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**PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE**

**WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 AUGUST 2024**

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Presented to the House of Representatives pursuant to Section 26 X of the Conservation Act 1987.



5<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Hon. Todd McClay  
Minister of Hunting and Fishing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Minister

I have the honour to submit, pursuant to Section 26X of the Conservation Act 1987 the Performance Report of the Wellington Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Yours faithfully,



Chair  
Paul Dewar  
Wellington Fish and Game Council



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## ENTITY INFORMATION

### Legal Name

Wellington Fish and Game Council.

### Type of Entity and Legal Basis

The Wellington Fish and Game Council is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4). The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990.

### Mission and Statutory Functions

Wellington Fish and Game Council was established for the purposes of the management, maintenance, and enhancement of sports fish and game in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.

The Council has statutory responsibilities established by the Conservation Act 1987 (including the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983) and the Wildlife Act 1953 (incl. the Wildlife Regulations 1955).

Particular functions of Wellington Fish and Game Council include:

- monitoring sports fish and game populations;
- monitoring the success and satisfaction of users;
- monitoring the condition and trend of ecosystems as habitats for sports fish and game;
- maintaining and improving access;
- maintaining and enhancing the habitat of sports fish and game;
- formulating and establishing regulations and policies which ensure the maintenance of sports fish and game populations and the recreational experience;
- securing compliance with sports fish and game regulations;
- promoting recreational angling and game bird hunting;
- representing the interests of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process;
- keeping anglers and hunters informed.

The Council's operations are based upon a national statement of purposes and priorities, a Sports Fish and Game Management Plan which sets long term goals and policies, and an annual Operational Work Plan, which sets out the specific work programme and budget.

## Structure of Wellington Fish and Game Council

The Council currently consists of 12 councillors who were elected in November 2021. Councillors are elected three yearly by fish and game licence holders in the Council's region. There are no co-opted members on the Council. Representatives from The Department of Conservation and the Conservation Board are invited to attend each meeting.

The Council meets a minimum of six times each year at sites around the region that enable licence holders to attend one or more Council meetings should they desire.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day operations and reports to the Council. Four other full and one part time staff support the Chief Executive in delivering the Council's objectives.

Paul Dewar is the Current Chair and Professor Stephen Haslett remained the appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council having been elected by the Council in December 2022, replacing Richard McIntyre who stepped down from this role.

## Council and Staff

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Sub Region</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>
Paul Dewar	Southern	5 (1*)
Jim Cook	Northern	6
Jennifer Yanko	Northern	5 (1*)
Steve Brown	Northern	5 (1*)
Stephen Haslett	Northern	6
Andrew McGregor	Northern	2 (4*)
Don Scott	Northern	6
John Hancock	Eastern	6
Colin Shore	Eastern	5 (1*)
Aaron Passey	Eastern	5 (1*)
Malcolm Francis	Southern	6
Richard McIntyre	Southern	2 (4*)

\* Apologies received

There were no attendances of representatives of the Director General of Conservation

**Staff Members**

Phil Teal	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Matt Kavermann	<i>Senior Fish &amp; Game Officer</i>
Hamish Carnachan	<i>Senior Communications / Fish &amp; Game Officer</i>
Ami Coughlan	<i>Resource / Technical Officer</i>
Corinne Deans	<i>Administration Manager</i>
Jilli Steedman	<i>Financial Administrator P/T</i>

**Auditors**

Vivien Cotton (BDO Manawatu Audit Ltd) on behalf of the Office of the Auditor General.

**Bankers**

ANZ

**Offices**

The Council office is located at 292 Featherston Street, Palmerston North

Phone 06 3590409

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Website <https://fishandgame.org.nz/wellington/>

## CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to present this 2023/24 Annual report on the operations of Wellington Fish and Game Council.

The Wellington Fish and Game Council continues to manage the fish and game resource in a sustainable way to achieve strategic and long-term outcomes that have a benefit in terms of the resource itself and provide access to the resource to enable licence holders to carry out their recreational pursuits.

### **The Changing Political and Policy Environment – Opportunities and Uncertainty**

The election of a new Government in October 2023 signalled change in the political landscape that brought some rapid changes to the fundamental legislation that provides mandates for Fish and Game to operate effectively. While it is anticipated that some of the changes will present opportunities for Fish and Game, there is also considerable uncertainty as to how some key legislation direction will be developed and implemented.

