



**EASTERN  
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING  
AGENDA***

**11 December 2025**



# AGENDA

## The 218<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

**Date:** Thursday, 11 December 2025

**Commences:** 11.00 AM

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1 Welcome (11AM)	
2 Apologies	<b>(R)</b>
3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting ( <b>16 October 2025</b> ) (11.05AM,10min) <b>(R)</b>	1
2.1 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
2.2 Matters arising from the meeting of 7 August 2025	
4 Notification of Items for General Business	
5 Conflict of Interest Register	11
6 Health and Safety Report (11.20 AM, 15 min)	<b>(R)</b> 13
7 Eastern Fish & Game Councillor Numbers (11.35PM, 20min)	<b>(R)</b> 15
8 Eastern Fish & Game Risk Register Update (11.55 PM, 15min)	<b>(I/D)</b> 16
9 Annual 2026 Meeting Calendar (12.10PM, 10min)	<b>(R)</b> 22
10 Biosecurity Gold Clam & HPAI- verbal update (12.20, 10min)	
<b>Working Lunch (12.30PM – 12.50PM)</b>	
11 2026 Game Season Conditions and presentation (12.55PM, 40min)	<b>(R)</b> 25
12 Fish & Game Reform Discussion (1.35PM, 40min)	<b>(I/D)</b> 42
13 2024-2025 Performance Report (2.15PM 10min)	<b>(R)</b> 43
14 Operational Reports (2.25PM, 20 min)	
14.1 Finance Report	<b>(R)</b> 47
14.2 Management Report	<b>(I/D)</b> 63
14.3 Licence Sales Report	<b>(I/D)</b> 74
15 Liaison Officers Reports (2.45PM, 10 min)	<b>(I)</b> 79
Meeting Closes (2.55PM)	

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 217th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND  
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW  
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2025 AT 11 AM.**

**Present**

Crs. Mark Sceats, Alec McIver, Scott, Nicol, Pat Swift, Kevin Coutts, and Murray Ferris

**In attendance**

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Anthony van Dorp (present item 12 only), Eben Herbert (present from item 13) Eastern Fish & Game; Barry Roderick and Debbie Mair.

**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 Lindsay Lyons.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Scott Nicol) that the apologies for the 217th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [25/10/2.2]*

**3.0 ELECTION OF MEMBERS**

3.1 Cr Mark Sceats vacated the chair and handed over to Arash Alaeinia. Arash informed the Council that he had received an email from Cr Lindsay Lyons expressing his interest in taking on the role of Chair, as Mark had indicated his intention to step down from the position. Cr Mark Sceats provided background on his decision to step aside, explaining that he wished to remain on the New Zealand Council and that some members felt it was too much of a workload for one person to hold both roles. Mark noted that he personally found the workload manageable. Further discussion followed, with some members supporting Mark continuing in both positions; however, it was agreed that if Mark was comfortable focusing on just one role, then Council would proceed on that basis.

3.2 *Moved (Alec McIver/Pat Swift) that Cr Lindsay Lyons be nominated for Council Chair. [25/10/3.2]*

3.3 *Moved (Alec McIver/Pat Swift) that nominations for the position of Council Chair be closed. [25/10/3.3]*

3.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons was duly appointed to the position of Chair.

3.5 As Lindsay was absent today Arash Alaeinia called for nominations of Deputy Chair.

3.6 *Moved (Kevin Coutts/Mark Sceats) that Cr Scott Nicol be nominated for Council Deputy Chair. [25/10/3.6]*

3.7 Cr Scott Nicol was comfortable taking on the role, noting it was not as significant as the Chair position, given his new family and work commitments. He also nominated Cr Alec McIver for Deputy Chair, however, Alec declined expressing his support Scott's nomination.

3.8 *Moved (Kevin Coutts/Mark Sceats) that nominations for the position of Council Deputy Chair be closed. [25/10/3.8]*

3.9 Cr Scott Nicol was duly appointed to the position of Deputy Chair and thanked Council for their support moving to Chair the meeting in the absence of Cr Lindsay Lyons.

3.10 Arash Alaeinia expressed his thanks to the outgoing Chair and Deputy Chair, Crs. Mark Sceats and Kevin Coutts, for the work they have done for the Council over the last 18 months.

- 3.11 Cr Scott Nicol called for nominations for New Zealand Council Appointee.
- 3.12 ***Moved (Kevin Coutts/Murray Ferris) that Cr Mark Sceats be nominated for appointment to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. [25/10/3.12]***
- 3.13 Cr Pat Swift moved a motion to nominate Cr Alec McIver for appointment to the New Zealand Council; however, Alec withdrew his interest expressing his support for Cr Mark Sceats to continue in the role to maintain continuity for the upcoming legislative changes. Alec added that he would be interested in the position in the future.
- 3.14 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) that nominations for the position of New Zealand Council Representative be closed. [25/10/3.14]***
- 3.15 Cr Mark Sceats was duly appointed to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
- 3.16 Cr Scott Nicol understood that Matthew McDougall was happy to continue to be Council's representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET) and asked if there were any other nominations. There were no other nominations.
- 3.17 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) that Council confirms Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust. [25/10/3.17]***
- 3.18 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) that nominations for the Council's representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust be closed. [25/10/3.18]***
- 3.19 Staff member Matthew McDougall was duly appointed to continue to represent Council in this position on WCEET.
- 3.20 There was no change to the Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee as the term of the committee was three-years and the members would essentially remain unchanged despite today's changes to roles within the Council.

#### **4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 AUGUST 2025)**

- 4.1 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [25/10/4.1]***

#### **4.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY**

- 4.3 ***Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that item 9.2 relating to the adoption of the following National Policies be included as Eastern Council Policy:***
- ***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 [25/10/4.3]***

#### **4.4 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 7 August 2025.

#### **5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**

No items were notified for general business.

#### **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 reported on a minor injury that occurred at the previous Council meeting, noting that no further action or development was required. He also informed

the Council of NZC's proposed Health and Safety audits across four regions, and that Eastern region had volunteered to participate. Northland had already completed its audit and had found it to be very helpful. Cr Mark Sceats added that every region is different, so undertaking an audit across four different regions would provide a wider breadth of information and identify risks that some regions may not have.

7.2 Cr Kevin Coutts raised concerns about the risks faced by compliance staff. Arash Alaeinia advised that good processes are in place, including a risk matrix, two-up attendance in higher-risk areas, and comprehensive training (CERT training every two years and annual in-house refreshers). Staff are taught to assess situations, avoid unsafe engagement, and can always withdraw if necessary. Cr Mark Sceats added that it is important to ensure reasonable precautions are taken. Although it is impossible to anticipate every risk, efforts should be made to reduce them. Cr Scott Nicol noted that weekly toolbox meetings reinforce safety practices. Kevin reiterated his concern about potential exposure to criminal behaviour. Cr Murray Ferris added that he had been through the training himself and found it to be very comprehensive.

7.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [25/10/7.3]*

## 8.0 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN – REVISED BUDGET

8.1 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that following Minister's decision not to approve an increase in licence fees, Regions needed to revise their budgets to align with the 2.5% increase to base funding allocated by the New Zealand Council. To this end he advised that the allocation for the one-off cost for the administration building roof maintenance would be updated to be funded by reserves ensuring that ongoing operational costs could be covered within the 2.5% increase allocated under the existing licence fee structure. Kate Thompson had prepared a table of adjustments, which was distributed to members prior to the meeting. She confirmed that increased rental income had initially been allocated to the roof maintenance project. Although she hoped that this increased rental income could be used in future years for other significant maintenance projects, they had instead been applied to operational costs increases such as salary adjustments in line with the REM policy and other inflationary expenses. Future significant maintenance projects would need to be applied for as needed.

8.2 Council had received the updated summary and supported the transfer of the one-off maintenance costs to reserves.

8.3 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) 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. [25/10/8.3]*

8.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) 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. [25/10/8.4]*

8.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) that Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget. [25/10/8.5]*

## 9.0 COUNCILLOR NUMBERS AND BY ELECTION

9.1 Council discussed the process for filling an extraordinary vacancy and agreed that it needed to comply with the requirement to give public notice of the vacancy in local newspapers as prescribed. Arash Alaeinia also suggested that, in the meantime, Council consider whether it will have sufficient engagement with only seven members noting

that if one or more members are unable to attend a meeting, the number could reduce to six or fewer. The costs of the advertising were discussed, and Kate Thompson advised that these could be up to \$1,000 dependant on the number of newspapers included.

**9.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council instructs the CEO to follow the due process as described and start this by placing an advertisement in local newspapers, with the outcome to be included as an Agenda item for discussion at the December meeting. [25/10/9.2]*

#### **10.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (WSFHEF)**

10.1 Arash Alaeinia advised that this report was the annual update on income and expenses of the fund and called for questions.

10.2 Council discussed the delays with the approvals for the installation of Navigation Buoys, for which Council has allocated funding from the WSFHEF. Council questioned whether a time limit should be set for the drawdown of these funds.

10.3 Kate Thompson advised that the allocated funding is included in the 2025-26 budget, and Council supported Cr Scott Nicol's suggestion that the matter could be revisited during the 2026-27 budget round.

**10.4** *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Pat Swift) that Council received the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund update. [25/10/10.4]*

#### **11.0 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORT**

11.1 Arash Alaeinia informed Council of the requirement to provide feedback to the New Zealand Council (NZC) regarding the proposed Consolidated Annual Report, which forms a part of the upcoming legislative changes. He believed, from discussions at management level, that the NZC wished to receive the information from Region's quarterly to feed into the Consolidated Annual Report. He understood that the intention is to be able to provide up to date information to the Minister and potentially to clubs and licence holders.

11.2 Arash highlighted that requiring quarterly reporting would increase the workload to all staff, especially as bi-monthly reporting to councils is already in place and he felt that this would take away from the Minister's aim of streamlining processes. Arash suggested it would be more appropriate for NZC to provide standardised reporting templates to help ensure consistency across Region's and enable National Office to easily extract the relevant information for the consolidated report.

**11.3** *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Alec McIver) that Council supports Management's recommendation for the New Zealand Council to consult with Region's to establish various standardised templates for Region's to complete their bi-monthly reporting to Council's, which could then be utilised to produce a National Report. [25/10/11.3].*

#### **12.0 INFRINGEMENT NOTICE**

12.1 Arash Alaeinia updated Council on the Draft Infringement Notice Policy for which the New Zealand Council (NZC) was also seeking feedback from councils. He advised that the existing diversion process under the Solicitor-General's Prosecution Guidelines was no longer appropriate, particularly for low-level offences such as licensing or breach of regulations. The draft policy had been developed by Anthony Van Dorp in collaboration with the Department of Conservation, NZC, and other regional staff.

12.2 Anthony van Dorp was present for the discussion and highlighted the following points;

- The objective of the Infringement Notice Policy is to streamline enforcement, provide a faster and more efficient alternative to prosecution or diversion, and standardise penalties across the Country.

- It is a proportional response to low-level offending and better aligns with community expectations.
- It was not an instant fine, rangers continue to collect information as usual and a decision is made in the office after assessing evidence.
- All relevant assessments are conducted before deciding whether to issue an infringement or offer a formal warning with education instead.
- Serious or repeat offenders can still be prosecuted.
- The IN will significantly reduce time and resources spent on prosecution file preparation, summonsing, and processing diversions.
- Faster resolution as once issued the matter is finalised, unless of course the recipient pleads not guilty in which case it proceeds to Court.
- If fines are not paid, the Ministry of Justice collection process takes over, removing the burden from Regional Offices.
- Increased National consistency.

**12.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Alec McIver) that Council supports the proposed Draft Infringement Notice Policy noting it is a fair, standardised approach across all Regions and in keeping with the Solicitor General's Prosecution Guidelines for dealing with low-level offences. [25/10/12.3]***

13.0 Council adjourned the meeting at 12.20pm for lunch.

13.1 The meeting recommenced at 12.50pm and Arash Alaeinia requested to delay discussion on item 13 "2026 Game Season Regulations" as Eben Herbert would be speaking to the paper today but was delayed.

#### **14.0 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

14.1 Arash advised that the audit currently in progress and Kate Thompson pointed out that the information supplied in this meeting's Finance Report was also what was reported within the Financial Statements for the year.

**14.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Pat Swift) that Council received the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance and Financial Statements for the 2024-2025 year. [25/10/14.2]***

#### **15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

##### ***Finance Report***

15.1 Kate Thompson and Arash Alaeinia provided some background to the proposed transfer of funds to reserves at year end noting particularly the generous donation from the Agrodome (\$4,000) which had been earmarked for updating decals on the fish tanker.

**15.2 *Agreed (Alec McIver/Murray Ferris) 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. [25/10/15.2]***

**15.3 *Agreed (Alec McIver/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the finance report and approves the payments for July and August 2025 totalling \$268,160.73. [25/10/15.3]***  
***Management Report***

15.4 Arash Alaeinia provided a verbal update covering:

- Hatchery liberations
- 4x4 Expo
- Kids fishing - two events scheduled for November
- Ngongotaha fishing group
- Sponsorship board
- Update on Te Arawa Lakes CEO changes

## **16.5 Licence Sales Report**

- 16.6 Kate Thompson provided a verbal update on sales. Overall results for the 2024-25 complete season were positive, however, current sales for 2025-26 season are approximately 2.5% down compared to the same time last year. Some South Island regions are seeing more significant decline. It was noted that it is still early in the season; and the on-sale date this year was pushed out by two weeks. The recent changes to the family licence are likely to have had some influence on these results. Considerable discussion took place regarding these changes and the rationale to remove couples' eligibility, noting that the DOC Taupo family licence still allows couples only.
- 16.7 Cr Pat Swift suggested that poor weather in the South particularly may have affected early season sales. Kate Thompson agreed, noting that if anglers do not purchase licences early, some tend to wait and may instead buy short term licences later in the season.
- 16.8 Council discussed the need to actively promote our fisheries. Arash Alacinia expressed concern that lost participants may not return and provided Council with a summary of recent promotions undertaken by this Region. He also informed Council of several suggestions he had put forward to National Office and highlighted the need for a dedicated marketing strategy, beyond the usual, that links with the ReWild campaign.
- 16.9 Cr Scott Nicol queried the possibility of a combined Fish and Game Bird licence? Kate Thompson advised that this was proposed when new categories were introduced in 2016 but was not approved by DOC. Cr Pat Swift mentioned potential collaboration with Tourism Rotorua for joint promotion. Arash noted that while funding was limited, there is an opportunity to piggyback on their networks.
- 16.10. Cr Alec McIver stressed the importance of providing guidance for new participants noting that many lack knowledge or support. Debbie Mair spoke of Taupo's recent success with the Ministry of Education's secondary school fishing programme (linked to NCEA). Eben Herbert provided a summary of training provided by staff in this Region, and Arash commented on the courses run by the Rotorua Anglers Assn and Rotorua Boys High through their fishing programme.
- 16.11 Council supported an agenda item for the next meeting to bring forward ideas for submission to the New Zealand Council.

## **17.0 2026 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**

- 17.1 Arash Alacinia confirmed that Matt McDougall was unable to attend today's meeting and that Eben Herbert was familiar with his processes and would answer questions or would take notes for reference to Matt McDougall when he returned to the office. Eben explained that this agenda item was focused on identifying items to be considered for the 2026 Game Bird season regulations. Council was also asked to consider items raised by Matt McDougall listed on page 36 of agenda and reviewed each of the recommendations individually.
- 17.2 *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.*
- Cr Kevin Coutts commented on issues with overpopulation of Pukeko and Weka. Eben Herbert advised regulations are already very relaxed and the issue was less about regulation setting and more about encouraging hunters to harvest them. He noted that Weka were not a species that could be managed by Council
  - Cr Alec McIver would like to investigate options for sex- based harvest limits for mallards, and split bag limits. For example, this may involve a max hen limit within a bag, and/or a lower bag limit following the opening period. Rationale for this is that by maintaining standard conditions during the opening period hunter

participation should be maintained, but season harvest may be reduced by more restrictive conditions following opening.

- Cr Mark Sceats felt that current methods for greylard population estimates are unreliable and not fit for purpose. Cr Scott Nicol advised that Matt McDougall had offered to inform Council about the modelling used and suggested that this might be worthwhile. Eben Herbert noted that the methods employed were developed by highly regarded statistical experts at the time and while newer methods may exist, we were not aware of them, and unlikely to be something that could be undertaken with the limited resources we have. He confirmed that Council would like some information on our data collection methods, and population modelling methods along with its history and justification of its robustness.
- Cr Mark Sceats requested information on the potential to manage the East Coast waterfowl population separately from the rest of the region.

17.3 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.*

- Council does wish to look at re-defining “hunter opportunity.” Council has requested more information on a potential hunter survey, including example questions, for consideration at their December meeting.
- Eben advised that currently, “hunter opportunity” is defined in the *Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (SFGMP) which expired in 2024*. The Plan had not yet been updated due to proposed legislative changes, including the upcoming Fish and Game Bill, which will see substantial changes. He said an extension of the existing Plan remains in place until the new legislation is completed.
- Eben suggested that it would be appropriate to continue along the lines of the current SFGMP definition for “hunter opportunity” in the interim, while also beginning to think about what this would look like for the new management plan. The forthcoming survey could help inform that future direction by capturing hunters’ views on what “opportunity” should look like going forward.

17.4 4.3 *That staff investigate population-based harvest regulation criteria for shoveler duck.*

- Discussion around highly mobile population and the background to why there is a limit in place currently.
- Council was comfortable with the status quo. Harvest is considered relatively low, with no obvious signs of significant impact on the population.

17.5 4.4 *That staff determine if useful criteria can be developed for pukeko and upland game harvest regulations.*

Council was comfortable with the status quo regarding harvest regulations for these species. They did note that they would like to be made aware of any signs that the population is changing significantly.

17.6 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.*

Council confirmed that it would like this to be investigated.

17.7 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council would like more information on items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.5 and agree with the status quo on items 4.3 and 4.4.  
[25/10/17.7]*

**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.

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 There were no items notified for General Business.

**17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

17.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.25pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss Council and the CE's Performance review. [25/10/17.1]*

17.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.44 pm. [25/10/17.2]*

17.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the public be readmitted to the meeting at 2.45 pm. [25/10/17.3]*

**18.0 MEETING CLOSED**

18.1 Cr Scott Nicol closed the meeting 2.45 pm.

.....  
**Scott Nicol**  
**Deputy Chairman**

## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- 2.0 APOLOGIES**
- 2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Scott Nicol) that the apologies for the 217th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [25/10/2.2]*
- 3.0 ELECTION OF MEMBERS**
- 3.2 *Moved (Alec McIver/Pat Swift) that Cr Lindsay Lyons be nominated for Council Chair. [25/10/3.2]*
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- 4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 AUGUST 2025)**
- 4.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [25/10/4.1]*
- 4.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY**
- 4.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that item 9.2 relating to the adoption of the following National Policies be included as Eastern Council Policy:*
- *Performance Management Policy*
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  - *Code of Conduct Policy*
  - *Prevention of Bullying and Harassment Policy*
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  - *Governance Code of Conduct Policy [25/10/4.3]*
- 7.0 HEALTH & SAFETY**
- 7.3 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [25/10/7.3]*
- 8.0 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN – REVISED BUDGET**
- 8.3 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) 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. [25/10/8.3]*
- 8.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) 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. [25/10/8.4]*
- 8.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) that Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget. [25/10/8.5]*
- 9.0 COUNCILLOR NUMBERS AND BY ELECTION**
- 9.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council instructs the CEO to follow the due process as described and start this by placing an advertisement in local newspapers, with the outcome to be included as an Agenda item for discussion at the December meeting. [25/10/9.2]*
- 10.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (WSFHEF)**
- 10.4 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Pat Swift) that Council received the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund update. [25/10/10.4]*

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- 15.3** *Agreed (Alec McIver/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the finance report and approves the payments for July and August 2025 totalling \$268,160.73. [25/10/15.3]*
- 17.0 2026 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**
- 17.7** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council would like more information on items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.5 and agree with the status quo on items 4.3 and 4.4. [25/10/17.7]*
- 17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**
- 17.1** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alec McIver) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.25pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss Council and the CE's Performance review. [25/10/17.1]*
- 17.2** *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.44 pm. [25/10/17.2]*
- 17.3** *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the public be readmitted to the meeting at 2.45 pm. [25/10/17.3]*

## 5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

24 November 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 matter<sup>1</sup> 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;

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<sup>1</sup> “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.***

## 6. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

28 November 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.

October – November 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:**

Oct 2025	Mowing - Reserves
Oct 2025	Brood Surveys
Nov 2025	Pheasant Call Surveys
Nov 2025	Ngongotaha trap work

**2025-2026 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000**

<b>2. Monitoring and Reporting</b>	
<b>Work Place Accident Register</b>	<b>2/10/2025</b>
<b>Number of Workplace injuries in 2025-2026 year</b>	<b>0</b>
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
<b>Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total number of days since last lost work injury</b>	<b>947</b>
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

<b>3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)</b>	
<b>Notes taken for the H&amp;S minutes at the weekly staff meeting and emailed to all staff:</b>	
6 Oct 2025	Take care on slippery boat ramps, Utuhina increased poaching activity, Ohau channel 2 up for all ranging/callouts
13 Oct 2025	Roofers commencing work 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Admin building
21 Oct 2025	Utuhina & Waiteti 2 up ranging for all high-risk areas
27 Oct 2025	As above, high winds – care on property, road works PV Rd turnoff
3 Nov 2025	Sunscreen/hats/antihistamine in vehicles, lock gate if only 1 staff member on site, AA to investigate EPI pen options
10 Nov 2025	Check fire extinguishers in vehicles. First aid kits and fire extinguishers to be replaced on purchase of new vehicles.
17 Nov 2025	EPI pen progress, Fire drill due, AA to manage
24 Nov 2025	Sunscreen and antihistamines for vehicles & boats being ordered.

