



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

16 October 2025

AGENDA

The 217th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: **Thursday, 16 October 2025**

Commences: **11.00 AM**

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1 Welcome (11AM)	
2 Apologies	(R)
3 Election of Officers (11.10 AM, 15 min)	(R) 2
4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (7 August 2025) (11.25AM,10min)	(R) 3
4.1 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
4.2 Matters arising from the meeting of 7 August 2025	
5 Notification of Items for General Business	
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7 Health and Safety Report (11.40 AM, 10 min)	(R) 15
8 2025-26 Operational Work Plan – Revised Budget (11.50AM 10min)	(R) 17
9 Councillor Numbers and By Election (12PM, 10min)	(R) 19
10 Waikaremoana Sport Fish Habitat En Fund (12.10PM 10min)	(I) 21
11 Consolidated Annual Reports (12.20 PM, 10 min)	(I/D) 23
12 Infringement Notice (12.30PM, 10min)	(I/D) 29
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14 2024-2025 Draft Performance Report (1.45PM 10min)	(R) 40
15 Operational Reports (1.55PM, 20 min)	
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16 Liaison Officers Reports (2.15PM, 10 min)	(I) 72
17 Public Excluded (2.25PM, 40min)	(R) 73
Meeting Closes (3.05PM)	

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

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ref: 7.02.01

25 September 2025

1. Purpose

To reconfirm or elect a Chair for the Eastern Fish and Game Council, to elect an appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and reconfirm or elect other Eastern Fish and Game Council officers and appointments for the coming year.

2. Background

Each year the Eastern Fish and Game Council elects or reconfirms its appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in accordance with the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990 which state the following:

26 Appointment of members of New Zealand Fish and Game Council

- (1) The first meeting of each newly elected Fish and Game Council shall be held not later than 3 weeks after the date the members came into office.*
- (2) At the first meeting of the Council members shall appoint one of their number to be a member of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.*
- (3) The appointment shall be by majority vote of the Council.*
- (4) Members of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall remain in office as long as they remain members of the appointing Fish and Game Council, except that where a majority of the members of the appointing Fish and Game Council pass a resolution that a vote be taken on a new appointment prior to expiry of the term, then a vote shall be taken and the successor shall serve out the remaining period of the term.*

The other positions requiring consideration are that of Chair, Deputy Chair, and the appointment of the staff member as trustee representing Council's interests on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET). Current appointees to these roles are as follows:

- Chair – Cr Mark Sceats
- Deputy Chair – Cr Kevin Coutts
- Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET) trustee – Matthew McDougall

The Eastern Fish and Game Council also appoints an Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee. This has specific Terms of Reference dealing with the compilation of information for the annual Chief Executives performance review, and also serves as an initial point of contact for the Chief Executive in the event of issues arising that need to be addressed urgently or in between scheduled meetings of Council.

The objectives of the Waikato (WCEET) trust are detailed in an attachment to this item. Matt's role on the WCEET remains largely technical and involved with the evaluation of funding applications and acting as project manager and advisor for a number of projects. The members of the WCEET are mostly staff from agencies including Fish & Game, DOC, territorial authorities, and Mercury Energy.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council elects a New Zealand Council appointee along with members of Council to fill above roles and confirms the ongoing appointment of Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust.



Taking steps to improve our ecological heritage

Trust Purpose

The Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust was established for the following charitable purposes:

- To foster and enhance the sustainable management of the ecological resources in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To mitigate adverse effects of the operation of the Hydro Scheme on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity, the sports fishery and game bird populations in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments through appropriate and sustainable species and habitat management by:
 1. identifying important habitats and/or species;
 2. identifying risks and threats to those identified habitats and/or species;
 3. identifying most practicable means to ameliorate or resolve risks and threats to habitats and species in the catchment;
 4. identifying practical means to enhance important habitats and/or species;
 5. establishing an enduring and beneficial working partnership between Mighty River Power and the Trust.

Trust Objectives

Objectives of the trust are:

1. Enhancement of wetland values in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
2. Enhancement of indigenous biodiversity in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
3. Enhancement of the sports fishery and game bird population in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.

Mitigation of any adverse effects of the operation of the Waikato Hydro System on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 216th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2025 AT 11 AM.**

Present

Crs. Mark Sceats, Alec McIver, Lindsay Lyons, Scott, Nicol, Pat Swift, Kevin Coutts, and Murray Ferris (arrived 11.36am).

In attendance

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall (present item 9 only), Eastern Fish & Game; Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Cr Mark Sceats opened the meeting at 11.00 am welcoming all present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Mike Jarvie.

2.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the apologies for the 216th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [25/08/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (29 MAY 2025)

3.1 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Pat Swift) that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [25/08/3.1]*

3.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy from the minutes of the meeting held 29 May 2025.

3.3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 29 May 2025.

4.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Pat Swift – Forms for recording fish

Cr Mark Sceats – Okataina update

Cr Kevin Coutts – Councillor numbers

5.0 RATIFICATION OF CHANGE OF BUDGET RE-SUBMISSION TO NZC

5.1 Arash Alaeinia explained to Council that the decision made via email communications for resubmission of the amended business case for a Compliance Officer needed to be formally resolved in the minutes of this meeting. Arash confirmed Cr Scott Nicol's understanding that the resubmitted case had since been declined.

5.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Alec McIver) that Council supports the resubmission of an amended business case for a part time Compliance Officer, which originally was submitted as a full time Officer and declined by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, on the basis that the proposal would be funded by regional reserves for a two year fixed term contract at \$84,417 for the two years. [25/08/5.2]*

6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

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

7.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

7.1 Arash Alaeinia had no further update to the Health and Safety report.

7.2 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [25/08/7.2]***

8.0 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

8.1 Arash Alaeinia spoke to the letter received from the Minister which advised that there would be no adjustment to licence fees for the 2025-26 year. He said the result of this was that the proposed final budget for the Eastern Region was currently unknown pending the New Zealand Council providing further information. Kate Thompson updated Council on the minimum draw on reserves resulting from no licence fee increase and with the assumption that the current budget was approved. Council questioned whether they could approve the OWP/Budget at this time? Arash Alaeinia suggested Council could approve the budget as submitted, but final approval with proposed draw on reserves could not be completed until further advice was given by the New Zealand Council.

8.2 Council discussion continued covering following points;

- Marketing and R3
- Juniors not taking up outdoor activities
- Other organisations also experiencing a decline in juniors
- In-depth review needed for operating costs and OWP projects
- Use of reserves

8.3 On conclusion of discussions Arash Alaeinia suggested that he add an item to the December Council meeting agenda to commence review of the 2026-27 Operation Work Plan, earlier than the scheduled timeline of February 2026.

8.4 ***Agreed (Scott Nicol/Alec McIver) that Council approves the proposed Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2025-2026 year. [25/08/8.4]***

8.5 ***Agreed (Scott Nicol/Alec McIver) that Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget. [25/08/8.5]***

9.0 NATIONAL POLICIES TO BE ADOPTED

9.1 Arash Alaeinia advised the proposed National Policies had been reviewed by this Council and feedback provided to the New Zealand Council as detailed. He said that these had since been updated and adopted by the New Zealand Council and that the Eastern Fish and Game Council now needs to formally adopt them.

9.2 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Council adopts the following National Policies as Eastern Fish and Game Council Polices:***

- ***Performance Management Policy***
- ***REM Policy***
- ***Conflict of Interest Policy***
- ***Code of Conduct Policy***
- ***Prevention of Bullying and Harassment Policy***
- ***Drug and Alcohol Policy***
- ***Governance Code of Conduct Policy [25/08/9.2]***

10.0 Mark Sceats suggested to Council that with the next agenda item being an in-depth discussion, Council could bring the discussion on Operational Reports forward prior to Council adjourning for lunch. Council supported this suggestion.

11.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Finance Report

11.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried the purchase of chemicals for reserves work and asked if this was funded by the Ballot Holder Habitat Contribution fee? Kate Thompson advised that this purchase was funded by the Reserves budget and that the Ballot Holder Habitat Contribution fee was unlikely to be utilised this year. This was due to the RMA reform limiting work in wetlands currently and contributions from external organisations. The Ballot holder contribution would be held in a reserve, and this would enable more significant works to be carried out.

11.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Lindsay Lyons) that Council receives the finance report and approves the payments for April, May, and June 2025 totalling \$509,624.30. [25/08/11.2]*

Management Report

11.3 Arash Alaeinia provided a brief update to Council, acknowledging the Regional Council's assistance with clearance of fallen trees held up in the Ngongotaha fish trap. Cr Scott Nicol queried whether the Online Angler Diary was undertaken by all regions as he thought it was a great way of obtaining data from anglers, more specifically would be great to have an app for this. Kate Thompson advised that currently the data is collected through Survey Monkey, and she was not sure whether other regions were doing the same but would pass his comments on to the fisheries team.

11.4 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the management report. [25/08/11.4]*

Licence Sales Report

11.5 A brief discussion occurred around licence sales and Eastern's positive results this year being more in line with the 2022/23 Season. Kate Thompson advised that nationally the Fish licence sales were up for the North Island and down for the South Island noting that last season the North Island experienced some very poor weather at the outset whereas this season the South Island had seen some significant weather events. Cr Alec McIver was aware of hunters coming from other regions for the extended Eastern season and questioned whether this contributed to Eastern's increase in Game Bird licence sales.

11.6 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the licence sales report. [25/08/11.6]*

12.0 Council adjourned the meeting at 11.58am for lunch.

13.0 EASTERN GAME BIRD REGULATION SETTING

13.1 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that this paper was in response to discussion at previous Council meetings to bring forward the Game Bird Regulation setting processes. Ultimately the resolutions at the end are to reaffirm the current threshold policy or consider a different approach to setting Game Bird Regulations. Matt McDougall was present to provide guidance and answer questions.

13.2 The discussion was significant and included the following:

- Hunter Survey: Ongoing, but opening weekend saw 6th lowest harvest in 35 years.
- Population Estimation: Uses Lincoln-Petersen/mark-recapture via banding. Marble example provided.
- Key Factors: Previous population size, harvest numbers, winter rainfall/temperature.
- Longer Season Impact: Hens face more stress, poorer feeding, lower survival and fewer/smaller eggs.

- Habitat Loss (Bay of Plenty): Land use change, reduced ephemeral water; ducks forced into drains. Reserves provide good nesting habitat, but moved to drains for food.
- South Island Contrast: Longer seasons less harmful due to lower hunter density and better nesting habitat; botulism is a bigger threat in the North Island.
- Eastern Region: High hunter density, shrinking habitat and breeding areas.
- BOP vs Gisborne: Distinct regions; Gisborne has fewer ducks but also fewer hunters. Banding sites are limited and show duck movement between sites.
- Extra Two-Week Season impact on population: Depends on breeding success; 1.9 ducklings needed per hen to offset losses—last year averaged only 0.8.
- Pheasants: Discussion on population monitoring and forest management effects.
- Sensitive Species: Shoveler, grey duck, paradise shelduck discussed.
- Hunter Effort vs Harvest: Fewer hunting hours (down 8800 per year since 1993) linked to reduced harvest (down 7300 birds per year).
- Population Decline: Greylards dropping by 7000–7500 per year over 28 years; land use change is a major factor.
- Uncertainty: Weather variability makes predictions risky - mistakes can impact future seasons.
- Season History: Pre-1980 season was only two weeks, extended for crop damage control.
- Methodology Peer Review suggested: Todd Arnold (USA) reviewed and endorsed; Auckland-Waikato also using it, other FG regions not using Eastern's methods.
- Aerial Surveys: Ineffective in mid to upper North Island due to terrain and inability to get low to ground.
- Pond Feeding: Draws local populations in, suggested review current feeding levels.

13.3 Agreed (Mark Sceats/Kevin Coutts) resolutions b,c,e,g as follows:

- b. To agree to redefine what hunter opportunity means to this Council at the October 2025 meeting.**
- c. To decide if the Councils definition of hunter opportunity is policy or a guideline at the October 2025 meeting.**
- e. To review, alternative methods of setting mallard and grey duck regulations at the October 2025 meeting.**
- g. To list alternative mallard and grey duck regulations for consideration at the October 2025 meeting. [Motion was lost 3 in favour, 4 against]**

13.4 Cr Murray Ferris highlighted that this process had been reviewed on multiple occasions during his time on Council. It was acknowledged that previous Councils were unable to identify a more effective alternative. He said that attempting to revise it may result in unnecessary use of time and resources, ultimately leading back to the current approach.

13.5 Cr Kevin Coutts queried if Council reaffirmed the use of the threshold model would that mean the extra two weeks would go? Matt McDougall advised no, it is the regulations that sit under each threshold that is the 6 weeks versus the 4 weeks, we have three levels of constraint under the threshold policy. Matt McDougall offered to look at the data to see if there are options to increase season length under the various thresholds.

13.6 Agreed (Scott Nicol/Alec McIver) resolutions b,c,d,f as follows:

- b. To agree to redefine what hunter opportunity means to this Council at the October 2025 meeting.**

- c. To decide if the Councils definition of hunter opportunity is policy or a guideline at the October 2025 meeting.*
- d. To reaffirm the use of a threshold model to set mallard and grey duck harvest regulations.*
- f. To reaffirm that the policy that applies to mallard and grey duck regulations under the respective current thresholds still applies. [25/08/13.6] Crs. Mark Sceats and Kevin Coutts wished to be recorded as opposing the motion.*

14.0 FISH AND GAME REFORM CONSULTATION

14.1 Cr Mark Sceats suggested Council focus on important points today and advised that it would be appropriate to have a special meeting to provide a more specific and detailed submission to the proposed bill once it was released.

14.2 Licence collection and revenue distribution

- Council concerned about how the New Zealand Council propose to determine allocation of funding.
- Individual Regions have varying requirements for management of the resource. Eg some resources attract a high level of use but require little management effort and some are lower use but require more intense management.

14.3 National Policy framework

- While national coordination of policy is sensible, it is important to ensure that region-specific needs are also considered in policy development. E.g. how we monitor waterfowl

14.4 Advocacy and Court Action

- Clarification is needed regarding the expected level of Ministerial involvement in decisions that may affect Fish & Game's advocacy efforts and its autonomy.
- Concern over the continued protection and integrity of existing Water Conservation Orders.
- A fundamental role of Fish & Game is to question and challenge government actions when they conflict with its core values.
- Concern that national-level decisions may override local initiatives and perspectives.
- The advocacy effectiveness of Fish & Game may be impacted by the political leanings of the government in power.
- There is concern about the influence the sectors such as farming may have on government policy, especially when it comes to freshwater management and conservation efforts.

14.5 Governance Improvements

- A formal set of qualifications and experience should be defined to guide Ministerial appointments.
- Concern that paid Ministerial appointments may create inequities within governance structures.
- The cause for making Ministerial appointments needs clarification.
- Appointees should ideally fill knowledge or experience gaps that are not currently met within the council.
- Concern about the requirement that the Chair also serve as the NZC (National Council) representative as these are two distinct roles with different responsibilities and time commitments.
- NZC representatives are currently appointed for a national perspective and are not intended to represent regional interests.
- If someone is elected Chair, they should have the choice to either take on the NZC role or not, rather than being automatic or expected.

- Current governance allows NZC representatives to be removed relatively easily, consideration should be given to increasing the stability or tenure of this role.
- 14.6 **Enhanced transparency**
- Conducting thirteen separate audits annually incurs significant costs, as the current structure—where each Council operates as an independent entity—necessitates an audit of each Council.
- 14.7 **Specialist support**
- Currently, sharing of specialist expertise across regions is limited.
 - It is important not to replicate the DOC model, where regional specialists are removed from Regions and placed in a Head Office environment. E.g. Some of our staff coordinate national functions but also contribute significantly to a variety of regional functions.
 - Removing expertise from the region risks creating an "ivory tower" structure with less operational presence on the ground.
 - National should engage specialists from Regions to provide support as needed, on a cost recovery basis.
- 14.8 **Staffing and NZC resources.**
- Discussion around significant increase in staffing in NZC office over recent years.
 - Opportunity to utilise regional expertise.
- 14.9 **Local decision making retained** – agree, no further comment.
- 14.10 **Additional comments:**
- Clarification required on the proposed change to voting in elections where it is stated that individuals who have held a Season Licence in the three years leading up to the election are eligible to vote. Does this mean holders must have maintained a Season Licence consecutively for three years, or does it include anyone who held a Season Licence at any time during those three years?
 - Concern regarding potential to prohibit the transfer of sports fish to locations where they already exist. Fish & Game are currently required to work collaboratively with iwi to achieve better outcomes through negotiation.
 - The phrase “manage, maintain and enhance... subject to ensuring aviation safety, and conservation of isolated populations of threatened native fish” is problematic. The word “ensure” implies a guarantee which is not always possible. A better wording might be “having regard to” these factors.
- 14.11 On conclusion of the discussion Cr Mark Sceats suggested that further feedback could be emailed to Arash Alaeinia to summarise pending Council's special meeting.

