



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

11 February 2021

AGENDA

The 187th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 11 February 2021

Commences: 12.00 PM

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 186th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2020 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs David Woolner, Murray Ferris, Barry Roderick, Laurance Tamati, Alan Baird, Adam Rayner, Debbie Oakley, Geoff Thomas and Ngahi Bidois.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matthew McDougall, Matt Osborne, Mark Sherburn, Anthony van Dorp (Eastern Fish & Game); Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish & Game); Zane Jensen (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board).

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr David Woolner (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.00pm, welcomed all present, and invited Cr Ngahi Bidois to open the meeting with a karakia.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Lindsay Lyons and Ken Coombes, and Dave Conley (Department of Conservation).

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that the apologies for the 186th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [20/12/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 OCTOBER 2020)

3.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ngahi Bidois) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to an amendment to the "In attendance" record to include:*

Eben Herbert (Eastern Fish & Game) and Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish & Game). [20/12/3.1]

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 David Woolner informed Council that, due to the tight deadlines for feedback on the Reserves Policy Consultation document, Andy Garrick had collated comments and feedback at hand including Carmel Veitch's comments from Council's October meeting, and forwarded a summary to the New Zealand Council for inclusion in discussions on the matter. David advised that he had received an email from Paul Shortis and Ray Grubb thanking Council for their effort. Andy Garrick commented that some Councillors may have wished to provide additional comment, and pointed out that this was not precluded as the policy would come back to Council for a further round of consultation in due course.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Geoff Thomas - Council lunch/fishing
- Cr Adam Rayner - Council photo
- Cr Murray Ferris - Letter – WBOP Fish & Game Club
- Andy Garrick - Acknowledgement – Brett Bosley

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

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

8.0 2019-2020 PERFORMANCE REPORT

8.1 The audited copy of the 2019-2020 Performance Report for the Eastern Fish & Game Region was tabled at the meeting. Cr David Woolner advised that the main body of the report had been reviewed at the October meeting and that this final copy incorporated some adjustments to the final result, as described within the agenda item, and the Audit Report.

8.2 Andy Garrick commented that he was comfortable with our year end position given the circumstances of this year. He was pleased to report an overall positive result considering such a significant decline in licence revenue which had resulted from the Covid restrictions. Project and operating expenditure had been reduced significantly, some additional contract income had been generated, and the Government Wages subsidy had all contributed to the positive result.

8.3 Andy informed Council that the final adjustment which had been made to the accounts since the draft that had been presented to the October meeting, was related to the revaluation of the forestry on the property with its value falling by \$40,000 due to disruptions within the industry and falling log prices. Andy advised that he planned to review the need to include the forestry asset within the accounts with the auditors as it meant that it had to be valued each year and the resulting cost of this outweighed any benefit the Council might gain from them. Cr Ngahi Bidois queried whether Council was receiving carbon credits for the forestry and Cr Laurance Tamati queried the fall in value when forestry he was involved with had seen increased values recently? Carmel Veitch advised that the valuation was based on log prices as at 31 August 2020.

8.4 Cr Debbie Oakley queried the unbudgeted wage cost for staff working for the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council. Kate Thompson advised that there was also unbudgeted contract income for this work. Neither the income or the expense had been budgeted for as there was no formal agreement between the regions at the time the budget was produced.

8.5 Andy Garrick highlighted the auditor's suggestion within the audit management letter concerning improving statement of performance reporting, with more focus on reporting outcomes/impacts. He said that the adoption of new standards for performance measurement was being reviewed nationally and that Carmel Veitch was working with the auditors to address this.

8.6 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alan Baird) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2019-2020 year. [20/12/8.6]*

9.0 2020 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

9.1 Andy Garrick advised that this agenda item followed up from where Council had got to in its October meeting, and that Matthew McDougall had added more background to the proposed recommendations and defined the criteria for the final conditions for the mallard/greylard season next year.

9.2 Cr Murray Ferris queried whether the restrictions that had been put in place for the Reporoa/Broadland area had had a positive influence on the population. Matt advised that it was extremely difficult to assess from aerial counts and to have a significant

impact the bag limit would need to be reduced to almost nothing and he felt that this would be unacceptable to licence holders.

9.3 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Debbie Oakley) that the Reporoa/Broadlands area should be subject to the same mallard and grey duck regulations as the rest of the Eastern Region for the 2021 season. [20/12/9.3]*

9.4 Cr Adam Rayner questioned whether the special swan shoot proposed for 26-27 February 2022 could not be extended for a longer period as he felt that most hunters would not bother for just two days. He said swan were perceived to be a problem and this would show Fish & Game was being proactive in responding to this and controlling the population. Matt McDougall advised that he had found that people tended to hunt less in a longer season and that not many others outside of the Western Bay of Plenty Fish & Game Club took part. The club had requested the specific dates to take into consideration the tides on the Tauranga Harbour and he said that consideration also needed to be given to other users at this time of year. However, in saying this Matt was not averse to considering a longer season if this is what Council wanted to implement. Cr David Woolner queried the practicality of making a change for this season, and after some discussion Council supported making a commitment to reviewing the pros and cons of extending the special season the following year.

9.5 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that a special swan season be scheduled for the weekend of 26-27 February 2022 in Management Area A1 and that Council commits to reviewing how long the special swan season will be, if there is one, in the 2022 Game Season. [20/12/9.5]*

9.6 Council discussed the proposed special pukeko season and queried whether it could be moved back as pukeko damage to many crops was generally occurring well before the special season. Matt McDougall advised that if we did so we run the risk of impacting on duck productivity if there was more widespread shooting being undertaken during their breeding season. He noted however, that we issue permits to disturb pukeko in response to requests received for dealing with impacts they're having which occur outside the seasons set aside to hunt them.

9.7 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Geoff Thomas) that a special pukeko season be scheduled for the weekend of 26-27 February 2022 for the Eastern Region. [20/12/9.7]*

9.8 The follow recommendations were agreed with little additional discussion or comment.

9.9 *Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Adam Rayner) that there will not be an open season for brown quail in the 2021 season. [20/12/9.9]*

9.10 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/ Murray Ferris) that no person shall within the Eastern Fish & Game Region, in or on any public place, or in or on any private land without consent of the land occupier, with intent:*

(a) deposit any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game.

(b) having deposited any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game, leaves it after having been deposited.

(c) for the purposes of this regulation litter includes any refuse, animal or game remains, or waste matter or items of any type used in the course of hunting, which is abandoned or intended to be abandoned. [20/12/9.10]

9.11 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/ Adam Rayner) that the extension to the upland game season on designated upland game properties for junior hunters be dropped. [20/12/9.11]*

9.12 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that the use of drones to disturb game birds is not permitted. [20/12/9.12]*

9.13 Matt McDougall advised that the proposed amendment to the First Schedule is for clarification and to align with the Arms Act.

9.14 *Agreed (Adam Rayner/Murray Ferris) that the Council write to the New Zealand Council suggesting that Section 3 of the First Schedule (Magazine Shotguns) of the Open Season for Game Gazette Notice notes there is a 5-shell limit imposed by the Arms Act. [20/12/9.14]*

10. 2020 UPLAND GAME PROPERTY REPORT

10.1 Council received the summary results for the Equine Upland Game Property's 2020 season.

11.0 INTRODUCE A MATE TO HUNTING & FISHING

11.1 Andy Garrick described the current "Take a Mate Hunting" programme offered by the Auckland/Waikato Region adding that while there had not been a great uptake with their programme, they acknowledged that they had not widely promoted the opportunity. Andy wanted to put the idea to Council to see if it had any appeal as an R3 initiative for trialling in the Eastern Region this coming season.

11.2 Cr Murray Ferris felt that it was worth a trial, adding that it would need promotion and monitoring. Cr Geoff Thomas queried whether there was a precedent for a trout fishing programme too? Andy Garrick outlined the current dispensations that Fish & Game offers for school groups, disabled persons, and the likes of "Casting for Recovery" groups, but noted that the Minister's approval would be required to offer this kind of dispensation. He suggested it might be worthwhile putting a request to the Minister of Conservation via the NZC to operate a similar programme for fishing, the objective being to increase participation in the longer term.

11.3 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Adam Rayner) that Council supports a trial of the "Take a Mate Hunting" programme in the Eastern Region during the 2021 season. [20/12/11.3]*

12.0 USE OF LICENCE DATA

12.1 Cr David Woolner advised that the New Zealand Council had passed a resolution a while back regarding access to the licence holder database and had subsequently drafted a Memorandum of Understanding and put that out to the regions for consultation. A number of regional managers had reviewed that and produced an amended version accompanied with reasons justifying the proposed changes to the original draft. Both versions have been provided with this agenda item. Andy Garrick advised that the MOU was all about privacy and appropriate use of data between the regions and by the New Zealand Council.

12.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois advised that the Te Arawa Lakes Trust retains data on its members who have an interest in trout fishing and that this could be a useful tool in our R3 programmes.

12.3 Cr Laurance Tamati was not aware of the national licence database and was concerned that his personal information could be being shared more widely. Andy advised that there was very limited access to the licence database, and the purpose of the MOU was to ensure data was not shared outside of Fish & Game nor used inappropriately or by unauthorised persons within the organisation. There were occasions where Fish & Game needed to communicate with licence holders who had agreed they were happy to be contacted, and we needed also, to analyse trends such as licence churn or demographics associated with the various licence categories we offer, or verify information provided to us by persons who had been caught committing an offence or

who wanted a refund or had some other licence query. Individual's privacy was uppermost in our mind at all times, and personal details were not shared with anyone beyond one or two individuals who needed specific information for a specific and justifiable purpose.

12.4 Cr David Woolner said the revised draft appeared to address issues that had been raised with the first version and the revised version appeared to be well put together.

12.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that Council supports the revised version of the MOU governing the use of licence sales data. [20/12/12.5]*

13.0 PRESENTATION BY MATT OSBORNE "2020 WAIKAREMOANA FISHERY SURVEYS"

13.1 Matt Osborne provided an informative power point presentation of work currently being undertaken by staff within the Waikaremoana catchment.

14.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 *Department of Conservation*

Andy Garrick welcomed Zane Jensen to the meeting representing the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. Cr Barry Roderick had seen Zane in action working under his Sport Bay of Plenty role and felt that there would be a lot to gain from getting Zane involved in our R3 programmes. Putting his Sport Bay of Plenty hat on Zane said their current focus was active recreation and there were opportunities for game bird hunting and fishing to become a big player in outdoor recreation with the Government focus being on wellbeing. Zane advised that he had been newly appointed to the Conservation Board having been nominated by Sport Bay of Plenty to represent recreational interests, and that he was excited to co-share the Fish & Game liaison portfolio with Mark Copeland. Zane provided an update on the CMS which had been notified in early November and was open for public consultation until 21 January 2021. Cr Barry Roderick commented he was concerned about activities being undertaken by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council that were impacting not only on the habitat of species of interest to Fish & Game, but on species such as whitebait as well, and asked if Zane could provide feedback to DOC on this. Zane said he was happy to do this and looked forward to working with Fish & Game. Cr David Woolner thanked Zane for his attendance.

14.2 *Te Arawa Lakes Trust*

Nothing to report.

14.3 *The New Zealand Fish and Game Council*

Debbie Oakley spoke on behalf of the New Zealand Council having attended the recent meeting with Lindsay Lyons. She said that taking on the role of Eastern appointee to the NZC will be a great challenge, and felt she could add value to the Council. She had been welcomed by its current members, and provided an overview of topics addressed at the last meeting which included the following:

- Pheasant preserves – the earlier decision had been revisited and a finite extension of time to the current Schedule 3 arrangement made which would mean all commercial operations would have to cease by end of 2025. This would enable them time to phase out. Captured access is an unintended consequence of these operations and an access toolkit needs to be developed.
- Pressure sensitive fisheries – domination by guides and non-residents.
- Council voted on opposition to importation of trout, and trout farming. The Council will write to MPI and propose a group be established to investigate the impacts of trout farming.

- Use of Non-Resident Levy – There had been no consultation with regions, and Debbie had requested that this topic be added to the agenda of the next NZC meeting.

Cr Ngahi Bidois queried the trout farming opposition and asked whether the NZC was going to do research. Debbie advised that based on the current information at hand the Council did not support trout farming, but acknowledged that there was not enough up to date information available and as a result would work with MPI to get more research undertaken. It was not appropriate for NZC to say ‘no’ unless there was a good research-based argument against it. Cr Geoff Thomas provided a brief list of the reasons trout farming had been declined in the past:

- (i) trout farmed fish taste awful;
- (ii) making trout a commodity attracts unscrupulous behaviour (poaching);
- (iii) disease - NZ trout fisheries are some of the cleanest in the world; and
- (iv) why take the risk for so little benefit?

