



Council Meeting Agenda

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

24 May 2025

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Saturday 24 May 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 | | | | | |
| OTHER OPERATIONAL ITEMS | <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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Board Liaison |

AGENDA TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday 24 May 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 |
| 4 | Minutes of Previous Meeting | a. Minutes of Meeting 29 March 2025 | | 5-17 |
| 5 | Matters Arising | a. Action List Summary | | 18-19 |
| | | b. Other Matters Arising | | |
| 6 | NZ Council Business | a. NZ Council – Summary of NZC meeting | | 20-24 |
| | | b. Other NZ Council Business | | 25-29 |
| 7 | Public Forum | Open Session for Public | | 30 |
| 8 | Regional Business – Governance | a. Taranaki Regional Business – Chair’s Report | Info | 31-32 |
| 9 | Inter-Regional Business | a. Chairs’ Forum Update | Info | 33 |
| | | b. Shared Resources Update | Info | |
| 10 | Draft OWP & Budget 2025/26 | a. NZC Consultation on Proposed Licence Fee recommendation and budgets | Decision | 34-80 |
| | | b. Proposed change to Family Fishing Licence | Decision | 81-91 |
| | | c. Proposed licence sales forecast FY25/26. | Info | 92-98 |
| 11 | Strategic Matters | a. Risk Management Review | Info | 99 |
| | | b. Iwi Engagement | Info | |
| 12 | Policy and Legislation | a. Arms Act Review | Info | |
| | | b. Resource Management Act Review | Info | 100-105 |
| | | c. Wildlife Act Review | Info | |
| | | d. Fish and Game Policy Reviews | Info | |
| 13 | Health and Safety | a. Health and Safety Report March/April 2025 | Info | 106-108 |
| | | b. Consideration of Proactive Initiatives | Info | |
| 14 | Species Management | a. Draft Anglers Notice 25/26 | Decision | 109-120 |
| | | b. Special Paradise Season 2025 – Summary Results | Info | 121-124 |
| | | c. Research | Info | 125-130 |
| 15 | Habitat Advocacy & Management | a. Regional Planning advocacy | Info | 131-134 |
| | | b. Resource Consent advocacy | Info | |
| | | c. Hunting and Habitat Scheme Applications | Info | |
| 16 | Participation | a. Information to Clients | Info | 135 |
| | | b. Licence Holder Engagement – incl. R3 | Info | |
| 17 | Public Awareness/Comms | a. Iwi Engagement | Info | 136-137 |
| | | b. Public Awareness | Info | |
| | | c. Communication | Info | |
| | | d. Promotions | Info | |
| 18 | Licence Sales | a. Licence Sales Update to 30 April 2025 – Fish | Info | 138 |
| | | b. Licence Sales Update to 5 May 2025 – Game | Info | 139-140 |
| | | c. Licence Management Systems Performance Mar 2025 | Info | 141-145 |
| | | d. Licence Price Optimisation Research | Info | |
| 19 | Operational Summary Report | a. Operational Report 30 April 2025 | Info | 146-164 |
| 20 | Financials | a. Income Statement – 1 Sept 2024 to 30 April 2025 | Info | 165-167 |
| | | b. Balance Sheet – as at 30 April 2025 | Info | 168-170 |
| | | c. Capital Expenditure | Info | |
| 21 | Correspondence | | Info | 171 |
| 22 | Recognition Awards | | Info | 172 |
| 23 | Conservation Board Liaison | | Info | 173 |
| 24 | General Business | | | 174 |
| 25 | Next Meeting Confirmation | Next Meeting: 16 August 2025, Stratford | Info | 175 |
| 26 | Closure | korero kati | | 175 |

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.

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|-------------------|
| Decision Required |
|-------------------|

Recommendation/Action

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

| 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 | |
| John Nancarrow | • Member of Inglewood Rod, Hunting and Clay Target Club | 17 August 2024 |
| Romon Sargeson | • None noted | |
| Gerard Karalus | • None noted | |
| Rawenata Saunders | • None noted | |
| Chris Mattock | • None Noted | |

| Staff | Conflict of Interest Identified | Date Declared |
|--------------|---|----------------------|
| Phil Teal | • Manager of Wellington Fish & Game Council | 19 October 2024 |

As at 24 May 2025

Agenda Item 4 Minutes of Meeting 29 March 2025

Summary

Consider the unconfirmed and draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 March 2025 of the Taranaki Fish and Game Council.

Confirmation by two members of the Council present at that meeting that they are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Note any specific additions or alterations required for clarity or correctness.

| |
|--------------------------|
| Decision Required |
|--------------------------|

Recommendation/Action

Move motion accepting confirming that the Minutes of the Meeting of 29 March 2025 are a true and correct reflection of the meeting (subject to any amendments noted).

that the Taranaki Fish and Game Council adopt the minutes of the Meeting held on 29 March 2025 be considered as a true and correct record of that meeting.

TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT TET MULTI SPORTS CENTRE, STRATFORD ON 29 MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 10:10AM

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Chris Donald welcomed Councillors and staff to the meeting.

A korero powhiri was given by Councillor Alan Flynn.

PRESENT

Chairman Chris Donald, and Councillors Gerard Karalus, John Nancarrow, Rawenata Saunders, Chris Mattock and Alan Flynn

IN ATTENDANCE

Staff: Phil Teal (Chief Executive), Allen Stancliff (Senior Fish and Game Officer), Jack Harland (Fish and Game Officer) Jilli Steedman (Secretary).

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Romon Sargeson.

MOVED NANCARROW / MATTOCK
THAT THE APOLOGIES RECEIVED, BE ACCEPTED
CARRIED

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 15 FEBRUARY 2025

MOVED MATTOCK / NANCARROW
THAT THE TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 15
FEBRUARY 2025 AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
CARRIED.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Mr Teal referred to the action list from previous meetings and confirmed that a submission had been prepared and submitted on the Arms Review legislation and that information to assist in preparation of a simplified response for an individual's submission had been sent to all adult whole season game bird licence holders from the previous season.

Mr Stancliff noted that staff had progressed the preparation of information to promote perch fishing opportunities in Taranaki region - with Jack Harland taking a lead with this. A pamphlet is now with the printers to establish a hard copy format for distribution and the pdf version will be able to be uploaded to the Fish and Game website.

Mr Stancliff 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 – and it was noted that a brief management plan would be developed that detailed the actions required to maintain the habitat in current state.

6. NZ COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Chairman noted his wish to move the meeting into a public excluded session, to allow free and frank discussion of a proposal developed by North Canterbury Fish and Game Council for an alternative structural configuration for Fish and Game organisation.

At 10:20 am

MOVED KARALUS / NANCARROW

THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING.

THE WITHHOLDING OF THE INFORMATION IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE EFFECTIVE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THROUGH FREE AND FRANK EXPRESSION OF OPINIONS BY COUNCILLORS AND TO MAINTAIN LEGAL PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE.

THIS RESOLUTION IS MADE IN RELIANCE ON SECTION 48(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987 AND THE PARTICULAR INTEREST OR INTERESTS PROTECTED BY SECTION 7 (f) (i) OF THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1987.

CARRIED

At 11:40 am

MOVED NANCARROW / FLYNN

TO MOVE OUT OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS AND RESUME THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING
CARRIED

Resolutions resulting from Public excluded meeting

MOVED SAUNDERS / NANCARROW

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ADVISE NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL'S INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME

CARRIED

MOVED KARALUS / MATTOCK

THAT THE CHAIRMEN OF TARANAKI AND WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCILS INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, BRUCE BATES, TO INVESTIGATE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SHARED RESOURCES OPERATIONAL MODEL BETWEEN THE THREE REGIONS

CARRIED

6. a NZ COUNCIL BUSINESS – NZ Council Meeting #171 28 February 2025 and 2 March 2025

Taranaki Fish and Game Council's appointee to NZ Fish and Game Council, Gerard Karalus gave a summary of the latest NZ Council meeting held on 28 February 2025 and 2 March 2025. He noted:

- Establishment of a Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team
- Access Strategy and Advocacy Campaign – regional offices will be asked to provide information regarding access issues and pressures (such as loss of access to lakes for hunting due to subdivision of land). Councillors discussed opportunities to proactively secure public access such as

submitting to Overseas Investment Office (OIO) on securing recreational fishing and hunting access. Other concepts discussed included examples from other countries (USA) where consortiums had privately funded land purchase and/or access agreements to secure recreational fishing and hunting opportunities.

- Policies for regional consultation and feedback were approved for release: Draft Resource Management & Legislation Fund Policy, HR Policy – Draft Policy for Lone Worker Management, draft Health and Safety, and Wellbeing Policy – General Policy.
- The R3 strategy was discussed by NZ Council and is requesting that regional Fish and Game Councils review their priority actions and implement a regional work plan to support the national R3 Campaign.
- Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) – NZ Council confirmed ZBB as its preferred budget process approach into the future. It was recognised that there had been significant delays in implementing the ZBB template for the 2025/2026 Financial Year. It had been agreed that the existing 2024/2025 budget template would be used in the upcoming budget process considerations and the budget allocations would be made using that as a basis for comparison – but that it would not follow a Contestable Fund Budget format. NZ Council requested that all regions continue to work towards completing draft budget process using the ZBB Budget Tool regardless of what is submitted to NZ Council by the end of March 2025 for the NZ Council scheduled 11 April 2025 Budget Meeting.
- North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Operations Model – an alternative operating model was being pursued to contract NZ Council to provide staff management and administrative services. Additional detailed information on the proposed arrangement, costings, and draft MOUs was requested by NZ Council.
- NZ Council held a discussion session with small break-out format focus groups (in conjunction with regional Fish and Game Council chairs) to canvass ideas on ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the wider organisation.

MOVED KARALUS / NANCARROW

THAT THE NZ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL APPOINTEE'S VERBAL REPORT BE RECEIVED
CARRIED

7. PUBLIC FORUM

No items required discussion.

8. REGIONAL BUSINESS – GOVERNANCE

a. Chairmans Report

The Chairman noted that NZ Council's intended procedures for considering budgets this year was for regional Chairs to solely present the regional draft budget for 2025/2026. He confirmed that he would be unable to attend the NZ Council budget meeting which is scheduled for 11 April 2025 due to other commitments.

Due to the unavailability of a Councillor to stand-in for the Chairman at that budgeting meeting (11 April 2025) it was agreed that the CE will present Taranaki Fish and Game Council budget at that meeting (via video conference) - and be assisted by the Taranaki's appointee to the NZ Council.

b. Meeting with Minister for Hunting & Fishing 28 February 2025

The Chairman noted the positive meeting with the Minister and his appreciation to the Councillors and staff who were able to attend.

MOVED DONALD / NANCARROW

THAT THE CHAIRMAN'S VERBAL REPORT BE RECEIVED
CARRIED

9. INTER-REGIONAL BUSINESS

a. Chair's Forum Update

The Chairman noted he was unable to attend the latest chair's zoom meeting.

The Chairman noted the recent resignation of Southland Chairman and NZ Council appointee, Lindsay Withington.

b. Shared Resources Update

The CE noted that there were no material issues to be brought to the attention of Council regarding the shared resources arrangement between the Taranaki and Wellington Fish & Game regions. He noted that the collaborative efforts on projects were working well in that it provided the ability to target staff resources on specific projects – as well as an increased diversity of experience for staff.

MOVED DONALD / NANCARROW

THAT TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL RECEIVE THE REPORT PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN
CARRIED

10. DRAFT 2025/2026 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Council discussed the draft 2025/2026 Annual Operational Work Plan and budget. Specific items were noted such as prioritising advocacy for improved water management of Lake Rotomanu under its current consented regime – with this issue to be considered as an item under General Business.

It was noted that the draft 2025/2026 budget was forwarded to NZ Council, and the final budget will be updated after consideration and confirmation of the recommended licence fee considerations by NZ Council.

MOVED SAUNDERS / KARALUS

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME RECEIVE THE DRAFT 2025/2026 DRAFT OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN
AND BUDGET
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.30pm for lunch.

Councillor Rawenata Saunders left the meeting

The meeting reconvened at 1:15pm

11. STRATEGIC MATTERS

a. Risk Management Review

The CE provided further clarification on the risk management issues associated with:

- Avian influenza H5N1 Strain (HPAI – High Pathogenic Avian Influenza) – no change in risk level. No incidents of H5N1 Strain had been detected in sampling on the likely pathways for introduction to NZ - southern Sub-Antarctic Islands off New Zealand (although some had been detected near South Africa) nor on the mainland of New Zealand.
- Mr Teal drew to the attention of Council a legal opinion from Elana Geddis (dated 16/4/2020) regarding funding and use of reserves response to a drop in licence sales due to an extraordinary external event (in that case COVID19 and possibility of drop in licence sales due to the epidemic). A similar scenario is possible should H5N1 strain enter New Zealand and the hunting season be disrupted – although the human health risks are significantly different (lower).

b. Iwi Engagement

It was noted that Allen Stancliff had recently attended the Te Kōpuka hui at Parakino Marae on the Whanganui River Road. Councillors were advised of a funding shortfall of Te Kōpuka and it was agreed that Taranaki Fish and Game could consider making a donation to Te Kōpuka as a member. Further detail was required on the quantum, urgency, and purpose of the funding requirements given that Taranaki Fish and Game Council is included as a member – but in the context of the partnership and scale with regional and central government agencies. It was noted that it was not currently a budget item. The Non-Resident Licence Dedicated Reserve was identified as a possible funding source.

12. POLICY AND LEGISLATION

a. Wildlife Act Review

Mr Teal confirmed that there has been no further update from the Minister of Conservation as to the priority or timetable, but confirmation has been received that DoC are actively progressing this review.

b. Resource Management Act Review

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the changes to legislation being considered or progressed by the Government in the resource management space.

A second RMA amendment bill - *The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill* - was introduced to Parliament in December relating to simplifying consenting process for infrastructure and energy projects, housing growth, farming sector, and system improvements. The Bill specifically amends the scope of discharges to water rules under section 70 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) in response to recent Court findings and in alignment with the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024. NZ Council made a formal submission to the Select Committee in March 2025 and the Bill is expected to come into force mid-2025.

Phase 3, which will see an entirely new Resource Management Act. The Government has also announced on 24 March 2025 that it is proposing to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) with two new laws:

- *A Natural Environment Act* – focused on managing the natural environment.
- *A Planning Act* – focused on planning to enable development and infrastructure.

The Government aims to introduce Bills in late 2025 and pass Bills into law in mid-2026.

c. Arms Act Review

A submission from Taranaki Fish and Game Council was made to the Arms Act Review consultation on 28 February 2025 – as did Wellington Fish and Game Council and NZ Fish and Game Council. The Government has indicated that the Arms Act would be rewritten by 2026.

Organisational Policies:

d. Draft Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy

NZ Council is consulting and sought feedback on the draft Health, Safety and Well Being policy. There were no amendments suggested and it was confirmed that this draft policy presented the expectations of general safety culture and expectations of all parties.

e. Draft Operational Policy – Resource Management and Legislation

NZ Council is consulting and sought feedback on the draft Resource Management and Legislation Policy and outlined how the RM Legal Fund will be used on criteria for prioritising funding of legal cases.

Councillors considered the draft policy and sought clarification on the following:

- The scoring matrix table that established priorities – how the scores are established and how would they be used in practice– e.g. if an advocacy action had little or no chance of succeeding then why would you considered proceeding with it.
- What approach would be made if there were multiple regional planning processes being run concurrently and how this would be dealt with if a case was not proceeded to the Environment Court (the opportunity cost of not following through on an issue).
- How we will deal with Environment Court cases collectively – for regions that do not have dedicated RM staff or would there be a collective project management team once it (or if it) reaches Environment Court level or higher.

f. Draft HR Policy – Lone Worker Support

NZ Council is consulting on this policy and seeking feedback on draft Lone Worker Support Policy.

There were no amendments suggested and confirmed that this presented the expectations of supporting lone workers and consideration of practical implementation of actions in different scenarios.

g. HR Policy – Managing Fatigue in the Work Place

NZ Council had confirmed the Managing Fatigue in the Work Place Policy.

MOVED MATTOCK / FLYNN

THAT TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL ADOPT THE DRAFT HR POLICY – MANAGING FATIGUE IN THE WORK PLACE.

CARRIED

13. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Health and Safety Report for January and February 2025 was discussed with no material items requiring further discussion.

Discussion ensued on how Council dealt with equipment that it loans out to external parties. This related to procedures on how a checklist is recorded prior to loaning out (including confirmation of fit for purpose) – including liability, health and safety instructions being undertaken, and responsibility of repairs for damage from external parties. The Fish Transfer Unit trailer and gas scare guns were used as examples of developing an operational check list to be completed before and after use. It was noted that the permit to disturb using gas guns be amended to have the permit holder acknowledge receipt of training for its use and health and safety recommendations.

Discussion was held on the potential improvements required to the Hawera hatchery to improve the ease of cleaning – as well as a general health and safety inspection. It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Nancarrow would inspect the site with staff to make a suggested list of any requirements (if any).

MOVED NANCARROW / MATTOCK

THAT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025 BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

14. SPECIES MANAGEMENT

a. Research Update

A brief report on research undertaken on:

1. Trout – Native Fish Interactions - this had been sent to a scientific journal for publication and was undergoing further refinement following peer review comments.
2. Potential Effects of Climate Change on Trout Distribution and other Native Fish Distribution. – confirm this has been published and consideration was given to how Fish and Game would release this information to the public. It was decided that this would form part of the communications prior to next fishing season rather than a separate press release in February.

b. 2025 Trout Release Schedule

Mr Stancliff provided an overview of the release schedule proposed.

MOVED FLYNN / KARALUS

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL RECEIVE THE PROPOSED 2025 TROUT RELEASE SCHEDULE.
CARRIED

15. HABITAT ADVOCACY AND MANAGEMENT

a. Regional Planning advocacy

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with the Oranga Wai consultation – the next generation of Regional Plan but are awaiting Government direction on approaches to developing regional plan rules and legislation having officially put back any plan review to September 2027 (originally December 2024 deadline).

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with their Plan Change 2 of the Regional Plan (One Plan) to introduce an additional tool – Nitrogen Loss Risk Scorecard - to deal with nitrogen leaching from intensive farm use. Awaiting decision from Environment Court.

Taranaki Regional Council is revising its plans for reviewing the Regional Freshwater and Land Plan, with notification now scheduled for March 2026 at the earliest. The proposed Freshwater and Land Plan will be publicly notified prior to a formal submissions and hearing process.

b. Resource Consent advocacy

TLAs within the Horizons region boundaries have been actively discussing partnerships and management approaches and funding models. This is concurrent to Government initiatives and approaches to municipal water management and discharge quality limits.

c. Habitat Enhancement Projects

There have been site visits to two projects in Whanganui and Taranaki.

16. PARTICIPATION

a. Access Management

- Access Point descriptions and information updated for new season on website.
- Supporting NZ Council initiated campaign with an access focus.

NZ Council is inviting regional Fish and Game Councils to provide information on access challenges and opportunities and provide feedback to NZ Council accordingly.

b. Information to Clients

- The 2025 Hunting edition of the Fish and Game Magazine has been distributed to licence holders.
- The 2025 Hunting Newsletter is being printed and will be posted out early-April to licence holders and rural delivery box holders within the Taranaki Fish and Game Region

c. Licence Holder Engagement

NZ Council is inviting regional Fish and Game Councils to provide information on their position on initiatives to support women anglers, including whether that region would support or participate in these initiatives;

- o Delivering educational materials/events tailored to the needs of women anglers
- o Supporting the development of new and existing networks of women anglers (e.g. social media, clubs, etc);
- o Providing both image and written content that showcases women in trout fishing for inclusion in F&G publications, such as the F&G magazine, Reel Life, and weekly newsletters;
- o Supporting and contributing to media campaigns in future F&G elections to encourage women to stand for a regional F&G Council.

17. PUBLIC AWARENESS / COMMUNICATIONS

a. Iwi Engagement

Allen Stancliff attended the Te Kopuka hui at Parakino Marae on the Whanganui River Road.

b. Public Awareness

Permits for the annual Paradise shelduck special summer season were printed and sent to licence agents.

c. Communication

Publicity on paradise shelduck special season information was provided for and published in three Taranaki newspapers.

d. Promotions

No specific actions in January and February period.

18. LICENCE SALES & LICENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

a. Fish Licence sales update

Confirmation of licence sales indicating YTD – comparison with previous year:

- LEQ sales up to previous year 20% (1004 c.f. 836)
- Total Number of Sales of licences up on previous year 27% (1858 c.f. 1455)

- Nationally licence sales LEQ is even 0.1% (64,313 c.f. 64,280).

MOVED NANCARROW / FLYNN

THAT THE REPORT ON LICENCE SALES FOR THE 2024/25 FISH SEASON TO 17 FEBRUARY, BE RECEIVED CARRIED

b. Licence Management System – January and February 2025

The CE 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.

MOVED NANCARROW / FLYNN

THAT THE REPORTS FROM THE LICENCE OPERATIONAL GROUP FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025, BE RECEIVED CARRIED

19. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

Council discussed the Operational Summary report for January and February 2025.

MOVED FLYNN / MATTOCK

THAT THE BUDGET REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2025 AND PROGRESS REPORT TO 14 MARCH 2025, BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

20. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Council briefly discussed the Financial Reports – Profit & Loss Statement to 28 February 2025 and Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2025.

Mr Teal confirmed that the sale of one of the vehicles had occurred within this reporting period.

MOVED KARALUS / NANCARROW

THAT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 28 FEBRUARY 2025, BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

21. CORRESPONDENCE

Council considered the correspondence register.

MOVED NANCARROW / KARALUS

THAT THE CORRESPONDENCE SCHEDULES TO 14 MARCH 2025, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

22. RECOGNITION AWARDS

Long serving Hatchery volunteers, Gavin Sturgeon and Don Uncles have decided to retire from volunteer duties at the hatchery. Councillors agreed they were deserving of a recognition award.

Action: Recognition Awards for retired hatchery volunteers, Don Uncles and Gavin Sturgeon;

23. CONSERVATION BOARD LIAISON

The CE noted that the Council should consider formal (re) engagement with Taranaki / Whanganui Conservation Board – noting that under legislation this should occur.

24. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Specific items were noted such as prioritising advocacy for improved water management of Lake Rotomanu under its current consented regime. It was agreed that TRC and NPDC should be making this more of a priority for implementation and improvement. It was agreed that that 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.
- Councillor Karalus noted the recent removal of the Timaru Stream Tataraimaka weir and asked about progress with removal of the Riverlands Eltham weir on the Waingongoro River.
- Councillor Mattock would like Council to take a proactive approach for upland game hunting access noting that notifications of overseas forest purchases would be an opportunity to negotiate access conditions.
- Jack Harland noted the large numbers of mallard duck attracted to two feed storage areas at J Swap contractors in Bell Block.
- Allen Stancliff noted that he would be overseas on annual leave from 15 May to 29 June 2025 and tendered his apology for the next Council meeting.

- Chairman Donald noted that there had been a request from a local Taranaki pan-hapu partnership of Te Atiawa (Te Ihowai Ltd) on the restrictions and process required for trout removal – with staff actively seeking to liaise with them to establish scope and purpose of the inquiry.

25. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on 29 May 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 3:00pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT TET MULTI SPORTS STADIUM, STRATFORD ON 29 MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 10:20PM

MOVED KARALUS / NANCARROW

THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING NAMELY TO ALLOW FOR FREE AND FRANK DISCUSSION

CARRIED

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

| GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED | REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER | GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION |
|--|--|--|
| Information provided in confidence |) Good reason to withhold) exists under section 9 of) the Official Information) Act 1982 | Section 48(1)(a) (ii) |
| Consideration of North Canterbury Fish and Game Council initiative | | |

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| North Canterbury Fish and Game initiative for a new operating model for their region | To allow for a free and frank discussion of Council's views on this initiative and to maintain legal professional privilege. | Sec. 9(2)(b)(ii) |
|--|--|------------------|

The Chairman started by noting the workload involved in his position involving internal organisational issues and volume of communications associated with it.

He invited Councillors to consider and discuss the initiative, presented by North Canterbury Fish and Game as a proposal to the NZ Council relating to a new operating model for their region.

NZ Councillor Karalus provided an overview of the proposed initiative to Council.

Discussion from Council included:

- How governance (including regional governance) interactions fits into the proposed model.
- How centralisation of operational functions would affect organisational culture – both positively and negatively. As an example - how regional Fish and Game Councils would interact with mana whenua and regional councils.
- That the proposal may be a good idea to achieve specific outcomes, but it needs more detail.
- Consideration be given to approach Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council for an opportunity for them to be included in a wider shared resource arrangement with Taranaki & Wellington Fish and Game Councils.
- The CE Phil Teal confirmed that any shared resource arrangement would be achievable if configured, managed, and resourced appropriately.
- The Council requested that the Chairman initiate discussions with Hawkes Bay Chairman, Bruce Bates, regarding a shared resources proposal.

MOVED SAUNDERS / NANCARROW

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ADVISE NZ COUNCIL THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL'S INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME

CARRIED

MOVED KARALUS / MATTOCK

THAT THE CHAIRMEN OF TARANAKI AND WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF HAWKES BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, BRUCE BATES, TO INVESTIGATE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SHARED RESOURCES OPERATIONAL MODEL BETWEEN THE THREE REGIONS

CARRIED

Public excluded meeting closed 11:40pm

MOVED NANCARROW / FLYNN

THAT THE PUBLIC BE RE-ADMITTED TO THE MEETING AND RESOLUTIONS BE MOVED INTO THE PUBLIC FORUM

CARRIED

Agenda Item 5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Summary

a. Action List Summary

Consider the Action List from the Minutes of the Meeting of 29 March 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.

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| For Information Only |
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Recommendation/Action

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

Actions from 29 March 2025 Meeting

| Action | Responsibility | Status |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Taranaki Fish and Game Council advise NZ Fish and Game Council that they are unable to support the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council's initiative at this time | Phil/Chris | Completed |
| 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. | Phil/Chris | Pending |
| Review regional R3 priority actions and implement a regional work plan to support the national R3 Campaign. | Phil | Pending |
| The existing 2024/2025 budget template would be used in the upcoming 2025/2026 budget process considerations and forwarded to NZ Council | Phil | Completed |
| The CE stand-in for the Chairman at the NZ Council budgeting meeting (11 April 2025) to present Taranaki Fish and Game Council budget at that meeting (via video conference) - and be assisted by the Taranaki's appointee to the NZ Council. | Phil/Gerard | Completed |
| 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. | Phil/Allen | Pending |
| Provide feedback to NZ Council on the draft Health, Safety and Well Being policy. | Phil | Completed |
| Provide feedback to NZ Council on the draft Resource Management and Legislation Policy and outline how the RM Legal Fund will be use criteria for prioritising funding of legal cases, and project management options. | Phil | Completed |
| Provide feedback to NZ Council on the draft Lone Worker Support Policy. | Phil | Completed |
| Confirm the HR Policy Managing Fatigue in the Work Place be adopted | Phil | Completed |
| 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. | Phil/Allen/Jack | Pending |
| It was noted that the permit to disturb using gas guns be amended to have the permit holder acknowledge receipt of training for its use and health and safety recommendations. | Phil/Jack | Completed |
| Site inspection potential improvements to identify and requirements to improve operations of the Hawera hatchery – as well as a general health and safety inspection | 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 | Phil | Pending |
| Recognition Awards for retired hatchery volunteers, Don Uncles and Gavin Sturgeon; | 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. | 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. | Phil/Allen/Jack/Matt K | Pending |

Actions from previous Meetings

| Action | Date | Responsibility | Status |
|--|-------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 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 – 11 and 12 April 2025
 - Any matters arising from this or previous meeting(s)

- b. Other NZ Council Business

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| For Information Only |
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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.



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.

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.
Telephone (04) 499 4767 Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

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

RMA Fund Update

New Zealand Fish & Game Council Meeting 174

For Decision

Prepared by: Helen Brosnan, Senior Policy Advisor, NZ Fish and Game Council

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report provides NZC an update on RMA projects being funded through the RMA fund.

Financial Considerations

- Nil Budgetary provision Unbudgeted

Risk

- Low Medium High Extreme

Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

2. That the New Zealand Council:
 - a) **Notes** that 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.
 - b) **Seek** case updates from regions on the status of cases, where this has not been provided;
 - c) **Advises** Regions that allocated funds that are not required due to cases not proceeding, or allocated budgets not being fully utilised on case completion, will be returned to the RM fund.
 - d) **Adopts** the template for case completion report (Attachment 2)

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

3. An amount of \$445,848 has been committed from the RM Fund as of 28 February 2025. Regions have reported allocating an additional \$100,509 from reserves for RM matters. The remaining uncommitted funds of \$192,302 is available for new cases. This does not include contestable funds for next year

(\$200k), which will be applied for at the April 2025 budgeting meeting. Appendix 1 provides an update on the RMA projects being undertaken by Regional Fish & Game Councils and the New Zealand Fish & Game Council.