15.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

15.1 *Report from Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

No Report

15.2 *Report from Department of Conservation*

No Report from DOC, however Arash Alaeinia had met with the DOC Taupo team recently and briefed Council on DOC's new licensing system which meant all sales would now be online. He had also had a conversation about issues with the composting toilet at Wairua hut, on Lake Tarawera. Measures to reduce use and direct people to the DOC toilets had been unsuccessful and its overuse is yet to be resolved.

15.3 *Report from New Zealand Council*

Cr Mark Sceats advised that a summary had been distributed to Council and that he had nothing further to add.

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 *Forms for recording fish*

Cr Pat Swift queried whether our trout fishing survey forms needed to be updated for the introduction and increased use of soft baits. He felt that soft baits are a product you are using, rather than a technique as you can use them in multiple methods. He also wondered whether it might be appropriate to record the use of electric and GPS motors for future statistical use from an environmental perspective. Arash Alaeinia suggested that he would ask Matt Osborne to give him a call to discuss further. Cr Murray Ferris highlighted the level of information currently required on surveys and the difficulties encountered when interviewing multiple people using multiple methods.

16.2 *Lake Okataina update*

Cr Mark Sceats requested the latest update on Lake Okataina access. Arash Alaeinia advised that the CAN order was still in place with no end date at this time. He said the process was working well although numbers of anglers visiting the lake were down due to the increased requirements. Council further discussed the incursion on the Waikato River, MPI's measures to try to contain, and issues for the power generators on the river.

16.3 *Councillor numbers*

Cr Kevin Coutts queried Council's position regarding replacing Cr Mike Jarvie following his resignation from Council. Arash Alaeinia read excerpts from the Conservation Act and Councillor Guide for this situation and Council briefly discussed options. Cr Mark Sceats suggested this item be placed on the next meeting agenda at which time Cr Mike Jarvie's resignation will have been officially confirmed.

17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

17.1 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Scott Nicol) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 3.06pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss Council and the CE's Performance review. [25/08/17.1]*

17.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council moves out of public excluded at 3.15 pm. [25/08/17.2]*

17.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the public be readmitted to the meeting at 3.16 pm. [25/08/17.3]*

18.0 MEETING CLOSED

18.1 Cr Mark Sceats closed the meeting 3.16 pm.

.....
Mark Sceats
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the apologies for the 216th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [25/08/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (29 MAY 2025)

3.1 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Pat Swift) that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [25/08/3.1]*

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7.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

7.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [25/08/7.2]*

8.0 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

8.4 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Alec McIver) that Council approves the proposed Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2025-2026 year. [25/08/8.4]*

8.5 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Alec McIver) that Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget. [25/08/8.5]*

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9.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Council adopts the following National Policies as Eastern Fish and Game Council Polices:*

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13.0 EASTERN GAME BIRD REGULATION SETTING

13.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Kevin Coutts) resolutions b,c,e,g as follows:*

- d. *To agree to redefine what hunter opportunity means to this Council at the October 2025 meeting.*
- e. *To decide if the Councils definition of hunter opportunity is policy or a guideline at the October 2025 meeting.*
- f. *To review, alternative methods of setting mallard and grey duck regulations at the October 2025 meeting.*
- h. *To list alternative mallard and grey duck regulations for consideration at the October 2025 meeting. [Motion was lost 3 in favour, 4 against]*

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17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

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- 17.2** *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council moves out of public excluded at 3.15 pm. [25/08/17.2]*
- 17.3** *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the public be readmitted to the meeting at 3.16 pm. [25/08/17.3]*

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

23 September 2025

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

In 2016 the Eastern Fish and Game Council adopted a revised 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;
- (ii) The member’s other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;

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.

- (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.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

3 October 2025

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.

August – October 2025

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 to the office and contractors are required to sign our desk register, and our hazard register is updated as required.

Tail Gate forms completed for:

Aug 2025	Waikaremoana – Spawning trout count. Angler Creel Surveys
Aug 2025	Grounds – Clear fallen tree on walking track
Sept 2025	Tarawera – Te Wairoa fish trap removal
Sept 2025	Waikaremoana – Spawning trout count. Angler Creel Surveys
Oct 2025	Ranging -Stoney Pt – Fishing Opening Weekend
Oct 2025	Ranging -Boat Shed Bay – Fishing Opening Weekend
Oct 2025	Ranging -Otaramarae – Fishing Opening Weekend
Oct 2025	Ranging – Tarawera Whio – Fishing Opening Weekend
Oct 2025	Ranging -The Landing – Fishing Opening Weekend
Oct 2025	Ranging – Okawa Bay – Fishing Opening Weekend
Oct 2025	Tanging – Rotoiti – Kotare – Fishing Opening Weekend

2024-2025 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	2/10/2025
Number of Workplace injuries in 2024-2025 year	3
Number of Workplace injuries in 2023-2024 year	0
Number of Workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	4
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2020-2021 year	1
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	58
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	5
Total number of days since last lost work injury	890
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 26/04/23	767
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 21/3/21	245
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 19/7/20	1,053
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 31/8/17	1,363
Days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury 7/12/13	6,672

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)	
Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting and emailed to all staff:	
28 Jul 2025	Ice on roads, frost & sunstrike while driving. Closed water activity.
4 Aug 2025	Ice on roads, frost & sunstrike while driving. Closed water activity. High water levels.
11 Aug 2025	Ice, sunstrike, closed water activity particularly Utuhina. Dog bite at Council mtg.
18 Aug 2025	Ongoing compliance issues around streams.
25 Aug 2025	Ongoing compliance issues Utuhina, Mangakakahi. Discussion HPAI.
1 Sep 2025	Usual issues around streams, sunstrike.
8 Sep 2025	Ongoing compliance issues in closed waters.
15 Sep 2025	High pressure still on Ngongotaha. High winds – watch for tree issues on site.
22 Sep 2025	2 up on all ranging unless doing drive by. Increased pressure Utuhina, Waititi, Ohau Chanel. Sunstrike.
29 Sep 2025	2 up on all ranging unless doing drive by. Lots of issues closed waters.

4. Training Programme
Nil

5. H&S Incidents
Laceration to forefinger from dog at Council meeting. No further action or development.

6. Recommendation
That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

8. 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN – REVISED BUDGET

Ref: 8.02.01

12 September 2025

1. Purpose

To receive and approve the revised Operational Work Plan Budget prepared for the 2025-2026 year, and to approve additional funding from reserves for building maintenance.

2. Background

Following the Council meeting in August, the Minister for Hunting & Fishing declined the proposed licence fee increases for the 2025–2026 season. Therefore the New Zealand Council released a revised Licence Fee/Budget Schedule, applying a 2.5% increase to the 2024–2025 base budgets across all regions. This adjustment results in a net loss of \$67,562 to Fish & Game as a whole, and this is to be covered through a pro rata draw from regional reserves (Eastern’s portion \$7,172).

3. Adjustments required to Eastern’s 2025-2026 OWP/Budget as a result of reduced funding

The table below outlines the proposed budget increases approved at the August meeting, along with the adjustments required to align with the reduced funding and to provide for the building maintenance in its entirety from general reserves.

Area	Aug 25	Oct 25	Funded	Background
Insurance	\$10,800	\$7,918	L	Inflation adjustment ¹
Vehicle maintenance	\$6,400	\$6,200	L	Increased servicing costs
Rates	\$2,050	\$2,050	L	Inflation adjustment
Waterfowl monitoring	\$4,800	\$0		E/Coast aerial trend counts ²
Fish food	\$5,000	\$0		Inflation adjustment ³
Education	\$3,000	\$0		Scholarship (new budget) ⁴
Council Meetings	\$2,000	\$0		Inflation adjustment ⁵
Salaries	\$30,432	\$16,271	L	Salary adjustments ⁶
Building maintenance	\$5,000	\$32,500	GR	Admin building roof maint ⁷
Tarawera work	\$3,000	\$3,000	NR	Acoustic monitoring
Proposed Increase	\$72,482	\$68,139		
Base budget 2024-25	1,305,544	1,305,544		
Funding from Licence fee	64,482	32,639	L	2.5% on 2024-25 Budget
Base budget 2025-26	1,370,026	1,338,183		
General reserves	5,000	32,500	GR	Inc \$7,000 for maintenance
Non-Resident reserves	3,000	3,000	NR	Tarawera monitoring
Total Reserves funding	8,000	33,000		
2025-26 Total Budget	\$1,378,026	\$1,373,683		

*L - Licence fee, GR - General reserve, NR - Non-Resident reserve

Explanation of adjustments

- 1 Insurance costs have been reduced to the 2024-25 actual cost, insurance invoices for 2025-26 year have been received and are showing minor increases.
- 2 The reinstatement of the East Coast aerial trend counts have been funded by reduced spending in Reserves and Promotions.
- 3 The inflation adjustment for Fish Food is being provided for by a proposed increase to the amount being drawn down from reserves for the admin building repaint and re-screw.
- 4 The proposed budget for a student scholarship has been removed.
- 5 The inflation adjustment for Council Meetings is being provided for by a proposed increase to the amount being drawn down from reserves for the admin building repaint and re-screw.
- 6 Salary adjustments have been provided for by increasing the drawdown from reserves for building maintenance.
- 7 The amount proposed to be drawn from reserves for building maintenance has been increased to support the funding of other ongoing costs. The proposed one-off drawdown from reserves for this project has increased from \$5,000 to \$32,500, being the original approved budget of \$25,000 plus a topped up of \$7,500 following receipt of final quotes for this work. The final quotes also included repainting of the barge boards and spouting. This approach has been taken on the basis that the expense for the building maintenance is one-off and will not result in an ongoing draw on regional reserves.

4. Comparison of Resourcing for the 2025-2026 OWP and the 2024-2025 OWP

The changes to the 2025-2026 OWP versus the 2024-2025 OWP at an output class level are as below:

Output	2024-25 External Costs	2025-26 External Costs	2024-25 Hours	2025-26 Hours	Hours Change	% Change
Species	\$146,550	\$147,729	6,228	6,265	37	0.6%
Habitat	\$18,200	\$14,200	3,184	3,238	54	1.7%
Participation	\$9,600	\$9,100	1,891	1,869	-22	-1.2%
Public Interface	\$1,500	\$1,600	1,219	1,200	-19	-1.6%
Compliance	\$6,000	\$6,000	1,383	1,570	187	13.5%
Licensing	\$600	\$60	257	237	-20	-7.8%
Council	\$6,500	\$8,500	739	707	-32	-4.3%
Planning/Reporting	\$16,042	\$15,200	1,210	1,124	-86	-7.1%
TOTAL	\$204,992	\$201,889	16,111	16,210	99	0.6%

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 *That Council approves an increase to the proposed drawn down from general reserves from \$5,000 to \$32,500 for one off building maintenance expenditure.*
- 5.2 *That Council approves the revised Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2025-2026 year and accepts the proposed drawdown from general reserves of \$7,172 being the pro rata share of the national budget deficit, \$32,500 from general reserves for building maintenance, and \$3,000 from the non-resident reserve for continued acoustic monitoring on Lake Tarawera.*
- 5.3 *Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget.*

9. EASTERN COUNCILLOR NUMBERS AND BY-ELECTION DISCUSSION

Ref: 7.02.01

29 September 2025

1. Purpose

To discuss and decide on appropriate action after Councillor Mike Jarvis's resignation, accepted in September by the Minister.

2. Background

Eastern Fish and Game Council passed a motion last year to reduce its Councillor numbers from 12 down to 8 (as per recommendation from the Ministerial review carried out in 2021) for the 2024 triennial election campaign.

In August this year Councillor Mike Jarvie resigned from the Council, thus dropping the Council numbers from 8 down to 7.

Department of Conservation Governance lead Grace Xu helped draft the below process for previous F&G Council position made vacant;

The question has recently arisen, as to what the process is, to fill councillor vacancies (full voting rights) on a Fish & Game regional council. This may be as a result that a member(s), duly elected during the national elections, has resigned, regrettably passed away, or some other reason. The shortfall of regional councillors may also be because the full complement of councillors wasn't reached at the time of the national election, consequently no election for that region followed. The following process is not to be confused with co-option.

Replacement of a councillor following an extraordinary vacancy or vacancies:

1 - Per section 26ZA(5) of the Conservation Act 1987 and the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990 (regulation 24): A notice of the extraordinary vacancy or extraordinary vacancies that occurred is published in all the major daily newspapers in the Fish and Game region.

2 - That notice informs those licence holders eligible to vote (and the public generally) of the vacancy or vacancies and that an election will only be called if requested by a majority of the eligible voters.

3 - If after a suitable time period to enable the eligible voters the opportunity to provide feedback, there is a majority of eligible voters that request an election (covered by Section 26ZA(5)(a) of the Conservation Act 1987) then a by-election is to be held.

4 - Election is held in accordance with the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990.

5 - The result is declared by the Returning Officer, and the vacancies are filled with Councillors who have full rights as elected Councillors.

6 - Provide evidence to the NZ Council that all required processes were followed with the election of the councillors as per the New Zealand Council's function (section 26C(1)(d) of Conservation Act)

However, if there is not a majority of eligible voters who provide feedback to the notice in Step 2 above.

(The council may then appoint members by the provisions of 26ZA(5)(b) of the Conservation Act 1987 by)

3 - The Fish and Game Council gives public notice (2nd public notice) of its intention to fill the vacancy/vacancies identified in the earlier public notice in all the major daily newspapers in its region and names the prospective members.

4 - Following a suitable time period for feedback from eligible voters on the proposed appointed members, the council votes at a meeting to appoint the said person/s. As appointed, these Councillors have full voting rights – just as if they had been elected as Councillors through a three-yearly main election or a by-election.

5 - Provide evidence to the NZ Council that all required processes were followed with the appointment of the Councillors as per the New Zealand Council's function (section 26C(1)(d) of Conservation Act)

3. Recommendation

Council options are:

1. **Instruct CEO to follow the process outlined above;**
 - a) **If a majority wishing for an election is received, CEO to start this process.**
 - b) **If not, Council to put forward names of possible suitable people, for Council to discuss and consider.**
2. **Continue with 7 Councillors and co-opt a suitable person as needed.**

10. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

26 September 2025

1. Purpose

To provide an end of year summary of expenditure of funds from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund during the 2024-2025 year.

2. Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

The table below shows expenditure on projects and work areas since 2001. The items highlighted in yellow are projects undertaken/expenses incurred in 2024-2025.

Work Area	Amount funded (\$)
Information & access pamphlets	6,177
Signage & Information panels	7,046
2002 Angler Creel Survey	4,130
Contributions to Access through jetties, gangplanks, carparks etc	13,333
Habitat studies (Lake & River (2) Inventories, Wildlands reports)	9,521
2007 Angler Creel Survey	5,376
Fish research (River fish age/source otolith analysis)	928
Buoy construction share and installation	21,577
Buoy maintenance/servicing expenses	6,752
2012 Angler Creel Survey	5,944

Lagarosiphon Project	1,000
Water Quality Monitoring Report	4,990
Waikaremoana Buoy Maintenance	250
2014-15 Wairoa Catchment Access Investigations	5,204
2015-16 Survey Project	13,521
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,560
2015-16 Wairoa Access work and brochure	2,920
2016-17 Survey, Monitoring and Access	12,010
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,459
Lowrance Transducer/Transceiver - Parera	7,129
2017-18 Survey and Monitoring	5,061
2018-19 Survey, Monitoring, Access and 1/3 rd share of Buoy repairs	10,885
2019-20 Survey, Monitoring and Access	5,208
2020-21 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs	6,930
2021-22 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs, OxyGuard meter	6,128
2022-23 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs	6,078
2023-24 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs, Headwater River fisheries investigation (Waiau R.), Electric Fishing Machine	32,104
2024-25 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs	6,236
TOTAL	\$211,458

3. Discussion

Overview of 2024-2025 Expenditure

March 2025 Council meeting

The May 2024 Council meeting saw Council approve further funding of up to \$6,500 for the 2024-25 OWP year to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy maintenance. *Confirmed Minutes [24/05/13.2]*

At the August 2024 meeting Council approved the funding of up to \$15,500 for Navigational Markers for Lake Waikaremoana sought by the Lake Waikaremoana Boating and Fishing Association subject to receiving appropriate detailed information of the navigational markers, sites identified for markers, installation details and appropriate permission from Tuhoe and the Department of Conservation. *Unconfirmed August 2024 [24/08/11.2]*

Of the \$6,500 approved for the 2024-25 OWP year, a total of \$6,236 was drawn down from the fund to undertake key work around Lake Waikaremoana and the Wairoa catchment which included staff time and expenses associated with survey and access work, and monitoring buoy servicing. Cr Murray Ferris advised that the installation of the shallow water marker buoys which the Council had agreed to funding of up to \$15,500 last year had again been put on hold. *Confirmed minutes [25/03/9.2]*

Reports on other activities undertaken at Waikaremoana during the year were reported in the bi-monthly Operational Reports provided in Council's 2024-25 agendas.

