

To: NCF&G Council  
Date: 12 August 2021

## Summary Report on Black Swan Population Dynamics and Responses to Customary Egg Harvest

### Purpose

- To provide Council with an overview of work Ngāi Tahu and research partners have been doing to better understand the dynamics of black swan populations on Te Waihora with specific relation to the impacts of customary egg harvest.

### Background

- A Ngāi Tahu Advisory Committee have been working with academics and Maanaki Whenua to understand how swan populations on Te Waihora are influenced by human harvest. A summary report is included as **Appendix One**
- Swans are a valued source of mahinga kai for Ngāi Tahu. In recent years traditional egg harvesting has been revitalised. NCF&G have provided permits to ensure the legality of this.

### Points for Consideration

- The report makes recommendations that will require input from NCF&G and will have implications for gamebird hunters and possibly for landowners.
- The main concern the study raises is that hunter harvest data is not robust enough to provide certainty in harvest sustainability.
- The report recommends shooting is reduced until monitoring regimes can demonstrate sustainability.
- The report recognises that a balance of hunting interests (shooting) and customary (egg harvest) could lead to mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Management of Black Swan is an opportunity to explore co-management in a way that has not been achieved between Fish & Game and Iwi before.

### Next Steps

- Ngāi Tahu have requested a hui with NCF&G to discuss this report and possible actions moving forward.

**APPENDIX 1:** Summary report on Black Swan population dynamics and responses to customary egg harvest at Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, 2017-2019