

Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council

BOARD PACK

for

HBFC Council Meeting January

Tuesday, 21 January 2025

6:00 pm (NZDT)

Held at:

Hawkes Bay Fish & Game

22a Burness Road Jervoistown Napier

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AGENDA

HBFC COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY

Name:	Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council
Date:	Tuesday, 21 January 2025
Time:	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Hawkes Bay Fish & Game , 22a Burness Road Jervois town Napier
Board Members:	Bruce Bates (Chair), Blair Slavin, Callum Slavin, Dan Jones, Gary Bowcock, Glenn Morgan, Greg Duley, Henry Melville, Jeff Niblett, Karl Goodchild, Peter Coles, Steve Evans
Attendees:	Corina Jordan, Sam Robinson, John Lumsden

1. Workshops

1.1 Governance Training

6:00 pm (40 min)

Sam Robinson

For Information

An overview of governance responsibilities from Sam Robinson

1.2 Risk Register

6:40 pm (20 min)

Callum Slavin

For Discussion

A workshop to discuss the risk register policy.

2. Opening Meeting 7pm

2.1 Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council

Bruce Bates

The Chairman welcomed members and those in attendance to the HBFGC meeting and informed members the meeting is being recorded.

2.2 Present & in Attendance

Bruce Bates

For Noting

Record noted of all those who attend meeting in full or in part.

2.3 Apologies

Bruce Bates

For Noting

Confirm apologies notified to Chairman from those Councillors for non-attendance or lateness.

2.4 Confirmation of Agenda & General Business

Bruce Bates

For Discussion

Any items from Council not included in agenda.

2.5 Confirm Minutes

Bruce Bates

For Decision

To review & confirm minutes from council meeting 12 November 2024

Supporting Documents:

2.5.a	Minutes : HBFGC Meeting December - 10 Dec 2024	7
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2.6 Matters arising from minutes

Bruce Bates

For Discussion

2.7 Conflict of interest

Bruce Bates

For Noting

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. The register is to be signed at each meeting by all Councillors regardless of whether Councillors have a conflict of interest or not.

Supporting Documents:

2.7.a	Conflict of Interest Policy.docx	12
2.7.b	Material Interests Declaration.docx	16

2.8 Health & Safety Report

Corina Jordan

For Decision

Health & Safety Report

Supporting Documents:

2.8.a	HBFGC Paper H&S Report Cover Jan.docx	17
2.8.b	Trailer near miss incident Sept 2024.docx	19

2.9 Hawkes Bay Risk Register

Corina Jordan

For Decision

This report to the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council provides an analysis of the risks facing Fish & Game as an organisation.

Supporting Documents:

2.9.a	HBFGC draft Risk Register paper.docx	22
2.9.b	Hawkes Bay Risk Management Register.pdf	26

2.10 Lake Tutira

Corina Jordan

For Discussion

A verbal update on Lake Tutira.

2.11 HPAI Update

For Information

An update on the Fish & Game response strategy

Supporting Documents:

2.11.a	HPAI council-response-paper_FINAL[15].docx	29
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2.12 Draft NZC Fatigue Management Policy

For Information

Supporting Documents:

2.12.a	HBFGC Fatigue Management Policy-RAC edits paper.docx	46
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3. Discussions & Decisions

3.1 Proposed Gamebird Regulations 2025

Bruce Bates, Corina Jordan

For Decision

Proposed regulations for the 2025 Gamebird Season.

Supporting Documents:

3.1.a	HBFGC Game season proposed regulations.docx	52
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3.2 Twin Lakes Fishing Competition

Bruce Bates

For Decision

To ratify decision made via email to council seeking permission to run fishing competition

Supporting Documents:

3.2.a	HBFGC Twin lakes fishing Comp paper.docx	74
3.2.b	Trout Fishing Competition Policy proposed ammendments.docx	78
3.2.c	10012025155320[64].pdf	89

4. Regional Business

4.1 Operations Report

Corina Jordan

For Information

Supporting Documents:

4.1.a	HBFGC Operations report Jan 21.docx	96
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4.2 Licence Report

For Information

For Decision

Supporting Documents:

4.2.a	Licence sales.docx	100
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4.3 Finance Reports

For Decision

Financial reports for year end 31st August 2024

Supporting Documents:

4.3.a	Hawkes Bay Finance Report Jan 2025.docx	102
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4.4 Action List

For Noting

Supporting Documents:

4.4.a	Action List	110
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4.5 Correspondance

Bruce Bates

For Discussion

Correspondence received from the public.

Supporting Documents:

4.5.a	Correspondence.docx	113
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5. General Business

5.1 General business

Bruce Bates

For Discussion

Discussion on any matters not included in the agenda

6. Close Meeting

6.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: No date for the next meeting has been set.

MINUTES (in Review)

HBFGC MEETING DECEMBER

Name:	Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council
Date:	Tuesday, 10 December 2024
Time:	6:00 pm to 9:35 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Hawkes Bay Fish & Game , 22a Burness Road Jervois town Napier
Board Members:	Bruce Bates (Chair), Blair Slavin, Callum Slavin, Dan Jones, Gary Bowcock, Glenn Morgan, Greg Duley, Henry Melville, Jeff Niblett, Peter Coles, Steve Evans
Attendees:	Corina Jordan, Davey Jones, John Lumsden, Kerry Meehan
Apologies:	Sam Robinson, Karl Goodchild

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 HBFGC Meeting

1.2 Present & in Attendance

Present Messrs: Bruce Bates (Chair), Greg Duley, Callum Slavin, Blair Slavin, Peter Coles, Dan Jones, Henry Melville, Jeff Niblett, Steve Evans, Glenn Morgan. Gary Bowcock online.

1.3 Apologies

Apologies from Karl Goodchild, & Sam Robinson (Governance advisor)

1.4 Confirmation of Agenda & General Business

1.5 Confirm Minutes

HB Fish & Game Council Meeting 12 Nov 2024, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Meeting Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th November 2024 were true and correct record of the meeting.

Decision Date: 10 Dec 2024
Mover: Henry Melville
Seconder: Steve Evans
Outcome: Approved

1.6 Matters arising from minutes

None

1.7 Conflict of interest

All councilors present signed conflict of interest register.

1.8 Health & Safety Report



Health & Safety Report

That council accepts the health & safety report.

Decision Date: 10 Dec 2024
Mover: Greg Duley
Seconders: Blair Slavin
Outcome: Approved

An unreported near miss incident was raised when discussing the finance report. Manager to discuss with staff, investigate and update H&S report before next meeting.

1.9 Hawkes Bay Risk Register

Council needs to take the risk register and adjust to reflect risk to the region.

C Slavin's comments on assessing the report. Highest risk in this report is the culture of the council, seems to high for this council. Council Public perception, 3 should be 1, social licence as 3 should be higher, F&G review of legislation and organizational strategy 1 should be lower, not relevant to HB. H&S rangers, 3 should be 1. Manager to review and update for next meeting.



R3 Strategy

Recirculate paper on R3

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025
Owner: Corina Jordan



Update risk register

Manager to review and update the risk register to be more regionally specific.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025
Owner: Corina Jordan

1.10 Public Enquiries

2. Discussions & Decisions

2.1 Conflict of Interest Policy



Conflict of Interest Policy

HBFGC accepts the Conflict of interest policy.

Decision Date: 10 Dec 2024
Mover: Greg Duley
Seconders: Henry Melville
Outcome: Approved



Councillors complete declaration

All Councillors to complete the Material Interests Declaration and submit to the Chairman.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025

Owners: Bruce Bates, Corina Jordan

2.2 Letter of Expectations

Councillors have option to sign the letter of expectations. Passed around table for signing and filed.



Hawkes Bay Standing Orders

Review Standing Orders document is relevant to Hawkes Bay and recirculate to Council before next meeting.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025

Owners: Corina Jordan, Kerry Meehan

2.3 Proposed Gamebird Regulations 2025

2a,b,c,d Staff don't have a firm view on these recommendations. Aligning season was suggested because we were advised that PTD could not be issued during gamebird season. Advise since then is that we are able to issue permit so there is no firm advise on re-aligning seasons. Keep Pukeko as upland season.

Swans accept recommendation. Harvest survey numbers were skewed by hunters doing a hunt around lake Poukawa. Permits will allow for areas where there are issues with high numbers.

Extend hours to 6.15pm.

Staff to consult with licence and stake holders.



Changes as discussed. To go out for consultation with licence and...

Changes as discussed. To go out for consultation with licence and stake holders.

Decision Date: 10 Dec 2024

Mover: Greg Duley

Seconder: Blair Slavin

Outcome: Approved



.410 steel shot option

.410 steelshot - staff to consult on more affordable options for hunters.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025

Owner: John Lumsden

2.4 Tukituki Fishing Competition



Fishing Competition

Having previously provided permission via email the HBFGC grants permission for a permit to be issued to Sport Fly Fishing NZ to run a fishing competition on the Tukituki river on 14/15 December 2024

Decision Date: 10 Dec 2024
Mover: Glenn Morgan
Seconders: Peter Coles
Outcome: Approved

3. Regional Business

3.1 Operations Report

Taken as read.

3.2 Finance Reports



Finance Reports

6.1 That payments for 1 October to 31 October 2024 totaling \$69623.87 be approved.

Decision Date: 10 Dec 2024
Mover: Jeff Niblett
Seconders: Dan Jones
Outcome: Approved

Valuations of assets listed in asset schedule. Consultant has been engaged by NZC who is working through NZC systems and process. That will feed down through regions to update.



Vaulation policy

Manager to talk to NZC interim chief financial officer on value assets and draft policy. And financial repercussions on maintaining low valuations or high.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025
Owner: Corina Jordan



6.2 That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Sta...

6.2 That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2024-2025 financial year.

Abstained Blair Slavin, Peter Coles

Decision Date: 10 Dec 2024
Mover: Jeff Niblett
Seconders: Henry Melville
Outcome: Approved

3.3 Licence Report

Taken as read

4. General Business

4.1 General business

5. Annual General Meeting

5.1 Move to AGM

6. Public Excluded Session

6.1 Move meeting to public excluded



Move to public excluded session

At 8.55pm meeting moved to public excluded to discuss management matters

Decision Date: 10 Dec 2024
Mover: Callum Slavin
Seconder: Blair Slavin
Outcome: Approved

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: HBFC Council Meeting January - 21 Jan 2025, 6:00 pm

Signature: _____

Date: _____



CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Section	HBC Governance
Contact/Owner	HBC CEO
Last Review	December 2015 (In Governance Policies)
Next Review	December 2026
Approval	HBC 10 December 2024
Effective Date	10 Decwember 2024

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the integrity and the reputation of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council and its members.

Council is responsible for ensuring that all actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest are handled appropriately, and this Policy sets out the procedures for the management of this

This Policy is binding on all Members of the Council.

2. Policy

- a. A Conflict of Interest arises in respect of a Matter when the Member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias.

For the purposes of this policy, "Matter" means:

- 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 26B(1) of the Conservation Act; or
 - An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.
- b. 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), debtor(s) or creditor(s)).
- c. 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.

- d 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.
- e 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.
- f Members of the Council are expected to have read and be familiar with the Office of the Auditor General's publication Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for Public Entities (2007).
- g Each Member of the Council, as soon as practicable after election to the Council, must be provided with a copy of this Policy and must confirm in writing that they have read and understood it and they will comply with its requirements.
- h Conflicts of Interest will be a standing item on the Council agenda
- i Aspiring office holders will be required to declare any Conflicts of Interest before appointment.

2. POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a. For the purposes of these Governance Policies, a Potential Conflict of Interest arises when:
 - There is a realistic connection between the Member's private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;
 - The Member's other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a Matter;
 - 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
 - There is a risk that the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the Member or the Council.

3. DISCLOSURE PROCESS

- a. A Member with a Conflict of Interest or a Potential Conflict of Interest must identify the conflict and disclose it to the Council in a timely and effective manner. The Member must disclose:
 - The nature of the interest and the monetary value of the interest (if the monetary value can be quantified); and/or
 - The nature and extent of the interest (if a monetary value cannot be quantified).
- b. If a Member is uncertain of whether there is any Conflict of Interest or Potential Conflict of Interest, the Member should disclose it to the Council as a Potential Conflict of Interest for consideration by the Council.
- c. The disclosure of any conflict must be recorded in the minutes and entered in a separate interests register.

When the conflict has been identified, the Council must determine how that conflict

4. DEALING WITH THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a. When a Conflict of Interest arises in respect of a Matter, the affected Member:

Must promptly declare a direct or indirect conflict at the Council meeting, other than any interest that they hold

in common with the public

May be excluded from discussions regarding the Matter (including not being in the same room when the Matter is discussed);

Will not vote on issues related to the Matter;

Will not receive papers or any other information on the Matter; and

Will not discuss the Matter with other Members.

b. Members may be asked at any time to complete and sign a Material Interest Declaration (attached)

5. DEALING WITH A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

a. Where there is a Potential Conflict of Interest, the Council (excluding the affected Member) will determine an appropriate course of action, which may include the following:

- Applying some or all of the Actions applied to a Member with a Conflict of Interest (set out at 4);
- Sending a written explanation to stakeholders, members and licence holders outlining why there is no legal conflict of interest; and/or
- Monitoring the Matter to determine whether at any point the Matter changes such that there is a Conflict of Interest.

b. In determining the appropriate course of action, the Council will have regard to:

- The type or size of the Member's other interest;
- The nature or significance of the relevant Matter; and
- The extent to which the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the Member or the Council.

c. The Member will be given the opportunity to be heard by the Council on the points in 5.a and 5.b and the Member's submissions will be taken into consideration by the Council.

d. If a Member is concerned that another Member has an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest:

- the concerned Member must inform the Chair of all material facts at the earliest reasonable opportunity;
- the Chair will report that concern to the next meeting of the Council;
- the concern will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting;
- the Council will determine the appropriate further steps to be taken.

(Members are reminded that invoking this Policy for their own strategic or political purposes, rather than to uphold the integrity of the HBC, would be contrary to the Governance Policies and their duties as members)

6. PREDETERMINATION

A conflict of interest may arise when a Member has strong views about a matter that create a risk of bias, prejudice, or predetermination that is inconsistent with performing his or her duties to the NZ Council in an impartial, objective and independent manner. Members must not approach NZ Council decisions with a closed mind but rather be willing to consider fairly all relevant information and arguments.

If the Member's approach to a Matter is likely to be predetermined, they will be excluded from participating in the Matter in the manner set out in 4.

7. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The Chief Executive is responsible for maintaining a Register of Interests. This must record:

- The date on which the interest is declared or identified;
- The name of the Member of the Council having the relevant interest;
- The relationship between the Member of Council and the person holding the relevant interest(if relevant); and
- A reference to action taken

Schedule to Conflicts of Interest Policy

Material Interests Declaration

Name: _____

☐ Member of Council☐ Staff

My current occupation (other than with HBFGC):

Directorships and trusteeships held by me (or my immediate family) which could be considered relevant to HBFGC

Shareholdings in publicly listed companies held by me (or my immediate family) which could be considered relevant to HBFGC activities:

Shareholding in private companies (if greater than 5% of issued shares) held by me (or my immediate family) which could be considered relevant to HBFGC activities:

My property interests within Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Region which could be considered relevant to HBFGC activities:

My involvement in community organisations within Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Region, or which could be considered relevant to HBFGC activities:

I declare that the above disclosures are true and complete record of my interest and the interests of my immediate family in accordance with the HBFGC Conflict of Interests Policy

Signature

Date

Health & Safety Report**Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council Meeting
Tuesday 21st January 2025**

Prepared by: Kerry Meehan

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations***Purpose***

This report to the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council is to provide a summary of health & safety across the organisation

Financial considerations

☒ Nil ☐ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

Risk

☐ Low ☒ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

Ngā taunaki – HBFGC Manager Recommendations

The HBFGC Manager recommends that the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council:

1. Receive the information.
2. Accepts the H&S report.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

- 1 As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace, the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council require a report at each meeting describing:
 - 1.1 Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety policy/manual – including H&S as an agenda item for staff and ranger meetings
 - 1.2 Monitoring and Reporting – in accordance with the Health and Safety plan; Risk Management (identification and treatment) – any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed
 - 1.3 Training programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers
 - 1.4 H&S incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events

Takenga mai - Background

- 2 This report provides a summary of:
 - 2.1 The health and safety performance across the organisation inclusive of any contract work.
 - 2.2 Health and safety risk across the organisation.
 - 2.3 Any significant health and safety incidents for the months reported and any recent updates on past incidents.
 - 2.4 Any near-miss events and subsequent follow-up actions.
 - 2.5 The report also responds to any matters arising from the last Council Meeting.

Kōrerorero – Discussion

- 3 Staff have been involved in a national group headed by Adrienne Murray to update & develop national Health & Safety policies with regional specific options.
- 4 The table below summarises the reporting statistics for this period. Further information regarding context and follow up process is captured in a register.

Lost time injuries this period	Lost time injuries this year 2024-25	Incidents this period	Incidents this year 2024-25	Near miss events this period	Near miss events this year 2024-25	New hazards reported this period	New hazards reported this year 2024-25
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Near Miss & Incident Events

- 5 An investigation has been undertaken by staff following a near miss incident in September. A staff member was towing a load of limestone rocks with a borrowed double axel trailer when the wheel of the trailer sheared off as the vehicle was traveling through the Meanee Road underpass/roundabout. No other vehicles were involved in the incident and no injuries sustained. The staff member had performed a safety check of the trailer before leaving the site and the weight of the trailer was under the acceptable limit. There was no way that this incident could have been foreseen or prevented. The staff member immediately stopped the vehicle and assessed the damage. As he was within 1km of the site he made the decision that it was safe to proceed cautiously with the 3 remaining wheels. Repairs were made to the trailer before it was returned to the owner.

Ngā kōwhiringa - Options

- 6 The HBFG Council may
 - a. Take the report as read
 - b. Accept the Health & Safety report.

Supplimentary appendage

To Accident/Incident Report DOL

Staff: Davey Jones

What: Near miss incident - Towing tandem axle trailer with load when right rear wheel on trailer sheers off

Where: Meeanee Rd Underpass/Roundabout, Jervoistown side

When: Friday 20/09/24 approx. 9am

On this day I was returning from uplifting a load of Lime rock from Websters Lime on Middle Rd in Havelock North. I had pre-ordered it a few days before and had arranged with Te Ngahere to borrow their tandem axle trailer with a towing capacity of 2.5 tonne which I thought would be sufficiently capable of carrying a sizeable load of lime rock for use at the game farm.

Sequence of events

Upon uplift of the trailer that morning, I checked the trailer lights connection to assess if all lights were operational, indicators, brake and the side marker lights were functioning correctly. I rechecked the tow ball coupler, wiring harness and safety chains before departure. All tires appeared fully inflated and there was no sign of balding or overworn tread. The braking lever was disengaged and the latch allowing the hydraulic movement of the tongue set to open.

Prior to leaving the Limeworks, the load's registered weight was approximately 2.1 tonne. I returned via St Georges and Karamu Roads, then Te Kahikatea Drive, Pakowhai Rd via Links Rd roundabout to connect with the Expressway/SH50 and eventually exiting at the Taradale, Meeanee Rd turn off. I maintained an average speed of 80km/h for most of the journey.