There was the establishment of a new Ministry of Hunting and Fishing to provide a focus on recreational and commercial hunting and fishing – including the transfer of our reporting function to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing. This potentially provides a focus for central Government commitment to hunter and angler interests. An example of this was the recent announcement of an Access Charter to provide for clear and transparent decisions processes for maintaining access to public conservation land - that is intended to make it easier for New Zealanders to go hunting and fishing.

### **Review of Legislation Fundamental to Fish and Game Operations**

Wellington Fish and Game governors have a high awareness of the importance of potentially critical legislative changes that will influence opportunities for licence holders to undertake their recreation into the future.

There was a significant change in political direction in defining the legislative framework for resource management – the platform that allows Fish and Game to successfully advocate for the fish and game resource. The Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 was revoked without delay - reverting back to the Resource Management Act - with the prospect of a significant review of legislation in the coming year. The Fast Track Approvals Bill 2024 should become law before the end of this calendar year with the aim of providing efficient and certain pathways for significant regional or national infrastructure projects. Some key policy elements and guiding principles contained in the NPS FM 2020 were also removed that were designed to provide direction for resource planning processes - and this fundamental change in approach has resulted in a large amount of uncertainty in regional planning sector.

The prospect of substantial changes (and the prospect of repeal) of the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Conservation Act 1987 remains, but any review has been conducted at a much slower pace. Regardless, any changes could considerably alter the fundamental mandates and responsibilities that Fish and Game operates including future sports fish and game bird governance. There continues to be some views in the conservation

management sector that are fundamentally opposed to the concept of valued introduced species having a place in New Zealand ecosystems, and the responsibilities associated with future governance systems used to manage those resources.

### **Regional Planning Process**

Regional Councils have been active in reviewing their regional planning instruments – Regional Policy Statements (GWRC RPS Plan Change 1) and Regional Plans (Horizons One Plan – Plan Change 2, and GWRC Natural Resource Plan – Plan Change 1). Engaging in representation of Fish and Game mandates and values is extremely resource intensive in terms of staff resources and cash resources to engage external planning, legal, and technical experts if and when engaging in the Environment Court proceedings.

Regional Councils have been given the opportunity of the Government to postpone the deadline (December 2024) the notification of changes to regional plans to give effect to provisions in the National Policy Statement Freshwater 2020 (NPSFM 2020). These relate to defining water quality and quantity outcomes and targets, defining freshwater management units, and how this would be implemented. Horizons Regional Council has moved to delay any notifications until the end of 2027, whereas Greater Wellington Regional Council is already part way working through a suite of plan changes for their regional plan.

Wellington Fish and Game Council will stay engaged in these processes to ensure the management of fish and game resources are adequately provided for – the principles used by Fish and Game of using trout and waterfowl as key indicator species should still retain its relevance into the future.

### **The Response to Internal Organisational Changes**

There exists a real opportunity to modernise the organisation to make it into a financially robust and fit for purpose organisation moving into the future. The Minister of Hunting and Fishing has indicated that he is prepared to provide leadership for change by advocating for required legislative changes.

“In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety” (Abraham Maslow). It has been disappointing that many in the wider organisation have taken a continued "business as usual" approach and retreating to comfort zones. This has caused considerable internal distraction and stalled momentum for change rather than focussed on carrying out our core functions.

An example of this inertia to change is the inability of regional Fish and Game Councils to agree on a solution to the pressures on budgeting and resource allocation. The current system of bulk funding lacks critical scrutiny of regional budgets, leading to a cost-plus approach. Combined with stable or declining licence sales, this has created financial tensions. A recalibration of the bulk operational funding is needed, but there are conflicting regional positions based on what benefits each individual region, rather than what is best for the organisation as a whole.

We will be externally challenged in the future on our social licence to operate and even the fundamental governance of sports fish and game birds. There is a responsibility of all regional Fish and Game Councils to implement changes in a timely manner to

maintain control of shaping the organisation's future structure. I would consider that maintaining the status quo approaches will not aid in the organisation's long-term resilience or longevity.