Planned expenditure for 2025-2026

The March 2025 Council meeting saw Council approve further funding of up to \$6,500 for the 2025-26 OWP year to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy maintenance. *Confirmed Minutes [25/03/9.5]*

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council receives this update.

11. CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORTING

Ref: 7.02.01

30 September 2025

1. Purpose

New Zealand Council is seeking Regional feedback on the proposed Consolidated Annual Reporting. This draft set of metrics for adoption, enables the preparation of a consolidated annual report for NZC during the 2025/26 financial year. Undertaking a consolidated annual report in 2025/26 will provide a test run of the types and quality of data and information collected across the organisation. This will provide a valuable look at activities and operations across Fish & Game and also help NZC develop the consolidated reporting framework likely to be required through statute from 2026/27. (Full report in PFI)

2. Background

NZC aims to provide a consolidated annual report (CAR) to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing, as requested by him, in accordance with the governance review. They envisage that this high-level report will also be helpful for licence holders; therefore, it will need to look visually appealing, as well as convey key information about the organisation as a whole.

The consolidated annual report (CAR) will not be audited. The thinking is, of an up to 20-page A4 size document with lots of visuals and lots of “public good” key Performance Indicators (KPIs) about the organisation. Currently, they have limited metrics that all regions report on that can be easily consolidated. There is a need to establish metrics per objectives that can be easily consolidated for Reporting to the Minister.

In considering the Fish and Game Strategy, the objectives would fall under the following headings: a. Unified & Enduring Organisation b. Attract and Retain Licence holders c. Mana Whenua Connected d. Public Perception & Legitimacy e. Healthy Species, Habitat, & Ecosystems f. Additionally, some metrics classified as corporate are being requested.

They would like each region to collect the information requested in Appendix 1 (attached) and report on this quarterly. Ideally, this information will be accompanied by a couple of good news stories with photos. A key part of this work is to showcase the variety of “public good projects” that F&G lead on an annual basis.

Financial information will be collected separately as part of the budget-setting process. And additional information around Health and Safety and compliance will be being requested through a system called Mango.

Management Feedback

That this quarterly information being requested has the potential to add considerable administration time to all F&G specialist officers. The concern is that this reporting request, becomes the start of additional reporting request that turn the organisation into a bureaucratic statutory organisation that reduces its actual front line work to help create reports for National Office to pass onto the Government.

The information requested in Appendix 1 is currently available and reported on at appropriate times within each regions schedule of work.

We feel it more prudent that NZC in consultation with the regions creates a number of standard reporting formats for:

- Council Papers Management Reporting
- Council Papers Financial Reporting
- Council Papers Licence Sales Reporting
- Council Papers H&S Reporting
- All Council Agenda Papers and Reporting
- OWP Format

These reports all contain the information and data that NZC is requesting, it would be logical and better streamlining to have these reports produced in a national format, that NZC can easily export the appropriate report data and numbers onto a master format for reporting on.

Otherwise, work is being tripled across all regions.

3. Recommendation

That Council discusses the proposed CAR and provides feedback to NZC.

Key indicators table for data collection

Goal	Performance Measure	Who to provide information annually
Unified and Enduring	Staff survey questionnaire	NZC comms
Numeric	Each region provide number of FTE employed and classification of job type % of time staff spend on work for NZC or collaboration with other regions.	Region
Attract and retain licence holders Numeric	Report on access points – increase or decrease in number of access locations Details of activities undertaken to attract new licence holders Details of activities undertaken to attract women and juniors Number of licences checked Report % compliant, number of offences, diversions and number of prosecutions for fishing and hunting ranger services. Narrative about legislation changes to focus infringement work. <i>By category eg volunteer ranger hours / voluntary ranger training / volunteer wetland or planting work etc</i>	Region
Numeric	<i>Record make up of licence holders and track changes over time</i>	Kate
Number and type of promotion	<i>Report events and activities that we held that promote hunting and fishing to children and families and attendance at events eg sika show, education, kids fishing days, extension resources.</i>	Region

Goal	Performance Measure	Who to provide information annually
	Case study of one event and then summary of other events – number of events and number of attendees increase over time	
Numeric	<i>Report new access secured or re established</i>	<i>Region</i>
Mana whenua connected Storey	Report on initiatives and communication to actively collaborate on projects with Mana Whenua on areas of common interest. Regions to report on iwi engagement and collaboration stories.	Region
Public perception and legitimacy Numeric	<i>Participate in public good projects eg catchment groups and wetland management groups etc</i>	<i>Region</i>
Story	<i>Report Biodiversity project Eg HBF&G new game bird habitat with Koura liberated in the waterbody. Eg eel relocation work Eg stranded fish</i>	<i>Region</i>
	License holder survey – questions tbc (NZC)	NZC annual or triannual survey
Healthy Habitats and ecosystems Numeric	Report on Game Bird Habitat monitoring - how do we summarise all the monitoring that has occurred around the country? Harvest metric eg. Number of ducks per hour shot trend information per species. -Consistent method needs to be used – aerial transects number and km flown -Birds banded Number. Number of bands returned from harvest. Picture for each output.	Region

Goal	Performance Measure	Who to provide information annually
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pheasant calls /number of sites surveyed shovler / pukeko number of trancets / Km surveyed / number of sites surveyed for Black Swan -Staff hours and time for all of the above -how many wetlands are we managing and total costs -Ha of wetlands that we manage and total costs -Number of wetland restored / created -Ha of wetland restored / created and costs for both of the above. 	
Numeric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Report number of rivers / streams where we have conducted Trout spawning habitat monitoring -Number of rivers that we monitor for fish trend information. -Km of drift dives, number of sites, number of Km, and number of staff -Electric fishing, number of rivers, number of sites -Creel surveys -Aerial survey for salmon spawning sites km flown Other eg Boat surveys -Staff hours and time 	Region
Narrative	<i>Report other species habitat monitoring or collaborations with eg DOC involving indigenous species</i>	Region
Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Participate in special responses as required eg Avian Bird flue response</i> <i>Eg Golden Clam response</i> 	Region
Numeric	<i>Advocate for the maintenance and protection of outstanding water bodies</i>	Region - annual

Goal	Performance Measure	Who to provide information annually
	<i>through water conservation orders – good news storey</i>	
Numeric	<i>Report number of consents reviewed, type of consent and what is being sought. Number of district plan comments and what is being sought. Number of Regional plan comments and what is being sought. Number of regional policy statements and what is being sought. Staff time for each and impact fish and game advocacy had on outcomes ie what is achieved</i>	<i>Region - annual</i>
Narrative	<i>Report advocacy activity (eg submission writing) relating to the protection and enhancement of sports fish and game bird habitats.</i>	<i>Region - annual</i>

12. DRAFT INFRINGEMENT NOTICE POLICY

Ref: 7.02.01

30 September 2025

1. Purpose

New Zealand Council is seeking Regional feedback on the proposed Infringement Notice (I.N) draft policy. (Please see PFI for full Infringement Notice Policy and updated Prosecutions Policy – Aug 2025, which glove tails into I.N Policy)

2. Background

In 2018, the Fish & Game New Zealand Council made submissions to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Conservation (Infringement Systems) Bill. Fish & Game strongly supported the Bill, arguing for councils to be included so they could issue infringement notices for offences under the Conservation Act and Wildlife Act. The Bill was primarily developed to allow the Department of Conservation (DOC) to modernize and streamline its compliance and prosecution processes, but Fish & Game emphasized that similar powers would save both time and cost while ensuring lower-level offences were dealt with more proportionately.

A key point in Fish & Game's submission was that infringement notices would reduce the burden on courts by keeping minor offences out of the judicial system. They also argued that infringement fees should remain with Fish & Game councils to offset compliance costs, especially since the organization is entirely user-funded rather than supported by central government. However, politicians expressed concern that councils might use infringement notices as a form of revenue collection. As a result, it was decided that fines collected would go to the Crown Consolidated Account, rather than being retained by the issuing Fish & Game council.

Despite this, Parliament accepted the value of granting infringement powers to Fish & Game, noting the potential to reduce prosecution costs and court workloads. Legislation was subsequently passed enabling Fish & Game councils to issue infringement notices, once approved by the Minister of Conservation. To progress this authority, Fish & Game was required under section 26HA of the Conservation Act to prepare an Infringement Notice and Compliance and Law Enforcement policy. A draft policy was developed based on the DOC model and peer-reviewed by multiple enforcement agencies, including Police, Fire and Emergency, MPI, SPCA, and DOC.

The proposed system would not involve rangers issuing infringement notices in the field. Instead, notices would be issued later, following checks and assessments of alleged offences in line with the Solicitor-General's Prosecution Guidelines. This approach was considered safer for officers and more robust in ensuring accuracy. Selected staff would be warranted to authorize the issuing of notices, and processes would be put in place for follow-up through the Ministry of Justice for unpaid fines or contested infringements.

Preliminary work was also undertaken on the technical requirements for operating such a system. In 2019, a draft Memorandum of Understanding was developed with the Ministry of Justice to enable electronic filing of unpaid fines. Early advice suggested that, at a basic level,

systems such as Xero could be adapted to support infringement notice processing, though progress in this area remains limited.

In relation to our current diversion processes, these are legally questionable in terms of the Solicitor Generals Prosecution Guidelines and may be unacceptable or even legally marginal!

Benefits of an Infringement Notice (I.N) System.

- I.N's keep low level offences and offenders out of the court system.
- Significant savings in prosecution preparation time and costs, as it avoids having to prepare a full prosecution file, file charging documents in court, summons offenders, go through a diversion process (if diversion is used or offered), and subsequent administration including with the court to have charges dismissed following diversion.
- Infringement fines are set by regulation and are already in place.
- The present situation is that charges must be filed at the court closest to the location of the offence or closest to where the offender may be usually found, and this can involve extra cost and inconvenience when the Fish & Game office or prosecution staff are a significant distance away from that court, including engaging external legal representation to appear for Fish & Game at that court if staff are unable or unavailable to appear to prosecute. (Note: presently only 1 region routinely has a staff member appear in court to prosecute offences – this being Southland).
- While in many cases diversion prosecutions can be resolved without either the defendant or prosecution having to appear at court, this is not always the case and still involves significant preparation and administration time and costs.
- If a defendant who is summonsed to court does not appear at court or does not take up a diversion offer and subsequently fails to appear, Fish & Game councils presently must either proceed via a formal proof process or seek a warrant to arrest the defendant, which ever is applicable to the offence category filed. This adds to time and expense, and if a prosecutor must be engaged the costs escalate and can easily get into thousands of dollars of legal costs, which in many cases are not recovered when the matter is resolved.
- It is not uncommon for Fish & Game charges when dealt with at court to have multiple occasions where the matters is called at court, e.g, usually a defendant appears for an initial appearance then is often remanded to a further date or dates. This adds to prosecution costs.
- The courts generally see most Fish & Game type offences as low level especially when compared to the bulk of the criminal matters before the courts daily, and therefore suitable for alternative resolution to judicial intervention by the courts, such as infringement notice resolution.
- Clearly, when Fish & Game was included in the amendments to the Conservation Act to enable use of an infringement notice system, politically it was also agreed that it is appropriate that most Fish & Game offences would be dealt with by way of infringement notices. Comments at Select committee supported this.
- Use of I.N's ensures consistency in outcomes for similar offending, both in the system used, and in the fine / punishment imposed. At present a major failing of the system of charging offenders and using diversion, as well as matters which progress through the courts, is the disparity in outcomes. Fish & Game councils have not been consistent in the fees or conditions imposed in diversion for the same offences, which leaves room for criticism, and similarly the Courts have not been consistent either with regard to outcomes.

- Use of I. N's brings Fish & Game into line with best practice with modern law enforcement agencies and brings Fish & Game into line with DOC who have been issuing I. N's for some years now at the Taupo Fishery for offences the same or similar to those dealt with by Fish & Game.
- There is reasonably a public expectation that offences which are the same across the country should be dealt with similarly.
- If infringement notice fines are not paid, the matters simply become outstanding fines matters which are then referred to the Ministry of Justice, and Fish & Game does not need to have any further involvement in the matter unless it somehow proceeds to a court hearing (usually only if the defendant or person receiving the fine elects to have the matter heard at court by pleading not guilty).
- In summary, use of I. N's would lead to very significant savings in time and cost.
- DOC staff who are using I.N's report significantly reduced time spent on offence reporting and file preparation and that the infringement system is working well.

Management Feedback

The proposed draft policy is supported by management as being a fair, standardised approach across all regions and in keeping with the Solicitor General's Prosecution Guidelines for dealing with certain offences.

3. Recommendation

That Council discusses the proposed Draft Policy on I.N and provides feedback to NZC.

13. 2026 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

Ref: 1.07.03

25 September 2025

1. Purpose

To review the 2025 Eastern Game Season Conditions (see Appendix 1 in PFI 2025 Gazette Notice) and highlight the 2026 game season issues needing further consideration at Council's December meeting.

2. Introduction

At the August 2025 meeting of the NZFGC a paper was presented/adopted on enacting regulations of the Anglers Notice and Game Bird Notice (see item "Process for the enactment of the Anglers Notice and Game Bird Notice" in the PFI). The paper notes that the Ministers Office provided advice that regulatory changes should be subject to:

- Evidence based assessments of game bird populations.
- Licence holder preferences and expectations.
- Long-term sustainability outcomes.

This regulatory process is consistent with the requirements of Eastern's Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (see the 7 August 2025 agenda, page 23). Council has species specific evidence-based criterion for setting regulations for mallard and grey duck, paradise shelduck, and black swan (see Appendix 2 below) but not shoveler, pukeko, or upland game. Nevertheless, the long-term sustainability of harvest of these latter species is considered prior to recommending season regulations.

Licence holder preferences and expectations have been poorly canvassed in this region, relying on Councillors to identify hunter preferences. The 2024 satisfaction survey carried out in the Eastern Region did provide some insight into what hunters preferences are, but this was not a key goal of the survey so was only superficially investigated. At the August 2025 meeting Council agreed to revisit what "hunter opportunity" means. Is hunter opportunity synonymous with preferences and expectations?

This paper addresses the topic of hunter opportunity, black swan and pukeko special season, a closed brown quail season. It also provides an opportunity for Council to identify any other issues that need to be addressed prior to recommending the 2026 game bird season regulations.

Game season conditions are generally proposed at Council's meeting in December and confirmed or refined by staff for recommendation to the Minister of Conservation at the end of January once additional population information is available from summer monitoring programmes.