1st solid red line

As I approached the bottom of the turn off, I indicated to turn right, it was here that I first noticed the steering wheel shuddering slightly. I came to a brief stop and saw that the way was clear to my right and so began my entry to the roundabout/underpass.

2nd solid red line

As I accelerated to cross the roundabout the shuddering of the steering wheel grew, I looked in the driver's side rearview mirror and noticed the right rear wheel wobbling frantically. I saw that there were vehicles about to enter the roundabout from the Taradale side of Meeanee Rd. I slowed down to 10km/h while rounding the 1st roundabout and engaged my hazard lights.

3rd dotted red line

Once all vehicles had noticed my situation, I disengaged my hazards and indicated to move across into the outside lane prior to exiting the second roundabout when I saw the wheel sheer off in my side rearview mirror.

4th solid red line

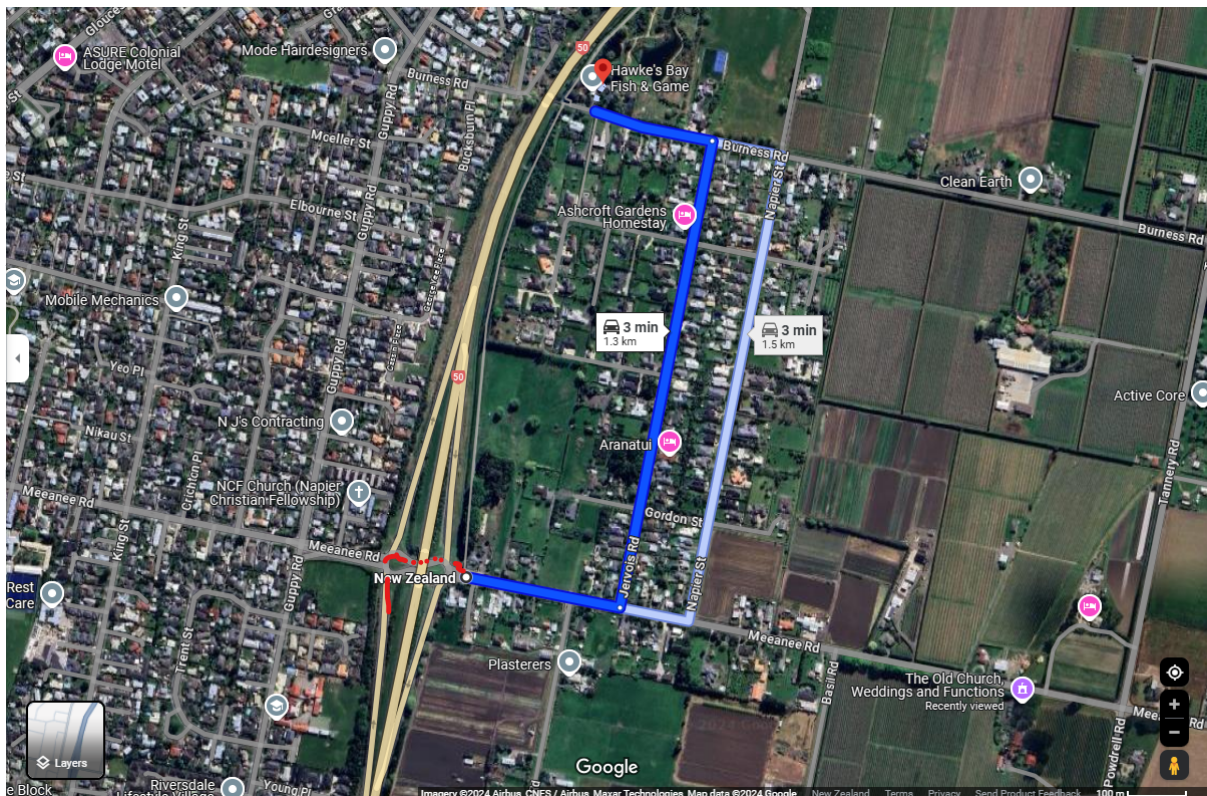
I then proceeded to park safely off to the side of the road with my hazard lights on and immediately retrieved the damaged wheel. I informed my work colleagues of the situation and contacted Levi Walford from Te Ngahere and informed him about what had just occurred.

Solid blue line

I quickly assessed the state of the trailer, the guard had been bent slightly. The axle hub was sitting approximately 5-10cms off the ground but other than that there was no significant damage. I made a call to drive very slowly back to the game farm which is approx. 1 – 1.5 kms distance via Jervois Rd.

Upon arrival at the game farm, I emptied the trailer and returned it to Te Ngahere's base located at 22 Burness Rd, our Field Officers house.

Image1, map of incident area highlighted in red blue indicates route to HBF&G



Images 2,3,4 of trailer, wheel and axle hub damage



Outcomes

- Assessment of loaned or borrowed equipment requires extensive checking and confirmation that all gear is in good operational condition.
- Good knowledge in the correct use of equipment, regulations when in use and the factual capability or limitations of equipment by the user.
- Incident forms are to be filled out as soon as practically possible for submission to the Council at the next meeting.
- Awaiting investigations into the cause of the mechanical failures has culminated in a delay of informative standards and is not conducive to the organisation's expectations of all staff.
- Immediately should have notified our manager of the incident and as the H&S Lead for HBF&G this was a total failure on my behalf and sincerely apologise and would like to notify HBF&G Council that there will not be a repeat of this situation again.

Risk Register

Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council Meeting Tuesday 21st January 2025

Prepared by: Corina Jordan, Kerry Meehan

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council provides an analysis of the risks facing Fish & Game as an organisation.

Financial considerations

☒ Nil
 ☐ Budgetary provision
 ☐ Unbudgeted

Risk

☐ Low
 ☐ Medium
 ☒ High
 ☐ Extreme

Ngā taunaki – HBFGC Manager Recommendations

2. The HBFGC Manager recommends that the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council:
 - a. Receive the information.
 - b. Review and discuss the risk assessment
 - c. Accept as amended through discussion.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

3. The Risk Register report provides an analysis of the organisational and Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council (HBC) risks associated with achievement of the Councils Strategic Objectives, and implementation of the Councils Annual Operational Work Plan. These risks if not appropriately managed, could impede the achievement of the Councils strategic priorities and effective implementation of the Organisational Strategy.
4. The Risk Register Report summarises mitigation approaches to effectively manage the majority of risks. However, some identified risks may be outside of the direct control of the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council, such as organisational culture and cohesion and wider fiscal management and efficiency.

Takenga mai - Background

5. Risk assessment is the identification and analysis of relevant risks to achieving the councils' objectives and forms a basis for determining how the risk should be managed (accept, reject, manage).
6. Fish & Game faces a variety of risks from both external and internal sources. Appendix 1 to this report outlines these risks across key categories:
 - a. Operational/ assets;
 - b. Financial;
 - c. Human resources;
 - d. Governance;
 - e. Strategic;
 - f. Reputational;
 - g. Social/ demographic;
 - h. Species/ population;
 - i. Compliance and prosecutions
 - j. Environmental
 - k. Contractors/ third party risks
 - l. Health and safety; and
 - m. Product quality/ value.
- 8 Risk assessments should inform the development, and review of, annual operational work programs and budgets. Risk assessments should also be undertaken before introducing new processes or activities, before introducing changes to existing processes or activities, when embarking on organisational change, or when a new risk becomes apparent.
- 9 The goal of the Risk Register (Appendix 1) is to assist the HBFGC to identify the relative risks to the organisation and to assist the council prepare for and manage risk. The assessment should be considered as the council reviews and considers for approval the HBFGC annual operating work plan, and final budgets, along with during implementation of the annual work plan and in any budgeting reforecasting processes. Risks are identified as low (4), moderate (3), high (orange), or very high (red).

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

Kōrerorero - Discussion

- 3 Appendix 1 Risk Register sets out the relative risks to the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council (HBC), and the wider Fish & Game organisation. The Risk Register also summarises mitigation approaches to effectively manage risk to a desirable level.
- 4 Priorities for the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council team for 2024/25, based on the Risk Register and assessment for 2024/25, in addition to the teams well established and historical focus areas and projects, include:
 - a. Communications and engagement which continue to build off the “Rewild” campaign, and increased focus on internal and external communications
 - b. Building strong and enduring relationships across key stakeholders and local government. Ongoing connection to hunting and angling influencers including clubs;
 - c. Finalising, consultation and implementation of the 10 year Sports Fish & Gamebird Management Plan.
 - d. Consultation with NZC and regions on establishing population monitoring systems and procedures.
 - e. Developing more opportunities for licence holders to access fishing & gamebird hunting resources.
 - f. Development of an extension program and resources to support R³, and build stronger licence holder engagement and value add;
 - g. Building relationships with Mana Whenua and implementation of Fish & Games Section 4 Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.
- 5 Updates following Dec 2024 meeting.
 - a. Council culture updated from 1 to 3. To be reviewed quarterly.
 - b. Public perception updated from 3 to 1.
 - c. Social licence updated from 3 to 2.

- d. F&G review legislation updated from 1 to 3.
- e. H&S Rangers updated from 3 to 1.

Ngā kōwhiringa - Options

- 6 The Council may
 - a. Adopt the risk assessment; or
 - b. Adopt the risk assessment with X amendments; or
 - c. Agree to not adopt the risk assessment.

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision-making

Financial Implications

- 7 The financial implications of the risk assessment should be considered. The annual operational work program and budget has been developed to specifically manage the majority of the risks identified.
- 8 Legislative change for Fish & Game, or/and cross organisational governance support for change may be required to effectively manage these risks.

Legislative Implications

- 9 Some identified risks require legislative changes for the organisation or/ and cross organisational collaboration in order to effectively manage the risk.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

- 10 The paper includes risks associated with Fish & Games implementation of its section 4 obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Policy Implications

- 11 The risk assessment considers implementation of the Organisational Strategy, and the long term viability of Fish & Game.

Risks and mitigations

- 12 The paper provides a risk assessment for Fish & Game as an organisation and the New Zealand Fish & Game Council.

Consultation

- 13 Council to consider if they would like NZ Council feedback on any matters discussed in the report.

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next actions

- 14 The council will consider the Annual Operational Work Plan, and budget, in light of the discussion around organisational risks, with a particular focus on those risks identified as high (2) or very high (1).

Risk Register Hawkes Bay Fish & Game			as at 6 September 2024
Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code
Operational/assets			1 to 4
	Flood, fire, theft, earthquake	Insurance, alarms, theft prevention, key codes changed	3
	Internet, files storage and security	Security software up to date, Internet supplier agreement in place	4
	Physical files	Security software up to date, Internet supplier agreement in place	3
Financial			
	Reliance on licence income	Secure other sources of income	3
	Ongoing or new pandemic impact on Non residents	Use of reserves	2
	Investment income weak	Reduced reliance on interest revenue	2
	Depleted reserves		4
	Fraud	Fraud prevention measures in place and audited	4
	Declining licence sales	R3 programme	1
	Licensing system failure	Contracts in place and being monitored	3
	Agent commission increase	Progressive movement to online sales	2
	NZC levies	Proposed changes to NZC levy payments be based on actual sales rather than budgeted sales.	3
Human resource			
	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	CE to have succession plans in place to ensure transition of institutional knowledge.	2
	Staff stress and wellbeing	Monitoring in place and regular contact through one on one meetings. Development of individualised My Plans linked to strategic priorities. Encourage staff to take time off. Provide stable management structure & consistency for staff.	3
	HB Team Culture	Maintain positive and transparent workplace culture	4
	Inter-office staff culture	Cultural challenges across organisation continue. The current organisational structure and budgeting approach creates conflict. Minister of Hunting and Fishing legislation changes for F&G will be foundational for cultural change. Past regional conflicts between staff and council have created some barriers to relationship building between regional staff.	2
	HBC Governor/staff culture	Training on culture, reestablishing boundaries, building trust and cohesion, creating culture of kindness.	3
Governance			
	Governance and Cr skill level	Governance and chair training, coopting specialist skills and education	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.	3
	Representation	Encouragement of diversity (and gender) at elections, encourage diverse appointments to HBC	2
	Councillor safety	No addresses, limited personal info	4
	H&	Ongoing training for governors on culture and governance. Induction for new councils in 2024.	2
	Disconnect between customers and governors	Increase awareness of process of NZC and opportunities for public engagement.	4
Strategic			
	Lack of organisation strategy	Organisational strategy built collectively across the organisation, and socialised.	4
	Lack of organisational strategic implementation plans	Build annual operational work plans to ensure these are linked to the NZC organisational strategy, and annual SSP. Contribute to consolidated annual reporting which links to organisational strategy.	1

Risk Register Hawkes Bay Fish & Game		as at 6 September 2024	
Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code
Reputational			
	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, commissioning analysis report summarising last decade of environmental activities undertaken by Fish and Game	2
	Public perceptions of Fish and Game	Broaden awareness and respect for Fish and Game through social licence campaign, including comms and advocacy	1
	Perceptions of trout	Promote value of trout- commercial, recreational, tablefare.	2
	Catch and release	Promote 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 R3 planning.	2
	Seen as adversarial and litigious	Comms strategy to better articulate reasons of objections and legal actions	3
Social/demographic			
	Perceived value of introduced trout and ducks diminishing?	Value to be promoted through communications plan	2
	Population is diversifying and increasingly urban	R3 programme to target specific audiences	1
	Older population (baby boomers) aging out of sport	R3 programme	2
	Rural community trust in F&G low	Regain trust via regular contact on positive projects - Catchment groups, wetland enhancement projects (strategic priority 20-23)	2
	Game Park Educational program	Changes to council or regional management may see change to priority to maintain the development of the educational program	3
Species/Population			
	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
Political			
	DOC advocacy positions	Strategic priority 22 - 27 to engage and support stakeholder groups and build relationships	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	Details to come. Will be essential to address cultural challenges across the organisation and to effectively implement F&G Organisational Strategy	3
	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 priority 22 - 27 to engage with iwi more regularly and meaningfully	2
Compliance and prosecutions			
	Perceptions about F&G prosecutions	Prosecution guidelines in place and regularly reviewed. Public interest test considered. Build and implement an infringement system.	2

Risk Register Hawkes Bay Fish & Game		as at 6 September 2024	
Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code
Environmental			
	Didymo, lake snow 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 - fish and bird diseases	Monitoring and reporting of incidents and observations to BNZ	3
	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
Contractors/third party risks			
	Contractors	Check values align. Annual work programmes from FOBC	4
	Rangers and Volunteers	NZCE working with National Compliance Coordinator to review current systems.	2
Health & Safety			
	Mental stability, stress, personal conflicts	Open door policy with Manager for raising issues. H&S manual covers identification of risk factors	2
	Fire and emergency	Regular fire drills, emergency contacts on list at office.	3
	Ranger Safety	Vetting and approval process	1
Product quality/value			
	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.	4
	Reduced access availiblity	Identification of public access points. Improved relationships with landowners	2

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

HPAI Update and Recommendations

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 171 - 13 & 14 December 2024

Prepared by: Ros Connelly and Maggie Tait

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

To outline the general context and risks associated with the high pathogenicity avian influenza virus, provide a situation report on the H7N6 avian influenza detection at an egg farm in rural Otago and recommend immediate actions and policy decisions in relation to HPAI.

Financial considerations

☒ Nil ☐ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

Risk

☐ Low ☒ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

That NZC:

1. Receive the information,
2. Adopt the following recommendations and request that regional councils also uphold these positions:
 - (i) That Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) level 1 protocols are adhered to for any activities where birds are being handled (see Appendix 2)
 - (ii) That any bird banding operations in Otago and CSI are to cease (as requested by MPI) until further notice, but banding operations outside of Otago and CSI may continue, if PPE level 1 protocols are implemented.
 - (iii) That if H5N1 is discovered in New Zealand and the country moves to Phase 3 on the risk framework, Fish & Game will stop routine operations involving the handling of wild birds until advised further. Note that in Phase 3 where contact with wild birds is necessary and undertaken in conjunction with MPI,

DOC or Te Whatu Ora, PPE level 3 protocols must be adhered to by all Fish & Game staff and volunteers.

- (iv) That permits for disturbing or culling wild birds are not to be issued as a mechanism to address concerns around HPAI transmission from wild birds to farmed birds or more generally as a response to HPAI concerns.
3. Adopt the Fish & Game New Zealand HPAI Communications Plan as set out in Appendix 3.
 4. Note that the HPAI situation in New Zealand has the potential to change quickly, which may require agility in relation to the NZC recommendations.

Executive Summary - Whakarāpopoto

5. High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) or bird flu, is a viral disease of birds and is spreading globally, causing widespread losses of poultry and wild birds, and spillover infections in mammals. The H5N1 2.3.4.4b strain, which is particularly devastating, has spread throughout the world but has not yet been discovered in Oceania. MPI is the lead agency for bird flu response in New Zealand.
6. On 2 December 2024, MPI confirmed detection of H7N6, a subtype of avian influenza HPAI (High Pathogenic Avian Influenza) at a rural Otago commercial egg farm, representing the first detection of HPAI in New Zealand poultry.
7. Key points and Recommendations
 - This is not the H5N1 strain that is causing global concern,
 - The H7N6 strain appears to have mutated from low pathogenic strains already present in NZ,
 - MPI has implemented biosecurity controls at the affected Otago farm,
 - There are no reports of illness in wild birds to date, but people need to be vigilant for signs of sickness or mortality and **report three or more sick or dead birds to Biosecurity NZ Hotline 0800 80 99 66 and NZC,**
 - Fish & Game are encouraging heightened biosecurity protocols for all staff, hunters and members of the community who are dealing with wild birds,
 - Food safety is not a concern regarding the consumption of wild game birds, provided usual food safety protocols are followed,
 - NZC are advising regions to follow PPE level 1 protocols for any activities where birds are being handled. In the event of an H5N1 outbreak, the organisation will move to PPE level 3 and routine operations where wild birds are handled are to cease pending further information,
 - MPI has advised that any planned banding operations for Otago and CSI should cease until further notice due to the outbreak of H7N6. Banding operations outside of Otago and CSI may continue, if PPE level 1 protocols can be implemented. Ongoing testing of birds for virus monitoring is recommended,
 - MPI and DOC have advised that Fish and Game should not issue permits for culling wild birds as a mechanism to address concerns around HPAI transmission from wild birds to farmed birds,
 - MPI and DOC may request Fish & Game support for testing of wild birds for LPAI or HPAI,
 - In relation to Fish & Game's botulism response, the advice from MPI is that regions can continue responding to botulism outbreaks until Phase 3, provided Phase 1 PPE is used. If this advice changes prior to Phase 3, we will let you know,
 - The NZC CEO is the primary point of contact for MPI and DOC over the Christmas New Year period. She will alert Regional Managers, the Chair of the NZC and Regional Chairs if an HPAI outbreak occurs over this period,
 - The NZC team is continuing to monitor worldwide responses and the latest scientific thinking in the design of our recommendations. The

situation is dynamic and as such recommendations and advice will continue to evolve.