### **Shared Resources Arrangement between Taranaki and Wellington Fish and Game Council**

Wellington Fish and Game Council viewed the independent critique of the organisation by the Ministerial Review of Fish and Game Governance<sup>1</sup> as a health check on the governance arrangements. Wellington Fish and Game Council governors have embraced the need to address the weaknesses of the Fish and Game federal system identified by the findings of the Ministerial Review- and there was a similar appreciation of Taranaki Fish and Game Council governors of the need to modernise organisational practices.

I applaud the pragmatic way that Wellington and Taranaki Fish and Game Council governors have embraced change and worked together to implement proposals to share resources to manage the lower North Island Fish and Game resource. They have developed a collaborative approach to progress a viable option initially as a 'shared resource' arrangement operating as separate business units until it is legally possible to amalgamate the two regions – both operationally and governance.

### **Incorporating Organisational Strategy**

New Zealand Fish and Game Council have defined an organisational strategy that has been picked up by regions to help prioritise and focus outputs and actions to achieve higher level outcomes. This will also be the future basis for reporting on outcomes. There was specific focus by Wellington Council to integrate organisational strategic outcomes into a regional context – which should assist in critiquing and prioritising outputs in our future strategic planning.

### **High Quality Species Monitoring Programme Puts Fish and Game in Good Position**

Wellington Fish and Game Council acknowledges the value and quality of the species monitoring programmes undertaken in Wellington region – and they are undertaken with diligence and expertise by qualified staff. This information provides confidence to the Council when setting harvest regulations but also provides the principal source of information when considering advocacy in resource management decision making by external resource managers.

The results of the monitoring of waterfowl and trout populations show that they are being maintained in a healthy state, are able to be sustainably managed, and this is providing hunting and angling opportunity of consistently high quality.

### **Access to the Resource - Future Governance and Management of Wairarapa Moana**

Wellington Fish and Game Council acknowledge the formal transfer of Wairarapa Moana as part of the Treaty Settlement and the first formal meeting of the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Reserve Board assigned to set future management direction. The Council see this as an opportunity to engage and develop collaborative approaches, especially

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<sup>1</sup> 2021. Clark, B., and T. Mills . *Review of the Governance of Fish and Game New Zealand and the Regional Fish and Game Councils. February 2021. A report prepared for the Minister of Conservation.*

where our statutory responsibilities overlap, so we achieve best outcomes for improving the health of the lake ecosystem.

### **High Quality Communications to Licence Holders**

There has been a consistently high-quality communications output from Wellington Fish and Game Council staff that has provided timely information to licence holders and continues to be an exemplar for the rest of the organisation. This has been further developed this year to include development and refinement of electronic access maps to fishing sites to complement the physical sign inventory, inclusion of Taranaki region waters (and anglers database) in the weekly e-report, and oversight and development of the hardcopy newsletter and magazines communication channel - all of which have been well received by the licence holders.

In addition, Wellington staff have provided expert input into the NZ Fish and Game Council nation-wide campaign to maintain social licence (the 'ReWild' Campaign) by highlighting the benefits of undertaking the pursuits of hunting and angling, as well as the value Fish and Game (and hunters and anglers) add to the conservation of the resources.

### **Mana Whenua Engagement**

Wellington Fish and Game Council has prioritised engaging with mana whenua as a priority in order to achieve outcomes regarding shared resource management interests and undertaking co-operative initiatives. It is acknowledged that this is a long-term objective – due to resource capacity constraints of governors and staff interacting with seventeen iwi organisations (and their associated hapu).

Wellington Fish and Game Council is developing a strategic approach to enhance relationships with mana whenua at both governance and operational levels. This recognises the importance of long-term, respectful partnerships. In the past financial year, efforts have centred on understanding the implementation of shared resource management responsibilities under Treaty Settlement legislation. This includes how mana whenua wants to engage in partnerships with external agencies like Fish and Game.

### **Licence Sales – Recruitment and Retention Initiatives**

Licence sales for angling were stronger with a nearly 2% increase in licence sales compared with the previous year but also notable was a significant increase in participation numbers. Wellington Fish and Game Council acknowledges the outstanding initiatives and efforts undertaken by Fish and Game Clubs including holding family focused fishing events, and skills-focused education modules.