3. Issues

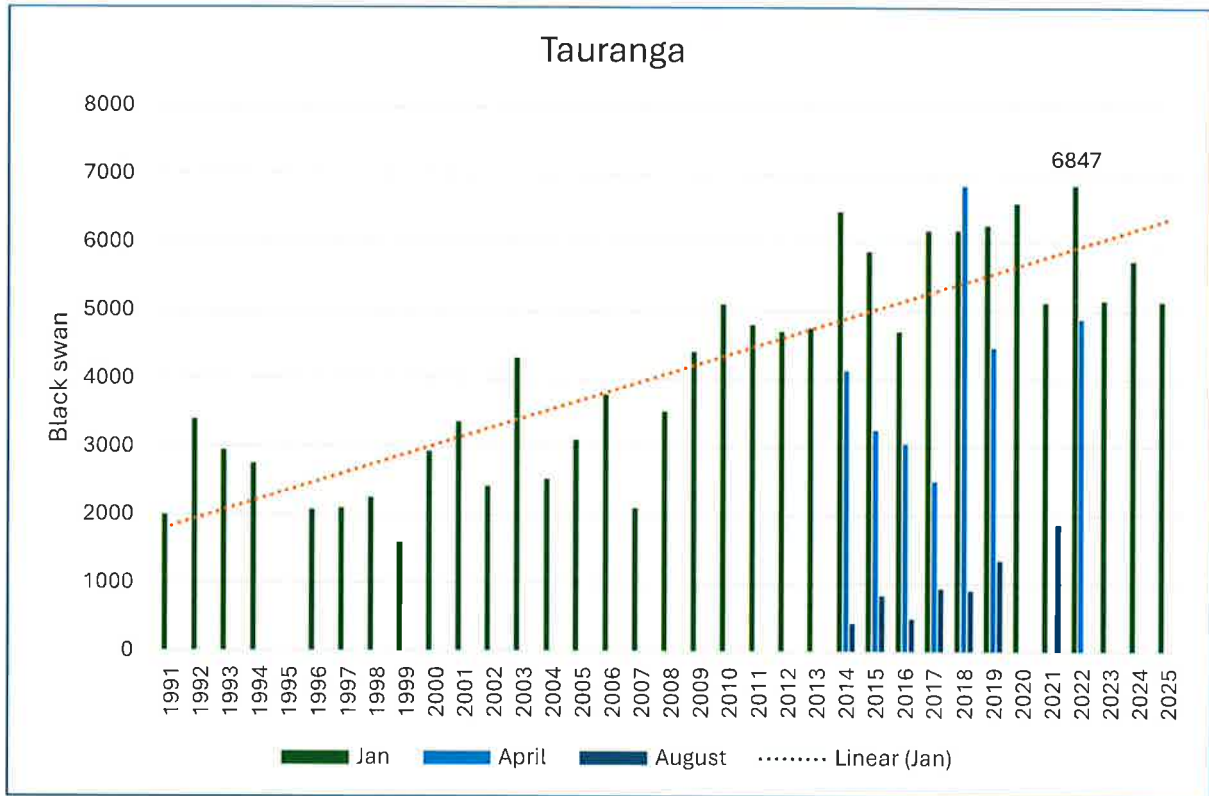
In addition to any other issues Council might wish to discuss, there are four topics that require Council's consideration and input for next season as follows:

1. Special black swan season

A special black swan season has been gazetted for the weekend of 6 – 15 February 2026 in Area A1 where there has for many years been an unlimited daily bag limit. The special season was first proposed in 2018 following rapidly increasing numbers on Tauranga Harbour (Figure 1).

The Western Bay of Plenty Fish and Game Club usually organises a shoot over the special season in February with the aim of reducing numbers on the harbour but have not had much luck with the weather in recent years.

Council needs to consider whether it wishes to hold another special season in February 2027 and if so, is it supportive of a season lasting 9 days (two weekends + one week).

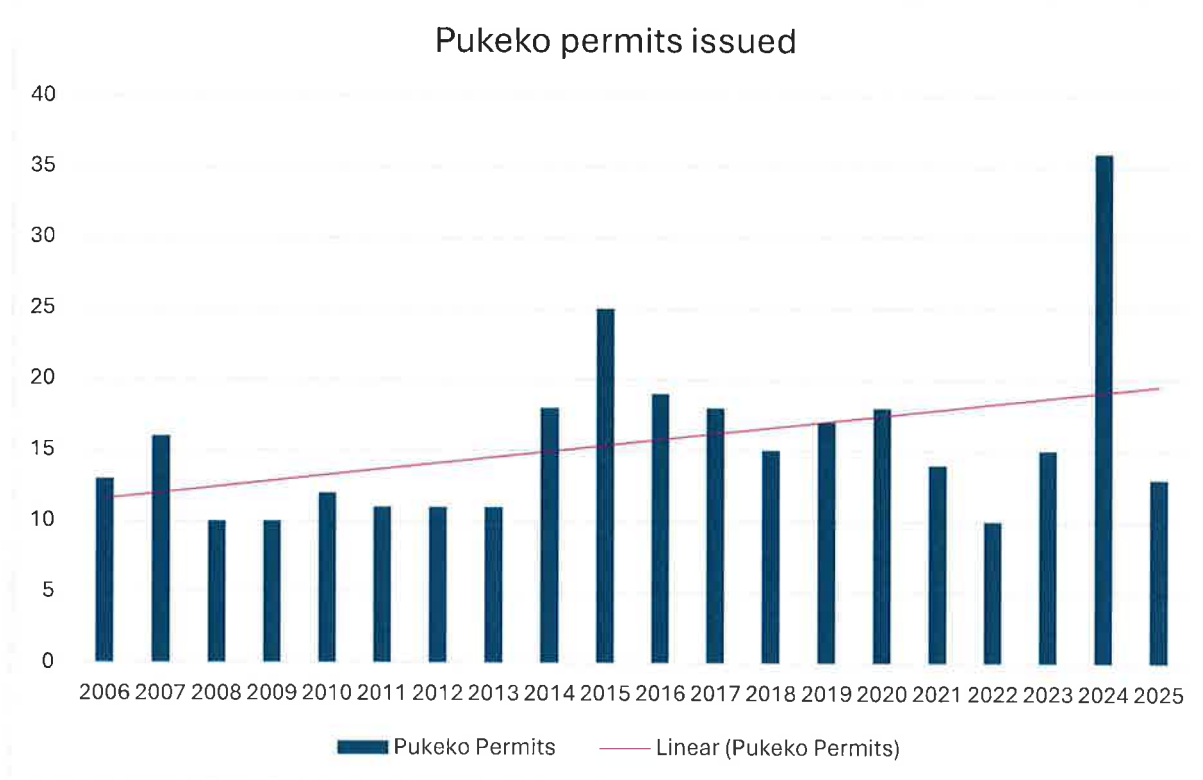


1 Figure 1. Black swan counts on Tauranga harbour 1991–2025 (grey columns). April and August counts are shown in yellow and blue respectively. Counts are made from a Cessna 172 aircraft flying at 300’ using two observers. The 2021 count was delayed because of Covid-19 lockdown and did not occur until 13 September.

2. *Special pukeko season*

A special season for pukeko has been aligned with the black swan season 6 – 15 February 2026 with a daily bag limit of 10 which applies across the entire Eastern Region. The special season was initially proposed to alleviate crop damage, reduce mallard and grey duckling predation, and was based on the limited harvest recorded during the game bird season (2025 season: 3,478; 95% CI 1,073 –11,273; see Hunter Survey report in PFI). It is unclear if hunters choose to participate.

Between 2015–2022 the number of permits issued to disturb pukeko decreased (Figure 2) but has since been increasing (the 2025 data is not final). Council needs to decide if it wishes to hold another special pukeko season in 2027 and if so, should the season align with the special swan season (if that is to occur)? Further it was suggested at the December 2023 meeting that the limit be increased to 20 for the special season.



2 Figure 2. Number of pukeko permits to disturb issued by year in the Eastern Region.

3. *Brown quail*

In 2020 – 2025 there was no open season for brown quail in the Eastern Region. This came about because of a perceived decline in the population. There has been no reported harvest (hunter survey) for many years (although one was reported shot last year despite a closed season). Council needs to consider if a closed season should continue for the 2026 season. We have had no request to open the season over the past four years.

4. *Hunter opportunity*

One of the SFGMP policies is to “Maximise hunter opportunity”. Hunter opportunity means different things to different people. Moreover, what it means to an individual appears to change with age. Council has previously defined opportunity as “more ducks in the air”. However, opportunity may be defined inter alia, as:

- Access to places to hunt (legal and physical access).
- A high daily bag limit.
- A long waterfowl season.
- Some combination of season length and daily bag limit.
- A lot of different species.
- A high duck population (NB this is not necessarily the same as more ducks in the air).
- Shooting some greylard.
- Greylard per hour hunting.
- Time to spend hunting with friends and family.

In the 2024 satisfaction survey we asked the ancillary question “What can F&G do to improve your hunting.” There was a clear distinction between the answers of satisfied and unsatisfied hunters. The unsatisfied hunters were more likely to cite the number of ducks shot as a contributing factor to their dissatisfaction while satisfied hunters cited hunting with

family and friends as an important component of their satisfaction. This latter group were also more likely to get satisfaction from working their dog.

Longer seasons were important to both satisfied and unsatisfied hunters, but many also wanted more ducks. Higher bag limits were not as important to either group which is not surprising as most hunters don't shoot their daily limit even when it is low (i.e., a daily bag limit of 6. On 40% of hunter days during the waterfowl season hunters shot zero greylard. There will be multiple reasons for shooting zero greylard, such as skill level, weather, how many other hunters are out and about, the length of their hunt, and the size of the greylard population. When defining opportunity Council may wish to prioritise which measure of opportunity is likely to be most important to hunters. Considerations may include such things as young hunters want to shoot ducks. Further, hunters are hunting for less hours annually (in all F&G regions) than they used to, probably due to competing hobbies, and demands on their time. Providing more hours (increased season length) at the expense of the following seasons population may not be as important as it once was. Council needs to be mindful that some aspects of hunter opportunity are out of the managers' control. Weather, climate, and land use for example, have a major bearing on the breeding potential of game bird populations which in turn influence harvestable surplus.

It may be that opportunity encompasses a number of factors. It is useful, but not imperative, that opportunity is measurable so the Council can determine how they are performing. A carefully worded survey of hunters may help guide Council to identify what opportunity/ preferences and expectations mean to hunters. The tradeoff between longer seasons/ higher bag limits and the following seasons harvest is not easy to measure nor to portray to hunters during a survey but is necessary so they are able to make an informed choice.

It may be worth clarifying if hunter preferences and expectations are the same thing as hunter opportunity. Hunter preferences probably include opportunity, but expectations have wider connotations. Hunters expect that there will be a game bird season starting on the first weekend in May. They expect that licences will be affordable, and that regulations will allow them to hunt mallard duck. One of the issues with staff and Councilors deciding on what these terms mean is that we are not typical hunters. Do we need to survey hunters to ascertain what the preferences and expectations of the average hunter are. As mentioned above there will be some distinct differences between old and young hunters and experienced and inexperienced hunters.

5. Harvest criterion for all game birds

Council have developed criteria to guide harvest regulations for the key species however, as mentioned above, there are several species such as shoveler, pukeko, and upland game where no criterion exist. Because shoveler are very mobile they are monitored nationally. It would be useful to set regulations nationally for this species. As this is unlikely in the short-term the development of Eastern regulation guidelines for this species would be prudent. Pukeko harvest regulations and upland game may require more divergent thinking as we don't monitor pukeko and pheasant crow counts occur before the breeding season.

6. Greylard thresholds

One of the issues with the way we estimate the greylard population is that we do it retrospectively. Therefore, we must be able to predict the population in advance. In the past we weren't very good at this but we are getting better. A consequence of the poor predictions is that the 44- day season have all fallen into the restricted regulation zone (see the Game Bird Survey, Figure 1 in the Management Report). It would be interesting

to examine harvest in the 44-day seasons and see what consequence they have on the following season with the possibility of reducing the intermediate threshold.

After today's meeting, clubs will be invited to comment on any issues they wish to raise for consideration at Council's next meeting (December 2025).

4. Recommendation:

- 4.1 That Council identifies any other game season condition matters it would like further information on, or consultation with hunters about, before its December 2025 meeting.**
- 4.2 That Council identifies if they wish to redefine hunter opportunity (i.e., "ducks in the air") and if so, do they need more information such as surveying hunters to ascertain what their preference and expectations are.**
- 4.3 That staff investigate population-based harvest regulation criteria for shoveler duck.**
- 4.4 That staff determine if useful criteria can be developed for pukeko and upland game harvest regulations.**
- 4.5 That staff examine the greylard regulation thresholds with the view to dropping the intermediate threshold if the effect of a 44-day season on the following season is acceptable.**

Appendix 1

The 2024 Gazette Notice has been included in PFI

Appendix 2

GAME SEASON CONDITION POLICIES

2.1 Mallard and Grey Duck (greyland)

- (i) Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [15/11/12.2]*
- (ii) Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [15/11/12.3]*
- (iii) Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [15/11/12.4]*
- (iv) 11.2 Agreed (Mike Jarvey/Murray Ferris) that the mallard and grey duck population thresholds and associated regulations currently used i.e the status quo shown in table 1 of the agenda item remain until further evidence points to an alternative approach. [23/12/11.2]*

The Council reaffirmed the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck regulations at the August 2025 meeting:

August 2025 unconfirmed minutes

13.6 Agreed (Scott Nicol/Alec McIver) resolutions b,c,d,f as follows:

- b. To agree to redefine what hunter opportunity means to this Council at the October 2025 meeting.*
- c. To decide if the Councils definition of hunter opportunity is policy or a guideline at the October 2025 meeting.*
- d. To reaffirm the use of a threshold model to set mallard and grey duck harvest regulations.*
- f. To reaffirm that the policy that applies to mallard and grey duck regulations under the respective current thresholds still applies. [25/08/13.6] Crs. Mark Sceats and Kevin Coutts wished to be recorded as opposing the motion.*

2.2 Other Species

- (i) *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and subject to January monitoring results. [15/11/12.5]*
- (ii) *Agreed (Ian Pirani/Lindsay Lyons) that Council authorises staff to make a decision on Game Season Regulations outside of policy when an issue has been flagged. [12/10/8.2]*

Rationale for (v) as per October 2012 Council minutes:

“Cr Barry Roderick commented on the greylard population estimates being the lowest in 8 years and the mystery, last summer, with a very high ratio of juveniles in the traps. Matt McDougall said that in the last decade something had occurred in some years that's throwing us off track. Last year he was concerned over the reduced adults in the traps and those concerns were later vindicated by harvest results. Council discussed the policy for setting the season regulations and the short time frame available before these are presented to the Minister for approval. Rob Pitkethley said that in 4 out of 5 years the modelling policy would be used, but in the occasional year staff would like the ability to alter the policy direction if unusual results suggested something else was occurring. Staff were seeking guidance on how this unusual process could work and Cr Steve Scragg said that he would be comfortable with Matt McDougall and Rob Pitkethley making the appropriate call and providing confirmation by email to Council.”

- (iii) *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the “Intermediate” regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e. when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*

2.3 Threshold Criteria for Paradise shelduck

Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels

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

Table 2: Eastern Paradise Shelduck season conditions (Season per Table 1)

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

Fixed Season condition	B1 North of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	20
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2.4 Threshold Criteria for Black Swan

Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels

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

Table 4: Eastern Black Swan season conditions (Season per Table 3)

SEASON	SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (LENGTH AND DAILY BAG).
Restricted	No season.
Intermediate	8-week season with a 5-bird limit for Management Units A1, A2 and B1. 6-week season with a 4-bird limit for Management Unit B2.
Relaxed	16-week season with a no-bird limit.

14. 2024-2025 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.04

3 October 2025

1. Purpose

To review the draft Statement of Service Performance report and draft Financial Statements for the 2024-2025 Performance (Annual) Report.

2. Background

- The finalised Performance Report for the 2024-2025 year will be presented to the public annual general meeting to be held on 11 December 2025 as per the requirement of Sections 26W and 26ZD(7) of the Conservation Act 1987.
- The annual Performance Report contains a Statement of Service Performance (SOSP) so that readers can assess the performance of the Council against the targets set out in the 2024-2025 Operational Work Plan (OWP). The Performance Report aligns with the OWP to clearly show actual outcomes against targets identified in the annual work planning process.
- The purpose of this paper is to enable early consideration of the material being developed for inclusion in the Performance Report. A draft of the SOSP has been prepared, along with draft unaudited Financial Statements, and these will have been circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

The reports will be revised after Council consideration and feedback from the independent external Auditor then compiled into the final Performance Report. This then needs to be approved at Council's 11 December 2025 meeting held immediately prior to the public annual general meeting where it will be presented to the public.

The draft report is presented separately.

3. Recommendation:

- 3.1 *That Council receives the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance and Financial Statements for the 2024-2025 year, and provides any feedback it might have on the drafts before the Performance Report for the 2024-2025 year is completed.***

15. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

15.1 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

2 October 2025

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the financial position for the final two months of the 2024-2025 operational year and to approve payments for the months of July and August 2025. This report currently aligns with the Financial Statements included within Annual Performance Report. Some adjustments may be required following the completion of the annual audit.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Profit and Loss to 31 August 2025
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025
Table 3	Variance Report to 31 August 2025
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions July and August 2025
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions July & August 2025

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 August is provided in Table 1.

Summary

The net position for the 2024-2025 Financial Year is \$115,274 surplus against a budgeted deficit of \$75,724, net variance \$190,998 (surplus).

The net variance of \$190,998 is a result of income being higher than that budgeted by \$168,525, and reduced expenditure \$22,473.

Income	Var YTD	Expenses	Var YTD
Licence Sales	78,549 ▲	Depreciation	1,632 ▼
Other Income	67,593 ▲	Operating Expenses	35,839 ▼
Trout Inventory Revaluation	22,383 ▲	Administration Expenses	14,998 ▲
	168,525 ▲		\$22,473 ▼
		Net	190,998 ▲

A more detailed summary is provided in the following notes.