8. Immediate actions being taken:

- A Fish & Game cross-organisational regional team was established to work together to draft an HPAI action plan,
- The NZC CEO has established regular meetings with senior leaders across MPI and DOC to ensure timely flow of information and a professional and coordinated response across the organisations to HPAI,
- MPI and DOC have been reviewing the Fish & Game Draft HPAI Action Plan,
- NZC staff have a direct relationship with MPI comms team and are working collaboratively to work up the communications and engagement strategy and key messages. This includes targeted comms resulting from the H7N6 outbreak at the Otago poultry farm (Appendix 1),
- Regional Managers have been kept updated and consulted through Regional Managers meetings, in-person managers meeting on 14 – 15 November date and regular communications,
- NZ Council was updated at their August meeting,
- Regional staff have been kept updated through the staff newsletter and an all of staff webinar was held on 10 December, this will be followed by a Councillor's webinar on Thursday 19 December.

Background - Takenga mai

9. Avian influenza virus strains are described as **low pathogenicity (LPAI)** – causing no or minimal illness or **high pathogenicity (HPAI)** – causing severe illness. Influenza viruses are further divided into subtypes based on two proteins on the surface of the virus: the H protein and the N protein. There are 18 different H subtypes and 11 different N subtypes (H1 through H18 and N1 through N11, respectively).
10. Genetic analysis of low pathogenicity H5 and H7 viruses suggests that these viruses have circulated for decades amongst birds within New Zealand, with no evidence of recent introductions.
11. Influenza viruses evolve rapidly, which means that their genetic code changes over time. This means that a reasonably benign influenza type can mutate into a more concerning type very quickly. In avian species, infections with the H5 and H7 subtypes are of greatest concern because of their potential to evolve into the highly pathogenic form of the virus that can devastate poultry populations and occasionally be transmitted to humans. Why the H5 and H7 subtypes are more prone to evolve into highly pathogenic forms than other subtypes remains poorly understood.
12. In 2020, a new H5N1 strain of high pathogenicity avian influenza – known as H5N1 2.3.4.4b – emerged in the northern hemisphere. It established and has subsequently spread to the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, and other regions. It has caused large outbreaks in commercially farmed poultry, with devastating consequences.

13. In 2023, it was detected in the southern hemisphere. Since then, it has spread through South America to the sub-Antarctic islands and the Antarctic peninsula. It is important to note that to date Oceania remains free of the currently circulating strain of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1 2.3.4.4b).
14. The typical evolutionary pattern for the avian flu virus is that wild birds are host to the low pathogenicity form of the virus where it is likely to be asymptomatic. Wild birds then come in contact with farmed birds and transmit the virus to them. In the farming environment, the virus mutates into the high pathogenic variety. The high pathogenic variety is then passed back to the wild bird population and then to humans or other mammals – including cows. There are cases where humans have caught the H5N1 2.3.4.4b virus from non-bird species and in rare cases humans have passed it to other humans.
15. At the beginning of December 2024, a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza was detected on a commercial rural Otago egg farm. Tests from the Mainland Poultry managed farm have identified a high pathogenic H7N6 subtype of avian influenza. The H7N6 virus is troubling as it has the potential to cause widespread loss to the poultry industry, however this is a different strain to the H5N1 2.3.4.4b strain that is causing international alarm.
16. It is believed that the current H7N6 outbreak in Otago is an example of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viruses evolving directly from low-pathogenic (LPAI) virus precursors following introduction into domestic poultry, known as a “spillover event”.
17. In birds, avian influenza viruses are shed in the faeces and respiratory secretions. They can also be spread through direct contact with secretions from infected birds, especially through faeces or through contaminated feed and water. Because of the resistant nature of avian influenza viruses, including their ability to survive for long periods when temperatures are low, they can also be carried on farm equipment and spread easily from farm to farm.
18. MPI has established an HPAI risk framework with different phases to help guide the H5N1 response. Each level has different recommendations for PPE (attached as Appendix 2).
 - **Phase one:** now, focus on being prepared – alert but not alarmed. Working with poultry industry and wider primary industries sector;
 - **Phase two:** HPAI is closer to NZ (Ross Sea area of Antarctica/Australia) – broader awareness raising;
 - **Phase three:** HPAI is here – response-type approach to communication;
 - **Phase four:** HPAI is established in the wild bird population.

Discussion – Kōrerorero

Concerns for Fish & Game

19. The concerns for Fish & Game are primarily focused on (i) the health of our wild bird populations (and any staff, hunters or members of the community coming into contact with wild birds), (ii) the social licence to ensure sustainable populations of waterfowl and game birds continue to be treated as treasured and respected taonga and (iii) the financial and organisational consequences for Fish & Game should cancellation of a hunting season become necessary.

Health Aspects

20. The globally circulating strain of avian influenza H5N1 2.3.4.4b can cause mass mortalities in many species of wild birds as well as other non-avian wildlife species and may represent a population level threat to some wildlife hosts, impacting biodiversity. Other strains of HPAI are less likely to cause disease in wild birds and mammals. Low pathogenicity strains are unlikely to cause disease in wild birds or other wildlife species but need to be monitored due to the potential of H5 and H7 subtypes to mutate into HPAI forms when introduced to poultry.
21. The most obvious sign of HPAI is several sick or dead birds. Sick birds may appear dopey; display lethargy/reluctance to move, droopy head, panting and nasal secretions, lack of co-ordination, blindness and trembling. The symptoms are similar to botulism, a bacterial disease present in New Zealand.
22. The key message at this stage of the avian flu response is to report sick or dying birds to Biosecurity New Zealand's Exotic Pest and Disease hotline 0800 80 99 66. The specific instructions are to:
- If a significant number of birds (three or more) are observed in a group sick or dying, report it to the hotline 0800 80 99 66,
 - Record a GPS reading or other precise location information,
 - Take photographs and/or videos of sick and dead birds,
 - Identify the species and estimate the numbers affected,
 - Note how many sick or freshly dead are present as well as total number present,
 - Follow Biosecurity New Zealand instructions for handling of sick or dead birds,
 - Also inform NZC of the finding as soon as practicable and enter into a national Fish & Game database.
23. Although the H5N1 2.3.4.4b virus is not yet present in New Zealand, there are sensible precautions that staff and hunters must take:
- Maintain a heightened awareness of disease risk when working with wildlife,
 - Always maintain good biosecurity and hygiene practices to prevent disease spread and protect yourself,
 - Scrub and disinfect all your equipment, boots & clothing between sites,
 - Clean your hands and equipment between handling each bird e.g. alcohol wipe,
 - Employ good personal hygiene, this includes not hunting when you are sick or are immunocompromised,

- Regional Fish & Game staff are requested to follow MPI PPE Level 1 protocols for any activity where birds are being handled. However, the alert levels and PPE requirements will change depending on the virus risk so Fish & Game staff and hunters will need to be agile in our response,
 - See Appendix 3 for the Fish & Game HPAI Engagement and Communications Strategy.
24. It is recommended that dogs not be allowed to retrieve or come in contact with birds that appear sick or have been found dead. Hunters should also not feed their dogs raw meat from harvested birds nor allow them to come in contact with discarded carcasses or entrails. All dogs should be up to date with their vaccinations and do not bring them hunting if they are sick or injured.
25. Banding operations that concentrate birds or expose birds to common capture or holding equipment have the potential to increase the transmission of HPAI among wild birds.
26. Because of the heightened global risk of HPAI, Fish & Game staff in Otago and CSI have been requested to cease all banding operations for population monitoring. Banding operations outside of Otago and CSI may continue, if PPE level 1 protocols can be implemented. Ongoing testing of birds for virus monitoring is recommended.
27. There is no evidence that people can be infected with HPAI by eating thoroughly cooked poultry (including duck), eggs, or foods that contain them. The internal temperature of a cooked bird should reach at least 73°C for 2-3 minutes. Eggs should be cooked until the white is completely firm and the yolk begins to thicken. Usual food safety protocols including keeping raw meat separate from other foods, ensuring equipment and surfaces are clean and correctly chilling, freezing and defrosting of food is to be followed.
28. It is not improbable that the first sign of H5N1 2.3.4.4b in New Zealand will be discovered amongst wild birds by members of the public. It is therefore critical that everyone working with birds is alert to the signs of HPAI and protocols for reporting.

Botulism

29. In relation to Fish & Game's botulism response, the advice from MPI is that, while we are in HPAI risk level Phase 1, we can continue our standard operations regarding collection of birds, so long as Phase 1 PPE is used. If this advice changes prior to Phase 3, we will let you know.
30. If the country moves to alert level 3, all routine Fish & Game activities where wild birds are handled, including botulism response operations, are to cease until advised.
31. The current recommended Botulism protocol is :
- Inform Regional Council or District Council (as appropriate);
 - Inform MPI (hotline for bird deaths 0800 80 99 66);
 - MPI to inform on whether or not birds should be tested for HPAI
 - Record event, location, number of bird deaths, and response;

- Update F&G national database so we can keep a record of outbreaks and changes over time;
- Use PPE gear if handling birds (gloves, eye protection, closed footwear and either change and disinfect at the end of fieldwork or between sites – Alert Level 1);

Social Licence Aspects

32. *Anseriformes* (ducks, swans, geese) and *Charadriiformes* (gulls, terns and shorebirds) are considered the main natural reservoirs for all avian influenza viruses. However, it is also worth noting that the influenza virus has been confirmed in other wild bird species including rails, petrels, cormorants, penguins, hawks, eagles, owls, sparrows, magpies and blackbirds. Internationally, over 5000 species of birds have been identified as LPAI carriers. Studies on species other than *Anseriformes* and *Charadriiformes* are limited.
33. Because of the connection between *Anseriformes* and avian influenza, and because the monitoring of avian influenza has predominantly occurred in ducks (so there is better data in relation to the prevalence of the virus in ducks than other avian species) there is a tendency for some to point the finger at ducks as the cause of the HPAI situation.
34. This is an unhelpful response and not based in the scientific learnings. Furthermore, any attempts to cull large numbers of birds could be counterproductive and likely illegal.
35. MPI has advised farmers and hunters against actively culling or dispersing wild birds because it can increase the spread of HPAI. Disturbing groups of wild birds might cause them to scatter and spread the disease further. Other birds will quickly move into the vacated space and may bring the virus with them. Because of this advice Fish & Game are requesting that offices do not issue any permits to disturb or cull game birds around poultry operations as a mechanism to reduce HPAI risk to farmed birds or as a more general response to HPAI, unless advised by MPI.
36. Any reports of disturbing or culling birds without a permit should be investigated following the usual processes.

Organisational Impacts for Fish & Game

37. Should the avian influenza risk in New Zealand worsen, it is possible that one or more game bird hunting seasons may have to be cancelled. This would cause a significant financial loss for Fish & Game and it could have long running consequences for game bird hunting in New Zealand.
38. The issue around the financial risk for Fish & Game has already been raised in conversation with Government and New Zealand Fish & Game will develop a strategy on how to maintain hunting capital in New Zealand should we experience the loss of a season.

Actions Taken So Far

39. Because of the global threat of the H5N1 virus, Fish & Game have already been working with MPI and DOC at the highest levels to develop a joined-up approach to wild bird populations should the disease arrive. The current outbreak of H7N6 has allowed us to test this approach and identify areas for improvements. We are also working with external experts to provide independent advice and help Fish & Game develop our policy direction.
40. The key recommendations we are proposing are on 1) safe handling of wild birds and the usage of PPE, 2) the current position on the banding of birds, 3) issuance of permits to disturb or cull wild birds as a response to HPAI, and 4) the cessation of routine Fish & Game operations where wild birds are being handled if we move to Phase 3, until advised differently. The current paper proposes recommendations based on the evidence to date. Our advice may change as more information comes to light or the risk of the virus changes.
41. New Zealand Fish & Game has also sought to inform regional offices and councillors on this emerging situation. As well as regular email updates we propose to hold webinars with technical experts over the next few weeks. We have already held a webinar for staff and a webinar for regional councillors will be held next week. This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and discuss other operational policies you consider would be of value.

Considerations for decision-making - Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga

Financial Implications

1. Current response actions can be accommodated within existing budgets.

Legislative Implications

2. Operating within existing MPI framework. No additional requirements currently.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

3. Maintain communication with iwi partners regarding potential impacts
4. Consider implications for customary harvest

Policy Implications

5. Review of handling procedures for wild birds
6. Update to staff safety protocols
7. Update permits to disturb or cull policies

Risks and mitigations

8. H5N1 2.3.4.4b incursion in New Zealand resulting in large-scale bird deaths
Mitigation: Vigilance in reporting sick or dead birds and heightened biosecurity practices to limit disease spread
9. Staff and hunter safety when handling birds

Mitigation: Enhanced PPE and protocols for staff and communication to hunters on appropriate safety measures

10. Impact on monitoring programs

Mitigation: Alternative surveillance methods/estimates

11. Bird culling or bird disturbance from uninformed members of the public

Mitigation: Clear messaging and alignment between messaging from Fish & Game, MPI and DOC

12. Closure of one or more hunting seasons with resultant financial and hunting capital loss

Mitigation: discussions with Government on how to limit loss, development of strategy to guide actions

Consultation

13. Ongoing communication with MPI

14. Regional council engagement

15. Staff briefings scheduled

Next actions - Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

16. Implement staff and councillor briefing program (Priority: High, Timeframe: This week)

17. Establish enhanced monitoring protocols (Priority: Medium, Timeframe: Two weeks)

18. Review and update response measures as situation develops (Priority: Ongoing)

APPENDIX 1 – Fact Sheet on HPAI in Wild Birds

Understanding avian influenza in wild birds – fact sheet

Understanding avian influenza in wild birds



Biosecurity New Zealand

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Low pathogenic avian influenza has been present in wild bird populations in New Zealand for over 20 years and many species of wild birds may have strains of the virus.

Internationally, over 5,000 species of wild birds have low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI).

LPAI causes few or no signs of illness in wild birds but when it infects chickens, it can mutate into highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) which causes severe illness and deaths.

It's believed this is what caused the current case of HPAI (strain H7N6) at an Otago free-range egg farm. The hens, foraging outside their shed, are likely to have encountered wild birds with LPAI which has mutated into HPAI.

It appears that the Otago event is a rare one-off situation and there is no evidence to suggest that the risk of spread of LPAI from wild birds to poultry has changed.



Should wild birds be culled to protect commercial poultry?

MPI and the Department of Conservation advise against culling wild birds in relation to avian influenza because it will not prevent transmission and may worsen outbreaks.

Culling would potentially increase bird movements and cause stress to any native or threatened birds in the habitat. More birds would move into vacated habitats and on-farm risk will not be reduced.

LPAI in New Zealand

Biosecurity New Zealand has been carrying out avian influenza surveillance in wild birds for more than 20 years. The H7N6 strain detected at the Otago farm is known to be closely related to LPAI strains present in wild birds in New Zealand. The LPAI in wild birds does not appear to be causing deaths or severe illness in the birds carrying it.

Spillover to poultry

When LPAI is introduced to chickens, it can mutate into a high pathogenicity strain (HPAI). This is something that happens over time, not immediately.

The mutation to HPAI happens by chance after the chicken is exposed to the low pathogenicity form of the virus. It does not happen with every exposure to the virus.

There is no evidence that the strain at the Otago egg farm, H7N6, can spread from chickens back into wild birds.

The recent detection of bird flu in poultry in Otago is the first case of HPAI in New Zealand. It is not the H5N1 strain causing global concern.

Are wild birds a risk to poultry farms?

There is no evidence to suggest there has been any recent change in the circulating LPAI viruses in wild birds in New Zealand or that the risk of spread of LPAI from wild birds to poultry has changed.

However, changes in animal husbandry with more free-range birds does create the potential for increasing exposure of poultry to LPAI viruses carried by wild birds.

Good on-farm biosecurity and minimising the contact between wild birds and poultry is the recommended approach to protecting poultry from bird flu.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

December 2024

APPENDIX 2 – Use of Personal Protective Equipment during HPAI

Activity level 1 - Contact with apparently healthy birds (no disease/mortality) and associated fomites

• **Activity level 2** - Contact with birds/ sick/dead possibly due to HPAI and associated fomites.

• **Activity level 3** - Contact with birds/mammals sick/dead and associated fomites in places known to have HPAI

PPE Level 1	<i>Previous level, plus:</i> BAU biosecurity. Gloves (nitrile or latex) and eye protection should be worn. Footwear (closed and waterproof) and clothes should be changed and, at the end of fieldwork, cleaned and disinfected (eg using SteriGene) before re-using.
PPE Level 2	<i>Previous level, plus:</i> Enhanced levels of biosecurity, facial mask (PFF2, N95 or KN95), protective eyewear, and protective clothing (preferably Tyvek/plastic overalls or waders).
PPE Level 3	<i>Previous level, plus:</i> Two layers of gloves (nitrile or latex) and full-body waterproof clothing (disposable Tyvek overall). Hair should be covered by the overall's hood. There should be no gap between gloves and sleeves (use tape if necessary). Fitted face mask

APPENDIX 3 - Fish & Game New Zealand HPAI communications plan

Context

New Zealand has confirmed its first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) with the detection of H7N6 at an Otago commercial egg farm in December 2024. While this is not the H5N1 strain causing global concern, it represents a significant shift in New Zealand's avian influenza status and requires immediate communication response.

It still demands careful handling to inform and prepare stakeholders without inciting unnecessary alarm.

Fish & Game has a duty to provide clear, factual guidance on safety protocols and reporting processes.

Additionally, there is ongoing risk of H5N1 HPAI arriving in New Zealand through wild birds. Fish & Game needs to communicate effectively with staff, licence holders, and stakeholders about both the current H7N6 situation and preparedness for potential H5N1 incursion.

Fish & Game should be reinforcing the need for vigilance and readiness. Communication must balance transparency and responsibility, ensuring obligations are met while maintaining public confidence and avoiding hysteria.

Fish & Game has already been sharing our constructive messages around avian influenza in our stakeholder newsletter and shared MPI's campaign on social media, and we will continue with the heartbeat continual messaging.

See an example [here](#) in our recent November newsletter and [here](#) from May. It was also highlighted in our July, August and November staff newsletters.

It is important that Fish & Game are part of a whole of New Zealand response to this issue. It is potentially significant for people's health and the economy. Our reputational risk of breaking ranks is serious, but also likely unhelpful. Simple clear messages are what's needed and complexity won't be understood.

Fish & Game manages game bird hunting across New Zealand and has direct communication channels with approximately 40,000 licence holders who need clear guidance on safety protocols and reporting procedures.