Licence sales for game bird hunting were weaker with an over 1.5% decrease in licence sales compared with the previous year. It is acknowledged that the tight economic climate and “cost of living crisis” is almost certainly considered a factor in spending behaviour and undertaking recreational activities – but Wellington Fish and Game region appear to have been buffered from the worst of its effects.

### **Acknowledgement of Efforts of Governors – Volunteers – Staff**

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our volunteers, who play a crucial role in managing the pursuit and the resource. Our volunteer network is diverse in its scope and actions, yet all share a deep passion and commitment to preserving and enhancing the fish and game resource. They contribute to projects that would otherwise not be possible and are dedicated to completing tasks for the greater good. A special thank you to the honorary rangers, club members who mentor novice anglers, those involved in conservation efforts, operational support, advocacy campaigns, and, most of all, my fellow governors.

The recent triennial Fish and Game elections saw inclusion of a new group of governors to provide new perspectives and input. I particularly wish to acknowledge those retiring governors Malcolm Francis, John Hancock, Don Scott, and Colin Shore who have made valuable contributions over previous electoral terms.

I also extend my sincere thanks to our staff for their dedicated and expert contributions to the fish and game resource. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a skilled and professional team, always willing to go the extra mile to achieve exceptional outcomes. I also acknowledge the contributions made by staff to projects co-ordinated to the wider organisation including: the licence management system, integration of strategy into operational plans, the NZ wide communications function, public awareness initiatives, technical advice on species management, and resource management advocacy engagement.

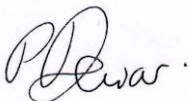
### **Continuing Our Focus into the Future**

Fish and Game must continue to focus on meeting the needs of licence holders by ensuring access to hunting and fishing opportunities. This begins with effective management of the environment to support healthy populations of freshwater fish and game birds.

There are always significant external challenges, such as transformations to fisheries governance, environmental degradation, and financial constraints from the current business model. However, there is an opportunity to address the weaknesses within the Fish and Game system that are still under our control, though this will require embracing change.

Wellington Fish and Game Council will continue to make every effort to achieve the best possible outcomes in the future.

**Paul Dewar**



**Chairman**

5 December 2024

## STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

The Council of the Wellington Fish and Game Council, accept responsibility for the accuracy of and judgements used in the preparation of the following Financial Statements and Performance Report, the establishment and maintenance of systems of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance of the integrity and reliability of financial reporting and the end of year performance information.

In our opinion, the information set out in the following statements and attached notes to these statements fairly reflects the financial position and service performance of the Wellington Fish and Game Council, for the year ended 31 August 2024.



Paul Dewar  
Chair



Jim Cook  
Councillor

## STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### Introduction

The following is a summary of performance relating to objectives provided for in the 2023-24 Operational Workplan, as adopted by Council for commencement on 1 September 2023.

### Annual Operational Workplan

The annual operational workplan is structured within eight broad outputs. "Budget" and "Actual" costs are comprised of internal costs (proportion of staff time multiplied by overheads) and external costs established for each project.

### Main Sources of Cash and Resources

Wellington Fish and Game Council derives revenue through the sale of fish and game licence sales, interest, contracts, a grant from New Zealand Fish and Game Council and miscellaneous sales. We applied these funds to achieve the goals as set out in the mission statement.

### Outcomes – Achievements

During the year Council completed a number of tasks for the benefit of anglers and hunters.

#### **Sports Fish Monitoring**

Monitoring programmes are undertaken during the year to assess the state of the sport fish population across the region's rivers and inform sports fishing regulations to ensure sustainable populations of sports fish for anglers now and in the future.

#### **Game Bird Monitoring**

Monitoring programmes are undertaken during the year which are required to assess productivity, survival, and harvest of gamebirds to set appropriate game bird season regulations in order to maintain sustainable populations of game bird species for hunters now and in the future.

#### **Angler and Hunter Participation**

We continue to maintain and enhance access to the fish and game resource and inform hunters and anglers of opportunities for fishing and hunting in the Wellington Fish & Game Region.

#### **Sports Fish and Game Bird Habitat Protection**

We represented Fish & Game interests and the aspirations of anglers and hunters in resource management processes and strategies, advocating for and making submissions on behalf of anglers and hunters where their recreational interests could be impacted.



