

CONFIRMED MINUTES

HBFG COUNCIL MEETING

At the **HBFG Council Meeting** on **23 Jul 2025** these minutes were **confirmed with the following changes:**

2.1 Update 2.1 wording for P Coles from weary to worried.

Name:	Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council
Date:	Tuesday, 20 May 2025
Time:	6:00 pm to 9:00 pm (NZST)
Location:	Hawkes Bay Fish & Game , 22a Burness Road Jervoistown Napier
Board Members:	Bruce Bates (Chair), Blair Slavin, Callum Slavin, Dan Jones, Gary Bowcock, Glenn Morgan, Greg Duley, Henry Melville, Karl Goodchild, Peter Coles, Steve Evans
Attendees:	Corina Jordan, Kerry Meehan
Apologies:	Jeff Niblett

1. Opening Meeting 6pm
 - 1.1 **Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council**
 - 1.2 **Present & in Attendance**
 - 1.3 **Apologies**
 - 1.4 **Confirmation of Agenda & General Business**
 - 1.5 **Conflict of interest**

All members signed the conflict of interest folder

1.6 **Confirm Minutes**

HBFGC Meeting 18 Mar 2025, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Confirm minutes

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council on the 18th March 2025 are a true and accurate record

Decision Date:	20 May 2025
Mover:	Karl Goodchild
Seconder:	Glenn Morgan
Outcome:	Approved

1.7 Matters arising from minutes

1.8 Hawkes Bay Risk Register



Risk Register

That HBFGB accept the risk register

Decision Date: 20 May 2025

1.9 Health & Safety Report



Health & Safety Report

That HBFGB receives the information and accepts the health and safety report.

Decision Date: 20 May 2025

Mover: Blair Slavin

Seconder: Henry Melville

Outcome: Approved

2. Discussions & Decisions

2.1 Anglers Notice 2025-26

Manager gave an update on population monitoring with fish monitoring. Drift dives on Mohaka and Ngaruroro rivers. Tukituki is not suitable for drift diving and team will need to look at other ways to monitor population. P Coles provided feedback that not enough time was given for clubs to provide feedback. Manager took point on board and that changes are being actioned. P Coles is weary of the Tukituki being overfished and being put under massive pressure with numbers of anglers. C Slavin brought up HBRC plan change 6 on large amounts of gravel the council are proposing to take. S Evans provided feedback from Hastings Anglers. H Melville would like more scientific evidence to make decisions. Chairman weary that making more restrictions will impact on participation and licence sales. P Coles cross over between duck shooters and anglers, justifies closing rivers earlier. Council have tried in the past, but it should be based on river health not duck shooters. Questions on closing the Esk river following damage from cyclone Gabrielle. G Morgan has spent time on the river but with very little success. Should we conduct studies to see if they can sustain fish and do limited releases of fin clipped Trout? Chairman, we should be investigating doing these things after major flooding events and setting a precedent for other regions following major events. Action for staff, do electric fishing and survey what food supply is available. Come back to council with recommendations. Staff have surveyed and seen few fish but in good condition and good nymph numbers.



Esk River investigation

Staff to investigate viability of Esk River, invertebrate numbers and possibility of fish release to recoup numbers

Due Date: 22 Jul 2025

Owners: Corina Jordan, John Lumsden



Anglers Notice

The Council thanks all licence holders who have provided feedback. Council have considered all feedback. No changes to the proposed 2025-26 anglers notice.

Decision Date: 20 May 2025

Mover: Steve Evans

Seconder: Peter Coles

Outcome: Approved



Response to licence holders on anglers notice

Staff to respond & thank for clubs and licence holders for submissions and out pertinent points that were made.

Due Date: 22 Jul 2025

Owner: John Lumsden

2.2 2025-26 Budget NZC Recommendations



Licence fee

By majority HCFG accepts the licence fee recommendations.

Support the licence motion: 6

Against the motion: 5

Decision Date: 20 May 2025

Mover: Greg Duley

Seconder: Gary Bowcock

Outcome: Approved



Family Licence

HCFG supports the changes to the family licence to give both members equal rights

Decision Date: 20 May 2025

Mover: Karl Goodchild

Seconder: Callum Slavin

Outcome: Approved



Family Licence Changes

HCFG supports in principle. More information required. How will family members be identified for compliance purposes? Can the child licence be flexible for family members to use, not assigned to a specific child?

Decision Date: 20 May 2025

Mover: Peter Coles

Seconder: Callum Slavin

Outcome: Approved



Licence Forecast for Hawke's Bay

HCFG does not accept NZC fish licence LEQ forecast of 3010 and proposes it be adjusted to 2800 based on analysis of past 3 seasons LEQ sales.

Decision Date: 20 May 2025

Mover: Henry Melville

Seconder: Gary Bowcock

Outcome: Approved



Game LEQ forecast

HCFG accepts the game licence LEQ forecast of 1888.

Decision Date: 20 May 2025

Mover: Gary Bowcock

Seconder: Blair Slavin

Outcome: Approved

2.3 NZC Policy Updates



H&S Policy

HBFGC support the draft NZC policies.

Decision Date: 20 May 2025
Mover: Henry Melville
Seconder: Glenn Morgan
Outcome: Approved



Lone worker policy

HBFGC accepts lone worker policy with proposed changes

Final paragraph impossible to implement. No council involvement. Make region specific for check in procedures and risk assesment

Mobility sensor?

Decision Date: 20 May 2025
Mover: Callum Slavin
Seconder: Gary Bowcock
Outcome: Approved



Resource management

HBFGC accepts the resource management with amendment through all funding

Decision Date: 20 May 2025
Mover: Greg Duley
Seconder: Dan Jones
Outcome: Approved



Fatigue Management

HBFGC accepts principle but needs more work to consider personal responsibility.