4. Additional funds may be available where RM applications have been granted but cases have not proceeded or where the allocating funding has not been required. NZC staff recommend NZC seek case updates from regions on the status of cases, where this has not been provided.
5. The discussion section below summarises the advocacy work that NZC has been recently involved in.
6. Appendix 2 provides a detailed update of the recently completed RMA case in Southland.

Kōrerorero – Discussion

7. NZC Advocacy has focused on the following items. Copies of these submissions are available on the Fish & Game website under the corporate documents tab.

RMA Phase 3 and National Direction (new National Policy Statement Freshwater Management 2020)

8. We continue to work with our external advisors on developing guidance for eNGOs and the Ministry for the Environment prior to public consultation on the new National Direction. It is also valuable to note the RMA Phase 3 work that Environmental Defence Society has shared discussing key issues such as private property rights.
9. The expert advisory group (EAG) lead by Janet Campbell has released their report. The EAG's blueprint addresses the main failings of the RMA and provides 21 key recommendations that are ambitious and wide ranging. The Cabinet proposals for the introduction of new legislation, are broadly in line with the EAG's recommendations. Appendix 3 provides the summary points from the process to date.

Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill

10. Corina Jordan presented our submission to the Environment Select Committee on 13th March and answered questions relating to section 70 and 107 of the Resource Management Act. She reiterated that Permitted Activity rules need to be set only for low impact activities. However, these must sit beside a suite of other consenting frameworks. Collectively these approaches must take account of the cumulative effects of land use and work toward an improvement and reduction of contaminant discharges over the term of the plan.

11. When asked about priorities, she confirmed that a hierarchy is needed based on catchment values, national bottom lines, life supporting capacity and activities consistent with these priorities.

Local Government (Water Services) Bill

12. Corina Jordan presented our submission to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee and was questioned on three aspects of our submission including the single standard approach which will not be tailored to existing waterbodies. She also confirmed that these standards should not have precedence over the National Policy Statement for Freshwater standards which are instream receiving standards. The committee was also interested in the standard conditions used to minimise the risk of botulism.
13. Generally we are quite concerned about this legislation and the proposed standards, together with changed activity status, 35 year consenting term, changes to s124 and the use of end of pipe standards and load limits vs concentration limits.

Waste Water Standards

14. NZC and some regional planners will put together a submission on the proposed Wastewater Standards. These will sit within the proposed Local Government Water Services Bill where it is proposed that these standards will have higher standing than the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and the Target Attribute States. Essentially these standards will provide a "poo plant priority". We are concerned that the standards will allow for further degradation in receiving environments.
15. This submission is due on 24 April. A copy of it will be available on the Fish & Game website in due course.

Conservation Law Reform

16. We submitted on both the Charging for Access and Modernising the Conservation System discussion documents.

Partnering to Plant Trees on Crown Owned Land: Request for Information

17. Fish & Game provided a submission to the above request for information from MPI.

Fire Arms Legislative Review

18. NZC staff worked with experts across Fish & Game (including National Council) and externally with hunting sector leaders to develop a submission on the Arms Act rewrite.

Overseas Investment Act Amendment

19. Amendments to the Overseas Investment Act are proposed this year. It is not clear from the cabinet paper if this includes changes that will negatively impact on access. We will stay abreast of policy developments.

Crimes Act Amendments

20. We will review any proposed amendments in this space noting that the Conservation Act already provides a good level of protection for our rangers.

Detailed Project Updates

21. We have asked regions with completed RMA projects to provide a detailed overview of their cases for NZC and wider staff learning. A detailed update is attached from Southland in Appendix 2 (Southland).

22. A summary of funding of this case is included below. NZC Staff note that funding approved in June 2024 was for a joint Southland and CSI case to join the Environment Law Initiative case on s107, rather than providing additional funding for pSLWP.

| Date | Funding applied for | Purpose of Funding | NZC Funding |
|---------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| November 2018 | \$84k from Southland Reserves approved | Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP) | none |
| June 2020 | \$80k applied for | pSWLP | \$55k approved from RMA Fund |
| Feb 2022 | \$74,361 | pSWLP | \$74,361 |
| August 2022 | \$20,000 | Waituna Lagoon | \$20k approved from RMA Fund |
| June 2024 | \$17,500 | Environment law initiative s107 case with CSI and NC | \$17,500 approved from RMA Fund |

23. NZC staff have asked Southland to confirm if the \$17,500 approved in 2024 can be returned to the RMA fund, subject to the case not going ahead.

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision-making

Financial Implications

24. See Appendix 1.

Legislative Implications

25. The Phase 3 RMA reform introduces some big philosophical shifts from the current RMA position. We are concerned that at this early stage there is no mention of values, ecology (or the natural environment), access or recreation in this new legislation.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

26. We note that there are likely to be Treaty / Settlement Act issues associated with the above legislation changes.

Policy Implications

27. We await consultation on the new National Direction documents. We anticipate that freshwater, energy and primary production related policy will be relevant to the species that we manage.

Risks and Mitigations

28. The risk of not being involved in the policy and legislation changes is that habitat protections could be removed to the detriment of the species that we manage.

Consultation

29. Regions have been consulted in the preparation of this paper and detailed updates provided for completed projects (Southland and Greater Wellington).

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Financial Update for RMA Fund

Attachment 2 – Detailed update for Southland Case

Attachment 3 – RM Reform factsheet

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 Regional Business - Governance

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.

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| For Information Only |
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Recommendation/Action

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

Hon James Meager

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



JMC-201/ CORM-1557

17 April 2025

Chris Donald
Council Chair
Taranaki Fish and Game Council

By email: taranaki@fishandgame.org.nz

Dear Chris

Thank you for providing me with your annual performance report for the 2023/24 financial year. I appreciate the timeliness with which you completed your report.

Annual reports are an important vehicle for your stakeholders and communities to gain insight to all that goes into maintaining standards for access to, and enjoyment of, fishing and gamebird hunting in New Zealand. From promoting family fishing days to ensuring hunters' compliance and protecting waterways, the work you do is diverse and essential.

I have tabled your report in the House of Representatives. I will take time to read through it and contact you if I have any questions. Through my engagements with you, I am already aware of the efforts made by the Fish and Game councils over the past year. I look forward to our collaborative efforts in improving and strengthening Fish and Game.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Meager', with a long, sweeping underline.

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

Agenda Item 9 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.

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| 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.

Summary

a. Draft Budget 2025/2026

- Review draft recommendations for licence fee by NZ Council to the Minister
- Consultation is active on the decisions made by NZ Council for regional budgets – including how to deal with any increases in costs above base funding – (and use of regional reserves to cover cost increases).
- Critically review the decision-making process by NZ Council and how this affects the Taranaki Fish and Game Council draft budget and Operational Work Plan for 2025/2026.

Decision

Recommendation/Action

Decisions on supporting/commenting on NZ Council's recommended licence fee to the Minister

b. Family Fishing Licence - Proposal to Amend

NZ Council is seeking feedback on a proposal to amend the eligibility for use of all named participants on the Family Fishing Licence – which would remove restrictions for use by secondary licence holder and junior/child licence holders.

Decision

Recommendation/Action

Decisions on supporting/commenting on NZ Council's proposal to change the configuration for use for participants of the Family Fishing Licence

c. Proposed Licence Sales Forecast for FY 2025/2026

NZ Council provides information on the estimated licence sales for each region – this is important in budgeting estimates for income.

Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required – can potentially acknowledge the forecast figures for Taranaki (and other regions) and suitability of the process to derive such (support/amend/not support).

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN

FOR THE YEAR

1 SEPTEMBER 2025 TO 31 AUGUST 2026

Presented 29th March 2025

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 |

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BANK BNZ, Whanganui
AUDIT BDO Manawatu, Palmerston North
INSURANCE Whanganui 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>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> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Participate in the National Hunter Survey to derive robust estimates of annual game bird harvest and hunter success. 9. Recommend effective regulations that are timely, easily understood and which maximise licence holder opportunity while ensuring resource sustainability and public support. 10. Provide advice and support practical and effective predator control opportunities that assist game bird populations. 11. Undertake an annual trout stocking programme which concentrates on creating and maintaining valued lake fisheries. 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) 13. Operate Hawera hatchery in an effective, cost efficient and sustainable manner utilising volunteer support to meet the identified stocking objectives. 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. 15. Undertake safe and effective compliance coverage across the Taranaki Region, including a target of 100 licence checks of anglers and also of hunters. 16. Process detected offences in a fair and timely way consistent with national prosecution guidelines. | <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> |
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| <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> |
|---|---|---|

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 Healthy Species, Habitats, & Ecosystems</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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. 4. Investigate the establishment of an environmental award to acknowledge and highlight outstanding contributions to the protection of sports fish or gamebird habitat. 5. Seek effective environmental outcomes as part of the consenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes. 6. 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 |

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| <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>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>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>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>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>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 • Kaupokonui River access |

| | | |
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| <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> |
|--|---|--|

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <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> |
|--|---|---|

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>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>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> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proactively engage, work and collectively share with iwi and hapu within the region on matters affecting wetland and freshwater resources or their use. 2. Liaise with Department of Conservation and Conservation Boards and proactively engage and work with Regional and District Councils and community & industry groups. 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 profile in the media which encourages prospective participants and fosters support and understanding among the general public. 7. Implement revised media strategy and including incorporating any National Policy. | <p>Engagement and involvement with iwi and hapu in statutory processes and also at a local level</p> <p>Engagement with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC • Regional Councils • Wild for Taranaki • Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust • Federated Farmers <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> | | |

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| <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 |
|--|--|---|

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) @ \$120 (\$115) less GBHT Stamp \$5 per licence | 95,000 |
| Sports Fish Licences (Extrapolated LEQ of 1,217) @ \$161 | 170,380 |
| <u>Sub Total</u> | <u>265,380</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 | 162,166 |
| <u>Sub Total</u> | <u>204,410</u> |
| <u>Total Income</u> | <u>469,790</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>480,151</u> |
| Depreciation | 17,071 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | (19,676) |

TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE 2025/2026

| | Cost Price | Opening Book Value | | Gain/Loss on Disposal | Capital Profit | Depreciation | | | Accum Depreciation 31/8/2025 | Book Value 31/8/2026 |
|---|------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|--------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | 01/09/2025 | Additions Disposals | | | Month | Rate | \$ | | |
| Trout Hatchery Hawera | 16,451 | 0 | | | | | 0% SL | 0 | 16,451 | 0 |
| 2022 Ford Ranger PQT822 | 53,398 | 25,291 | | | | 12 | 24% DV | 6,070 | 34,177 | 19,221 |
| 2024 Ford Ranger QYE302 | 52,572 | 39,955 | | | | 12 | 24% DV | 9,589 | 22,206 | 30,366 |
| 2017 Polaris S X S motorbike | 15,648 | 788 | | | | 12 | 30% DV | 236 | 15,096 | 552 |
| Trailer Polaris | 3,955 | 1,632 | | | | 12 | 10% DV | 163 | 2,486 | 1,469 |
| Heat Pump NP Office | 1,348 | 432 | | | | 12 | 14.4% DV | 62 | 978 | 370 |
| Euro Tilt Cabinets | 1,054 | 17 | | | | 12 | 14.4% DV | 2 | 1,039 | 15 |
| Office Furniture | 2,794 | 24 | | | | 12 | 24% DV | 6 | 2,776 | 18 |
| Criterion WB141 Bookcase (Rimu) | 985 | 3 | | | | 12 | 18% DV | 1 | 983 | 2 |
| Ergopus Corner Workstation | 533 | 15 | | | | 12 | 14.4% DV | 2 | 520 | 13 |
| Computer Whanganui Office (2020) | 2,520 | 92 | | | | 12 | 50% DV | 46 | 2,474 | 46 |
| Computer New Plymouth Office (2020) | 2,340 | 86 | | | | 12 | 50% DV | 43 | 2,297 | 43 |
| Computer New Plymouth Office (2021) | 2,410 | 164 | | | | 13 | 50% DV | 82 | 2,328 | 82 |
| HP Pro Desk 600 Computer & Software WGI | 2,276 | 1 | | | | 12 | 50% DV | 1 | 2,276 | 1 |
| Sharp MX-2314 photocopier | 5,995 | 1,727 | | | | 12 | 14.4% DV | 249 | 4,517 | 1,478 |
| Field Equipment | 1,771 | 36 | | | | 12 | 10% DV | 4 | 1,739 | 32 |
| Drone | 1,460 | 1,038 | | | | 12 | 10% DV | 104 | 526 | 934 |
| Nephelometer | 3,690 | 5 | | | | 12 | 21.6% DV | 1 | 3,686 | 4 |
| Diving Gear & Wetsuit NP | 884 | 3 | | | | 12 | 21.6% DV | 1 | 882 | 2 |
| Electric Fishing Machine | 13,186 | 4,103 | | | | 12 | 10% DV | 410 | 9,493 | 3,693 |
| | 185,270 | 75,412 | - | - | - | | | 17,071 | 126,930 | 58,341 |



| | |
|---------------|--|
| CONSULTATION: | LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION 2025-26 |
| TO: | Regional Managers |
| CC: | Administrators |
| AUTHOR: | Corina Jordan, CEO of NZ Fish & Game Council |
| DATE: | 24/04/2025 |
| FEEDBACK DUE: | 09/06/2025 |
| FEEDBACK TO: | nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz |

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

1. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:
 - a. 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 of **\$120** (increase of \$4) (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted *
 - b. 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) *
 - c. That the licence categories be charged at the agreed ratio for all categories
 - d. The sea-run salmon licence endorsement of \$5 (as a cost-recovery mechanism) (no change from 2024/25).
 - e. That Designated Waters Licence as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40 (no change from 2024/25).
 - f. Recommend the forecast Fish LEQ for the 2025/26 Season being **72,975** and **30,601** for Game.

Discussion - Kōrero

Proposal

2. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) is seeking to consult with Fish and Game regional councils on the '2025/26 licence fee recommendations and forecast LEQ' for 2025/26.
3. The NZC met on the 11th and 12th of April 2025 to consider the 2025/26 budgets and licence fees. Following that meeting, NZC agreed to recommend an increase in licence fees. The licence fee for a sports fish adult whole season licence is proposed as \$161 (an increase of \$5), the game adult whole season licence is proposed as \$120 (an increase of \$4), and the non-resident whole season fish licence is proposed as \$300 (an increase of \$30) for 2025/2026. In recommending these fees, NZC also recommended that all other licence categories increase to the agreed proportions. A full list of recommended licence fees and categories is detailed in the Schedule attached (**Appendix 2**).

Background

4. In recommending licence fees to the Minister, the New Zealand Fish & Game Council is required to:

“Give particularly careful consideration to the regional Fish and Game Councils’ assessed management costs, and the potential impact, on their management activities, when reaching its decision as to the level of licence fee that would be “appropriate”; and

Give genuine attention, and thought, to the regional Fish and Game Councils’ views and recommendations before making its recommendation to the Minister. Geddis 2023, NZC fee setting power - s 26C(1)(e) CA - advice 29.05.2023[82][23].

5. Section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of Fish and Game Councils.

Subsection (1)(d)(a) requires councils:

To assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game;

Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) requires Fish and Game councils:

To develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees;

Section 26C(1)(e) requires NZC:

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.

Section 26C(1)(ia) also requires NZC:

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. Operationally, the national policy of NZC specifies that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round, including capital expenditure and expenditure from reserves for all councils.

Policy

7. At the May 2020 NZC meeting, in response to COVID-19, the NZC set the minimum level of reserves at 20% of total budget for all councils. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow.
8. The budget policy specifies that all expenditure from general and dedicated reserves needs to be notified/approved by NZC as part of the budget round or by making an application for Exceptional Funding. There are consequences across all sectors of the organisation when any council's reserves are reduced in a manner inconsistent with this policy.

Budget Process

9. The New Zealand Fish & Game Council resolved at meeting 170 (23 and 24 August 2025) that there would no longer be a Contestable Fund Budget round. Instead, NZC, on an annual basis, will be taking a zero-based budget approach whereby the entire budget of a region will be reviewed annually and in setting both Licence Fee recommendations and organisational budgets moving forward.

10. The Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) approach was to be phased in over two years. With the first year focussed on supporting the regions to work through a ZBB process, updating F&G's budget and application templates, and trialling new/amended processes. Year two is intended to be about refining F&G's templates and processes from the learnings of year one and, if required, more in-depth discussions around any potential financial policy changes, including resourcing across the organisation.

11. Summary:

- a. ZBB is intended to be phased in over two years;
- b. For 2025/26, Regional Fish & Game Councils are encouraged to consider the previous year's budget as a guide in setting the overall regional budget;
- c. Councils were encouraged to consider Strategic Priorities for the region – Ideally, utilise the Organisational Strategy as this will be top of mind for NZC;
- d. Councils were encouraged, when considering their strategic priorities along with legislative functions, to build budgets and their OWP in a manner which considers each line item and whether or not efficiency gains can be made, and whether or not line items should be added or removed;
- e. The effective outcome may be, an increase, or decrease, relative to the previous year's budget total;
- f. For material changes in projects from previous years, the preparation of a business case was recommended (i.e.>\$30,000).

12. A comprehensive Zero-based budgeting tool, instructions document, and video was distributed to the regions on 26 February 2025. Drop-in training sessions were also provided. Given the delay in providing the Zero based budgeting tool, NZC accepted regional budgets in either the historic format or in the new ZBB format. Three regions (Westcoast, North Canterbury, and Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Councils) worked with the new ZBB tool and provided their budgets in this format. A Business Case Template and Summary Budget Template were also provided to assist regions in putting forward their recommended budgets to NZC. The Summary Template also provided a structure for Regional Chairs to speak to as they presented their budgets to NZC on the 11th of April 2025. All Regions provided their full budgets.

13. 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. The variance reports for the 2024/25 year are prepared and discussed. |
| March | Preparation of business and operational work plans for new financial year (NFY). Draft budgets developed by NZC and regional councils. |
| April | Councils apply for Baseline funding and Business Case funding, with applications circulated beforehand and prioritised at the NZC April meeting |
| April 11th | NZC meet (by Zoom) with the Chairs of each region to consider the budget funding applications. |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| April 11 & 12th | NZC make recommendations on licence forecast fees, having considered Baseline funding levels and Business Case fund applications, and sends them to regional councils for consideration. |
| May | Regional councils consider NZC licence fee recommendations. Due back to NZC (9 June 2025). |
| June | NZC consider regional response and finalises licence fee recommendations for approval by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing. |

14. The funding required to cover Base funds and approved Business Case funding is assessed against the expected licence sales for the year ahead (established from analysis of historical sales trends) to determine the licence fees.

15. The recommended licence fee is effectively set by dividing the sum of the proposed budgets of the 13 Councils by the number of adult whole season licence equivalents that Fish and Game NZ expects to sell during the year (LEQ targets).

2025/26 Licence LEQ Forecast

16. The following table represents the approved forecast for the Licence sales for Fish and Game for the 2025/26 season. NZC is recommending the forecast LEQ for the 2025/26 Season being **72,975** for Fish and **30,601** for Game.

17. The forecast which the Licence Working Party recommended.

Table 1. Extrapolated Fish Licence Forecast (LEQ) for 2025/26 – using the estimated sales for the 2024/25 complete season as of 17 March 2025.

| | Actual Fish 2023-24 | Estimated Fish 2024-25 | Extrapolated Fish 2025-26 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Northland | 467 | 618 | 618 |
| Auckland Waikato | 3655 | 3838 | 3838 |
| Eastern | 8504 | 9005 | 9005 |
| Hawke's Bay | 2455 | 3010 | 3010 |
| Taranaki | 1022 | 1217 | 1217 |
| Wellington | 3039 | 2910 | 2846 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 4377 | 4217 | 4136 |
| North Canterbury | 11007 | 10456 | 10180 |
| West Coast | 2169 | 2200 | 2200 |
| Central South Island | 12486 | 12406 | 12366 |
| Otago | 15514 | 15491 | 15479 |
| Southland | 8740 | 8300 | 8080 |
| | 73435 | 73667 | 72975 |

Table 2. Extrapolated Game Licence Forecast (LEQ) for 2025/26 – based on the Traditional Method.

| | Actual Game 2023 | Actual Game 2024 | Extrapolated Game 2026 |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Northland | 1552 | 1521 | 1506 |
| Auckland Waikato | 6518 | 6463 | 6436 |
| Eastern | 2855 | 2663 | 2567 |
| Hawke's Bay | 1750 | 1888 | 1888 |
| Taranaki | 1086 | 995 | 950 |
| Wellington | 3290 | 3239 | 3214 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 862 | 850 | 844 |
| North Canterbury | 2557 | 2576 | 2576 |
| West Coast | 364 | 363 | 363 |
| Central South Island | 2266 | 2031 | 1914 |
| Otago | 3989 | 3945 | 3923 |
| Southland | 4625 | 4488 | 4420 |
| | 31714 | 31022 | 30601 |

18. Appendix 1 provides the 2025/2026 Licence Sales and Interest Forecast based on Current Licence Fees.

Following Components Featured in the 2025/26 Budget Discussions: Business Case Funding Applications

19. All Regions provided their proposed Baseline budget for FY26. For most regions this included an increase from their FY25 baseline budgets. Increases ranged from X to x% (appendix x). Total FY26 Baseline budgets totalled \$12,874,509, in comparison to total FY25 baseline budgets which totalled \$12,358,386 (including contestable fund applications that were approved in FY25 as ongoing), an increase of 4.1% and \$516,123.00.
20. For reference, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), in March 2025, New Zealand's annual inflation rate reached 2.5% for the previous 12 months.

| Summary of Base Budget Proposals 2025/26 vs 2024/25 | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Region | Base Budget FY 24/25 | Proposed Base Budget 25/26 | Percentage Increase | Value Increase |
| Northland | \$592,081.00 | \$610,346.00 | 3% | \$18,265.00 |
| Auckland\Waikato | \$881,824.00 | \$966,026.00 | 10% | \$84,202.00 |
| Eastern | \$1,305,544.00 | \$1,273,476.00 | -2% | (\$32,068.00) |
| Hawkes Bay | \$434,624.00 | \$499,775.00 | 15% | \$65,151.00 |
| Taranaki | \$427,816.00 | \$427,292.00 | 0% | (\$524.00) |
| Wellington | \$848,388.00 | \$851,300.00 | 0% | \$2,912.00 |
| Nelson-Marlb | \$564,125.00 | \$590,269.00 | 5% | \$26,144.00 |
| Nth Canterbury | \$1,068,935.00 | \$1,145,910.00 | 7% | \$76,975.00 |
| West Coast | \$375,951.00 | \$424,000.00 | 13% | \$48,049.00 |
| Central SI | \$945,235.00 | \$1,030,235.00 | 9% | \$85,000.00 |
| Otago | \$1,240,968.00 | \$1,324,478.00 | 7% | \$83,510.00 |
| Southland | \$823,059.00 | \$885,171.00 | 8% | \$62,112.00 |
| NZC only | \$1,280,486.00 | \$1,513,516.00 | 18% | \$233,030.00 |
| National | \$1,569,350.00 | \$1,332,715.00 | -15% | (\$236,635.00) |
| TOTAL | \$12,358,386.00 | \$12,874,509.00 | 4% | \$516,123.00 |

21. Fourteen Business case applications were received (59 last year), seeking additional funding of \$960,449 (previous year \$2,200,596).

| Summary of Original Base Budget Proposals and additional Business Case Requests | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Region | Net Licence Income | Base Budget FY 24/25 | Proposed Base Budget 25/26 | Reserves as at 31 Aug 25 | Business cases from reserves or other | Business Cases | Reserves Req 20% of budget |
| Northland | \$226,447.59 | \$592,081.00 | \$610,346.00 | \$214,033.00 | | | \$118,416.20 |
| Auckland\Waikato | \$1,100,651.55 | \$881,824.00 | \$966,026.00 | \$149,287.00 | | | \$176,364.80 |
| Eastern | \$1,430,366.16 | \$1,305,544.00 | \$1,378,026.00 | \$660,651.00 | | \$70,347.00 | \$264,108.80 |
| Hawkes Bay | \$583,381.66 | \$434,624.00 | \$499,775.00 | \$548,535.00 | \$87,000.00 | | \$115,324.80 |
| Taranaki | \$254,269.29 | \$427,816.00 | \$427,292.00 | \$258,546.00 | | | \$89,805.00 |
| Wellington | \$680,741.13 | \$848,388.00 | \$851,300.00 | \$410,195.00 | | | \$169,677.60 |
| Nelson-Marlb | \$619,641.83 | \$564,125.00 | \$590,269.00 | \$94,030.00 | | \$35,000.00 | \$112,825.00 |
| Nth Canterbury | \$1,574,695.98 | \$1,009,935.00 | \$1,237,910.00 | \$343,326.00 | \$39,000.00 | | \$213,787.00 |
| West Coast | \$327,820.74 | \$375,951.00 | \$424,000.00 | \$256,274.00 | | | \$80,190.20 |
| Central SI | \$1,815,088.80 | \$945,235.00 | \$1,030,235.00 | \$911,992.00 | \$40,000.00 | | \$207,265.40 |
| Otago | \$2,404,585.74 | \$1,240,968.00 | \$1,324,478.00 | \$843,587.00 | | | \$252,794.00 |
| Southland | \$1,481,972.73 | \$823,059.00 | \$885,171.00 | \$672,820.00 | | \$41,199.00 | \$191,966.80 |
| NZC only | \$39,646.00 | \$1,280,486.00 | \$1,513,516.00 | \$1,559,679.00 | | \$100,000.00 | \$674,567.20 |
| National | \$0.00 | \$1,569,350.00 | \$1,628,715.00 | | | \$436,000.00 | |
| TOTAL | \$12,539,309.00 | \$12,299,386.00 | \$13,367,059.00 | \$6,922,955.00 | \$188,000.00 | \$882,546.00 | \$2,667,092.80 |

Funding Recommendations from NZC Staff

22. The NZC staff made recommendations to the NZC in three Steps:

- a. Step 1: Recommendation of Salary increases to meet the 2% increase in Market Movement as provided in baseline budgets;
- b. Step 2: if no licence fee increase is to be considered, then recommend:

- i. Retaining FY25 budgets;
 - ii. Approve top-up of reserves;
 - iii. Approve applications from reserves;
 - iv. Approve additional budgets to be spent from reserves, which are a high strategic priority for Fish & Game;
 - v. Approve essential business cases;
 - Licence system RFP \$50,000
 - Increased licence system running costs \$30,000
 - Increase in postage for the magazine \$50,000
- c. Step 3: If a licence fee increase is to be recommended, then consider:
- i. Approval of the Regional Baseline Budgets and increases from 2024/25;
 - ii. Approval of the NZC/National Baseline Budgets, which remain the same as 2024/25;
 - iii. Approval of the essential Business Case applications made by NZC (\$136,000):
 - Increased licence system operation costs (\$30,000):
 - licence system RFP (\$50,000) and
 - expected additional magazine postage costs for the 2026 year (\$50,000)
 - i. Approval of the Business Case applications that meet the organisation's Strategic priorities within the budget envelope that is being considered.