Cr Alan Baird asked whether the NZC would support the Game Alliance request to change the Act in support of pheasant preserves? Andy Garrick advised his understanding was that the NZC recognised that the Game Alliance may wish to pursue that option but it was up to them to do so. Cr Alan Baird asked that Debbie be provided with a copy of the minutes relating to this Council’s previous discussions on pheasant preserves for her information,

In addition to the above Andy noted that Paul Shortis had recently resigned as NZC Chair, and that Ray Grubb had been confirmed as the new NZC Chair.

15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 15.1 Angler behaviour on Lake Tarawera on the evening before opening of the fishing season in past years was briefly discussed.
- 15.2 Cr David Woolner queried progress on access initiatives to the Whirinaki River. Anthony Van Dorp advised that he was still awaiting a response from DOC on a specific proposal he had put to them some months before. He had communicated with Ngati Whare and hoped that in time we can get this walking track open. He said there had been issues with access across private land. Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested it might be useful for Fish & game to make contact with his forestry trust.
- 15.3 *Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Management Report. [20/12/15.3]*
- 15.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report. [20/12/15.4]*
- 15.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for September and October 2020 totalling \$233,520.43. [20/12/15.5]*
- 15.6 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2020-2021 financial year. [20/12/15.6]*
- 15.8 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that Council receives the Licence Sales Report. [20/12/15.8]*

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 16.1 Cr Geoff Thomas confirmed Wednesday 10 February 2021 as the date for Council to get together for lunch and an afternoon fishing on Lake Tarawera. This would also be an opportunity for a group photograph as had been suggested by Cr Adam Rayner.
- 16.2 Cr Murray Ferris was concerned about a murmur expressed in the Western BOP Fish & Game Club letter that game bird hunting was to be taken over by DOC, and asked where do these types of rumours come from? Andy Garrick advised we would address this in our response to their letter.
- 16.3 Andy advised that this time a year ago we became aware that Brett Bosley of Lake Tarawera had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and regrettably he now had to inform Council that Brett had passed away on 16 November. Andy wished to acknowledge, and put on record, Fish & Game's appreciation for the contribution Brett had made as an honorary ranger for 23 years. He was one of our longest serving honoraries and not only had contributed greatly to us in that role and as a Fish & Game ambassador, but to his local community having served on the voluntary rural fire force and emergency response unit, been an advisor to Search and Rescue, Police and Coastguard, a JP, and a lake warden amongst other things. Andy had attended his farewell service with two other staff members a fortnight ago, and in addition to delivering a personal tribute to Brett, had spoken on behalf of Council and acknowledged the contribution he had made to Fish & Game.
- 16.4 Cr Murray Ferris advised Council of the passing of Adele Lyon's brother in Australia.

17.0 MEETING CLOSED

- 17.1 The meeting closed at 2.30pm with a closing karakia by Cr Ngahi Bidois.

.....
David Woolner
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that the apologies for the 186th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [20/12/2.2]

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 OCTOBER 2020)

3.1 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ngahi Bidois) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to an amendment to the "In attendance" record to include:

Eben Herbert (Eastern Fish & Game) and Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish & Game). [20/12/3.1]

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12.5 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that Council supports the revised version of the MOU governing the use of licence sales data. [20/12/12.5]

15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 15.3 *Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Management Report. [20/12/15.3]***
- 15.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report. [20/12/15.4]***
- 15.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for September and October 2020 totalling \$233,520.43. [20/12/15.5]***
- 15.6 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2020-2021 financial year. [20/12/15.6]***
- 15.8 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that Council receives the Licence Sales Report. [20/12/15.8]***

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

25 January 2021

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

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

Conflict of Interest (refer s2.7 Governance Policies) means when the member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias in respect of a matter¹ i.e:

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

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

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

¹ “Matter” means:

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

- (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. GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2021-2022 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

25 January 2021

1. Purpose

To review Council's goals and priorities for the 2020-2021 year, and identify changes in priorities or work areas and projects that Council would like to see incorporated into the 2021-2022 Operational Work Plan.

2. Background

Operational Work Plans (which come into force on 1 September each year) are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic priorities, core functions, project objectives, allocation of resources, and performance measures. The process may include seeking Council's approval for the submission of applications to the national Contestable Fund to increase bulk funding for specific purposes.

The NZC is in the process of reviewing Fish & Game's annual budgeting process and has yet to advise what if any changes may apply this year. Based on the steps that have customarily been involved, the process and schedule for the 2021-2022 OWP would be as follows:

- Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (this meeting).
- Staff compile a draft work plan and budget (excluding internal costs), and identify potential contestable funding bids it believes warrant consideration. The draft budget and bids will be submitted to the NZ Council by 24 March for collation and presentation to the Managers Meeting on 15 April and the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 16 April. Prior to those meetings however, the draft work plan, budget and bids will have been considered by the Eastern Fish and Game Council at its meeting on 8 April which will enable any changes/additions/deletions it wants to be communicated to the Managers and NZ Council ahead of their meetings.
- Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 16 April, and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 10 June meeting.
- The second draft of the OWP is considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets are reviewed and refined as necessary.
- This draft is then circulated to clubs for comment if they wish to.
- Club comments are considered and incorporated if Council considers appropriate into the final OWP presented for approval at Council's meeting on 5 August.

As indicated above, the operational planning cycle commences as of now with a review of current priorities and goals. Council needs to determine whether changes to these are needed within the next OWP year in response to changing circumstances and/or other factors. The current OWP took into account outcomes from the preliminary strategic planning workshop Council had in late 2018, and incorporated several new R3 initiatives into the programme arising from discussions staff had with the Business Development Manager for the NZ Council. Since then however, COVID has had an impact and is likely to continue to for some

time, as may changes Fish & Game may implement in response to recommendations or outcomes coming from the operational, regional resourcing, and budgeting reviews currently underway. In the meantime, it would be prudent for Council to proceed on the basis that substantive changes are unlikely to be introduced this planning round, and to discuss changes if any it might wish to make to current goals and priorities. Decisions on this are needed now so that staff can undertake initial planning and costing of projects ahead of 24 March.

3. Current (2020-2021) Priorities

- A. Access** - making it easier for anglers and hunters to locate and utilise resources;
- B. Increasing revenue** – through increasing participation (as opposed to increasing licence fees) and developing alternative sources of income;
- C. Maximising fishery opportunities;**
- D. Enhancement of habitat for greyland production** – in particular, activities that increase duck numbers and as a result, hunter opportunities;
- E. Water quality and quantity** – addressing in particular, the pressures on our free-flowing water resources and the water quality of the Rotorua lakes.

At Council's February meeting 12 months ago Council concluded that the key regional priorities for 2020-2021 should remain the same as those that applied during 2019-2020. It was acknowledged that some of Council's priorities continue to be of greater importance than others, for example, those that are critical to maintaining the viability and operational sustainability of Fish & Game. Higher priorities are considered to be Access, Maximising Fishery Opportunities, and Increasing Revenue, the arguments being that without access to sports fish and game bird resources the opportunities available to many licence holders are limited, and without adequate revenue we are unable to perform many of the operational undertakings needed to provide sustainable populations of sports fish and game birds for licence holders to harvest. Maximising fishery opportunities was seen as a means of increasing participation, and revenue.

The Council has also previously undertaken to support long standing aspirational outcomes for Fish & Game agreed to by the NZ Council, and bear these in mind when preparing its OWP each year. These aspirations have for many years been as follows:

- Fish & Game NZ is well recognised and well regarded as a manager of fish and game resources based on a user says/user pays system.
- Fish & Game's values and aspirations continue to be reflected in statute.
- Sports fish and game birds are recognised as valued public resources and access to such cannot be charged for.
- There is general recognition that wildlife habitat is a finite resource that must be protected.
- Water Conservation Orders are finalised and defended.
- The New Zealand public is sympathetic to Fish & Game NZ's goals.

It is presumed these aspirations still hold.

Over the years we have gained a much greater understanding of what can and can't be influenced in terms of achieving the outcomes Council is seeking, and with this understanding we have adaptively managed our approach and refined projects or changed our focus more towards what can be done to do so. An overview of achievements and significant

issues identified for each of the key priority areas are provided below. Project areas and associated tasks for the current OWP year are presented in the tables appended to each of the overviews given below.

A. Regional Priority: Access

- We have maintained extensive physical access tracks and signage for angling to priority waters for over a decade. The current programme is only just manageable however, and is subject to unforeseeable demands in other areas (e.g. CLE) that need to be addressed then and there on occasions. Maintaining hunter access to our reserves is undertaken in conjunction with other habitat management activities and is currently achievable with the resources that are being directed into this area.
- Forest access for both angling and hunting has been affected by Treaty of Waitangi Settlements, and forest managers, e.g. Timberlands. Many of our access problems arise due to land ownership issues and the rights of landowners (or occupiers/managers in the case of Timberlands) to control access across their land. Restoring access to these areas depends on relationship building with landowners and is time consuming and frustratingly slow at times. On a positive note we have secured angler access across private land to one of the Putere lakes in the Wairoa district, and worked with DOC to re-establish and erect signage advising access over public land to another of the Putere lakes that had been obstructed by the adjoining landowner. We have also recently gained access for upland game hunters to Oji Fibre Solution forest holdings in Kinleith Forest and eastern Bay of Plenty.
- We maintain comprehensive printed access information and continue to expand our inventory of information that is available digitally. We update access information as required, and we have an ongoing desire to undertake more extensive access investigations in relation to East Coast fisheries i.e. within the eastern Bay of Plenty and north of Gisborne. We have also been investigating opportunities for enhancing access to parts of the Rangitaiki River below Murupara to offset loss of summer opportunity further upriver. We have recently revised the Waikato River and Hydro Lakes brochure and promoted the fishery via social media and this has generated an enormous amount of interest.
- We continue to work collaboratively with the Walking Access Commission developing and exploring opportunities for access to sport fisheries in particular.

Current (2020-21) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Secure and Maintain Physical Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current access tracks to the Rangitaiki River and its tributaries (and investigate new opportunities there), the Waioeka, Tarawera and Waikaretaheke Rivers, and the Ngongotaha and Waiteti Streams. • Improve access to Wairoa catchment tributaries including those in the Waiau River, and continue investigation of East Coast fisheries north of Gisborne as opportunity permits. • Allocate balloted hunting stands. • Advocate for improved access through forestry and resolution of identified captured access areas. Submit to regional/district plans for

	<p>improved angler/hunter access. Continue to press for greater access to the Rangitaiki River fishery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with the Walking Access Commission and lobby for provision for public access in Treaty of Waitangi Settlements and Overseas Investment Act sale and purchase conditions. • Maintain the Fish & Game hut at Wairua.
Provide Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade signs to brand specifications where required, check annually and replace as required, and maintain signage database. • Update access pamphlets and website as required to ensure angling and hunting access information readily available.

B. Regional Priority: Increasing revenue

- Based on the ongoing decline in licence revenue that this region has been experiencing for many years now, Council has quite rightly identified this issue as being a significant risk to Fish & Game's operations. To that end a number of projects have been identified in the last few years' OWPs as initiatives worthy of putting effort into. The national Licence Working Party originally set up to investigate ways of increasing licence revenue via a wider range of licence categories and pricings and that we were previously involved with has been re-established, and we continue to undertake licence sales analyses not only for this region but for the country as a whole. We have implemented activities such as a tagged fish event, kids fishing days, 'how to be successful' events, and a novice hunting programme, and we've publicised the release of some XL sized fish to add value to existing licence holders and recruit/re-activate participants. Some activities, such as the tagged fish event we've been running for several years now hold much greater potential than we've been able to realise so far, but warrant further effort. We've emailed lapsed licence holders and promoted opportunities as they arise via various media, and last year investigated options for enhancing the Lake McLaren fishery in the western Bay of Plenty. We've instigated the annual release of 'trophy' sized fish into the lake and that generated a great deal of interest and uptake. Last year we engaged with Destination Rotorua to explore marketing opportunities aimed at the tourism and visitors' sector and i-SITE and see considerable potential there.
- We have an R3 roadmap for Fish & Game and have had a commitment from Steve Doughty, Business Development Manager, NZC office to work closely with Eastern Fish & Game on developing and implementing new and targeted initiatives. COVID and other issues in the NZC office last year have compromised this programme somewhat but we hope to get that back on track in due course with the endorsement of the NZC.
- As an organisation there is now recognition and widespread agreement on the need to establish alternative and additional sources of income. We have over the past few years made a start down this track with the renovation of former staff houses and letting these out at market rentals. We have formalised a lease with FENZ to occupy the former DOC Fire Depot on-site, and we're investigating options for the Ngongotaha trap cottage and its associated paddocks. There are also, other options based around our Paradise Valley assets that we could potentially generate income from. As a matter of course we derive income from quite a number of other sources which are set out on page 47 of our annual Performance Report for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Current (2020-21) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Niche Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct further research into ‘licence churn’, establish reasons why particular demographics drop out (e.g. first time licence holders and young adults), and devise strategies to reduce this.• Develop and implement regional R3 strategies (retention, recruitment, reactivation) in accordance with national initiatives to maintain and increase participation.• Investigate ways of increasing sales of licences to non-resident anglers.
Promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate and develop strategies with Destination Rotorua and other marketing agencies.• Investigate opportunities for promoting hunting and fishing in partnership with organisations such as travel agencies, accommodation providers, real estate agencies, and hunting and fishing outlets.• Investigate means of, or incentives for agents to up sell licence types.• Run ‘how to be successful’ events.
Opportunity Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the profile of under-utilised fisheries e.g. Waikato River, and develop and market ‘new’ opportunities e.g. summer river fisheries.
Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to contribute to a national Licence Working Party and explore opportunities for increasing revenue via fine tuning licence categories and/or pricing of such.