<b>4. Training Programme</b>
Health & Safety Audit completed, review of report findings and implementation of recommendations to be discussed with staff and Council

<b>5. H&amp;S Incidents</b>
Nil

<b>6. Recommendation</b>
<b>That Council acknowledges it has received this report.</b>

## 7. EASTERN COUNCILLOR NUMBERS DISCUSSION

Ref: 7.02.01

25 November 2025

### 1. Purpose

To discuss and decide if Eastern Council should increase its member number to 8 for the remainder of the term, in lieu of Mike Jarvie's resignation and no feedback from licence holders on calling for a by-election.


### 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.

As per the section 26ZA (5) of the Conservation Act, EF&G Council instructed the CEO to place notices in the regional papers (Rotorua Daily Post, Gisborne Herald & Tauranga/Whakatane Bay of Plenty Times) advising licence holders of the vacancy and calling licence holders to inform Council if they wish a by-election to be held.

The notice further informed that if an election was not required, EF&G Council may appoint an appropriate person to serve the remaining period of the term with full voting rights.



**EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**  
**Notice of Extra Ordinary**  
**Vacancy**

A Councillor position on the Eastern Fish and Game Council is currently vacant. The vacancy may be filled by any eligible candidate.

Pursuant to Section 26ZA(5)(a) of the Conservation Act 1987, an election will be held to fill this vacancy if the majority of eligible voters require it. Those who wish an election to be held, must notify the Regional Manager in writing to the email address below before 5pm 14 November 2025.

In the event of an election not being required, the Council gives further notice that pursuant to Section 26ZA(5)(b), it will proceed to appoint a councillor to serve until the next general Council election.

**Arash Alaeinia, Regional Manager**  
Eastern Fish & Game Council  
PO Box 3010, Rotorua 3046.  
Email: eastern@fishandgame.org.nz

#### Booking Summary

Booking #12604081 Ac  
Publication: Bay of Plenty Times T21  
Classification: Public Notices 535  
Style: APN Bold1  
Size: 11X2  
Line Count: 23 C  
Run Schedule:  
BOP: 1Nov2025;RDP: 1Nov2025;GHC: 1Nov2025 34

Booking Price: **\$986.70**  
Amount Paid: **\$0.00**  
Amount Owning: **\$986.70**

Runs	Publication	Classification	Price
1/11/2025	The Daily Post	Public Notices 535	\$328.90
1/11/2025	Gisborne Herald	Public Notices 535	\$328.90
1/11/2025	Bay of Plenty Times	Public Notices 535	\$328.90

### 3. Recommendation

1. Council discuss if they wish to appoint an 8<sup>th</sup> Councillor?
2. If so, to discuss qualities needed and possible persons to approach?

## **8. EASTERN FISH & GAME RISK REGISTER**

**25 November 2025**

### **1. Purpose**

The Risk Register (RR) creates a broad picture of operational, economic, environmental, social and governance risks that can have a multitude of different levels of effects on the Eastern Fish & Game region and the organisation nationally. By creating and annually reviewing the risks and their risks level will help both Council and Management to mitigate and plan for possibilities.

### **2. Background**

NZC created a Risk Register (RR) in 2024 regions have also created a RR that reflects the regional associated risks.

A RR allows the organisation to identify risks, allocate a risk level that reflects the probability and impact and look at how it can mitigate those risks.

The risk register looks at both internal and external sources and these are broken down into 13 categories;

1. Operational/Assets
2. Financial
3. Human Resources
4. Governance
5. Strategic
6. Reputational
7. Social/Demographic
8. Species/Population
9. Compliance/Prosecutions
10. Environmental
11. Contractors/Third Party Risks
12. Health & Safety
13. Produce Quality/Value

The risk assessment is the identification and analysis of relevant risks to achieving the council's objectives and forms a basis for determining how risk should be managed. The risk assessment will inform the development of our annual Operational Work Plan and budgets and should be reviewed prior to introducing new process or activities or any organisational change.

The level of the risk is ascertained by using the below key and the register uses a colour code and numbering to identify high (3-4 orange and red) to low (1-2 green and yellow).

The RR should be reviewed annually as risks and impact levels can change.

Likelihood	Description
<b>Probable</b>	<p><i>Expected to occur at some point</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected to occur on an annual basis or in other F&amp;G regions in the past few years</li> <li>• Circumstances are in train that will cause it to happen</li> <li>• Has occurred in the last few years or has occurred recently in other F&amp;G regions</li> <li>• Circumstances have occurred that will cause it to happen in the next few years</li> </ul>
<b>Possible</b>	<p><i>Might possibly occur at some time</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has occurred at least once in the history of F&amp;G or in similar agencies/organisations</li> </ul>
<b>Improbable</b>	<p><i>Not expected to occur</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has never occurred in F&amp;G but has occurred infrequently in other agencies/organisations</li> <li>• Has not occurred to date in F&amp;G or any other similar agency/organisation</li> </ul>
Impact	Description
<b>Minor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Result in consequences that can be dealt with by routine operations</li> <li>• Minor delays in providing services or achieving objectives</li> <li>• Threaten the efficiency of effectiveness of some aspect of the program/activity/business unit but can be dealt with internally</li> <li>• Have minor political/community sensitivity</li> <li>• Minor dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders</li> <li>• Programme suffers minor adverse financial impact</li> <li>• Minor breach of accountability requirements</li> <li>• Minor damage to property or one minor injury</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate delays in providing services or achieving key objectives</li> <li>• Programme subject to unplanned review or changed ways of operation</li> <li>• Have moderate political/community sensitivity resulting in limited adverse publicity or criticism</li> <li>• Limited dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders, moderately damaging to the F&amp;G reputation</li> <li>• Programme suffers moderate adverse financial impact</li> <li>• Moderate breach of accountability requirements or information security</li> <li>• Moderate damage to property</li> <li>• One serious injury or multiple minor injuries</li> </ul>
<b>Major</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major delays in achieving key objectives</li> <li>• Threaten the survival or continued effective function of the program/activity/business unit</li> <li>• Have major political/community sensitivity resulting in significant adverse publicity or criticism</li> <li>• Significant dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders, significantly damaging the F&amp;G's reputation and relationships</li> <li>• Programme suffers major adverse financial impact</li> <li>• Major breaches of accountability requirements, legislative/contractual obligations or information security</li> <li>• Major damage to property or moderate damage to multiple properties</li> <li>• One life-threatening injury or multiple serious injuries</li> </ul>
<b>Critical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical business failure resulting in non-achievement of key objectives</li> <li>• subject to unplanned external review/inquiry</li> <li>• Have severe political/community sensitivity resulting in extensive adverse publicity or criticism</li> <li>• Extensive dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders, severely damaging F&amp;G's reputation and loss of stakeholder and/or Government confidence</li> <li>• suffers severe adverse financial impact</li> <li>• Severe breaches of accountability requirements, legislative/contractual obligations or information security</li> <li>• Extensive damage to property resulting in loss of property or major damage to multiple properties</li> <li>• One death or multiple life-threatening injuries</li> </ul>

		Impact			
		Minor	Moderate	Major	Critical
Likelihood		Little or No Effect	Effects are Felt but Not Critical	Serious Impact to Course of Action and Outcome	Could Result in Disasters
Improbable	Unlikely to Occur	4	4	3	2
Possible	Will Likely Occur	4	3	2	1
Probable	Will Occur	3	2	1	1

Risk Key	
4	Low
3	Moderate
2	High
1	Very High

**3.Recommendation**

*That Council accepts the Risk Register for Eastern, supports its annual review and forwards a copy to NZC.*

Risk Register Eastern Fish & Game			as at 25 November 2025	
Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code	Changed
<b>Operational/assets</b>			1 to 4	1 to 4
	Flood, fire, theft, earthquake, volcano	Insurance, alarms, theft prevention, individual key codes, cameras	3	
	Internet, files storage and security	Security software up to date, Internet supplier agreement in place	4	
	Physical files	Historical files stored in plastic sealed boxes in storage shed	3	
	Biosecurity incursions in hatchery	Cameras, security contract, insurance, dedicated team member & secondary water pipes (consider appropriate security roadside fencing)	2	
	Slips, environmental terrorism, purposeful misadventure at hatchery	Cameras, security contract, insurance, dedicated team member & secondary water pipes (consider appropriate security roadside fencing)	2	
	Damage or loss of other property incl Vehicles/Boats/Equipment	Staff training for use of equipment and boats. Insurance maintained on all property.	2	
<b>Financial</b>				
	F&G Reform - Resource Allocation; budgets set via licence holder activity	Advocate that not all resources need same amount of funding to manage. Areas that may have lower activity but need higher costs to manage.	2	
	F&G Family Licence changes	Financial hit with reduced sales of family licence and only marginal increase in others. NZC needs to create a marketing plan to mitigate this loss	2	
	Reliance on licence income	Limited due to statutory regulations. Additional income - rental properties	3	
	Ongoing or new pandemic impact on Non residents	Use of reserves	2	
	Bird flu and other environmental disasters	Use of reserves	1	
	Investment income weak and variable	Regularly reviewing best investment terms and have investments spread. Long term reduce reliance on interest revenue	2	
	Depleted reserves	Work on a basis of keeping reserves at a min of 20% of budget	4	
	Increase in Kiwi Saver	Government increasing employer contributions from 3% to 3.5% Apr 2026 & up to 4% in 2028. Accounted for in budgeting.	3	
	Fraud	Fraud prevention measures in place and audited	4	
	Uneconomical increase in running a Trout Hatchery	Use of reserves, review of hatchery production numbers.	4	
	Hatchery or Wild Trout Disease	Use of reserves	3	
	Declining licence sales	R3 programme & OWP priorities. NZC needs to create a marketing plan with regional options to reactivate and recruit to change the trend of declining sales	1	
	Licensing system failure	Contracts in place and being monitored by NZC	3	
	Agent commission increase	Progressive movement to online sales	4	
	NZC levies	Proposed changes to NZC levy payments be based on actual sales rather than budgeted sales.	3	
<b>Human resource</b>				
	Pay and conditions of staff	Retain good working conditions, provide JD's & job sizing with Strategic Pay and test against market.	3	
	Loss of key staff and recruitment of required skills	Promote professional development opportunities, incorporate resilience and cultural support and address capacity and capability gaps.	2	
	Succession planning	Key team members to capture, save and update their workings so as to support succession is in place to ensure transition of institutional knowledge.	2	
	Staff stress and wellbeing	Constant engagement with the staff and 2 monthly one on meetings. Promote team social activities and help create a transparent, approachable and respectful working culture between all team members and with CE. Encourage staff to take time off. Provide stable management structure & consistency for staff.	3	2
	Eastern Team Culture	Maintain positive, transparent and respectful workplace culture.	4	2
	Inter-regional team culture	The current organisational structure and budgeting process creates conflict between regional autonomy and oversight of each region and the relationship and direction with NZC. Minister of Hunting and Fishing's legislative changes for F&G will create foundation for cultural change. Past regional and national conflicts between staff and council's have created some historic and ego centric barriers to relationship building between regional teams and with NZC.	2	
	Eastern Governor/staff culture	Training on culture, establishing boundaries, building trust and cohesion, creating culture of kindness, tolerance and understanding. As per 2024 Governance Code of Conduct Policy.	3	
<b>Governance</b>				
	Governance and Cr skill level	Governance and chair training, coopting specialist skills and education, being led by national office	2	
	Councillor behaviour	Use and knowledge of standing orders and governance policies. Minister of Hunting and Fishing legislative review for F&G will be foundational in addressing challenges around policy implementation and enforcement. Code of conduct, oath of office and Councillor Guide for all incoming Councillors will help create expectation and roles and responsibilities	1	2
	Representation	Encouragement of diversity of culture, age and gender at elections led by NZC.	2	
	Councillor safety	No addresses made public, limited personal info	4	
	Culture	Ongoing training for governors on culture and governance. Induction for new councils in 2024.	1	2
	Disconnect between customers and governors	Increase awareness of Council role and responsibility in representing the interest of licence holders. Also relationship and process of NZC, appointee position and opportunities for public engagement.	4	

Risk Register Eastern Fish & Game			as at 25 November 2025	
Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code	Changed
<b>Strategic</b>				
	Lack of organisation strategy	Organisational strategy built collectively across the organisation, and socialised. Led by NZC and regional plan created with input from team.	4	
	Lack of organisational strategic implementation plans	Build annual operational work plans to ensure these are linked to the Regional strategy and supports NZC organisational strategy, and annual SSP. Contribute to consolidated annual reporting which links to organisational strategy.	1	
<b>Reputational</b>				
	Social Licence	Gather insights on what licence holders, wider stakeholders and public think and feel of Fish and Game to inform social licence campaign, increasing social media profile of organisation. Support and feed into national campaign by NZC	3	
	Public perceptions of Fish and Game	Broaden awareness and respect for Eastern and national Fish and Game through social licence campaign, including comms and advocacy	3	
	Perceptions of trout	Promote value of trout- economically to regions and national GDP, income generated by anglers, international tourism, recreational both in mental wellbeing & in environmental applications, tablefare - affordable natural food.	2	
	Catch and release	Promote ethical and sustainable harvest	2	
	Perceptions around hunting	Promote sustainable harvest and ethical shooting.	2	
	Diversity of membership and Council	Recruitment at elections, encouragement of diversity through national planning and promotion.	2	
	Seen as adversarial and litigious	Comms strategy to better articulate reasons of objections and legal actions mainly through NZC	3	
<b>Social/demographic</b>				
	Perceived value of introduced trout and ducks diminishing?	Value to be promoted through communications plan, social licencing and educational opportunities with schools and iwi groups	2	
	Population is diversifying and increasingly urban	R3 programme to target specific audiences. Appropriate use of social media tools.	1	
	Older population (baby boomers) aging out of sport	R3 programme, promote environmental benefits of F&G and licence fee.	2	
	Rural community trust in F&G low	Regain trust via regular contact on positive projects - Catchment groups, wetland enhancement projects (NZC strategic priority 20-23)	2	
<b>Species/Population</b>				
	Sedimentation of waterways	Govt intervention should slow the pace of inputs. Removal may be challenging.	2	
	Species interactions - natives v introduced	Engage and support research on this. Collaborate with manawhenua on research projects to build understanding of values & joint ownership of solutions.	2	
	Ducks as pests/contributor to ecoli levels	Research and social messaging	3	
	New incursions of pest fish species	Monitoring	3	
	Increase in gamebird populations/increased crop predation.	Population monitoring for Mallards and Parries in place	3	
	Cultural Harvest	Facilitate and encourage engagement with iwi & consideration to support legislative changes	3	
	F&G Reform - Trout Hatcheries	Submission to highlight the importance of the Eastern hatchery for the success of the Rotorua fisheries. We are a 30/70% fisheries	2	
	F&G Reform - movement and restocking of waterways with trout	Submission to highlight the importance of Easterns fishery and need to restock the fisheries to maintain angler satisfaction	2	
	Trout seen as pests	Value to be promoted through communications plan, social licencing and educational opportunities with schools and iwi groups. Build strong relationships with other statutory organisations, ie DOC, Forest & Bird to help change the mindset.	2	
<b>Political</b>				
	F&G Reform loss of advocacy	Submission to highlight the importance of F&G ability to be an advocate without government influence	2	
	DOC advocacy positions	Strategic NZC priority 22 - 27 to engage and support stakeholder groups and build relationships, this is also reflected in Eastern's priorities	3	
	RMA review	Govt announced review of RMA, NES FW, and NPS FW. Continue to work closely with the government on environmental legislative reform, along with key stakeholders (such as GAC, EDS, F&B, Hunting and Fishing Influencers, Clubs etc), and Ministries (DOC, MPI, MfE).	2	
	Wildlife Act Review	Engagement with DOC and GAC. Consider legislative changes, and build policy positions.	2	
	Conservation Act Review	Engagement with DOC, GAC, and eNGO's	2	
	F&G Legislative Review	Will be essential to address cultural challenges across the organisation and to effectively implement F&G Organisational Strategy	1	
	NPS -FM/NES implementation for wetlands and maimai's	Propose regulatory changes to enable the protection, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands in supporting the work of F&G, GBHT, and Hunters	3	
	Relationship with DOC	Continue to build strong relationships with DOC.	3	
	Treaty of Waitangi and our obligations	Strategic NZC priority 22 - 27 and Eastern OWP priority to engage with iwi more regularly and meaningfully	2	
<b>Compliance and prosecutions</b>				
	Perceptions about F&G prosecutions	Prosecution guidelines in place and regularly reviewed. Public interest test considered. Build and implement an infringement system. Messaging is Engagement, Education, Empowerment, Enforcement! Stringent vetting process for Honorary Rangers and yearly training for all warranted officers.	2	
	Honorary rangers	Work alongside employed F & G Staff	2	

Risk Register Eastern Fish & Game			as at 25 November 2025	
Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code	Changed
<b>Environmental</b>				
	Didymo, Catfish, Corbicula etc more pests	Assisting Biosecurity with messaging. Promotion of Check, Clean, Dry through our own publications	2	
	Climate change - heat/flooding	Climate change research? Return of flows to rivers through plan changes	1	
	Declining water quality and quantity	Pressure on regional councils plans and recording of complaints	1	
	Biosecurity - Bird Flu/HPAI	Monitoring and reporting of incidents and observations to BNZ. Working colabrotivly to develop action plans. PPE Training	1	
	Biosecurity - fish and Aquatic pests/diseases	Monitoring and reporting of incidents and observations to BNZ. Working colabrotivly to develop action plans.	3	2
	Intensive land use/ urban sprawl - reduced access	Pressure on regional councils to monitor. Reporting on issues	2	
	Gravel extraction/ river straightening/ willow problems	Regional councils global consent for river works up for renewal. F&G input with other stakeholders.	4	
	Carbon Farming - Forestry in headwaters	National advocacy, supporting regional engagement with district plans	2	
	Reduced Habitat	Research & monitoring. Work alongside and build strong relationships with Regional Council's, District Councils and iwi and comercial/farming entities	2	
<b>Contractors/third party risks</b>				
	Contractors	Check values align. Annual work programmes from FOBC	4	
	Rangers and Volunteers	NZ CE working with National Compliance Coordinator to review current systems. Eastern reviewing CLE& Boating risk matrix and policy. Messaging is Engagement, Education, Empowerment, Enforcement! Stringent vetting process for Honorary Rangers and yearly training for all warranted officers.	2	
	Agents	Maintaine regular relationships, help educate and train staff.	4	
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>				
	Health & Safety Processes	H&S Audit carried out in early Nov. Update needed of process and procedures	2	
	Mental stability, stress, personal conflicts	Open door policy with CE for raising issues. H&S manual covers identification of risk factors, Team H&S discussion weekly	2	
	Fire and emergency	Annual fire drills, emergency contacts on list at office.	3	
	Ranger Safety	Vetting and approval process. Review of risk matrix and policy. Stringint CLE engagement. PPE - Stab proof vests, video recording and comms.	3	
	Alone work	Intentions and contact process, PLB & InReach	1	
	Firearms	Game Ranging well coordinated and preseason training on fire arms. Close workinging relationship with Fire Arms Safety Authority	1	
<b>Product quality/value</b>				
	Decreasing perception of value of trout and ducks	Trout/Ducks promoted as highly valued species through comms channels	2	
	Reducing perception of value for money in licence	Communications plan to sell benefits. R3 plan to make people more successful. Ranging to check licences.	2	
	Licence category choices	Review of licence categories initiated by NZC	4	
	Reduced access availibility	Access concerns raised to NZC for a national coordinated approach. Identification of public access points. Improved relationships with landowners, Walking Access, Iwi and DOC.	2	

Blue is new risks or updates

		Impact			
		Minor	Moderate	Major	Critical
Likelihood		Little or No Effect	Effects are Felt but Not Critical	Effects are significant	Effects are critical
<b>Improbable</b>	Unlikely to Occur	4	4	3	2
<b>Possible</b>	May Occur	4	3	2	1
<b>Probable</b>	Will Likely Occur	3	2	1	1
		<b>Risk Key</b>			
		4	Low		
		3	Moderate		
		2	High		
		1	Very High		

## 9. ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET TIMETABLE

Ref: 7.02.01

25 November 2025

### 1. Purpose

To set Council's 2025 meeting dates and venues and provide feedback to the NZC on its draft 2024/25 Meeting and Budget Timetable.

### 2. Background

The Council is required to meet on at least six occasions between 1 February and 31 December each year. Due to a need to supply regional feedback to the New Zealand Council on important matters such as regulation and licence fee setting, the timing of these meetings needs to fit within a national schedule. Meetings are generally held at bi-monthly intervals in February, March, May, August, October, and December to consider, amongst other items, the topics listed in the table below.

Meetings generally commence at 11am with a 20-minute working lunch break and aim to conclude by 3pm on a Thursday. Meetings are held at the Eastern Fish and Game Council Offices in Rotorua.

Council needs to determine what dates it will meet on in 2026 taking into account the provisional 2026 Annual Timetable prepared by the NZC which is appended to this agenda item. Council may also wish to review the venue and times at which it meets.