2025/26 NZC Business Case Funding Approval and 2025/26 Budgets

23. Budgets for all councils were received and circulated to the NZC for review before the April NZC meeting.
24. The Chairs of the Regions were invited to present their Regional Budgets to the NZC on Friday, 11th April.
25. The NZC approved Business Case funding applications at a total value of \$960,449. Of this, \$386,000 were ongoing from the Licence fee, and \$574,449 were one-off from reserves.
26. As previously notified via email, the draft budget resolutions are:
 - a. 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;
 - b. Approve all budgets from reserves that have been included within business cases or as reserve funded within baseline in the FY26 Budget applications;

- c. Approve all staff salary increases as put forward in the salaries component of baseline budget FY26 applications for existing staff, subject to available budgets.
 - d. 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);
 - e. Recommended approval of a research position with NZC to support NZC's research statutory function and to coordinate and modernize F&G research management, including population monitoring analysis and reporting;
 - f. Agree to top up RMA fund by \$100,000 (\$200,000 was initially applied for to the Council)
 - g. Agree to top up the Research fund by \$50,000
 - h. Recommend approval of the Total Budget of \$13,548,958 funded through forecast licence income and interest from reserves and one off projects funded by the use of reserves;
 - i. Three business cases were proposed to be declined. These included the following:
 - Eastern Compliance Officer \$70,347;
 - NM part-time R³ position \$35,000;
 - Te Anau position declined as a business case, but NZC would support tjs position being funded through the regions reserves \$41,199.
 - j. All regionally proposed baseline budgets were accepted, with some recommended changes in relation to funding aspects of projects from reserves rather than through the licence income. Whether or not a region funds projects from reserves is a decision for the Regional Council.
 - Eastern region moved one project (\$8,000) from their baseline funding to fund it from reserves.
 - North Canterbury moved two projects from their submitted budget to fund them from reserves, (\$19,000 and \$20,000) and
 - NZC moved the HR position from the National projects to place it under the NZC budget. Also, NZC opted to fund the magazine for two editions in 2026 from the unspent reserves previously allocated in anticipation of cost increases.
27. Budget decisions from NZC meeting 174 are subject to ratification at the NZC meeting in June.
28. Final decisions on the licence fee, levies, and grants will be made at the June NZC meeting 175 after consideration of regional feedback.
29. The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game councils for 2025/26 (including funding from reserves) is \$13,548,958. Table 3 summarises the draft budget decisions from NZC which are being consulted on. Individual budgets are shown in Table 4 below alongside the previous financial year (both shown as GST exclusive).

| Region | Net Licence Income | Proposed Base Budget 25/26 | Reserves as at 31 Aug 25 | Business cases from reserves | Business Cases | Description |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Northland | \$226,447.59 | \$610,346.00 | \$214,033.00 | | | |
| Auckland/Waikato | \$1,100,651.55 | \$966,026.00 | \$149,287.00 | | | |
| Eastern | \$1,430,366.16 | \$1,273,476.00 | \$660,851.00 | \$8,000.00 | | Additional compliance Officer \$70,347 |
| Hawkes Bay | \$583,381.66 | \$499,775.00 | \$548,535.00 | \$87,000.00 | | Additional casual staff member 37k, Tukuiki rive |
| Taranaki | \$254,269.29 | \$427,292.00 | \$258,546.00 | | | |
| Wellington | \$680,741.13 | \$851,300.00 | \$410,195.00 | | | |
| Nelson-Marib | \$619,641.83 | \$590,269.00 | \$94,030.00 | | | Part time R3 Role \$35,000 |
| Nth Canterbury | \$1,574,695.98 | \$1,145,910.00 | \$343,326.00 | \$39,000.00 | | |
| West Coast | \$327,820.74 | \$424,000.00 | \$256,274.00 | \$33,250.00 | | |
| Central SI | \$1,815,088.60 | \$1,030,235.00 | \$911,992.00 | \$40,000.00 | | Fencing |
| Otago | \$2,404,585.74 | \$1,324,478.00 | \$843,587.00 | | | |
| Southland | \$1,481,972.73 | \$885,171.00 | \$672,820.00 | \$41,199.00 | | One Officer position |
| NZC only | \$39,646.00 | \$1,513,516.00 | \$1,559,679.00 | \$30,000.00 | \$100,000.00 | New Research Position |
| National | \$0.00 | \$1,332,715.00 | | \$296,000.00 | \$36,000.00 | Increased Licence Costs |
| National | | | | | \$50,000.00 | Licence System RFP |
| National | | | | | \$50,000.00 | Extra Magazine postage |
| National | | | | | \$100,000.00 | RMA Fund Topup |
| National | | | | | \$50,000.00 | Research Fund Topup |
| TOTAL | \$12,539,309.00 | \$12,874,509.00 | \$6,922,955.00 | \$574,449.00 | \$388,000.00 | |

30. Individual budgets are shown in Table 4 below alongside the previous financial year (both shown as GST exclusive).

| | Base Funds 2025/26 | Approved Business Case from Licence Fee ongoing | Approved Business Case from Reserves - One off | Approved Budget 2025/26 (inc from Reserves) |
|------------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Northland | 610,346 | 0 | 0 | 610,346 |
| Auckland/Waikato | 966,026 | 0 | 0 | 966,026 |
| Eastern | 1,273,476 | 0 | 8,000 | 1,281,476 |
| Hawkes Bay | 499,775 | 0 | 87,000 | 586,775 |
| Taranaki | 427,292 | 0 | 0 | 427,292 |
| Wellington | 851,300 | 0 | 0 | 851,300 |
| Nelson-Marlb | 590,269 | 0 | 0 | 590,269 |
| Nth Canterbury | 1,145,910 | 0 | 39,000 | 1,184,910 |
| West Coast | 424,000 | 0 | 33,250 | 457,250 |
| Central SI | 1,030,235 | 0 | 40,000 | 1,070,235 |
| Otago | 1,324,478 | 0 | 0 | 1,324,478 |
| Southland | 885,171 | 0 | 41,199 | 926,370 |
| NZC only | 1,513,516 | 100,000 | 30,000 | 1,643,516 |
| National | 1,332,715 | 0 | 296,000 | 1,628,715 |
| TOTAL | 12,874,509 | 100,000 | 574,449 | 13,548,958 |

1

¹ National issues include the cost of shared services benefiting the organisation nationwide, such as the special editions of the FISH AND GAME magazine, the FISH AND GAME NZ website, licence administration system, administration of elections, ranger health & safety training, etc.

Research Fund Allocation

31. An annual allocation is made to the Research Fund to avoid inflating the budget in any one year. The annual Research Budget (\$155k) historically has been split between General Research (\$100k), the National Anglers Survey (\$30k) and the Research for PhD (Cawthron \$25k).
32. NZC made a Business case application of \$100,000 for the Research Fund. NZC approved a \$50,000 top-up of the Research Fund for the 2025/26 financial year.

Staff Development Fund

33. A staff scholarship of \$10,000 is available annually for Fish and Game staff to apply for support from the organisation for national and international study, work experience or participation in events or conferences. The Staff Development Fund of \$10,000 has been retained and will be available for the 2025/26 financial year.

RMA/Legal Fund Allocation

34. The RMA/Legal fund receives budget allocations on a reimbursement basis. It covers payment of costs through a national fund rather than separate funding allocations in individual councils' budgets where approved legal projects occur.
35. NZC submitted a Business Case to provide an additional \$200,000 to the RM Fund. NZC approved \$100,000 to be allocated to the national legal pool fund for this 2025/26 year.

NZC Licence Fee Recommendations

36. After discussion, the NZC voted to recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025 26 Adult whole season sports fish licence of \$161 (an increase of \$5) and Adult whole season game licence increase of \$120 (an increase of \$4) (inclusive of the game bird habitat stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted
37. The NZC also voted to recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025 26 non-resident whole season fishing licence of \$300 (an increase of \$30)
38. That the licence categories be charged at the agreed ratio for all categories;
39. The licence fee(s) and budget go to the Regions for Consultation;
40. Total income, including interest, is \$13,262,190. The Cost of Sales (COS) is the commission and bank transaction charges relating to the sale of licences is budgeted at 4.0% of licence income.

| | Fish Licence Income \$ | | | Game Licence Income \$ | | | TOTAL Licence Income \$ | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | Fish \$ | COS \$ | Net Fish \$ | Game \$ | COS \$ | Net Game \$ | TOTAL F & G | Total COS \$ | Net Licence | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Income \$ | Interest \$ | Net Income |
| Northland | 86,520 | 3,461 | 83,059 | 150,600 | 6,024 | 144,576 | 237,120 | 9,485 | 227,635 | 6,421 | 234,056 |
| Auckland/Waikato | 537,320 | 21,493 | 515,827 | 643,600 | 25,744 | 617,856 | 1,180,920 | 47,237 | 1,133,683 | 4,479 | 1,138,162 |
| Eastern | 1,260,700 | 50,428 | 1,210,272 | 256,700 | 10,268 | 246,432 | 1,517,400 | 60,696 | 1,456,704 | 19,820 | 1,476,524 |
| Hawkes Bay | 421,400 | 16,856 | 404,544 | 188,800 | 7,552 | 181,248 | 610,200 | 24,408 | 585,792 | 16,456 | 602,248 |
| Taranaki | 170,380 | 6,815 | 163,565 | 95,000 | 3,800 | 91,200 | 265,380 | 10,615 | 254,765 | 7,756 | 262,521 |
| Wellington | 398,440 | 15,938 | 382,502 | 321,400 | 12,856 | 308,544 | 719,840 | 28,794 | 691,046 | 12,306 | 703,352 |
| Nelson-Marlborough | 579,040 | 23,162 | 555,878 | 84,400 | 3,376 | 81,024 | 663,440 | 26,538 | 636,902 | 2,821 | 639,723 |
| North Canterbury | 1,425,200 | 57,008 | 1,368,192 | 257,600 | 10,304 | 247,296 | 1,682,800 | 67,312 | 1,615,488 | 10,300 | 1,625,788 |
| West Coast | 308,000 | 12,320 | 295,680 | 36,300 | 1,452 | 34,848 | 344,300 | 13,772 | 330,528 | 7,680 | 338,208 |
| Central South Island | 1,731,240 | 69,250 | 1,661,990 | 191,400 | 7,656 | 183,744 | 1,927,640 | 76,906 | 1,850,734 | 27,360 | 1,878,094 |
| Otago | 2,167,060 | 86,682 | 2,080,378 | 392,300 | 15,692 | 376,608 | 2,559,360 | 102,374 | 2,456,986 | 25,308 | 2,482,294 |
| Southland | 1,131,200 | 45,248 | 1,085,952 | 442,000 | 17,680 | 424,320 | 1,573,200 | 62,928 | 1,510,272 | 20,185 | 1,530,457 |
| Non Resident licence fee uplift | | | | | | | | | | | 117,382 |
| NZC only | | | | | | | | | | | 39,646 |
| National | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 10,216,500 | 408,660 | 9,807,840 | 3,060,100 | 122,404 | 2,937,696 | 13,276,600 | 531,064 | 12,745,536 | 200,544 | 13,063,462 |

NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp

41. The NZC recommended the Game Bird Habitat Stamp for 2025/26 remain at \$5.

Modification to Licence Categories and Ratios with whole Season Fees

42. The NZ Council agreed that the residents sports fish categories and ratios be maintained as in previous years.

Overall Forecast Position and Use of Reserves

43. The recommendation for licence fees of \$161 and \$120, along with the recommendation of a total budget of \$13,548,958, creates an overall potential surplus of \$88,953.

| Table 6: 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 | 200,544 |
| Uplift of Non-Resident licences | 117,382 |
| Total Income | 13,063,462 |
| Less Approved Budget | 13,548,958 |
| Less funded by Reserves | (574,449) |
| Total Surplus/(Deficit) | 88,953 |

44. Approval for councils to use their reserves to cover one-off projects for the year totals \$574,449.

45. Forecasts as at April 2025 suggest two regions, Auckland Waikato and Nelson Marlborough, may fall below the 20% reserves and require a top-up of \$45,872. This was included in the baseline budget calculations

Conclusion

46. The NZ Council seeks consultation from Fish and Game regional councils on the following points:

1. The licence fees and categories as set out in the appended schedule (Appendix 2) and specifically:
 - a. That the 2025/26 Whole Season Sports Fish licence fee is set at \$161 (an increase of \$5), and the Adult Whole Season Game licence fee is set at \$120 (an increase of \$4) (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted *;
 - b. That the 2025/26 Non-Resident Whole Season Fishing licence fee is set at \$300 (increase of \$30) *
 - c. with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees
 - d. The Licence LEQ of 72,975 (Fish) and 30,601 (Game).

47. To enable the NZC to consider feedback and make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation at its June 2025 meeting, responses to these changes are requested to be submitted before **Monday, 9 June 2025**.



Barrie Barnes
Chairman
New Zealand Fish and Game Council



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

APPENDIX 1.

2025-26 Licence sales and interest forecast based on current licence fees.

| Region | Extrapolated Fish 2025-26 | Extrapolated Game 2026 | Budget Fish \$135,652 (\$156 incl GST) | Budget Game \$96,523 (\$111 incl GST excl GHBT \$5) | less comm 4% \$ | Net Licence \$ | Plus Interest \$ | Net Income \$ |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|---|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Northland | 618 | 1506 | 83,833 | 145,362 | -9,168 | 220,027 | \$6,421 | 226,448 |
| Auckland Waikato | 3838 | 6436 | 520,633 | 621,214 | -45,674 | 1,096,173 | \$4,479 | 1,100,652 |
| Eastern | 9005 | 2567 | 1,221,548 | 247,771 | -58,773 | 1,410,546 | \$19,820 | 1,430,366 |
| Hawke's Bay | 3010 | 1888 | 408,313 | 182,233 | -23,622 | 566,924 | \$16,456 | 583,380 |
| Taranaki | 1217 | 950 | 165,089 | 91,696 | -10,271 | 246,513 | \$7,756 | 254,269 |
| Wellington | 2846 | 3214 | 386,066 | 310,221 | -27,851 | 668,435 | \$12,306 | 680,741 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 4136 | 844 | 561,057 | 81,464 | -25,701 | 616,821 | \$2,821 | 619,642 |
| North Canterbury | 10180 | 2576 | 1,380,939 | 248,640 | -65,183 | 1,564,396 | \$5,495 | 1,569,891 |
| West Coast | 2200 | 363 | 298,435 | 35,037 | -13,339 | 320,133 | \$7,688 | 327,821 |
| Central South Island | 12366 | 1914 | 1,677,475 | 184,743 | -74,489 | 1,787,729 | \$27,360 | 1,815,089 |
| Otago | 15479 | 3923 | 2,099,760 | 378,655 | -99,137 | 2,379,278 | \$25,308 | 2,404,586 |
| Southland | 8080 | 4420 | 1,096,070 | 426,626 | -60,908 | 1,461,788 | \$20,185 | 1,481,973 |
| NZC | | | | | | | \$46,730 | 46,730 |
| | 72975 | 30601 | 9,899,217 | 2,953,662 | -514,115 | 12,338,764 | 202,825 | 12,541,589 |

Table 9: REGIONAL FISH & GAME COUNCILS: 2025/26 LEVY/GRANT SCHEDULE

Payable to/(by) New Zealand Fish & Game Council (GST Reg. No. 53-332-404)

| | Quarterly Instalment | | Payment made/Received | | | | Total | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Levy/(Grant) | GST @15 % | 1/20/2025 | 2/20/2025 | 5/20/2025 | 8/20/2025 | Levy/(Grant) | GST | TOTAL |
| Northland | (93,427.70) | (14,014.16) | (107,441.86) | | | | (373,710.81) | (56,056.62) | (429,767.43) |
| Akd/Waikato | 44,562.45 | 6,684.37 | 51,246.82 | | | | 178,740.81 | 26,737.47 | 201,987.28 |
| Eastern | 28,624.38 | 4,293.66 | 32,918.04 | | | | 114,497.53 | 17,174.03 | 131,571.15 |
| Hawke's Bay | 27,080.26 | 4,062.04 | 31,142.30 | | | | 108,321.05 | 16,248.16 | 124,569.21 |
| Taranaki | (40,541.46) | (6,081.22) | (46,622.67) | | | | (162,165.82) | (24,324.87) | (186,490.69) |
| Wellington | (36,089.69) | (5,413.45) | (41,503.14) | | | | (144,358.75) | (21,653.81) | (166,012.56) |
| Nelson/Marlb | 16,025.08 | 2,403.76 | 18,428.84 | | | | 64,100.30 | 9,615.05 | 73,715.35 |
| Nth Canterbury | 122,833.45 | 18,425.02 | 141,258.46 | | | | 491,333.78 | 73,700.07 | 565,033.85 |
| West Coast | (19,505.45) | (2,925.82) | (22,431.26) | | | | (78,021.78) | (11,703.27) | (89,725.05) |
| CSI | 213,924.29 | 32,088.64 | 246,012.93 | | | | 855,697.16 | 128,354.57 | 984,051.73 |
| Otago | 284,784.55 | 42,717.68 | 327,502.23 | | | | 1,139,128.20 | 170,870.73 | 1,310,008.92 |
| Southland | 160,352.15 | 24,952.82 | 191,304.97 | | | | 605,404.60 | 99,811.29 | 765,215.89 |
| | 714,622.32 | 107,193.35 | 821,815.67 | | | | 2,858,489.27 | 428,773.39 | 3,287,262.66 |
| Levy | 904,186.01 | 135,027.99 | 1,039,814.60 | | | | 3,616,740.13 | 542,511.96 | 4,159,258.29 |
| Grant | (189,564.29) | (28,434.64) | (217,998.93) | | | | (758,257.16) | (113,738.57) | (871,995.73) |
| Net | 714,622.32 | 107,193.35 | 821,815.67 | | | | 2,858,489.27 | 428,773.39 | 3,287,262.66 |

APPENDIX 2

Schedule of FISH AND GAME NZ's proposed Licence & Fees for 2025/26 (inclusive of GST)

| Sports Fish Licence | | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Category of licence | Applicant Class | 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 | 209 | 6 |
| Non-resident Whole season | Adult | 273 | 300 | 30 |
| | Junior | 50 | 52 | 2 |
| | Child | 50 | 52 | 2 |
| 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 | 58 | 2 |
| Long-break | Adult | 109 | 112 | 3 |
| Day | Adult | 25 | 26 | 1 |
| | Junior | 6 | 6 | Nil |
| Non-resident Day | Adult | 38 | 40 | 2 |
| | Junior | 23 | 24 | 1 |
| | Child | 23 | 24 | 1 |
| Controlled period | | free | free | Nil |
| Sea Run Salmon | | \$5 | \$5 | Nil |
| Designated Waters- resident | Season | \$5 | \$5 | Nil |
| Designated Waters- non- resident | Day | \$40 | \$40 | Nil |

| Game Bird Licence* | | 2025 | 2026 | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Category of licence | Applicant Class | 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 the 2nd Monday of the season) | Adult | 27 | 28 | 1 |
| | Junior | 10 | 10 | Nil |

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

*Game bird hunting licence fee includes the \$5 NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Notes:

- A junior means a person aged 12 years or over but under 18 years at the start of the season.
- A child means a person aged under 12 years at the start of the season.
- Designated Waters, Sea Run Salmon and Controlled-Period licence entitles an adult or junior whole season or family fish licence holder to fish in specified waters or for specified species.
- Whole Season for sports fish extends from 1 October 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.

Reserves as at 31 August 2024

NZ Fish and Game Council Meeting 174- 11 & 12 April 2025

Prepared by: Jill Muench, Finance Manager, NZ Fish and Game Council

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council seeks to inform the Council on the Current Reserves status of the Councils.

Financial considerations

- Nil Budgetary provision Unbudgeted

Risk

- Low Medium High Extreme

Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

2. NZC Staff recommend that NZC:
 - a. Receives the information;
 - b. Note forecast 31 August 25 organisational reserves status as \$6,922,955
 - c. Note the action for NZC staff to develop a Asset Replacement/ Depreciation Policy

Purpose

3. To outline to the NZC the reserves position for each Council following the financial audit.

Background

4. The NZC has a policy that a region must have 20% or greater of their budget held in reserves. When reserves fall below this the region may apply for a top-up of reserves.
5. Reserves are calculated as:
 - a) Working Capital less the restricted reserves equals the Council's reserves (or funds available through general reserves).
 - b) Working Capital is Current Assets + Investments less Liabilities.
6. Councils have Dedicated and Restricted reserves.
7. Dedicated reserves are reserves that the Council have set aside for projects e.g. Asset replacement fund and Habitat funding. These reserves are included in the calculation of Reserves for the Council.

8. Restricted reserves are funds that are set aside for a particular purpose – but these funds have an external covenant/agreement on them – e.g. the Waikaremoana fund in Eastern that has a specified agreement of how the funds must be spent. Each of the restricted reserves commits a third party to use the funds appropriately and report on these projects.

Analysis

9. Table 1 Summaries the reserves position for each Council as at 31 August 2024
10. Total Reserves as at 31 August 2024 \$8,707,519 (2023 \$8,255,268.)

| Council | Actual Reserves 31/8/24 | Approved Budget 2024/25 | Reserves required 20% of Budget | Top up required 20% Reserves | % of Budget after top up | % of Licence Income Levy Regions | Reserves over 30% |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Northland | \$221,978 | \$592,081 | 118,416 | 0 | 37% | | 41,970 |
| Auckland/Waikato | \$161,119 | \$881,824 | 176,365 | 15,246 | 20% | 15% | (106,978) |
| Eastern | \$693,168 | \$1,320,544 | 264,109 | 0 | 52% | 52% | 291,750 |
| Hawkes Bay | \$696,366 | \$576,624 | 115,325 | 0 | 121% | 156% | 521,630 |
| Taranaki | \$264,571 | \$449,025 | 89,805 | 0 | 59% | | 128,056 |
| Wellington | \$421,579 | \$848,388 | 169,678 | 0 | 50% | | 163,647 |
| Nelson-Marlb | \$101,599 | \$564,125 | 112,825 | 11,226 | 20% | 16% | (69,909) |
| Nth Canterbury | \$387,266 | \$1,068,935 | 213,787 | 0 | 36% | 23% | 62,404 |
| West Coast | \$286,319 | \$400,951 | 80,190 | 0 | 71% | | 164,520 |
| Central SI | \$992,336 | \$1,036,327 | 207,265 | 0 | 96% | 55% | 677,537 |
| Otago | \$2,113,239 | \$2,493,968 | 498,794 | 0 | 85% | 89% | 1,360,053 |
| Southland | \$820,639 | \$959,834 | 191,967 | 0 | 85% | 53% | 529,376 |
| NZC & National | \$1,547,340 | \$3,372,836 | 674,567 | 0 | 46% | | 539,191 |
| TOTAL | \$8,707,519 | \$14,565,462 | \$2,913,092 | \$26,472 | 60% | | \$4,303,246 |

11. Table 2 is Summary of each Councils' Reserves by Category.
12. The Asset Replacement fund continues to be of concern for some Councils. The reasons behind this have been insufficient funding within the budgets over the past few years and in some situations the purchasing of capital items that are not included in the Asset replacement funds.
13. As at 31 August 2024 there was \$1.211 million (2023 \$1.422 million) in the Non-resident reserve. 2022/23 was the last year that Councils can earn Non-resident income as from 2023/24 the Non-resident levy is part of the licence fee.

| Council | Working Capital | Asset Replacement Fund | Non Resident Reserve | Other Dedicated Reserves | Total Dedicated reserves | Restricted Reserves | Reserves Incl Ded Reserves |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Northland | \$503,584 | (\$2,673) | \$21,948 | \$13,668 | 32,943 | 281,606 | \$221,978 |
| Auckland/Waikato | \$1,341,232 | \$117,442 | \$108,470 | \$0 | 225,912 | 1,180,113 | \$161,119 |
| Eastern | \$1,167,768 | \$60,942 | \$155,412 | \$38,392 | 254,746 | 474,600 | \$693,168 |
| Hawkes Bay | \$696,366 | \$52,770 | \$86,492 | \$68,609 | 207,871 | 0 | \$696,366 |
| Taranaki | \$591,182 | \$21,578 | \$20,140 | \$7,386 | 49,104 | 326,611 | \$264,571 |
| Wellington | \$598,992 | \$39,092 | \$56,795 | \$78,027 | 173,914 | 177,413 | \$421,579 |
| Nelson-Marlb | \$116,115 | \$110,056 | \$151,346 | \$17,864 | 279,266 | 14,516 | \$101,599 |
| Nth Canterbury | \$486,614 | \$59 | \$0 | \$207,743 | 207,802 | 99,348 | \$387,266 |
| West Coast | \$286,319 | \$53,502 | \$38,603 | \$134,594 | 226,699 | 0 | \$286,319 |
| Central SI | \$992,336 | \$88,885 | \$220,158 | \$114,374 | 423,417 | 0 | \$992,336 |
| Otago | \$2,137,523 | \$37,190 | \$314,913 | \$1,089,987 | 1,442,090 | 24,284 | \$2,113,239 |
| Southland | \$931,068 | \$135,907 | \$36,784 | \$214,592 | 387,283 | 110,429 | \$820,639 |
| NZC inc Research & RI | \$2,371,738 | \$10,000 | \$0 | \$2,500 | 12,500 | 824,398 | \$1,547,340 |
| TOTAL | \$12,220,837 | \$724,750 | \$1,211,061 | \$1,987,736 | \$3,923,547 | \$3,513,318 | \$8,707,519 |

| Council | Actual Reserves 31/8/24 | Adjustment for top of reserves | Forecast Deficit for year ended 31/8/25 | Forecast Reserves 31 Aug 2025 | Reserves required 20% of Budget | Top up achieve 20% Reserves | % of Budget |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Northland | \$221,978 | \$0 | (\$7,945) | \$214,033 | 118,416 | 0 | 36% |
| Auckland/Waikato | \$161,119 | \$15,246 | (\$11,832) | \$149,287 | 176,365 | 27,078 | 20% |
| Eastern | \$693,168 | \$0 | (\$32,517) | \$660,651 | 264,109 | 0 | 50% |
| Hawkes Bay | \$696,366 | \$0 | (\$147,831) | \$548,535 | 115,325 | 0 | 95% |
| Taranaki | \$264,571 | \$0 | (\$6,025) | \$258,546 | 89,805 | 0 | 58% |
| Wellington | \$421,579 | \$0 | (\$11,384) | \$410,195 | 169,678 | 0 | 48% |
| Nelson-Marlb | \$101,599 | \$11,226 | (\$7,569) | \$94,030 | 112,825 | 18,795 | 20% |
| Nth Canterbury | \$387,266 | \$0 | (\$43,940) | \$343,326 | 213,787 | 0 | 32% |
| West Coast | \$286,319 | \$0 | (\$30,045) | \$256,274 | 80,190 | 0 | 64% |
| Central SI | \$992,336 | \$0 | (\$80,344) | \$911,992 | 207,265 | 0 | 88% |
| Otago | \$2,113,239 | \$0 | (\$1,269,652) | \$843,587 | 498,794 | 0 | 34% |
| Southland | \$820,639 | \$0 | (\$147,819) | \$672,820 | 191,967 | 0 | 70% |
| NZC inc Research & RI | \$1,547,340 | \$0 | \$12,339 | \$1,559,679 | 674,567 | 0 | 46% |
| TOTAL | \$8,707,519 | \$26,472 | (\$1,784,564) | \$6,922,955 | \$2,913,092 | \$45,873 | 48% |

14. Forecast Reserves for 31 August 2025 are \$6,922,955 A movement of \$1,784,564 (Forecast Deficit for the year) assumes that all Councils meet their licence forecast and that all Councils work within their approved budgets.
15. Two Councils require a top-up of Reserves for the 2024/25 year. They are Auckland/Waikato requires \$27,078 top up, and Nelson/Marlborough requires \$18,795 top up to meet 20%. Reserves range from 18% (Auckland/Waikato) to 121% (Hawke's Bay) of the approved budget.

Financial Implications

16. The reserves as at 31 August 2024 are \$8.708 million.
17. The forecast reserves as at 31 August 2025 are \$6,922,955
18. Two Councils require a top-up of reserves for the year ended 31 August 2025.
19. One Council has reserves as a percentage of budget over 100%.

Policy Implications

20. Within our current policy all regions are required to have adequate reserves of 20% or greater.
21. Going forward a policy that deals with excess reserves is needed to be developed.

National Variance Report

NZ Fish and Game Council Meeting 174 – 11 & 12 April 2025

Prepared by: Richie Cosgrove, DCEO, NZ Fish and Game Council

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. Variance Report for the year ended 31 August 2024 to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC).

Financial Considerations

- Nil Budgetary provision Unbudgeted

Risk

- Low Medium High Extreme

Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

2. NZC Staff recommend that NZC:
 - a) Receive the National Variance Report as at 31 August 2024.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

3. On an annual basis, NZC undertakes a review of the Fish & Game Council's budget against actual spend (variance report). There are no material issues to note. Overall, according to the current information, 96.43% of the budget across the organisation was spent, Ranging from ~89.1%(Taranaki) to 108.9% (Southland).

Takenga mai - Background

4. Fish and Game is made up of 13 independent legal entities.
5. Licence forecasts, Budgets, Grants and Levies are set at a national level in conjunction with all 13 entities.
6. The regional Budget is approved by the NZC prior to the Financial year.
7. Variance reports are prepared by regions to give a financial summary of their performance against the approved budget.
8. The Variance reports reconcile with the Audited Financial accounts as at 31/8/24.

Kōrerorero - Discussion

9. Refer to the following table 1-11 for the variance in each category.
10. Table 1 compares each Council's Financial Budgeted Deficit with the Actual Surplus for Each Council.