### Compliance

We carried out compliance checks to monitor compliance with angling and hunting regulations and took enforcement action where considered necessary. A high level of compliance is necessary to support sports fish and game bird populations and to ensure that all users contribute to the resource.

### Governance

The Wellington Fish and Game Council and Taranaki Fish and Game Council have worked cooperatively to actively progress amalgamation of the two regions by operating with shared resources and in the first instance and aligning work programmes.

### Licence System

A readily accessible licencing system is available online and through Fish & Game licence retailers.

More detailed information on actual targets and outputs for the year is recorded within the following pages and a summary of budget and actual expenditure for each output Area is provided below. The overhead expenses detailed in the Statement of Financial Performance have been allocated to each output area based on the proportion of staff time directly expended in each area.

#### **Summary Budget and Actual Expenditure for each output area.**

Project Cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
Species Management	\$173,872	\$2,000	\$171,872	\$165,218	\$7,771	\$157,447
Habitat Protection	\$424,479	\$20,000	\$404,479	\$495,206	\$211,487	\$283,719
Angler & Hunter Participation	\$129,882	\$4,400	\$125,482	\$143,169	\$22,711	\$120,458
Public Interface	\$18,531	\$0	\$18,531	\$31,152	\$0	\$31,152
Compliance	\$25,240	\$5,000	\$20,240	\$38,387	\$2,657	\$35,730
Licensing	\$42,808	\$693,635	-\$650,827	\$28,826	\$712,461	-\$683,635
Council	\$30,412	\$0	\$30,412	\$68,941	\$34,511	\$34,430
Planning & Reporting	\$48,773	\$0	\$48,773	\$129,122	\$26,880	\$102,242
Total Outputs	\$893,997	\$725,035	\$168,962	\$1,100,021	\$1,018,478	\$81,543
Administrative Expense offset by administrative income	\$167,575	\$167,575	\$0	\$164,638	\$164,638	\$0
Levies, Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,326	-\$16,326
	\$1,061,572	\$892,610	\$168,962	\$1,264,659	\$1,199,442	\$65,217



## OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT

### SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1110	Species Monitoring	\$134,160	\$0	\$134,160	\$138,083	\$2,271	\$135,812
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$15,095	\$0	\$15,095	\$5,856	\$0	\$5,856
1130	Fish Salvage	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1150	Game Farm	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1160	Liberations	\$12,871	\$2,000	\$10,871	\$10,408	\$5,500	\$4,908
1170	Regulations	\$5,760	\$0	\$5,760	\$5,395	\$0	\$5,395
1180	Control	\$5,986	\$0	\$5,986	\$5,476	\$0	\$5,476
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$173,872</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$171,872</b>	<b>\$165,218</b>	<b>\$7,771</b>	<b>\$157,447</b>

The Council's role is to manage the region's populations of sports fish and game bird species by assessing populations and harvest levels, augmenting, or dispersing local populations as required, and formulating season conditions that will best provide for the long-term requirements of anglers and hunters.

### Sports Fish Population Monitoring

Trout populations in all fisheries in the Wellington Fish and Game region, that are valued by licence holders, will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
Information gained by drift diving and spawning surveys, as planned in Council's adopted Sports Fish Monitoring Strategy, will result in identifying implications for sports fish management. A report by professional staff on the results will be presented to the Council for the year ending 31 August 2024.	47 drift dive surveys completed (totalling 62.8 km) across 18 rivers. This included 20 core river reaches sampled annually where a 7-year trend analysis of core survey reaches indicate a stable sports fish population within the region.  A report of this work by professional staff was received by Council on 15 October 2024.



