### AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

# A Meeting of Council will be held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Drive, Hamilton, on Saturday 9 February 2019 commencing at 11a.m.

## AGENDA

		<b>Page</b>
1.	Apologies	
2.	Possible conflicts of interest arising from meeting agenda	
3.	Minutes of previous meetings held on 7th November 2018 *	1
4.	Matters arising from previous minutes	
5.	Council correspondence *	7
6.	Chief Executive's bi-monthly report & financial statements 6.1 Bi-monthly Chief Executives Report * 6.2 Financial Statements *	9 17
7.	Game preserves *	29
8.	Ward Ranch update (in committee)	
9.	Land & Water Habitat Trust *	32
10.	Hunting code of conduct *	46
11.	Bequest policy *	54
12.	Setting national policy *	58
13.	OSH Update *	61
14.	General Business	
De	enotes attachments	

M. Young Chairman

17/01/19

#### **AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME**

#### Minutes of a Meeting of Council held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton, on Saturday 17 November 2018 commencing at 11.30am.

PRESENT:

Chairman:

M. Young

Councillors: G. Annan, G. Avery, D. Cocks, N. Juby, B. Moore, C. Sherrard, S. Smith,

E. Williamson.

Staff:

B. Wilson, J. Dyer, A. Sintenie, A. Daniel.

Visitors:

P. Hardy, J. Atkinson

#### 1. APOLOGIES

A. Kerr, W. Howard, P. Shaw, D. Tyson, M. Davis, D. Klee

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Young/Sherrard CARRIED

#### 2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN:

Mr Wilson assumed the Chair and called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Councillor Young was nominated by Councillor Annan and seconded by Councillor Cocks.

Mr Wilson then asked if there were any further nominations. There being none he declared Councillor Young Chairman and vacated the Chair.

#### 3. GENERAL EXPLANATION OF VARIOUS LAWS AFFECTING **COUNCILLORS:**

In accordance with Standing Orders Mr Wilson briefed the Councillors on the relevant sections of:

- Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 regarding the corrupt use of official information and bribery of officials.
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 regarding the access of the public to official information.
- Secret Commission Act 1910 Councillors acting for the Council cannot take secret commissions or issue false invoices.

#### 4. APPOINTMENT OF TWO VICE CHAIRMEN:

The Chairman called for nominations for the two Vice Chairmen.

Councillor Cocks was nominated by Councillor Annan and seconded by Councillor Williamson.

Councillor Annan was nominated by Councillor Williamson and seconded by Councillor Cocks.

The Chairman asked if there were any further nominations, there being none Councillors Annan and Cocks were declared Vice Chairmen.

#### 5. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL'S NOMINEE FOR NZF&G COUNCIL:

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Auckland/Waikato representative on the NZF&G Council.

Councillor Juby was nominated by Councillor Williamson and seconded by Councillor Smith.

Councillor Sherrard was nominated by Councillor Annan and seconded by Councillor Cocks.

It was agreed that staff would act as scrutineers.

A secret ballot was held, and the Chairman declared Councillor Juby as Auckland/Waikato representative to the NZF&GC.

It was moved;

that the voting papers be destroyed.

Williamson/Cocks CARRIED

# 6. <u>APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ON LAND & WATER HABITAT</u> TRUST:

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Council's representative on the Land and Water Habitat Trust.

Councillor Kerr was nominated by Councillor Sherrard and seconded by Councillor Annan.

The Chairman asked if there were any further nominations. There being none he declared Councillor Kerr as Council's representative on the Land and Water Habitat Trust.

#### 7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None

#### 8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2018:

It was moved;

that the Minutes of the previous meeting of 13 October 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Cocks/Williamson CARRIED

#### 9. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Councillor Moore expressed his disappointment at the ongoing comments by the NZ Council publicity staff on social media regarding dairy farming. Councillor Moore's concerns were strongly supported by Councillor Smith who considered it was causing much damage to Fish and Game's reputation in the rural community.

Mr Daniel left the meeting at 12.20pm.

General discussion ensued on the environmental impacts of dairy farming and the Healthy Rivers RMA process in the Waikato catchment. It was acknowledged that the Healthy Rivers Plan Changes was a long process taking considerable staff resources.

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.30pm and resumed at 1.30pm.

Councillor Smith enquired as to whether the funds from the Te Kauwhata F&G Club had been received. Mr Wilson replied that he had nothing further to report, but once the funds were received they would be placed into a dedicated fund after discussions with the club.