TABLE 1: Variance to (Deficit) / Surplus

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Northland | 0 | 29,588 | 29,588 |
| Auckland\Waikato | 50,634 | 301 | (50,333) |
| Eastern | (52,350) | (29,040) | 23,310 |
| Hawkes Bay | (177,464) | (59,265) | 118,199 |
| Taranaki | (8,376) | 57,039 | 65,415 |
| Wellington | (168,960) | (65,218) | 103,742 |
| Nelson-Marlb | (0) | (77,400) | (77,400) |
| Nth Canterbury | (204,229) | (272,952) | (68,723) |
| West Coast | (74,522) | (44,172) | 30,350 |
| Central SI | (70,730) | (105,262) | (34,532) |
| Otago | (139,142) | 1,656,564 | 1,795,706 |
| Southland | (409,447) | (422,298) | (12,851) |
| NZC | (515,074) | (186,716) | 328,358 |
| National | | | 0 |
| Total | (1,769,660) | 481,169 | 2,250,829 |

TABLE 2: Variance to Approved Budget

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var | % Spent |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Northland | 569,962 | 547,459 | 22,503 | 96.1% |
| Auckland\Waikato | 968,896 | 913,285 | 55,611 | 94.3% |
| Eastern | 1,276,028 | 1,253,704 | 22,324 | 98.3% |
| Hawkes Bay | 394,520 | 369,137 | 25,383 | 93.6% |
| Taranaki | 410,936 | 366,019 | 44,917 | 89.1% |
| Wellington | 944,842 | 951,269 | (6,427) | 100.7% |
| Nelson-Marlb | 596,829 | 582,670 | 14,159 | 97.6% |
| Nth Canterbury | 1,171,307 | 1,217,369 | (46,062) | 103.9% |
| West Coast | 425,406 | 401,315 | 24,091 | 94.3% |
| Central Si | 955,194 | 882,901 | 72,293 | 92.4% |
| Otago | 1,325,777 | 1,189,067 | 136,710 | 89.7% |
| Southland | 949,435 | 1,033,532 | (84,097) | 108.9% |
| NZC | 3,970,203 | 3,753,796 | 216,407 | 94.5% |
| National | | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 13,959,335 | 13,461,523 | 497,812 | 96.43% |

11. Overall, according to the current information, 96.43% of the budget was spent, Ranging from ~89.1%(Taranaki) to 108.9% (Southland).

TABLE 3: Variance to Net Outputs

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var | % Spent |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Northland | 70,257 | 61,203 | 9,054 | 87.1% |
| Auckland\Waikato | 134,688 | 119,137 | 15,551 | 88.5% |
| Eastern | 136,404 | 127,782 | 8,622 | 93.7% |
| Hawkes Bay | 104,752 | 108,056 | (3,304) | 103.2% |
| Taranaki | 76,861 | 78,721 | (1,860) | 102.4% |
| Wellington | 191,046 | 194,571 | (3,525) | 101.8% |
| Nelson-Marlb | 111,929 | 70,462 | 41,467 | 63.0% |
| Nth Canterbury | 300,058 | 406,450 | (106,392) | 135.5% |
| West Coast | 59,145 | 30,288 | 28,857 | 51.2% |
| Central Si | 132,374 | 101,706 | 30,668 | 76.8% |
| Otago | 177,069 | 71,340 | 105,729 | 40.3% |
| Southland | 84,595 | 190,307 | (105,712) | 225.0% |
| NZC | 2,741,500 | 2,538,200 | 203,300 | 92.6% |
| National | | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 4,320,678 | 4,098,223 | 222,455 | 94.9% |

12. Outputs are the Direct costs incurred in the eight output areas of Species Mngt, Habitat Protection, Angler and Hunter Participation, Public Interface Compliance, Licencing, Council Expense and Planning/Reporting.
13. The report is Net Outputs, as any income generated from these output areas is contra against the expense. For example, regions receive funding from the National budget for RMA spending.

TABLE 4: Variance to Net Overheads

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var | % Spent |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Northland | 499,705 | 486,256 | 13,449 | 97.3% |
| Auckland\Waikato | 834,208 | 794,148 | 40,060 | 95.2% |
| Eastern | 1,139,624 | 1,125,922 | 13,702 | 98.8% |
| Hawkes Bay | 289,768 | 261,081 | 28,687 | 90.1% |
| Taranaki | 334,075 | 287,298 | 46,777 | 86.0% |
| Wellington | 753,796 | 756,698 | (2,902) | 100.4% |
| Nelson-Marlb | 484,900 | 512,208 | (27,309) | 105.6% |
| Nth Canterbury | 871,249 | 810,919 | 60,330 | 93.1% |
| West Coast | 366,261 | 371,027 | (4,766) | 101.3% |
| Central SI | 822,820 | 781,195 | 41,625 | 94.9% |
| Otago | 1,148,708 | 1,117,727 | 30,981 | 97.3% |
| Southland | 864,840 | 843,225 | 21,615 | 97.5% |
| NZC | 1,228,703 | 1,215,596 | 13,107 | 98.9% |
| National | | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 9,638,657 | 9,363,300 | 275,356 | 97.1% |

14. Overheads include salaries, Premises costs, Insurance, vehicles, equipment and Communication expenses.

TABLE 5: Variance of Interest Income

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var | % Spent |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Northland | 10,304 | 22,907 | 12,603 | 222.3% |
| Auckland\Waikato | 10,413 | 67,444 | 57,031 | 647.7% |
| Eastern | 31,617 | 42,679 | 11,062 | 135.0% |
| Hawkes Bay | 29,522 | 40,065 | 10,543 | 135.7% |
| Taranaki | 6,441 | 27,513 | 21,072 | 427.2% |
| Wellington | 29,638 | 26,701 | (2,937) | 90.1% |
| Nelson-Marlb | 7,883 | 11,985 | 4,102 | 152.0% |
| Nth Canterbury | 21,452 | 15,493 | (5,959) | 72.2% |
| West Coast | 15,144 | 21,163 | 6,019 | 139.7% |
| Central SI | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Otago | 56,757 | 59,739 | 2,982 | 105.3% |
| Southland | 42,769 | 56,238 | 13,469 | 131.5% |
| NZC | 65,050 | 134,555 | 69,505 | 206.8% |
| National | | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 326,990 | 526,482 | 199,492 | 161.0% |

15. The Interest budget was understated—the Actual interest received was \$470k. The interest budget is based on the Reserves as of 31/8/23 using interest forecasts as of March 2024, which is long-term forecasting.

TABLE 6: Var to Total License Income-Inc Non-Res

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var | % to Budget |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Northland | 194,951 | 203,915 | 8,964 | 104.6% |
| Auckland\Waikato | 1,078,474 | 1,094,504 | 16,030 | 101.5% |
| Eastern | 1,435,443 | 1,376,919 | (58,524) | 95.9% |
| Hawkes Bay | 429,893 | 503,138 | 73,245 | 117.0% |
| Taranaki | 229,350 | 227,229 | (2,121) | 99.1% |
| Wellington | 693,635 | 712,461 | 18,826 | 102.7% |
| Nelson-Marlb | 695,168 | 681,567 | (13,601) | 98.0% |
| Nth Canterbury | 1,706,775 | 1,667,829 | (38,946) | 97.7% |
| West Coast | 327,334 | 340,973 | 13,639 | 104.2% |
| Central SI | 1,930,891 | 1,881,317 | (49,574) | 97.4% |
| Otago | 2,455,777 | 2,464,754 | 8,977 | 100.4% |
| Southland | 1,658,372 | 1,609,709 | (48,663) | 97.1% |
| NZC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| National | | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 12,836,063 | 12,764,315 | (71,748) | 99.4% |

16. Most regions, bar five, exceeded their Licence income.

17. The Non-resident levy contributed \$28k to this – see table 7 below

TABLE 7: Non resident Licence Income

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var |
|------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Northland | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Auckland\Waikato | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern | 0 | 279 | 279 |
| Hawkes Bay | 0 | 172 | 172 |
| Taranaki | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wellington | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nelson-Marlb | 0 | 23,169 | 23,169 |
| Nth Canterbury | 0 | 437 | 437 |
| West Coast | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Central SI | 0 | 2,495 | 2,495 |
| Otago | 0 | 1,909 | 1,909 |
| Southland | 0 | 198 | 198 |
| NZC | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| National | | | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 28,659 | 28,659 |

18. From the 2023/24 year the Non-resident levy has been included in the licence fee.

TABLE 8: Variance to License Income Ex Non Res

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var | % to Budget |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Northland | 194,951 | 203,915 | 8,964 | 104.6% |
| Auckland\Waikato | 1,078,474 | 1,094,504 | 16,030 | 101.5% |
| Eastern | 1,435,443 | 1,376,640 | (58,803) | 95.9% |
| Hawkes Bay | 429,893 | 502,966 | 73,073 | 117.0% |
| Taranaki | 229,350 | 227,229 | (2,121) | 99.1% |
| Wellington | 693,635 | 712,461 | 18,826 | 102.7% |
| Nelson-Marlb | 695,168 | 658,398 | (36,770) | 94.7% |
| Nth Canterbury | 1,706,775 | 1,667,392 | (39,383) | 97.7% |
| West Coast | 327,334 | 340,973 | 13,639 | 104.2% |
| Central SI | 1,930,891 | 1,878,822 | (52,069) | 97.3% |
| Otago | 2,455,777 | 2,462,845 | 7,068 | 100.3% |
| Southland | 1,658,372 | 1,609,511 | (48,861) | 97.1% |
| NZC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| National | | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 12,836,063 | 12,735,656 | (100,407) | 99.2% |

TABLE 9: Variance to Commission/Cost of Sales

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var | % to Budget | % of Licence Income |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Northland | (8,773) | (6,417) | (2,356) | 73.1% | 3.1% |
| Auckland\Waikato | (48,531) | (43,551) | (4,980) | 89.7% | 4.0% |
| Eastern | (64,595) | (49,852) | (14,743) | 77.2% | 3.6% |
| Hawkes Bay | (19,345) | (19,651) | 306 | 101.6% | 3.9% |
| Taranaki | (10,321) | (8,774) | (1,547) | 85.0% | 3.9% |
| Wellington | (31,214) | (27,271) | (3,943) | 87.4% | 3.8% |
| Nelson-Marlb | (31,283) | (26,321) | (4,962) | 84.1% | 3.9% |
| Nth Canterbury | (76,805) | (65,969) | (10,836) | 85.9% | 4.0% |
| West Coast | (14,730) | (9,546) | (5,184) | 64.8% | 2.8% |
| Central SI | 0 | (65,529) | 65,529 | 0.0% | 3.5% |
| Otago | (110,510) | (89,251) | (21,259) | 80.8% | 3.6% |
| Southland | (95,607) | (55,918) | (39,689) | 58.5% | 3.5% |
| NZC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| National | | | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Total | (511,714) | (468,050) | (43,664) | 91.5% | 3.7% |

19. The budget for Commission/Cost of Sales is 4.5%. On average, the commission/Cost of Sales has reduced to 3.7%. This shows a shift to POL from AOL (which has a commission of 5%. Following the 2024/25 year, we should reduce the budget for commissions to 4%.

TABLE 10: Variance to Net Licence

Income

| Region | Budget | Actual | Var | % to Budget |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Northland | 186,178 | 197,498 | 11,320 | 106.1% |
| Auckland\Waikato | 1,029,943 | 1,050,953 | 21,010 | 102.0% |
| Eastern | 1,370,848 | 1,327,067 | (43,781) | 96.8% |
| Hawkes Bay | 410,548 | 483,487 | 72,939 | 117.8% |
| Taranaki | 219,029 | 218,455 | (574) | 99.7% |
| Wellington | 662,421 | 685,190 | 22,769 | 103.4% |
| Nelson-Marlb | 663,885 | 655,247 | (8,638) | 98.7% |
| Nth Canterbury | 1,629,970 | 1,601,860 | (28,110) | 98.3% |
| West Coast | 312,604 | 331,427 | 18,823 | 106.0% |
| Central SI | 1,930,891 | 1,815,788 | (115,103) | 94.0% |
| Otago | 2,345,267 | 2,375,503 | 30,236 | 101.3% |
| Southland | 1,562,765 | 1,553,791 | (8,974) | 99.4% |
| NZC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| National | | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 12,324,349 | 12,296,266 | (28,083) | 99.8% |

TABLE 11: Salaries

| Region | Budget | % of Salaries Budget to Total Budget | Actual | Var | % to Salaries Budget | Actual Salaries to Actual Spend Table 2 |
|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--|
| Northland | 382,010 | 67.0% | 369,788 | 12,222 | 96.8% | 67.5% |
| Auckland\Waikato | 664,295 | 68.6% | 592,572 | 71,723 | 89.2% | 64.9% |
| Eastern | 1,031,314 | 80.8% | 1,015,668 | 15,646 | 98.5% | 81.0% |
| Hawkes Bay | 262,000 | 66.4% | 262,474 | (474) | 100.2% | 71.1% |
| Taranaki | 274,880 | 66.9% | 232,763 | 42,117 | 84.7% | 63.6% |
| Wellington | 603,688 | 63.9% | 617,312 | (13,624) | 102.3% | 64.9% |
| Nelson-Marlb | 412,919 | 69.2% | 410,265 | 2,654 | 99.4% | 70.4% |
| Nth Canterbury | 733,189 | 62.6% | 666,717 | 66,472 | 90.9% | 54.8% |
| West Coast | 284,521 | 66.9% | 285,327 | (806) | 100.3% | 71.1% |
| Central SI | 744,751 | 78.0% | 698,468 | 46,283 | 93.8% | 79.1% |
| Otago | 987,058 | 74.5% | 951,926 | 35,132 | 96.4% | 80.1% |
| Southland | 738,350 | 77.8% | 734,210 | 4,140 | 99.4% | 71.0% |
| NZC | 1,085,903 | 27.4% | 1,082,364 | 3,539 | 99.7% | 28.8% |
| National | | 0.0% | | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Total | 8,204,878 | 58.8% | 7,919,854 | 285,024 | 96.5% | 58.8% |

20. This table identifies the Salaries to budget as well as the % of salaries to the region's total budget. Overall, 96.5% of the Salaries Budget was spent. This ranged from 84% in Taranaki to 102 % in Wellington; Salaries make up approximately 60% of the Fish and Game Budget. However, this percentage does vary among regions.

Family Licence Reform: Frequently Asked Questions

Financial Implications

Q: Will changing to a two primary holder system reduce our revenue?

A: While there may be a short-term reduction in revenue from households that currently purchase both a family licence and an additional adult licence (estimated at \$149,501 annually), research indicates significant potential for growth.

Q: How much would it cost to implement this change?

A: Apart from loss in revenue, costs would be minimal. For the DOC fishery, the ratio of adult whole season licence to the family licence is higher than the Fish & Game ratio for the same licences, so a comparative increase may mitigate some of that licence revenue loss and deter fraudulent claims.

Q: Can we afford to make this change given current budget constraints?

A: It's not just necessary but will be beneficial. Fish & Game has reached "carrying capacity" with its current demographic. Without expanding to new demographics, particularly women, we face stagnant or declining participation rates. The financial benefits of attracting more women to fishing far outweigh the implementation costs.

Implementation

Q: How would we verify that both licence holders are genuinely partners?

A: We would use the same verification methods currently employed for family licences. The DOC model for the Taupo District has successfully implemented this approach without significant verification issues. Under current rules, we already verify that someone is a spouse or partner to be included on a family licence.

Q: Would we need to change legislation to implement this reform?

A: Any necessary regulatory changes would be identified during the implementation planning phase.

Q: How would we handle voting rights for both primary licence holders?

A: Both primary licence holders would receive separate communications and voting rights for Fish & Game elections. This process is straightforward to implement through our existing systems with minimal adjustments.

Impact on participation

Q: Would this change really make a difference to women's participation?

A: Yes, the evidence strongly suggests it would. A 2025 survey conducted by Women on The Fly NZ (with 51 respondents from their community of approximately 700 members) shows 82% of respondents believe the current regulations negatively affect women's participation.

Women currently represent only 13% of identified anglers (potentially up to 28%, including unidentified participants on family licences). In comparable regions like North America, women are the fastest-growing demographic in fishing and hunting when barriers are removed.

Q: Why focus on encouraging more women to take up freshwater fishing?

A: Freshwater sports fishing is for everyone.

Research shows women enjoy fishing for many of the same reasons as men: connecting with nature, mental well-being, learning new skills, and social connections. The data shows women currently participate at only 0.4% compared to 3.6% for men, indicating not a lack of interest but the presence of barriers to participation.

Research commissioned by Fish & Game NZ from Dr Stu Hayes and Professor Brent Lovelock (University of Otago) found the family licence was a constraint and recommended changing it. "Another issue had to do with the family licence and, in particular, the requirement that the primary licence holder (generally a husband/partner) must always be present. This requirement was viewed as being problematic for almost all the women we spoke to who had held, or hold, a family licence, in that the requirement can restrict one's ability to fish alone or with others."

Q: How do we know women want to fish independently?

A: Survey data and financial records demonstrate this clearly. During the 2023/24 season, \$118,230 worth of non-family whole season licences were purchased by people from households that already contained a family licence holder. The 2025 Women on The Fly NZ survey showed that 67% of respondents believe the current family licence regulations are unfair and should be changed. The survey also revealed that women's motivations for fishing include connecting with nature, mental well-being, and learning new skills—activities they should be able to pursue independently.

Addressing Specific Concerns

Q: Won't men just claim their friends as "partners" to save money?

A: No, we don't believe this will be a problem.

1. The same verification requirements that prevent abuse of the current family licence system would apply
2. The DOC's Taupo District has implemented a similar approach without encountering this issue
3. The proposed definition clearly outlines who qualifies as family members
4. The potential financial benefit would be minimal compared to the effort of falsifying a relationship

Q: Why change a system that has worked well for decades?

A: The current system hasn't worked well for many participants, particularly women. The system reflects an outdated model where men were seen as the primary anglers. Modern families and partnerships are more equal, with both partners wanting to participate fully in recreational activities. The proposed change will bring our licensing system into line with modern times and the DOC approach.

Q: Won't this cause confusion among licence holders?

A: Clear communication during implementation would minimise any confusion. The change simplifies the system by removing arbitrary restrictions on who can fish and when. Most licence holders will welcome the added flexibility and equality in the system.

Benefits Beyond Participation

Q: How does this change benefit Fish & Game beyond potential licence sales?

A: Benefits include:

- Greater diversity in the fishing community
- Increased support for freshwater sports fishing
- Enhanced support to maintain and enhance healthy freshwater ecosystems
- Broader political and community backing for Fish & Game initiatives
- A better fit with today's values of fairness and inclusion More families taking part in fishing activities
- Potential for more diverse representation in Fish & Game governance
- Increased perceived value of a family fishing licence

Q: Does this align with our broader strategic goals?

A: Yes, this change directly supports our R³ strategy (recruitment, retention, reactivation) and aligns with recommendations from the governance review, highlighting the need for increased diversity across the organisation.

Comparing with DOC's Approach

Q: How has the DOC approach worked in the Taupo District?

A: The DOC approach in the Taupo District has successfully implemented a more inclusive definition of family licences that recognises both partners equally. Their definition includes "one person, or one person and that person's spouse or partner", along with dependants and grandchildren under 18. This model has functioned effectively without any of the concerns raised.

Q: What key differences exist between our proposed system and DOC's approach?

A: Our proposed approach is modelled closely on DOC's system, with adjustments for our specific administrative requirements. Both systems recognise the equality of partners in a family licence arrangement and avoid designating one person as "primary" and one as "secondary."

The DoC definition of family is:

- 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.

Supporting Women Anglers: modernising the Family Licence

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting #174

For Decision

Prepared by: Maggie Tait, Principal Communications Advisor, NZ Fish and Game Council

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the New Zealand Council seeks support to modernise family licences.

Financial considerations

Nil Budgetary provision x Unbudgeted

Risk

Low x Medium High Extreme

Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

That the New Zealand Council:

1. **Amend** the family licence regulations to allow for two primary licence holders, giving both members of a couple equal fishing rights and voting privileges.
2. **Implement** this change for the 2025/26 fishing season.
3. **Investigate** any necessary legislative or regulatory amendments required to implement this change.
4. **Monitor** the financial and participation impacts of this change over a three-year period, with specific attention to rates of women's participation.
5. **Notes** that the change will be promoted as part of a coordinated strategy to address barriers to women's participation in fresh water sports fishing.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

2. The current family licence structure designates one person as the primary licence holder with the ability to fish independently, while the secondary licence holder (typically a woman) may only fish with children or the primary licence holder. This restricts women's participation in fishing and reinforces outdated gender roles.
3. The Department of Conservation's Taupo District approach to family licences allows both partners to be recognised as licence holders with equal rights.
4. By adopting a similar approach, Fish & Game NZ can address a significant barrier to women's participation in fishing, potentially increasing licence sales and creating a more inclusive fishing community.
5. Financial analysis indicates approximately \$149,501 in additional licence revenue is currently being spent by households containing a family licence holder, suggesting there is demand for both adults in a household to fish independently.
6. Women on The Fly NZ community survey results show that 67% of respondents believe the current regulations are unfair and should be changed, with 82% believing these regulations negatively affect women's participation.
7. Research demonstrates that Fish & Game has reached "carrying capacity" with its current demographic profile. If women participated in fresh water 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.
8. 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.

Takenga mai - Background

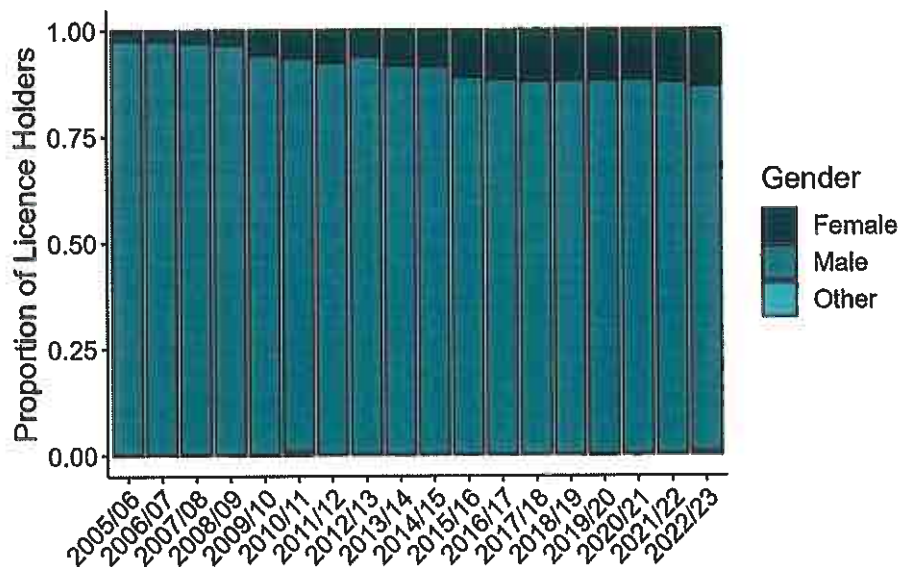
9. The current family licence (\$203) includes "a couple and up to 4 children or grandchildren under the age of 18." However, only the primary licence holder may fish independently, while the secondary licence holder may only fish with the children named on the licence or alongside the primary licence holder.
10. For comparison DOC's family licence is \$159. NZC staff are not recommending increasing the Fish & Game price.

11. Fish & Game's website states: "The licence allows one person (the primary licenceholder), or one person and that person's spouse or partner (the secondary licenceholder) and their children or grandchildren (who are under 18 years of age on October 1) to fish together. The secondary licence holder may take the children named on the licence fishing (and fish themselves with the children) without the primary holder taking part. But only the primary licence holder may use this licence to fish on their own."
12. This restriction presents a significant barrier for the secondary licence holder, who must purchase an additional adult licence (\$156) to fish independently.
13. Recent survey data and constituent correspondence indicate that this structure disproportionately impacts women, who are more likely to be designated as secondary licence holders.
14. At present, only the primary licence holder receives Fish & Game communications and has voting rights in Fish & Game elections, further limiting women's representation and voice in the organisation.

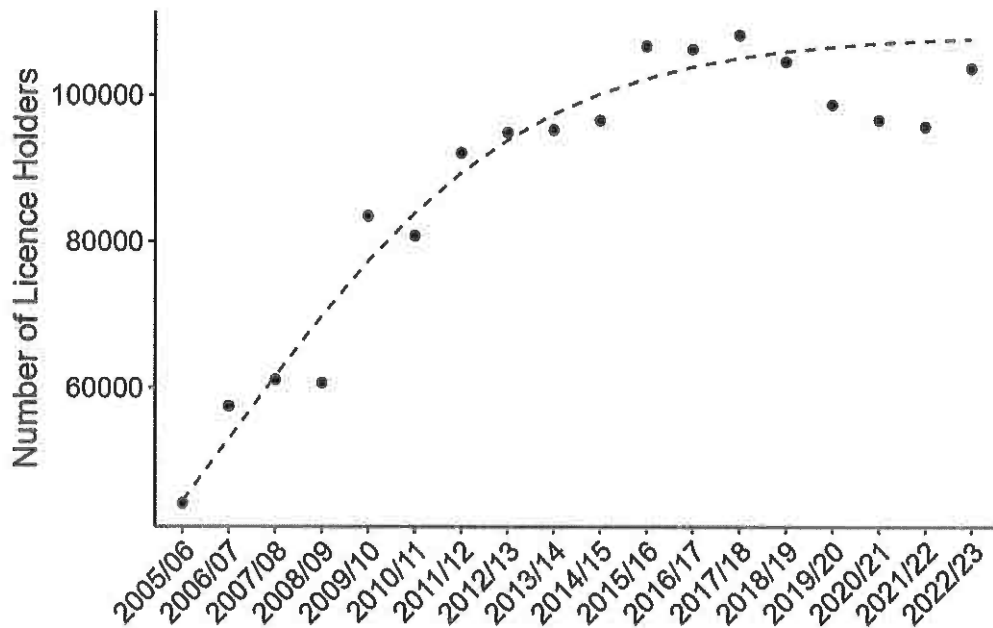
Kōrerorero - Discussion

Current Participation and Potential Growth

14. During the 2023/24 fishing season, 14,763 out of a total of 109,356 anglers were women, accounting for approximately 13 percent of the total angler population.
15. During the 2005/06 fishing season, 1,099 Fish & Game anglers were women. This constitutes an increase in the proportion of anglers who were women of an average of 0.6% per year.



16. However, official statistics likely underestimate female participation due to the lack of data on female spouses on family fishing licences and junior/child anglers – potentially an additional 16,000 women.
17. Currently, 3.6% of the adult male population in New Zealand purchases a fishing licence annually, compared to only 0.4% of the adult female population.
18. Were women to participate in fresh water sports fishing at the same rate as men, that would increase the number of Fish & Game licence holders by an estimated 60,000, representing significant potential for growth.
19. Research by H. Sanders Garrick (2024) indicates that Fish & Game has reached "carrying capacity" within its existing demographic of anglers. The number of fishing licence holders has plateaued in recent years, as shown by logistic growth modelling of licence sales since the 2005/06 fishing season.



20. Without expanding the demographic profile of fresh water sports fishing, Fish & Game will have limited opportunity for future growth. The current licence holder base is oscillating slightly above and below the threshold level, indicating a mature market.
21. In North America, women are the fastest growing demographic in hunting and fishing, suggesting similar potential exists in New Zealand with the right policy changes and targeted initiatives.

22. Broadening the demographics of fresh water anglers is crucial not only for financial sustainability but also to increase social support for fresh water sports fishing and maintenance of healthy fresh water ecosystems in a changing attitudinal and political landscape.

Financial Implications

18. During the 2023/24 season, \$118,230 worth of non-family whole season licences were purchased by people from households that already contained a family licence holder.
19. An additional \$31,271 was spent on short-term licences by members of these same households.
20. This suggests that many secondary licence holders (predominantly women) are already purchasing separate licences to fish independently, at a combined cost of \$149,501 annually.
21. While changing to a two primary holder system might initially appear to reduce revenue (as some households would no longer need to purchase additional licences), the increased participation of women could lead to significant long-term revenue growth through both direct licence sales and related expenditures.

Barriers to Women's Participation

22. A 2025 survey by Women on The Fly NZ found that 67% of respondents believe the current family licence regulations are unfair and should be changed.
23. 82% of respondents believe the current regulations negatively affect women's participation in fresh water sports fishing.
24. 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:
- a) **Lack of representation:** Traditional portrayals of fishing as a male-dominated activity have contributed to a lack of visibility of women in the sport.
 - b) **Access to resources:** Women may encounter difficulties accessing essential resources and support systems, such as equipment, knowledge, and mentorship opportunities.
 - c) **Cultural and social norms:** Deep-seated norms surrounding gender roles may discourage women from pursuing fishing as a recreational activity.

