game Property in Waikite Valley**

Fish & Game has been approached by Jan Champion (see October Papers for Information) to register an upland game property at 123 Coates Road, Waikite Valley on a property owned by Mark and Sherrie Stokman. Staff have met with Mr Champion and he is aware of the criteria needing to be met to be registered, and has assured us that he can and will comply with these requirements.

Harakeke Station has advised that they will not meet the minimum number of birds needing to be released criterion to operate as an Upland Game Property in 2018 so will not be gazetted as such in 2018.

### **3.7 Application to Extend the Pheasant Season on Equine Estate and Cropp Farms**

Equine Estate Ltd has requested that it be able to have early start to the game bird season for its Upland Game Property operations to hunt pheasant and red-legged partridge. Their rationale is:

- The mild winters has meant that the birds are dispersing more widely by August.
- With the birds more widely dispersed they have to reduce their hunting pressure to meet their planned days.

- Other regions such as Auckland/Waikato, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, South Canterbury (sic; this should be CSI) and West Coast have allowed an early season.

Eastern Region has previously considered an application of this nature (from another Upland Game Property in 2011) and:

*Agreed (Mike Little/Steve Scragg) that Council:*

- (v) *does not support the request to move the start of the season for Upland Game Properties forward to the first Saturday in April 2012. [11/11/8.2]*

This was adopted as Eastern Region policy.

Condition 3.4 of the 2003 National Guidelines for Upland Game Preserves restricts hunting on these preserves to the game hunting season (May to the end of August). These guidelines are to be reviewed in 2018 and a national policy developed from such.

**4. Recommendation:**

- 4.1 *That Council considers the proposed threshold levels and criteria for regulation setting and identifies any variants for ratification at its November meeting.*
- 4.2 *That Council identifies any other game season condition matters it would like further information on, or consultation with hunters about, before the November Council meeting.*

# Appendix 1

## SECOND SCHEDULE

### EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION

#### 1 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2017/2018 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	6 May to 18 June 2017	8	All areas except the Reporoa Area
	6 May to 5 June 2017	4	The Reporoa Area
NZ shoveler duck	6 May to 5 June 2017	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	6 May to 2 July 2017	6	Area A1, A2
	6 May to 2 July 2017	10	Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
	6 May to 16 July 2017	20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pukeko	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	10	All areas
Black swan	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	No limit	Area A1
	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	2	Area A2
	Closed season	0	Area B1 & B2
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	No limit	All areas
Brown quail	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	5	All areas
California quail	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	No limit	Area A1 & A2
	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	5	Area B1 & B2
Cock pheasant	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	5	All areas excluding upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region
Pheasant, both sexes	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	No limit	Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region
Cock pheasant	28 Aug to 17 Sep 2017	No limit	Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region (junior hunters only)
Red legged partridge	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	No limit	Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region

## **2 Definition of Areas**

The following descriptions refer to Local Authority Boundaries described on the Infomap 242B-2 Department of Survey and Land Information (now Land Information New Zealand) for the Eastern Region Fish and Game Region.

- 2.1 Area A1:** Tauranga District, Western Bay of Plenty District, that part of the South Waikato District within the Eastern Fish and Game region and east of State Highway 1, Rotorua District, Kawerau District, Whakatane District and Opotiki District.
- 2.2 Area A2:** Those parts of the South Waikato District west of State Highway 1 within the Eastern Fish and Game Region, Taupo District and Ruapehu District, which lie within the Eastern Fish and Game Region.
- 2.3 Area B1:** Gisborne District.
- 2.4 Area B2:** That part of Wairoa District within the Eastern Fish and Game Region.
- 2.5 Reporoa Area:** That area bounded by Waikite Valley Road (Waiotapu) to State Highway 5 to Settlers Road which becomes Broadlands Roads to State Highway 1 (Taupo Bypass) to State Highway 30 to Whirinaki Valley Road (Ngakuru) to Waikite Valley Road.

## **3 Shooting Hours**

6.15am to 6.15pm in all areas for all species during their respective seasons.

## **4 Decoy Limit**

No limit.

## **5 Special Conditions**

- 5.1** No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the Eastern region with any magazine shotgun unless the shotgun:
  - a. has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
  - b. the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Actso that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than two shells in the magazine, with no more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.
- 5.2** No maimai shall impede the use of navigable channels in the Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua and Lake Taupo.
- 5.3** Maimais erected in the Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua, Ohiwa Harbour, Stump and Waihi bays of Lake Taupo must be dismantled and removed within 2 weeks of the close of the season (i.e. by 17 September 2017).
- 5.4** Any licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.

## **6 Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions**

- 6.1 Pirini Family Trust:** The property is located 8 kilometres up the Bush Road from Pongokawa. It is bounded by Pongakawa River, Rotoehu Forest and Bush Road, Sections 4, 5 and 7 SO 7437 Block IX Waihi South Survey District.
- 6.2 Equine and Cropp Farms:** The property is located approximately six kilometres in a north-west direction from Lake Rotoehu with Rotoehu Road and Fletcher Challenge's Rotoehu Forest on the main boundaries. It is made up of 283 hectares being entirely enclosed within deer fence, DPS 17091. The property is owned by Equine Estate Limited. Also the "Cropp Farm" (C. A. Cropp), 1410 Rotoehu Road; being 316 hectares Section 17 SO 17091 Sections 22–23 SO 49960 Block 1 Rotoma Survey District described as seven kilometres in a north-west direction from Lake Rotoehu and is bounded by Rotoehu road to the east and Christophers Forest to the North, with the western boundary formed by the Pongakawa stream.
- 6.3 Prime Pine:** The property is located on the Matata Highway and consists of some 120 hectares of pine forest. DPS 58240. It is bounded by Hingston, Fraser, Prinz and Knight properties. The property is owned by Prime Pine Partnership.
- 6.4 Harakeke Station Taupo:** 1034 State Highway 1, RD 1, Wairakei, being 946.37 hectares in total and consisting of Tatua East No 25 Block, Tatua East No 27 Blocks I, II and VI Tatua Survey District, Tatua East No 29 Blocks V and VI Tatua Survey District, Tatua East No 28 Block V Tatua Survey District, Part X2A Block V Tatua Survey District, Lot 1 DP 330092, Lot 2 DPS 11900, Part Tatua East 11E1B MI 16902, Block V, Tatua Survey District, Lot 1 DPS 90819 Lot 1 DPS 10147 Part Tatua East 8 ML 14696, Block V, Tatua Survey District, Tatua East 11C1 ML 14696 Block V, Tatua Survey District 11B ML 14696 Tatua East Survey District 11A ML 14696 Tatua East Survey District Tatua East 12E1 MI. The property is owned by Harakeke Company Limited.
- 6.5 Totara Lodge Taupo:** The property covers an area of 1478 hectares bounded by State Highway 1 and Bouma, Speed, Pepper, Lowry, Perrott, Robertson, Bull and May properties. It consists of Tatua East 17 Blocks II IV Tuhingamata West Survey District, Lot 3 DP 338327, Lots 1, 2, 4 and 5 DPS 61926 Tatua East 18 Block V Tatua Survey District, Blocks II and IV Tuhingamata West Survey District, and Lot 9 DP 358455 Tatua East 16A ML 18532, Tuhingamata West Survey District The property is owned by E. F. Deadman Limited.

## Appendix 2

### 2.1 Current Policy and Criteria

- 10.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallards due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [16/12/10.2]*
- 10.3 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [16/12/10.3]*
- 10.4 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [16/12/10.4]*
- 10.5 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [16/12/10.5]*
- 10.6 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the 2017 season conditions for shoveler duck be a two bird bag limit for four weeks. [16/12/10.6]*
- 10.7 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the remaining conditions for 2017 are as per Appendix 1. [16/12/10.7]*
- 10.8 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the Waewaetutuki Wetland be closed to the general ballot and walk in permit system for the 2017 game bird hunting season, and a novice hunt programme comparable to that instigated in 2015 be repeated. [16/12/10.8]*

### 2.2 Paradise Shelduck

#### Threshold Criteria

**Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels**

LONG TERM POPULATION TREND	SEASON
Negative ie. population declining	Restricted
Zero ie. population stable	Intermediate
Positive ie. population growing.	Relaxed

**Table 2: Eastern Paradise Shelduck season conditions**

SEASON	Area	Specific Conditions	
		Length (weeks)	Bag Limit
Restricted	A1 & A2	4	4
	B2 & B1 South of true right bank Uawa River	4	4
Intermediate	A1, A2	8	6
	B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River	8	10
Relaxed	A1, A2, B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	10
Fixed Season condition	B1 North of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	20

### **2.3 Black Swan**

#### Threshold Criteria

**Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels**

<b>POPULATION SIZE</b>	<b>TREND</b>	<b>SEASON</b>
Low (below 1,000)	Negative	Restricted
Low (below 1,000)	Zero	Restricted
Low (below 1,000)	Positive	Restricted
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Negative	Intermediate
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Zero	Intermediate
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Positive	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Negative	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Zero	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Positive	Relaxed

**Table 4: Eastern Black Swan season conditions**

<b>SEASON</b>	<b>SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (LENGTH AND DAILY BAG)</b>
Restricted	No season.
Intermediate	8-week season with a 2-bird limit for Management Units A1, A2 and B1. 6-week season with a 4-bird limit for Management Unit B2
Relaxed	16-week season with a no-bird limit.

### **3. Hunting with Australasian Harriers Policy**

**9.11 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposal to allow registered falconers, who hold a game bird licence and an Authority to Handle birds from the Department of Conservation, to hunt other game bird species as listed within the Game Bird hunting regulations. [16/10/9.11]. Cr Alan Baird opposed the motion.**

## **9. INFORMATION FOR THE 2016-2017 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Ref: 8.03.04**

**3 October 2017**

### **1. Purpose**

To review the draft Statement of Service Performance report and draft Financial Statements for the 2016-2017 Performance (Annual) Report.

### **2. Background**

The Performance Report for the 2016-2017 year will be presented to the public annual general meeting to be held 30 November 2017 as per the requirement of Sections 26W and 26ZD(7) of the Conservation Act, 1987.

The annual Performance Report contains a Statement of Service Performance (SOSP) so that readers can assess the performance of the Council against the targets set in the 2016-2017 Operational Work Plan (OWP). The Performance Report aligns with the OWP to clearly show actual outcomes against targets identified in the annual work planning process.

The purpose of this paper is to enable early consideration of the material being developed for inclusion in the Performance Report. A draft of the SOSP has been prepared, along with draft unaudited Financial Statements, and these have been circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

The reports will be revised after Council consideration then compiled into the final Performance Report. This then needs to be approved at the 30 November 2017 meeting held immediately prior to the public annual general meeting where the Performance Report is presented to the public.

### **3.0 Recommendation:**

***3.1 That Council receives the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance and Financial Statements for the 2016-2017 year, and identifies any changes required before finalising the Performance Report for the 2016-2017 year.***



## 10. NATIONAL BUDGET RESERVES POLICY

Ref: 8.03.01

3 October 2017

### **1. Purpose**

To review the draft revision of the national reserves policy and provide feedback on it for forwarding to the NZ Council for consideration at its November 2017 meeting.

### **2. Background**

At its March 2017 meeting the NZ Council adopted the Financial Review Committee (FRC) recommendation that amendments are needed to the existing National Budget policy concerned with reserves. The proposed amendments, and the current policy which was adopted in 2003 are provided in the pages following.

### **3. Staff Comments**

As a member of the Financial Review Committee, Carmel Veitch was involved in the discussions leading up to the drafting of this revision, and was charged with consulting with all Fish & Game regions as to the impact that the policy would have on both their reserves and their budgets.

From her discussions with Regions she believes that the proposed National Budget Reserves Policy still needs some amendments to ensure it works going forward for both the Regions and the Budget process. This is a very important Policy and affects every Region and it affects their potential income for the year – which in turn affects the Licence price.

There are two areas in the proposed Policy Change that need to be discussed further before final approval. These are as follows:

(i) **Proposed Policy 2.7.6 All expenditure (including from reserves) needs to be approved as part of the budget round**

This is not a departure from the old policy – however, it is not currently being followed by Regions within the current budget process.

The intention of this policy is to ensure that Regions are transparent with their budgeting process and do not ‘hide’ income and expenses because they are being derived from Reserves. It is not the intention to disallow the expenditure but for Regions to more openly disclose the work in the period (not only nationally but to their own Council too). For example, if a Region is planning to use its Non-Resident Levy Reserve (the “Back Country Reserve”) the following year this should be included in the Budget (and the OWP). The funds will not be part of the Bulk fund but will come from the Non-Resident Levy. It is a mechanism for identifying all expenditure budgets for the forthcoming year.