#### 10. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was tabled from "Kiwi Anglers", a group set up to advocate for "kiwi angling heritage and traditions".

It was moved;

that correspondence be received.

Cocks/Sherrard CARRIED

## 11. CHIEF EXECUTIVES BI MONTHLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Discussion took place on whether joint operations between F&G rangers and the NZ Police had been worthwhile. Mr Wilson stated that there had been joint operations in the

past with mixed results, but that the police were rarely available to assist unless given considerable forward notice.

Councillor Williamson enquired why staff had asked hunters whether they would support an extension to the dabbling duck season as surely the answer was obvious. Mr Dyer replied that the replies were informative in that hunters were generally only supportive of an increase in season length if bird numbers were high and increasing. Hunters appeared to be much more aware than in previous surveys of the relationship between season length and the dappling duck population

Ms Sintenie provided an update on the Healthy Rivers Plan Change. She informed that a meeting would soon be held of the expert witnesses, all of whom were expected to give independent advice. The purpose of the meeting was to determine what evidence all parties agreed to and where the areas of disagreement lay.

Councillor Moore left the meeting at 1.50pm.

Ms Sintenie left the meeting at 1.55pm.

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the Ward Ranch legal proceedings.

It was moved;

that the Chief Executive's bi monthly report and financial statements be accepted.

Smith/Cocks CARRIED

#### 12. GAME SEASON REMIT FROM WAIPA DISTRICT COUNCIL:

A remit was tabled from the Waipa District Council that "gamebird hunting is restricted to current fixed stands on Lake Cameron and Mangakaware for the duration of the dabbling duck season".

The staff report was supportive of the remit as it was seen as a good mechanism to deal with ensuring public safety and reducing the potential for conflict with surrounding landowners. Mr Wilson emphasised that the remit needed to be considered immediately rather than postponed to 2019, when all gamebird regulations in the region would be under review.

It was moved;

that gamebird hunting is restricted to current fixed stands on Lake Cameron and Mangakaware for the duration of the dabbling duck season.

Cocks/Annan CARRIED

#### 13. 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE:

The proposed 2019 Meeting Schedule was considered by Council.

#### It was moved;

#### that the 2019 meeting schedule be set as follows:

16 February 2019

6 April 2019

15 June 2019

17 August 2019

12 October 2019

14 December 2019

Smith/Avery CARRIED

#### 14. OSH REPORT:

Mr Wilson stated that there had been no OSH incidents or staff meetings since the previous Council meeting.

#### 15. GENERAL BUSINESS:

The NZ Council had advised that the pre-season magazines in 2019 will be produced by a new publisher. The new arrangement has meant some cost savings and consequently there will be up to four pages available for each regional supplement at no cost to the regions. However, current Auckland/Waikato policy states that council staff can only contribute to a two-page supplement. Mr Wilson recommended that this policy be revoked or amended.

It was moved:

that Standing Orders be suspended.

Sherrard/Smith CARRIED

It was moved;

that Council's policy on pre-season supplement be revoked.

Smith/Juby CARRIED

It was moved;

that Standing Orders be resumed.

Sherrard/Annan CARRIED

Councillor Annan spoke on his concerns for the rainbow trout fishery in Lake Arapuni. In previous years rainbow trout had dominated angler catches contributing about 95% of the trout caught by anglers. But in the last two years, the composition of angler catches had rapidly changed, and browns were now the most common trout caught.

Councillor Williamson congratulated staff on taking a pre-emptive role regarding potential botulism outbreaks in waste water treatment plants. Mr Dyer replied that staff

had been actively advocating for waste water treatment plants to have and use botulism managements plans.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.55pm.



# AGENDA ITEM 5

27 November 2019

Murray Young
Chairperson
Auckland/Waikato Region
Fish and Game NZ
156 Brymer Road
RD 9
HAMILTON 3289

#### Dear Murray

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2018 about the performance of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. Unfortunately, your letter arrived too late to be included in the November agenda papers that went out on Thursday 15 November. However, I did raise the matter contained in your letter at our meeting.

The NZ Council operates to the highest standards it can achieve in promoting good governance and applying correct processes as defined in its standing orders. The recent performance and decisions made by the NZ Council cannot in our view be questioned.

