



Council Meeting Agenda

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

16 August 2025

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

**Saturday 16 August 2025
10:00am
TET Multi Sports Centre
Stratford**

TARANAKI 2024-25 Agenda Plan



NZC MEETING	October 2024	December 2024	February 2025	March 2025	May 2025	August 2025	
LOCATION	Stratford	New Plymouth	Stratford	Stratford	Stratford	Stratford	
STANDING AGENDA ITEMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedural Items: Apologies; Declaration of Conflict of Interest; Minutes of Previous Meeting; Matters/Actions Arising from Previous Meeting; NZ Council Business. Inter-regional Business: Shared Resources with Wellington; Organisational Regional Liaison. Decision Items. Strategic Matters: Risk Management; Strategic Plan (5 yr); Iwi Engagement; Sports Fish & Game Bird Management Plan). Policy and Legislation. Health and Safety Report. Information Reports/Operational Matters: Species Management; Habitat Management and Advocacy; Participation; Public Awareness/Communication; Licence Sales and Management, Operational Summary, Financial Summary). Correspondence. 							
STANDING STRATEGIC ITEMS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies for Review 							
OTHER STRATEGIC ITEMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Risk Management Plan 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report Draft Gamebird Notices & Regulations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Strategic Priorities Review Strategic Plan 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Summaries & CF Applications Draft Annual Work Plan 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licence Fee Recommendation Draft Anglers Notice & SFLFFN 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Work Plan Approved 					
STANDING OPERATIONAL ITEMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & Safety Report Species Management Update Habitat Management and Advocacy Update Participation Public Awareness/Communications Licence Sales / Licence Management Operational Report - CE Communications Update Financial Reports 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Board Liaison Meeting Schedule considered 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Board Liaison Meeting Schedule confirmed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Board Liaison 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Board Liaison 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Board Liaison Meeting Schedule considered 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Board Liaison 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Board Liaison 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Board Liaison 	

AGENDA TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday 16 August 2025

TET Multi Sports Centre, Stratford

Commencing at 10:00am

1	Welcome	Welcome message / korero powhiri		1
2	Apologies			2
3	Conflict of Interest	Declaration of Conflicts of Interest		3
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting	a. Minutes of Meeting 24 May 2025		5-19
5	Matters Arising	a. Action List Summary		20-22
		b. Other Matters Arising		
6	NZ Council Business	a. NZ Council – Summary of NZC meeting 27-28 June 2025		23-34
		b. Other NZ Council Business		
7	Public Forum	Open Session for Public		35
8	Proposed F&G Legislative Changes	a. Consideration of Proposed Legislative Changes	Info	36-47
		b. Timetable of Legislative Processes	Info	48-59
		c. Taranaki Fish and Game Council's feedback	Feedback	
9	Regional Business – Governance	a. Taranaki Regional Business – Chair's Report	Info	60
10	Inter-Regional Business	a. Chairs' Forum Update	Info	61
		b. Shared Resources Update	Info	
11	Draft OWP & Budget 2025/26	a. Confirmation of OWP and budgets	Decision	62-113
12	Strategic Matters	a. Risk Management Review	Info	114
		b. Iwi Engagement	Info	
13	Policy and Legislation	a. Arms Act Review	Info	115-117
		b. Resource Management Act Review	Info	
		c. Wildlife Act Review	Info	
		d. Fish and Game Policy Reviews	Info	
14	Health and Safety	a. Health and Safety Report May/June 2025	Info	118-126
		b. Consideration of Proactive Initiatives	Info	
15	Species Management	a. Anglers Notice 25/26 – confirmation of regulations	Info	127-219
		b. Research	Info	220
16	Habitat Advocacy & Management	a. Regional Planning advocacy	Info	221-223
		b. Resource Consent advocacy	Info	
		c. Habitat Enhancement Applications - GBHT	Info	
		d. Trout Habitat Modelling	Info	
17	Participation	a. Information to Clients	Info	224
		b. Licence Holder Engagement – incl. R3	Info	
		c. Access Management	Info	
18	Public Awareness/Comms	a. Iwi Engagement	Info	225
		b. Public Awareness	Info	
		c. Communication	Info	
		d. Promotions	Info	
19	Licence Sales	a. Licence Sales Update to 30 June 2025 – Fish	Info	226-259
		b. Licence Sales Update to 30 June 2025 – Game	Info	
		c. Licence Management Systems Performance May/Jun 2025	Info	
		d. Licence Price Optimisation Research	Info	
20	Operational Summary Report	a. Operational Report 30 June 2025	Info	260-280
21	Financials	a. Profit & Loss Report – 1 Sept 2024 to 30 June 2025	Info	281-286
		b. Balance Sheet – as at 30 June 2025	Info	
		c. Capital Expenditure	Info	
22	Correspondence/Media		Info	287-289
23	Recognition Awards		Info	290
24	Conservation Board Liaison		Info	291-300
25	General Business			301
26	Next Meeting Confirmation	Next Meeting: 18 October, Stratford	Info	302
27	Closure	korero kati		

Agenda Item 1 **Welcome**

Summary

Welcome to Councillors and public.

Welcome Message – korero powhiri

Let us look after the water	Kia tiaki tatou i te wai
that flow from Mount Ruapehu and Mount Taranaki	ka rere mai i Maunga Ruapehu me Taranaki Maunga
for the health of the fish and birds	Mo te oranga o nga ika me nga manu
and hunters and anglers	me nga kaiwhakangau me nga kaihao
Let us work together with unity to make good decisions	kia mahi tatou me te kotahitanga ki te whakatau pai

Present and In Attendance

Summary

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

Agenda Item 2 Apologies

Summary

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

Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Move motion accepting apologies from those that inform the Council of their non-attendance or lateness to meeting.

Agenda Item 3 **Conflict of Interest**

Summary

Consider the Conflicts of Interest Register to ensure it clearly identifies any perceived or actual conflicts of interest of members in general.

Confirm that there are no additional conflicts of interest to declare –either in general or specific items in the current agenda.

Confirm how the Council will handle any new conflicts of interest identified – including speaking rights, voting rights, exclusion from meeting on specific items, or exclusion of receiving any specific material relating to that item identified.

Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Move motion accepting any additions/deletions to the Conflicts of Interest Register that are declared.

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

Conflicts of Interest Register List

Councillor	Conflict of Interest Identified	Date Declared
Chris Donald	Member of Inglewood Rod, Hunting and Clay Target Club	14 June 2014
Alan Flynn	None noted	
Gerard Karalus	None noted	
Chris Mattock	None noted	
John Nancarrow	Member of Inglewood Rod, Hunting and Clay Target Club	17 August 2024
Romon Sargeson	None noted	
Raewenata Saunders	None noted	
Staff		
Phil Teal	Manager of Wellington Fish and Game Council	19 October 2024

Agenda Item 5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Summary

a. Action List Summary

Consider the Action List from the Minutes of the Meeting of 24 May 2025 and consider the actions undertaken – including completed actions, partially completed actions, and actions pending.

b. Other Matters Arising

Consider any other items that are noted in the Minutes where further updates and clarification are sought – where they are not addressed in other agenda items for the meeting.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Note any specific clarifications relating to follow-up actions undertaken that relate to items discussed at the previous meeting.

TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT TET MULTI SPORTS CENTRE, STRATFORD ON 24 MAY 2025 COMMENCING AT 10:00AM

1. Present

Acting Chairman Romon Sargeson, Councillors Gerard Karalus, Rawenata Saunders, Chris Mattock, Alan Flynn.

In Attendance

Staff: Phil Teal (Chief Executive), Jack Harland (Fish and Game Officer)

2. Welcome

Mr Teal confirmed that Chairman Donald was unable to attend the meeting and called for an election of an acting Chairman for this meeting.

After discussion it was moved that

Romon Sargeson be the acting Chairman for this meeting

Alan Flynn/Gerard Karalus

Carried

A korero powhiri was given by Councillor Alan Flynn.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Chairman Chris Donald, and Councillor John Nancarrow, Allen Stancliff (Senior Fish and Game Officer), Jilli Steedman (Administration Manager). It was then moved that

the apologies received be accepted

Chris Mattock/Gerard Karalus

Carried

4. Conflict Of Interest

There were no additions noted to the Conflicts of Interest register that had not already been declared at previous meetings.

5. Minutes Of The Previous Meeting 29 March 2025

Following consideration of the draft Minutes it was moved that

the Minutes of the meeting of the Taranaki Fish & Game Council of 29 March 2025 be approved and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Alan Flynn/Chris Mattock

Carried

Following consideration of draft Minutes from the public-excluded session it was moved that

The minutes of public-excluded session of the meeting of the Taranaki Fish and Game Council of 29 March 2025 be approved and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that session of the meeting.

Gerard Karalus/Alan Flynn

Carried

6. Matters Arising

Mr Teal referred to the action list from previous meetings:

- a. confirmed that proposed draft budget was forwarded to NZ Council for consideration in the budget process, and that he and Councillor Karalus provided clarification at the NZ Council meeting on 11 April 2025.
- b. provided feedback to NZ Council on the proposal from North Canterbury Fish and Game Council for operational configurations with NZ Council indicating that this was not supported at this time by Taranaki Council.
- c. provided feedback to NZ Council as part of the consultations on draft policies:
 - draft Health and Safety, and Wellbeing Policy,
 - draft Lone Worker Support Policy,
 - draft Resource Management and Legislation Policy
- d. Staff amended the permit to disturb (using gas guns) to ensure the permit holder acknowledged receipt of training for its use, and appropriate health and safety recommendations.

Mr Harland noted that staff had visited the Hawken's Lagoon wetland site to consider the issue of maintaining open water at the Fish and Game managed wetland. Discussion ensued on developing the details for actions required to maintain the habitat in current state (e.g. controlling the extent of raupo encroachment, and active management of silt build up) – and these would be noted in a brief management plan.

Mr Harland confirmed that the information pamphlet to promote perch fishing opportunities in Taranaki region had been distributed to fishing agents and a pdf version had been uploaded to the Fish and Game website.

6. NZ Fish and Game Council Business

Councillor Karalus provided an overview of the NZ Council Meeting held on 11 and 12 April 2025 – with the primary purpose being to develop a recommendation on the licence fee to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing. He outlined the key elements as the basis for setting the budgets:

- Reserves top-up for two regions.
- Staff salaries increase for existing staff (budget of 2% increase)
- Increases in NZ Council co-ordinated essential core activities for national projects: licence system operation costs, magazine postage costs, licence system CRM RFP.
- Establishment of a research position at NZ Council to co-ordinate research function and reporting of population monitoring programmes
- Resource Advocacy fund increased by \$100,000
- Research fund increased by \$50,000

Three regional business cases were declined relating to additional staff: Compliance (Eastern), R3/Marketing (Nelson/Marlborough), general Fish and Game work (Southland – now from Reserves).

The Total Budget recommendation approved for the organisation was \$13.8 million funded through forecast licence income and interest from reserves.

The proposed licence fee to be recommended to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing for approval were:

- 2025/2026 Adult whole season sports fish licence of \$161 (increase of \$5)

- Adult whole season game licence increase of \$120 (increase of \$4) (incl. gamebird habitat stamp and GST)
- 2025/2026 non-resident whole season fishing licence of \$300 (increase of \$30)
- Licence categories be charged at the agreed ratio for all categories.

Discussion ensued on the proposed increases of the base Adult Whole Season Licences. Councillor Saunders considered that the price sensitivity for licence price will potentially be an issue affecting a significant proportion of anglers and hunters. It was noted that the Licence Price Optimisation project being co-ordinated by NZ Council should assist in determining price sensitivity for all licence categories. Council sought an update of the project brief, progress, and preliminary findings of the Licence Price Optimisation project - and what the proposed timetable for incorporating this information into the decision-making process including reviewing licence categories.

Councillor Karalus outlined that there was a proposal to change the conditions of the Family Licence to allow for two primary licence holders to fish independently – with this being considered as part of this meeting’s agenda as part of the consultation process being undertaken by NZ Council.

Councillor Karalus confirmed that the Minister for Hunting and Fishing has sought a face-to-face meeting with NZ Council at their 28 June 2025 Council Meeting – where it is anticipated he will outline the legislative changes that have been approved by Cabinet.

Councillor Karalus confirmed that NZ Council have appointed Richie Cosgrove as the interim NZ Council Chief Executive until November 2025, with the NZ Council concurrently undertaking the process for a permanent appointment to the role.

Councillor Karalus then indicated that he was stepping down as Taranaki appointee to NZ Council. He expressed optimism for positive change for the organisation in the next few years. Acting Chair Sargeson thanked Councillor Karalus for his dedication, and time commitment in incorporating Taranaki perspectives in the national interest [acclamation].

Acting Chair Sargeson confirmed that while this eventuality had been signalled last year, it was appropriate to confirm a replacement appointee to NZ Council. Nominations were called for the position of appointee from Taranaki Fish and Game Council to the NZ Fish and Game Council:

Romon Sargeson - Alan Flynn/Rawenata Saunders

There being no further nominations Councillor Sargeson was confirmed as the Taranaki appointee to NZ Council. Councillor Sargeson expressed that his approach would be to challenge ideologies to achieve positive change within the organisation.

It was then moved that

the verbal report from Taranaki Fish and Game Council’s appointee to NZ Council be received

Gerard Karalus/Alan Flynn

Carried

7. Public Forum

No items required discussion.

8. **Regional Business – Governance**

a. **Chair’s Report on Taranaki Fish and Game Governance**

Mr Teal confirmed that the Chairman had provided a short overview briefing to be presented in his absence. He provided a brief overview of significant issues for governors’ awareness as they relate to Taranaki Fish and Game’s operations and governance. There was a letter received from the Minister for Hunting and Fishing acknowledging receipt and tabling Council’s Annual Report reporting on the work undertaken in the previous year. Mr Teal brought to the attention of Council that Allen Stancliff (Senior Fish and Game Officer) was on extended leave for six weeks – and that Wellington Fish and Game Council staff were providing assistance and support to Mr Harland over that period. There were no other issues or variances in operations to report.

After brief discussion it was moved

to receive the verbal report (on behalf of the Chair) on regional governance issues

Chris Mattock/Rawenata Saunders

Carried

9. **Inter-Regional Business**

a. **Chair’s Forum Update**

Mr Teal confirmed that the Chairman had provided a short briefing to be presented in his absence. He noted that there had only been a Chairs’ videoconferencing meeting in March which he had previously outlined the topics of discussion relating to North Canterbury Fish and Game’s proposal for operational management.

b. **Shared Resources Update**

Mr Teal noted that there were no material issues that required to be brought to the attention of Council regarding the shared resources arrangement between the Taranaki and Wellington Fish & Game regions.

Mr Teal confirmed that Chairman Donald and Wellington’s Chair Paul Dewar had discussed the preparation of a shared resources model proposal for the lower North Island to Hawke’s Bay Fish and Game Chair. Hawke’s Bay Fish and Game are still considering various options for their operational structure including the current arrangement with NZ Council, the North Canterbury option of NZ Council providing all services, reverting back to a stand-alone entity, and potentially shared resource models. It was decided that this would be progressed once the Minister for Hunting and Fishing had released his proposals for legislative changes – as the legislative changes might override any viable options proposed to be progressed.

After brief discussion it was moved

to receive the verbal report to of inter-regional governance issues on behalf of the Chair

Gerard Karalus/Chris Mattock

Carried

10. **DRAFT 2025/2026 Licence Fee Recommendation Consultation**

a. **Consultation and Feedback on Licence Fee Recommendation**

Council discussed the recommendation by NZ Council for the 2025/2026 Licence Fees and its implications on Taranaki Fish and Game Council’s Annual Operational Work Plan and budget. The additional budget considered for Taranaki operations compared to current year were salary adjustments, and additional costs for aerial counts and licence holder communications (the latter two can potentially allocated from reserves).

It was agreed that Taranaki Fish and Game Council would provide feedback to NZ Council that there were no objections to the draft licence fee recommendations as presented. There would be clarification sought from NZ Council that the interest income component for determining budget allocations has been treated the same for all regional budgets including Taranaki Fish and Game – that the interest component is calculated consistently and that this has been applied consistently in calculating net budgets – i.e. expenditure less interest income.

b. Family Fishing Licence - Proposal to Amend

Council discussed the NZ Council proposal to amend the Family Fishing Licence – with the intent to reduce the complexity of how the licence can be used by each named angler, and to create equity between the two adult licence holders (currently primary and secondary) by allowing each named participant to be able to fish independently and have equal voting rights and communications.

Discussion initially focused on the original purpose of the family licence, and focusing on increasing participation and encouraging opportunities to bring younger anglers into the pursuit with a family mentoring group – as this was traditionally how a lot of anglers were introduced to trout fishing.

Discussion continued on how this could be implemented in practice and other considerations including:

- Whether the participants get two physical licences?
- Are they allowed to fish independently at different locations at the same time?
- Would there be a requirement to have children listed on the licence if this is principally a junior recruitment tool?
- The definition of children has been extended from children to grandchildren, but could include wider family relationships, and/or mixed family relationships.
- The potential financial implications of tweaking a licence category and potential cannibalisation of whole season licence sales. This should be assessed in the Licence Price Optimisation project that is assessing appropriate licence categories,
- If the Family Licence provided too much cannibalisation of whole season adult licence sales and/or reduced complexity, the licence category option could be removed altogether,
- The concept of establishing family membership approaches is to provide stability of sales over a longer period of time. It was recognised that Family Licence Sales category had been declined in recent years – and it was speculated that price sensitivity above \$200 may be an issue.
- It was clarified that the proposal was to make both named adult licence holders the ‘primary licence holders’ – and are able to fish independently.
- The risk of misusing the intent of the licence was considered minimal – if there is clarity for anglers on eligibility,
- It was recognised that this may assist in growing the women’s demographic participation – current NZ population estimates suggest participation rates for adult women ~0.5% and adult men ~3.5%.
- The eligibility of a couple with no children (i.e. zero dependent children) to be considered a ‘family’ - DoC Taupo have a requirement to have children ‘named’ on the licence to be eligible for the ‘Family’ Licence,
- The proposal is to treat both named licence holders on the Family Licence as though they were separate (primary) adult whole season licence holders
- The potential for increased diversity of Councillors if there are more eligible women to stand and/or vote.

- While each licence holder would be treated as a separate licence holder, it is likely that they will be serviced as a 'family' – one magazine, one newsletter, but two email newsletters and two voting forms.
- Children being able to fish on their own independently should be considered.

It was agreed that the feedback would include:

- Both adults on the Family Licence should be treated as equal licence holders in terms of independent use, voting rights, and electronic communications.
- The family' unit will be serviced with a single 'physical' magazine rather than individual people.
- Attempts to provide voting papers all together in one postage, although can be sent separately if not possible.
- The risk of misusing the licence category is considered minimal
- The category still needs to be critiqued in the licence price optimisation and category option
- Ensuring a Review in three years or less to ensure switching behaviour and potential impact on income is assessed
- An adult couple can constitute a family licence as not requiring having children listed.
- For compliance purposes – all names are to be clearly listed
- support the concept of children being able to fish alone

It was then moved that

The recommendations noted would provide the basis for feedback to NZ Council on the proposal to amend the Family Fishing Licence category

Alan Flynn/Rawenata Saunders

Carried

c. Proposed Licence Sales Forecast for FY 2025/2026

NZ Council provided information on the estimated licence sales for each region to provide transparency on this process as it is important in budgeting estimates for income. Mr Teal explained the method for estimating licence sales for next financial year now includes an estimate of the current end-of-year sales estimation to provide a more up-to-date estimate of trends. Council acknowledged the forecast of licence sales and were satisfied with the process by which the figures were derived.

11. Strategic Matters

a. Risk Management Review

HPAI H5N1 Strain – High Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Mr Teal confirmed that there had been no change to the risk level for New Zealand in dealing with avian influenza. Mr Teal confirmed that there had been no detection of infection of birds in the sub-Antarctic Islands or from the northern flyway for seabirds – which would be the trigger for changes in risk level. He noted that Regional Councils were now formulating how they would be actively responding to outbreaks – given that MPI did not have the spread of resources to respond across the country.

b. Iwi Engagement Strategy

Mr Teal noted that preparation of a contact register for iwi groups within the lower North Island was still progressing.

12. Policy and Legislation

a. Arms Act Review

There were some changes to Part 6 of the Arms Act relating to the controls placed on shooting clubs and shooting ranges in 2020. The Arms (Shooting Clubs, Shooting Ranges, and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2025 introduced is intended to simplify the regulatory requirements on shooting clubs and ranges by reducing the regulatory burden, while maintaining public safety requirements.

Minister McKee had indicated insufficient support in Cabinet to progress a comprehensive review of the firearms registry –invoking an “agree to disagree” clause in the Government’s coalition agreement.

It was confirmed that the submission on the Arms Act Review submitted by Taranaki Fish and Game Council on 28 February 2025 would be considered in the wider Arms Act review anticipated to progress by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

b. Wildlife Act Review

Department of Conservation Officials have confirmed that there is an active review of the Wildlife Act but there has been no clarification on the timetable or priorities for progression.

It is likely that concurrent reviews of the Biosecurity Act which defines pest species – with Taranaki Regional Council considering definitions of ‘desirable’ and ‘undesirable’ species with the view to give more flexibility to the Regional Council(s) to declare something a ‘pest’ in a Regional Pest Management Plan without having to allocate funding or develop a formal response plan.

c. Resource Management Act Review

The Government has announced reforms replacing the Resource Management Act with two new laws—the Natural Environment Act and the Planning Act—to separate land-use planning from natural resource management. These changes aim to create a clearer, more consistent framework, supported by a single set of national guidelines to help councils implement the laws efficiently and resolve competing priorities. The reforms also aim to reduce the need for consents by expanding permitted activities, alongside increased compliance monitoring.

d. Health and Safety Act Review

The review of the Health and Safety Act is being undertaken by Government to clarify the different responsibilities and liabilities of governors (Board) and management, and also to clarify the responsibilities and liabilities of landowners for recreational users on their property.

e. Organisational Policies

NZ Council is currently consulting on the following policies - which Taranaki Fish and Game Council have considered at the meeting on 29 March 2025:

- Draft HR Policy – Health and Safety
- Draft HR Policy – Lone Worker Support
- Draft Operational Policy – Resource Management and Legislation.

13. Health and Safety

a. Health and Safety Report March 2025 and April 2025

The Health and Safety Report for March and April 2025 was discussed with no additional clarification required. There were no material items from accident or near miss reports that required further discussion.

Mr Teal confirmed that a copy of the Health and Safety Reports and list of accidents/near-misses was being sent to the NZ Council to enable identification of common regional issues and possible proactive responses.

There was brief discussion on incorporating technology into general health and safety practice, such as:

- identifying ranging sites on Google Map (pin) during entry to a property for compliance purposes.
- identifying a fit-for-purpose monitoring Apps that can monitor field activity and can proactively identify and notify when a field operative is 'late' to check-in – which can indicate an active response is required.
- How PLBs are carried by field operatives if there is an accident – held on person, in an on person carry bag, rather than stored on vehicle/boat.
- Using InReach satellite texting units for basic communications and/or confirmation of field work milestones.
- Use of the satellite texting options using the main cellular network providers – late model iPhones (iPhone 16 or newer) equipped with Direct to Cell technology now allow One NZ customers to access the Starlink network. This allows customers to send and receive text messages in areas where traditional mobile coverage is unavailable.
- Considering using small modern tracking units such as *AirTag* or *Tiles* which can provide location updates - or at least 'recent' updates.

After further discussion it was moved that

The Health and Safety Report for March and April 2025 be received

Gerard Karalus/Chris Mattock

Carried

b. **Proactive Actions for Health and Safety – Proposal to Subsidise Skin Checks for Field Staff**

Mr Teal outlined previous initiatives to provide field staff with skin health checks using a single provider in New Zealand, but this was not progressed. He identified the risk of skin cancer for field staff as moderately high. He considered the most appropriate approach would be to provide a modest subsidy for skin checks by a reputable provider but for individual staff be able to choose the health provider of their choice. The recommendation was to provide a moderate subsidy to field staff of \$100 for annual checks for potential melanoma – payable on receiving receipt of services.

After further discussion it was moved that

A moderate subsidy of up to \$100 be available for field staff to check for potential occurrence of melanoma – payable on receipt of services

Gerard Karalus/Rawenata Saunders

Carried

14. **Species Management**

a. **Draft Anglers Notice**

Council considered the potential changes to the Anglers Notice based on the recommendations made by staff. Discussion ensued on proposed changes to regulations: Waiaua River:

- A catastrophic flood event occurred in 2021 (17/7/2021) and an electric fishing survey had confirmed the trout population had been negatively impacted.
- In response Council confirmed more restrictive regulation change since 2022/2023 season from two (2) fish limit all methods prior to a zero (0) limit for brown trout and a one (1) limit for rainbow trout using fly and spin techniques only.
- Efforts were made from 2022 to 2024 to release supplementary stock of rainbow and brown trout.
- With no major floods since 2021 – the trout habitat had been stable.

While anecdotal reports from regular anglers suggested the population had since recovered, councillors questioned the reliability of this feedback for informing regulation changes. It was recommended that a more robust electric fishing survey be conducted to verify these claims, assess trout recruitment, evaluate macroinvertebrate populations, and confirm river stability. This would support informed decision-making and a regulatory response should another severe flood occur in the future – which is likely to recur.

A follow-up survey is to be scheduled for the Waiaua River in spring 2025/2026 to confirm a recovery in the trout population and provide further insights into population dynamics.

It was agreed that there was support for the reinstatement of the regulation for two (2) fish limit for all fish and all methods for the Waiaua River – but with confirmation of recovery and recruitment of trout populations using electric fishing surveys to be undertaken in spring 2025/2026 (as soon as practicable).

Opunake Lake

- The Opunake power scheme is still shut down and the lake has poor water quality associated with it.
- There should be a consistency in regulation with the Waiaua River

Scented Soft Baits

- The use of soft baits is widespread and in popular use by anglers.
- To be consistent with other regions in having a similar definition - *that scented artificial lures may be used in all waters other than fly fishing only waters when actively fished to imitate a bait fish.*

Movement of Bait or Water Between Waterbodies

- It was recognised that moving bait buckets between catchments has a risk of transferring invasive species
- This is not common in New Zealand – but is a more common practice overseas – and provides clear regulatory guidance to anglers (and other users) that this practice is not allowed.

Effects of Catch and Release Mortality

It was agreed that there should be increased focus on educating anglers about proper handling techniques to reduce trout mortality related to catch and release. While the concept of catch and release as a conservation measure has merits, animal welfare concerns have also been raised. High water temperature during fish release is a key factor—which

can occur in some rivers in summer in the Taranaki regions - and should be highlighted in the next fishing special edition magazine and/or newsletter.

It was then moved that

The changes to the Anglers Notice for 2025/2026 be in accordance with the recommendations made by staff:

1. *two (2) fish limit and use of all methods (FSB) for the Waiaua River and Lake Opunake Lake*
2. *new clause 1.5 to Note 1: Scented artificial lures may be used in all waters other than fly fishing only waters, when actively fished to imitate a bait fish.*
3. *new clause 1.6 to Note 1: No licence holder shall use as bait any fish taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring.*
4. *A new clause 1.7 to Note 1: No licence holder shall transport water taken from any waterbody including bait buckets or live bait tanks to another waterway.*

Alan Flynn/Gerard Karalus

Carried

b. Report on the Paradise Shelduck 2025 Summer Special Season

There was brief discussion on the results presented in the report -noting that the season had been held over three weekends at the end of February/early March and there had been about 134 active hunters and 1,115 birds harvested (steady level of harvest and participant over many years). Council considered that the special season was still fulfilling its purpose in dispersing aggregations of birds post-moult, while providing additional hunter opportunity.

After brief further discussion it was moved that

The staff report on the Paradise Shelduck Special Summer Season for 2025 be received

Alan Flynn/Chris Mattock

Carried

c. Research Update

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of research paper on trout and native fish interactions being undertaken by Fish and Game – with the manuscript being sent to a scientific journal for publication and was undergoing further refinement following peer review comments.

Mr. Teal noted that research on climate change impacts on trout and native fish distribution had been published. Fish & Game decided to include this information in communications before the next fishing season, rather than issuing a separate press release in February.

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the NZ Council report on research to give councillors an idea of the breadth and scope of research being undertaken, specifically noting:

- protocols for sampling eDNA to identify spawning
- native fish and trout interactions
- research into women's angling – participation and perspectives
- benefits of fishing for wellbeing and mental health
- Sustainable food harvest
- mallard duck management units – based on climate zones
- critiquing the NZ shoveler monitoring programme
- insights into cohort participation based on licence sales analysis
- NZIER economic contribution of freshwater angling

The meeting adjourned at 12.20pm for lunch and reconvened at 1:00pm

15. Habitat Advocacy and Management

a. Regional Planning advocacy

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with the next generation of Regional Plan changes but are waiting for Central Government direction on how to proceed – and have formally put back their Plan Change revision deadline to September 2027.

Taranaki Regional Council is likewise revising its plans for reviewing the Regional Freshwater and Land Plan, with notification now scheduled for March 2026 at the earliest.

b. Resource Consent advocacy

Mr Teal noted that the Territorial Local Authorities within the Horizons Regional Council boundaries have been actively discussing partnerships and management approaches to municipal water management and discharge quality limits.

16. Participation

a. Access Management

Mr Teal noted that:

- Access point descriptions for Taranaki region rivers had been updated on the website as required.
- Taranaki Fish and Game are supporting NZ Council initiated 'access campaign'. NZ Council is currently inviting regional feedback to provide information on access challenges and opportunities.

b. Information to Clients

Mr Teal noted several actions to provide information to licence holders:

- email communications pre-game season licence purchase.
- 2025 Game Season Magazine magazine distributed in March.
- 2025 Pre Season Hunting Newsletter produced and distributed.
- E-Newsletter – weekly Hunting Season updates provided from end April

c. Licence Holder Engagement

Mr Teal noted that email communications were sent to licence holders from previous season who had not yet purchased a licence this season – between Easter and ANZAC day in April to encourage participation.

Mr Teal noted that NZ Council was seeking feedback on regional initiatives to support women anglers – including educational materials/events (women angler focused), developing support networks of women anglers, media/communication items to increase public awareness.

17. Public Awareness / Communications

a. Iwi Engagement

Mr Harland provided an update on the meeting with representatives of Te Ihowai – a pan-hapu partnership of Te Atiawa. He noted that they had contacted Fish and Game to learn about trout management – with issues discussed including legislation on sports fish, the impact of trout on native species, and the feasibility of trout removal. Potential collaborations were discussed in relation to representations in resource consent processes (such as the

Mangorei and Motukawa power schemes) and field work in the Te Henui, Huatoki, and Herekawe catchments.

b. Public Awareness

Mr Teal confirmed that there had been specific pre-Game Season press releases specific to Taranaki region. He also noted that there was the normal updating of media outlets on opening weekend regarding hunter satisfaction and identifying any issues arising from compliance checks.

18. Licence Sales and Licence Management System Performance

a. Fish Licence sales update

Mr Teal provided an overview of the 2024/2025 Fish Licence sales up until 30 April 2025 indicating an increase in LEQ licence sales by 17.5% (983 → 1,155) and also an increase of total number of participant licence sales by 22% (1,818 → 2,215). He also noted that the national total of LEQ licence sales was very similar to the previous year (70,513 → 70,658).

b. Game Licence sales update

Mr Teal provided an overview of the 2025 Game Season sales up until 5 May 2025 (the Monday after Opening Weekend) indicating an increase in LEQ licence sales by 7.0% (950 → 1,017) which was also reflected in the 6.4% increase in the total number of individual participants (1,066 → 1,134). He also noted that the national total of LEQ licence sales had declined slightly by 1.8% (29,957 → 29,431) for the same date.

After further discussion it was moved that

the report on licence sales for the 2024/25 fish season to 30 April 2025 and 2025 game season to 5 May 2025 be received

Alan Flynn/Gerard Karalus

Carried

c. Licence Management System – March 2025

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the performance of the Licencing Management System noting that it was performing well with no issues of continuity of service. He also noted that the right of renewal of the contract to extend for a further two years was being pursued. It was then moved that

the report from the Licence Operational Group for the performance of the Licencing Management System for March 2025 be received

Chris Mattock/Rawenata Saunders

Carried

d. Licence Price Optimisation Research

Mr Teal confirmed that NZ Council had engaged a provider to assess options for licence pricing and as had been discussed earlier in the meeting – clarification would be sought from NZ Council on the progress and research brief given to the provider.

19. Operational Summary

Council discussed the Operational Summary report for March and April 2025.

Mr Harland outlined actions regarding dispersal of pukeko around Bell Block industrial estate – noting that currently only gas guns are being used to disperse birds, but a more active cull is being considered.

Discussion ensued on the (re)consenting requirements for water diversion into Lake Rotomanu with it agreed send an email to candidates standing for the TRC and NPDC local body elections in October 2025 – in order to seek their personal position of how things should progress to remedy issues of water management at the lake – when it comes under public scrutiny. This would be used to increase public awareness of the management (and consenting) issues – given that it is a valuable local resource for families pursuing water sports including fishing.

Mr Harland reiterated that the pamphlet outlining perch fishing opportunities was in circulation at licence agents and was posted on-line.

Mr Harland confirmed that Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game staff had responded to the OIO (Overseas Investment Office) regarding information on the values for fish and game resource and angler access in the Heao Stream catchment – a tributary of the Waitara River. The copy of the response would be included for reference in the 'access' section for the next Taranaki Council agenda.

Mr Harland confirmed that the development of a draft riparian plan for Lake Kohata was still in draft format – and will check if there are likely to be any changes to the management arrangements with Fish and Game. He confirmed that a priority was to maintain and enhance access which would necessitate keeping areas of grass around some of the margin to allow for physical access and avoid ring-fencing with flax that would make access more difficult.

After further brief discussion it was moved

that the Project Budget Report to 30 April 2025 and Operations Report to 30 April 2025 be received

Rawenata Saunders/Chris Mattock

Carried

20. **Financial Reports**

Council briefly discussed the Financial Reports – Income Statement to 30 April 2025 and Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2025.

Mr Teal confirmed that no material variances in expenditure had occurred within this reporting period. He also confirmed that there had been no major item of capital expenditure during this reporting period.

After brief discussion it was moved that

the Financial Statements – Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet - to 30 April 2025 be received

Alan Flynn/Gerard Karalus

Carried

21. **Correspondence**

Council considered the correspondence register, and after brief discussion it was moved

that the Correspondence Schedules to 30 April 2025 be received

Alan Flynn/Chris Mattock

Carried

22. **Recognition Awards**

No specific item was discussed.

23. **Conservation Board Liaison**

No specific item update was discussed.

24. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Harland provided an overview of compliance activities over opening weekend, acknowledging the contribution of honorary rangers - with a good number of licence holders/hunters receiving compliance checks (over 90 in total).

Councillor Sargeson expressed interest in getting grey teal on game licence to reflect an increased opportunity for hunters – given that it was listed on Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act (can be harvested under specific conditions set by the Minister of Conservation/Minister for Hunting and Fishing). It was agreed that a feasibility report would be developed for Council that would outline barriers (i.e. information deficit, process requirements, consultation requirements, and political landscape) for progressing a request for inclusion of grey teal on the licence - so that a request could be made of the Minister to gauge of an appetite for such a change.

25. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on 16 August 2025 at 10:00 am at the TET Multi Sport Stadium in Stratford.

26. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1:55pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Actions from 24 May 2025 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Status
It was noted that the Licence Price Optimisation project being co-ordinated by NZ Council should assist in determining price sensitivity for all licence categories. Council to seek update from NZ Council on the project brief, progress, and preliminary findings of the Licence Price Optimisation project - and what the proposed timetable for incorporating this information into the decision-making process including reviewing licence categories.	Phil	Completed
Notify NZ Council that Councillor Sargeson was confirmed as the Taranaki appointee to NZ Council.	Phil	Completed
Taranaki Fish and Game Council to provide feedback to NZ Council that there were no objections to the draft licence fee recommendations as presented. There would be clarification sought from NZ Council that the interest income component for determining budget allocations has been treated the same for all regional budgets including Taranaki Fish and Game – that the interest component is calculated consistently and that this has been applied consistently in calculating net budgets – i.e. expenditure less interest income.	Phil	Completed
Feedback to be provided to NZ Council on the proposal to amend the Family Fishing Licence category: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both adults on the Family Licence should be treated as equal licence holders in terms of independent use, voting rights, and electronic communications. the 'family' unit will be serviced with a single 'physical' magazine rather than individual people. Attempts to provide voting papers all together in one postage, although can be sent separately if not possible. The risk of misusing the licence category is considered minimal The category still needs to be critiqued in the licence price optimisation and category option. Ensuring a Review in three years or less to ensure switching behaviour and potential impact on income is assessed An adult couple can constitute a family licence as not requiring to have children listed. For compliance purposes – all names are to be clearly listed support the concept of children being able to fish alone 	Phil	Completed
Council to acknowledge to NZ Council that they were satisfied with the process to derive figures to forecast licence sales.	Phil	Completed
A moderate subsidy of up to \$100 be available for field staff to check for potential occurrence of melanoma – payable on receipt of services	Phil	Completed
An increased focus on educating anglers about proper handling techniques to reduce trout mortality related to catch and release – with particular emphasis on high water temperature during fish release is a key factor—which can occur in some rivers in summer. Recommended to include in the next fishing special edition magazine or newsletter.	Phil	Completed
Taranaki Fish and Game provide recommendations to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing for changes to the Anglers Notice (via NZ Council co-ordination): The changes to the Anglers Notice for 2025/2026 be in accordance with the recommendations made by staff: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> two (2) fish limit and use of all methods (FSB) for the Waiaua River and Lake Opunake Lake 	Phil/Jack	Completed

<p>2. new clause 1.5 to Note 1: Scented artificial lures may be used in all waters other than fly fishing only waters, when actively fished to imitate a bait fish.</p> <p>3. new clause 1.6 to Note 1: No licence holder shall use as bait any fish taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring.</p> <p>4. new clause 1.7 to Note 1: No licence holder shall transport water taken from any waterbody including bait buckets or live bait tanks to another waterway.</p>		
<p>A follow-up survey is to be scheduled for the Waihua River in spring 2025/2026 to confirm a recovery in the trout population and provide further insights into population dynamics.</p>	<p>Phil/Allen/Jack</p>	<p>Pending - incorporated into work programme 2025/2026</p>
<p>Taranaki Fish and Game are supporting NZ Council initiated 'access campaign'. NZ Council is currently inviting regional feedback to provide information on access challenges and opportunities.</p>	<p>Phil/Allen/Jack</p>	<p>Pending</p>
<p>Provide feedback to NZ Council on regional initiatives to support women anglers – including educational materials/events (women angler focused), developing support networks of women anglers, media/communication items to increase public awareness.</p>	<p>Phil/Allen</p>	<p>Pending</p>
<p>Send an email to candidates standing for the TRC and NPDC local body elections in October 2025 – in order to seek their personal position of how things should progress to remedy issues of water management at the lake – when it comes under public scrutiny. This would be used to increase public awareness of the management (and consenting) issues – given that it is a valuable local resource for families pursuing water sports including fishing.</p>	<p>Phil</p>	<p>Pending – drafted survey</p>
<p>Provide a copy of the response to the OIO regarding information on the values for fish and game resource and angler access in the Heao Stream catchment – a tributary of the Waitara River. Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game staff had responded to the OIO. To be included for reference in the 'access' section for the next Taranaki Council agenda.</p>	<p>Phil/Allen/Jack</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Feasibility report to be developed for Council that would outline barriers (i.e. information deficit, process requirements, consultation requirements, and political landscape) for progressing a request for inclusion of grey teal on the licence - so that a request could be made of the Minister to gauge of an appetite for such a change.</p>	<p>Phil/Allen</p>	<p>Pending - Progressed</p>

Actions from previous Meetings

Action	Date	Responsibility	Status
The Chairs of Taranaki and Wellington Fish and Game Councils initiate discussions with the Chairman of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council to investigate implementation of a shared resources operational model between the three regions.	29 March 2025	Phil/Chris	Pending
Review regional R3 priority actions and implement a regional work plan to support the national R3 Campaign.	29 March 2025	Phil	Pending
Schedule a meeting with Kahureremoa Aki from Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust to establish further detail on quantum, urgency, and purpose of the funding requirements of any donation to Te Kōpuka as a member.	29 March 2025	Phil/Allen	Pending
Establish procedures on how a checklist is recorded prior to equipment being loaned out – including liability, health and safety instructions being undertaken, and responsibility of repairs for damage from external parties.	29 March 2025	Phil/Allen/Jack	Pending
Site inspection potential improvements to identify and requirements to improve operations of the Hawera hatchery – as well as a general health and safety inspection	29 March 2025	Phil/Allen/Jack Chris/John	Pending
Provide information to NZ Council on initiatives to support women anglers, including whether that region would support or participate in specific initiatives	29 March 2025	Phil	Pending
Recognition Awards for retired hatchery volunteers, Don Uncles and Gavin Sturgeon;	29 March 2025	Phil/Jilli	Pending
Send a letter to TRC and NPDC on making improvements to the water quality of Lake Rotomanu with better water management practices a higher priority for action.	29 March 2025	Phil/Allen	Pending
Staff actively seeking to liaise with Te Ihowai Ltd (pan-hapu partnership of Te Atiawa) on the restrictions and process required for trout removal.	29 March 2025	Phil/Allen/Jack/Matt K	Completed
Develop a management plan for raupo control on Hawken's Lagoon -inspected site.	25 May 2024	Phil/Allen	Partially completed

Summary

NZ Council Appointee to cover key issues from NZ Council Meeting and business conducted.

- a. NZ Council Meeting – 27 and 28 June 2025
 - Any matters arising from this or previous meeting(s)

- b. Other NZ Council Business

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move motion to receive the report from the Taranaki Council appointee to NZ Council on NZ Fish and Game Council business for the previous period – including meetings and key issues/actions.



9 July 2025: Summary of F&G NZC meeting 175.

The F&G NZC meeting 175 was held in Wellington on the 28/29JUN25. It was Richie's first meeting as ACEO. We had a substantive agenda and a visit from the Minister, and for Richie it was something of a baptism of fire.

The key issues on the agenda were confirming the licence fees and anglers notice, changing the definition of a family licence, discussion of the continued applicability of a managers accord, consolidated annual reporting, councillor training, developing a shared understanding of the health and safety framework and our current level of health and safety compliance. We also had past CEO Corina Jordan attend to present the draft outcome of the Cost Optimisation work and to discuss issues for the wider sector. The Minister and his DOC staff visited following the meeting to discuss the reforms. Plus, we finally approved the 2023/24 Annual Report and Audit letter.

The licence fee was set at \$161 for an adult whole season sports fish licence and \$120 for an adult whole season game licence. While the non-resident whole season fish licence was set at \$300. While there was general comfort that these rates still offer good value for money there is a concern regarding the budget setting process. Work will be done to refine the budget process for next financial year and considering the Ministerial reforms. The NZC had previously requested the development of a budget policy. This meeting resolved that the process should include time for regions to answer written questions ahead of the NZC Budget meeting.

The angler's notice was agreed, with substantive changes to last year's notice being made by Auckland/ Waikato and Central South Island. The Auckland/ Waikato changes will increase the number of waters available for fishing, while CSI introduced a range of changes to conditions and bag limits. Changes for other regions were minor. Due to the collapse of the sea-run salmon population the season bag limit for salmon has been reduced to one salmon. More information on this issue shortly.

Changes to the family licence have been agreed to modernise the system and recognise the equal contribution of female anglers. The new family licence will allow both named adults on the family licence to fish independently, to supervise the kids fishing and to have voting rights. The presence of a child or youth on the licence is a mandatory component of a family licence, but all family members can go fishing independently. Changes were made to the fee structure so that the ratio to the regular adult licence fee matches those in the Taupō fishery (an increase from 1.3 to 1.52). This will mitigate the risk of revenue loss from introduction of the new system.



The Manager's Accord was put on the agenda. Originally intended to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness, the 2004 Accord led to decisions being classified as operational when they really fell within the realm of governance, a blurring of governance and management roles, and weakened accountability across the organisation. There was also uncertainty about the continuing and current status of the Accord. For this reason, the Council has clarified that the accord no longer is relevant in the modern Fish and Game environment, and it was rescinded. In answer to the minister's proposal that regional chairs make up the NZC the concept of a chair's accord was also considered by NZC to meet the minister's consideration. It was agreed to pursue this.

One of the changes that has been signalled in the Ministerial reforms is the need for Fish and Game to move to consolidated annual reporting. Once this has been implemented, Parliament and the New Zealand public will find it much easier to assess the performance of the organisation as a whole and compare and contrast different activities and capabilities. In preparation for the mandatory consolidated reporting from 2026, it was agreed that it would be helpful if we began to determine what a set of consolidated metrics might look like. We will soon be consulting on a trial set of metrics for implementation in the new financial year. This will tell us what information people are collecting already so we can see the quality of the data being collected and where we need to improve on data consistency or fill data gaps.

Councillor training was also discussed by the Council. A report, including recommendations, by Dr Andrew West was tabled. Dr West had been previously engaged to undertake Governance training with all regional councils across the country. The Council received the information but felt that, moving forward, training could be more effectively delivered by Fish & Game Governance Advisor Graham Nahkies and HR manager Adrienne Murray. The Department of Conservation is keen that a programme of training is delivered and attended by as many governors as possible. I am going to work with Graham and Adrienne to develop a plan to ensure we meet the Department's expectations in this regard.

A conversation on the Health and Safety Framework was led by HR Manager Adrienne Murray. Despite our federal structure and regional autonomy, a national approach to health and safety is required because regulators treat us as one entity. The Council agreed that a national approach was necessary and desirable, and we would look to engage a consultant to advise on the development of a national framework. Regions



were also keen for NZC to facilitate the delivery of Health and Safety audits so we can get a clear picture around the current levels of compliance.

The CE's report mentioned that the final version of the Southwick Report arrived in the week prior to NZC meeting. This is a report looking at the impact of licence fees on licence demand and consequently, whether we can expect an increase in price to lead to a proportionate increase in revenue. The high-level findings of the report are that previous price changes have not influenced demand for any of the five selected.

licenses studied. The report concludes that so long as future price rises stay within the past range of increases (less than 9.6%) we can expect sales to be unaffected. More commonly than price, external and uncontrollable variables had significant effects on license demand, such as rainfall and temperature.

Corina Jordan, now CEO of GAC, provided an update on the wider sector and encouraged us to submit on the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill (submissions close on 24 July). Corina was also available to talk to the cost optimisation project. A draft of the cost optimisation report was shared with NZC. There was a general feeling that this draft report may have lost some relevancy because of the amount of time taken for the report to be delivered. NZC had concerns that the draft report was overly general in its findings and that it raised more questions than solutions. However, for the records, and in order to capitalise on the insights contained in the report, the NZC was keen that the document gets finalised. The plan is to engage the support from financial advisors Leech and Partners.

Following the close of the meeting, the Minister for Hunting and Fishing, Hon James Meager, met with the NZC and quite a few visitors (including three former Fish & Game Chief Executives). This was an opportunity for the council to ask questions about the timing and content of the reforms and get an understanding of the Minister's vision for the sector. Minister Meager stayed for over an hour before having to head off to other engagements. However, his officials stayed longer and ran through a presentation. The slide show presented by officials has been circulated to Chairs and regional managers if you are interested in the contents.

There are many actions that came out of this meeting. The NZC team, led by Richie, will start working through the number of actions that came out of the meeting. Please remember I am always available for a chat.

Barrie Barnes
Chair – Fish & Game NZ

26



21 April 2025

NZC CEO Update to Regional Managers

Summary of Fish & Game National Council Meeting #174 (10 & 11 April 2025)

Tēnā koutou,

Below, you'll find a comprehensive summary of the topics and decisions from our latest NZC meeting. Your engagement and feedback in these matters are invaluable, and I encourage you to review the summary closely.

Executive Overview:

The team at NZC have reviewed and compiled a list of papers from the NZC Meeting 174 held on April 10 & 11 in Wellington.

A number of items are with you all for consultation, including:

1. proposed changes to the family licence;
2. draft budget decisions, and proposed licence fee, levies, and grants;
3. proposed licence sales forecast FY26.

Budgets, levies, and grants are all subject to the final decision by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing on the licence fees submission presented at the end of June.

All decisions from NZC 174 are subject to ratification of minutes at the June NZC meeting.

Also, below is an update on the wider NZC meeting and the following reports are attached for your information:

- RMA update report;
- Research update report;
- Variance report;
- Reserves report.

Detailed Information and Decisions:

1. Proposed Family Licence Changes

At the Council meeting, the Council considered a paper proposing changes to the family fishing licence which will create a more equitable system and boost women's participation in fresh water sports fishing.

The current family licence structure designates one person as the "primary" licence holder with full fishing rights, while the "secondary" licence holder (typically a woman) can only fish with the primary holder or with children. Only the primary licence holder receives Fish & Game communications and has voting rights.

This system reflects outdated gender roles and creates barriers for women who wish to fish independently or take their own path in enjoying our waterways. The paper argued that this restriction contributes to the significant gender imbalance in fishing participation, with women making up only 13% of identified anglers.

After consideration, the NZC has decided to consult with regions on amending the family licence regulations to allow for:

- Two primary licence holders
- Allow all family members to fish independently
- Both primary licence holders to have equal fishing rights and voting privileges
- Investigate any necessary legislative or regulatory amendments and financial implications as part of the consultation information package.
- If the change is recommended following consultation, monitor financial and participation impacts over a three-year period, with specific attention to rates of women's participation.
- Promote any agreed changes as part of a coordinated strategy to address barriers to women's participation in freshwater sports fishing.

The paper and an FAQ document created to help with consultation are attached to the email.

Feedback is needed before Monday 9th June.

2. Budget Consultation

As previously notified via email (and the staff newsletter), the draft budget resolutions are:

1. Approve reserve top-up of \$27,077 for Auckland/ Waikato, and \$18,795 for Nelson/ Marlborough. A total of \$45,872 for reserves top-ups FY26;
2. Approve all budgets from reserves that have been included within business cases or as reserve funded within baseline in the FY26 Budget applications;
3. Approve all staff salaries increases as put forward in the salaries component of baseline budget FY26 applications for existing staff.
4. Accept essential NZC business cases of \$136,000 consisting of - increased licence system operation costs (\$30,000), licence system RFP (\$50,000) and expected additional magazine postage costs for the 2026 year (\$50,000);
5. Recommended approval of a research position with NZC to support NZC's research statutory function, and to co ordinate and modernize F&G research management including population monitoring analysis and reporting;
6. Agree to top up RMA fund by \$100,000
7. Agree to top up the Research fund by \$50,000
8. Three business cases were proposed to be declined. These included the following:
 - Eastern Compliance Officer;
 - NM part time R3 position;
 - Te Anau position proposed to be funded by the region from reserves.
9. The majority of regionally proposed budgets were accepted, with some recommended changes in relation to funding aspects of budgets from reserves rather than through the license income. Whether or not a region funds projects from reserves is a decision for the Regional Council.
10. Recommend approval of the Total Budgets of \$13,834,958* funded through forecast licence income and interest from reserves;
11. Recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025 26 Adult whole season sports fish licence of \$161 (increase of \$5) and Adult whole season game licence increase of \$120 (increase of \$4) (inclusive of the game bird habitat stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted *

12. Recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025 26 non-resident whole season fishing licence of \$300 (increase of \$30) *
13. That the licence categories be charged at the agreed ratio for all categories;
14. The licence fee (s) and budget go to the Regions for Consultation;
15. Request that the National Office develops revised budget policy for next year (26/27) and consults the regions on it.

Budget decisions from NZC meeting 174 are subject to ratification at the NZC meeting in June.

Final decisions on the licence fee, levies, and grants will be made at the June NZC meeting 175, after consideration of regional feedback.

Please see the licence fee, levies, grants consultation paper for further information.

Feedback is needed before Monday 9th June

3. Licence sales forecast (email sent 20 March with draft licence sales forecasts)

Provided by Kate Thompson on behalf of the licence Working Group, this paper discusses the anticipated licence sales for the 2025-26 financial year. NZC is consulting with the regions on the forecast licence sales, and is recommending the forecast LEQ for the 2025/26 Season being **72,975** for Fish and **30,601** for Game (tables 3 and 5 respectively).

Please also find attached the background spreadsheets from Kate on the updated sales forecasts to 17 March for purposes of using estimated complete season sales for 2024-25 in the revenue forecasts.

For the 2024/25 season, General Reserves interest was calculated at 90% of General Reserves 4.5% interest:

- 1st Spreadsheet:
 - First table is usual method;
 - 2nd is using an estimated result for this season. This increases the forecast from 72,669 to 72,975 for Fish LEQ's;
- 2nd workbook "2025-26 Revenue budgets" shows current years LEQ targets in \$ and incorporates interest;
 - Kate has added two extra tables (targets for 25-26) converting LEQ's to \$, one for usual method of forecasting, and another using estimate complete season sales for 2024-25;
 - Note the first table incorporates interest which is calculated from the reserve worksheets returned by regions;

The two forecast tables do not include forecast General Reserves interest income, this will be calculated at 3%. The two forecasts are also based on current licence fees at \$156 incl GST for Fish \$111 incl GST for Game (exclusive of GBHT levy)

General Reserve interest rate for 2025/26 will be calculated as forecast General Reserves at 3%.

NZC has at this stage proposed to use the 72,975 approach for Fish LEQ's, as advised.