The Finance Review Committee does not envisage Regions having to ask for approval for this – it is simply a mechanism for recording that the reserves are being spent in a particular year and on a particular project.

**Recommendation:**

That Policy 2.7.6 be reworded to read:

*“All expenditure will need to be identified as part of the budget round including expenditure to be funded from the bulk fund for the year, capital expenditure and expenditure from reserves.”*

(ii) **Proposed Policy 2.7.9 All income (including interest from all reserves (with the exception of restricted reserves that specify otherwise) shall be brought into the budget**

Regions have raised an issue relating to the Interest received on the proceeds of the sale/disposal of Land and Buildings – where the intention is to purchase new Land and Buildings.

If the Interest from the Land/Building Reserve is brought into the current budget then it has the following impacts on Regions:

- Regions have a higher income in the current period and hence are able to spend more in the period, but
- The Land/Building Reserve over a period loses value while the cost of a new Land/Building goes up – precluding or making it difficult to repurchase in the future.

If Interest from the Land/Building Reserve is *excluded* from the Budget process then the actual Interest earned in the year is transferred to the Land/Building Reserve so this Reserve increases in value – making it more practical to repurchase Land/Buildings in the future.

**Recommendation:**

That Policy 2.7.9 be reworded to read:

*“All income (including interest from all reserves (with the exception of Restricted Reserves that specify otherwise and Land/Building Reserves (where the intent is to purchase new land/Buildings) shall be brought into the budget.”*

This interest accrued on the Land/Building Reserve does not then become income for the region (in the budget process). The Region will in fact receive interest from that during the year (so should record a profit with all other things being equal) and that interest will then be transferred to the Land/Building Reserve as will the interest on Restricted Reserves.

Note that if a Region Sells Land/Buildings with NO intention of repurchasing Land/Buildings then the interest from that Reserve should become part of the budget process.

**4.0 Recommendations:**

- 4.1 *That Council considers the draft revision of National Budget Policy that the Financial Review Committee has produced.***
- 4.2 *That Council adopts the amendments staff have recommended to two policy statements for forwarding to the NZ Council for consideration at its November 2017 meeting.***

## **BUDGET POLICY FOR CONSULTATION AS NATIONAL POLICY**

**Memorandum to:** Regional Fish and Game Councils

**Prepared by:** Alison Lyall, Finance & Administration Manager, NZ Fish and Game Council

July 2017

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### **Purpose**

The National Financial Review Committee (convened by Matthew Hall) was set up to bring forward recommendations for standard operating procedures relating to financial management recording and reporting to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council), for consideration as national policy.

### **Required Action**

That consultation is undertaken with regional Fish and Game Councils with the intention that policies proposed by the National Financial Review Committee on changes to Budget Policy be accepted as National policies.

### **Background**

At its March 2017 meeting the NZ Council adopted the Financial Review Committee recommendations to change existing National Budget policies. These involved Policies 2.7.6, 2.7.7, 2.7.8, 2.7.9, 2.7.10, 2.7.11, 2.7.12 (Based on 2003 numbering) being deleted and replaced with the following policies:

2.7.6 All expenditure will need to be approved as part of the budget round including

- expenditure to be funded from the bulk fund for the year, capital expenditure,
- allocations to and from reserves and expenditure from reserves.

2.7.7 An exclusion to the above rule is that replacement of assets funded from an asset replacement reserve will not require approval but the proposed replacement will be advised as part of the budget process.

2.7.8 Three categories of reserve have been identified:

1. Accumulated Funds,
2. Dedicated Reserves,
3. Restricted Reserves.

Equity is the total of all reserves.

#### **Note:**

Accumulated funds (sometimes called general reserves) include:

- All funds from prior years that have been allocated to accumulated funds,
- Current profits or losses (income and capital) that have been allocated to accumulated funds, and
- Any transactions that have been properly authorised. (An example could be an adjustment to a dedicated or restricted reserve or a reserve for building maintenance or

where Council felt funds should be set aside from current profits to cover future expenditure).

Dedicated reserves include:

- Those reserves that have been resolved by Council for a dedicated purpose.
  - Asset Replacement,
  - Building reserve where created by Fish and Game,
  - Non-resident licence contribution,
  - Historic reserves where the total control and purpose rests with Fish and Game,
  - Legal Fund Reserve,
  - Research Fund Reserve.
  - Other dedicated reserves.

Restricted reserves include:

- Those reserves that are under Fish and Game's control where an external party sets a restricted purpose. (Could be a bequest or donation accepted by Fish and Game that has been tagged for a special purpose.)
  - Eg, Waikaremoana Fund where a special trust applies.
  - Dedicated by donor for wetland development etc.
  - Other restricted reserves.

2.7.9 All income (including interest from all reserves (with the exception of restricted reserves that specify otherwise) shall be brought into the budget.

Note 1. As a result of these changes numbering of the remaining policies will need to be altered if there is to be consecutive numbering.

Note 2. This numbering change may be placed on hold because the intention is to review the remaining policies in 2.7.

## **Recommendation**

**That regional Fish and Game Councils:**

- i. **note that the Financial Review Committee has provided a revision of existing budget policy.**
- ii. **consider and provide final comments on the revised policy to the NZ Council prior to its November 2017 meeting.**
- iii. **note that these policies will be adopted as Fish and Game New Zealand's national policy.**

**EXISTING NATIONAL BUDGET POLICY**  
**Approved November 2003**

**2.7 National Budget Policy**

- 6 Note that all expenditure will need to be approved as part of the budget round including expenditure to be funded from the bulk fund for the year, capital expenditure and expenditure from dedicated reserves.
- 7 Note that replacement of assets funded from asset replacement reserves will not require approval but that proposed replacement of capital assets should be indicated in budgets.
- 8 Note that four categories of reserve have been identified, namely:
  - a) *Special Purpose Reserves* - held external to Fish & Game;
  - b) *Historical Reserves* - generated from the sale of an asset, or which have been accumulated for/dedicated to a specific purpose over time and (normally) inherited;
  - c) *General Reserves* - operating funds;
  - d) *Asset Replacement Reserves* - dedicated to replacement of existing assets.
- 9 Note that Special Purpose Reserves are outside of the control of the Fish & Game budget system.
- 10 Agree that Historical Reserves will remain under the control of individual regional councils. However, expenditure from them will require approval as part of the budget round, given that the acquisition of further assets (including habitat) does impose a cost on the system as a whole.
- 11 Agree that all income from all Reserves (with the exception of Special Purposes Reserves) be brought into the budget.
- 12 Agree that asset replacement funds be re-established.

## **11. FISHERIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING FROM EASTERN FISH & GAME'S NON-RESIDENT LEVY RESERVE FUND**

**Ref: 1.07.01**

**6 October 2017**

### **1. Purpose**

To discuss a proposed framework and set of criteria for identifying fisheries within the Eastern Fish & Game Region which will qualify for funding from our Non-Resident Levy Reserve Fund.

### **2. Background**

The Non-Resident Licence was brought into circulation in the 2014-15 season. The Minister of Conservation, in a letter dated 9 September 2012, stipulated that the licence be set *“at a cost of 1.3 times the adult whole of season fishing licence, with any increased revenue obtained being directed to specific management to improve back country fisheries”*.

In July 2014 the New Zealand Council resolved *“that for the purposes of fisheries management a back country fishery is taken to mean any New Zealand freshwater (river and or lake) that provide some truly spectacular angling experiences, are popular with non-resident anglers and are inherently sensitive and need careful management”*.

In September 2015 the NZ Council further resolved *“that each region maintain a dedicated fund based on the extra revenue from non-resident licence sales for specific management to improve back country fisheries in regions”*.

At Eastern Fish & Game's last Council meeting in August, potential attributes and criteria that could be used for identifying “back country fisheries” were discussed along with an objective process for doing so. It was generally accepted that the NZ Council's 2014 resolution makes it clear that the term “back country” does not need to be interpreted in a strictly literal sense, and that Council is able to exercise considerable flexibility when it comes to determining what lake or river, or section of such in the Eastern Region it classifies as a “back country fishery”. There was agreement also, that the term “back country” is not entirely apt and isn't particularly helpful as it tends to generate a subconscious bias towards remote/headwater/wilderness waterways that are not necessarily popular with non-resident anglers. A lead could be taken from Otago Fish & Game who grappled with this also, and for simplicity's sake categorised these fisheries as “Fisheries Popular with Non-Resident Anglers”. Another option could be “Significant Non-Resident Fisheries” or something along those lines.

After a fairly general discussion in which a diversity of views was put forward on what might, in principle, constitute one of these fisheries, Council indicated it supported the key attributes that staff had proposed along with a matrix approach to ranking fisheries. Council asked staff to develop this process further for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Eastern Council needs to agree on how it will determine whether a waterway in the Eastern Region meets the threshold for being designated a significant or important “non-resident fishery”. Once this has been established, qualifying fisheries can be identified, and

management prescriptions drawn up for these and incorporated into our strategic plans and annual Operational Work Planning processes.

### **3. Proposed Process, Parameters, and Attributes for Identifying and Ranking Non-Resident Fisheries**

#### **3.1 Process**

The Minister's statement and NZ Council resolutions provided above indicate for the purposes of fisheries management and determining where revenue from the non-resident levy should be directed, there are three key 'parameters' needing to be considered. One is rivers or lakes that have a particular attribute(s) attractive to, or of significance to anglers, another is rivers or lakes that are popular with non-resident anglers, and the third is rivers or lakes that are inherently sensitive and need to be managed accordingly and/or be managed with the aim of improving the fishery.

Staff have identified attributes they believe should be used to evaluate each of the parameters and these are set out in the sections below. The proposed process for identifying and prioritising fisheries qualifying for funding from the Non-Resident Levy Reserve Fund will involve summing the scores assigned to the attributes for each parameter and each fishery, then ranking these totals. Priorities for funding will change over time as circumstances change and/or projects are undertaken, and it will be necessary to periodically, if not regularly, repeat the process.

Staff will demonstrate the process when Council is considering this agenda item.

A final point to be made at this stage is that equal weighting has been given to each of the parameters.

#### **3.2 Parameters**

##### **3.2.1 Popularity with non-resident anglers**

Fish & Game has estimates of angling pressure on rivers and lakes nationally from National Angler Surveys (NAS) which have been conducted on four occasions from 1995-96. During the 2007-08 and 2014-15 surveys, a number of non-resident anglers were contacted and interviewed as to where they had fished just as NZ resident anglers had been though the interviews were conducted at the conclusion of the surveys rather than at the end of each two-monthly survey period. Incorrectly recorded contact details, time zone issues and language difficulties meant only 253 out of 1,108 attempted calls were successful during the 2014-15 survey, and this coupled with other sampling issues associated with that survey mean the accuracy of the results obtained are less robust than those obtained in 2007-08. Nevertheless the relative use of Eastern Region waters as indicated from these surveys is informative, and can be used as an index for the popularity of its fisheries.

Within the Eastern Region, the majority of non-resident angling is based around the Rotorua lakes. While this may be due in part to accessibility, opportunity, convenience, or how much time visitors have available to them, these fisheries attract a high number of more dedicated non-resident anglers during the summer period, especially the Lake Rotorua Stream mouths (Awahou/Hamurana), while the shorelines



of Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina are popular during the winter period. Staff encounter North American, British, European, Australian and Asian anglers around the Rotorua lakes. Many are return visitors that spend a great deal of time fishing lake inflows for the high catch rate available over the summer period and the large fish returning to beaches and tributaries in the winter. Non-resident anglers also visit river systems on short term and multi day trips.

*Proposed scoring: 5 for least used, 10 for moderately used, 15 for most used*

### **3.2.2 Spectacular angling experiences**

#### ***Catch rate or fish size or perception of such***

The perception of, or opportunity to catch lots of fish or large trophy sized fish is likely to capture the interest of many anglers and draw them to those areas. It is likely that to a point, a visiting angler will care more about catch rate and fish size than water quality.

*Proposed scoring: (1 low catch rate/small fish, 3 moderate catch rate/fish size, 5 high catch rate/large fish)*

#### ***Scenic attractiveness and sense of wilderness***

Being in an environment that is natural and unspoiled with attractive scenery and wilderness values can be an important part of what constitutes a spectacular angling experience.