Income

Licence Sales

Licence revenue ended the year 78,549 ahead of budget which was made up of \$73,084 surplus fish licence sales and \$5,465 surplus game licence sales. Fish licence sales have exceeded the last three seasons results at 8,923 LEQ's although sales are not yet back to pre-covid levels recorded in the 2018-19 season at 9,839 LEQ's to 31 August. Game licence sales are on ahead of last season at 2,834 LEQ's which is on a par with the 2022-23 season results but still below pre covid levels of 3,152 LEQ's achieved during the 2018-19 season. A more complete picture of licence sales for the season to 30 September is provided in the Licence Sales Report.

Other Income

Revenue from other sources for the period totalled \$59,279 and is made up of the following:

Hatchery	\$21,708	Fishing competitions	\$491
NZC Contract work	\$4,896	Diversion – Children’s education	\$1,050
Hawke’s Bay Contract work	\$665	Interest Waikaremoana	\$7,542
MOJ Fines	\$777	Interest General	\$9,323
Fish food, tours	\$409	Rentals	\$6,944
Donations/Children’s Fishing	\$370	Friends of FG Cap/book sales	\$104
Sponsorship Agrodome	\$5,000	Total Other Income Jul/Aug	\$59,279

Other income ended the year \$67,593 ahead of budget. The more significant items contributing to this result are: unbudgeted income from donations including those for the children’s fishing programme (\$5,908), insurance claim proceeds for the Awakaponga Solar system theft (\$27,826), contract work for Genesis Energy (\$15,000), rental income over budget (\$8,310), gain on sale of fixed assets (\$2,364), staff attendance at the Northland field days (\$3,379), contract mowing (\$2,537), and external funding for maize (\$1,670). The insurance proceeds have been transferred to a dedicated reserve pending a viable alternative option for the water supply to the wetland being established.

There is also additional revenue reported from the revaluation of trout ie stock on hand at year-end of \$22,383. This is a noncash item which is completed every year and fluctuates up and down dependant on timing of regional orders and stock held to meet those.

Species Management

The Population Monitoring expenditure for the period included the purchase of duck bands and wages expense for banding which had not yet been transferred to correct code. Food expenses are also reported for staff undertaking contract work for Genesis Energy at Waikaremoana.

Harvest Assessment spending was related to contract staff for the Game Hunter surveys.

Within the Hatchery budgets the expense relating to fish food over the period was \$5,436. Other Hatchery expenditure included rates, water consent fees, fuel, oxygen, and various purchases of equipment and consumables for hatchery and Te Wairoa trap maintenance. Vehicle maintenance included an insurance excess for repairs to old flat deck prior to sale, and two batteries for the tanker.

The Species Management output is under budget at year end \$10,816. The Population Monitoring budgets are underspent by \$14,248 primarily due to costs related to the Tarawera food web work being significantly lower than estimated, the Hatchery budgets are \$3,852 overspent due to increased costs for fish food, vehicle maintenance and insurance. The Tarawera underspend will result in a lesser drawdown from the Non-Resident Reserve from which it was approved.

Habitat

Habitat spending for the period related to spray for the reserves and expenses transferred to the Waikaremoana Sports Fish fund as budgeted for access and survey works carried out during the year.

The Habitat output is under budget at year end \$23,323. The underspend is partly due to the unspent funds from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for navigation

markers at the lake, and reduced spending in reserves with external parties carrying out some of the planned work.

Participation

A reprint of the popular Boat Fishing booklet was completed in August and other expenditure is reported within the Participation budgets relating to children's fishing, hut maintenance, and electricity for the Waikaremoana hut.

The Participation output is under budget at year end \$1,731 because of reduced Access spending with some of this work being funded by external parties.

Public Interface

The spending within the Public Interface output was related grounds maintenance costs for repairs to the Octagon plumbing, car park gravel, and cleaning of the public toilets.

The Public Interface output is over budget at year end \$2,430 and this is due to maintenance associated with the leased compound, and increased ground maintenance costs.

Compliance

Compliance expenditure relates to the usual 0800 Poaching service and cell phone costs. Legal fees for three prosecutions and, travel and catering costs for the August Ranger training day were reported within the period. A diversion received for a Wildlife Act offence has been forwarded to the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust and is shown as an expense under the compliance output (\$350).

The Compliance output is over budget at year end \$707. This is primarily a result of requiring additional compliance equipment for new staff. The donations made to other charities for Wildlife Act offenses are offset by income from these diversions.

Licensing

Licensing costs include agent commissions, the fees associated with the Public Online sales, and a small expense to courier regulation guides to agents.

The Licensing output is under budget at year end \$4,675. Despite having increased sales this year, the reduction is due to a shift to online sales reducing the overall cost of sales.

Council

Travel and catering expenses are reported relating to the August Council meeting.

The Council output is over budget at year end \$2,629, the budget has been increased for the 2025-26 year.

Planning

Within the R3 budget expenses are reported for the 4 x 4 expo, Chamber of Commerce membership, and various meetings. The initial development costs of the sponsorship wall displayed at the front counter are also reported within the period. Levies were paid as budgeted and the annual audit fee for this year's audit has been accrued.

The Planning output is under budget at year end \$1060.

Administration

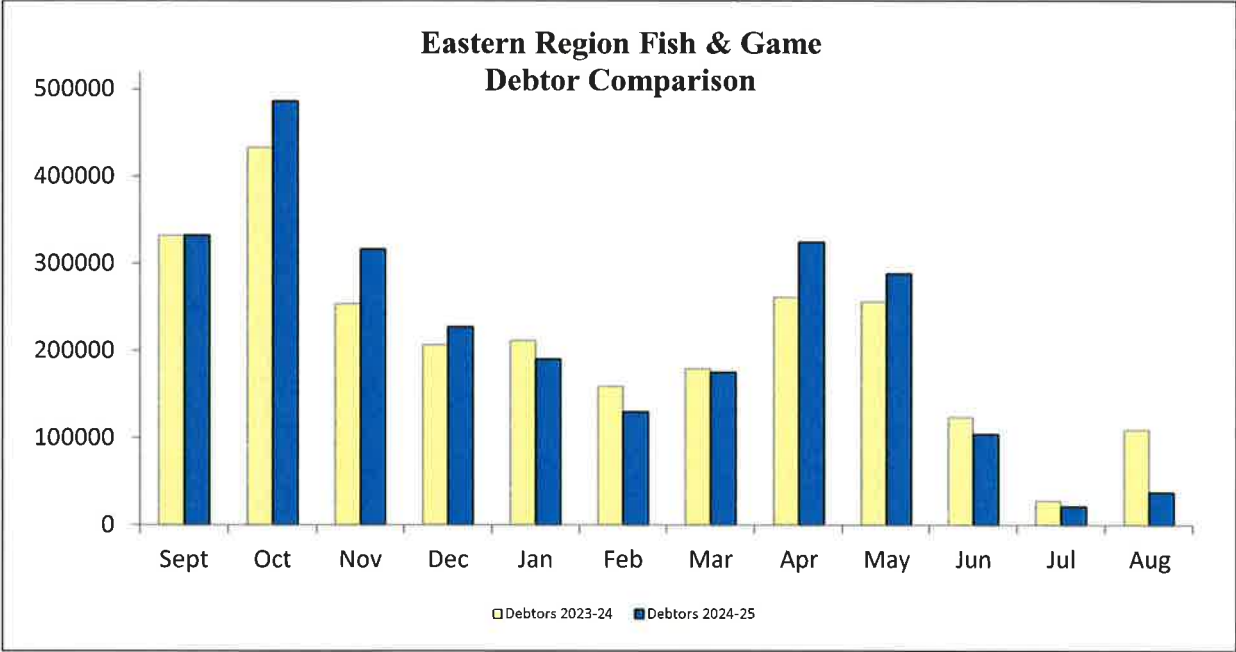
Salaries	Over budget at year end \$6,146. The annual leave accrual is increased at year end.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses for the period included ACC levies, Power Boat level two assessments for six staff, professional development training, and various meal and accommodation costs. Health and Safety expenses included gloves and rubbish bags for dealing with dead waterfowl. Staff expenses are over budget at year end \$4,713 due to increased Health and Safety costs with increased PPE requirements in light HPAI risks, and increased costs farewelling and particularly recruiting of new staff.
Staff Houses	Staff Houses expenses related to Real Estate agent commissions, repairs to vinyl, gas bottle refill, chimney sweep, rates, electricity, and minor maintenance materials. Over budget at year end \$2,246 due to higher than anticipated insurance costs, and increased maintenance/electricity costs.
Office Premises	Expenses for the period related to rates, electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring. Over budget at year end \$4,217 again due to higher than anticipated rates and insurance costs but also the repairs to the over counter lights in reception were not anticipated.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs. Over budget at year end \$457 due to costs associated with setting up new staff.
Communications/ Consumables	Communications spending includes the 0800 service, Garmin InReach, staff cell plans and the 2Talk calling plan needed to utilise the IP phones. Computer expenses included a mouse and keyboard, a display cable, IT services and renewal of ESET virus protection for all users. Expenses are also reported relating to stationery, Starlink, courier and photocopying. Under budget at year end \$377.
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, bank charges, and minor office purchases. Over budget at year end \$2,654 due primarily to increased insurance premiums.
General Equipment	General equipment spending related to the Seaflux subscription, fuel and minor equipment purchases. Under budget at year end \$3,386 due to reduced maintenance spend with no significant repairs being needed during the year.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period related to road user charges and vehicle fuel. The vehicle budgets are under spent at year end \$1,672 and this is likely to be a result of timing of servicing and RUC's.

Cash Position: As at 31 August 2025

\$ 829 238	(includes \$60,942 Asset Replacement Reserve)
\$ 490,425	(Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$ 1,319,663	Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$37,217 as at 31 August 2025 (\$109,337 as at 31 August 2024).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2023/24-2024/25



Administration staff are following up one overdue licence agent for \$110. The significant variance in debtors between August 2024 and August 2025 is due to licence sales going on sale 1 September rather than mid-August.

Fixed Assets

Purchases

Acer desktop computer and Monitor
HO Probook Laptop

To be sold

2018 Mazda BT50 Flat deck LUY171

3. Variance Report (Table 3)

The variance report shows the actual result including staff hours entered for each project area to provide Council with an overview of the staff time component of the Operational Work Plan.

Table 1

Profit and Loss - Council
Eastern Fish and Game Council
For the 2 months ended 31 August 2025

Income	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Total Actual	Total Budget	Var	%
Licence Income	10,537	1,833	1,480,277	1,401,728	78,549	6%
Other Income	26,048	33,231	319,524	251,931	67,593	27%
Trout Inventory Revaluation	0	22,383	22,383	0	22,383	0%
Total Income	36,584	57,447	1,822,184	1,653,659	168,525	10%
Operating Expenses						
Depreciation	7,264	7,295	92,823	94,455	(1,632)	-2%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT						
1110 Population Monitoring	847	1,801	30,252	44,500	(14,248)	-32%
1120 Harvest Assessment	720	360	2,880	2,900	(20)	-1%
1140 Hatchery Operations	4,572	5,662	102,602	98,750	3,852	4%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	400	(400)	-100%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	6,140	7,823	135,734	146,550	(10,816)	-7%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT						
1220 Works & Management	23	619	11,181	17,500	(6,319)	-36%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	1,196	1,196	18,200	(17,004)	-93%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION	23	1,815	12,377	35,700	(23,323)	-65%
1300 PARTICIPATION						
1310 Access	0	67	2,627	5,300	(2,673)	-50%
1340 Other Publications	0	1,279	2,200	2,000	200	10%
1350 Training	278	76	1,090	850	240	28%
1370 Huts	115	271	1,952	1,450	502	35%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	393	1,693	7,869	9,600	(1,731)	-18%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE						
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	345	1,000	(655)	-66%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	100	560	3,585	500	3,085	617%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	100	560	3,930	1,500	2,430	162%
1500 COMPLIANCE						
1510 Ranging	68	41	2,782	1,000	1,782	178%
1520 Ranger Training	0	529	536	1,000	(464)	-46%
1530 Compliance	650	0	3,389	4,000	(611)	-15%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	718	570	6,707	6,000	707	12%
1600 LICENSING						
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	27	153	600	(447)	-75%
1630 Commission	405	338	51,842	56,070	(4,228)	-8%
Total 1600 LICENSING	405	364	51,995	56,670	(4,675)	-8%
1700 COUNCIL						
1720 Council Meetings	0	1,764	9,129	6,500	2,629	40%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	1,764	9,129	6,500	2,629	40%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING						
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	1,219	989	3,842	5,000	(1,158)	-23%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	10,942	10,942	10,942	(0)	0%
1840 National Liaison	10	23,061	92,170	92,072	98	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	1,228	34,992	106,954	108,014	(1,060)	-1%
1900 ADMINISTRATION						
1910 Salaries	(33,648)	215,812	1,080,240	1,074,094	6,146	1%
1920 Staff Expenses	3,545	(43)	46,213	41,500	4,713	11%
1930 Staff Houses	546	1,336	19,796	17,550	2,246	13%
1940 Office Premises	2,648	1,908	28,767	24,550	4,217	17%
1950 Office Equipment	231	231	3,857	3,400	457	13%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,450	642	14,023	14,400	(377)	-3%
1970 General	135	316	15,804	13,150	2,654	20%
1980 General Equipment	146	292	15,664	19,050	(3,386)	-18%
1990 Vehicles	3,889	1,426	55,028	56,700	(1,672)	-3%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	(21,057)	221,920	1,279,392	1,264,394	14,998	1%
Total Operating Expenses	(4,787)	278,796	1,706,910	1,729,383	(22,473)	-3%
Net Profit	41,371	(221,349)	115,274	(75,724)	190,998	-252%

Table 2

Balance Sheet
Eastern Fish and Game Council
As at 31 August 2025

Assets	31 Aug 2025	31 Aug 2024
Bank		
Westpac Current Account	10,694	52,742
Westpac Call Account	201,047	31,850
Petty Cash	237	367
Investments	614,650	602,135
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	493,035	506,426
Total Bank	1,319,663	1,193,520
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	37,217	109,337
Inventory - Fish Stock	232,334	209,951
Prepayments and Accrued Income	6,885	14,343
Total Current Assets	276,436	333,631
Fixed Assets		
Buildings	1,049,503	1,049,503
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	478,550	409,517
Office Equipment	65,959	65,935
Plant & Equipment	192,508	222,119
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(813,441)	(782,836)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(154,813)	(137,349)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(49,948)	(47,840)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(140,030)	(158,838)
Total Fixed Assets	730,288	722,212
Total Assets	2,326,387	2,249,363
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	34,940	50,311
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	101,883	137,476
Employee Entitlements	133,365	117,649
GST	(4,921)	(2,488)
PAYE Clearing	26,263	23,571
Staff Social Club	1,671	721
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	(1,901)	314
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	598	2,595
Total Current Liabilities	291,898	330,148
	291,898	330,148
Net Assets	2,034,489	1,919,214
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,183,352	1,218,909
Asset Replacement Reserve	14,700	60,942
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	153,252	155,412
Breeding Programme Reserve	5,018	1,018
Fish for Gold Reserve	14,000	14,000
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	16,109	16,109
Hunter Ballot Reserve	14,012	7,265
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	490,425	474,600
Current Year Earnings	115,274	(29,040)
Awakaponga Water Reticulation Reserve	27,826	0
Property Maintenance Reserve	520	0
Total Equity	2,034,489	1,919,214

Table 3 2024/2025 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME as at 31 August 2025