*Proposed meeting dates for Council to meet on a Thursday. These are compatible with NZC's draft Meeting and Budget Timetable for 2025/26.*

	Date	Venue	Key Topics
1	<i>Thurs 12 February 2026</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council Priorities,</li><li>• Anglers Notice – initial consideration</li></ul>
2	<i>Thurs 26 March 2026</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OWP - first draft plus proposed budget</li></ul>
3	<i>Thurs 28 May 2026</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licence Fees</li><li>• OWP - second draft</li><li>• Anglers Notice – finalise recommendations</li></ul>
4	<i>Thurs 30 July 2026</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalise OWP</li><li>• Game Conditions - initial consideration</li><li>• Council &amp; CEO Performance Review</li></ul>
5	<i>Thurs 8 October 2026</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Performance Report – draft</li><li>• Game Conditions - consideration</li></ul>
6	<i>Thurs 10 December 2026</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Game Conditions - finalise recommendations</li><li>• Review Risk Register</li><li>• Set Annual Council Meeting Schedules</li></ul>
AGM	<i>Thurs 10 December 2026</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present Annual Performance Report</li></ul>

### 3. Recommendation




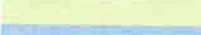

**3.1** *That Council decides on the time, dates and locations at which it meets in 2026.*

## 2025-26 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule - DRAFT

Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
Sept-2025	Monday 1 Sep	Fish & Game New Financial Year Fishing licences go on Sale	
Oct-2025	Wednesday 1 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening	
	Thursday 16 Oct	<b>Reg Managers/CEs Meeting(feed into NZC 176 Dec Meeting)</b>	Wellington
	Friday 17 Oct	<i>Held over 2 days</i>	Wellington
	Monday 27 Oct	<b>Labour Day</b>	
Nov-2025	Saturday 1 Nov	High Country Sports Fishing Opening (CSI & NC 1st Sat Nov)	
	Thursday 6 Nov	<b>Reg Managers/CEs Meeting(feed into NZC 27/11)</b>	Online
Dec-2025	Friday 5 & Saturday 6 Dec	<b>NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days)</b> <i>(2025/26 Strategy)</i>	Wellington
	Friday 19 Dec	Variance Reports & Reserves Schedules sent to CFO	
	Thursday 25 Dec	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
	Friday 26 Dec	<b>Boxing Day</b>	
	Wednesday 31 Dec	All Regional Council 2024 Meetings to be complete/held	
	Jan-2026	Thursday 1 Jan	<b>New Year's Day</b>
Friday 2 Jan		<b>New Year's Day Observed</b>	
Friday 23 Jan		Variance Reports & Reserves Updates Distributed	
Friday 30 Jan		Licence Working Party Licence Sales Forecast	
Friday 30 Jan		Regulation Details Due for Game Notice <i>(From all Regional Councils)</i>	
Feb-2026	Sunday 2 Feb	World Wetland Day/Release of 2025 Habitat Stamp	
	Monday 3 Feb	Draft Game Notice Submission to DOC for comment	
	Wednesday 5 Feb	Variance reports Final Circulation back to Managers	
	Thursday 6 Feb	<b>Waitangi Day</b>	
	Monday 9 Feb	Game Regulation Guide Content Due to NZC Office	
	Monday 17 Feb	Game Notice & Submission to MOC & Gazette Office	
	Friday 21 Feb/or the following week	Publish Game Notice in NZ Gazette	
	Friday 28 Feb	<b>NZ Council Meeting (Day 1 of 2)</b>	Wellington
Mar-2026	Sunday 1 Mar	<b>Governors Forum - Regional Chairs &amp; NZC (Planning)</b>	Wellington
	Monday 2 Mar	<b>NZ Council Meeting (day 2 of 2)</b>	Wellington
	Monday 16 Mar	<b>Regional Managers/Ces Meeting</b>	
Mar-2026	Friday 13 Mar	Game Bird Hunting Licences on Sale ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</i> )	
	Saturday 14 Mar	<b>Draft Budgets Applications Due to CFO</b> <b>Staff Development Grant Applications Close</b>	
	Tuesday 17 Mar	Game Magazine Released	
	Saturday 28 March	Budgets, Budget Summaries Applications Circulated back to Regions	
	Friday 3 April	<b>Good Friday</b>	

Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
Apr-2026	Monday 6 Apr	Easter Monday	
	Monday 6 Apr	Mark-up/Pegging Day (4 weekends before opening)	
	Saturday 11 Apr	NZ Council Budget meeting	Wellington
	Sunday 12 Apr	NZ Council Meeting	Wellington
	Thursday 16 April	Licence Fee Consultaion doc distributed to Regions (3 working days after NZC meeting)	
May-2026	Friday 25 Apr	Anzac Day	
	Sunday 3 May	Game Bird Season Opening	
	Saturday 30 May	Regional responses to Licence Fee proposals, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN DW/sea run salmon Due to NZC Office	
Jun-2026	Monday 1 June	King's Birthday	
	Wed 17 June & Thu 18 June	NZ Council Meeting (6pm -8pm) (Consider Licence Fee, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN)	Online 6pm-8pm
	Tuesday 23 June	Licence fee, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN submission to MOC	
	Friday 26 June	GBHT Grant Applications Close	
Jul-2026	Thursday 9 July	GBHT Grant Applications Distributed to Board	
	Friday 10 July	Matariki	
	Friday 17 July	Anglers Notice Published in NZ Gazette	
	Tuesday 28 July	GBHT Board Meeting (11am)	Online
Aug-2026	Thursday 13 Aug	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting (feed into NZC 29/8)	In person TBC
	Friday 14 Aug	(held over 2 days)	In person TBC
	Saturday 22 Aug	GBHT Field Trip	Hamilton
	Sunday 23 Aug	GBHT Board Meeting	Hamilton
	Tuesday 25 Aug	Fishing Magazine Released	
	Saturday 29 Aug	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 1 or 2 days)	Wellington
	Sunday 30 Aug	Query if can be 1 day?	
Monday 31 Aug	Fish & Game End of Financial Year		
Sept-2026	Thursday 1 Sept	Fishing licences go on Sale	
Oct-2026	Thursday 1 Oct	Start of new financial year	
	Monday 26 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening Labour Day	
Nov-2026	Sunday 1 Nov	High Country Sports Fishing Opening (CSI & NC 1st Sat Nov)	
	Friday 6 Nov	Reg Managers/CEs Meeting(feed into NZC 27/11)	Online
	Saturday 28 Nov & Sunday 29 Nov	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days) (2026/27 Strategy)	Wellington
Dec-2026	Saturday 19 Dec	All Variance & Reserves Schedules to CFO	
	Thursday 31 Dec	All Regional Council 2025 Meetings to be complete/held	

#### KEY

	Public Holiday
	NZ Council Meeting
	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting
	GBHT Board Meeting
	Governors Forum (Regional Chairs & NZC)

## **11. 2026 GAME SEASON CONDITION**

**Ref: 1.07.03**

**19 November 2025**

### **1. Purpose**

To determine game season conditions for the 2026 hunting season.

### **2. Background**

Council has established policies and criteria for determining game season regulations based on monitoring programmes undertaken in the January preceding the game season. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this Agenda Item. Appendix 2 shows the proposed 2026 Game Gazette Notice, Eastern Region page, with highlighted sections in yellow awaiting results of Council recommendations and summer monitoring.

### **3. 2026 Game Season – further information**

#### **3.1 Background**

To assist with setting the 2026 game bird regulations Council were asked at the October 2025 Council meeting if they would like further information on any other game season matters before its December 2025 meeting. Cr McIver requested that staff investigate sex-based limits and split bag limits. Cr Sceats stated that the current method of monitoring greylard is unreliable and not fit for purpose. Further he requested that mallard be managed as two distinct populations (East Coast and the rest of the Eastern Region). To assist Councils understanding of monitoring Cr Nicol suggested that staff conduct a presentation on how greylard are monitored. Council requested staff survey hunters to determine what hunters consider opportunity but want to see the questions prior to the survey.

#### **3.2 Introduction**

Game bird regulations aim to provide a sustainable, long-term, harvest and are subject to the Wildlife Act, the Game Gazette Notice, and the Eastern Region Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (see 7 August 2025 Agenda page 23). Fundamental to long-term sustainable harvest is that one seasons regulations do not compromise or negatively impact on subsequent seasons harvest while also trying to maximise hunter opportunity.

The Eastern Region established a robust greylard monitoring process in 1997. This long-term dataset helps Council understand the effects of harvest regulations on the population. The greylard population during this period (1998 –2025) appears to have declined by just over 6000 per annum (Figure 1;  $Year=-6380, P=0.0116$ ). Clearly a declining greylard population is not indicative of long-term sustainability, nor is it increasing/maintaining hunter opportunity.

The problem is that the set of harvest regulations do not manage many hunters (most hunters do not achieve the daily bag limit, nor do they hunt for the full season). Moreover, land use changes (urbanization, agriculture and horticulture intensification), appear to have severely negatively impacted greylard habitat.

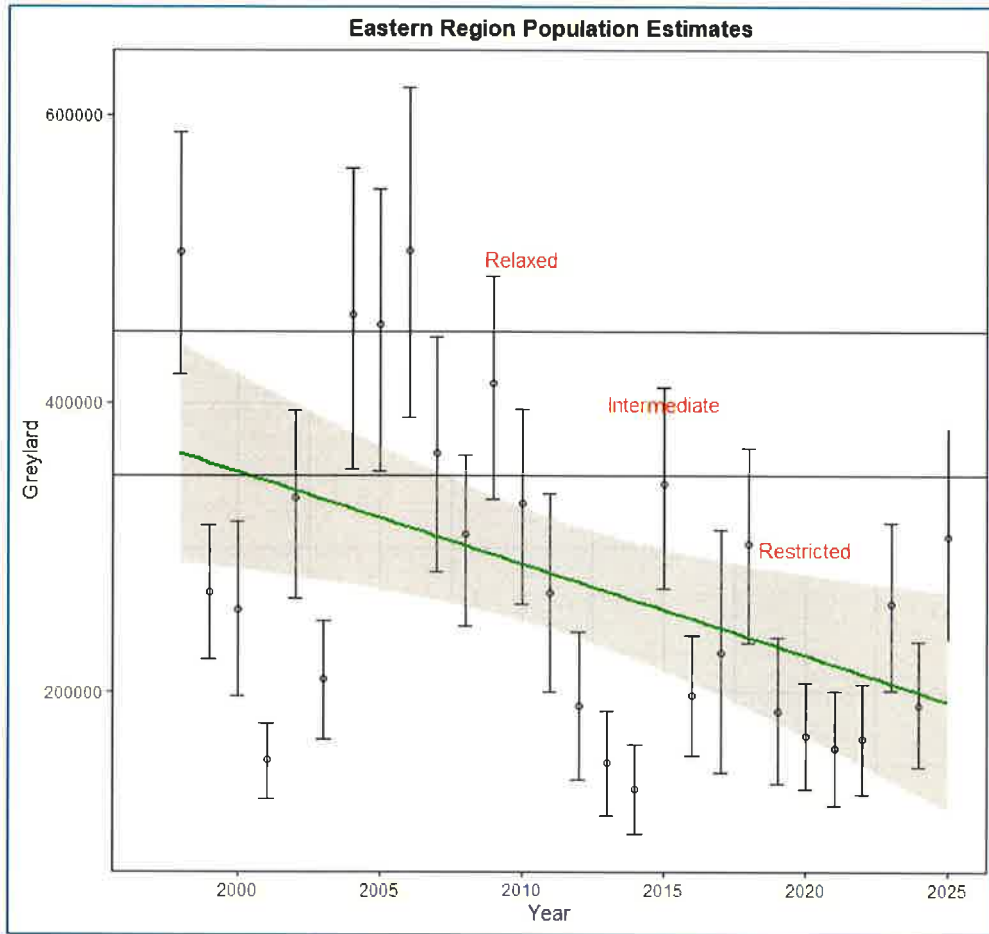


Figure 1. Estimated greylard population in the Eastern Region 1998 – 2025. The green solid line is the regression line over time and the grey zone is the 95% CI for the regression line.

### 3.4 Greylard sex-based limits

While the concept of a sex-based limit is good there are inherent issues. Sex-based limits for mallard and grey duck (collectively referred to as "greylard") are not very practical and reduce hunter opportunity. The challenges are twofold:

#### 1. Species Identification:

The Wildlife Act 1953 defines mallards and grey ducks to include hybrids. In the Eastern Region, hybridization between mallards and grey ducks is widespread, making it difficult to distinguish between species based on appearance. As a result, they are managed as a single species—greylard.

#### 2. Sex Identification:

Hunters often struggle to identify the sex of greylards in the field. Even mallard hybrids can lack clear plumage cues, especially during pre-alternate moult when males may not develop a green head. In some cases, staff have had to rely on cloacal examination to determine sex post-harvest.

This creates a dilemma: hunters risk shooting birds whose sex they cannot reliably determine, even in hand. When sex-based limits were previously trialled in the Eastern Region, hunters expressed frustration—especially during low-light conditions—because reaching the female

limit early meant they had to stop hunting, even if male birds were present. To be effective, a hen limit would likely need to be set at one, further restricting opportunity.

To encourage selective harvest without regulatory burden, staff have promoted the voluntary “go for green” approach, targeting drakes with identifiable plumage.

### **3.5 Split greylard bag**

A split bag usually refers to a large daily limit for the opening weekend and then a more restrictive bag for the remainder of the season.

Currently only a few hunters are shooting their limit. A split bag would only benefit this small group (e.g., about 9% of hunters if the bag limit was 8; Figure 2). Increasing the harvest from this small group would increase the total harvest and result in fewer greylard for the remaining 91% of hunters, potentially aggravating the situation of many waterfowl hunters shooting zero greylard (Figure 3).

The satisfaction survey asked hunters “what can F&G do to improve your hunting”. Only 6% mentioned increasing the bag limit cf. to 23% of hunters that wanted a longer season. Seven percent of hunters surveyed commented they wanted more ducks. It is possible that a split bag will result in less ducks for most hunters.

Low bag limits correspond to a very high level of non-compliance. When the daily bag limit was six, 23% of reported harvest was more than the daily bag limit. Hunters take a long time (approximately 4 years for waterfowl hunters in Minnesota, US) to adopt new hunting regulations. Eastern Region hunters maybe not as slow as Minnesota hunters to adopt change as a lot of the 23% reported excess harvest was in the first year that restrictive limits were introduced. Nevertheless, it is likely that non-compliance will be an issue if the bag limits are severely restricted.

If the bag limit after opening weekend was restricted to four<sup>2</sup>, for example, from six (see Figure 4) harvest would be reduced by about 22% (based on data 1993–2025). Therefore, we need to calculate what the bag limit could be increased to over opening weekend to off-set the 22% reduction after the opening weekend. This is not an easy exercise as we need to calculate the proportion of hunters that shoot 7, 8, 9, .... etc. (see Figure 2) and how many hunters are likely to be active (see Figure 5) which can be done but not when the population is low (i.e., the data we have has bag limits that are in the 7–15 range when the population is high).

Monitoring the impact of split bag limits is very difficult, particularly measuring annual survival rates. This is important in the Eastern Region given the decline in the greylard population and the need to understand harvest dynamics.

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<sup>2</sup> Any less than four may be unacceptable to hunters?  
*Eastern Fish and Game Council Meeting December 2025*

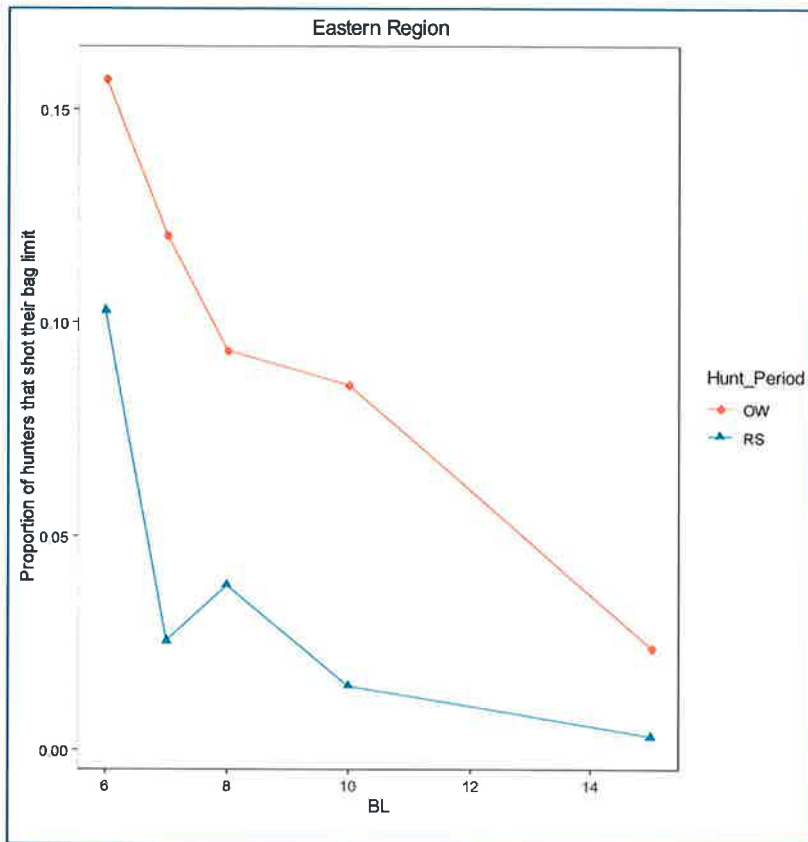


Figure 2. Proportion of hunters that shot their bag limit (6 – 15) over opening weekend. OW=opening weekend, RS=rest of season i.e., after opening weekend.

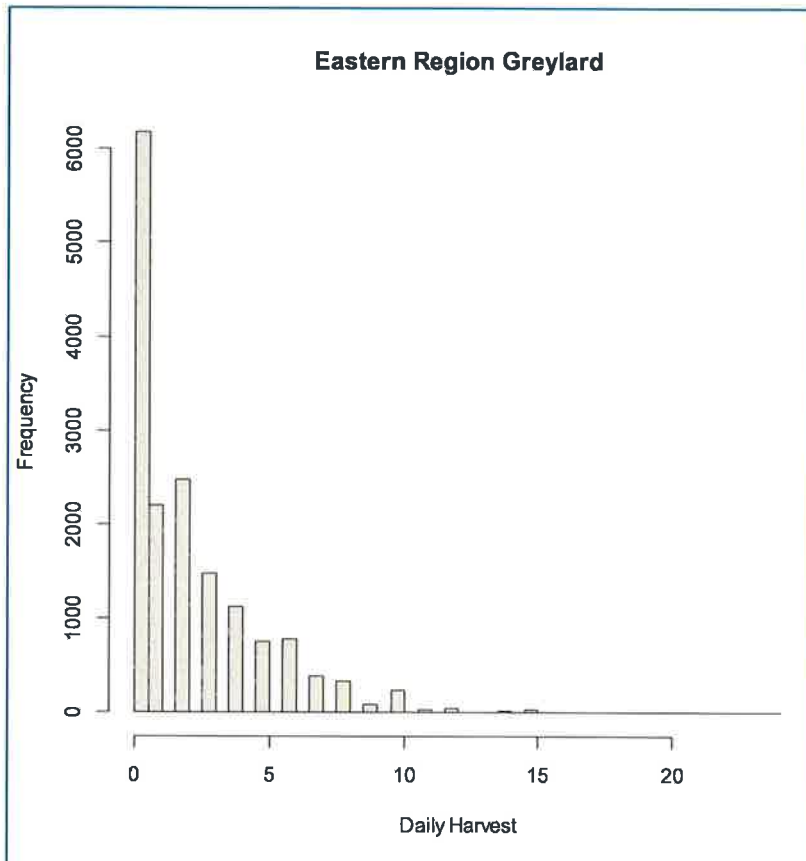


Figure 3. A histogram of daily greylard harvest 1993 – 2025

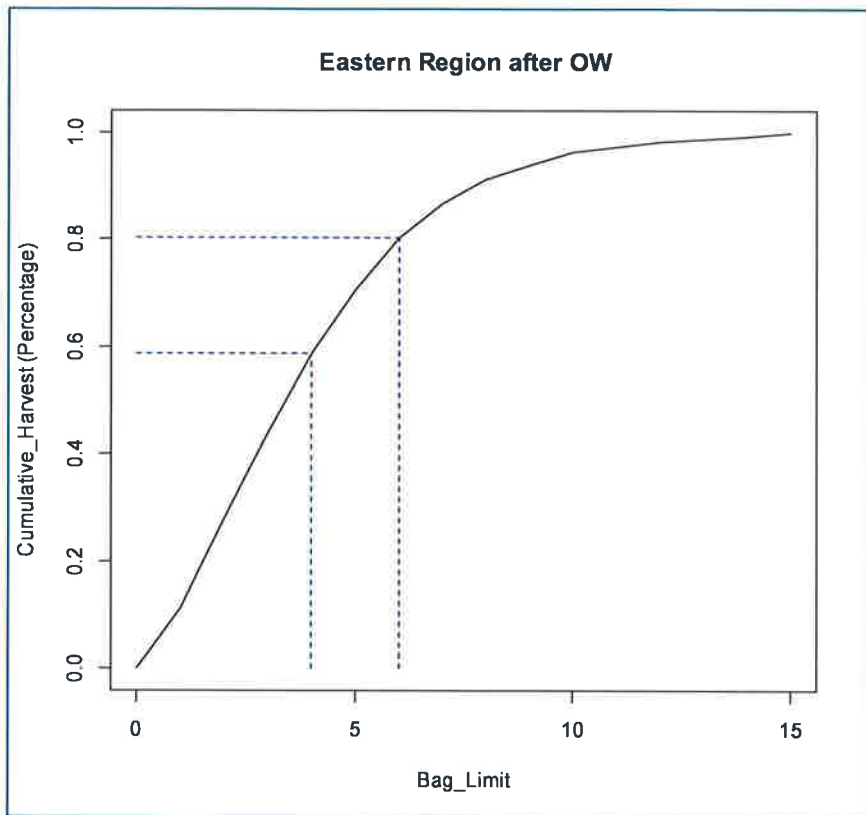


Figure 4. Cumulative greylard (mallard + grey) harvest (percentage) after opening weekend under different bag limits (black solid line). Data is from all hunter surveys in the Eastern Region 1993-2025. The blue dashed lines show harvest (as a percentage of the total) under a bag limit of 4 and a bag limit of 6. The difference between the two bag limits is about 22%.

