

## HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024

#### PRESENT:

Messrs: Bruce Bates (Chair), Greg Duly, Callum Slavin, Blair Slavin,  
Via Zoom Gary Bowcock, Jeff Niblett

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Corina Jordan Regional Manager Kerry Meehan Staff John Lumsden Staff

#### APOLOGIES

Ross McKay, Henry Melville

#### WELCOME

Cr Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting. Noted meeting is being recorded for record keeping purposes

#### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That having previously been circulated to members, the minutes of the meetings of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April are a true and accurate record.

*B Slavin/C Slavin*

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

#### HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

Staff to follow up having rails installed on front and back stairs.

That the Health & Safety report be accepted by Council.

*G Duley/C Slavin*

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

The conflict-of-interest register was signed by all Councillors present.

#### NZC CONSULTATIONS

##### Licence Fee & Forecast for 2024-2025

NZC have opted for no licence fee increase this year as a result of conversations with the Minister of hunting & fishing wouldn't be open to considering licence fee increases until they can see how the organisation is being managed financially and that the licence fee income is being used as efficiently as possible.

NZC have provided a forecast LEQ for the 2024/25 licence sales and consideration of the 2024-25 licence fee. A correction to HB LEQs for this year of 20% was made due to an expected drop in sales due to Cyclone Gabrielle. This has not eventuated as a dry summer has seen good licence sales for the region, and licence sales have surpassed 2022-23 sales of 2300 with YTD 2368 LEQ sales. However HBFGC feel the adjusted figure for 2024-25 of 2240 plus an added 450 LEQ is overly optimistic. Chairman Bates would like to suggest to NZC that this year's levy be adjusted back to reflect the actual sales made this year and the figure of 2240 LEQ be used in next year's budget.

##### Recommendations

Fish Licence Forecasts

HBFGC rejects the adjustment of 450 made to our forecast.

HBFGC accepts the forecast of 2240 Fish LEQs for the 2024-25 season.

HBFGC proposes to refund the difference between actual sales and forecast sales for the 2023-24 financial year.

### ***G Duley/B Slavin***

Game licence forecast

Recommendation

HBFGC accept the forecast of 1667 LEQ for the 2025 season.

### ***G Duley/C Slavin***

## **2024-25 Licence Fee**

### **Recommendation**

HBFGC accepts that the 2024/25 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories. (no change from 2023/24).

The sea run salmon licence endorsement of \$5 (as a cost-recovery mechanism). (no change from 2023/24).

That Designated Waters Licence, as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40. (no change from 2023/24).

### ***B Slavin/C Slavin***

### **Recommendation**

#### **NZFG Licence Forecast LEQ**

HBFGC accepts the licence LEQ of 31340 for Game but request that the organisational LEQ forecast of 72826 for fish be adjusted to reflect the council's position of Hawkes Bay Fish LEQs of 2240

### ***G Duley/C Slavin***

## **Contestable Funding**

HBFGC contestable funding to increase salaries budget by \$54000 was accepted. \$100,000 for the Game Farm was requested to be funded from HB reserves.

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## **Licence Holder Insights Paper**

Research is showing that licence sales are being lost in 25-45 year old bracket not just older licence holders. If parents are not introducing kids to fishing this will also cause negative impacts to sales in the future. Young adults are an increasing demographic in this region. NZC is working through the Rewild campaign to raise the profile of fishing and gamebird hunting using R3 concepts. HB has provided opportunities for fishing education and will extend into the hunting space to provide opportunities for people to learn and experience these activities. Licence sale habits are changing as younger generations are more likely to buy a short break or day licence as opposed to full season licence. Our CRM system cannot track these licence holders if they drop off when having a families etc and whether we gain them back at a latter stage. More research is being done to analyse generational opportunities, especially in the 45 year old age bracket.

Access is also a very important aspect to allowing anglers and hunters easy access to rivers & lakes. Staff need to research easy access points and provide material to older anglers. Also talking to HBRC regarding locked access points.

## **NZC Review of Ranger Policies**

NZC have been consulting with regional experts on ranger SOPs and are recommending minor changes to the ranger policy and establishment of SOPs. Many changes reflect changes to gun laws and increased scrutiny on rangers and risk in relation to the compliance functions of the organisation, undertakes risk to both regional councils and NZC CEO who has specific risk because of the way the statute is framed, and to the NZFGC as well.

## HBFG FEEDBACK

HBFG accept the proposed changes but query the need to have a staff member and honorary ranger out together. It should have more focus on the level of experience of the rangers, whether they be staff or honorary but agree that in Game season rangers should always work in twos, but can be honorary's. For angling compliance rangers are permitted to range alone. Rangers should have a support person who is aware of their movements while ranging.

Cncr Bowcock thinks rangers should be issued with CERT certificates as they are with DOC.

## Anglers Notice

Submissions were reviewed on the proposed changes. Staff recommended that the larger rivers bag limits be increased back to 2 fish and smaller tributaries & streams be kept at 1 as below.

