

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024

#### PRESENT:

Messrs: C Slavin (Chair), Melville, B Slavin, Bowcock  
Online via Teams Bates, Niblett, Duley

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Corina Jordan Manager, Kerry Meehan Staff, John Lumsden Staff, Sam Robinson Governance Advisor

#### APOLOGIES

McKay

#### WELCOME

Cr Slavin 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 14 May 2024 are a true and accurate record.

*Bowcock/B Slavin*

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

#### HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

That the Health & Safety report be accepted by Council.  
Bowcock/B Slavin

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

The conflict-of-interest register was signed by all Councillors present. CNCR Niblett declared conflict on gamebird management paper. Sam Robinson declared conflict with Brownrigg regarding Swan Management.

#### NZC Consultations

##### 3.1 NZC Update

CEO Corina Jordan gave an update on licence fees for next season. Minister McLay has approved a \$3 increase to fishing & hunting licences but rejected an increase to designated waters fees. The Minister will only consider changes to regional regulations if there is evidence-based information and adequate consultation on the proposal has been made.

NZC are implementing non-legislative changes from the governmental review. New NZC staff members are working through SOPs & in particular Health & Safety with regional teams meeting regularly. Liabilities sit with CEO, NZC, Councils & Managers. Wildlife & Conservation Act recommendations also being worked through. Minister is reviewing & considering legislative for Fish & Game. Will advise by end of year & go to F&G for a

short consultation process & enacting legislative changes by early 2025. Cncr Bowcock questioned if there would be Iwi consultation? NZC is part of a Fish Futures group which consults with numerous groups lead by Crawthorn institute, including F&G, DOC, mana whenua & other parties to manager freshwater fisheries.

**3.3 Elections.** NZC have provided a timeline for this years election. We can't provide voting packs or electoral packs until we release the call for nominations on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Anyone interested on running council can then request packs and put in nominations. Cncr Bates called for a decision on the number of councillors required for Hawkes Bay.

#### **Recomendation**

That Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council will maintain 12 councillors.

#### ***B Slavin/G Bowcock***

Cncr Bowcock spoke to decision as to whether there should be an Iwi representative on HBFGC. Cncr B Slavin thought it is open to anyone who wants to join council and there are no barriers, and we should be encouraging more diversity across the council. Cncr Bates said we can appoint a representative, but they won't have voting rights.

NZC will publicise the election through socials, emails & traditional media. Regions can supplement with extra promotion. Any councillors not re-running are encouraged to support the region by providing support to encourage others to run.

#### **4.1 Presentation Humphrey Walker – Angler Participation Survey**

Dr Humphrey Walker presented a slide show on the recent survey of fishing licence holders. It provided information on Fly & Spin anglers and what their expectations and experiences have been over the 23/24 season, particularly following the damage to the rivers following cyclone Gabrielle. Dr Walker will provide a final report on the results.

#### **4.2 Gamebird Monitoring**

Manager provided an explanation of the database system that process returned duck bands from hunters. Three systems are utilized within the process. The hunters input their band details into the F&G website, reports are sent to regions who maintain their own database of bands, the region inputs the data and sends email to the hunter with the birds' details. At the end of the season F&G provide a record of those reported bands to Falcon who then enter it into the national DOC band database. Manager questions whether this is an effective use of resources. Cncr B Slavin questioned the importance of banding and why it is done and it's effectiveness of assessing population. Council has been advised in the past that at least 1000 birds need to be banded to make the data statistically significant. Data should be used for setting bag limits & season lengths. NZC are working towards a review of the gamebird monitoring systems and establishing a national basis on which were making our decisions for season length and bag limits. If there isn't information on a population basis that we are using to make those decisions that we can tell the minister why and what other information we are using to make those decisions.

NZC are funding a project to create SOPs for sports fish and gamebird monitoring across the organisation and advise on a national monitoring programme. External experts may be brought in to advise NZC

#### **Recommendation**

Manager will draft a letter from Hawkes Bay to NZ Council to develop a national program for gamebird monitoring within the next 6 months. We would like to be advised on what the best statistical sample is in a way that is robust across the organisation. HBFGC will be committed to implementing this strategy. HBFGC would like to see this work completed by external providers to remove organisation bias. Highlight the urgency on banding information as region will need to decide if banding needs to be done by Christmas.