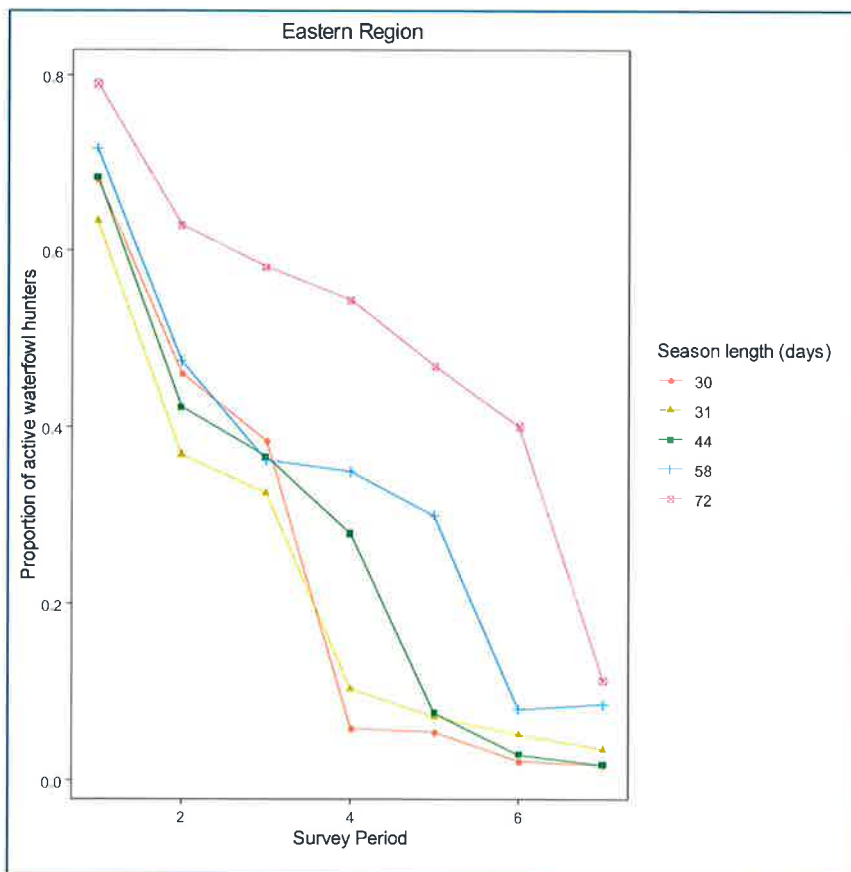


Figure 5. The proportion of active hunters by survey period (1=opening weekend, 2-5=fortnights and 6-7=1 month) and season length (30 - 72 days).

### 3.6 What is hunter opportunity

Council asked that staff prepare a list of potential questions to ascertain what hunters consider opportunity means to them.

Qualitative surveys are fraught with challenges. It is very easy to ask leading questions or for the interview to influence the outcome of the survey.

One option is to create a list of possible opportunity measures and get hunters (randomly select a group of hunters and then phone them) to rank each one on the Likert scale (1= strongly agree, 2= agree, 3= neither agree nor disagree, 4 = disagree, 5 = strongly disagree).

Opportunity measures may include:

- Access to places to hunt (legal and physical access).
- Maximise daily bag limit.
- Maximise waterfowl season length.
- 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.

Council should consider if the chosen opportunity measure can be manipulated and moreover, can it be measured. There is not much point in choosing an opportunity measure that the Council has no control over or cannot be measured. Additionally, maximising daily bag limits or season length are still constrained by the need to ensure sustainable harvest.

### 3.7 Lowering the intermediate threshold - The effect of a 44-day season on the following season

Estimating the greylard population in the Eastern Region is done retrospectively (i.e., after the game bird season has finished). Our recommendations for the greylard bag limit and season length are required by the end of January. At the end of January we do not know what the population is but we can use population estimates from the last 27 years to predict what that greylard population will be. A list of possible factors (models) that explain greylard population change are tested to see which of these factors/models best explains changes in the annual greylard population (i.e., the greylard populations in years e.g., 1998–2024). In some years more than one model fits the data reasonably well so model averaging is used to predict the population (e.g., 2025 population; see **Error! Reference source not found.**). Like any estimates there is a degree of uncertainty in those predictions. Prior to the last five years (2021) another method was used to predict the population and it was not nearly as accurate. One of consequences of the less accurate methodology is that the 44-days seasons (i.e., greylard seasons that are only 44-days long; the blue circles with a cross in **Error! Reference source not found.**) have fallen into the restrictive population zone and not the intermediate zone (threshold).

This provides an opportunity to see what happens to harvest and the population size in the season following the 44-day season. The assumption is that a 44-day season is too long when the population is below 350,000.

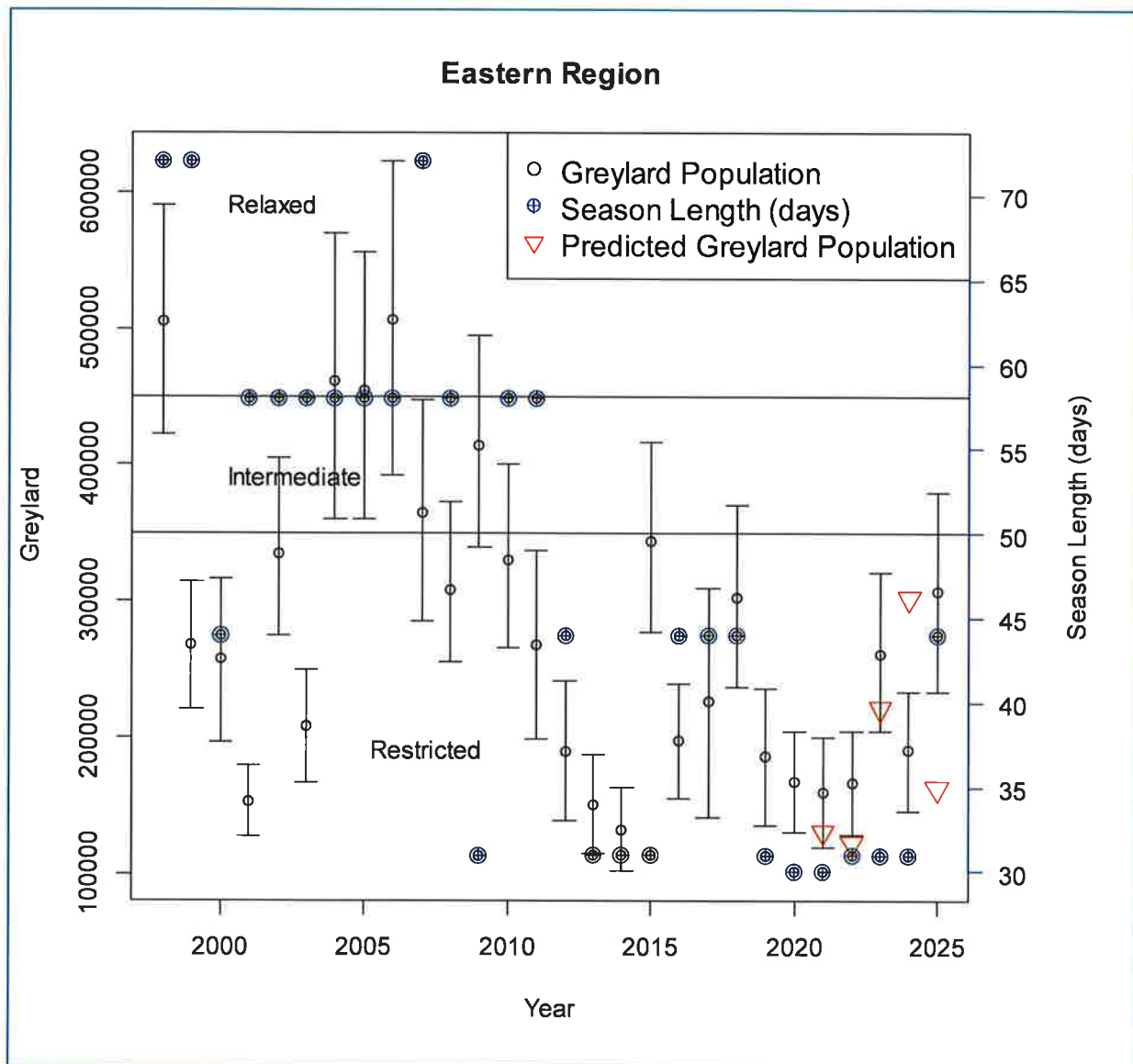


Figure 6. Estimated Eastern Region greylard population 1998–2025 (circles and 95% credible intervals). The horizontal lines are the population thresholds for different regulation constraints (Restricted = 31-days, 6 bird limit, Intermediate = 44-days, 8 bird limit, and Relaxed = 58 days, 10 bird limit).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

A comparison of the 44-day season was made with the season immediately following. Both estimated harvest and population size were compared. The same exercise was carried out with the 31-day<sup>3</sup> season to determine if 31-day seasons had similar outcomes on the following years harvest and population size.

It appears that the population of greylard decreases following a 44-day greylard season (Figure 7; see Appendix 1 for how to read a box plot<sup>4</sup>). In contrast the greylard population following a 31-day season is the same (or maybe slightly up; Figure 8). Similar results were

<sup>3</sup> In some years Queens/Kings birthday was included therefore 31 and 30-day seasons are treated as one.

<sup>4</sup> The black line across the box is the population medium for the respective seasons.

obtained for harvest. The greylard harvest was down in the year following a 44-day season (Figure 9), while harvest after a 31-day season may have increased marginally (Figure 10).

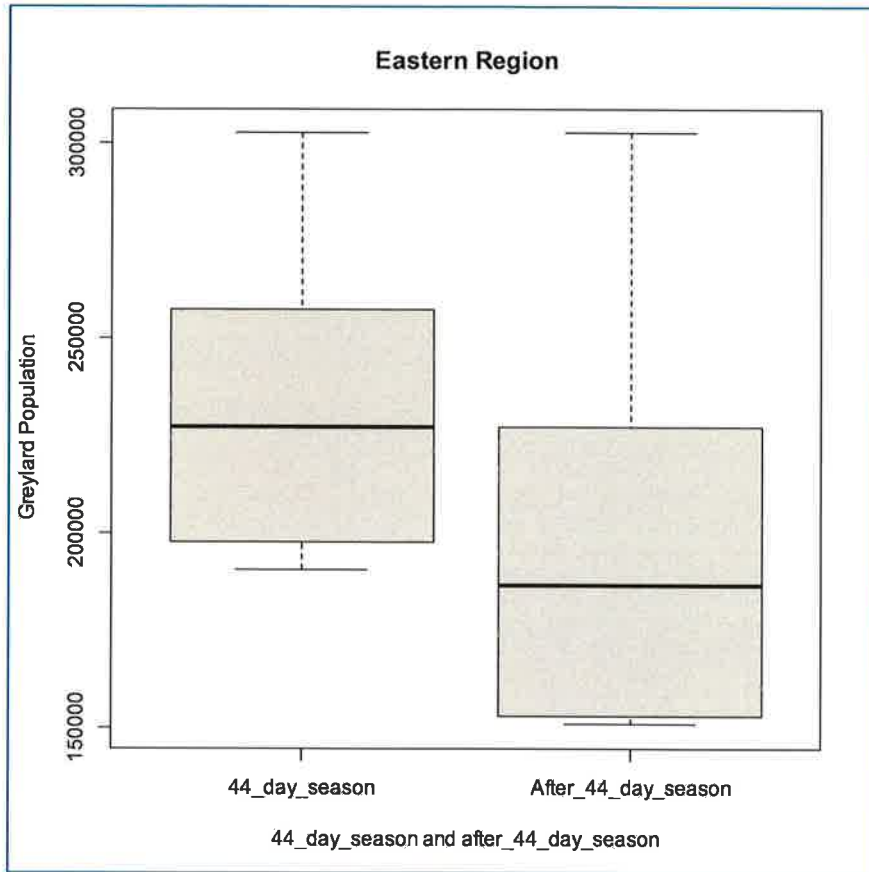


Figure 7. Box plots of estimated Eastern Region greylard population size leading into a 44-day season and the next years population estimate. See Appendix for an interpretation of a box plot.

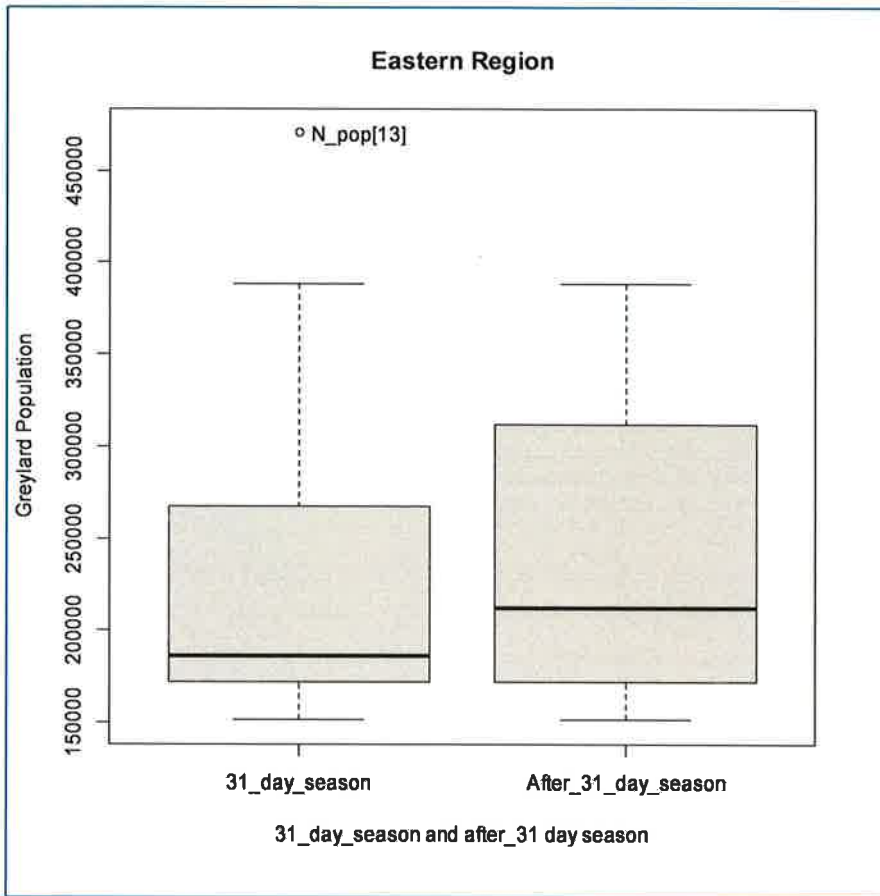


Figure 8. Box plots of estimated Eastern Region greylard population size leading into a 31-day season and the next years population estimate. See Appendix for an interpretation of a box plot.

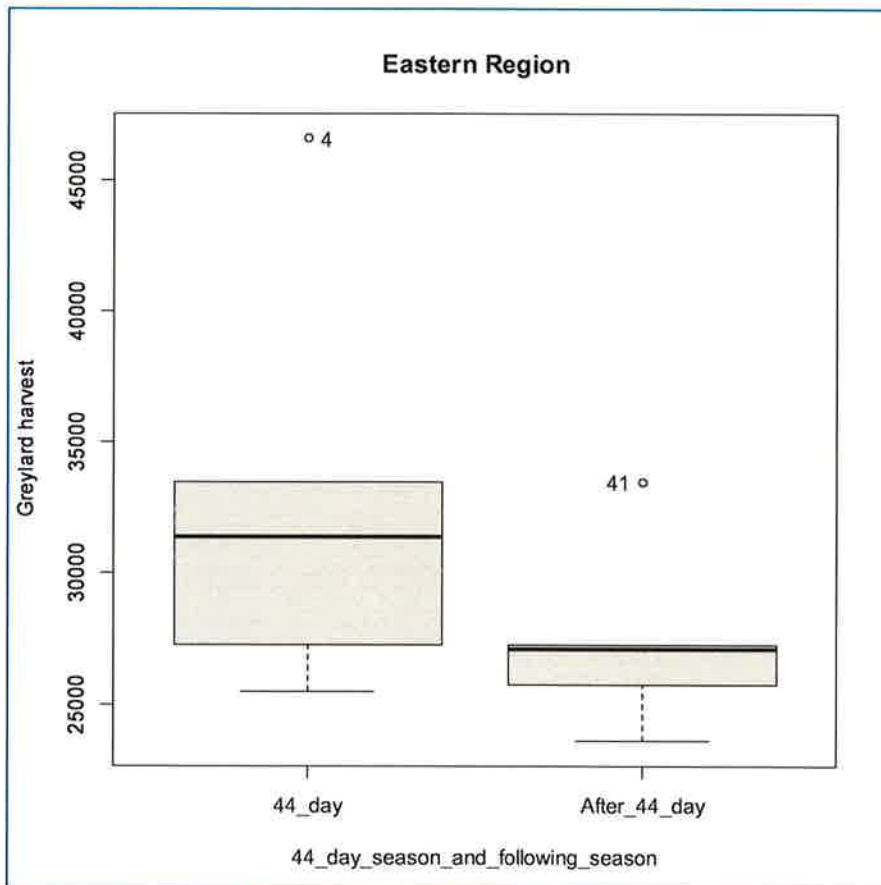


Figure 9. Boxplot of greylard harvest showing harvest during a 44-day season and harvest in the following year. Eastern Fish and Game Council Meeting December 2025

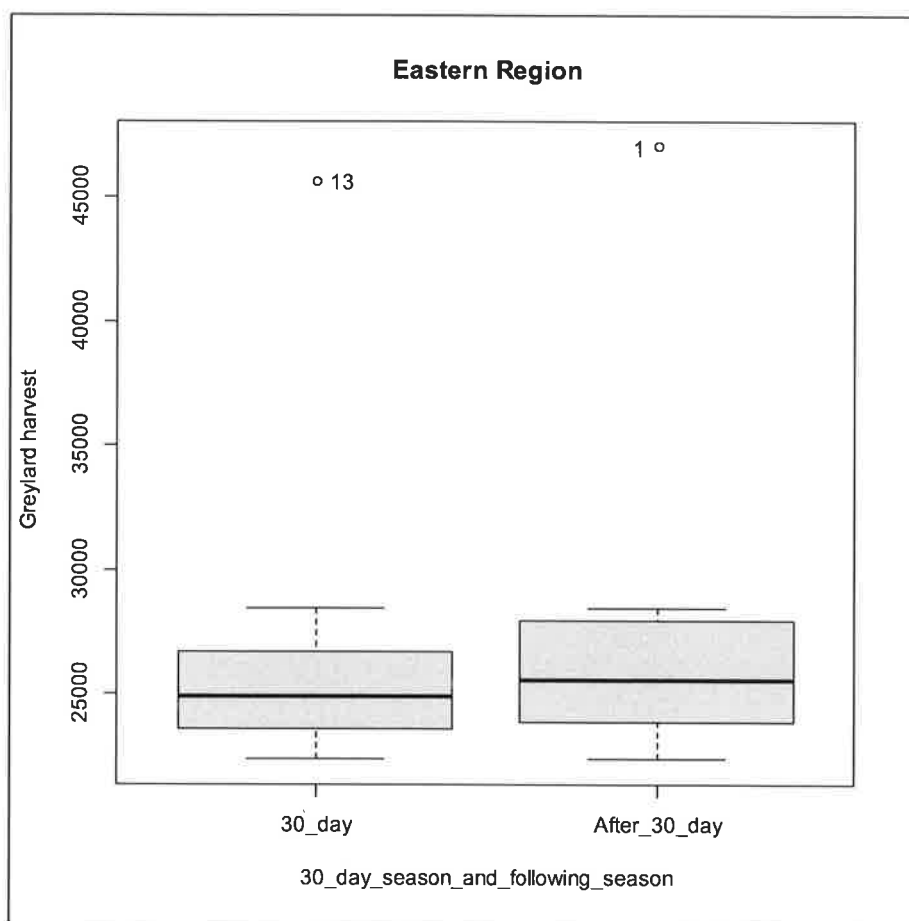


Figure 10. Boxplot of greylard harvest showing harvest during a 30 day (and 31 day) season and harvest in the following year.

The aim of the restrictive seasons (31-day) is to try and give the population an opportunity to recover and improve harvest in the following year. Figure 8 and Figure 10 indicate that this might be occurring. A word of caution, this does not show cause and effect rather it is what is referred to as an observational study. What this means is we cannot categorically say that the longer season has an impact on the following season but it appears that this might be the case.

### 3.8 Greylard population monitoring

During discussions on game bird monitoring and management, it was mentioned that, after speaking with one of his fellow NZC's—a professor of statistics—concerns were raised about the effectiveness of certain monitoring approaches in the Eastern Region, with a comparison made to similar challenges experienced in trout monitoring in the South Island.

In the conversations that followed, it became clear that there may be some uncertainty around how Councils understand the methods used to estimate the greylard population.

After checking directly with the professor, it was clarified that his comments were not referring to Eastern mallard monitoring. He also noted that he has no knowledge of how Eastern conducts its mallard population monitoring.

The Eastern Region has the best and longest running greylard (mallard & grey duck) monitoring and harvest management regime in the country. The methodologies used are well accepted in the scientific literature. Moreover, Eastern's greylard harvest management has been peer reviewed and published in the Journal of Wildlife Management (McDougall & Amundson, 2017). Band data is used to provide information about greylard annual survival

rates, harvest rates, and the population size. Mark recapture and recovery data is used to model the effects of harvest management on annual survival and harvest rates<sup>5</sup>. Additionally band and harvest data are used to estimate the population size using the Lincoln-Petersen estimator (see amongst others, “The Estimation of Animal Abundance and related parameters” (Seber, 1982)). The Lincoln-Petersen method has been explained to Council before using the analogy of the jar of marbles. In this example, if we want to know how many white marbles in a jar we can take a sample (say 100), paint them red and put them back in the jar making sure we give the jar a large shake to mix the red and white marbles. Then if we take another large handful (say 100 again) of marbles from the jar and see how many of them are red and lets assume that 10 are red we can assume that 10% of this sample are red and since we know that there are 100 red ones in the jar we can assume that the 10% red sample is indicative that the 100 red ones make up 10% so there must be about 1000 marbles in the jar in total ( $100/1000=10\%$ ). Now if we repeat this process again and again, we get a better idea if the red marbles make up 10%. What’s more with a computer we can run this simulation 100,000 times (i.e., take a sample from the jar) and this gives us an idea of not just the mean (say 10%) but also how accurate our estimate is.