Communications objectives

- **Inform and reassure** licence holders about the current H7N6 situation and its implications for hunting
- **Educate** hunters about biosecurity protocols and safety measures when handling game birds
- **Establish reporting protocols** to ensure hunters know how to report unusual bird deaths
- **Build preparedness** for potential future HPAI incursions including H5N1

- **Maintain confidence** in game bird hunting while ensuring safety measures are understood and followed

Strategic approach

Communications will take a three-phase approach:

1. **Immediate Response** (December 2024)
 - Address current H7N6 situation
 - Provide clear guidance for staff
 - Establish reporting protocols
 - Have message control – avoid causing panic
2. **Enhanced Preparedness** (January-March 2025)
 - Continue to build awareness of HPAI risks and symptoms
 - Educate about biosecurity measures
 - Coordinate with MPI and other agencies
 - prepare communications for H5N1 strain incursion
3. **Seasonal Readiness** (April-May 2025)
 - Pre-season hunter education
 - Distribution of safety guidelines
 - Integration with game bird season communications
4. **Distribution channels**
 - Direct email to licence holders
 - Fish & Game website
 - Social media
 - Both Barrels newsletter
 - Reel Life magazine
 - Hunting & fishing retailers
 - Club networks
 - Staff newsletter and emails from CE

5. Key messages

Current Situation (H7N6)

- First detection of HPAI in NZ but not the H5N1 strain of global concern
- There is no current evidence of spread to wild birds
- Normal hunting activities can continue with appropriate precautions
- Fish & Game is working closely with Biosecurity NZ on surveillance

Safety Protocols

- Don't harvest or handle birds that appear sick or are found dead
- Use appropriate PPE when handling game birds
- Practice good hygiene including hand washing
- Clean and disinfect equipment between hunting sites

Reporting Requirements

- Report 3+ sick or dead birds in a group to 0800 80 99 66
- Do not handle or move dead birds
- Note location and species if possible

Food Safety

- Game birds remain safe to eat when properly handled and cooked
- Internal temperature should reach at least 73°C for 2-3 minutes
- Keep raw meat separate from other foods
- Use clean equipment and surfaces

Bird Culling

- Hunters and farmers are advised to not actively cull or disperse wild birds, because this can increase the spread of HPAI.
- A low pathogenic strain of avian influenza exists in wild bird populations in New Zealand and has done for over 20 years. Many species of wild birds may have strains of the virus.
- Many species of wild birds may have low pathogenic strains of the virus and there is no evidence to suggest that the risk of spread of LPAI from wild birds to poultry has changed.
- Culling wild birds because they may have avian influenza is not justified and we strongly advise against it.
- Culling of wild birds can only be done with a permit. It's important that any decision to cull wild birds is based on robust science and evidence.
- Culling wild birds is likely to increase bird movements, as well as causing stress to any native or threatened birds in the area (which could also be present in wetland areas). More birds will move into vacated wetlands and on-farm risk will not be reduced.
- Good on-farm biosecurity and minimising the contact between wild birds and poultry is the recommended approach to protecting poultry from bird flu.

LPAI in New Zealand (MPI messages)

- Biosecurity New Zealand has been carrying out surveillance in wild birds for more than 20 years. The H7N6 strain detected in Otago is known to be closely related to LPAI strains present in wild birds in New Zealand. There are no reports or evidence of disease in wild birds from the low pathogenic strain of H7N6.

Spillover to poultry

- When low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) is introduced to chickens, it can mutate into a high pathogenicity strain (HPAI). This is something that happens over time, not immediately.
- The strain detected in Otago is not the H5N1 strain causing global concern. There is no evidence this strain of high pathogenicity avian influenza, H7N6, can spread from chickens back into wild birds.

- The recent detection of bird flu in poultry in Otago is the first case of HPAI in New Zealand. We believe it may have happened after free-range laying hens foraging outside were exposed to the low pathogenicity virus, which then mutated in the hens to become HPAI. The mutation happens by chance after the chicken is exposed to the low pathogenicity form of the virus, it does not happen with every exposure to the virus.
- There is no evidence to suggest any recent change in the circulating LPAI viruses in wild birds in New Zealand or that the risk of spread of LPAI from wild birds to poultry has changed.
- However, changes in husbandry with more free-range birds does create the potential for increasing exposure of poultry to LPAI viruses carried by wild birds.
- This ongoing risk of infection of poultry with LPAI viruses circulating in wild birds should be addressed with increased biosecurity.

Are wild birds a risk to poultry farms?

- There is no evidence to suggest any recent change in the circulating LPAI viruses in wild birds in New Zealand or that the risk of spread of LPAI from wild birds to poultry has changed.
- However, changes in husbandry with more free-range birds does create the potential for increasing exposure of poultry to LPAI viruses carried by wild birds.
- This ongoing risk of infection of poultry with LPAI viruses circulating in wild birds should be addressed with increased biosecurity.
- The Department of Conservation has advised there is no evidence from overseas that this strain of high-pathogenicity H7N6 can spread from chickens back into wild birds.
- For farms in the vicinity of the infected farm, the greatest risk of HPAI infection is from the infected farm. It is not clear if an H7N6 LPAI virus is circulating in wild birds in the vicinity of the infected farm.

Other MPI messages:

How to protect yourself and prevent possible spread

- Although avian influenza viruses rarely infect people, it is important to minimise your risk by avoiding sick or dying birds and practicing good hygiene if handling wild birds – both to protect yourself and to prevent spreading the virus.
- If you are tramping, camping, hunting, walking dogs near bird colonies, or anywhere you might be exposed to wild birds or marine mammals, keep your distance and maintain good hand hygiene.
- Wash your hands with soap and running water or use alcohol hand rubs as frequently, thoroughly, and often as possible. This is especially important before and after contact with animals and their environments.

- Do not touch, handle or collect any dead or dying birds. Leave these alone to prevent disease spread and protect human health. Ensure children and dogs don't touch them either.

Advice for hunters:

New Zealand Food Safety's advice on food safety for hunters applies but in particular:

- don't harvest or handle wild birds (or their feathers) if they are obviously sick or found dead
- wash and dry your hands after handling or dressing wild birds
- don't eat, drink or put anything in your mouth while handling or cleaning harvested birds
- wash knives and other utensils, and scrub chopping boards between preparation of raw and cooked foods
- keep raw meat and poultry covered and away from ready-to-eat food, fruit, and vegetables
- cook birds well – an internal temperature of 75°C for at least 30 seconds, 70°C for 3 minutes or 65°C for 15 minutes is needed to kill bacteria and viruses
- scrub and disinfect all boots and equipment between hunting sites
- after each hunting trip, wash, or hose down any clothes that have been in direct contact with birds.

Fatigue Management Policy

**Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council Meeting
Tuesday 21 January.**

Prepared by: Corina Jordan

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council seeks that the council review the proposed Fatigue Management Policy by the New Zealand Fish & Game Council (NZC), and provide feedback to NZC. The policy once adopted by the New Zealand Fish & Game Council will be binding on regions under section 26C(1)(a) of the Conservation Act 1987.

Financial considerations

☒ Nil ☐ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

Risk

☐ Low ☒ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

Ngā taunaki – HBFGC Manager Recommendations

2. The HBFGC Manager recommends that the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council:
 - a. Receive the information.
 - b. Review the proposed fatigue management policy and either support the policy as proposed; or
 - c. Recommend amendments to the proposed policy back to the New Zealand Fish & Game Council.

Takenga mai - Background

3. The New Zealand Fish & Game Council is reviewing Health and Safety across Fish & Game and proposing policies in order to ensure Fish and Game is meeting its obligations as a good employer along with Health and Safety legislative requirements.
4. The New Zealand Fish & Game Council approved for regional Fish & Game Council consultation and feedback a proposed fatigue management policy. Once the New Zealand Fish & Game Council considers regional feedback, and if NZC adopts the policy, it will become binding on Fish & Game regions under section 26C(1)(a) of the Conservation Act 1987.

S26C Functions of New Zealand Fish and Game Council

(1) The functions of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall be—

(a) to develop, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, national policies for the carrying out of its functions for sports fish and game, and the effective implementation of relevant general policies established under the Wildlife Act 1953 and this Act:

Kōrerorero – Discussion

5. In late 2023, following feedback from the Maritime NZ audit of Fish & Game NZ's boating procedures nationally, it was highlighted that Fish & Game did not have a fatigue management policy.
6. Globally, fatigue is identified as the main cause of human error that has led to fatalities in workplace accidents.
7. As Fish & Game staff often work in lone-worker situations and may have a can-do attitude, they may place themselves in situations where fatigue is an issue.
8. In order to provide both managers and staff with a guideline for planning and undertaking their work activities, a fatigue management policy was deemed desirable.
9. The National Health and Safety Committee took this determination from Maritime NZ and a draft fatigue management policy was formulated by HR advisor Jane Hutchings and the committee.
10. The draft policy was shared with regional managers for feedback in May 2024. Following this feedback, the draft policy was presented at the NZ Council Meeting in December 2024 and is being provided to regional Fish & Game Councils for their feedback (attached as Appendix 1).

11. Feedback initially also indicated that some councils thought this policy should also apply to councillors, especially those from regions where councillors have to travel long distances to attend council meetings.

Ngā kōwhiringa - Options

12. The Council may

- a. Support the proposed Fatigue Management Policy and advise the New Zealand Fish & Game Council that the policy is supported;
- b. Recommend amendments to the proposed Fatigue management policy back to the New Zealand Fish & Game Council and state support for the policy if the amendments are adopted by NZC;

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision-making

Financial Implications

13. N/A.

Legislative Implications

14. Requirement under the Health and Safety Act.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

15. Staff do not consider this policy breach's any treaty obligations

Policy Implications

16. Does it fit with our current policy and strategy of the council? yes

Risks and mitigations

17. HBFGC is required to have a fatigue management policy.

Consultation

18. New Zealand Fish & Game regional consultation on proposed policy under section 26C(1)(a) Conservation Act

Appendix 1 Proposed Fatigue Management Policy from New Zealand Fish & Game Council



DRAFT Fatigue Management Policy

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that all Fish and Game NZ staff minimize the risk to themselves and others by:

- Understanding fatigue and how it can affect you
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of staff and managers
- Identifying hazards that contribute to fatigue
- Assessing fatigue risks
- Working with staff to develop a plan to manage factors that contribute to fatigue.

2. FATIGUE AND THE HSWA 2015

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, fatigue is a workplace risk that must be managed like any other risk. This means that the business must eliminate the risk of fatigue as far as reasonably practicable.

If it can't be eliminated, it must be minimized as far as reasonably practicable, by implementing suitable control measures in consultation with staff

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Management responsibilities:

- Ensure staff have sufficient breaks between periods of work to rest and recover
- Provide training for staff to foster a common understanding of fatigue management
- Develop a culture of shared responsibility for fatigue management

Staff Responsibilities

Staff have a duty under the Act to take reasonable care of their own safety and health and that their acts or omissions don't adversely affect the health or safety of others.

To reduce the risk of being involved in a work accident caused by fatigue you should:

- Understand your sleep, rest and recovery needs and obtain adequate sleep and rest away from work.
- Seek medical advice if you are concerned about a health condition that affects your sleep or causes fatigue.
- Look out for signs of fatigue in yourself and the people you work with

- In consultation with your manager, take steps to manage fatigue e.g. taking a short break or nap (before driving home after a long period of field work), drinking water, stretching
- Talk to your manager if you foresee or experience being impaired by fatigue likely to create a health and safety risk e.g. because of a health condition, excessive work demands or personal circumstances

4. WHAT IS FATIGUE:

A state of mental and/or physical exhaustion that reduces a person's ability to perform work safely and effectively. It can occur because of prolonged or intense physical or mental activity, sleep loss and/or disruption of the internal body clock. Signs of fatigue include:

- Tiredness even after sleep
- Reduced hand-eye coordination or slow reflexes
- Short term memory problems and an inability to concentrate
- Blurred vision or impaired visual perception
- A need for extended sleep during days off work
- Increased irritability
- Falling asleep at work
- Excessive head nodding or yawning
- Near misses

5. WHAT CAN CAUSE FATIGUE?:

- Long periods of work
- Inadequate rest breaks
- Not enough time to recover between work periods
- Very strenuous jobs and long commuting times
- Disruption of circadian rhythms
- Environmental stresses (noise, vibration)

6. FATIGUE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Teams can mitigate the risks of fatigue by developing a practical fatigue management plan that matches the demands of their roles.
- Steps are to identify the particular causes of fatigue and finding solutions; for example:
- Where long distance driving is required to undertake ranging or check wetlands, take a volunteer ranger or retired ranger with you to share driving and provide extra support
- Manage staff workloads to reduce the need to work for extended periods
- Eliminate or reduce the need to work long shifts for more than 3 consecutive days
- Be aware of the fatiguing effects of drift diving and find solutions to reduce the risk of accidents following drift diving.
- Making sure that there is at least 10 hours between the end of one workday and the start of the next
- Ensuring that staff work no more than 14 hours in a day
- Ensuring that there is no more than 10 consecutive days of work
- Ensuring that staff take holidays on a regular basis and are not stockpiling annual leave without the written agreement with their manager.

- Ensuring that any TOIL accumulated is taken within the agreed period and not accumulated

2025 Proposed Game Bird Regulation.

Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council Meeting Tuesday, 21 January 2025

Prepared by: John Lumsden

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council seeks council approval on proposed Game Bird Regulations for the 2025 Game bird hunting season and to review the feedback from interested groups.
2. Regional Fish & Game Councils are required under s26Q(1)(b) to maintain and improve the sports fish and game resource by (iii) formulating and recommending to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council Conditions for fishing and game seasons. The New Zealand Fish & Game Council co ordinates the preparation of Anglers Notices and recommendation to the Minister for approval (s26C(1)(ba)(i).

Financial Considerations

☐ Nil ☒ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

Risk

☐ Low ☒ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

Ngā taunaki – HBFGC Manager Recommendations

3. The HBFGC Manager recommends that the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council:
 - a. Receive the information.
 - b. Confirms the dates for the 2025 Game Bird Hunting Season as presented in the Table 1. The annually updated actual start and end dates for the respective gamebirds' open season varies, but the respective seasons' start on the first Saturday in May and has a duration of the same number of weeks.
 - c. Approve: A repeat of the season length, bag limits and all other season conditions that applied for the 2024 season as set out in Table 1.

- d. Approve - Increasing the daily bag limit on black swans from 3 to 5 birds per day
- e. Approve - Extending shooting hours to 6.15 pm

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

- 4. Staff recommend that the HBFGC approve the 2025 season dates and duration for game that maybe hunted or killed (dates inclusive), please see attached table for full details. In summary -all waterfowl except pukeko, 3 May to 29 June 2025, upland game and pukeko 3 May to 31 August 2025
- 5. Staff recommend that the HBFGC approve a new black swan daily bag limit of 5 birds per day, as recent data suggests the Hawkes Bay black swan population is healthy and increasing.
- 6. Staff recommend that the HBFGC approve a new close of shooting time of 6.15 pm. Council has received ongoing feedback from shooters, complaining that early in the season (when the vast majority of hunting occurs) it is still very light at 6.00pm and few birds had started to fly .

Takenga mai – Background

- 7. Fish and Game have a statutory responsibility, under the Conservation Act 1987 26Q, to manage and maintain our game bird populations.

Conservation Act 1987 Q26 Functions of Fish and Game Councils:

- (1) *The functions of each Fish and Game Council shall be to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters,*
- 8. Regional Fish & Game Councils must recommend game bird season regulations and conditions to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing by 24 January 2025.
- 9. These recommendations must be based on sound evidence and licence-holder engagement. *Appendix One has the production schedule for game bird regulations for reference.*
- 10. *Appendix 2 summarises the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council game bird season conditions for 2024.*
- 11. Population trends are monitored via the game bird hunter harvest survey and game bird monitoring program before each game bird season.
- 12. Based on this information and feedback from licence holders and Iwi (in relation to indigenous game bird species), the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council proposes bag limits and season length conditions for that season's Game Bird Regulations to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing.
- 13. Of note is that the next aerial paradise shelduck and black swan game bird surveys are due to be undertaken in early 2025.

14. Hawkes Bay Fish and Game have counted the same sites either independently or in conjunction with Eastern Fish and Game in January regularly since 2003. These sites are counted from a small, fixed wing aircraft, where possible a total count for species, for each site is recorded manually by two observers, where high numbers of swan and paradise ducks are present, photographs are taken and counted once back at base. Please see attached appendix 11 for more information.
15. Given the tight timeframes for the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game to propose season conditions to the Minister, the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council relying on the previous year's surveys, undertook consultation on proposed game bird season regulations through the end of December 2024 and early January 2025, and ahead of the 2025 surveys.
16. Our recommendations are on the assumption that there will be no significant decline in the Hawkes Bay paradise shelduck and black swan population health, recorded in January 2025 aerial surveys.
17. Should these surveys show a dramatic decline in population health, council may need to modify its recommendations to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

Kōrerorero – Discussion

18. Game bird regulations need to be set to maximise hunter opportunity whilst limiting the likelihood of over-harvest, and where necessary, be used as a tool to reduce nuisance impacts.
19. Populations and their distribution are affected by weather conditions, farming practices, culling under permits to disturb, disease, food/ habitat availability, and hunter harvest.
20. The setting of season conditions should aim to sustainably manage game bird populations so that they can sustain harvest while managing nuisance events and with a mind to maintaining or building hunters' social licence.
21. **Mallard, grey duck and pūtangitangi/paradise shelduck limits** - Staff recommend no change to the 2024 season regulations as the population levels are still in the intermediate classification.
22. **Kuruwhengi/shoveler duck bag limits** – The national shoveler census completed on 5 August 2024 showed a relatively stable Hawkes Bay population; nationally, the surveyed population remains stable with 155 fewer birds (0.01% change) counted across the country this year (2024 n=12,359 vs. 2023 n=12,514).
23. Staff recommend no change to the 2024 season regulations of a two-bird limit as the population levels are still in the intermediate classification.
24. Staff have identified two game bird populations, pukeko and black swan, in the Hawkes Bay Region that could potentially cause additional challenges when considering regulation setting.

25. **Pukeko** – We actively encourage our local shooters to hunt pukeko during their current four-month upland game bird season.
26. Given the nature of horticultural operations in Hawkes Bay, hunting pukeko under the Open Season for Game Notice is not always possible due to the close proximity of neighbours.
27. HBFGC can issue permits to disturb in specific areas using methods other than shooting with a shotgun in flight, during the game bird season.
28. These would be issued under our delegated authority (section 53 of the Wildlife Act 1953) from the Director General of Conservation.
29. Our hunter-harvest survey data indicates that pukeko harvest numbers have remained relatively static over the last ten years.
30. Staff have started a Pukeko monitoring program using driven transects over various mixed sites through Hawkes Bay.
31. This program assesses the overall population health and identifies areas where Pukeko populations may be concentrated, resulting in nuisance impacts
32. As such, Staff recommend the Pukeko season dates, duration, and bag limit (10 birds per day) remain unchanged from the 2024 season.
33. **Kakīānau/black swan** – Staff request that the Council consider specific changes to the game bird conditions for black swan.
34. Staff have identified large numbers of black swans around Lake Poukawa, with peak numbers estimated at 5000 to 7000 on the lake and surrounding cropping and farmed land in May/ June 2024.
35. A large grower had organised shoots by licenced hunters during the 2024 game bird season, with small goods produced from the harvested meat donated to a local marae.
36. The aim was to reduce the need to issue permits to disturb and utilise the harvested swan meat, whilst minimising the risks to social licence that may occur if they were simply culled outside the game season.
37. Allowing a higher daily bag limit for black swans during the game bird season may lead to concerns of overharvest if the occupier runs large, coordinated shoots with a high daily bag limit.
38. However, Considering the low annual harvest of black swans in the region, this should not significantly impact the Hawkes Bay black swan population.
39. Staff have recommended a change to the daily bag from 3 to 5 for Black Swan
40. If needed, a permit to disturb during the shooting season allows for an increased harvest.