Your council's concerns over the use of public excluded practices at meetings overlooks the sensitivity and professional contribution associated with matters being discussed. Disclosure of this information would jeopardise the relationship with the people involved. It would also prevent the Council from discussing legal advice. As set out in the NZ Council minutes, these matters treated under public excluded includes political insights or commentary, legal advice and information associated with audits of Fish and Game Council activities and matters requiring privacy of natural persons. The conduct of public excluded sessions follows the practice set down in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to which Part 7 applies to all Fish and Game Councils.

Your letter raises two other points to do with communicating NZ Council decisions and dates to determine regional budgets and licence fees.

Communicating decisions made at our meetings is something I like to think we do as well or better than most Fish and Game Councils. Our minutes are copied to all elected Fish and Game Councillors, sent to all regional managers and of course arrived at with each Council's appointee present and participating in the decision.

You will note as a result of discussion at the NZ Council November meeting that further consideration has been made about processes to determine regional budgets and licence fees. It is a very small window of opportunity between all Councils revealing its wishes, ranking these against other demands in the organisation and arriving at a recommendation to consult on and submit to the Minister of Conservation as new licence fees. An approved licence fee is necessary to conclude preparation for our new financial year commencing 1 September. It is also necessary in setting the sports fish licences, fees and forms notice 28 days before 1 October. Working back from these set

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

dates, the need to consult with Fish and Game Councils, with Department of Conservation officials and the Minister of Conservation requires some two months, making a decision by NZ Council required by late May or early June. Hence the effort to arrive at draft budget decisions by February/March to be discussed by managers and NZ Council in April at the latest.

The NZ Council at its November 2019 meeting agreed the 5th April should be the new meeting date and this would require papers on contestable funding bids to be submitted by 22 March.

The NZ Council agreed having managers rank contestable bids was useful. It was noted that final decisions on contestable funding bids and Fish and Game council budgets was the responsibility of the NZ Council.

Kindest regards

**Lindsay Lyons** 

Chairperson

#### **Bi Monthly Managers Report**

#### Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Meeting February 2019

<u>Tom O'Connor</u> A former councillor with the Auckland Acclimatisation Society, Tom O'Connor was awarded a New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year's Honours List for services to seniors, local government and journalism. Media reports noted his time spent as an acclimatisation society and F&G councillor.

Adam Daniel became a NZ citizen in November.

#### **OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

#### **Project 1111 Drift Diving**

Adam recruited new drift divers for the summer drift dives as Anna and Mischa will be unavailable. As noted in the OSH report, the new recruits were given a full OSH briefing and taken on "beginner" dives first.

#### Project 1112 Banding

A new banding site at Aka Aka is being trialled this year courtesy of Mr Stuart Muir of Muir's Rd.

The Wellsford site, which was due to be obliterated by the new northern motorway extension, has got a 5-year reprieve due to the current Labour-led government delaying this project. We have had problems with turkeys there in the past. The new lease-holder of the farm wants them all gone and a number have already "bit the dirt". So fingers crossed this year for a better catch without any competition from other wildlife.

After initial reservations about the number of ducks at the Hauraki Plains banding site, we ended up with a record single day catch of 1083. The numbers swelled in the last 5 days and went from eating 2 bags of grain a night to 8 bags the day before banding. A prolonged dry spell came just at the right time for the birds to start focusing on the grain as the temporary wetlands that had been filled prior to Christmas began to dry out. It was an outstanding effort by the team of volunteers on sweltering hot day, especially all the kids who were in the cages catching the ducks for us. We always send a certificate to all the junior helpers as a token of our appreciation. This year David has also approached Andy Tannock from Hunting and Fishing who sponsor the 5 free jackets to use in our random draw for hunters returning bands. Andy is going to see if they have any suitable items in stock which we may be able to send out to the kids along with the certificates. It was particularly noticeable this year that we caught a lot of pre-moult Adult females compared to previous years at the same site. We would normally expect most of our adult birds to be at moult sites on the lower Piako River. This may have something to do with the apparent extended breeding season we have witnessed this summer, with plenty of young < 1 week old broods still being encountered during the Christmas and New Year period. We are getting mixed reports from other sites. It appears that those near large wetlands which have unseasonable amounts of water in them might struggle to attract large numbers this year.

**Grey Teal:** Staff had some internal discussion about modifying banding cages and doing a trial to catch and band grey teal as there are reportedly a large number at one of the banding sites. John is going to try and catch them. He has collected years of grey teal banding data from his region, but this has never been used for any form of analysis.