C. Regional Priority: Maximising fishery opportunities

- We have a successful supplementary stocking programme on the Rotorua lakes geared at maximising returns to anglers. The productivity, value and appeal of these “put and take” fisheries is entirely dependent on this stocking programme. We undertake intensive monitoring of these fisheries and regularly review stocking rates. We have modified our liberation strategies based on the results of this research and we adaptively manage liberations to maximise returns and effectiveness to the extent it is possible to within the various constraints imposed by environmental conditions.
- Several years ago we instigated a more intensive fisheries monitoring programme at Waikaremoana, and this work has produced some very useful information. While we have scaled it back somewhat to enable other programmes to proceed elsewhere, it needs to be ongoing and has the potential to generate additional income for Eastern Fish & Game via an extension to contract work we undertook for Genesis Energy in 2020.
- Most monitoring and angler survey effort within the Rotorua lakes is directed towards lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina and Rotorua. It’s appropriate that these lakes continue to be the primary focus for this effort but there is arguably a need to periodically monitor some of the ‘lesser’ lake fisheries i.e. Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu and the Waikato River lakes.
- Two years ago we instigated a research programme developed in conjunction with Waikato University and a recent post doctorate student now employed by Cawthron Institute, to better understand the impacts of water quality on Lake Tarawera’s trout fishery, and other valued species, and the mechanisms underlying these. Our aim is to be in a better position to predict downturns ahead of time, and offset these if it’s possible to

do so, by implementing a management response such as modifying our liberation strategy or introducing a change to fishing regulations. The programme includes twice yearly acoustic monitoring of smelt which got underway in November 2018 in conjunction with DOC and NIWA and this needs to be maintained. Sampling for the first/pilot year of the larger programme commenced in January 2019 and was completed towards the end of 2019. Analysis of samples and data, and a report on the project is scheduled to be completed mid 2021. Costs for this component of the programme (c.\$40k) are being met by Fish & Game. A year ago we were optimistic that the programme would be extended with funding provided through an MBIE grant to the University of Waikato's Rotorua Lakes initiatives but this fell by the wayside. Cawthron Institute is however, about to submit a five year funding application to MBIE's Endeavour Fund for a programme investigating interactions between native fish and introduced species, and an element of this programme will involve further research into food webs and environmental factors affecting growth and condition of trout in Lake Tarawera.

- Non-resident licence income is being held in a dedicated Eastern Region fund and currently amounts to approximately \$143k of which \$20k has been committed to the Lake Tarawera programme. Council has developed criteria for identifying and prioritising fisheries projects eligible for funding from the “Non-Resident Levy Reserve”, and while a freeze was put on use of NR funds last year as a result of COVID, and more recently there has been debate nationally as to how these funds should be utilised, it may be possible to access funding from this source for fisheries related programmes that meet Council's criteria.
- We distribute information and advice on fishing opportunities available to our angling licence holders through both printed and electronic channels. We need to maintain and step up our social media presence to ensure licence holders are aware of the opportunities available to them. Hopefully we might also see long awaited improvements made to our website next year so that this medium is more user friendly and accessible to anglers wanting insight into where to go and what's available to them. Council has made good progress over the past two years simplifying some of its regulations to reduce barriers to participation, and there may be more that can be done in this area. We have increased angler training efforts to enhance success, and there is potential to increase participation and open up opportunities for new and novice anglers by encouraging a greater involvement by clubs and/or partnering with other groups within the region.

Current (2020-21) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Species Monitoring and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor growth and performance of liberations into lake fisheries via the Datawatch programme. • Monitor the Lake Rotorua, Ngongotaha, and Ohau Channel fisheries. • Monitor the Lake Waikaremoana fishery. • Monitor Lake Tarawera wild spawning runs. • Assess smelt abundance in Lake Tarawera. • Advocate for extension of Lake Tarawera food web investigation and factors affecting trout growth and survival. • Provide support to external research projects aimed at better understanding lake fisheries.

Harvest Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake lake fisheries creel surveys to monitor angler catch and satisfaction, and Opening Day surveys to evaluate stocking programmes. Extend current programme on Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to some of the smaller fisheries (Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu) resources permitting.
Hatchery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce c70,000 quality fish to maintain trout fisheries within the region.
Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain/enhance sports fish resources by reviewing and refining if necessary, the Anglers Notice using a policy driven review process. Look for opportunities to increase participation and remove barriers to fishing by for example, simplifying regulations in some fisheries.
RMA planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represent anglers in water quality and quantity planning and consenting processes and advocate for improved habitat, angling experience and access opportunities.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and enhance access, and publicise more widely. Increase angler communication and information using social media and identify options for increasing participation. Support children's and adult fishing programmes, angler training and angling competitions, and maintain club relations.
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a sufficient level of participant contact to ensure the protection and sustainability of fisheries.
Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make fishing licences readily available and continue to investigate licence holder behaviour and licence holders' needs.

D. Regional Priority: Enhancement of habitat for greylard production

- Over the past decade we have developed, or facilitated the development of significant areas of wetland within the region using both licence holders' income and external funding from trusts, regional councils and other funding agencies. Projects have been implemented on both private and public lands. Additional hunting opportunities have almost always been created, but some projects, particularly smaller private land initiatives, have not always resulted in habitat as productive as we'd have liked in terms of greylard productivity. There have been a number of reasons for this and we have, and will continue to learn from these. Given the positive track record we have with funding agencies there are ongoing opportunities for projects of this nature, particularly where collaboration with other parties or individuals is involved. One of the issues that it's imperative we keep in mind and provide for in doing this though, is ensuring we don't overburden ourselves with ongoing management requirements and ever increasing commitments. We already have a large number of habitats we need to maintain (e.g. our existing Wildlife Management Reserves), and we need to be confident we have, or can find the means and resources needed to prevent these areas from going backwards as we add new habitat to our management register, and/or other agencies such as DOC withdraw funding from these. Over the few years we have become involved in managing a number of projects with, or on behalf of other organisations e.g. for Bay of Plenty Regional Council within the Lower Kaituna wetland, another being for a collective comprising DOC, Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaeo, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Waikato Regional Council at Lakes Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga. We need to continue looking at ways such as these as a means of leveraging resourcing and the outcomes we're seeking.

- We have increased our expectations and requirements of ballot holders in Fish & Game managed reserves in relation to maintaining habitat and hunting opportunities, and in late 2018 Council agreed to the concept of levying an annual Habitat Maintenance Fee on ballot holders to contribute to the costs of essential maintenance works (weed control and water reticulation) in these wetlands. While adequate resourcing is critical to maintaining these wetland habitats and maximising their potential for producing more ducks, it appears there may be another, or other limiting factors to productivity coming into play in some of the wetlands that are not being addressed. Much of the open water habitat that has been developed in areas such as the Lower Kaituna WMR has been created in peaty soils and/or into inorganic sandy substrates which typically support quite different invertebrate communities than ‘mineralised’ wetlands like the old river loops. Aquatic invertebrates are a critical source of protein for ducklings and its possible some of these excavated wetlands are deficient in this regard. We need to establish whether this is the case, and what options we might have to improve the situation.
- We have concluded that a stronger focus on habitat quality rather than quantity (the latter being the case in the past) is a better option for increasing duck numbers, and there is much more to be done in this area including leveraging the assistance of other parties and encouraging greater input from volunteers and interest groups as indicated above.
- Intensive regional research and monitoring has provided us with a good insight into the effects of harvest and game season conditions on greylard populations and productivity in ensuing seasons. We also know that trying to manage harvest through our current regulation options is very difficult due to changes in hunter behaviour resulting from regulation manipulation, and licence holders’ expectations in relation to season length and bag limits. If regulations are to make a difference when mallard populations are depressed, it's apparent that very restrictive harvest conditions need to apply and there are political implications/difficulties in the use of these tools. Having said that, our research shows that extended game seasons impact on the survival of hens, and therefore, may negatively affect next season’s productivity. This needs to continue being taken into account during the annual regulation setting process.
- The national mallard research programme has demonstrated that duckling survival rates, and to a lesser extent survival rates of nesting hens can have a profound effect on juvenile recruitment and hence population size going into the game season. Facilitating a relatively small increase in the numbers of ducklings that fledge from each clutch laid has the potential to significantly lift productivity. Other outcomes of the research projects in the Waikato and Southland indicate the extent to which predators prey on ducklings and nesting females, and the information derived from these studies will be useful for guiding when, where and how to target predators to get maximum bang for bucks. This is critical, as predator programmes are really only effective if they’re well targeted, sufficiently intensive to reduce predator numbers to predetermined levels, and well executed. Programmes such as these are also, very resource demanding particularly on a larger landscape scale.
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council is funding the development of a predator control plan for the wider Kaituna wetland complex, and we have undertaken to manage implementation of the plan subject to being able to source external and ongoing funding for it.

- Productivity is a key driver for “more ducks”, and as stated above, quality rather than quantity is a more effective area in which to place our efforts than simply creating more habitat of the type we have focussed on in the past. We do not have the resources to put significantly more effort into enhancing productivity ourselves without impacting on resources that are currently being utilised elsewhere, or finding external resources to cover what is needed. Expanding habitat programmes requires additional and/or novel approaches to resourcing. Providing advice and technical support to landowners, or helping them to access funding rather than directing our own funds towards these projects as tended to be the case in previous years, is an area in which we need to be more proactive, but again subject to staff resourcing. As a starting point we have over the past couple of years undertaken aerial surveys of parts of coastal Bay of Plenty and the Waikite area to identify existing wetlands and or bodies of open water that could be readily enhanced if landowners could be encouraged or enticed into doing so. Many such areas are also present on the East Coast.
- Each year we gain a rudimentary insight into duckling production on lowland Bay of Plenty drains, and several years ago we implemented a field programme to identify the physical characteristics of drains utilised by mallards more than others during brood rearing. We found that drain width explained the presence of ducks and broods better than any other factor, while presence of floating vegetation in the drain, extent of grass cover on the banks, the presence of a small number of overhanging trees and shrubs, and no recent drain maintenance activity having been undertaken were all important in explaining the number of mallards and broods observed in the drains.
- Eastern Region has had an ongoing input to National research projects on mallards and factors affecting productivity, and it is appropriate that it continues to do so by contributing to the identification and delivery of research priorities. We have also made promising progress over the past year or so identifying some of the critical factors influencing population size within the Eastern Region, these being winter temperature and summer rainfall.

Current (2020-21) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Species Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor greylard populations via trapping/banding, brood counts and game bird hunter surveys to investigate productivity, survival, harvest and movements. • Review game season conditions and make changes where needed to address issues impacting on greylard populations and productivity. • Contribute to national research programmes on mallards. • Refine as appropriate the draft regional five-year strategic research and management work plan for greylards.
Wildlife Management Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement, monitor, and refine if necessary, the annual maintenance strategy supported in part by a habitat management fee levied on ballot holders. • Review rotational maintenance programmes undertaken by staff in Fish & Game managed wetlands and re-assess/confirm existing priorities.
Assisted Habitat on Non-Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in statutory planning processes and make submissions to regional and district plans to amend rules that are barriers to habitat enhancement or hunter opportunities, and support or oppose consent

Land	<p>applications that impact on game bird habitat values or hunter access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop positive working relationships with landowners and other parties with an interest or involvement in rural land management including local and regional authorities, DOC, Federated Farmers, Fonterra, and Dairy NZ.
Habitat Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice to enable and encourage hunters/landowners to develop quality, productive wetland habitat. • Advocate for better drain management and enhance habitat in drainage canals. • Provide advice on enhancement of stock ponds and implement enhancement projects. • Make at least two external funding applications for wetland habitat development. • Retain involvement with Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and oversee appropriate projects.
Social and rural media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use media to encourage the creation and enhancement of wetland habitats.