41. **Pheasant and quail Game season conditions** – staff recommend the same conditions as the 2024 season.
42. **Shooting times** – The council has had much feedback from hunters over recent years from shooters complaining about having to stop shooting at 6.00 pm when, in the early part of the season, it is “still broad daylight”.
43. A review of historical game season conditions shows the Hawkes Bay region has had a stop shooting time of 6.30 pm previously but had amended it to 6.00 pm.
44. This was due to fears that hunters may be unable to identify their target positively.
45. Of note, the NZ Daylight Tables indicate that it would still legally be daylight at these times at the start of the season when most hunting occurs.
46. Staff recommend a stop shooting time of 6.15pm
47. A discussion / feedback document was prepared and emailed to all license holders, 4 local shooters groups/ associations, the Poukawa B13 Hapu group and a representative from Brownrigg Agriculture. This was also posted on our website, and a brief summary on HBFGC facebook page was linked to the document.
48. Potential Game season changes were highlighted namely, black swan daily bag limit increase from 3 to 5 and change in end of shooting time from 6.00pm to 6.15pm.
49. Appendices 5, 6, and 7 set out the consultation feedback/ submissions to council from licence holders.
50. There was a range of feedback from individuals and groups, most relating to the proposed changes, although there was other game bird management related feedback offered too; a brief summary is provided below, full submissions can be found in appendix 7.
51. Proposal to change black swan daily bag limit to 5 per person, currently 3 per person per day:
 - a. 69.2% of respondents were in favour, none were opposed and 30.8% made no comment.
52. Proposal to increase shooting Hours – Change end of shooting time to 6.15pm, currently 6.00pm:
53. 69.2% of respondents were in favour, 15.4% were opposed and 15.4% made no comment
54. Other feedback included – Add grey teal, closed season on shoveler, reduce or stop pond feeding, shorten season and increase paradise duck limit.

Ngā kōwhiringa – Options

55. The Council:

- a. Confirms and approves the dates for the 2025 Game Bird Hunting Season as presented in the Table 1, commencing the 1st Saturday in May being 3rd May 2025.
- b. Approve: Increasing the daily bag limit on black swans from 3 to 5 birds per day
- c. Approve: Extending shooting hours to 6.15 pm
- d. Approve: Season length, bag limits and all other season conditions that applied for the 2024 season as set out in Table 1;
- e. If council rejects proposals set out under a, b, c, or d, then the council approves amendments to the Game season regulations to be submitted to the New Zealand Fish & Game Council for consideration by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

Table 1. Proposed Season conditions for the 2025 game season to be voted on.

Species	2025 Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Decision	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area	Decision
mallard/grey duck	3 May to 29 June 2025		8	All areas	
NZ shoveler duck	3 May to 29 June 2025		2	All areas	
paradise shelduck	3 May to 29 June 2025		8	All areas	
pukeko	3 May to 31 Aug 2025		10	All areas	
black swan	3 May to 29 June 2025		5	All areas	
brown quail	Closed season		0	All areas	
california quail	3 May to 31 Aug 2025		10	All areas	
cock pheasant	3 May to 31 Aug 2025		2	All areas	

Shooting Hours	Start	End	Decision
Shooting Hours	6.15 am	6.15 pm	

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision-making

Financial Implications

56. All Fish and Game regions are reliant on the sale of licences to generate revenue, this revenue is vital for the management and maintenance of game bird populations.

Legislative Implications

Statutory Considerations

57. The game season conditions are constrained by the Wildlife Act 1953 and Wildlife Regulations 1955 to address the following:
- a. An open season is to be declared;
 - b. The sex and species of game to be hunted;
 - c. The number of decoys that may be used;
 - d. Decoys to be artificial and anchored;
 - e. The number of game that may be taken by a person on a day;
 - f. Other conditions as the Council may see fit;
 - g. Type of shotgun and magazine size of shotguns;
 - h. Timing and placement of food as bait for attracting waterfowl;
 - i. Use of camouflaged boats, power boats, vehicles and aircraft;
 - j. Use of lights for hunting game;
 - k. Hunting stand claim (pegging) provisions.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

58. Local iwi have expressed concerns over the black swan numbers on Lake Poukawa and HBFGC has also facilitated a black swan egg harvest.

Policy Implications

59. This fits within our current policy

Risks and mitigations

60. Staff recommend increasing the acceptable harvest of black swans during the shooting season. Harvesting or “disturbing” black swan out of season on surrounding properties is likely to be seen as a cull, with a high chance of negative media coverage.

Consultation

61. Following the council's 10 December 2024 meeting, an invitation for feedback from hunters and hunting clubs was emailed to all licence holders.

62. The feedback from the consultation will need to be taken into consideration by Council when they finalise council's recommendation for the Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next actions

63. Hawkes Bay Fish Game Staff will provide the New Zealand Fish & Game Council with the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Councils recommended Gamebird Season Regulations for consideration by the Minister of Hunting and Fishing.

Appendix 1 Production Schedule for regulations

Date	Action
13 December 2024	Notice and regulation guide content should be sent to regions by NZC
24 th January	Regional Fish & Game Councils must update the above document (if your meeting is not until after this date, please update the document with the conditions being recommended to the Council and then confirm once the Council has decided).
3 rd February	Draft Notice & submission to DOC for comment
10 th February	Draft Notice to NZ Gazette Office
17 th February	Notice & submission to MFHF. No further changes from regions after this date
3 rd March approximately	Notice approved & signed by MFHF and Gazette notice published

Appendix 2 2024 Game Bird Regulations

Grey/Mallard Duck	4 th May to 30 th June	8	All Areas
NZ Shoveler Duck	4 th May to 30 th June	2	All Areas
Paradise Shelduck	4 th May to 30 th June	8	All Areas
Pūkeko	4 th May to 25 th August	10	All Areas
Black Swan	4 th May to 30 th June	3	All Areas
Brown Quail	Closed Season	0	All Areas
California quail	4 th May to 25 th August	10	All Areas
Cock Pheasant	4 th May to 25 th August	2	All Areas

Appendix 3

Thresholds for setting black swan and paradise shelduck game season conditions of Bag Limit and Season length

Table 1 Hawkes Bay paradise shelduck season regulations as a function of constraint, according to the annual population trend in Hawke's Bay.

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

Table 2 Hawke's Bay paradise shelduck season conditions

SEASON	APPROPRIATE SEASON DURATION AND BAG LIMIT
Restricted	Restrictive season conditions, A 4-bird limit with the season length the same as the mallard.
Intermediate	Intermediate conditions, season length the same as the mallard & a 8 -bird limit.
Relaxed	Relaxed conditions, season length the same as the mallard & a 12-bird limit.

Table 3 Season regulations as a function of constraint, according to the annual black swan population trend in Hawke's Bay.

SEASON	APPROPRIATE SEASON DURATION AND BAG LIMIT.
Restricted	Restrictive season conditions, closed season.
Intermediate	Intermediate season conditions, A 3-bird limit, with the season length the same as the mallard.
Relaxed	Relaxed conditions, 8-week season with a 5-bird limit.

Table 4 Hawke's Bay black swan threshold levels

POPULATION SIZE	TREND	SEASON CONDITIONS
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

Appendix 4 Second Schedule

Proposed changes in red, all other second schedule conditions to remain unchanged from those applicable for the 2024 season.

HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME REGION

Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2025 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive) *NB1	Daily Bag Limit *NB 4	Hunting Area
mallard/grey duck	3 May to 29 June 2025	8	All areas
NZ Shoveler duck	3 May to 29 June 2025	2	All areas
paradise shelduck	3 May to 29 June 2025	8	All areas
pukeko	3 May to 31 Aug 2025	10	All areas
black swan	3 May to 29 June 2025	5	All areas
brown quail	Closed season	0	All areas
california quail	3 May to 31 Aug 2025	10	All areas
cock pheasant	3 May to 31 Aug 2025	2	All areas

Shooting Hours 6.15 am to 6.15 pm. *NB3

Summary of Proposed Changes for the 2025 Hawkes Bay Game season

*NB1 - Season Duration - Start and end dates are inclusive – Actual start and end dates vary from year to year but must be voted on and this vote recorded.

*NB2 - black swan bag limit increase from 3 -5.

*NB3 - Change to close of shooting time from 6.00 pm to 6.15 pm.

*NB4 – Proposal for all daily bag limits displayed in black and all other season conditions recorded in Schedule 2 of the Hawkes Bay 2024 Game Season conditions to remain the same for the 2025 season, unless that have been specifically amended for the 2025 season.

Appendix 5 Summary of the feedback received

Submitter	Organisation	black swan bag limit change. – for/ against	Change end of shooting time to 6.15. for / against	Other feedback *NB1
Fraser Hapuku	B13 Hapu Lake Poukawa	For	For	
Graham	Individual	NC	NC	Reduce pond feeding, shorten season – Believed currently over harvesting.
Colin	Individual	For	For	
Alan Limmer	Individual	NC	Against.	
Submitter	Organisation	Black Swan bag limit change. – for/ against	Change end of shooting time to 6.15. for / against	Other feedback
Kerry Olsen	Individual	For	For*	Often stop shooting at 5.45
Rick	Individual	For	For	
Russell	Individual	For	For	
“Wanderer”	Individual	For	For	
Robbie Danks	Individual	For	For	Happy other limits unchanged.
H	Individual	For	For	
Kim Crysell	Individual	For	For	
Tom	Individual	NC	For*	He Wouldn't shoot until 6.15 – but makes sense 6.15am-6.15pm
Andy	Individual	NC	NC	Paradise duck limits need to be higher.
Brendan	Individual	For	For	
Richard Hilson	Individual	For	For	
“Cait”	Individual	NC	NC	Wants 4x Grey Teal / day. Zero Shoveller.
Bob Spain	Waitangi Shooters association.	NC	For	
Stan Barnes	Individual	NC	Against	After 6.00pm ID issues. Request stay same or even 6.30am -6.00pm.
Lionel	Individual	For	For	

John	Individual	For	For	
Name withheld	Individual	NC	NC	Bird names should only be in English.
Tony	Individual	For	For	
Peter Linnell	Individual	For	Against	Reduce pond feeding
Shane Graham		For	For	
Maurice Callaghan	Individual	For	For	
John Rowsell	Ahuriri Lagoon Shooters Assoc	For	Against	
		Black Swan bag limit change. – for/ against	Change end of shooting time to 6.15. for / against	Other feedback
Summary		For – 18 No Comment - 8 Against - 0	For – 18*Nb1 No Comment - 4 Against-4 *Nb1	*Nb2

Appendix 6

Verbal Feedback

A summary of verbal feedback received up to and including 5 January 2025, is as follows.

A/ Fraser Hapuku B13 Hapu, Lake Poukawa.

In agreement with proposed changes, but was of the opinion that few shooters will shoot many additional Black Swan. He was very keen to continue with a cultural swan egg harvest in 2025 nesting season, building on the knowledge gained in the initial 2024 trial.

B/ Graham – Shoots on Pekapeka.

Graham was concerned the harvest was declining and felt this was due to over harvest due to extended and intensive pond feeding and “a long season”. He wanted council to either limit or eliminate pond feeding and reduce the season length.

Appendix 7 Written Feedback

The following are copies of written feedback received up to and including 5 January 2025. Where we have been given written permission to publish the submitters name, we have recorded their full name

1/ Colin 20/12

fine with that

2/ Alan Limmer 20/12

I think 6pm is a fair time. There is barely enough light at 6pm. Yes, the birds continue to come in after 6pm – often it seems they wait til shooting ends to make a move.

But it is pitch black by 6.15 – esp at the end of the season. Dangerous. I am more than happy to put my gun away at 6pm.

Alan

3/ Kerry Olsen 20/12

I agree with the proposed changes, in very overcast conditions we often cease shooting about 5.45pm because of the difficulty in seeing the birds.

Kerry Olsen

4/ Rick 20/12

sounds all very sensible.. in favour

5/ Russell 20/12

I support the 2 proposed changes

6/ “Wanderer” 20/12

I toldly agree with the changes proposed and give you my full support.

7/ Robbie Danks 20/12

Thank you F & G for the opportunity to comment on the proposed new regulations.

I am happy with the proposed changes.

I am happy that the other bird limits remain unchanged.

Thanks,

Robbie Danks

8/ H 20/12

Sounds good to me.

9/ Kim Crysell 20/12

I support the proposed increase in Black Swan numbers that can be taken on game bird licences for 2025 onwards.

I also support the increased closing time for shooting

Thank you Kim Crysell

10/ Tom 20/12

Wouldn't shoot until 6.15pm because of difficulty in identifying birds. However there are so many teal, around 50pc of birds seen that it probably doesn't matter if a number are accidentally shot because their numbers are so high. It does make sense that 6.15am opening and 6.15pm closing are the "same"

11/ Andy 21/12

Hi

Paradise duck should be 15 bag on opening wknd then 10 daily bag so many and a pest to farmers crops.

Kind regards

Andy

12/ Brendan 21/12

I support the proposed changes.

13/Richard Hilson 21/12

Hi HB Fish & Game

A short email, but I would support both proposed changes for the 2025 gamebird season.

The swan limit would appear low (and has been low for a number of years) and a move back to 6.15pm for end of shooting would be appropriate. On clear evenings, like the 2024 opening, we clearly missed an opportunity for some additions to a rather light bag.

Regards Richard

14/ Cait 21/12

I think regulations should change to include 4 grey teal on the list and shoveller zero limit for Hawke's Bay

15/ Bob Spain 21/12

hi yes happy with 6 15 closing

good for that

bob

16/ Stan Barnes 21/12

The only thing I have a problem with is the shooting hours.

After 6pm you can not clearly identify your bird.

So the hours should say the same, or even change to 6.30 am to 6pm

Thanks stan Barnes

17/ Lionel 21/12

Yes good changes.and agree with the reasons stated.

18/ John 23/12

Hi John

Agree to both changes. Regards John

19/ name supplied But - name / email address withheld

Drop the maori names

20/ Tony. 24/12

Yes to both of the changes.

Regards

Tony

21/Peter Linnell 27/12

Hi There, HB Fish n Game Team,

Having being involved, with the wonderful great outdoors our country is blessed with for the last 50 odd years, I would like to pass on my views on the future of duck shooting in NZ

Great were the days when we started hunting ducks lucky to have that old double without all those fancy choke's etc, and very happy to come home with half a dozen ducks for our efforts.

Sadly all of that has changed over recent years with introduction of,

Semi -Automatic shotguns with considerable firepower with their large ammo capacity (nothing wrong with semi - auto's pinned to 2 shots & I believe they should still be changed to that limit)

The change over from lead I believe has created considerable numbers of wounded birds hence the very low numbers of ducks just go and have a look around the likes of Cornwall & Windsor Parks in the season and out of season.

The greatest threat I believe to duck shooting in our region is the ability of some to continually & heavily feed a pond all year then have massive shoot ups which produce very large kill numbers. I have seen this practice in the UK to the point hundreds of ducks became almost hand fed and tame by the time the big slaughter came . So if this is the way future duck shooting is going to be , so be it such a shame ducks won't be living & hunted in their natural way , I will wonder how many old school & keen young duck shooters will see a future in this, given the cost, maybe a visit to the supermarket makes sense and or a big shoot up at the local gun club can be a lot of fun also.

Re. Number of Black Swan limits Fully agree numbers of black swans & canadian geese certainly have increased over last few years

Re.Shooting hoursI believe that would be a big mistake ... will only suit the big pond feeders (they will be able to raiké up any shot game next day) I reckon 5.30 pm would

be a better close down time giving real hunters and their dogs time to retrieve any game.

Best Regards,

Peter

22/ Shane Graham 31/12

Hi John,

I'm in favour of both of these

Regards

Shane Graham

23/ Maurice Callaghan 1/01

Dear Sir/Madam,
Agree to the proposed changes.

24/ John Rowsell - Ahuriri Lagoon Shooters Assoc 5/01

Morning John

Happy New Year

RE 2025 WATERFOWL SEASON CONDITIONS

The results of a survey of our members produced a large majority for increasing the swan limit to five for the coming season and the status quo of shooting finnish time (1800 hrs)

Our area is generally encased by hills and perhaps it gets darker a little earlier but generally you are shooting at silhouettes and can you clearly identify your target

ie Spoony v teal or any protected species

Also we would suggest the swan limit be addressed before next years season 2026 as whilst we realise many hunters don't bother with them it would be savvy to see if the extra two affects numbers significantly

As a club we thank you for the opportunity to submit and look forward to more liaison in the future

Cheers

John

Ahuriri Lagoon Shooters Assoc

Appendix 8

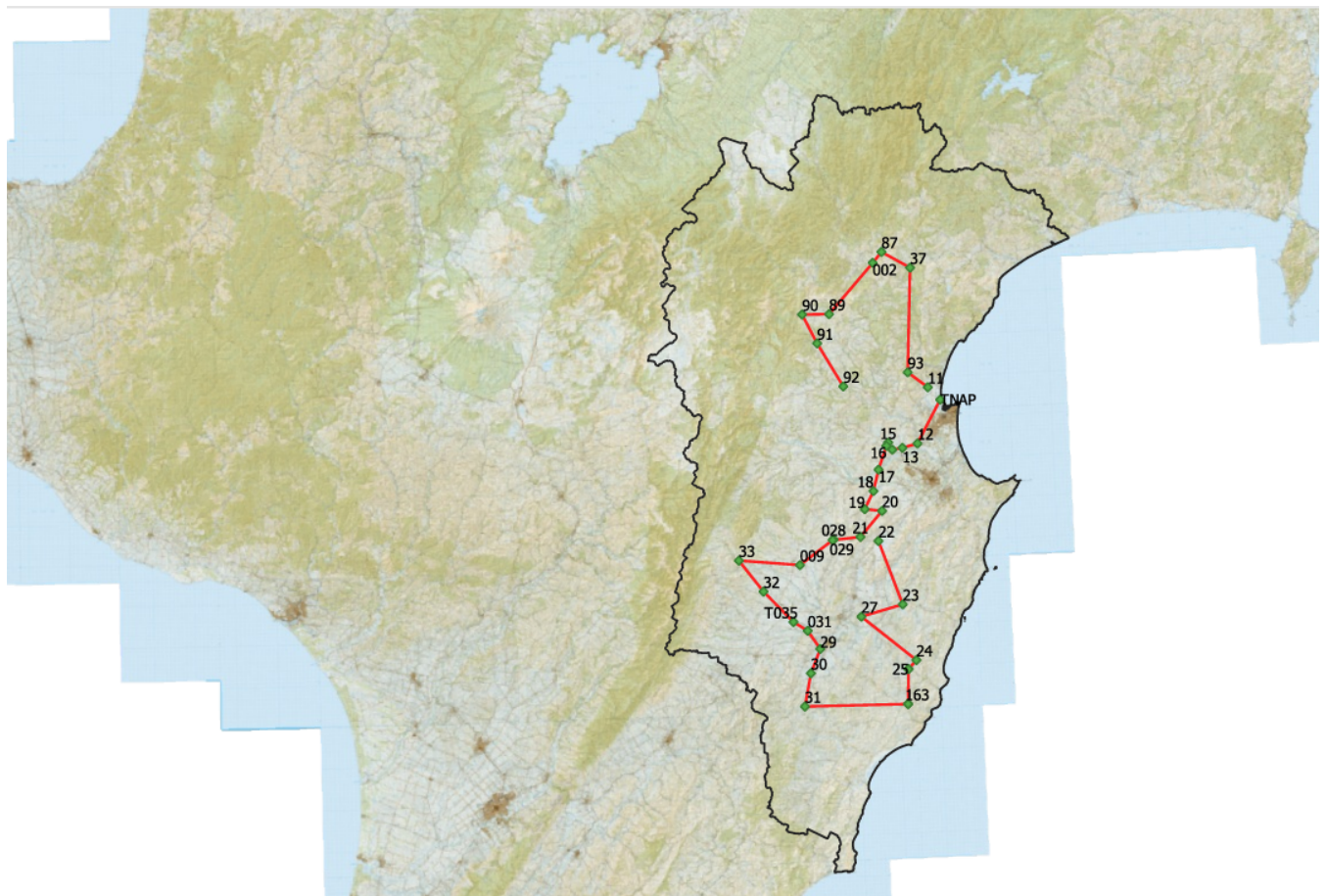
Black Swan and Paradise Duck Aerial counts info for council.