### Rangitikei Trout Fishery Management

Sports fisheries that exhibit characteristics that are valued by anglers will be identified and safeguarded.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>The implementation of a programme of research, monitoring and compliance work, with financial support, from a report to, Genesis Energy Limited, by 31 August 2024.</p> <p>Operate a Designated Waters Licence for the Upper Rangitikei fisheries.</p>	<p>Six drift dive surveys totalling approximately 7.6 km were completed for the Rangitikei fishery in 2024.</p> <p>Outcomes of these surveys provided data on trout population abundance, spawning and recruitment.</p> <p>A Designated Waters Licence was issued for the 2023-24 season.</p> <p>A report to Genesis Energy Limited was completed in July 2024 and received by Council on 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Receipt of \$25,986 (excl GST) was received from Genesis Energy Limited.</p>

### River Control Fishery Assessment

The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Information gained by drift diving will result in assessment of the impacts of river control works on trout habitats and populations in the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae Rivers.</p> <p>A progress report by professional staff on the results of the fieldwork will be presented to Greater Wellington Regional Council by 31 August 2024.</p>	<p>Drift dive surveys were completed for the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae Rivers.</p> <p>Outcomes of these surveys provided data on trout population abundance, spawning and recruitment.</p> <p>A report by professional staff summarising survey results was presented to Greater Wellington Regional Council in July 2024 and was received by Council on 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Receipt of \$4,000 (excl GST) from Greater Wellington Regional Council.</p>



### Game Bird Population Assessment

The Wellington regional populations of game birds are managed to remain relatively stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Information gained by summer and autumn counts of the regional populations of mallard/grey ducks and pūkeko; summer trend counts of pūtangitangi/paradise shelduck and kakiānau/black swan; and late winter counts of kuruwhengi/shoveler ducks, will result in identifying implications for game bird management.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the fieldwork will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2024.</p>	<p>Summer (pūtangitangi/paradise shelduck and kakiānau/black swan), autumn (rakiraki and pārerā/dabbling duck and pūkeko) and late winter (kuruwhengi/shoveler duck and pūkeko) game bird surveys were completed by professional staff in 2024.</p> <p>A report detailing survey outcomes, and population trend analysis with game bird population management implications was received by Council on 15 October 2024.</p>

### National Hunter Harvest Survey

Hunter harvest of game birds will be controlled so it is not the cause of any population demise.

Planned Result	Outcomes
<p>Information gained from game licence holders during the 2024 game season, collected by participation in this externally analysed and nationally coordinated annual survey, will result in identifying implications for game bird management.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the 2024 survey will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2024.</p>	<p>The 2024 national game bird hunter harvest survey was undertaken during the 2024 game bird season.</p> <p>Data from the survey detailing regional game bird harvest levels for the season was analysed and compared against the previous 23 years harvest assessment and the regional population trends.</p> <p>A report detailing regional survey results and game bird population management implications was received by the Council on 15 October 2024.</p>



### Regional Angler Survey

85% of licenced anglers have a satisfactory angling experience, and will be satisfied with the availability, quality and extent of information available.

Planned Result	Outcome
Information gained by surveying fish licence holders during the 2023-2024 financial year will result in identifying implications for fisheries management.	Resident Designated Waters Licence holders in the Wellington region were surveyed.
A report by professional staff on the results of the survey will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2024.	No other regional surveys were completed by professional staff.

### Regional Hunter Survey

90% of dabbling duck hunters have a satisfactory hunting experience, and will be satisfied with the availability, quality and extent of information available.

Planned Result	Outcome
Information gained by surveying game licence holders during the 2023/24 financial year will result in identifying implications for game management.	A series of regionally focused questions relating to hunter satisfaction in the Wellington region were asked as part of the National Game Bird Hunter survey.
A report by professional staff on the results of the survey will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2024.	Analysis of regional responses to these questions was completed and a summary report of information collected and implications for game management was received by Council on 15 October 2024.

### Trout Liberations

The maintenance and improvement of trout fisheries by stocking with hatchery-reared fish where this is necessary, achievable and cost effective.

Planned Result	Outcome
The provision of up to 1,400 healthy two-year-old rainbow trout at Capital Trout Centre, Wellington, by 31 August 2024.	1000 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 17 July 2024 to the Capital Trout Centre, Wellington from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua.
The provision of at least 400 healthy two-year old rainbow trout at Hokowhitu Lagoon with view to supporting a junior/novice fishing day promotion.	750 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 9 November 2023 to the Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua. A family fishing event was held over the weekend of 12-13 November 2023.