- d) **Lack of women in leadership positions:** Limited representation in governance and decision-making roles further restricts women's influence in the fishing community.

25. The Women on The Fly NZ survey highlighted additional practical barriers, including:

- Cost
- Lack of flexibility in the current licensing structure
- The inability to fish independently
- Outdated and restrictive rules that do not reflect modern family dynamics
- Lack of confidence in skills
- Safety concerns when fishing in remote areas

26. Correspondence from licence holders has highlighted frustration with the current system, with one noting: "I feel this is nonsensical and unfair; anyone on our family licence should be able to fish whenever they want and with whoever they want to fish with."

Department of Conservation Model

26. The Department of Conservation (DOC) for the Taupo District employs a more inclusive approach to family licences, defining a family licence as one 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."

27. This model recognises both partners equally as licence holders, without designating one as primary and one as secondary.

28. Adopting a similar approach would align Fish & Game with this proven model and address a significant barrier to women's participation.

Voting Rights and Representation

29. Currently, only primary licence holders have voting rights in Fish & Game elections, further limiting women's representation and influence in the organisation.

30. Extending voting rights to both primary licence holders in a family licence would help increase women's participation in governance and decision-making processes.

31. This aligns with recommendations from the governance review highlighting the need for increased diversity across the organisation.

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next actions

32. If approved, staff will:

- a) Draft the necessary amendments to the family licence regulations.
- b) Develop a communication plan to inform current and potential licence holders about the change.
- c) Update licence purchasing systems to accommodate two primary licence holders on family licences.
- d) Monitor and report on the financial and participation impacts of the change over a three-year period.
- e) Work with regional councils to promote this change as part of broader initiatives to encourage women's participation in fishing.

33. Staff recommend implementation for the 2025/26 fishing season, beginning 1 October 2025.

2025/26 Licence Forecast

NZ Fish and Game Council Meeting 174 – 11th & 12th April 2025

Prepared by: Kate Thompson on behalf of the Licence Working Party

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council seeks approval for the Licence Forecast and consideration of the 2025/26 Licence fee.

Financial Considerations

- Nil Budgetary provision Unbudgeted

Risk

- Low Medium High Extreme

Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

NZC Staff recommend that NZC:

1. Receive the information.
2. Agree to consult with the regions on the forecast LEQ for the 2025/26 Season being **72,975** for Fish and **30,601** for Game.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

1. Each year, the Licence Working Party (LWP) provides a forecast for licence sales to support Fish & Game's budgeting processes.
2. The LWP has analysed Licence Sales over the past few years, including forecasting sales through to the end of the 2024/25 season.
3. The total recommended LEQ for 2025/26 Fish Licence Sales is **72,975**.
4. The total recommended LEQ for 2026 Game Licence Sales is **30,601**.

Takenga mai - Background

5. Traditionally licence revenue targets for each region are set by comparing two prior **complete** seasons' sales and extrapolating those results using a standard formula to determine the 'Extrapolated Licence Revenue Budget'.
6. For the 2025/26 licence revenue forecasts, the results of the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons would normally be compared as the 2024/25 season is incomplete at the time the forecasts are required to be set. Utilising this 'usual' or 'traditional' method of budgeting, the extrapolated licence revenue targets for 2024/25 would be **72,669** LEQ Fish and **30,601** LEQ Game. *Note: this method gives us a Fish LEQ target, which is 306 LEQ's lower than the recommendation by the LWP within this report and is equivalent to approximately \$41,500.*
7. This 'traditional' method of forecasting sales has been used for the recommended LEQ for Game sales as the 2025 Game Season is yet to commence.
8. The LWP deviated from the traditional method for forecasting fish licence sales for the last several budget rounds due initially to Covid disruptions but also the move to online sales has meant that we can gauge a relatively good estimate of what Fish licence sales for the current season will be at year-end by mid-March. Use of the most current season's results can reduce the risk of significant swings in sales targets that may otherwise result.
9. For your information, the table below shows our estimated total Fish licence LEQ's for 2023/24 compared with the actual complete season results for the 2023/24 season. The estimate was completed when over 90% of the sales for the season had occurred

Table 1 – 2023-2024 Fish LEQ's Estimated v's Actual to provide indication of accuracy. *Note: Hawke's Bay's figures impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle*

| Table 1 | Estimated Fish Total 2023-24 | Actual Fish Total 2023-24 | Variance |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Northland | 454 | 467 | 13 |
| Auckland Waikato | 3658 | 3655 | -3 |
| Eastern | 8456 | 8504 | 48 |
| Hawke's Bay | 2335 | 2455 | 120 |
| Taranaki | 987 | 1022 | 35 |
| Wellington | 2989 | 3039 | 50 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 4364 | 4377 | 13 |
| North Canterbury | 10964 | 11007 | 43 |
| West Coast | 2169 | 2169 | 0 |
| Central South Island | 12536 | 12486 | -50 |
| Otago | 15549 | 15514 | -35 |
| Southland | 8758 | 8740 | -18 |
| | 73219 | 73435 | 216 |

Kōrerorero - Discussion

Table 2 – Fish LEQ complete season estimate for the 2024/25 season – based on applying the current YTD variance (%) to sales that occurred in the final period of the 2023/24 season (18 March to 30 September 2024).

| Table 2 | Fish 2024-25 to 17 March YTD (actual) | Fish Est 18 Mar - 30 Sept 25 | Fish Estimated Total 2024-25 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northland | 524 | 94 | 618 |
| Auckland Waikato | 3375 | 463 | 3838 |
| Eastern | 7946 | 1059 | 9005 |
| Hawke's Bay | 2630 | 380 | 3010 |
| Taranaki | 1090 | 127 | 1217 |
| Wellington | 2702 | 208 | 2910 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 3911 | 305 | 4217 |
| North Canterbury | 9844 | 612 | 10456 |
| West Coast | 1996 | 204 | 2200 |
| Central South Island | 11125 | 1281 | 12406 |
| Otago | 14410 | 1081 | 15491 |
| Southland | 7919 | 381 | 8300 |
| | 67472 | 6195 | 73667 |

Table 3 – Extrapolated Fish licence forecast (LEQ) for 2025/26 - using the estimated sales for the 2024/25 complete season as of 17 March 2025.

| Table 3 | Actual Fish 2023-24 | Estimated Fish 2024-25 | Extrapolated Fish 2025-26 |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Northland | 467 | 618 | 618 |
| Auckland Waikato | 3655 | 3838 | 3838 |
| Eastern | 8504 | 9005 | 9005 |
| Hawke's Bay | 2455 | 3010 | 3010 |
| Taranaki | 1022 | 1217 | 1217 |
| Wellington | 3039 | 2910 | 2846 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 4377 | 4217 | 4136 |
| North Canterbury | 11007 | 10456 | 10180 |
| West Coast | 2169 | 2200 | 2200 |
| Central South Island | 12486 | 12406 | 12366 |
| Otago | 15514 | 15491 | 15479 |
| Southland | 8740 | 8300 | 8080 |
| | 73435 | 73667 | 72975 |

Table 4 – Extrapolated Fish licence forecast (LEQ) for 2025/26 – based on the Traditional Method (for information only).

| Table 4 | Actual Fish 2022-23 | Actual Fish 2023-24 | Extrapolated Fish 2025-26 |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Northland | 455 | 467 | 467 |
| Auckland Waikato | 3550 | 3655 | 3655 |
| Eastern | 8643 | 8504 | 8435 |
| Hawke's Bay | 2525 | 2455 | 2420 |
| Taranaki | 1034 | 1022 | 1016 |
| Wellington | 2990 | 3039 | 3039 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 4410 | 4377 | 4361 |
| North Canterbury | 11084 | 11007 | 10969 |
| West Coast | 2253 | 2169 | 2127 |
| Central South Island | 12946 | 12486 | 12256 |
| Otago | 15828 | 15514 | 15357 |
| Southland | 9084 | 8740 | 8568 |
| | 74802 | 73435 | 72669 |

Table 5 – Extrapolated Game licence forecast (LEQ) for 2025/26 – based on the Traditional Method

| Table 5 | Actual Game 2023 | Actual Game 2024 | Extrapolated Game 2026 |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Northland | 1552 | 1521 | 1506 |
| Auckland Waikato | 6518 | 6463 | 6436 |
| Eastern | 2855 | 2663 | 2567 |
| Hawke's Bay | 1750 | 1888 | 1888 |
| Taranaki | 1086 | 995 | 950 |
| Wellington | 3290 | 3239 | 3214 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 862 | 850 | 844 |
| North Canterbury | 2557 | 2576 | 2576 |
| West Coast | 364 | 363 | 363 |
| Central South Island | 2266 | 2031 | 1914 |
| Otago | 3989 | 3945 | 3923 |
| Southland | 4625 | 4488 | 4420 |
| | 31714 | 31022 | 30601 |

Table 6 – Summary of Fish LEQ 2024-25 Estimate vs. Budget and Extrapolated 2025-26.

| Table 6 | Estimated Fish 2024-25 | 2024-25 Fish Budget | Extrapolated Fish 2025-26 |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Northland | 618 | 454 | 618 |
| Auckland Waikato | 3838 | 3658 | 3838 |
| Eastern | 9005 | 8363 | 9005 |
| Hawke's Bay | 3010 | 2240 | 3010 |
| Taranaki | 1217 | 964 | 1217 |
| Wellington | 2910 | 2989 | 2846 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 4217 | 4341 | 4136 |
| North Canterbury | 10456 | 10904 | 10180 |
| West Coast | 2200 | 2127 | 2200 |
| Central South Island | 12406 | 12331 | 12366 |
| Otago | 15491 | 15410 | 15479 |
| Southland | 8300 | 8595 | 8080 |
| | 73687 | 72376 | 72975 |

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision-making

Financial Implications

- Using the current prices of \$156 for a Fish Licence and \$116 for a Game Licence, Net Sales would equate to \$12,338,764 ex GST (Last year, \$12,329,235); an increase of \$9,529.
- Interest Income budget for the year is \$202,825.
- Together (net Licence income and Interest), the forecast income is \$12,541,589 (refer Appendix 1 for details).
- Base Funds for 2025/26 total \$12,299,386, with no increase in Licence fee \$242,203 would be available for proposed increases through Zero Based Budgeting system.
- Refer to Table 7. for a Summary of Base Funds per Council. This table also outlines the Net Licence Income for 2025/26 based on the forecast of 72,975 (fish) and 30,601 (game) LEQs.

| Table 7 | Net Licence & Interest Income 25/26 | Base Funds 25/26 | Suplus/Shortfall |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Northland | 226,448 | 592,081 | (365,633) |
| Auckland/Waikato | 1,100,652 | 881,824 | 218,828 |
| Eastern | 1,430,366 | 1,305,544 | 124,822 |
| Hawkes Bay | 583,380 | 434,624 | 148,756 |
| Taranaki | 254,269 | 427,816 | (173,547) |
| Wellington | 680,741 | 848,388 | (167,647) |
| Nelson-Marlb | 619,642 | 564,125 | 55,517 |
| Nth Canterbury | 1,569,891 | 1,009,935 | 559,956 |
| West Coast | 327,821 | 375,951 | (48,130) |
| Central SI | 1,815,089 | 945,235 | 869,854 |
| Otago | 2,404,586 | 1,240,968 | 1,163,618 |
| Southland | 1,481,973 | 823,059 | 658,914 |
| NZC only | 46,730 | 1,280,486 | (1,233,756) |
| National | 0 | 1,569,350 | (1,569,350) |
| TOTAL | 12,541,589 | 12,299,386 | 242,203 |

15. Reserve Bank of NZ – Stats Insight – Survey of Expectations – February 2025 (13 February 2025). Short-term CPI inflation expectations: The mean one-year-ahead annual inflation expectation increased from 2.05% to 2.15%.
16. Based on these forecasts, a licence Fee increase will need to be considered in order to meet the current budget requirements and proposed increases sought by Fish & Game Regions in the 2025-26 budget round.
17. Any increase in the licence fee will have to take into consideration the Minister's approval.
18. If there is no increase in the licence fee, Fish and Game needs to consider where to reduce costs.

Legislative Implications

19. Any amendment to the licence fee requires approval from the Minister.

Risks and mitigations

20. There are many risks involved in agreeing on the LEQ and the licence fee, as both impact the financial viability of the organisation.

Consultation

21. The normal consultation process will take place following the April 2025 meeting.

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next actions

22. If agreed, the Regional Councils will be informed of the Forecast LEQ's for 2025/26 to build into their budgeting process and advised of NZC's appetite for any amendments to licence fees.

Appendix 1

2025-26 Licence sales and interest forecast based on current licence fees.

| Region | Extrapolated Fish 2025-26 | Extrapolated Game 2026 | Budget Fish (\$156 incl GST) | Budget Game (\$96.523 (\$111 incl GST excl GHBT \$5) | less comm 4% \$ | Net Licence \$ | Plus Interest \$ | Net Income \$ |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Northland | 618 | 1506 | 83,833 | 145,362 | -9,168 | 220,027 | \$6,421 | 226,448 |
| Auckland Waikato | 3838 | 6436 | 520,633 | 621,214 | -45,674 | 1,096,173 | \$4,479 | 1,100,652 |
| Eastern | 9005 | 2567 | 1,221,548 | 247,771 | -58,773 | 1,410,546 | \$19,820 | 1,430,366 |
| Hawke's Bay | 3010 | 1888 | 408,313 | 182,233 | -23,622 | 566,924 | \$16,456 | 583,380 |
| Taranaki | 1217 | 950 | 165,089 | 91,696 | -10,271 | 246,513 | \$7,756 | 254,269 |
| Wellington | 2846 | 3214 | 386,066 | 310,221 | -27,851 | 668,435 | \$12,306 | 680,741 |
| Nelson Marlborough | 4136 | 844 | 561,057 | 81,464 | -25,701 | 616,821 | \$2,821 | 619,642 |
| North Canterbury | 10180 | 2576 | 1,380,939 | 248,640 | -65,183 | 1,564,396 | \$5,495 | 1,569,891 |
| West Coast | 2200 | 363 | 298,435 | 35,037 | -13,339 | 320,133 | \$7,688 | 327,821 |
| Central South Island | 12366 | 1914 | 1,677,475 | 184,743 | -74,489 | 1,787,729 | \$27,360 | 1,815,089 |
| Otago | 15479 | 3923 | 2,099,760 | 378,655 | -99,137 | 2,379,278 | \$25,308 | 2,404,586 |
| Southland | 8080 | 4420 | 1,096,070 | 426,626 | -60,908 | 1,461,788 | \$20,185 | 1,481,973 |
| NZC | 72975 | 30601 | 9,899,217 | 2,953,662 | -514,115 | 12,338,764 | \$46,730 | 12,541,589 |



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
- Various actions being undertaken to increase awareness within regional councils – who will likely be tasked with implementing a response if/when HPAI H5N1 reaches NZ mainland.

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.
- Undertake a detailed register of interest in Mana Whenua groupings and contacts (initiated).

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action is required.

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. Associate Justice Minister Nicole McKee said the Arms Act had been in place for over 40 years and would be rewritten by 2026.
- A submission from Taranaki Fish and Game Council was made on 28 February 2025 – as did Wellington Fish and Game Council and NZ Fish and Game Council. Submissions are being analysed by parliament.
- Update on the lack of support by Cabinet for the Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms), to progress a more comprehensive review of the firearms registry

b. Wildlife Act Review

There has been no update as to the priority or timetable, but confirmation received that DOC are actively progressing this review.

c. Resource Management Act Review

A second RMA amendment bill was be introduced to Parliament in December and is due to become law in mid-2025.

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.

NZ Council made a formal submission at the Select Committee in March 2025 and the Bill is expected to come into force mid-2025.

Organisational Policies

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

NZ Council is currently consulting on these 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.

No Action Required

Recommendation/Action

No Action Required



The Government's resource management reform will replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) with two new pieces of legislation:

- A Natural Environment Act – focused on managing the natural environment
- A Planning Act – focused on planning to enable development and infrastructure.

The new legislation will narrow the scope of the resource management system and the effects it controls, with the enjoyment of private property rights as the guiding principle. A shift from a precautionary to a more permissive approach will unlock development, streamline processes, and enhance New Zealand's ability to meet its housing, infrastructure, and environmental objectives.

Expert Advisory Group

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) was established in September 2024 and was tasked with preparing a blueprint to replace the RMA, based on ten objectives and principles set by Cabinet. The EAG provided a draft blueprint to Ministers on 20 December 2024. The EAG's blueprint addresses the main failings of the RMA and provides 21 key recommendations that are ambitious and wide ranging.

The Cabinet proposals, for the introduction of new legislation, are broadly in line with the EAG's recommendations. A system based on the EAG blueprint will be simpler, faster, more effective, and provide proportionate and measured responses to land and resource use.

Narrower Scope

The new legislation will narrow the scope of the resource management system and the effects it controls, with the enjoyment of property rights as the guiding principle. Compared to the RMA, the new legislation will more clearly define the types of adverse effects that can be considered and raise the threshold for when those adverse effects must be managed.

This will provide greater protection of and ability to use property as its owners see fit. It will set a higher bar for regulatory restrictions on property. Change is needed to ensure the resource management system better supports growth and development in a market economy as well as respecting private property rights, while also improving environmental outcomes.

National Policy Direction

One set of national policy direction under each new act will simplify, streamline, and direct local government plans and decision-making. It will also provide guidance on how to resolve conflicts between competing priorities. This is expected to provide direction on the purpose of the primary legislation and declutter the existing set of RMA national policy statements.

Resource Management Reform

Direction under the new Natural Environment Act will cover matters such as:

- freshwater
- indigenous biodiversity
- coastal policy.

Direction under the new Planning Act will cover matters such as:

- urban development
- infrastructure (including renewable energy)
- natural hazards.

The national policy directions for each act will be developed in parallel to ensure they are aligned.

Standardisation Of The System

The new legislation will provide for greater standardisation, shifting the focus of policy setting to a national level, while maintaining local decision-making over things that matter. This approach will provide for genuinely novel issues to be given adequate consideration on a case-by-case basis. The benefits include:

- Following international approaches, nationally set standards (including standardised land-use zones) will provide significant system benefits and efficiencies.
- Standardising best practice for councils and others reduces the financial burden on communities.

It will assist councils to take a similar approach to the same issues faced in other parts of the country.

Environmental Limits And Natural Resource Allocation

There is agreement that the RMA's 'first in, first served' approach to allocating natural resources is inefficient and inequitable when resources are scarce. It lacks incentives for resources to be used efficiently and does not enable higher value uses. The EAG recommended a more deliberate framework for natural resource allocation and charging for use. A better legal framework for setting environmental limits will provide certainty around where development can and should occur, whilst protecting the natural environment.

Streamlining The System

Cabinet has agreed to reduce the number of plans and policies in the system. A combined plan will include a spatial planning chapter, an environment chapter and planning chapters (one per territorial authority district) and could be achieved via an 'e-plan'. Spatial plans will provide long-term, strategic direction to simplify and streamline the system. This will allow development within constraints, and better align land use, infrastructure planning, and investment.

A national compliance and enforcement regulator will be set up and will provide the opportunity to ensure more consistency as well as reduce the variability in compliance and enforcement activities across regions. A new planning tribunal will provide for faster and low-cost dispute resolution and lessen reliance on the courts.

Proposed Changes to the Health and Safety at Work Act

April 2025

Key Announcements Summary:

1. **Governance vs. Operational Management:** The government aims to clarify the distinction between governance and operational health and safety responsibilities, following the *Maritime New Zealand v Gibson* decision. Legislation will ensure that day-to-day management of health and safety risks will be handled by managers, allowing directors to focus on strategic oversight. Further details will be provided soon.
2. **Small, Low-Risk Businesses:** A carve-out for small, low-risk businesses will limit their health and safety duties to managing critical risks (e.g., risks that could cause death or serious injury). These businesses will only need to provide basic facilities (e.g., first aid, drinking water, lighting). The specific criteria for "small, low-risk" businesses remain unclear.
3. **Landowners' Responsibilities for Recreational Activities:** Changes will clarify landowners' responsibilities for recreational activities on their land. Landowners won't be liable for injuries from recreational activities, except where their work directly impacts the activity. This shifts the current responsibility, which depends on the landowner's control over the activity.
4. **Other HSWA Changes:**
 - The primary purpose of the HSWA will be refined to focus on critical risks, reducing "tick-box" activities.
 - Clarifying the overlap between HSWA and other regulatory systems to avoid over-compliance.
 - Notification requirements for significant workplace events (deaths, serious injuries, incidents) will be amended.

2 April 2025

Health and safety governance and management change coming

- [Hon Brooke van Velden](#)

[Workplace Relations and Safety](#)

The Government has agreed to clarify the distinction between governance and operational management health and safety responsibilities to reduce directors' fear and risks of overcompliance, Workplace Relations and Safety Minister Brooke van Velden announced today.

The Government is delivering on an ACT-National Coalition Agreement to reform New Zealand's health and safety laws and regulations.

"Throughout the public consultation and the roadshow on the health and safety law, I heard from business owners and company directors that they are unclear about their health and safety duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act in both large and small businesses.

"Feedback shared by many is that there is overcompliance as many directors think they need to do more than they should, and directors and management are also duplicating work," says Ms van Velden.

"Today, I am announcing a change in the legislation to specify that the day-to-day management of health and safety risks is to be left to managers so that directors and boards can focus on governance and the strategic oversight of the business."

This change is part of the wider health and safety system reform and will be progressed through changes to legislation later this year.

"Making this distinction will enhance the effectiveness of health and safety governance and the outcomes we can achieve in the health and safety system.

"Work is continuing to ensure this is effective and fit-for-purpose and I intend to return to Cabinet to seek agreement on the specific details of this change," says Ms van Velden.

Key features of the announcements:

Clarifying the distinction between governance and operational management

Following the *Maritime New Zealand v Gibson* (our coverage of this decision can be found [here](#)), Officers have been considering the distinction between Officer obligations under HSWA and the role of the person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU), which primarily impacts chief executive officers of organisations.

The Minister's announcement Wednesday, 2 April 2025 indicated that the Government would seek to clarify the distinction between governance and operational management health and safety responsibilities.

Specifically, the announcement was that the legislation will be changed to make clear that "day-to-day management of health and safety risks will be left to managers so that directors and boards can focus

on governance and the strategic oversight of the business.” Clarity on this change will be announced in the coming weeks.

Focusing on critical risk for small low-risk businesses

The primary change proposed in the Monday, 31 March 2025 announcement is to create a carve-out for small, low-risk businesses from general HSWA requirements. The proposed change would amend the primary duty of care for such businesses so that they are only required to manage critical risks – which the accompanying fact sheet defines as risk that “could cause death, serious injury or serious illness” – and otherwise to provide basic facilities to ensure worker welfare.

In practice, the Minister clarified that this would require small, low-risk businesses to provide first aid, emergency plans, and basic facilities such as drinking water, suitable lighting and ventilation. ‘Exempt’ businesses would no longer be required to provide aspects of health and safety risk management, with the example given being a psychosocial policy (unless, presumably, psychosocial harm presented a critical risk to the business). At this stage, there is no indication as to what will constitute a “small, low-risk” business for the purpose of the carve-out beyond reference in the Minister’s press release to “a small clothing shop” as an example.

Clarifying the responsibilities of landowners where recreational activities occur on their land

Recently, there has been increased interest in the overlap and interaction of the duties under HSWA of landowners and those who use their land for the purpose of providing a recreational activity. This is a feature of the High Court’s judgment in *Whakaari Management Ltd v WorkSafe New Zealand* (our coverage of this decision can be found [here](#)).

In Tuesday, 1 April 2025 announcement, the Minister proposed a change to clarify the law for landowners in those circumstances with the intention to free up private and public land for recreational use.

The proposed change would clarify that landowners would not be responsible where someone is injured on their land while undertaking recreational activities. The Minister provided the example of a farmer worrying about the risks of a horse trekking business on their land. The proposed changes would clarify for that farmer that they would only need to consider the risks of the horse trekking activity where their work happens in the immediate vicinity of that activity.

This is a material change from the current status of the responsibilities under the HSWA, where the responsibilities of the farmer in relation to the recreational activity would depend on the degree of influence and control they had over the various risks presented by the activity.

Other changes to HSWA

The Minister also announced the following proposed changes that have been agreed by Cabinet:

- The primary purpose of the HSWA to be “sharpened” to focus on critical risk. The implications of this are currently unclear, beyond that the intention is to reduce “tick-box health and safety activities”.
- The boundaries between the HSWA and other regulatory systems that manage the same risks to be clarified, to address perceived concerns regarding “over-compliance”.

Requirements to notify the regulator to be amended to only significant workplace events (deaths, serious injury, illness and incidents).

Agenda Item 13 Health and Safety Report

Summary

a. Consider the Health and Safety Report March 2025 and April 2025.

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

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 coordinated by NZ Council.

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| For Information Only |
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Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive staff report on Health and Safety for January 2025 and February 2025

b. Consider Proactive Actions for Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Options for skin health checks for field staff were being investigated by Southland Fish and Game Council and NZ Fish and Game Council with a single provider. The organisational discount did not warrant further progression of that as an option.

The risk of skin cancer for field staff is moderately high.

There is no preferred provider for skin checks.

Individual staff should be able to choose the health provider of their choice.

Recommendation: Provide a moderate subsidy of \$100 for field staff to check for potential melanoma – payable on receiving receipt of services

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Recommendation/Action

Council to confirm a moderate subsidy for staff to have an annual skin check for skin cancer.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

As part of the commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace the Wellington 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 – March and April 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. |
|--|--|

| 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 – March 2025 | Weekly meetings with feedback sought and required actions noted. |
| Health & Safety Staff Meeting – April 2025 | Weekly meetings with feedback sought and required actions noted. |
| Reviewed Vehicle Inspection Forms for April 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. |

| 6. H&S incidents - Near misses or injuries | |
|--|---|
| | <i>Status</i> |
| No accidents reported | Consider proactive actions as arise in response to near misses. |

| 7. Follow Up from Council Meeting | |
|---|---------------|
| | <i>Status</i> |
| Consider subsidising skin checks for melanoma detection for field staff | Agenda item |

Action:

Receive Health and Safety Summary Report for March 2025 and April 2025

Summary

a. Draft Anglers Notice

Consider the staff report on potential changes and recommendations for changes to the Anglers Notice

| |
|-----------------|
| Decision |
|-----------------|

Recommendation/Action

Make recommendations (via NZ Council) to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing to the 2025/2026 Anglers Notice

b. Paradise Shelduck Special Summer Season – Summary Report

A brief report on the harvest estimates by hunters for the 2025 Special Summer Season for paradise shelduck in the Taranaki region

| |
|---------------------------|
| No action required |
|---------------------------|

Recommendation/Action

No action required. Receive report.

c. Research Update

A brief report on research undertaken on:

1. Trout – Native Fish interactions
2. Summary of projects being undertaken with the Fish and Game Research Fund.

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| For Information Only |
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Recommendation/Action

No action required

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

2025/26 DRAFT TARANAKI ANGLERS' NOTICE

Waiaua River

In response to a significant headwater erosion event in the Waiaua River during a flood on 17th July 2021, the Council amended the 2022/23 Anglers' Notice from the usual 2-fish limit with all methods, to a zero-bag limit for brown trout in both the Waiaua River and Lake Opunake, with a 1-fish limit for rainbow trout and methods restricted to fly and spin fishing only. These regulations were retained for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons.

From 2022 – 2024, Hawera hatchery rainbow trout of various size classes from fry to 18-months were released into the upper reaches of the river (Table 1), with a small release of hatchery brown trout also made in 2024. All trout, apart from fry, were adipose fin clipped.

Owing to a lack of major floods, the Waiaua River's habitat has stabilised and in the 2024/25 season, anglers reported that there are now good numbers of well-conditioned wild brown trout of various size classes up to large adults present, plus some hatchery rainbows and even some wild rainbows.

Providing the habitat remains stable (and anything can happen given the unstable headwaters of Oaonui Stream have discharged into the headwaters of the Waiaua since floods in July – October 1998) it is recommended that the Council returns to the usual 2-fish limit with all methods (FSB) for the 2025/26 season.

Another option is to set a 2-fish limit in which only one fish can be a brown trout with the use of all methods. However, in commenting on the draft report, Wellington SFO Matt Kavermann stated that "allowing bait fishing with selective limits for brown vs rainbow may result in more mortality of released fish if anglers continue to fish once their quota for a particular species has been captured. The Anglers Notice indicates very little pressure on the Waiaua so perhaps consider a 2 fish limit without discrepancy between species".