E. Regional Priority: Water quality and quantity

- We have had a very active role in the Rotorua Lakes Action Planning processes to improve water quality in the Rotorua Lakes. Many of the lakes have shown marked improvements with the interventions the Bay of Plenty Regional Council has put in place. Lake Tarawera's water quality however, has continued to deteriorate and we suspect this is a primary factor for the protracted decline in the size and condition of trout we were observing there from 2012 through to the last year or so. Some of Regional Council's interventions may have had some negative impacts on some fisheries (e.g. Ohau Channel Diversion Wall), but improved water quality is benefitting, or will benefit other fisheries. In the case of the Ohau Channel wall there is an ongoing requirement to monitor fisheries to ensure that any impacts as a result of interventions are detected and if necessary mitigated for. Fish passes were installed into the wall several years ago, and a new panel of Fisheries Experts has been appointed to monitor effects.
- The BOPRC's Regional Policy Statement has outlined plans for land use change in sensitive lake catchments to ensure nutrient inputs from agriculture decrease, and processes associated with this are likely to be ongoing for some time. We have retained a strong presence in regional water quality planning and collaborative processes advocating for sustainable land use and a reduction in nutrient and sediment leaching, and over the past three years have been heavily engaged with Gisborne District Council planning processes and the Gisborne Freshwater Plan. Many of these processes have been put on hold since the new National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standards for Fresh Water were introduced, but will undoubtedly demand considerable staff time once regional authorities progress planning for implementation of the new requirements.
- We have highlighted Rangitaiki River water quality issues to the BOPRC and the Rangitaiki River Forum. Water quality issues have been acknowledged and provisions made in the RPS to use the Forum to create a catchment management plan for the river. Ongoing effort is required because although it appears water quality in terms of visibility

is currently better than it generally has been for the past four years, it may not remain so. We have also been involved with other “Freshwater Futures Community Groups in the Kaituna, Pongakawa, Tauranga, Whakatane, Ohiwa Harbour/Waiotaha and Tarawera catchments, though again these have stalled more recently pending interpretation of the new freshwater standards.

- There are other catchments within the region, e.g. the upper Motu, where intensification of land use and conversion from lesser nutrient leaching dry stock farming to higher nutrient leaching dairy farming has been mooted or is well underway. In some areas we have limited ability under current plans to influence these activities and their subsequent impacts on water quality, but we need to continue to advocate effectively for such during plan change processes. We need to have robust evidence and be able to present strong cases to support our position and secure the outcomes we seek, and to this end we have attempted to conduct annual drift dives to back up our concerns for the Motu. The Motu Catchment Plan process is underway and Fish & Game will have some involvement in its drafting over the next 12 months.

Current (2020-21) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor trout populations, water clarity and other measures of water quality in regional river fisheries including the Rangitaiki River, and communicate water quality issues to Regional Council and freshwater futures groups established to consult with communities. • Participate in collaborative processes and submit on water allocation processes in planning and consenting matters on sensitive waters.
Lakes Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Rotorua lakes fisheries monitoring programmes and participate in fisheries research projects. • Monitor and support the Waikaremoana water quality buoy programme. • Participate in Rotorua lakes’ collaborative processes and use creel survey and NAS results to advocate for improved water quality.

Regional support for New Zealand Council aspirational outcomes

The NZ Council has long had a focus on increasing public awareness and support of Fish & Game as managers of sports fish and game bird resources, and as advocates for the interests of anglers and hunters. Protecting and enhancing habitats and access to wild areas and resources is an important and fundamental role of Eastern Fish & Game. In addition to this the Council contributes significant regional resources to supporting national projects associated with species monitoring and management, public awareness, compliance, licensing and administrative (e.g. financial management) outputs.

Current (2020-21) OWP

<i>Project Area</i>	<i>Projects/Objectives</i>
Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the national public awareness network and support national public awareness events. • Manage our website and use social media to increase awareness of Fish & Game activities. • Produce regular media releases and support the NZ Council

	<p>Communication Advisers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and communicate with the rural community and landowners. • Promote Fish & Game at appropriate events and in the rural media. • Give presentations to schools and outside organisations and use the Ngongotaha hatchery and grounds to promote Fish & Game to the wider public.
Statutory Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager to periodically meet with senior local and regional authority managers, senior DOC staff, Conservation Boards, and MPs where appropriate. • Meet periodically with Te Urewera iwi entities towards the development of a MOU with Eastern Region Fish & Game. • Develop a closer/more formal working relationship with Te Arawa iwi. • Attend meetings of the Taupo Fisheries Advisory Committee as the NZ Fish & Game Council representative.
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Rotorua lakes via Regional Council planning and collaborative processes. • Utilise river investigation projects to advocate for improved water quality in key regional rivers. • Review and support/oppose plans and consents that impact significantly upon sports fish/game bird habitat values, or angler and hunter access. • Maintain inventory of wetlands, assess their vulnerability and identify wetland deficient areas and opportunities for enhancement through stakeholder collaborative processes.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for improved access and submit to the Walking Access Commission on key issues, and ensure provision for public access is made in relevant Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

4. Concluding Remark

As previously noted, the most challenging element of this business planning process for Council is not so much about identifying new projects, programmes or priorities it wants to introduce to next or future years' operational work plans, as identifying what programmes it would drop or scale back in order to accommodate the proposed changes.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That Council reviews its priorities and programmes for the 2020-2021 year, and identifies any changes it wishes to see incorporated into its draft operational work plan for the 2021-2022 year.

9. REGIONAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION

File: 8.04.10

26 January 2021

1. Purpose

To discuss the report produced by Concept Consulting on allocation of financial resources regionally and nationally and provide feedback to the NZC.

2. Background

Last September the NZC commissioned Concept Consulting to analyse Fish & Game's current expenditure and activity patterns and make recommendations relating to such. The Terms of Reference adopted by the NZC and background to the project are provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.

The final report was delivered on 11 December 2020 and circulated to all Councillors for consideration ahead of this meeting. The Executive Summary is reproduced below and a hard copy of the full PowerPoint report is available in the PFI.

The NZC has requested regional feedback on the report by 26 February for consideration at its meeting on 5/6 March.

3. Executive Summary of Report

Key findings

- Spending is split 80% across regional Fish and Game Councils and 20% by NZ Council.
- Angler/hunter *activity* in each region should be the starting point for allocating resources among regions – activity is objective and clearly linked to the overall purpose of Fish and Game NZ – i.e. supporting licensed fishing and hunting.
- We calculate a possible activity measure from angler and hunter survey data - called Angler/Hunter Day Equivalent (DEQ).
- Analysis of costs after adjusting for DEQ in each region shows wide variation in reported costs – raising questions about what is causing these differences and whether they are justified.
- One factor seems to be region size - most of the smaller regions have higher than average costs when expressed in \$/DEQ terms – suggesting benefits from reducing fixed costs.
- In addition, resource allocation decisions seem to have lagged behind shifts in activity and appear more closely tied to where licence sales occur than where hunting/fishing occurs.

Key recommendations

- Angler/hunter activity should be the primary basis for allocating resources – other factors such as underlying differences in costs should also be considered but as adjustments to the primary allocation.
- Resetting budgets from a zero base would be preferable, but there may be insufficient information to adopt that approach now.
- An alternative approach is to use existing budgets minus a flex factor (e.g. -10%) as the starting point for a budget reset.
- Applying the flex factor would create a contestable pool – this pool should be allocated based on operational needs (using objective measures) and the degree of linkage to strategic priorities.
- Budgets/plans for each Council should be reviewed in a deep dive every few years. These reviews should include 2-3 people independent of the Council under review (e.g. from other regions) selected for skills/knowledge.

4. Staff Comments/Points to Ponder

- Agree resource allocation should not be directly linked to where licences are sold.
- Don't agree that angler/hunter activity in each region should be the starting point for allocating resources. What is the rationale for this? What is the correlation between levels of activity and resourcing requirements (i.e. the costs of managing the fish and game resources involved, and the costs of supporting the anglers and hunters who take advantage of these opportunities)? Aside from that neither the National Angler Survey nor Game Hunter Survey are suitably robust to serve as indices.
- *Needs*, in staff's opinion, should be the primary consideration and starting point. Quantifying what resourcing is required to meet current and foreseeable management, statutory, and customer servicing related activities should be a key driver for resource allocation. Establishing what these needs are requires both a bottom up and top down approach because most regions have their own set of circumstances.
- Needs should be reviewed periodically to accommodate changing circumstances, e.g. emerging threats, or opportunities connected with habitats and/or hunting and fishing opportunities, and consequential changes to management required. Urban expansion, population growth and climate change are factors likely to have a significant impact in some parts of the country in the not too distant future.
- Creating a contestable pool based on an arbitrary reduction of budgets by 10% as a quick fix for perceived issues runs the risk of compromising regional and national programmes that are regarded as important and regionally justifiable to the Fish and Game Council concerned. It would introduce uncertainty to the continuation of projects and add another layer of time consuming bureaucracy to budgeting processes. A far better and less

disruptive approach is to wait until sufficient information is available to reset budgets objectively.

- Both regional and national activities and expenditure need to be critically scrutinised by appropriately qualified people, and as proposed above, independent of the Council being reviewed. The questions reviewers need to ask are:
 - a) Is the expense and associated project or activity justifiable?
 - b) Is the project or activity being conducted cost effectively and in accordance with best practice or national policy if it exists?
- Consideration needs to be given to interpretation of statutory obligations. More can always be done than we can afford to, and the question to be answered is where do we draw the line? This is a subject for national consideration.
- There are some underlying principles that it could be argued should apply to regional resourcing and budgeting processes, e.g:
 - a) As an organisation we should aim to maintain diversity of opportunity for anglers and hunters both intra and intera regionally.
 - b) Income a region derives from sources other than licence revenue should remain within the region and not be taken into account when determining what levy it should pay or grant it should receive as this would be a deterrent to generating additional and/or alternative income. Regions need to be incentivised to increase revenue whether it be by implementing R3 initiatives or developing alternative income streams.
- Where licence sales occur should not be used directly as an index for allocating resources
- If the regional extent of accessible opportunity for fish or hunting is to be factored into resourcing decisions, quality of experience also needs to be incorporated into that index.
- Many of the analyses presented in this report are of academic interest only, and generally of little relevance or utility to the goal set out on slide 30 of the report, this being:

“To ensure that all funds received and held by Fish and Game NZ are used in the most effective and efficient way in the short, medium and long term interests, of all current, potential and future anglers and hunters.”

- Staff support this goal and the sub-goals underlying it, these being:
 - *Fish and Game NZ should allocate sufficient resources at the regional level to reflect the current operational needs of different Councils.*
 - *Fish and Game NZ should allocate sufficient resources to NZ Council to meet current operational needs at the national level.*

- *Fish and Game NZ should explicitly consider the future strategic needs of the organisation – and ensure sufficient resource is allocated to achieve this at the regional or national level.*
- *Fish and Game NZ should obtain the best value for money from its spending (i.e. maximise efficiency) at both the regional or national levels.*

5. Recommendation

5.1 That Council discusses the findings and recommendations of the report and provides comment for feedback to the NZC.

10. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

File: 1.07.01

20 January 2021

1. Purpose

To review the 2020-2021 Anglers Notice and identify any urgent changes to the current regulations that might be required in the 2021-2022 season.

2. Background

Anglers Notice reviews provide an opportunity to amend regional sport fishing regulations. Licence holders and the public are able to submit on issues they may have identified with the current regulations for consideration by Council.

A full review of the regional regulations (Schedule 2) is undertaken every second year. A less comprehensive process is conducted in the year between. This year (2021) represents an intermediary year in the process where extraordinary or urgent matters that have arisen may be addressed while less urgent items if any, are deferred until 2022.

Last year one of the resolutions adopted was to move the season opening date for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to the first Saturday in October rather than 1 October, this coming into force for the 2021-22 Angling Season (1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022). The confirmed minutes for June 2020 record the following:

8.12 Council discussed at some length the proposal to change the opening of lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina to the first Saturday in October each year. Those in support of the change felt that there was a need to raise the profile of the opening of the lakes, to create a carnival atmosphere to promote trout fishing, increase participation and interest in the sport, and bring it into line with the opening of the game season. Arguments against the proposal which were raised by some Councillors and staff included issues around congested boat ramps and parking facilities, many anglers already being happy to take 1 October off work whatever day of the week it was, some not liking the crowded conditions a Saturday opening might generate, and by pushing opening out to the first weekend may exclude some families as this would quite likely be the last weekend of the school holidays. Looking at it from a compliance perspective, some staff felt 'Saturday-ising' would add unnecessary complexity to the regulations and it might take several years before people became acquainted with the new rules. It was suggested that the proposal be put to the New Zealand Council for a national change to the rules rather than applying it just to these three lakes. Council agreed that an approach should be made to the New Zealand Council for consideration of a national change to the opening of the season with the majority supporting a change for the three lakes regardless of that outcome.

