

## **WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,  
HELD ON TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2013 AT 3.00PM AT UPPER HUTT  
COSMOPOLITAN CLUB 11 LOGAN STREET, UPPER HUTT.**

1. **Present:**  
Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Jim Cook, Simon Muckley, Brad Johnson, Richard Moore, Andrew Morris, Andy Tannock, Strato Cotsilinis,

2. **In Attendance:**  
Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington, Nic Cudby

3. **Apologies:**  
Councillors Chris O'Meara, Mark Grace, Eric Neumann  
  
Staff: Corina Jordan

**It was then moved that:**  
*the apologies be accepted.*

**Richard Moore/Jim Cook**  
Carried

4. **Conflicts of Interest**  
A list was available for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests declared.

5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 21 August 2013:**  
After a brief discussion it was moved that:  
*the Minutes of the last meeting of the previous Wellington Fish & Game Council of 21 August 2013 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.*

**Jim Cook/Simon Muckley**  
Carried

6. **Matters Arising**  
Councillor Morris considered the merits of having a more consistent approach to limits for trout harvest; which could be part of the discussion for the 2014 Anglers Notice meeting.

7. **NZ Council Business**  
Councillor Morris gave an overview of the NZ Council Meeting held on 20 September 2013.

Councillor Morris noted that a significant portion of the meeting was spent discussing legal fund issues, namely; Hurunui application, and Hawke's Bay Ruataniwha/RPS/Regional Plan changes.

Councillor Morris noted that the proposed RMA reforms on changes to Part II of the Act had stalled due to lack of cross-party political support. It was noted that the report prepared by Sir Geoffrey Palmer had been very timely legal opinion. There were no changes to the RMA anticipated prior to the next General Election.

Councillor Morris noted that there was still some momentum to continue progression of introducing a guides licence as the legislation was already in place.

Councillor Cotsilinis noted that any introduction of the non-resident licence would be part of the wider licence category change project.

Councillor Morris informed that the meeting proposed for regional Chairs and managers planned for November was postponed until next year. Wellington Fish & Game's letter on gaining RMA efficiencies and strategic approach was well received by NZ Council.

Chairman Taylor noted that each Fish & Game region be requested to indicate their RMA expenditure (internal and external) over the least three years to enable an assessment of potential efficiencies of different structural approaches.

Councillor Morris noted that a letter from Neil Hayes on lead shot use was not received.

It was then moved

*The report be received on NZ Council meeting held on 20 September 2013 as presented by Councillor Morris as Wellington F&G's Appointee*

**Brad Johnson/Simon Muckley**

Carried

**8. Meeting Timetable:**

After brief discussion on each individual proposed date it was agreed to finalise the meeting schedule at the next Council meeting in December.

**9. Restrictive Game Regulation Options:**

Mr Teal gave an overview presentation of the mallard transect monitoring data including additional analysis of East and West transects.

Councillor Tannock considered that in light of the data it would be prudent to act conservatively in management decision responses. It was then agreed that some management decision response was appropriate to reflect lower numbers of mallard ducks.

It was moved that

***Wellington Council consider options to reduce harvest in 2014 in response to population estimates indicating a measured decline below a more restrictive threshold***

**Andy Tannock/Martin Taylor**

Carried

Unanimously

The merits of various responses were discussed, including; flexibility and permanency of potential changes, palatability to hunters in terms of hunting opportunity, and degree of influence of total bag harvest, and compliance issues.

Other positive initiatives were discussed that could also be promoted including reducing predation on mallard, or raising mallard to release. It was agreed that a degree of open-mindedness was required, and that harvest restriction was not the only tool.

The following restrictive measures were considered to be useful for further consideration: reducing season length, reducing bag limit, restricting semi-auto shotguns to 3 shot. Less favour was considered for urgent consideration: restriction on pond feeding during the season, hen limits, drift hunting, split season, split region, aggregate limits, shooting hours (defer consideration if preferred restrictions were not adequate).

It was agreed that staff would provide an estimate of harvest changes based on the game harvest survey for a six week season, and/or six bird limit, and further information be sought on number of semi-auto shotguns used.

The initiative by Southland F&G to educate hunters about the potential benefits of using smaller shot size steel shot including patterning was also encouraged.