NZC remains open to amending their recommendation to NZC. NZC will follow the normal process of consulting with the Regional Fish & Game Councils off the back of the April NZC budget meeting.

Feedback on the proposed Licence sales forecast for FY26 is needed before Monday 9th June

Reports for information:

Variance Report

Attached is the variance report with the information provided to NZC by each region. Historically, this report enables the identification of any issues. All regions provided explanations with their variance reports.

Please note that table 7 is incomplete due to data not being provided.

Reserves Paper:

The reserves paper indicates the state of the projected reserves within the organisation at the end of Financial year 2024-25.

Research update paper

Note the current financial status of the Research Fund. As at 27 Feb 2025, \$172,670 commitment and \$99,500 available for distribution

RMA update Paper

The RMA fund update paper is provided for your reference. As of 28 February 2025, the RMA fund has committed funds of \$445,848. The remaining uncommitted funds of \$192,302 are available for new cases. An additional \$100,000 is being proposed to top up the RM fund for FY26.

NZC Interim CEO

The NZC voted to appoint Deputy CEO Richie Cosgrove as the interim NZC CEO through to November 2025, whilst the Council undertakes the process for a permanent appointment to the role.

If you have further queries or need more details on any of these points, please feel free to contact me directly. We value your ongoing commitment and look forward to your continued participation in achieving our common objectives.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Key indicators table for data collection

Goal	Performance Measure	Who to provide information annually
Unified and Enduring	Staff survey questionnaire	NZC comms
Numeric	Each region provide number of FTE employed and classification of job type % of time staff spend on work for NZC or collaboration with other regions.	Region
Attract and retain licence holders Numeric	Report on access points – increase or decrease in number of access locations Details of activities undertaken to attract new licence holders Details of activities undertaken to attract women and juniors Number of licences checked Report % compliant, number of offences, diversions and number of prosecutions for fishing and hunting ranger services. Narrative about legislation changes to focus infringement work. <i>By category eg volunteer ranger hours / voluntary ranger training / volunteer wetland or planting work etc</i>	Region
Numeric	<i>Record make up of licence holders and track changes over time</i>	Kate
Number and type of promotion	<i>Report events and activities that we held that promote hunting and fishing to children and families and attendance at events eg sika show, education, kids fishing days, extension resources.</i>	Region

Goal	Performance Measure	Who to provide information annually
	Case study of one event and then summary of other events – number of events and number of attendees increase over time	
Numeric	<i>Report new access secured or re established</i>	<i>Region</i>
Mana whenua connected Storey	Report on initiatives and communication to actively collaborate on projects with Mana Whenua on areas of common interest. Regions to report on iwi engagement and collaboration stories.	Region
Public perception and legitimacy Numeric	<i>Participate in public good projects eg catchment groups and wetland management groups etc</i>	<i>Region</i>
Story	<i>Report Biodiversity project Eg HBF&G new game bird habitat with Koura liberated in the waterbody. Eg eel relocation work Eg stranded fish</i>	<i>Region</i>
	License holder survey – questions tbc (NZC)	NZC annual or triannual survey
Healthy Habitats and ecosystems Numeric	Report on Game Bird Habitat monitoring - how do we summarise all the monitoring that has occurred around the country? Harvest metric eg. Number of ducks per hour shot trend information per species. -Consistent method needs to be used – aerial transects number and km flown -Birds banded Number. Number of bands returned from harvest. Picture for each output.	Region

Goal	Performance Measure	Who to provide information annually
	<p>-Pheasant calls /number of sites surveyed shovler / pukeko number of trancets / Km surveyed / number of sites surveyed for Black Swan</p> <p>-Staff hours and time for all of the above</p> <p>-how many wetlands are we managing and total costs</p> <p>-Ha of wetlands that we manage and total costs</p> <p>-Number of wetland restored / created</p> <p>-Ha of wetland restored / created and costs for both of the above.</p>	
Numeric	<p>-Report number of rivers / streams where we have conducted Trout spawning habitat monitoring</p> <p>-Number of rivers that we monitor for fish trend information.</p> <p>-Km of drift dives, number of sites, number of Km, and number of staff</p> <p>-Electric fishing, number of rivers, number of sites</p> <p>-Creel surveys</p> <p>-Aerial survey for salmon spawning sites km flown</p> <p>Other eg Boat surveys</p> <p>-Staff hours and time</p>	Region
Narrative	<i>Report other species habitat monitoring or collaborations with eg DOC involving indigenous species</i>	Region
Narrative	<p><i>Participate in special responses as required eg Avian Bird flue response</i></p> <p>Eg Golden Clam response</p>	Region
Numeric	<i>Advocate for the maintenance and protection of outstanding water bodies</i>	Region - annual

Goal	Performance Measure	Who to provide information annually
	<i>through water conservation orders – good news storey</i>	
Numeric	<i>Report number of consents reviewed, type of consent and what is being sought. Number of district plan comments and what is being sought. Number of Regional plan comments and what is being sought. Number of regional policy statements and what is being sought. Staff time for each and impact fish and game advocacy had on outcomes ie what is achieved</i>	Region - annual
Narrative	<i>Report advocacy activity (eg submission writing) relating to the protection and enhancement of sports fish and game bird habitats.</i>	Region - annual

Agenda Item 7 **Public Forum**

Summary

Invite public for an opportunity to speak to any issues – this may be up to 5 minutes allotted per speaker but is at the Chairman's discretion to allow more time

No Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Note any issues brought to the attention of Council during the Public Forum.

Agenda Item 8 **Proposed Fish and Game Legislation Changes**

Summary

a. Consideration of Proposed Legislative Changes

The proposed changes will be discussed and triaged into (1) full support (2) qualified support (3) items of concern.

The Minister for Hunting and Fishing has offered to all Fish and Game Councils to provide feedback to him and DoC officials. If the key issues are identified in the process above will allow clarification of the extent of feedback.

b. Timetable of Legislative Processes

The timetable of the Legislative Process will be clarified and confirmed.

c. Taranaki Fish and Game Council's Feedback

Following discussions, a decision will be made as to the key issues that may require clarification to the Minister – and when/if this is undertaken prior to the exposure draft of the new legislation.

For Information and Feedback

Recommendation/Action

Council will discuss the proposed legislative changes – identify any areas of concern or specific support. Council should decide on the appropriate approach on how it wishes to engage with the Minister.

Appendix One – Schedule of Legislative Amendments for Fish and Game Governance and Organisational Improvements Amendment Bill

Key to abbreviations used in table:

NZC = New Zealand Fish and Game Council; FGC = Fish and Game Council;
 CA = Conservation Act 1987; FFR = Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983; FGCER = Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990; SFGMP = sports fish and game management plan;
 WA = Wildlife Act 1953; WR = Wildlife Regulations 1955; TFR = Taupo Fishery Regulations 2004

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
	Functions	
	Nationwide policy consistency	
1.	<p><i>General</i> NZC is responsible for coordinating the work of FGCs but has no function to develop policies for the work of FGCs. This impedes national coordination of work by FGCs.</p>	<p>The NZC to have the ability to develop national policies for the work of Fish and Game, both NZC and FGCs. These would be non-binding (except for certain specified areas (described below)) to maintain the independence of FGCs in their regional work.</p>
2.	<p><i>Compliance</i> Each FGC can decide its own policy for ensuring compliance with hunting and fishing regulations. This creates inconsistency of treatment across different regions, and raises questions about natural justice.</p>	<p>To create consistency of approach across councils, the NZC, in consultation with FGCs, to set policy binding on FGCs for things such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How compliance activity is conducted (e.g., standards of behaviour and approach) • How compliance activity is reported • Spatial coverage of compliance work • How to apply any approved infringement policy in different circumstances (the Minister to continue to approve any infringement policy as set out in s.26HA(2) of CA). <p>The NZC, in consultation with FGCs, to set the minimum levels of compliance work undertaken by FGCs for this key activity.</p>
3.	<p><i>Monitoring</i> Each FGC can decide its own policy for resource and activity monitoring in its region, sometimes resulting in incomplete or inconsistent national-level data. This impedes national coordination and prioritisation of effort.</p>	<p>To create consistency of approach for monitoring activity (as set out in s.26Q(1)(a) of the CA) the NZC, in consultation with FGCs, to set policy binding on FGCs for things such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardised methodologies for conducting monitoring activity – including monitoring of sports fish and game resources, licence holder activity and satisfaction, and habitat condition • Spatial coverage of different types of monitoring • Standardised reporting of data. <p>The NZC, in consultation with FGCs, to set the minimum levels of monitoring work undertaken by FGCs for this key activity.</p>
4.	<p><i>Corporate</i> Each FGC sets its own corporate, business, and personnel policies and processes, leading to duplication of effort and inconsistent standards and staff salaries across regions.</p>	<p>To create consistency of approach and systems for corporate activity, the NZC, in consultation with FGCs, to set policy binding on FGCs for things such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business processes and systems • Corporate policies • Health and safety (minimum standards)

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel policies (including staff conditions). <p>This will ensure consistency of approach across the organisation, providing greater efficiencies, and enabling better planning and staff management.</p>
5.	<p><i>Advocacy</i> Some FGC advocacy work and court action has been contrary to wider Fish and Game interests, but the NZC has no way to intervene.</p>	<p>To create consistency of approach across councils and protect the interests of Fish and Game as a whole, the NZC, in consultation with FGCs, to set policy binding on FGCs for things such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General advocacy undertaken by FGCs to advance the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters (including, potentially, a national advocacy strategy) Advocacy undertaken by FGCs via statutory planning processes to advance the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters FGC appearances before courts and tribunals. <p>To ensure court action is timely but well considered, court proceedings, other than for enforcing offences, may only be filed by regional Fish and Game councils with the authorisation of the National Council or the responsible Minister as appropriate.</p> <p>Additionally, all FGC court action to be subject to the direction of the NZC, except when the FGC is challenging the NZC or another FGC.</p> <p>NZC to be empowered to intervene in local advocacy actions undertaken by FGCs when such actions are contrary to the agreed-upon binding advocacy policy.</p>
6.	<p><i>Sports Fish and Game Management Plans</i> NZC has no ability to determine policy content of sports fish and game management plans (SFGMPs) in the areas where the NZC can set policy binding on FGCs (see above).</p>	<p>To create consistency of approach across councils, the NZC, in consultation with FGCs, to determine minimum provisions for inclusion in draft SFGMPs prepared by FGCs in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compliance and enforcement monitoring of resources, and licence holder activity and satisfaction statutory planning processes.
	<p>Functional support</p>	
7.	<p><i>NZC Work Plan</i> The NZC is to have new operational functions and responsibilities, and appropriate transparency and accountability is needed.</p>	<p>The NZC to be required to prepare an annual operational work plan (as FGCs do currently). This will deliver transparency and accountability by providing outcomes and measures to report against (see also rows below).</p>
8.	<p><i>Specialist staff</i> The small size of many FGCs often prevents the engagement of specialist staff, and sharing staff between regions is administratively difficult.</p>	<p>The NZC to have a new function to provide specialist expertise to FGCs – such as planners, ecologists, scientists, lawyers, accountants, etc – who can work across several regions. Such staff may be located in the regions they work.</p>
9.	<p><i>Servicing and reporting</i> The servicing of councillors and business planning and performance reporting need to receive adequate attention and support.</p>	<p>The NZC to have a new function to determine, in consultation with FGCs, minimum work programmes to be implemented by FGCs in relation to the key activities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the servicing of FGC meetings and support to councillors annual business planning and performance monitoring.

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
		The NZC to have a responsibility to ensure that FGC minimum work programmes for all key activities (including rows 2 and 3 above) are adequately funded.
10.	<p><i>Templates and timeframes</i> Each FGC may decide its own structure and format for work planning, annual reporting, and SFGMPs, which can lead to inconsistencies across councils and make comparisons difficult.</p> <p>Time delays can cause problems in collation work undertaken by the NZC.</p>	<p>The NZC to have a new function to determine the forms and templates to be used by FGCs in all work planning, performance reporting, and SFGMPs.</p> <p>Clarify that the NZC may determine processes and timeframes for work planning, annual reporting and the preparation of Anglers and Game Notices.</p>
	Issuing of licences	
11.	FGCs currently issue all licences, and collect all revenue, requiring multiple handling of money via inefficient redistribution mechanisms.	<p>The NZC to issue all sports fishing and game hunting licences and receive all fee revenue.</p> <p>Licences are currently sold via a central website -- licence holders buy directly from website and licence sales agents sell via a portal to this website. This method of selling licences would continue. The website is operated by a specialist contractor.</p> <p>To maintain clarity, rename "Special licences" as "Special permits" in FFR.</p>
	Allocation of funding	
12.	<p>Allocation of funding (derived from licence fee revenue) among FGCs has been problematic since licences issued by FGCs became valid nationwide.</p> <p>Annual allocation of funding to each FGC (after redistribution by NZC) is based largely on the level of funding received by each FGC in previous years. This means management effort is not always directed to areas of greatest potential benefit to licence holders.</p>	<p>Allocation of funding among FGCs to be determined by the NZC according to a funding model set in secondary legislation (<i>regulations or Gazette to be determined</i>).</p> <p>The funding model (yet to be fully developed) is expected to direct the bulk of funding to FGC regions in proportion to the level of licence holder activity in each region, while ensuring funding for key activities (see above), national research, and NZC work, and include a contestable fund.</p> <p>The NZC to have a new function to develop, in consultation with FGCs, a financial strategy.</p>
	Transparency and reporting	
	Performance reporting	
13.	<p><i>Performance measures</i> Operational work planning lacks accountability and transparency, and is not aligned with existing annual reporting requirements for Fish and Game</p>	<p>NZC and FGC annual operational work plans to be required to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concise explanation of what each class of outputs is intended to achieve • A concise explanation of how the performance of each class of outputs will be assessed. <p>NZC and FGC annual operational work plans to be considered final once dated and signed by the Chair and the Manager of the respective FGC or NZC.</p>

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
		NZC and FGC annual operational work plans must be consistent with any approved SFGMP and any binding policy set by the NZC.
14.	<i>Report against performance</i> NZC and FGC annual reporting in CA does not align with NZC and FGC requirements specified in Public Finance Act 1989 and Crown Entities Act 2004.	NZC and FGC annual reports to each contain statements of performance against the performance expectations in their annual operating plan. Each FGC annual report to be dated and signed by the FGC Chair and FGC Manager before submission to NZC.
15.	<i>Full reporting on enforcement</i> FGCs must report annually on enforcement activity under an infringements system, but not on actions leading to court action (complaints from public, adherence to procedures, etc)	Requirements on FGCs to report annually on enforcement work under any infringement system to be expanded to cover all enforcement work.
16.	<i>Combined annual report</i> NZC and each FGC is independent and provides its own separate annual report to Minister, none of which are reviewed individually, or across Fish and Game as a whole. (For example, there is no equivalent to the annual select committee reviews of Crown agencies.)	The NZC to compile NZC and FGC annual reports (currently 13 in all) into a single annual report for the Minister to present to the House. The NZC combined annual report be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contain the statements of performance against performance expectations for the NZC and each FGC (as provided by each FGC); and • Summarise any discrepancies between the performance and performance expectations of the NZC and each FGC; and • Provide an overall review of Fish and Game (all 13 councils) as a whole. The NZC combined annual report to be dated and signed by the NZC Chair and NZC Manager before submission to the Minister.
17.	<i>Information to enable coordination</i> The NZC has been hindered in its coordination role by FGCs declining to provide information necessary for coordination and oversight of Fish and Game work. FGCs have not been fully informed of NZC activities.	The NZC to have a clear oversight function and a new power to require Fish and Game Councils to provide information on request (for the functions where the NZC sets binding policy) related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial information • performance reporting information • compliance information (including actions of enforcement officers) • monitoring information and data • matters relating to adherence with corporate policies, including personnel policies (subject to Privacy Act considerations for staff employed by the FGC rather than the NZC). FGCs to have a power to require the NZC to provide information on request (for the functions where the NZC sets binding policy) related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial information • performance reporting information • compliance information (including actions of enforcement officers)

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring information and data • matters relating to adherence with corporate policies, including personnel policies (subject to Privacy Act considerations for staff employed by the NZC rather than the FGC) • matters relating to the development by the NZC of binding policies.
18.	<p><i>Information to inform audits</i> NZC has a function to audit the activities of FGCs but lacks the necessary power to require FGCs to provide financial information to NZC, thus preventing NZC fulfilling its role.</p>	<p>The NZC to have a function to audit the activities and performance of FGCs, and of Fish and Game as a whole. An FGC must provide any information (including financial, performance, or other information on its activities, assets or liabilities) that is requested by the NZC as part of an audit.</p>
	Reporting to DOC	
19.	<p>DOC is not always aware of circumstances and results of legal proceedings under CA, despite having accountability for operation of Act</p>	<p>NZC and FGCs to be required to report to DOC on circumstances and results of all legal proceedings made under the CA, as currently required under WA.</p>
	Modernising Fish and Game	
20.	<p><i>Communication with licence holders</i> Fish and Game can have difficulty communicating with licence holders on matters of interest, including consultation on proposed Anglers and Game Notice conditions, and advising of SFGMP reviews.</p>	<p>Provide that, in addition to newspapers, Fish and Game may place public notices and consult with licence holders via electronic methods. Internet sites (with free public access) and by emailing eligible voters (who have provided an email address when buying a licence) or other electronic notification (e.g. subscription via website).</p>
21.	<p><i>Online meetings</i> There is uncertainty about legality of NZC and FGC meetings held online.</p>	<p>Allow NZC and FGC meetings to be held online, and votes taken (including electronically), as if meeting was in person.</p>
22.	<p><i>Role clarity</i> There has been uncertainty within Fish and Game about the NZC's role in processes for approvals of SFGMPs, Anglers Notices, and Open Season for Game Notices. Anglers Notices and Game Notices are becoming unnecessarily complex and different between regions, but there is also a need to maintain FGC independence over local resource management decisions.</p>	<p>NZC to collate and edit (form, readability and useability only) Anglers and Game Notices before submitting them to the Minister for approval.</p> <p>NZC may provide independent advice to the Minister on the sustainability (e.g. will the resource become depleted), suitability (e.g. is there a good rationale for a particular condition), and consistency (within and between regions) of Anglers and Game notice conditions recommended to the Minister by FGCs. However, the NZC will not be able to amend or decline the substance of Anglers and Game notices prepared by FGCs before submission to Minister.</p> <p>NZC may provide independent advice to the Minister on the suitability of provisions in draft SFGMPs submitted to the Minister for approval by FGCs.</p>
	Ministerial powers	
23.	<p><i>Review function</i> Minister has no explicit function to review the operations or performance of FGCs and NZC</p>	<p>Minister to have a function to review operations and performance of Fish and Game as a whole, or individual FGCs or the NZC at any time.</p>

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
		NZC and FGC to be required to provide any information requested by the Minister as part of a review, including any financial, performance, or other information on their activities, assets, or liabilities.
24.	<i>Anglers Notice amendment</i> Minister cannot amend an Anglers Notice before approving it – unlike for a Game Notice where the Minister can amend before approving	Minister to be able to either approve a draft Anglers Notice or amend the draft notice before approving.
25.	<i>Game Notice amendment</i> Minister cannot amend an approved Game Notice until after season begins.	Minister to be able to amend an approved Game Notice before or during the Open Season that it relates to.
Governance		
Eligibility to vote in elections		
26.	<i>Everyone may vote</i> Only adult whole-season licence holders may currently vote; this excludes many licence holder interests. Licence holders must also ask to be listed on the electoral roll, creating an impediment to future participation in elections.	All New Zealand residents who have held an adult sports fishing or game and hunting licence in the three years leading up to a Fish and Game election to be eligible to vote in that election. Buyers of licences to be automatically included on electoral roll, rather than needing to ask to be on roll. The partner of the holder of a family whole-season licence to be able to vote in FGC elections.
27.	<i>One vote only</i> Licence holders currently vote in the regions they buy their whole-season licence(s) from, and if they buy their fishing and hunting licences in different regions, they may vote in elections for two regions.	Licence buyers to be required to select a voting region for election purposes when buying a licence, and no longer able to vote in two regions. Where a person purchases more than one licence to hunt or fish in the three years before an election, the FGC region specified at the time the most recent licence was purchased shall be the region they are entitled to vote in. Where a region is to be divided at the time of an election (as part of a reorganisation of regions and boundaries), the NZC must ask eligible voters for that region which new region they wish to vote in.
28.	<i>No subregions</i> The current subregions do not deliver local representation as voters vote for candidates in all subregions and a candidate can stand anywhere.	Remove provisions for Fish and Game regions to have subregions.
29.	<i>Electoral roll maintenance</i> FGCs must maintain electoral rolls, but in practice this has long been done centrally	NZC to maintain electoral rolls rather than FGCs.
Elections procedures		
30.	<i>Allow electronic voting</i> The CA provides for electronic (online) voting, but the FGCE do not.	Electronic voting to be provided for in regulations. Voting papers able to be provided via email and Internet links, in addition to via post.

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
	The requirement for alphabetical listings on ballot papers favours candidates with surnames earlier in alphabet, affecting election outcomes.	Remove requirement for election candidates to be listed alphabetically by surname on ballot papers.
31.	<p><i>Publicity for elections and rolls</i> Elections and results currently advertised only via newspapers. Personal contact details are currently publicly available via electoral roll.</p>	<p>Elections and election results to be advertised also via electronic methods, Internet sites (with free public access), and by emailing eligible voters (who have provided an email address when buying a licence) or other electronic notification (e.g. subscription via website). Align voter privacy with modern expectations and privacy principles by making elector contact details (postal and email addresses) included on electoral roll no longer publicly available.</p>
32.	<p><i>Keeping elections aligned</i> The discharge of a FGC would currently result in that FGC having future elections at different times to all other FGC elections</p>	<p>FGC election timing to be kept aligned across all regions in the event of a council being discharged by Minister. A council elected to replace a discharged council to hold office only until the next three-yearly elections (unless this would result in a term of less than 1 year, in which case the term shall be until the end of the term and for an additional 3 years.</p>
	NZ Council membership	
33.	<p>NZC will have increased functions and responsibilities. FGCs may replace their NZC representative at any time, which leads to NZC members focusing on maximising benefits for their FGC, not all licence holders nationally. NZC may replace its Chair at any time for any reason, creating policy continuity risks.</p>	<p>The NZC to be comprised of the Chairs of the FGCs, in recognition of the additional roles and responsibilities. To deter FGCs changing their NZC representative frequently (creating policy and governance continuity difficulties):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a FGC replaces its Chair, the FGC must advise the NZC and Minister in writing of that replacement and the reasons for that replacement • If the NZC replaces its chair, the NZC must advise the Minister in writing of that replacement and the reasons for that replacement. <p>The NZC and FGCs to appoint their own Chairs as currently.</p>
	FGC membership	
34.	<p><i>Council size</i> The current size of 12 councillors per FGC is too large given the level of decision making required.</p>	Each FGC to have up to eight elected members (not including co-opted or appointed members).
35.	<p><i>Include wider interests</i> Criteria for FGC membership are too narrow, and exclude many anglers and hunters from being councillors (and exclude the interests they might represent)</p>	<p>Any resident adult who has held a sports fishing or game bird hunting licence in the three years prior to an election to be eligible for election to a FGC. The partner of the holder of a family whole-season licence (held in the three years prior to an election) to be eligible for election in FGC elections.</p>
36.	<p><i>Updated "fit and proper person" test</i> Current criteria whereby people are deemed unsuitable to hold FGC membership are too narrow – convictions for offences involving</p>	<p>A person is to be not eligible to stand for election to a FGC (or remain a councillor if in office) if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are an undischarged bankrupt

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
	firearms, freshwater habitat, or any freshwater fish are as relevant as existing matters; matters from s.30 of Crown Entities Act 2004 are also relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been convicted of an offence involving freshwater fish, or game, or protected wildlife, or freshwater habitat, or the use of firearms (whether an offence under the CA or any other Act) • Have been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of 2 years or more, or who has been sentenced to imprisonment for any other offence, unless that person has obtained a pardon, served the sentence, or otherwise suffered the penalty imposed on the person • Are disqualified under another Act <p>MoJ Criminal record check and public register check to be required of all election candidates to confirm eligibility prior to election (paid for by the FGC and facilitated by returning officer). Candidates to also sign a statement to that effect.</p> <p>(Note that committing an infringement offence would not prevent someone from standing for election.)</p>
37.	<i>Councillors not to be employees</i> Allowing people to be both councillors and employees can create accountability problems	No FGC or NZC councillor to be able to be an FGC or NZC employee while the councillor is in office.
38.	<i>Avoiding immediate re-election</i> If a person is removed from a FGC by the Minister there is nothing preventing them being immediately re-elected to office.	If an elected councillor has been removed from office by the Minister, that person is to be ineligible to be a FGC member for a period of three years from the date of removal (i.e. a full term stand-down).
39.	<i>Declaration of previous removal</i> If a person has previously been removed from office by the Minister, there is no requirement for electors to be advised of this.	If an elected councillor has previously been removed from office by the Minister (for any reason) and that person stands again for election, they must advise electors of the previous removal.
40.	<i>Remedying skills gaps</i> Elected FGCs sometimes lack the full range of skills required for good decision-making	Minister may appoint up to two members (additional to elected members) onto a FGC. Such appointed members to be entitled to vote on any matter, but may not be elected as the FGC chair by the council members.
41.	<i>Transparency of resignation</i> Any FGC member may resign by writing to Minister only, and NZC may not be immediately aware of situation and potential issues.	Any member of a FGC may at any time resign from a FGC by writing addressed to the Minister, signed and dated, with a copy to the FGC and NZC.
42.	<i>Non-democratic process to fill vacancies</i> Process for replacing elected FGC members who resign is not democratic.	At any election, all vacant positions must be filled unless there are fewer eligible candidates standing than vacancies. A FGC can choose to fill a vacancy or vacancies, or not, by election at any time during its term if the number of its elected members is below eight but at or above a minimum of three.

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
		A FGC must hold an election to fill all vacant positions if FGC membership falls below the minimum number of three elected members.
43.	<i>Member of multiple FGCs</i> It is possible for someone to be elected as a member of two FGCs at the same time, and potentially the chair of both leading to potential uncertainty about NZC voting rights.	Fish and Game councillors to be prohibited from serving on more than one Fish and Game Council at the same time.
	Behaviour while in office	
44.	<i>Removal of councillor for "just cause"</i> Circumstances under which Minister may remove a councillor from office are outdated and not aligned with similar legislation	The Minister to be able to remove any member of a FGC from office at any time for any "just cause", including misconduct, inability to perform the functions of office, neglect of duty, and breach of any of the collective duties of the FGC or NZC or the individual duties of FGC or NZC members (depending on the seriousness of the breach).
45.	<i>Standards for conduct of meetings and councillors</i> Conduct of FGC meetings and behaviour of some councillors has often been less than optimal, including in relation to conflicts of interest	Ensure council meetings and councillor conduct is consistent with good public entity standards and practice, including noting and taking account of conflicts of interest, by enabling the Minister to establish by notice in the <i>Gazette</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rules for the conduct of all NZC and FGC meetings • rules for the conduct of all NZC and FGC councillors while performing their duties. Compliance with these rules to be mandatory for all council meetings and councillors.
	Fees and expenses	
46.	<i>Expenses</i> FGC and NZC members cannot be reimbursed for expenses.	Enable NZC and FGC councillors to be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses (funded from licence fee revenue) incurred in performing functions as a councillor.
47.	<i>Fees</i> Elected FGC and NZC councillors will continue to be volunteers, but FGC councillors appointed by the Minister will also be able to receive remuneration for their services.	Enable Ministerial appointees to FGCs to be paid meeting fees in accordance with Cabinet Fees Framework (funded from licence fee revenue). Elected FGC councillors and NZC members to continue to be volunteers, but the Minister to retain the ability to pay councillors in future (enabled by a regulation process).
48.	<i>No compensation for loss of office</i> Remove any entitlement to compensation or payment if no longer a council member.	An NZC or FGC councillor who leaves or is removed from their position as a councillor shall cease to be paid and will not be entitled to compensation for loss of office.
	Mergers of Fish and Game Regions	
49.	<i>Enable regional mergers</i> Currently, mergers of FGC regions are not feasible as the CA does not have the provisions needed to manage assets, end councillor terms of office, etc.	Minister to have power to alter or merger FGC regions, and consider requests for mergers from FGCs (no change from current powers). When regions are merged or altered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister to be able to allocate and transfer assets as Minister considers appropriate. • All proceedings by or against an FGC may be continued.

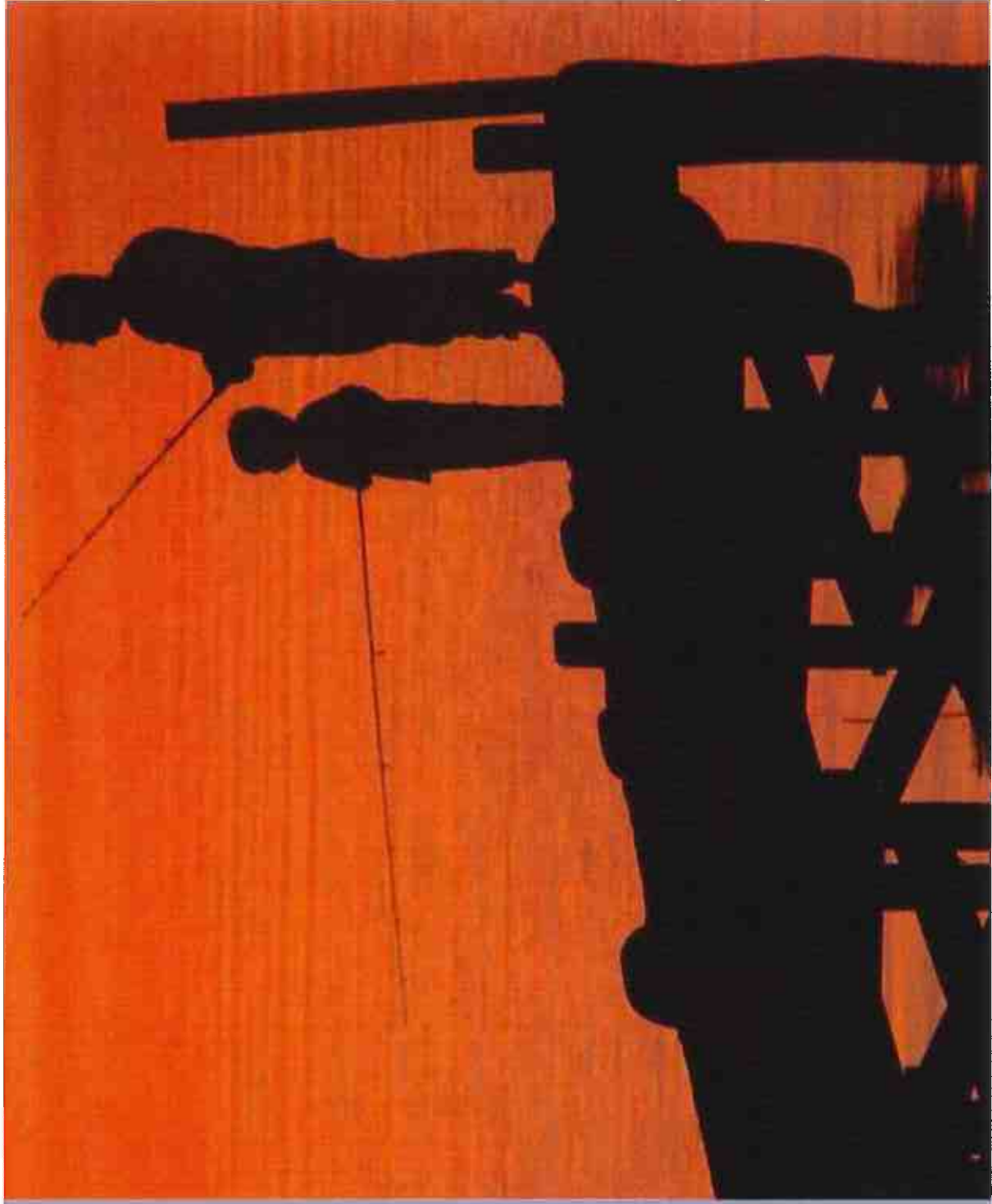
No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Registrars be empowered to give effect to any transfer of land. All fishing and hunting licences, Anglers Notices, Game Notices, and SFGMPs in respect of affected regions to continue in force until their expiry, replacement or cancellation. <p>All councillors of a region that is abolished to continue to hold office until the end of the three-year term of office and (for clarity) at the election the old council(s) and region(s) cease to exist, and new ones come into existence.</p>
50.	<p><i>Minimum number of regions</i> Too many regional mergers could leave NZC with too few councillors, or FGCs with insufficient local knowledge</p>	<p>Number of Fish and Game regions to be no fewer than 7 and no more than 12.</p>
Needs of other interests		
51.	<p><i>Treaty partners</i> Treaty partners sometimes wish the periodic transfer of sports fish to isolated fisheries to cease, to meet cultural objectives. Minister responsible for Fish and Game currently has no ability to prevent this.</p>	<p>The Minister to have a new power to prohibit the transfer of live sports fish to a location where the species already exists.</p>
52.	<p><i>General functions</i> FGC management to maximise angler and hunter benefit often overrides the needs of other interests, and has sometimes impacted aviation safety and threatened native fish</p>	<p>The FGC function to manage, maintain, and enhance sports fish and game resources in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters to become <u>subject to</u> the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring aviation safety is not compromised ensuring the conservation of isolated populations of threatened native fish is not impeded having regard to the impact of management on other natural resources and other users of the habitat
53.	<p><i>Provisions in SFGMPs</i> Similar to the above, the current requirement for sports fish and game management plans (SFGMPs) to maximise angler and hunter opportunities often overrides the needs of other interests</p>	<p>Have new requirement that SFGMPs must include provisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure aviation safety is not compromised ensure the conservation of isolated populations of threatened native fish is not impeded describe how any conflict between sports fish and game management and “other natural resources and the needs of other users of the habitat” (i.e. non-hunting interests) will be managed.
54.	<p><i>Require compliance with policy</i> FGCs have not always complied with their approved sports fish and game management plans and there has been no way to make them comply.</p>	<p>Have a clear requirement that FGCs and NZC must comply with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any approved SFGMPs any General Policies under conservation legislation any binding policy determined by the NZC (applies to FGCs only).
55.	<p><i>Empowered to manage game</i> FGCs have a function to manage game birds but lack the powers needed to manage game birds</p>	<p>Director-General of Conservation to be able to delegate to FGCs the DG’s powers to directly manage game birds</p>

No.	Summary of problem	Summary of proposed changes
	impacting farm crops or aviation safety. Requiring case by case permits from DOC is impractical.	impacting crops, etc, subject to any conditions specified by the DG. The DG would be able to revoke the delegation if an FGC used the delegation inappropriately or in ways contrary to any conditions required by the DG.
56.	<i>Enable establishment of commercial preserves</i> Authorisation of commercial upland game preserves currently requires an Order in Council, which is an unnecessary level of process.	Commercial upland game preserves to be authorised by Notice (in the same way that non-commercial preserves are authorised).
Other matters and removal of spent provisions		
57.	<i>Creation of Separate Act</i> There is a need to better recognise Fish and Game's role as a key organisation in the hunting and fishing sector.	Create a standalone Fish and Game Act, maintaining all necessary linkages with CA and other legislation (as modified by the reforms elsewhere in this schedule) but making no other changes to policy.
58.	<i>Appointment of staff</i> The CA has NZC and FGC councillors appointing all staff, not only NZC and FGC managers	Clarify that elected councillors appoint managers, and that managers appoint other staff (making current practice lawful) Appointments of managers and staff to be subject to staff policy determined by NZC (see above).
59.	<i>Use of money from court fines</i> Section 46(7A)(b) of CA largely restricts the uses of fines recovered to the operation of hatcheries.	Align with similar provisions in WA such that money from court fines under CA may be applied for purpose of any FGC functions.
60.	<i>Remedy appointment gap</i> Sections 26FA(1) and (2) of CA allows appointment for the purposes of the CA but not the Wildlife Act.	Allow appointments of enforcement officers for the purposes of WA also.
61.	<i>Update headings</i> Sections 26F and 26W of CA call NZC and FGCs "Crown Entities" when they are no longer such.	Update cross-headings to reflect current legislation (Public Entity status).
62.	<i>Remove transition provisions</i> Provisions relating to Transitional Fish and Game Council became spent over 30 years ago.	Remove spent provisions relating to transitional Fish and Game Councils from FG CER.

DOC on implementation, budget, and next steps



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Purpose of this session

- Share high-level timelines for the change process
- Present DOC's initial thinking on transition arrangements for your feedback
- Present DOC's initial thinking on funding allocation for your feedback
- Discuss next steps in DOC's engagement with NZC/FGCs
- Answer your questions about the proposed changes, process, or any related matters

Timeline up to Royal Assent (the Bill becomes an Act)

Stage	Time period
<p>Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) drafts Fish and Game Bill (five months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC sends drafting instructions to PCO based on policy development work and Minister's decisions 	Now - Oct/Nov 2025
<p>Bill introduced to the House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Reading follows and the Bill is referred to Select Committee 	Oct/Nov 2025
<p>Select Committee (SC) (six months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament sets SC reporting deadline but standard is six months, SC considers the Bill, calls for submissions, amends if needed, may send Bill back to Cabinet for approval if considerable amendments made 	Oct/Nov - May/June 2026 (accounts for Dec-Jan recess)
<p>Second Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoWH, Third Reading, and Royal Assent (Bill becomes Act) follows 	June/July 2026

Timeline from Royal Assent to full implementation

Stage	Time period
Royal Assent (Bill becomes Act) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some changes immediately happen, e.g., revised Ministerial powers, online meetings, non-binding policies, updated F&G Council Elections Regulations 1990, etc. 	Jun/Jul 2026
Election cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public notice of elections, calls for candidacies/registration for electoral roll, 8 member councils 	August 2027
New F&G councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> F&G councils elect Chairs, the NZC now consists of F&G Council Chairs 	October 2027
New NZC first meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets binding policies, minimum work programmes, financial strategy, etc. all in consultation with F&G councils 	December 2027
New financial year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NZC issues licences, collects and distributes licence fees (new financial strategy and allocation model in place by this time) 	1 September 2028

Fish and Game Transition

What does “transition” mean here?

It refers to a period of up to three years after Royal Assent, during which Fish and Game, supported by DOC, must implement the proposed changes.

Key points:

- Transition clauses will be included in the new Fish and Game Act and reviewed by the Select Committee (and may be adjusted).
- Some changes (e.g. business planning and reporting) might be able to comply with both current and future legislation and be ready to go from Royal Assent.
- Some parts of the Bill (e.g. election regulation changes) will take effect immediately after Royal Assent (though election changes won't apply until the next cycle).
- *The Minister has decided some of the changes will happen, in the following four slides, however, you will get to decide how some of these changes will work in practice.*

Some changes are more straight-forward than others

Clarifying processes that already exist:

- NZC able to set non-binding nationwide policies
- NZC collating and editing Anglers and Game notices for form, but can also provide separate advice to the Minister
- Regional CEs to hire staff (clarification point)
- Confirming that NZC and FGC meetings can be held online
- NZC required to prepare an annual operational work plan (already does)

Minor change:

- Updated resignation process for councillors

Some changes will require you to revise your internal procedures

They are mostly elections related:

- FGCs reduced to 8 members and NZC made up of FGC Chairs
- Councillors to be subject to a 'fit and proper person test'
- Councillors not to be F&G employees (clarification point)
- Prohibition to serve on multiple FGCs
- Elections: Declaration of previous removal from office by the Minister
- Elections: No immediate re-election after having been removed from office by the Minister
- Updated process to fill vacancies
- Able to advertise elections electronically

Other small internal F&G procedures:

- Remuneration of Ministerial appointees (put admin in place for use if and when required))
- Court fines to be used for purpose of any FGC functions (accounting change)
- Better consider other resources and users of the habitat (priority change in decisions)
- Describe in SFGMPs how other users' interests are considered (clarification point)

Some changes will require you to do more process planning

We want you to focus a bit on these today, these changes are:

- NZC to collect licence fees (changes to software and internal accounting) (NZC)
- NZC to issue licences (changes to software and internal accounting) (NZC)
- Elections - adjustments to software relating to electronic voting in elections (NZC)
- Maintain electoral rolls (changes to software and internal procedures) (NZC)
- Licence holders can only vote for one FGC (changes to software and internal procedures) (NZC)
- Reimbursement of expenses (develop internal policy and procedures) (F&G)
- Modernise communication channels to licence holders (develop protocols for use of emails to licence holders) (F&G)
- Information sharing to enable NZC-FGC coordination (develop protocols) (F&G)
- Report to DOC about legal proceedings (F&G/DOC)

Some changes will require you to develop new policies

We want you to focus a lot on these today, these changes are:

- Standards for conduct of meetings and councillors (develop draft standards) (F&G)
- Provide specialist expertise to FGCs (how this might best be arranged with NZC)
- Include descriptions of anticipated outcomes and performance measures in operational work plans (develop guidelines/standards for doing this) (F&G)
- Report annually on enforcement work (new procedures) (F&G)
- Report against performance (new procedures) (F&G)
- Compile 13 annual reports into single report with overview (NZC)
- Set minimum work programmes (part of NZC/FGC business planning) (NZC in consultation with FGCs)
- Set financial strategy (develop strategy) (NZC in consultation with FGCs)
- Set binding policies (advocacy policy needed early) (NZC in consultation with FGCs)
- NZC to distribute licence fees according to the allocation model (input to DOC needed to develop Allocation Model to recommend to Minister) (NZC)

Funding allocation model

Cabinet paper summary:

- Guarantees funding for:
 - Key activities (minimum levels of compliance and monitoring, councillor and FGC meetings support, annual business planning and performance monitoring)
 - National research
 - NZC operations
 - Special projects
- The model applies to licence fee revenue only.
- Its purpose is to allocate funds, and in collaboration with FGCs, to balance: key activities, regional activity levels, and special projects.
- It will be set through secondary legislation.

Cabinet agreed the following:

- 3 buckets for allocating funding
- Intent is to provide certainty, transparency, efficiency, and flexibility
- And to better recognise national licence and direct funds towards need and activity

Funding allocated for key activities

Funding from this 'bucket' would be allocated out first, so that at a minimum all councils would be adequately funded for their key activities.

The Cabinet paper included these key activities: minimum levels of compliance and monitoring, council meetings, business planning, national research, NZC work.

- What else needs to be included here? How much detail is needed? E.g., should we include staff/overhead costs to carry out this work?
- What are key activities for the NZC? For example, providing for the licencing system?
- How does this fit in with the work F&G have done on zero-based budgeting or other funding initiatives?

58

Funding allocated based on regional activity levels

Allocation based on licence holder activity means higher activity FGCs would in theory get a greater share of the licence fee revenue and have more to spend on other key activities like advocacy, public access matters, and managing habitat and species.

Funding allocated for a special projects fund

The amount that goes into this fund does not need to be set in stone but a clear idea of what it would fund is important.

- What would you see as being funded from this 'bucket'? E.g. could initially be used to support FGCs while they adjust to new funding approach?

Next steps

We want to know who the right people in the organisation are that we need to talk to on key subjects. We are keen to work with you as the national leadership but you have options to set up, for example, sub-groups to work together to advise on specific changes, such as the funding allocation model. How would you like to work with us?

Please stay in touch with us! Questions? Ideas? Our inbox is open to you:
fishandgamereform@doc.govt.nz

Summary

a. Chairman's Report for Previous Period Relating to Issues in Taranaki Region

Chairman to provide an overview report of key issues since the previous meeting.

This will focus on issues relevant to governance functions but provide an overview of key operational outcomes where appropriate.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive the report presented by the Chairman for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

Agenda Item 10 Inter-Regional Business - Governance

Summary

a. Regional Chairs' Forum Update

Brief report from the Chairman of any interactions of the Fish and Game Regional Chairs' Group since the previous Council Meeting.

b. Shared Resources Update

Update on the shared resources arrangement between Wellington and Taranaki Fish and Game Councils.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive the report presented by the Chairman for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

Agenda Item 11 **Draft Budget 2025/2026 and Draft Operational Work Plan**

Summary

a. Draft Budget 2025/2026

- Review licence fee approved by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing
- Consider if any amendments are required to the regional budgets – including how to deal with any increases in costs above base funding and use of regional reserves to cover cost increases if a shortfall.

Decision

Recommendation/Action

Approve the 2025/2026 Budget and adopt the Operational Work Plan



Fish & Game New Zealand Submission

Date:	3 July 2025
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Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Subject:	2025-2026 SPORTS FISHING AND GAME HUNTING LICENCE FEES
Action sought:	Approval for Fish and Game Licence Fees for the 2025/26 seasons.
Deadline:	As soon as practical before 1 August 2025 to allow for drafting and Ministerial approval of the Sports Fishing Licences Fees and Forms Notice 2025, 31 days before sports fishing licences go on sale on 1 September 2025. The Sports Fishing Licences Fees and Forms Notice is submitted to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing upon approval of this notice, and the Anglers Notice submitted to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

Paper type:	Risk assessment:	Level of risk:	F&G priority:
Statutory	Negative angler/hunter or political reaction	Medium	High

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	
Richard Cosgrove	Acting Chief Executive		(m) 021 646 245
Rosamund Connelly	Policy Advisor		(m) 027 733 5076

2025/2026 SPORTS FISHING AND GAME HUNTING LICENCE FEES

Proposal

1. This paper seeks your approval for the 2025/26 sports fishing and game hunting licence fees and proposed budget for the 13 Fish & Game Councils for the financial year 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.

Summary

2. Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the recommendation of appropriate licence fees to recover costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game and game bird habitat stamp fees. All Fish and Game Councils draw from the same fund, which is generated each year by pooling all of the collected licence fees. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council), in consultation with all Fish and Game Councils, determines the budget for every Council.
3. The process for setting licence fees is the NZ Council makes an interim decision on licence fees and categories. The NZ Council then consults with the 12 regional Fish and Game Councils. After considering the views and recommendations of the regional councils, the NZ Council finalises its recommendation (to you as Minister for Hunting and Fishing) about the appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licences in the new financial year.
4. The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game Councils for 2025/26 is \$13,972,008 (Last year \$13,255,720) an increase in budget of \$716,288. (exclusive of GST). Anticipated Net Licence Revenue and Interest/other income is \$13,063,462 (last year \$12,723,303).
5. Use of Reserves is made up of two categories. Firstly, Regions have requested to use reserves for specific projects – these total \$278,449 and secondly, the NZC Council is proposing \$630,097 to come from Regional Reserves to cover the shortfall in Revenue and Costs.
6. After completing this process, the proposed 2025/26 adult whole season licence (inclusive of GST) is: \$161 for sports fish (\$5 increase): \$120 for game (\$4 increase) inclusive of the \$5 Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee (no increase). This year, the NZ Council is therefore recommending fee increases across both sports fishing and game hunting licences.
7. The NZ Council also recommends increasing the whole-season non-residents fishing licence by \$30 to \$300 per season.
8. The New Zealand Council is also recommending that you approve changing the scope and effect of the whole-season family fishing licence so that both adults can fish independently. We also recommend that the secondary adult angler (generally female) be allowed to fish alone (currently not permitted) and be given voting rights in Fish & Game elections. This will address longstanding concerns that the current licence conditions are discriminatory.
9. The supporting information and consultation for this change to the family licence is included in this document as Appendix 6
10. To enable this change to family licences, the New Zealand Council proposes the adoption of the same definition of family licence as is used by DOC for the Taupo fishery family licence. This has a benefit that an angler can be certain that if they meet the criteria in Taupo, they meet the criteria for the rest of the country. We also recommend that the fee ratio between family whole-season licences and adult whole-season licences (1.5 to 1) that is used at Taupo be used for Fish & Game licences also. This would mean a one-off \$39 increase in Fish & Game whole-season family fishing licences for this year compared to the recommended \$5 increase for adult whole-season licences. We consider the increase is appropriate given the partner angler can now fish alone.
11. No other changes are proposed to the other sports fishing or game bird hunting licence fees, or game bird hunting licence types. The lists of waters to which the existing designated

waters, controlled-period and Sea-run Salmon licences types apply to are provided in a separate submission for your approval.

12. Once sports fish and game licences and licence fees are approved, the Department of Conservation will work with the Parliamentary Counsel Office to prepare the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice and the Game Licences, Fees and Forms Notice. These Notices are then submitted to you for final approval prior to publication.
13. Should you approve a licence fee increase, the NZC proposes that Councils use a total of \$908,546 from reserves to fund the shortfall between Revenue and Costs. Currently, the organisation has a forecast of \$6.9 million of reserves as at 31 August 2025. NZC policy is to retain 20% (\$2.65 million) of the operating budget as reserves. The NZC consider it prudent to maintain Reserves over 20% in order to continue management of fish, game and habitat in the case of threats from the likes of biosecurity incursions, pandemics and similar challenges such as loss of Licence income. Based on the use of \$908,546 from reserves, the two regions fall below the 20% and would be topped up by NZC as per policy.

Recommended Action

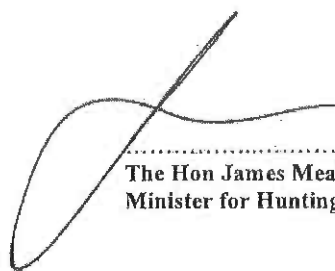
It is recommended that you

		Minister's decision
(a)	Note The proposed 2025/26 adult whole season licence fee of \$161 (Fish) and \$120 (Game) represents a minor (less than 3.5%) increase to most licence categories from last year.	
(b) EITHER		
	(i) Approve The schedule of proposed fees for 2025/26 for the different <u>Sports Fish Licence</u> categories in Schedule 1 on page 5 of this submission; and	(yes) / no
	(ii) Approve The schedule of proposed fees for 2025/26 for the different <u>Game Bird Licence</u> categories in Schedule 1 on page 5 of this submission.	(yes) / no
OR		
	(iii) Approve The continuation of the current fees for 2024/25 for all <u>Sports Fish</u> and <u>Game Bird</u> licence categories in Schedule 1 on page 5 of this submission.	(yes) / no
(c)	Approve That the whole-season family fishing licence definition be changed to that used for the Taupo fishery family licence and that both adults be entitled to vote in Fish & Game elections.	(yes) / no
(d)	Approve The continuation of all existing types of sports fishing licences	(yes) / no

- (e) **Approve** The continuation of all existing designated waters fisheries and controlled fisheries, as listed in appendices 3 and 4 of this submission. (yes / ~~no~~)
- (f) **Approve** The continuation of all existing sea-run salmon waters, as listed in appendix 5 of this submission and include the Awakino River (a tributary of the Waiktaki River). (yes / ~~no~~)
- (g) **Approve** The continuation of all existing types of game bird hunting licences. (yes / ~~no~~)
- (h) **Approve** A Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee of \$5 (incl GST) for the 2026/27 game season when sold as part of a game licence, and \$10 otherwise. (yes / ~~no~~)
- (i) **Note** Council Reserves of \$908,546 will be used to cover the shortfall of Revenue and Costs for the 2025/26 year, depending on the decisions made above. (yes / ~~no~~)
- (j) **Agree** That drafting instructions be provided to Parliamentary Counsel Office for the notices required to give effect to the decisions in this paper. (yes / ~~no~~)



.....
 Richie Cosgrove
 Chief Executive
 New Zealand Fish and Game Council



..... 30/7/25
 The Hon James Meager
 Minister for Hunting and Fishing

**Schedule 1 of F&G NZ's Proposed Licences & Fees for 2025/26
(Inclusive of GST)**

Sports Fish Licence		2024/25	2025/26	
Category of licence	Class of applicant	Current fee \$	Proposed fee \$	Fee difference
Whole season (1 Oct – 30 Sep)	Adult	156	161	\$5
	Junior	31	32	\$1
	Child	free	free	Nil
Family		203	242	\$39*
Non-resident Whole season	Adult	270	300	\$30
	Junior	51	56	\$5
	Child	51	56	\$5
Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)	Adult	94	97	\$3
Loyal senior	Adult	133	137	\$4
Local area	Adult	125	129	\$4
Short-break	Adult	56	57	\$1
Long-break	Adult	109	112	\$3
Day	Adult	25	26	\$1
	Junior	6	6	Nil
Non-resident Day	Adult	38	42	\$4
	Junior	23	25	\$2
	Child	23	25	\$2
Controlled-period	All classes	free	free	Nil
Sea-Run Salmon	All classes	5	5	Nil

Designated Waters Licence		2024/25	2025/26	
Category of licence	Class of applicant	Current fee \$	Proposed fee \$	Fee difference
Designated Waters Season (Resident)	All classes	5	5	Nil
Designated Waters Day (Non-resident)	All classes	40	40	Nil

Game Bird Licence (includes \$5 Game Bird Habitat Stamp)		2025	2026	
Category of licence	Class of applicant	Current fee \$	Proposed fee \$	Fee difference
Whole season (primarily 1st Sat in May to 31 Aug)	Adult	116	120	\$4
	Junior	27	28	\$1
	Child	5	5	Nil
Day (available from 2nd Monday of season)	Adult	27	28	\$1
	Junior	10	10	Nil

❖ All other licence category fees are set as a percentage of the fish or game adult whole-season fee and rounded to the nearest dollar; hence, in some instances, the fee difference remains nil.

* The price has increased to make it consistent with the ratio charged at the DOC Taupo fishery, and to reflect the alignment of regulations with that fishery that enables both adults and children to fish independently.

Notes:

- A **junior** refers to a person aged 12 years or older, but under 18 years at the start of the season.
- A **child** refers to a person aged 12 years or under at the beginning of the season.