With the greylard population the sample that we paint red is the greylard we attach a band to. The second sample i.e., the big handful (above it was 100 marbles) but in this case it is the harvest estimate (from the hunter survey) and see how many of these harvested greylard are banded. But, because not all bands get reported we need to estimate what percentage are reported so we can estimate the total number of banded birds are shot and recovered. We do this by asking an additional question during the hunter survey and cross check the answer against our records (to see if they have actually reported the band when they say they have). These models are then put into a computer program and run 100,000 times to get an idea of how accurate our estimates are (hence the Bayesian credible intervals – sort of like a confidence interval - shown in Figure 1). Estimating the annual survival rates is more difficult to explain, but basically linear models (e.g., season regulations and climate variables), are fitted to the data to see which ones are the best fit. A process known as Akaike’s information criterion (AIC) is used to assess which of the models fits that data the best. The underlying principle of AIC is that the model with the least number of parameters that fits the data the best (parsimony) gets the most support. Incidentally this same process is used to predict the greylard population. We have 27 years of greylard population estimates, models of such things as harvest, climate and previous years population, are fitted to this data to see which explains the changes the best (which fits the data the best). Sometimes there are more than one model that fits the data reasonably well so the models are averaged to predict the forthcoming greylard population.

As an aside and of interests a quick check was carried out to see if duck hunting continued in New Zealand during WW2 (following on from the Council discussions that soldiers had returned to NZ after the war to find similar numbers of ducks as when they left). NZ

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<sup>5</sup> Models are created using the Burnham live dead model. The probability of encountering a banded bird is a function of four parameters. If the bird has survived (S) the period between marking and the encounter, if the band has been recovered and reported (r), the probability that the bird is recaptured (p) and the probability that the bird has remained in the study area i.e., its fidelity (F) to the recapture site. Program MARK uses maximum likelihood to estimate these four parameters. These parameters can be fitted to linear models (e.g., annual survival is dependent on the age and sex of the bird plus the greylard season length) to see how well the models explain or fit the data.

Archives and the NZ National Library report that duck hunting was a popular activity during WW2 in NZ.

### **3.9 East – West greylard harvest management**

There was a request to manage harvest of greylard differently on the East Coast. We would love to be able to have smaller management units as there are also areas that have quite high numbers of ducks (e.g., around Reid's Canal) that are limited by the region-wide regulation set we use. The Sports Fish and Game Management Plan requires that regulations are based on sound biological knowledge. This is possible but would require a huge increase in resources to manage greylard harvest in two or more sub-regions (if we are going to split the region into two, we should split the region into four areas, similar to those we use to manage paradise shelduck and swan). We have previously tried it with harvest (separate harvest into the four management regions) but stopped as the sample size was a nonsense. Ironically given the East Coast climate it is a real possibility that even more restrictive conditions may be required in dry years or following cyclonic weather events. If Council are prepared to significantly increase the waterfowl harvest management budget, then it is a possibility.

Over the years there has been the statement the East Coast and Hawke's Bay are very similar and should be managed as one unit. I am not necessarily challenging this opinion but point out that greylard annual survival rate analysis I did some years back showed they are not similar.

### **3.10 Conclusion**

The set of harvest regulations that have been developed aim to ensure that harvest does not impact on subsequent harvests while also providing hunter opportunity. Harvest management is a real balancing act that has large inherent uncertainties. It is best to keep regulations as simple as possible to aid our understanding and predictive capabilities. If we play around with sex-based limits and split bags, we introduce more uncertainty and to deal with this additional uncertainty we need to be more conservative with our regulations in order that we don't compromise future harvests and populations. Moreover, a very high proportion of days spent hunting waterfowl result in no greylard harvested (Figure 3). If we liberalise regulations (split bag), it is likely that we will further exacerbate the zero harvest which ultimately will reduce hunter satisfaction and probably hunter retention and recruitment.

### **3.11 WBOP Fish & Game club submission**

The WBOP Fish & game club made a submission to the 2026 game season regulation process (see PFI). They list five recommendations which are self-explanatory. Recommendation 1 relates to the timing of the black swan special season. The recommendation is that the special swan season occurs on the weekend of 27–28 March 2027 (provided Council decide to hold a special season again). The high tides for this weekend occur in the middle of the day which is ideal however this season is for Management Area A1 and Council may want to look at the timing in relation to how far it is from the beginning of the game bird season?

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1** *That sex-based limits are not implemented to manage greylard harvest.*
- 4.2** *That split bag limits are not introduced to manage greylard harvest.*
- 4.3** *That Council identify if there are any additional measures of opportunity and amend the list presented in 3.6 What is hunter opportunity accordingly.*
- 4.4** *That Council decide if they wish to survey hunters (a random phone survey of 120 hunters) to ask hunters to rank if they agree or disagree with the list items derived in 4.3 above.*
- 4.5** *That council note the findings in relation to the possibility of lowering the intermediate threshold limit in relation to the 44-day season.*
- 4.6** *That Council endorse the method used to monitor the greylard population in the Eastern Region until a better method can be found.*
- 4.7** *That Council note the additional resourcing required to split greylard harvest regulations into sub-units and decide if this is an option that they would like to pursue.*
- 4.8** *That Council note the submission from the WBOP Fish & Game club.*
- 4.9** *That Council decide if they would like a special black swan shoot in 2027.*
- 4.10** *If the Council agrees to hold another special swan shoot in in Management Area A1 in 2027, should it take place over a single weekend, or span two weekends including the weekdays in between where the first or only weekend is 27–28 March 2027?*
- 4.11** *That there be a special pukeko season on the same dates as the special swan season for all of the Eastern Region.*
- 4.12** *That the season for brown quail remain closed for the 2026 season.*

- Appendix 1

## GAME SEASON CONDITION POLICIES

### 2.1 Mallard and Grey Duck (greylard)

#### November 2011 Council Meeting

- (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]*

#### August 2025 Council Meeting

- (iv) *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Alec McIver) resolutions b,c,d,f as follows:*
- (v) *d. To reaffirm the use of a threshold model to set mallard and grey duck harvest regulations.*
- (vi) *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]*

### 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

#### **2.4 Threshold Criteria for Black Swan**

**Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels**

POPULATION SIZE	TREND	SEASON
i)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

(viii)

- Appendix 2

## PROPOSED 2026 GAME SEASON

The First Schedule extract from the 2025 season is provided in the October 2025 PFI.

### EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION<sup>6</sup>

#### SECOND SCHEDULE 2026 GAME SEASON

##### 1. Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2026/2027 Season

Species	Season duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
<b>Mallard/ Grey</b>	02 May to ? 2026	?	All areas
<b>Shoveler</b>	02 May to ? 2026	2	All areas
<b>Paradise</b>	02 May to ? 2026	?	Area A1, A2
	02 May to ? 2026	?	Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
	02 May to 12 July 2026	20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
<b>Pukeko</b>	02 May to 30 August 2026	10	All areas
	27 March 2027 - ?	10	All areas
<b>Black swan</b>	02 May to 30 August 2026	No limit	Area A1
	27 March 2027 - ?	No limit	Area A1
	03 May to ? 2026	5	Area A2
	Closed season	0	Area B1 & B2
<b>Bobwhite (Virginian) quail</b>	Closed season	0	All areas
<b>Brown quail</b>	Closed season	0	All areas
<b>California quail</b>	02 May to 30 August 2026	No limit	Area A1 & A2
	02 May to 30 August 2026	5	Area B1 & B2
<b>Cock pheasant</b>	02 May to 30 August 2026	5	All areas

<sup>6</sup>Reference to Description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 22 May 1990, at page 1861  
Eastern Fish and Game Council Meeting December 2025

- Appendix 3

### Box plot interpretation

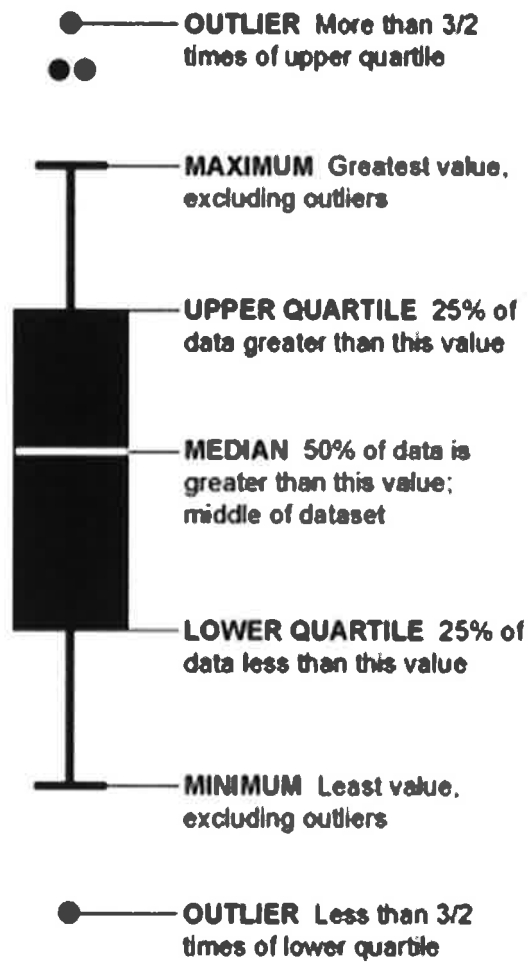


Figure 11. Interpretation of a box plot

## 12. F&G REFORM DISCUSSION

Ref: 7.02.01

25 November 2025

### 1. Purpose

To discuss the proposed F&G reforms, update from the Minister and consult on concerns and ways to raise those concerns through the submission process.

### 2. Background

The Minister for Hunting and Fishing recently communicated with all Regional F&G Councils where he updated on the proposed reform and shared the Q&A that he had received from a number of regions on the proposed reform, including from Eastern. All related papers are in PFI.

### 3. Recommendation

**3.1** *That Council has a robust discussion and fine tune areas of concern for Eastern F&G region within the proposed reform proposals and directs the CEO to formulate an appropriate submission paper to be able to be updated once the Bill is introduced and presented.*

## 13. 2024-2025 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.04

28 November 2025

### 1. Purpose

To adopt the Performance Report for the 2024-2025 year.

### 2. Background

The Performance Report for the 2024-2025 year has been completed and audited by Owen McLeod. The draft Performance Report was provided for consideration at Council's October 16 meeting, and a final copy which includes the Independent Auditor's Report has been sent to you via email for this meeting. There have been no material changes to the report since the draft was considered, however the Auditor is awaiting confirmation from the Office of the Auditor General regarding our standard categorisation of expenses within the Statement of Financial Performance, as to whether these meet the reporting requirements.

### 3. Reporting Standards

The Performance Report has been prepared under Tier 3 Public Sector Entities standard (Tier 3 (PS) standard).

### 4. Variance against Budget

A net surplus of \$115,274 was recorded for the year against a budgeted deficit of \$75,724.

The variance between the surplus for the year and the budgeted deficit totalled \$190,998.

#### 4.1 Income

Total revenue for the 2024-25 year was \$168,525 over budget. This is made up from the following:

Amount	Note
\$78,549	Increased licence sales
\$27,826	Insurance claim – Awakaponga solar system
\$22,383	Increased trout inventory at year end (non-cash)
\$15,000	Unbudgeted contract services to Genesis Energy
\$7,874	Net increase rentals (incl huts) and grazing income
\$5,000	Sponsorship - Children's fishing programme by The Agrodome
\$4,600	Unbudgeted donations
\$2,690	Increase in contract services to other Fish & Game Councils
\$2,538	Unbudgeted mowing services to Regional Council
\$2,364	Higher than budgeted Gain of sale of fixed assets
\$1,680	Ministry of Primary Industries contribution to maize for banding (offsets expense)
\$1,247	Increased Ballot Habitat maintenance fees
\$1,204	Increased general income
\$730	Unbudgeted hatchery tour income
\$703	Increased income from prosecutions/legal expense recovery
\$558	Increased funds from children's fishing events
-\$311	Reduced general interest
-1,540	Reduce interest on Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Funds
-\$1,755	Reduced Fishing Competitions
-\$2,815	Reduced income from Hatchery
<b>\$168,525</b>	

## **4.2 Expenditure (Direct)**

### ***4.2.1 Species Management***

Total direct expenditure relating to Species Management ended the year \$10,816 under budget.

Within Species Management, the Population monitoring budgets ended the year \$14,248 under budget due primarily to costs related to the Tarawera food web work being significantly lower than estimated.

The Hatchery costs were higher than budgeted for the year (\$3,852) and this was due to increased costs for fish food, vehicle maintenance and insurance

The Crop Protect and Harvest assessment budgets were not fully utilised (\$420).

### ***4.2.2 Habitat Protection & Management***

Habitat related direct expenditure ended the year \$23,323 under budget.

The budgets allocated to the Waikaremoana projects were underspent due primarily to the approval for Navigation Markers at the lake being delayed (\$15,500), and lower than anticipated costs related to staff working in Waikaremoana (\$804). Spending was also reduced in Fish and Game reserves with external parties carrying out some of the planned work, and general restrictions on enhancement of wetlands (\$7,019).

### ***4.2.3 Angler & Hunter Participation***

The total direct expenditure related to Angler & Hunter Participation projects ended the year \$1,731 under budget.

Access and Signage expenses were reduced (\$1,873) due to some of the access work being carried by Timberlands and reduced expenditure on signs. Spending on hunter ballots was reduced (\$800) by all communications being undertaken by email rather than post, and expenses associated with children's fishing, huts, and pamphlets ended the year over budget by \$942 in total.

### ***4.2.4 Public Interface***

Public Interface direct expenditure ended the year \$2,430 over budget.

Within Public Interface, the Grounds Maintenance budget ended the year over budget due to maintenance associated with the leased compound, and increased ground maintenance costs.

### ***4.2.5 Compliance***

The overall direct expense in the Compliance Output was over budget by \$707.

The overspend within the Compliance budgets was due to the need for additional compliance equipment for new staff. The donations made within this output to other charities for Wildlife Act offenses are offset by income from these diversions.

### ***4.2.6 Licensing***

Licensing costs were lower than budgeted by \$4,675. Despite having increased sales this year, the reduction is due to a shift to online sales reducing the overall cost of sales.

#### **4.2.7 Council**

Council related expenditure was \$2,629 over budget due to travel reimbursement not being sufficiently budgeted.

#### **4.2.8 Planning & Reporting**

Planning and reporting expenditure was \$1,060 under budget. The R3 budget was not fully utilised during the year.

#### **4.2.9 Overheads**

The overhead expenses have been split into Employee related costs, Other expenses and Depreciation, and the combined end of year variance was \$13,366 (0.98%) over budget.

Employee related expenses were \$10,859 over budget due to an increase in the annual leave accrual.

Other expenses were over budget by \$4,138. Spending on staff house/quarters was \$2,246 over budget for the year due to increased insurance and maintenance costs. Office premises expenses spending ended the year \$4,217 over budget primarily a result of increased rates and insurance costs but also unanticipated repairs to the reception lighting. Office equipment spending was over budget \$457 due costs associated with setting up new staff. Communications spending was under budget \$377 with savings across all budgets within the group. General expenses were over budget by \$2,654 due primarily to increased insurance premiums. Field equipment spending was \$3,387 under budget due to reduced maintenance costs and Vehicle expenses were under budget by \$1,672 due to reduced fuel costs (\$5,952) but this reduction was offset by increased maintenance and insurance costs (\$4,280).

Depreciation was \$1,631 under budget.

#### **4.2.10 NZ Fish & Game Levies**

The levy of \$91,972 was in line with budget.

### **5. Financial Position**

#### **5.1 Liquidity**

The Council's financial position remains secure with current liquidity ratios, which indicate the amount of working capital or quick assets available, of \$4.61 of current assets to every \$1 of current liabilities (\$3.97 in 2023-24). Note current assets figure for this calculation has been adjusted to exclude fish stock on hand at year end (ratio including fish stock \$5.39, cf \$4.60 in 2023-24).

The Statement of Cash Flows highlights that net cash received from operating activities for the year was \$181,918 compared to \$81,725 last year. The net increase in cash on hand at year-end of \$127,019 is made up of the inflow from operating (\$181,918), and the inflow/outflow of cash from investments and to fixed assets (\$54,899).

#### **5.2 Debtors**

The figure of \$49,023 is made up of current debtors, prepaid expenses, and accrued income. (2023-24 figure, \$126,168).

#### **5.3 Fish & Game General Reserves**

The current National Financial Reserves Policy is that a Council's reserves will not fall below 20% of that Region's following year's bulk fund.

The Eastern Fish and Game Council's General Reserves (excluding Restricted Reserves) to 31 August 2025 totalled \$494,879. The Council's General Reserve sits at 34% of the 2025-26 bulk fund (\$1,373,183 plus levies of \$99,355).

#### **5.4 Dedicated and Restricted Reserves**

Note 5 (pages 51 and 52) in the Performance Report provides a summary of Council's Dedicated and Restricted Reserves. These include dedicated reserves for Asset Replacement, Back Country Fisheries, the Breeding Programme, Fish for Gold, Hatchery Water Reticulation, Awakaponga Water Reticulation, and Property Maintenance, and the restricted reserve for the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

### **6. Statement of Service Performance**

The Statement of Service Performance commencing on page 7 of the Performance Report provides information on each output area including Projects & Objectives, Performance Measures, and Actual Results. The Summary Budget and Actual Expenditure table shown on page 8, and the more detailed Summary of Resources tables shown at the commencement of each output area, provide a summary of total expenses less income for each output area.

The total expense figures reported within the Summary of Resource tables not only include direct costs but also an allocation of the overhead costs based on the actual hours worked in each output area.

Note 10 on page 56 provides a summary of the total expense for each output area detailing the overhead component and hours that contribute to this.

### **7.0 Recommendation**

***7.1 That Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2024-2025 year.***

## 14. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

### 14.1 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

27 November 2025

#### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position, approve payments for the months of September and October 2025, and approve the Financial Statements Budget for the 2025-2026 financial year.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Profit and Loss to 31 October 2025
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2025
Table 3	Variance Report to 31 October 2025
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions September and October 2025
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions September and October 2025
Table 8	Reconciliation of OWP to Financial Statement Budget 2025-2026
Table 9	Fixed Asset Budget for 2025-2026
Table 10	Statement of Financial Performance Budget for the year ended 31 August 2026
Table 11	Statement of Financial Position Budget as at 31 August 2026
Table 12	Statement of Cashflows Budget for the year ended 31 August 2026

#### 2. YTD Profit and Loss

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

##### *Summary*

The net position for the 2025-2026 Financial Year YTD is \$338,210 surplus against a budgeted surplus of \$367,798 net variance \$29,588 (deficit).

The net variance of \$29,588 is a result of income being lower than that budgeted by \$32,538, and reduced expenditure \$2,950.

<b>Income</b>	<b>Var YTD</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Var YTD</b>
Licence Sales	22,224 ▼	Depreciation	234 ▼
Other Income	10,314 ▼	Operating Expenses	2673 ▼
		Administration Expenses	43 ▼
	<b>32,538 ▼</b>		<b>\$2,950 ▼</b>
		<b>Net</b>	<b>29,588 ▼</b>

A more detailed summary is provided in the following notes.

##### *Income*

###### **Licence Sales**

Licence revenue is currently reporting at \$22,224 below budget and against last season's results for the same period. A more up to date picture of licence sales is provided in the Licence Sales Report.

## **Other Income**

Revenue from other sources for the period totalled \$19,836 and is made up of the following:

Hatchery	\$1,325	Fishing competitions	\$475
Habitat maintenance fees	\$3,056	Donations	\$12
Grazing	\$947	Interest Waikaremoana	\$2,937
MOJ Fines	\$817	Interest General	\$510
Fish food, tours	\$348	Rentals	\$9,106
Children's fishing	\$286	Recipe book sale	\$17
		<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$19,836</b>

Other income is \$10,314 below budget. This is due primarily to timing of invoicing for reserves grazing \$5,200 and rental income being down on budget \$4,200 with both houses on the property being vacant at the start of the financial year. The houses are now tenanted.

## **Species Management**

Expenditure within the Population Monitoring budgets related the licences processed for the Datawatch tag return winners, and a Kilwell gift voucher for angler diaries.

Overall Hatchery spending was significant during the reported period with the purchase of fish food (\$8,768), insurance for the hatchery buildings and vehicles (\$11,170), and CoF and repairs to the fish tanker brake system (\$4,198). Other expenditure included a gazebo for fin clipping station and metal fill for driveways. The usual expenses associated with rates, electricity, oxygen, fuel, and minor maintenance costs are also reported.

The Species Management output is over budget YTD \$2,110 and this is due primarily to the unanticipated repairs to the fish tanker.

## **Habitat**

Habitat spending for the period related to spray and maintenance materials for the reserves. Under budget YTD \$151.

## **Participation**

Expenditure reported within the Participation budgets relates to children's fishing, updates to regulations on online access maps, and electricity for the Waikaremoana hut. Under budget YTD \$397.

## **Public Interface**

The spending within the Public Interface output was related grounds maintenance costs for asphalt repairs, and cleaning of the public toilets. Over budget YTD \$120.

## **Compliance**

Compliance expenditure includes the usual 0800 Poaching service and cell phone costs. Legal fees for one prosecution and summons services are also reported. Under budget YTD \$135.

## **Licensing**

Licensing costs include agent commissions, the fees associated with the Public Online sales. Under budget YTD \$3,343 partly attributed to reduced licence sales but also a shift to online sales reduces the overall cost of sales.

### **Council**

Travel and catering expenses are reported relating to the October Council meeting. Under budget YTD \$412.

### **Planning**

Within the R3 budget expenses are reported for the 4 x 4 expo, a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, sponsorship of signs for the Ngongotaha Fishing Club and the cost of a preseason electronic mailer. The negative figure shown in the Reporting/Audit budget of \$10,942 is the audit fee accrual for the 2024-25 audit and this will clear when the fee is paid next month. Under budget YTD \$465.