*Proposed scoring (1 low level, 3 moderate level, 5 high level)*

#### ***Low numbers of other users***

From an angling point of view, the sense of peacefulness and having a resource largely to yourself may play a key role in your perception of a truly spectacular and or memorable angling experience. If so, encountering significant numbers of other people/anglers is likely to tarnish the experience. For some this includes seeing footprints of other anglers along river beds.

*Proposed ranking (1 low numbers, 3 moderate numbers, 5 high numbers of others)*

### **3.2.3 Sensitivity of fishery and management needs/opportunities**

#### ***Non angling threats to sustainability of fishery***

This may include existing or proposed catchment/land use, dams, water takes, access issues.

*Proposed scoring: (1 no threats, 3 moderate level threats, 3 high level threats)*

#### ***Angling threats to sustainability of fishery***

Is the level of angler use increasing, constant, or decreasing? Increasing angler pressure can affect catch rates and the fish size.

*Proposed scoring: (1 decreasing use, 3 stable/sustainable pressure, 5 increasing use)*

***Potential to enhance fishery***

Can size/condition of fish/catch rates be improved by regulations or manipulation of stocking regime if relevant? Can access to the fishery be physically improved or promoted by making information more readily available?

*Proposed scoring: (1 little potential, 3 moderate potential, 5 lots of potential)*

**4. Recommendation**

**4.1 That Council provides feedback to staff on the proposed framework and criteria for identifying important 'non-resident fisheries' within the Eastern Region.**

## 12. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

4 October 2017

### 1. Purpose

To provide an end of year summary of expenditure of funds from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund during the 2016-2017 year, and apply for a carry over of 2016-17 funding to 2017-18 to repair and recommission the buoy.

### 2. Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

The table below shows expenditure on projects and work areas since 2001. The items highlighted in yellow are projects undertaken/expenses incurred in 2016-2017.

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	250
2014-15 Wairoa Catchment Access Investigations	5,204
2015-16 Survey Project	13,521
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,560
2015-16 Wairoa Access work and brochure	2,920
2016-17 Survey, Monitoring and Access	12,010
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,459
Lowrance Transducer/Transceiver - Parera	7,129
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132,827</b>

### **3. Discussion**

#### **3.1 Review of 2016-2017 Expenditure**

At its meeting in April 2016, Council approved funding for 2016-2017 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to the value of \$19k for ongoing survey and monitoring of key spawning tributaries at Waikaremoana, the continuation of access related work within the Wairoa catchment, and costs associated with the extraction and repair of the Water Quality Monitoring Buoy that was stuck fast to a structure protruding from the lake bed [16/4/11.2]. Council also approved an application for \$12k from the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association to replace four navigation markers at Waikaremoana [16/4/11.4].

In December 2016, Council approved an application from staff to draw down an additional \$6k from the Fund to deploy a ROV (remotely operated vehicle) to recover the sensors suspended from the buoy as attempts to do so using other methods had failed. This funding was also intended to contribute to the costs of repairs to the buoy that might be required [16/12/12.3]. The sensors were recovered earlier this year but have yet to be repaired and redeployed, a key issue being that the parties concerned with the buoy agreed it was imperative we have a better understanding of the structures emerging from the lake bed before it was recommissioned.

In April 2017 Council approved another application for funds [17/04/9.3], this time \$6.5k to acquire a more sophisticated echo sounder capable of 3D structure mapping and operating at greater depths than we have been able to, for use at Waikaremoana.

Of the \$43,500 approved during the 2016-17 year, the \$12,000 set aside for the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association to replace four navigation markers on Waikaremoana has not yet been drawn down as the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority, as we understand it, has yet to approve the project. Purchase and installation of the sounder was over budget by \$600 due to a need for rewiring the vessel and a battery upgrade. Fish & Game's share of the cost for recovering the buoy sensors came to just under \$2,500, while staff time and expenses associated with creel surveys and monitoring of spawning streams, routine buoy maintenance, and access related work was under budget by \$7,000. This was due to cancellation of programmed field work as a consequence of road closures and ongoing

bad weather, which included three cyclonic events, from late summer. All up we were underspent by approximately \$10,000.

### **3.2 Outstanding Commitments to the Fund**

Other than the \$12,000 approved for the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association's navigation markers project, \$39,000 has still to be allocated and drawn down for a specific project associated with the Lagarosiphon Incursion Programme.

### **4. Application to Carry Forward Funds from 2016-17**

In late August staff used the newly acquired sounding gear fitted to Parera to investigate the lake bed under and in the vicinity of the location the buoy is anchored at. This revealed a standing forest of dead trees rising from 130m on the bottom to approximately 100m below the surface. Armed with this information an estimated costing has been obtained from the University of Waikato to rebuild the sensor lines with the deepest extending to  $\leq 90\text{m}$  to ensure its sits well clear of any trees. Estimated cost for repair is in the vicinity of \$10k and both the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Genesis Energy have pledged to contribute \$3k each towards this.

Staff request that the balance of the funding approved in 2016-17 that was not utilised then be carried over into the current financial year to complete this task.

### **5. Recommendation**

***5.1 That Council receives this update and approves the application to carry over the unspent funds from 2016-17.***

## **13. SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS**

**Ref: 1.01.06 & 1.01.08**

**5 October 2017**

### **1. Purpose**

To receive summaries for the 2016-17 Summer Creel Survey and the 2017 NZ Shoveler Trend Count.

### **2. Background**

The Council annually resources a number of key species management programmes to assess and monitor sports fish and game populations and the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource. The information collected from these programmes enables the Council to make informed decisions on species management to ensure sustainable populations are maintained for recreational harvest. These programmes also provide valuable information for other parties such as Regional Councils who can use sports fish and game bird data to assess the effects of habitat changes on biological systems. These programmes are very credible data sets that contribute not only to direct management, but also effective habitat advocacy. Copies of the full reports are available in this month's Papers for Information.

### **3. Report Summaries**

#### **3.1 Executive Summary for the 2016-2017 Rotorua Lakes Summer Creel Survey**

The Council runs a number of long term species monitoring programmes that are used to assess the state of the fisheries in key lakes and develop strategies or responses to various issues and external factors that may be affecting the fisheries. The creel surveys are great examples of angler and fishery surveys that provide a wide range of information on high-use fisheries, and allow us to effectively monitor the effect of management actions and provide sound data for informed decision making on angler issues. Fishery monitoring provides a valuable top-down assessment of productivity changes in lakes and accordingly has relevance to other agencies' water quality actions in the Rotorua lakes. The summer creel survey is a key species monitoring tool for Council, and provides us with an opportunity to monitor angler participation and satisfaction and undertake compliance work in addition to monitoring the fishery itself.

#### **Lake Rotoiti**

Anglers fishing Lake Rotoiti over the 2016-17 summer experienced better catch rates than during the 2015-16 summer. Catch rates were higher than the past ten-year average (0.27 fish/hr). Deeper fishing methods were most successful with wireline trolling producing highest catch rates followed by LED line trolling, jigging then lead line trolling. Overall, the 2016-17 average sized fish was significantly smaller and lighter than the average 2015-16 summer fish ( $P < 0.001$ ). While rising autumn released 2-year-olds were larger, all other cohorts were smaller compared to their same aged counterparts. Angler perceptions regarding catch rate were significantly improved compared to the 2015-16 summer ( $P = 0.006$ ) while perception of size was significantly poorer ( $P < 0.001$ ). Perception of satisfaction was improved compared to

the 2015-16 summer with 100% of anglers stating they were satisfied with their summers' fishing on Lake Rotoiti.

### **Lake Tarawera**

Lake Tarawera anglers over the 2016-2017 summer experienced catch rates that were just behind the 2015-16 summer. The average fish measured was 2mm smaller but 30g heavier than the 2015-16 summer fish. Fly fishing, though the least surveyed method, produced highest catch rates followed by downrigger trolling, glow bugging then jigging. The percentage of fish 'put back' was lowered from 38% during 2015-16 to 24% of all fish caught, demonstrating the improved condition of the 2016-17 summer catch. Legal sized returns made up 17% of the Tarawera catch during the 2016-17 summer. Anglers' perceptions were poorer for both catch rate and fish size compared with the 2015-16 summer. Angler satisfaction was unchanged from the 2015-16 summer with 95% of anglers stating they were satisfied with the 2015-16 summer's fishing on Lake Tarawera.

### **Lake Rotorua**

Anglers fishing Lake Rotorua over the 2016-17 summer had poorer catch rates than anglers fishing during the 2015-16 summer due to cooler, windier conditions. The summer stream mouth angling hardly fired compared to recent summers. The average sized trout caught during the 2016-17 summer was 1mm shorter, but significantly heavier ( $P < 0.001$ ) than the average 2015-16 summer fish. Anglers' perceptions stated catch rate was poorer while fish size and condition was enhanced. Angler satisfaction was slightly lowered from the 2015-16 summer with 97% of anglers satisfied with their 2016-17 summers fishing on Lake Rotorua.

### **Lake Okataina**

Lake Okataina anglers surveyed over the 2016-17 summer experienced slightly lower catch rates compared to the 2015-16 summer. Jigging proved to be the most successful method surveyed followed by downrigger trolling and lead line trolling. The average fish caught was longer and heavier than during the 2015-16 summer. Anglers' perceptions were poorer for both catch rate and fish size when compared with the 2015-16 summer. Anglers had improved satisfaction rates with 100% of anglers surveyed stating they were satisfied with their angling during the 2016-17 summer on Lake Okataina.

## **3.2 Summary for the 2017 NZ Shoveler Trend Count Report**

Fish & Game New Zealand conducted a national count of shoveler duck (*Anas rhynchos*) on 7 August 2017. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> annual count (2000-2017) to monitor change in the New Zealand population. A total of 14,723 were counted at 245 sites. Population change was examined using two methods (i) a variant of the route regression method, and (ii) comparing total counts from 84 sites that have been counted each year for the past 18 years.

The populations of shoveler duck at these sites appear to be stable, (percentage change = -1.07; 95% Credible Interval -2.7 – 0.56;  $n=240$ ) over the 18 years. Short term (2016-2017) there was no detectable change as the credible interval estimate spans zero (mean = -10.8%; -27.0 – 8.9, 95% Credible Interval;  $n=238$ ). The 2017 total count for sites that have been counted every year ( $n=84$ ) was 154% of the average for the

period 2000 – 2016 and was up 71% on last year's count. These 84 sites indicate a small linear increase over the last 18 years ( $\beta_{yr}=164$ ,  $t=2.846$ ,  $P=0.0117$ )

Sex ratios were examined using a chi-squared test. Males were significantly more numerous ( $P<0.001$ ) with a ratio of 1.62 males to female. This sex imbalance is consistent with counts in previous years.

Count sites were not randomly selected so inference about national shoveler populations is left to the reader. In future staff are encouraged to record (name and grid reference) shoveler habitat (i.e. where shoveler are observed). This data could form the basis for a shoveler habitat database to be used to improve survey design.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 That Council receives the 2016-2017 Executive Summary for the Rotorua Lakes Summer Creel Survey Report and a summary of the 2017 NZ Shoveler Trend Count.**



## **14. GUIDES LICENCE**

**Ref: 1.07.02**

**6 October 2017**

### **1. Purpose**

To discuss concerns raised by Cr Peter Storey that Fish & Game NZ needs to do more to convince the Minister of Conservation and Cabinet to introduce a Professional Guides Licence.

### **2. Background**

See email correspondence between Crs Peter Storey, Sandy Bull and Lindsay Lyons provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda, along with a letter from the Minister of Conservation to the NZ Council in June 2017.

### **3.0 Recommendations:**

***3.1 That Council discusses this issue in the context of what has been done to date to advance a guides licence, and what Fish & Game can, and is intending to do.***

## **15. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **15.1 Conservation Boards**

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

### **15.2 Reports from other agencies**

- Department of Conservation

### **15.3 Report from New Zealand Council**

## 16. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

### 16.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

9 October 2017

#### SPECIES MANAGEMENT

##### 1111 River Fisheries Investigations

###### Didymo monitoring

Staff undertook the quarterly didymo delimiting survey in the Ngongotaha on Tuesday 26 September. Didymo remains absent from North Island waters according to the most up to date survey results.

##### 1112 Datawatch

The 2016-17 Datawatch tag season for the license draw drew to a close on 31 August. 563 tags were returned for the c. 12 month period which was 161 returns behind those returned in the 2015-16 season. The license draw for 20 free licenses was made on 9 August 2017. The draw contained all tags returned after those entered in the 2015-16 season licence draw. These were tags entered between 19/08/2016 to 9/08/2017.