It was then moved that

***A need to make a management response was recognised to address a decline in numbers in mallard population monitoring below a threshold, and that three restrictive measures be considered at the December Council meeting: (1)Reduce season length (from 8 -6 weeks); (2) Reduce bag limit (from 10 -6); and (3)Limit semi-auto shotguns to 3 shot capacity. Feedback would be sought from Clubs, survey, and retailers.***

**Strato Cotsilinis/Richard Moore**

Carried

In the communication to licenceholders it would be indicated that:

- Feedback would be sought;
- Restrictions appear to have worked in the past;
- Any one or combination of measures listed above are being considered;

Possible measures to increase mallard numbers are being looked at;

- ways to improve habitat are promoted;
- breeding and releasing birds (explore legal implications);
- current research programme focused on recruitment issues;
- predator control initiatives;
- legality of controlling hawks;
- nest box promotions.

**10. Project Reports:**

The project reports prepared by staff were presented and opportunities for questions given for each report. It was agreed that Council acknowledge and thanks the considerable efforts of staff in undertaking the works and preparing the reports.

It was then moved that

*The following reports be received:*

*Project Report 1111 – Sports Fish Population Monitoring*

*Project Report 1111a – Spawning survey summary 2013*

*Project Report 1112 – Rangitikei River Trout Fishery Management*

*Project Report 1113 – River Control Fishery Assessment*

*Project Report 1114 – Game Bird Population Assessment*

*Project Report 1121 – National Hunter Harvest Survey 2013*

*Project Report 1124 – Regional Hunter Survey 2013*

*Project Report 1181 – Game Bird Dispersal*

*Project Report 1210 – Resource Management*

*Project Report 1313 – Hunter Access Permits & Ballots*

*Communication Report (incorporating Projects 1331*

*Newsletter/Magazine, Project 1341 Communication to Clients, Project*

*1342 Lapsed Participant Newsletter, Project 1441 Public Awareness,*

*Project 1443 Promotions)*

*Project Report 1351 Hunter Training Lake Omanu*

*Project Report 1521 Rangers and 1531 Compliance*

*Occupational Health and Safety Annual Review*

*Licence Agents Annual Report*

*Fish Licence Sales Report to 31 August 2013*

*Game Licence Sales Report to 31 August 2013*

**Andrew Morris/Jim Cook**

Carried

11. **One Plan Update:**  
Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the High Court decision which dismissed all but one minor appeal point, and the process for filming a memorandum for costs.
- Mr Teal gave an overview of the re-engagement in any MOU regarding the proposed Regional Council's implementation plan, with it being confirmed that such an MOU would be signed off by governors.
12. **Mallard Research:**  
Mr Teal gave a brief update on the mallard research indicating the results obtained from the telemetry study. Further refinement was considered regarding type of telemetry equipment and possible selection of a suitable PhD student to complete the study.
13. **Junior Participation Update**  
Mr Cudby gave a brief overview of the projects being considered to take advantage of the educational initiatives undertaken by North Canterbury ("Fish in Schools") and action points to progress this project.
14. **Lake Wairarapa Update:**  
Mr Cudby gave an overview of the project contemplated and being undertaken at Yules Lagoon for novice hunter placement.
15. **Management Report 1 August – 30 September 2013**  
After discussion it was moved that  
*The management report for 1 August – 30 September 2013 be received.*  
**Simon Muckley/Brad Johnson**  
Carried
16. **Expenditure Report**  
Mr Teal referred to the potential variances to expenditure compared with what was planned, noted in the agenda after which it was moved  
*the Expenditure Report for 31 August 2013 and Financial Transactions for July and August 2013 be approved*  
**Strato Cotsilinis/Andrew Morris**  
Carried
17. **Licence Sales Report to 31 August 2013**  
After brief discussion it was moved that  
*The Fish Licence Sales and Game Licence Sales reports as at 31 August 2013 be received.*  
**Andrew Morris /Strato Cotsilinis**  
Carried
18. **Correspondence**  
Brief discussion ensued on correspondence.

**19. General Business**

Mr Teal brought to the attention of the lease arrangements at Wellington Fish& Game's office sites: in Palmerston North and Wellington. There was a modest lease increase sought for the Palmerston North site and it was agreed that the exercising of right of renewal be undertaken (governors to sign). Mr Teal was requested to seek further detail on potential changes at the Wellington site with cost and other potential benefits considered if amalgamated with the NZ Council office.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.05pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Masterton Cosmopolitan Club, Queen Street  
Masterton, Tuesday 10 December 2013 at 3.00pm

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_