### **Administration**

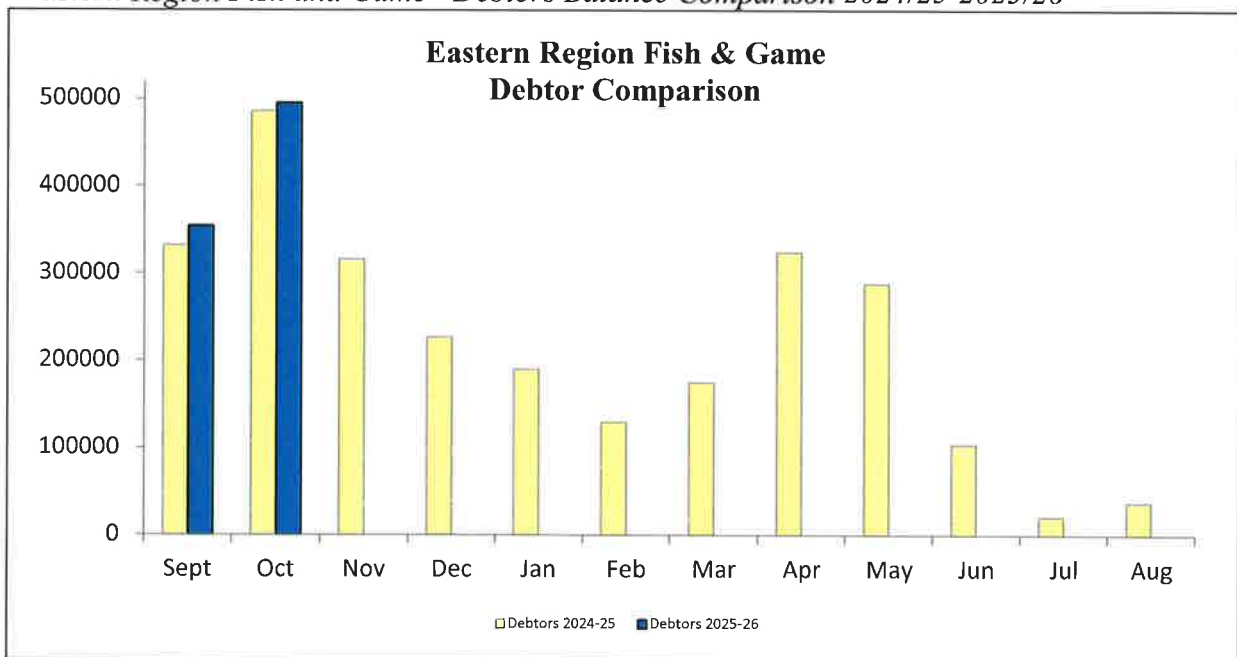
Salaries	Over budget \$5,021 YTD due to annual leave accruals and additional staff costs with tanker driver training. It is expected that this variance will reduce as the year progresses.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses for the period included ACC levies, first aid training for all staff, Power boat level 2 training for three staff, and a VHF operators' certificate. Staff expenses included staff meals for tanker deliveries, and health and safety costs included servicing of fire extinguishers and safety boots. Under budget YTD \$247.
Staff Houses	Staff Houses expenses related to rates and insurance (\$7,124), and Real Estate agent commissions. Maintenance included a replacement clothesline and annual rental of gas bottles. Under budget YTD \$384.
Office Premises	Office Premises expenses related to rates and insurance (\$9,052), and the standard electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring costs. Under budget YTD \$1,469.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs. Under budget YTD \$11.
Communications/ Consumables	Communications spending includes the 0800 service, Garmin InReach, staff cell plans and the 2Talk calling plan needed to utilise the IP phones. Expenses are also reported relating to stationery, Starlink, and photocopying. Under budget YTD \$414.
General	The insurance premium for all buildings and contents not classified elsewhere was paid from the General Expenses budget in September (\$11,201). Expenses are also reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, bank charges, and preseason radio advertising. Under budget YTD \$1,533.
General Equipment	Maintenance spending related trailer WoF's and repairs to ride on mower. Expenses are also reported for insurance for marine and field equipment (\$3,383), the sea flux subscription, trailer registrations and fuel. Under budget YTD \$678.
Vehicles	Vehicle maintenance for the period included three vehicle services, a wheel alignment, and an insurance excess. Other vehicle costs related to registrations, RUC's, and fuel. Insurance was also paid on vehicles in September (\$7,691). Under budget YTD \$329.

**Cash Position: As at 31 October 2025**

\$ 767,387 (includes \$48,989 Asset Replacement Reserve)  
 \$ 495,715 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)  
**\$ 1,263,102 Total**

**Debtors:** Outstanding Debtors \$495,118 as at 31 October 2025 (\$486,068 as at 31 October 2024).

*Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2024/25-2025/26*



Administration staff are following up two overdue licence agents for \$219. The increase in debtors in September and October is due to the delay in the licences going on sale from mid-August to 1 September.

**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.

<b>Table 1 Profit and Loss - Council</b>							
Eastern Fish and Game Council							
For the 2 months ended 31 October 2025							
	<b>Sept 2025</b>	<b>Oct 2025</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Var YTD</b>	<b>Var %</b>
<b>Income</b>							
Licence Income	310,805	272,972	583,777	606,000	1,469,319	-22,223	-4%
Other Income	4,120	15,716	19,836	30,150	239,923	-10,314	-34%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>314,925</b>	<b>288,688</b>	<b>603,612</b>	<b>636,150</b>	<b>1,709,242</b>	<b>-32,538</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
Depreciation	7,328	7,304	14,632	14,866	89,195	-234	-2%
<b>1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>							
1110 Population Monitoring	1,462	0	1,462	1,350	37,339	112	8%
1120 Harvest Assessment	168	0	168	560	3,340	-392	-70%
1140 Hatchery Operations	21,952	5,843	27,795	25,404	106,150	2,391	9%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	0	400	0	0%
<b>Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>23,582</b>	<b>5,843</b>	<b>29,424</b>	<b>27,314</b>	<b>147,229</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>1200 HABITAT PROTECTION</b>							
1220 Works & Management	450	98	549	700	14,200	-151	-22%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	0	0	22,000	0	0%
<b>Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>36,200</b>	<b>-151</b>	<b>-22%</b>
<b>1300 PARTICIPATION</b>							
1310 Access	0	401	401	700	4,800	-299	-43%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0%
1350 Training	0	105	105	100	850	5	5%
1370 Huts	23	74	97	200	1,450	-103	-51%
<b>Total 1300 PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>-397</b>	<b>-40%</b>
<b>1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>							
1410 Liaison	0	0	0	0	100	0	0%
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0%
1450 Visitor Facilities	220	0	220	100	500	120	120%
<b>Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120%</b>
<b>1500 COMPLIANCE</b>							
1510 Ranging	96	68	164	170	1,000	-7	-4%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0%
1530 Compliance	100	371	471	600	4,000	-129	-21%
<b>Total 1500 COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-135</b>	<b>-18%</b>
<b>1600 LICENSING</b>							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	60	60	-60	-100%
1630 Commission	11,605	8,792	20,397	23,680	58,773	-3,283	-14%
<b>Total 1600 LICENSING</b>	<b>11,605</b>	<b>8,792</b>	<b>20,397</b>	<b>23,740</b>	<b>58,833</b>	<b>-3,343</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>1700 COUNCIL</b>							
1720 Council Meetings	0	988	988	1,400	8,500	-412	-29%
<b>Total 1700 COUNCIL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>-412</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	351	184	535	1,000	2,500	-465	-46%
1830 Reporting/Audit	-10,942	0	-10,942	-10,942	12,500	0	0%
1840 National Liaison	0	0	0	0	99,555	0	0%
<b>Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	<b>-10,591</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>-10,407</b>	<b>-9,942</b>	<b>114,555</b>	<b>-465</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>							
1910 Salaries	62,666	84,982	147,648	142,627	1,096,315	5,021	4%
1920 Staff Expenses	811	3,108	3,919	4,166	43,000	-247	-6%
1930 Staff Houses	6,853	1,200	8,053	8,437	18,150	-384	-5%
1940 Office Premises	8,273	1,932	10,204	11,673	59,900	-1,469	-13%
1950 Office Equipment	231	231	463	474	3,650	-11	-2%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,188	900	2,088	2,502	14,600	-414	-17%
1970 General	11,968	593	12,561	14,094	18,870	-1,533	-11%
1980 General Equipment	4,293	1,062	5,355	6,033	18,800	-678	-11%
1990 Vehicles	12,580	5,489	18,069	18,398	65,400	-329	-2%
<b>Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>108,864</b>	<b>99,497</b>	<b>208,361</b>	<b>208,404</b>	<b>1,338,685</b>	<b>-43</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>141,677</b>	<b>123,725</b>	<b>265,402</b>	<b>268,352</b>	<b>1,809,897</b>	<b>-2,950</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>173,248</b>	<b>164,962</b>	<b>338,210</b>	<b>367,798</b>	<b>-100,655</b>	<b>-29,588</b>	<b>-8%</b>

**Table 2****Balance Sheet**

Eastern Fish and Game Council  
As at 31 October 2025

<b>Assets</b>	<b>31 Oct 2025</b>	<b>31 Aug 2025</b>
<b>Bank</b>		
Westpac Current Account	155,713	10,694
Westpac Call Account	71,095	201,047
Petty Cash	600	237
Investments	618,036	614,650
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	417,237	493,035
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>1,262,682</b>	<b>1,319,663</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	495,057	37,109
Accounts Receivable - Hawke's Bay & External parties	61	94
Inventory - Fish Stock	232,334	232,334
Prepayments and Accrued Income	0	6,885
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>727,452</b>	<b>276,422</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Buildings	1,049,503	1,049,503
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	478,550	478,550
Office Equipment	65,959	65,959
Plant & Equipment	192,508	192,508
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(818,145)	(813,441)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(161,564)	(154,813)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(51,090)	(49,948)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(142,066)	(140,030)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>715,655</b>	<b>730,288</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,705,789</b>	<b>2,326,373</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	24,653	34,940
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	88,092	101,883
Employee Entitlements	116,756	133,365
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy Clearing	39	0
GST	75,639	(4,935)
PAYE Clearing	26,237	26,263
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	87	0
Staff Social Club	1,911	1,671
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	(1,277)	(1,901)
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	856	598
Designated Waters Clearing Acc	96	0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>333,090</b>	<b>291,883</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>333,090</b>	<b>291,883</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>2,372,699</b>	<b>2,034,489</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated Funds	1,298,627	1,183,352
Asset Replacement Reserve	14,700	14,700
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	153,252	153,252
Breeding Programme Reserve	5,018	5,018
Fish for Gold Reserve	14,000	14,000
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	16,109	16,109
Hunter Ballot Reserve	14,012	14,012
Waikaremoana Sportfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	490,425	490,425
Current Year Earnings	338,210	115,275
Awakaponga Water Reticulation Reserve	27,826	27,826
Property Maintenance Reserve	520	520
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>2,372,699</b>	<b>2,034,489</b>

**Table 3 2025/2026 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

as at 31 October 2025

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance		
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 37,339	\$ 1,462	2,101	254	\$ 159,848	\$ 18,046	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 197,187	\$ 19,507	\$ 177,679	9.9	
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 3,340	\$ 168	786	274	\$ 59,800	\$ 19,467	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,140	\$ 19,635	\$ 43,505	31.1	
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 106,150	\$ 27,795	3,128	548	\$ 237,983	\$ 38,933	\$ 68,000	\$ 1,412	\$ 276,133	\$ 65,316	\$ 210,817	23.7	
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	126	\$ 10,195	\$ 8,952	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,195	\$ 8,952	\$ 1,243	87.8	
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	80	1	\$ 6,087	\$ 71	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,087	\$ 71	\$ 6,015	1.2	
1180	Control	\$ 400	\$ -	36	3	\$ 2,739	\$ 213	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,139	\$ 213	\$ 2,926	6.8	
	<b>TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	\$ 147,229	\$ 29,424	6,265	1,206	\$ 476,651	\$ 85,682	\$ 68,000	\$ 1,412	\$ 555,880	\$ 113,694	\$ 442,186	20.5	
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,538	288	\$ 117,014	\$ 19,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 117,014	\$ 19,040	\$ 97,973	16.3	
1220	Works & Management	\$ 14,200	\$ 549	970	159	\$ 73,799	\$ 11,296	\$ 11,650	\$ 4,003	\$ 76,349	\$ 7,842	\$ 68,507	10.3	
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ -	\$ -	688	58	\$ 50,062	\$ 4,121	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,062	\$ 4,121	\$ 45,941	8.2	
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	9	\$ 5,478	\$ 639	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,478	\$ 639	\$ 4,838	11.7	
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	
	<b>TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION &amp; M</b>	\$ 14,200	\$ 549	3,238	494	\$ 246,352	\$ 35,097	\$ 11,650	\$ 4,003	\$ 248,902	\$ 31,643	\$ 217,259	12.7	
1310	Access	\$ 4,800	\$ 401	670	94	\$ 50,975	\$ 6,678	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,775	\$ 7,079	\$ 48,695	12.7	
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	276	20	\$ 20,999	\$ 1,421	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,999	\$ 1,421	\$ 19,578	6.8	
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ -	30	1	\$ 2,282	\$ 71	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,282	\$ 71	\$ 4,211	1.7	
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 105	807	107	\$ 61,398	\$ 7,602	\$ 12,250	\$ 761	\$ 49,998	\$ 6,946	\$ 43,052	13.9	
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	36	26	\$ 2,739	\$ 1,847	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,739	\$ 1,847	\$ 892	67.4	
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 97	50	0	\$ 3,804	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 130	\$ 4,854	\$ (33)	\$ 4,887	-0.7	
	<b>TOTAL - ANGLER &amp; HUNTER PARTIC</b>	\$ 9,100	\$ 603	1,869	248	\$ 142,197	\$ 17,620	\$ 12,650	\$ 891	\$ 138,647	\$ 17,332	\$ 121,315	12.5	
1410	Liaison	\$ 100	\$ -	205	21	\$ 15,597	\$ 1,492	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,697	\$ 1,492	\$ 14,205	9.5	
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	168	11	\$ 12,782	\$ 782	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,782	\$ 782	\$ 12,000	6.1	
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ -	146	0	\$ 11,108	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,108	\$ -	\$ 12,108	0.0	
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 220	681	2	\$ 51,812	\$ 142	\$ -	\$ 261	\$ 52,312	\$ 101	\$ 52,211	0.2	
	<b>TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	\$ 1,600	\$ 220	1,200	34	\$ 91,298	\$ 2,416	\$ -	\$ 261	\$ 92,898	\$ 2,375	\$ 90,523	2.6	
1510	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 164	1,146	271	\$ 87,190	\$ 19,254	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88,190	\$ 19,418	\$ 68,772	22.0	
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	116	18	\$ 8,825	\$ 1,279	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,825	\$ 1,279	\$ 8,547	13.0	
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,000	\$ 471	308	58	\$ 23,433	\$ 4,121	\$ 5,000	\$ 817	\$ 22,433	\$ 3,775	\$ 18,658	16.8	
	<b>TOTAL - COMPLIANCE</b>	\$ 6,000	\$ 635	1,570	347	\$ 119,448	\$ 24,653	\$ 5,000	\$ 817	\$ 120,448	\$ 24,471	\$ 95,977	20.3	
1610	Licensing	\$ 60	\$ -	146	37	\$ 11,108	\$ 2,629	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,168	\$ 2,629	\$ 8,539	23.5	
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	91	12	\$ 6,923	\$ 853	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,923	\$ 853	\$ 6,071	12.3	
	<b>TOTAL - LICENSING</b>	\$ 60	\$ -	237	49	\$ 18,031	\$ 3,481	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,091	\$ 3,481	\$ 14,610	19.2	
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 8,500	\$ 988	707	183	\$ 53,790	\$ 13,001	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,290	\$ 13,989	\$ 48,300	22.5	
	<b>TOTAL - COUNCILS</b>	\$ 8,500	\$ 988	707	183	\$ 53,790	\$ 13,001	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,290	\$ 13,989	\$ 48,300	22.5	
1810	Management Planning	\$ 2,500	\$ 535	290	77	\$ 22,064	\$ 5,471	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,564	\$ 6,006	\$ 18,558	24.4	
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	104	12	\$ 7,912	\$ 853	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,912	\$ 853	\$ 7,060	10.8	
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 12,500	\$ (10,942)	486	139	\$ 36,976	\$ 9,875	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49,476	\$ (1,067)	\$ 50,542	-2.2	
1840	National Liaison	\$ 200	\$ -	264	17	\$ 20,086	\$ 1,208	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,286	\$ 1,208	\$ 19,078	6.0	
	<b>TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	\$ 15,200	\$ (10,407)	1,144	245	\$ 87,037	\$ 17,406	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 102,237	\$ 6,999	\$ 95,238	6.8	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 201,889	\$ 22,012	16,230	2,806	\$ 1,234,805	\$ 199,356	\$ 97,300	\$ 7,384	\$ 1,335,394	\$ 213,984	\$ 1,125,410	16.0	

Table 3 Cont...	EXTERNAL COSTS		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	%
<b>OVERHEADS</b>								
1910 Salaries	\$ 1,096,315	\$ 147,648	\$ 23,130	\$ -	\$ 1,073,185	\$ 147,648	\$ 925,537	13.8
1920 Staff Expenses	\$ 43,000	\$ 3,919	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,000	\$ 3,919	\$ 39,081	9.1
1930 Staff Houses	\$ 18,150	\$ 8,053	\$ 80,000	\$ 8,976	\$ (61,850)	\$ (923)	\$ (60,927)	1.5
1940 Office Premises	\$ 59,900	\$ 10,204	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,900	\$ 10,204	\$ 49,696	17.0
1950 Office Equipment	\$ 3,650	\$ 463	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,650	\$ 463	\$ 3,187	12.7
1960 Communications/Consumables	\$ 14,600	\$ 2,088	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,600	\$ 2,088	\$ 12,512	14.3
1970 General	\$ 18,870	\$ 12,561	\$ 750	\$ 29	\$ 18,120	\$ 12,532	\$ 5,588	69.2
1980 General Equipment	\$ 18,800	\$ 5,355	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,800	\$ 5,355	\$ 13,445	28.5
1990 Vehicles	\$ 65,400	\$ 18,069	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,400	\$ 18,069	\$ 47,331	27.6
<b>Administration</b>	\$ 1,338,685	\$ 208,361	\$ 103,880	\$ 9,005	\$ 1,234,805	\$ 199,356	\$ 1,035,449	16.1
<b>Total Overhead Net Cost</b>					\$ 1,234,805	\$ 199,356		
<b>Total Outputs Staff Hours</b>					16,230	2,806		
<b>Internal Cost Per Hour</b>					76.08	71.05		

**2025/2026 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

Schedule C	EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	%
1 Species Management	\$ 147,229	\$ 29,424	1,206	\$ 476,651	\$ 85,682	\$ 1,412	\$ 555,880	\$ 113,694	\$ 442,186	20.5
2 Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 14,200	\$ 549	494	\$ 246,352	\$ 35,097	\$ 4,003	\$ 248,902	\$ 31,643	\$ 217,259	12.7
3 Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,100	\$ 603	248	\$ 142,197	\$ 17,620	\$ 891	\$ 138,647	\$ 17,332	\$ 121,315	12.5
4 Public Interface	\$ 1,600	\$ 220	34	\$ 91,298	\$ 2,416	\$ 261	\$ 92,898	\$ 2,375	\$ 90,523	2.6
5 Compliance	\$ 6,000	\$ 635	347	\$ 119,448	\$ 24,653	\$ 817	\$ 120,448	\$ 24,471	\$ 95,977	20.3
6 Licensing	\$ 60	\$ -	49	\$ 18,031	\$ 3,481	\$ -	\$ 18,091	\$ 3,481	\$ 14,610	19.2
7 Councils	\$ 8,500	\$ 988	163	\$ 53,790	\$ 13,001	\$ -	\$ 62,290	\$ 13,989	\$ 48,300	22.5
8 Planning, Reporting	\$ 15,200	\$ (10,407)	245	\$ 87,037	\$ 17,406	\$ -	\$ 102,237	\$ 6,999	\$ 95,238	6.8
9 Administration										
<b>Total Overhead Staff Hours</b>			3,146	588						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	\$ 201,889	\$ 22,012	19,376	\$ 1,234,805	\$ 199,356	\$ 7,384	\$ 1,339,394	\$ 213,984	\$ 1,125,410	
<b>Licence Income 2025-2026</b>										
2025-26 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,221,548	\$ 573,635								
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 48,862								
<b>Net Fish Licence Income</b>	\$ 1,172,686	\$ 573,635								
2026 Game Licence Income	\$ 247,771	\$ 10,142								
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 9,911								
<b>Net Game Licence Income</b>	\$ 237,860	\$ 10,142								
<b>Total Licence Income</b>	\$ 1,469,319	\$ 583,777								
<b>Total Commission</b>	\$ -	\$ 58,773								
<b>Total Net 2024-25 Licence Revenue</b>	\$ 1,410,546	\$ 563,380								

Schedule C	EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	%
<b>Licence Income 2025-2026</b>										
2025-26 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,221,548	\$ 573,635								
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 48,862								
<b>Net Fish Licence Income</b>	\$ 1,172,686	\$ 573,635								
2026 Game Licence Income	\$ 247,771	\$ 10,142								
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 9,911								
<b>Net Game Licence Income</b>	\$ 237,860	\$ 10,142								
<b>Total Licence Income</b>	\$ 1,469,319	\$ 583,777								
<b>Total Commission</b>	\$ -	\$ 58,773								
<b>Total Net 2024-25 Licence Revenue</b>	\$ 1,410,546	\$ 563,380								
<b>Adjusted Budget</b>										
<b>Actual (surplus)/deficit YTD</b>										
<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	\$ 100,655	\$ (338,210)								

Waikaremoana Fund	
Subtotal	\$ 93,368
Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund	\$ (14,713)
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ (2,937)
Plus Waikaremoana Fund	\$ 22,000
<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	\$ 100,655
<b>Actual (surplus)/deficit YTD</b>	\$ (338,210)

changes to this format are required, an updated version of the Statement of Financial Performance will be provided at the meeting. Potential changes will relate to expense classification.