#### **Project 1116 Trend Counts**

The King Country paradise shelduck trend count is in. The threshold for a special season is 6,000 birds trend counted, (ie. it is not a total count). After ground-truthing the initial estimate, the total number counted was 5,602 shelduck. It is likely that the 7 week long main season, (May-June), for parries there is enough to keep them from becoming a problem for some farmers. Hunters there are much more familiar now with how and where to hunt this species and have better equipment now, for instance, life-like 3-D decoys to replace crude plywood silhouettes.

#### **Project 1117 Gamebird Research**

David has been working with Katie Gibb and her supervisors to prepare two manuscripts for publication and met with Jenn Sheppard to discuss progress with the duckling survival project. Digitization is taking a bit longer than expected but otherwise everything is going well.

Fish & Game staff have been helping Ian Southey with waterfowl counts around Hoods Landing, Waikato River, with a view to comparing these spring-time counts with historic Wildlife Service counts of duck broods there.

Fish & Game's northern field officer has also been helping an Auckland University PhD student, Aileen Sweeney, with trapping and banding pukekos at Ambury Park, Mangere. To get their DoC qualification as banders we have plenty of ducks for university students, zoo staff and others to practise on and their help is very much appreciated.

Wildlife managers in the US have experimented with clear-plastic sky-lights to discourage starlings from nest boxes. Starlings interfere with ducks trying to nest and also they carry poultry fleas and bird mites that can impact on duckling survival. A NZ researcher looking into bird mite use of dedicated starling boxes said the simplest way to tell if these were present was for the researcher to put their hand in the box for a few moments, and if it came out covered in crawling things, it had mites. They also left annoyingly itchy flea-like bites on the researchers arms, etc so presumably they annoy the ducks as well. Bird mites also leave grey bands of eggs on the box walls that are visible when nesting material is removed. These eggs can be killed by applying quaternary ammonia solutions. Now the interesting thing is, this does not happen in our duck nesting boxes. It turns out, it is mostly only myna birds that use these boxes in late summer, rather than the starlings that were so problematic in the US. Mynas don't seem to have these same parasite loads. Myna birds also do not mind sky-lights being present in the nest box lid, so this option to discourage them does not look promising. However Steve Loveridge of Holdfast, Hamilton, who makes suitable glues for these skylights has been extremely helpful and does similar work for DoC. Also PSP of Hamilton who make clear plastic roofing have been very supportive.



Photo. Myna bird photographed inside nest box by game camera.

#### **Project 1115 Population Surveys**

Adam collated the data for fish conditions from the Lake Arapuni competition to compare with water quality data for the Healthy Rivers plan change.

#### **Project 1161 Fish Releases**

Ten large tagged rainbow trout were released into Lake Moananui for the fishing competition run by the Tokoroa club.

#### **Project 1181 Control**

**Permits to cull/disturb:** We've been granted an authorisation from DOC to issue permits to cull/disturb gamebirds out of season and to delegate such authorities until 27<sup>th</sup> December 2027. Thanks to Robert Sowman for organising this.

#### **OUTPUT 2 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT**

#### Project 1211 R.M.A.

**Waikato District Plan review Ongoing:** The Waikato District Plan is in the process of being reviewed. Auckland Waikato Fish and Game made a submission on the Proposed Plan on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Waikato District Council are currently in the process of summarising the submissions and anticipate notifying for further submissions in the early part of 2019 with hearings being held in the second part of 2019.

#### Auckland/Waikato Sports Fish and Game Management Plan review: The

Auckland/Waikato Sports Fish and Game Management Plan, which provides a framework for the management of Auckland/Waikato's sports fish and game bird resources, is expiring in 2020. The plan is both strategic, in outlining issues and providing long term organisational outcomes, and operational in outlining management objectives and policies. The plan is required to be reviewed ten years from the date of its approval by the Minister of Conservation unless it requires amendment sooner. Plan reviews are provided for under Section 17M of the Conservation Act 1987 and will involve notifying the draft plan for submissions from the public, electing a sub-committee made up of councillors and staff to

hold a hearing to hear the submissions on the draft plan, the sub-committee reporting back to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council who will decide on the plan's approval, and finally forwarding the plan to the Minister of Conservation's office for final approval. We have begun drafting a new management plan and hope to have a draft ready for notification in the first part of 2019.