The 20 winners of the 2016-17 adult season licenses were:

<i>First name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Town</i>
Hamish	Galloway	WHAKATANE
Ken	Towersey	ROTORUA
Reece	Kendrick	ROTORUA
Malcolm	Howard	TAURANGA
Adrian	Adamson	TAURANGA
Glenys	Hobman	KATIKATI
Steven	Lee	ROTORUA
John	Bennett	TAURANGA
Bill	Fowler	ROTORUA
Jill	Clark	ROTORUA
Tony	Phemister	AUCKLAND
John	Payne	NAPIER
Colin	Drever	MT MAUNGANUI
Pat	Swift	ROTORUA
Colin	Russell	WAIPUKURAU
Eric	Schonberger	MOUNT MAUNGANUI
Hilding	Fjellner	WHAKATANE
Leon	Mickelson	TAUPO
Ian	Ross	HAMILTON
Brian	Funnell	TIRAU

During the 2016-17 trout fishing season (1 October – 30 September), 541 datawatch tags were returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	13
Lake Okataina	143
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	21
Lake Rotoehu	18
Lake Rotoiti	110
Lake Rotoma	13
Lake Rotorua	17
Lake Tarawera	201
Lake Waikaremoana	3
Lake Tutira	2
Maratotara	0

*data entered to 29 September 2017*

The datawatch programme was advertised in the latest Fish & Game magazine (fish supplement and newsletter) and on the Fish & Game website to encourage anglers to keep on sending in tag returns.

Tag returns are ahead on Lake Okataina, Rotoiti and Tarawera compared to the 2015-16 season. Note that the totals in the 2016-17 financial year are different to the 2016-17 draw numbers as the time periods of the two spreadsheets differ.

### **1113 Lake Waikaremoana**

#### **Monitoring Buoy**

Staff visited the lake on 22-24 August. The anchor line surface chains and shackles were checked for wear and found to be in very good condition, meaning they will last for a long period before requiring replacement. Staff also sounded the bottom structure underneath the buoy site and have passed a depth profile to the University of Waikato technician.

Genesis Energy and HBRC have been approached regarding the rebuild of the monitoring buoy sensor lines, and have indicated their willingness to contribute toward funding. Confirmation to begin refit has been sent through to the buoy technician at University of Waikato.

#### **Lake Waikaremoana Investigations**

Fish & Game staff undertook spawning trout counts at Lake Waikaremoana on 23 and 24 August. A moderate number of large brown trout were seen in the Marauiti Stream. Over 400 fish were sighted in the Hopuruahine up to the Cascades (largely rainbows). 31 browns were recorded within the stretch of the Waiotukupuna surveyed. A total of 130 trout (majority rainbows) were sighted in the Mokau. Comparing the Hopuruahine count to previous years, the August 2017 estimate was midway between the 2015 and 2016 counts, and the Waiotukupuna was lower than that recorded in 2016 (60 fish in total but 40 of which were browns). The Mokau during August 2017 was higher than that in 2016 (40 fish).

Fish & Game staff also undertook some bathymetric mapping using the CMAP Genesis system on the new LOWRANCE sounder fitted to Parera and uploaded this to the system's Social Map.

## 1114 Lake Tarawera

### Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

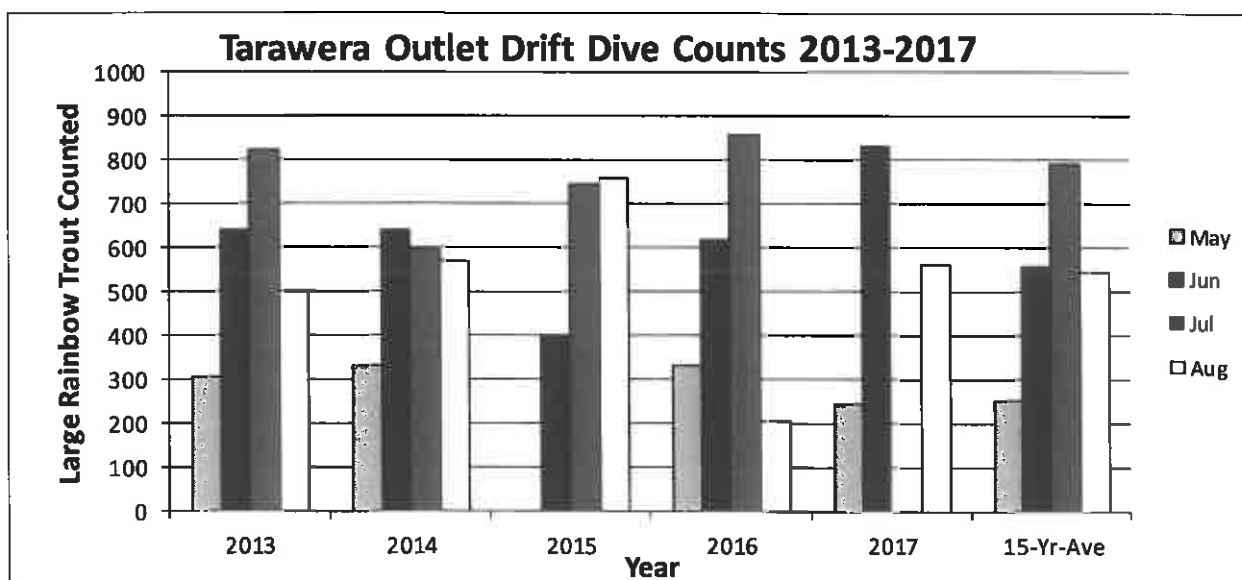
Fish & Game staff completed the final spawning trout count of the Tarawera Outlet on 8 August 2017.

	Size range			2017	2016	2015
	Small	Medium	Large	Total	Total	Total
May	3	0	246	249	695	-
June	0	16	830	846	636	681
July	-	-	-	-	860	787
August	0	0	560	560	203*	781

\*NB the August 2016 dive was actually undertaken on 2 September 2016

The number of large spawning fish counted at the Tarawera Outlet during the 2017 winter was on a par with the past 15-year average during the months of May and August and ahead of that for June as shown below. The planned July drift dive count was unable to be undertaken.

The count of large trout (spawners) in this 1km stretch of river remains at a high level. The Outlet provides the highest quality and most stable spawning habitat for Lake Tarawera. Many other spawning sites around Tarawera have in contrast been affected by high water flows and sediment entering these waterways over the 2017 autumn/winter period.



\*NB the August 2016 dive was actually undertaken on 2 September 2016

### Wairua Angling data

The Fish & Game Wairua Stream hut facility was available for hire to anglers over the 2017 autumn and early winter period (1 March - 30 June). A total of 91.5 hours angling effort was entered in the data book. This was below the level of effort recorded during the 2016 winter (137 hrs) but well ahead of the 2008-2015 period. Not all occupants fulfilled the obligations of filling out the fishing log and this needs to be addressed. Attempts in recent years to stimulate greater interest amongst angling clubs and generate more information from this spawning site have had variable results. However, we now have 27 years of angling data recorded from this location. The average individual catch rate of 0.19 fish per hour was lower than during 2015 and behind the long-term average (0.32 fish/hr). Very few spawning fish were noted up the

Wairua Stream in comparison to the past two winters. Flooding within the Wairua catchment is expected to have impacted on the success of wild spawning. Fish caught averaged 488mm and 1.62kg compared to 495mm and 1.63kg in 2016. The largest fish recorded was a wild 625mm, 2.90kg male.

### **Lake Tarawera Fishery Monitoring Project Update**

A costed proposal for the post doctorate research proposal investigating Lake Tarawera’s food webs and limnetic trout food supply was presented to the Fish & Game managers meeting and subsequently went on to be considered by the NZ Council. Approval was obtained for the preliminary funding sought from the national research fund, and coupled with the \$5k allocated to the project by Eastern Region and a further \$10k from Waikato University means we have \$30k of the c.\$80k required to implement the project. The proposal has been strengthened with a number of refinements, and meetings with other potential funding partners are about to get underway.

### **1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations**

#### **Ngongotaha Trap Run**

The trap was unable to be operated during August. During September the trap was operational for four nights but had to be curtailed due to flooding. Rainbows only, were recorded and there were no fish exceeding ten pounds.

#### ***Ngongotaha Stream trap run (August 2017)***

The Ngongotaha fish trap was unable to be set during August due to persistent flooding.

#### ***Ngongotaha Stream trap run (September 2017)***

	<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>	477	1.45	33	8	0	0
<i>Brown</i>				0		

### **1116 Waterfowl Monitoring**

#### **Greylard Banding**

Mallard and grey duck populations going into the 2017 game season have been estimated from band returns and harvest data using the Lincoln – Peterson estimate (refer to Game Season Agenda item). This data is consistent with the aerial count data (reported in the August 2017 PFI).

#### **National Shoveler Survey**

Fish & Game New Zealand conducted a national count of shoveler duck (*Anas rhynchos*) on 7 August 2017 (see Agenda Item 13 and October PFI).

### **1118 Game Bird Research**

#### **Drain Study**

We have been investigating whether drain characteristics (morphology and vegetation) and management, can explain the presence of mallard and their broods. The field work for this was completed in 2015. We had hoped to obtain assistance with the analysis from external statisticians but unfortunately they have been too busy with other matters. Matt McDougall has instead undertaken the analysis and is in the process of completing a report on the outcomes.

## **Breeding ecology and productivity of mallard-grey duck hybrids in NZ**

Jenn Sheppard has been working on her PhD to examine the breeding ecology and productivity of greylards and has recently submitted her thesis to the examination board. This study was commissioned by the game bird research committee and was primarily funded by Southland Fish and Game Council. A lot of very worthwhile information has come out of the programme that will have implications on how we manage mallard duck and their habitat in the Eastern Region. Jenn is in the process of preparing a number of papers for publication and it is hoped that some of the more pertinent information can be disseminated in an easy to read and understand format in the near future.

## **1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys**

### **Ohau Creel Survey**

Analysis of the 2016-17 Ohau Creel has been completed. The new Expert Fisheries Panel following the reconstituting process that was finalized in June 2017 has been confirmed and comprises Michel Dedual (DOC Taupo), Ian Kusabs (Fisheries Consultant) and Dave Rowe (ex NIWA Fisheries Scientist).

Aquatek will again be undertaking fishery surveys in the channel during the 2017-18 season (funded by Regional Council). Opening day at the Ohau Channel attracted a number of anglers. The largest rainbow weighed in during surveys was anecdotally 2.6kg while the largest brown was in the vicinity of 3.5kg.

Fish passage facilities were installed at three locations along the wall on 6 October and we are awaiting a debrief from BOPRC once they have measured water velocities through these.

### **Winter Creel Surveys**

The 2016-17 winter creel data has been entered into a database in preparation for analysis.

### **Opening Day Rotorua Lakes Surveys**

Across the three lakes surveyed, staff along with honorary rangers and volunteers interviewed 643 anglers and measured 600 trout.

- Tarawera – size of fish appears to be down with two-year (spring release) average size 481mm and 1.20kg. Down from last year approximately 10mm and 160g on average. Poorer fish condition evident in high number of legal sized returns. Harvest rate also down compared to recent openings and excludes boat interviews as the trips were incomplete. Largest fish weighed in 3kg.
- Rotoiti – produced best conditioned two-year olds (just ahead of Okataina) coming in at 494mm and 1.43kg. Harvest rate down from past two openings and excludes boat interviews as the trips were incomplete. Certainly, weather affected the day with the westerly powering down the length of the lake. Largest fish presented 3.6kg.
- Okataina – two-year old fish slightly larger than Rotoiti at 496mm but not in quite as good condition at 1.42kg on average. Okataina harvest rate biased by the competition held there as some fish were not brought to the weigh in, and some anglers who had'nt caught a fish not coming forward to be interviewed. Harvest rate similar to past openings or slightly down. Largest fish 3.7kg on the day.

The data recorded from the opening will be entered into a database prior to analysis.