8.13 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Lawrence Tamati) to change the season opening dates for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina from 1 October to the first Saturday in October. Carried 6/3. [20/06/8.13]. Cr David Woolner abstained, Crs Murray Ferris, Debbie Oakley, and Ken Coombes did not support the motion. [20/06/8.13]*

8.14 Cr Debbie Oakley pointed out that the change should not occur for the upcoming season as many people had already booked their accommodation for opening on 1 October. In the interest of common sense, Council agreed to recommend the proposed change be deferred until the 2021-22 Season.

8.15 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/ Lyndsay Lyons) that the recommendation [20/06/8.13] to change the season opening dates for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina from 1 October to the first Saturday in October comes into effect for the 2021-22 Sports Fishing Season. Carried 7/2. [20/06/8.15]*

Steve Doughty (NZC staff) has undertaken to prepare a paper proposing a national change to the rules for NZC's next meeting on 5-6 March, but as noted in the minutes above there was majority support from this Council for the change proceeding regardless of the outcome of it being put to the NZC.

Since last year's resolutions were made a potential issue needing to be addressed has come to our attention. Currently, lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina open to all fishing on 1 October when the angling season commences. The lakes are then open to boat fishing and shoreline angling up until midnight 30 June after which the lakes are closed to all angling other than in designated 'Winter Shoreline Areas' which remain open for the duration of the season, i.e. to 30 September. These open year-round areas provide shore-based anglers the opportunity to catch fish returning to spawning areas.

Opening the three lakes on the first Saturday in October 2021 means the opening will be delayed by one day this year as the first Saturday will be 2 October.

This poses the quandary as to whether the Winter Shoreline Areas on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina should remain open year-round i.e. from 1 October to 30 September, or whether they should instead open on the first Saturday in October and close 30 September.

No other new proposals have been mooted at this stage.

3. Staff recommendation

Staff recommend that the Winter Shoreline Areas on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina remain open year-round as a closure of 1 – 6 days duration makes little sense other than it would provide consistency with the date on which boat fishing commences on these lakes.

If Council determines that the Winter Shoreline Areas should close on 30 September for a period of 1-6 days, consultation will be required with clubs and the public more generally.

4. Recommendations

4.1 *That Council determines whether Winter Shoreline Areas on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina should remain open year-round, or open on the first Saturday in October rather than on 1 October.*

4.2 *That Council identifies any other changes to the Anglers Notice that require urgent attention.*

11. GAME BIRD GUIDES' LICENCE PROVISIONS

File: 5.03.05

28 January 2021

1. Purpose

To provide feedback to the NZC on the retention of the latent provisions in the Wildlife Act relating to the licencing of game bird guides.

2. Background

Eastern Fish and Game Council has recently received the following letter from the NZC Chair:

26 January 2020

Dear Regional Chairs,

Re: Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

The Department of Conservation has sought Fish and Game's view on the retention of the latent provisions for game bird guide's licencing under the Wildlife Amendment Act 1996 (see attached). Each year Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) reviews latent legislation with an eye to revoking superfluous latent legislation. As part of this process they seek DOC's comment on latent legislation within DOC's legislative framework, and DOC has in turn asked for our views.

In 1996, via s24 of the Conservation Amendment Act 1996 and s6 of the Wildlife Amendment Act 1996, latent provisions were inserted into the Conservation Act 1987 and the Wildlife Act 1953 to facilitate licencing schemes for sports fishing guides and game bird guides. There has been a significant amount of work done on a proposal to licence sports fishing guides since 1996, including the currently active proposal. However, to my knowledge there has been no substantial proposal put to DOC on licencing game bird guides in the past 25 years.

DOC have informed us that they intend to advise PCO to retain the latent legislation relating to sports fishing guide's licences but, unless Fish and Game provide them with adequate reason, they intend to advise PCO that they do not see any reason to retain the latent provisions relating to game bird guide's licences. We are, therefore, seeking feedback from regional Fish and Game councils on:

- Whether your council thinks the game bird guide licence provisions should be retained?
- And, if so, what your reasons for retaining the provisions are?

Note that it is unlikely to be sufficient for us to simply state that Fish and Game would like the option to licence game bird guides at some stage in the future. Rather, to retain the provisions there would need to be some intention to put forward a proposal or undertake work in this field shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Rainsford Grubb
NZC Chair

The legislation concerned is reproduced on the page following:



New Zealand Legislation

Wildlife Amendment Act 1996

1 Short Title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Wildlife Amendment Act 1996, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Wildlife Act 1953 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).
- (2) Sections 2(1), 3, and 8 of this Act shall come into force on the 1st day of July 1996.
- (3) Section 6 of this Act shall come into force on a date to be fixed by the Governor-General by Order in Council.
- (4) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, this Act shall come into force on the day on which it receives the Royal assent.

6 Game hunting guides to be licensed

The principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after section 22, the following section:

“**22A** Every person commits an offence against this Act and is liable on conviction to the penalty set out in section 67E(1) who acts as a game hunting guide without holding a game hunting guide licence issued under this Act.”

Section 22A: amended, on 15 October 2000, by section 8 of the Wildlife (Penalties and Related Matters) Amendment Act 2000 (2000 No 43).

Section 6: not yet in force.

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council discusses whether there is a need to retain the game bird guide licence provisions, and if so why, for feedback to the NZC.*

12. 2021 END OF YEAR MEETING DATES

Ref: 7.02.01

28 January 2021

1. Purpose

To reschedule the last two (or three) Council meetings for 2021.

2. Background

At its October 2020 meeting Council tagged the following dates for its 2021 meetings subject to these being compatible with other dates and deadlines yet to be confirmed:

	Date	Venue	Key Topics
1	<i>11 February 2021</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities
2	<i>8 April 2020</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP – first draft plus bids proposed for contestable funds
3	<i>10 June 2021</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fees• OWP – second draft
4	<i>5 August 2021</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	<i>7 October 2021</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – initial consideration• Annual Performance Report - draft
6	<i>2 December 2021</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – finalise recommendations
AGM	<i>2 December 2021</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

Late last year we received advice of when the newly elected Council would take office following the 2021 regional Fish and Game Council Elections and this will be 27 October 2021. New Councils are required to meet and appoint a Councillor to be a member of the NZ Council within three weeks of taking office, meaning the latest date for doing this will be 17 November 2021. This being so we need to adjust, as a minimum, the meeting we've currently scheduled for 7 October, or programme for an additional meeting between the dates of 27 October and 17 November 2021.

An additional meeting probably isn't warranted in terms of business needing to be conducted beyond electing a NZC appointee. The 7 October meeting of Council could instead be pushed out three weeks to Thursday 28 October, a day after the new Council takes office, and the final meeting of the year along with the AGM put back a week to 9 December 2021. We endeavour to space out our first five meetings of the year by 8-9 weeks typically, but that can't always be done. Shifting the fifth meeting to 28 October would mean 12 weeks would have elapsed since the previous meeting (or 11 weeks if that one was rescheduled to 12 August) but that won't have any material effect on routine business that Council conducts at that time of the year.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council reschedules its final two (or three) meetings for 2021.

13. EASTERN REGION GOVERNANCE POLICY

Ref: 7.02.02

1 February 2021

1. Purpose

To establish a process for the review of Eastern Fish and Game Council's Governance Policies.

2. Background

Section 4.6 of Eastern Fish and Game Council's Governance Policies document requires that these policies are reviewed by Council every three years. Council undertook its last review, and update of policies, in August 2016.

On that occasion the process largely involved adapting the NZ Council's Governance Policies, which had been reviewed and revised in December 2015, so that they were fit for purpose regionally. The NZC reviewed its policies in 2018 and "rolled" those policies over for another three years meaning it will be due to take another look at these in late 2021 or early 2022.

In accordance with recommendations arising out of the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish & Game external audits in 2019, the CSI Fish and Game Council 'modernised' its governance policies. Rather than modifying the templates being used by the NZC and other Fish & Game regions, it started from scratch and produced its own unique set of policies. What is interesting about these, is they incorporate policy around matters such as Risk Management, which ours don't, and are more comprehensive in dealing with topics such as Communications. CSI's approach is worthy of serious consideration and as a starting point a copy of their Governance Policy is provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this report.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council recognises there is a need for it to review its current Governance Policies and gives thought to how and when it would be best to approach this.

14. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 Conservation Boards

- *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*
- *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*
- *East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board*

14.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

14.3 Report from New Zealand Council

15. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

15.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

22 January 2021

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Regional River Fisheries Monitoring Program

This summer, staff anticipate repeating the drift dive survey of the Whirinaki river at the two sites (Mangamate waterfall and u/s Troutbeck Road Bridge) visited during summer 2019. This was planned for 2020 but did not eventuate. Other possibilities could be the Ngamawahine and Pongakawa streams.

Rangitaiki River Water Quality Monitoring

Fish & Game staff are scheduled to drift dive the Rangitaiki River within Kaingaroa Forest during February. River conditions are currently suitable for drift diving but if visibility should deteriorate and this can't be undertaken, water quality parameters (temperature, oxygen and secchi disc) will be measures at each of the sites that have been sampled since March 2017. In the three-year period spanning 2017-2019, staff were unable to undertake drift dive trout counts due to extremely low visibility through the Rangitaiki River water column. During the 2020 summer, the river cleared to a point where it was once again possible to complete drift dives.

1112 Datawatch

During the four and a half months following the season opening, a total of 218 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Hawkstone	0
Lake McLaren	1
Lake Okareka	8
Lake Okataina	42
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	12
Lake Rotoehu	6
Lake Rotoiti	54
Lake Rotoma	12
Lake Rotorua	5
Lake Tarawera	78
Lake Tutira	0
Lake Waikaremoana	0

**Datawatch returns (entered to 14/01/2021)*

This total is 50 tags higher than during the same approximate period in 2020 and just behind that for a similar period in 2019. Lakes Rotorua and Okataina are slightly behind on returns while lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, Rerewhakaaitu, Rotoma and Okareka are up on numbers.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The Lake Water Quality Monitoring buoy has continuously logged and transmitted data via the HBRC portal over the holiday period. Staff will undertake routine maintenance on the sensor strings when they carry out other activities on Lake Waikaremoana in late January.

Waikaremoana Lagarosiphon

No meeting dates have been advised.

1114 Lake Tarawera

Meeting with Anglers

At the request of three members of the Lake Tarawera angling community a meeting was convened with Andy Garrick and Matt Osborne to discuss concerns raised by those individuals (Peter Fahey, Terry Beckett, Ken Raureti).

Lake Tarawera Fishery Research Update

Lake Tarawera Limnological project

Andy Garrick and Matt Osborne met with Professor Ian Hawes and Rebecca Pora at Waikato University and were joined by Simon Stewart from Cawthron Institute via zoom to advance the project which has stalled somewhat over the past year. Rebecca (a postgrad student) will complete the sample processing as part of her MSc and this will be a more cost-effective option of doing so than engaging Cawthron to do so. Dr Stewart will then be able to devote more hours to interpreting and reporting the data. The aim is to have the project completed by mid year.

Tarawera Acoustic Sampling

Staff undertook acoustic transects across Lake Tarawera on 11 and 12 January 2021.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for 4 nights during December. A large run of brown trout was recorded moving upstream as Lake Rotorua water temperatures increased above 19 degrees Celsius early in the month. The largest fish measured through the trap during the 4-night period was a 650mm, 4.5kg brown female.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (December 2020)

	<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>	513	1.63	42	11	0	
<i>Brown</i>	552	2.66	451	113	0	91%

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (January 2021)

The fish trap had not been operated at the time of this report.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Black swan and paradise shelduck aerial trend counts were undertaken in early-mid January and are in the process of being analysed.

Trapping and banding of mallards and grey duck is underway, and numbers caught have been low in comparison to other years, particularly in the Gisborne area. Greylard survival estimates and population analyses have been undertaken to back up proposed conditions for the 2021 game season.

Results of the annual duck brood counts undertaken in the coastal Bay of Plenty in October and November will be reported at Council's next meeting.

1119 Upland Game Assessments

Results of the annual pheasant call counts conducted in Kaingaroa Forest in early November will be reported at Council's next meeting.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Opening Day Creel 2020-21

Drafting of the 2020-21 Opening Day Survey report is well underway and the report will be presented to Council at its April meeting.