Decision Date: 20 May 2025
Mover: Callum Slavin
Seconder: Henry Melville
Outcome: Approved



Time in Lieu

HBFGC accepts and also adopts the time off in lieu policy for Hawkes Bay.

Delete clause where staff cannot take more than 2 days off in a row.

Decision Date: 20 May 2025
Mover: Gary Bowcock
Seconder: Karl Goodchild
Outcome: Approved

3. Regional Business

3.1 Operations Report

3.2 Compliance & Ranger Report

3.3 Finance Reports



Finance Report

7.1 That the payments for 1st February to 31st March 2025 totalling 165,509.79 be approved.

Current Account – February-March 2025 \$161,315.44

Credit Card (KM) – February-March 2025 \$4,194.35

Total \$165,509.79

Decision Date: 20 May 2025

Mover: Gary Bowcock

Seconder: Karl Goodchild

Outcome: Approved

3.4 Licence Report

Concerns around Game bird trends with downward licence sales.

Should F&G have loan .410 for juniors to borrow and try out?

3.5 Action List

Due Date	Action Title	Owner(s)
10 Dec 2024	Staff Follow Ups Status: Completed on 29 May 2025	Corina Jordan
10 Dec 2024	Huia loan Status: Completed on 9 Jul 2025	Kerry Meehan
21 Jan 2025	Councillors complete declaration Status: Completed on 27 Mar 2025	Bruce Bates, Corina Jordan
21 Jan 2025	.410 steel shot option Status: Completed on 29 May 2025	John Lumsden
21 Jan 2025	Valuation policy Status: In Progress	Corina Jordan
17 Feb 2025	Electoral Roll Status: Completed on 9 Jul 2025	Corina Jordan
17 Mar 2025	Lake Tutira Status: In Progress	Corina Jordan
18 Mar 2025	HB Chair to NZ Chair Status: Completed on 10 Jul 2025	Bruce Bates
18 Mar 2025	Security measures Status: Completed on 27 Mar 2025	Corina Jordan, Kerry Meehan
18 Mar 2025	Eyede payment Status: Completed on 13 May 2025	Corina Jordan
18 Mar 2025	Fish release into Mangaone Status: In Progress	Corina Jordan
13 May 2025	Risk Register Amendments Status: Completed on 21 May 2025	Corina Jordan, Kerry Meehan
13 May 2025	H&S Actions Status: In Progress	Kerry Meehan
13 May 2025	Promotion & Analysis Status: In Progress	Kerry Meehan
13 May 2025	Pekapeka wetland Status: Completed on 21 May 2025	John Lumsden
21 May 2025	Brownrigg Access for Swan Status: Completed on 10 Jul 2025	John Lumsden

4. General Business

4.1 General business

Peter Butler, Willie Butler and George Williams attend the meeting to discuss their anger at being ranged on opening weekend of the game bird season.

Peter Butler addressed the council regarding F&G rangers & Police visiting his property on opening weekend of game bird season. It is the third time in 10 years his property had been visited on opening weekend and he expressed anger at the intrusion of rangers to the pond where invited visitors had paid \$1200 each for the opportunity to shoot on it for the one day of the year that the pond was shot on. He questioned the legality of rangers being able to enter properties without health and safety inductions from owners. He suggested rangers should visit ponds the night before to run compliance checks with their visitors having camped on site before opening. His anger and frustration was directed at the fact that farmers spend all year prepping ponds for opening day and that all his shooters were fully compliant with regulations, and questioned why other nearby properties had never been ranged. He criticized the approach of the ranger who "approached in a bullish manner" Mr Butler then showed the Chair and Manager images of the way the gates had been left on their departure. Mr Butler questioned whether there was a vendetta the council or staff had against them and the Chairman responded that this was not the case and that there were new staff now planning ranging operations who did not have previous records of visits to this property. Chairman also questioned Mr Butler on their being bulls in a paddock so close to the pond with visiting shooters. Mssr C Slavin raised the point that rangers are visiting properties on opening weekend to monitor the use of lead shot and to ensure people operating fire arms are not also intoxicated while doing so, and it's not just for checking licensing compliance. Mssr G Duley then also suggested to Mr Butler that their aggressive approach to council was not doing them any favours or to get fish and game to do what they want. Mssr G Bowcock addressed Mr Butler and his companions on how the ranging operation is conducted as he has been a ranger for many years and offers up his time as a volunteer on opening weekend even though he is an avid game bird hunter to ensure the weekend is run as safely as possible and within the rules. After addressing the council for 40 minutes the chairman brought the discussion to a close and stated the council would discuss his concerns when the meeting had moved to public excluded. Mr Butler also reiterated his invitation to the manger to visit the property.



Regulation booklets

move gamebird regs back to booklets

Decision Date: 20 May 2025
Mover: Blair Slavin
Seconder: Henry Melville

5. Public Excluded

5.1 Public excluded session



Move to public excluded

Move to committee to discuss ranging operations and regional management.

Decision Date: 20 May 2025
Mover: Henry Melville
Seconder: Blair Slavin
Outcome: Approved

6. Close Meeting

6.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: HBFG Council Meeting - 23 Jul 2025, 6:00 pm

New Actions raised in this meeting

Item	Action Title	Owner(s)
2.1	Esk River investigation Due Date: 22 Jul 2025	Corina Jordan, John Lumsden
2.1	Response to licence holders on anglers notice Due Date: 22 Jul 2025	John Lumsden

Signature: _____



Date: _____

23/5/25