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST Variance	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 44,500	\$ 30,282	2,170	2,291	\$ 158,055	\$ 172,572	\$ -	\$ 1,719	\$ 202,555	\$ 201,105	\$ 1,450	99.3
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,880	700	797	\$ 50,985	\$ 60,035	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,885	\$ 62,915	\$ (9,030)	116.8
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 98,750	\$ 102,602	3,108	3,195	\$ 226,375	\$ 240,667	\$ 68,000	\$ 65,185	\$ 257,125	\$ 278,084	\$ (20,959)	108.2
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	253	\$ 9,760	\$ 19,057	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,760	\$ 19,057	\$ (9,297)	195.3
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	80	63	\$ 5,827	\$ 4,746	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,827	\$ 4,746	\$ 1,081	81.4
1180	Control	\$ 400	\$ -	36	44	\$ 2,622	\$ 3,314	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,022	\$ 3,314	\$ (292)	109.7
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 146,550	\$ 135,734	6,228	6,643	\$ 453,624	\$ 500,391	\$ 68,000	\$ 66,904	\$ 532,174	\$ 569,221	\$ (37,047)	107.0
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,504	1,576	\$ 109,546	\$ 118,714	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 109,546	\$ 118,714	\$ (9,168)	108.4
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 11,181	950	800	\$ 68,194	\$ 60,261	\$ 11,650	\$ 40,287	\$ 75,044	\$ 31,155	\$ 43,890	41.5
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 700	\$ -	658	373	\$ 47,926	\$ 28,097	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,626	\$ 28,097	\$ 20,530	57.8
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	19	\$ 5,244	\$ 1,431	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,244	\$ 1,431	\$ 3,813	27.3
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & M	\$ 18,200	\$ 11,181	3,164	2,788	\$ 231,910	\$ 208,502	\$ 11,650	\$ 40,287	\$ 238,460	\$ 179,396	\$ 59,064	75.2
1310	Access	\$ 5,300	\$ 2,627	664	739	\$ 48,363	\$ 55,666	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,663	\$ 58,293	\$ (4,630)	108.6
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	306	222	\$ 22,288	\$ 16,722	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,288	\$ 16,722	\$ 5,565	75.0
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,200	30	3	\$ 2,185	\$ 226	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,185	\$ 2,426	\$ 1,759	58.0
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 1,090	805	523	\$ 56,533	\$ 39,396	\$ 7,750	\$ 12,403	\$ 51,733	\$ 28,083	\$ 23,651	54.3
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	36	27	\$ 2,622	\$ 2,094	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,622	\$ 2,034	\$ 588	77.6
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,952	50	52	\$ 3,642	\$ 3,917	\$ 400	\$ 1,278	\$ 4,692	\$ 4,591	\$ 101	97.9
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTIC	\$ 9,600	\$ 7,869	1,881	1,566	\$ 137,733	\$ 117,961	\$ 8,150	\$ 13,681	\$ 139,183	\$ 112,149	\$ 27,035	80.6
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	208	118	\$ 15,150	\$ 8,888	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,150	\$ 8,888	\$ 6,261	58.7
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	184	103	\$ 13,402	\$ 7,759	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,402	\$ 7,759	\$ 5,643	57.9
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 345	146	127	\$ 10,634	\$ 9,566	\$ -	\$ 176	\$ 11,634	\$ 9,736	\$ 1,898	83.7
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 3,585	681	324	\$ 49,601	\$ 24,406	\$ -	\$ 730	\$ 50,101	\$ 27,261	\$ 22,841	54.4
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,930	1,219	672	\$ 88,787	\$ 50,619	\$ -	\$ 906	\$ 90,287	\$ 53,643	\$ 36,644	59.4
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,782	946	1,190	\$ 66,903	\$ 89,638	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,903	\$ 92,420	\$ (22,517)	132.2
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 536	108	70	\$ 7,866	\$ 5,273	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,866	\$ 5,809	\$ 3,057	65.5
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,389	329	356	\$ 23,963	\$ 26,816	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,853	\$ 22,963	\$ 25,352	\$ (2,389)	110.4
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,707	1,383	1,616	\$ 100,732	\$ 121,727	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,853	\$ 101,732	\$ 123,581	\$ (21,848)	121.5
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 153	144	138	\$ 10,488	\$ 10,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,088	\$ 10,548	\$ 540	95.1
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	113	47	\$ 8,230	\$ 3,540	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,230	\$ 3,540	\$ 4,690	43.0
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ 153	257	185	\$ 18,719	\$ 13,935	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,319	\$ 14,088	\$ 5,231	72.9
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	8	3	\$ 583	\$ 226	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 583	\$ 226	\$ 357	36.8
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,500	\$ 9,129	731	587	\$ 53,243	\$ 44,216	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,743	\$ 53,345	\$ 6,398	89.3
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,500	\$ 9,129	739	590	\$ 53,826	\$ 44,442	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,326	\$ 53,671	\$ 6,655	88.8
1810	Management Planning	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,842	290	646	\$ 21,122	\$ 48,661	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,122	\$ 52,503	\$ (26,380)	201.0
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	104	77	\$ 7,575	\$ 5,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,575	\$ 5,800	\$ 1,775	76.6
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 10,942	\$ 10,942	486	386	\$ 35,398	\$ 29,076	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,340	\$ 40,018	\$ 6,323	86.4
1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ 198	330	180	\$ 24,036	\$ 13,559	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,136	\$ 13,757	\$ 10,379	57.0
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 16,042	\$ 14,982	1,210	1,289	\$ 88,132	\$ 97,095	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 104,174	\$ 112,077	\$ (7,903)	107.6
	TOTAL	\$ 204,992	\$ 189,685	16,111	15,329	\$ 1,173,464	\$ 1,154,673	\$ 92,800	\$ 126,631	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 1,217,727	\$ 67,929	94.7

Table 3 Cont...	EXTERNAL COSTS		NET ABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	
OVERHEADS									
1910 Salaries	\$ 1,069,594	\$ 1,075,200	\$ 25,680	\$ 43,370	\$ 1,043,914	\$ 1,031,830	\$ 12,084	\$ 12,084	98.8
1920 Staff Expenses	\$ 41,500	\$ 46,213	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,500	\$ 46,213	\$ (4,713)	\$ (4,713)	111.4
1930 Staff Houses	\$ 17,550	\$ 19,796	\$ 60,000	\$ 67,432	\$ (42,450)	\$ (47,636)	\$ 5,186	\$ 5,186	112.2
1940 Office Premises	\$ 24,550	\$ 28,767	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,550	\$ 28,767	\$ (4,217)	\$ (4,217)	117.2
1950 Office Equipment	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,857	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,857	\$ (457)	\$ (457)	113.4
1960 Communications/Consumables	\$ 14,400	\$ 14,023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,400	\$ 14,023	\$ 377	\$ 377	97.4
1970 General	\$ 13,150	\$ 15,804	\$ 750	\$ 8,877	\$ 12,400	\$ 6,927	\$ 5,473	\$ 5,473	55.9
1980 General Equipment	\$ 19,050	\$ 15,664	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,050	\$ 15,664	\$ 3,386	\$ 3,386	82.2
1990 Vehicles	\$ 56,700	\$ 55,028	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,700	\$ 55,028	\$ 1,672	\$ 1,672	97.1
Administration	\$ 1,259,894	\$ 1,274,352	\$ 86,430	\$ 119,679	\$ 1,173,464	\$ 1,154,673	\$ 18,791	\$ 18,791	98.4
Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,173,464	\$ 1,154,673			
Total Outputs Staff Hours					16,111	15,329			
Internal Cost Per Hour					72.84	75.33			

2024/2025 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NET ABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	
1 Species Management	\$ 146,550	\$ 135,734	6,228	6,643	\$ 453,624	\$ 500,391	\$ 68,000	\$ 66,904	\$ 532,174	\$ 569,221	\$ (37,047)	107.0	
2 Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 18,200	\$ 11,181	3,184	2,768	\$ 231,910	\$ 208,502	\$ 11,650	\$ 40,287	\$ 238,460	\$ 179,396	\$ 59,064	75.2	
3 Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,600	\$ 7,869	1,891	1,566	\$ 137,733	\$ 117,961	\$ 8,150	\$ 13,681	\$ 139,183	\$ 112,149	\$ 27,035	80.6	
4 Public Interface	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,930	1,219	672	\$ 86,787	\$ 50,619	\$ -	\$ 906	\$ 90,287	\$ 53,643	\$ 36,644	59.4	
5 Compliance	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,707	1,383	1,616	\$ 100,732	\$ 121,727	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,853	\$ 101,732	\$ 123,581	\$ (21,848)	121.5	
6 Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 153	257	185	\$ 16,719	\$ 13,935	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,319	\$ 14,088	\$ 5,231	72.9	
7 Councils	\$ 6,500	\$ 9,129	739	590	\$ 53,826	\$ 44,442	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,326	\$ 53,571	\$ 6,755	88.8	
8 Planning, Reporting	\$ 16,042	\$ 14,982	1,210	1,289	\$ 88,132	\$ 97,095	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 104,174	\$ 112,077	\$ (7,903)	107.6	
9 Administration													
Total Overhead Staff Hours			3,245	3,288									
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 204,992	\$ 189,685	19,356	18,615	\$ 1,173,464	\$ 1,154,673	\$ 92,800	\$ 126,631	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 1,217,727	\$ 67,929		
Licence Income 2024-2025													
2024-25 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,134,459	\$ 1,207,543											
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 45,378											
Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,089,061	\$ 1,207,543											
2024 Game Licence Income	\$ 267,269	\$ 272,734											
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 10,692											
Net Game Licence Income	\$ 266,577	\$ 272,734											
Total Licence Income	\$ 1,401,728	\$ 1,480,277											
Total Commission	\$ -	\$ 51,842											
Total Net 2024-25 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,345,658	\$ 1,428,435											

WIP Bulk Fund		% of OWP budget spent		Actual Net Cost YTD		95%	
Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
\$ 1,285,656	\$ 1,217,727	83%	95%	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 1,217,727	\$ 1,285,656	\$ 1,217,727
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget							
less Interest							
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies							
Less Licence Revenue							
Plus Commission Expense							
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation							
Depreciation							
Subtotal				\$ 77,324	\$ (99,450)		
Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund							
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest							
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses							
Adjusted Budget		Actual (surplus)/deficit:YTD		Total	Total		
\$ 75,724	\$ (115,274)	\$ 22,000	\$ 6,236	\$ 22,000	\$ 6,236		

4. Reserves

Reserves are classified within our Financial Statements as Dedicated or Restricted.

Restricted reserves are those reserves subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be revised by the Council without specified purposes or when certain conditions are met. Eastern Council has one restricted reserve being the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

Dedicated reserves are those reserves that the Council has elected to transfer from accumulated funds for a particular purpose such as the Asset Replacement Reserve and Ballot Habitat Management Reserve.

During this financial year Council has received funds for which it is appropriate to transfer to a Dedicated reserve to be utilise for a specific purpose. They are:

Awakaponga Water Reticulation Reserve - \$27,826 (new reserve)

Funds were received from the proceeds of an insurance claim following the theft/vandalism of the Awakaponga solar water supply system. This reserve is established while exploring alternative options for supply of water to the reserve.

Breeding Programme Reserve \$4,000 (existing reserve)

This reserve was establish following a donation for the Hatchery Breeding Programme. This year a further donation of \$4,000 was received from the Agrodome which has been earmarked for updating the tanker decals/signage. It is appropriate to transfer these funds to the Breeding Programme Reserve.

Property Maintenance Reserve \$520 (new reserve)

We have seen an increase in donations from visitors to the property, due in part to the implementation of the donation feature on the EFTPOS machine. These contributions appropriately reflect the benefit visitors derive from the site and should be directed toward the ongoing maintenance of the grounds.

While it would be possible to apply these funds to offset routine maintenance expenses within a budget year, many maintenance tasks are a more significant cost. As such, it is more prudent to allocate these funds to a dedicated reserve, to be accumulated over time and used for significant maintenance works as they arise.

5. Recommendations

5.1 That Council supports the transfer of funds as proposed to the Awakaponga Water Reticulations Reserve \$27,826, the Breeding Programme Reserve \$4,000, and the Property Maintenance Reserve \$520.

5.2 That the payments for July and August 2025 totalling \$268,160.73 be approved.

<i>July - Current Account</i>	<i>\$120,688.01</i>
<i>August - Current Account</i>	<i>\$141,326.55</i>
<i>July & August - Credit Card - AA</i>	<i>\$2,548.61</i>
<i>July & August - Credit Card - KT</i>	<i>\$3,597.56</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$268,160.73</i>

15.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

2 October 2025

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1112 Datawatch

During the 2024-25 trout fishing season, a total of 781 datawatch tags were returned (from anglers and the Te Wairoa Trap) and entered into the database since 1 October 2024. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	10
Lake Okataina	159
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	37
Lake Rotoehu	18
Lake Rotoiti	108
Lake Rotoma	46
Lake Tarawera	403

data entered to 23 September 2025

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

Tag returns (angler and trap) for the 2024-25 season, entered into the datawatch database between 1 October 2024 – 23 September 2025 increased by 71 tags compared to the same approximate period of the 2023-24 season. Lakes Tarawera (up 48 tag returns), Okataina (up 46 returns), and Rotoehu (up 9 returns) were all increased compared to the same period during the 2023-24 season. Lake Rotoma had the same number of returns. Lakes Okareka (down 25 returns), Rotoiti (down 4 returns) and Rerewhakaaitu (down 1 return) were behind on returns from the 2023-24 season.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The Lake Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy has been transmitting data consistently over the past month. Longer days with more sunlight have the battery charging up and retaining a greater level of capacity well over and above its 11.5V low battery cutoff control. Since the last maintenance was carried out which involved a new plug being fitted between the solar array and the battery, the weather station that also transmits information to the command console via the same plug has failed to make connection. This will be looked at next time the buoy is returned to Limnotrack for servicing. Staff will look to undertake a clean of the sensor cables on the next trip to Lake Waikaremoana with the boat.

Waikaremoana Spawning Tributary work – Genesis Energy

Staff have completed 5 sampling visits to Lake Waikaremoana's spawning tributaries over the 2025 winter under Genesis funding to monitor ongoing lake level effects on the trout fishery.

This work is undertaken on a 3-yearly basis following the initial 3 years of monitoring 2020-2023 setting baseline conditions.

The spawning activity largely peaked in the Hopuruahine, Mokau and Marauti Streams in August. The Waiotukupuna Stream spawning activity peaked in July – being slightly earlier due to the high number of brown trout within the stream. Brown trout have an earlier spawning period than rainbows.

Overall numbers of angler diaries received, and anglers encountered were down on the last time the lake fishery was surveyed (2022 winter). Some large weather events and freshes came through during the winter period blowing out log jams that had been present for many years and altering the riverbeds/banks. New runs of trout quickly returned to the stream following these.

Fish quality was extremely good over the 2025 spawning period – brown trout averaged 505mm, 1.77kg and 49.81CF while rainbow trout averaged 500mm, 1.63kg, 47.29CF.

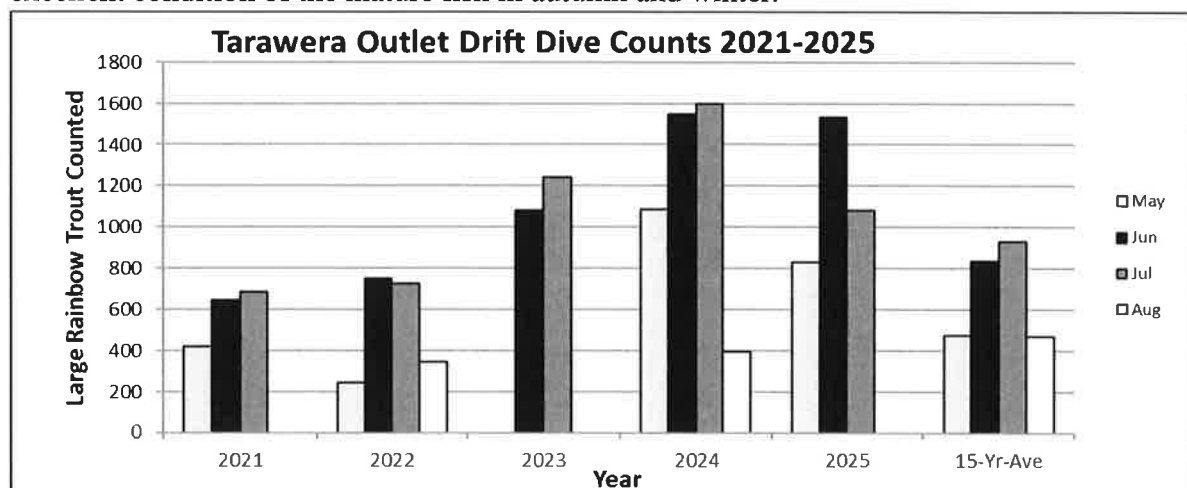
1114 Lake Tarawera

Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

Fish & Game staff completed 3 drift dive counts of the Tarawera Outlet during the 2025 winter. The May count was undertaken on 23 May. The June count was undertaken on 24 June. The representative July count was undertaken in early August (5 August). A count during late August was not completed.

	Size range			2025	2024	2023
	<i>Small</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
May	19	11	830	860	1095	-
June	1	2	1530	1533	1552	1095
July	0	0	1082	1082	1602	1298
August	-	-	-	-	396	-

Trout counts in the Tarawera Outlet during the 2025 winter exceeded the past 15-year average for the months of May, June and July. As with the Te Wairoa trap run, large spawning trout were present in the Tarawera tributaries earlier than most years. This is likely due to the excellent condition of the mature fish in autumn and winter.



1116 Waterfowl Harvest Management

Shoveler Monitoring

Fish and Game New Zealand conducted a national count of kuruwheangi, Australasian shoveler duck (*Spatula (Anas) rhynchotis*) on 4 August 2025. This is the 26th annual count (2000 – 2025) to monitor change in the New Zealand shoveler duck population.