Summer Creel 2020-21

The Summer Angler Creel Surveys started during November and will continue until April. To mid-January 2021, wind has been a significant factor affecting anglers. A total of 439 angler interviews have been undertaken on 24 survey events across the four surveyed lakes and 362 fish measured to date. This number of contacts is comparable to that during the same time frame in 2019-2020 (423 angler interviews from 21 surveys) and 2018-2019 (458 contacts from 24 surveys).

Fish condition has been excellent on Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Okataina. Tarawera fish condition has improved markedly since the opening period. The Rotorua shoreline fishery started to fire in mid-January 2021 with anglers seen at the Awahou, Hamurana and Waiteti stream mouths.

1141 Hatchery Operations

After the rearing ponds were cleaned, young rainbow fingerlings for the 2021 autumn liberations were moved there from the hatchery building. Spring liberations will be moved to ponds 2 and 3 later in January. Staff have caught up on several small maintenance jobs around the property.

Fish locations at 20 January 2021:

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	65,000	Mostly spring libs and orders 2021
Tank A	Rt	10	Brood
Tank C	Bt	1,000	Liberation spring 2021
Tank E	Bt	1,000	Liberation spring 2021
Tank F	Rt	1,000	Akd/Waikato liberation, spring 2021
Pond 4	Rt	7,000	Liberation, autumn 2021
Pond 5	Rt	7,000	Liberation, autumn 2021
Pond 6	Rt	7,000	Liberation, autumn 2021
Pond 7	Rt	7,000	Liberation, autumn 2021
Pond 9	Rt	5,000	Rising 2+ for KF programmes

RW	Rt	4,000	2+ for KF programme sales 2021
Kids	Rt	2,000	2+ for Eastern KF programme 2021

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 17 November 2020 – 20 January 2021

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age Class	Number
Tuai/Kaitawa	17/11/20	Rp	-	Bt	1+	200
Tuai/Kaitawa	17/11/20	Rp	-	Rt	1+	500

Fish were also despatched or delivered to Hawkes Bay Fish & Game, and Paradise Valley Springs.

1171 Sports Fish Regulations

The 2020-21 season falls in between full review cycles of the Anglers Notice process for Eastern Region Fish & Game. A letter will be sent to clubs during February to advise them of this.

The regulations for the 2021-22 angling season will be finalized at the June 2021 Council meeting.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

No new developments on the review of the Schedule of Important Trout Habitats in the region. BOPRC is looking at getting various plan changes underway in the next year or two in order to meet new obligations under the National Policy Statement (Freshwater) 2020.

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Council's lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1. Council hearings were held mid-2019. Decisions were released in May. Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council, with support from Eastern, have appealed a number of matters. No new developments.

Gisborne District Council

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, it is expected that the catchment planning processes should be getting underway in the near future. The Motu Catchment Plan process is underway and Fish & Game will have some involvement in its drafting over the next 12 months.

Regional Pest Management Plans

Fish & Game remains involved in the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel and community catchment groups. Progress has stalled on these groups, due in part to the withdrawal of PC 9, and the influence of Covid 19.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's new Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030 is now operative.

Waikato Regional Council is in the early stages of proposing changes to its Regional Pest Management Plan. No new developments.

Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy

The public notification of the draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy has recently been revoked. The purpose of the revocation is to ensure further engagement opportunities are provided. The Department intends to re-notify the draft within the next few months.

National Environmental Standards

Various Fish & Game regions have been collaborating on a submission to amend some parts of the NES-Freshwater 2020 that are unacceptable. Of particular interest to Eastern Region are some unreasonably strict regulations around physical works in wetlands and the construction of maimai.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
25 Nov	RLC	Skyline Skyrides	LUC – large scale earthworks	Waiowhero Stream, Rotorua	No Concerns
25 Nov	GDC	Glenwood Forests	LUC – forest roads and harvesting	Upper Waipaoa River	No Concerns
8 Dec	GDC	Fulton Hogan	LUC – gravel abstraction	Mata River, Ruatoria	No Concerns
11 Dec	RLC	Rotohokahaka F6 Trust	LUC – plant forestry	Mt Ngongotaha, Rotorua	No concerns
18 Dec	GDC	Samnic Forest Mgt	LUC- debris & slash removal	Pangopango St, Tologa Bay	No Concerns
18 Dec	BOPRC	Bailey Farms Ltd	DP- effluent irrigation	Paraiti Stream, Te Puke	No Concerns
23 Jan	BOPRC	NZTA	LUC – bridge erosion works	Tauapiro Stream, Katikati	No Concerns

Consents of Note: The BOPRC Integrated Catchments Group has sought resource consent renewal for the erosion and flood protection works it undertakes in sites that lie outside its Rivers and Drainage scheme. Fish & Game is in the process of preparing a submission on this application as we have issues with works undertaken under this consent and a failure on the part of the Council to mitigate for or remedy impacts on fish habitat within the waterways involved. As with the Rivers & Drainage Bylaws we previously submitted on, we also have concerns with deficiencies in Council's works' guidelines which this consent application relies upon. There are however, some positives within the application which we will support.

1221 Reserves Management

Lower Kaituna WMR

The earthworks and weir installations for the 20 ha Stage 2 pastureland conversion to wetland have been completed. Water flooded the new wetland on 23 December with stable levels achieved mid-January. Tidying up of the new access tracks and final stage earthworks in the area adjacent to Pah Road will commence beginning of March and conclude before April.

Concurrently, the Club Pond tracks, and other degraded access tracks will have sand deposited along them to upgrade vehicle access. Upgrade of the main carpark will also be completed.

Internal water reticulation channels and vehicle tracks will be sprayed throughout the reserve in mid-February.

Awakaponga WMR

Work to get the Awakaponga solar water supply system replaced, secured and running is well on the way but yet to be completed. Installation was undertaken just prior to the Christmas break. Some fine tuning of sensors is still required to get it running smoothly.

Other Reserves

No significant works have occurred in any of the other reserves since Council's last meeting.

Two rounds of access tracks mowing have been completed within all the reserves, and water reticulation channels and vehicle tracks in these areas will also be sprayed in mid-February.

The ballot holder maintenance period will commence on 6 February with gates unlocked to enable vehicle access. Gates will close at the end of March.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

One new landowner request has been received with a site visit planned during duck banding in Gisborne. Advice related to water management is sought with no further requirements envisaged.

The significant wetland enhancement project proposed near Te Puke has not been supported by BOPRC land management staff due to issues associated with its size. They have advised that an engineer is required to design remediation works for the dam wall, along with a resource consent application before any works can be considered. This is not a desirable outcome, but we will continue to fully support the landowner with the design, consent application and management of the works once approved. This is a work in progress and it may take up to a year to see results.

1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects

Torepatutahi Wetland

The Torepatutahi Stream (Deep Creek) wetland, below Broadlands Road bridge, has been severely degraded due to an ill-considered aerial herbicide spraying operation by Contact Energy, as part of its wetland enhancement programme at this site. Several agencies, including ourselves, along with members of the public have laid formal complaints to the Waikato

Regional Council and Council is currently investigating what has occurred there. Fish & Game staff accompanied WRC investigation staff and their ecologist during an onsite visit in early January. The scope of the investigation has been extended to include not only the visually conspicuous damage to native plants, but also to include the effects on birds, aquatic fish and insects.

Whakaki Governance Meeting

As a member of the governance group overseeing the implementation of the Whakaki Freshwater Improvement Fund project Andy Garrick attended a progress meeting in Wairoa in mid December. Some of the hurdles that have been an impediment to implementing elements of the project appear to have been overcome though there are others that have still to be resolved.

1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats

Wetland Forum

The forum has not met since Council's last meeting.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Timberlands

While summer forest access restrictions are in place for access to the Rangitaiki River system, we have actively promoted the public access easement through Kaingaroa Forest to the Ngahuinga area on the Rangitaiki River which is open all year except in extreme conditions, and without an access permit required. This has generated interest, and we have had contact and good feedback from anglers who have subsequently taken advantage of this opportunity and experienced good fishing in this part of the river.

Contract work has been completed in the Kaingaroa forest area on the Whaeo River access track, and other access tracks to the river have been sprayed to keep gorse and other weed regrowth under control.

Thanks is due again to Timberlands for their contribution to funding this contract work.

Other access maintenance work in this system is ongoing.

Whirinaki

DOC has indicated its approval for work to restore the old walking track on marginal strip alongside the Whirinaki River between the Recreation Camp and the Mangamate camp ground. We have been in contact and consultation with Ngati Whare and are awaiting a response as to their position regarding this proposal.

Waikato River and Hydro Lakes

The Waikato River and Hydro Lakes brochure revision has been completed with input from Mercury, the operators of the hydro power schemes on the Waikato. The old brochure was very out of date, and in addition to the new brochure, an on the ground inventory has been undertaken of all angler access locations on the system. As an outcome of this, new signage will be put in place to assist anglers. The fishery will be promoted through social media in addition to other

means to encourage anglers to get out there and explore what is effectively an under utilised fishery with huge opportunities.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was produced in December and January covering local fishing report.

1332 Fish and Game Publications

Articles for the regional pages of the 2021 game season issues of the Fish and Game NZ magazine were prepared, edited and submitted to the editor in mid January.

1333 Fish & Game Website

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

1334 Social Media

A number of posts have been made on the Facebook page. The page usually reaches around 15,000 people per month and has over 1,000 followers.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

A boat fishing 'how-to' was held at Tarawera on 2 January 2021. It was attended by about 30 appreciative persons.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Eight fishing competition permits were processed for the period. Three fishing competition weigh-ins were attended for the reporting period along with a fish smoking competition at Lake Tarawera.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

There were no club visits for the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Maintenance was carried out as required at both Wairua and Waikaremoana. Rat bait stations were replenished at Wairua and a replacement door for the fireplace was acquired for Waikaremoana.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1421 Public Communications

Media

Five media releases were produced and/or had input to from staff during the reporting period.

Official Information Act Requests

In mid January we were notified by the Ombudsman that two requests for information to this Council had been lodged via fyi.org.nz and we were long overdue in responding to one of these which had been advanced in October 2020 (the other in mid December). Eastern Fish & Game was unaware of both until the notified by the Ombudsman as an invalid email address had been used to contact us. A copy of these requests is provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.

Dairy NZ

In response to an approach from Dairy NZ inviting technical input to the development of guidelines for farmers on how to construct wetlands for the treatment of farm runoff, Andy Garrick met with senior Dairy NZ and staff from other agencies in Hamilton in late December. This was a very constructive meeting as was another late in January. Andy along with the NZC Chair and senior NZC communications advisor met with the CEO of Dairy NZ and three other senior staff to explore interests we share in common and opportunities for collaboration. This included discussion around the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater and the perverse impacts it will have, as currently written, on wetland creation, enhancement and management, and the construction and placement of maimai. This too was an extremely productive relationship building exercise.

1451 Education

Mount Eden School visited with 112 children and supervisors over two days for self-guided hatchery tours with their science teacher. Nineteen children and supervisors from the YMCA Lynmore Holiday Programme also visited for a self-guided tour.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Since the last report compliance work has focused on angler checks in various parts of the region, and summer surveys and checks within the Rotorua lakes.

Angler effort has increased around the Lake Rotorua Stream mouths since mid-December with arrival of warmer weather conditions and trout moving into cool water plumes flowing into the lake. So far this summer, compliance around these stream mouths has been high with limited issues to date. Regular visits to these areas and interaction with anglers will be ongoing.

Summer surveys on the lakes over the summer holiday period also recorded a high level of compliance with no offences processed to time of writing.

So far for the 2020-21 year, 12 offenders have been dealt with for a total of 14 offences; overall this is a low offence rate.

Angler contacts year to date as at end of December number 1,043. The compliance rate continues to be in excess of 98 % of persons checked.

Contacts: Year 2020-2021

Month	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Last 5 yr average
September	29	21	21	46	16	27
October	903	836	893	726	724	816
November	62	69	20	126	16	59
December	310	390	309	237	287	307
January	217	195	442	246		275
February	293	137	307	265		251
March	191	199	180	23		148
April	214	178	124	7		131
May	292	226	252	143		228
June	171	172	168	162		168
July	94	80	63	75		78
August	27	33	54	20		34
Total	2,803	2,536	2,833	2,076	1,043	2,562

North Island/National CLE liaison role

This role continues with input from Eastern Region, for the most part in regard to providing assistance and advice to regional compliance staff regarding various matters, and towards organising ranger safety and communications (CERT) training.

1531 Prosecutions

Prosecutions have been proceeding well with most matters dealt with subsequently resolved via diversion processes in a timely manner.