Hawkes Bay Fish and Game have counted the same sites either independently or in conjunction with Eastern Fish and Game in January regularly since 2003. These counts are timed to coincide with the paradise duck moult when they tend to congregate at the same large moulting sites annually.

These sites are counted from a small, fixed wing aircraft; where possible, a total count for each species, for each site is recorded manually by two observers, where high numbers of swan and paradise ducks are present, photographs are taken and counted once back at base.

The key difference between this survey and aerial transects is, the total population of paradise shelduck and black swan for each water body are counted, as opposed to aerial transects, where the number of birds for a fixed width along a flown transect are counted.

Map showing Black Swan and Paradise Duck Survey sites for the Hawkes Bay region



Swan and Paradise Duck Sites for Aerial
Counts 2025

Name	X-coord	Y-coord	X-coord NZTM	Y-coord NZTM
002	176.6782	-39.1656	1917831.926	5658597.181
009	176.4718	-39.8274	1897151.453	5585826.235
028	176.5675	-39.7715	1905593.497	5591707.228
029	176.5646	-39.7729	1905342.146	5591556.995
031	176.4936	-39.9704	1898401.657	5569869.447
11	176.8349	-39.4387	1930082.687	5627713.148
12	176.8054	-39.5617	1926966.731	5614158.663
13	176.7627	-39.5713	1923253.461	5613249.478
14	176.7339	-39.5753	1920763.231	5612909.285
15	176.7222	-39.5599	1919827.737	5614664.562
16	176.7173	-39.567	1919369.585	5613888.681
163	176.779	-40.1295	1922027.266	5551210.823
164	176.78	-40.0536	1922472.387	5559634.773
17	176.6947	-39.6191	1917194.518	5608187.786
18	176.6804	-39.6659	1915747.815	5603037.788
19	176.6558	-39.7055	1913456.048	5598734.385
20	176.7048	-39.7091	1917649.894	5598158.068
21	176.6434	-39.7661	1912123.666	5592050.377
22	176.6946	-39.7748	1916469.687	5590904.467
23	176.7637	-39.9129	1921744.242	5575314.041
24	176.8023	-40.0342	1924467.976	5561710.633
25	176.78	-40.0536	1922472.387	5559634.773
26	176.779	-40.1295	1922027.266	5551210.823
27	176.6461	-39.9397	1911564.959	5572764.448
29	176.5295	-40.01	1901290.946	5565358.351
30	176.5028	-40.0628	1898785.771	5559579.897
31	176.486	-40.1349	1897030.183	5551631.202
32	176.3682	-39.8852	1888040.833	5579741.265
33	176.2981	-39.8176	1882325.964	5587475.141
37	176.7843	-39.176	1926951.32	5657056.263
87	176.7032	-39.1415	1920095.726	5661187.09
89	176.5545	-39.2783	1906650.839	5646513.207
90	176.4777	-39.2791	1900017.643	5646677.75
91	176.5202	-39.3425	1903409.802	5639502.318
92	176.5948	-39.4369	1909424.463	5628761.931
93	176.7775	-39.4059	1925298.274	5631562.967
T035	176.4533	-39.9514	1895041.334	5572120.31
TNAP	176.87	-39.4658	1932974.913	5624571.267

Proposed Kuripapango Twin lakes Trout Fishing Competition February 2025

**Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council Meeting
Tuesday 21 January.**

Prepared by: John Lumsden

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council seeks their approval for a Trout Fishing Competition to be held on the Kuripapango Twin Lakes by Sport Fly Fishing NZ 8 February 2025 .

Financial considerations

☒ Nil ☐ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

Risk

☐ Low ☒ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

Ngā taunaki – HBFGC Manager Recommendations

2. The HBFGC Manager recommends that the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council:
 - a. Receive the information.
 - b. Agree to issuing a permit to the organiser allowing the running of this competition.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

3. Sport Fly Fishing NZ wish to run a trout fishing competition at the Twin Lakes Kuripapango on the 8 February 2025. The Freshwater fisheries Regulations 1983 Part 7A states anyone wishing to hold a fishing competition must have written approval of the Fish and Game Council that has jurisdiction over the waters concerned. This paper seeks council approval for this competition.

Takenga mai - Background

4. Sport Fly Fishing NZ have run their annual Hawkes Bay Regional Championships Lake fishing competition on the Twin lakes for a number of years. They seek permission to run a Trout Fishing competition on the Twin lakes on the 8 February 2025, between the hours of 7.00am and 6.00pm.

Kōrerorero – Discussion

5. This annual Hawkes Bay Regional Championships lake fishing competition has been run on the Twin lakes for a number of years, the competition is only open to licensed anglers, is 100% catch and release and is limited to approximately 20 entrants only. The competitors are charged an entry fee, the competition has no monetary prizes; but there is a trophy, that they compete for. A resource consent fee of \$40 for the competition and a levy of \$5 each per Senior and \$2 per junior is chargeable.
6. The administrator of the competition must supply Fish and Game with information on number of participants, number of fish caught, time spent fishing and species, sex, length and weight of fish caught, so it does gain us some valuable statistics on the fishery.
7. The competition will not exclude anglers from fishing the lakes that are not part of the competition, as a non competition area is being provided for.

Ngā kōwhiringa - Options

8. The Council may
 - a. Accept the application and agree to issue a permit for the Kuripapaongo Twin Lakes Fishing Competition.
 - b. Decline the application and not issue a permit for the Kuripapaongo Twin Lakes Fishing Competition.

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision-making

Financial Implications

9. A nominal resource consent fee of \$40 for the competition and a levy of \$5 each per Senior and \$2 per junior is chargeable. There is some staff time cost in seeking council approval, issue permits and processing information.

Legislative Implications

10. The Freshwater fisheries Regulations 1983 Part 7A states anyone wishing to hold a fishing competition must have written approval of the Fish and Game Council that has jurisdiction over the waters concerned.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

11. Staff do not consider this breaches any treaty obligations

Policy Implications

12. Does it fit with our current policy and strategy of the council? yes

Risks and mitigations

13. There is a risk that noncompeting anglers may be frustrated by the presence of competition anglers, fishing on the lake they expected to fish. The situation of “an angler at the lake ahead of you” is common outside of competition times, and with only a portion of the lake shore used for the competition, this shouldn’t create a significant issue.
14. The Organiser advised, they will let all the local angling clubs know and will post on social media when the competition was being held; giving anglers forewarning there may be high numbers of anglers in that area for the 8 February 2025. There is also the option for HBFG to post a similar message on our face book page.

Consultation

15. Due to the short time frame, Council have already been consulted on this issue via email and have had the opportunity endorse or oppose this competition via email. No further consultation is being sought.

Appendix 1 Kuripapaongo Twin Lakes Fishing Competition Application

Sports Fish Competition Policy, Rules and Application form Update

Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council Meeting
Tuesday 24th Sept

Prepared by: John Lumsden

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council (HBFGC) seeks council adopt the HBFGC Sportsfish Competition Policy, rules, and application form, as amended.

Financial considerations

☒ Nil ☐ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

Risk

☒ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

Ngā taunaki – HBFGC Manager Recommendations

2. The HBFGC Manager recommends that the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council:
 - a. Receive the information;
 - b. Adopts the amended HBFGC Sportsfish competition policy, rules, and application form as amended.

Takenga mai - Background

3. HBFGC current policy doesn't take into account the requirement for council to sign off Freshwater Sport Fishing Competitions in all cases, and does not contain sufficient provisions for the collection of data to be provided to Fish & Game, nor conditions to limit impacts on other anglers not associated with the competition.

Kōrerorero - Discussion

4. The Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 part VIIA states that all Fishing Competitions for sports fish require approval of Fish and Game Council. The HBFGC Sports fish competition policy, rules, and application form have been updated to include the requirement for the HBFGC to consider and approve or decline proposed sports fishing competitions. The policy and associated documents have also been updated to ensure minimal impact to other anglers from the competition, and set out requirements in relation to data that is to be provided to Fish & Game to support management of the regions recreational sports fish.

Ngā kōwhiringa - Options

5. The Council may
 - a. Support the proposed changes and adopt the Sports fishing competition policy, rules, and application form as amended;
 - b. Reject the proposed changes;
 - c. Make alternative changes, and adopt the Sports fishing competition policy, rules, and application form.

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision making

Financial Implications

6. Nil

Legislative Implications

7. These changes are required to fulfil our legal requirements.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

8. Staff consider these changes will have no impact.

Policy Implications

9. yes

Risks and mitigations

10. There is a risk if we don't change our current policy, in that we will be in breach The Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.
11. We must minimise our risk of upsetting other anglers not associated with the competition.

Consultation

12. Not applicable

Appendix 1

Ref: 21.01.25



Hawkes Bay Fish & Game
P O Box 7345
Taradale 4141,
New Zealand

Fishing Competition Policy

The following information is provided for the information and guidance of fishing competition organisers;

1. That Fish and Game New Zealand, Hawkes Bay Region, approve Fishing Competitions on hydro systems and lakes.
2. That competitions including wild river fisheries be specifically catch and release only.
3. That Pursuant to Part 7A of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, any fishing competition for sports fish in the Hawkes Bay region, requires the approval of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council.
4. That organisers of fishing competitions be advised of a condition of a permit to conduct a competition, that they must supply fish data according to management requirements.
5. That only the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council has the authority to approve fishing competitions for sport fish in the Hawkes Bay region.

Competition Rules

6. No trout shall be kept without the consent of the angler.
7. No trout shall be offered for sale, sold or given in compensation or as a consideration, for any service.

8. Any competition must have minimal negative impact on other anglers not directly associated with the competition, a prerequisite to running an event is that the organiser publicises the event well in advance to inform other anglers and wherever possible ensures other anglers are not precluded from fishing at the same site on the day of competition.
9. All participants shall be required to produce a valid trout fishing licence, upon registering for the competition.
10. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to record and supply the following information - The date, locality, hours fished, method used, number of fish caught, and the species, sex, and length of each fish entered.
11. Every tagged fish caught must be recorded with the colour, letters and numbers stamped on the tag, noted adjacent to the information recorded pursuant to (9) above.
12. Records (pursuant to 9 and 10 above) shall be forwarded to the Manager, Hawkes Bay Fish and Game, P O Box 7435, Taradale 4141 within 30 days of the completion of the competition.

Failure to comply with the conditions as listed may result in cancellation of the permit and prosecution of the permit holder.



Hawkes Bay Region

Fishing Competition Permit Application

1. Name and address of permit holder:

Name:

Organisation;

Postal Address:

Contact phone number during the day;

Email address:

2. Lakes/ Rivers to be included for the competition:

3. Competition Dates and Times;

Starting Date -----

Finishing Date -----

Starting time -----

Finishing Time -----

4. Weigh-in venue and Times

All fish are measured and released by the competition controller

An experienced angler is required to record details of fish caught;

Name;.....

Contact Phone Number (daytime):.....

5. Competition Purpose

(a) The purpose of the competition being;

- ☐ Social gathering of friends/club members
- ☐ Local/regional promotion
- ☐ Fund-raising
- ☐ Other, please specify.....

(b) The Competition will be restricted to one of the following

- ☐ Invited guests of.....
- ☐ Club members of...
- ☐ Open to the public

6. Number of competitors.

Approximately how many competitors will there be;

- ☐ Less than 20
- ☐ Less than 50
- ☐ Less than 100.

Please note: All Competitions require the specific approval of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council. Current policy of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council is that there is a maximum of three major competitions (of more than 100 competitors) per annum.

7. Notification and Opportunities for other non - competing anglers to fish.

What actions will be taken to advise other anglers that your competition will be taking place?

What provisions will you make to allow other non-competing anglers to fish. Eg. Will only a portion of the lake shore be used for competition "beats".

8. Competition Rules

What are the competition rules? Specify and list on Page 5.

9. Prizes

Specify all prizes with value, description and categories. List on Page 6, and attach entry form.

10. Licences

All competitors must have a current Fish and Game New Zealand trout fishing licence. Please indicate when this will be checked;

- ☐ When registering for the competition,
- ☐ At the weigh-in,
- ☐ Other, please specify...

11. Resource Rental Fees

(With reference to the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, Amendment No. 9.)

Are Competitors charged a fee or a donation specified to enter the Competition?

☐ **No**

If there is no entry fee or donation specified or charged, the Resource Consent Fee payable to Hawkes Bay Fish and Game prior to the Competition, is a total of \$10.00.

Bank Account number : 030415 0543082 00

☐ **Yes And if so what is the entry fee? _____**

If an entry fee is charged or donation specified for competitors, the Resource Consent Fee, payable to Hawkes Bay Fish and Game prior to the Competition, is \$40.00. An additional levy per entrant who has payed an entry fee is payable at a rate of \$5.00 per adult (18 years and over) and \$2.00 per junior angler (aged under 18 years).

11. Competition Rules (list or include a copy of rules)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8.

9.

10.

Details of Prizes offered;

Description of Prize;

Prize value;

Prize Category;

1.....

.....

.....

2.....

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3.....

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4.....

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5.....

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6.....

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7.....

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9.....

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10.....

If you have further questions please contact Hawkes Bay Fish and Game for clarification before holding the competition.

Applicants signature..... Date.....

Office Use:

Date application received.....

Competition Permit No.....

Resource Consent Fees Paid

☐ \$10.00 ☐ \$40.00

☐ **Additional levies paid**

\$5 per adult_____ **\$**_____

\$2 per junior_____ **\$**_____

Total Paid **\$**_____

☐ **Data Sheets received**



NEW ZEALAND

Hawkes Bay Region

Fishing Competition Permit Application

1. Name and address of permit holder:

Name: Nathan Pollard
 Organisation: Sports FI Fishing Association
 Postal Address: 3 Bisley way Tauranga
 Contact phone number during the day: 021 145 8616
 Email address: napollard.sa@gmail.com

2. Lakes/ Rivers to be included for the competition:

Twin Lakes Hawkes Bay

3. Competition Dates and Times;

Starting Date -8/02/2025 Finishing Date -8/02/2025

Starting time -7am Finishing Time -6pm

4. Weigh-in venue and Times

All fish are measured and released by the competition controller

An experienced angler is required to record details of fish caught;

Name; Nathan Pollard.....

Contact Phone Number (daytime): 021 145 8616

5. Competition Purpose

(a) The purpose of the competition being;

- ☐ Social gathering of friends/club members
- ☐ Local/regional promotion
- ☐ Fund-raising
- ☒ Other, please specify: regional lake competition for Sports Fly New Zealand (recreational)

(b) The Competition will be restricted to one of the following

- ☐ Invited guests of.....
- ☒ Club members of: Sports Fly New Zealand
- ☐ Open to the public

6. Number of competitors.

Approximately how many competitors will there be;

- ☒ Less than 20: yes less than 20
- ☐ Less than 50
- ☐ Less than 100.

Please note: All Competitions require the specific approval of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council. Current policy of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council is that there is a maximum of three major competitions (of more than 100 competitors) per annum.

7. Competition Rules

What are the competition rules? Specify and list on Page 5.

- All fish are measured and recorded
- Landed in a landing net
- Caught only by fly on barbless hooks

8. Prizes

Specify all prizes with value, description and categories. List on Page 6, and attach entry form.

9. Licences

All competitors must have a current Fish and Game New Zealand trout fishing licence. Please indicate when this will be checked;

- ☒ When registering for the competition,
- ☐ At the weigh-in,
- ☐ Other, please specify...

10. Resource Rental Fees

(With reference to the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, Amendment No. 9.)

Are Competitors charged a fee or a donation specified to enter the Competition?

- **Yes**

If there is no entry fee or donation specified or charged, the Resource Consent Fee payable to Hawkes Bay Fish and Game prior to the Competition, is a total of \$10.00.

Bank Account number : 030415 0543082 00

- **Yes And if so what is the entry fee? \$45 _____**

If an entry fee is charged or donation specified for competitors, the Resource Consent Fee, payable to Hawkes Bay Fish and Game prior to the Competition, is \$40.00. An additional levy per entrant who has paid an entry fee is payable at a rate of \$5.00 per adult (18 years and over) and \$2.00 per junior angler (aged under 18 years).

11. Competition Rules (list or include a copy of rules)

1. Nameless hooks _____
2. Fishing one rod at a time _____
3. All fish will be released _____
4. All fish will be recorded and measured in a measuring tray _____
5. _____

Details of Prizes offered;

Description of Prize;	Prize value;	Prize Category;
1.....

- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....
- 5.....
- 6.....
- 7.....
- 8.....
- 9.....
- 10.....

If you have further questions please contact Hawkes Bay Fish and Game for clarification before holding the competition.

Applicants signature.....

Date...7/1/2025

SEE ATTACHED

HB F&G 10/1/25

Office Use:

Date application received.....

Competition Permit No.....	
Resource Consent Fees Paid	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00
• Additional levies paid	
\$5 per adult_____	\$_____
\$2 per junior_____	\$_____
Total Paid	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Data Sheets received	

- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....
- 5.....
- 6.....
- 7.....
- 8.....
- 9.....
- 10.....

If you have further questions please contact Hawkes Bay Fish and Game for clarification before holding the competition.

Applicants signature.....

Date...7/1/2025

Office Use:

Date application received.....

6

Hawkes Bay Fish and Game - Fishing Competition Policy and Applications -
3.08.02

John Lumsden

From: npollard.nz@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, 10 January 2025 12:27 pm
To: John Lumsden
Subject: Twin lakes

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi John this is the signature for the last page.

I'd also like to say Sport Fly New Zealand will consider local fisherman/woman and have a selected area that they could fish if they turn up on the day of the competition.

Kind regards

Nathan Pollard

Operations report

Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council Meeting Tuesday 21st January 2025

Prepared by: Kerry Meehan

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. To provide an update to the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council (HBFGC) of staff activities since the last council meeting.

Financial considerations

☐ Nil
 ☒ Budgetary provision
 ☐ Unbudgeted

Risk

☒ Low
 ☐ Medium
 ☐ High
 ☐ Extreme

Ngā taunaki – HBFGC Manager Recommendations

2. The HBFGC Manager recommends that the HBFGC:
 - a. Receive the information

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

3. The Operations Report is provided at each HBFGC meeting in order to keep the Council updated on the activities of the operational team over the period since the last council meeting.
4. The Operations Report provides an opportunity for Council to discuss any matters arising through the implementation of the annual operational work program, including delivery of key project, and the development of key relationships between staff and our wider communities including any collaborative initiatives and opportunities.

Takenga mai – Background

5. The HBFGC annual operational work program is split into project clusters, that have staff and direct costs apportioned against, staff hours are recorded against these project clusters. The aim of this report is to provide a summary of staff

activities, so councillors are kept informed and have the opportunity to seek further information and where necessary to provide input.