Whangamarino Weir Section 128 Review: A further meeting is planned with DOC and ICM on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February to discuss the weir and future wetland management options. Further technical work has been conducted which will be discussed at the meeting. It does appear that there are some relatively straight forward options that could be implemented using existing flood infrastructure that would alleviate issues around flood storage providing everyone is willing to work together to find a mutually beneficial solution.

Meremere Cleanfill site: We had another meeting with the consultants for the proposed cleanfill site adjacent to our North Shepherd Wetland. One issue is that by bunding off the site, the capacity of the Whangamarino Wetland for flood storage will be slightly reduced.

Open Country Dairy: David received the draft application and had a meeting just prior to Christmas with the applicants and local Iwi representatives. OCD plan to make some major upgrades to the treatment system which will lead to substantive improvements to total loads being discharged to the Waitoa River and downstream environments. The main concerns we have is that the applicants are now planning a year-round discharge to water (currently summer discharge is going to land) This could lead to some potentially significant increases of toxicants under summer low flow conditions. We have asked OCD to further evaluate the feasibility of discharging to land during dry summer conditions when the river is most susceptible to increased concentrations of toxicants. The major impediment appears to be reticence from local landowners to allow further discharge on their properties, due to the increased attention their farms receive during compliance checks for the discharge. The other issue is the current lack of certainty when upgrades will occur as there will be an increase in some contaminants until the next upgrade is completed. It has been suggested that OCD can either instate dates into the consents by which time upgrades need to be completed and in the interim an offsetting package can be developed to cancel out the increased loads which can cease once the upgrades are complete.

**Martha Mine:** Both Anna and Adam gave evidence regarding our concerns over the proposed abstraction of water from the Ohinemuri River to fill the Martha Mine pit. Our concerns were completely ignored by the hearing panel as we were essentially arguing for native fish habitat.

**Healthy Rivers:** Work continues on the Healthy River plan change including reviewing all of the environmental bands that the council plans to have as their minimum standards for rivers.

Waste Water Treatment Plant resource consents: The losses to botulism at Waste Water Treatment Plants can amount to just a few over summer, or to hundreds of birds per site, sometimes a thousand or more. It was particularly galling therefore to see the applications for resource consents for these same sites simply ignore this huge problem and only address the "receiving environment". In other words, ignoring all the birds present and only looking at the distant discharge points into rivers, harbours etc. Botulism was never mentioned. Botulism Management Plans are in place for some sites and those birds that can be recovered

get treatment, for instance, at Mangere and North Shore. However in other sites, every bird, be they a gamebird, endangered species or fully protected native is at risk of being euthanised if they get sick, (at one site for instance, the then healthy birds present included; 6 royal spoonbills, 36 dabchicks, 95 shoveler and 480 Canada geese). Sick birds all get euthanised regardless of their potential to be treated and survive. This is particularly galling as in one case the Bird Rescue worker lives only minutes away. This is something that we will need to review with the various authorities that are involved.

#### Project 1221 Council Land

**North Emmett Wetland.** Staff investigated "vetiver", a plant that has extensive root systems, for use to stabilize the Mangatawhiri River bank. However the regional council is still evaluating this plant for local use. The matsudana poles planted upstream on the Dean Wetland have done an excellent job of binding the bank there from slipping and so it was decided to go with these instead. This was also the on-site recommendation by a regional council advisor who specialises in riparian protection. They're scheduled for the next poleplanting season and the work is being sponsored besides.

A car has been abandoned, (some time ago) in the Mangatawhiri River and is now resting against the Pioneer Road bridge. This is blocking the channel, especially in low-flow months. The regional council has been asked to remove this, one of 5 they have in similar circumstances. The Health and Safety precautions mean there needs to be pre, during and post removal meetings to get this one car out!

There have been 3 other cars abandoned in this same area, beside our property and within the metal dump by the Pioneer Rd bridge. Police have yellow stickered these and the Waikato District Council has also been made well aware of them. However simply removing them is made complicated by the fact their WoF and Rego's are still current, so the last owners have by law to be contacted by police – though they're proving elusive, (evasive?). If the district council removes these cars, they need to be stored at some considerable expense. However while these cars are present, they attract other fly-tippers and the rubbish builds up. Typically every panel and glass pain of these cars is vandalised, the car stripped of any parts and then they're eventually set fire to. The last vehicle burnt then set alight the dead gorse F&G had sprayed and also threatened the wooden power line poles and adjacent pine plantation adjoining this. It seems that it will need a law change to allow the authorities to better deal with these situations where cars with an existing WoF and Reg are simply abandoned.