<b>Interviewers</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Anglers</b>	<b>Fish</b>	<b>Harvest est.</b>
Eben, Connor, Cameron, Sam	Stoney Pt.	68	50	
Matt, Suze, Mike, Colin	Boat shed bay	123	114	
Nigel, Murray, Kate	Boat	90	80	
Lynne, Pete	Landing	41	38	
	<b>Tarawera Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>0.87</b>
Lloyd	Okataina Beach			
	Boat			
	<b>Okataina Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>1.31</b>
Andy, Bryan	Gisborne Point	65	80	
Anthony, Mike	Boat	108	68	
Barry, John	Otaramarae	55	48	
	Delta/Camp			
	<b>Rotoiti Total</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1.06</b>
	<b>Total Contacts</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>600</b>	

### **Opening Week Tagged Fish Promotion**

Tagged fish were released into lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina on 20 September. A total of ten fish were released into each lake as in previous years. No Special Promotional 'Pink' tags were presented over the eight days the event ran for, but an opportunity has been offered to anglers who registered for the main event to bring in a pink tag should they catch one between then and the end of October 2017 and receive a \$200 voucher

### **Upcoming Summer Creel Survey**

The 2017-18 summer creel survey schedule has yet to be set. The strategy for the 2017-18 summer is to retain coverage of the four large high use lakes, as well as incorporating some level of monitoring across the lesser utilised lakes. In recent years monitoring of the latter fisheries (Rerewhakaaitu, Rotoma, Rotoehu and Okareka) has largely been confined to analysing datawatch returns, angler diaries and/or club records, and the proposed surveys will provide a little more insight than we've otherwise had.

### **1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey**

Random phone surveys of 840 hunters over 7 periods during the game bird season have been completed. The hunter survey analysis is almost complete and will be reported to Council once it has been written up.

### **1141 Hatchery Operations (winter breeding period)**

Brood stock were collected from the Te Wairoa fish trap and transported back to the hatchery for stripping. Seventy-seven crosses were taken over the winter period and these have produced approximately 339,033 ova. The fry are in the process of being moved into rearing tanks.



Liberations for the Eastern Region are shown in the table below.

*Fish locations at October 5, 2017:*

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank A	1+ Brook	20	Brood
Tank B	0+ Brown	2,000	Eastern liberations and orders 2017
Tanks 4,5	0+Rt	5,000	Liberated
Pond 2	0+Rt	22,000	Spring liberations 2017 underway
Pond 3	0+Rt	18,300	Spring liberations 2017 underway
Pond 4	0+Rt	2,750	Late autumn liberations 2017 AWFG complete, HBFG complete
Pond 5,6,7	0+RT	30,500	Autumn libs complete
Pond 9	0+Rt	5,250	Various for 2+ in 2018
RW2	1+Rt	2,250	Other regions 2+ in 2017

**1143 Te Wairoa Trap**

The Te Wairoa Fish Trap (Lake Tarawera) was removed on 31 August. The total run this year was 801 fish. This total was lower than the number of trout trapped during the 2016 winter and the lowest recorded since the 2013 winter. However, many large rainfall events led to flooding around the trap enabling potentially, many fish to circumvent the fish trap. The largest fish through the trap was a 660mm, 3.7kg Ad male. The average size of the fish trapped this winter was smaller, lighter and in poorer condition than the average fish trapped during the 2016 winter. Hatchery fish trapped this year measured 550mm and 1.91kg compared to 555mm and 2.14kg during 2016, and 552mm and 2.09kg during the 2015 winter. The average size of the wild fish trapped measured 499mm and 1.52kg compared to 509mm and 1.69kg during 2016, and 517mm and 1.75kg during 2015.

Year	Total run	Wild run	Wild %	Ave length	Ave weight
2013	757	209	27.6	568	2.23
2014	902	302	33.5	547	2.05
2015	1040	339	32.6	541	1.95
2016	1112	323	29.0	541	2.01
2017	801	189	23.6	538	1.82

**1161 Sports Fish Liberations**

*Liberations, Eastern Region 12 September – 3 October 2017*

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age Class	Number
Okareka	12-09-17	Lp	G17	RT	1+	500
Okareka	12-09-17	Lp		RT	1+	2000
Rotoma	13-09-17	Lp	D17	RT	1+	500
Rotoma	13-09-17	Lp		RT	1+	2000
Rotorua	14-09-17	Lp	A17	RT	1+	1000
Rotoiti	21-09-17	Lp	B17	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	21-09-17	Lp		RT	1+	6500
Tarawera	26-09-17	Lp	H17	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	26-09-17	Lp		RT	1+	4000

Rerewhakaaitu	28-09-17	Lp	I17	RT	1+	500
Rerewhakaaitu	28-09-17	Lp		RT	1+	3500
Okataina	03-10-17	Lp	E17	RT	1+	500
Okataina	03-10-17	Lp		RT	1+	2000

## HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

### 1211 RMA Planning

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

Hearings decisions were released in August. An appeal on parts of these decisions was lodged in September. The appeal points relate to some fish passage provisions, the activity status for new maimai, crop survival water allocation provisions, and activities in riparian margins.

#### Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Proposed Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) submissions were lodged in mid December 2016. Hearings are scheduled to commence in November.

#### Te Maru o Kaituna

A hearing on the Proposed Kaituna River Document was attended in August.

#### Te Tumu/Lower Kaituna Recreational Planning Group

This group comprises representatives from Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Tauranga City Council, BOPRC, DOC, and community interests and is focussed on planning for future walkways and cycleways within the lower Kaituna area. Our concern is that these activities have the potential to inhibit or threaten game bird hunting within the Lower Kaituna WMR, and via disturbance, impact on the welfare and productivity of game birds and wildlife more generally. Planning is in the very preliminary stages but its important that we be involved from the outset to ensure our interests are not overlooked.

#### Tauranga City Council

Fish & Game is becoming actively involved in the Tauranga City Council urban development planning stages of the Te Tumu block, on land adjacent to the Kaituna Rver opposite the Lower Kaituna WMR. Significant wetland habitat and wildlife exists there and we wish to see the wetlands appropriately protected from urban development and human disturbance. We also wish to express concern in relation to the possibility of grass carp being utilised within this area for storm water pond management, as their possible escape to the wetland areas could potentially pose significant ecological threat.

### 1212 Consent Applications

Date In	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
8-Aug-17	BOPRC	Kaingaroa Timberlands	LUC- quarry operations, Rihi Rd	Wheao River	S95E3A
23-Aug-17	BOPRC	NZTA	Tga northern motorway construction	Wairoa River No concerns letter	No concerns letter
2-Oct-17	BOPRC	Watkins family trust	LUC- jetty upgrade	Okawa Bay, lake Rotoiti	No concerns letter

### **Koaro Monitoring**

No dates have been set for future koaro restoration meetings.

### **Catfish Incursion Lake Rotoiti**

Matt Osborne attended a catfish incursion workshop on 29 August at Regional Council. A review of the operation to date was provided and fisheries scientists considered further approaches that may be prove useful for tracking and removal of catfish in the future. Over BOPRC's 2016-17 financial year it caught 3,272 catfish in fyke nets. Of this total 1,225 were from one haul and averaged 14mm in length.

Eastern Fish & Game has a number of surplus juvenile brown trout at the Hatchery that could be liberated into Te Weta Bay inside the weed cordon and prove useful for preying on smaller juvenile catfish. Larger brown trout could also be trapped from the Ngongotaha Stream during December and released into Te Weta Bay as a more effective predator still.

Fyke netting is continuing within Rotoiti, both inside and outside of the pest cordon. A PIT tagging study is to be undertaken to determine which sites are most attractive to catfish so they can be better targeted.

### **Perch Incursion Papamoa Lakes**

No further information has been reported since the last meeting. Regional Council staff are awaiting warmer weather to begin a surveillance and removal operation.

### **1221 Reserves Management**

All managed reserves are currently in a state of high water due to very high rainfall over the past months. The first round of maintenance mowing has commenced with pest plant spraying to start in late November. Inspections of each wetland will commence late October to assess summer work requirements and minor water control structure maintenance.

Regular liaison is occurring with DOC and BOPRC regarding the mitigation contouring of the sand borrow pit and adjacent wetland development works at the Lower Kaituna WMR. Scheduled mitigation and creation works in November have been delayed until February 2018 due to the high-water levels within the paddock areas to be excavated. Fencing and native plantings are to occur later in 2018. Fish & Game staff will be managing the wetland mitigation and creation works as our contribution to the project. Direct funding of this project is derived from BOPRC.

The Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga lakes restoration programme is currently in a holding pattern as no new fencing is to occur until July 2018, with all native plantings to be undertaken in August 2018. Liaison is ongoing with neighbouring dairy farming properties with good relationships developing. Fish & Game staff continues to manage the day to day operations.

A Lake Aniwhenua working group had planned to meet in early October to develop timelines for the implementation of the draft action plan, which includes aquatic and terrestrial pest weed control (combination of herbicides and lake lowering to desiccate plants; sediment management; riparian planting adjacent to the lake; flood mitigation methods; aquatic habitat improvement for tuna and trout; and a walking/ cycleway track around the lake circumference. This will be a long-term project, involving many agencies along with the local community. *Post script: the meeting was cancelled at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour following a directive to BOPRC staff from its governors. No explanation was, or has since been provided.*

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

### **Landowner Information**

Three new landowner requests have been received since the last Council meeting. One required specific advice on how to enhance an existing pond for waterfowl; the second provides an opportunity to create a new 1ha wetland plus the possibility of enhancing some perennial creek gullies and creating some ephemeral scrapes in pasture adjacent to the upper Whirinaki Arm of the Waikato River. The key consideration at this point is to ascertain where hydro reserve boundaries lie prior to works commencing. The third landowner requires a site visit which will occur late October. Ongoing landowner works include the protection of a small wetland at Taupo, and ongoing advice and management for the big wetland project at Gisborne. The Gisborne landowner will be visited again in late October, and discussions held with the local Council to establish what consents are required.

Preparation, including liaising with contractors and adjacent landowners for the spraying of aquatic lilies at Hardcastle's Lagoon and Waikato River is underway. Boat based spraying is will be undertaken this summer with funds sourced from the WCEET.

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

The WCEET was set up to mitigate the effects of the Waikato River hydro scheme. The Trust provides grants to enhance the ecology, sports fish and game bird resource of the Waikato Catchment. Matt McDougall represents this region on the Trust. This year \$608,035 was paid out in grants, much of which will directly benefit sports fish and game.

### **Upper Ngongotaha Stream Working Group**

There have been no recent meetings or correspondence with the upper Paradise Valley landowners, but discussions between landowners and BOPRC have apparently been ongoing in relation to mitigation works for the flood damages incurred in April. No quick fix is anticipated for these landowners, but Fish & Game will continue to support sediment control measures and encourage BOPRC to remedy the issues where they impact on spawning habitat within the Ngongotaha Stream.

## **ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION**

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

Access for anglers through Kaingaroa Forest is remaining open through to, and including Labour weekend. Waimangu Forest access to Lake Rotomahana has closed however as of the end of September. An approach was made to have the Waimangu access extended to Labour weekend but this was unsuccessful.

Annual angler access maintenance work on tracks and other access points is getting underway. We have thanked Timberlands for again contributing financially to access maintenance with funding for access work in Kaingaroa Forest, specifically contractor work.

Access matters pending a conclusion include the Putere Lakes issue which is being dealt with by DOC and is taking some time to bring to resolve. The other is an issue on the Ngongotaha Stream which is set to be resolved prior to the opening of the upper stream on 1 December with new signage erected.

### **1331 Electronic Newsletters**

Reel Life was produced for August and September.

### **1333 Fish & Game Website**

Website work included writing fresh content for Eastern Region's kids' fish out page and adding details to events. Most minor issues with the new website are being resolved as they arise but there remain however, some fundamental issues and concerns with it.

### **1351 Children's Fishing Programme**

Children's fishing days were held on 13 August, 10 September, and 8 October. On 6 October a fish out event organised and supported by ANZ was held at the hatchery for kids with cancer and their siblings.

### **1354 Fishing Competitions**

Ten fishing competition permits were processed for the period 15 August to 27 September 2017.

### **1371 Fish & Game Huts**

Maintenance was carried out as required including repairs to the watertank stand at Wairua, and cleaning of the composting toilet (which is also made available to, and used by the public in the area).

DOC have brought to our attention that the Wairua Hut which is situated on DOC land does not have a formalised licence or lease for the site it is on. DOC has required Fish & Game to apply for a concession to occupy the site of the hut, and this is being processed at present.

## **PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **1421 Public Communications**

#### **Media Releases**

Lots of time and effort was focused on re-launching the Fish for Gold promotion to tight deadlines. This involved tasks such as writing news releases, and revamping the terms and conditions pages. Grant Dyson worked closely with Eastern staff on this, refreshing website pages and organising the necessary designs with Hothouse, including a revised logo and advertising banner. Media releases were issued to cover firstly, the basics of Fish for Gold including how to enter, and prizes, etc. The release of 30 fish to the three lakes was filmed and photographed to successfully generate more publicity. The releases included a 'hurry up' message to anglers thinking of entering.

