

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME NEWSBRIEF

If you require further elaboration or clarification of items contained herein, or any other matters relating to F&G business, please don't hesitate to contact your local councillor or the office.

Matters arising from the Council Meeting of 26 July 2025

Prosecution update – The Chair asked for an update on prosecutions. The C.E. replied that staff were making good progress towards internalizing costs associated with the majority of compliance cases in the region. Diversion payments go to 3rd party:

- Fishing related offences – Kaitiakitanga Charitable Trust
- Game related offences – Waikato RiverCare

Swan activity/Auckland Airport – The Chair requested an update regarding the activity around Auckland Airport. The CE advised that staff had prepared reports, but the Airport Authority had expressed concerns about releasing the information publicly. A further site meeting had been proposed.

Island Block Road Pump Station - Councillor Cocks requested further information regarding the proposal, specifically seeking clarification on the potential hydrological and ecological effects. Additional information has been requested.

Korokanui School Maimai building Competition – Councillor Dickey commended staff for their attendance at, and promotion of, the maimai building competition held at the local school. Staff are already planning to seek additional sponsorship for next year's competition.

Kids Fishing event Lake Rotoroa(Hamilton Lake) – The Chair commended staff for hosting the recent kids' fishing event at Hamilton Lake. Dr Daniel noted that while attendance was high, with around 100 children participating, the catch rate was low, with only three fish landed. The Chief Executive (CE) explained that staff are still searching for a more suitable location for future kids' fishing events.

Ranging - Councillor Barker questioned who had access to our ranging plans prior to the season, noting that some details about our intended locations had been publicly disseminated. The Chief Executive responded that only honorary rangers and Department of Conservation (DOC) staff involved in the planning process would have had that information.

Mapping Presentation - Mr Jarvis-Child presented to Council on the work he has been undertaking to improve access and regulation information for licence holders, aligning with Council's strategic priorities. He has developed a highly functional system by creating shapefiles for all the Auckland Waikato fisheries.

Drift Dive and Spawning and Stocking Recommendations Report - Dr Daniels reports were discussed by Council, Dr Daniel explained the rationale for the recommendation to cease stocking into waterways where natural spawning is occurring, due to the potential deleterious effects on natural recruitment.

OSH Report - Councillor Juby asked whether tailgate forms were still being used by staff. The CE confirmed that they are but were not uploaded to Sharepoint in time of meeting. These reports should be replaced with Track Me in the near future.

Matters Arising from the Chief Executive's Report

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Population surveys

Lake Arapuni Spawning Survey – The first Lake Arapuni spawning survey of the year was conducted in conjunction with the opening day gamebird ranging in May. The second survey conducted 17 June 2025 documented significant rainbow and brown trout spawning with hatchery released fish spotted in two locations.

Fish harvest survey

Sterile fish report - Seven tagged trout were reported in May and June. All fish were in good condition (mean 1.34 Kg) and smelt were reported to be abundant in the lake during late summer. The sterile fish report will be completed in July or August.

Trout Releases

Dune Lake and Quarry Lake releases - Both Parkinson's and Wahtihua Lakes were stocked with 200 2-year-old trout in May. An additional 200 2-year-old trout were released in Quarry Lake for the July school holidays.

Regulations

2025 regulation changes - The regulation changes have been submitted for approval by the Minister with the staff report, February council minutes, and an explanation of how the changes improve angler opportunity.

HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant consent renewal – The Paeroa WWTP is currently operating under a short-term consent, due to expire in December 2026. A long-term consent application is expected to be lodged for the upgraded plant, which is anticipated to be operational by mid-2026.

Council Land

Whangamarino Working Group - Dani has been continuing to attend the Whangamarino Working Group meetings and workshops. Key priorities from a recent technical workshop showed naturalising the hydrological regime was in agreement with most parties present as being the highest priority.

Non-Council Land

WCEET - WCEET funding of \$60,000 was secured for a project with Dave Dean – Pine Haven. The project will retire, fence and plant out a stream with several ponds running through his drystock property, along with creating a couple of new ponds along the waterbody.

GBHT application - Dani is applying for GBHT funding for a small wetland project in Naike, west of Whangape.

Waihou Project - Councillor Juby and Dani have been coordinating on a small planting project on the Waihou River conjunction with the landowner and the Hamilton Anglers club.

PARTICIPATION

Access Negotiation

Mapping system – Beau has continued to explore options for improving our current mapping system. The hope here is to establish a mapping system that encompasses the whole of New Zealand, is easy to update, and includes data on fishing regulations, access points, and public access layers (like WAMS).

Magazine

Magazine - Adam completed the A/W fishing magazine with editing from Beau and David. Adam also contributed to catch and release national article.

User group

Auckland Fly Fishing Anglers Club talk - Adam gave a talk on catch and release fishing to the Auckland Fly Fishing Anglers Club 12 May 2025.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ranging

Ranging effort - We had 6 teams out over the opening weekend. The two primary teams consisted of senior staff paired up with new field officers. The 4 other teams involved experienced honorary rangers that conducted activities mostly on public land. It was pleasing that everyone we checked had a Fish and Game hunting licence.

Summary Table

Shooting Protected Wildlife	2
Lead Shot	9
Hunting Over Fed Ponds	5
Unplugged Guns	7
Offence notices issued	18
Guns Seized	17
Total Hunters Checked	202

Staff did further ranging throughout the game season with sporadic contacts and high compliance rates.

Legal

Prosecutions update - Clare is currently progressing through a number of prosecutions. Several cases have been offered diversion, with some donations already received to support environmental restoration initiatives.

PLANNING REPORTING

National Liaison

Gold clam compliance – Adam has participated in the initial compliance group meeting for gold clam to prevent the clam from being spread to other regions. MPI are severely limited by funding but have agreed to develop a plan to improve surveillance and compliance.