- **Designated Waters and Controlled period** Licence means an endorsement on an adult or junior whole-season or family fish licence with special conditions for fishing specified waters.
- **Whole Season** for sports fish extends from 1 October through to 30 September the following year.
- **Whole Season** for game birds can extend from the first Saturday in May to beyond the traditional closing dates for upland game hunting at the end of August, due to special season conditions between February to April the following year for some species, e.g. Paradise shelduck and Pukeko.
- A **Game Bird Habitat Stamp** fee of \$5.00 (incl GST) is payable on all categories of game hunting licence and is included in the fees shown in the game hunting licence table above.

2025/26 SPORTS FISHING AND GAME HUNTING LICENCE FEES

Background

1. Section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of Fish and Game Councils. Subsection (1)(d)(i) requires councils:
 - (i) *to assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game;*
2. This 'management' invariably focuses on species monitoring and applying that information for setting harvest regulations and protecting the habitat to enable the sports fish and game species that depend on it to largely look after themselves.
3. Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) requires Fish and Game councils:
 - (ii) *to develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees.*
4. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) is required under section 26C(1)(e) of the Conservation Act 1987 *to recommend to the Minister of Conservation an appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licences, after considering the views and recommendations of Fish and Game Councils.*
5. Section 26C(1)(ja) of the Conservation Act 1987 also requires the NZ Council *to recommend to the Minister, after considering the views and recommendations (if any) of Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board, an appropriate fee in respect of any game bird habitat stamp and the form of such stamps* (the form of the stamp to be approved as part of the 2011 Game Notice).
6. Section 26C(1)(f) provides for a 'levy' made up of the amount required from licence sales, for:
 - (a) *the administration of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council*
 - (b) *redistribution between Fish and Game Councils to fund regional budgets, and*
 - (c) *advocacy and research.*
 to be paid by Fish and Game Councils to the NZ Council from licence fees.
7. The 'advocacy' in this context is for habitat protection and public access for recreational interests of anglers and hunters.
8. The Conservation Act is very prescriptive about how Fish and Game New Zealand's¹ (F&G NZ's) licence fees are to be set and this process has been faithfully applied.

¹ Fish & Game New Zealand is the collective name given to the NZ Council and 12 regional Fish and Game Councils.

9. The system of setting a fee to cover *costs attributable to management* is overseen by elected licence holders recommending fees for imposition upon themselves and their fellow anglers and hunters who have elected them to office. As such, they are both representatives of, and acutely sensitive to, the aspirations of their electors and motivated to recommend the lowest appropriate fee to meet statutory functions.

Comment

10. The following sections of this paper present an:
- Overview of F&G NZ’s budget process.
 - Outline of F&G NZ’s proposed 2025/26 national budget.
 - Operational safeguard by maintaining reserves.
 - Outline of savings and efficiencies gained.
 - Overall commitment to wider benefits.
 - Explanation of the risks in not approving the fees for 2025/26.

F&G NZ’s Budget Process

11. Because whole season sports fishing and game hunting licences are valid throughout the country, (except in the Chatham Islands and for fishing in the Taupō Fishing District), and many expenses are funded nationally, Fish and Game licence fees represent each licence holder’s contribution to the overall cost of *the management, enhancement and maintenance of* New Zealand’s fish and game resource each year. It is a historical and popular system of users paying for, and holding a governance role over, the management of the resource they enjoy, dating back over 150 years.²
12. The process for arriving at *appropriate licence fees*³ begins nationally with a review of total budgets against total audited expenditure for the year just completed. The year-end variance between budget and actual expenditure of more than ± 10% triggers a review of that individual council’s budget. This is undertaken along with reviews of output areas and overhead expenses on both a council and national basis, in preparation for considering new financial year budgets.
13. Each Council prepares its draft work/business plan for the new financial year. Basic funding levels for each council cover the fundamental costs across all output classes. Each council must apply to the NZC for approval for any additional funding above its previously established base level. This process is innately competitive and ensures vigorous cross-examination of all applications.
14. The funding required to cover base funds and approved contestable funding is assessed against the expected licence sales for the year ahead (established from the last two years of actual sales) to determine the new licence fees.
15. This process is summarised in the following budget cycle:

Feb	All council budgets reviewed against audited actual expenditure.
	Budgets over or under 10% variance are reported against, reviewed and discussed at a meeting of regional managers.
	Preparation of business and operational work plans for the New Financial Year (NFY).
	Priorities for NFY are discussed at Regional Manager and NZ Council meetings.
April	Draft budgets developed by NZ and regional F&G councils.

² Section 26B(1) of the Conservation Act 1987.

³ Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) of the Conservation Act 1987.

	Councils apply for one off funding with business case applications circulated beforehand, reviewed against criteria, considered and then determined by the NZ Council.
	NZ Council makes its own recommendation on fees, including basic funding levels and contested allocations, and sends to regional councils for consideration.
May	Regional councils consider NZ Council licence fees recommendation.
June	NZ Council considers the regional response and agrees on licence fees for recommendation to the Minister of Hunting & Fishing

16. The recommended licence fee is effectively set by dividing the sum of the proposed budgets of the 13 Councils by the number of the adult whole season licence equivalents that F&G NZ expects to sell during the year.⁴ The NZ Council were aware that the Licence fee increase needed to be appropriate and therefore have recommended a fee that does not cover all of the costs for the organisation. They propose Regions use Reserves to cover the shortfall.
17. The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game councils for 2025/26 (including funding from reserves) is \$13,972,008. Based on a Licence fee of \$161 (Fish) and \$120 (Game) Fish & Game will forecast a Deficit of 908,546 This Deficit of \$908,546 is funded by regional reserves and does not impact on the licence fee.

Table 1: Overall Forecast Position for Fish and Game	
Based on Fish \$161 & Game \$120	
For the Year ended 31 August 2026	
Net Licence Sales	12,745,536
Interest & Other	200,544
Uplift of Non-Resident licences	117,382
Total Income	13,063,462
Less Approved Budget	13,972,008
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	(908,546)

18. The use of Reserves is comprised of two categories. Firstly, Regions have requested to use reserves for specific projects – these total \$278,449 and secondly, the NZC Council is proposing \$630,097 to come from Regional Reserves to cover the shortfall in Revenue and Costs.

⁴ A licence equivalent (LEQ) sets the adult whole season licence as the standard unit of measure with a value of one (1) and other categories of licence are amalgamated as adult whole season equivalents in accordance with their proportionate value of the adult whole season licence. For example, the value of a junior whole season licence is 20% of an adult whole season licence. Therefore 5 junior whole season licences equal 1 LEQ.

Project	Approved from Reserves	Reserves use	
		to Cover Shortfall 4.6%	Total Reserves Used
Northland	0	28,085	28,085
Auckland\Waikato	0	44,451	44,451
Eastern	L. Tarawera 8,000	63,041	71,041
Hawkes Bay	Additional Staff \$37k, Tukituki River \$50k 87,000	22,997	109,997
Taranaki	0	19,661	19,661
Wellington	0	39,172	39,172
Nelson-Marlb	0	27,161	27,161
Nth Canterbury	Ngai Tahu Reserves spend 39,000	52,728	91,728
West Coast	Manawa Energy 33,250	19,510	52,760
Central SI	Fencing 40,000	47,405	87,405
Otago	0	62,808	62,808
Southland	One Officer position 41,199	40,730	81,929
NZC only	Te Ao Maori Advisor 30,000	74,245	104,245
National	0	88,104	88,104
TOTAL	278,449	630,097	908,546

19. Overall, the major impact on the 2025/26 budget is the costs of implementing the ministerial review with the implementation costs an increase on baseline funding –for example – the ongoing establishment of an HR/HS position (\$65,000), Governance training (\$30,000), Cost optimisation project (\$20,000). Increasing cost for compliance from Maritime have added a further \$20,000 to our Compliance costs.
20. There were several projects that the NZC agreed were important and met the organisational strategy. These projects included the funding for an HR/HS advisor, continued funding for RMA, funding for Te Ao Māori governance advisor and salary for a Research coordinator.
21. Individual budgets are shown below alongside the previous financial years (both shown as GST exclusive).⁵

National Budget	Last year 2023/24	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26
Northland	591,644	581,107	610,346
Auckland\Waikato	947,234	881,824	966,026
Eastern	1,322,153	1,293,944	1,378,026
Hawkes Bay	476,850	480,624	586,775
Taranaki	420,936	440,901	427,292
Wellington	844,842	830,600	851,300
Nelson-Marlb	596,828	564,125	590,269
Nth Canterbury	1,077,807	1,037,187	1,184,910

West Coast	357,031	366,601	457,250
Central SI	996,194	998,586	1,070,235
Otago	1,311,787	1,263,967	1,364,978
Southland	985,579	949,407	926,370
NZC only	1,290,295	1,280,486	1,643,516
National inc Research	2,081,600	2,286,361	1,914,715
TOTAL	13,300,779	13,255,720	13,972,008

22. The proposed budgets provide for F&G NZ's **outputs**, namely:

- (a) Management of sports fish and game populations.
- (b) Protection of sports fish and game habitat.
- (c) Provision of services to all anglers and hunters, including information on access, where to fish etc.
- (d) Advocacy for the interests of anglers and hunters and F&G councils.
- (e) Management of the licencing regime.
- (f) Compliance/law enforcement – ensuring people using the resource have a licence and comply with the regulations to ensure population sustainability; and
- (g) Maintaining the Fish and Game governance structure through the operation of twelve regional councils and a NZ Council and operating an electoral system to enable licence holders to elect up to 144 unpaid councillors every three years.

2025/26 licence fee recommendations

Licence fee increase

23. For the 2025/26 season, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council is recommending an increase of 3.2% percentage, which slightly over CPI, to the resident adult whole season sports fishing licence and an increase of 3.4% for the game bird hunting licences, with all other resident licence categories increasing upon the standard ratios. This results in a resident adult whole-season sports fishing licence fee of \$161, an increase of \$5 from 2024/25, and a resident adult whole-season game bird hunting licence fee of \$120, an increase of \$4 from 2024/25 and inclusive of a \$5 fee for Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

24. The budget based upon these fees requires the use of reserves to the tune of \$908,546.

Maintaining reserves to safeguard operational cash flow

25. National policy requires all Councils to retain 20% of the base budget in reserves. The current forecast for the 2026 Reserves has but two Councils having at least 21% of the base budget in reserves.

26. The proposed budgets based on the recommended licence fees would see \$908,456 of reserves used in the 2025/26 year.

27. This level of reserve use and the forecast licence sales ensures no Region falls below the 20% threshold required for Reserves.

Table 4: Reserves Forecast as at 31 August 2026 - Based on Fish \$161 and Game \$120

	Forecast Reserves Aug 2025	Surplus / (Deficit)	Forecast Reserve 31/8/26	Reserves required 20% of Budget	Top up Required to achieve 20% Reserves	Adjusted Reserves to no less than 20% 31/8/26
Northland	214,033	(72,005)	185,948	122,069	0	185,948
Auckland/Waikato	149,287	(44,451)	104,836	193,205	88,369	193,205
Eastern	660,651	(71,041)	589,610	275,605	0	589,610
Hawkes Bay	548,535	(109,997)	438,538	117,355	0	438,538
Taranaki	258,546	(19,661)	238,885	85,458	0	238,885
Wellington	410,195	(39,172)	371,023	170,260	0	371,023
Nelson-Marlborough	94,030	(27,161)	66,869	118,054	51,184	118,054
North Canterbury	343,326	(91,728)	251,598	236,982	0	251,598
West Coast	256,274	(52,760)	203,514	91,450	0	203,514
Central South Island	911,992	(87,405)	824,587	214,047	0	824,587
Otago	843,587	(62,808)	780,778	272,996	0	780,778
Southland	672,820	(81,929)	590,891	185,274	0	590,891
NZC/NAT	1,559,679	(192,349)	1,367,330	711,646	0	1,367,330
TOTAL	6,922,955	(908,547)	6,014,408	2,794,402	139,554	6,153,951

Savings and efficiencies

28. In 2025 The New Zealand Council introduced Zero Based Budgeting for the budget round, unfortunately not all regions were able to complete it in the short time frame this year, but it will be fully in place for the 2026/27 Financial year.
29. This has given a level of visibility over the budgets not seen before and has enabled those regions that were able to complete it, the ability to fully assess their costs and efforts with a clear goal of meeting the Fish & Game Organisational Strategy.
30. Aware of the impacts of continual licence fee increases on the licence holder, Fish & Game commissioned a report on the effect of price significance on New Zealand fish and game licences by a USA research company .Southwick Associates (Attached as Appendix 2).
31. The analysis of our licence increase over many years has shown that licence price increases does not make a statistically significant impact on demand, but rainfall and temperature have more of an impact on licence sales in New Zealand.
32. This report has received positive feedback from fishing and hunting regulators in the United States, as they do not do annual increases in fees, preferring to increase occasionally and at significant dollar increases.
33. These large price increases correspondingly see a subsequent fall-off in participation compared to what is evident in New Zealand, which has kept our increases closely aligned to inflation.

Commitment to protect habitat

34. Habitat of adequate quantity, distribution and quality, along with access to it for hunters and anglers, underpins the extent and availability of not only sports fish and game bird populations but also indigenous species that depend on the same habitat.
35. For hunters and anglers, we are selling an experience, but there are other parties that have control over these habitats, so we need to advocate for hunters and anglers to maintain that connection to nature and the experience of hunting and fishing. Which has wider economic and tourism benefits for the local communities where fishing and hunting occurs.
36. F&G NZ continues to manage its expenditure to ensure value for money and to make changes necessary to deliver better and more effective projects and services. F&G NZ considers a dollar forgone in providing for and defending the interests of anglers and hunters has the

potential to undermine what it has achieved to date, with a compounding negative effect on the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.

37. For each game bird licence sold, a \$5 Game Bird Habitat Stamp is purchased, which is allocated to the Game Bird Habitat Trust. The stamp image is applied to all game hunting licences. The net surplus from the Habitat Stamp programme is transferred annually to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board, which grants funding to create or restore suitable habitats for game birds and other wildlife.

Research contribution

38. The aim of F&G NZ research is to ensure that management is based on sound scientific knowledge of the resource, what affects it, and how it interacts with its environment and other users. Annual species monitoring, hunter and national anglers' surveys, and freshwater ecosystem research are examples of work used by others for water allocation planning, advancing resource consents and natural resource management generally. This research is publicly available through the Fish and Game website www.fishandgame.org.nz
39. F&G NZ research has contributed towards building and retaining New Zealand's freshwater research capability and the consulting and analytical services of research agencies such as the Cawthron Institute and NIWA.
40. For the 2025/26 year, it is proposed that the research fund will receive an additional \$50,000. However, given that significant research is undertaken through regional operational work plans, Fish and Game's actual contribution to research in New Zealand is substantially larger.
41. Aligned with this is the approval by the New Zealand Council to employ a Research coordinator. This position was declined in last years funding round, but was approved this year and will enable NZC to comply with its statutory functions under section 26 of the Conservation Act.

Additional Changes

42. The NZ Council is recommending changes to the Whole Season Family licence as described in Appendix 6. Briefly, they are to adopt the same criteria and definition that the DOC Taupo Fishery uses, as well as the same family licence to adult whole-season licence ratio that the Taupo fishery uses (1.5).
43. Not only will this ensure consistency for licence holders, i.e if they are eligible for Taupo, they are eligible for the rest of the country. It will also end the current level of discrimination that exists in Fish & Game Licences, where female anglers (largely listed as the secondary angler) are unable to fish alone and do not have voting rights in Fish & Game elections.
44. The DOC Taupo Fishery Family licence definition is:

Family means:

- a. *one person, or one person and that person's spouse or partner; and*
- b. *the dependants of that person or those persons who*
 - i. *ordinarily or periodically reside with that person or those persons; and*
 - ii *are aged under 18 years on 1 July; and*
- c. *the grandchildren of that person or those persons, who are aged under 18 years on 1 July.*

Partner means: a civil union partner or de facto partner.

45. A difference for the Fish & Game family licence would be that the age thresholds would be from 1 October, the start of the Fish & Game fishing year, rather than the Taupo fishing year start of 1 July.
46. Overall, this is viewed as a positive change by the New Zealand Council, and it hopes that it will encourage more women and families to take up fishing. The changes will be closely monitored to assess any impact on licence sales, but fundamentally, the New Zealand Council wants to progress this change because it is morally the right thing to do.
47. Also included for approval is the inclusion of the Awakino River as a sea-run salmon river, this river flows into the Waitaki River (it is a tributary of the Waitaki). Its omission from the list of sea-run salmon rivers is an oversight.
48. Its inclusion would rectify a situation where an angler could harvest their season bag limit on the Waitaki River and walk a few metres upstream into the Awakino River and fish for effectively the same salmon, but with a daily bag limit applying. Which has the potential to lead to increased harvest of this under-threat fishery.

Risk Assessment

49. The NZ Council does not provide a range of options within its recommendation on licence fees. This is because the adult whole season licence fee is used as a benchmark, and the other licence fees are applied pro rata from that amount. The recommended fee levels are chosen carefully to recover the costs attributable to the management of the sports fish and game resource as explicitly required under the Act while seeking to minimise buyer resistance.
50. The NZ Council has consulted with the 12 regional Fish and Game Councils in recommending an increase of \$5 for fish and \$4 for game in the 2025/26 financial year. Based on the response from regional Fish & Game Councils, the NZ Council approved the proposed increase in licence fees. Only two councils indicated objection to the licence fee increases and they were Northland and Central South Island. Fish and Game councillors, in recommending these fees, have an incentive to ensure the licence fees are kept as low as possible, as they are imposing them upon themselves as anglers and hunters.
51. We are asking the Minister to note the use of Reserves to cover the shortfall. Historically, if a region generates more licence sales revenue than forecast, this amount is placed into their reserves and is not levied.
52. Regional Fish and Game Councils nationally have contact with local iwi over various land management issues. No specific Section 4 issues have been identified in relation to this submission.
53. Regional Fish and Game Councils in the South Island, in accordance with the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, maintain a consultative relationship with that iwi.

Financial implications

54. There are no fiscal implications for the Government arising out of the proposals in this paper.

Legislative implications

55. Implementation of the recommendations does not require legislative change. Section 26C(1)(e) of the Conservation Act requires the NZ Council to recommend to the Minister an appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licences, after having regard to the views and recommendations of Fish and Game Councils on the fee required to recover the costs attributable to management.

56. Following approval, the fees are published in the Statutory Regulations Series as deemed regulations and then tabled in Parliament for scrutiny of the Regulations Review Committee, which may or may not ask the Department of Conservation to report on them.

Next Steps

57. Once you have made your decisions on this paper, the NZ Council will provide them to the Department of Conservation (DOC) to allow DOC to issue drafting instructions to. When the new Sports Fish Licences, Fees and Forms Notice and Game Licences, Fees and Forms Notice have been drafted, DOC will submit the final notices to you for approval. Parliamentary Counsel Office will then publish the notices on its legislation website.

58. In a separate process, the NZ Council will shortly submit to you for your approval the annual Anglers Notice which sets out sports fishing conditions, fishing seasons and daily bag limits.

Appendix 1: Licence Overview

Licence Prices over the last 12 years

FISH- Adult whole season licence fee 2014-2026				
Year	Fish Licence Fee	% change from previous year	\$ Increase	
2014-15	\$ 123.00	1.7%	\$ 2.00	
2015-16	\$ 124.00	0.8%	\$ 1.00	
2016-17	\$ 125.00	0.8%	\$ 1.00	
2017-18	\$ 127.00	1.6%	\$ 2.00	
2018-19	\$ 130.00	2.4%	\$ 3.00	
2019-20	\$ 133.00	2.3%	\$ 3.00	
2020-21	\$ 133.00	0.0%	\$ -	
2021-22	\$ 137.00	3.1%	\$ 4.00	
2022-23	\$ 145.00	5.8%	\$ 8.00	
2023-24	\$ 153.00	5.5%	\$ 8.00	
2024-25	\$ 156.00	2.0%	\$ 3.00	
2025-26	\$ 161.00	3.2%	\$ 5.00	

GAME- Adult whole season licence fee 2014-2026				
Year	Game Licence Fee	% change from previous year	\$ Increase	
2014-15	\$ 89.00	2.2%	\$	2.00
2015-16	\$ 90.00	1.1%	\$	1.00
2016-17	\$ 90.00	0.0%	\$	-
2017-18	\$ 91.00	1.1%	\$	1.00
2018-19	\$ 93.00	2.2%	\$	2.00
2019-20	\$ 94.00	1.1%	\$	1.00
2020-21	\$ 98.00	4.3%	\$	4.00
2021-22	\$ 100.00	2.0%	\$	2.00
2022-23	\$ 107.00	7.0%	\$	7.00
2023-24	\$ 113.00	5.6%	\$	6.00
2024-25	\$ 116.00	2.7%	\$	3.00
2025-26	\$ 120.00	3.4%	\$	4.00

Appendix 2 Southwick Report (attached to email separately)

Appendix 3: List of Existing Designated Waters Fisheries

The following fisheries are recommended to continue as Designated Waters Fisheries:

- Dingle Burn
- Greenstone River
- Hunter River
- Hurunui River North Branch
- Hurunui River South Branch
- Karamea River
- Lewis Pass Fishery
- Lochy River
- Mātakitaki River
- Mokihinui River
- Nevis River
- Ōreti River
- Pomahaka River
- Rangitikei River
- Travers River
- Waiau Uwaha River
- Wairau River
- Wilkin River
- Young River

Appendix 4: List of Controlled Fisheries

The following existing Controlled Fisheries are recommended to continue as controlled fisheries:

- Clinton River
- Ettrick Burn
- Greenstone River (upstream of Sly Burn)
- Hurunui River North Branch
- Hurunui River South Branch
- Ōhau River
- Worsley River.

Appendix 5: List of Recommended Sea-run Salmon Waters

The following Sea-run Salmon Waters are recommended to be defined as Sea-run Salmon Waters:

- The Ashburton River
- The Awakino River (a tributary of the Waitaki)
- Bells Pond (the Waitaki River irrigation pond at Ross Road)
- Bortons Pond (the Waitaki River irrigation pond at Black Point, State Highway 83)
- Deep Creek (a tributary of the upper Rangitata River)
- Deep Stream (a tributary of the upper Rangitata River)
- The Hakatamea River
- The Hinds River
- The Kakanui River
- The Maerewhenua River
- Ohapi Creek
- The Ōpihi River
- The Opuha River and tributaries
- The Orari River and tributaries
- The Pareora River
- The Rangitata Diversion Race (upstream of the Rakaia River Road bridge)
- The Rangitata River and tributaries
- Te Ana a Wai (Tengawai) River and tributaries
- The Temuka River and tributaries
- The Waihao River
- The Waihi River and tributaries
- The Waitaki River
- The Ashley River (downstream of Ashley Gorge Road)
- The Avon River (downstream of the Barbadoes Street bridge)
- The Cam River (from the Kaiapoi River confluence to the Smith Street bridge)
- The Heathcote River (downstream of the Colombo Street bridge)
- The Hurunui River (below the South Branch confluence)
- The Kaiapoi River (downstream of the confluence of the Cust Main Drain)
- Lee Stream
- The Rakaia River downstream of the Coleridge Tailrace confluence
- Saltwater Creek
- Tentburn Outfall
- The Waiau River (downstream of the Hope River confluence)
- The Waimakariri River (downstream of the Staircase Stream confluence)

Appendix 6: Family Licence supporting information

Explanatory note

This NZC considered the below paper and approved Option 2:

Family Licence: preferred option

That the Council:

Approve Option 2: Modified Implement with Financial Safeguards Beginning 2025/26

Decision Date: 27 Jun 2025

Mover: Barrie Barnes

Seconded: DAVE COLL

Outcome: Approved

Option 2: Modified Implementation with Financial Safeguards Beginning 2025/26

Approach: Implement changes with pricing adjustments to mitigate revenue risk:

Phase 1 (2025/26 season - immediate):

- Change field names to "Adult 1" and "Adult 2"
- Require at least one child on the licence
- Update licence description for equal fishing rights
- Price at same ratio as the Taupō fishery at 1.52 of two adult licences (increase from current \$203 to approximately \$245, our current rate is 1.3)
- Single email address for 2025/26 only

Phase 2 (2026/27 season):

- Individual communications and voting registration

Note: The whole season adult licence fee is proposed to increase to \$161, in which case the family licence would increase to \$242.

Family Licence Modernisation: Feedback and options

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 175 June 2025

Prepared by: Maggie Tait, Principal Communications Advisor

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

This report summarises regional council feedback on the proposed modernisation of family licences and presents three options for the New Zealand Council's consideration.

Financial considerations

Nil Budgetary provision Unbudgeted

Risk

Low Medium High Extreme

Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

That the New Zealand Council:

1. **Note** the feedback received from regional councils regarding the family licence modernisation proposal.
2. **Note** that economic analysis indicates perfect substitution dynamics make expensive preference studies redundant, as rational consumers will predictably switch to the lower-priced option offering identical utility.
3. **Consider** that the revenue impact modelling already represents a worst-case scenario, with data suggesting many additional household licences are held by adult children rather than spouses.
4. **Consider** the three options presented for advancing this initiative.
5. **Approve** one of the three options for implementation.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

2. Eleven regional councils provided formal feedback on the family licence modernisation proposal. While there is general support for the principle of modernising the licence to be more inclusive, significant concerns were raised about implementation timing, financial impacts, and the evidence base supporting the proposal.

3. Research demonstrates that Fish & Game has reached "carrying capacity" with its current demographic profile. If women participated in freshwater sports fishing at the same rate as men (3.6% vs. current 0.4%), licence holders would increase by an estimated 60,000, significantly boosting participation and revenue.
4. The feedback reveals tension between the public affairs benefits of modernising the licence structure and concerns about financial sustainability. Staff note that the reputational benefits of removing barriers to women's participation may outweigh potential short-term revenue impacts.
5. Comprehensive financial modelling to address all concerns raised would be expensive and time-consuming, potentially costing \$30,000-50,000 and taking 3-6 months to complete.
6. Our licence provider (ESL) has confirmed that minimal changes can be implemented during the 2025/26 season, with full functionality following in 2026/27. This phased approach allows immediate action on discrimination concerns while managing technical complexity.
7. No legislative change is required – the Sports Fish Licence Fees and Forms Notice definitions would need to be updated.
8. Three options are presented for Council consideration, with two options now enabling implementation to begin in the 2025/26 season.

Takenga mai - Background

9. At Meeting #174, the New Zealand Council considered a paper proposing changes to the family fishing licence to create a more equitable system and boost women's participation in freshwater sports fishing. The current family licence structure designates one person as the "primary" licence holder with full fishing rights, while the "secondary" licence holder (typically a woman) can only fish with the primary holder or with children. Only the primary licence holder receives Fish & Game communications and has voting rights.
10. After consideration, the NZC resolved to consult with regions on amending the family licence regulations to allow for:
 - Two primary licence holders
 - Allow all family members to fish independently
 - Both primary licence holders to have equal fishing rights and voting privileges
 - Investigate any necessary legislative or regulatory amendments and financial implications as part of the consultation information package
 - If the change is recommended following consultation, monitor financial and participation impacts over a three-year period, with specific attention to rates of women's participation
 - Promote any agreed changes as part of a coordinated strategy to address barriers to women's participation in freshwater sports fishing

11. The proposal was circulated to all regional councils for feedback in early May 2025, with responses requested by 9 June 2025.
12. These proposed changes align with Fish & Game's R³ strategy (recruitment, retention, reactivation) and the recommendations from the governance review highlighting the need for increased diversity.
13. Research commissioned by Fish & Game NZ from Dr Stu Hayes and Professor Brent Lovelock (University of Otago) identified several key barriers to women's participation in trout fishing:
 - **Lack of representation:** Traditional portrayals of fishing as a male-dominated activity have contributed to a lack of visibility of women in the sport
 - **Access to resources:** Women may encounter difficulties accessing essential resources and support systems, such as equipment, knowledge, and mentorship opportunities
 - **Cultural and social norms:** Deep-seated norms surrounding gender roles may discourage women from pursuing fishing as a recreational activity
 - **Lack of women in leadership positions:** Limited representation in governance and decision-making roles further restricts women's influence in the fishing community

Kōrerorero - Discussion

Summary of Regional Feedback

14. **Eastern Fish & Game** was supportive, passing a motion to refer the proposal to the Licence Working Group for consideration, including potential revenue impacts and category switching.
15. **Southland Fish & Game** resolved to support the suggested changes to the Family Licence.
16. **West Coast** resolved to support the changes to the Family Licence, in particular, supporting all individuals named on the licence being eligible to fish independently.
17. **Taranaki Fish & Game** supported the principles and process of reviewing eligibility criteria, providing detailed implementation recommendations including:
 - Both adults treated as equal licence holders
 - Single physical magazine per family unit
 - Review within three years (preferably less)
 - Adult couples without children can constitute a family licence
 - Noted potential to increase diversity in councillor pool
18. **Wellington Fish & Game** supported in principle but with important caveats:
 - Emphasised that discounting must not cannibalise adult whole season licence sales
 - Supported two adults fishing independently or together at same location, but NOT independently at different locations simultaneously
 - Called for clear purpose definition and effectiveness assessment

- Required monitoring at Year 1 and Year 3 with option to remove if objectives not met
- Stressed need for clear regulations and education programme
- Recommended completion of Licence Price Optimisation Project before implementation

19. **Nelson Marlborough** supported the principle but raised concerns about:

- Potential financial losses exceeding estimates
- Risk of couples without children switching from two adult licences
- The small sample size of supporting data
- Lack of consultation with current family licence holders

20. **Otago** expressed the strongest reservations, recommending deferral until:

- Comprehensive financial modelling is completed
- The Licence Category and Pricing Optimisation Report is received
- Taupō implementation data is analysed
- The Licence Working Party provides recommendations

21. **Central South Island** supported the objective but identified several areas requiring further work:

- More robust financial modelling
- Consultation with current licence holders
- Input from the Licence Working Party
- Development of compliance guidance and change management plans

22. **Auckland/Waikato** did not support the proposal in its current form, noting:

- The proposal had not been evaluated by the Licence Working Party
- Equity concerns where partnered women would receive reduced fees while solo mothers would not
- Alternative approaches could achieve similar outcomes (e.g., allowing all adult licence holders to take two children fishing)
- Changes should be part of the broader licence optimisation process
- Support for Women on the Fly initiatives through workshops rather than licence changes

22. **ESL (licence system provider)** has confirmed a phased implementation approach is feasible:

For 2025/26 season (minimal changes):

- Change field names from Primary/Secondary to "Adult 1" and "Adult 2"
- Make at least one child mandatory
- Update licence description text to reflect new equal usage rights
- Retain single email address for primary licence holder

For 2026/27 season (full functionality):

- Database structure modifications to recognise two independent licence holders

- Individual data capture for both adults
- Separate communication preferences and voter registration
- Decision on individual licence cards
- Full system testing and implementation

Key Themes from Feedback

23. **Financial concerns** dominated the feedback, with multiple councils questioning whether the \$149,501 in additional licence revenue truly represents the switching risk, as it may include adult children rather than spouses.
24. **Process concerns** included bypassing the Licence Working Party, rushing implementation, and not investigating the Taupō experience with similar changes.
25. **Equity issues** were raised by Auckland/Waikato, noting the proposal could create unfair advantages for partnered women while not helping solo mothers.
26. **Alternative approaches** were suggested, including:
- A single transferable licence (used by one person at a time)
 - Requiring at least one child on the licence
 - Pricing closer to two adult licences
 - Allowing all adult licence holders to take children fishing

Financial Modelling Considerations

28. Comprehensive financial modelling to address all concerns would require:
- Analysis of current family licence holder demographics
 - Survey of existing licence holders' likely behaviour
 - Scenario testing of various uptake patterns
 - Revenue impact projections over 3-5 years
29. Such modelling would likely cost \$30,000-50,000 and take 3-6 months to complete.

Economic Analysis of Switching Behaviour

30. Staff have consulted with economic advisors who note that the proposed changes create a perfect substitute product at a lower price point. In economic terms:
- For couples where one partner holds a Whole Season Adult licence and the other is secondary on a Whole Season Family licence, the updated WSF licence offers identical utility at a lower cost
 - Rational economic behaviour predicts near-100% switching in such scenarios
 - The only barriers to switching would be lack of information or administrative friction
31. Given Fish & Game's monopoly position in freshwater fishing licences, there are no market alternatives that could affect switching behaviour. This simplifies the analysis considerably compared to competitive markets.
32. Existing market data provides revealed preference information that is more reliable than expensive stated preference studies. The 2023/24 data shows that only 25% of

new female licence holders in WSF households were 30 years old or younger, suggesting many additional household licences are held by adult children rather than spouses.

33. This analysis indicates that:

- The revenue impact modelling already represents a worst-case scenario by assuming all additional household licences are spousal
- Expensive preference studies would likely confirm what economic theory already predicts
- Resources would be better allocated to implementation rather than redundant analysis

Public Affairs Perspective

34. The current family licence structure has attracted criticism as outdated and discriminatory, particularly from women's angling groups and on social media.
35. Fish & Game's commitment to diversity and inclusion is questioned when the licence structure appears to treat women as secondary participants.
36. The reputational risk of maintaining the status quo may outweigh potential revenue losses, particularly given Fish & Game's need to broaden its support base beyond traditional demographics.

Options for Consideration

Option 1: Phased Implementation Beginning 2025/26 Season

Approach: Implement immediate changes for the 2025/26 season with minimal system modifications, followed by full functionality in 2026/27:

Phase 1 (2025/26 season - immediate):

- Change field names to "Adult 1" and "Adult 2" (removing primary/secondary designation)
- Make at least one child mandatory on the licence
- Update licence description text to reflect equal fishing rights for both adults
- Retain single email address for this season only

Phase 2 (2026/27 season):

- Full database modifications for independent data capture
- Individual communication preferences and voting registration
- Separate licence cards if required

Advantages:

- Addresses discrimination concerns immediately
- Demonstrates commitment to change without delay
- Provides time for full system development
- Responds to urgency expressed by women's angling groups

Disadvantages:

- Financial impacts begin immediately
- Requires clear communication about phased approach

Risk mitigation:

- Clear communication about the changes
- Monitor switching behaviour from day one
- Use first year data to refine Phase 2

Option 2: Modified Implementation with Financial Safeguards Beginning 2025/26

Approach: Implement changes with pricing adjustments to mitigate revenue risk:

Phase 1 (2025/26 season - immediate):

- Change field names to "Adult 1" and "Adult 2"
- Require at least one child on the licence
- Update licence description for equal fishing rights
- Price at same ratio as the Taupō fishery at 1.52 of two adult licences (increase from current \$203 to approximately \$245, our current rate is 1.3)
- Single email address for 2025/26 only

Phase 2 (2026/27 season):

- Individual communications and voting registration

Advantages:

- Immediate action on discrimination issues
- Significantly reduces financial risk through pricing
- Maintains family focus of licence
- Allows phased technical implementation
- Addresses regional concerns about revenue

Disadvantages:

- Higher price may deter some families

Risk mitigation:

- Monitor price elasticity closely
- Review pricing after one year
- Clear communication about value proposition
- Consider targeted promotions for families

Option 3: Defer to 2027/28 Season Pending Comprehensive Analysis

Approach: Defer implementation to 2027/28 season pending:

- Comprehensive financial modelling
- Licence Working Party review
- Analysis of Taupō experience
- Broader consultation with current licence holders
- Integration with licence optimisation process
- Full technical specification development with ESL

Advantages:

- Addresses all regional concerns
- Minimises financial risk
- Allows consideration of alternative approaches

Disadvantages:

- Significantly delays addressing discrimination issues
- Risks negative publicity
- Expensive
- May lose momentum for change

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next Actions

38. Following the Council's decision:

- **If Option 1 or 2:**
 - Engage ESL to begin development work
 - Finalise technical specifications for system changes
 - Prepare implementation plan and communications strategy
- **If Option 3:**
 - Commission financial modelling
 - Convene Licence Working Party
 - Develop consultation plan
 - Work with ESL on technical requirements specification

39. Regardless of option chosen, staff recommend:

- Clear communication to regions about decision rationale
- Development of monitoring framework for any changes
- Regular reporting on impacts

Conclusion

40. The modernisation of family licences presents a choice between addressing clear equity issues within a reasonable timeframe and ensuring thorough analysis before change. While regional councils raise valid concerns about financial impacts and process, the reputational benefits of modernisation may outweigh these risks.
41. Research clearly demonstrates the significant opportunity cost of maintaining barriers to women's participation.

42. Staff note that public perception of Fish & Game as an inclusive organisation supporting diverse participation is crucial for long-term sustainability. The current licence structure undermines this positioning and contradicts both the R³ strategy and governance review recommendations.
43. The Council must weigh the importance of thorough analysis against the urgency of addressing discriminatory structures that demonstrably deter women's participation in freshwater angling.

Appendix 1

DoC definition

Definitions for licence categories

Family means:

- one person, or one person and that person's spouse or partner; and
- the dependants of that person or those persons who
- ordinarily or periodically reside with that person or those persons; and
- are aged under 18 years on 1 July; and
- the grandchildren of that person or those persons, who are aged under 18 years on 1 July.

Family licence means a licence that entitles the holder and the holder's spouse or partner and any member of the holder's family, to take trout within the Taupō District (except at the Tongariro National Trout Centre) during the 12-month period, beginning on 1 July and ending on 30 June, that is stated in the licence.

Senior means a person who is aged 65 years or older on 1 July.

Child means a person who is aged under 18 years on 1 July.

Non-resident means a person who is neither a New Zealand citizen nor a permanent resident (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Immigration Act 2009).

Partner means a civil union partner or a de facto partner.

Appendix 2

Implementation Considerations from Regional Feedback

Should the Council decide to proceed with modernising the family licence, the following implementation recommendations have been provided by regional councils:

Licence Structure and Administration

- Both adults on the Family Licence to be treated as equal licence holders with independent use and voting rights (Taranaki)
- Two adults can fish independently or together at same location, but NOT independently at different locations simultaneously (Wellington)
- Purpose and expected outcomes must be clearly defined for effectiveness assessment (Wellington)
- Single physical mailing address acceptable for both licence holders (ESL)
- All names to be clearly listed for compliance purposes (Taranaki)
- All children using the licence should be named (Wellington)
- Option to remove Family Licence if it doesn't meet objectives (Wellington)

Communication and Materials

- Service the 'family' unit with a single physical magazine rather than individual copies (Taranaki)
- Provide voting papers together in one postage package where possible (Taranaki)
- Electronic communications to both adults (Taranaki)
- Clear decision needed on whether each person receives a plastic licence card (ESL)
- Develop supporting education programme to define purpose and usage (Wellington)
- Target promotional material at family groups (Wellington)

System Requirements

- Database modifications to recognise two licence holders under one licence number (ESL)
- Changes to data entry screens for secondary licence holder details (ESL)
- Management of communication consents and voter registration (ESL)
- Allow children to fish alone using the licence (Taranaki)

Review and Monitoring

- Implement with a review clause within three years, preferably less (Taranaki)
- Monitor at Year 1 and Year 3 for unexpected results (Wellington)
- Monitor switching behaviour and revenue impacts (Multiple councils)
- Include in broader licence price optimisation project (Taranaki, Auckland/Waikato)
- Complete Licence Price Optimisation Project before implementation (Wellington)
- Develop clear compliance guidance (Central South Island)

Alternative Approaches Suggested

- Single transferable licence used by one person at a time (Nelson Marlborough)
- Require at least one child on the licence (Central South Island)
- Price closer to two adult licences (Otago)
- Allow all adult licence holders to take two children fishing free (Auckland/Waikato)

Process Improvements

- Engage Licence Working Party for evaluation (Multiple councils)
- Conduct broader consultation with current family licence holders (Nelson Marlborough, Central South Island)
- Learn from Taupō's implementation experience (Otago)
- Develop comprehensive change management plan (Central South Island)

Regulatory Requirements

- Regulations must be very clear for compliance and enforceability (Wellington)
- Make regulations less complex for anglers to understand (Wellington)

Hon James Meager

Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport



05 AUG 2025

Barrie Barnes
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

JMC-583

By email: bbarnes@fishandgame.org.nz

Dear Barrie,

On 30 July 2025 I signed the 2024-25 Sports Fishing and Game Hunting Licence Fees and Forms Notice. I did not approve the proposed fees increase for Sports Fish and Game Bird licences for 2025/26. This letter provides a rationale for my decision. Please share my letter with Fish and Game councillors to ensure it is widely understood why I have declined an increase this year, and to help support the preparation of future licence fee proposals.

The Government has been clear as to its expectations of prudent financial management for Crown organisations and I would like to reiterate this sentiment to Fish and Game as well. Fish and Game should demonstrate what it is doing to reduce costs, improve efficiency and appropriately use available funds before proposing increases in fees for licence holders.

My priority is to make it easier for people to go hunting and fishing. Given the current cost of living for Kiwis, I do not want to disincentivise anglers and game bird hunters from participating in the upcoming season due to current financial constraints.

Specific Decisions

I have approved the whole-season family fishing licence definition change to align with the Taupō fishery family licence. I think this is a great and long overdue amendment to the licence. However, I cannot support an increase in the licence fee from \$203 to \$242 on this basis alone. I would prefer to see a staged approach to incrementally increase the family licence over time to match the Taupō family fishery fee with clear communication to the public from Fish and Game of this approach.

I have not received sufficient evidence or rationale to explain why the non-resident whole season fishing licence is being increased so much more (approximately 11.1% increase) than the proposed increase level (less than 3.5%) for resident whole season licences. It is important to note the value of fishing tourism to the economy. I want to be sure any increase in fees does not significantly deter visitors. I have also not approved an increase in the game bird licence fee. As outlined above, there is a lack of substantive evidence to support any increase in licence fees for the upcoming season.

Finally, I appreciate that there may be increasing costs for the organisation as part of the Government's proposed reforms. However, there was not enough information to understand these additional costs to support the licence fee increase.

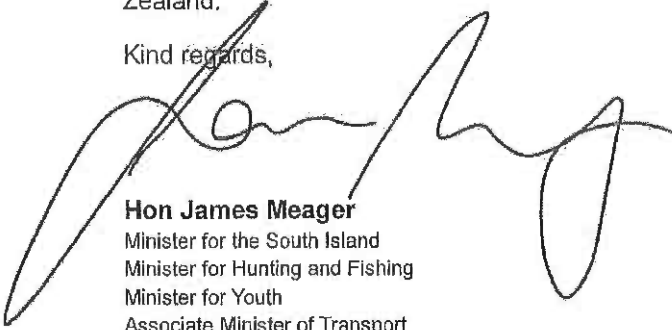
Next Year's Process

In the future I would like to meet with Fish and Game to discuss their proposed licence fees for the upcoming season ahead of receiving the formal documentation for consideration. I think this would

be a constructive way to share initial views and ask questions and ultimately pave the way for the swift approval of licence types and fees. We can then work together to manage and progress any potential changes.

I look forward to continuing to work together to improve angling and hunting opportunities in New Zealand.

Kind regards,



Hon James Meager
Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport

Cc Richie Cosgrove – rcosgrove@fishandgame.org.nz

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN
FOR THE YEAR
1 SEPTEMBER 2025 TO 31 AUGUST 2026

Presented 29th March 2025

Adopted

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Purpose of Taranaki Fish & Game Council
3. Operation of Taranaki Fish & Game Council
4. Directory
5. Statement of Operational Service Performance

APPENDICES

- A. Budgeted Statement of Project Expenditure, Overheads and Time Allocation
- B. Budgeted Statement of Financial Performance
- C. Depreciation Schedule

1 INTRODUCTION

Section 26 Q(1)(e)(ii) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires an Annual Operational Plan be prepared by each Fish and Game Council. This Plan is the Council's contract with its stakeholders and defines the results to be achieved and costs to be incurred for the financial year.

This Annual Operational Plan is shaped by Taranaki Fish & Game Council's 5 Year Strategic Plan which is reviewed annually, and also by the Taranaki Sports Fish and Game Management Plan 2011

2 PURPOSE OF TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL

The Council is a public entity, created by statute (The Conservation Act 1987) to manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game bird resources of its region, in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.

The Council works to achieve this by striving to manage gamebird and sports fish populations in a sustainable way that also maximises user success and satisfaction. Fundamental to this is protecting and enhancing the habitat of these species so they can thrive, as well as setting regulations that protect species sustainability while allowing for use.

It is also essential Council provides hunters and anglers with the information, tools and opportunities to readily participate in and successfully utilise these resources.

To best identify and meet the needs of hunters and anglers it is essential that Council reflects the diversity of licence holders, and this is a key objective of Council over the next several years.

Council and its licence holders are also part of a much larger community and need to play their part in terms of health, recreation, conservation and Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities and including ensuring wider support for hunting and fishing. This is an area of increasing focus for Council.

3 OPERATION OF TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL

The Council currently consists of 7 Councillors who were elected in November 2024. Councillors are elected three-yearly by fish and game licence holders in the Council's region and the next elections will be held in November 2027. The Council meets at least six times per year to direct the Council's management and to make its policy decisions.

The Council's Regional Office is based in New Plymouth. The Council has four members of staff – a Regional Manager shared with the Wellington Region, Secretary and two Field Officers.

4 DIRECTORY

Councillors

Name	Locality	Home Phone	Mobile Phone
Chris Donald (Chairman)	Waitara		027 4777518
Alan Flynn (Vice Chairman)	New Plymouth	06 758 9635	027 3246216
Gerard Karalus (National Council appointee)	Hawera		027 5902277
Chris Mattock	Stratford		027 5902277
Romon Sargeson	Upper Hutt		027 6659990
Rawenata Saunders	Manaia		020 40920896
John Nancarrow	New Plymouth		027 2244432

Staff

Name		Home Phone	Mobile Phone
Phil Teal	Manager		021 859120
Allen Stancliff	Field Officer	06 758 7461	027 2639152
Jack Harland	Field Officer		021 1987129
Jilli Steedman	Secretary		021 2700239

NEW PLYMOUTH OFFICE

Unit 3 477A Devon Street East
New Plymouth 4312
P O Box 662
New Plymouth 4340

Phone 06 757 9676
Email astancliff@fishandgame.org.nz
jharland@fishandgame.org.nz

WHANGANUI CONTACT DETAILS

P O Box 4152
Whanganui 4541

Phone: 021 2700239
Email taranaki@fishandgame.org.nz

BANK BNZ, Whanganui
AUDIT BDO Manawatu, Palmerston North
INSURANCE Wanganui Insurance Brokers, Whanganui
AON New Zealand

5. STATEMENT OF OPERATIONAL SERVICE PERFORMANCE

The Operational Work Plan (OWP) outlines the management activities planned for the 2025/2026 financial year that reflect the current regional strategic outcomes. The regional strategic outcomes reflect the organisation's strategic outcomes identified by the NZ Fish and Game Council – and are therefore incorporated into the regional OWP.

OWPs are required under Section 26Q(1)(e)(ii) of the Conservation Act 1987.

The strategic priorities are arranged around the following five pillars and provides guidance for emphasis of actions in the various functional work groupings:

1. Unified and Enduring Organisation

A national and regionally cohesive organisation built on a culture of shared values, trust and engagement.

Taranaki Fish and Game Council will give effect to this by:

- Having a co-operative agreement with Wellington Fish and Game Council to operate with shared resources (with a view to a formal legal arrangement)
- Implement a regional Communications Plan to communicate with stakeholders

2. Mana Whenua Connected

Create positive and collaborative relationships with mana whenua to ensure legislative responsibilities and co-operative intent to manage resources are met.

Taranaki Fish and Game Council will give effect to this by:

- Developing a strategy for effective mana whenua engagement and work proactively with mana whenua on managing resources of mutual interest

3. Healthy Species, Habitats, & Ecosystems

A. Sustainable Harvest

Sports fish and game bird populations are monitored to provide information to support management of continued sustainable wild harvest opportunities.

Taranaki Fish and Game Council will give effect to this by:

- Implementing a programme of monitoring of trout and game bird populations to ensure population change is within sustainable limits to define season harvest regulations.

B. Maintain Habitat (or Where Degraded Improve)

Sports fish and game bird habitats are maintained (or enhanced where degraded) in order to provide access to a sustainable harvest of the resource for hunters and anglers.

Taranaki Fish and Game Council will give effect to this by:

- Implementing a programme of monitoring of trout and game bird habitats to ensure habitat is maintained – or where degraded improved – through active management or proactive advocacy.

C. Access To the Resource is Maintained or Improved

Access to the resource for hunters and anglers is proactively advocated for.

Taranaki Fish and Game Council will give effect to this by:

- Maintaining an inventory of access signage, electronic mapping points for access, and proactively negotiating access to public land.

4. Attract & Retain Licence Holders

Deliver well valued experiences for licence holders by understanding their needs, providing simple and effective communication, while making fishing and game bird hunting more attractive to a wider group of future participants.

Taranaki Fish and Game Council will give effect to this by:

- Undertaking a programme of recruitment and retention of potential and existing participants – including identifying potential barriers to participation (e.g. supporting novice fishing and hunting events)
- Implementing a Communications Plan specific to licence holders (or potential licence holders) to meet their needs for successful participation in the pursuits and providing information on how to access the resource.

5. Public Perception & Legitimacy

Enhancing the social licence to operate of angling and game bird hunting through positive messaging of natural environment protection, wild food harvesting, and wellbeing through undertaking outdoor recreational pursuits

Taranaki Fish and Game Council will give effect to this by:

- Supporting social licence campaigns co-ordinated by NZ Council to confirm and strengthen a social licence to operate hunting and fishing activities.
- Undertaking a programme of activities that create public awareness of the positive outcomes achieved by Fish and Game and the activities that hunters and anglers undertake.

5.1 Structure of the Operational Work Plan

This OWP is based on grouping eight functional output categories and one input which have been adopted nationally as the basis for development of regional work programmes. Within each output category, individual projects are grouped together within project clusters that address key functions.

Reporting on Project Outputs

Completion dates for projects and associated reporting dates are noted for each project where this is feasible or practical to provide specific, measurable targets for activities. Internal tasks that are required to keep the organisation operating smoothly may not have specific targets or completion dates. Council receives regular updates on progress of projects – with a compilation of Annual Project Reports being presented to the Council on the activities undertaken in the completed Financial Year.

Direct External Costs and Internal Resource Allocation

Budgets are developed for each project cluster that reflect external direct costs and internal staff resources which allows for monitoring of projects for variance of expected resource allocations required to complete the project.