The Regional Council have also been warned about the large number of tyres simply abandoned alongside their Whangamarino Flood Management Scheme asset; the Oram Rd radial arms. Usually when such tyres turn up in large numbers, an impromptu Guy Fawkes is not far away.



Volkswagen Polo abandoned off Pioneer Road

The North Emmett Wetland was planted by Kauri Park Nurseries with some 8 thousand native plants. However 5 fat lambs from the adjoining lifestyle block have utilized gaps under the boundary fence to come and go as they please – and they're getting fatter on these plants! This was pointed out earlier with a suggestion to get someone in to address this before it became a problem. With Christmas holidays behind us, it seems to be getting some attention now.

**North & Central Shepherd Wetlands:** Yellow Flag in this wetland had a good hold but has just received 600-litres of spray from F&G staff along all the internal tracks. Alligator weed is also present in 2 locations and is also being addressed. We'll need to follow these plants up in future working bees.

**Dean Wetland:** Brown teal are being found in dribs and drabs as they and their progeny fan out from DoC release sites. The most recent sighting was a bird in the Dean Wetland. Hunters need to brush up on their duck ID skills to make sure these Fully Protected Species continue to spread. Scaup, (NZ's only diving duck), are also increasing and can be found now in packs of dozens in several places they were absent only a few years ago, for instance in Self's Lagoon, (Mangere), and also off Rangiunu Road, (Kaiwka). They are also found at Tupare, (South Head), Straka's Lagoon, (Wairewa), Seaview, (Tapora), Western Springs, (Auckland City), and in the hydro lakes such as Karapiro.

#### Project 1231 Non Council Land

**Lake Whangape:** Recently John Dyer noted many hectares of thick alligator weed under the willows in one area had escaped being sprayed and notified the Regional Council.

**Funding Applications:** David conducted 2 further site visits with landowners in December and is in the process of working on funding applications for up to 9 projects on both private and public land. Most of these will seek at least partial funding from WCEET and will also look to target the GBHT and local mitigation funds which F&G established through our role in the statutory planning process.

**Comprehensive Catchment Consents:** A meeting has been called for with key players in ICMs middle management to discuss better approaches to land drainage management. Adam and David spend considerable time and effort giving feedback on proposed annual works programmes and this is often the same year after year. We would like to see the following;

- More iterative criteria for conducting the works in the first place. i.e. ensuring the work is required and will achieve some tangible drainage relief.
- Looking at catchments more holistically and long term. Currently issues are addressed on an annual basis, essentially its ambulance at the bottom of the cliff as and where issues are identified in streams/drains. Rather than looking at some gravel build up and saying we need to remove it, we would like the council to ask "why is the gravel build up occurring and what is our long-term plan to mitigate this issue".

**Whanganui River:** Adam collected samples from Whanganui tributaries, but the stream gauges installed in October had to be removed as the Uni needed them for another project.

**Kaniwhaniwha Stream:** Adam investigated a reported fish kill on the Kaniwhaniwha. No dead fish were spotted and likely had been washed away as there were several healthy fish locating in the area the fish kill was reported.

#### **OUTPUT 3 PARTICIPATION**

#### **Project 1311 Access Negotiation**

**Walking Access Commission:** I attended a workshop in Hamilton over the future of the Walking Access Commission and whether it's mandate can be improved.

**Hamilton Lake:** Adam visited the lake to look at the issues with the fishing jetty and contact the council for a 4<sup>th</sup> time with no response to date.

Landcorp Farms (Pāmu Farms): Adam talked to Landcorp staff about helping with restoration projects on farms adjacent to the Whakapapa River.

New access information was uploaded for the website on the hydro lakes.

#### Project 1331 Magazine

**Game supplement:** The Auckland/Waikato supplement for the 2019 game magazine has been drafted.

#### **Project 1341 Other Publications**

Adam continues to produce the reel life blog.

#### **OUTPUT 4 PUBLIC INTERFACE**

#### Project 1431 Liaison advocacy

**Treatment Wetlands:** David attended the end of drain treatment wetland day put on by Landcare research. He is working with one of the researchers who gave a presentation to implement some of the protocols in upcoming wetland projects.

#### **OUTPUT 5 LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### Project 1511 Ranging

Adam has been ranging on his water sampling trips and gave a citation to an angler with no licence in Huntly.

B. Wilson, Chief Executive