Offences 2020-2021 Year:

12 persons dealt with for 14 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2020-2021 year (to 20/01/2021)

Offence name	Number of offences
Disturbing wildlife	1
Fish with illegal tackle	1
Fish closed waters	1
Fish without a licence	9
Gives false details	2
Total number of offences	14

Offences Pending Resolution

To 20 January 2021, 18 separate offences by 10 offenders are pending resolution. Five of these offenders are wanted on warrants to arrest. The others have matters pending resolution via prosecution processes which are underway.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	9
Illegal tackle	1

Possess net-spear-gaff	2
Fish closed waters	1
False details	4
Possess sports fish unlawfully taken	1
Total	18

LICENSING

1612 Analysis of Licence Information

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales for the New Zealand Council and regions.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agents requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information attended to as and when required.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

Ongoing liaison has been undertaken with Steve Doughty and others in relation to initiatives around marketing and promotion of trout fishing in the Rotorua Lakes district. This has included a conversation relating to seeking sponsorship for a 2021 tagged fishing event and a community pre Opening Season event at The Landing on Lake Tarawera.

1841 National Liaison

Five meetings with various regional managers, national office staff and/or NZC councillors were held via Zoom to discuss matters of common interest including the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater relating to maimai and wetland management, and a native fish/introduced fish interactions research bid to MBIE by Cawthron Institute.

At the invitation of the NZC Chair, Andy has also been appointed to a small working party set up to investigate staff remuneration related matters and undertake a stocktake of related matters along with Phil Teal, Manager Wellington Fish & Game, and NZC Councillor Colin Weatherall. The first task of that group has been to draft terms of reference for the group.

15.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

22 January 2021

Background

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

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

November-December 2020

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Regular (weekly) staff meetings.

Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of the meeting are emailed to all staff.

Visitors are required to sign our register, and our hazard register is updated as required.

Tail Gate forms completed for:

November 2020 Liberations/Access/Brood surveys

December 2020 Clearance of tree fall/Opening of Streams ranging

2020-2021 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

	31/12/2020	31/08/2020
Number of Workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year	1	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	1	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2016-2017 year	2	2
Number of Workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year	1	1
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	41	40
Total Number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	3	2
Total number of days since last lost work injury 19/07/2020	165	1,034
Total number of days since prior lost work injury 13/08/2017	1,071	
Total number of days since prior lost work injury 17/12/2013	1,335	
Total number of days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury 17/12/2013	6,682	

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

COVID 19

The following procedures remain in place:

- Property open to public, additional Covid tracing signs put up around property
- If unwell stay at home
- Sanitiser available throughout office for public and staff use

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

23/11/2020 No new hazards identified

30/11/2020 Tree down on walking track – taped off, visitors to be diverted until cleared

7/12/2020 No new hazards identified

14/12/2020 No new hazards identified

21/12/2020 No new hazards identified

28/12/2020 No new hazards identified

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Nil

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

15.3 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

21 January 2021

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the months of November and December 2020.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 31 December 2020
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 31 December 2020
Table 4	Bank Transactions 1 to 30 November 2020
Table 5	Bank Transactions 1 to 31 December 2020
Table 6	Credit Card Transactions 1 November to 31 December 2020

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 December is attached (Table 3).

Income

Licence revenue is ahead of budget for the year to date \$105,387 and includes \$14,931 collected for game hunter ballots. The budget for the year was reduced due to uncertainties around COVID 19 and border closures. A more up to date and detailed picture of licence sales performance YTD can be found within the licence sales report.

Revenue from other sources over the period totalled \$41,548 and was made up of the following: hatchery (\$14,915), fishing competitions (\$52), donations (\$30), fish food counter sales (\$57), and rentals (\$9,672). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$253 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery and junior education programmes (\$200 and \$700 respectively). Invoices were produced to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Department of Conservation for wetland mowing (\$1,419), the Department of Conservation for security gates fabricated for Kaituna and Tumu Kawa wetlands (\$3,358), and Fire Emergency NZ (FENZ) for insurances on the fire store buildings (\$1,189). Habitat management fees were collected for game hunter ballots (\$3,274) and contract expenses invoiced to the New Zealand and Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Councils (\$3,208). Interest was received on general reserves (\$730) and the Waikaremoana Fund (\$2,485).

Species Management

Within the Population Monitoring output the banding project is underway with the purchase of maize and metal duck bands. Within budget YTD.

Hatchery expenses for the period related to freight on fish food, netting materials and bitupatch for road repairs. Both Hatchery vehicles were registered within the period and the flatdeck was inspected by Mazda after being exposed to water. The regular expenses for electricity, fuel, and oxygen are also reported. Within budget YTD.

Habitat

Works and Management spending for the period included the fabrication of two gates and cement for the Kaituna WMR, glyphosate herbicide for reserves habitat maintenance, and cement, welding, and materials for the re-installation of the solar pump system at the Awakaponga WMR.

The Habitat output is over budget YTD (\$16,187) due to the unbudgeted solar install at Awakaponga WMR which has been funded by insurance proceeds currently sitting within “Other Income”.

Participation

Within the Participation output expenses are reported relating to access equipment and stickers, and accommodation and meal expenses for access work at Waioeka, Motu, and Waikaremoana. Ripcord and 30 Second Cleaner was purchased for hut maintenance, and the Waikaremoana hut electricity is also reported. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

Minimal spending for the period relating to cleaning of the public toilet facility and repairs to the water line supplying the houses and office buildings. Within budget YTD.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone, and legal fees for prosecutions. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The Licensing cost includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. Within budget YTD.

Council

Expenses were incurred relating to travel reimbursement and catering for the December meeting of Council. A small overspend in the Council budgets is reported YTD (\$157) and this will clear over the coming months.

Planning

The audit fee for the 2019-20 Annual Performance Report was paid for in December. The planning area is over budget YTD (\$100).

Administration

Salaries	Within budget YTD.
Staff Expenses	Minor expenditure is reported relating to staff clothing, and meals for Waikaremoana work and fish deliveries. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Ground moisture barrier was installed, and light/ventilation units and a rangehood were purchased for the brick house to comply with new residential tenancy rules. Installation of these units will take place once our electrician becomes available. Within budget YTD.
Office Premises	Standard expenses relating to electricity, cleaning, and alarm monitoring were incurred. Over budget \$188, this will reduce over the coming period.
Office Equipment	The usual expenses relating to the phone & eftpos leases are reported. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Additional expenses for the period included the annual purchase of diaries and a 1 TB back up drive. Within budget YTD.
General	Legal fees are reported relating to the lease agreement for the fire store site by Fire & Emergency NZ (\$1,065). An additional premium was paid to insure the buildings which transferred to Fish & Game (\$783) when the former agreement with the Department of Conservation was terminated. This premium along with a

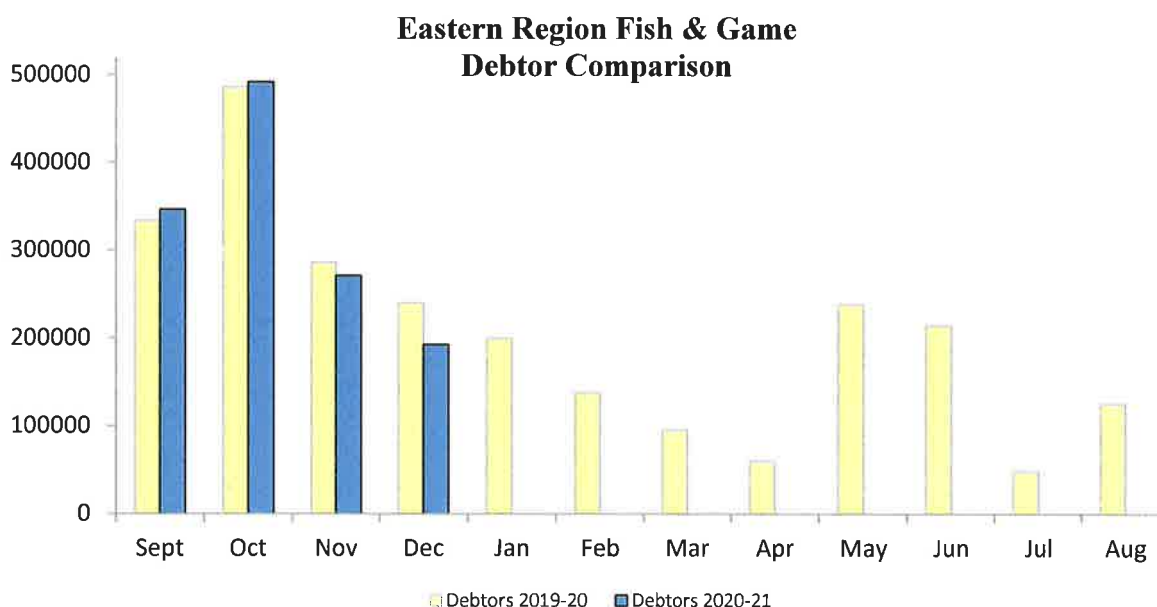
	portion of the premium on the boat shed was on-charged to FENZ in accordance with the terms of the new lease. A valuation fee for the Douglas fir forest is also reported along with the usual morning tea expenses. Over budget YTD \$2,600 but offset by additional revenue from insurances on-charged and increased rental.
General Equipment	Equipment expenditure was significant for the period with repairs to the tractor/mulcher of \$1,813, repairs to the push mower, repairs and WoF for the single axle trailer, and a mower puncture repair. The annual subscription to the Coastguard was paid and expenses incurred for boat radio certification for the three boats and a life jacket service. Tie downs were purchased for the tractor and a sledgehammer for the workshop. The standard fuel expense is also included. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included the insurance premium for the two new vehicles, a vehicle service, a WoF, a puncture repair, and a set of tyres. All vehicles were registered within the period and the standard fuel expense is also reported. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: \$1,000,635 (includes \$86,785 asset replacement reserve) as at 31 December 2020.

\$465,300 for Waikaremoana Fund as at 31 December 2020.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$192,476 as at 31 December 2020 (\$240,106 as at 31 December 2019).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2019/20-2020/21



Debtors outstanding as at 31 December were made up primarily of licence sales \$171,886. One licence agent is overdue \$1,124 and this has been followed up. Payment has also been followed up for funding from the Regional Council for the Awakaponga solar reinstallation and from Genesis for the Waikaremoana contract.

Fixed Assets

Two vehicles were purchased in December through the Asset Replacement Reserve and two vehicles are scheduled to be sold in February.

3. Variance Report (Table 1)

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. The year to date 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.