OUTPUT CLASS: Species Management

Objective	Planned Result	Performance Measures
<p>Obtain relevant and robust data to inform and enable effective management decisions to maximise opportunities and satisfaction while ensuring the sustainability of sports fish and gamebird populations across the region.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome Supported:</p> <p>Healthy Species, Habitats, & Ecosystems</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess and report on juvenile trout recruitment in the Tokiahuru / Waitaiki Streams to compare with baseline information from other catchment surveys. 2. Undertake a resource inventory of the Manganui River catchment to determine the current status of the trout fishery and identify threats and opportunities (yr 2 of 2) 3. Undertake an electric fishing survey in Kapuni Stream. 4. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's trout fisheries sufficient to measure overall angler success (through a diary scheme), set effective regulations and inform management directions. 5. Implement an effective grey and mallard duck banding programme in the Whanganui area to obtain an estimate of the population size and level of hunting harvest which will guide future monitoring requirements and regulation setting (yr 7). 6. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's mallard and grey duck, paradise shelduck, shoveler, swan and pukeko populations sufficient to assess harvest, identify and manage any population impacts, set effective regulations and inform management directions. 7. Review game bird monitoring programmes for the region taking into account banding results and including regulation setting requirements. 	<p>Reports produced on the status of the region's trout fisheries and including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angler catch rates across the region; • Juvenile recruitment in the Tokiahuru / Waitaiki Stream catchment; • Manganui River resource inventory report; • Kapuni Stream electric fishing report. <p>Number of ducks banded, and bands returned by hunters</p> <p>Population status and harvest detailed for each gamebird species and used to guide the setting of game bird hunting regulations.</p>

<p>Supplement trout fishing opportunities with appropriate stocking that is valued, cost effective in terms of the return to the angler and which retains community support.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Attract & Retain Licence Holders Public Perception & Legitimacy Healthy Species, Habitats, & Ecosystems</p>	<p>8. Participate in the National Hunter Survey to derive robust estimates of annual game bird harvest and hunter success.</p> <p>9. Recommend effective regulations that are timely, easily understood and which maximise licence holder opportunity while ensuring resource sustainability and public support.</p> <p>10. Provide advice and support practical and effective predator control opportunities that assist game bird populations.</p> <p>11. Undertake an annual trout stocking programme which concentrates on creating and maintaining valued lake fisheries.</p> <p>12. Undertake release of up to 200 17-month brown and rainbow trout into the lower Patea River and assess angler returns to gauge the potential for a long-term programme (yr 7)</p> <p>13. Operate Hawera hatchery in an effective, cost efficient and sustainable manner utilising volunteer support to meet the identified stocking objectives.</p> <p>14. Maintain a skilled honorary ranger team of at least 12 rangers consistent with requirements and objectives of the Compliance Policy and Strategy and also R3 principles.</p> <p>15. Undertake safe and effective compliance coverage across the Taranaki Region, including a target of 100 licence checks of anglers and also of hunters.</p> <p>16. Process detected offences in a fair and timely way consistent with national prosecution guidelines.</p>	<p>Estimate of gamebird harvest for 2025 game season derived for each species.</p> <p>Appropriate and effective regulations in place for fishing and hunting seasons.</p> <p>Completion of annual stocking programme including release into the lower Patea River</p> <p>Hawera hatchery operation is effective and within budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of fish produced • Cost per fish • Volunteer satisfaction. <p>Rangers recruited as appropriate, trained, safe and effective.</p> <p>Number of compliance checks, level of compliance exceeds 95% and outcomes reported of any non-compliance detected.</p>
<p>Provide effective compliance to protect resource sustainability (including revenue base) and user experience to maintain licence holder satisfaction.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Public Perception & Legitimacy Attract & Retain Licence Holders</p>		

<p>Proactively manage problem aggregations of gamebirds in the interests of both hunters and property owners and managers.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Public Perception & Legitimacy</p>	<p>17. Manage problem aggregations of gamebirds through implementation of a special Paradise shelduck season in Area C and proactively responding to and assisting landholders.</p>	<p>Implementation of special season including number of permits issued and harvest, along with number of permits to disturb issued.</p>
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Output Class: **Habitat Protection and Management**

Objective	Planned Result	Performance Measures
<p>Protect/ improve habitat for sports fish & game as a fundamental and effective means to sustain the fish & game resource in the interests of licence holders and with biodiversity benefits for the wider community.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Public Perception & Legitimacy</p> <p>Healthy Species, Habitats, & Ecosystems</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide valued advice and support to licence holders, landowners and the wider community regarding the importance of and how to protect and enhance habitat and also undertake predator control/ management to benefit both fish & game and wider indigenous biodiversity resources. Promote, encourage and support landowners to create, enhance and protect wetlands by providing sound technical advice and assistance to make successful applications to the GBHT and Hunting & Habitat Funds. Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to best achieve sports fish and game bird habitat protection and enhancement. Investigate the establishment of an environmental award to acknowledge and highlight outstanding contributions to the protection of sports fish or gamebird habitat. Seek effective environmental outcomes as part of the consenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes. Promote and explore opportunities to improve water quality in Lake Rotomanu. 	<p>Number of GBHT and H&H applications, also number of wetland projects completed over the year.</p> <p>Level of involvement in statutory and community processes advocating for freshwater and game bird habitat. Progress with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taranaki Natural Resources Plan Mangorei and Motukawa consents Lake Rotomanu water quality Environmental award

<p>Work collaboratively and proactively with landowners, other groups and iwi recognising the synergistic benefits and wider outcomes that can be achieved by this approach.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Mana Whenua Connected Public Perception & Legitimacy Healthy Species, Habitats, & Ecosystems</p>	<p>7. Engage proactively and collaboratively with iwi & community groups to identify and protect/ enhance shared resource values.</p> <p>8. Represent Fish & Game and provide valued input to the Te Awa Tupua process.</p> <p>9. Explore options with other parties to remove a weir in the Waingongoro River at Eltham.</p> <p>10. Investigate whether there is sufficient landowner support for an application to the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust (WRET) for funding assistance to continue the Horizons / F&G Joint Orautoha Stream / Manganuioteao Riparian Project to protect water quality in this catchment and the many values it supports.</p>	<p>Valued contribution to Te Kōpuka nā Te awa Tupua Other iwi initiatives, including aligning submissions to applications for resource consent.</p> <p>Co-ordination of a funding application to WRET if there is sufficient landowner support.</p>
<p>Development of an effective Natural Resources Plan that protects freshwater and wetland habitats and which will also minimise Council costs in consent processes and free up resources for other management responses.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Public Perception & Legitimacy Healthy Species, Habitats, & Ecosystems</p>	<p>11. Engage in and actively advocate for provisions which protect and/ or enhance sports fish & game bird habitat in the Taranaki Natural Resources Plan development process.</p>	<p>Active involvement in the Regional Plan development process in the interests of hunters and anglers</p>

Output Class: **Participation**

Objective	Planned Result	Performance Measures
<p>Add value to licence holders by increasing their opportunity, success and satisfaction and so retain them in the sport.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Attract & Retain Licence Holders</p>	<p>1. Maintain and improve the Taranaki pages on the new Fish & Game website so “how to” and “where to go” information is readily available, easily understood and up to date.</p> <p>2. Work with National Office to populate website with information including an ‘Introduction to duck hunting in the Taranaki Region’.</p>	<p>Review, refine and produce web pages, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to duck hunting in the Taranaki region • Waingongoro River access • Kaipokonui River access

<p>Encourage past and prospective hunters and anglers into the sport through initiatives which make it easy to 'have a go' and/or provide support. Strategic Outcome Supported: Attract & Retain Licence Holders</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Continue posting on the Council's Facebook page in line with any National Policy to regularly inform licence holders using this forum. 4. Develop and utilise licence holder email list to keep hunters and anglers up to date. 5. Complete monthly contributions to the Reel Life and Both Barrels Ezines and weekly contributions to the Wellington Fish & Game Region's "Lower North Island Lowdown" angling email and hunting email consistent with national R3 recommendations. 6. Provide a quality 2-page regional supplement in each edition of Fish & Game Magazine. 7. Publication of valued hunting and fishing newsletters in conjunction with Wellington Fish & Game and sent to regional licence holders. Hunting newsletter also distributed to all rural box holders in the region. 8. Proactively provide timely and useful information to licence holders when requested. 9. Replace/ erect 2 -3 new signs which provide anglers with helpful on-site information re access and regulations consistent with identified priorities. 10. Provide organised fishing opportunities in Lake Rotomanu and the Patea River in Stratford consistent with R3 objectives and branding and in association with volunteer groups for kids and families. 11. When fish are available, release 2-year rainbow trout into Sattler's Dam to provide opportunities for kids and families. 12. Review, negotiate, publicise and issue access permits to publicly available hunting areas and actively seek and develop new opportunities. 	<p>Contact with licence holders through implementation of social media pages and email list.</p> <p>Production of quality online and magazine supplements and newsletters</p> <p>Provision of signage to guide and inform anglers.</p> <p>Identification, development and delivery of family fishing opportunities consistent with R3 objectives</p> <p>Provision of game bird hunting access and permits.</p>
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	<p>13. Identify and explore mentoring schemes to support new hunters.</p> <p>14. Develop web based introductory package for anglers highlighting access opportunities and methods to get started.</p> <p>15. Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to maintain or enhance hunting or angling access and opportunity.</p> <p>16. Assess satisfaction and success of Taranaki Region anglers using catch rates from a voluntary diary scheme and online satisfaction survey.</p> <p>17. Locate and publicise quality trout, perch and game bird recipes that enable anglers and hunters to make good use of these species.</p> <p>18. Assess satisfaction of Taranaki Region hunters using nationally agreed questions in the national hunter survey.</p> <p>19. Implement actions to influence hunter behaviour as identified in hunter behaviour strategy to maximise enjoyment and participation and also public support for gamebird hunting.</p> <p>20. Provision of ready and valued support and assistance to licence agents such that they are kept up to date, resourced and operate as effective agents.</p>	<p>Identification of possible mentoring options for new hunters</p> <p>Web based package is available, and new anglers are aware of it and can easily access the information.</p> <p>Kaupokonui and Waingongoro River access information updated on website and options to assist further access identified.</p> <p>Report on level of angler satisfaction with the region's trout fisheries</p> <p>Provision of high-quality trout, perch and game bird recipes</p> <p>Report on level of hunter satisfaction with the region's game season.</p> <p>Programme to improve hunter behaviour is in place.</p>
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Output Class: **Iwi and Public Interaction and Engagement**

Objective	Planned Result	Performance Measures
<p>Work proactively and collaboratively with iwi at all levels consistent with Treaty of Waitangi obligations and responsibilities regarding the protection and use of natural resources .</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported: Mana Whenua Connected</p>	<p>1. Proactively engage, work and collectively share with iwi and hapu within the region on matters affecting wetland and freshwater resources or their use.</p>	<p>Engagement and involvement with iwi and hapu in statutory processes and also at a local level</p>
<p>Strong relationships and involvement with DOC and local and regional councils to effectively represent the interests of hunters and anglers in formal decision-making processes</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported: Public Perception & Legitimacy Healthy Species, Habitats, & Ecosystems</p>	<p>2. Liaise with Department of Conservation and Conservation Boards and proactively engage and work with Regional and District Councils and community & industry groups.</p> <p>3. Recognise and pursue opportunities to contribute to the wider community including 'Wild for Taranaki' and 'Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust'</p>	<p>Engagement with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC • Regional Councils • Wild for Taranaki • Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust • Federated Farmers
<p>Engender support for hunting and fishing and the activities of Fish & Game by the general public and others who recognise that these activities contribute to a better environment and healthy lifestyle and in turn who support protecting these resources and the opportunity to participate.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported: Public Perception & Legitimacy Healthy Species, Habitats, & Ecosystems</p>	<p>4. Take opportunities to promote the value of protecting freshwater, wetland and upland game habitats and the wider benefits from this.</p> <p>5. Represent the interests of hunters and anglers and promote the validity of fishing and gamebird hunting including as a means of collecting natural organic foods and engaging in a physical healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>6. Maintain a positive profile in the media which encourages prospective participants and fosters support and understanding among the general public.</p> <p>7. Implement revised media strategy and including incorporating any National Policy.</p>	<p>Media profile including media releases and responses, including</p> <p>Implementation of revised media strategy</p>

Output Class: **Council Administration**

Objective	Planned Result	Performance Measures
<p>Sound and effective governance which facilitates a co-operative and supportive relationship between Council, staff and licence holders that enables effective management of resources in the best interests of the licence holder and the fish & game resource.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Public Perception & Legitimacy</p> <p>Unified and Enduring Organisation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not less than six meetings of Council are held, and meetings are conducted consistent with provisions of the Standing Orders. 2. Council undertakes governance training provided nationally, preferably in conjunction with Wellington Fish & Game Council. 3. Identification and implementation of options and strategies to increase the diversity of Council and iwi involvement. 4. The 5-Year Strategic Plan is reviewed and agreed by Council by March 2026. 5. Formulation and adoption of an Annual Operational Plan and Budget for 2026/27 consistent with the 5-Year Strategic Plan. 6. Presentation by Council of its audited annual report for 2025/26 not later than 31 December 2026. 7. Effective regional policies are developed, adopted and reviewed as required and are consistent with any National Policy requirements. 8. Progress reporting of licence sales, work progress and financial position is timely and accurate and supports sound financial and operational management and oversight. 9. Effective administration such that the Council is within annual budget (\pm 5%), operates consistent with best practice and at least 90% of its annual plan is completed. 10. Staff management requirements including performance reviews completed, new KPIs and 	<p>Effective Council governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of meetings • Governance training for Council • Options to increase Council diversity and iwi involvement are pursued • Review of 5-year plan and development of 2026-27 annual plan • Number of new policies and policies reviewed • Sound financial management • % completion annual plan • Audited annual report
<p>Operate consistent with National Policy and make valued contributions to the management of the resource and F&G nationally in the interests of all licence holders.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Public Perception & Legitimacy</p> <p>Unified and Enduring Organisation</p>		
<p>Make best use of new systems, processes and technology to maximise administrative efficiencies and minimise costs so resources are available for use elsewhere.</p> <p>Strategic Outcomes Supported:</p> <p>Unified and Enduring Organisation</p>		

<p>Demonstrate a commitment to Health & Safety and ensuring the welfare of staff and others through effective policy, systems, resourcing and oversight</p>	<p>objectives for staff defined, and regular staff meetings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Implement any outcomes and directions from Fish & Game Ministerial Review and /or National Council reviews. 12. Progress amalgamation discussions with the Wellington Fish & Game Council and implement agreed measures which don't require legislative change. 13. Effective liaison with NZ Fish & Game Council and other Fish & Game regions including valued input and comment on Fish & Game issues and attendance at Fish & Game Managers meetings. 14. Contribute to National Office by providing valued advice, assistance and feedback on national issues and processes as requested. 15. Refine financial administration, reporting and analysis working with NZF&G Council and staff. 16. All processes and activities are undertaken consistent with Council Health & Safety Policy and Manual. 17. Staff are actively involved in implementing HSAW policy and ensuring a safe workplace, including by undertaking at least two monthly staff meetings where HSAW is a specific agenda item. 18. Compliance with HSAW requirements and policy including scheduled reviews and audits along with any issues identified or near misses routinely reported to each meeting of Council. 	<p>National review directions and requirements are effectively implemented</p> <p>Contribution to wider F&G organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managers meetings • Input to National policy consultation • Advice to National office and other regions <p>Effective and robust Health & Safety system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular agenda reports • Policy, Manual and HCP's up to date • Audits and reviews completed as required. • Number of near misses
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APPENDIX A.

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
BUDGETED STATEMENT OF PROJECT EXPENDITURE,
OVERHEADS AND TIME ALLOCATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2026

	SPECIES MANAGEMENT	External costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Nett Cost
	Population Monitoring					
1111	Fish Population Assessment	500	200	19,686	4,000	16,186
1112	Game Bird Population Assessment	15,000	320	31,498		46,498
		15,500	520	51,185	4,000	62,685
	Harvest Assessment					
1121	National Hunter Survey		20	1,969		1,969
1123	Special Game Bird Season		40	3,937	500	3,437
			60	5,906	500	5,406
	Hatchery Operations					
1141	Hatchery	10,000	60	5,906	3,238	12,668
		10,000	60	5,906	3,238	12,668
	Releases					
1161	Kids Fishing Days	6,000	150	14,765	1,500	19,265
		6,000	150	14,765	1,500	19,265
	Regulations					
1171	Season Regulations		50	4,922		4,922
			50	4,922		4,922
	Control					
1181	Game Bird Dispersal	2,000	120	11,812	750	13,062
		2,000	120	11,812	750	13,062
	HABITAT PROTECTION / MANAGEMENT					
	Resource Management Act					
1211	RMA Consents		500	49,216		49,216
			500	49,216		49,216
	Assisted Habitat					
1231	Sports Fish Habitat Management & Enhancement		100	9,843		9,843
1232	Gamebird Habitat Management & Enhancement		150	14,765		14,765
1233	Taranaki Hunting & Habitat Projects	15,000	150	14,765	15,000	14,765
1234	Manganuioteao River Riparian Project	5,000				5,000
		20,000	400	39,373	15,000	44,373

		External costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Nett Cost
	Assessing & Monitoring					
1241	Sports Fish Habitat Monitoring		20	1,969		1,969
1242	Gamebird Habitat Monitoring		80	7,875		7,875
			100	9,844		9,844
	PARTICIPATION					
	Access					
1311	Angler Access		80	7,875		7,875
1312	Hunter Access		15	1,476		1,476
1313	Access Permit – Upland Game		5	492		492
1315	Signage	200				200
		200	100	9,843		10,043
	Satisfaction Survey					
1321	Licence Holder Satisfaction Surveys		40	3,937		3,937
			40	3,937		3,937
	Newsletter & Magazine					
1331	Fish & Game Magazine		40	3,937		3,937
1333	Regional Newsletter	5,500	100	9,843		15,343
1335	Web pages / Ezine	4,000	60	5,906		9,906
		9,500	200	19,686		29,186
	Training					
1351	Angler Support	500				500
1352	Hunter Support	500				500
		1,000				1,000
	Club Relations					
1362	Clubs		10	984		984
			10	984		984
	PUBLIC INTERFACE					
	Liaison					
1411	Liaison		30	2,953		2,953
1412	Iwi Liaison	600	60	5,906		6,506
		600	90	8,859		9,459
	Communication					
1421	Information to clients		100	9,843		9,843
			100	9,843		9,843
	Advocacy					
1431	Advocacy	500	100	9,843		10,343
		500	100	9,843		10,343
	Public Awareness					
1441	Hunting & Angling Promotions	3,300	140	13,781		17,081
		3,300	140	13,781		17,081

		External costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Nett Cost
	COMPLIANCE					
	Ranging					
1511	Ranger Management	500	72	7,087		7,587
1521	Ranger Training	1,000	40	3,937		4,937
		1,500	112	11,024		12,524
	Compliance					
1531	Compliance	1,000	150	14,765	1,000	14,765
1535	Diversion	500	20	1,969		1,969
		1,500	170	16,733	1,000	17,233
	LICENCING					
	Agent Servicing					
1621	Licence Agent Servicing	500	50	4,922		5,422
1622	Commission	10,615				10,615
		11,115	50	4,922		16,037
	COUNCIL					
	Council Meetings					
1721	Council Meetings	9,500	280	27,561		37,061
		9,500	280	27,561		37,061
	PLANNING / REPORTING					
	Management / Strategic Planning					
1811	Management Planning	100	40	3,937		4,037
1812	Staff Management		40	3,937		3,937
		100	80	7,875		7,975
	Annual OWP / Budget / Fee Setting					
1821	Business & Operational Planning		40	3,937		3,937
			40	3,937		3,937
	Reporting Audit					
1831	OSH	500	65	6,398		6,898
1833	Auditor	7,076				7,076
		7,576	65	6,398		13,974
	National Liaison					
1841	Managers / National Office Liaison	100	160	15,749		15,849
		100	160	15,749		15,849
	TOTAL OUTPUT COSTS	99,991	3697	363,904	25,988	437,907

OVERHEADS

1911	Staff Salaries	274,934
1912	Management Contract	30,000
1915	Kiwi Saver Contributions	8,380
1921	ACC Levy	600
1922	Fringe Benefit Tax	2,640
1923	Staff Training	1,500
1925	Staff Expenses	200
1941	Office Rent	22,300
1951	Office Equipment Purchases <\$2,000	500
1953	Office Equipment Maintenance	1,500
1961	Telephone / fax	3,000
1962	Postage	1,500
1964	Stationery	1,000
1965	Photocopying	
1972	Subscriptions	800
1974	Bank Charges	150
1975	Petty Cash	300
1976	Insurance General	2,000
1981	Field Equipment/PPE Purchases (<\$2,000)	2,000
1982	Field Equipment PPE / Clothing replacement	500
1983	Field Equipment/PPE Maintenance	500
1991	Whanganui Vehicle	8,500
1992	New Plymouth Vehicle	8,500
1996	Trailer Side X side	300
1997	Polaris	300
1999	Trailer Hatchery	500
	TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS	372,404
1917	Wellington Fish & Game Admin	-8,500
		363,904
	STAFF HOURS (OUTPUT)	3,697
	INTERNAL COST PER HOUR	98.43

APPENDIX B.

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
BUDGETED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2026

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGETED SUM</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Game Licences (Extrapolated LEQ of 950) @ \$116 (\$115) less GBHT Stamp \$5 per licence	91,696
Sports Fish Licences (Extrapolated LEQ of 1,217) @ \$156	165,089
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>256,784</u>
 <u>Other Income</u>	
Species Management	9,988
Habitat Protection & Management	15,000
Compliance	1,000
Admin Contract	8,500
Interest	7,756
NZ Fish and Game Grant	173,367
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>215,611</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>472,395</u>
 <u>Expenditure</u>	
Species Management	33,500
Habitat Protection & Management	20,000
Angler / Hunter Participation	10,700
Public Interface	4,400
Compliance	3,000
Licencing	11,115
Councils	9,500
Planning / Reporting	7,776
<u>Total Project Expenditure</u>	<u>99,991</u>
 <u>Other Expenditure</u>	
Employee related costs	318,524
Other Expenses	54,150
Asset Replacement funding	
<u>Total Other Expenditure</u>	<u>372,404</u>
 <u>Total Expenditure</u>	 <u>472,395</u>
Depreciation	17,071
Surplus (Deficit)	(17,071)

APPENDIX C

TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE 2025/2026

	Cost Price	Opening Book Value 01/09/2025	Additions Disposals	Gain/Loss on Disposal	Capital Profit	Month	Rate	Depreciation	
								\$	Accum
								31/8/2025	Book Value 31/8/2026
Trout Hatchery Hawera	16,451	0					0% SL	16,451	0
2022 Ford Ranger PQT822	53,398	25,291				12	24% DV	34,177	19,221
2024 Ford Ranger QYE302	52,572	39,955				12	24% DV	22,206	30,366
2017 Polaris S X S motorbike	15,648	788				12	30% DV	15,096	552
Trailer Polaris	3,955	1,632				12	10% DV	2,486	1,469
Heat Pump NP Office	1,348	432				12	14.4% DV	62	370
Euro Tilt Cabinets	1,054	17				12	14.4% DV	2	15
Office Furniture	2,794	24				12	24% DV	2,776	18
Criterion WB141 Bookcase (Rimu)	985	3				12	18% DV	983	2
Ergoplus Corner Workstation	533	15				12	14.4% DV	2	13
Computer Whanganui Office (2020)	2,520	92				12	50% DV	2,474	46
Computer New Plymouth Office (2020)	2,340	86				12	50% DV	2,297	43
Computer New Plymouth Office (2021)	2,410	164				13	50% DV	2,328	82
HP Pro Desk 600 Computer & Software WGI	2,276	1				12	50% DV	2,276	1
Sharp MX-2314 photocopier	5,995	1,727				12	14.4% DV	249	1,478
Field Equipment	1,771	36				12	10% DV	1,739	32
Drone	1,460	1,038				12	10% DV	104	934
Nephelometer	3,690	5				12	21.6% DV	1	4
Diving Gear & Wetsuit NP	884	3				12	21.6% DV	882	2
Electric Fishing Machine	13,186	4,103				12	10% DV	9,493	3,693
	185,270	75,412						17,071	58,341
								126,930	

Agenda Item 12 Strategic Matters

Summary

a. Risk Management Review

Update risk management issues associated with:

- Avian influenza H5N1 Strain (HPAI – High Pathogenic Avian Influenza) – no change is risk level

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action is required.

b. Iwi Engagement

- Developing a strategic approach to engaging with Mana Whenua and how to incorporate a co-operative process in decision-making.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action is required.

Agenda Item 13 Policy and Legislation

Summary

a. Arms Act Review

- The Government announced in February 2024 that firearms legislation will be reviewed. This includes rewriting the Arms Act 1983, transferring responsibility for that act to the Ministry of Justice, and transferring the Firearms Safety Authority to another department such as the Department of Internal Affairs.
- Submissions were received on 28 February 2025 and are subsequently being analysed by parliament.
- Public submissions will inform draft policy proposals to be presented to Cabinet. These proposals will help shape the bill, which the Government will draft and introduce to Parliament. There will be another chance to provide input through the select committee process. The bill is expected to be introduced in late 2025.

b. Wildlife Act Review

There has been no update as to the priority or timetable for the anticipated substantial review of the Act but confirmation received that DOC are actively progressing this review.

Amendment to the Act: NZ Council is working with the Department of Conservation to remedy the issues that have arisen relating to disturb and cull authorisations resulting from a recent Environmental Law Initiative judicial review case. A select committee item has been presented by DOC to remedy this issue with a proposed Wildlife Act amendment. Updated authorisations will be provided under s53, s 54 & s56 to regional Fish and Game Councils by DOC asap.

c. Resource Management Act Review

The Government is taking a phased approach to overhauling the resource management system. The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill (the Bill) was introduced to Parliament on 9 December 2024 and forms part of what the Government describes as *Phase 2* of that workstream. This phase encompasses targeted changes to the existing system and precedes *Phase 3*, which will see an entirely new Resource Management Act.

Phase Three of the Reform was announced by the Government in March 2025 which outlined the formation of two Acts – Natural Environment Act and Planning Act.

These are designed to have a more consistent approach to dealing with planning and consenting issues by regional councils, but will become a more permissive approach by using permitted activity consenting.

d. Organisational Policies

Continuing to liaise with NZ Council and regions regarding defining best practice policy for operational and governance applications.

Regional Policy Development: A list of internal regional policies for development or review is guiding the work programme.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No Action Required



Objectives

The firearms reform programme will deliver a firearms system that:

- imposes controls that protect individuals and the public from fire-arms related harm
- supports the safe possession and use of firearms and other weapons for legitimate purposes, such as sports, hunting, collecting, and pest control.

Phase 3: Institutional arrangements for effective and efficient regulation

This involves a review of the Firearms Registry to determine if it is effectively improving public safety. Phase 3 also involves the transfer of the Firearms Safety Authority, regulator of the Arms Act, to another department.

Phase 4: A systematic rewrite to modernise the Arms Act 1983

This will involve rewriting the Arms Act to ensure it provides for greater protection of public safety, reflects best practice, and is fit for purpose.

Now that the public consultation has closed, how might my submission affect how the Act is changed?

Your submission will help the Government understand where the Act is and isn't working. Your thoughts and ideas will feed into an analysis process where the Ministry of Justice will carefully consider the voices of all communities that could be affected by the rewrite. You will have an opportunity to provide further feedback on specific policy proposals when the bill goes through the Select Committee process. This is expected to occur in late 2025.

When will any changes to the Act take effect?

The Government has committed to passing a bill by the end of this Parliamentary term in 2026. Once the bill has passed, the Government will determine when the changes will take effect.

Was the public consultation on the Arms Act rewrite my only opportunity to have my voice heard?

No, this is not your only opportunity to have your voice heard. Public submissions will inform draft policy proposals to be presented to Cabinet. These proposals will help shape the bill, which the Government will draft and introduce to Parliament. You will then have another chance to provide input through the select committee process. The bill is expected to be introduced in late 2025.

Minister's Arms Advisory Group

The Minister's Arms Advisory Group (MAAG) advises the Minister on matters that contribute to achieving the objectives of the Arms Act, in particular, the safe use and control of firearms. The Ministry of Justice performs the secretariat function.

- Member, Muslim Community Reference Group to the Royal Commission
- Chair, Council of Licenced Firearms Owners (COLFO)
- Law academic, firearms regulation, University of Waikato
- Expert in firearms and pest control
- President, Pistol New Zealand; founding member, Firearms Advisory Forum
- Leader in agency response to family violence; advocates safe firearm use for pest control in Northland
- Doctor with expertise in firearm-related health impacts
- Senior Lecturer, Otago University; Family Violence Death Review Committee
- Co-founder, Gun Control New Zealand

Agenda Item 14 Health and Safety Report

Summary

a. Consider the Health and Safety Report May 2025 and June 2025.

Regular discussions on Health and Safety topics are undertaken at weekly staff meeting.

No accidents or notable incidents are reported that are required to be brought to the attention of Council.

Review of Health and Safety Policy being co-ordinated by NZ Council.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive staff report on Health and Safety for May 2025 and June 2025

b. Consider Proactive Actions for Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Options for tracking personnel while in the field have been reviewed.

Developing policy on pragmatic and practical procedures to manage personnel in the field and as lone worker.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to confirm a proceed with personal tracking options.

c. Proposed Changes to Health and Safety Legislation

Government has announced proposals to clarify legislation regarding responsibilities and liabilities for:

- Health and Safety for Board members, and
- landowners for recreational users.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action is required.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

As part of the commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace the Taranaki Fish & Game Council requires at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence with the Health and Safety manual/policy.
2. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – new issues or hazards that have arisen and addressed, emergency procedures, dealing with on-site contractors and members of public,
3. Risk Management – On-going issues or hazards
4. Training, and awareness raising programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers,
5. Audits, reviews, and meetings – making sure the planning is implemented
6. H&S incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events,
7. Follow up from Council Meeting - Subjects raised under H&S agenda item for staff and ranger meetings
8. Recommendations

Bi-Monthly Update – May and June 2025

1. Implementation and adherence with the Health and Safety manual/policy.	
<i>Status</i>	
Development of Health and Safety Manual/Policy	Manual developed and in use.

2. Risk Management - New Issues or Hazards	
<i>Status</i>	
No items identified	

3. Risk Management - On going Issues	
<i>Status</i>	
Drift Dive/Electric Fishing/Spawning Survey Field Intention Sheets developed for each site	Entry/exit points to be identified
Safe vehicle use	All personnel reminded of safe use practices compliant with road code. Vehicle Use Policy confirmed.
Safe vehicle	All personnel undertake vehicle check on monthly basis. First Aid kits for vehicles checked – update as required.

Fire Extinguishers for Office and Vehicles checked	Regular maintenance schedule. Inventory maintained.
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4. Training, and awareness programme	
<i>Status</i>	
First aid certificates for field staff	Valid for field staff.

5. Audits, reviews, and meetings	
<i>Status</i>	
Health & Safety Staff Meeting -- May 2025	Weekly meetings with feedback sought and required actions noted.
Health & Safety Staff Meeting -- June 2025	Weekly meetings with feedback sought and required actions noted.
Reviewed Vehicle Inspection Forms for June 2025	Regular checks for updates encouraged. Any work on vehicle is also encouraged to be completed and up to safe requirements.
Review Health & Safety Manual for Council information	NZ Council reviewing best practice policy to refine Health and Safety Policy
Review first aid kits to ensure practical items included in kits	Reviewed and options considered to make up bespoke first aid kits.
Review risk matrix and response plans to risk	Reviewing risk matrix based on likelihood of occurrence and consequence of risk.

6. H&S incidents - Near misses or injuries	
<i>Status</i>	
No accidents reported	Consider proactive actions as arise in response to near misses.
One near miss reported	Traffic incident at intersection -- other driver at fault, good maintenance of vehicle and awareness of driver

7. Follow Up for Council Meeting -- Proactive Measures	
<i>Status</i>	
Consider using additional technology such as personal trackers to assist in remote/lone working situations.	Agenda item
Policy development around use of data to retain privacy	

Action:

Receive Health and Safety Summary Report for May 2025 and June 2025

Fish and Game Staff Risk Assessment Matrix

1. Risk Matrix

		Consequence				
		Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Critical (5)
Likelihood	Rare (1)	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
	Unlikely (2)	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	Possible (3)	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	Likely (4)	Medium	Medium	High	High	Extensive
	Almost Certain (5)	Medium	High	High	Extensive	Extensive

2. Likelihood Ratings

Rating	Definition
Rare (1)	May occur in exceptional circumstances. Has not occurred before.
Unlikely (2)	Could occur occasionally, but unlikely under normal circumstances.
Possible (3)	Might occur at some time. Has happened infrequently in the past.
Likely (4)	Will probably occur in most circumstances. History of regular occurrence.
Almost Certain (5)	Expected to occur in most circumstances. Regularly occurs.

3. Consequence Ratings

Rating	People	Environment	Reputation/Legal
Insignificant (1)	No injury	Minimal or no environmental impact	No damage to reputation or compliance
Minor (2)	First aid injury	Small, contained spill or disturbance	Minimal local concern
Moderate (3)	Medical treatment injury	Noticeable but reversible impact	Some public/media concern, minor breach
Major (4)	Serious injury or lost time	Significant but recoverable impact	Widespread concern, legal involvement
Critical (5)	Fatality or permanent disability	Irreversible or widespread impact	National concern, major legal breach

4. Risk Level Guide

Risk Level Response / Action Required

- Low** Acceptable – monitor and manage as routine.
 - Medium** Acceptable with controls – document and implement control measures.
 - High** Needs senior approval – implement additional controls urgently.
 - Extreme** Unacceptable – stop activity until risk is reduced.
-

Personal Tracking Device Policy – Health and Safety Use

Purpose

This policy outlines the use of personal tracking devices (e.g. GPS-enabled devices or apps) by staff when working away from the office. The primary purpose is to support the health and safety of staff in remote or field-based roles.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees required to work alone, in isolated areas, or in higher-risk environments.

Policy Statement

1. Use of Devices

Personal tracking devices may be issued or used to monitor the general location of employees during work hours for health and safety purposes only.

2. Purpose of Tracking

Tracking is used solely to:

- Locate a staff member in case of an emergency or welfare check.
- Monitor safe return from field activities.
- Assist emergency services in response to distress alerts or missed check-ins.

3. Privacy and Data Use

- Location data will not be monitored in real-time unless a safety concern arises.
- Data will not be used for performance management or disciplinary purposes.
- Access to location data is restricted to authorised personnel (e.g. Health and Safety Officer or Chief Executive).
- Data will be retained only as long as necessary for safety purposes and in line with privacy legislation.

4. Consent and Communication

- Staff will be informed of when and how tracking is used.
- Staff must consent to the use of tracking devices prior to deployment.
- Training will be provided on the use and purpose of the devices.

5. Opt-Out or Concerns

- Staff may raise privacy concerns or request alternative arrangements where appropriate.
- Any misuse of tracking data will be treated seriously and may result in disciplinary action.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required to ensure it remains fit for purpose and respects employee privacy.

Remote Field Work Monitoring and Reporting Policy

Purpose

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff undertaking remote or field-based activities through appropriate communication, monitoring, and emergency response procedures.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees engaged in fieldwork where they may be working alone, in isolated locations, or outside mobile coverage.

Policy Statement

1. Pre-Field Activity Requirements

- Staff must complete an **electronic Intention Form** before departure, including:
 - Location(s) of work
 - Estimated return time
 - Communication methods to be used
 - Emergency contacts
- Risk assessments must be completed for high-risk areas or solo work.

2. Approved Monitoring Options

At least one (preferably two) of the following must be used:

- **Mobile phone** for regular check-ins where coverage allows.
- **Satellite texting device** (e.g. inReach, Zoleo, satellite texting plan on compatible mobile phone) in no-coverage areas.
- **GPS tracker** with automated check-ins or SOS capability.
- **Manual check-in procedures** with office-based support.

3. Check-In Protocols

- Staff must check in at scheduled intervals or as specified in their field plan.
- Missed check-ins must be followed up promptly using available contact methods.

4. Overdue Responses

- If a staff member fails to check in:
 - Immediate attempts will be made to contact them via all available channels.
 - If contact cannot be made within the designated time, the situation will be escalated following the **Emergency Response Plan**, which may include local search or emergency services notification.

5. Privacy and Respect

- Tracking and monitoring are strictly for health and safety purposes.
- Data is not used for performance or disciplinary purposes.
- Monitoring devices and software will be used transparently, with staff fully informed.

6. Responsibilities

- **Field staff:** Complete intention forms, carry required devices, and follow check-in protocols.
- **Office-based monitors:** Acknowledge check-ins, log overdue statuses, and escalate concerns as per protocol.
- **Managers:** Ensure staff are trained in procedures and devices, and that equipment is maintained.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or after any field incident to ensure effectiveness.

DRAFT

Summary

a. Anglers' Notice

Confirm conditions in the Anglers' Notice confirmed by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required

b. Research Update

A brief report on research undertaken on:

1. Trout – Native Fish interactions
2. Modelling trout spawning habitat

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required

Anglers Notice for Fish and Game Regions 2025

Conservation Act 1987

Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983

Pursuant to section 26R(3) of the Conservation Act 1987, the Minister for Hunting and Fishing approves the following Anglers Notice, subject to the First and Second Schedules of this notice, for the following Fish and Game Regions:

Northland	Nelson/Marlborough
Auckland/Waikato	West Coast
Eastern	North Canterbury
Hawke's Bay	Central South Island
Taranaki	Otago
Wellington	Southland

Notice

This notice revokes all previous Anglers Notices and shall come into force on 1 October 2025.

1. Application of this Notice

1.1 This Anglers Notice sets out the conditions under which a current sports fish licence holder or a person named on a family whole-season licence may fish for sports fish in the area to which the notice relates, being conditions relating to:

- (a) The size and limit bag for any species of sports fish;
- (b) Any open or closed season in any specified waters in the area, and the sports fish in respect of which they are open or closed;
- (c) Any requirements, restrictions, or prohibitions on fishing tackle, methods, or the use of any gear, equipment, or device;
- (d) The hours of fishing; and

(e) The handling, treatment, or disposal of any sports fish.

1.2 This Anglers Notice applies to sports fish which include species of Trout, Salmon, Perch and Tench (and Rudd in Auckland/Waikato Region only).

1.3 Perch and Tench (and Rudd in Auckland/Waikato Region only) are also classed as coarse fish in this notice.

1.4 Within coarse fishing waters (as defined in this notice), special provisions enable the use of coarse fishing methods that would otherwise be prohibited.

1.5 Outside of coarse fishing waters an angler may fish for coarse fish wherever sports fishing is permitted, subject to the general provisions in this notice that apply for that region.

First Schedule: Fishing conditions generally common to all Fish and Game Regions.

Second Schedule: Regional specific fishing conditions, bag limits, closed and open waters, and the like.

First Schedule

1. Interpretation

Words and expressions in this notice, which are defined in the Conservation Act 1987, the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, or the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025, shall be so defined.

“assembled rod” means a rod that is assembled from butt to tip, together with a line and lure attached.

“all methods” means any artificial fly, or spinner or bait.

“artificial fly” means any lure of feather, fur, wool or other material of any kind customarily used in the making of artificial flies.

“bait” means:

- Natural insect.
- Natural spider.
- Natural worm or worms.
- Natural crustacean.
- Natural fish, excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc), except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.
- Uncoloured bread dough.
- Any scented lure, soft bait and other synthetic imitations with chemical attractant properties, except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.

"*bait assembly*" means either a hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks.

"*bait fishing*" means to fish for sports fish with bait.

"*boat*" means any manned flotation device.

"*closed*" means no fishing is permitted.

"*coarse fish*" means Perch, Tench (all New Zealand) and Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only).

"*coarse fishing waters*" means named locations where anglers can fish for coarse fish with:

- (a) A rod which has either a fixed or running line.
- (b) No restriction on the type or number of baits in use.
- (c) No restriction on the use of preparations to attract fish.

"*controlled fishery*" means a controlled fishery described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025 and for which a controlled-period licence is required when fishing during a controlled period.

"*daily bag limit*" means the total number of sports fish that may be taken or killed by any one person during any one day.

"*designated waters*" means a designated waters fishery described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025 and for which a designated waters licence is required when fishing.

"*fishing*" and "*fish*" in this notice means:

the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish; and includes any:

- (a) Other activity that may reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish.
- (b) Attempt to catch, take or harvest sports fish.
- (c) Operation in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition.

"*freshwater*" means

- (a) All waters of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, lagoons, wetlands, impoundments, canals, channels, watercourses, or other bodies of water whether naturally occurring or artificially made.

(b) All waters of estuaries or coastal lagoons.

(c) All other fresh or estuarine waters where freshwater fish indigenous to or introduced into New Zealand are found.

(d) All waters in the mouth of every river or stream, and the mouth of every river and stream shall be deemed to include every outlet thereof and the seashore between those outlets and the waters of the sea or lying within a distance of 500 metres from any place where at low tide the waters of a river or stream meet the waters of the sea.

“*fly fishing*” means to fish for sports fish with fly rod and fly reel and fly line and artificial fly.

“*foul hook*” means to hook a sports fish other than from within the mouth.

“*junior fishery*” means a named location where only a child or junior angler may fish.

“*landmark*” means a black, yellow and white ringed post or buoy.

“*length*” is the measurement from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

“*legal lure*” means any authorised artificial fly or spinner or bait.

“*sea-run Salmon waters*” means sea-run Salmon waters described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025 in the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game regions and for which a sea-run Salmon licence is required when fishing for Salmon and to which the Sea-run Salmon Season Bag Limit Notes apply.

“*season bag limit*” means the total number of sports fish that may be taken or killed by any one person between the 1 October and 30 September.

“*season bag limit card*” means a card upon which anglers taking or killing sports fish in Fish and Game regions that have a season bag limit must legibly record the date, name of water, sex (as can best be determined by the angler), weight in kilograms and length in centimetres of the fish, and whether it was fin clipped.

“*spin fishing*” means to fish for sports fish with a spinner.

“*spinner*” means any artificial lure other than an artificial fly.

“*sports fish*” means those freshwater fish described in the First Schedule of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, namely:

- Brown Trout.
- Rainbow Trout.
- American Brook Trout or Char.
- Lake Trout or Char.
- Atlantic Salmon.

- Quinnot or Chinook Salmon.
- Sockeye Salmon.
- Perch.
- Tench.
- Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only).
- Any hybrid of the above species.

“zero bag limit” means fishing is permitted but no fish may be kept.

2. Authorised Tackle

2.1 No angler shall fish for Trout or Salmon except by using a rod and running line and authorised method (as defined in clause 8 of this First Schedule).

2.2 Nets and gaffs:

- 2.2.1 When playing a sports fish, a landing net may be used to secure or land that fish.
- 2.2.2 For keeping coarse fish alive, a keep net may be used in the water from which the fish was caught.
- 2.2.3 No angler shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish except where provided for in the Second Schedule of this notice.

2.3 No angler when fishing for sports fish shall:

- 2.3.1 Use more than 1 assembled rod and running line.
 - 2.3.2 Use more than 3 artificial flies or spinners.
 - 2.3.3 Use more than 1 bait assembly.
 - 2.3.4 Be more than 15m from the rod being used, except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.
 - 2.3.5 Use in waters other than those where bait fishing is permitted any lure treated with any chemical preparation other than that used solely to control the buoyancy of an artificial fly, except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.
 - 2.3.6 Use any preparation not attached to a lure to attract fish except when fishing for coarse fish in coarse fishing waters.
- 2.4 No person shall fish for sports fish by using felt-soled waders or footwear incorporating or having attached a sole of felted, matted or woven fibrous material when sports fishing.

3. Foul Hooking of Fish

- 3.1 No angler shall attempt to foul hook any sports fish.
- 3.2 Any angler who foul hooks a sports fish shall return it immediately to the water with as little injury as possible.

4. Fish Length

- 4.1 Every angler who catches a sports fish which does not exceed the specified minimum length, or exceeds the specified maximum length, shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.

5. Open Season

- 5.1 No angler shall fish for any sports fish except during an open season.

6. Daily Bag Limit

- 6.1 No angler shall continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day in which the angler has already killed the limit bag for that species except where provided for in the Second Schedule.
- 6.2 It shall be permissible to make up the difference between a lesser limit bag prescribed in one place and a higher limit bag prescribed in another if the extra fish are taken in the area with the higher bag limit.

7. Season Bag Limit

- 7.1 No angler shall continue to fish for sports fish in any season in which the angler has already killed the season bag limit for that species, except where provided for in the Second Schedule.

8. Authorised Methods

- 8.1 Authorised methods (subject to any regional restrictions specified in the Second Schedule) are:

- Artificial fly (F).
- Bait (B).
- Spinner (S).

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Second Schedule

Northland Fish and Game Region

The Northland region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

- Note 1 Except in the case of Perch and Tench, for which there is no daily limit, no angler shall on any one day take and kill or be in possession of more than the prescribed daily limit from the waters specified in the schedule.
- Note 2 An angler may continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day on which the angler has already killed a limit bag for that species, as long as fish taken are immediately returned with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.
- Note 3 In all waters of the region there is a minimum length of 300mm for Trout.
- Note 4 No angler shall fish from or troll from any boat which is being mechanically propelled.
- Note 5 No angler shall fish from any boat or flotation device.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Locations	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Species	Daily bag limit by species zero bag limit unless number shown	Refer Clause 2 Additional Requirements
Lake Manuwai	Waipapa		All year	FSB	Rainbow	3	Notes 1, 2, 3, 4
Whau Valley Dam	Whangarei		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	3	Notes 1, 2, 3, 5
Wilson's Dam	Ruakaka		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	3	Notes 1, 2, 3, 5
Ahuroa River	Waipu		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Awarua River	Twin Bridges		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kaihu River	Kaihu		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kaikarua River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kaimamaku River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kerikeri River	Kerikeri		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kirikiritoki Stream	Hikurangi		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangahuru Stream	Hikurangi		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangakahia River	Twin Bridges		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangapa River	10 km north of Okaihau		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangatu River	Donnelly's Crossing/Kaihu		All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
North River	Waipu		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Opouteke River	Twin Bridges		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3

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Punakitere River	10 km south of Kaikohe	All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Tirohanga Stream	Kawakawa	All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Victoria River	South of Kaitiaki	All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waima River	Donnelly's Crossing	All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waioitu River	Whakapara	All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waipapa River	10 km north of Okaihau	All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Wairua River	Hikurangi, downstream of confluence of Waioitu and Whakapara Rivers	All year	FSB	Rainbow/Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waitangi River	Paihia	All year	FSB	Rainbow/Tench	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Whakapara River	Whakapara	All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
All other waters not listed		All year	FSB		2	Notes 1, 2, 3

126

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region

The Auckland/Waikato region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861, as amended by *New Zealand Gazette*, 29 August 1991, No. 129, page 2786, and as further amended by the *New Zealand Gazette*, 28 January 1993, No. 11, at page 192.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this Notice or the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1

Closed Waters

1.1 The following waterways are designated as closed waters:

No licence holder shall take (or attempt to take) sports fish from all rivers, streams and their tributaries which flow into, but not including, Lake Arapuni, Lake Waipapa and Lake Karapiro, and that part of the Waikato River downstream of the Maraetai Dam to upstream of the Karapiro Dam.

1.2

The closed waters restrictions in clause 1.1 for this region do not apply to the Little Waipa Stream, Pokaiwhenua Stream, Mangawhio Stream, Tumai Stream, Waipapa River, or flooded backwaters of Lake Arapuni, Lake Waipapa and Lake Karapiro, and that part of the Waikato River downstream of the Maraetai Dam to upstream of the Karapiro Dam.

Note 2

Authorised Tackle: Scented artificial lures may be used in all waters other than fly fishing only waters, when actively fished to imitate a bait fish.

Note 3

Bait Fishing Waters

3.1 No angler, when fishing in bait fishing waters, shall use as bait any fish or clam taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring.

3.2 No angler shall transport any water taken from any waterbody, including bait buckets or live wells, to another waterway.

Note 4 **Coarse Fishing waters**

4.1. The following waters are designated as coarse fishing waters:

- Mangatawhiri River from the bridge on State Highway 2 to its confluence with the Waikato River
- Whangamarino River
- All lakes and ponds, excluding Karapiro Reservoir, Arapuni Reservoir, Waipapa Reservoir, Mangatangi Reservoir and Mangatawhiri Reservoir.

4.2 There are no restrictions on the numbers of rods and running lines that a angler fishing for perch, tench or rudd may have, provided only one of which shall be used for fishing at any one time.

4.3 A roach pole may be used to fish for perch, tench and rudd.

4.4 It is an offence to kill on any day more than five tench. There is no limit for perch or rudd.

Note 5 **Use of Boats:** No angler shall fish for sports fish from any vessel in the upper reaches of Lake Karapiro (upstream from the white marker post, situated 200m below the Huihuitaha Stream mouth) unless the vessel is securely anchored.

Note 6 **Hours of Fishing:** There are no restrictions on the hours of fishing in the Auckland/Waikato Region.

Note 7 **Fish Length:** There are no length restrictions in the Auckland/Waikato Region.

Note 8 **Tagged fish:** Anglers are required to report the length and if possible, the weight of all tagged fish caught in the Auckland Waikato Region.

3. Open season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Multiple Sections	Open Season	Authorised Fishing Methods	Daily Bag Limit	Refer Clause 2 For Additional Requirements
Lakes					
Mangatangi Reservoir		All year	FS	2	Note 4
Mangatawhiri Reservoir		All year	FS	2	Note 4
All other lakes/ponds		All year	FSB	2	Note 3

Streams	Section of water	Open	Method	Limit	
Awakino River	Upstream of Mahoenui Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Kakahu Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Kaniwhaniwha Stream	Upstream of Quarry Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Kaniwhaniwha Stream	Downstream of Quarry Road	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Little Waipa Stream	Horahora Road Bridge deemed to be the mouth	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Mangaohae Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2

Mangatepopo Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Mangatutu Stream	Upstream of Lethbridge Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Mangatutu Stream	Downstream of Lethbridge Road	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Mangawhio Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Maramataha River		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Moakururua Stream	Upstream of Honikiwi Road	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Ngakoaohia Stream	Upstream of Pirongia/Kawhia Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Okauaka Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Ongarue River	Upstream of Waimiha Stream confluence	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Piopiotea Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Pokaiwhenua Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Puniu River	Upstream of Seafund Road Bridge	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Tawarau River	Above power station intake	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Tumai Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Waione Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Waipa River	Upstream of State Highway 3 Bridge	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Waipapa River	Above lower falls	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Waitawheta River	Upstream of end of Franklin Road	All year	FS	2	Note 2

Whakapapa River	Upstream of 1 km upstream of Ohinetonga Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Whakapapa River	downstream from 1 km upstream of Ohinetonga Rd	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Whakapapa-iti Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Whakapapa-nui Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Whanganui River	upstream of Whakapapa River confluence	All year	FS	2	Note 2
All other rivers & streams		All year	FSB	2	Notes 2,3, and 4

Eastern Fish and Game Region

The Eastern region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

“Fly line” means any floating or sinking line used to facilitate casting that is greater than 3m in length.

“Set rod” means any assembled rod that is not in physical contact with an angler when being used to fish for sports fish.

“Landmark” means a black, yellow and white ringed pole.

“Rotorua lakes” means Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoma, Rotoehu, Rotomahana, Rerewhakaaitu, Okareka, Okataina, Okaro, Ngahewa, Ngapouri, Tarawera and Tikitapu.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1

Closed Waters: No angler shall fish for sports fish at any time from the following waters:

- 1.1 All streams flowing into Lake Tarawera and that portion of the Tarawera River enclosed by landmarks at the Lake Tarawera Outlet and extending approximately 150m downstream to Tarawera River Foot Bridge, otherwise known as the Tarawera Outlet Spawning Sanctuary.
 - 1.2 The Awahou, Waiowhiro, Waiohewa, Waingaehe, Waimataa, Waikuta Streams and their tributaries.
 - 1.3 The Hamurana Stream upstream of the Hamurana Road Bridge.
 - 1.4 The Utuhina Stream upstream of the Pukehangj Road Bridge and all tributaries of this stream.
 - 1.5 All springs, streams and their tributaries which flow into Lake Waikareiti, and into or from Lakes Rotoma, Rotoehu, Rotomahana, Rerewhakaaitu, Rotokakahi, Okareka, Okataina and Rotoiti, except the Ohau Channel and the Kaituna River.
 - 1.6 The section of the Ruahiri Canal between the landmarks at the southern end of the canal which enclose the artificial spawning bed.
 - 1.7 Any waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, breeding, hatching, monitoring or other purposes (excepting 1.8 below).
 - 1.8 Ngongotaha Hatchery educational fishery (known as Children’s Fishing Pond), except by special authorisation.
- Note 2
- 2.1 No angler shall fish for sports fish with a set rod unless the angler is fishing from a boat.
 - 2.2 Scented artificial lures (known as soft baits) may be used in all waters other than fly fishing only waters.

- Note 3 3.1 No angler when fishing in bait fishing waters shall use any whole fish sourced from any water other than that where the fishing is occurring.
- Note 4 4.1 Downriggers, paravanes and metal cored or wire lines are prohibited in Lakes Waikaremoana and Waikareiti.
- Note 5 5.1 No angler shall fish for Trout from any unanchored boat within 200m of a landmark.
- 5.2 No angler shall fish for Trout from a boat in the designated winter shoreline-fishing areas on Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina from 1 July until 1 October.
- 5.3 No angler shall fish from any motorised boat or use an anchor when fishing in Lake Kaitawa or Lake Whakamarino (Tuai).
- 5.4 Anchored boats should be anchored with no more than two anchors, or a GPS anchor system.
- 5.5 1) No boats are allowed to pass through the Tarawera Outlet Spawning Sanctuary at any time.
2) No boats are permitted under the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaws to anchor in the Ohau Channel.
- Note 6 6.1 No angler shall fish for any sports fish between 12.00am and 5.00am.
- Note 7 7.1 Minimum size limit for lakes Waikaremoana, Kaitawa, Whakamarino (Tuai) and Waikareiti, and the Rotorua Lakes and their inflowing tributary streams: 350mm.
- 7.2 All other waters (excepting 7.1 above): No minimum size limit.
- 7.3 Maximum size limit for Ruakituri River and tributaries upstream of Waitangi Falls: 600mm.
- Note 8 8.1 No angler shall take more than 2 brown Trout in a daily bag limit of 8 Trout.
- Note 9 9.1 Only female Trout may be taken within 200m of the Te Wairoa Stream mouth landmark at Lake Tarawera.
- Note 10 10.1 There are no defined coarse fishing waters in the Eastern region.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits F = Fly fishing, S = Spin, B = Bait

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Other	
All other waters not listed and excepting closed waters		1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	2			Notes 1, 2, 6, 7
Aniwaniwa Stream	downstream of Aniwaniwa Falls	All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
Aniwhenua Lake and canal		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Aratiatia Lake		All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Atiamuri Lake		All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Flaxy Lake and Canal		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Hamurana Stream	downstream of Hamurana Road	All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 6, 7, 8
Hopuruahine Stream and tributaries	upstream of the landmark pole	1 Dec - 30 Jun	F	8			Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
Hopuruahine Stream	downstream of the landmark pole	All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Kaitawa Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Kaituna River	downstream of control gates	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
McLaren Lake		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Maraetai Lake		All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Matahina Lake		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Mokau Stream	upstream of the landmark pole	1 Dec - 30 Jun	F	8			Notes 2, 6, 7, 8

	downstream of the landmark pole	All year	FS	8		Notes 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Motu River	upstream of State Highway 35	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 35	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Ngahewa Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Ngapouri Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Ngongotaha Stream	downstream of State Highway 5 Bridge	All year	FS	8		Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
Ngongotaha Stream and tributaries (excluding Waimataa)	upstream of State Highway 5 Bridge	1 Dec - 30 Jun	F	8		Notes 1, 2, 6, 7, 8
Ohau Channel	between Lake Rotorua Outlet weir and landmark approximately 200m downstream of the weir	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	8		Notes 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
	from landmark approximately 200m downstream of Lake Rotorua Outlet weir to Lake Rotoiti confluence	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8		Notes 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Ohakuri Lake		All year	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Okareka Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Okaro Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Okataina Lake	excepting areas below	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	Winter shoreline fishing area from Te Koutu Point landmark to west of Okataina Lodge landmark extending 200m offshore	All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Otara River	downstream of Otara East Bridge	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
Putere Lakes		All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
Rangitaiki River	downstream of Otamatea Stream confluence	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7

	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Rangitaiki Canal (Wheao)		All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
Rerewhakaaitu Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotoehu Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotoiti Lake	excepting area below	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	Winter shoreline fishing area from Tapuaeakura Bay landmark to Hinehopu landmark extending 200m offshore	All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotoma Lake	excepting areas below	All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	Winter shoreline spawning areas between landmarks at Anaputa Point and Matahi Bay, and between landmarks in Manawahe Bay both extending 200m offshore	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotomahana Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotorua Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Ruahini Canal		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 2, 6, 7
Ruakituri River and tributaries (excluding Hangaroa)	upstream of Te Reinga Falls	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
Tarawera Lake	excepting areas below	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9
	Winter shoreline fishing area from Tarawera Outlet landmark to Te Tapahoro Bay landmark and 200m offshore	All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	Winter shoreline fishing area from The Landing landmark to Otumutu Lagoon landmark and 200m offshore	All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7

Tarawera River	from the outlet to the Tarawera falls, excluding the spawning sanctuary	1 Oct - 31 May	F	8		Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	from the falls to State Highway 2	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Tikitapu Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 2, 6, 7
Tirotolakes		All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
Utuhina Stream	downstream of Devon Road Bridge	All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 6, 7, 8
	upstream of Devon Road Bridge but downstream of Pukehangi Road Bridge	1 Dec - 30 Jun	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 6, 7, 8
Waikareiti Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
Waikaremoana Lake		All year	FS	8		Notes 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Waikaretaheke River	downstream of Piripaua Powerhouse	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
Waiau River	downstream of the Waikaretaheke River confluence	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
Waikato River	from Huka Falls to Maraetai	All year	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Waimana River	downstream of Matahi Bridge	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
Waioeka River	downstream of Tauranga Stream confluence	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Wairoa River	downstream of Te Reinga Falls to State Highway 2	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 6, 7

Wairoa River (Tauranga)	downstream of Lake McLaren	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Waiteti Stream	downstream of Hamurana Road	All year	FS	8		Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
	upstream of Hamurana Road	1 Dec - 30 Jun	FS	8		Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
Whakamarino Lake (Tuai Lake)		All year	FS	8		Notes 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Whakamaru Lake		All year	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Whakatane River	downstream of Owaka Stream confluence	All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of the State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit		Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Wheao River		All year	FS	2		Notes 2, 6, 7

148

Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Region

The Hawke's Bay region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1 Use of Motorised Crafts

- 1.1 No motorised craft permitted on Lake Waikopiro.
- 1.2 Similarly, except with the prior written authority of the Director-General of Conservation, and subject to compliance with any conditions that the Director-General may impose, no person shall use any boat in Lake Tūtira that is propelled by any means other than sails, oars, or paddles.