Several financial adjustments are necessary to move from the Operational Work Plan (OWP) Budget to the Financial Statements Budget. These adjustments include licence revenue and commission expense, asset replacement reserves/depreciation, interest, spending from dedicated reserves, levies and budgeted Capital purchases for the year. These items are not included in the OWP Budgets, which are used to calculate licence fees.

The Budgeted Financial Statement Deficit for the 2025-2026 financial year is **\$100,655**.

**Table 8:** The following is a reconciliation of the OWP to the Financial Statement Budget:

<b>Reconciliation of OWP to Tier 3 Reporting</b>		
<i>Approved budget - per OWP</i>		<b>(1,373,683)</b>
Adjustments required for Financial Budgets:		
Plus Licence revenue	1,469,319	
Plus General Interest	19,820	
Less Commission	<b>(58,773)</b>	
Less Levies	<b>(99,355)</b>	
Less Depreciation	<b>(89,195)</b>	
Plus Asset Replacement Fund Budget	34,289	
Plus Gain on Sale of Fixed Assets	4,210	
Plus Waikaremoana Interest	14,713	
Less Waikaremoana Fund Spending	<b>(22,000)</b>	
Net Adjustments		1,273,028
<b>Net (Deficit)</b>		<b>(100,655)</b>

To put it more simply this **\$100,655** deficit is made up from the following:

Net difference Depreciation & Asset Replacement	<b>(54,906)</b>
Gain on sale of Fixed Assets	4,210
Net difference Waikaremoana Fund Income/Expense	<b>(7,287)</b>
Use of Back Country Fisheries Reserve re Lk. Tarawera	<b>(3,000)</b>
Use of General Reserves for Building Maintenance	<b>(32,500)</b>
Use of reserves 1.34% as approved by NZC	<b>(7,172)</b>
<b>Net (Deficit)</b>	<b>(100,655)</b>

**Table 9: Fixed Asset Budget**

<b>Asset</b>	<b>Budgeted Asset purchases (excl. GST)</b>	<b>Budgeted Asset sales (excl. GST)</b>
3 Vehicles	\$137,000	\$97,790
2 Computers & photocopier	\$3,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$97,790</b>

**Table 10: Statement of Financial Performance Budget**

**EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

**Statement of Financial Performance**

For the year ended

31 August 2026

	Note	Unaudited Budget 2026 \$	Actual 2025 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Fish and Game licence sales	1	1,469,319	1,480,277
Donations, bequests, and other fundraising	1	750	5,908
General funding - central/local government	1	-	4,218
Grants - non-government agencies	1	23,130	43,370
Interest	1	34,533	56,089
Other revenue	1	181,510	232,322
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>1,709,242</b>	<b>1,822,184</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Outputs</b>			
Species management	2	147,229	135,734
Habitat protection & management	2	36,200	12,377
Angler & Hunter participation	2	9,100	7,869
Public interface	2	1,600	3,930
Compliance	2	6,000	6,707
Licensing	2	58,833	51,995
Council	2	8,500	9,129
Planning & reporting	2	15,200	14,982
<b>Overheads</b>			
Employee related costs	2	1,139,315	1,126,453
Depreciation	4	89,195	92,824
Other expenses	2	199,370	152,938
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>1,710,542</b>	<b>1,614,938</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>(1,300)</b>	<b>207,246</b>
<b>Less Other Expenses</b>			
<b>Levies to NZFGC</b>		99,355	91,972
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(100,655)</b>	<b>115,274</b>

**Table 11: Statement of Financial Position Budget**

**EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

**Statement of Financial Position**

As at

31 August 2026

	Note	Unaudited Budget 2026 \$	Actual 2025 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and short term deposits	3	154,531	211,978
Debtors and prepayments	3	47,000	49,023
Investments	3	1,100,000	1,107,685
Inventories	3	230,000	232,334
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>1,531,531</b>	<b>1,601,020</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4	683,303	730,288
Investments	3	-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>683,303</b>	<b>730,288</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>2,214,834</b>	<b>2,331,308</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	136,000	137,192
Employee costs payable	3	145,000	159,627
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>281,000</b>	<b>296,819</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>281,000</b>	<b>296,819</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,933,834</b>	<b>2,034,489</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	5	<b>1,933,834</b>	<b>2,034,489</b>

Table 12: Statement of Cashflows Budget

## EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended

31 August 2026

	<b>Unaudited Budget 2026 \$</b>	<b>Actual 2025 \$</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Cash was received from:</b>		
Licence sales	1,478,321	1,484,349
Donations, bequests and other fundraising	750	5,908
General funding - central/local government	-	4,218
Grants - non-government organisations	23,130	43,370
Interest	31,810	59,803
Other revenue	176,554	197,312
<b>Cash was applied to:</b>		
Payments related to service delivery	585,676	502,563
Employee remuneration and other related payments	1,153,942	1,108,046
GST (net)	(1,921)	2,433
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(27,132)</b>	<b>181,918</b>
<b>CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING &amp; FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Cash was received from:</b>		
Sale of property, plant and equipment	102,000	95,358
Sale of investments/deposits	7,685	-
<b>Cash was applied to:</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	140,000	150,257
Purchase of investments/deposits	-	-
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing &amp; Financing</b>	<b>(30,315)</b>	<b>(54,899)</b>
<b>Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash</b>	<b>(57,447)</b>	<b>127,019</b>
<b>Opening Cash</b>	<b>211,978</b>	<b>84,959</b>
<b>Closing Cash</b>	<b>154,531</b>	<b>211,978</b>
<b>This is represented by:</b>		
<b>Bank accounts and cash</b>	<b>154,531</b>	<b>211,978</b>

**6.0 Recommendations**

**6.1 That the payments for September and October 2025 totalling \$289,425.25 be approved.**

<i>September - Current account</i>	<i>\$118,405.37</i>
<i>October - Current account</i>	<i>\$165,169.12</i>
<i>September/October - Credit Card - AA</i>	<i>\$623.76</i>
<i>September/October - Credit Card - KT</i>	<i>\$5,227.00</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$289,425.25</i></b>

**6.2 That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2025-2026 financial year.**

## 14.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

26 November 2025

### SPECIES MANAGEMENT

#### 1111 River Fisheries Investigations

##### Upper Streams Opening – Check, Clean, Dry Promotion

The upper sections of Lake Rotorua's tributaries (Ngongotaha, Waiteti and Utuhina Streams) open to angling on Monday 1 December. The delay in opening these reaches relative to the 1 October sports fishing licence date is due to the late timing of rainbow trout spawning in this catchment which aims to prevent disturbance to spawning fish and trampling of redds. Staff will be out welcoming anglers and checking compliance with regulations as well as promoting biosecurity advocacy.

##### River Fishery Drift Dive Investigations 2025-26 season

Planning is underway to select the Eastern Region streams/ivers that are to be monitored over the 2025-26 summer period.

The Rangitaiki River fishery within the upper Kaingaroa Forest is planned to be investigated during late February or early March 2026. If river clarity is suitable for drift diving, staff will utilise that method. If conditions are unsuitable (<2.5m visibility), then water parameters including Secchi disc (water visibility reading) will be collected and, in that way, add to the long-term monitoring dataset for the river.

#### 1112 Datawatch

During the first seven weeks following the season opening, a total of 56 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the datawatch database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	0
Lake Okataina	11
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	0
Lake Rotoehu	1
Lake Rotoiti	10
Lake Rotoma	0
Lake Rotorua	0
Lake Tarawera	34

*\*Datawatch returns (entered to 17/11/2025)*

The number of datawatch tags returned and entered into the datawatch database during the first month and a half of the 2025-26 angling season (56 tags) is ahead to the same approximate period of the 2024-25 season (43 tags). We have however received an additional 90 tag returns via our Survey Monkey 'tagged trout reporting' site. These have not been entered into the Datawatch d/b in time to meet these reporting timelines. When they are entered our returns to date will be boosted to 146.

## **1113 Lake Waikaremoana**

### **Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy**

The monitoring buoy has been providing excellent water quality parameters (water temperature, light attenuation, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and chlorophyll a) since the last service, and longer daylight hours are providing ample charge for the battery system. We have however encountered an issue with the replacement plug from the solar array which also provides a connection between the weather station and the command console. As such there has been no data from the weather station sensors relating to air temperature, wind strength, air pressure or rainfall. This will be investigated the next time that the top hat with weather station and plug along with the command console is brought back to Hamilton for servicing. As the sensor chains are providing good information relating to the water column and lake water quality, we intend to leave in during the short term to capture the summer stratification.

## **1114 Lake Tarawera**

### **Acoustic Smelt Monitoring**

Acoustic monitoring has been undertaken on Lake Tarawera post-turnover (November) and pre-turnover (April) since November 2018. This data collects a volumetric measure of productivity within the system contributing to the overall monitoring program. The post-turnover acoustic transects are scheduled to be undertaken mid to late November given staff availability and a period of favourable weather. Two days with low wind conditions are required to complete the field work.

## **1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations**

### **Ngongotaha Fish Trap**

The Ngongotaha fish trap remains out of action due to damage sustained from flooding and large tree logs being deposited on top of the structure. With thanks to support from the BOPRC Rivers and Drainage team the debris has been cleared. We have established a plan to fix the structural damage to get the trap back in action as soon as possible.

### **Angler diaries**

The diary scheme was advertised in the 2025-26 Season magazine along with the winner of the 2024-25 angler diary draw. To date, a total of 2 entries has been returned via Survey Monkey for this financial year (starting 1-09-2025). These come from Lake Rotoma and Lake Matahina. A total of 7 entries had been received to the same point during the 2024-25 season and 3 to the same date during the 2023-24 season. Ongoing periodic advertising and promotion will be required through online media and through club visits to remind anglers about the diary scheme.

### **Lake Rotoiti Catfish Update (by Keeley Grantham TALT)**

We're entering our "big-catch" period in Lake Rotoiti, with plenty of breeding pairs being caught of up to 45cm long- some of the biggest we've seen.

I presented at Te Rangihakahaka Centre for Science and Technology recently, bringing this kura back on board. As a school who has previously been involved in the programme it was great to hear the information those kids had retained from their last educational lesson. This school have been working alongside Rotorua Primary checking our nets each alternating

Thursday at Te Weta Bay. The other days are checked by Lynmore, Whangamarino, Sunset Primary and Rotokawa School.

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Koutu has had a net checking lesson accompanied by a dissection lesson, learning about catfish anatomy as part of one of their NCEA Achievement Standards.

Sunset Primary has rotated their entire school (from year 0-6) to Te Weta Bay so each of those kids has had a turn at checking the nets and identifying species, such an awesome learning experience for them.

While out on the vessel recently doing our Catfish Management and Surveillance net checks we ran into Whangamarino School checking Te Weta Bay which was a cool chance to see citizen science and operational pest control management coming together at the same time.

During the week 10-14 Nov we hosted a fellow conservation ranger Silvia who William Anaru met last year at the 2024 IRF World Ranger Congress in France, alongside a group from Hawai'i who will be attending the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education (which started yesterday in Tāmaki Makaurau). This group were being hosted at Taheke Marae and met us alongside our guests from Switzerland to learn further about Te Arawa's role in environmental education and how we involve our community to help tackle biosecurity issues in our taiao.

We have recently received an order of 5x new nets for our community. We will be looking for more funding to get some more, so we can replace the broken nets at Te Weta, and also try to establish new nets in other locations. Work in progress, but this will enable us to get some more schools on board.

### **Golden Clam update**

Golden clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) has recently been found in Lake Rotomanu, a small lake in New Plymouth (Taranaki). Rotomanu is a popular water sport lake with water skiing and wake boating occurring there. The clams that were found are of a size to presume they have been present for several years at that location. The Taranaki Regional Council have closed down boating access to Lake Rotomanu and are carrying out delimiting tests throughout its local waters.

Several Controlled Area Notice (CAN) Orders exist to prevent further spread of the clams;

- No vessel with internal flooding ballast tank that has been in the infected area of the Waikato area (Whakamaru to Port Waikato) may move to any other waterway. This incorporates all wake boats.
- All boats coming to the Rotorua lakes that have been in the Waikato River must be cleaned at a designated wash station prior to launch in the Rotorua lakes.
- Any vessel entering Lake Okataina must first be washed at a designated wash station (The Wash Place on Te Ngae Road) and receive a QR code prior to travelling to Lake Okataina. Rotorua Lakes Council have installed an electronic gate at Lake Okataina that operates 24/7 and opens on reading of a relevant QR code.

### **Rotorua lakes spray program**

The Spring/ Summer round of pest weed spraying for noxious aquatic weed (Lagarosiphon, Hornwort, Elodea, Egeria) using diquat is to start across the Rotorua lakes from the 24<sup>th</sup> of November. A total of 70ha across Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera, Okataina and Okareka has been

proposed with the bulk of the activity to occur on Lake Rotoiti. Signage will be placed at boat ramps and entry areas following spraying occurring.

### 1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

#### Ohau Creel Survey

No date has been set at this stage for the Ohau Channel Fishery Panel meeting to discuss findings from the 2024-25 Ohau Angler Creel Survey conducted by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust. The data from October 2025 has been received from TALT and is being analysed.

#### Summer Creel Survey 2025-26

The plan for the 2025-26 summer creel surveys has been created. This year, the monitoring started in mid-October to maintain a compliance presence and increased contacts on the lakes. To mid-November we have interviewed 69 anglers and measured 36 fish on lakes Tarawera and Rotoiti. We aim to utilise angler diaries from regular Lake Okataina anglers to bolster our data from that location. Lake Rotorua shoreline anglers have been seen pursuing brown trout along the lake edge, so will be picked up by staff on trips around the lake. Surveys will go through to mid - April 2026.

#### 1122 Opening Day Angler Survey

The data entry for the 2025-26 Opening Day Survey from 1 October 2025 is near complete and on completion will be analysed and reported.

### 1141 Hatchery Operations

Liberations were completed for the period, as specified in the table below. Final movements of fry have been counted and allocated to a rearing tank for on growing. Maintenance projects are underway for the summer season ahead.

*Fish locations at 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025:*

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx.)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	0+	100,000	Liberations 2026
Tank A	Bt	0+	1,000	Liberation 2026
Tank B	Bt	1+	1,000	Liberations 2025
Tank C	Brook	2+	6	Brood
Tank D	Rt, Bt, Brook	1+	200	Paradise Valley Springs 2026
Tank E	Brook	0+	200	
Tank F	Brook	2+	20	Brood (W)
Pond 4	Rt	1+	2,000	Spring liberations 2025
Pond 7	Rt	1+	2,000	Spring liberations 2025
Pond 9	Rt	1+	4,750	2+ in 2026
RW1,2	Rt	2+	1,000	For 2+ for 2026, KF pond

## 1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 23 September to 24 November 2025

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Qty
Okareka	23/09/2025	Lp	G25	RT	1+	500
Okareka	23/09/2025	Lp		RT	1+	1500
Okataina	25/09/2025	Lp		RT	1+	750
Okataina	25/09/2025	Lp	E25	RT	1+	500
Rerewhakaaitu	2/10/2025	Lp		RT	1+	2500
Rerewhakaaitu	2/10/2025	Lp	I 25	RT	1+	500
Rotoma	7/10/2025	Lp		Tiger	1+	660
Rotoehu	8/10/2025	Lp	C25	RT	1+	500
Ngahewa	9/10/2025	Lp		RT	1+	50
Ngapouri	9/10/2025	Lp		RT	1+	200
Okaro	9/10/2025	Lp		RT	1+	500
Rotoma	11/11/2025	Lp		Tiger	1+	900
Rotoehu	12/11/2025	Lp		RT	1+	1500

Fish were also liberated to, or collected by Taranaki, Wellington and Hawkes Bay Fish & Game regions.

## 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. The most recent meeting in October was missed. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

The most Bay of Plenty Forestry Liaison Group meeting was attended in late August. The next meeting is scheduled for late November.

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 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. With that in mind, the Minister for Hunting and Fishing has recently granted an operational extension of our existing plan until 30 June 2027. However, there are relevant elements of the upcoming review that will need progressing in the 12 months.

Another important workstream involves the Fish and Game reform itself. We have been advised that the Bill is complex, with more than 60 policy changes being introduced alongside the development of a stand-alone Act. The notification of the Bill was scheduled for late 2025, but it is now likely to be in early 2026. While NZC will be submitting on the Bill, we have also been advised that regional councils should also submit individually. In our case, we will be working on a submission that captures those matters which are most important to us, and incorporating the feedback that was provided by our Council to NZC in early 2025.

## 1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
28 Sept	RDC	Waiteti Stream Holiday Park	BP- constyruct 2 new units within 25m of stream	Waiteti Stream	No concerns email
2 Oct	EBOP	WGDCDC	WP- municipal water supply, re consent	Jennings Springs, Tarawera River	No concerns email
28 Oct	GDC		LUC – Tiniroto bluff bypass road	Hangaroa River	No concerns email
12 Nov	EBOP	Red Stag Timber	DP- wastewater discharge	Puranga Stream, Waipa, Rotorua	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. Additional information has been provided at our request with prehearing discussions yet to occur.

Manawa Energy has additionally lodged via the “fast track” process for approval of their Kaimai hydro schemes. We have been asked for comment on the proposed resource consent conditions – which we are still working through.

Rotorua Lakes Council have been in lengthy discussions with us, providing detailed hydrological and environmental reports regarding the renewal of the municipal water take which is part of the upper Utuhina Stream area – which is significant trout spawning waters. We are comfortable with the proposal but cannot provide written approval (or opposition) until we have received the final reports and sighted the final application.

## 1221 Reserves Management

The first cycle of mowing access tracks within the WMR wetlands has principally been completed. Awakaponga was not able to be mowed as some person has endeavoured to illegally enter the wetland and damaged to security gate lock. To remove the damaged padlock will take some time and once completed the reserve will be mowed within the next cycle – scheduled to be late January. early February 2026.

Discussions and planning for water reticulation works with the digger are currently occurring.

Scheduled first water channel spray works have been delayed at this stage by three weeks due to ongoing rain and flood events within the wetlands. These will occur as soon as practically possible.

### **1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance**

No land owner requests for habitat assistance have occurred since the last Council report. A very reported wetland over past years has been the Burt Wetland near Te Puke. Hopefully works will occur this summer to finally enable this wetland to be up graded and repairs undertaken. Final restoration plans are being written and contractors scheduled.

### **1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats**

#### **Wetland Forum**

The scheduled October wetland forum meeting occurred with 18 attendees from Bay of Plenty statutory agencies. Presentations were received detailing recent developments with “treatment wetlands” and current Bittern research and location works within the Bay. A request was put to Tauranga City Council to update the forum regarding the Te Tumu subdivision development opposite the Kaituna Wetland. It was agreed that representatives would meet in February 2026 with TCC planners to receive a full update.

## **ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION**

### **1311 Maintain & Enhance Access**

Spring and summer season angler access work is underway and completed at the Ngongotaha Stream, Waiteti Stream, Kaituna River (Okere Falls track), and the Waioeka River. Work is underway at the Rangitaiki River system access tracks within Kaingaroa Forest including some which will be carried out by contractors, and access maintenance at the Whirinaki River track at Minginui is scheduled. Other access inspections and work at various locations is pending or underway.

### **1312 Signage**

Signage maintenance is up to date around the region.

### **1313 Hunter Ballots**

Administration staff have been busy processing hunter ballots and receiving payment of licences and habitat fees for the 2026 Game Bird Season.

### **1331 Electronic Newsletters**

Reel Life was produced for October and November 2025 covering opening day results, prospects for the season ahead and regional news.

### **1333 Fish & Game Website**

Minor changes were made to the website over this period. Children’s fishing page was edited to reflect remaining events and a page created to promote our Boat Fishing How-To event.

### **1334 Social Media**

Various posts were generated to Facebook and Instagram. Post views increased dramatically around the opening of the season.

### **1341 Information Pamphlets**

A re-print of the *Tauranga Area Trout Fishery* publication was completed.

### **1351 Junior Angler/Hunter Programmes**

Two Children's Fishing event was held, one in October and one in November. A fourth event is planned for the end of November, replacing the cancelled September event.

### **1352 Angler/Hunter Training**

Bookings are being taken now for the Boat Fishing How-to event for 2026.

### **1354 Fishing Competitions**

Four fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

### **1361 Fish & Game Club Communications**

Rotorua Anglers Assn. as above.

### **1371 Fish & Game Huts**

Maintenance is up to date at both the Waikaremoana Hut and Wairua Hut. 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. 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. To date there is no progress on this matter.

## **PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness**

The new Te Arawa Lakes Trust GM, Tame Malcolm was appointed and started on the 29 Sept, the CEO had a meeting with him in mid November and also met with John Walsh from MPI.

During this period the CEO attended a number of local business networking events supported by the Chamber of Commerce and also attended a business lunch presentation by the PM and in attendance was also the Hon. Todd McLay and the Hon. Tama Potaka, Minister of Conservation.

## 1421 Public Communications

### Lake Waikaremoana Genesis Consultative Meeting

The Genesis Consultative meeting normally held in early November at Tuai (below Waikaremoana) has not yet been confirmed. Staff have always attended and provide an overview of Fish & Game activities to the East Coast locals.

### 1441 Public Promotions

Regular postings on Facebook promoting the activities of the team and the great fishing have at times received good clicks and interactions with one of posts reaching over 200k views.

## COMPLIANCE

### 1511 Ranging

Ranging has continued to focus heavily on closed waters areas around Rotorua, along with surveys and compliance checks on the lakes and other open waters locations. We are continuing to have issues at times with illegal fishing in closed waters areas within the Rotorua City urban area. Honorary rangers are contributing to ranging and public relations efforts mostly on river systems around the region such as the Waioeka, and East Coast rivers.