In total, seven releases were issued over the two month period however Grant Dyson also worked 'behind the scenes' with media – and in particular, a pitch was made to Fairfax media. A 'visual journalist' (film and photography) and reporter along with their sons were invited on a fishing trip hosted by Lindsay Lyons on Lake Tarawera. The trip had a 'youngsters learn to fish' theme and resulted in an excellent package published in early October on the Stuff website

<https://i.stuff.co.nz/life-style/97320806/junior-trout-anglers-learn-the-ropes-from-one-of-taraweras-best>).

A number of releases and articles were also supplied to the Adventurer magazine to meet an early deadline which featured in particular, the re-opening of Rotorua's lakes. The district's fishing was showcased over two full pages. Note that the Adventurer is distributed in Auckland, the Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Coromandel.

Grant also worked with organiser Adam Rayner and John Meikle to write media releases and an events notice on the duck calling champs which were run as part of the Sika Show in Taupo.

As usual, Grant Dyson worked with Eastern staff to edit a large amount of material for Eastern's fishing newsletter and supplement in the magazine fishing special edition.

### **Destination Rotorua**

Andy Garrick attended a local Business Event held by Destination Rotorua which provided an opportunity to meet with a number of people charged with promoting Rotorua and what it has to offer.

### **1451 Education**

Two tours of the grounds and hatchery were carried out within the reporting period to Rainbow Springs staff and Selwyn Ridge School Tauranga. Mark Sherburn also delivered ova to Ngongotaha School during August as part of the 'Trout in Schools' programme.

## **COMPLIANCE**

### **1511 Ranging**

Late winter - early spring has seen monitoring of spawning areas continue. There have generally been few problems this winter in most areas. Lake Rotorua spawning tributaries continue to hold spawning fish. This has attracted some unwanted attention and ranging and surveillance activities continue in these areas.

Angler checks have continued however most areas have been very quiet with noticeably fewer anglers encountered. The weather has been a factor with much rain and lengthy periods where streams have been unfishable.

Figures for the 2016 - 17 year show 47 offenders were dealt with for a total of 76 offences. This is comparable to the previous year. It is noticeable that in the last two years we have seen a decrease overall in offending, with the most noticeable decrease being in youth offenders.

2,803 persons (anglers and hunters) were checked in the region during the year for compliance. Compliance rate continues to be in excess of 98 %.

Cooperation and liaison with Police is ongoing.

Waikaremoana spawning tributary monitoring has continued, although this has been hindered due to poor weather conditions, and other commitments.

The game bird season concluded at the end of August with few issues.

**Contacts: Year 2016-2017 (to 30/08/2017)**

Month	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Last 5 yr average
September	82	66	50	59	29	57
October	997	984	960	1,223	901	1,013
November	129	175	112	20	62	100
December	598	387	392	293	291	392
January	497	355	381	335	217	357
February	234	151	395	418	293	298
March	300	279	275	253	191	277
April	195	299	264	53	214	203
May	516	446	498	272	292	405
June	209	325	203	277	171	237
July	120	79	120	107	94	107
August	131	77	76	42	27	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,008</b>	<b>3,623</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>YTD 2,803</b>	<b>3,818</b>

**1521 Ranger Training****North Island/National CLE role**

This role continues with input into CLE/training/prosecutions and legal matters. A revision and update of the rangers guide and manual is in progress.

**Rangers**

Rangers continue to contribute around the region, with some assisting in the Rotorua area on opening day of the fishing season, and others ranging in their local areas.

The rangers annual training day was held in mid August, it was well attended and went well.

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

Currently 10 offenders have offences pending resolution, details as per the table below..

Of these 7 have warrants to arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in court; some of these have been outstanding now for lengthy periods. Other matters are either pending court or reparation outcomes.

**Offences Year to Date 2016-2017 Year:**

For the year 2016- 2017 year to date we have dealt with 47 persons for 76 offences as tabled below.

*Offence table 2016-2017 year*

Offence name	Number of offences
Fish without licence	25
Fish closed waters	18
Possess net/spear/gaff	7
Give false details	5
Disturb spawning grounds	6
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Hunt without licence	2

Lead shot	1
Hunt in closed season	1
Trap/snare game	1
Hunt illegal/protected species	1
Unpinned gun	4
Careless use of firearm	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>

Resolution of offences, by offender, over the 2016 - 17 year is as per the table below. While there are a greater number of adult warnings, this is due to a number of matters where the offences were of a minor nature and where on assessment they failed the test of public interest in prosecution.

*Resolution of offences 2016-2017 year*

<b>Resolution Type</b>	<b>Number of offenders</b>
Prosecution	10
Reparation	12
Youth warning	6
Adult warning	14
Referral to other agency	4
No prosecution – false information	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>

**Offences Pending Resolution**

To date (30/09/2017) 22 separate offences are pending resolution, by 10 offenders.

*The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:*

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Fish without licence	9
Illegal tackle	2
Possess spear-gaff	2
Fish closed waters	5
False details	2
Take sports fish with net - spawning	1
Disturb spawning grounds	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

**LICENSING**

**1612 Analysis of Licence Information**

Kate Thompson continued to provide regular analyses and updates of licence sales for all regions, and provided additional analysis and comment for Steve Doughty who has been contracted by the National Office to provide marketing advice for Fish & Game.

**1621 Licence Agent Support**

Staff continued to liaise with licence agents as required and all local agents were visited in the days leading up to the opening of the new fishing season.



## **PLANNING AND REPORTING**

### **1841 National Liaison**

In addition to staff's ongoing contribution to a wide range of national projects and work areas, Robert Sowman spent two days in our office in early September to discuss a wide range of topics in a series of meetings with relevant staff.

## 16.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

4 October 2017

### 1. Background

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace, the Eastern Fish and Game Council is provided with a report at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety policy/manual – including Health and Safety as an agenda item for staff & ranger meetings;
2. Monitoring and Reporting – in accordance with the Health and Safety plan;
3. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed;
4. Training programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers;
5. Health and Safety incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events;
6. Recommendations.

### 2. July/August 2017 Update

#### 1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

All tail gate forms are scanned and filed.

Visitors coming onsite for official business are required to sign in. Visitors to the site do not sign in – however if they come to the office they are warned of water hazards on site and to ensure children are sufficiently supervised.

Weekly staff meetings have Health and Safety on the agenda as a standard item.

Emergency Evacuation signs have been printed off, laminated and put on the walls in common areas.

Sam van Dorp was inducted as a new part timer to assist with fin clipping.

New Hazardous Substance Register implemented.

New Fire Exit signs were purchased and erected on door.

New “Wet floor” signs purchased.

Andy and Carmel met with Work Safe assessor to go over our H & S plan – He was impressed with both the plan and our processes. He gave us guidance as to hazardous substances and the new Act the comes in to effect which we will follow up on.

Office hazards were reviewed and updated in August.

## 2. Monitoring and Reporting

### Work Place Accident Register

*As at 31 August 2017*

Number of workplace injuries in 2016-2017 year	2
Number of workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year	1
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	31
Total number of days lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	1
Total number of days since last lost work injury (7/12/13)	1,485
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	6,672

## 3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Slippery Decks – new netting put down

Tail Gate forms for Shoveler Surveys 7/8/17

Tail Gate forms for Drift Dive 8/8/17

## 4. Training Programme

All staff undertook the First Aid Refresher Course in August provided by Peak Safety. This was a very interactive and relevant course.

## 5. H&S Incidents

27/7/17 Staff member tripped while walking up bank and incurred a neck/trunk sprain

31/8/17 Staff member lifting trap grill onto back of ute incurred a strain/tear which may require hernia surgery

## 6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

## 16.3 Finance Report

Ref: 8.03.01

5 October 2017

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the current financial position, and approve payments for the months of July and August 2017.

### 2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the two months ending 31 August 2017 is attached. This report documents the income and expenditure for the final period of the 2016-2017 financial year. There may be some end of year adjustments to be finalised which will be included in the financial statements for the year.

#### *Income*

Total licence revenue to the 31 August 2017 is reported to be \$7,350 under budget. The non-resident licence levy is included within the licence sales totals and this amount is not budgeted for (\$17,391), meaning actual licence revenue ended the year some \$24,741 under budget.

Fish Licence revenue was below budget on \$31,818 while Game Licence revenue ended the year ahead of budget \$7,077. The negative figure shown in August relates to a year end accrual of 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the value of all season licences and 1/6<sup>th</sup> of all winter licences.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following; sale of fish to other Fish & Game regions (\$19,760), fishing competitions (\$1,135), reparation for children's fishing (\$304), rentals (\$4,312), fines (\$402), grazing (\$5,200) children's fish out days (\$148), tours (\$61), and donations (\$30). Funds were also received from the Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council for field and administration services (\$7,210), the New Zealand Council for contract services (\$2,679), the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for planned survey projects (\$12,010), and Rainbow Springs for sponsorship of the children's fishing programme (\$2,000). Interest income totalled \$10,757 for the period which included \$3,470 for the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund. Funds received from Bay of Plenty Regional Council for works within the Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve (\$30,030) have not been fully utilised within the 2016-17 financial year and the unspent portion has been accrued as income in advance into the 2017-18 financial year (\$17,391). As a result this reduces the amount reported in August within the other income budgets from \$60,250 to \$42,859. Despite this transfer, "Other Income" ended the year \$3,126 ahead of budget.

#### *Species Management*

Within the Population Monitoring budgets, expenses are reported relating to travel costs for shoveler counts and aircraft hire for swan counts. A small expense is also reported for food for staff working at Waikaremoana. A lens was bought for the camera which was purchased last year for aerial counts and materials were purchased for making new duck traps. The Population Monitoring area is under budget at year end (\$6,793) and this is due to; reduced direct expenditure related to the Waikaremoana survey project (\$4,517) and reduced expenditure associated with the River Fisheries (\$1,175) and Waterfowl Monitoring budgets (\$1,104).

Hatchery expenses for the period included the cost of fish food, repairs to the hatchery phone line, and minor purchases relating to vehicles. The usual expenses are also reported relating to rates, electricity, fuel, and oxygen. The hatchery area as a whole ended the year over budget

(\$6,325) with fish food purchases ending the year \$5,078 over budget and unanticipated repairs to the tanker braking system (\$5,409). Hatchery income was also overbudget \$4,144 which offsets a portion of the over spend.

### ***Habitat***

Habitat spending for the period was significant and included the following;

- Excavator work for water reticulation Orini \$3,000
- Posts for Ngapouri restoration \$261
- Aircraft hire - habitat mapping \$1,245
- Photo analysis Pongakawa, Reporoa, South Rotorua \$489
- Waikaremoana Survey project \$12,010 (transferred to revenue)

The Habitat area ended the year \$82,964 under budget and this variance relates primarily to;

- Unspent budgets allocated from the Waikaremoana SFHEF \$61,534
- Unspent funds granted for works on Kaituna WMR \$17,580 (accrued to 2017-18 financial year for completion of works)
- Reduced habitat creation spending \$6,656

In addition to this funding was received from the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust for works undertaken on the Simpson Ruatawiri wetland \$3,400.

### ***Participation***

Access spending for the period related to the purchase of gravel for the Ngapouri access and three access signs. The 2017-18 Fish newsletter was paid for in July (\$5,999) and subsequently accrued to the 2017-18 financial year in August contributing to the negative result reported. A reprint of the Rangitaiki River brochure was completed (\$1,000) and minor expenses incurred relating to the BBQ for kids fishing events, Wairua hut maintenance and electricity for the Waikaremoana hut. Overall the Participation output ended the year under budget largely due to a reduction in the number of game bird newsletters printed as emailing closer to the season was trialled this year.

### ***Public Interface***

Minimal expenditure is reported within the Public Interface budgets relating to rodent stations, cleaning of public toilets, and information sheets and a gift voucher for work volunteered for the tagged trout promotion. Expenditure within the Public Interface budgets ended the year under budget primarily due to reduced expenditure required for the tagged trout promotion.

### ***Compliance***

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service, ranger caps, and the purchase of two body cameras. The pager was also replaced with a dedicated cell phone for answering of 0800 calls following the removal of the 0800 Buzzme service by Spark. Legal fees are report for one prosecution. The Compliance output is underbudget for the year and this is primarily due to reduced legal expenditure with fewer proceedings through the Courts.

### ***Licensing***

Licence agent commission is reported within the period and includes the fees associated with the internet and 0800 sales. Commission expenses are under budget at year end.

### ***Council***

Travel expenses are reported relating to the June and August meetings of Council and catering expenses are reported for the August meeting. Council expenses ended the year under budget.

### **Planning**

Levies were paid as budgeted in July and minor expenses were incurred within the Liaison budget relating to airport parking and taxi fares. \$48 over budget for the year.