Note 2 Fishing is permitted only in daylight hours at Lake Hawkeston.

Note 3 Fish Length

- 3.1 Esk River (Waiohinga) above the Waipunga Road Bridge, including tributaries 550mm maximum
- 3.2 Maraetotara Stream 350mm maximum
- 3.3 Ngaruroro River upstream of Whanawhana cable, including tributaries 550mm maximum
- 3.4 Lakes Tūtira and Waikopiro 350mm minimum
- 3.5 All other waters No minimum or maximum size limit

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species	Refer clause 2 additional requirements
All other waters not listed below		1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
Larger of Twin Lakes (Rotoroa), Kuripapango		All year	FS	No limit	Note 3
Lake Hawkston		1 Nov - 31 Mar	FS	1	Notes 2, 3
All other lakes of the region (except the larger of Twin Lakes & Lake Hawkston above)		All year	FS	2	Notes 1, 3
Aropaoahui River	downstream of the landmark opposite Wareham Road	All year	FS	1	Note 3
Esk River/Waiohinganga	upstream of Waipunga Road Bridge and all tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	downstream of Waipunga Road Bridge	All year	FS	1	Note 3
Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council's Burness Road Ponds		All year	FSB	1	Note 3
	Karamu Stream, excluding tributaries	All year	FSB	2	Note 3

Maraetotara Stream		All year	FS	1	Note 3
Mohaka River	downstream of the confluence with the Mangatainoka River to State Highway 5, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
	downstream of State Highway 5 Bridge	All year	FS	2	Note 3
Mohaka River tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
Ngaruroro River	upstream of Kiwi Creek confluence, including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	from Kiwi creek to Whanawhana cable, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
	Whanawhana cable to Fernhill (Omahu) Bridge, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
	downstream of Fernhill (Omahu) Bridge	All year	FSB	2	Note 3
Ngaruroro River tributaries	upstream of Whanawhana cable	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	downstream of Whanawhana cable	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3

Porangahau River	downstream of confluence with the Mangawhero Stream, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	1	Note 3
Tukituki River	upstream of State Highway 50 Road Bridge, excluding tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	State Highway 50 Road Bridge to Red Bridge, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Notes 3
Tutaekuri River	downstream of Red Bridge	All Year	FSB	2	Note 3
	downstream of confluence with the Mangaone to Redclyffe (EIT) Bridge Stream, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	1	Notes 3
	downstream of Redclyffe (EIT) Bridge	All year	FSB	1	Note 3
Waipawa River	upstream of State Highway 50 Road Bridge, excluding tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	downstream of State Highway 50 Road Bridge, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
Waipunga River	downstream of the falls, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3

Taranaki Fish and Game Region

The Taranaki region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, at page 1861

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

- Note 1
- 1.1 First Schedule conditions apply.
 - 1.2 There are no restrictions on the hours of fishing.
 - 1.3 There is no minimum length for Trout.
 - 1.4 There are no defined coarse fishing waters in the Taranaki Fish and Game Region.
 - 1.5 Scented artificial lures may be used in waters where spin fishing is permitted (FS) when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish.
 - 1.6 No angler, shall use as bait any fish taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring.
- Note 2
In the Hangatahua (Stony) River no brown Trout may be taken.
- Note 3
No angler shall fish for sports fish from a boat in Lake Mangamahoe, including the Waiwhakaiho Inlet.

3.1 Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits - Region Defaults

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species			Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Zero bag limit unless number shown			
			Trout	Salmon	Perch		
All lakes, rivers and streams not mentioned in clause 3.2 for this region		1 Oct - 30 Apr	2	1	No limit		Note 1

3.2 Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species			Refer Clause 2 Additional Requirements	
				Zero bag limit unless number shown				
				Trout	Salmon	Perch		
Taranaki/Whanganui								
Huatoki Stream	downstream of Brois Street Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1	
Kai Auahi (Kaiaua) Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	1		Note 1	
Kapuni Stream	upstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	1		Note 1	
	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FS	2	1		Note 1	
Kaupokonui Stream	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1	
Lake Kohata		All year	FSB			No limit	Note 1	
Lake Mangamahoe	excluding the Waiwhakaiho Inlet and Mangamahoe Stream	All year	F	2			Note 1, 3	
	Waiwhakaiho Inlet upstream of the normal site of a landmark located just upstream of the confluence with Lake Mangamahoe	1 Oct - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1, 3	
	Mangamahoe Stream upstream of the walkway swing-bridge at the head of Lake Mangamahoe	1 Oct - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1, 3	
Lake Namunamu	Any tributary other than Waiwhakaiho Inlet and Mangamahoe Stream	All year	F	2			Note 1, 3	
Lake Ngangana		All year	FSB	2			Note 1	
		All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1	

Lake Opunake		All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Ratapiko		1 Oct - 30 Apr and 1 June - 30 Sep	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Rotokare		All year	FSB			No limit	Note 1
Lake Rotomanu		All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Rotorangi	downstream of Mangamingi Bridge	All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Wairua		All year	FSB			No limit	Note 1
Manganui River	downstream of Bristol Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Mangaoraka Stream	downstream of State Highway 3 Devon Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Patea River	downstream of Patea Dam	All year	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1
Hangatahua (Stony) River		All year	FS	2 rainbow Trout zero brown Trout	1		Note 1, 2
Waiaua River							
	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Waingongoro River	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Waiongana Stream	downstream of State Highway 3 Devon Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Waitara River	downstream of Manganui River confluence	All year	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1
Waiwhakaho River	downstream of the normal site of a landmark that is at the end of Rimu Street extension walking track	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1

Te ikaparua (Warea) River	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1	Note 1
Whanganui River	downstream of Ohura River confluence excluding tributaries	All year	FSB	2	1	Note 1
Virginia Lake		Closed to fishing				
Waimarino						
Manganuioteao River	downstream of Ruatiti Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1	Note 1
	mainstem from Ruatiti Road Bridge upstream to confluence with Makatote River	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FSB	2	1	Note 1
Mangawhero River	downstream of Raetihi - Ohakune Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2		Note 1
Retaruke River	downstream of Oio Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1	Note 1
Sattlers Dam		All year	FSB	2		Note 1
Tokiahuru Stream	downstream of State Highway 49 Bridge	All year	FSB	2		Note 1
Waitaiki Stream	downstream of State Highway 49 Bridge	All year	FSB	2		Note 1

Wellington Fish and Game Region

The Wellington region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

- Note 1
- 1.1 Except in the case of Perch, for which there is no daily limit, no angler shall on any one day take and kill or be in possession of more than the prescribed daily limit from the waters specified in the schedule.
 - 1.2 Scented artificial lures may be used in fly fishing and spin fishing waters, when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish.

Note 2

Coarse Fishing Waters: The following waterways are designated as coarse fishing waters:

- 2.1 Lake Waitawa (Forest Lakes) (catch and release).
- 2.2 Upper and Lower Whitby Lakes (catch and release).
- 2.3 Wairarapa Moana.

Note 3

Designated Waters:
No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.

Note 4

Size Limits

- 4.1 Akatarawa River, Te Awa Kairangi (Hutt) River, Kiriwhakapapa Stream, Makuri River, Managakoake Stream, Mangaroa River, Mangatainoka River, Mikimiki Stream, Ohau River, Ōtaki River, Pakuratahi Stream, Pohangina River, Pourangaki River, Tokomaru River, Waikanae River, Waipoua River, Wainui Stream, Whakatikei River, Whakaurekou River.
 - 4.2 Hautapu River (upstream of the road bridge numbered 741/1096 on State Highway 1 by the Taihape Golf Club), Mangaohane Stream, Rangitikei River (upstream of Mangaohane Road Bridge), Waingawa River, Wainuiomata River.
- Note 5
- Note 6
- 5.1 Bait fishing in the Te Awa Kairangi (Hutt) River is permitted by Child anglers only.
 - 6.1 Wairarapa Moana means the waters within the Lake Wairarapa Wetland Conservation Area, the Owahanga Landing Reserve, the Matthews & Boggly Pond Wildlife Reserve, the Ruamahanga Cut-off

Wildlife Reserve, the Allsops Bay Wildlife Reserve and the Wairarapa Lake Domain management reserve.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit	Refer clause 2 additional requirements
All other waters not listed below		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	
All coastal dune lakes		All year	FSB	4	
Akatarawa River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Hautapu River	upstream of the road bridge numbered 741/1096 on State Highway 1 by the Taihape Golf Club	1 Oct - 30 Apr	F	1	Note 4.2
	downstream of the road bridge numbered 741/1096 on State Highway 1 by the Taihape Golf Club	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	4	
Henley Lake		All Year	FSB	4	
Hokowhitu Lagoon (also known as Centennial Lagoon)		All Year	FSB	Rainbow or Brown Trout 2	
Te Awa Kairangi (Hutt) River		All year	FSB* (see Note 5)	2	Notes 4.1, 5
Kahuterawa Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	4	
Kawhatau River		All year	FSB	4	
Kiriwhakapapa Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Kōpuaranga River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	
Kourarau Dam (Upper) Reservoir, except all inflowing streams		All year	FSB	Rainbow or Brown Trout 1	

						Tench 4	
Lake Waitawa (Forest Lakes)			All year	FSB		Tench 0	Note 2.1
Mākāhahi River	upstream of the road bridge at Eketahuna		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		4	
Makiekie River (Coal Creek)	downstream of the road bridge at Eketahuna		All year	FSB		4	
Makuri River	upstream of the township bridge		1 Oct - 30 Apr	F		1	Note 4.1
	downstream of the township bridge		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		1	Note 4.1
Manawatū River	upstream of the Maunga Road Bridge (upstream of Dannevirke)		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		1	
	downstream of the Maunga Road Bridge (upstream of Dannevirke)		All year	FSB		2	
Mangakokeke Stream			1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		1	Note 4.1
Mangaohane Stream			1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		1	Note 4.2
Mangahao River	upstream of Marima Reserve Bridge		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		4	
	downstream of Marima Reserve Bridge		All year	FSB		4	
Mangaone River (a tributary of the Tiraumea River)			All year	FSB		4	
Mangaroa River			1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		1	Note 4.1
Mangatainoka River	upstream of Scarborough Konini Road Bridge		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		2	Note 4.1
	downstream of Scarborough-Konini Road Bridge		All year	FS		2	Note 4.1
Mangatarere Stream			1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB		1	

Mangatoro River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1	
Mikimiki Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Moawhango River		All year	FSB	4	
Ohau River		All year	FS	2	Note 4.1
Oroua River	upstream of Ruahine Forest Park boundary, including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	
	downstream of Ruahine Forest Park boundary and upstream of Oroua Valley Road Bridge	All year	FSB	1	
	downstream of Oroua Valley Road Bridge	All year	FSB	4	
Ōtaki Winstone Quarry lakes		All year - weekends only	FSB	1	Note 5
Ōtaki River	upstream of Tatarua Forest Park boundary, including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
	downstream of Tatarua Forest Park boundary	All year	FSB	1	Note 4.1
Pakuratahi Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Pohangina River	upstream of Piripiri Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
	between Totara Reserve Bridge and Piripiri Bridge	All year	FS	1	Note 4.1
	downstream of Totara Reserve Bridge	All year	FSB	2	Note 4.1
Pohangina River tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note
Pourangaki River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1

Rangitikei River	Designated Water Rangitikei River upstream of Ohinewaione Stream confluence (about 9 river kilometres upstream of the Springvale Bridge), including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 3, 4.2
	between Matawhero Road Bridge (commonly called the Mangaohane Bridge) and the Ohinewaione Stream confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note 4.2
	downstream of the Matawhero Road Bridge (commonly called the Mangaohane Bridge)	All year	FSB	4	
Ruamahanga River	upstream of State Highway 2, including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	
	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	2	
Tauwharenikau River	upstream of State Highway 2, including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	
	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	2	
Tauweru River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	
Tiraumea River		All year	FSB	4	
Tokomaru River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Turitea Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	4	
Waikanae River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Waipoua River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Waingawa River	upstream of State Highway 2, including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.2

	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	2	Note 4.2
Wainui Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Wainuomata River	downstream of the main township bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	F	1	Note 4.2
Waiohine River	upstream of State Highway 2, including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	
	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	2	
Wairarapa Moana		All year	FSB	4	Notes 2.3, 6
Whakatikei River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Whakarekou River	upstream of Rangitikei River confluence, including tributaries within the Ruahine Ranges	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Note 4.1
Whitby Lakes		All year	FSB	Tench: 0	Note 2.2

Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Region

The Nelson/Marlborough region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

- Note 1
- 1.1 The daily bag limit permits the taking of two fish, although only one fish may exceed 500mm in length.
 - 1.2 Fishing for coarse fish is prohibited in all waters of the Nelson/Marlborough Region.
 - 1.3 There is no minimum size limit for Trout or Salmon.
 - 1.4 All lakes, rivers and streams not mentioned in the table below (and those where Note 1 applies) are fly/spin only and the daily bag limit permits the taking of two sports fish, although only one fish may exceed 500mm in length. Season 1 October – 30 April
- Note 2
Down riggers are permitted when lake fishing.
- Note 3
No angler shall fish for sports fish from any boat under motorised power in those parts of Lake Rotoiti within 100 metres from the centre of the meeting line with the lake and the Travers River, Coldwater Stream, Black Valley Stream and Buller River.
- Note 4
No angler shall fish for sports fish from any boat under motorised power in those parts of Lake Rotoroa within 100 metres from the centre of the meeting line with the lake and the Sabine, D'Urville and Gowan rivers.
- Note 5
Only Child anglers may bait fish.
- Note 6
- 6.1 No angler shall fish for sports fish in a designated Junior Fishery unless they are a Child or Junior.
 - 6.2 No angler shall fish for sports fish in the designated Taylor River Family Fishery unless they are a Child or a Junior angler or an adult angler (or spouse or partner of a family whole-season angler) accompanying and supervising the Child or Junior angler(s).
- Note 7
Waimea River Park Fishing ponds may on occasions be temporarily closed to facilitate the running of organised events or for maintenance. Closures will be made public in advance and advertised on the Nelson/Marlborough Fish & Game website and sign posted at the ponds.
- Note 8
Designated Waters: No angler may fish in a Designated Water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	
All lakes, rivers and streams not specified below		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
Aorere River	upstream of Salisbury Road Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
Anatoki River	downstream of Salisbury Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2		Note 1.2, 1.3
Argyle Pond and lower hydro canals	from where powerlines cross at head of lake and downstream to Wairau River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 5
Argyle Pond Headrace	From Branch River hydro intake to powerlines at head of Lake Argyle	All year	FSB	2	2 sports fish	Note 1.2, 1.3
Awatere River		1 Oct - 31 May	FSB	2		Note 1.2, 1.3
Branch River		1 Oct - 31 May	FS	2		Note 1.1, 1.2, 1.3
Buller River	upstream of Gowan Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
Clarence River	downstream of Gowan Bridge	All year	FSB	2		Note 1.2, 1.3
Cobb Reservoir	upstream of Acheron confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
Conway River	downstream of Acheron confluence	All year	FSB	2	1	Note 1.2, 1.3
Goulter River	upstream of SH1 Bridge	All year	FSB	4		Note 1.2, 1.3
Lake Daniel	downstream of SH1 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
Lake Rotoiti (Nelson Lakes)	upstream of its confluence with the Wairau River	All year	FSB	2		Note 1.2, 1.3
Lake Rotoroa		1 Oct - 31 May	FS	2		Note 1.1, 1.2, 1.3
		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1.2, 1.3, 2, 3
		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1.2, 1.3,

	excluding the section covered by the Taylor River Family Fishery								
Peiorus River	upstream of Rai River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2				Note 1	
	downstream of Rai River confluence	All year	FSB	2				Note 1.2, 1.3	
Rai River	upstream of Carluke Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2				Note 1	
	downstream of Carluke Bridge	All year	FSB	2				Note 1.2, 1.3	
	upstream of confluence with the Waingaro River	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2				Note 1	
Takaka River	downstream of confluence with the Waingaro River	All year	FSB	2				Note 1.2, 1.3	
Taylor Dam		All year	FS	2				Notes 1.2, 1.3, 5	
	upstream of New Renwick Road Bridge (excluding Hutchinson St Bridge – Ōpaoa Loop confluence)	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2				Note 1	
Taylor River	downstream of New Renwick Road Bridge (excluding Hutchinson St Bridge – Ōpaoa Loop confluence)	All year	FSB	2				Note 1.2, 1.3	
Taylor River Family Fishery	from Hutchinson St Bridge to Ōpaoa Loop confluence (including Ōpaoa River upstream to Snowden Crescent footbridge)	All year	FSB	1				Notes 1.2, 1.3, 6.2	
Travers River	Designated Water Travers River and its tributaries upstream of Lake Rotoiti	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2				Notes 1, 8	
Waikoropu River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2				Note 1	
Waimea River Park Junior Fishing Ponds	Junior Fishery Waimea River Park designated fishing ponds	All year (except when closed for organised events or maintenance)	FSB	1	Sports fish			Notes 1.2, 1.3, 6.1, 7	

Waimea River Park Family/Adult Fishing Pond	Waimea River Park fishing ponds	All year (except when closed for organised events or maintenance)	FSB	1 Sports fish	Notes 1.2, 1.3, 7
	upstream of Wash Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note 1
	downstream of Wash Bridge including the Diversion and Southern Valleys Irrigation Intake Pond	All year	FSB	2 1	Note 1.2, 1.3
Wairau River	Designated Water The upper Wairau River and its tributaries (but excluding Fish Lake) upstream from Six Mile Creek (upstream of Rainbow Ski field bottom carpark)	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Notes 1, 8
Wairoa/Waimea River (Nelson)	upstream of Lee River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note 1
	downstream of Lee River confluence	All year	FSB	2	Note 1.2, 1.3

167

West Coast Fish and Game Region

The West Coast region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this Notice.

2. Additional Requirements

- Note 1 1.1 **Daily Limit Bag.** Except for Perch for which there is no daily limit, no angler shall on any one day take, kill or be in possession of more than 2 brown Trout, 2 rainbow Trout, 1 Salmon.

1.2 **Fish Length.** There is no minimum length for Trout and Salmon in all waters of the region, except in Lakes lanthe, Mapourika, Paringa, Moeraki, and Ellery, where the minimum length for Salmon shall be 450mm.

1.3 **Coarse Fish.** There are no special conditions relating to coarse fishing other than those provided for in the First Schedule to this Notice.

Note 2
Designated Waters

2.1 No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.

3.1 Open seasons for trout and perch, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits – Region Defaults

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Perch	
All freshwaters not mentioned in clause 3.2 for this region		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Notes 1

3.2 Open Season for Trout and Perch, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits – Fishery Specific

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 Additional Requirements
				B Trout	R Trout	Perch	
Ahaura River	upstream of Granite Creek	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Granite Creek	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Arahura River	upstream of Milltown (Landsburgh) Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Milltown (Landsburgh) Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Arawhata River	upstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

Arnold River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Big Ditch Creek	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Big Totara River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Buller River	upstream of Lyall confluence is Nelson/Marlborough region – please refer to their regulations						
	downstream of Lyall confluence	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Cascade River	upstream of Martyr confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Martyr confluence	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Cook River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Crooked River	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Grey River	Grey River Catchment upstream of Clarke River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Clarke River confluence	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Haast River	upstream of Pleasant Flat Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

	downstream of Pleasant Flat Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Hapuka River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Hauptiri River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Hindleys Creek		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Hokitika River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of Perseverance Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Inangahua River	downstream of Perseverance Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Jacobs (Makawhio) River	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Kanieri River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	Designated Water	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1, 2
	Karamea River Catchment upstream of the Kakapo River confluence						
Karamea River	downstream of Kakapo River confluence and upstream of the cableway at the mouth of the lower gorge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of cableway at mouth of Lower Gorge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Karangarua River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of Heaphy Track Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Kohaihai River	downstream of Heaphy Track Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of Styx Confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Kokatahi River	downstream of Styx Confluence	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of Old Christchurch Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Kumara/Kapitea Reservoir system	downstream of Old Christchurch Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Brunner		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Ellery		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Haupiri		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Ianthe		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Kaniere		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Mahinapua		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Mapourika		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Moeraki		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Paringa		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Poerua		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Wahapo		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

172

Larrys Creek (Awarau River)		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Little Grey (Mawheraiti) River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Little Totara River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Little Wanganui River	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Mahinapua outlet creek		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Mahitahi River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Manakaiaua River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Martins Creek	upstream of Martins Creek Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Martins Creek Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
MacDonalds Creek		Closed					
Mikonui River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Moeraki River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Mokihinui River	Designated Water	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1, 2

	Mokihinui Catchment upstream of the Rough and Tumble Creek confluence									
	downstream Rough and Tumble Creek confluence and upstream of cableway at Welcome Creek	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
	downstream of cableway at Welcome Creek	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
	upstream of State Highway 6	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
New River	downstream of State Highway 6 including estuary	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
	upstream of State Highway 67	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
Ngakawau River	downstream of State Highway 67	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
	upstream of Awakere confluence	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
Nile River	downstream of Awakere confluence	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
	upstream of State Highway 6	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
Ohinetamatea River	downstream of State Highway 6	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
Okari River	upstream of State Highway 6	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
	downstream of State Highway 6	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
Okarito Lagoon		FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
Okarito River		FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	
Okuru River	upstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	FSB	2	2	2	2	No limit		Note 1	

	downstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Omoeroa River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Oparara River	downstream of Karamea-Kohaihai Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Orangipuku River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Orowaiti River	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Paringa River	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Poerua River (South Westland)	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Pororari River	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Punakaiki River	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Rough (Otututu) River	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of bridge at Jacksons	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Taramakau River	downstream of bridge at Jacksons	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

Totara River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Turnbull River	upstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waiaototo River	upstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waikukupa River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waimangaroa River	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waita River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waitaha River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waitahu River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Wanganui River	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Whakapohi River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Whareatea River	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Whataroa River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Whitcombe River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

3.3 Open Season for Salmon, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit for Salmon	Refer clause 2 additional requirements
All waters except where otherwise specified below					
Lake lanthe		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1	Note 1
Lake Mapourika		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1
Lake Moeraki		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1
Lake Paringa		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1
MacDonalds Creek		Closed			
Ōkārito River (excluding Lagoon)		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1
Windbag Stream		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1

North Canterbury Fish and Game Region

The North Canterbury region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, at page 1861, as amended by the *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 September 1992, No. 141, at page 2958.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

- Note 1 1.1 Except for Perch for which there is no daily limit (see note 7), no angler shall on any one day take, kill or be in possession of more than 4 sports fish.
- 1.2 No angler shall be in possession of a Trout or Salmon less than 300mm anywhere in the region.
- 1.3 No angler shall fish for Salmon in any river from 1 May to 30 September.
- 1.4 Scented artificial lures may be used in all waters, other than fly fishing only waters, when actively retrieved so as to imitate a moving bait fish.
- 1.5 Any angler who lands a sports fish that will not be kept shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.
- 1.6 No person may take Salmon from any river between the hours of 11pm to 4am in December and January, and between 10pm and 5am for any other month.
- 1.7 No angler shall fish for sports fish within a 100-metre arc of the outfall of any licensed fish farm, with the exception of the Tentburn Outfall, where fishing for Trout and Salmon is permitted, but no fishing is allowed on the culvert.

Boat Fishing:

- Note 2 2.1 Fishing from boats is permitted.
- Note 3 3.1 Fishing from boats which are not simultaneously being propelled by a motor, is permitted, including float tubes, kayaks and pack rafts.
- Note 4 4.1 The use of motorised craft is prohibited.
- Note 5 5.1 The daily limit bag for Lake Coleridge shall be 4 sports fish.
- Note 6 6.1 No angler other than a Child or Junior angler shall fish in the Christchurch Groyne Fishing Lakes.

- Note 7
- Coarse Fishing**
Fishing for coarse fish is permitted only in listed Coarse Fishing Waters which are: the Avon River downstream of Barbadoes Street, Lake Forsyth, Halswell River and Canal downstream of Neills Road, Kaiapoi Lakes, Gravel and Sands ponds, Okana River downstream of State Highway 75, and Lake Rotokohatu. See First Schedule for permitted methods.
The daily limit bag for Tench is 1 fish and no angler shall be in possession of a Tench that exceeds 150mm.
There is no daily limit or size restriction for Perch.
No angler other than a Child or Junior angler shall bait fish for Trout.
No angler shall be in possession of a sports fish which exceeds a maximum length of 400mm from that water
No angler shall be in possession of a Chinook Salmon taken from Lake Sumner or Loch Katrine.
Designated Waters: No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.
Controlled Fishery. No angler may fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period unless they are the holder of an appropriate controlled-period licence or are named on such a licence.
Sea-run Salmon Season Bag Limit:
- Note 8
- Note 9
- Note 10
- Note 11
- Note 12
- Note 13
- 7.1
- 7.2
- 7.3
- 8.1
- 9.1
- 10.1
- 11.1
- 12.1
- 13.1
- 13.2
- 13.3
- 13.4
- 13.5
- 13.6
- 13.7
- No angler may fish for Salmon in a sea-run Salmon water unless they are the holder of a sea-run Salmon licence or are named on such a licence.
- All holders of a sea-run Salmon licence are eligible to receive a Season Bag Limit Card. Family whole-season anglers that have a sea-run Salmon licence are eligible for one Season Bag Limit Card per family licence.
- No angler shall fish for, take, kill or be in possession of a Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters within the North Canterbury Fish and Game Region without holding a Season Bag Limit Card.
- No angler or family fishing under a family whole-season licence shall over the length of the season take, kill or be in possession of more than one Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters in both the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game regions combined.
- Immediately upon taking or killing a Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters, the angler must complete an entry in their Season Bag Limit Card for that fish.
- All anglers that fished for Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters in either the North Canterbury or Central South Island Fish and Game regions must return their Season Bag Limit Card data to either the North Canterbury or Central South Island Fish and Game Council by 7 May 2026, regardless of how many such Salmon were taken or killed.
- All holders of a season bag card must produce it to a Fish and Game Ranger on demand.

179

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits - Region Defaults

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	
All freshwaters not mentioned in clause 3.1 for this region		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1	sports fish	Note 1

3.1 Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits – Fishery Specific

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	
Ada River	Part of Waiau Uwha Designated Water	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Ashley River	upstream of Ashley Gorge Road Bridge including tributaries downstream of Ashley Gorge Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Avoca River		Trout: All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Avon River and tributaries	upstream of the Armagh Street Bridge at Hagley Park between the Armagh Street Bridge at Hagley Park and the Barbadoes Street Bridge downstream of the Barbadoes Street Bridge	1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
		Trout: All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 7

		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Boyle River	Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Broken River		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Cam River		Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Cass Hill Stream (Bullock Creek)	from Kaipoi River confluence to Smith Street Bridge	Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Christchurch Groynes Fishing Lakes	four ponds at the western end of the Groynes reserve signposted as designated fishing lakes	All year	FSB	1 sports fish		Notes 1, 3, 6
Clearwater Resort Lakes	except for Lake 3, Lake 4 and Lake 5	closed				
		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 3
Coleridge Tailrace		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Cora Lynn Stream		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Cust River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Double Hill Stream & Double Hill Flat Stream		1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Doubtful River	Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Esk River and all tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Glenariffe Stream		1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Goat Hill Stream		1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Halswell River and Canal	upstream of Neills Road bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
	downstream of Neills Road bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 7
Harper River	including diversion and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Harts Creek		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Hawkins River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
	upstream of Colombo Street bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
	downstream of Colombo Street bridge	Trout: All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2

Heathcote River		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Henry River	Part of Waiau Uwha Designated Water	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 11
Highbank Power Station	Tail race	Closed				
Hope River and all its tributaries	Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water Hope River and its tributaries upstream of State Highway 7 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Hororata River	downstream of State Highway 7 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Hurunui River	Designated Water and Controlled Fishery Hurunui River and its tributaries upstream of grid reference NZTopo50/BU22 3088 7229 (500m upstream of Lake Sumner, marked with sign)	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
	upstream of Lake Sumner between Lake Sumner and South Branch confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11, 12
	Designated Water and Controlled Fishery South Branch upstream of North Esk River confluence	All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
	South Branch downstream of North Esk River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11, 12
Hurunui River tributaries	above the South Branch confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2
Hurunui River	below the South Branch confluence	Trout: All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Hydra Waters	including Titan Stream	1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Irwell River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Kaipoi River		Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2

80

Kaipoi River	downstream of the confluence of the Cust Main Drain	Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Kaituna River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Kowhai River and tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
L II River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Lake Blackwater		10 Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Coleridge		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Sep	FSB	4 sports fish		Notes 1, 2, 5
Lake Courtenay		All year	FSB	2 sports fish		Notes 1, 3,
Lake Ellesmere		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Lake Evelyn		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Forsyth		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 7
Lake Georgina		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Grasmere		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Guyon		All year	FS	2		Note 1
Lake Hawdon		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Henrietta		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Ida & Little Lake Ida		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lakes Kaiapoi		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 3, 7
Loch Kairine		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 10
Lake Letitia		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Lillian		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Lyndon		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 8

Lake Mason		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Marymere		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	1	Note 1, 3, 4, 9
Lake Minchin		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note 1
Lake Monck (Catherine)		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note 1, 3, 4
Lake Pearson		All year	FS	2	Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Rotokohatu		1 October - 31 October, 1 April - 30 September	FSB	2 sports fish	Notes 1, 3, 7
Lake Rubicon		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note 1, 3, 4
Lake Sarah		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2	Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Selfe		All year	FS	2	Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Sheppard		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2	Notes 1, 2, 4
Lake Stream		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2	Note 1
Lake Sumner		All year	FS	2	Notes 1, 2, 10
Lake Taylor		All year	FS	2	Notes 1, 2
Leader River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Notes 1, 2
Lee River		Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB FS	2 Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2 Notes 1, 2, 13
Lewis River	Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Monopolies Pond		All year	FSB	2	Notes 1, 2,
Mandamus River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1	Notes 1, 2
Manuka Point Stream		1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2	Notes 1, 2
Nina River	Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Okana River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1	Note 1, 2, 7

Otuikaikino Creek, South Branch of Waimakariri River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Okuku River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Okuti River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Pahau River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Porter River		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Poulter River and all tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Rakaia River	upstream of the line between the white posts at 171° 30.4822" E 43° 22.9378" S and 171° 31.5535" E 43° 22.1640" S near the Coleridge tailrace	1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
	downstream of the line between the white posts at 171° 30.4822" E 43° 22.9378" S and 171° 31.5535" E 43° 22.1640" S near the Coleridge tailrace	Trout: All year Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB FS	2	Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2 Notes 1, 2, 13
Ryton River		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Saltwater Creek		Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB FS	2	Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2 Notes 1, 2, 13
Selwyn River	upstream of State Highway 77 Bridge (at Glentunnel) downstream of State Highway 77 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2
Slovens Stream		All year 1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FSB FS	2 1		Notes 1, 2 Notes 1, 2, 9
St Annes Lagoon		closed				
Styx River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Takiritawai (Wairewa) River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2

Tentburn Outfall		Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr		FSB	2	Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	Refer Note 13			
Waiiau Uwha River and all tributaries (except Lake Guyon)	Designated Water Waiiau Uwha River and its tributaries upstream of Hope River confluence downstream of Hope River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr		FS	1	Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
		Trout: All year Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr		FSB FS	2	Notes 1, 2 Refer Note 12
Waikari River		1 Oct - 30 Apr		FSB	1	Notes 1, 2
Waimakariri River	Upstream of the Staircase Gully confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr		FS	2	Notes 1, 2
Waimakariri River tributaries	upstream of the Staircase Gully confluence, except for Cass Hill Stream, Cora Lynn Stream, Esk River, Poulter River, Winding Creek, Broken River and Porter River	1 Oct - 30 Apr		FS	1	Notes 1, 2, 9
Waimakariri River	downstream of Staircase Gully confluence	Trout: All year		FSB	2	Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr		FS		Notes 1, 2, 12 Refer Note 12
Waipara River		1 Oct - 30 Apr		FSB	1	Notes 1, 2
Waitohi River		1 Oct - 30 Apr		FSB	1	Notes 1, 2
Wilberforce Diversion		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May		FS	2	Notes 1, 2
Wilberforce River		1 Oct - 30 Apr		FS	2	Notes 1, 2
Winding Creek		10 Nov - 31 Mar		FS	1	Notes 1, 2, 9

Central South Island Fish and Game Region

The Central South Island region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861, as amended by *New Zealand Gazette*, 29 August 1991, No. 129, page 2786, and as further amended by the *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 September 1992, No. 141, at page 2958.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

- | | | |
|--------|------|---|
| Note 1 | 1.1 | First Schedule conditions apply. |
| | 1.2 | No angler shall continue to fish for sports fish at any time after having already taken a bag limit for that species. |
| | 1.3 | No angler when fishing for sports fish shall use any unsporting device or method. |
| | 1.4 | No angler shall continue to fish on any day after having foul hooked three sports fish, even though any such sports fish have been returned immediately in accordance with the First Schedule of this Notice. |
| | 1.5 | Any angler who lands a sports fish that will not be kept shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken. |
| | 1.6 | There are no restrictions on the hours of fishing except that no angler may fish for, take or kill sea-run chinook Salmon in any river between the hours of 11pm and 4am in December and January, and between 10pm and 5am for any other month of the year. |
| | 1.7 | There is no minimum length for Trout. |
| | 1.8 | The minimum length for Salmon killed in waters of the Region shall be 300mm except in lakes where the minimum length shall be 250mm and in Lake Heron / Ōtūroto where the minimum length shall be 300mm and the maximum length shall be 450mm. |
| | 1.9 | There is no daily bag limit and no minimum length for coarse fish except in designated coarse fishing waters (see Note 2). |
| | 1.10 | No angler shall fish for sockeye Salmon between 1 March and 30 April in - Deep Stream (Lake Aviemore), Otematata River / Ōtamatakou, Tekapo River / Takapō, Mary Burn / Te Kōhai, Grays River, Larch Stream, Ōhau River, Ahuriri River, Omarama Stream / Te Ao Mārama, Twizel River / Whakatipu, or any other stream or river where sockeye Salmon are present. |
| | 1.11 | A portion of fish may be used as bait where bait fishing is permitted, excluding any portion of salmon, trout or any fish eggs. |
| | 1.12 | Scented artificial lures may be used where spin fishing is permitted, when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish. |
| Note 2 | 2.1 | Coarse fishing waters - Centennial Park Lake (Timaru), Island Stream, Saltwater Creek, and Waiareka Creek. Daily limit 1 Tench. No daily limit for Perch. Minimum size 450mm for Tench and 250mm for Perch. |
| Note 3 | 3.1 | No sports fishing from boats in lakes, Camp / Ōtautari, Denny, Donne, Emily and Spider. |
| Note 4 | 4.1 | No sports fishing from any unmoored boat in lakes MacGregor / Whakarukumoana and Māori Lakes / Ōtūwharekai. |

- Note 5
- 5.1 An angler when fishing for sports fish in the Rangitata River /Rakitata or its tributaries may use, seaward of a line extending through two GPS points (-44.181807°, 171.499428° and -44.179319°, 171.504111°) and where part of the line is marked by two poles situated approximately 1km from the coast, an artificial fly only if the total weight of everything attached to the cast does not exceed 28g.
- 5.2 An angler when fishing for sports fish in the Rangitata River / Rakitata or its tributaries may cast other than from the reel or retrieve other than by winding the reel only when using bait or fly fishing, or when fishing with an artificial fly seaward of a line extending through two GPS points (-44.181807°, 171.499428° and -44.179319°, 171.504111°) and where part of the line is marked by two poles situated approximately 1km from the coast.
- Note 6
- 6.1 No angler shall fish in Lake Alexandrina / Takamana using down riggers, paravanes, metal cored or wire lines and weights to assist sinking of trolled lures.
- Note 7
- 7.1 An angler may fish from any boat in Lake Middleton, Kellands Pond and Wairepo Arm except when being propelled by a motor.
- Note 8
- 8.1 No angler shall use as bait any feed pellets used for the rearing of trout or salmon in the Tekapo / Takapō Canal, Pūkaki- Ōhau A Canal and - Ōhau canals.
- Note 9
- 9.1 **Controlled Fishery:** No angler may fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period unless they are the holder of an appropriate controlled-period licence or are named on such a licence.
- Note 10
- Sea-run Salmon Season Bag Limit**
- 10.1 No angler may fish for Salmon in a sea-run Salmon water unless they are the holder of a sea-run Salmon licence or are named on such a licence.
- 10.2 All holders of a sea-run Salmon licence are eligible to receive a Season Bag Limit Card. Family whole-season anglers that have a Sea-run Salmon Licence are eligible for one Season Bag Limit Card per family licence.
- 10.3 No angler shall fish for, take, kill or be in possession of a Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters within the Central South Island Fish and Game Region without holding a Season Bag Limit Card.
- 10.4 No angler or family fishing under a family whole-season licence shall over the length of the season take, kill or be in possession of more than one Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters in both the Central South Island and North Canterbury Fish and Game regions combined.
- 10.5 Immediately upon taking or killing a Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters, the angler must complete an entry in their Season Bag Limit Card for that fish.
- 10.6 All anglers that fished for Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters in either the Central South Island or North Canterbury Fish and Game regions must return their Season Bag Limit Card data to either the Central South Island or North Canterbury Fish and Game Council by 7 May 2026, regardless of how many such Salmon were taken or killed.
- 10.7 All holders of a Season Bag Limit Card must produce it to a Fish and Game Ranger on demand.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species			Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Other	
All waters except where otherwise specified below							
Ahuriri River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	no limit	Note 1
	and tributaries upstream of and including Longslip Creek	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
	and tributaries downstream of Longslip Creek except Omarama Stream	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	4	2		Note 1
Ahuriri River Lagoons		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1
Ashburton River / Hakatere	North and South Branches and tributaries upstream of Taylors Stream confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 10		Notes 1, 10
	South Branch and tributaries downstream of Taylors Stream confluence and Ashburton River downstream of North and South branch junction	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 10		Notes 1, 10
	Winter season downstream of State Highway 1	1 Jun - 31 Aug	FS	2	Closed		Note 1
Aviemore spawning race		Closed					
Awakino River / Te Awakinonui		Trout: 1 Oct - 31 Mar Salmon: 1 st Saturday Nov - 31 Mar	FS	2			Notes 1, 10
Bells Pond	Waitaki River irrigation pond at Ross Road	1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	4	Refer Note 10		Notes 1, 10

109

Bortons Pond	Waitaki River irrigation Pond at Black Point, State Highway 83	1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	4	Refer Note 10	Notes 1, 10
Deep Creek	a tributary to the upper Rangitata River / Rakitata	Trout: 1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2		Note 1
Deep Stream	a tributary to Lake Aviemore, and its tributaries	Salmon: 1 Oct - last day of Feb	FS		Refer Note 10	Note 1, 10
Deep Stream	a tributary to the upper Rangitata River / Rakitata	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2	Note 1
Fork Stream / Hakatere		Trout: 1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2		Note 1
Grays River		Salmon: 1 Oct - last day of Feb	FS		Refer Note 10	Note 1, 10
Hakataramea River		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2	Note 1
		Trout: 1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
		Salmon: 1st Saturday Nov - 31 Mar	FS		Refer Note 10	Note 1, 10
High-country tarns or lagoons		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
Hinds River / Hekeao - child anglers		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 10	Note 1, 10
Hinds River / Hekeao - other than child anglers		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 10	Note 1, 10
Irishman Creek / Te Wai-a-Kohe		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Note 1
Island Stream / Kauru		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kakanui River / Kakaunui	and tributaries upstream of Five Forks Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 10	Note 1, 10

	and tributaries downstream of Five Forks Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 10	Note 1, 10
Kellands Pond		All year	FSB	2 sports fish		Notes 1, 7
Lake Alexandrina / Takamana	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	4 Trout max 1 brown	2	Notes 1, 6
Lake Aviemore / Mahi Tikumu	Winter season	1 Jun - 31 July	FS	2 sports fish max 1 brown Trout		Notes 1, 6
		All year	FSB	4 sports fish		Note 1
	tributaries except Deep Stream and Otematata River	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2	Note 1
Lake Benmore / Te Ao Mārama	tributaries except Tekapo / Takapō, Ahuriri and Otematapaio rivers	All year	FSB	4 sports fish		Note 1
Lake Camp / Ōtautari		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2	Note 1
		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	2		Note 1, 3
Centennial Park Lake (Timaru)		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Lake Clearwater / Te Puna-a-Taka	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
Lake Denny	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3
Lake Donne	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3
Lake Emily	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2		Notes 1, 3
Lake Emma / Kirihonuhonu	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
Lake Heron / Ōtūroto	and tributaries west of a line drawn between two GPS points (-43.469985°, 171.198733° and -43.467572°, 171.199181°) positioned at the entrance to Harrison's Bight.	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4 sports fish		Note 1
			FSB	4 sports fish		Note 1

	and tributaries east of a line drawn between two GPS points (-43.469985°, 171.198733° and -43.467572°, 171.199181°) positioned at the entrance to Harrison's Bight.	1 st Saturday Nov - 31 Mar							
Lake Hood		All year	FSB	4	2	Note 1			
Lake McGregor / Whakarukumoana		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2	Notes 1, 4			
Lake Merino		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1			
Lake Middleton		All year	FSB	4	2	Notes 1, 7			
Lake Mystery		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2		Note 1			
Lake Ōhau		All year	FSB	4	4 sports fish	Note 1			
Lake Ōhau tributaries		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2	Note 1			
Lake Opuha / Ōpūaha		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Note 1			
Lake Opuha / Ōpūaha tributaries		1 June - 30 Aug 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Note 1			
Lake Poaka		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2		Note 1			
Lake Pūkaki		All year	FSB	4	4 sports fish	Note 1			
Lake Pūkaki tributaries		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2	Note 1			
Lake Roundabout	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2		Note 1			
Lake Ruataniwha		All year	FSB	2	2 sports fish	Note 1			
Lake Spider	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3			
Lake Tekapo / Takapō		All year	FSB	6 sports fish total and no more than 4 to be Trout or 4 to be Salmon		Note 1			

192

Lake Tekapo/ Takapō tributaries		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2	Note 1
Lake Waitaki		-All year	FSB	4 sports fish		Note 1
Lake Waitaki tributaries		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2	Note 1
Lake Wardell		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Note 1
Lake Stream		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	2	Closed	Note 1
Larch Stream		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	Note 1
Loch Cameron - child anglers		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	Note 1
Loch Cameron - other than child anglers		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2	Note 1
Maerewhenua River		Trout: 1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
		Salmon: 1 st Saturday Nov - 31 Mar	FS		Refer Note 10	Note 1, 9
Māori Lakes / Ōtūwharekai and their tributaries		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2		Note 1, 4
Mary Burn / Te Kōhai		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2	Note 1
Ōhapi Creek		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 10	Note 1, 10
Ōhau Canal	from the Lake Ōhau outlet to the junction with Pūkaki - Ōhau A Canal	All year	FSB	2 sports fish		Note 1, Note 8
Ōhau B and Ōhau C Canals	From Lake Ruataniwha to the Ōhau C power station	All year	FSB	2 sports fish		Note 1, Note 8
Ōhau River	downstream of Lake Ruataniwha	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2	Note 1
Ōhau River	Ōhau River from Lake Ruataniwha to the Lake Ōhau weir	1 st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS			Notes 1,9

	Controlled Fishery								
	Controlled Fishery Ōhau River from Lake Ruataniwha to the Lake Ōhau weir		1 Oct - 31 Oct 2025, and 1 st Saturday Sep - 30 Sep 2026	FS	2 sports fish				Notes 1,9
Omarama Stream / Te Ao Mārama			1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2			Note 1
Ōpihi River	upstream of Opuha River / Ōpūaha junction		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 10			Notes 1, 10
	downstream of Opuha River / Ōpūaha junction		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 10			Notes 1, 10
	Winter season downstream of State Highway 1 and tributaries		1 Jun - 31 Aug	FS	2	Closed			Note 1
Opuha River / Ōpūaha			1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 10			Note 1, 10
Ōrāri River	and tributaries upstream of Slip Panel Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 10			Notes 1, 10
Ōrāri River	and tributaries downstream of Slip Panel Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 10			Note 1, 10
Otamatapāo River / Te Makatipua			1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2			Note 1
Otematata River / Ōtamatakou	and tributaries upstream of Clear Stream		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2			Note 1
	and tributaries downstream of Clear Stream		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	4	2			Note 1
Pareora River / Pureora	and tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 10			Notes 1, 10
Pūkaki - Ōhau A Canal	From the Lake Pūkaki outlet to Ōhau A power station		All year	FSB	2 sports fish				Note 1, 8
Rangitata Diversion Race RDR Canal / Rakitata	from intake downstream to Rakaia River Road		All year	FSB	4	Refer Note 10			Notes 1, 10
Rangitata River / Rakitata	and tributaries upstream of Turn Again Point about 12km above the gorge		Trout: 1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2				Note 1

		Salmon: 1 Oct - last day of Feb	FS	Refer Note 10	Notes 1, 10
	and tributaries downstream of Turn Again Point	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Notes 1, 5, 10
	Winter season downstream of State Highway 1	1 Jun - 31 Aug	FS	2	Notes 1, 5
Saltwater Creek / Ōtipua		All year	FSB	2	Notes 1, 2
Tengawai River / Te Ana-a-wai	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Notes 1, 10
Tekapo Canal / Takapō	upstream from the State Highway 8 Bridge	1 Oct - 31 May and 1 - 30 Sep	FSB	2 sports fish	Note 1, 8
	downstream from the State Highway 8 Bridge	All year	FSB	2 sports fish	Note 1, 8
Tekapo River / Takapō	upstream of lower powerlines across river about 1km upstream of Lake Benmore	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Note 1
	downstream of lower powerlines across river about 1km upstream of Lake Benmore	All year	FSB	4	Note 1
Temuka River / Te Umu Kaha	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Notes 1, 10
Tinwald Domain pond, child anglers only		All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Tinwald Domain pond, other than child anglers		Closed			
Twizel River / Whakatipu	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note 1
Waihao River	upstream of Forks Bridges	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Notes 1, 10
	downstream of Forks Bridges	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Notes 1, 10
Waihi River	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Notes 1, 10

Wairepo Arm	All year	FSB	2 sports fish	Notes 1, 7
Wairepo Arm tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note 1
Waiaireka Creek	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Notes 1, 2
Waitaki River	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 10
	Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Note 1
	Salmon: 1 Oct 31 Mar	FSB		Note 1, 10
downstream of a line running beneath the power lines across the river at the Stonewall or in any tributary of that part of the river from the Waitaki Dam downstream to a line running beneath the power lines across the river at the Stonewall or in any tributary of that part of the river excluding the Hakataramea and Maerewhenua rivers				
Winter season downstream of State Highway 1	1 Jun - 31 Aug	FS	2	Note 1

Otago Fish and Game Region

The Otago region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

- Note 1
- 1.1 No fishing for sports fish is permitted at any time in all waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, hatching, or other purposes, or within a distance of 100m from any part of the outer boundaries of such waters.
 - 1.2 Except in the case of Perch for which there is no daily limit, no angler shall on any one day take and kill or be in possession of more than the prescribed daily limit from the waters specified in clauses 2 and 3.
 - 1.3 In addition to the daily limits specified in clauses 2 and 3 and note 1.2, no angler shall on any one day take, kill or be in possession of more than 6 sports fish from any waters except Lake Onslow.

- 1.4 An angler may continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day on which the angler has already killed a limit bag for that species as long as fish taken are immediately returned with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.
- 1.5 In all waters of the region there shall be no minimum length except in the -
- 1.5.1 Nevis River where no angler shall take or be in possession of any sports fish greater than 400mm in length.
- 1.5.2 Clutha River and its tributaries downstream of Roxburgh Dam and all other waters running into the sea, where no angler shall take or be in possession of any Salmon less than 450mm in length.
- Note 2 2.1 Anglers may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device.
- 2.2 Anglers fishing from boats that are being propelled by a motor must stay at least 100 metres from any anglers fishing from the shore.
- Note 3 3.1 Anglers may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device provided it is not being propelled by a motor.
- Note 4 4.1 No angler may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device except in the tidal reaches of this waterway if applicable.
- Note 5 5.1 When playing a Salmon in the Clutha River downstream of Roxburgh Dam, a gaff may be used to secure or land that Salmon if it is greater than 450mm in length.
- Note 6 6.1 No angler shall fish with a float or floating device on the line in that section of the Clutha River downstream of Roxburgh Dam to the Roxburgh Township Bridge.
- Note 7 7.1 Closed to all sports fishing in September except for Otago Fish and Game controlled fishing events.
- Note 8 8.1 **Designated Waters.** No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.
- 8.2 Only single-point hooks may be used, and a lure (including flies) may not have more than one hook attached in a Designated Waters fishery in this region.
- Note 9 9.1 **Controlled Fishery.** No angler may fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period unless they are the holder of an appropriate controlled-period licence or are named on such a licence.