### Contacts 2025-2026 year.

766 contacts with anglers have been made for the 2025 – 26 Season to the end of October. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

### Contacts: Year 2025-2026 year

Month	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Last 5 yr ave
September	51	35	36	42	54	36
October	718	520	856	627	712	689
November	66	16	161	154		83
December	182	182	256	253		232
January	352	212	217	150		267
February	140	12	117	198		124
March	93	111	185	101		131
April	238	25	81	13		102
May	203	203	175	161		208
June	141	52	80	88		97
July	57	36	59	47		49
August	32	13	29	70		33
<b>Total</b>	<b>2273</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>2252</b>	<b>1904</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>2051</b>

### 1521 Ranger Training

A ranger safety and communications training day is scheduled/run at the end of November and included Eastern Region staff and some rangers including from Northland, Taranaki, and Hawkes Bay Regions.

## Rangers

We currently have 7 honorary rangers located around the region. They contribute to ranging and other assistance to staff as they are able to.

### 1531 Prosecutions

6 offenders currently have active matters pending resolution in relation to 12 offences, and this includes some with active court charges.

#### Offences 2025-2026 Year *year to date* – November 2025

For the 2025-26 year to mid-November, we have dealt with 6 offenders for 9 offences as tabled below.

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	5
Fishing in closed waters	3
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>9</b>

#### Offences Pending Resolution– *pending resolution as of Nov 2025*

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	5
Fishing in closed waters	4
Fishing with illegal tackle	1
Fails to give details	1
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>12</b>

## PLANNING AND REPORTING

### 1812 R3 Programme

Eastern Region provided staff to assist at the Sika Show. The event was well attended with many visitors and licence holders stopping into the stand. This year the focus was solely on hunting with a mock maimai within the stand. Politicians were commonly found within our stand with photos posted to National Office Facebook pages. Plans are already taking place for the 2026 stand which will focus on deer hunters also packing a trout rod.

### 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. There have been no recent meetings of licence working group.

#### National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing to be led from this region. This includes recent 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.

## 14.3 LICENCE SALES REPORT

28 November 2025

### 1. 2025-2026 Fish Licence Sales

1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2025-26 season compared with the 2024-25 season YTD to 27 November are summarised in Table one.

1.2 Total sales year to date are 1.9% (97 LEQ's) down on 2024-25 Season results. The loss of 308 family licence sales is offset in part by increases to both Local Area and Season licences totalling 339 licences. The number of participants on the family licence represents a min of 616 anglers so a net loss of 277 participants within the three categories.

**Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2025-26 vs 2024-25 YTD to 27 November**

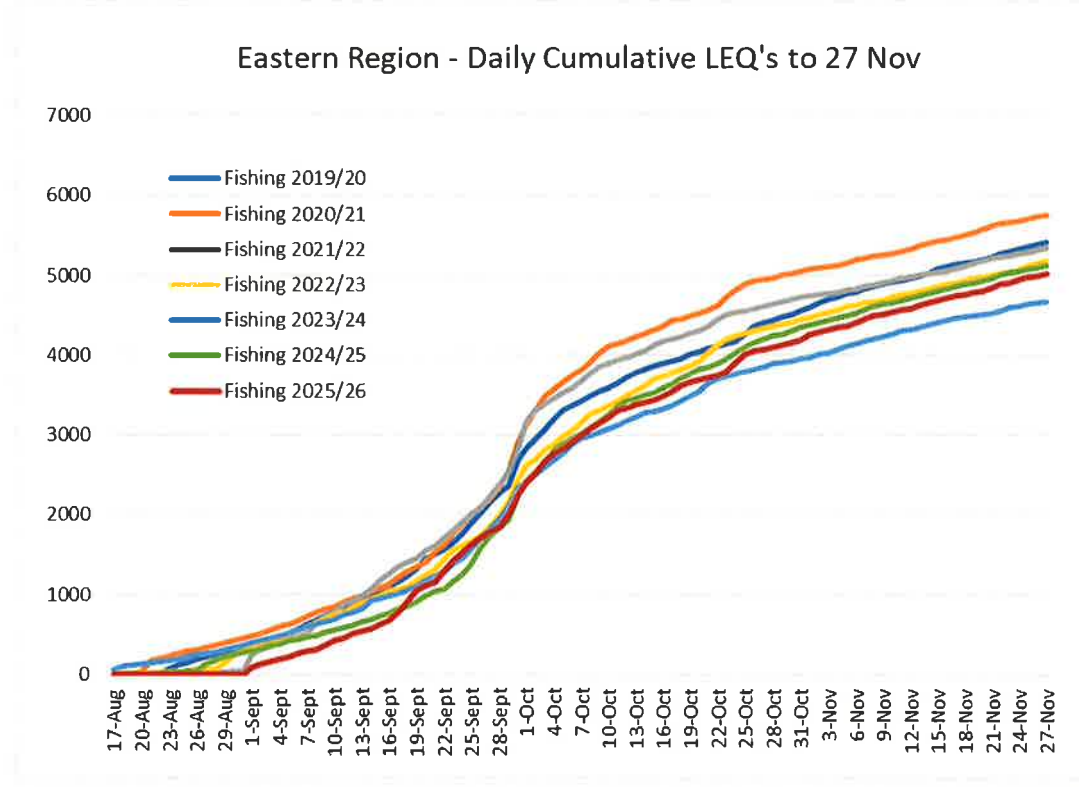
Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2024-25	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2025-26	Inc/Dec on prior Season
<b>Fish Adult</b>							
Family	719	900	1,619	648	663	1,311	-308
Season	586	711	1,297	660	798	1,458	161
Season Non-Resident	29	55	84	20	67	87	3
Loyal Senior	220	257	477	212	254	466	-11
Local Area Adult	643	411	1,054	767	465	1,232	178
Winter Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Break Adult	2	9	11	1	4	5	-6
Short Break Adult	49	173	222	42	205	247	25
Day	157	618	775	119	626	745	-30
Day Non-Resident	74	128	202	20	173	193	-9
<b>Total Adult</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>3,262</b>	<b>5,741</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>5,744</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Fish Junior</b>							
Season	98	162	260	103	179	282	22
Season Non-Resident	1	4	5	1	4	5	0
Day	21	86	107	15	137	152	45
Day Non-Resident	1	5	6	2	4	6	0
<b>Total Junior</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Fish Child</b>							
Season Non-Resident	0	1	1	0	2	2	1
Day Non-Resident	2	3	5	5	0	5	0
<b>Total Child</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Fish</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>3,523</b>	<b>6,125</b>	<b>2,615</b>	<b>3,581</b>	<b>6,196</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)</b>			5,121			5,023	-97
<b>Variance between Seasons</b>							-1.9%
<b>\$ (excl GST)</b>			\$694,611			\$681,434	-\$13,177

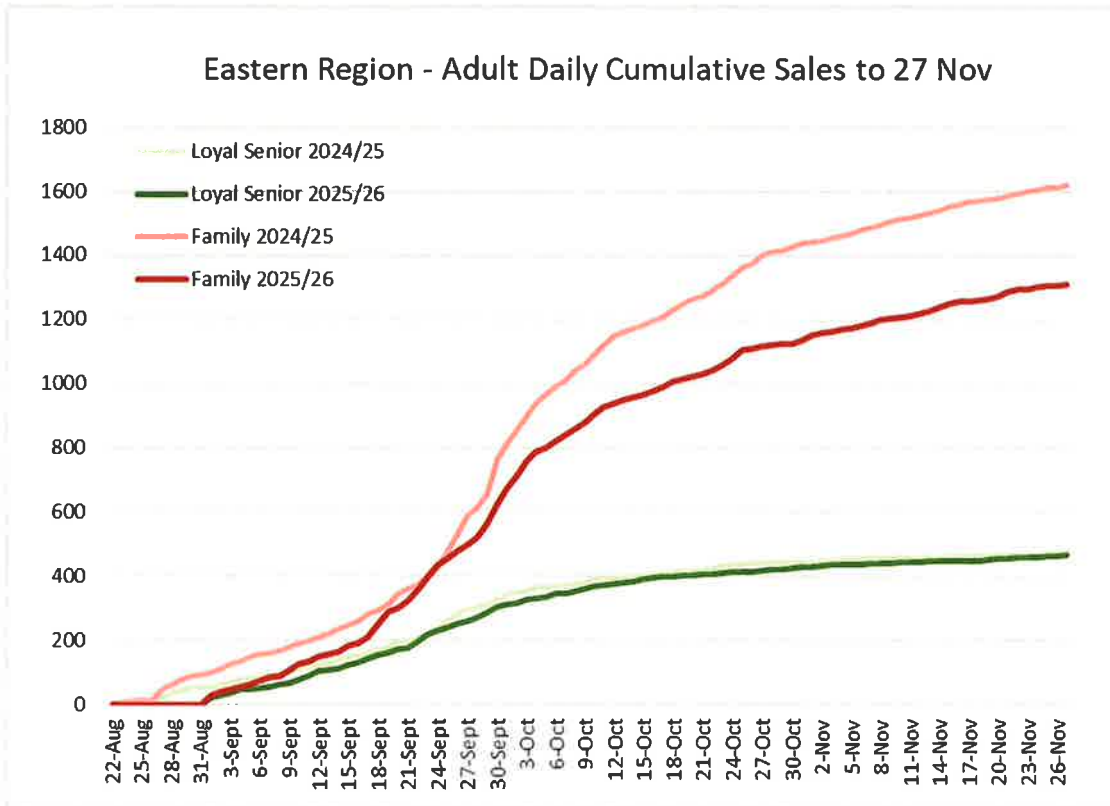
### Summary 2025-2026 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2025-26 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	9,005	100.0%	\$1,221,548
2025-26 Actual	5,023	55.8%	\$681,434
<b>Variance to budget</b>	<b>-3,982</b>	<b>-44.2%</b>	<b>-\$540,114</b>

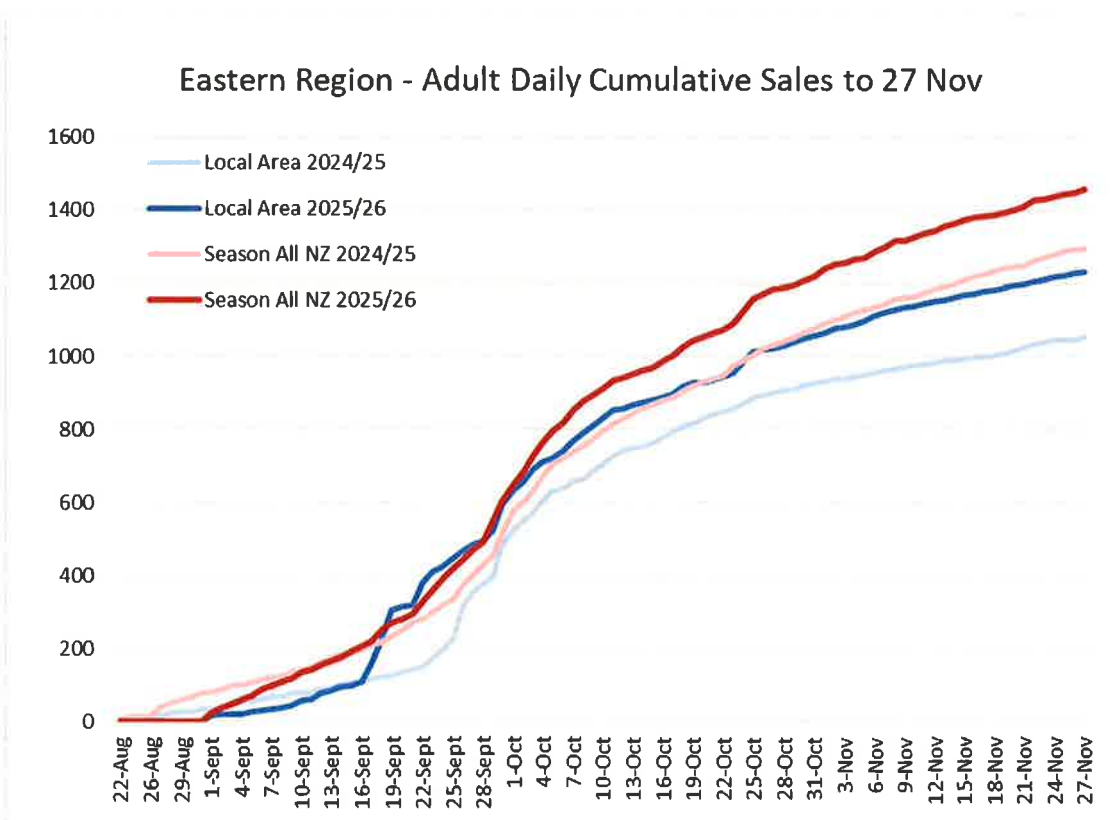
1.3 The following graphs provide a visual of how 2025-26 Fish licence sales are tracking against prior season/s.

1.4 Total 2025-26 fish licence sales by LEQ are tracking below 2024-25 Season YTD but ahead of the 2023-24 Season which had been impacted by severe weather events.

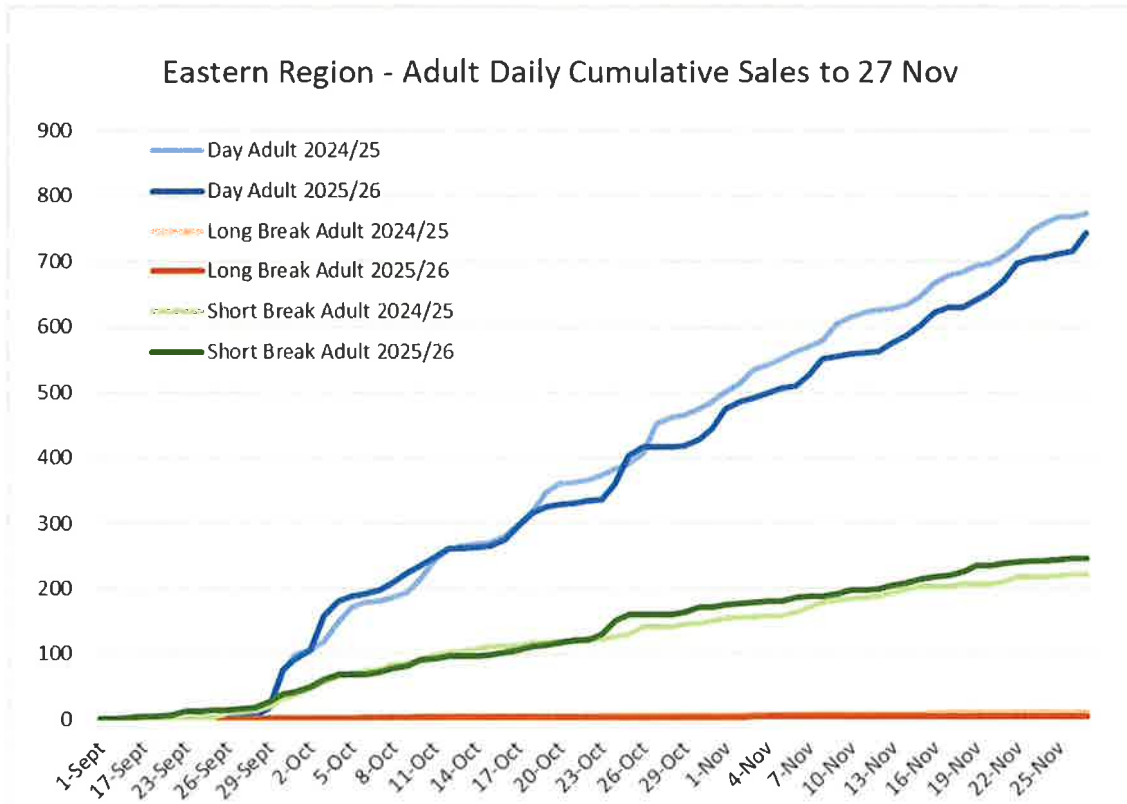




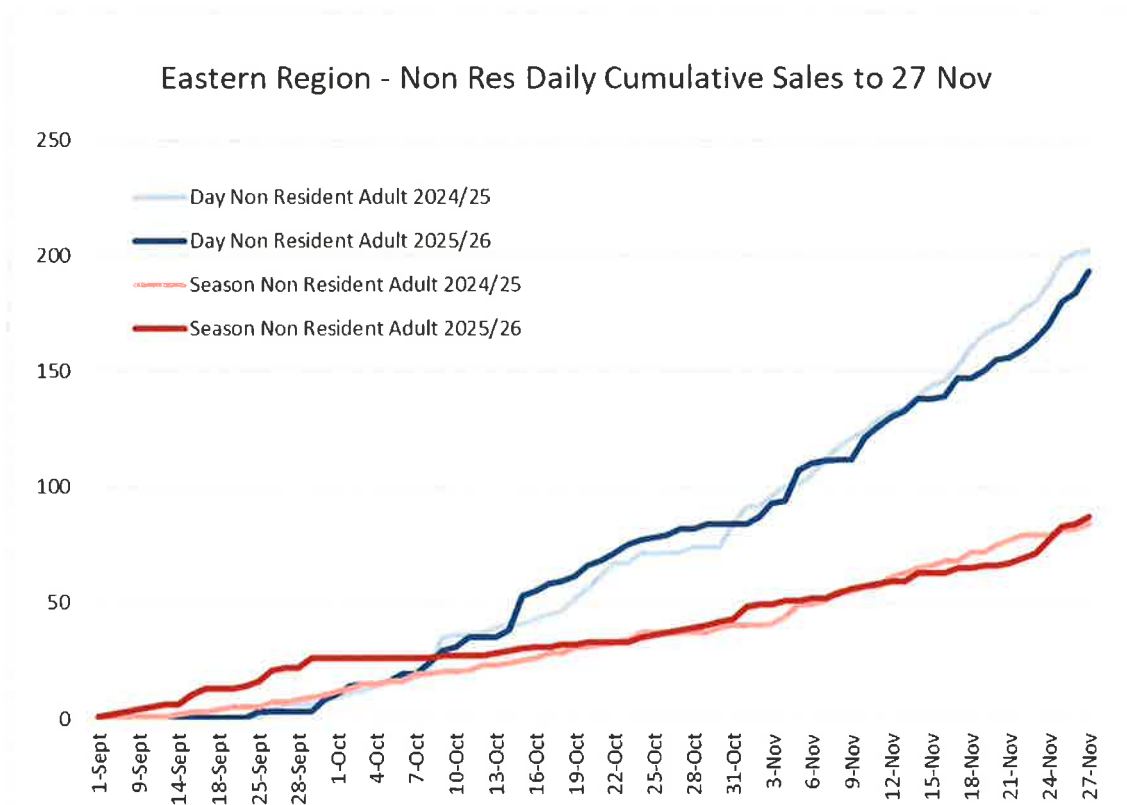
*Daily cumulative Loyal Senior and Family licence sales*



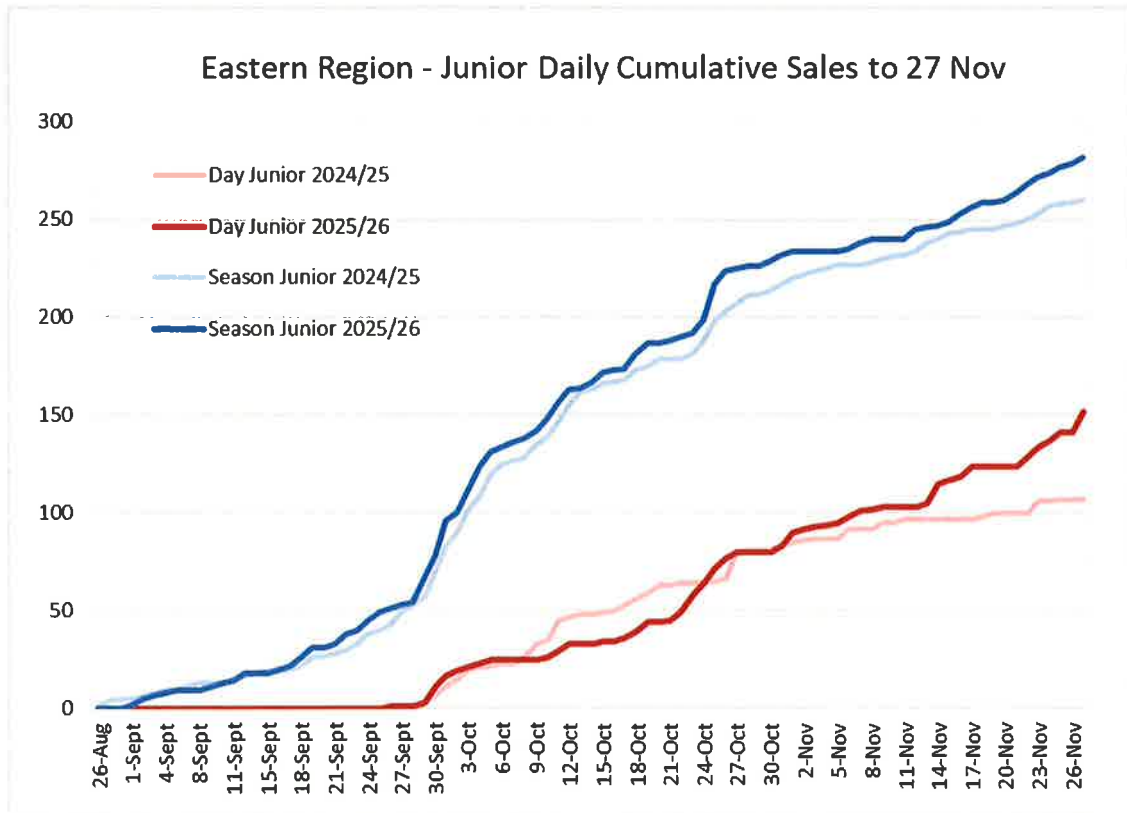
*Daily cumulative Local Area and Season licence sales*



*Daily cumulative Adult short term licence sales*



*Daily cumulative Non-Resident licence sales*



*Daily cumulative Junior licence sales*

## **15. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **15.1 Conservation Boards**

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

### **15.2 Reports from Other Agencies**

- Department of Conservation

### **15.3 Report from New Zealand Council**

- Cr Mark Sceats