Water	Sections of Water	Open Season	Fishing Method	Daily Bag Limit
All other waters not listed		1 Oct to 30 June	FS	1
Larger of Twin Lakes		All Year	FS	No Limit
<b>All other Lakes</b>		<b>All Year</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>2</b>
Aropaoanui River	Downstream of the Landmark at Wareham Road	All Year	FS	1
Esk River/ Waiohingana	Upstream of Waipunga Road Bridge and all Tribs	1 Oct to 30 June	FS	1
Esk River/ Waiohingana	Downstream of Waipunga Road Bridge	All Year	FS	1
<b>Karamu Stream Excl Tribs</b>		<b>All Year</b>	<b>FSB</b>	<b>2</b>
Maraetotara Stream		All Year	FS	1
Mohaka River and tributaries (excluding Waipunga)	Upstream of the confluence with the Mangatainoka River and all Tributaries excluding Waipunga	1 Oct to 30 June	FS	1
<b>Mohaka River</b>	<b>Downstream of the confluence with the Mangatainoka River to SH5 exc Tribs</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mohaka River</b>	<b>Downstream of SH5 Bridge</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>2</b>
Ngaruroro River and tributaries	Ngaruroro Upstream of Kiwi Creek confluence and all tribs	1 Oct to 30 June	FS	1
Ngaruroro River	From Kiwi Creek to Whanawhana cable excl tribs	All Year	FS	1
<b>Ngaruroro River</b>	<b>Downstream of Whanawhana cable</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Ngaruroro River</b>	<b>Downstream of Fernhill (Omahu) Bridge</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FSB</b>	<b>2</b>
Porangahau River	Downstream of confluence with Mangawhero Stream excl tribs	All Year		1
Tukituki River	Upstream of SH50	1 Oct to 30 June	FS	1
<b>Tukituki River</b>	<b>Downstream of SH50</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tukituki River</b>	<b>Downstream of Red Bridge</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FSB</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tutaekuri River</b>	<b>Downstream of confluence with the Mangaone Stream</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tutaekuri River</b>	<b>Down stream of Redcyffe (Waiohiki) Bridge</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FSB</b>	<b>2</b>
Waipawa River	Upstream of SH50 Bridge	1 Oct to 30 June	FS	1
<b>Waipawa River</b>	<b>Downstream of SH50 Bridge</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Waipunga River</b>	<b>Downstream of the falls incl tribs</b>	<b>All Year</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>2</b>

Proposed Changes - in red

1/ Proposed bag limit number changes, increasing the bag limits in some waters.

2/Proposed change to bait fishing to allow all anglers ( Not just juniors ) in specific parts of the Tuki Tuki, Ngaruroro, and Tutaekuri.

### **Recommendation Bag Limits**

HBFGC support the bag limits as amended above at this meeting for public consultation.

Staff to send updated proposal to angler clubs, licence holder database and stakeholders to further feedback. Submit submissions to HBC for signoff before submitting to NZC.

***B Slavin/C Slavin***

### **Bait Fishing**

HBFGC reviewed submissions and while there is a need to simplify the regulations and help introduce beginners to fishing council appreciate that fly fishing anglers disagree with this idea.

### **Recommendation**

HBFGC recommend bait fishing for all anglers only on:

Ngaruroro downstream of Fernhill bridge

Tutaekuri below Waiohiki bridge

Tukituki downstream of Red bridge

Karamu Stream, excluding tributaries

Staff to send updated proposal to angler clubs, licence holder database and stakeholders to further feedback. Submit submissions to HBC for signoff before submitting to NZC.

***C Slavin/G Duley***

### **Managers Report**

Corina welcomed John to the team and they are working on developing an operational work programme for the SFO position. The current focus is to go out and assess the state of our fisheries and access, and updating our access maps and information, which is also an NZC focus. We need to gain an understanding of where our hunters are hunting so we understand those areas better. Building relationships with our agents, clubs etc. Also to amplify our activities through social media etc.

Another big focus has been on opening weekend operations. Chairman Bates congratulated staff & rangers on the ranging operation over opening weekend and was one of the best opening weekend operations that have been conducted as far as licence holder contacts that were made and licences checked. Teams were out with Police and an operational program was developed and training over 2 pre season sessions with rangers and police. 100% compliance was a great result. No .410 issues were discovered.

### **Recommendation**

HBFGC accepts the management report

***G Duley/ C Slavin***

### **Finance Reports**

#### **Recommendation**

That the payments for 1 February to 31 March totalling 91,796.42 be approved.

Current Account – February 2024	\$43,979.13
Current Account – March 2024	\$44,298.84
Credit Card (CN) – February - March 2024	\$168.75
Credit Card (KM) – February - March 2024	\$3,349.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$91,796.42</b>

***G Duley/B Slavin***

## **Pond Pump**

It has come to staff attention that the pump that feeds the main pond is faulty and is nearing the end of its life, being approx. 40 years old. Staff to obtain 3 quotes and submit to chairman for approval. Council approves Chairman to accept a quote and use reserves to fund the replacement. If Chairman is conflicted he will forward to council on decision.

## **Boardpro**

Manager is investigating a system for board papers using Boardpro. It will be a much easier system to collate numerous papers and present in a more organised manner.

## **Public Enquiry**

Changes to closing time of game bird closing time suggested as hunters are still wanting to be hunting at 6.30 as light allows. This hasn't been done previously as light fade faster as the season goes on. But opening weekend is the main weekend hunters are out. More discussion will be included in next Council meeting.

## **Meeting Closes**

Chairman closed meeting at 8.15pm

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Chairman

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Date