3. Open season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Zero limit unless number shown	Salmon	
All lakes, rivers and streams not specified below For all lakes, rivers and streams within the Clutha		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	Trout 2	Salmon	Note 1
		1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4

	Greenstone River and tributaries, including the Caples River, between the Sly Burn confluence and the swing bridge at the Greenstone Station Road car park	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Hamiltons Dam	downstream of the swing bridge at the Greenstone Station Road car park	All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Hāwea River		All year	FS	2	4	Notes 1, 4
Hoffmans Dam		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Hore's Control Pond		1 Nov – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Horne Creek	from Lake Wakatipu to source	closed				
Hunter River	Designated Water Hunter River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 8
Ida Burn Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kaihiku Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Kaikorai Estuary	downstream of Abbots Creek confluence	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kaikorai Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Kawarau River	from its source at Lake Wakatipu to Lake Dunstan	All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 3
Knights Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kuriwao Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Kye Burn		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Dispute		1 Oct – 31 May	FS	2		Notes 1, 3
Lake Dunstan		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
Lake Hāwea		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
Lake Hayes		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 3
Lake Johnson		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 3
Lake Kirkpatrick		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Mahinerangi		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Onslow		All year	FSB	10		Notes 1, 2

Lake Roxburgh	from the State Highway 8 bridge at Alexandra downstream to the Roxburgh Dam	All year	FSB	4	2	Notes 1, 2
Lake Sylvan		All year	FSB	6		Notes 1, 2
Lake Tewa		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Lake Tuakitoto	including outlet channel and inlet channel	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Waihola	including outlet and waterways connected with Lake Waipori	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Waipori		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Wakatipu	within the waters of Queenstown Bay bounded by a straight line drawn from the outermost point of Queenstown Gardens to the point where the south bank of One Mile Creek meets Lake Wakatipu	closed				
	within 100m of any part of the wharf in Black Bay (commonly known as the Walter Peak Jetty)	closed				
Lake Wānaka	within 150m of any part of the launch wharf at the township of Wānaka, within 150m of any part of the public jetty at the Wānaka Marina, and anywhere within 150m of the shoreline between the wharf and the jetty	All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
		closed				
Lee Stream		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
Lindis River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4

10

Lochy River	and tributaries downstream of Disputed Creek confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1	Notes 1, 4
	Designated Water Lochy River and tributaries upstream of Disputed Creek confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	F	0	Notes 1, 4, 8
Logan Burn Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4	Notes 1, 2
MacIennan River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4	Notes 1, 4
Makarora River	and tributaries downstream of Wilkin River confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1	Notes 1, 4
		All year	FS	1	Notes 1, 4
Manorburn Dam Lower		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4	Notes 1, 2
Manorburn Dam Upper		1 Nov – 31 May	FSB	4	Notes 1, 2
Manuherekia River	and tributaries above Shaky Bridge (Kerry Road) below Shaky Bridge (Kerry Road)	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1	Notes 1, 4
		All year	FSB	1	Notes 1, 4
Mathias Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2	Notes 1, 2
Matukituki River	and tributaries above Glenfinnan Stream confluence between Glenfinnan Stream confluence and Motatapu River confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1	Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Motatapu River confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1	Notes 1, 3
McAtamney's Head Pond		All year	FS	1	Notes 1, 3
Meggat Burn		All year	FSB	4	Notes 1, 2
		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2	Notes 1, 4
Mill Creek (a tributary to Lake Hayes)	from the Speargrass Flat Road Bridge to Waterfall Park above Waterfall Park	closed			
	downstream of Speargrass Flat Road Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1	Notes 1, 4
		All year	FSB	1	Notes 1, 4
Moke Lake		All year	FSB	2	Notes 1, 3
Molyneux Pond		All year	FSB	1	Notes 1, 2

Motatapu River	and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Nenthorn Pond		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Nenthorn Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Nevis River	Designated Water Nevis River and tributaries	1 Oct – 30 Apr	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 8
Owaka River	upstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Perkins Pond		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Pinders Pond		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Pleasant River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Pomahaka River	Designated Water Pomahaka River upstream of the Hukarere Station Bridge on Hukarere Station Road	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FS	1	1	Notes 1, 4, 8
	downstream of the Hukarere Station Bridge on Hukarere Station Road to Swans Bridge on Clydevale Road	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Swans Bridge (Clydevale Road)	All year	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 4
Poolburn Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Puerua Estuary	downstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Puerua Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Rees River	and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Muddy Creek	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Reid Lake		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 3
Route Burn	and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	F	0		Notes 1, 4
Rutherford's Dam		1 Nov – 15 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Shag River/ Waihemo	upstream of State Highway 1 bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4

	downstream of State Highway 1 bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Shotover River		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 4
Silver Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Southern Reservoir		1 Oct - 31 Aug	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 7
Styx Weir Pond		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Sullivans Dam		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Sutton Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Tahakopa River	upstream of MacIennan River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of MacIennan River confluence	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Taieri River	upstream of State Highway 87 bridge at Outram	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 4
	downstream of State Highway 87 bridge at Outram	All year	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 2
Teviot River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Three O'Clock Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
Timaru River	and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Timaru Creek Road bridge	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	above Coal Gully Road bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Tokomairiro River	downstream of Coal Gully Road bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Tomahawk Lagoon		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Tuapeka River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Victoria Dam		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Von Lake		1 Nov - 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4
Von River	and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4
Waikouaiti River	upstream of State Highway 1 road bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of State Highway 1 road bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waipahi River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4

704

Waipori River	upstream of the Contour Channel confluence	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of the Contour Channel confluence to the Taleri River confluence	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Waitahuna River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waitati River	upstream of Orokonui Stream confluence	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Orokonui Stream confluence	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waiwera River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Water of Leith	upstream of Lindsay Creek confluence and including Lindsay Creek	closed				
	downstream of Lindsay Creek confluence to the Leith Street Foot Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Leith Street Foot Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
Wilkin River	Designated Water Wilkin River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 8
Young River	Designated Water Young River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 8

2015

Southland Fish and Game Region

The Southland region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

- | | | |
|--------|-------|---|
| Note 1 | 1.1 | Fishing for coarse fish in all waters of Southland region is prohibited. |
| | 1.2 | With the exception of Perch for which there is no limit, no angler shall on any one day take, kill or be in possession of - |
| | 1.2.1 | more than 1 Salmon from any waters of the region. |
| | 1.2.2 | more than 4 sports fish. |
| | 1.3 | There are no minimum or maximum lengths for sports fish in Southland region. |
| Note 2 | 2.1 | No angler may take, or attempt to take, Salmon from any river during the months of April and May. |
| Note 3 | 3.1 | Scented artificial lures may be used in Fly and Spin waters, when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish. |
| Note 4 | 4.1 | Molluscs or parts of molluscs may be used in bait fishing waters. |
| Note 5 | 5.1 | No angler shall fish from any motorised boat (including electric motors) in Lake Thomas and South Lake Mavora. |
| Note 6 | 6.1 | No angler shall fish from any boat or any form of flotation device. |
| Note 7 | 7.1 | No angler shall fish for sports fish in a designated Junior Fishery unless they are a child or junior. |
| Note 8 | 8.1 | Designated Water. No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence. |
| Note 9 | 9.1 | Controlled Fishery. No angler may fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period unless they are the holder of an appropriate controlled-period licence or are named on such a licence. |

206

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit see Note 1.2 for Salmon and other bag limits			Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Other	
All waters except where otherwise specified below		1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
All rivers and lakes draining to the Tasman Sea and Foveaux Strait west of Waiau River except where otherwise specified below		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Acton Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Aparima River	Upstream of the Thornbury Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Borland Burn	Thornbury Bridge to sea	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Brightwater Spring		1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Clinton River	Controlled Fishery Clinton River Catchment from Lake Te Anau to "The Prairie" Flat (NZTOPO50-CB08 9045 2047) and entire North Branch and tributaries.	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 9
Cromel Stream	Clinton River Catchment upstream of "The Prairie" Flat (NZTOPO50-CB08 9045 2047).	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			1, 2, 4
Eglinton River	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 April 1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
			FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 6

207

Ettrick Burn	Controlled Fishery Ettrick Burn from Lake Te Anau to the upstream limit of Log Cabin Slip at NZTOPO 50-CC07 796753 and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4, 9
Hamilton Burn		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Irthing Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Lake Fergus		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Gunn		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Hankinson		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Hauoko		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Hauoko tributaries		1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Henry	Junior Fishery	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4, 7
Lake Manapouri	including Waiau Arm	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	tributaries excluding Mararoa and upper Waiau rivers	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Mavora	North	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	South	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4, 5
Lake Monowai	tributaries	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
		1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Poteriteri		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Te Anau		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Thomas		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4, 5

88

Lake Waituna	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lill Burn		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Makarewa River	upstream of Riverton - Invercargill Highway and all tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of Riverton - Invercargill Highway	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Mararoa River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	upstream of the Gore Bridge and all tributaries except Brightwater Spring	1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4, 6
	downstream of the Gore Bridge	1 Oct - 31 May excluding 2 and 3 May 2026	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4, 6
	the Mataura Island Bridge to the sea	All year excluding 3 and 4 May 2026	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
McGregor Pond (Whitestone River Berm)	Junior Fishery	All year, excluding 13 Oct - 23 Oct	FSB	2	Daily catch limit of 2 fish applies, regardless of whether fish are kept or released.	Notes 1, 4, 7
Mimihau Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Mokoreta River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Monowai River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Orauea Stream	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Ourawera Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4

209

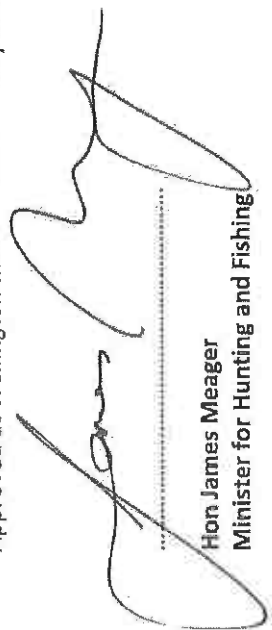
Oreti River	Designated Water Oreti River and tributaries upstream of State Highway 97 Bridge near Mossburn	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 3, 6, 8
	State Highway 97 Bridge to State Highway 94 Bridge just north of Lumsden	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4, 6
	State Highway 94 Bridge just north of Lumsden to Riverton-Invercargill Highway	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	Riverton-Invercargill Highway to sea	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	Otamita Stream	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	Pourakino River	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	Rakatu/Redcliff wetland complex Taunamau Stream	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	Titiroa Stream	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	Upukerora River	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	Waiau River	1 Oct - 31 May	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4

	From the downstream extent of the Manapouri Lake Control structure, also known as the Mararoa Weir, to Tuatapere	1 Oct - 31 May	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	Tuatapere to the sea, including the Waiiau Lagoon	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	The area enclosed by the side-walls of the Manapouri Lake Control structure/Mararoa Weir downstream of the main control gates	Closed				
Waiiau River tributaries	Mararoa Weir to the sea	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Waihopai River	upstream of Queens Drive	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of Queens Drive	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Waikaia River	Waikaia River and all tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4, 6
Waikaka Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Waikawa River	and tributaries, upstream of Niagara Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of Niagara Bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Waikiwi Stream	upstream of North Road Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of North Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Waimatuku Stream	and tributaries upstream of the bridge on Rance Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4

	downstream of the bridge on Rance Road	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Waimea Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Wairaki River	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Whitestone River	upstream of Prospect Bridge	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
	between the Prospect Bridge and the Mararoa confluence	1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Worsley River	Controlled Fishery The Worsley River and tributaries upstream from Lake Te Anau	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 4, 9

20

Approved at Wellington this 30 day of July 2025



Hon. James Meager
Minister for Hunting and Fishing



Fish & Game New Zealand Submission

Date:	3 July 2025	File reference:	
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Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Subject:	ANGLERS NOTICE FOR FISH AND GAME REGIONS 2025
Action Sought:	Approval of the draft Anglers Notice for the 2025–2026 Season.
Deadline:	The Anglers Notice is to be approved by Friday 18 July 2025 and gazetted by Thursday 31 July 2025, or earlier if possible, to allow for the publication in sufficient time of the sports fishing regulation guides.

Paper Type:	Risk Assessment:	Level of Risk:	F&G Priority:
Statutory	Negative public or political reaction to regulations.	Low	High

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	
Richard Cosgrove	Acting Chief Executive	(mob) 021 646 245	
Ros Connelly	Policy Advisor	(mob) 027 733 5076	

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of the Anglers Notice is to set out the conditions under which a licence holder may fish for sports fish in a particular area. Each regional fish and game council is responsible for recommending sports fishing conditions, bag limits, closed waters and other details in its own region. The First Schedule of the Notice provides for fishing conditions common to all regions.
2. All changes proposed are unlikely to be controversial and mostly involve adjusting:
 - a. Season length.
 - b. Daily bag and size limit.
 - c. Permitted methods and authorised tackle.
 - d. Fishing boundaries.
 - e. Addition of trial Controlled Fisheries areas.
3. A larger suite of changes are being requested by the Auckland/ Waikato and Central South Island regions. In both these cases the net effect of the proposed changes is to increase fishing opportunities and simplify the rules. The Auckland/ Waikato region is proposing a consistent two trout daily limit, which is a reduction for some rivers. However, this is accompanied by the opening of additional rivers for fishing opportunities.
4. North Canterbury and Central South Island are proposing to reduce the sea-run salmon season bag limit from 2 fish to 1 fish. This reflects the collapse of the sea-run salmon population, necessitating the adoption of 'severe' population management policies.
5. The draft Notice has been considered by the Department of Conservation.
6. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) endorses the need for consistency and simplified conditions applied across all Fish and Game Council regions. Work has been undertaken by NZ Council staff this season to provide this consistency in the formatting of the regulations across all Fish and Game Councils.
7. Pages 3 to 5 provide further detail to this one-page summary,

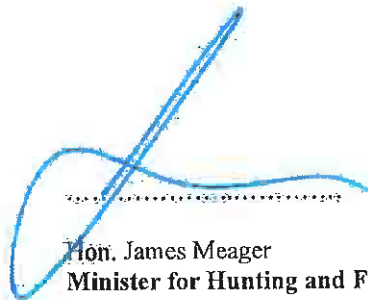
Recommended Action

It is recommended that you:

- | | | Minister's decision |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| (a) | Approve the attached Anglers Notice for Fish and Game Regions 2025 by signing and dating the last page of that Gazette Notice. | (yes / no) |
| (b) | Note that once signed, the NZ Fish and Game Council office will arrange for the Notice to be published in the NZ Gazette. | (noted) |



Richie Cosgrove
Acting Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Fish and Game Council



30 / 7 / 25
Hon. James Meager
Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Purpose

1. This paper seeks your approval of the 2025–2026 Anglers Notice for the 12 Fish and Game Council regions throughout New Zealand (except for the Chatham Islands and for fishing in the Taupō Fishing District) for the Fish and Game sports fish season from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026.

Background

2. Under section 26R(3) of the Conservation Act 1987, regional Fish and Game Councils are required to prepare anglers notices for the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) to consider and recommend to the Minister of Conservation. As soon as practicable after a notice is approved by the Minister, the NZ Council is required to publish the notice in the Gazette and regional Fish and Game Councils must make copies available for sale to the public.
3. The purpose of the Anglers Notice¹ is to set out the conditions under which a licence holder may fish for sports fish in a particular area. The notice identifies the conditions applicable in each of the 12 fish and game regions relating to:
 - a. Size and limit bag for any species of sports fish.
 - b. Any open or closed season in any specified waters in the area for any particular sports fish.
 - c. Any requirements, restrictions or prohibitions on fishing tackle, methods, or the use of any gear, equipment, or device.
 - d. Hours of fishing.
 - e. Handling, treatment or disposal of any sports fish.
4. An Anglers Notice may also declare any waters within the area of jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Council to be fisheries experimental waters, and to make provision for the protection of fish in those waters for fish research purposes².
5. The sports fish season traditionally opens on 1 October and runs through to 30 September of the following year. Some high-country fisheries traditionally do not open until the first Saturday in November. The length of season varies between waters within regions, but a large number are open all year round. Some waters are closed to angling after 30 April and others after 30 June. A winter only licence is also available for the period 1 April to 30 September.
6. The two main methods of sports fishing for trout and salmon (referred collectively as salmonids) are fly fishing and spin fishing.
 - a. Fly-fishing can be divided into several different methods according to the techniques used. The two main divisions are Wet Fly and Dry Fly fishing with artificial flies (usually made with bird feathers and thread) that mainly imitate insects or beetles - the simple difference being that a wet fly sinks and a dry fly floats.
 - b. Spin fishing, or thread lining, is fishing with lures (metal or plastic) that imitate small fish. The equipment used is different as the spinning lures are heavier than an artificial fly and are cast with a thread line rod and reel.
 - c. Other forms of sports fishing (usually more popular with junior anglers) include using natural bait or dough on weighted naked hooks.
 - d. Coarse fishing is another form of sports fishing and targets the non-salmonid listed species in Schedule 1, Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 – Perch and Tench in all Fish and Game regions of New Zealand, and Rudd only in the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game region. The most popular method is float fishing, using a float attached to the line and a long pole or rod, which when the line is cast out the float will sit at the surface of the water.

¹ Section 26R(4) Conservation Act 1987

² S26R(5)

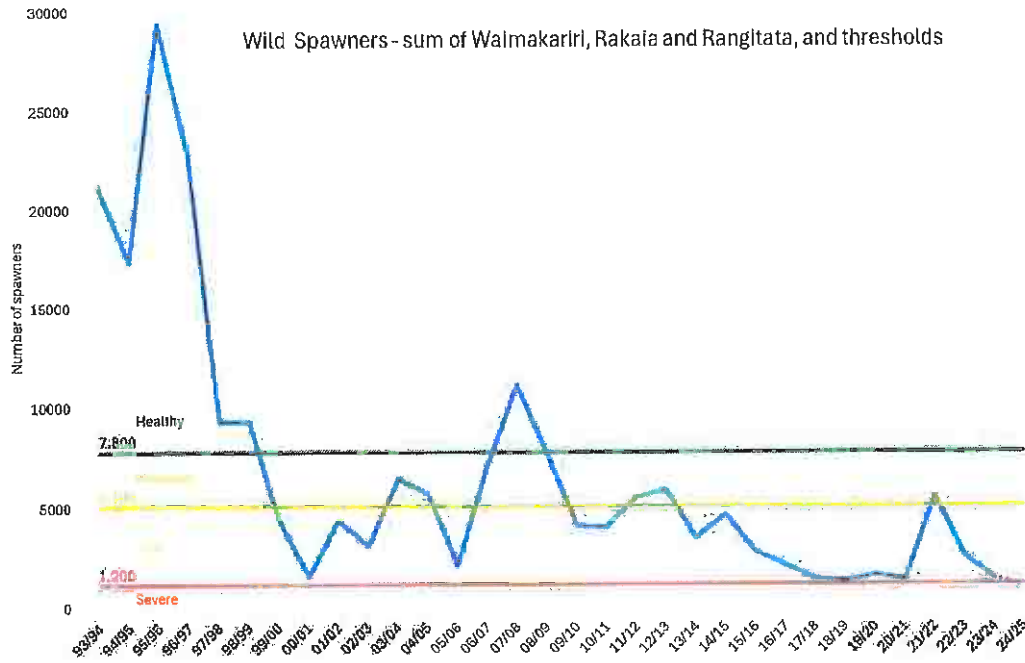
7. The full list of sports fish species contained in Schedule 1 of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulation 1983 is: Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, American Brook Trout or Char, Lake Trout or Char, Atlantic Salmon, Quinnat or Chinook Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, Perch, Tench, Rudd (found or taken in Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game region) and any hybrid of such fish.

Comment

8. Most Fish and Game regions have made no or minor changes to the Anglers Notice for the 2025-2026 season. The large majority of alterations are related to annual date changes for those seasons which traditionally start on a Saturday.
9. Two regions have permitted the use of scented artificial lures in spin fishing waters, which now means that seven out of 12 Fish & Game regions recognize this activity. Scented soft baits are highly effective lure for anglers targeting trout in some waterways and when fished with the correct technique can potentially improve catch rates and overall satisfaction. Scented soft baits that are designed to imitate bait fish function as spinners when actively fished, albeit with a scent attractant
10. NZ Council staff have made a small number of system changes to ensure consistent terminology is used between regions. The names of a number of rivers or lakes have been corrected in several instances to bring them in line with common useage or due to Treaty settlements etc/

Sea-Run Salmon

11. The sea-run salmon population has been of concern for a number of years. This is likely due to a combination of environmental factors in both the freshwater and marine environment.
12. In response to the reduction in spawning numbers, the North Canterbury and Central South Island regions agreed a 2021 threshold management strategy which linked spawning population size to the level of harvest control required and season bag size to be applied. When the population dropped into the 'severe' category a 1 fish maximum season bag limit (for individuals and family licences) would be applied.
13. The final sea-run salmon spawning population estimates was confirmed on 01/07/2025 at 900 fish between the Waimakariri, Rakaia and Rangitata /Rakitata rivers and places the population at less than 1,200 fish and in the 'severe' population management band. In accordance with the threshold management strategy, the North Canterbury and Central South Island Councils have confirmed the season bag limit of 1 fish.
14. The following graph shows the results of the spawning population monitoring, overlaid with the threshold management bands. Although 2025 has not been plotted on this graph the dotted line anticipated that severe management restrictions were likely to need to be imposed.



Summary

15. Specific changes are set out below:

First Schedule Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes
Second Schedule Changes	
Northland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes
Auckland/Waikato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded bait fishing waters from 9 rivers to 49 and opened 65 additional streams for year-round fishing. Two trout daily limit across the region for all rivers and lakes.
Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes
Hawke's Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes
Taranaki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes allowing for scented artificial lure use, prohibition on the use of fish from other waterbodies as bait and the transfer of water from other waterbodies – both for biosecurity reasons. Simplification of daily bag limits
Wellington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes to simplify rules including increasing the bag limit to two fish per angler per day on the Hokowhitu (Centennial Lagoon). Change of spelling of Tauwharenikau River.
Nelson/Marlborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes
West Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes to simplify catch limits on Rough River.
North Canterbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes to Lake Blackwater and Winding Creek to start the season a month earlier.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of sea-run salmon season bag limit from 2 fish to 1 fish
CSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a winter season for lake Opuha/ ōpūaha • Permission to use a portion of fish as bait, excluding trout, salmon and fish ova • Allowing for scented artificial lure use • Explicit prohibition of the use of any feed pellets used for the rearing of trout and salmon as bait • All waters of the Ahuriri River catchment to have an open season from 1 November to 30 April with 2 trout daily bag limit and fly and spin methods permitted. • Introduction of the an open season for the Awakino River/ te Awakinonui from 1 November to 30 April • Designate the Awakino River/ te Awakinonui as a sea-run salmon water. Introduce a sea-run salmon fishing season from 1 November to 31 March with fly and spin methods permitted. • Introduce a daily limit of max 1 Brown trout at Lake Alexandrina • Introduce a 2 sports fish bag limit for upper Ohau River, Wairepo Arm and Kelland Pond. • Reduction of sea-run salmon season bag limit from 2 fish to 1 fish
Otago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor changes of place names
Southland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor changes to correct errors in season dates at Brightwater Spring and Mataura River • Lake Manapouri rules simplified and dates updates

Cost Implications

16. The compliance costs of the proposed changes to the 2025 Anglers Notice are considered by Fish and Game to be minor. Fish and Game rangers responsible for compliance and law enforcement are funded through Fish and Game annual budgets. The proposed changes are not expected to impose any costs on the Department of Conservation or other public agencies.

Consultation

17. Each regional Fish and Game Council is responsible for determining the fishing conditions, bag limits, closed and open waters and other details in its own region. They all carry out formal and informal consultations with clubs or at public meetings of interested people. Agreement on any changes for the coming season is reached at a regional Fish and Game Council meeting conducted as a public forum. This agreement is then conveyed to the NZ Council for its consideration and endorsement as a draft notice to the Minister.

18. Auckland/ Waikato and Central South Island, who are proposing a larger set of changes, both conducted extensive consultation exercises. Anglers in these regions were consulted via website, Reel Life Newsletter, Spring Flyer, and direct email. 199 submissions were received on the Auckland/ Waikato proposal and 39 on the Central South Island proposal. Other regions conducted smaller consultation exercises going directly to Angling clubs and/or putting information up on social media.

19. The draft notice has also been considered by the Department of Conservation. The Director-General of Conservation is represented at NZ Council meetings and local Departmental staff are involved in the formulation of recommended conditions.
20. Comments by Department officials about previous Notices noted inconsistencies in layout and terminology. As a result, efforts have been made to rectify many of these inconsistencies, within the federation framework, and this will continue to be a driver in the preparation of uniform content.

Section 4 of the Conservation Act

21. Regional Fish and Game Councils in the South Island, in accordance with the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, maintain a consultative relationship with that iwi. All Regional Fish and Game Councils have contact with local iwi over various land and habitat management issues. No specific Section 4 issues have been identified with this submission.

Risk Assessment

22. The proposed changes are not significant for this season. Therefore, the risk of negative public or political reaction to the recommended actions is low. The reaction to the reduction in salmon bag limit may be met with disappointment, though most will understand the rationale. The conversation around hatchery release is likely to be rekindled.

Legislation

23. Section 26R of the Conservation Act requires Fish and Game Councils through the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) to prepare an annual Anglers Notice and recommend such notices for approval by the Minister. As soon as practicable after a notice is approved by the Minister, the NZ Council is required to publish the notice in the Gazette and Regional Fish and Game Councils are to make copies of notices available for sale to the public.

Legal Correctness

24. This year's Gazette Notice is based on previous years. The NZ Council has made its own check of this Notice. The format of the notice has previously been confirmed as suitable and has been considered by Department of Conservation officials.

Attachment

- Copy of the draft Anglers Notice for Fish and Game Regions 2025 attached for your signature (on the last page), if approved.

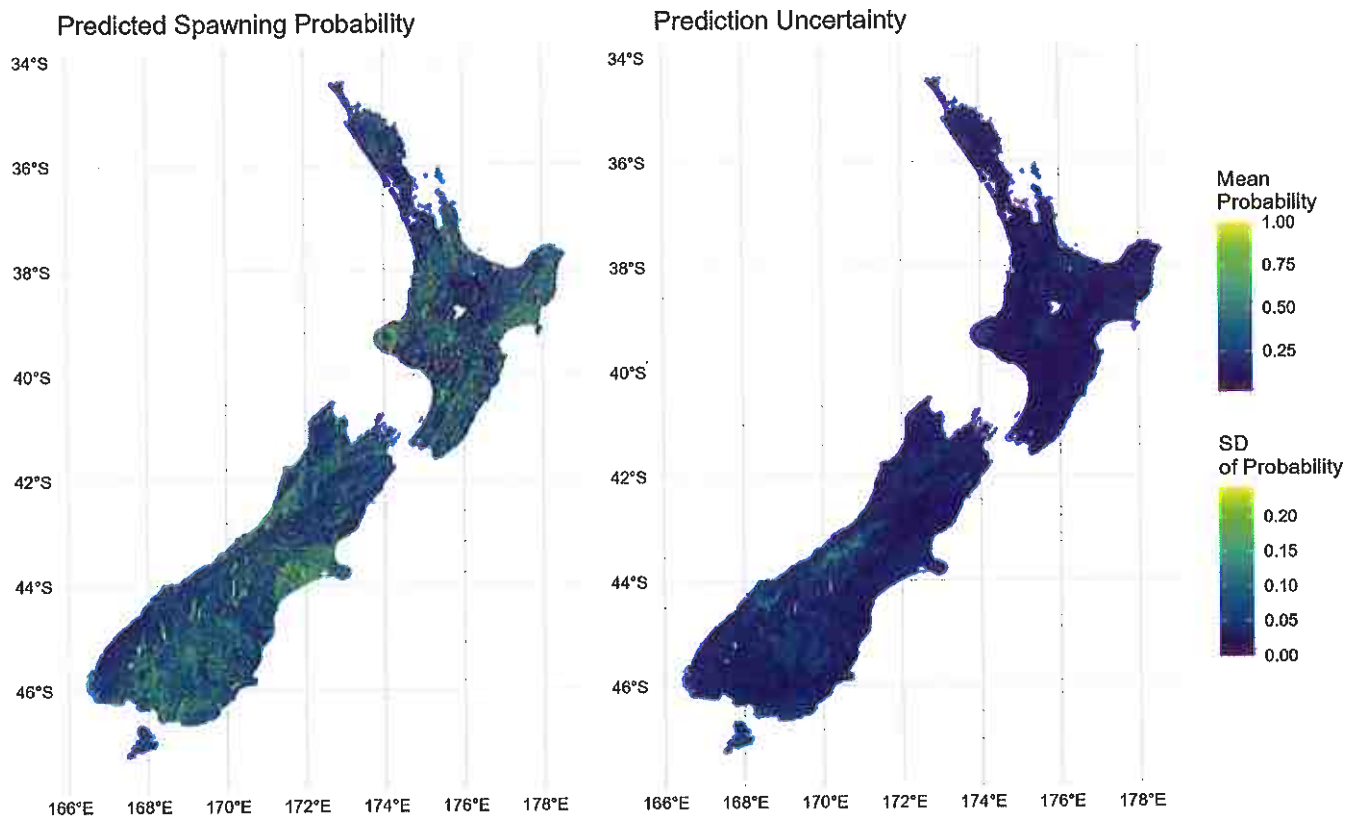
Update: Mapping suitable trout spawning habitat

Adam Canning

4th of August 2025

Since the 1970s, trout management has shifted from reliance on hatchery releases to a stronger focus on protecting key spawning habitat to support sustainable wild fisheries. Surveys in the late 20th century mapped baseline spawning areas, but comprehensive monitoring across all river reaches remains impractical due to the difficulty of detecting redds and the vast extent of stream networks. Trout spawning success is influenced by multiple habitat factors, including gravel size, siltation, water temperature, flow depth and velocity, and macroinvertebrate availability. Both brown and rainbow trout have similar spawning requirements, though they differ slightly in timing, which helps reduce competition. Given these constraints and ecological dependencies, predictive modelling of suitable spawning habitat provides a practical approach to identifying priority areas for protection and management. The aim of this work is to support the development of spatial models to identify suitable trout spawning habitat nationally.

Spawning observation data has been progressively collated across the country, with additional observations currently being collected during the May–October spawning season. A Bayesian predictive model was developed using key habitat and flow variables to estimate the probability of trout spawning across all mapped river segments. The model performed well, providing both probability estimates and associated uncertainty (early view below). However, limited data coverage in some areas reduces confidence in predictions for those regions. As new data becomes available through ongoing fieldwork, the model will be updated to improve accuracy and spatial coverage.



Agenda Item 16 **Habitat Advocacy and Management**

Summary

a. **Regional Planning advocacy**

Horizons Regional Council have paused work on reviewing their Regional Plan changes - timetable to complete the Plan Change revision for public notification has been officially put back to September 2027 (originally December 2024 deadline).

Hearings for GWRC Natural Resources Plan (Regional Plan) PC1 have been paused by the GW Regional Council – this was one of the few remaining 'active' hearing processes for Regional Plan updates but has been put on hold mid-process..

Taranaki Regional Council have made the decision to pause with the consultation process for reviewing the Regional Plan with a view to notification in 2026.

Taranaki Regional Council is developing positions on undesirable/desirable fish in relation to fish passage.

b. **Resource Consent advocacy**

TLAs within the Horizons region boundaries have been discussing consistency in management approaches and funding models. This is concurrent to Government initiatives and approaches to municipal water management. Near final arrangements are listed attached.

c. **Habitat Enhancement Projects**

Advice provided to support applications to Game Bird Habitat Trust – staff to act as referee where appropriate.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

PCE submissions on Resource Management national direction

28 July 2025

The Commissioner recently provided [three submissions to the Ministry for the Environment on proposed changes to various National Policy Standards](#) relating to freshwater, the primary sector, infrastructure and natural hazards. In offering his suggestions, concerns and amendments, the Commissioner issued a clear warning:

“Our stop-start approach to policy development is not just a significant barrier to making progress on environmental outcomes, but a real turn-off for many people who want to get on with improving things.

“This latest round of consultation is having a ‘chilling effect’ on farmers and kaitiaki across [New Zealand](#) who are losing faith in decision makers, and causing deep frustration for councils who have been stuck in an ongoing loop of reform for 15 years.”

He warns against making changes to national policy direction documents to achieve “quick wins” and instead advises that a coherent approach is needed to ensure enduring reform.

Water Management Services – Territorial Local Authorities

Requirements to submit a plan to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025 – delivery of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services

If a joint option pursued then this requires signing a Commitment Agreement, preparing a joint Water Services Delivery Plan, and negotiating key terms for the new CCO.

District/City Council	Region	Preferred Configuration	Confirmed Configuration
New Plymouth District Council	Taranaki	STAND ALONE	22 July 2025
Stratford District Council	Taranaki	STAND ALONE	24 June 2025
South Taranaki District Council	Taranaki	STAND ALONE	21 July 2025
Ruapehu District Council	Horizons	JOINT: Ruapehu / Whanganui	9 July 2025
Whanganui District Council	Horizons	JOINT: Ruapehu / Whanganui	15 July 2025
Rangitikei District Council	Horizons	JOINT: Palmerston North / Rangitikei / Horowhenua (- as many councils in the Horizons' region as possible.)	22 May 2025
Manawatu District Council	Horizons	STAND ALONE	15 May 2025
Horowhenua District Council	Horizons	JOINT: Palmerston North / Rangitikei / Horowhenua	4 June 2025
Palmerston North City Council	Horizons	JOINT: Palmerston North / Rangitikei / Horowhenua	4 June 2025
Tararua District Council	Horizons	JOINT: Tararua / Masterton / Carterton / South Wairarapa	11 June 2025
Masterton District Council	Greater Wellington	JOINT: Tararua / Masterton / Carterton / South Wairarapa	Confirm proposal 20 August 2025
Carterton District Council	Greater Wellington	JOINT: Tararua / Masterton / Carterton / South Wairarapa	22 May 2025
South Wairarapa District Council	Greater Wellington	JOINT: Tararua / Masterton / Carterton / South Wairarapa	8 May 2025
Kapiti Coast District Council	Greater Wellington	STAND ALONE	27 May 2025
Porirua City Council	Greater Wellington	JOINT: Porirua / Upper Hutt/ Hutt/ Wellington/ Greater Wellington	26 June 2025
Upper Hutt City Council	Greater Wellington	JOINT: Porirua / Upper Hutt/ Hutt/ Wellington/ Greater Wellington	30 June 2025
Hutt City Council	Greater Wellington	JOINT: Porirua / Upper Hutt/ Hutt/ Wellington/ Greater Wellington	27 June 2024
Wellington City Council	Greater Wellington	JOINT: Porirua / Upper Hutt/ Hutt/ Wellington/ Greater Wellington	26 June 2025
Greater Wellington Regional Council	Greater Wellington	JOINT: Porirua / Upper Hutt/ Hutt/ Wellington/ Greater Wellington	23 May 2025

Agenda Item 17 Participation

Summary

a. Information to Clients

- 2025/2026 Fish Season Magazine articles prepared
- E-Newsletter – weekly Hunting Season updates

b. Licence Holder Engagement

- No specific activities undertaken during this period.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 18 **Public Awareness/Communications**

Summary

a. Iwi Engagement

Undertook electric fishing survey for piharau/lamprey with local iwi at Opunake

b. Public Awareness

- Contributions to early season press releases.

c. Communication

Communications to licence holders as required.

d. Promotions

No specific promotions during this period

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Summary

a. Fish Licence Sales Update – until 30 June 2025

- Licence Sales Report for 2024/2025 Fishing Season YTD
Confirmation of licence sales indicating YTD – comparison with previous year.
 - ↑ LEQ sales down to previous year 18% (1,187 c.f. 1,007),
 - ↑ Total Number of Sales of licences up on previous year 22% (2,336 c.f. 1,914)

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive Licence Sales Report for 2024/2025 Fishing Season YTD (30 June 2025)

b. Game Licence Sales Update – until 30 June 2025

- Licence Sales Report for 2025 Game Season YTD
Confirmation of licence sales indicating YTD – comparison with previous year.
 - ↑ LEQ sales up on previous year 7.3% (1,064 c.f. 992)
 - ↑ Total Number of Sales of licences up on previous year 8.8 % (1,216 c.f. 1,136)

For Information Only

Council move to receive Licence Sales Report for 2025 Game Season YTD (30 June 2025)

c. Licence Management System – May 2025 and June 2025

The Licencing Operational Group overview the performance of the Licencing Management system outlining:

- No issues with continuity of service
- A list of bugs and fixes required under agreed contract.
- Completing requirements of development phase of contract

Each regional Fish and Game Council is a signatory to the agreement for ESL to provide services to manage electronic licence sales (Public on Line and Agent on Line) and data capture. This contract is valid until 31 August 2025 – with a right of renewal for two years. Consideration to scoping and developing an RFP for the next iteration of the Licence Management System and associated support software – which may include: CRM function (customer relationship management software), digital licence, Fish and Game App.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive the update report from the Licencing Operational Group for contract management of provider of services to manage the licencing platform and database management.

d. Licence Price Optimisation Research

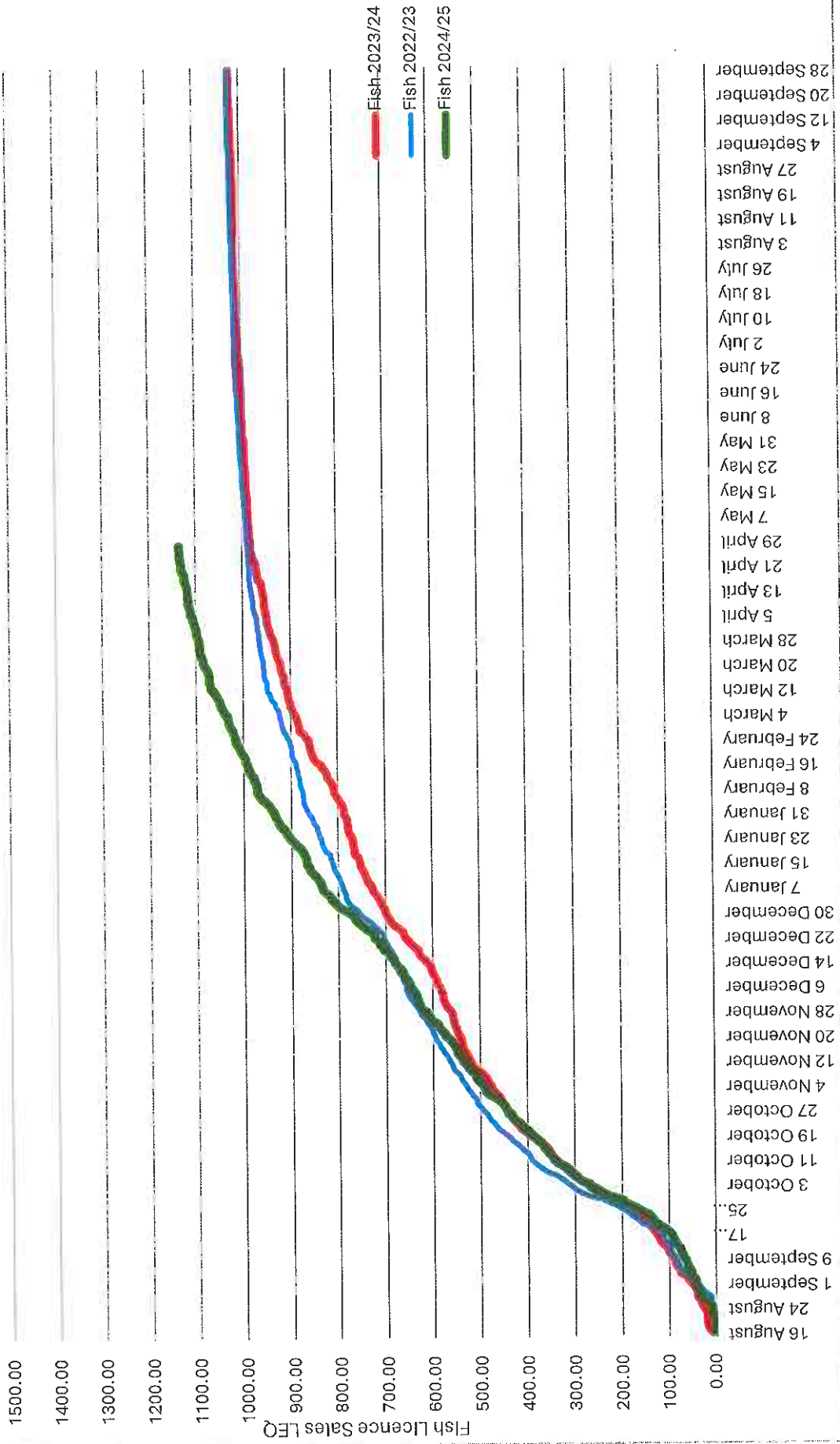
The project report is attached.

For Information Only

National Fish Licence Sales YTD to 3 July

Channel	FVF	FVA	FWNA	ESLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLWA	FLKA	FLSA	FDLA	FDNA	FWO	FWHO	FDJ	FDKO	FVWC	FWNC	FSRSE	DWLR	DWLN	Total Fish	Fish LEQ	Fish Val	
Taranaki	58	216	91	33	25	24	2	55	147	288	57	4	45	3	288	3	0	0	0	0	0	1317	0	0
Public Online	45	201	7	51	19	14	4	35	41	14	51	0	12	0	70	0	0	11	22	0	0	587	0	0
Agency Online	103	417	98	84	44	38	6	90	188	272	108	4	57	3	366	3	0	0	0	0	0	1874	1008.00	0
Total	89	280	142	44	21	29	1	56	184	337	96	7	71	11	459	2	2	0	0	0	0	1828	0	0
Public Online	37	167	11	51	17	11	3	14	30	12	58	0	12	0	83	0	1	6	7	0	0	508	0	0
Agency Online	126	437	153	95	38	40	4	70	214	349	152	7	83	11	539	2	3	6	7	0	0	348	1108.00	180
Total	23	20	55	11	-6	2	-2	-20	26	77	44	3	26	8	173	-1	3	-5	-15	0	0	0	0	0
Wellington	224	801	124	155	146	87	10	71	491	278	223	3	135	7	785	3	2	0	0	261	76	3852	0	0
Public Online	154	654	11	142	104	41	3	26	77	39	160	0	47	2	154	0	0	43	65	0	0	1722	0	0
Agency Online	378	1455	135	287	250	128	13	97	568	317	383	3	182	9	959	3	2	43	326	76	76	8574	3152.00	0
Total	251	804	63	174	173	74	4	59	478	165	326	3	129	5	833	1	0	0	244	62	62	3048	0	0
Public Online	129	589	16	158	119	35	3	18	121	15	223	2	61	0	219	0	0	31	58	1	1	1768	0	0
Agency Online	380	1383	79	332	282	109	7	77	599	180	549	5	190	5	1052	1	0	31	302	63	63	5518	3188.00	-134
Total	2	-82	-56	35	42	-19	-6	-20	31	-137	166	2	8	-4	143	-2	-2	-12	-24	-13	0	0	0	0
Tairāwhiti	7891	11239	3169	2028	2148	1122	254	3451	15056	8041	3151	174	2590	260	11054	87	154	4489	5438	2146	85000	37916.68	0	
Direct	8716	13210	1172	9658	2162	702	159	1393	4075	2910	2245	43	626	118	1630	25	87	7123	6130	625	56706	34245.79	0	
AOI	18807	24449	4371	5684	4310	1824	410	4844	19131	11851	5396	217	3216	398	12584	112	241	11622	11588	2771	141706	72152.88	0	
Total	8395	12360	3494	2228	2648	1232	239	3484	15661	10148	4370	227	2785	339	13942	128	196	4614	5770	2301	94329	41536.02	0	
Direct	7453	11458	1052	3736	2224	686	137	1202	3470	2894	2459	69	616	128	1358	23	128	5539	4714	810	50256	30726.22	0	
AOI	15648	23818	4516	5964	4772	1818	378	4686	18161	13042	6829	296	3371	487	15200	149	324	10233	10484	3111	144465	72430.86	100	

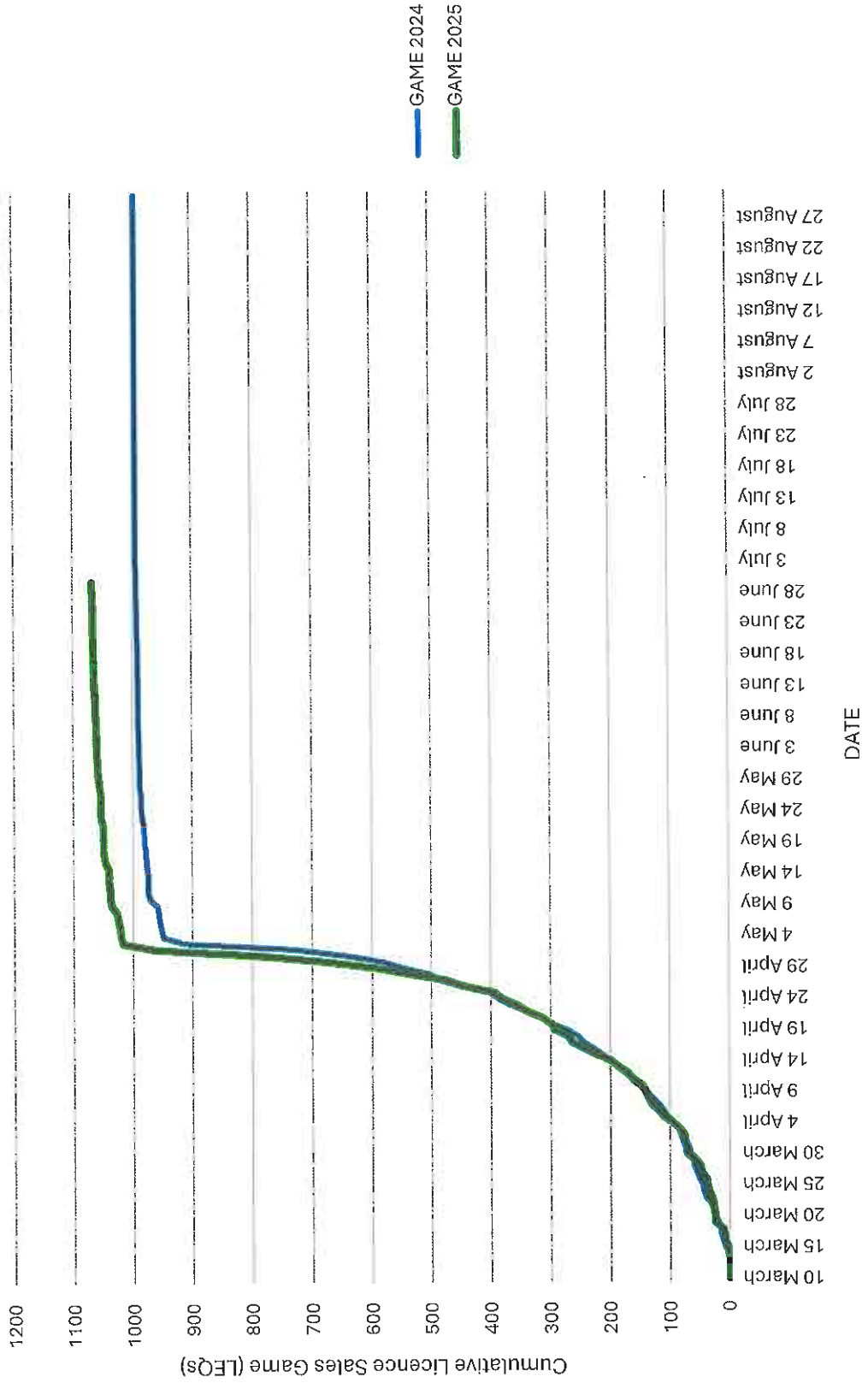
Cumulative Licence Sales - Taranaki Region 2024 / 2025 Season FISH LEQs (Licence Equivalents)



National Game Licence Sales YTD to 3 July

Channel	GWA	GWO	SVC	GDA	GOO	Total	Chippa LEQ	Game Var
Taranaki	776	68	31	7	0	882	0	
0 Agency Online	192	30	14	17	0	253	0	
0 Public Online	584	38	17	0	0	639	0	
2023-2024	968	98	45	24	0	1135	0	
0 Agency Online	804	66	35	16	0	921	0	
0 Public Online	230	28	10	8	0	276	0	
2024-2025	1034	92	51	58	0	1235	0	72
Wellington	2562	235	94	47	2	2940	0	
0 Agency Online	569	109	40	133	8	859	0	
0 Public Online	3131	344	134	180	10	3799	0	
2023-2024	2521	242	113	41	6	2923	0	
0 Agency Online	595	93	46	80	3	817	0	
0 Public Online	3116	335	159	121	9	3740	0	-27
TOTAL NZ	24465	2149	649	264	7	27734	24934,5185	
0 Agency Online	5643	954	427	765	37	7826	5978,96296	
0 Public Online	30108	3103	1276	1029	44	35560	30955,4815	
2023-2024	23654	2107	915	229	17	26922	24117,7568	
0 Agency Online	6045	937	461	768	38	8270	6366,8018	
0 Public Online	29589	3044	1376	1018	55	35192	30588,6847	-407

Cumulative Licence Sales - Taranaki Region Game LEQs (Licence Equivalents)



Monthly Performance Report – Licence Management System

June 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Licence System Performance

Total number of licences sold in the period: 3350 with 650 sold by Agencies

System Availability: 100% uptime vrs KPI 99.9%

B. Licence System Maintenance

- Bug Fixes and Improvements.**
No fixes or improvements were made during the month.
- Booking System Improvements.**
No further changes were made to the Booking system.
- Updating Customer Contacts:**
Received updated customer contact details from Hothouse with these changes applied to the licence holder's details.
- Licence Holder deduplication:**
No system wide deduplication update was applied in the month.

C. System Development

- Booking Systems:** Change to introduce "Beats" for game bird hide booking is planned for release later in the year.
- Family Licence:** Planning to implement required changes to the Family Licence is underway for completion by September 1st.

D. Business Services

- Call Centre Activity:** A total of 127 telephone and email support requests were received during the month. 34 of these calls were received as general enquiries from the public.
- Response times:** All support requests responded to within SLA. 17 voicemail messages (unanswered calls) were received. Calls received within business hours were responded to within 1 hour. 31 requests received over the weekend were responded to on the following business day.
- Invoicing Agents:** Agent invoices reconciled and dispatched on or before June 10th and within SLA. 3rd Party Accountant reviewed and confirmed compliance.
- Licence Delivery Process:** Sent Hothouse monthly client contact list.
- Licence Refunds and Cancellation:** 1 x POL refund was processed within the month. 3 x Cancellations were processed.
- Variable Charges:** Invoices raised for recovery of ABCorp card services.

E. Contract Performance

- System Upgrade:** MVP completed. The 2-year extension out to 31st August 2027 has been signed.
- System Development:** Changes required for a family licence are in progress.
- Business Services Function:** Compliant with KPIs
- Scoping Additional Functionality:**

- a. Preparing to implement changes necessary to the Family Licence to be affected by September 1st, 2025.
 - b. National regulations to be attached as a PDF to licence purchases.
5. **BIN Bash Fraud Attacks:** An attack was detected on Saturday 21st June that resulted in an automated temporary country block being applied. The block was removed early June 24th. No service complaints were received.

DETAILED REPORTING

A. Licence System Performance

1. Total number of licences sold in period

Licence Type	Number Sold
Fish Licences 2024/2025	2773
Game Licences 2025	577
Designated Water Licences	0
Salmon Endorsement Licence	0

2. System Availability

System Availability – uptime 100% vs. SLA objective of 99.9%

System Availability is obtained from a third-party monitoring service (Pingdom).

Availability is calculated as (Total available hours 24hrs x days in the month) – (down time) / (Total available hours) expressed as a %

System Reliability

- Browser support is up to date.
- Underlying Microsoft technology is scheduled for upgrading to the latest levels during July 2025.

Variance Explanation: SLA compliance requirements exceeded.

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. Bug Fixes and Improvements:

- I. No improvements were made to the system in June.

2. Removing Duplication:

- The last Auto de-duplication was undertaken on May 27th

3. Updating Customer Contact Details:

- Received updated customer contact details from Hothouse with these changes applied to the licence holder details in the Licence System.

C. System Development

1. **Salmon Licence Endorsement:** Business as usual
2. **Designated Waters Licence:** Business as usual
3. **Booking Systems:** Business as usual
4. **Continuous Improvements:**
 - a. **System Improvements:**

Undertaking the necessary changes required to support the Family licences needs, including the changes that will need to be completed by ABCorp to manage licence issuance.

b. Booking Systems:

Change to introduce "Beats" for game bird hide booking is planned for release later in the year.

Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 127 support requests were received via telephone, email or voice mail. Note: we have increased the number of categories to provide improved understanding of the support requests received.
 - a. 34 requests were identified as "Public Misc" which are general enquiries seeking advice, some of these enquiries are passed to the Regions for their action.
 - b. 31 Requests were received over weekends.
 - c. Any Licence related complaints are referred directly to the Region concerned.

Category of Enquiry	Contacts
Agent Query	1
Bureau Communication	1
Buy A Licence	2
Cancel/ Refund Request	3
Change of Address	5
Customer Regional Office Telephone Enquiry	1
Habitat Stamp	15
Invoice Enquiries	2
Licence Re-issue	8
License Delivery	1
National/Regional Office Correspondence	22
POL Customer Support	1
Public Misc	34
Purchase Order	1
Referred to region	7
Returned Mail	3
Taupo Enquiry	3
Voicemail	17
Grand Total	127

2. Response times:

- a. All unanswered calls go to voicemail.
- b. 17 voicemail calls received and responded to within 1 hour or next business day if received after hours/weekends.
- c. Emails were responded to within 24 hours with an average response of 4 hours 50 min not including requests received over a weekend.
- d. Requests received over the weekend/public holidays are responded to on the next business day.

3. **Invoicing Agents:**
 - a. Agent invoices dispatched on or before 10th of June and within the 10-day SLA KPI.
 - b. All invoices reviewed by an independent accountant.
4. **Licence Delivery Process:**

Liaison with external providers:

- **Hothouse Communications**
 - Monthly report on follow-up contacts (de duplicated) supplied.
- **ABCorp**
 - Family licence changes and impact on card production and mailing requirements.

5. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:**

- Refunds – 1 x POL refund was processed.
- Cancellations – 3
- Re-Issues – 0

6. **Variable Charges:**

Invoices provided for ABCorp card services to recover card processing fees.






D. Contract Performance

- a. **System Upgrade:**
 - i. MVP development is completed and in operation
 - ii. Designated Waters development is completed and in operation
 - iii. Sea Run Salmon development is completed and in operation.

b. **System Development:**

Working on implementing the changes required to support the Family Licence.

c. **Business Services Function:**

Function	SLA Compliance
Call Center Response Time	
Agent Invoicing	
Liaison with external providers	
Licence refunds and Cancellations	
Variable Charges	

- d. **2-Year Extension to the Licence System and Business Administration Services Agreement:** The 2-year extension out to 31st August 2027 has been signed.
- e. **BIN Bash Fraud Attacks:** An attack was detected on Saturday 21st June that resulted in an automated temporary country block being applied. The block was removed early June 24th. No service complaints were received.

Monthly Performance Report – Licence Management System

April 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Licence System Performance

Total number of licences sold in the period: 25,240 with 16,634 sold by Agencies

System Availability: 100% uptime vrs KPI 99.9%

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. **Bug Fixes and Improvements.**

Six minor improvements were made on 9th April

2. **Booking System Improvements.**

Three further improvements will be made in May.