The National Angler Survey results (Table 2) do indicate that angling use of the Waiaua is modest, although that could increase once word gets out about the fishery's recovery. But, given the discussion above, the recommendation is that the Council returns to the usual 2-fish limit with all methods (FSB) for the 2025/26 season.

Table 1. Release of hatchery reared trout into the Waiaua River 2022 - 2024.

| Year | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------|-----------------|------|------|------|
| Rainbow trout | 100 + 1,000 fry | 303 | 447 | 0 |
| Brown trout | 0 | 0 | 115 | 0 |

Table 2. National Angler Survey Results for the Waiaua River and Opunake Lake (angler days / season)

| Lake or river | 1994/95 | 2001/02 | 2007/08 | 2014/15 | 2021/22 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Waiaua River | 100 | 10 | 50 | 50 | 114 |
| Lake Opunake | 30 | 4 | 200 | 190 | 0 |

Opunake Lake

At the time of writing Opunake Lake and the Opunake power scheme is still shut down (and has been since 1 June 2018), meaning Opunake Lake has ongoing poor water quality. There doesn't seem to be a timeframe for the scheme to re-start, even though new consents were granted in 2022. The current regulations are a zero-bag limit for brown trout, a 1-fish limit for rainbow trout and methods restricted to fly and spin fishing only in keeping with the restrictions on the adjacent Waiaua River.

Given the recommendation for the Waiaua River above, it is recommended that Opunake Lake also returns to the usual 2-fish limit with all methods (FSB) for the 2025/26 season. Given the poor water quality and the restricted water inflow from the Waiaua River, it's unlikely there are many (or any) trout in the lake.

Hangatahua (Stony) River

Very stable flows over spring and summer 2024/25 allowed the release of 168 well-grown rainbows and 261 brown trout from the Hawera hatchery in November 2024. Anglers have reported there are now several year classes of rainbow trout in the river, but so far there have been few reports of brown trout being caught. The Hangatahua appears to have come through two significant (1.5m) floods on 4th and 20th April 2025 with no new headwater erosion. Given the brown trout population is still very much in recovery mode, it is recommended that there are no changes to the current regulations of a 2-fish limit, with a zero bag limit for brown trout and methods restricted to fly and spin fishing only.

Scented Soft baits

The use of soft baits is now widespread and popular with anglers, and there are many shapes, sizes and colours available in stores and online. Some are scented and some aren't, and it is often difficult to tell the difference.

Currently, scented lures, soft baits and other synthetic imitations with chemical attractant properties are defined as "bait" in the First Schedule of the Anglers Notice, "except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of the Notice".

A number of Fish & Game regions, including the Wellington region, have a second schedule condition stating that "scented artificial lures may be used in fly fishing and spin fishing waters, when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish".

Auckland / Waikato has the condition: "Scented artificial lures may be used in all waters other than fly fishing only waters, when actively fished to imitate a bait fish".

The Taranaki Second Schedule is currently silent on scented soft baits, which means it is an offence for anglers to use them in waters restricted to fly and spin (FS) fishing only. This means in the Hangatahau (Stony) River, Kaiauai Stream, Kapuni Stream, Opunake Lake and the Waiau River.

At a meeting of Fish & Game regional fisheries staff on 8th April 2025, there was wide support for a Schedule 1 change to make scented soft baits able to be used in spin fishing waters (FS) if they were actively fished. There is a process to go through, so any change would not happen until the 2026/27 season.

It is therefore recommended that Taranaki adopt a similar definition to that which Auckland / Waikato has in its 2024/25 Notice: Note 1.5 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 and/or water between waterbodies

At the April 2025 meeting of regional fisheries staff, Auckland/Waikato Fisheries Manager, Adam Daniel stated that he would “highly recommend a rule preventing bait and or water being moved between waterbodies. Adam said “I realize this is currently not common practice in NZ, but our demographics are shifting, and the movement of bait buckets has been a major contributor to the transfer of invasive species overseas, which is why fishing is always highlighted as a significant threat. If we have rules in place preventing this movement, we are doing our part to help prevent the spread of invasive species and I have already used the Auckland/Waikato rule to assure our partners that this high-risk fishing related behaviour is already illegal here and not an issue”.

It is therefore recommended that the following clauses be added to Note 1 in the Taranaki Second Schedule:

1.6 No licence holder, shall use as bait any fish taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring.

1.7 No licence holder shall transport water taken from any waterbody, including bait buckets or live bait tanks to another waterway.

Effects of catch and release on trout mortality

At the April 2025 meeting of regional fisheries staff there was also discussion about the impacts of poor handling techniques on the survival of released fish (e.g. at the McKenzie canal fisheries). Central South Island and North Canterbury Fish & Game have added the following regulation to their Second Schedule: “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”. This allows them to issue an offence notice if C&R fish are being deliberately mistreated and CSI has so far issued seven offence notices for breaches of that regulation. The fisheries group considered that the “safe release rule” would be a good one to add to Schedule 1, similar to the “scented soft bait rule”.

While this will not be such an issue in Taranaki and no amendments to the 2025/26 Angler Notice are proposed, there are a number of additional factors affecting the survival of released fish, including water temperature, passively fished bait and air exposure time that anglers could be educated about.

Adam Daniel provided the group with material that Auckland/Waikato uses and this is also provided here for the Council's information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Taranaki Fish & Game Council make the following amendments to the 2024/25 Anglers Notice for the 2025/26 season:

- That a 2-fish limit and the use of all methods (FSB) be set for the Waiaua River and Opunake Lake in the 2025/26 season; and
- That a new clause 1.5 be added 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; and
- That a new clause 1.6 be added to Note 1: No licence holder, shall use as bait any fish taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring; and
- That a new clause 1.7 be added to Note 1: No licence holder shall transport water taken from any waterbody, including bait buckets or live bait tanks to another waterway.

Allen Stancliff
Senior Field Officer
6 May 2025

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 or the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

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 licence holder, shall use as bait any fish taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring

1.7 No licence holder shall transport water taken from any waterbody, including bait buckets or live bait tanks to another waterway

In the Hangatahua (Stony) River, ~~Waiau River and Lake Opunake~~ no brown trout may be taken.

Note 2

No licence holder shall fish for sports fish from a boat in Lake Mangamahoe, including the Waiwhakaiho Inlet.

Note 3

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

| Water | Multiple sections | Open season | Authorised fishing methods | Daily bag limit by species | | | Refer Clause 2 Additional Requirements |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|----------|--|
| | | | | Trout | Salmon | Perch | |
| All lakes, rivers and streams not mentioned in clause 3.2 for this region | | 1 Oct - 30 Apr | FSB | 2 | 1 | No limit | Note 1 |

3.2 Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

| Water | Multiple sections | Open season | Authorised fishing methods | Daily bag limit by species | | | Refer Clause 2 Additional Requirements |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|----------|--|
| | | | | Trout | Salmon | Perch | |
| Taranaki/ Whanganui | | | | | | | |
| Hangatahua (Stony) River | | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FS | 2 | 1 | | Note 1, 2 |
| Huatoki Stream | downstream of Brois Street Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | | Note 1 |
| Kai Auahi (Kaiauai) 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 | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FS | 2 | 1 | | Note 1 |
| Kaupokonui Stream | downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | | Note 1 |
| Lake Kohata | | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | | | No limit | Note 1 |
| | excluding the Waiwhakaiho Inlet and Mangamahoe Stream | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | F | 2 | | | Note 1, 3 |
| Lake Mangamahoe | 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 |

| | Any tributary other than Waiwhakaiho Inlet and Mangamahoe Stream | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | F | 2 | 1 | Note 1, 3 |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----|---|----------|-----------|
| Lake Namunamu | | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | | Note 1 |
| Lake Ngangana | | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | No limit | Note 1 |
| Lake Opunake | | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | | Note 1, 2 |
| Lake Ratapiko | | 1 Oct - 30 Apr and 1 June - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | No limit | Note 1 |
| Lake Rotokare | | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | | No limit | Note 1 |
| Lake Rotomanu | | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | No limit | Note 1 |
| Lake Rotorangi | downstream of Mangamingi Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | No limit | Note 1 |
| Lake Wiritoa | | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | | No limit | Note 1 |
| Manganui River | downstream of Bristol Road Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | Note 1 |
| Mangaoraka Stream | downstream of State Highway 3 Devon Road Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | Note 1 |
| Patea River | downstream of Patea Dam | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | Note 1 |
| Waiaua River | upstream of State Highway 45 Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | Note 1, 2 |
| Waiaua River | downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | Note 1, 2 |
| Waingongo River | downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | Note 1 |
| Waiongana Stream | downstream of State Highway 3 Devon Road Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | Note 1 |

| Waitara River | downstream of Manganui River confluence | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | No limit | Note 1 |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|-----|---|---|----------|--------|
| Waiwhakaiho River | downstream of the normal site of a landmark that is at the end of Rimu Street extension walking track | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | | Note 1 |
| <i>Te Ikapārua</i> (Warea) River | downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | | Note 1 |
| Whanganui River | downstream of Ohura River confluence excluding tributaries | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | No limit | Note 1 |
| Virginia Lake | | Closed to fishing | | | | | |
| Waimarino | | | | | | | |
| Manganuioteao River | downstream of Ruatiti Road Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | 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 | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | | | Note 1 |
| Retaruke River | downstream of Oio Road Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | 1 | | Note 1 |
| Sattlers Dam | | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | | | Note 1 |
| Tokiahuru Stream | downstream of State Highway 49 Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | | | Note 1 |
| Waitaiki Stream | downstream of State Highway 49 Bridge | 1 Oct - 30 Sep | FSB | 2 | | | Note 1 |



Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game catch and release fact sheet.

The science behind releasing trout that will survive.

1. **Trout released in water temperatures above 19°C have reduced survival.**
 - a. The Lake Otamangakau catch and release survival study conducted by DOC revealed that 30% of released fish died when water was above 21°C.
 - b. DOC now recommends not fishing when water approaches 20°C and has closed Lake Otamangakau in February.
 - c. Fish & Game research has revealed that fish tagged in the summer are half as likely to be recaptured indicating elevated mortality.
 - d. International literature backs up the NZ findings, fish released in warmer water are far less likely to survive.
 - e. Most rivers on the North Island breach the 19°C for long periods during the summer.
2. **The more time trout are kept out of water the more likely they are to die.**
 - a. Holding fish out the water for 30 seconds decreases their survival by 38% under good conditions (water temperature of 15°C).
 - b. The average time trout are held out of the water for hook removal during catch and release fishing is 30 seconds.
 - c. Removing a fish from water above 19°C for more than 30 seconds causes extreme stress and is likely a death sentence.
 - d. Barbless hooks do not significantly improve survival but can reduce handling time during release.
3. **Landing nets remove scales and slime increasing the likelihood of fish infection and death.**
 - a. The best way to release fish is to be ready with forceps and release them in the water with wet hands.
 - b. Any net increases damage to fish but knotless rubber nets are the best option.
 - c. Fine mesh nylon nets are better than traditional knotted nets but are associated with longer handling times due to hooks getting caught in the mesh.

If you want to release fish that will survive to be caught another day:

1. Don't fish for trout in water temperatures above 19°C.
2. Carry a thermometer, BBQ thermometers are \$10.
3. If you don't have a thermometer stop fishing mid-day if it's hot and sunny.
4. Don't remove your fish from the water and don't use a landing net unless you need to. Releasing fish with wet hands and forceps if possible.
5. If you want to take a photo don't take the fish completely out of the water, consider taking a video and clipping a photo out of the video.

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

Auckland/Waikato Region

156 Brymer Rd, RD 9, Hamilton 3289, New Zealand. Telephone (07) 849 1666
Email: aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

Catch and Release educational sheet

Fly anglers know not to squeeze fish or pull them up onto the bank but anglers don't realise the biggest killer of released trout is summer fishing and photographs.

1. Trout released in water temperatures above 19°C have reduced survival.
 - a. The catch and release survival study done on Lake Otamangakau conducted by DOC revealed that 30% of released fish died when water was above 21°C.
 - b. DOC now recommends not fishing when water approaches 20°C and has closed Lake Otamangakau in February.
 - c. Fish & Game research has revealed that fish tagged in the summer are half as likely to be recaptured indicating significantly high mortality of fish released in warmer water.
 - d. International literature backs up the NZ findings, fish released in warmer water are far less likely to survive. (Bartholomew and Bohnsack 2005; Cowx 2017; Havn et al. 2015; Lamansky and Meyer 2016)
 - e. Most rivers on the North Island breach the 19°C for long periods during the summer forcing fish upstream or into thermal refuges.
2. The more time a trout is kept out of water during release the more likely a trout is to die.
 - a. Holding fish out the water to remove the hook or take a photo for 30 seconds decreases their survival by 38% under good conditions (water temperature of 15°C).
 - b. The average time a fish is out of the water during catch and release fishing is 30 seconds (Lamansky and Meyer 2016).
 - c. Removing a fish from warm water for more than 30 seconds causes extreme stress and is likely a death sentence (Ferguson and Tufts 1991).
3. Nets kill
 - a. The best way to release fish is to be ready with forceps and release them in the water with wet hands. (Barthel et al. 2003; De Lestang et al. 2008; Lizée et al. 2018)
 - b. Any net increases dermis loss and abrasion but knotless nets are better (Barthel et al. 2003; Lizée et al. 2018).
 - c. Fine mesh nylon nets are better than knotted nets but associated with longer handling time and time in air due to hooks getting caught in the mesh so rubber net are probably the best if you have to use a net. (Lizée et al. 2018)
4. Fighting the fish
 - a. Reducing the fight time will help the fish
 - i. Rod to the side
 - b. Be ready with forceps to release
 - c. Use a plastic net if you need a net
 - d. Wet your hands
 - e. Keep the fish in the water
5. If you want your released fish to survive
 - a. Don't fish for trout when water temperatures are above 19°C.
 - b. Carry a thermometer, BBQ thermometers are \$20.

- c. If you don't have a thermometer stop fishing mid-day.
- d. Don't remove your fish from the water when releasing it.
- e. If you want to take a photo don't take the fish completely out of the water.
- f. If you do take your fish out of the water, make it fast.

Potential tag lines for a campaign

- Hot water kills fish even if you don't
- Hit the morning and quit
- Stop at noon and let the fish rest when it is hot
- Let the trout rest after lunch
- The catch and release fallacy
- If you are going to take a photo leave the fish in the water or be quick
- Use video and clip a photo later
- Don't suffocate your fish leave them in the water
- How long can you hold your breath after a fight
- Need a photo make it quick don't be a dick!

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TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman
Taranaki Fish and Game Council

2025 SPECIAL PARADISE SEASON REPORT

A 3-weekend (7-day) hunting season for paradise shelduck was held in Game Management Area C (Taranaki) on 22nd – 23rd February and 1st 2nd, 8th, 9th & 10th March 2025, with hunting hours from 6.30am to 8pm each day. 2025 was the third year the season had been run over three weekends, including Taranaki Anniversary weekend. Previously, the season had been restricted to two weekends (4 days).

To participate in the season, hunters were required to have a 2024 game licence (unless hunting on the land they occupied), obtain a \$5 permit (free for land occupiers) and fill in and return a diary. The daily bag limit was 10 paradise shelduck per hunter per day.

The special season was held to:

1. Disperse flocks of post-moult paradise shelduck that can cause damage to areas of new sown grass, recovering hay paddocks and fodder crops such as chicory; and
2. Provide an additional hunting opportunity for licence holders and land occupiers.

RESULTS

Permits were issued to 189 hunters, of which 134 went hunting, 52 didn't go out and 3 could not be contacted for their results (Table 1). Of the 57 land occupiers issued with permits, 25 went hunting, 28 didn't go out and four could not be contacted for their results.

Out-of-region hunters comprised just 6.7% of hunters (Table 2), which was the lowest on record (Figure 1). Auckland/Waikato licence holders made up most of the out-of-region participants (8 of 9 hunters). As usual, most hunters (125 in total) came from within the Taranaki region and 11.7% of Taranaki's 1,066 2024 game licence holders (968 AWS + 98 JWS) participated in the 2025 special season.

The 134 active hunters participating in the season expended a total of 817 hours of effort for a harvest of 1,115 paradise shelduck, which corresponded to a success rate of 1.36 birds per hour (Table 3). The success rate was a little below average, while the number of birds harvested was average (Tables 3 & 4, Fig. 2). While the special season harvest of paradise has remained stable in recent years, the total annual harvest over the wider region has been trending downwards (Fig.3).

Of the 233 days spent hunting in 2025, 106 (45%) occurred on the first weekend, 66 (28%) on the second and 61 (26%) on the third weekend (Table 4). The total number of days hunted was similar to previous years and increasing the available opportunity has resulted in only a minor increase in participation and little change in harvest. The average number of days per hunter (1.74) was lower than in the previous four years (Table 4), perhaps indicating that hunters have less time available to participate in the season. There's little doubt that the season was very useful in dispersing mobs of paradise after the moult. A 3-weekend special season has again been gazetted in Area C in 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE REPORT ON THE 2025 SPECIAL PARADISE SEASON, DATED 7th MAY 2025, BE RECEIVED.

Jilli Steedman
Allen Stancliff
7th May 2025

TABLE 1. Breakdown of Special Season Permits Issued, 2009-2025

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Nil Hunting | 57 | 54 | 45 | 47 | 46 | 43 | 63 | 56 | 43 | 41 | 37 | 44 | 43 | 46 | 48 | 65 | 52 |
| Not able to be contacted | 7 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| Active Hunters – Area A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Active Hunters – Area B | 36 | 19 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 18 | | | | | | | | | |
| Active Hunters – Area C | 122 | 111 | 102 | 130 | 116 | 114 | 132 | 113 | 99 | 94 | 104 | 109 | 108 | 105 | 92 | 111 | 134 |
| Total Active Hunters | 158 | 130 | 118 | 142 | 130 | 122 | 141 | 131 | 99 | 94 | 104 | 109 | 108 | 105 | 92 | 111 | 134 |
| Total Permits Issued | 222 | 194 | 168 | 192 | 182 | 167 | 207 | 187 | 144 | 137 | 144 | 156 | 155 | 161 | 146 | 182 | 189 |

TABLE 2. Origin of Participants in the Taranaki 2025 Special Season.

| F&G Region | Area C | % from each Region |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Auckland/Waikato | 8 | 6.0 |
| Hawkes Bay | 1 | 0.7 |
| Taranaki | 125 | 93.3 |
| Total | 134 | |

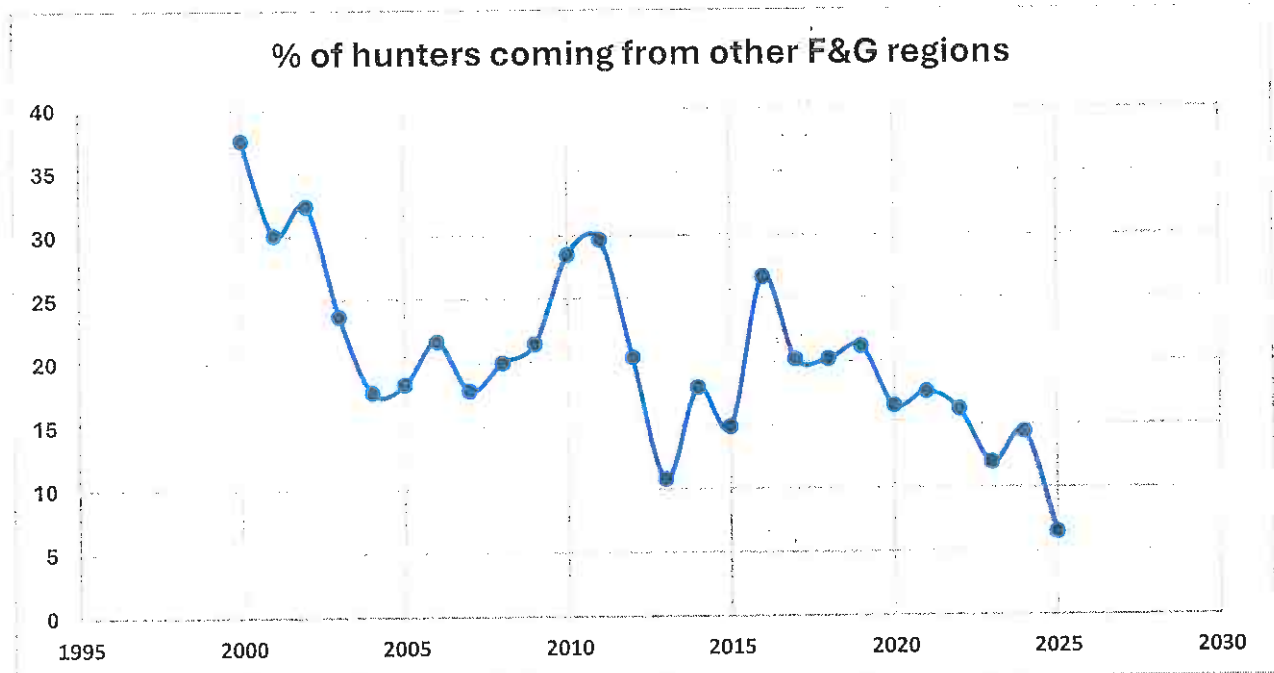


FIGURE 1. Proportion of Taranaki special season hunters coming from other Fish & Game Regions. No special season has been held in the Waimarino (Area A) since 2002 and in Whanganui (Area B) since 2016.

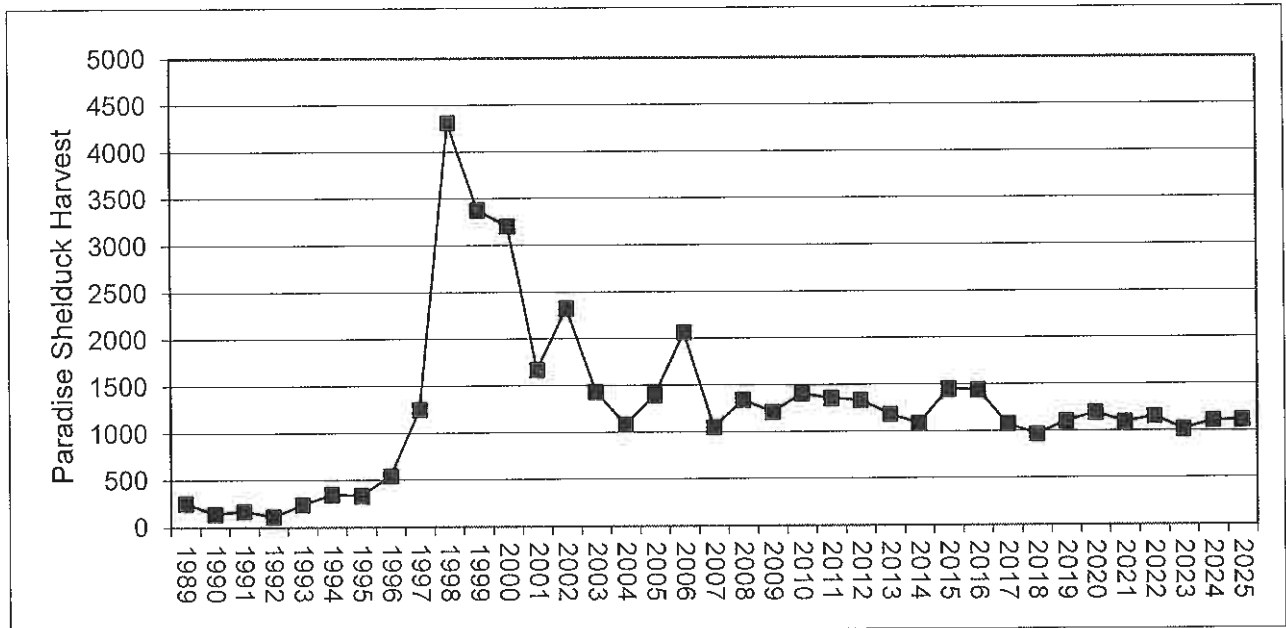


FIGURE 2. Taranaki region special season harvest of paradise shelduck. No special season has been held in the Waimarino since 2002 and in Whanganui since 2016.

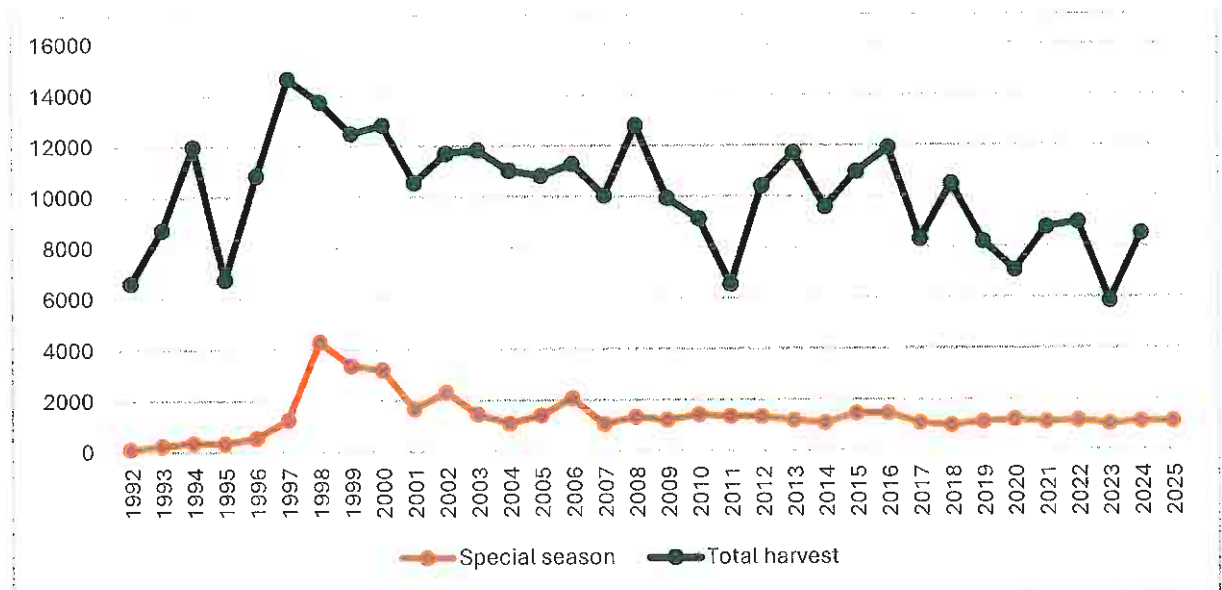


FIGURE 3. Taranaki special season and total annual harvest estimates for paradise shelduck. The total harvest estimate for 2015 does not include the harvest in Taranaki by hunters from other regions during the 2015 main season.

TABLE 3. Comparison of special paradise season harvest statistics. The season was extended to include Area C in 1998. There has not been a season in Area A since 2003 and in Area B since 2016.