#### ***H Melville/G Bowcock***

#### **4.3 Anglers Notice 2024-25**

After the last meeting further consultation was made with stakeholders and minor changes were made to the proposed regulations. Those were circulated to council via email from the manager.

### **Recommendation**

Council ratifies the decision made by email after changes made at the last council meeting to the 2024-25 Anglers notice.

*H Melville/ G Bowcock*

#### **4.4a Draft Operational Work Plan**

Manager outlined some amendments to the provided work plan in the agenda. More work has been done on the angler participation including an event with junior hunters, CHB wetland owners and run through NZC to run a competition over 6 months with 2 winners per month who will then be hosted over a weekend over 3 wetlands in CHB. Also, a driven pheasant hunt on preserves aimed at juniors and female hunters for one day events. Andrew Russel has also indicated he would be prepared to run a clay shoot and sponsor each year for junior hunters. Budgets will be adjusted slightly to accommodate these events. Corporate sponsors can also be approached. There may some changes to the production schedule for regulations, NZC will discuss at the August meeting. Manager will include a project cluster to investigate moving the Game Park to a self-sustaining model with ability to draw on outside funding/sponsorship. Council would like to see more connection with landowners across project areas in public interface. Manager wants to see more involvement with Catchment community groups. Include HB in the Take a Mate Hunting promotion through NZC next game season. Council would like staff to keep regular contact with agents.

### **Recommendations**

Council accepts the OWP with amendments as discussed.

*G Duley/H Melville*

#### **4.4b Budget**

Council accepts the 2024-25 with a half yearly review.

*H Melville/ B Bates B Slavin abstained*

#### **4.5 Swan Management Policy Setting**

Paper was taken as read. B Slavin requested the removal of Geese from 3C. Populations are aggregated in areas that may not have been picked up with aerial survey and causing challenges for landowners. Policy is needed for operations to make decisions on the ground to support the management of Black Swan numbers across the region and in the areas where there is more nuisance. The concern is numbers may be declining but aggregating in smaller areas. Work needs to be done to ensure aerial transects are statistically accurate. Council would like a paper on larger management plan of swan across the North Island and draft a management plan for Poukawa/Brownrigg/Landowners.

### **Actions**

Council requests staff to provide a paper by the end of the year on a larger management plan for black swan taking into account how they are managed across the North Island.

Staff to work with Brownrigg & landowners around Poukawa to manage populations. Council requires more harvest assessment of Poukawa from staff.

### **Recommendation**

Council supports the policy but exclude population size threshold and come back with more information on population monitoring.

*B Bates/G Bowcock*

#### **4.6 Pukeko Management**

Paper taken as read. Chair called for update from staff. Growers are frustrated by not being able to be issued permits to disturb as new crops are going in. Hunters are not targeting these birds. Permits to disturb last year equated to 950 per week but cull numbers have not been supplied back by all permit holders. Staff to follow up.

#### **Recommendation**

Council accepts staff recommendations to initiate a Pukeko monitoring program. Staff to create a Pukeko policy for next council meeting and ensure consultation with licence holders prior to next game season. Council do not accept shortening the season to the waterfowl season.

#### ***B Bates/ G Bowcock***

#### **4.7 The use of circle hooks in Trout Fishing**

Manager spoke to paper, F&G cannot set the use of circle hooks in regulations. Staff to work with agents to educate on their use in trout fishing.

#### **5.2 Operations Report**

Taken as read

#### **5.3 Finance Report**

##### **Recommendation**

That council receives the information

#### ***Slavin/ Bowcock***

##### **Recommendation**

That the payments for 1 April to 31 May totalling \$87515.70 be approved.

Current Account - April 2024	\$20311.58
Current Account – May 2024	\$63240.77
Credit Card (KM) – April/May 2024	<u>\$3963.35</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$87515.70</u></b>

#### ***Bowcock/Melville***

#### **5.4 Licence Report**

Taken as read.

#### **Move to Public Excluded**

Acting chairman moved the meeting into public excluded session at 9.30pm

#### ***B Slavin/Bowcock***

#### **Move to Public Included**

Acting chairman moved the meeting back to public included at 9.35pm

#### **Meeting Closes**

Acting chairman closed the meeting at 9.36pm

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Chairman

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Date