3. **Updating Customer Contacts:** Received updated customer contact details from Hothouse with these changes applied to the licence holder's details.

C. System Development

1. **Booking Systems:** Evaluating the introduction of Game Bird bookings using similar "Beat" concept that is used for Fishing waterways.

D. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 426 telephone and email support requests were received during the month. 202 of these calls were received as general enquiries from the public.

2. **Response times:** All support requests responded to within SLA. 14 voicemail messages (unanswered calls) were received. Calls received within business hours were responded to within 1 hour. 51 requests received over the weekend were responded to on the following business day.

3. **Invoicing Agents:** Agent invoices reconciled and dispatched on or before April 10th and within SLA. 3rd Party Accountant reviewed and confirmed compliance.

4. **Licence Delivery Process:** Sent Hothouse monthly client contact list.

5. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:** 5 x POL refunds were processed within the month. 35 Cancellations and 10 reissue requests were processed.

6. **Variable Charges:** Invoices raised for recovery of NZ Post charges and recovery of ABCorp card services.

E. Contract Performance

1. **System Upgrade:** MVP completed. The 2-year extension out to 31st August 2027 has been agreed with the Extension Agreement to be signed by the National CEO.

2. **System Development:** Booking system improvements were introduced in April with three further changes to be released in May.

3. **Business Services Function:** Compliant with KPIs

4. **Scoping Additional Functionality:**

Investigating the introduction of Game Bird hide bookings for Lake Ellesmere.

5. **BIN Bash Fraud Attacks:** ANZ and Paystation notified ESL that over the period April 7th to April 18th the Fish and Game Licence system was subjected to multiple fraud attempts in

the form of BIN Bash attacks. All the fraudulent transactions were managed by Playstation with no material impact on Fish and Game.

DETAILED REPORTING

A. Licence System Performance

1. Total number of licences sold in period

Licence Type	Number Sold
Fish Licences 2024/2025	7626
Game Licences 2024	5
Game Licences 2025	17,794
Designated Water Licences	263
Salmon Endorsement Licence	64

Note: 15,120 Game bird licences were sold by Agencies.

2. System Availability

System Availability – uptime 100% vs. SLA objective of 99.9%

System Availability is obtained from a third-party monitoring service (Pingdom).

Availability is calculated as (Total available hours 24hrs x days in the month) – (down time) / (Total available hours) expressed as a %

System Reliability

- Browser support is up to date.
- Underlying technology is at supported versions.

Variance Explanation: SLA compliance requirements exceeded.

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. Bug Fixes and Improvements:

The following minor improvements were made on April 9th.

- I. Mobile screen formatting issues: Mailing Address message not wrapping
- II. Issue Date of asset being updated when pending payment is corrected.
- III. Ensure that the 'consecutive' days display correctly
- IV. Additional Licences YTD and YTD by agency reports 'YTD' determination is fixed
- V. Error message displayed after using the "Update Payment Status" button
- VI. If the time zone is set to a zone behind NZT the display days are now correct.

2. Removing Duplication:

- Auto de-duplication was undertaken on April 30th.

3. Updating Customer Contact Details:

- Received updated customer contact details from Hothouse with these changes applied to the licence holder details in the Licence System.

C. System Development

1. Salmon Licence Endorsement: Business as usual

2. Designated Waters Licence: Business as usual

3. Booking Systems: Business as usual

4. Continuous Improvements:

a. System Improvements:

Six minor improvements were made on April 9th. No new development undertaken.

b. Booking Systems:

Several refinements are to be made to the booking system for release on May 14th. These changes will limit bookings to consecutive days. We will also introduce a simple re-runnable report allowing us to see the number of times the "Book" button is clicked on the Waterways Booking page, by date and Waterway.

Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 426 support requests were received via telephone, email or voice mail.
 - a. 202 requests were identified as "Public Misc" which are general enquiries seeking advice, some of these enquiries are passed to the Regions for their action.
 - b. 51 Requests were received over weekends.
 - c. Any Licence related complaints are referred directly to the Region concerned.

Request Category	Number of Requests
Agent Misc	25
Buy A Licence	9
Change of Address	15
Duplicate Payment	1
FNG duplication Report	28
Habitat Stamp	76
Licence Re-issue	21
National/Regional Office Correspondence	30
Public Misc	202
Refund Request	4
Remittance Advice	6
Returned Mail	2
Bureau Communication	1
Lost Licence	3
Salmon Endorsement Query	1
Customer Regional Office Telephone Enquiry	1
Taupo Enquiry	1
Grand Total	426

We have been reviewing the categorisation of support requests and especially "Public Misc". A revised report will be introduced on June 1st with the updated report being available in July.

2. Response times:

- a. All unanswered calls go to voicemail.
- b. 14 voicemail calls received and responded to within 1 hour or next business day if received after hours/weekends.
- c. Emails were responded within 24 hours with an average response of 7 hours 7min. Noting that Easter and Anzac Day support requests are included in this calculation.
- d. Requests received over the weekend/public holidays are responded to on the next business day.

3. Invoicing Agents:

- a. Agent invoices dispatched on or before 10th of April and within the 10-day SLA KPI.
- b. All invoices reviewed by an independent accountant.

4. Licence Delivery Process:

Liaison with external providers:

- **Hothouse Communications**
- Monthly report on follow-up contacts (de duplicated) supplied.

5. Licence Refunds and Cancellation:

- **Refunds – 5 x POL refunds were processed.**
- **Cancellations – 35**
- **Re-Issues – 10**

6. Variable Charges:

Invoices provided for NZ Post recovery of charges and ABCorp card services.

D. Contract Performance






a. System Upgrade:

- i. MVP development is completed and in operation
- ii. Designated Waters development is completed and in operation
- iii. Sea Run Salmon development is completed and in operation.

b. System Development:

Evaluating the introduction of Game Bird Hide bookings for Lake Ellesmere.

c. **Business Services Function:**

Function	SLA Compliance
Call Center Response Time	
Agent Invoicing	
Liaison with external providers	
Licence refunds and Cancellations	
Variable Charges	

- d. **2-Year Extension to the Licence System and Business Administration Services Agreement:** The 2-year extension out to 31st August 2027 has been agreed with the Extension Agreement to be signed by the National CEO.
- e. **BIN Bash Fraud Attacks:** ANZ and Paystation notified ESL that over the period April 7th to April 18th the Fish and Game Licence system was subjected to multiple fraud attempts in the form of BIN Bash attacks. This form of attack is intended to confirm the status of stolen credit card data which the bad actors have acquired from the internet. One licence was successfully purchased, which was cancelled. All the other transactions were managed by Paystation with no material impact on Fish and Game.



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May 30, 2025

An Exploration of Price Significance in New Zealand's Fishing and Game Licenses

Produced for: The New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Executive Summary

Introduction

This report uses 2006-2024 license sales data provided by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council to model the effect of price on four selected fishing license types, as well as the game bird hunting license. These were all licenses that account for a significant amount of revenue plus had sufficient years of sales data necessary to develop reliable price models. The goal was to determine the expected impact of price hikes on license sales in terms of units and dollars. Each model was verified as reliable by using it to predict the actual, known number of licenses sold given the conditions that existed each year. The final models all proved accurate in their ability to project sales, with the exception of the Loyal Senior license which proved not possible based on limited data.

Overview of Results

Price changes do not appear to have affected sales of any of the five selected licenses. The demand for licenses has remained stable even considering inflation. Therefore, revenues after future price increases can be expected to increase proportionally with any price changes, as long as they are within the range of past price changes which by policy generally mirrors inflation and were never greater than 9.6% during the study period. For example, a 5% increase in the price of the Whole Season Adult fishing license should result in a 5% increase in revenue from that license.

Table E1 below shows the estimated effects of price hikes for each license modelled and the overall reliability for each model in its ability to report the effects of price changes. Price effects for four of the five models were positive but also statistically insignificant. Being 'statistically insignificant' means the effect of price on overall sales cannot be determined reliably by the models. In essence, price has not impacted sales in recent years. It is rare and generally illogical for sales for any item to increase when price goes up, such as seen for the Whole Season Family Fishing model. This could happen, for example, if the price for alternative licenses increased at times more than the Family license, or if the public's demand and preference for this license has increased over time, which appears to be the case per the model's output. Whatever the reason, there is likely another factor correlated with license

prices that drives up sales as the actual price has increased. The actual reason is not known and open for discussion.

Table E1. Expected Price Effects on License Sales

License Description	For each \$1 price, this is the recent change in number of licenses sold:	Reliable?
Whole Season Adult Fishing	+228.3	The results are not statistically significant
Winter Season Adult Fishing	-46.4	The results are not statistically significant
One-Day Fishing	+462.3	The results are not statistically significant
Whole Season Family Fishing	+136	The results are statistically reliable, but not considered reliable
Game Hunting	-114.4	The results are not statistically significant nor reliable

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1

 INTRODUCTION.....1

 OVERVIEW OF RESULTS1

TABLE OF CONTENTS 3

INTRODUCTION..... 5

METHODOLOGY 5

 MODELLING THE DEMAND FOR LICENSES5

 PRESENTATION OF SALES AND REVENUE PROJECTIONS7

RESULTS 8

 FISHING LICENSES9

 Whole Season Fishing.....9

 Winter Fishing11

 Day Fishing13

 Family Fishing.....15

 HUNTING LICENSES17

 Game Hunting17

Figures

Figure 1. Nominal and Real Inflation-Adjusted Price of the Season Fishing License..... 7

Figure 2. Actual vs. Predicted Sale of Whole Season Fishing Licenses 9

Figure 3. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Winter Fishing Licenses 11

Figure 4. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Day Fishing Licenses 13

Figure 5. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Family Fishing Licenses 15

Figure 6: Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Game Licenses 17

Tables

Table 1. Price Variable Disqualification by License Type	8
Table 2. Whole Season Fishing License Model Comparisons	10
Table 3. Whole Season Fishing License Model Variables	10
Table 4. Winter Fishing License Model Comparisons	12
Table 5. Winter Fishing License Model Variables	12
Table 6. Day Fishing License Model Comparisons	13
Table 7. Day Fishing License Model Variables	14
Table 8. Family Fishing Licenses Model Comparisons	16
Table 9: Family Fishing License Model Variables.....	16
Table 9: Game License Model Comparisons	18
Table 10: Game License Model Variables.....	18

Introduction

This analysis uses historical fiscal-year sales data through 2024 provided by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for New Zealand resident game bird hunting and fishing licenses to determine if changes in license prices have a significant effect on the number of licenses sold each year.

The forecasts are based on models often referred to as 'estimated demand equations.' The models, or demand equations, express the quantity of an item sold (numbers of each specific license type) as a function of its cost (license price) and other variables that help to explain yearly variations in license sales. License prices are the key prediction variables that are under the control of policy makers in New Zealand. The effects of changes in license prices on the number of licenses sold can then be used to determine whether revenues generated by license sales will increase or decrease in response to price changes. Separate models were produced for five different types of licenses for which an adequate sales history was available. A sixth was tested – the Loyal Senior – but too few years of data were available.

The accuracy of each equation used to predict license sales was examined by comparing the historical estimates produced by the demand models to actual sales for the years in the study period.

Methodology

Modelling the Demand for Licenses

Estimated demand equations portray the statistical relationship between the quantity of licenses sold, the price of a license, and the other variables that may influence license sales. In addition to the price of a license, other variables also affect license sales in any given year and are included in the models to help isolate the influence of license prices. A variety of economic and socioeconomic variables were tested in the development of the models, including population, per capita income, unemployment and employment data, and the price of fuel. Weather data were also used in the model. For statistical efficiency, fewer explanatory variables are preferred, and in the case of most licenses modelled in this study a small number of variables including the price of the objective license and long-term trends in sales along with up to three or four additional variables were adequate to achieve statistical reliability.

For each license, the final model was achieved through an iterative process where multiple combinations of variables were tested to find the combination that produces the greatest overall

statistical reliability and explanation of the effects of price on sales, if possible. All dollar values in the models were adjusted for inflation and converted to real dollars. The inflation-adjusted prices represent the true cost of licenses in relation to other goods and services at the time as well as to other economic variables in the models.

The demand modelling process was taken in several steps. This iterative process involved consideration of many sets of variables which could affect the license sales throughout the year. The price of the licenses was the only variable in which direct, intentional manipulation was possible. Other variables that were considered and were beyond direct managerial control were those related to weather conditions (rainfall and temperature), as well as those that reflect economic or social conditions, including but not limited to fuel costs, building consents, and population.

Five regression models were used for each set of variables considered for each license type. These regression models were,

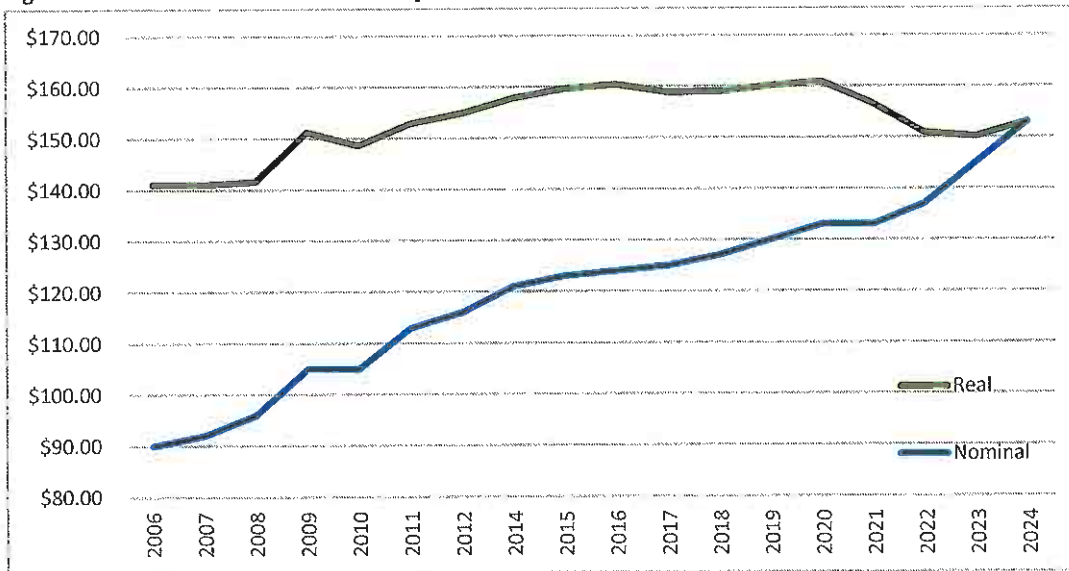
- Linear
- Stepwise
- Ridge
- Lasso
- Elastic

No single method was favoured during the process, but each was run for every set of variables, and the Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), and R2 values were used to determine the 'best fit' or most reliable model, which was then used to determine significance of the price variable. In some cases, the removal of variables reduced the goodness of fit within the MAE, RMSE, R2 values and increased P-values, but reassured the significance of the remaining variables. In no cases was price determined to have a significant effect on license demand and have a logical coefficient demonstrating the price/demand effect expected from increased cost.

All dollar values used in estimating the demand equations were adjusted for inflation to account for relative prices compared to other goods and services at the time. Figure 1 shows an example of the difference between nominal and inflation adjusted prices. The general season fishing licenses have risen 70% in price from \$90 in 2006 to \$153 in 2024. However, adjusted for inflation, the price is effectively only 8.4% greater over this period. This means the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's buying power, based on license revenues, has risen 8.4% since 2006. The chart shows how the real, inflation adjusted price has changed less over time compared to the nominal price. From 2020 to 2022,

this trend reversed given higher-than-usual inflation rates, causing the Council’s real buying power to decline, likely based on inflation growing faster than the ability to adjust prices.

Figure 1. Nominal and Real Inflation-Adjusted Price of the Season Fishing License



Presentation of Sales and Revenue Projections

The results presented in the next section for each license include an explanation of the most significant variables found during the model building process, as well as a chart explaining the model which best fits the true volume of license sales each year. For each license type, price was found to be either an insignificant variable by the modelling process or have an illogical effect on the license sales. In the instances in which price effect was illogical, the price variable coefficients were positive, indicating that an increase in price would increase sales, an extremely unlikely effect. Iterations of variables were tested to determine the best fit models. In some cases, variable values were available only through 2022. Models were run with these variables through 2022, with others through 2024, to determine if a longer period would affect the significance of price along with the variable combinations. This did not correct the issues of insignificance or illogical positive price coefficients. Even the presence of local area licenses were tested using ‘dummy variables’ but their presence did not impact the effect of price

on overall sales. More commonly than price, external and uncontrollable variables had significant effects on license demand, such as rainfall and temperature.

Results

Demand equations were estimated for four of New Zealand’s fishing licenses and the game hunting license. The fishing licenses were the adult whole season, family whole season, one-day, and adult winter season licenses. Price changes do not appear to affect demand for any of the five selected licenses. As a result, revenue from each license can be expected to increase proportional to any future price increases as long as they are in the range of the past price increases included in the study period which were never greater than 9.6%. For example, a 5% increase in the price of a license can be expected to result in a 5% increase in revenue from that license.

Table 1 shows the liner model coefficients, as well as the p-value, for the price of each of the licenses. The table also notes the disqualifying factors, which made the price effect either statistically insignificant or illogical for each model. P values over 0.05 indicate the effect of price on sales is statistically insignificant. Illogical models are those that show price might have a positive effect on sales, which defies common sense. This result can happen when models are statistically insignificant, which means the true effect of price cannot be determined by the model and the output is no more than a guess by the statistical model.

Table 1. Price Variable Disqualification by License Type

License Description	Price Effect (the change in the number of licenses sold for each \$1 price increase)	p-value	Disqualifier	
			Illogical (Coeff. >0)	Insignificant (p >0.05)
Whole Season Adult Fishing	228.3	0.062	X	X
Winter Season Adult Fishing	-46.39	0.081		X
One-Day Fishing	462.3	0.179	X	X
Whole Season Family Fishing	136	0.029	X	
Game Hunting	-114.4	0.255		X

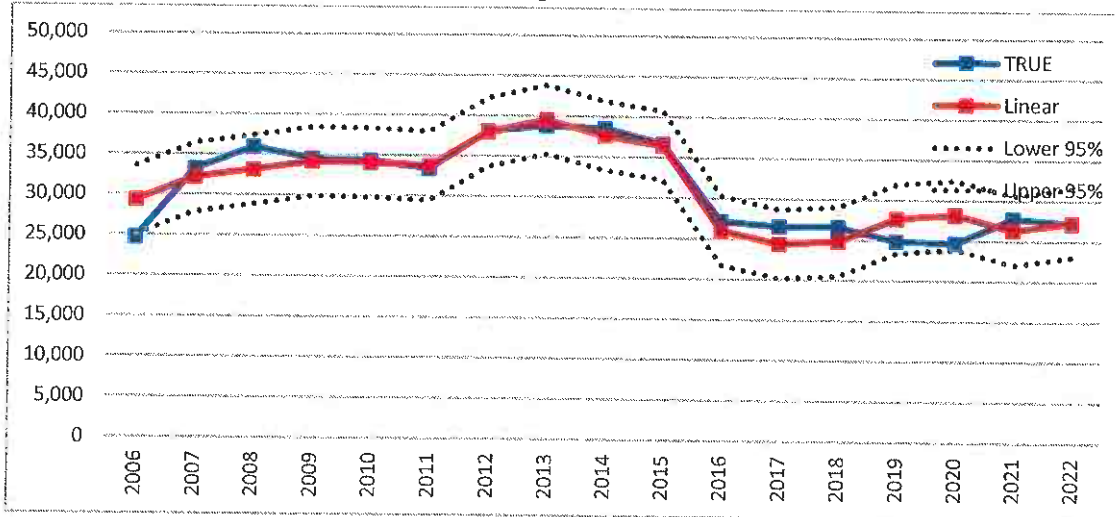
* Linear coefficient

Fishing Licenses

Whole Season Fishing

Predictive models were run for the whole season fishing licenses using both the limited-variable set from 2006 to 2024, as well as an expanded variable set from 2006 to 2022. The expanded variable set provided better fit models with the Linear model being the best fitting, though Lasso and Elastic Net models proved to be nearly as close. Neither the 2024 data set nor 2022 data set indicated price significance when predicting licenses sold. Figure 2 below shows the license sales predicted by the linear model versus the true number of licenses sold from 2006 to 2022. This model explained ~86% of the variance in the data and was a good fit with 5.15% average deviation from actual license sales through the period.

Figure 2. Actual vs. Predicted Sale of Whole Season Fishing Licenses



Comparisons of models created using the same set of variables across the same period are shown in Table 2 below. Comparisons of Mean Absolute Error (MAE) and Root Mean Squared Error, as well as R² helped determine the best fit model.

Table 2. Whole Season Fishing License Model Comparisons

Model	MAE	RMSE	R ²
Ridge	1599.74	2099.01	0.8502
Lasso	1450.94	1956.84	0.8579
Elastic	1452.48	1957.76	0.8581
Linear	1432.13	1936.56	0.8591
Stepwise	1540.51	2027.65	0.8455

While not all were found to be statistically significant, the variables contributing to the best fit linear models were availability of local licenses, season license price, fuel price during peak season, average rain during peak season, average temperature during peak season. Price was found to be a significant variable for this model at a minor level, but the estimated coefficient was determined to be positive, which is illogical. The best interpretation is price has a very low level of effect on license sales. Table 3 shows the variables which contributed to the models as well as their coefficients and significance.

Explanation of Variable Codes

- d_local: availability of local license (dummy variable, 0 or 1)
- p_season: price of a season fishing license
- av_rain_peak: average rainfall for the peak season of given year
- av_temp_peak: average temperature for the peak season of given year
- Fuel_peak: average fuel price during peak fishing season of given year

Table 3. Whole Season Fishing License Model Variables

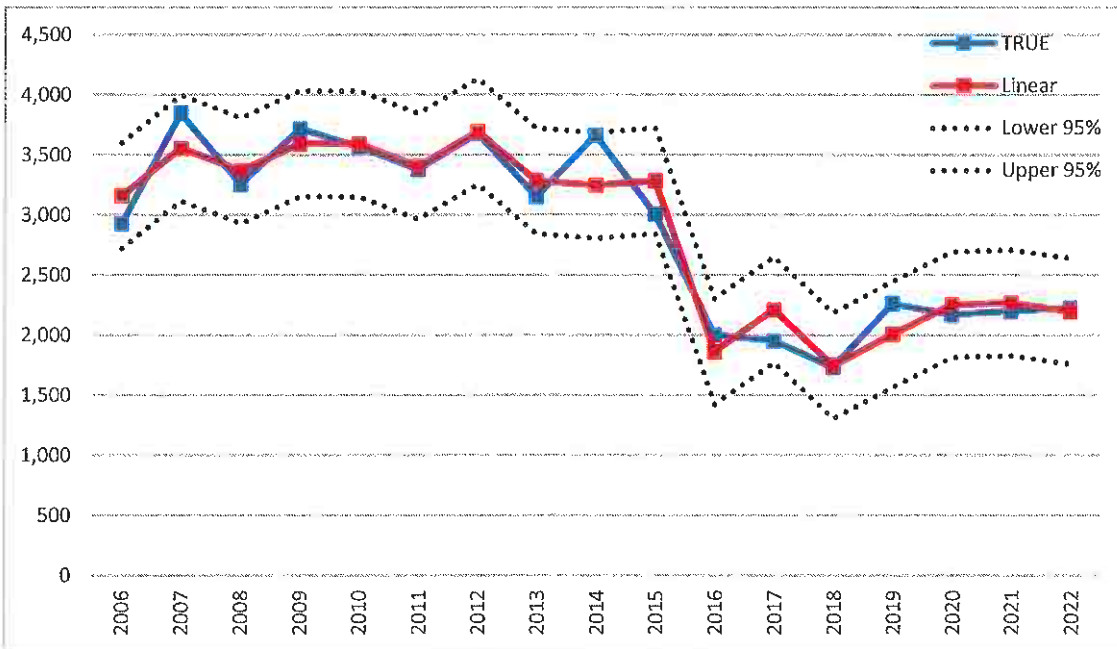
Variable	Estimated Coeff.	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	38527.07	39148.88	0.984	0.346
d_local	-7714.44	2124.27	-3.632	0.004 ***
p_season	228.30	109.89	2.078	0.062 *
Fuel_peak	98.05	47.50	2.064	0.063 *
av_rain_peak	-17.25	9.78	-1.764	0.105
av_temp_peak	-2319.63	2253.88	-1.029	0.326

Coefficient significance threshold *** = 1%, ** = 5%, * = 10%.

Winter Fishing

Figure 3 below shows the predicted values of the linear model against the true number of licenses sold each year from 2006 to 2022. The model was trained on variable data from 2006 to 2022. Shown are the predicted licenses sold through 2022 based on the values provided by the model. While the model was able to follow the trends in license sales using the variables provided, price was not shown to be a significant variable within the model. The model explained ~90% of the variance in the data. The model was a reasonably good fit with 5.25% average deviation from the true license sales over the period.

Figure 3. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Winter Fishing Licenses



Through the iterative process the values shown in below were used to determine which model would provide the best fit for the data available. The linear model produced a low MAE value along with a high R^2 value. The second-best fit model by MAE was the Ridge model, which for the purposes of this exploration, showed the same variable significance as the linear model.

Table 4. Winter Fishing License Model Comparisons

Model	MAE	RMSE	R2
Ridge	162.07	211.09	0.9135
Lasso	146.86	187.86	0.9299
Elastic	146.71	188.05	0.9297
Linear	146.96	187.29	0.9302
Stepwise ¹	146.96	187.29	0.9302

Significant variables in this model were determined to be availability of the local licenses, and the average temperature during the peak fishing season, October-April. For this model, the estimated coefficient for the price variable was negative, indicating a logical price/demand effect, but the p-value suggested that the price has an insignificant effect on the licenses sold. Table 5 below displays the coefficients for the variables considered in the linear model highlighted above.

Explanation of Variable Codes

- d_local: availability of local license (dummy variable, 0 or 1)
- Build_Hom: home dwelling building consents
- EndYear: Trend variable
- av_temp_peak: average temperature for the peak season of given year
- p_winter: price of a winter license

Table 5. Winter Fishing License Model Variables

Variable	Estimated Coeff.	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	-116200.00	63350.00	-1.835	0.094 *
d_local	-1129.00	270.10	-4.179	0.002 ***
Build_Hom	-0.04	0.02	-1.723	0.113
EndYear	66.28	32.81	2.02	0.068 *
av_temp_peak	-564.60	201.50	-2.802	0.017 **
P_winter	-46.39	24.14	-1.922	0.081 *

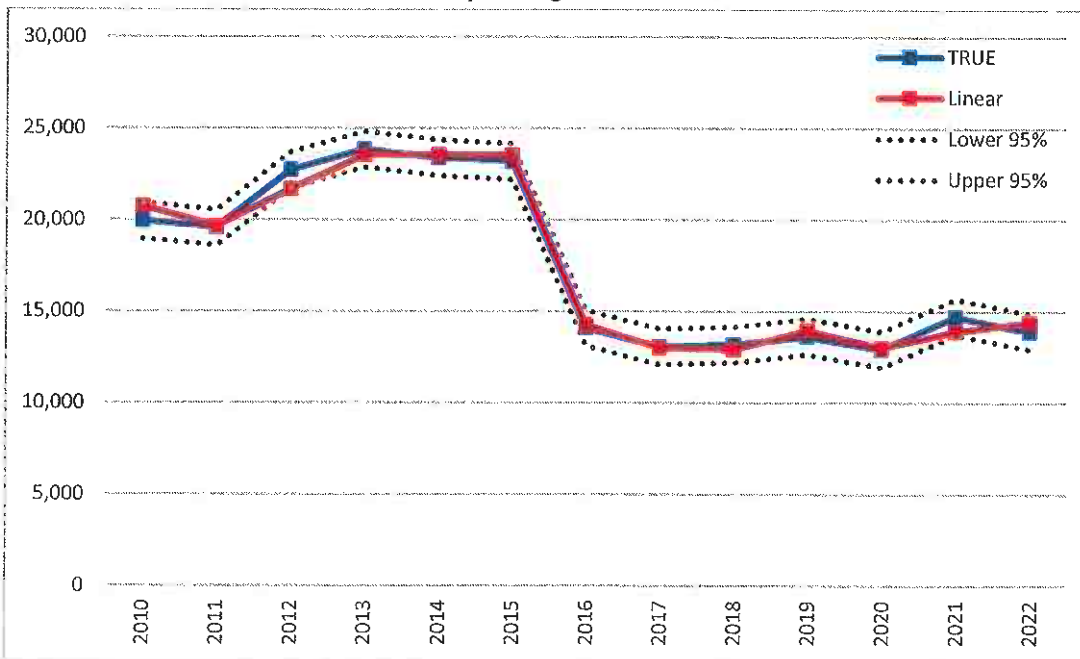
Coefficient significance threshold *** = 1%, ** = 5%, * = 10%.

¹ Stepwise selection in this project was used to add variables in a linear model until the variables included produces the lowest AIC value. For the winter, one-day, and family fishing licenses stepwise selection produced a model with the same variables included as the linear model.

Day Fishing

Figure 4 below shows the values predicted by the linear model vs. the true number of licenses sold back to 2010, the years for which data were available. Models were run from 2010 to 2022, as well as 2010 to 2024 with a limited set of variables. The model created with variables available through 2022 was deemed to be more accurate. This linear model explained ~97.5% of the variance in the data. The model was a very good fit with 2.2% average deviation from the true license sales over the period.

Figure 4. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Day Fishing Licenses



Although the model did prove to be a good fit to the true data, the price variable was not found to have a significant effect on the license sales. Below in Table 6 the goodness of fit for each model created is shown with the best fit iteration shown by combination of variables.

Table 6. Day Fishing License Model Comparisons

Model	MAE	RMSE	R2
Ridge	686.72	744.30	0.9731
Lasso	403.76	501.67	0.9870
Elastic	406.45	500.82	0.9871
Linear	385.05	493.25	0.9874
Stepwise	385.05	493.25	0.9874

Both Linear and Stepwise regression models performed the same when goodness of fit tests were run. The price of day licenses was not found to be significant, and also had a positive coefficient, leading to an illogical effect on the license sales predictions. The best interpretation is price does not affect sales, as long as price changes are within the bounds of price hikes experienced in recent years. Table 7 shows the variables used in the model as well as their significance and estimated coefficients. Significant variables were shown to be the availability of local license, peak fuel price, building consents, and average rainfall during peak season.

Explanation of Variable Codes

- p_day: price of a day license
- d_local: availability of local license (dummy variable, 0 or 1)
- Fuel_peak: average fuel price during peak fishing season of given year
- Build_Hom: Home dwelling building consents
- av_rain_peak: average rainfall for the peak season of given year

Table 7. Day Fishing License Model Variables

Variable	Estimated Coeff.	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)	
(Intercept)	21660.00	13530.00	1.601	0.160	
p_day	462.30	303.80	-1.522	0.179	
d_local	-6358.00	2314.00	-2.747	0.033	**
Fuel_peak	46.75	17.31	2.701	0.036	**
Build_Hom	-0.01	0.00	-2.248	0.066	*
av_rain_peak	0.54	0.14	3.778	0.009	***

Coefficient significance threshold *** = 1%, ** = 5%, * = 10%.

Family Fishing

When modelling family fishing licenses, several models were found to fit similarly, but all models had price coefficients that were illogically positive in value. The linear model was chosen to demonstrate fit. The ridge model was much closer to true values in some cases but was off by greater margins when all values were inaccurate. The fit of the models was not improved by utilizing the variable data available through 2024. The comparison of the best fit linear model with the true license sales is seen in Figure 5. This linear model explained ~76% of the variance in the data. The model was a reasonably good fit with 4.47% average deviation from the true license sales over the period.

Figure 5. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Family Fishing Licenses

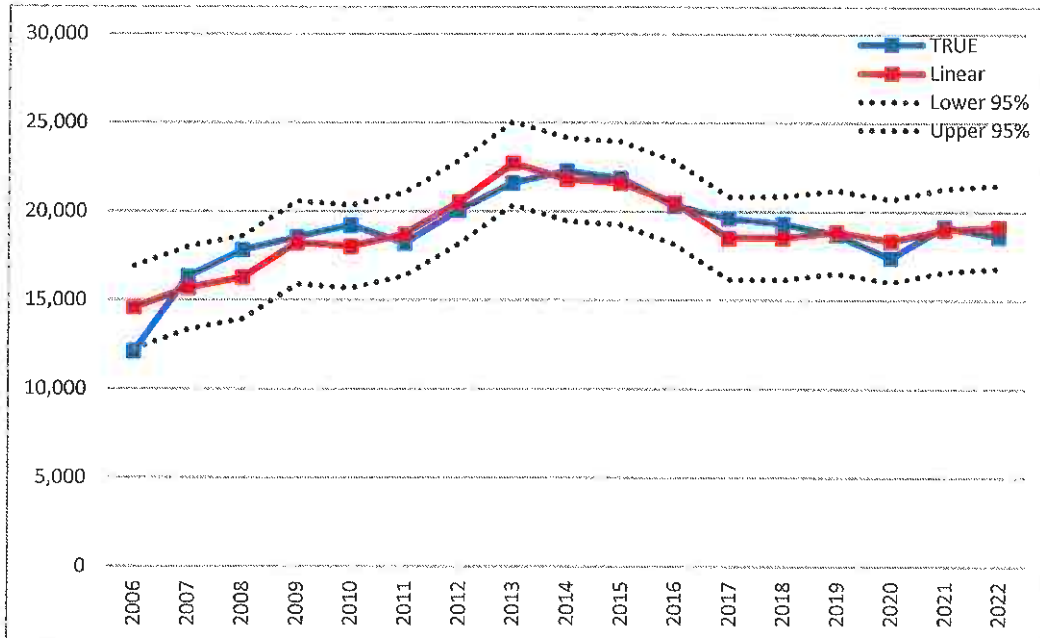


Table 8 below shows how closely the models fit the data compared to each other. The linear model was chosen based on the lower RMSE and greater R2 values.

Table 8. Family Fishing Licenses Model Comparisons

Model	MAE	RMSE	R2
Ridge	917.69	1264.38	0.7076
Lasso	762.51	963.75	0.8224
Elastic	757.58	967.23	0.8214
Linear	766.57	962.88	0.8226
Stepwise	766.57	962.88	0.8226

In this model, price was shown to be significant, but the positive coefficient made the model illogical, again insinuating that a rise in price would contribute to additional license sales. Table 9 shows the estimated values of the model variable coefficients as well as significance. Significant variables were proven to be population of adults 18 to 64, fiscal year as a trend variable, and license price (though the coefficient proved illogical).

Explanation of Variable Codes

- p_fam: price of a family license
- EndYear: Trend variable
- Av_rain_peak: average rainfall for the peak season of given year
- Pop18to64: adult population age 18 to 64

Table 9: Family Fishing License Model Variables

Variable	Estimated Coeff.	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)	
(Intercept)	-2230000.00	645900.00	-3.453	0.005	***
p_fam	136.00	54.70	2.486	0.029	**
EndYear	1147.00	334.10	3.432	0.005	***
av_rain_peak	-6.01	4.62	-1.302	0.217	
pop18to64	-0.03	0.01	-3.863	0.002	***

Coefficient significance threshold *** = 1%, ** = 5%, * = 10%.

Hunting Licenses

Game Hunting

When modelling game license data, there were nearly twice as many years' worth of data to use in the modelling process. With the pricing approach held constant, this being the increase in price to match inflation, this additional data allowed the price effect to be measured over a much longer period. However, price did not prove to be a significant variable in this model either. Using other variables, a reasonable model was achieved. Figure 6 shows the linear model predictions along with the true license sales. This linear model explained ~57% of the variance in the data. The model was a good fit with 2.6% average deviation from the true license sales over the period.

Figure 6: Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Game Licenses

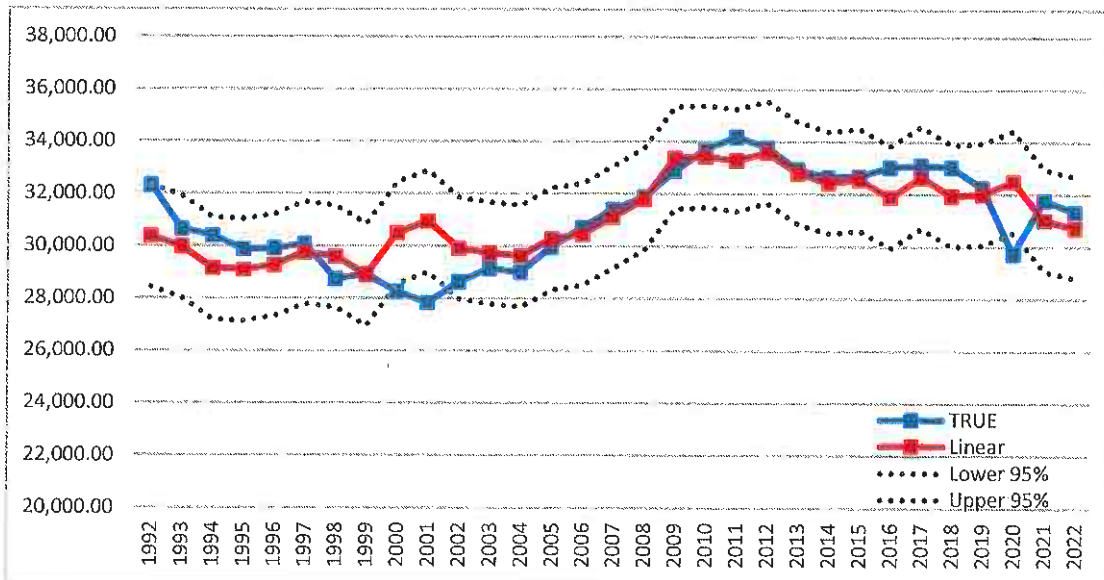


Table 10 compares the models created with the game license variables. The linear model was seen as the best fit across all measures.

Table 10: Game License Model Comparisons

Model	MAE	RMSE	R2
Ridge	889.40	1163.39	0.5951
Lasso	862.25	1138.99	0.6102
Elastic	861.36	1138.03	0.6109
Linear	796.64	1103.70	0.6314
Stepwise	875.72	1159.08	0.5935

While price was not found to have a significant effect on the number of licenses sold, Table 11 below shows the variables used to create the best fit model for the data. The variables show to be most significant were peak season average temperature, consumer price index, and residential building consents. The latter, for building consents, indicates that the more construction projects begun, the fewer game licenses sold, which is to be expected.

Explanation of Variable Codes

- p_game: price of a game license
- Peak_Temp: average temperature during peak fishing season
- Fiscal_Year: Trend variable
- Res_Build: all residential building consents during a given year

Table 11: Game License Model Variables

Variable	Estimated Coeff.	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	-678800.00	260700.00	-2.604	0.015 **
p_game	-114.40	98.19	-1.165	0.255
Peak_Temp	-735.40	528.60	-1.391	0.176
Fiscal_Year	366.80	136.20	2.692	0.012 **
Res_Build	-0.15	0.04	-4.268	0.000 ***

Coefficient significance threshold *** = 1%, ** = 5%, * = 10%.

Agenda Item 20 **Operational Summary**

Summary

Summary of activities undertaken in May and June 2025

Nothing material required to be highlighted

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council receive staff report on Operational progress to 30 June 2025

Taranaki Fish & Game Council
Budget Report to 30 June 2025
And

Project Progress to 31 July 2025

OUTPUT	Budget external costs	YTD external costs (30/6/2025)	Comments on significant variations	Budget Hours	YTD hours
Population Monitoring	15,500	9,250		520	907.75
Harvest Assessment				50	53.75
Hatchery	10,000	9,229		60	41.50
Liberations	6,000	7,115		150	100.25
Season Regulations				50	28.75
Gamebird Dispersal	2,000	2,352		120	127.50
RMA		2		500	77.25
Habitat Management & Enhancement	20,000	1,496		400	68.75
Assessing & Monitoring				100	54.50
Hunter / Angler Access	200	794		100	19.75
Satisfaction Survey				40	1.75
Magazine / Newsletter / Ezine	9,500	12,956		200	113.50
Hunter / Angler support	1,000				
Clubs				10	12
Statutory Liaison				30	10.25
Iwi Liaison	1,000			60	102.50
Information to Clients				100	49.75
General Advocacy	500	5		100	90.75
Hunting & Angling Promotions	3,300	2,727		140	141
Ranger Management	1,500	875		112	45
Compliance	1,500	87		170	134.75
Licensing & Commission	9,870	9,713		50	4.5
Council Meetings & Administration	9,500	7,845		280	305
Management, Strategic & Policy	100	1,091		80	14.5
Business Planning				40	7
OSH & Other Reporting	7,576	506		65	30
National Liaison	100			160	26.25
Total Expenditure	99,146	66,042		3697	2568.25
Wellington Fish & Game Field Work hours					238.75

Project Income	Budget Income	YTD Income	Comments on significant variations
Fish Population Assessment	200	8,000	
Harvest Assessment – Summer Season	500	370	
Hatchery Income		3,239	
Liberations	3,238	249	
Gamebird Dispersal	750	575	
Taranaki Hunting & Habitat Scheme	15,000		
Compliance	1,000		
Total Income	20,688	12,432	
Net Expenditure	78,458	53,610	

Overheads	Budget	YTD	Comments on significant variations
1910 Salaries & Management Contract	317,037	245,171	
1920 Staff Expenses	3,550	2,819	
1940 Office Premises	22,200	18,685	
1950 Office Equipment	2,000	2,901	
1960 Communications / Consumables	5,250	5,945	
1970 General	3,050	2,942	
1980 General Equipment	5,000	3,711	
1990 Vehicles	15,850	16,182	
Total Overheads	373,937	298,357	

Other Income & Expenses	Budget	YTD
Interest	9,032	13,622
Wellington Fish & Game Admin	4,000	8,138
Donations & Other Income		23,355
Total Other Income & Expenses	13,032	45,115

Nett Project, Overhead and Other Expenditure/Income	Budget	YTD
	439,363	306,852

MOVEMENTS IN RESERVES

From	To	Reason	Amount	Date Paid
Hunting & Habitat Scheme	Kinatala Farm Wetland project	Planting & Fencing	1,495,65	20.5.2025

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

2024/2025 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p>Objective: Obtain relevant and robust data to inform and enable effective management decisions to maximise opportunities and satisfaction while ensuring the sustainability of sports fish and gamebird populations across the region.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess juvenile trout recruitment in the Manganui River and tributaries to compare with baseline information from other catchment surveys (yr 1 of 2). 2. Undertake a resource inventory of the Manganui River catchment to determine current status of the trout fishery and identify threats and opportunities (yr 1 of 2) 3. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's trout fisheries sufficient to measure overall angler success (through a diary scheme), set effective regulations and inform management directions. 	<p>Electric fishing survey of 22 sites in the Manganui River catchment carried out over four days (11/16/17/18/) in December 2024.</p> <p>Data being collated for resource inventory report.</p> <p>Fieldwork report being prepared in contribution to the wider resource inventory report of the Manganui River.</p> <p>Diaries sent to 24 anglers for the start of the 2024/25 season.</p> <p>Fishery monitoring report prepared for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting.</p> <p>Electric fishing survey of Kapuni Stream carried out for Ballance Agrinutrients (24/10/2024). Report prepared.</p> <p>Electric fishing survey of sites in the Wāhianoa and Tokiāhuru Stream catchments in Karioi Forest carried out for Ernslaw-One (3-6 December 2024) in conjunction with Wellington F&G staff. Report prepared for the Wāhianoa survey (26/03/2025) and the Tokiāhuru report worked on.</p> <p>Trout spawning gravel enhancement was carried out in Mangamahoe Stream on 8/05/2025 with four sites enhanced. The stream was re-visited on 23/07/2025 at the end of trout spawning but all sites looked to have been destroyed in the 3rd July 2025 flood. Three large spawning redds were observed in the Waiwhakaiho inlet to Lake Mangamahoe, with little fish activity observed.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Implement an effective grey and mallard duck banding programme in the Whanganui area to obtain an estimate of the population size and level of hunting harvest which will guide future monitoring requirements and regulation setting (yr 6). 	<p>Waimarino/Whanganui duck banding report prepared for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting.</p> <p>Duck banding carried out in Whanganui on 3rd & 4th February 2025, with 455 mallards, 12 grey and 7 Grey teal banded. Taranaki field officer Jack Harland also assisted Wellington F&G Staff with regional banding fieldwork. 500 new bands obtained from DOC.</p>

5. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's mallard and grey duck, paradise shelduck, shoveler, swan and pukeko populations sufficient to assess harvest, identify and manage any population impacts, set effective regulations and inform management directions. As part of this, review count methods for paradise shelduck, including the effectiveness, efficiency and cost of returning to aerial counts for some parts of the region.

6. Review game bird monitoring programme for the region taking into account banding results and including regulation setting requirements.

*2024 draft census report for Shoveler duck received 30/09/2024.
January 2025 trend counts for paradise shelduck and black swan carried out at 78 sites in the Game Management Areas A, B & C and a report prepared for Council's 15th February 2025 meeting.
Aerial mallard counts completed on the 13th April throughout the Taranaki region. Taranaki Pukeko counts completed from 14-16th April, and Whanganui Pukeko counts completed on the 16th April.*

<p>7. Participate in the National Hunter Survey to derive robust estimates of annual game bird harvest and hunter success.</p> <p>8. Recommend effective regulations that are timely, easily understood and which maximise licence holder opportunity while ensuring resource sustainability and public support.</p> <p>9. Provide advice and support practical and effective predator control opportunities that assist game bird populations.</p>	<p>Hunter survey results for the 2024 game season incorporated into draft 2025 Game Gazette Notice report for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting. Database prepared for 2025 survey, calls made and data entered into survey website. August survey still to complete.</p> <p>Draft 2025 Game Gazette Notice report prepared for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting, with an updated report presented to Council's 7th December meeting. Following the January trend counts a report was prepared for Council recommending an increase in the 2025 opening weekend daily bag limit for paradise shelduck in Area C. A trend count report was also prepared for Council's 15th February 2025 meeting. Taranaki Game Gazette Notice approved by the Minister (3/03/2025). Draft 2025/26 Anglers Notice report prepared for Council's 24 May 2025 meeting.</p>
<p>Objective: Supplement trout fishing opportunities with appropriate stocking that is valued, cost effective in terms of the return to the angler and which retains community support.</p> <p>10. Undertake an annual trout stocking programme which concentrates on creating and maintaining valued lake fisheries.</p>	<p>500 2-year rainbows (and one larger fish) from Eastern F&G's Ngongotaha hatchery were released into Lake Rotomanu (29/10/2024) for a family trout fishing day. 101 rainbow and 160 brown trout from the Hawera hatchery were released into the Hangatahua (Stony) River on 4/11/2024, with a further 101 brown trout and 67 rainbow trout released there on 25/11/2024. A total of 251 brown trout were released into Lake Mangamahoe (50) and Te Henui Stream (201) on 28/11/2024. 372 well grown rainbow trout were released into the scout den pool in the Patea River in Stratford's King Edward Park on 13/12/2024 for a kids' fishing promotion. A total of 115 brown trout and 47 rainbow trout were released into the upper Waiaua River on 9/01/2025 – the last of the 2023 year-class. 2024 year-class rainbows were fin-clipped on 11/03/2025, with a count of 1,194 fish. A total of 424 Brown trout and 3 Rainbow trout were fin clipped on the 23/04/2025, with 201 rainbows released into Lake Mangamahoe (23/04/2025).</p>

<p>200 Hawera hatchery rainbows released on 22/10/2024 and 150 Hawera hatchery brown trout and 2 rainbow trout released on 25/11/2024. A report on the releases was prepared and sent to Manawa Energy on 12/12/2024.</p> <p>A hatchery and trout releases report was prepared for Council's 19th October 2024 meeting. Hatchery volunteer Gavin Sturgeon has retired from the hatchery roster owing to ill health. Hatchery volunteer Don Uncles is retiring from the roster, with a potential new volunteer attending recent fin clipping work. New member now on the roster and assisted with 23rd April fin clipping. The TRC contacted F&G (27/03/2025) to say they found a high suspended solids reading in a recent sample taken when the raceways were being drawn down for cleaning. The water was discharging direct into the stream rather than being diverted into the settling ponds. The diversion mechanism was subsequently maintained to ensure it was easy to use and the volunteers were trained in its use to ensure the diversion is operating before the raceway water levels are drawn down.</p> <p>Rat bait and net replacement net mesh was ordered for the hatchery (23/04/2025). 2,000 rainbow ova and 1,000 brown trout ova were received at the Hawera hatchery by overnight courier from the Eastern 4th June 2025. Hatching and fry survival has been good. Onboarded one new hatchery team member.</p>	<p>11. Undertake release of up to 200 17-month brown and rainbow trout into the lower Patea River and assess angler returns to gauge the potential for a long-term programme (yr 6)</p> <p>12. Operate Hawera hatchery in an effective, cost efficient and sustainable manner utilising volunteer support to meet the identified stocking objectives.</p>
<p>Objective: Provide effective compliance to protect resource sustainability (including revenue base) and user experience to maintain licence holder satisfaction.</p> <p>Ranger training day held at Mangorei Hall on 21/09/2024 attended by five Rangers and two staff. Honorary ranger application received (12/09/2024) from an experienced angler based in Ohakune. New Field Officer, Jack Harland, has completed on-line CERT modules, had further training with CERT principal trainer Brad Dannefaerd and received his warrant in December 2024. A ranger training refresher was held on 12th April 2025, attended by one Ranger and two staff.</p>	<p>13. Review and renew ranger warrants and maintain a skilled honorary ranger team of at least 12 rangers consistent with requirements and objectives of the Compliance Policy and Strategy and also R3 principles.</p>

<p>14. Undertake safe and effective compliance coverage across the Taranaki Region, including a target of 100 licence checks of anglers and also of hunters.</p> <p>15. Process detected offences in a fair and timely way consistent with national prosecution guidelines.</p>	<p>Compliance annual report prepared for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting. Fish season ranging conducted by staff and honorary rangers. Compliance undertaken on the first day of the 2025 special paradise hunting season (22/02/2025). Compliance operations carried out on opening weekend of the 2025 game season in the Pākaraka, Waitotara, Waverley areas and Inglewood. A total of 90 hunters checked, with one no licence offence.</p> <p>Game season offender returned to Australia and has, so far, not responded to emails.</p>
<p>Objective: Proactively manage problem aggregations of gamebirds in the interests of both hunters and property owners and managers.</p>	
<p>16. Manage problem aggregations of gamebirds through implementation of a special Paradise shelduck season in Area C and proactively responding to and assisting landholders.</p>	<p>Annual disturbance report prepared for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting. 11 permits to disturb gamebirds issued to date: 8 for pukeko (6 rural, 2 urban) and 3 for paradise shelduck / mallard duck. 44 permits to disturb issued to date: 17 for Pukeko (8 rural, 9 urban), 2 for mallard duck only, 13 for paradise shelduck only, and 12 for mallard and shelduck. As of 30th April, 48 permits to disturb: 19 for Pukeko (8 rural, 11 urban), 2 for mallard duck only (one urban), 15 for paradise duck only, and 12 for mallard and shelduck. As of 31st July, 60 permits to disturb, 30 for pukeko (21 urban, 9 rural), 2 for mallard duck only (one urban), 15 for paradise duck only, and 12 for mallard and shelduck, one for Black Swan.</p> <p>There was liaison with STDC (17/04/2025) about fencing the main Opunake oxy pond to prevent moulting paradise shelduck and Canada geese walking through to an adjacent farm. This has now been completed, although paradise may dig under the fence.</p> <p>A proposal to undertake an organised shoot for mallard duck in a Bell Block industrial area during the 2025 game season was run past the FSA and NP Police (27/03/2025 & 29/04/2025). Use of gas guns proved a success and an organised shoot was not needed.</p> <p>A staff meeting was held on 1/05/2025 to discuss SOP's for gamebird dispersal and control.</p>

A report on the 2025 special hunting season for paradise shelduck was prepared for Council's 24th May 2025 meeting.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Objective	Planned Result
<p>Objective: Protect / improve habitat for sports fish & game as a fundamental and effective means to sustain the fish & game resource in the interests of licence holders and with biodiversity benefits for the wider community.</p>	<p><i>Advice on wetland creation and enhancement was provided to three landowners. Advice on suitable wetlands or potential wetland projects to visit during a 2-day wetland wananga to be held on 18/19th September 2025 was provided (29/07/2025) to Lisa Berndt the Taranaki Regional Coordinator of Wai Connection and Rebecca Eivers from Waikokopu Consulting, who will be running the wananga. Staff met with Paul Turner from Taranaki Catchment Communities (1/07/2025) to discuss suitable projects for improving fish passage.</i></p>
<p>1. Provide valued advice and support to licence holders, landowners and the wider community regarding the importance of and how to protect and enhance habitat and also undertake predator control/ management to benefit both fish & game and wider indigenous biodiversity resources.</p> <p>2. Promote, encourage and support landowners to create, enhance and protect wetlands by providing sound technical advice and assistance to make successful applications to the GBHT and Hunting & Habitat Funds.</p>	<p><i>Site visit made to view completed earthworks at Andy Whitehead's Kinatai wetland development at Oaonui (14/11/2024), which was allocated funding from the GBHT and H&H funds. Invoices and final referee's report sent out on 22/04/2025.</i></p> <p><i>Visited landowner Ian Moore's property (Monday 3rd February) in collaboration with Wellington F&G to provide wetland creation advice, and assistance in creating an application for funding through the GBHT.</i></p> <p><i>A site visit was made (28/04/2025) to Grant Penny's Hurford Road property to view a wetland enhancement proposal. Staff are currently assisting Grant in preparing a funding application to the GBHT, alongside liaising with contacts from the Taranaki Regional Council to explore consenting requirements.</i></p> <p><i>A site visit was made to a Meremere farm property to view a potential GBHT project (13/05/2025), to a property at 126 Tarata Road (13/06/2025), and to</i></p>

a Hurleyville property (18/7/2025). For a variety of reasons, no Taranaki wetland applications were made to the GBHT in 2025.
A site visit was made to sign off Peter Gane's completed Waiwiri Road wetland project (18/07/2025). A site visit was also made to sign off on Hamish Blue's wetland (20/06/2025). Information was provided to the GBHT on the Howatson wetland for a 5-year review. Two Taranaki wetland projects approved for GBHT grants in 2021 and 2022 (Mill Valley Wildlife & Dolly's Milk) will not now proceed, owing to consenting requirements.
A site visit was made to Gary & Maree Hawken's F&G Kereone Wetland on 18/07/2025 and a restoration plan is being prepared.