2020/2021 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

as at 31 December 2020

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 26,450	\$ 6,413	490	2,132	\$ 136,986	\$ 30,969	\$ 7,299	\$ 8,000	\$ 155,446	\$ 30,083	\$ 125,363	19.4
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,400	\$ 60	391	784	\$ 50,378	\$ 24,686	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,778	\$ 24,746	\$ 28,032	46.9
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 74,550	\$ 27,437	1,014	2,900	\$ 186,346	\$ 64,117	\$ 51,699	\$ 56,500	\$ 204,396	\$ 39,855	\$ 164,541	19.5
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	68	154	\$ 9,896	\$ 4,299	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,896	\$ 4,299	\$ 5,597	43.4
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	2	165	\$ 10,602	\$ 95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,602	\$ 95	\$ 10,508	0.9
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	9	36	\$ 2,313	\$ 537	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,813	\$ 537	\$ 2,276	19.1
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 103,900	\$ 33,910	1,973	6,171	\$ 396,531	\$ 124,703	\$ 58,998	\$ 64,500	\$ 435,931	\$ 99,615	\$ 336,317	22.9
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ -	452	1,476	\$ 94,844	\$ 28,558	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,044	\$ 28,558	\$ 66,486	30.0
1220	Works & Management	\$ 18,000	\$ 5,154	448	932	\$ 59,888	\$ 28,305	\$ 29,581	\$ 12,150	\$ 65,738	\$ 3,878	\$ 61,860	5.9
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ 17,537	149	770	\$ 49,478	\$ 9,419	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,178	\$ 26,956	\$ 25,222	51.7
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	4	72	\$ 4,627	\$ 221	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,627	\$ 221	\$ 4,405	4.8
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 20,900	\$ 22,691	1,052	3,250	\$ 208,836	\$ 66,503	\$ 29,561	\$ 12,150	\$ 217,586	\$ 59,613	\$ 157,973	27.4
1310	Access	\$ 5,700	\$ 744	311	650	\$ 41,767	\$ 19,644	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,467	\$ 20,388	\$ 27,079	43.0
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	54	286	\$ 18,378	\$ 3,414	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,378	\$ 3,414	\$ 14,964	18.6
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,196	25	40	\$ 2,570	\$ 1,549	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,570	\$ 3,745	\$ 825	81.9
1350	Training	\$ 800	\$ 3	165	755	\$ 48,514	\$ 10,431	\$ 2,661	\$ 7,000	\$ 42,314	\$ 7,773	\$ 34,542	18.4
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	32	\$ 2,056	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,056	\$ -	\$ 2,056	0.0
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 466	6	32	\$ 2,056	\$ 379	\$ 65	\$ 400	\$ 3,106	\$ 780	\$ 2,326	25.1
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 9,950	\$ 3,409	1,795	1,795	\$ 115,342	\$ 35,417	\$ 2,726	\$ 7,400	\$ 117,892	\$ 36,100	\$ 81,792	30.6
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	4	72	\$ 4,627	\$ 253	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,627	\$ 253	\$ 4,374	5.5
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ -	39	120	\$ 7,711	\$ 2,465	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,211	\$ 2,465	\$ 5,745	30.0
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 4,500	\$ -	6	104	\$ 6,683	\$ 395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,183	\$ 395	\$ 10,788	3.5
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 174	73	392	\$ 25,189	\$ 4,599	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,689	\$ 4,773	\$ 20,916	18.6
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 5,500	\$ 174	122	688	\$ 44,209	\$ 7,712	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49,709	\$ 7,866	\$ 41,823	15.9
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 397	128	914	\$ 58,731	\$ 9,092	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,731	\$ 8,488	\$ 51,243	14.2
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 325	22	104	\$ 6,683	\$ 1,391	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,683	\$ 1,715	\$ 5,967	22.3
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,165	102	336	\$ 21,590	\$ 6,448	\$ 1,431	\$ 6,000	\$ 20,590	\$ 6,182	\$ 14,408	30.0
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,886	252	1,354	\$ 87,004	\$ 15,930	\$ 1,431	\$ 6,000	\$ 88,004	\$ 16,386	\$ 71,619	18.6
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	39	140	\$ 8,996	\$ 2,481	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,596	\$ 2,481	\$ 7,115	25.9
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	17	164	\$ 10,538	\$ 1,090	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,538	\$ 1,090	\$ 9,448	10.3
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ -	57	304	\$ 19,534	\$ 3,572	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,134	\$ 3,572	\$ 16,562	17.7
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,157	136	463	\$ 29,751	\$ 8,566	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,751	\$ 10,723	\$ 25,028	30.0
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,157	136	463	\$ 29,751	\$ 8,566	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,751	\$ 10,723	\$ 25,028	30.0
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ -	0	240	\$ 15,422	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,922	\$ -	\$ 23,922	0.0
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	66	\$ 4,241	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,241	\$ -	\$ 4,241	0.0
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,750	\$ 6,040	153	419	\$ 26,924	\$ 9,640	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,674	\$ 15,680	\$ 20,993	42.8
1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ -	73	260	\$ 16,707	\$ 4,631	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,807	\$ 4,631	\$ 12,176	27.6
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,350	\$ 6,040	985	985	\$ 63,293	\$ 14,271	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,643	\$ 20,311	\$ 61,332	24.9
	TOTAL	\$ 172,200	\$ 70,267	4,377	15,010	\$ 964,501	\$ 276,674	\$ 92,736	\$ 90,050	\$ 1,046,651	\$ 254,205	\$ 792,446	24.3

Table 2		
Balance Sheet		
Eastern Fish and Game Council		
As at 31 December 2020		
	31 Dec 2020	31 Dec 2019
Assets		
Bank		
Investments	\$705,951.91	\$453,753.83
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	\$472,392.88	\$461,250.67
Westpac Call Account	\$256,752.10	\$300,828.64
Westpac Current Account	\$30,329.77	\$29,933.16
Total Bank	\$1,465,426.66	\$1,245,766.30
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	\$192,476.46	\$240,105.55
Accounts Receivable - Hawkes bay & External parties	-\$621.24	\$0.00
Accounts Receivable - Staff Recovery	\$52.83	\$0.00
Inventory - Fish Stock	\$161,122.00	\$146,920.00
Petty Cash & Licence Float	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Current Assets	\$353,230.05	\$387,225.55
Fixed Assets		
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	-\$683,015.77	-\$655,188.59
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	-\$128,675.69	-\$132,408.82
Accum Dep Office Equipment	-\$44,469.46	-\$39,704.45
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	-\$146,776.95	-\$139,031.07
Buildings	\$1,043,849.38	\$1,043,849.38
Land	\$93,500.00	\$93,500.00
Motor Vehicles	\$419,457.84	\$381,706.56
Office Equipment	\$54,075.20	\$57,167.45
Plant & Equipment	\$183,866.13	\$183,866.13
Tree Plantation	\$91,600.00	\$131,600.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$883,410.68	\$925,356.59
Total Assets	\$2,702,067.39	\$2,558,348.44
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$113,390.16	\$66,248.35
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	\$79,254.00	\$100,144.00
Business Credit Card	-\$308.71	\$1,542.94
Employee Entitlements	\$97,412.76	\$75,079.28
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy Clearing	\$3.48	\$5.22
GST	\$17,700.67	\$31,092.85
PAYE Clearing	\$18,472.88	\$20,737.31
Rounding	\$0.08	\$0.01
Staff Social Club	\$2,699.72	\$3,234.33
Total Current Liabilities	\$328,625.04	\$298,084.29
Total Liabilities	\$328,625.04	\$298,084.29
Net Assets	\$2,373,442.35	\$2,260,264.15
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	\$1,217,037.53	\$1,248,857.83
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$86,785.00	\$80,877.00
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	\$135,271.65	\$98,802.13
Breeding Programme Reserve	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Current Year Earnings	\$457,047.90	\$370,189.92
Fish for Gold Reserve	\$7,000.00	\$3,500.00
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	\$465,300.27	\$458,037.27
Total Equity	\$2,373,442.35	\$2,260,264.15

Table 3 Profit and Loss - Council
Eastern Fish and Game Council for the 2 months ended 31 December 2020

Income	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	99,036	112,539	803,322	700,000	1,184,799	103,322	15%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	324	704	2,065	0	0	2,065	0%
Other Income	27,116	14,432	122,160	53,170	168,580	68,990	130%
	126,476	127,675	927,547	753,170	1,353,379	174,377	23%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	5,775	5,776	23,239	24,108	72,326	(870)	-4%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	500	2,500	6,413	7,500	46,450	(1,087)	-14%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	60	400	2,400	(340)	-85%
1140 Hatchery Operations	2,308	983	27,437	36,550	74,550	(9,113)	-25%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	0	500	0	0%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	2,808	3,483	33,910	44,450	123,900	(10,540)	-24%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1210 Resource Management Act	0	0	0	0	200	0	0%
1220 Works & Management	27	3,674	5,154	4,500	18,000	654	15%
1230 Assisted Habitat	186	280	17,537	1,350	10,700	16,187	1199%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT	213	3,954	22,691	5,850	28,900	16,841	288%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	188	313	744	2,200	5,700	(1,456)	-66%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	2,196	2,000	2,000	196	10%
1350 Training	0	0	3	200	800	(197)	-98%
1370 Huts	145	127	466	400	1,450	66	16%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	333	440	3,409	4,800	9,950	(1,391)	-29%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1420 Communication	0	0	0	200	500	(200)	-100%
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	0	0	4,500	0	0%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	36	102	174	150	500	24	16%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	36	102	174	350	5,500	(176)	-50%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	57	57	397	350	1,000	47	13%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	325	300	1,000	25	8%
1530 Compliance	0	557	1,165	1,665	5,000	(500)	-30%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	57	614	1,886	2,315	7,000	(429)	-19%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	0	600	0	0%
1630 Commission	3,368	4,071	29,656	31,050	53,316	(1,394)	-4%
Total 1600 LICENSING	3,368	4,071	29,656	31,050	53,916	(1,394)	-4%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	0	643	2,157	2,000	6,000	157	8%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	643	2,157	2,000	6,000	157	8%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	0	0	0	0	8,500	0	0%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	9,450	6,040	5,890	9,750	150	3%
1840 National Liaison	0	0	43,177	43,227	172,809	(50)	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	0	9,450	49,217	49,117	191,059	100	0%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	63,629	64,339	248,549	270,497	879,056	(21,948)	-8%
1920 Staff Expenses	61	53	931	4,000	23,000	(3,069)	-77%
1930 Staff Houses	1,526	37	6,644	5,340	13,060	1,304	24%
1940 Office Premises	1,108	701	8,322	8,138	18,750	184	2%
1950 Office Equipment	154	136	593	1,618	3,600	(1,025)	-63%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,003	700	5,686	7,260	18,357	(1,574)	-22%
1970 General	1,491	1,225	11,541	8,941	11,058	2,600	29%
1980 General Equipment	2,351	1,046	6,859	7,200	16,000	(341)	-5%
1990 Vehicles	3,034	4,620	15,033	18,100	44,700	(3,067)	-17%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	74,356	72,857	304,159	331,094	1,027,581	(26,935)	-8%
Total Operating Expenses	86,947	101,390	470,499	495,134	1,526,132	(24,635)	-5%
Net Profit	39,529	26,285	457,048	258,036	(172,753)	199,012	77%

15.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

22 January 2021

1. 2020-2021 Fish Licence Sales YTD 19 January 2021

- 1.1 Fish Licence sales for the 2020-2021 season comparison against the 2019-20 season YTD are summarised in *Table One*.
- 1.2 Fish licence sales to 19 January 2020 are reporting to be 1.1% ahead of the 2019-20 season results for the same period. Nationally for the same period the 2020-21 sales are reporting to be 2.4% ahead of the prior season.

Table One Fish Licence Sales 2020-21 vs 2019-20 Seasons YTD to 19 January 2021

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	Total Fish
Agency Online	1278	978	153	260	1000	0	15	211	647	369	169	23	84	21	0	8	14	5,230
Public Online	1016	778	160	163	467	0	23	251	1012	337	119	8	105	9	0	8	5	4,461
Eyede Call Centre	16	6	1	7	4	0	0	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
Total YTD 2019-20	2310	1762	314	430	1471	0	38	469	1665	706	288	31	189	30	0	16	19	9,738
Agency Online	1127	964	18	265	894	0	17	199	611	7	165	2	68	3	0	0	0	4,340
Public Online	1247	1063	24	225	569	0	11	338	1139	48	157	2	125	4	0	0	0	4,952
Eyede Call Centre	11	7	0	16	5	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	49
Total YTD 2020-21	2385	2034	42	506	1468	0	28	541	1755	55	322	4	194	7	0	0	0	9,341

Summary LEQs YTD to 19 January 2021 (Whole Season Licence Equivalent)

Season	Fish LEQ	Fish Var	Fish \$	Inc/Dec
Total YTD 2019-2020	7,270		\$840,829	
Total YTD 2020-2021	7,354	1.1%	\$850,448	\$9,619

2020-21 Summary YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2020-21 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,150	100.0%	\$942,605
2020-21 YTD Actual	7,354	90.2%	\$850,448
Remaining to meet budget	-796	-9.8%	-\$92,157

Resident Licence Categories
 FWF – Family Season, FWA – Adult Season, FLSA – Loyal Senior Season, FLAA – Local Area Season, FWIA – Adult Winter Season, FLBA – Adult Long Break, FSBA – Adult Short Break, FDA – Adult Day, FWJ – Junior Season, FDJ – Junior Day, FWC – Child Season

Non-Resident Licence Categories
 FWNA – Adult Season, FDNA – Adult Day, FWNJ – Junior Season, FDNJ – Junior Day, FWNC – Child Season, FDNC – Child Day

- 1.3 The current result to 19 January 2021 of sales being 1.1% ahead of the 2019-20 season results and 2.4% ahead of national sales at the same point in time, contrasts with that reported in November where Eastern Region was 8.1% ahead of the prior season's results and nationally 6.0% ahead despite the loss of non resident income as a consequence of border closure. Non Resident sales usually occur throughout the season, so we are likely to see a further levelling out over the coming months and may see a negative result in these comparisons prior to the end of the season. It is anticipated however, that the Covid adjusted licence sales target will be met for the financial year (which accommodated the loss of non resident income), and with increased sales to NZ Residents there's likely to be a lower than anticipated drawdown on regional reserves.
- 1.4 Resident licence sales YTD have increased sufficiently to cover the loss of Non Resident income to date. These increased sales are a combination of new recruitment, reactivation, and people buying their licences earlier in the season. It is the last point that may impact the sale of licences for the remainder of the season i.e. an increase to the number of people having bought their licence earlier this season. In saying this however, we may continue to see new recruits and reactivation right through to the end of the season (a crystal ball would be useful).