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| No. Hunters | 130 | 131 | 161 | 118 | 135 | 158 | 130 | 118 | 142 | 130 | 122 | 141 | 131 | 99 | 94 | 104 | 109 | 108 | 105 | 92 | 111 | 134 | |
| Paradise Shot | 1,085 | 1,397 | 2,065 | 1,049 | 1,342 | 1,212 | 1,408 | 1,356 | 1,334 | 1,186 | 1,086 | 1,451 | 1,446 | 1,076 | 968 | 1,107 | 1,195 | 1,098 | 1,153 | 1,017 | 1,110 | 1,115 | |
| Not retrieved | 29 | 49 | 58 | 70 | 41 | 26 | 35 | 52 | 37 | 65 | 71 | 33 | 33 | 56 | 49 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 33 | 26 | 26 | 23 | |
| Banded | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -- | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Geese Shot | 55 | 76 | 72 | 57 | 87 | 53 | 48 | 22 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 0 |
| Hunting hours | 958 | 1,125 | 1,479 | 949 | -- | 1,068 | 997.5 | 932.5 | 1,026 | 849.3 | 845.8 | 1,040 | 960.8 | 716 | 728 | 750 | 868 | 897 | 820 | 713 | 742 | 817 | |
| Paradise/hour | 1.13 | 1.24 | 1.40 | 1.11 | 1.67* | 1.13 | 1.41 | 1.45 | 1.30 | 1.40 | 1.28 | 1.40 | 1.50 | 1.50 | 1.33 | 1.48 | 1.38 | 1.22 | 1.41 | 1.43 | 1.50 | 1.36 | |
| Paradise/hunter | 8.3 | 10.7 | 12.8 | 8.9 | 9.9 | 7.7 | 10.8 | 11.5 | 9.4 | 9.1 | 8.9 | 10.3 | 11.0 | 10.9 | 10.3 | 10.6 | 11.0 | 10.2 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 10.0 | 8.3 | |
| Ave effort (hrs) | 7.4 | 8.6 | 9.2 | 8.0 | 5.9* | 6.8 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 7.2 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 6.7 | 6.1 | |
| Total Days | 232 | 258 | 340 | 200 | 224 | 251 | 207 | 202 | 220 | 207 | 195 | 258 | 255 | 182 | 174 | 189 | 190 | 199 | 225 | 209 | 228 | 233 | |
| Days / hunter | 1.78 | 1.97 | 2.11 | 1.69 | 1.66 | 1.59 | 1.59 | 1.71 | 1.55 | 1.59 | 1.60 | 1.83 | 1.95 | 1.84 | 1.85 | 1.81 | 1.74 | 1.84 | 2.14 | 2.27 | 2.05 | 1.74 | |

TABLE 4. Harvest Statistics for Game Management Area C (Taranaki). The season was extended from one weekend to two in 2015 and two weekends to three in 2023.

| Harvest Statistic | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| No. Hunters | 97 | 109 | 122 | 111 | 102 | 130 | 116 | 114 | 132 | 113 | 99 | 94 | 104 | 109 | 108 | 105 | 92 | 111 | 134 |
| Paradise Shot | 906 | 1,066 | 1,008 | 1,265 | 1,233 | 1,205 | 1,077 | 1,026 | 1,365 | 1,310 | 1,076 | 968 | 1,107 | 1,195 | 1,098 | 1,153 | 1,017 | 1,110 | 1,115 |
| Paradise not retrieved | 57 | 38 | 20 | 30 | 51 | 34 | 60 | 71 | 33 | 30 | 56 | 49 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 33 | 26 | 26 | 23 |
| Canada Geese Shot | 50 | 87 | 53 | 48 | 21 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Geese not retrieved | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Hours | 823.5 | 443.5 | 837 | 884 | 827 | 938 | 793.3 | 799.3 | 995 | 866.5 | 716 | 728 | 750 | 868 | 897 | 820 | 713 | 742 | 817 |
| Av. No. paradise / hour | 1.10 | 1.55* | 1.20 | 1.43 | 1.49 | 1.28 | 1.36 | 1.28 | 1.37 | 1.51 | 1.50 | 1.33 | 1.48 | 1.38 | 1.22 | 1.41 | 1.43 | 1.50 | 1.36 |
| Av. No paradise/ hunter | 9.3 | 9.8 | 8.3 | 11.4 | 12.1 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.0 | 10.3 | 11.6 | 10.9 | 10.3 | 10.6 | 11.0 | 10.2 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 10.0 | 8.3 |
| Av. Effort in hours | 8.5 | 6.1* | 6.9 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 6.7 | 6.1 |
| Total Days | 172 | 187 | 187 | 180 | 176 | 200 | 186 | 183 | 246 | 230 | 182 | 174 | 189 | 190 | 199 | 225 | 209 | 228 | 233 |
| Days 1st weekend | | | | | | | | | 156 | 122 | 125 | 105 | 138 | 146 | 127 | 163 | 95 | 98 | 106 |
| Days 2nd weekend | | | | | | | | | 90 | 108 | 57 | 69 | 51 | 44 | 72 | 62 | 63 | 86 | 66 |
| Days 3rd weekend | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Av. No. days per user | 1.77 | 1.72 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.86 | 2.04 | 1.84 | 1.85 | 1.81 | 1.74 | 1.84 | 2.14 | 2.27 | 2.05 | 1.74 |

Research & Monitoring Programme Update

New Zealand Council Meeting 174, 11 & 12 April 2025

Prepared by: Helen Brosnan, Senior Policy Advisor

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report provides the New Zealand Council with an update on the status of the Research Fund and presents updates on ongoing research funded by the Research Fund.

Financial considerations

Nil Budgetary provision Unbudgeted

Risk

Low Medium High Extreme

Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

That the New Zealand Council:

1. Receive the update on the status of the Research Fund and research funded by the fund; and
2. Note the current financial status of the Research Fund. As at 27 Feb 2025, \$172,670 commitment and \$99,500 available for distribution. See attachment 1 for summary of ongoing projects.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

1. As at 28 Feb 2025, there is a commitment of \$172,670 for 12 projects from the Research Fund (refer to Table 1)
2. There is currently \$99,500 available in the Research fund for the 2024/25 year (refer to Table 2).

Takenga mai - Background

3. Each year, the NZC allocates
 - i. \$100,000 towards the General Research
 - ii. \$30,000 to the National Anglers Survey
 - iii. \$25,000 to the PhD programme
4. Regions can apply to the General Research Fund. All applications are to be considered by the Research Sub Committee who will then provide recommendations to NZC for consideration.
5. An update on research that received funding approval 3+ years ago is available. All project coordinators were contacted to provide updates. Updates for studies 3+ years old which were not received are listed as unavailable.

Kōrerorero – Discussion

6. The February update report provided a number of updates on the existing research projects. This report focuses instead on an update on the Adam Frimel who has updated his MSc to a PhD programme.

7. Weatherhead Scholarship

Brian Weatherhead left a bequest in 2020 to the Cawthron Foundation. The purpose of the bequest was to enable research into ecology and conservation of trout in New Zealand and the Will stated that priority should be given to funding postgraduate student studies. Cawthron Foundation and New Zealand Fish and Game Council jointly fund the scholarship that is known as the Weatherhead Salmonid Ecology Scholarship. The scholarship provides funding for a PhD student to undertake research and build their research capability and experience. The MOU commenced on 1 July 2022 and expires on 30 June 2025.

8. The following para is taken from Adam's research outline:

“Physical habitat characteristics likely play a dominant role in shaping species distributions, while biotic traits such as territorial aggression may provide competitive advantages, allowing native species to coexist with or even exclude salmonids (Akbaripasand and Closs 2018; Akbaripasand et al. 2014). The biotic resistance theory suggests that diverse native communities can resist invasion by non-native species, particularly in biodiverse ecosystems (Britton 2012; Nunez-Mir et al. 2017). Understanding these habitat conditions and biological traits is crucial for mitigating salmonid impacts and informing conservation strategies”.

9. The full research outline is attached to this report as attachment 3.

10. Adam has completed a substantive body of research over the course of his MSc, and has now progressed through to a phd. Adam is the recipient of a Weatherhead Scholarship. Adam presented the results of his research at the Annual Conference of the NZ Freshwater Sciences Society in Dec 2024. His presentation was excellent and well received at the conference.

Findings of Ongoing Research 3 plus years:

#56 – Game Harvest Survey Analysis

11. Coordinator: Matthew McDougall, Eastern Fish & Game

12. Update: As previously indicated, the database and programme now reside on a public domain website under the direct control and administration of Fish & Game. The programme has been refined and upgraded to give it much greater functionality and accessibility for regional staff. Graphing functions and the ability to identify estimates of total harvest across multiple regions/all of the country and harvest within a region attributable to licence holders from outside that region can be very readily accessed now. The five-year subscription for hosting the website will not be due for approximately another three years, and no other costs associated with maintaining this facility are anticipated from now on. It would be wise, however, to retain \$500 against the project in case there are any issues.

#61 – Mallard Research: Duck Management Units

13. Coordinator: Matthew McDougall, Eastern Fish & Game

14. Update: No further update provided.

#67.2 – Mallard Research: Cat GPS Pilot Study

15. Coordinator: Zane Moss, Southland Fish & Game

16. Update: This project has been completed, but there have been delays with the publication of the results from this work. Department of Conservation staff will be following up the delays with the student who performed the research.

#68 – Environmental DNA to Identify Spawning & Establish Protocols

17. Coordinator: Phil Teal/Adam Canning, Wellington Fish & Game

18. Update: The final report has been completed and is available.

#70 – Limnological Variables on Food Web Dynamics in Lake Tarawera

19. Coordinator: Matt Osborne, Eastern Fish & Game

20. Update: Project 70 is complete following the arrival of the Cawthron Institute report during April 2023, and is available.

#75 – Native Fish/Sports Interactions

21. Coordinator: Phil Teal/Adam Canning, Wellington Fish & Game

22. Update: The Native Fish Risk assessment manuscript has been submitted – peer review undertaken – and resubmitted. The trout and dwarf galaxias work undertaken in conjunction with Northland F&G (an add-on to the original workstream) was completed and analysed. The Climate Change paper was accepted and published – and is available. The stable isotopes work only provided indication and direction on the extent (%) of diet from fish and invertebrates – a short summary for grey literature is considered appropriate.

23. The Research Sub Committee have been provided with the final Climate Research paper, and will have a presentation from Dr Adam Canning at their next Research Sub Committee meeting. An all of organisation Webinar on the Climate Research is under development.

#76 – Mallard Research – Brood Habitat Selection and Use

24. Coordinator: David Klee, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

25. Update: This project was completed in 2019, though committed funds remain. The final report to council is available.

Findings of Ongoing Research – Current

#77.2 – Research into Womens Angling

26. Coordinator: Cohen Stewart, Southland Fish & Game

27. Update: This research programme is complete. Results outlined in report: Hayes, S., Lovelock, B.A., & Madani, M. (2023). Women anglers in Aotearoa New Zealand: understanding women's participation in, and perspectives of, freshwater fishing. Dunedin, New Zealand. Centre for Recreation Research, University of Otago.

#77.2 –Fishing for Mental Health

28. Coordinator: Cohen Stewart, Southland Fish & Game

29. Update: Results from this research are under review in the journal *Leisure Sciences*.

#77.2 –Sustainable Food Harvest

30. Coordinator: Kerry Meehan, Hawkes Bay Fish & Game

31. Update: This project has been completed. Report is available.

#79 Engaging with Man Whenua

32. Coordinator: Corina Jordan, New Zealand Fish & Game

33. Update: Completed. Report has been provided

#80 Insight work – environmental synthesis - Gerhard Uys

34. Coordinator: Corina Jordan, New Zealand Fish & Game

35. Update: Completed and available.

#81 Species FW Science

36. Coordinator: Corina Jordan, New Zealand Fish & Game

37. Update: In progress

#81 Australasian Shoveler

38. Coordinator: Matt McDougal, Eastern Fish & Game

39. Update: In progress

#83 Licence Sales Insights

40. Coordinator: Corina Jordan, New Zealand Fish & Game

41. Update: The purpose of this study was to identify trends in R³ and demographics within the fishing licence database. The study concluded in August 2024, and the final report is available. One key finding from this research highlights a substantial decline in the number of licence holders who are working-age adults. Additionally, we found that, while women are still vastly underrepresented, there is an increasing proportion of licence holders who are women. Finally, we saw that more than 60% of newly recruited anglers only purchase a fishing licence during one season. Findings from this study should be used to guide Fish & Game outreach and improve R³ efforts.

#84 Trout population monitoring

42. Coordinator: Corina Jordan, New Zealand Fish & Game

43. Update: In progress

#85 NZIER Economic Contribution of Fresh Water Angling

44. Coordinator: Corina Jordan, New Zealand Fish & Game

45. Update: Completed and available

46. Development of a communications strategy for the launch of the research is underway, along with development of an all of organisation webinar.

Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations for decision-making

Financial Implications

47. There is a funding bid to the contestable fund for top up funding for the research fund for 2025 / 26. The application is for \$100,000 to add to the fund and \$100,000 for FTE staff salary to administer research projects, insights,

maritime research, research co-ordination, development of central research library, develop national monitoring policy and Standard Operating Procedure and report on this.

Legislative Implications

48. There are no legal implications to consider.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

49. There are no Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities for consideration.

Policy Implications

50. There are no policy implications.

Risks and mitigations

51. The proposed staff position will provide better research co-ordination and species monitoring reporting.

Consultation

52. There are no actions available for consultation.

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next actions

53. Follow up on February NZC meeting next actions – *“When the research sub-committee is comfortable with their review of the Mallard/ Grey Duck monitoring policy, it is recommended to be distributed to the regions for consultation”*.

Attachment 1 – Summary of available research funds

Attachment 2 – Table of committed funds

Attachment 3 – Adam Frimel Research Outline for Weatherell Scholarship

Summary

a. Regional Planning advocacy

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with the Oranga Wai consultation – the next generation of Regional Plan changes to reflect NPS FM 2020 – focusing on water quantity and water quality parameters. The timetable to complete the Plan Change revision for public notification has been officially put back to September 2027 (originally December 2024 deadline).

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.

The proposed Land and Freshwater Plan will be publicly notified prior to a formal submissions and hearing process.

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.

c. Habitat Enhancement Projects

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

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Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Regional councillors to look at rules for Taranaki lakes

Catherine Groenestein

April 29, 2025

Taranaki lakes and their future management will be in the spotlight on Tuesday when the Taranaki Regional Council meets.

A proposal for a “pragmatic framework” for managing lakes and how much water can be drawn from them is being proposed as a safeguard against climate change, which could see lakes being used more as water sources.

There is currently little to no information on the levels and quantity of water in the 94 lakes listed in the region, and no specific management framework, policy manager Lisa Hawkins said in a report to the Policy and Planning Committee meeting in Stratford.

“Technical advice from the science team indicates there is likely to be a decrease in the mean annual low flow of most rivers and streams in the region by 2050, with large decreases likely by 2100,” the report said.

Although total yearly rainfall was expected to remain roughly the same, the region was expected to get longer dry periods and heavier, more intense rainfall events.

“If it becomes more difficult to access water from rivers and streams, which have traditionally been the favoured sources in Taranaki, water users may look to explore alternative options, such as taking water from lakes or storing water.”

More than three quarters of the lakes in Taranaki identified by the Freshwater Ecosystems New Zealand (FENZ) geo-database, had an open water area of between one and five hectares, with just two having an open water area of greater than 30 hectares.

There were also other lakes in the region with an open water area of less than one hectare which were not identified but still fell within the broad definition of ‘lake’ under the RMA, the report said, although some of these were more likely to be classified as wetlands.

Out of a total of 119 consents to take and use surface water in Taranaki, only 23 authorised the taking and use of water from lakes, all of which were reservoirs or artificial reservoirs.

Staff considered a pragmatic approach should be taken and therefore recommend a two-step approach for managing water quantity in lakes.

They were recommending that lakes be classified and a management approach be set for each type of lake.

Staff proposed to manage each lake classification in different ways to ensure that the values of these water bodies were maintained without resulting in unnecessarily onerous consenting requirements, the report said.

The process for developing a new plan would also require multiple rounds of public consultation as well as consultation with statutory bodies and iwi authorities.

Free talk brings minor accord on Taranaki water pollution

By [Craig Ashworth](#)

Whanganui Chronicle · 5 May, 2025

Taranaki dairy herd numbers indicate effluent from 90,000 cows can flow into waterways after milking, although half of the farms concerned have permission to discharge to land.

Relaxing the rules to allow free-flowing discussion has brought rare agreement on Taranaki Regional Council's biggest headache – dairy farm effluent polluting streams and rivers.

Pouring treated cow poo into freshwater is already outlawed in other key dairying regions – Waikato, Manawatū, Southland and Otago. Canterbury allows it but has zero active consents.

In [Taranaki](#), 277 farms still have consent to discharge effluent to waterways.

That is a fifth of Taranaki's dairy farms and they are scattered across the entire region.

The local herd stands at 450,000, suggesting effluent from some 90,000 cows can flow into streams and rivers after milking – although half those farms also have permission to discharge to land.

The council's powerful Policy and Planning Committee is deciding how quickly farmers must stop polluting freshwater when their resource consents expire.

Farmer-lobby committee members mostly want a grace period for those facing looming expiry of consents, or where geographical or financial challenges make land discharge difficult.

Māori members want an immediate halt to tūtae flowing into awa and downstream to the moana, once consents expire.

The committee suspended standing orders at its meeting last week so people could speak more than once.

Rather than trying to win each debate with their sole speech, committee members instead had a more free-flowing discussion that led to a unanimous consensus.

All agreed to pause the pollution decision so staff could bring more facts on problem farms to the next meeting in six weeks.

They hope the extra information will help the committee's regional councillors, district councillor appointees, waka representatives and Federated Farmers' local president agree on final deadlines.

New committee chairwoman Bonita Bigham said free and frank discussion saw strongly-held views clearly articulated.

“To put those views on the table while also considering the perspectives of others, and not having to retrench back to a firm position to vote, I think is a really healthy way forward.”

Kurahaupō waka representative Tuhi-Ao Bailey pointed out that farmers use public waterways for private business benefit.

She said Te Mana o te Wai priorities required that commercial needs came third – after the needs of the environment and of communities.

“Mana whenua are sick and tired of waiting for this to end. We’ve been debating this for years, decades.”

For Aotea waka, Peter Moeahu said the focus was environmental improvement, not the business interests of a minority of farmers who had chosen to take as long as possible to change.

“The more we delay, the more we defer, the more we take our eye off the environmental ball – then we are not doing justice to our communities as a whole.”

Tokomaru’s Mitchell Ritai completed the unanimous Māori stand against extending consents, congratulating the 80% of farmers whose work set a benchmark for laggards.

Farmer-lobby councillors differed on how long and lenient any consent extensions ought to be.

Councillor Donna Cram wanted to wait for Massey University research findings on whether slightly steeper slopes could cope with cowshed waste, potentially meaning more land was available for discharge.

For example, high on the ring plain around Taranaki Maunga, massive rainfall soaks the ground then drains into multiple fast-running streams, leaving paddocks often unable to absorb waste.

“We should give farmers a chance to get this research because it could save them considerable money,” she said.

“We’re talking \$500,000 or \$600,000 for some of these systems – it’s not chicken feed.”

Poultry shed and piggery systems also discharge to Taranaki waterways, but they are a tiny minority compared to the hundreds of dairy farms.

Veteran councillor Donald McIntyre was fed up with fellow farmers dragging their heels and said consents should not be extended.

“They should just phase-out now as they come to the end of their [consents],” he said.

“They have had plenty of warning.”

Staff warned that a strict pollution deadline would expose a council unable to handle the surge of consent applications.

The rush might also inflate the market for building costly discharge-to-land systems, they advised.

Bigham is the council’s first elected Māori constituency councillor.

She chaired what she afterwards described as a more natural debate, with similar benefits to the fluidity of wānanga discussion.

“The statements of position, the discussion around why, the opportunity for added information, the opportunity for reassessment of those positions – or clarification of how further work may enable us to make better decisions.

“That all came up, that was all free-flowing, all open.

“It left me really heartened that people were able to see the benefits of having a discussion like that and move forward collectively, even if at the end of the day they may still hold the same positions.”

Summary

a. Access Management

- Access Point descriptions and information updated for new season on website.
- Updating access sign inventory.

NZ Council is inviting the regions to provide:

Participation

- Workshop Access Challenges/ Opportunities and provide this back to NZC on the prescribed worksheet and if they choose a covering report;

b. Information to Clients

- Assisted in pre-game season licence purchase e mail communications.
- 2025 Game Season Magazine articles prepared and magazine distributed in March.
- Newsletter – Pre Season hunting newsletter produced and distributed.
- E-Newsletter – weekly Hunting Season updates

c. Licence Holder Engagement

Emails sent to licence holders from previous season who had not yet purchased a licence this season – between Easter and ANZAC day in April.

NZ Council is inviting the regions to provide:

Participation

- Write back to NZC outlining their position on these initiatives to support women anglers, including whether the region would support or participate in these initiatives;
 - Delivering educational materials/events tailored to the needs of women anglers
 - Supporting the development of new and existing networks of women anglers (e.g. social media, clubs, etc);
 - Providing both image and written content that showcases women in trout fishing for inclusion in F&G publications, such as the F&G magazine, Reel Life, and weekly newsletters;
 - Supporting and contributing to media campaigns in future F&G elections to encourage women to stand for a regional F&G Council.

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Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 17 Public Awareness/Communications

Summary

a. Iwi Engagement

Meetings attended

Summary of interaction with Te Ihowai - a recently established local pan-hapū partnership group with three hapū of Te Atiawa (Ngāti Te Whiti, Puketapu and Tuwharekino).

b. Public Awareness

Pre-Game Season publicity.

Contributions to early season press releases.

c. Communication

Communications to licence holders as required.

d. Promotions

No Specific actions in March April period.

| |
|----------------------|
| For Information Only |
|----------------------|

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

FARMERS WEEKLY

Birds of a feather: minister weighs in on Feds & F&G spat

Guest writer

April 17, 2025

Jame Meager takes issue with the 'absurd, false' division between farmers and Fish & Game in Southland disputes.

By James Meager, Minister for Hunting and Fishing

In early April, Farmers Weekly published an opinion by Alan Emerson under the headline "[Feathers fly over duck destruction](#)". I wanted to thank Mr Emerson for providing the opportunity to set the record straight and lay out exactly the steps we have taken to resolve the dispute between Federated Farmers and Fish & Game.

First, it is undeniable that farmers and agriculture are the backbone of our economy, particularly in the South Island. Agriculture is our single-largest GDP earner and accounts for more than 80% of our exports. We are a government that backs our farmers 100%, and you have seen that time and time again.

This includes stepping in to fix the Resource Management Act so that Southland farmers don't need to apply for a resource consent to keep farming lawfully. We will safeguard previously permitted discharges and provide certainty.

Unfortunately, instead of that helping to resolve the issue, since then, we have seen a series of escalating campaigns pitting farmers against fishers and game bird hunters.

But this is an absurd, false division. Farmers are fishers, and vice versa. Farmers provide access to some of the best fishing locations in the world, and Fish & Game carries out its statutory role to protect and enhance these fisheries for the good of all anglers. Of course, we should all be working together so that we can grow our economy so that we can protect our environment.

Farmers know this. They are our great conservationists. They maintain the access tracks and repair the fences and fill the community boards and provide the gear and do a lot of the heavy lifting when it comes to voluntary work in our outdoors.

I've met with both Southland Federated Farmers and Southland Fish & Game in Invercargill on this particular issue. At our meeting I gave Feds this message when it comes to the destruction of crops: Fish & Game assures me that it is simple and straightforward to phone up and apply for a permit to shoot and kill mallards impacting crops, and you do not need to wait for actual damage in order to do so. If anybody is hearing anything contrary to that I encourage them to contact me directly.

I have also approved an increase to bag limits on mallards in Southland and am open at any point to implementing summer shooting seasons, or any other measures to better manage the mallard population.

Finally, we will be looking at making improvements to Fish & Game this term. I encourage all licence holders, farmers, Southlanders and Mr Emerson to take the opportunity to have their say on any changes we propose.

Agenda Item 18 Licence Sales & Licence Management System Performance

Summary

a. Fish Licence Sales Update – until 30 April 2025

- Licence Sales Report for 2024/2025 Fishing Season YTD
Confirmation of licence sales indicating YTD – comparison with previous year.
 - 📈 LEQ sales up to previous year 17.5% (1155 c.f. 983)
 - 📈 Total Number of Sales of licences up on previous year 22% (2215 c.f. 1818)
 - ≈ Nationally licence sales value LEQ is even 0.2% (70,658 c.f. 70,512).

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

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

b. Game Licence Sales Update – until 5 May 2025

- Licence Sales Report for 2025 Game Season YTD
Confirmation of licence sales indicating YTD – comparison with previous year.
 - 📈 LEQ sales up to previous year 7.0% (1017 c.f. 950)
 - 📈 Total Number of Sales of licences up on previous year 6.4% (1134 c.f. 1066)
 - 📉 Nationally licence sales value LEQ is down 1.8% (29,431 c.f. 29,957).

For Information Only

c. Licence Management System – March 2025

The Licencing Operational Group overview of 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

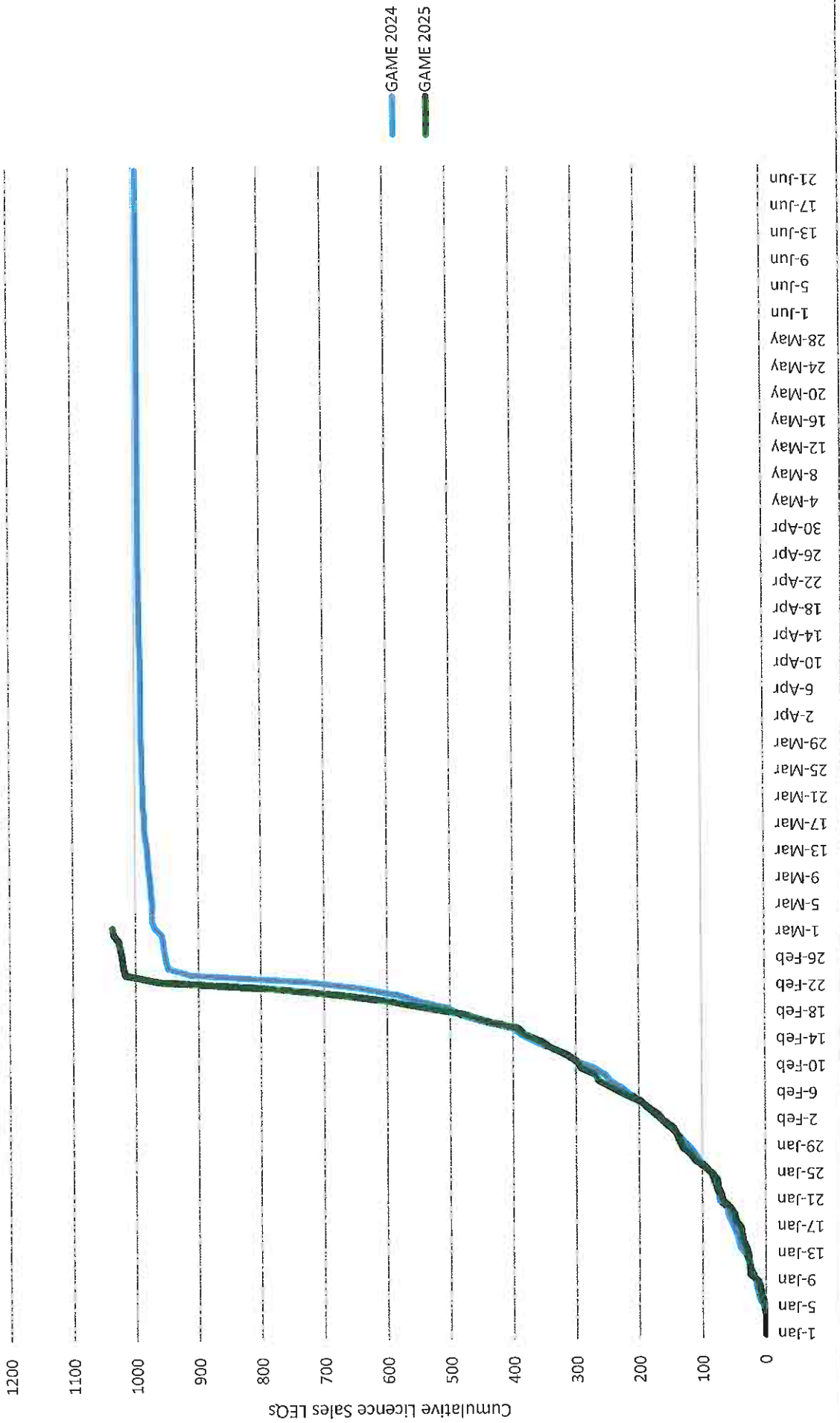
This project is being undertaken by an external provider

For Information Only

National Game Licence Sales YTD to Sunday of opening weekend

| | Channel | GWA | GWJ | GWC | GDA | GDJ | Total | Game LEQ | Game Var |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Taranaki | | | | | | | | | |
| 2023-2024 | Agency Online | 758 | 66 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 855 | | |
| | Public Online | 175 | 23 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 211 | | |
| | Total | 933 | 89 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 1066 | 950 | |
| 2024-2025 | Agency Online | 783 | 64 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 882 | | |
| | Public Online | 217 | 23 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 252 | | |
| | Total | 1000 | 87 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 1134 | 1017 | 7.0 % ↑ |
| Wellington | | | | | | | | | |
| 2023-2024 | Agency Online | 2512 | 228 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 2830 | | |
| | Public Online | 528 | 95 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 656 | | |
| | Total | 3040 | 323 | 123 | 0 | 0 | 3486 | 3103 | |
| 2024-2025 | Agency Online | 2484 | 233 | 109 | 0 | 0 | 2826 | | |
| | Public Online | 551 | 73 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 661 | | |
| | Total | 3035 | 306 | 146 | 0 | 0 | 3487 | 3095 | 0.0 % ≈ |
| TOTAL NZ | | | | | | | | | |
| 2023-2024 | Agency Online | 24087 | 2093 | 822 | 0 | 0 | 27002 | 24497 | |
| | Public Online | 5292 | 853 | 352 | 0 | 0 | 6497 | 5459 | |
| | Total | 29379 | 2946 | 1174 | 0 | 0 | 33499 | 29957 | |
| 2024-2025 | Agency Online | 23282 | 2039 | 890 | 0 | 0 | 26211 | 23678 | |
| | Public Online | 5588 | 844 | 394 | 0 | 0 | 6826 | 5752 | |
| | Total | 28870 | 2883 | 1284 | 0 | 0 | 33037 | 29431 | -1.76 % ↓ |

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



Monthly Performance Report – Licence Management System

March 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Licence System Performance

Total number of licences sold in the period: 15550

System Availability: 99.99% uptime vs. KPI 99.9%

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. **Bug Fixes and Improvements.** The next system release is planned for 9th of April which contains six system improvements.
2. **Booking System Improvements.** No changes were made in March but some further improvements are to be made in April/May.
3. **Updating Customer Contacts:** Received updated customer contact details from Hothouse with these changes applied to the licence holder details.