Four indices were examined:

- total national count ($n=273$ survey sites),
- the sum of counts from sites that have been counted every year ($n=72$),
- a two-year trend of each site (2024–2025; $n=264$) and,
- a 26-year trend of each site (2000–2025; $n=273$).

The trends are derived from a regression line, i.e., a linear slope, fitted to the annual log count for each site and then the average of the regression coefficients is back transformed.

The 2025 total count (12,250) was the 19th highest ranked count in the 26 years and similar to last year's count of 12,514 ($n=278$).

The long-term trend indicates a stable population (average regression coefficient = -0.02; 95 CI -0.061 – 0.022) and no consistent change over the last two years (average regression coefficient = 0.09; 95 CI -0.09 – 0.26).

A linear regression line fitted to the 72 sites that have been counted every year (26 years) suggest no change in the shoveler population ($\beta_{year} = -20.04$; $P = 0.627$). Nevertheless, the population at these sites was the second to lowest (3,932) over the last 26 years and about 40% of the highest count in 2017 (9,636). Counts at these sites peaked about 2014 – 2017 followed by a gradual decline.

Sex ratios were examined using a chi-squared test. Reported observations of females were significantly fewer ($P < 0.0001$) than males with a ratio of 0.60 females to males. This sex imbalance is consistent with ratios from previous years (0.63 females to males; $P < 0.001$).

The national survey is an index of population change at surveyed sites. However, count sites are not randomly selected so inference about national and regional shoveler populations must be made with caution.

All indices, and counts, point to a relatively stable shoveler population.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Ohau Creel Survey

Over the coming 2025-26 season, creel surveys have been contracted out by Bay of Plenty Regional Council to Te Arawa Lakes Trust (as was the 2024-25 survey schedule) and funded through the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. There is a change to the timing and magnitude of survey events being conducted over the 2025-26 season. The Expert Fisheries Panel that oversees fisheries monitoring for the Ohau Channel Water Quality Diversion Wall Consent have shortened the trout monitoring to Opening Day of the trout fishing season and the month of October. Over many years of monitoring, October attracts the greatest amount of angler effort and has proven to be the key month for determining how well the season at the channel performs, particularly in terms of catch rate angler satisfaction.

Opening Day 2025 Creel Surveys

The 2025 Opening Day creel survey has been organised involving staff (local and Northland), honorary rangers and volunteers. Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina will be surveyed as they open to boat angling after the 3-month winter closure. It provides the first opportunity to have a really good look at the 2-year-old fish from these lakes as well as providing a point of face-to-face angler-staff meeting for positive messaging and compliance.

Boat ramps will be manned at the 3 lakes as well as a boat being manned on Tarawera and Rotoiti to gain data from vessels heading back to private jetties.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust are contracted to undertake creel surveys at the Ohau Channel over the month of October including Opening Day.

Summer Creel Surveys

The 2025-26 summer creel survey schedule has been developed. The strategy for the 2025-26 summer (as per recent summer creels) is to retain coverage of the four large high use lakes, and if possible, provide some level of presence/ monitoring across the lesser utilised lakes. The aim this summer is to begin Summer Creel Surveys from early November and have a significant staff presence and compliance coverage across the lakes. An angler diary scheme is also running in the expectation of gaining greater reports and coverage from lesser covered waters within the Eastern Region.

1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey

Game bird harvest in the Eastern Region has declined over the last 33 years (1993–2025) except for paradise shelduck which shows no statistical change over time.

Mallard harvest is explained by hours hunting waterfowl and daily bag limit. Hours hunting waterfowl is explained by season length and a year effect. The decline in hours hunted over time explains the decline in mallard harvest. Hunters spent more hours hunting waterfowl in 2025 (44-day season) than in 2024 (31-day season). This increase in hours hunting waterfowl corresponded with an increase in an estimated mallard harvest of 2,781 on the 2024 season.

The decline in grey duck harvest was not tied to hours hunted but rather a year effect which is consistent with a declining population or possibly a change in hunters' ability to accurately identify a grey duck. Nevertheless, the declining grey duck harvest is consistent with trap sample data and hunter bag checks. Despite the longer season shoveler duck harvest was significantly down on the 2024 season.

Declining hours hunted may be due to other competing hobbies or it may be due to a decreasing population (i.e., the law of diminishing returns - hunters hunt less when there is less game). Nevertheless, greylard per hour hunting does not show an increasing or decreasing trend.

Upland game hunters fared better than last year despite fewer hours hunted. Both pheasant and quail estimated harvests were higher than the 2024 season.

Adult and junior whole season licence sales were up 173 on last year. There was no evidence that season regulations (daily bag limit and season length) explained changes in licence sales.

Annual harvest of most game bird species in the Eastern region appears to have declined over the survey period, 1993–2025. The only exception is paradise shelduck harvest which appears relatively stable (although it may be showing a slow decline). The decline in harvest across most species is consistent with the decline in greylard harvest which can be explained by less hours hunting waterfowl. Hours hunting waterfowl appears to be related to a year effect i.e., over time hunters have hunted for less hours each season. This may be due to other time commitments such as other hobbies (Brocklesby, Shaw, and Hewitt 1995), or it may be related to a perception that there is less game out there, so it is not worth their while i.e., the law of diminishing returns (hunters hunt less when there is less to hunt).

It was thought that this year might provide an interesting opportunity to examine hunter behaviour given the season was longer (44-days) than normal for a restricted season (31-days). If the law of diminishing returns applies it was postulated that hunters would hunt for fewer hours than other 44-day seasons given the greylard population was predicted as low. However, hunters hunted for more hours than other 44-days seasons. As it turned out the greylard population fell into the restricted regulation zone (31-day season, 6 daily bird limit) but was higher than predicted (Figure 3). The estimated greylard population in 2025 (307,845; 95%BCI 235700 – 381,800) was either on par with, or higher than, the greylard population in other 44-day seasons (Figure 3). Although hunters shot more greylard than in 2024 they had to hunt for more hours. In other words, greylard per hour hunting waterfowl was down on last year. The size of the greylard population may dictate hunter effort which is consistent with the law of diminishing returns. However, this preliminary supposition is just that. This warrants further investigation.

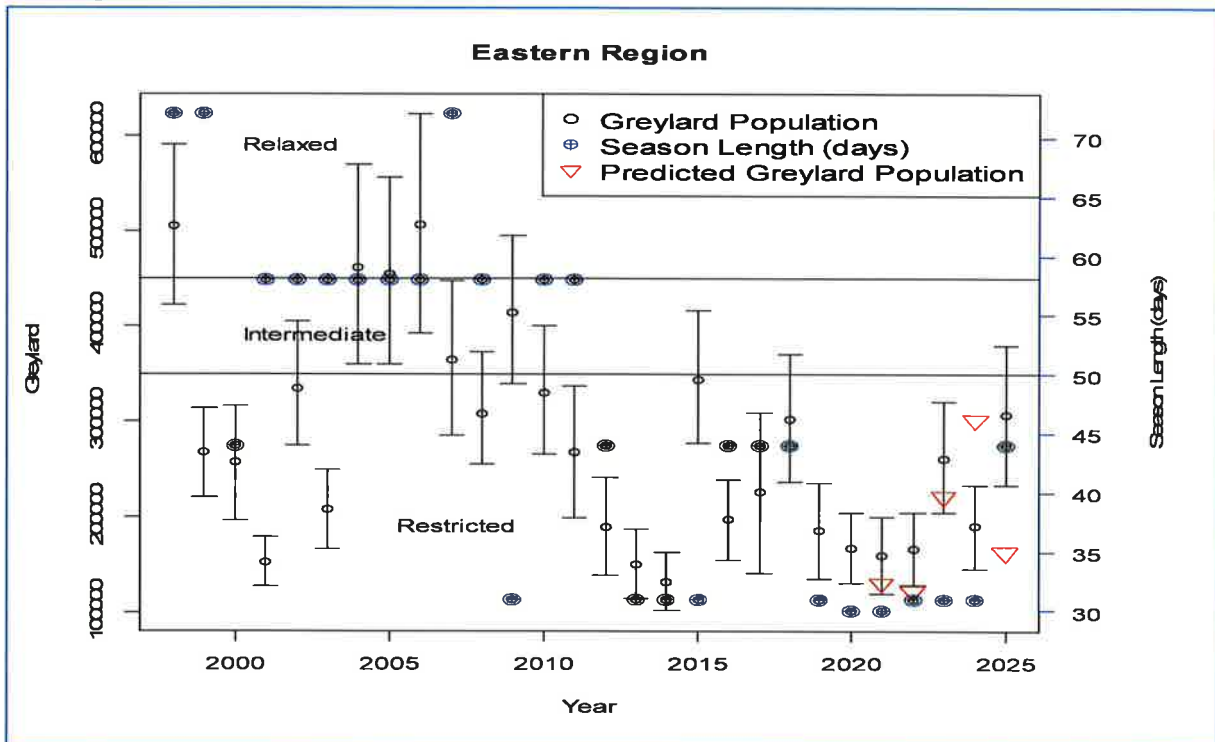


Figure 3. Estimated Eastern Region greylard population 1998–2025 (circles and 95% credible intervals). The horizontal lines are the population thresholds for different regulation constraints (Restricted = 31-days, 6 bird limit, Intermediate = 44-days, 8 bird limit, and Relaxed = 58 days, 10 bird limit). The blue circles with a cross are the season length for that year in days. The red nabla’s (upside down triangles) are the predicted (in December of the preceding year) greylard population.

Despite a longer season shoveler harvest was significantly down cf. 2024, perhaps indicating the population was down however the shoveler survey does not reflect a decline.

Grey duck was examined in more detail due to its current status (nationally critical; Miskelly et al. 2008). The decline in harvest of this species in the Eastern Fish & Game Region does not appear to be related to hours spent hunting waterfowl but rather a year effect. This could reflect a decline in the population or it may be that hunters are not identifying them as grey rather as hen mallard (see Williams 2017). Nevertheless, the decline is consistent with other population indexes such as trap sample (during banding) and bag checks (over the opening weekend). The decline in grey duck numbers is attributed to hybridisation with the mallard duck and introgression (Rhymer, Williams, and Braun 1994), susceptibility to harvest cf. the mallard (Balham and Miers 1959), and loss of habitat (Williams and Basse 2006).

Paradise shelduck are an exception to the other game bird species in the Eastern region with limited evidence of a decline in harvest from 1993 – 2025. This may be due to several factors including its apparent success as a species in the New Zealand landscape (Williams 1981). Alternatively, or in addition to, bag limits limit paradise harvest in many instances therefore the constant harvest may reflect hunters may be successfully targeting them and shooting the maximum attainable harvest, so the decline in hours hunting is not reflected in the total harvest of this species.

Upland game hunters fared better than last year however we still received reports that hunting was tough.

1141 Hatchery Operations

The Te Wairoa fish trap was run throughout the period to monitor Tarawera fish and to obtain quality brood fish for the breeding programme. Ten crosses were taken for the reporting period, completing ova collection for the season. Seventy-one rainbow trout crosses were taken in total.

Well established fry have been moved to populate rearing tanks in preparation for being moved outside later this summer.

The Te Wairoa trap and the breeding facility “Fort Knox” were both dismantled at the beginning of September. Maintenance will be carried out at both before next winter season.

Fish locations at 22nd September 2025:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx.)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	0+	100,000	Liberations 2026
Tank A	Tig	0+	1,500	Liberation 2025
Tank B	Bt	0+	1,000	Liberations 2025
Tank C	Brook	2+	6	Brood
Tank E	Brook	0+	200	
Tank F	Brook	2+	30	Brood (W)
Pond 5	Rt	1+	6,500	Spring liberations 2025
Pond 6	Rt	1+	6,500	Spring liberations 2025
Pond 7	Rt	1+	6,500	Spring liberations 2025
Pond 9	Rt	1+	4,750	2+ in 2026
RW1,2	Rt	2+	3,000	For 2+ for 2025, various

1143 Te Wairoa Trap

The Te Wairoa Fish Trap (Lake Tarawera) was removed on the 3rd of September. The total run recorded running upstream during the 2025 winter was 1,997 fish. This total was higher than the number of trout trapped during winter 2024 (1,948). The heaviest fish through the trap was a 710mm, 4.55kg Rp male (4-year-old). The average size of the fish trapped this winter (593mm and 2.63kg) was significantly longer (16mm), significantly heavier (110g) ($P < 0.001$ for both variables) than the average size of fish trapped during winter 2024. Hatchery released fish trapped over the 2025 winter measured 602mm and 2.74kg compared to 589mm and 2.66kg during the 2024 winter. These were significantly longer (13mm) and significantly heavier (80g) ($P < 0.001$ for both variables). The average size of the wild fish trapped over the 2025 winter measured 558mm and 2.21kg compared to 550mm and 2.17kg during 2024. The wild fish were significantly longer (8mm, $P < 0.001$) compared to the wild fish in the 2024 winter trap run.

Year	Total run	Wild run	Wild %	Ave length	Ave weight
2021	2,312	636	38.0	537	1.95
2022	2,651	715	26.9	553	2.09
2023	1,575	465	29.5	561	2.09
2024	1,948	549	28.2	577	2.52
2025	1,997	426	21.3	593	2.63

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Spring liberations are well underway, and fish have been sent to other Fish & Game regions and research facilities as shown in the table below.

Liberations, Eastern Region 15 July to 22 September 2025

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age Class	Number
Tarawera	4/09/2025	Lp		RT	1+	3,000
Tarawera	4/09/2025	Lp	H25	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	8/09/2025	Lp		RT	1+	7,000
Rotoiti	8/09/2025	Lp	B25	RT	1+	500
Rotoma	11/09/2025	Lp		RT	1+	2,000
Rotoma	11/09/2025	Lp	D25	RT	1+	500

Fish were collected or shipped to Wellington and Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game and NIWA.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Fish and Game is continuing to liaise with BoPRC on the review of the Schedule of Important Trout Habitats in the region. Consultation via the RESOF group is continuing. Regional Council's work to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM) is underway and early discussions are occurring on some early drafts of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and chapters of the Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP). Comments have recently been submitted on a draft version of the fish passage provisions for the RNRP. Comments have also been submitted on the *Changes to Freshwater Management in the Bay of Plenty* document. Due to the recent change in Government, BoPRC has recently put this freshwater management planning, extending planned notification of the RNRP until late 2025. No new developments.

In September a submission was lodged on some proposed amendments to the Regional Pest Management Plan. No new developments

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. A/W 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, the Motu Catchment Plan process is now underway. Fish and Game has so far had some input in identifying values, and recently provided comments on a draft version of the catchment plan. Consultation has recently started on the Waiapu Catchment Plan. Additionally, stakeholder consultation is scheduled to begin shortly on the Regional Policy Statement, Freshwater Plan amendments, and the Waimata, Uawa, Waipaoa, Wharehika and Hangaroa catchments. GDC is also beginning a topic by topic review of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan. No new developments.

Other

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established a group to provide advice in relation to policy development for NPSFM implementation. Fish and Game is part of this Rural and Environmental Sector Organisation Forum and the next meeting is scheduled for mid October.

The most Bay of Plenty Forestry Liaison Group meeting was attended in late August.

Various Fish and Game regions have been collaborating on a submission to amend some parts of the NES-Freshwater 2020 that are viewed as unacceptable to us. Of particular interest to Eastern Region are some unreasonably strict regulations around physical works in wetlands, and on the construction of maimai. Work to rewrite and submit some more workable provisions has been completed. No new developments.

The Department is currently in the early stages of a Wildlife Act review process. Fish and Game staff have been collaborating at a national level to have input into the process. No new developments.

The NZ RMA team has been very active recently with a number of important workstreams on the go – including development and consultation on Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plans, access, freshwater fish species interaction and passage, water allocation and limit setting, and the development of practice notes, along with a submission on afforestation on Crown Land, and a review of DoC’s consultation document on Charging for Access to some Public Conservation Land.

A national RMA group conference in Wellington was attended in late July.