Kōrerorero – Discussion

6. The following Operations Report is a summary of staff activities since the last council meeting up to 7 January 2025.

Species Management		
Code	Project	Discussion
1111	River Investigations	Upper Tutaekuri – visited whilst ranging, some small fish seen and caught by anglers
		Request from Paddy Clarke for fish release into Mangaone river – staff to visit river through his private access, hopefully complete prior to council meeting.
		Staff visited the Waipawa/ Manganuku junction to rescue trapped trout following up on a report received via the local angling club, overnight rain had raised river levels to the point they were able to escape – great to have this information being passed on.
1118	Aerial surveys	Aerial paradise duck and swan counts - Weather dependant bookings made in conjunction with Wellington F&G
1161	Fish Liberations	300 rainbow trout collected by HB team from Eastern F&G
1172	Gamebird Regulations	A discussion / feedback document was prepared and emailed to all license holders, 4 local shooters groups/ associations, the Poukawa B13 Hapu group and a representative from Brownrigg Agriculture. This has also been posted this on our website, and a brief summary on our Facebook page is linked to the document.
1181	Gamebird Control	Many requests from growers & pest controllers for permits to disturb. As per recommendations from Ritchie – sites require actual site visit prior to issuing permit. Pukeko – 4 sites visited and permits issued to disturb. Paradise ducks - 3 sites visited and permits issued to disturb
Habitat Protection & Maintenance		
1211	RMA Planning	Staff & NZC staff have been liaising with experts and lawyers to present evidence at hearing for the Tranche 2 appeal. Awaiting verdict.
1212	Consent Applications	Weekly reports received from HBRC on consent applications, reviewed by staff
1231	Maintain & Enhance Gamebird Habitat	Several new wetland projects under investigation/ discussion. The possibility of GBHT application for Lake Runanga at early stages.
1311	Maintain & enhance access	Old sign removed from Smalls Farm access point – replaced with ‘Licensed angler access only signs’ HB F&G now hold gate keys. Walker road- ongoing legal issue stalling progress - hopeful that HBRC will have this sorted and fencing completed soon so gate can be opened.
Participation		
1314	Walking access	Initial meeting with new walking access NZ local representative, to follow up on some specific sites, ideally prior to council meeting.
1331	Newsletters Electronic	Fishing reports sent to current database via Mailchimp on 22/11, 29/11 & 6/12 with an average 60% open rate. Reel life sent 19/12.

1333	F&G Website/Facebook	Regularly updated where required.
1352	Angler/Hunter Training	Cncr Morgan has expressed an interest in running a Mens beginner course and will work with staff in the new year to organise details.
1361	Fish & Game Club communications	Ongoing with Hastings anglers regarding river health checks.
1371	Fish & Game Hut	The hut has been fully booked over the xmas/new year period. More social media promotions planned to encourage more bookings over the summer.
Public Interface		
1441	Public Promotions	<p>A Christmas licence giveaway promotion was run through social media in December with people being asked to nominate someone to win one of 3 family or 3 individual licences being given away on 23rd Dec. 105 entries were received with many people sharing stories of their nominees' difficulties through the year and why they deserved to win including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It's been a rough year for my whanau. Overcoming mental health struggles and family stress. I would love to get my family out on the rivers to decompress and reconnect with nature and each other. This would help a lot.</i> • <i>This family are passionate fishing enthusiasts only taking what they need and after losing everything in cyclone are getting back on their feet</i> • <i>This woman been through heaps this year with her crones disease and she still manages to do her job as a kindergarten teacher and an awesome mother and a super amazing partner she is a dedicated fisho both fresh and saltwater but as her bills cost more than her pay packet she has had to miss out on a new season licence so it would be an awesome gift for her this year 😊</i> <p>And many more similar experiences, highlighting what a difficult year it was for many.</p>
1452	Game Farm Operations	Weed control is a major focus and maintenance of new plantings. Some tree removal with trees being damaged after high winds. Fence work to secure a damaged area along the pathway.
Compliance		
1511	Ranging	<p>Staff and honorary rangers have been out around the region over the Christmas break. No offences have been reported, but two incidents have been notified to staff. One from Police responding to possible poaching & trespassing of someone fishing the Makahu river. One from member of the public encountering a group possibly fishing without a licence and over the bag limit on the Okoeke stream at our norther border. Staff are following up and will respond.</p> <p>A total of 84 fishing contacts recorded so far, many more 'calling cards' left on vehicles, access points including Mangatutu Hotsprings, Pakatutu, Ripia, Waipunga, Glenfalls, Kuripapango, Whanawhana, Ohiti, Tutaekuri and various CHB sites being ranged.</p>
Administration		
1923	Staff Training	John successfully completed an electro fishing course with NIWA Hamilton
1930	Onsite house	The increase in rent to \$1100/fortnight was implemented from the 20 th December. Some

		maintenance work has been identified and staff are working with the tenants to remedy. Major work may include replacing the gutters and upgrading the fire to ensure house meets healthy homes standards.
--	--	---

Ngā kōwhiringa - Options

7. The Council may either accept the paper as read or seek further information via the manager.

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision-making

Financial Implications

8. NA - Please see accounts and sales reports

Legislative Implications

9. NA

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

10. Discussed in the table above where appropriate. HBFGC has section obligations under the Conservation Act in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Policy Implications

11. Discussed in the table above where appropriate

Risks and mitigations

12. NA

Consultation

13. Implementation of annual work program as approved by HBFGC.

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next actions

14. If agreed, the council will take the content as read.
15. If further information is required, this will be identified as an action and provided as appropriate.
16. Items that require a council vote will have a specific paper provided at the next council meeting.

LICENCE SALES REPORT

6 January 2024

1. 2024-2025 Fish Licence Sales

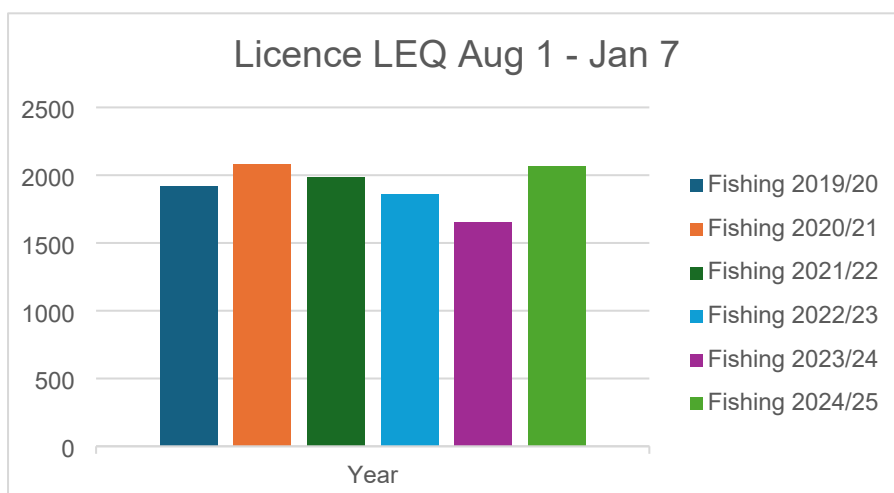
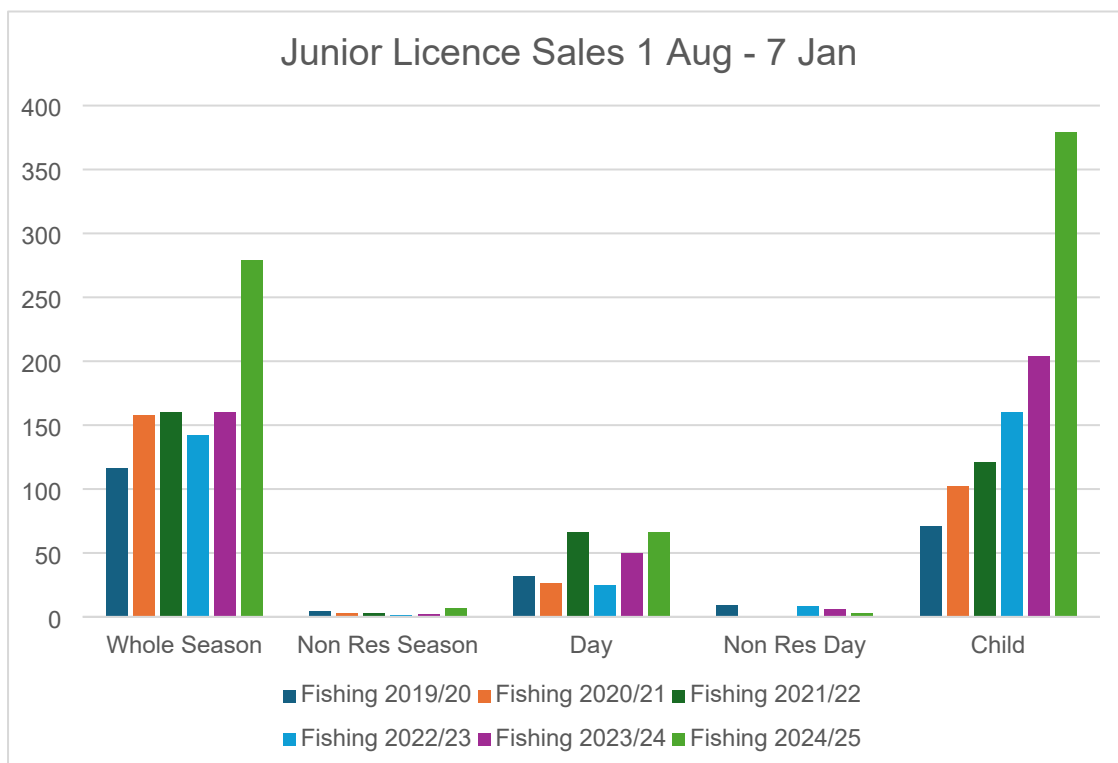
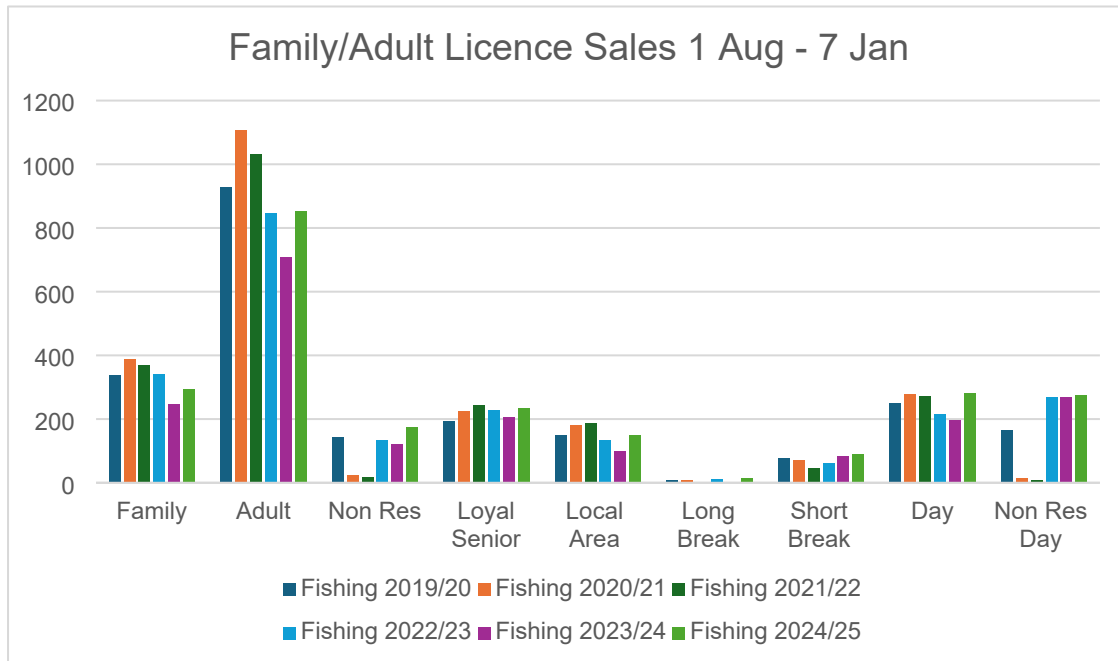
- 1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2024-25 season compared with the 2023-24 season to 5 January 2025 are summarised in Table One.
- 1.2 Fish licence sales are reporting to be 25% (409 LEQ's) ahead of the 2023-24 season results for the same period.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2024-25 vs 2023-24 YTD results to 5 January 2025

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2023-24	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2024-25	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family	101	189	290	93	150	243	47
Season	322	523	845	318	388	706	139
Season Non-Resident	62	107	169	40	76	116	53
Loyal Senior	124	109	233	120	85	205	28
Local Area	68	80	148	47	50	97	51
Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winter Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Break	4	10	14	0	3	3	11
Adult	16	70	86	11	72	83	3
Short Break	16	70	86	11	72	83	3
Adult	75	204	279	36	151	187	92
Day	75	204	279	36	151	187	92
Day Non-Resident	138	117	255	126	136	262	-7
Total Adult	910	1409	2319	522	764	1,286	417
Fish Junior							
Season	79	199	278	51	108	159	119
Season Non-Resident	1	6	7	1	1	2	5
Day	10	56	66	5	43	48	18
Day Non-Resident	1	2	3	5	1	6	-3
Total Junior	91	263	354	62	153	215	139
Fish Child							
Season	62	313	375	23	177	200	175
Non-Resident	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Child	63	313	375	23	177	200	175
Total Fish	1064	1985	3,048	607	1094	1,701	731
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			2240			1,632	608
Variance between Seasons							25.00%
\$ (excl GST)			\$276,829			\$217,125	\$59,704

Summary 2024-2025 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2024-25 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	2,240	100.00%	\$301,191
2024-25 Actual	2,041	91.10%	\$276,829
Variance to budget	199	8.90%	\$24,362



FINANCE REPORT - 10th JANUARY 2025

Ref: 8.03.01

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the YTD financial position as at 30th November 2024 and approve payments for the month of November 2024.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Other Income
Table 2	Cash Position
Table 3	Aged Receivables Summary
Table 4	Profit and Loss
Table 5	Balance Sheet
Table 6	Bank Account Payments
Table 7	Credit Card Transactions

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 30th November 2024 is provided in Table 4. This report documents the income and expenditure for the third month of the 2025 financial year.

Summary

With licence revenue greater than expenditure a net profit of \$62,489 is reported YTD against a budgeted loss of -\$16,316.

Income

Licence Sales

Fish licence revenue YTD is \$222,636 compared with to an YTD budget of \$160,000. Sales are significantly higher than for the same period last season (\$157,479) following the recovery from cyclone Gabrielle. A more up to date picture of licence sales performance can be found within the licence sales report.

Other Income

The negative -\$381 shown under interest income relates to 2023-24 end of year accruals and this will return to positive figures when monthly interest accruals are introduced for the next finance report

Table 1: Other Income	Total YTD Actual	Total YTD Budget	Total Budget
Glen Falls Hut	\$1,009	\$500	\$1,500
Gain on Sale (Sale of Ford Ute)	\$8,417	\$8,417	\$8,417
Game Farm & Promotional Income	\$4,334	\$2,001	\$8,000
Take a Kid fishing Day	\$223	\$0	\$0
Sundry Income	\$233	\$0	\$0
Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0
Meeting Room Hire	\$304	\$750	\$2,000
Rental Income	\$5,400	\$5,850	\$23,400
Interest Income	-\$381	-\$1,500	\$35,630
Total	\$19,538	\$16,018	\$78,947

Expenditure

Total expenditure to 30 November 2024 was \$179,686, being 26% of budgeted total expenditure for the 2024-25 financial year. Material variances include:

- 1210 - Resource Management Act: \$8,369 under YTD budget.
- 1450 - Visitor Facility: \$12,536 under YTD budget.
- 1910 – Salaries: \$8,375 over YTD budget.
- 1990 – Vehicles: \$5,514 over YTD budget due to the purchase of a new ute and it's associated on-road costs. This variance is offset by the gain on sale of the old ute (under other income)

3. Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2024 is shown in Table 5 and compares the YTD position with the previous 3 months.

Table 2: Cash Position as at 30 November 2024

Category	Balance	Notes
Petty Cash	\$678	
Transactional Account	\$37,484	
Online Call Account	\$85,300	
Term Deposits	\$561,761	
Donation Accounts	\$73,398	Includes \$1,701 on-call and a \$71,697 term deposit
Total	\$758,621	

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$103,077 as at 30th November 2024 (refer Table 4)

Table 3: Aged Receivables Summary Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council As at 30 November 2024 Ageing by due date							
Contact	Current	< 1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	Older	Total
EYEDE SOLUTIONS - DD	101,687.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	101,687.10
Napier City Council DD	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	460.00	0.00	460.00
Porritt Primary School	930.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	930.00
Total	102,617.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	460.00	0.00	103,077.10
Percentage of total	99.55%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.45%	0.00%	100.00%

4. Variance Report

Variances reports to be reported quarterly.