### **Administration**

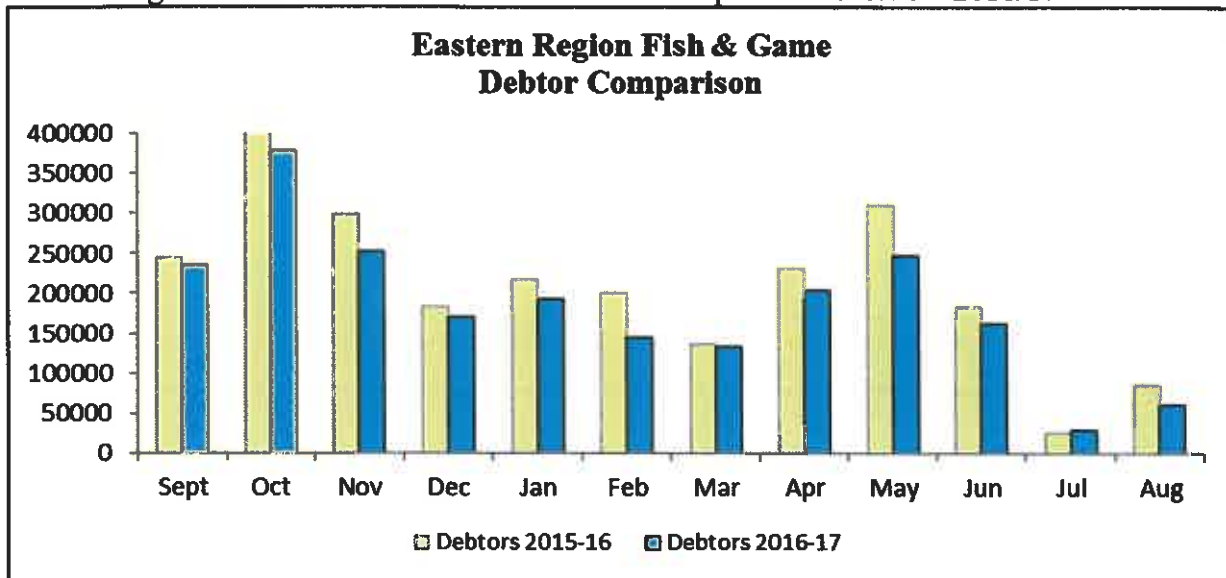
Notes on individual areas:

Salaries	After processing leave accruals the salaries expense has ended the year over budget \$3,359. This is offset by additional unbudgeted contract revenue from the New Zealand Council (\$5,937).
Staff Expenses	ACC levies were paid in July. 13 staff attended a full day outdoors first aid course in August (\$2,030) and health and safety expenses were incurred relating to hi viz vests, and wet floor and fire exit signs. Registration fees are reported relating to the Lakes Water Quality Symposium and Environmental Defence Society Conference. Other staff related expenses included accommodation and meals, staff clothing, meeting expenses and a small contribution to a farewell gift. The staff expenses area has ended the year \$1,219 under budget with savings seen in ACC and FBT budget although additional expenditure relating to Health and Safety was incurred.
Staff Houses	Plumbing repairs were required on both of the staff houses during the period (\$1,192). Offcuts of the new carpet were overlocked for the brick house and minor expenses were incurred relating to keys and door locks. Rates were paid as budgeted and the standard electricity expense is also reported. The Staff House budgets have ended the year \$11,845 over budget. This is offset in part by a transfer of budget from Hatchery maintenance which was to have occurred this financial year but was omitted (\$3,000) and the budgets for vehicles and communications which have not be fully utilised through savings in those areas (\$10,761). The brick house is now tenanted at market rates which will in the long term recover the costs associated with the refurbishment of the property.
Office Premises	Maintenance expenses for the period included electrical work and paint for the seized gear room. The usual expenses relating to rates, rubbish removal, electricity, cleaning, and security are reported. An unanticipated expense for a resource consent deposit for the Tarawera boat shed (\$673) was paid in August and contributes to the over spend in this budget area at year end of \$470.
Office Equipment	The usual expenses relating to the phone and eftpos lease are reported. The Office equipment area is overbudget \$790 for the year as a result of phone extension faults and unscheduled cell phone replacement.
Communications/ Consumables	The standard Communications expenses are reported including phones, broadband, stationery, IT services, and photocopying. The Communications area ended the year \$2,922 under budget and this is due primarily to savings resulting from plan changes for the office landlines and staff cell phones.
General	Expenses are reported for staff morning teas and bank charges. General expenses ended the year \$1,214 under budget due to reduced expenditure across all budgets within the area.

General Equipment	Whio was serviced and steering repaired during the period (\$2,090). Equipment purchases which related to the new Lowrance sounding gear included a smart charger for Whio, solar panel charger for Parera, safe cases, micro SD cards and an extension lead. Other equipment purchases included a life jacket, tool kit for the office and a hand trolley for carting of brochures. Maritime levies were paid on all three boats and the standard fuel expenses were incurred. Equipment expenses ended the year \$1,779 below budget primarily due to reduced maintenance requirements.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included servicing of three vehicles and a puncture repair. The standard fuel expense was incurred including Road User Charges for five vehicles and one vehicle was registered during the period. Vehicle expenses ended the year under budget \$7,839 due to reduced registration, insurance, and fuel costs.

**Cash Position:** \$981,379 (includes \$103,683 for asset replacement reserve and \$463,023 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 31 August 2017.

**Debtors:** Outstanding Debtors \$60,153 as at 31 August 2017 (\$85,246 as at 31 August 2016).



August debtors are made up primarily of sale of fish to other Fish & Game regions and licence sales. All debtors as at the 31 August were current.

**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.



**2016/2017 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

As at 31 August 2017

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INFERRIAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	% Variance
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 36,100	\$ 28,306	2,494	2,385	\$ 141,520	\$ 138,058	\$ 17,000	\$ 12,010	\$ 159,620	\$ 154,354	\$ 5,266	96.7
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,150	\$ 2,108	856	847	\$ 48,573	\$ 48,825	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,723	\$ 50,933	\$ (210)	100.4
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 66,150	\$ 72,475	2,809	3,210	\$ 159,394	\$ 185,038	\$ 78,500	\$ 82,786	\$ 147,044	\$ 174,717	\$ (27,673)	118.8
1150	Game Farm	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1160	Releases	\$ 500	\$ 435	200	180	\$ 11,349	\$ 10,376	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,849	\$ 10,811	\$ 1,038	91.2
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	96	145	\$ 5,447	\$ 8,358	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,447	\$ 8,358	\$ (2,911)	153.4
1180	Control	\$ 200	\$ -	64	53	\$ 3,632	\$ 3,055	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,832	\$ 3,055	\$ 776	79.7
	<b>TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	\$ 104,100	\$ 103,324	6,519	6,830	\$ 389,915	\$ 393,711	\$ 95,500	\$ 94,866	\$ 378,515	\$ 402,229	\$ (23,713)	106.3
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ -	1,215	1,491	\$ 68,944	\$ 85,948	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,144	\$ 85,948	\$ (16,804)	124.3
1220	Works & Management	\$ 49,748	\$ 32,682	1,038	1,023	\$ 58,900	\$ 58,970	\$ 41,248	\$ 24,316	\$ 67,400	\$ 67,337	\$ 64	99.9
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 9,400	\$ 5,233	970	711	\$ 55,042	\$ 40,985	\$ -	\$ 3,400	\$ 64,442	\$ 42,818	\$ 21,623	66.4
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	120	85	\$ 6,809	\$ 4,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,809	\$ 4,900	\$ 1,910	72.0
	<b>TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION &amp; MAN</b>	\$ 59,348	\$ 37,915	3,343	3,310	\$ 189,696	\$ 190,803	\$ 41,248	\$ 27,716	\$ 207,798	\$ 201,002	\$ 6,793	96.7
1310	Access	\$ 7,300	\$ 6,039	714	573	\$ 40,515	\$ 33,030	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,515	\$ 39,069	\$ 8,446	82.2
1330	Newsletters	\$ 13,000	\$ 11,725	408	287	\$ 23,208	\$ 16,544	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,208	\$ 28,269	\$ 7,939	78.1
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,000	102	49	\$ 5,788	\$ 2,825	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,788	\$ 4,825	\$ 2,963	61.9
1350	Training	\$ 1,350	\$ 748	1,012	777	\$ 57,425	\$ 44,790	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,371	\$ 45,275	\$ 32,167	\$ 13,108	71.0
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	120	61	\$ 6,809	\$ 3,487	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,809	\$ 3,487	\$ 3,322	51.2
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,403	36	40	\$ 2,043	\$ 2,306	\$ 400	\$ 374	\$ 3,093	\$ 3,335	\$ (242)	107.8
	<b>TOTAL - ANGLER &amp; HUNTER PARTICIP</b>	\$ 24,800	\$ 21,915	2,393	1,787	\$ 135,789	\$ 102,882	\$ 13,900	\$ 13,745	\$ 146,689	\$ 111,152	\$ 35,537	75.8
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	216	221	\$ 12,257	\$ 12,739	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,257	\$ 12,739	\$ (483)	103.9
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ -	289	93	\$ 16,399	\$ 5,381	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,899	\$ 5,381	\$ 11,538	31.7
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 3,500	\$ 776	172	236	\$ 9,760	\$ 13,804	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,260	\$ 14,380	\$ (1,120)	108.4
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,567	634	781	\$ 35,976	\$ 45,020	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,976	\$ 46,597	\$ (9,611)	126.0
	<b>TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	\$ 5,800	\$ 2,343	1,311	1,331	\$ 74,392	\$ 76,725	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,392	\$ 79,068	\$ 324	99.6
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,783	981	1,044	\$ 55,666	\$ 60,181	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,766	\$ 61,954	\$ (4,188)	107.3
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 297	108	57	\$ 6,128	\$ 3,286	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,128	\$ 3,583	\$ 3,546	50.3
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,340	348	227	\$ 19,747	\$ 13,085	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,175	\$ 19,247	\$ 12,250	\$ 6,997	63.6
	<b>TOTAL - COMPLIANCE</b>	\$ 8,600	\$ 4,420	1,437	1,328	\$ 81,541	\$ 76,552	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,175	\$ 84,141	\$ 77,796	\$ 6,345	92.5
1610	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ 678	378	528	\$ 21,449	\$ 30,436	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,249	\$ 31,114	\$ (8,865)	139.8
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	204	170	\$ 11,576	\$ 9,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,576	\$ 9,800	\$ 1,776	84.7
	<b>TOTAL - LICENSING</b>	\$ 800	\$ 678	582	698	\$ 33,025	\$ 40,236	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,825	\$ 40,914	\$ (7,089)	121.0
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,843	772	676	\$ 43,806	\$ 38,968	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,806	\$ 47,811	\$ 5,996	88.9
	<b>TOTAL - COUNCILS</b>	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,843	772	676	\$ 43,806	\$ 38,968	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,806	\$ 47,811	\$ 5,996	88.9
1810	Management Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	180	100	\$ 10,214	\$ 5,764	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,214	\$ 5,764	\$ 4,450	56.4
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,400	\$ 9,555	514	402	\$ 29,166	\$ 23,173	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,566	\$ 32,728	\$ 5,838	84.9
1840	National Liaison	\$ 250	\$ 143	284	574	\$ 16,115	\$ 33,088	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,365	\$ 33,231	\$ (16,865)	203.1
	<b>TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	\$ 9,650	\$ 9,698	978	1,076	\$ 55,496	\$ 62,025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,146	\$ 71,723	\$ (6,577)	110.1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 222,298	\$ 189,136	17,335	17,036	\$ 983,660	\$ 982,000	\$ 156,648	\$ 139,442	\$ 1,049,310	\$ 1,031,684	\$ 17,616	98.3