A large upcoming work stream is the development of a new Eastern Region Sports Fish and Game Management Plan to replace our recently expired version. Work on the plan as a whole has temporarily been put on hold due to uncertainty over upcoming changes in Fish and Game reforms. However, there are relevant elements that can be progressed in the interim.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
25 Jun	BOPRC	RDC	LUC- weed clearance	Lake Rotorua lake front	No concerns email
22 Jul	HBRC	Juken NZ Ltd	LUC- forest harvest	Mangapehi Forest, Mangapoike river	No concerns email
22 Jul	GDC	Juken NZ Ltd	LUC- Forest harvest	Nuhaka catchment	No concerns email
29 Jul	GDC	BJ Holdsworth	LUC – forest harvest	Waikohu Stream, Matawai	No concerns email
31 Jul	GDC	Juken NZ Ltd	LUC- forest harvest	Patunamu Forest, Waiau catchment	No concerns email
20 Aug	BOPRC	Hauriki Civil Ltd	LUC- gabion wall protection	Ohinemutu , Lake Rotorua	No concerns email
21 Aug	BOPRC	Taungata Trust & Callaghan Tr	LUC- gabion wall install	Waitangi Bay, Lake Tarawera	No concerns email
4 Sept	BOPRC	RDC	LUC- construct fields and carparks	Titoki reserve, Utuhina stream	No concerns email
4 Sept	GDC	Landcorp	LUC- forest harvest	Omoreroa Station, Hangaroa River	No concerns email
11 Sept	BOPRC	RDC	LUC- mooring poles	Te Akau Bay, Lake Rotoiti	No concerns email
11 Sept	BOPRC	RDC	LUC- boat ramp and retaining wall	Lake Rotoma	No concerns email
18 Sept	GDC	Rimu Hills Dairy Ltd	DP- dairy effluent irrigation	Motu River	No concerns email

Consents of note: Manawa Energy (formally Trust Power) lodged resource consent renewal for their hydroelectricity schemes – known as the Wheao Scheme in September 2023. Initial discussions took place with draft resource consent provided and a site visit occurring March 2024. Nothing has been heard from Manawa Energy since except we understood they had been granted “fast track” approval for their consent renewal. Unexpectedly, we received notification

from BOPRC regarding a notified resource consent regarding this hydro scheme renewal – submissions closing 2nd October 2025. The updated information still does not answer questions previously requested from Manawa regarding proposed “sluicing” regimes, nor residual flow in spawning waters while sluicing occurs. Consequently, we will be opposing this renewal application, but willing to enter into prehearing meetings to ascertain if mitigation proposals can be included. Council will be advised of progress of this application.

1221 Reserves Management

Preparation for the commencement of the mowing cycle of all access tracks within the main wetlands has been commenced, with former staff Nigel Simpson briefing new staffer Ben Sowry regarding tractor, mower and transport trailer operations, plus a reserve inspection / drive through with staff John Meikle – detailing risk areas and circuits to undertake. First planned mow is to occur late October. The first planned aquatic edge pest plant spray for reticulation channels is to occur immediately post first mowing round.

Annual water control structure inspection is also to occur immediately post first mowing round, with any works required being undertaken in late November.

More vandalism has occurred at the Kaituna wetland entry security gates with one gate requiring re-welding and the other straightening. This damage occurred prior to the white baiting season.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

No landowner requests for habitat assistance have occurred since the last Council report.

A recent site visit occurred at the Burt Wetland in Te Puke to ascertain ground conditions and develop a plan of action for works to occur this coming summer. Discussions are still occurring with BOPRC to enable permission for works to happen – this is due to NES-W rules.

1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats

Wetland Forum

A forum meeting is planned for late October with operational staff from all statutory bodies within the Bay of Plenty involved with wetlands. One key discussion point will be the update as to the Te Tumu urban development, which is opposite the Kaituna Wetland, and has potential to impact bird life and hunting within the vicinity.

Lake Rotoiti Catfish Update

Plenty of school groups are still participating in the Te Arawa Lakes Trust led community catfish programme (Te Arawa Catfish Killas), providing hands on assistance to the catfish removal programme as well as educating students about pest species and the need to look after our freshwater species and habitats.

The community has logged nearly 400 catfish at Te Weta Bay for the year of 2025 so far, 155 less for the same period last year. Involved are Lynmore School, Whangamarino School, Rotorua Lakes High School, Rotokawa School, Sunset Primary, Rotorua Primary School, Te Waiariki Purea Trust, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Koutu, Awhina School Activity Centre, Rotorua Home Schoolers, plus more groups involved so far this year, engaging with over 3500

students and community members (inclusive of hosting Te Tūkōhu Ngāwhā Mātauranga Māori Science and Design Fair as part of the Catfish Killas work brief).

Heading into spring, water temperatures increase, and catfish begin to seek out new habitat. With increased movement, the use of fyke nets becomes effective.

At this time of year larger catfish (>200mm) tend to be caught compared to large groups of juvenile catfish that are encountered in summer. Areas of key spawning habitat such as around rocky areas (Rotorua lake front) and Te Weta Bay will receive additional netting effort in attempts to remove mature adult fish prior to spawning.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Spring angler access work is commencing at various locations around the region, and will include work at the Ngongotaha Stream, Waiteti Stream, Kaituna River, Waioeka River, and the Rangitaiki River system including within Kaingaroa Forest, as well as other locations as required. Timberlands forests access for angler access into the Rangitaiki River system, Flaxy Lakes, and through Waimangu Forest to Lake Rotomahana closes at the last weekend of September and remains closed through summer.

Signage around the region has been visited, maintained and updated, including visits to the Gisborne and East Coast areas.

1312 Signage

Signage around the region has been visited, maintained and updated, including visits to the Gisborne and East Coast areas.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was produced for September 2025 covering new seasons prospects and regional news.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Minor changes were made to the website over this period. Children's fishing page was published outlining the 2025 season of events.

1334 Social Media

Various posts were generated to Facebook and Instagram regarding; New season prospects, local angling news and inspirational material.

1341 Information Pamphlets

A re-print of the *Boat Fishing for Trout* publication was completed.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Four fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

One Children's Fishing event was held in August. The September event was cancelled due to high winds.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Staff attended a pre-season club/agent event in Tauranga in September.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Maintenance is up to date at both the Waikaremoana Hut and Wairua Hut. There has been consistent use of the Wairua Hut by anglers over the last fishing season. At Wairua we have had ongoing issues with the lock on the hut toilet being removed by non-hut user(s). We are continuing to follow up the toilet situation at Wairua with the Department of Conservation, as the summer high public use of that area exceeds the hut toilet capacity and as a composting toilet it needs to be used within its limits, or it will not function properly. We are suggesting to DOC that they place a toilet near the hot pool to cater for the significant visitors to that area.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

It has been a quiet period in this area over the past 2 months. Although we continue and endeavour to keep connections and communications with our stakeholders, invariable it is usually a one-way system at the current stage.

We continue to cement relationships with key operational stakeholders like Rotorua DOC and BOPRC as well as RLC. I also had a meeting the Taupo DOC management in August.

A new Te Arawa Lakes Trust GM (Tame Malcolm) has been appointed and started on the 29 Sept, I will be reaching out to make connection with him in due course.

Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee (TFAC)

Matt Osborne attended the TFAC meeting held in Turangi on 7 August and presented a management update on behalf of eastern fishery.

1441 Public Promotions

Media articles promoting the Winter shoreline fishing and the run up to the 1 October fishing season created a lot of anticipation of how great the condition and catch rates were and that our data was showing it to be the in 20 years.

We have run the radio ad from last year over the last week of Sept and the first week in October. This is covering the school holidays and the Opening season. It is running accross Huaraki, Coast, NewsTalkZB and Flava promoting the regions great fishing. We also have 2 free ads in the Daily Post as part of this advertising package.

Our opening media article was again well received by many regional news hubs but was not front page this year.

We also managed to get an editorial article in The NZ Motor Caravan Association magazine that reaches 121,000 members in their September issue promoting the Rotorua lakes fishery.

We had a free stand at the Hunting, Fishing & 4x4 Expo which was well received and sponsored The Big 4 Hunting and Fishing Competition as part of the event. The comp was well received with 33 teams signed up. The comp covered deer, pigs, rainbow trout and pheasant.

1451 Education

Matt Osborne attended the ‘Scientist for a Day’ event held at Kaharoa School along with staff from other science-based organisations. This event is designed to raise awareness of science amongst primary school children.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Ranging has continued to focus heavily on closed waters areas around Rotorua, and in some locations, we have had ongoing issues mostly with youth offenders, who are fishing in closed waters, without licences, and using illegal tackle.

The game season (upland game) closed at the end of August without any issues. Compliance work is going well with a full compliment of staff. From the start of the new season on 1 October there will also be an emphasis on angler checks on the lakes and streams which are now open for the 2025-26 season. Honorary rangers contribute as they are able either with assistance to staff or ranging independently in their own areas.

Contacts 2024-2025 year

1,904 contacts with anglers and hunters (mostly anglers) have been made for the 2024 – 25 year. Overall compliance is in excess of 97 %.

Contacts: Year 2024-2025 year

Month	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Last 5 yr average
September	16	51	35	36	42	37
October	724	718	520	856	627	709
November	16	66	16	161	154	77
December	287	182	182	256	253	229
January	404	352	212	217	150	286
February	155	140	12	117	198	138
March	164	93	111	185	101	115
April	153	238	25	81	13	101
May	297	203	203	175	161	204
June	124	141	52	80	88	112
July	45	57	36	59	47	54
August	22	32	13	29	70	23
Total	2,407	2,273	1,417	2,252	1,904	2,085

1521 Ranger Training

A ranger training day was run in August, and this included some staff and rangers from Eastern Region, and five from Hawkes Bay Region.

Rangers

We currently have seven honorary rangers located around the region. They contribute varying amounts to ranging and other assistance to staff.

1531 Prosecutions

Some prosecutions are still pending resolution either at court or pending further enquiries and action to bring them to a conclusion.

Offences 2024-2025 Year

For the 2024-25 year we have dealt with 53 offenders for 85 offences as tabled below. This is a significant increase in offending on the previous year. We have noticed an increase in youth offending in particular.

Offence table 2024-2025 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	36
Fishing in closed waters	17
Fish with illegal tackle	13
Take trout with net	2
False details	3
Obstruction of ranger	1
Give false details	3
Unpinned gun – magazine not restricted to 2 shells	8
Hunt with or possess lead shot	2
Total number of offences	85

Offences Pending Resolution

Offences table – pending resolution as of Sept 2025

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	6
Fishing in closed waters	3
Fishing with illegal tackle	4
Total number of offences	13

Offence Resolutions for 2024-25 year

Resolution Type	Numbers
Adult – formal warning and education	10
Youth warning and education	21
Prosecution – with diversion	8
Prosecution – without diversion	9
Education	1
No action – false details/unable to locate	1
Resolution action pending	3
Total	53

Offences 2025-2026 Year

For the 2025-26 year as of 09/09/25, nil offences dealt with.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

Eastern Region has again been requested to assist with the preparation of and attend the 2025 Sika show. One staff member is to attend the whole show and is constructing the props for the show, and another staff member will attend the final day, and assist with stand break down.

1841 NZ Fish & Game Liaison

Licensing

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales and other information requests to the New Zealand Council and regions. Kate continues to assist ESL with resolution of outstanding system issues and supports the F & G organisation with coordination of magazine databases, and licensing requirements through the seasons.

National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing led from this region. This includes recently work for NZC in respect of ongoing efforts to get an infringement notice system in place for dealing with most offences, coordinating ranger training, and providing compliance and prosecution advice to regions on request.

15.3 LICENCE SALES REPORT

3 October 2025

1. 2024-2025 Fish Licence Sales

- 1.1 Fish licence sales for the complete 2024-25 season compared with the 2023-24 season are summarised in Table one.
- 1.2 Fish licence sales have ended the Season 5.6% ahead of last Season. The 2024-25 sales target was exceeded by 7.4%, 617 LEQ's.
- 1.3 The growth in sales this season is distributed across all categories. A more details analysis of sale will be completed in the new year.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2024-25 vs 2023-24

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2023-24	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2024-25	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family Season	926	1,266	2,192	869	1,358	2,227	35
Season Non-Resident	776	1,032	1,808	774	1,173	1,947	139
Loyal Senior	117	184	301	98	216	314	13
Local Area Adult	238	260	498	243	300	543	45
Winter Adult	852	567	1,419	858	689	1,547	128
Long Break Adult	164	257	421	179	303	482	61
Short Break Adult	25	54	79	19	34	53	-26
Day	277	771	1,048	228	841	1,069	21
Day Non-Resident	843	3,057	3,900	675	3,364	4,039	139
Total Adult	4,689	8,407	13,096	4,352	9,339	13,691	595
Fish Junior							
Season	191	301	492	211	384	595	103
Season Non-Resident	6	24	30	6	25	31	1
Day	144	475	619	145	479	624	5
Day Non-Resident	21	26	47	18	51	69	22
Total Junior	362	826	1,188	380	939	1,319	131
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	8	8	2	15	17	9
Day Non-Resident	6	18	24	7	20	27	3
Total Child	6	26	32	9	35	44	12
Total Fish	5,057	9,259	14,316	4,741	10,313	15,054	738
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			8,504			8,980	476
Variance between Seasons							5.6%
\$ (excl GST)			\$1,131,397			\$1,218,101	\$86,704

Summary 2024-2025 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2024-25 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,363	100.0%	\$1,134,459
2024-25 Actual	8,980	107.4%	\$1,218,101
Variance to budget	617	7.4%	\$83,642

2. 2025 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 Game licence sales for the 2025 season YTD to 30 September compared with the 2024 season are summarised in Table Two.
- 2.2 The near complete Game Season sales have ended the Season 6.6% ahead of last Season. The 2025 sales target was exceeded by 2.4%, 66 LEQ's.

Table Two: Game Licence Sales 2025 vs 2024 YTD results to 30 September

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2024	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2025	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Game							
Adult Season	2,186	396	2,582	2,335	416	2,751	169
Adult Day	30	97	127	18	125	143	16
Junior Season	191	84	275	210	69	279	4
Junior Day	0	6	6	4	7	11	5
Child Season	117	54	171	125	31	156	-15
Total Game	2,524	637	3,161	2,692	648	3,340	179
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			2,660			2,835	175
Variance between Seasons							6.6%
\$ (excl GST)			\$249,850			\$273,652	\$23,802

2025 Annual Budgeted Game LEQs	2,769	100.0%	\$267,269
2025 Actual	2,835	102.4%	\$273,652
Variance to budget	66	2.4%	\$6,383

3. 2025-2026 Fish Licence Sales

- 3.1 Fish licence sales for the initial period of the 2025-26 season compared with the 2024-25 season are summarised in Table three.
- 3.2 Fish licence sales are sitting at just 0.8% behind 2024-25 Season results to 2 October YTD. Licences went on sale 1 September this year, usually mid-August. This change was made to provide more time for the Ministers approval of the Anglers Notice and it also aligns nicely with the Fish & Game financial year.
- 3.3 We have seen a dip in family licence sales following the introduction of the new requirement for at least one child or grandchild to be named on the licence. This has been offset by an increase in season and local area licences as a result of couples only now being required to have individual licences. The offset almost matches the loss of family licences in terms of LEQ's i.e. 186 LEQ's Family vs 166 LEQ's season, and local area. Staff have received feedback from many regular family licence buyers upset about the change, so it is likely we may have lost some family participants as a result.

Table Three: Fish Licence Sales 2025-26 vs 2024-25 YTD to 2 October

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2024-25	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2025-26	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family	409	448	857	402	312	714	-143
Season	318	285	603	373	310	683	80
Season Non-Resident	4	9	13	6	20	26	13
Loyal Senior	157	193	350	153	165	318	-32
Local Area Adult	376	173	549	478	179	657	108
Winter Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Break Adult	0	3	3	0	1	1	-2
Short Break Adult	14	34	48	11	40	51	3
Day	28	79	107	23	83	106	-1
Day Non-Resident	1	10	11	0	14	14	3
Total Adult	1,307	1,234	2,541	1,446	1,124	2,570	29
Fish Junior							
Season	41	49	90	38	62	100	10
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Day	3	12	15	3	16	19	4
Day Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Junior	44	61	105	41	79	120	15
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Day Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Child	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Total Fish	1,351	1,295	2,646	1,487	1,205	2,692	46
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			2,537			2,516	-21
Variance between Seasons							-0.8%
\$ (excl GST)			\$337,480			\$341,255	\$3,775

Summary 2025-2026 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2025-26 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	9,005	100.0%	\$1,221,548
2025-26 Actual	2,516	27.9%	\$341,255
Variance to budget	-6,489	-72.1%	-\$880,293

16. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

16.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

16.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

16.3 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Mark Sceats

17. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Ref: 9.01.01

30 September 2025

1. Purpose

To discuss the Chief executive Officer's performance review.

2. Background

Council carries out a 360 degree appraisal of its CEO's performance with input from staff, and Councillors. The Council needs to consider the outcomes of the annual review process and discuss their findings with the CEO, and it is appropriate that these discussions take place with the public excluded.

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

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Discussion on the CEO's performance review and other related matters.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii): That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

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

ITEM	REASON UNDER ACT	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

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

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

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

3. Resolutions

3.1 That pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at ... pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to discuss Council and the CE’s Performance review.

3.2 That Council moves out of public excluded at ... pm.

3.3 That the public be re-admitted to the meeting at ... pm.