C. System Development

1. **Booking Systems:** No new developments were undertaken in March.

D. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 316 telephone and email support requests were received during the month. 178 of these calls were received as general enquiries from the public.
2. **Response times:** All support requests responded to within SLA. 23 voicemail messages (unanswered calls) were received. Calls received within business hours were responded to within 1 hour. 44 requests received over the weekend were responded to on the following business day.
3. **Invoicing Agents:** Agent invoices reconciled and dispatched on or before March 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:** 3 x POL refunds were processed within the month. No Cancellations or reissue requests were processed.
6. **Variable Charges:** Invoices raised for recovery of NZ Post charges.

E. Contract Performance

1. **System Upgrade:** MVP completed. The current agreement has an option for a 2-year extension out to 31st August 2027. Fish and Game and ESL have satisfied the requirements for agreeing the extension and the terms that will apply. The extension notice is currently being drafted.
2. **System Development:** Met with Richie Cosgrove and Matthew Garrick to discuss booking system improvements which are planned for introduction in April and May.
3. **Business Services Function:** Compliant with KPIs
4. **Scoping Additional Functionality:**

Preparing a feasibility study to introduce Game Bird hide bookings for Lake Ellesmere.

DETAILED REPORTING

A. Licence System Performance

1. Total number of licences sold in period

| Licence Type | Number Sold |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Fish Licences 2024/2025 | 8533 |
| Game Licences 2024 | 9 |
| Game Licences 2025 | 7008 |
| Designated Water Licences | 690 |
| Salmon Endorsement Licence | 193 |

2. System Availability

System Availability – uptime 99.99% 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 next system release is planned for 9th of April which contains six system improvements. These include:
 1. Mobile screen formatting issues:
 2. Mailing Address message not wrapping
 3. Issue
 4. Date of asset being updated when a pending payment is corrected.
 5. Ensure that the 'consecutive' days in booking system are displayed correctly
 6. Additional Licences YTD and YTD by agency reports 'YTD' resolution.
 7. Error message displayed after using the "Update Payment Status" button
 8. Resolving a time zone issue for booking system where customers time zone is behind NZT.

9. Removing Duplication:

- No auto de-duplication was undertaken during the month.

10. 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:

- System Improvements:** The next release of system improvements will be made on 9th of April.
- Booking Systems:** After meeting with Richie Cosgrove and Matthew Garrick several refinements are to be made to the booking system for release on May 14th. These changes will limit bookings to consecutive days only. We will also introduce an ability to track the number of people who are clicking on the Waterway Bookings page and move through to click the "Book" button from the main Booking page.

D. Business Services

1. Call Centre Activity: A total of 316 support requests were received via telephone, email or voice mail.

- 178 requests were identified as "Public Misc" which are general enquiries seeking advice, some of these enquiries are passed to the Regions for their action.
- 44 Requests were received over weekends.
- Any Licence related complaints are referred directly to the Region concerned.

| Request Category | Number of Requests |
|---|--------------------|
| Agent Misc | 22 |
| Buy A Licence | 4 |
| Change of Address | 6 |
| eSOMS Support | 1 |
| FNG duplication Report | 31 |
| Habitat Stamp | 25 |
| Licence Re-issue | 7 |
| National/Regional Office Correspondence | 25 |
| Out Of Office | 1 |
| Public Misc | 178 |
| Refund Request | 4 |
| Remittance Advice | 7 |
| Returned Mail | 5 |
| Grand Total | 316 |

2. Response times:






- All unanswered calls go to voicemail.

- b. 23 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 3 hours 33min.
 - 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 January 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**
 - Liaison ref setup of Game Bird season
5. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:**
- **Refunds – 3 x POL refunds were processed.**
 - **Cancellations – Nil**
 - **Re-Issues – Nil**
6. **Variable Charges:**
- Invoices provided for NZ Post recovery of charges

E. 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. **Proposal for 2-Year Extension to the Licence System and Business**

Administration Services Agreement: The current agreement has an option for a 2-year extension out to 31st August 2027. Fish and Game and ESL have satisfied the requirements for agreeing the extension and the terms that will apply. The extension notice is currently being drafted.

Agenda Item 19 Operational Summary

Summary

Summary of activities undertaken in March and April 2025

Nothing material required to be highlighted

| |
|----------------------|
| For Information Only |
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Recommendation/Action

Council receive staff report on Operational progress to 30 April 2025

Taranaki Fish & Game Council
Budget Report to 30 April 2025
And

Project Progress to 30 April 2025

| OUTPUT | Budget external costs | YTD external costs (30/4/2025) | Comments on significant variations | Budget Hours | YTD hours |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Population Monitoring | 15,500 | 5,469 | | 520 | 804.25 |
| Harvest Assessment | | | | 60 | 8.75 |
| Hatchery | 10,000 | 7,400 | | 60 | 33.25 |
| Liberations | 6,000 | 7,115 | | 150 | 100.25 |
| Season Regulations | | | | 50 | 27 |
| Gamebird Dispersal | 2,000 | 2,352 | | 120 | 102.5 |
| RMA | | 2 | | 500 | 39.5 |
| Habitat Management & Enhancement | 20,000 | 1,496 | | 400 | 35.5 |
| Assessing & Monitoring | | | | 100 | 21.5 |
| Hunter / Angler Access | 200 | 794 | | 100 | 16.75 |
| Satisfaction Survey | | | | 40 | 1.75 |
| Magazine / Newsletter / Ezine | 9,500 | 8,994 | | 200 | 95.5 |
| Hunter / Angler support | 1,000 | | | | |
| Clubs | | | | 10 | 10 |
| Statutory Liaison | | | | 30 | 10 |
| Iwi Liaison | 1,000 | | | 60 | 85.25 |
| Information to Clients | | | | 100 | 40.5 |
| General Advocacy | 500 | 5 | | 100 | 77.5 |
| Hunting & Angling Promotions | 3,300 | 2,732 | | 140 | 141 |
| Ranger Management | 1,500 | 594 | | 112 | 40.75 |
| Compliance | 1,500 | | | 170 | 71.25 |
| Licensing & Commission | 9,870 | 8,025 | | 50 | 2.5 |
| Council Meetings & Administration | 9,500 | 7,536 | | 280 | 255.5 |
| Management, Strategic & Policy | 100 | 1,091 | | 80 | 14.5 |
| Business Planning | | | | 40 | 7 |
| OSH & Other Reporting | 7,576 | 479 | | 65 | 30 |
| National Liaison | 100 | | | 160 | 24.5 |
| Total Expenditure | 99,146 | 54,078 | | 3697 | 2096.75 |
| Wellington Fish & Game Field Work hours | | | | | 107.25 |

| 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 | 535 | |
| Taranaki Hunting & Habitat Scheme | 15,000 | | |
| Compliance | 1,000 | | |
| Total Income | 20,688 | 12,392 | |
| Net Expenditure | 78,458 | 41,686 | |

| Overheads | Budget | YTD | Comments on significant variations |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1910 Salaries & Management Contract | 317,037 | 181,181 | |
| 1920 Staff Expenses | 3,550 | 2,512 | |
| 1940 Office Premises | 22,200 | 14,974 | |
| 1950 Office Equipment | 2,000 | 2,512 | |
| 1960 Communications / Consumables | 5,250 | 8,365 | |
| 1970 General | 3,050 | 2,371 | |
| 1980 General Equipment | 5,000 | 3,682 | |
| 1990 Vehicles | 15,850 | 14,607 | |
| Total Overheads | 373,937 | 230,395 | |

| Other Income & Expenses | Budget | YTD |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Interest | 9,032 | 13,622 |
| Wellington Fish & Game Admin | 4,000 | 7,591 |
| Donations & Other Income | | 23,355 |
| Total Other Income & Expenses | 13,032 | 44,568 |

| Nett Project, Overhead and Other Expenditure/Income | Budget | YTD |
|---|---------|---------|
| | 439,363 | 227,513 |

MOVEMENTS IN RESERVES

| From | To | Reason | Amount | Date Paid |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|
| Hunting & Habitat Scheme | Kinatari 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> | |
| <p>1. Assess juvenile trout recruitment in the Manganui River and tributaries to compare with baseline information from other catchment surveys (yr 1 of 2).</p> | <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>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)</p> | <p>Data being collated for resource inventory report. Fieldwork report being prepared in contribution to the wider resource inventory report of the Manganui River.</p> |
| <p>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> | <p>Diaries sent to 24 anglers for the start of the 2024/25 season. Fishery monitoring report prepared for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting. Electric fishing survey of Kapuni Stream carried out for Ballance Agrinutrients (24/10/2024). Report prepared. Electric fishing survey of sites in the Wāhianoa and Tokiāhuru Stream catchments in Karioi Forest carried out for Ermslaw-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>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> | <p>Waimarino/Whanganui duck banding report prepared for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting. 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.</p> |
| <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.</p> | <p>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 ringplain. Taranaki Pukeko counts completed from 14-16th April, and Whanganui Pukeko counts completed on the 16th April.</p> |

6. Review game bird monitoring programme for the region taking into account banding results and including regulation setting requirements.

| | |
|---|--|
| <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.</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 Ngangotaha 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 Hangatahau (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>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>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. Rat bait and net replacement net mesh was ordered for the hatchery (23/04/2025).</p> |
| <p>Objective: Provide effective compliance to protect resource sustainability (including revenue base) and user experience to maintain licence holder satisfaction.</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>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>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 prepared for the opening weekend of the 2025 game season.</p> |

Objective: Proactively manage problem aggregations of gamebirds in the interests of both hunters and property owners and managers.

16. Manage problem aggregations of gamebirds through implementation of a special Paradise shelduck season in Area C and proactively responding to and assisting landholders.

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.**
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.
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).

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>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>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.</p> |

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.

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.

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.

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. Comments were provided to Manawa Energy on the Patea HEPS Upstream Fish Passage Report 2024 on 20/12/2024.

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.

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| <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>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <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.</p> <p>Still waiting for the NPDC's application to re-consent the water take from the Waiwhakaho River for Lake Rotomanu to be processed by the TRC.</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>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</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> | <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</p> |

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| <p>Trustees on the Board are Andrew Castle & Amanda Clinton-Gohdes. A Wft quarterly catchup meeting was attended on 13/03/2025. Attended Biosecurity Taranaki zoom meeting (25/09/2024). A Biosecurity Taranaki meeting was attended on 29/11/2024 & 19/03/2025. 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.</p> <p>An online Te Kōpuka meeting was attended (19/09/2024) and a face-to-face meeting at Ohakune (27/09/2024). SFO Allen Stancilff 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.</p> <p>Meeting to be scheduled with Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Scotty Moore, a key liaison person at Horizons RC in relation to this project has been made redundant in a restructure.</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>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.</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>Reviewed TRC Policy & Planning agendas for results of latest consultation.</p> |

PARTICIPATION

| 2024/2025 Annual Plan – Planned Result | Progress to date |
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| <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>In <i>formation on the special paradise summer hunting season in Area C was added the F&G website on 7/02/2025. Taranaki perch fishing information added to the F&G website, following preparation of a pamphlet.</i></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. <i>One new post 14/3, 318 page followers.</i></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. Publication of valued hunting and fishing newsletters sent in conjunction with Wellington Fish & Game and sent to regional licence holders and hunting | <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.</p> <p>A 3-page regional supplement was prepared for the 2025 game special issue of F&G Magazine.</p> <p>Articles were prepared for the joint Wellington/Taranaki regional angling newsletter. <i>Articles were prepared for the 2025 joint Wellington/Taranaki</i></p> |

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| <p>landowners. Hunting newsletter also distributed to all rural box holders in the region.</p> <p>8. Proactively provide timely and useful information to licence holders when requested.</p> <p>9. Replace/ erect 2 -3 new signs which provide anglers with helpful on-site information re access and regulations consistent with identified priorities.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>11. When fish are available, release 2-year rainbow trout into Sattler's Dam to provide opportunities for kids and families.</p> <p>12. Review, negotiate, publicise and issue access permits to publicly available hunting areas and actively seek and develop new opportunities.</p> <p>13. Identify and explore mentoring schemes to support new hunters.</p> | <p><i>game newsletter, with the proof received for checking on 25/03/2025. The newsletter was also sent to all Taranaki rural box holders.</i></p> <p><i>Information provided to licence holders on request.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p> |
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| <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 an online satisfaction 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><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Angler diaries distributed to 24 anglers.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Licence agents visited prior to the start of the fishing and game bird hunting seasons.</i></p> |
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IWI & PUBLIC INTERACTION

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| <p>2024/2025 Annual Plan – Planned Result</p> | <p>Progress to date</p> |
| <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> | |

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| <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 s185a 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>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>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). Liaised the DOC NP Office (Catherine O'Neill) re: issue of permits for the 2025 game season at Te Mōrere, Umutekai, Looney's Lake and Lake Ngangana. 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). 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>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>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> <p>3. Recognise and pursue opportunities to contribute to the wider community including 'Wild for Taranaki' and 'Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust'.</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>Attended WFT Biodiversity forum & AGM.</p> | <p>3. Recognise and pursue opportunities to contribute to the wider community including 'Wild for Taranaki' and 'Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust'.</p> <p>4. Take opportunities to promote the value of protecting freshwater, wetland and upland game habitats and the wider benefits from this.</p> |

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| <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 and constructive profile in the media which encourages prospective participants and fosters support and understanding among the general public.</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> | |

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

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| <p>2024/2025 Annual Plan – Planned Result</p> | <p>Progress to date</p> |
| <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</p> |
| <p>1. Not less than six meetings of Council are held, and meetings are conducted consistent with provisions of the Standing Orders.</p> | |

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2025. 5. Formulation and adoption of an Annual Operational Plan and Budget for 2025/26 consistent with the 5-Year Strategic Plan. 6. Presentation by Council of its audited annual report for 2023/24 not later than 31 December 2024 <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>and in Stratford on 15th February 2025. Councillors and staff met with the Minister of Hunting & Fishing, James Meager, at the NP officer on 28/02/2025). A Council meeting was held in Stratford on 29/03/2025.</p> <p>Taranaki Councillors attended a joint governance training session with Wellington F&G Councillors on 25/01/2025 in Palmerston North.</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>2024/25 Annual Report and Audit completed and presented to Council's 7th December 2024 meeting.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | <p>Presented to each Council meeting</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> | |

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| <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>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><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">• 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;• CLE Group; zoom meeting attended on 8/10/2024 to review opening weekend fish season ranging effort; and on 26/03/2025 and 29/04/2025 for game season preparation.• Fisheries Group: zoom meeting attended 19/09/2024 and 8/04/2025.• F&G climate change webinar attended 17/04/2025. |
| <p>Objective: Demonstrate a commitment to Health & Safety and ensuring the welfare of staff and others through effective policy, systems, resourcing and oversight.</p> | |

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| <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> | <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.</p> |
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Recommendation

That the Budget Report and Project Progress Report to 30 April 2025 be received.

Summary

Confirmation and clarification of financial reports -

Income Statement and from 1 September up to end April 2025 (2024/2025 Financial Year to date).

a. Profit & Loss Statement to 30 April 2025

Nothing to highlight

b. Balance Sheet as at 30 April 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 Statement up to end April 2025 and Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2025.

Profit and Loss For Council

Taranaki Fish and Game Council
For the 8 months ended 30 April 2025

| | SEPT 2024-APR 2025 | YTD BUDGET | 2025 OVERALL BUDGET | VARIANCE | VARIANCE % |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Licence Income | | | | | |
| Fish Licence Income | 155,102 | 113,508 | 130,769 | 41,594 ↑ | 37% ↑ |
| Game Licence Income | 64,942 | 61,669 | 103,471 | 3,273 ↑ | 5% ↑ |
| Less Commission and Fees | (7,662) | (6,246) | (9,370) | (1,416) ↓ | -23% ↓ |
| Total Licence Income | 212,381 | 168,931 | 224,870 | 43,450 | 26% |
| Grants | 156,823 | 156,823 | 209,098 | 0 ↑ | 0% ↑ |
| Interest Received | 1,488 | 6,021 | 9,032 | (4,533) ↓ | -75% ↓ |
| Other Income | 40,101 | 7,105 | 24,688 | 32,996 ↑ | 464% ↑ |
| Wellington Fish & Game Council | 231 | - | - | 231 ↑ | - — |
| Hatchery income | 3,239 | - | - | 3,239 ↑ | - — |
| Interest Term Deposit 3031 | 12,134 | - | - | 12,134 ↑ | - — |
| Gross Profit | 426,396 | 338,880 | 467,688 | 87,516 | 26% |
| Operating Expenses | | | | | |
| SPECIES MANAGEMENT | | | | | |
| Population Monitoring | 5,469 | 15,500 | 15,500 | (10,031) ↓ | -65% ↓ |
| Hatchery Operations | 7,400 | 6,666 | 10,000 | 734 ↑ | 11% ↑ |
| Releases | 7,115 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 1,115 ↑ | 19% ↑ |
| Control | 2,352 | 1,333 | 2,000 | 1,019 ↑ | 76% ↑ |
| Total SPECIES MANAGEMENT | 22,336 | 29,499 | 33,500 | (7,163) | -24% |
| HABITAT PROTECTION / MANAGEMENT | | | | | |
| Resource Management Act | 2 | - | - | 2 ↑ | - — |
| Assisted Habitat | 1,496 | 13,333 | 20,000 | (11,837) ↓ | -89% ↓ |
| Total HABITAT PROTECTION / MANAGEMENT | 1,497 | 13,333 | 20,000 | (11,836) | -89% |
| PARTICIPATION | | | | | |
| Access | 794 | - | 200 | 794 ↑ | - — |
| Newsletters Magazine Web pages | 8,994 | 8,166 | 9,500 | 828 ↑ | 10% ↑ |
| Training | - | 666 | 1,000 | (666) ↓ | -100% ↓ |
| Total PARTICIPATION | 9,788 | 8,832 | 10,700 | 956 | 11% |
| PUBLIC INTERFACE | | | | | |
| Liaison | - | 666 | 1,000 | (666) ↓ | -100% ↓ |



| | SEPT 2024-APR 2025 | YTD BUDGET | 2025 OVERALL BUDGET | VARIANCE | VARIANCE % |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Advocacy | 2,732 | 3,633 | 3,800 | (901) ↓ | -25% ↓ |
| Total PUBLIC INTERFACE | 2,732 | 4,299 | 4,800 | (1,567) | -36% |
| COMPLIANCE | | | | | |
| Ranging | 26 | 500 | 500 | (474) ↓ | -95% ↓ |
| Ranger Training | 568 | 1,000 | 1,000 | (432) ↓ | -43% ↓ |
| Compliance | - | 750 | 1,500 | (750) ↓ | -100% ↓ |
| Total COMPLIANCE | 594 | 2,250 | 3,000 | (1,656) | -74% |
| LICENCING | | | | | |
| Licence Agents | 363 | 500 | 500 | (137) ↓ | -27% ↓ |
| Total LICENCING | 363 | 500 | 500 | (137) | -27% |
| COUNCIL | | | | | |
| Council Meeting Expenses | 7,536 | 6,333 | 9,500 | 1,203 ↑ | 19% ↑ |
| Total COUNCIL | 7,536 | 6,333 | 9,500 | 1,203 | 19% |
| PLANNING & REPORTING | | | | | |
| Management / Strategic Planning | 1,091 | 66 | 100 | 1,025 ↑ | 1,553% ↑ |
| Reporting Audit | 479 | 333 | 7,576 | 146 ↑ | 44% ↑ |
| National Liaison | - | 66 | 100 | (66) ↓ | -100% ↓ |
| Total PLANNING & REPORTING | 1,570 | 465 | 7,776 | 1,105 | 238% |
| OVERHEADS | | | | | |
| Salaries | 181,181 | 211,358 | 317,037 | (30,177) ↓ | -14% ↓ |
| Staff Expenses | 2,701 | 2,366 | 3,550 | 335 ↑ | 14% ↑ |
| Office Premises | 14,974 | 14,800 | 22,200 | 174 ↑ | 1% ↑ |
| Office Equipment | 2,512 | 1,333 | 2,000 | 1,179 ↑ | 88% ↑ |
| Communications / Consumables | 8,365 | 3,500 | 5,250 | 4,865 ↑ | 139% ↑ |
| General | 2,371 | 2,034 | 3,050 | 337 ↑ | 17% ↑ |
| General Equipment | 3,683 | 3,332 | 5,000 | 351 ↑ | 11% ↑ |
| Vehicles | 14,607 | 10,567 | 15,850 | 4,040 ↑ | 38% ↑ |
| Total OVERHEADS | 230,395 | 249,290 | 373,937 | (18,895) | -8% |
| Depreciation | 979 | 8,492 | 12,739 | (7,513) ↓ | -88% ↓ |
| Gain on Disposal | (17,217) | - | - | (17,217) ↓ | - |
| Wellington Fish & Game | 231 | - | - | 231 ↑ | - |
| Total Operating Expenses | 260,804 | 323,293 | 476,452 | (62,489) | -19% |
| New Surplus/(Deficit) | 165,593 | 15,587 | (8,764) | 150,006 | 962% |

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Balance Sheet

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

As at 30 April 2025

30 APR 2025

Assets

Bank

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| BNZ Current Account | 137,434.06 |
| BNZ Term 3031 | 425,654.36 |
| MRP | 1,713.70 |
| Term Deposit | 26,857.68 |
| Total Bank | 591,659.80 |

Current Assets

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Accounts Receivable | 159,522.98 |
| Prepayments and Accrued Income | 2,574.41 |
| Total Current Assets | 162,097.39 |

Fixed Assets

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Accum Dep Vehicles | (34,640.94) |
| Accum Dep Buildings | (16,451.00) |
| Accum Dep Office Equipment | (21,745.03) |
| Accum Dep Plant & Equipment | (18,895.31) |
| Buildings | 16,451.00 |
| Office Equipment | 25,022.63 |
| Plant & Equipment | 26,474.26 |
| Vehicles | 121,617.89 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 97,833.50 |

Total Assets 851,590.69

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Accounts Payable | 12,778.50 |
| Accruals and Prepaid Licences | 378.00 |
| BNZ Credit Card - Allen | 207.58 |
| Business Visa Jack Harland | 181.99 |
| Designated Waters Licence | 44.74 |
| Duck Stamp Levy Clearing | 3,269.56 |
| Employee Entitlements | 43,263.59 |
| GST | 24,099.04 |
| Income in advance | 9,963.00 |
| PAYE Clearing | (7,462.34) |
| Rounding | 0.03 |
| Sea Run Salmon Endorsement | 24.93 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 86,748.62 |

Total Liabilities 86,748.62

Net Assets 764,842.07

Equity

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Accumulated Funds | 141,427.68 |
| Asset Replacement Funding | 21,578.00 |
| Back Country Fisheries Reserve | 20,139.79 |
| Current Year Earnings | 165,592.68 |
| 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 | 764,842.07 |

THE SECRETARY
 TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL
 PO Box 4152
 Whanganui 4541

Bank of New Zealand
 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 April 2025

Your Accounts at a Glance

| Account | Account Number | Maturity Date | Balance |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------|
| Non Profit Org A/C | 02-0792-0332133-000 | | 137,434.06 |
| 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 21 Correspondence

Summary

Correspondence: No items directly addressed to Council not already addressed in agenda.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive the correspondence to 12 May 2025

Inwards Correspondence

| Date | Meeting | From | Staff Councillor | Subject |
|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 19.3.25 | May-25 | Haidie Butchell-Burger TRC | Allen | Reports uploaded to TRC website March 2025 |
| 19.3.25 | May-25 | Corbicula Long-term Management Team | Allen | Freshwater clams response – update #18 |
| 25.3.25 | May-25 | Chris Vicars TRC | Allen | Hangatahua River – Erosion protection structure repairs 2025 |
| 25.3.25 | May-25 | Lidia Abenza NPDC | Allen | Waitara Stormwater Catchment Management Plan |
| 25.3.25 | May-25 | Taranaki Regional Council | Allen | Hatchery Inspection Notice |
| 26.3.25 | May-25 | Shelley Ashton mpi | Allen | Strategic Action Plan for Aotearoa's biodiversity |
| 28.3.25 | May-25 | John Meikle EFGC | Allen | Outdoors Accessibility Design Guidelines – Official Launch |
| 28.3.25 | May-25 | Duncan Neild KiwiRail | Allen | Repairs to fish pass at Railbridge (61) Manganui River Tariki |
| 1.4.25 | May-25 | Katy Newton DOC | Allen | Lake Kohata – Restoration Plan |
| 17.4.25 | May-25 | Andy Whitehead – Kinatai wetlands | Allen | Wetland invoice |
| 22.4.25 | May-25 | Courtney Bond horizons | Allen | Jobs for Nature Governance Group meeting pack |
| 22.4.25 | May-25 | Kahreremoa Aki Te Kopuka | Allen | Te Hiringa o Te Hoe hui preparation |
| 28.4.25 | May-25 | Chris Vickers TRC | Allen | Hangatahua River – Erosion protection structure repairs 2025 |
| 29.4.25 | May-25 | Haidie Butchell-Burger TRC | Allen | List of reports uploaded to TRC website April 2025 |
| 30.4.25 | May-25 | Kathryn Stewart WDC | Allen | Te Hiringa o Te Hoe hui – Local Water Done Well |
| 3.5.25 | May-25 | Chrissie Thomas | Allen | Duckshooting and guns |
| 7.5.25 | May-25 | John Cooper STDC | Allen | Assessment of Environmental effects |
| 12.5.25 | May-25 | Michelle Dwyer – Fonterra | Allen | Tawhiti water abstraction |
| 13.5.25 | May-25 | Cameron Ryan | Allen | Lake Kohata Restoration Planning draft |

Outwards Correspondence

| Date | Meeting | To | Staff Councillor | Subject |
|---------|---------|---------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 19.3.25 | May-25 | Tami Cave Te Ihowai Ltd | Allen | Trout Eradication |
| 25.3.25 | May-25 | Leah Miller TRC | Allen | DH Lepper re-consenting |
| 25.3.25 | May-25 | Chris Vickers & Daniel Lumb TRC | Allen | Hangatahua River – Erosion protection structure repairs 2025 |
| 27.3.25 | May-25 | Josh Dowling TRC | Allen | Trout hatchery discharge sample |
| 31.3.25 | May-25 | Duncan Neild KiwiRail | Allen | Repairs to Fishpass at Railbridge (61) Manganui River Tariki |
| 8.4.25 | May-25 | Sandra Sanchez Torres TRC | Allen | Involvement in Hawken Swamp |
| 8.4.25 | May-25 | Vikki Kuyl STDC | Allen | Opunake oxy ponds |
| 15.4.25 | May-25 | Roslyn Simmonds AWFGC | Allen | Both Barrels April |
| 17.4.25 | May-25 | Roslyn Simmonds AWFGC | Jack | Taranaki Reel Life contribution April |
| 22.4.25 | May-25 | Robert Sowman GBHTB | Allen | Kinatai Wetland |
| 24.4.25 | May-25 | Ruapehu Bulletin | Allen | Gamebird Season advert |
| 12.5.25 | May-25 | Chris Vicars TRC | Allen | Weraweraonga Stream – debris removal |

Agenda Item 22 Recognition Awards

Summary

Consideration of recognising volunteer or exceptional service.

Presentation of awards to those on the list and attending meeting.

| |
|----------------------|
| For Information Only |
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Recommendation/Action

No action required

Agenda Item 23 Conservation Board Liaison

Summary

Consider formal (re) engagement with Conservation Board.

Noted under legislation that this should occur.

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| For Information Only |
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Recommendation/Action

No action required. CE to request meeting timetables and agendas.

Agenda Item 24 **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.

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|-----------------------------|
| For Information Only |
|-----------------------------|

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 25 Confirmation of Next Meeting Date

Summary

Confirmation of the next meeting will be held on 16 August 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