Table 4: Profit and Loss

Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council For the 3 months ended 30 November 2024

	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET REMAINING	ANNUAL BUDGET % REMAINING
Income						
Licence Income						
Fish Licence Income	222,636	160,000	62,636	303,861	81,225	27%
Game Licence Income	-	-	-	160,902	160,902	100%
Total Licence Income	222,636	160,000	62,636	464,763	242,127	52%
Other Income	19,538	16,018	3,520	78,947	59,409	75%
Total Income	242,174	176,018	66,156	543,710	301,536	55%
Operating Expenses						
Depreciation	6,508	6,666	(158)	26,666	20,158	76%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT						
1110 Population Monitoring	-	3,700	(3,700)	28,000	28,000	100%
1120 Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	100%
1160 Releases	1,223	-	1,223	1,500	277	18%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	1,223	3,700	(2,477)	31,500	30,277	96%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION MANAGEMENT						
1210 Resource Management Act	28,631	37,000	(8,369)	42,000	13,369	32%
1220 Works & Management	-	250	(250)	2,300	2,300	100%
1230 Assisted Habitat	115	1,499	(1,384)	6,000	5,885	98%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION MANAGEMENT	28,746	38,749	(10,003)	50,300	21,554	43%
1300 PARTICIPATION						
1310 Access	33	1,200	(1,167)	5,000	4,967	99%
1330 Newsletters	390	801	(411)	3,500	3,110	89%
1340 Informational Publications	-	1,000	(1,000)	2,000	2,000	100%
1350 Angler & Hunter Training	418	1,149	(731)	4,500	4,082	91%
1360 Club Relations	-	-	-	200	200	100%
1370 Fish & Game Huts	194	200	(6)	500	306	61%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	1,034	4,350	(3,316)	15,700	14,666	93%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE						
1440 Public Promotions	1,059	1,000	59	4,000	2,941	74%
1450 Visitor Facility	3,964	16,500	(12,536)	64,000	60,036	94%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	5,023	17,500	(12,477)	68,000	62,977	93%
1500 COMPLIANCE						
1510 Ranging	31	400	(369)	1,500	1,469	98%
1520 Ranger Training	-	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	1,000	100%
1530 Compliance/Prosecutions	-	200	(200)	1,000	1,000	100%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	31	1,600	(1,569)	3,500	3,469	99%

Table 4: Profit and Loss

	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET REMAINING	ANNUAL BUDGET % REMAINING
1600 LICENSING						
1620 Agent Servicing	-	-	-	100	100	100%
1630 Commission	7,284	6,400	884	18,591	11,307	61%
Total 1600 LICENSING	7,284	6,400	884	18,691	11,407	61%
1700 COUNCILS						
1710 Council Elections	-	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	1,000	100%
1720 Council Meetings	1,692	300	1,392	1,500	(192)	-13%
Total 1700 COUNCILS	1,692	1,300	392	2,500	808	32%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING						
1830 Reporting/Audit	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	100%
1840 National Liaison	13,252	13,252	-	53,109	39,857	75%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	13,252	13,252	-	61,109	47,857	78%
1900 ADMINISTRATION						
1910 Salaries	92,525	84,150	8,375	355,090	262,565	74%
1920 Staff Expenses	2,482	1,700	782	9,500	7,018	74%
1930 Staff Houses	1,968	1,900	68	7,700	5,732	74%
1940 Office Premises	2,988	1,600	1,388	6,800	3,812	56%
1950 Office Equipment	431	700	(269)	2,700	2,269	84%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,948	2,300	(352)	9,700	7,752	80%
1970 General	2,233	2,056	177	8,000	5,767	72%
1980 General Equipment	2,092	1,700	392	7,100	5,008	71%
1990 Vehicles	8,225	2,711	5,514	14,100	5,875	42%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	114,892	98,817	16,075	420,690	305,798	73%
Total Operating Expenses	179,686	192,334	(12,648)	698,656	518,970	74%
Net Profit	62,489	(16,316)	78,805	(154,946)	(217,435)	140%

Table 3: Balance Sheet

Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council As at 30 November 2024

	31 AUG 2024	30 NOV 2024
Assets		
Bank		
Westpac Call Account	84,836	85,300
Westpac Current Account	107,249	37,484
Donation Account	72,321	73,398
Westpac Mastercard K Meehan	770	-
Petty Cash	10	678
Total Bank	265,186	196,860
Current Assets		
Debtors & prepayments		
Accounts Receivable	44,561	103,077
Accounts Receivable - External/Staff	-	(17)
Interest Accrued & Prepayments	22,090	47,314
GST	24,063	-
Total Debtors & prepayments	90,714	150,374
Investments	557,211	561,761
Farmlands Shares	1,835	1,835
Total Current Assets	649,760	713,970
Fixed Assets	393,886	425,354
Total Assets	1,308,833	1,336,184
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Accounts Payable	117,846	45,509
Accrued Expenses	87,027	104,942
Income in Advance	31,703	23,941
GST	-	15,448
Westpac Mastercard K Meehan	-	669
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	236,576	190,509
Employee costs payable	25,666	36,051
Rounding	-	-
Designated Waters Clearing	-	527
Salmon Card	-	17
Total Current Liabilities	262,242	227,104
Total Liabilities	262,242	227,104
Net Assets	1,046,591	1,109,079

Table 3: Balance Sheet

	31 AUG 2024	30 NOV 2024
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	887,531	865,961
Current Year Earnings	(37,677)	62,489
Transfer To/From Reserves	16,107	-
Total Accumulated Funds	865,961	928,450
Dedicated Reserves		
Asset Replacement Reserve	52,770	52,770
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	86,492	86,492
Hawke's Bay Pheasants Unlimited	1,647	1,647
River/Water Quality Donations	39,721	39,721
Total Dedicated Reserves	180,630	180,630
Total Equity	1,046,591	1,109,079

5. Bank Account Payments

Bank and credit card transactions for the period 1st to 30th November 2024 are shown on Tables 6 and 7.

Table 6: Westpac Current Account Transactions

Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council

For the period 1 November 2024 to 30 November 2024

Date	Description	Payment Amount
04 Nov 2024	Payment: Davy Jones	79.99
04 Nov 2024	Payment: Davy Jones	65.00
04 Nov 2024	Payment: Aranatui B&B	130.00
04 Nov 2024	Generated by Xero Payroll	7,180.71
04 Nov 2024	Payment: New Zealand Fish and Game Council	6,516.67
06 Nov 2024	Payment: Cardlink Systems DD	705.23
11 Nov 2024	Payment: One New Zealand Group DD	370.59
15 Nov 2024	Westpac	45.28
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Stoney Creek	264.17
18 Nov 2024	Payment: New Zealand Fish and Game Council	31,798.91
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Harvest Alarms Ltd	1,242.00
18 Nov 2024	Payment: HB Embroidery	46.00
18 Nov 2024	Payment: EYEDE SOLUTIONS - DD	1,060.00
18 Nov 2024	Inland Revenue Department	391.30
18 Nov 2024	Generated by Xero Payroll	7,413.03
18 Nov 2024	Payment: OfficeMax	147.80
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Paula Burden	300.00
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Mitre 10 Mega Napier	47.97
18 Nov 2024	Payment: New Zealand Fish and Game Council	17.50
18 Nov 2024	Payment: New Zealand Fish and Game Council	1,291.35
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Hothouse Communications Limited	107.32
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Grocom Landscape Supplies	132.00
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Inviewprint Ltd	268.04
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Archie Reisima	540.00
18 Nov 2024	Inland Revenue Department	6,865.29
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Ngahere Ltd	875.99
18 Nov 2024	Payment: Toyota NZ	60,492.35
18 Nov 2024	Payment: New Zealand Fish and Game Council	6,516.67
20 Nov 2024	Payment: FujiFilm DD	197.42
20 Nov 2024	Payment: Frank Energy DD	475.42
20 Nov 2024	Payment: Napier City Council DD	1,398.95
27 Nov 2024	Payment: Davy Jones	75.34
27 Nov 2024	Payment: Davy Jones	284.98
27 Nov 2024	Payment: Biomar Pty Ltd	2,297.06
27 Nov 2024	Payment: HD Process NZ Ltd	51.75
29 Nov 2024	BOL Monthly Charges	9.56
Total		139,701.64

Table 7: Westpac Mastercard K Meehan Transactions

Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council

For the period 1 November 2024 to 30 November 2024

Date	Description	Payment Amount
01 Nov 2024	Payment: HB Hamills NZ	100.00
04 Nov 2024	Payment: Mailchimp	97.75
06 Nov 2024	Payment: Hatuma Cafe	11.50
06 Nov 2024	Payment: Hatuma Cafe	21.00
11 Nov 2024	Payment: Church Road Winery	200.00
11 Nov 2024	Payment: Campaign Monitor	48.00
12 Nov 2024	Payment: New World Greenmeadows	173.23
12 Nov 2024	Payment: NZ Post Limited	7.80
21 Nov 2024	Payment: 123 Repairs Repairs & Spairs	129.00
27 Nov 2024	Annual Card Fee	50.00
27 Nov 2024	Payment: John Lumsden	375.36
27 Nov 2024	Payment: John Lumsden	28.90
28 Nov 2024	Payment: John Lumsden	25.98
Total		1,268.52

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 That the payments for 1st November to 30th November 2024 totalling \$140,970.16 be approved.

Current Account – November 2024	\$139,701.64
Credit Card (KM) – November 2024	\$1,268.52
Total	<u>\$140,970.16</u>

Action List

Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council

As of: 9 Jan 2025

Provide Feedback

Done

Feedback on the Meeting and Budget timetable is required by 29th November 2024.

Regional Councils need to set meeting dates for the 2024 25 year at times that ensure a Region can meet and respond to Consultation. The Regions must hold a meeting between 16th April and 29th May 2025 to give feedback to the NZC by 30 May on the licence fee proposals, Angler Notice & SLFFN, Designated waters proposals and sea-run salmon limit changes.

Due Date: 29 Nov 2024

Owner: Bruce Bates

Meeting: 24 Sept 2024 HB Fish & Game Council Meeting, 2.2 2024/25 MEETING & BUDGET SCHEDULE

2025 Gamebird Regulations

In Progress

Staff need to propose 2025 regulations at Dec meeting. Request licence holder feedback and discussions on time limits for hunting.

HBFGC propose 6.15am-6.30pm

Changes to swan, staff to do more population monitoring & liaise with other regions on population status. Report back to Council at next meeting.

Pukeko, staff provide report to council on population monitoring & recommendations on solutions to issues being raised.

Bowcock, is horseshoe lake being studied? Provide historical data before next meeting.

Due Date: 10 Dec 2024

Owner: John Lumsden

Meeting: 12 Nov 2024 HB Fish & Game Council Meeting, 3.2 Gamebird Regulations

Staff Follow Ups

In Progress

Bowcock - Staff to follow up with HBRC on predator control traps.

Report back to council on PD workers.

Access point issues, matariki forest, walker road, staff in discussions with HBRC. Tukituki access points Smalls and Rowe road.

Add an access report to operations report. Staff bring paper to next council meeting.

Due Date: 10 Dec 2024

Owner: Corina Jordan

Meeting: 12 Nov 2024 HB Fish & Game Council Meeting, 3.3 Operations Report

Huia loan

In Progress

Staff investigate options for loaning for a museum and bring a paper back to next council meeting.

Due Date: 10 Dec 2024

Owner: Kerry Meehan

Meeting: 12 Nov 2024 HB Fish & Game Council Meeting, 4.3 Huia Update

R3 Strategy

Not Started

Recirculate paper on R3

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025

Owner: Corina Jordan

Meeting: 10 Dec 2024 HBFGC Meeting December, 1.9 Hawkes Bay Risk Register

Update risk register

In Progress

Manager to review and update the risk register to be more regionally specific.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025

Owner: Corina Jordan

Meeting: 10 Dec 2024 HBFGC Meeting December, 1.9 Hawkes Bay Risk Register

Councillors complete declaration

In Progress

All Councillors to complete the Material Interests Declaration and submit to the Chairman.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025

Owners: Bruce Bates, Corina Jordan

Meeting: 10 Dec 2024 HBFGC Meeting December, 2.1 Conflict of Interest Policy

Hawkes Bay Standing Orders

Not Started

Review Standing Orders document is relevant to Hawkes Bay and recirculate to Council before next meeting.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025

Owners: Corina Jordan, Kerry Meehan

Meeting: 10 Dec 2024 HBFGC Meeting December, 2.2 Letter of Expectations

.410 steel shot option

Not Started

.410 steelshot - staff to consult on more affordable options for hunters.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025

Owner: John Lumsden

Meeting: 10 Dec 2024 HBFGC Meeting December, 2.3 Proposed Gamebird Regulations 2025

Vaulation policy

Not Started

Manager to talk to NZC interim chief financial offer on value assets and draft policy. And financial repercussions on maintaining low valuations or high.

Due Date: 21 Jan 2025

Owner: Corina Jordan

Meeting: 10 Dec 2024 HBFGC Meeting December, 3.2 Finance Reports

Electoral Roll

Not Started

Manager to NZC re-investgate that all licence should be automatically enrolled on the electoral roll when purchasing a licence.

Due Date: 17 Feb 2025
Owner: Corina Jordan
Meeting: 12 Nov 2024 HB Fish & Game Council Meeting, 4.1 General business

To : H. B. Fish and Game Council

Napier

From: Paddy Clark

Orangimaru Forest

1246 Poihipi Rd

Taupo

REQUEST FOR TROUT RE ESTABLISHMENT MANGAONE RIVER

Dear Sirs;

I would like the HB F and Game Council to consider and initiate a liberation of trout this season into the Mangaone R.

As you will be well aware the HB rivers received a massive battering as a result of Feb 2023 Cyclone Gabrielle, and the Mangaone suffered hugely – probably as bad as any other waterway or even worse!

I have been monitoring the Mangaone frequently once we were able to restore foot access to the river some 6 weeks after Gabrielle and now that we have finally been able to restore vehicle access during the last 3 months have been visiting the river almost weekly.

I measured a 26 foot Gabrielle flood peak on our Mangaone property and once the water levels dropped the once lovely freestone Mangaone was drastically altered and no longer the lovely trout stream it once was. I know that each one of you Councilors will know similar streams and what I had observed post Gabrielle and you will no doubt be able to relate to the Mangaone situation .

The Mangaone up until about May 2024 was:

Flood level lines strewn with streamside flood debris – mainly big mature kanuka

Vegetation stripped from river terraces

Heaps of raw slips

Pools filled with gravel

Runs graded with fine gravel and overlaid with silt – no freestone rocks

River timber obstruction which made good trout habitat were completely missing – cleaned out

No nymphs

Water carried high concentrations of sediment – not at all clear

No sign of fish whatsoever.

During May 2024 on a clearer water day we observed a single sighting of a gathering of 3 x 6 inch trout . This sighting was wonderful !

Our jubilation was blunted somewhat when a lone shag flew past. At least we thought the shag wasn't there for nothing and at last the wild trout were making a comeback to the Mangaone.

During the last 4 months up until this time of writing we have not seen a single trout or for that matter a bloody shag either!

The river has changed remarkably since May :

The river is losing sediment following each high water event and the nymph life slowly came back

Pools started to form

Sediment started to disappear and what were once historical runs were now showing as predominantly fine gravel but some short sections of free stone runs are forming

Nymph life is increasing remarkably and in my opinion could support a fish population.

NO TROUT.

One week ago I walked about 3 km of river with the clearest water since Gabrielle with good visibility and there was no trout seen at all – or shags for that matter!

Our Mangaone neighbour also checked out the river further upstream and saw no fish either.

I am no fish biologist but have been at times a very intense angler since 1987 and have concentrated on HB back country streams during this last 37 years and I have never seen such low fish populations .

I firmly believe that the Mangaone deserves a liberation of trout in a bid to hasten the hoped for wild recovery that is hoped will happen sometime in the uncertain future .

I realise that the Fand G policy does not normally encompass the liberation of trout into streams and that present thinking is to let streams restock themselves.

I know I am only repeating what you already know BUT Gabrielle caused exceptional stream degradation and I was running around the hills and was seeing the HB rivers first hand during Cyclone Bola and Bernie and they weren't as bad as Gabrielle.

I believe there is a case for at least trying a restocking liberation of trout into the Mangaone as soon as possible .

We, and F + G are well aware that the stock of fish remaining in the Tutaekuri which normally could be hoped to provide some distant restock relief for the Mangaone are no longer there in any numbers at all. I think that Mangaone natural restocking could well be years away.

I think that it could be a good idea to restock the Mangaone at this time even as a practical experiment in modern times to revitalize back country stream fishing . We are bombarded with predictions of extreme weather events recurring in the near future and no doubt HB could well cop it again.

I believe the Mangaone is ideal for a restocking for some of the following reasons which will be of advantage for a successful operation

The Mangaone is rapidly healing

The river will now be able to support a trout population

We own a Patoka property which bounds the river and the neighbour, on the other side is fully supportive of a restocking operation . He also is an angler.

Since 1997 when we purchased our Mangaone property we have never ever knowingly killed a fish in the Mangaone and the neighbour since his arrival some 8 years ago hasn't killed a fish either . We believe that a trout liberation in waters adjacent to our properties can at least be looked after to a certain extent by ourselves from unwanted behaviour.

Liberated fish will of course move up or down the Mangaone and this movement will of course happen, but at least in the early period following liberation they can have some protection and hopefully they could establish in the vicinity.

There is a spawning tributary on our place and also a spawning stream on the neighbours.. Mind you to my untrained eye there is so much fine gravel about now post Gabrielle in the main Mangaone that spawning sites could be abundant . I have checked our spawning stream and there has been NO activity since Gabrielle.

In conclusion I would like to ask the HB F+ G council to discuss the possibility of allowing and initiating and planning restocking of the Mangaone and we are prepared to help out with all facets of such a venture where we can, including perhaps some financial help in purchasing stock from a suitable hatchery. We realise that any surviving fingerling released from our dual properties will hopefully recolonize the whole of the Mangaone and subsequently elsewhere.

I hope that the Council will consider this request and I am happy to attend in person any F + G discussion you might have about the hoped for liberation.

I have already had a telephone discussion with a HB staff member Mr.. John Lumsden following an introductory approach to Mr. Bruce Bates. John displayed some interest and I have already extended an invitation if he would like to come on out for a riverside visit if the council should think there is some merit in the request and would perhaps entertain some progression.

Thank you and awaiting your reply

Paddy Clark

(027 2301099)

From: John Lumsden
Sent: Thursday, 9 January 2025 1:05 pm
To: paddy.clark@xtra.co.nz
Cc: Corina Jordan <cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: FW: Request for trout release Mangaone River

Good afternoon Paddy.

I hope this finds you well .

Thank you for your letter dated 24th September 2024. First of all, I wish to apologise for the delay in replying to your email. We have been going through a period of changes in staff and updating and reviewing our procees and operations.

Our staff and council have discussed the possibility of releasing trout into some of our smaller single stem northern rivers, as well as the Tutaekuri and Mangaone on several occasions .

There are a number of matters we need to consider before approval any releases. Our councils initial concern was whether the environment in these rivers and streams would be suitable to sustain trout, whether they were wild bred or released. We also have national policy that needs to be considered, along with te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations under section 4 of the Conservation Act.

Most of these waterways have been hugely modified by Cyclone Gabrielle, there was significantly higher levels of turbidity for extended periods, less good holding water, little or no riverside vegetation remaining and a massive reduction in instream insect life, the question of "would you try and graze a mob of sheep on a bare dirt paddock' was an analogy used on several occasions.

As a staff member and keen angler, myself, I have undertaken many river assessments post Cyclone Gabrielle, and my view is that the degree of impact that Cyclone Gabrielle had on the Esk and

Tutaekuri catchments was many times more significant than Cyclone Bola. Trout mortality was high, though there has been some recovery. I was initially concerned by the loss of riverside vegetation, the masking of gravels and stones by silt and minimal nymph life under stones, I now believe these rivers are healing with time, and the substrate is improving, as are the nymph populations.

There has been much debate in Fish and Game nationally regarding the release of hatchery raised trout into rivers over recent years.

The consensus is we should not be releasing trout into a catchment where there is opportunity for natural recruitment, many argue that releasing hatchery reared trout will reduce genetic diversity, and others argue that the introduced genetics will mask and nullify some of the evolved characteristics in a particular catchment.

We have increasing pushback against releasing an introduced species that may compete with or predate upon native species and many now see consultation with local Iwi as a prerequisite to any potential release.

As an organisation we believe that most catchments should repopulate over time, however we acknowledge that Cyclone Gabrielle has had a massive impact on some of our river fisheries, we also acknowledge the concerns of anglers such as yourself that ask the question "How much time will that take and why shouldn't we give nature a helping hand by releasing some trout to speed up that process".

We are discussing seeking additional funding, to undertake more research on the rivers in question from an external provider, to better understand these rivers environmental health in the coming year. This information will be extremely useful for staff and council, as we consider our options to maximise opportunity for our license holders, whilst maintaining social license and minimising potential negative impacts.

We are still very keen to access the Mangaone through your property for staff to carry out an initial assessment and for this proposed research.

If there was to be a release of hatchery reared trout into Hawkes Bay waters, Fish and Game HB would have arrange for the supply of fingerling trout from our Eastern Fish and Game region neighbours, as trout can only be sold to another Fish and Game region.

We would like to acknowledge concern and your offers of assistance and are committed to see the Mangaone return to the great fishery it once was, for all our license holder's benefit.

Regards

John Lumsden