Approval was given to Horizons RC (Marius Alers; 11/09/2024) to remove fallen trees in the Mangateitei Stream and Mangawhero River at Ohakune.
A Fonterra Kapuni stakeholders meeting was attended (18/09/2024). Fonterra is proposing to split the suite of resource consent applications currently lodged with Taranaki Regional Council into two "bundles" – Water related & effluent irrigation/air discharge.

An update was received from Taranaki By-Products (10/10/2024) regarding re-consenting of water takes and discharges from their Okaiawa rendering plant (Inaha Stream). Taranaki F&G submitted on these consents on 14/10/2020. An on-site meeting has been scheduled for 11/09/2025.
STDC (Harrison/Grierson) contacted Taranaki F&G (21/10/2024) regarding re-consenting options for the discharge from the Waverley town oxidation ponds. F&G's preferred option is for limited notification to allow input into consent conditions. The consents were subsequently limited-notified and a F&G submission was lodged on 19/12/2024. Draft consent conditions currently being discussed.

NPDC (Greg Larkin; BTW) contacted F&G regarding perch in the Pukekura Park bowl lake, which will be partially drained this summer to allow the erection of permanent seating. NPDC also contacted F&G re: re-consenting of coastal structures (25/12/2024).

Todd Nicholson (Whenuku Quarries) got in touch (11/10/2024 & 11/11/2024) regarding quarry and Waingongoro riparian management plans.

3. Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to best achieve sports fish and game bird habitat protection and enhancement.

Comments were provided to Manawa Energy on the Patea HEPS Upstream Fish Passage Report 2024 on 20/12/2024.

An E-Fishing permit was provided to WSP (Melanya King) for fish salvage in small Whanganui River tributary prior to road culvert replacement (14/01/2025).

There was liaison with KiwiRail regarding an updated design for the Manganui River fish pass (28/03/2025), with remedial works undertaken on the Manganui and Waipuku fish passes in April 2025.

There was liaison with TRC Rivers Manager, Chris Vicars (24/03/2025), regarding reinstatement of the Hangatahua (Stony) River flood control structure downstream of SH45 with works expected to be undertaken in May 2025. **There was also liaison over emergency flood protection works in the lower Waiwhakaiho River following the 3rd July 2025 flood.**

The was liaison with TRC Consent Manager, Leah Miller (24/03/2025) regarding consents that F&G has submitted on, or has an interest in, and the timelines for processing.

A Fonterra Kaitiaki Group meeting was attended (17/04/2025), where there was discussion of the water use and efficiency report required by their consents to take water from the Tangahoe River catchment. **There was discussion with Fonterra's Michelle Dwyer regarding issues with their Tangahoe River intake during low river flows (12/05/2025).**

A Ballance Kapuni stakeholders meeting was attended to discuss their water abstraction consents (30/06/2025).

A meeting was attended at Stratford DC (25/07/2025) to discuss options for improving the quality of the discharge from the town oxidation ponds to the Patea River.

A submission was made to the STDC's Plan Change 4 (21/07/2025), regarding protection of wetlands and waterbodies in the proposed Structure Plan Areas and the town's water supply from Kapuni Stream.

Feedback was provided to NPDC (15/07/2025) regarding consents for 37 instream structures with consents expiring in 2026. Also following feedback to NPDC, consents to take water from Ngatoro Stream for Inglewood supply were limited notified on 22/07/2025.

<p>The SFO attended the TRC Environmental Awards presentations on 20/11/2024.</p> <p>Awaiting processing by TRC. The TRC has been working with Manawa Energy to prepare a draft set of consent conditions which will be circulated to submitters. <i>Following release of draft conditions, pre-hearing meetings were attended on 26th & 27th June 2025, with a 2nd round of meetings scheduled for 04/08/2025.</i></p> <p>Still waiting for the NPDC's application to re-consent the water take from the Waiwhakaiho River for Lake Rotomanu to be processed by the TRC. <i>On inquiry it was stated that the inlet and outlet structures for Lake Rotomanu were deemed a permitted activity and as the F&G issue was with the structures, F&G was not an affected party in relation to the diversion of water from the Waiwhakaiho River into the lake. The lake has since been drained to a low level to allow the boat ramp jetty to be replaced.</i></p>	<p>4. Investigate the establishment of an environmental award to acknowledge and highlight outstanding contributions to the protection of sports fish or gamebird habitat.</p> <p>5. Seek effective environmental outcomes as part of the re-consenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes.</p> <p>6. Promote and explore opportunities to improve water quality in Lake Rotomanu.</p>
<p>Staff attended the annual 1-day Wild for Taranaki (WfT) biodiversity forum (23/10/2024) and a Wai Connection Inanga/fish passage 2-day seminar on 12/13 November 2024. The WfT online AGM was attended – the two new Trustees on the Board are Andrew Castle & Amanda Clinton-Gohdes. A WfT quarterly catchup meeting was attended on 13/03/2025.</p> <p>Attended Biosecurity Taranaki zoom meeting (25/09/2024). A Biosecurity Taranaki meeting was attended on 29/11/2024 & 19/03/2025.</p> <p>A Horizons "Jobs for Nature" governance group zoom meeting was attended (29/04/2025) to review 3rd quarter, final year, progress with riparian fencing and planting and fish passage assessment and remediation in the region. <i>A final meeting was attended on 29/07/2025. Over the 5 years of the project, 192 barriers to fish passage were remediated, which opened up 1,315 km of waterway to migratory fish. 455 km of stream fencing was also completed, with many 100's of thousands of trees planted.</i></p>	<p>Objective: Work collaboratively and proactively with landowners, other groups and iwi recognising the synergistic benefits and wider outcomes that can be achieved by this approach.</p> <p>7. Engage proactively and collaboratively with iwi & community groups to identify and protect/ enhance shared resource values including contributing to water related matters through the Taranaki Maunga Settlement process.</p>

Electric fishing fieldwork was undertaken with staff from Taranaki & Wellington F&G and members of Taranaki Iwi to gain information on piharau ammocete habitat within their Rohe.

An online Te Kōpuka meeting was attended (19/09/2024) and a face-to-face meeting at Ohakune (27/09/2024). SFO Allen Stancliff re-confirmed as F&G Nominee at Council's 19th October 2024 meeting. A Te Kōpuka online zoom meeting was attended on 26/11/2024. Auckland/Waikato Fisheries Manager Adam Daniel attended a face-to-face meeting at Kakahi Marae on 13/12/2024 as the F&G Alternate member. A face-to-face meeting was attended at Parikino Marae (28/03/2025) and a zoom meeting on 22/04/2025. WDC, RDC & Rangitikei DC are liaising with Te Kōpuka regarding "local waters done well" as they are looking to a joint CCO. *In the end it was decided that just WDC and RDC would form a CCO. Auckland/Waikato F&G's Adam Daniel stood in as an alternate member of Te Kōpuka while the SFO was on annual leave in May and June 2025. The SFO attended one further meeting of Te Kōpuka on 4/07/2025.*

Meeting to be scheduled with Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust.

Unfortunately, Scotty Moore, a key liaison person at Horizons RC in relation to this project has been made redundant in a restructure.

8. Represent Fish & Game and provide valued input to the Te Awa Tupua process.

9. Explore options with other parties to remove a weir in the Waingongoro River at Eltham.

10. Investigate whether there is sufficient landowner support for an application to the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust (WRET) for funding assistance to continue the Horizons / F&G joint Orautoha Stream / Manganuioteao Riparian Project to protect water quality in this catchment and the many values it supports.

Objective: Development of an effective Natural Resources Plan that protects freshwater and wetland habitats and which will also minimise Council costs in consent processes and free up resources for other management responses.

11. Engage in and actively advocate for provisions which protect and/ or enhance sports fish & game bird habitat in the Taranaki Natural Resources Plan development process.

Reviewed TRC Policy & Planning agendas for results of latest consultation. Along with the Manager, Phil Teal and Wellington F&G Resource Officer, Ami Coughlan, staff attended a hui with Iwi and TRC staff (8/07/2025) to discuss Freshwater Plan provisions in relation to "desirable & undesirable species".

PARTICIPATION

2024/2025 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p>Objective: Add value to licence holders by increasing their opportunity, success and satisfaction and so retain them in the sport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve the Taranaki pages on the new Fish & Game website so “how to” and “where to go” information is readily available, easily understood and up to date. Work with National Office to populate new website with information including an ‘Introduction to duck hunting in the Taranaki Region’. Continue posting on the Council’s facebook page in line with any National Policy to regularly inform licence holders using this forum. 	<p>Information on the special paradise summer hunting season in Area C was added to the F&G website on 7/02/2025. Taranaki perch fishing information added to the F&G website, following preparation of a pamphlet.</p> <p>5 facebook posts have been published (18/10, 23/10, 25/10, 31/10, 06/11), these posts collectively reached 5.4k people. 83 new followers. Four new posts (27/11, 03/12, 12/12, 19/12), 306 page followers. 3 new posts (29/1, 17/2, 14/3). 314 page followers. One new post 14/3, 318 page followers. Two new posts (5/5, 20/5), 319 page followers.</p>
<p>Objective: Encourage past and prospective hunters and anglers into the sport through initiatives which make it easy to ‘have a go’ and/or provide support.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and utilise licence holder email list to keep hunters and anglers up to date. Complete monthly contributions to Reel Life and Both Barrels Ezines and weekly contributions to the Wellington Fish & Game Region’s “Lower North Island Lowdown” angling email consistent with national R3 recommendations. Provide a quality 2-page regional supplement in each edition of Fish & Game Magazine. 	<p>List of child and junior licence holders was used to publicise the Lake Rotomanu family trout fishing day (via Hothouse 11/10/2024).</p> <p>A Taranaki contribution to the Reel Life ezine was made in September and on 17th October 2024, and on 19/11, 18/12, 20/1/2025, also on the 20/03 and 17/4/2025. Weekly contributions to the “Lower NI Lowdown” email were made from 25/09/2024 to the last one for the 2024/2025 fishing season which was published on the 03/04/2025, with the first contribution to the weekly game newsletter submitted on the 18/03. Articles for the Both Barrels ezine were submitted on 15/04/2025. Articles for the Both Barrels ezine were submitted and published for May, June and July.</p> <p>A 3-page regional supplement was prepared for the 2025 game special issue of F&G Magazine.</p>

3-page regional supplement material for Special Fishing Issue 61 submitted on 10/07/2025.

7. Publication of valued hunting and fishing newsletters sent in conjunction with Wellington Fish & Game and sent to regional licence holders and hunting landowners. Hunting newsletter also distributed to all rural box holders in the region.

8. Proactively provide timely and useful information to licence holders when requested.

9. Replace/ erect 2 -3 new signs which provide anglers with helpful on-site information re access and regulations consistent with identified priorities.

10. Provide organised fishing opportunities in Lake Rotomanu and the Patea River in Stratford consistent with R3 objectives and branding and in association with volunteer groups for kids and families.

11. When fish are available, release 2-year rainbow trout into Sattler's Dam to provide opportunities for kids and families.

Articles were prepared for the joint Wellington/Taranaki regional angling newsletter. Articles were prepared for the 2025 joint Wellington/Taranaki game newsletter, with the proof received for checking on 25/03/2025. The newsletter was also sent to all Taranaki rural box holders.

Information provided to licence holders on request. Staff attended the Inglewood Rod, Hunting & Clay Target Club's opening week fish season weigh-in (6/10/2024) and their "Big 4" weigh-in (28/10/2024). A box of 10 F&G cookbooks was provided to the Club as spot prizes at their H&F Clay Target shoot on 1/03/2025. Staff also attended the club's game season opening weekend weigh-in on 4/05/2025.

Four angling signs cleaned and one replaced (1/10/2024). Gate repairs to a casting platform at Lake Mangamahoe were made on 29/03 to maintain access. A query regarding hunter access at Lake Ratapiko was followed up with Manawa Energy (9/04/2025). Another gate repair was made on 09/06.

A successful family trout fishing day was held at Lake Rotomanu on 3/11/2024 in conjunction with the Inglewood Rod, Hunting & Clay Target Club, Hynds Pipe Systems and Taranaki Hunting & Fishing. A grant application for the Stratford kids trout fishing day was submitted to the Taranaki Electricity Trust (25/10/2024) in conjunction with the Stratford Fishing Club and was successful in obtaining a \$1,000 grant towards costs. A successful Stratford kids' trout fishing day was held on 14/12/2024, attended by 85 children. Lake Rotomanu was booked for the next family fishing day to be held on 11th October 2025.

Liaised with DOC Turangi to confirm fish pick-up on 19/02/2025. Successful release of 110 (2lb+) Rainbow Trout in Sattlers Dam in conjunction with DOC Turangi and Wellington F&G. Local license holders were informed before the public and encouraged to target fish at the dam.

<p>Access for the 2025 game season successfully negotiated. Adam Daniel (A/W F&G) responded on Taranaki's behalf regarding an OIO request for information on F&G values and access in the Heao Stream catchment, a tributary of the Waitara River (11/04/2025).</p> <p>Pamphlet highlighting fishing methods and location information for targeting Perch throughout the Taranaki Region drafted. Pamphlet distributed to licensing agents and I-sites within New Plymouth and published on the Fish and Game website.</p> <p>Angler diaries distributed to 24 anglers and returns collated.</p> <p>Interim results of a 2024 national opening weekend hunter satisfaction survey presented to Council's 19th October 2024 meeting. 2025 opening weekend game bird satisfaction question agreed nationally and asked by surveyors.</p> <p>Licence agents visited prior to the start of the fishing and game bird hunting seasons.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Review, negotiate, publicise and issue access permits to publicly available hunting areas and actively seek and develop new opportunities. 13. Identify and explore mentoring schemes to support new hunters. 14. Develop web based introductory package for anglers highlighting access opportunities and methods to get started. 15. Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to maintain or enhance hunting or angling access and opportunity. 16. Assess satisfaction and success of Taranaki Region anglers using catch rates from a voluntary diary scheme and online satisfaction survey. 17. Locate and publicise quality trout, perch and game bird recipes that enable anglers and hunters to make good use of these species. 18. Assess satisfaction of Taranaki Region hunters using an online satisfaction survey. 19. Implement actions to influence hunter behaviour as identified in hunter behaviour strategy to maximise enjoyment and participation and also public support for gamebird hunting. 20. Provision of ready and valued support and assistance to licence agents such that they are kept up to date, resourced and operate as effective agents
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2024/2025 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p>Objective: Work proactively and collaboratively with iwi at all levels consistent with Treaty of Waitangi obligations and responsibilities regarding the protection and use of natural resources.</p> <p>1. Proactively engage, work and collectively share with iwi and hapu within the region on matters affecting wetland and freshwater resources or their use.</p>	<p>Spent a day (5/11/2024) with Taranaki Iwi Taiao staff electric fishing two coastal streams. Attended WFT Biodiversity forum and Wai Connection 2-day seminar.</p> <p>Staff attended Fonterra Kaitiaki Group meeting to discuss habitat and fish passage enhancement in the Tawhiti Stream catchment (1/11/2024). Another Kaitiaki meeting was attended on the 17/04/2025.</p> <p>Taranaki staff in conjunction with Wellington F&G staff collaborated with local Iwi (Ngāti Rangī) for drift diving field work on the middle reaches of the Rangitikei River, Ohakune.</p> <p>Attended public meeting at Normanby Hall (13/03/2024) called by Ngāruahine hapu to discuss proposal for s186a Fisheries Act ban on taking paua etc. from the coastal marine area in their rohe.</p> <p>On the 22/04/2025 Fish & Game Taranaki staff met with three members of Te Ihowai - a recently established local pan-hapū partnership group with three hapū of Te Atiawa (Ngāti Te Whiti, Puketapu and Tuwharekino).</p> <p>Liaised with Te Atiawa regarding Manawa Energy's consenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes.</p> <p>There was liaison with Maria Hokopaura (Nga Iwi o Taranaki) regarding the desirable / undesirable species hui.</p>
<p>Objective: Strong relationships and involvement with DOC and local and regional councils to effectively represent the interests of hunters and anglers in formal decision-making process.</p> <p>2. Liaise with Department of Conservation and Conservation Boards and proactively engage and work with Regional and District councils and community & industry groups.</p>	<p>The Taranaki fish transport trailer was loaned to DOC to salvage eels (tuna) from a pond prior to the use of rotenone to kill koi carp (24/01/2025).</p> <p>Liaised the DOC NP Office (Catherine O'Neill) re: issue of permits for the 2025 game season at Te Mōreire, Umutekai, Looney's Lake and Lake Ngangana.</p> <p>Liaised with DOC, Iwi, Horizons & MPI regarding a plan in case there are mass eel (tuna) deaths in the Whanganui River catchment in summer 2024/25 (27/11/2024).</p>

	<p>There was liaison with DOC Whanganui (Katy Newton; 1/04/2025 and Cameron Ryan; 29/04/2025) regarding Lake Kohata, with Cameron preparing a riparian planting plan for the lake.</p> <p><i>There was liaison with DOC's Jacob Williams and Jane Bowen regarding Manawa Energy's consenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes.</i></p>
<p>Objective: Engender support for hunting and fishing and the activities of Fish & Game by the general public and others who recognise that these activities contribute to a better environment and healthy lifestyle and in turn who support protecting these resources and the opportunities to participate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Recognise and pursue opportunities to contribute to the wider community including 'Wild for Taranaki' and 'Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust'. 4. Take opportunities to promote the value of protecting freshwater, wetland and upland game habitats and the wider benefits from this. 5. Represent the interests of hunters and anglers and promote the validity of fishing and gamebird hunting including as a means of collecting natural organic foods and engaging in a physical healthy lifestyle. 6. Maintain a positive and constructive profile in the media which encourages prospective participants and fosters support and understanding among the general public. 	<p>Attended WfT Biodiversity forum & AGM.</p> <p>A fish season advertorial was placed in the Whanganui Chronicle (20/09/2024) and in the Ruapehu Bulletin "Summertime Edition" (11/11/2024).</p> <p>An advert promoting the Lake Rotomanu family trout fishing day was placed in the Taranaki Daily News (26/10/2024) which also ran an article publicising the event. Information was also provided to two radio stations for their community notices.</p> <p>Advertising and an article was also organised in the Stratford Press for the Stratford kids trout fishing day (12/11/2024). Stratford DC also agreed to support the day with advertising through their channels, including their electronic notice boards. An article promoting the Stratford kids' trout fishing day was also provided to the South Taranaki Star.</p> <p>Publicity for the 2025 special paradise hunting season organised with the Stratford Press, South Taranaki Star, Daily News and Taranaki Farming Lifestyles magazine (both print and online).</p>

<p>A 2025 game season advert and copy was provided to Taranaki Farming Lifestyles magazine (8/04/2025) and the Ruapehu Bulletin (28/04/2025).</p>	<p>7. Implement revised media strategy and including incorporating any National Policy</p>
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COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

2024/2025 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p>Objective: Sound and effective governance which facilitates a co-operative and supportive relationship between Council, staff and licence holders that enables effective management of resources in the best interests of the licence holder and the fish & game resource.</p>	<p>A Council meeting was held in Stratford on 19th October 2024 and the first meeting of the new Council was held in New Plymouth on 2/11/2024. The Council's AGM and Ordinary meeting was held in New Plymouth on 7/12/2024 and in Stratford on 15th February 2025. Councillors and staff met with the Minister of Hunting & Fishing, James Meager, at the NP office on 28/02/2025). Council meetings were held in Stratford on 29/03/2025 and 24/05/2025.</p>
<p>1. Not less than six meetings of Council are held, and meetings are conducted consistent with provisions of the Standing Orders.</p>	<p>Taranaki Councillors attended a joint governance training session with Wellington F&G Councillors on 25/01/2025 in Palmerston North.</p>
<p>2. Council undertakes governance training provided nationally, preferably in conjunction with Wellington Fish & Game Council.</p>	<p>5-year strategic plan updated and received at Council's 19th October 2024 meeting and also at Council's 15th February 2025 meeting.</p>
<p>3. Identification and implementation of options and strategies to increase the diversity of Council and iwi involvement.</p>	<p>2024/25 Annual Report and Audit completed and presented to Council's 7th December 2024 meeting.</p>
<p>4. The 5-Year Strategic Plan is reviewed and agreed by Council by March 2025.</p>	<p>Objective: Operate consistent with National Policy and make valued contributions to the management of the resource and Fish & Game nationally in the interests of all licence holders.</p>
<p>5. Formulation and adoption of an Annual Operational Plan and Budget for 2025/26 consistent with the 5-Year Strategic Plan.</p>	
<p>6. Presentation by Council of its audited annual report for 2023/24 not later than 31 December 2024</p>	

<p>7. Effective regional policies are developed, adopted and reviewed as required and are consistent with any National Policy requirements.</p> <p>8. Progress reporting of licence sales, work progress and financial position is timely and accurate and supports sound financial and operational management and oversight.</p>	<p><i>Presented to each Council meeting</i></p>
<p>Objective: Make best use of new systems, processes and technology to maximise administrative efficiencies and minimise costs do resources are available for use elsewhere.</p> <p>9. Effective administration such that the Council is within annual budget (\pm 5%), operates consistent with best practice and at least 90% of its annual plan is completed.</p> <p>10. Staff management requirements including performance reviews completed and new KPIs and objectives for staff defined, and regular staff meetings.</p> <p>11. Implement any outcomes and directions from Fish & Game Ministerial Review and /or National Council reviews.</p> <p>12. Progress amalgamation discussions with the Wellington Fish & Game Council and implement agreed measures which don't require legislative change.</p> <p>13. Effective communication and liaison with NZ Fish & Game Council and other Fish & Game regions including valued input and comment on Fish & Game issues and attendance at Fish & Game Managers meetings.</p>	<p><i>Job interviews conducted for new Field officer, with Jack Harland beginning work for the Council on 23/09/2024. Weekly staff meetings held each Monday morning.</i></p> <p><i>Staff participated in the following national groups:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>RMA Group; zoom meetings to discuss SFGMP's (14/10/2024) and Access (29/10/2024), with information provided on current RMA advocacy in the region and where angler and hunter access has been lost, and gained;</i> • <i>CLE Group: zoom meeting attended on 8/10/2024 to review opening weekend fish season ranging effort; and on 26/03/2025, 29/04/2025 & 8/05/2025 for game season preparation. A game season prosecution follow-up meeting was held on 28/07/2025.</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fisheries Group: zoom meeting attended 19/09/2024 and 8/04/2025. ● F&G climate change webinar attended 17/04/2025. ● Hatchery group meeting attended on 1/07/2025. 	<p>14. Contribute to National Office by providing valued advice, assistance and feedback on national issues and processes as requested.</p> <p>15. Refine financial administration, reporting and analysis working with NZF&G Council and staff.</p>
<p>Objective: Demonstrate a commitment to Health & Safety and ensuring the welfare of staff and others through effective policy, systems, resourcing and oversight.</p> <p><i>Staff meeting held 28/07/2025 to discuss risk register.</i></p> <p>HSAW addressed at each weekly staff meeting. New Field Officer has attended SxS & 4x4 vehicle training (16/17 October 2024) and is booked in to an electric fishing course (27/28 November 2024). Electric fishing machine re-certified by NZ Sparky (17/09/2024) prior to fieldwork. In-reach reactivated and carried during January fieldwork in the Waimarino/Whanganui/Waitotara areas. Epirb carried during fieldwork in Area C. Regular reporting several times daily during backcountry fieldwork. Staff melanoma skin checks undertaken 31/03/2025 & 24/04/2025. One staff member has had their 2025 flu vaccination. <i>Three New Plymouth fire extinguishers serviced on 14/07/2025 (2 vehicle, 1 loading bay).</i></p>	<p>16. All processes and activities are undertaken consistent with Council Health & Safety Policy and Manual.</p> <p>17. Staff are actively involved in implementing HSAW policy and ensuring a safe workplace, including by undertaking two monthly staff meetings where HSAW is a specific agenda item.</p> <p>18. Compliance with HSAW requirements and policy including scheduled reviews and audits along with any issues identified or near misses routinely reported to each meeting of Council.</p>

Recommendation

That the Budget Report to 30 June 2025 and Project Progress Report to 31 July 2025 be received.

Agenda Item 21 Financial Reports – Income Statement and Financial Transactions

Summary

Confirmation and clarification of financial reports -

Income Statement and from 1 September up to end June 2025 (2024/2025 Financial Year to date).

a. Profit/Loss Statement to 30 June 2025

Nothing to highlight

b. Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

Nothing to highlight

c. Capital Expenditure Considerations

Nothing to report

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive Financial Statements for Year-to-Date for the 2024/2025 Financial Year – Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025.

Profit and Loss For Council

Taranaki Fish and Game Council For the 10 months ended 30 June 2025

	SEPT 2024-JUN 2025	YTD BUDGET	2025 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Revenue					
Licence Income					
Fish Licence Income	159,349	116,385	130,769	42,964 ↑	37% ↑
Game Licence Income	102,519	103,471	103,471	(952) ↓	-1% ↓
Less Commission and Fees	(9,350)	(7,808)	(9,370)	(1,542) ↓	-20% ↓
Total Licence Income	252,518	212,048	224,870	40,470	19%
Grants	156,823	209,098	209,098	(52,275) ↓	-25% ↓
Interest Received	1,488	7,526	9,032	(6,038) ↓	-80% ↓
Other Income	40,456	8,897	24,688	31,559 ↑	355% ↑
Wellington Fish & Game Council	231	-	-	231 ↑	- -
Hatchery income	3,239	-	-	3,239 ↑	- -
Interest Term Deposit 3031	12,134	-	-	12,134 ↑	- -
Gross Profit	466,888	437,569	467,688	29,319	7%
Operating Expenses					
SPECIES MANAGEMENT					
Population Monitoring	9,250	15,500	15,500	(6,250) ↓	-40% ↓
Hatchery Operations	9,229	8,333	10,000	896 ↑	11% ↑
Releases	7,115	6,000	6,000	1,115 ↑	19% ↑
Control	2,352	1,666	2,000	686 ↑	41% ↑
Total SPECIES MANAGEMENT	27,946	31,499	33,500	(3,553)	-11%
HABITAT PROTECTION / MANAGEMENT					
Resource Management Act	2	-	-	2 ↑	- -
Assisted Habitat	1,496	16,666	20,000	(15,170) ↓	-91% ↓
Total HABITAT PROTECTION / MANAGEMENT	1,497	16,666	20,000	(15,169)	-91%
PARTICIPATION					
Access	794	-	200	794 ↑	- -
Newsletters Magazine Web pages	12,956	8,833	9,500	4,123 ↑	47% ↑
Training	-	832	1,000	(832) ↓	-100% ↓
Total PARTICIPATION	13,750	9,665	10,700	4,085	42%
PUBLIC INTERFACE					
Liaison	-	833	1,000	(833) ↓	-100% ↓

282

Profit and Loss For Council

	SEPT 2024-JUN 2025	YTD BUDGET	2025 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Advocacy	2,732	3,716	3,800	(984) ↓	-26% ↓
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	2,732	4,549	4,800	(1,817)	-40%
COMPLIANCE					
Ranging	57	500	500	(443) ↓	-89% ↓
Ranger Training	818	1,000	1,000	(182) ↓	-18% ↓
Compliance	87	1,500	1,500	(1,413) ↓	-94% ↓
Total COMPLIANCE	962	3,000	3,000	(2,038)	-68%
LICENCING					
Licence Agents	363	500	500	(137) ↓	-27% ↓
Total LICENCING	363	500	500	(137)	-27%
COUNCIL					
Council Meeting Expenses	7,614	7,916	9,500	(302) ↓	-4% ↓
Total COUNCIL	7,614	7,916	9,500	(302)	-4%
PLANNING & REPORTING					
Management / Strategic Planning	1,091	83	100	1,008 ↑	1,215% ↑
Reporting Audit	506	416	7,576	90 ↑	22% ↑
National Liaison	-	83	100	(83) ↓	-100% ↓
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	1,597	582	7,776	1,015	174%
OVERHEADS					
Salaries	245,171	264,197	317,037	(19,026) ↓	-7% ↓
Staff Expenses	2,819	2,957	3,550	(138) ↓	-5% ↓
Office Premises	18,685	18,500	22,200	185 ↑	1% ↑
Office Equipment	2,901	1,666	2,000	1,235 ↑	74% ↑
Communications / Consumables	5,945	4,375	5,250	1,570 ↑	36% ↑
General	2,942	2,543	3,050	399 ↑	16% ↑
General Equipment	3,711	4,165	5,000	(454) ↓	-11% ↓
Vehicles	16,182	13,209	15,850	2,973 ↑	23% ↑
Total OVERHEADS	298,357	311,612	373,937	(13,255)	-4%
Depreciation	979	10,615	12,739	(9,636) ↓	-91% ↓
Gain on Disposal	(17,217)	-	-	(17,217) ↓	-
Wellington Fish & Game	231	-	-	231 ↑	-
Total Operating Expenses	338,812	396,604	476,452	(57,792)	-15%
New Surplus/(Deficit)	128,076	40,965	(8,764)	87,111	213%

283

Balance Sheet

Taranaki Fish and Game Council
As at 30 June 2025

30 JUN 2025

Assets

Bank	242,073.90
BNZ Current Account	425,654.36
BNZ Term 3031	1,713.70
MRP	26,857.68
Term Deposit	696,299.64
Total Bank	
Current Assets	29,717.59
Accounts Receivable	2,574.41
Prepayments and Accrued Income	32,292.00
Total Current Assets	
Fixed Assets	(34,640.94)
Accum Dep Vehicles	(16,451.00)
Accum Dep Buildings	(21,745.03)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(18,895.31)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	16,451.00
Buildings	25,022.63
Office Equipment	26,474.26
Plant & Equipment	121,617.89
Vehicles	97,833.50
Total Fixed Assets	
Total Assets	826,425.14

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	4,797.73
Accounts Payable	378.00
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	15.50
BNZ Credit Card - Allen	44.74
Designated Waters Licence	5,356.51
Duck Stamp Levy Clearing	43,263.59
Employee Entitlements	27,824.88
GST	9,963.00
Income in advance	7,430.42
PAYE Clearing	0.03
Rounding	24.93
Sea Run Salmon Endorsement	99,099.33
Total Current Liabilities	99,099.33
Total Liabilities	99,099.33
Net Assets	727,325.81

30 JUN 2025

Equity

Accumulated Funds	141,427.68
Asset Replacement Funding	21,578.00
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	20,139.79
Current Year Earnings	128,076.42
Fisheries Project	7,386.30
Hunting & Habitat Scheme	321,960.74
Manganuioteao River Riparian Project	4,649.29
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	82,107.59
Total Equity	727,325.81

THE SECRETARY
 TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL
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 Whanganui 4541

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 Wanganui Store
 124 Victoria Avenue
 Wanganui
 Telephone 0800 800 468
 Facsimile 06 345 5439
 WWW www.bnz.co.nz

Statement of Accounts as at 30 June 2025

Your Accounts at a Glance

Account	Account Number	Maturity Date	Balance
Non Profit Org A/C	02-0792-0332133-000		242,073.90
MRP	02-0792-0332133-001		1,713.70

Your Other Accounts at a Glance

Account	Account Number	Maturity Date	Balance
Term Deposit	36332133-03031	01 Aug 2025	425,654.36
Term Deposit	36332133-03032	01 Sep 2025	26,857.68

Our investment statements and current disclosure statement may be obtained free of charge from any Bank of New Zealand store, or viewed at www.bnz.co.nz.

Agenda Item 22 **Correspondence**

Summary

a) **Correspondence:**

Tim Payne – regarding communications regarding pre-season opening weekend

No other items directly addressed to Council not already addressed in agenda.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required

From: Tim Payne <timpayne741@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 12:08 pm
To: Jack Harland <jharland@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: Re: Duck hunting in Taranaki

Hi Jack - thankyou for taking the time to listen to me today.

So , at the next Fish & Game branch meeting I would like you to bring forward my concerns at the demise of duck shooting.

I have been a consistent duck shooter for many years , at least 35 in Taranaki & the King country - and previously I started when I was a teenager on my parents farm in Huinga. So all up maybe 45- 50 years.

I read the glowing report of the current seasons duck shooting activities - it read well , but is in fact bullshit - there is a lot of dissatisfaction out there - no young shooters coming through and the older ones also not shooting owing to rising costs , licenses , ammo etc.

Unless you can get more shooters in the field it becomes very hard for the reduced numbers of shooters to bag a few ducks - as the ducks aren't being moved around.

A few years ago I sent an email to Fish & Game , they acknowledged receipt of this (I bought my licence that year at Gun City in Chch) asking that they look at introducing a loyalty card for long term shooters (over 10 yrs ?) to enable them to carry on shooting once retired - (you have such a system for Trout) - the old retired fellas are the ones that take out the young fellas mainly - and it's the young ones we need to build and increase members.

The Stratford sewage ponds hold oodles of water fowl , but we must not shoot it - SDC would encourage shooters to at least scare the birds off , but they just keep going back - each year I put the birds off these ponds , bloody thousands of them - so that they disperse in the area.

So back to the Fish & Game report - The reality is Opening weekend this year was very disappointing - in the Strathmore area the only shots heard were mine - nobody else shooting in what to my mind is a duck shooters paradise - my own loyal companions of many years decided not to shoot , costs - licence , steel shot etc ' some have relinquished their fire arms licence- once again costs etc.

It won't be long until water fowl are out of control in this area - there will be no one to shoot them Fish & Game will cease to exist, and the farmers will take the control of waterfowl into their own hands - as they are particularly concerned about Salmonella and everyone is concerned about avian flu.

To finish - make it easier to get a licence ie Loyalty card - relax controls on shooting around municipal ponds - we're allowed around dairy effluent systems , what's the difference - and finally , encourage shooters to get out there.

Regards Tim Payne

Inwards Correspondence

Date	Meeting	From	Staff Councillor	Subject
6.6.25	Aug-25	Tim Payne	Staff Clrs	Duck hunting in Taranaki
10.6.25	Aug-25	TRC	Allen	Notice of Prehearing meeting: Motukawa Hydroelectric Power Scheme
10.6.25	Aug-25	TRC	Allen	Notice of Prehearing meeting: Mangorei Hydroelectric Power Scheme
30.6.25	Aug-25	Duncan Campbell mpi	Allen	FBPWG Agenda
7.7.25	Aug-25	Chris Vickers TRC	Allen	Waiwhakairo River Erosion
9.7.25	Aug-25	Chris Vickers TRC	Allen	Waiwhakairo River Erosion
14.7.25	Aug-25	Amy Quattlebaum NPDC	Allen	Upcoming NPDC consent renewal applications
15.7.25	Aug-25	DOC	Allen Jack	DOC Boards' newsletter
17.7.25	Aug-25	TRC	Allen	Prehearing meeting reminder Mangorei and Motukawa Hydroelectric schemes
22.7.25	Aug-25	Courtney Bond horizons	Allen	Meeting pack – Jobs for nature
24.7.25	Aug-25	Duncan Campbell mpi	Allen	FBPWG Agenda and updates
24.7.25	Aug-25	Lisa Mead Manawa Energy	Allen	Motukawa conditions for submitters
25.7.25	Aug-25	Deborah Kissick	Allen	Taranaki by-products reconstituting
25.7.25	Aug-25	Victoria Araba STDC	Allen	Agenda – alternatives to Diatomix Wastewater Treatment
28.7.25	Aug-25	Duncan Campbell mpi	Allen	FBPWG Minutes and final written updates
29.7.25	Aug-25	Victoria Araba STDC	Allen	Meeting minutes – oxidation meeting

Outwards Correspondence

Date	Meeting	To	Staff Councillor	Subject
15.7.25	Aug-25	Amy Quattlebaum NPDC	Allen	TRC consents for Inglewood water supply
15.7.25	Aug-25	Amy Quattlebaum NPDC	Allen	Upcoming NPDC consent renewal applications
21.7.25	Aug-25	STDC	Allen	Plan Change 4 – submission by Taranaki Fish & Game Council
28.7.25	Aug-25	Robert Sowman GBHTB	Allen	Grants issued in 2021 & 2022 that are over 2 year active time period
31.7.25	Aug-25	Lisa Mead Manawa Energy	Allen	Mangorei submitter meetings
1.8.25	Aug-25	Lisa Mead Manawa Energy	Allen	Motukawa conditions for submitters

Agenda Item 23 Recognition Awards

Summary

Consideration of recognising volunteer or exceptional service.

Presentation of awards to those on the list and attending meeting.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required

Agenda Item 24 Conservation Board Liaison

Summary

Consider formal (re) engagement with Conservation Board.

Noted under legislation that this should occur.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required. CE to request meeting timetables and agendas.

Conservation Boards' Newsletter

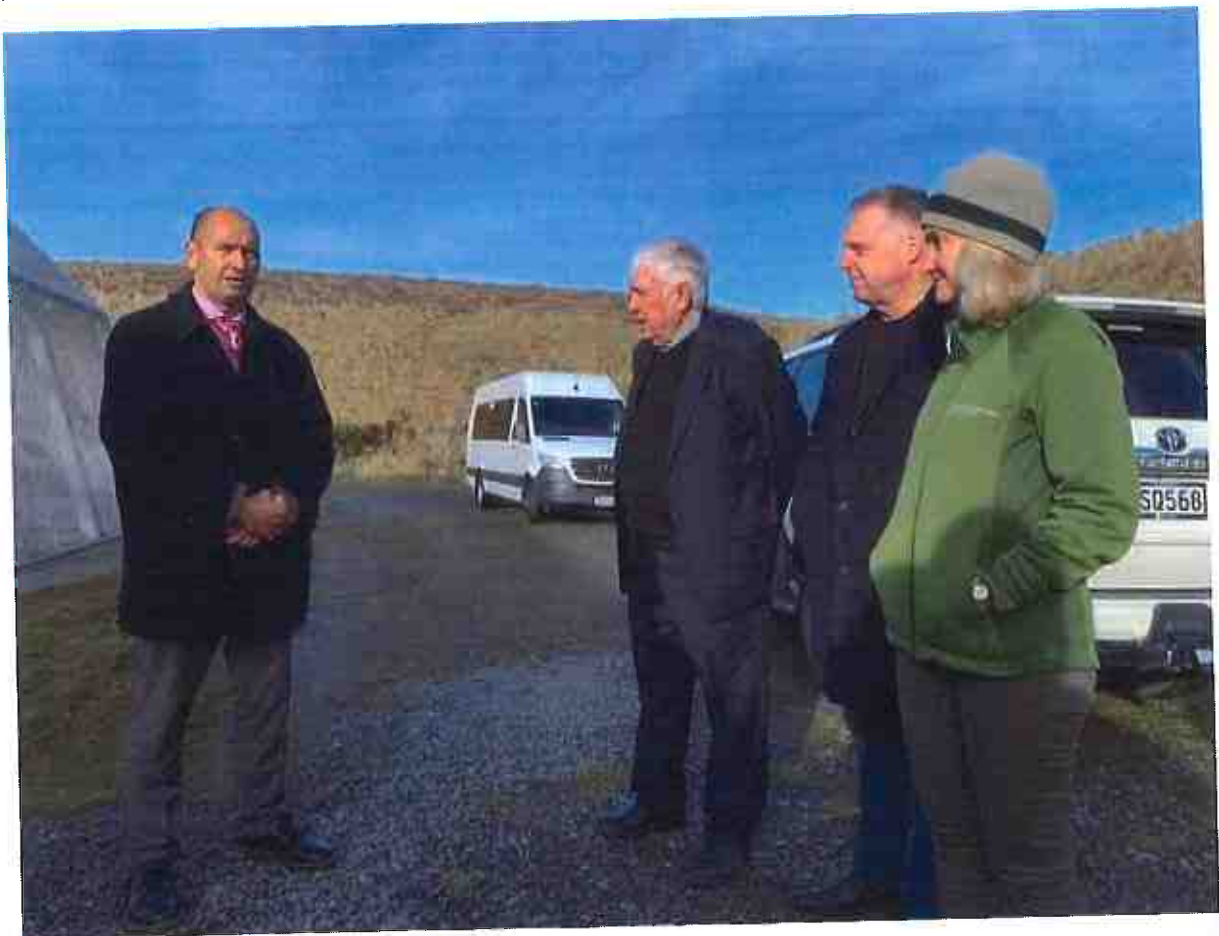


WELCOME TO THE CONSERVATION BOARDS' NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Keep up to date with the activities of Conservation Boards around Aotearoa New Zealand.

Issue 36: July 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Minister of Conservation Hon Tama Potaka with staff from DOC and the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust | Photo by Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust

Tēnā koutou katoa

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Mātariki mā Puanga celebration with friends and whānau. The stars always remind me that from now on the sun will be brighter, the days longer, and warmth will slowly return to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Despite the chill, conservation mahi doesn't - and can't - stop. My heart is warmed whenever I see everything you, your communities, and the Department of Conservation - Te Papa Atawhai do to protect

our taonga species, places, and values. That's why I was so pleased to announce the latest round of International Visitor Levy (IVL) funding in early July, when I visited the awesome mahi being done at the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust in Canterbury.

\$22 million from the IVL has been committed to restoring unique wildlife in national parks, islands, and other popular visitor sites over the next three years. Aotearoa New Zealand is internationally renowned for its conservation work and ecological values, attracting visitors who care about nature.

This funding is strategically split between supporting our native species and tackling invasive pests—giving birds, bush, marine life and landscapes respite to recover.

We're putting \$4.15 million into expanding predator control, plus \$11.5 million on the recovery of highly threatened species, including tara iti, at national parks and popular sites so visitors can enjoy thriving natural areas where their funds have contributed. Almost \$7 million will target feral goats which remove the forest undergrowth and prevent regeneration.

A good visitor experience doesn't take anything away, so we're investing in some of the places attract tourism revenue while protecting our threatened biodiversity and heritage sites. Conservation-related tourism brings about \$3.4 billion a year. Maximising this revenue stream by developing sustainable tourism is so important for growing investment in our conservation estate as well as powering local economies.

Many of our native taonga are walking a tightrope for survival. I'm delighted that IVL funding will provide a bulwark against the end for some of these, like kakī/black stilts and kākāriki karaka/orange-fronted parakeets. There are only about 400 kākāriki karaka left in the world. We want to protect and grow rare species like these so more people, both now and in the future, can experience them too.

People dream of coming to Aotearoa New Zealand to enjoy our unique environment. Sometimes in winter nothing lifts my mood more than immersing myself in te taiao and connecting with the natural world with whānau. I hope this recent investment helps others make the most of this beautiful place, filled with the song of thriving taonga.

Mauriora,

Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation | Minita mō Te Papa Atawhai



TE HIKU O TE IKA

Delivering the Conservation Management Strategy



Edward Ellison, New Zealand Conservation Authority Chair, and Mina Pomare-Pelita, Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board Chair, at the handing over of their draft CMS in Wellington, June 2025 | Photo by Takurua Mutu

Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board's main focus has been following through on the last stages of developing the Te Hiku Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). With over 40 submissions received, and significant feedback from iwi (including Ngāti Kuri's environmental plan), the Board and working group are revising the draft with the aim of accelerating finalisation before 2026.

A total of 11 hui were held, 4 formal public meetings and 7 working meetings.

The board were concerned by Kauri dieback and forest health – particularly in Warawara and Te Paki. We discussed community capacity for predator control and habitat restoration, and resourcing for Māori-led conservation efforts. We have responded to the Fast Track Approvals Bill and its implications for protected areas. To respond to the Fast Track Approvals Bill the Board appointed a Fast Track Committee to assess applications affecting conservation land. The Board also undertook engagement in Community planning, predator control, and mātauranga Māori integration, including participation in Wild Kai Events and Turtle Release days in partnership with Ngāti Kahu, Ngāi Takoto, Auckland Zoo and Kelly Tarlton's and "Love the Bittern" (Matuku) community awareness event in Kaitiāia.

The Board made submissions on DOC's Modernising Conservation Land and Access Charging discussion papers, the biodiversity and Predator free 2050 discussion documents, as well as ongoing input into DOC concession processes (e.g. declining unsustainable applications and supporting shorter-term alignment with CMS outcomes). This has led to Discussions on opportunities for biodiversity credits and the return of land to mana whenua for better conservation outcomes.

GET INVOLVED - attend a meeting, details of upcoming Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board meetings can be found on [the website](#).

TONGARIRO TAUPŌ

Beginning to develop a new Conservation Management Strategy



The Chateau Tongariro | Photo by Emilee Rader

The Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board were recently informed of a planning process to progress the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), starting with readiness testing, which will determine the Board's state of readiness to inform decisions on starting the statutory process and provide clear guidance towards development of the CMS. The Board support the community and the Department where necessary in conversations about predator and pest control actions and the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.

Since the start of this year the Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board have held three meetings in January, March and May with the January and May meetings held in Tūrangi and the March meeting held in Ohakune. The key topics discussed at the meetings include: Redundant infrastructure and Pure Turoa Ltd concession variations, Chateau Tongariro, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing Sustainability Project, the Fast Track Approvals Act, Herd of Special Interest (HOSI), Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), Integrated regional plans, International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL), Mangatepopo Track (Ditch Track) and Mangatepopo Hut, Kiwi Sanctuary and translocation and the ongoing management of Kaimanawa Horses.

In March another workshop was held online on 5-Year Integrated Plans and 'special places', as well as providing feedback on Te Ara Mangawhero phase two concession Application and the Whakapapa Holding Limited Concession Application with Clint Green participating in the hearings as a panel member.

Chair elections were undertaken at the last meeting. Clint Green was elected as Chair and Karen Grimwade was elected as the Deputy Chair. The role of co-chair remains an option for the four members of the Board who represent iwi. The Board extend their deepest gratitude to Honey Winter for her outstanding leadership as Chair. Her ability to inspire and unite members of the conservation board community has been truly invaluable. Her legacy will undoubtedly continue to influence the Board for years to come.

GET INVOLVED - attend a meeting, details of upcoming Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board meetings can be found on [the website](#).

TARANAKI WHANGANUI

Working with tangata whenua in Taranaki



Pukerangiora Pā | Photo by Drew Castle

In February, the Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board submitted its response to the Modernising Conservation Land Management law reform proposal, following a collaborative hui on 22 January to finalise its feedback. The Board advocated for a clear purpose hierarchy to uphold Treaty of Waitangi principles, prioritising ecological integrity, indigenous biodiversity, and tangata whenua relationships with te taiao. It recommended a strengthened statutory leadership role for conservation boards in developing and monitoring 'area plans,' ensuring local expertise shapes conservation strategies. The Board expressed concern over potential reductions in local influence and emphasised the need for robust iwi and hapū engagement, transparency in planning, and rigorous public consultation for land reclassifications. The Board also provided input on the Fast-Track Approvals Act to safeguard conservation values.

The Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board submitted a second response proposing a reformed conservation governance model to create opportunities for enhanced collaboration and strategic

oversight. This proposal recommended establishing a single, independent advisory board which would build on existing Conservation Boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority, through representatives from each DOC operational region. The governance structure would foster opportunities for improved regional representation, and streamlined decision-making, enabling a responsive framework to address modern conservation challenges effectively.

The Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board is thrilled about the transformative opportunities following the Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress, enacted through Te Ture Whakaturua mō Te Kāhui Tupua. This legislation recognises Taranaki Maunga and its peaks as a legal person, Te Kāhui Tupua, with Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki now vested in this entity. Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī, established with four iwi-appointed and four Crown-appointed members, serves as its voice. The Board is eager to build a strong relationship with this governance entity to advance kaitiakitanga and align conservation priorities for Taranaki's future.

In April, we received an update from Board member Liana Poutu on the redress, reinforcing our commitment to look to engage in pre-draft consultation for the new national park management plan.

The Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board has actively supported innovative conservation strategies in our region. The Board has endorsed a bio-control proposal for Gordon Park Scenic Reserve, a regionally significant biodiversity site and remnant of Whanganui River floodplain kahikatea forest. Our letter of support facilitated the proposed release of up to six bio-control agents to manage invasive weeds, Tradescantia and Japanese Honeysuckle, enhancing the reserve's ecological health and supporting native species like rare and threatened plants.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Liana Poutu and Dr. Bruce Clarkson, who concluded their service on the Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board in June 2025. Liana, a statutory nominee of the Taranaki Māori Trust Board, has served for a decade, and has brought legal expertise and a steadfast commitment to Māori governance that significantly shaped our work. Bruce, appointed in 2022, contributed his extensive ecological knowledge and leadership, notably in supporting biodiversity initiatives and with his considerable strategic experience, before transitioning to a role with the new governance entity for Taranaki Maunga. Their contributions will continue to inspire our efforts to protect our region's taonga.

The Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board is committed to advancing conservation through active engagement with our region's cultural and natural heritage. In April, the Board visited two significant historic sites in Taranaki: Pukerangiora Pā and Mahoetahi Pā.

These visits enriched the board's understanding of Taranaki's heritage and informed its advisory role in supporting the management of these taonga. We look forward to further opportunities to engage with communities within our rohe such as this.

GET INVOLVED - attend a meeting, details of upcoming Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board meetings can be found on [the website](#).

WELLINGTON

Partnerships in Conservation



Wellington Conservation Board, New Zealand Conservation Authority members, and DOC staff at Matiu Somes Island, April 2025 | Photo by DOC

The Wellington Conservation Board has been busy inducting new members, engaging with consultations about the future of conservation and getting ready for proposals under the Fast Track consenting regime.

In December 2024, the Board met in Kenepuru where they were joined by representatives from Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira to discuss the upcoming creation of a Kapiti Island Conservation Management Plan, a commitment from the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Treaty settlement legislation. Ngāti Toa is doing a lot of work to prepare their uri for this mahi, and the Board remains fully supportive.

Board members also visited Paraparaumu Scenic Reserve and met with some of the locals who are undertaking pest management in the reserve. Close to the growing township of Paraparaumu, the reserve is not well known and contains no formal tracks, though it is used in particular by locals in the rural area of Nikau Valley. The range and density of bird species is increasing thanks to the hard work of volunteers and DOC staff.

The Board also spoke with two Horizons Regional Councillors about shared issues of interest between the two organisations, including the Ramsar convention wetland site at the Manawatū Estuary.



Wellington Conservation Board members and DOC staff at the Manawatū Estuary, March 2025 |
Photo by Claire Jacobs

That discussion prompted a visit by the Board to the Manawatū Estuary in March 2025, where members saw first-hand the impressive work being done and the fine examples of cooperation between DOC, Councils and community members. During the meeting in Palmerston North, Board members also discussed the draft DOC regional strategy and provided feedback to the Regional Director.

In April 2025, the Board was pleased to join with the New Zealand Conservation Authority for a full-day field trip to Matiu Somes Island in Wellington Harbour. The pest-free island recently re-opened to the public following a closure for several months while the wharf was rebuilt and offers a great way for people to access conservation land only a short ferry journey from the CBD. The field trip was extremely informative about the work going on the island in partnership with mana whenua, and the challenges of supporting mana whenua to take over management of a space with a lot of historic infrastructure that needs significant investment to be useable.

The final meeting of the year in June took place in Masterton and saw Board members discuss consultations on the Biodiversity Strategy and Predator Free 2050 with a view towards making a Board submission. The field trip visited the Ocean Beach baches, a series of private structures on DOC land in the southern Wairarapa where DOC has been negotiating new agreements with bach owners.

Outside of formal meetings, Board members continued to actively participate in their delegated roles on the Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board and Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee, as well as attending meetings and events on issues as diverse as the Manawatū Estuary and Maui dolphins.

June 2025 also saw the end of the term for Board Co-Chair Carla Bates and long-time member Nicole McCrossin, who have both given a huge amount to the ongoing success of the Board's mahi. The remaining Board members thank them for their effort and wish them all the best.

GET INVOLVED - attend a meeting, details of upcoming Wellington Conservation Board meetings can be found on [the website](#).



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Next time in the **Conservation Board Newsletter**, we hear from Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, East Coast Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury Aoraki, and Southland Conservation Boards!

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Agenda Item 25 **General Business**

Summary

Items of General Business should be alerted to the Chairman at beginning of the meeting.

The Chairman may undertake a brief round table open discussion of members regarding items not covered in the meeting agenda.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 26 Confirmation of Next Meeting Date

Summary

Confirmation of the next meeting will be held on 18 October 2025 in Stratford

Agenda Item 26 Closure of Meeting

Closing - korero kati

Thanks for your wisdom in making
decisions today

Good health to you all

**Nga mihi mo to whakaaro nui ki te
whakatau i tenei ra**

Kia ora koutou katoa