	EXTERNAL COSTS		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
1910 Salaries	\$ 895,330	\$ 898,689	\$ 43,840	\$ 49,777	\$ 851,490	\$ 848,912	\$ 2,578	99.7
1920 Staff Expenses	\$ 25,400	\$ 25,181	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,400	\$ 25,181	\$ 1,219	95.4
1930 Staff Houses	\$ 6,220	\$ 18,065	\$ 21,020	\$ 18,007	\$ (14,800)	\$ 58	\$ (14,858)	-0.4
1940 Office Premises	\$ 20,100	\$ 20,570	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,100	\$ 20,570	\$ (470)	102.3
1950 Office Equipment	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,980	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,660	\$ (790)	120.3
1960 Communications/Consumables	\$ 21,000	\$ 18,078	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,000	\$ 18,078	\$ 2,922	86.1
1970 General	\$ 8,620	\$ 7,406	\$ 750	\$ 1,227	\$ 7,870	\$ 6,179	\$ 1,691	78.5
1980 General Equipment	\$ 17,000	\$ 15,471	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,000	\$ 15,471	\$ 1,529	91.0
1990 Vehicles	\$ 50,700	\$ 42,861	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,700	\$ 42,861	\$ 7,839	84.5
Administration	\$ 1,049,270	\$ 1,051,911	\$ 65,610	\$ 69,611	\$ 983,660	\$ 982,000	\$ 1,660	99.8
Total Overhead Net Cost			\$ 983,660	\$ 982,000				
Total Outputs Staff Hours			17,335	17,036				
Internal Cost Per Hour			56.74	57.64				

**2016/2017 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

Schedule C Code	EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST			
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1 Species Management	\$ 104,100	\$ 103,324	6,519	6,830	\$ 369,815	\$ 393,711	\$ 94,808	\$ 94,808	\$ 376,515	\$ 402,229	\$ (23,713)	106.3
2 Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 59,348	\$ 37,915	3,343	3,310	\$ 189,698	\$ 190,803	\$ 41,248	\$ 27,716	\$ 207,798	\$ 201,002	\$ 6,793	96.7
3 Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 24,800	\$ 21,915	2,393	1,787	\$ 135,789	\$ 102,982	\$ 13,900	\$ 13,745	\$ 146,689	\$ 111,152	\$ 35,537	75.8
4 Public Interface	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,343	1,311	1,331	\$ 74,392	\$ 76,725	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,392	\$ 79,068	\$ 324	99.5
5 Compliance	\$ 8,600	\$ 4,420	1,437	1,328	\$ 81,541	\$ 76,552	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,175	\$ 84,141	\$ 77,796	\$ 6,345	92.5
6 Licensing	\$ 800	\$ 678	582	698	\$ 33,025	\$ 40,236	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,825	\$ 40,914	\$ (7,089)	121.0
7 Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,843	772	676	\$ 43,806	\$ 36,968	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,806	\$ 47,811	\$ 5,996	88.9
8 Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,650	\$ 9,698	978	1,076	\$ 55,496	\$ 62,025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,148	\$ 71,723	\$ (6,577)	110.1
9 Administration												
Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,066	6,271								
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 222,298	\$ 185,136	23,401	23,307	\$ 983,660	\$ 982,000	\$ 156,848	\$ 139,442	\$ 1,049,310	\$ 1,031,694	\$ 17,616	

**Licence Income 2016/17**

	Budget	Actual
2016/17 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,158,370	\$ 1,143,943
Less Commission	\$ 57,919	\$ -
Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,100,451	\$ 1,143,943
2017 Game Licence Income	\$ 242,887	\$ 249,794
Less Commission	\$ 12,134	\$ -
Net Game Licence Income	\$ 230,553	\$ 249,794
Total Licence Income	\$ 1,401,057	\$ 1,393,707
Total Commission	\$ 70,053	\$ 58,272
Total Net 2016/17 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,331,004	\$ 1,335,435

	Budget	Actual	%
% year complete			83%
OWP Bulk Fund	\$ 1,049,310	\$ 1,031,694	98%
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget	\$ (7,273)	\$ (15,592)	
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies	\$ 223,257	\$ 223,267	
Less Licence Revenue	\$ (1,401,057)	\$ (1,393,707)	
Plus Commission Expense	\$ 70,053	\$ 58,272	
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation	\$ 2,812	\$ (1,228)	
Depreciation	\$ 70,202	\$ 69,242	
Subtotal	\$ 7,304	\$ (28,082)	
Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund			
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ (11,029)	\$ (16,211)	
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses	\$ 76,000	\$ 14,469	
Adjusted Budget	\$ 72,275	\$ (29,804)	

**Profit & Loss**  
**Eastern Fish and Game Council**  
**For the month ended 31 August 2017**

	Jul-17	Aug-17	YTD Actual	Total Budget	Var NZD	Var %
<b>Income</b>						
Licence Income	16520	-84360	1393707	1401057	-7350	-0.5%
Other Income	5655	42859	243686	240560	3126	1.3%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>22175</b>	<b>-41501</b>	<b>1637394</b>	<b>1641617</b>	<b>-4223</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>						
Depreciation	5804	5804	69242	70202	-960	-1.4%
Loss on Disposal	0	0	2203	2812	-609	-21.7%
<b>1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>						
1110 Population Monitoring	221	2950	28306	35100	-6794	-19.4%
1120 Harvest Assessment	240	240	2108	2150	-42	-2.0%
1140 Hatchery Operations	2182	2748	72475	66150	6325	9.6%
1160 Releases	0	435	435	500	-65	-13.0%
1180 Control	0	0	0	200	-200	-100.0%
<b>Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>2642</b>	<b>6374</b>	<b>103325</b>	<b>104100</b>	<b>-775</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>
<b>1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT</b>						
1210 Resource Management	0	0	0	200	-200	-100.0%
1220 Works & Management	261	3000	32682	49748	-17066	-34.3%
1230 Assisted Habitat	489	13366	19702	85400	-65698	-76.9%
<b>Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>16366</b>	<b>52383</b>	<b>135348</b>	<b>-82965</b>	<b>-61.3%</b>
<b>1300 PARTICIPATION</b>						
1310 Access	123	1186	6039	7000	-961	-13.7%
1330 Newsletters	5999	-5999	11725	13000	-1275	-9.8%
1340 Other Publications	0	1000	2000	2000	0	0.0%
1350 Training	0	70	748	1350	-602	-44.6%
1370 Huts	87	160	1403	1450	-47	-3.2%
<b>Total 1300 PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>6208</b>	<b>-3584</b>	<b>21915</b>	<b>24800</b>	<b>-2885</b>	<b>-11.6%</b>
<b>1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>						
1420 Communication	0	0	0	500	-500	-100.0%
1440 Advocacy	0	61	776	3500	-2724	-77.8%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	30	157	1567	1000	567	56.7%
<b>Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>2343</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>-2657</b>	<b>-53.1%</b>
<b>1500 COMPLIANCE</b>						
1510 Ranging	105	954	1783	2100	-317	-15.1%
1520 Ranger Training	0	82	297	1000	-703	-70.3%
1530 Compliance	200	0	2340	5500	-3160	-57.5%
<b>Total 1500 COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>4420</b>	<b>8600</b>	<b>-4180</b>	<b>-48.6%</b>
<b>1600 LICENSING</b>						
1610 Licence Production		678	678	800	-122	-15.3%
1630 Commission	700	423	58272	70053	-11781	-16.8%
<b>Total 1600 LICENSING</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>58950</b>	<b>70853</b>	<b>-11903</b>	<b>-16.8%</b>
<b>1700 COUNCILS</b>						
1720 Council Meetings	134	1386	8843	10000	-1157	-11.6%
<b>Total 1700 COUNCILS</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>1386</b>	<b>8843</b>	<b>10000</b>	<b>-1157</b>	<b>-11.6%</b>
<b>1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>						
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	2145	9555	9400	155	1.6%
1840 National Liaison/Levy	55840	20	223400	223507	-107	0.0%
<b>Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	<b>55840</b>	<b>2165</b>	<b>232955</b>	<b>232907</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>						
1910 Salaries	69092	100822	898689	895330	3359	0.4%
1920 Staff Expenses	2909	2366	25181	26400	-1219	-4.6%
1930 Staff Houses	1187	1119	18065	6220	11845	190.4%
1940 Office Premises	2263	2002	20570	20100	470	2.3%

	<b>Jul-17</b>	<b>Aug-17</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Var NZD</b>	<b>Var %</b>
1950 Office Equipment	194	194	4690	3900	790	20.3%
1960 Communications	1021	342	18078	21000	-2922	-13.9%
1970 General	90	98	7406	8620	-1214	-14.1%
1980 General Equipment	609	2449	15471	17250	-1779	-10.3%
1990 Vehicles	3492	2700	42861	50700	-7839	-15.5%
<b>Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>80856</b>	<b>112093</b>	<b>1051011</b>	<b>1049520</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>153270</b>	<b>142960</b>	<b>1607589</b>	<b>1714142</b>	<b>-106553</b>	<b>-6.2%</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>-131095</b>	<b>-184461</b>	<b>29804</b>	<b>-72525</b>	<b>102329</b>	<b>141.1%</b>

## 16.4 Licence Sales Report

Ref: 6.01.05

10 October 2017

### 1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of the final licence sales for the 2016-2017 season to the end of financial year 31 August 2017. Some minor adjustments are yet to be completed relating to upgrades and refunds to reconcile to annual report.

### 2. 2017 Game Licence Sales (Table One)

- 2.1 The Eastern region annual sales target has been achieved with total sales YTD reporting to be 3.4% ahead of budget despite being 3.2% down on sales reported for the same period last year.
- 2.2 As reported previously most of the decline seen is related to Auckland/Waikato residents followed by those from the South Island. The Auckland/Waikato region has seen a good increase in game licence sales this season.

**Table One**

Comparison of Game Licence LEQs to 31 August 2017

SALES CHANNEL	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2016
Agent Online Sales	2734	291	121	146	5	2822	0.1%
Agent Book Sales	5	1	0	0	0	5	-95.7%
Direct Sales*	359	50	17	60	3	381	2.1%
<b>Total Game 2017</b>	<b>3098</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3208</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>
<i>Agent Online Sales</i>	<i>2733</i>	<i>298</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2819</i>	
<i>Agent Book Sales</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>122</i>	
<i>Direct Sales*</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>373</i>	
<b>Total Game 2016</b>	<b>3201</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3313</b>	
TARGETS	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
<b>2017 Total Budget</b>	<b>2998</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3101</b>	<b>103.4%</b>
<b>2016 Total Sales</b>	<b>3201</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3313</b>	<b>96.8%</b>
<b>2017 Estimated year end</b>						<b>3208</b>	<b>103.4%</b>

\* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800, Mail order

### 3. 2016-2017 Fish Licence Sales (Table Two)

- 3.1 Fish licence sales for the 2016-2017 season YTD are summarised in Table Two and are reporting to be down on the 2015-16 season YTD results by 1.7%.
- 3.2 A total of 97.1% of the annual sales target had been achieved at 31 August 2017.

**Table Two**

**Comparison of Fish Licence LEQs to 31 August 2017**

SALES CHANNEL	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult			Adult Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult Day	Junior Season	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2015-16
				Loyal Senior	Local Area	Adult								
Agent Online Sales	1711	1210	352	206	1220	316	346	71	772	3510	304	6116	-5.9%	
Agent Book Sales	0	16	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	197	24	50	-69.6%	
Direct Sales*	1271	970	202	148	468	159	222	40	595	2709	220	4179	8.2%	
<b>Total Fish 2016-2017</b>	<b>2982</b>	<b>2196</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>1688</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>6416</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>10345</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	
Agent Online Sales	1789	1095	357	212	1536	359	406	81	909	3758	288	6500		
Agent Book Sales	41	19	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	534	73	163		
Direct Sales*	1195	833	142	144	460	131	229	61	580	2636	165	3864		
<b>Total Fish 2015-2016</b>	<b>3025</b>	<b>1947</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1489</b>	<b>6928</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>10527</b>		

TARGETS	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult			Adult Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult Day	Junior Season	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
				Loyal Senior	Local Area	Adult								
2016-2017 Total Budget	3050	2001	500	400	2000	500	750	150	1500	6400	500	10657	97.1%	
2015-2016 Total Sales	3025	1947	499	356	1996	500	635	142	1489	6928	526	10527	98.3%	
2016-2017 Estimated year end												10345	97.1%	

\* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800 Licence

## 17. CONSIDERATION OF STAFF RELATED MATTERS

Ref: 9.01.03

3 October 2017

### 1. Purpose

To complete the manager's performance review.

### 2. Background

Annually the Council carries out a 360 degree appraisal of the Eastern Region Manager's performance with input from staff, Councillors, stakeholders such as the New Zealand Council, and the manager. The Council needs to consider the outcomes of the annual review process and discuss their findings with the manager, and it is appropriate that these discussions take place with the public excluded.

### 3. Recommendations

**3.1** *That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on the Manager's annual performance review.*

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

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Discussion on the Regional Manager's performance review	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
16 3.1	Protect the privacy of natural persons	Sec. 7(2)(a)	Discussion between the Regional Manager and the Council on the Manager's performance review and any negotiations on employment conditions should occur in private between these parties.

#### Note

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

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

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