<p>The provision of at least 200 healthy two-year old rainbow trout at Otaki Lake with view to supporting a junior/novice fishing day promotion.</p>	<p>500 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 16 November 2023 to the Winstone Aggregates Family Fishing pond, Otaki from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua. A family fishing event was held over the weekend of 18-19 November 2023.</p>
<p>The provision of at least 100 healthy two-year old rainbow trout at the Tutaenui (Marton) Reservoir with view to supporting a junior/novice fishing day promotion</p>	<p>250 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 16 November 2023 to the Tutaenui (Marton) Reservoir, Marton from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua. A family fishing event was held over the weekend of 18-19 November 2023.</p>

### Season Regulations

The maintenance and improvement of the region’s sports fish and game bird resources, by the formulation and recommendation to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council of season conditions for fishing and game hunting seasons, that can be demonstrated to be sustainable.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>The dispatch of the Council’s draft recommendations for 2024 game hunting season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by early February 2024.</p>	<p>The Council’s draft recommendations for the 2024 game bird hunting season conditions were confirmed with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 13 February 2024.</p>
<p>The dispatch of the Council’s draft recommendations for the 2023/2024 fishing season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 30 June 2024.</p>	<p>The Council’s draft recommendations for the 2023/2024 fishing season conditions were confirmed with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 12 June 2024.</p>

### Keep and Release Approvals

The protection of Wellington Fish and Game region’s indigenous biodiversity and trout habitat.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>All keepings of game birds, and all releases of sports fish, other fish, and game birds will be subject to appropriate statutory approvals.</p>	<p>There was one gazetted game preserves operating under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1953.</p> <p>There were three game preserves operating under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act 1953 approved by the Minister of Conservation in the Wellington Region in 2024.</p>



## Game Bird Dispersal

The dispersal or control of congregations of game bird, where they cause unacceptable damage to farmers' crops, is undertaken in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>The dispersal or control of game birds where they cause unacceptable damage to farmers' crops is undertaken in a timely and cost-effective manner.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the performance of game bird dispersal throughout Wellington Fish and Game region for the reporting year will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2024.</p>	<p>80 written authorities were provided by the Council to control or disperse game birds where they were causing unacceptable damage to landowners.</p> <p>A summary report of these authorities was received by the Council on 15 October 2024.</p>



## OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

### SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1210	RMA	\$382,998	\$0	\$382,998	\$477,899	\$0	\$477,899
1220	Works & Management	\$26,629	\$20,000	\$6,629	\$7,677	\$195,167	-\$187,490
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$14,852	\$0	\$14,852	\$9,630	\$16,320	-\$6,690
1240	Assessment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total		\$424,479	\$20,000	\$404,479	\$495,206	\$211,487	\$283,719

The Council's role is to protect and improve the habitat of sports fish and game bird species where methods are cost effectively available to achieve this.

### Resource Management Act

The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
Submissions on resource consent applications and plan proposals will be made as appropriate, seeking to achieve trout habitat protection and wetland conservation.	<p>Council staff responded to resource management issues throughout the year to protect trout habitat and conserve wetlands as follows:</p> <p><b>Regional Planning Processes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Liaison meetings with Regional Council staff/ stakeholder meetings on planning issues</li> <li>6 Formal Submission on LTP or Regional Plan Change</li> <li>2 Pre-hearing meetings for District Plan or Regional Plan – Plan Change</li> <li>4 Formal hearings on policy, LTP, or Regional/District Plan change proposals</li> <li>1 Environment Court Hearing – Horizons One Plan – Plan Change 2</li> </ul> <p><b>Resource Consent Processing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22 Pre-applications liaisons and/or site visits</li> <li>8 Section 95 approvals (non-notified)</li> <li>1 Section 96 submissions in opposition – specific conditions requested</li> <li>7 Review or monitor consent compliance or implementation</li> <li>2 Consents on Hold</li> </ul>



### Habitat Advocacy

The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
The promotion of habitat protection and enhancement, outside the Resource Management Act procedures, as opportunities allow.	Council staff met with local government staff to advocate for habitat protection and enhancement on four occasions.

### Trout Habitat Inventory

The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
A report by professional staff on current trout habitat and spawning inventory of will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2024.	Concurrent report of trout spawning surveys was received by Council on 15 October 2024.

### Lake Wairarapa (Wairarapa Moana) Habitat

To maintain and enhance the game bird habitat at the northeast margin of Lake Wairarapa (Wairarapa Moana).

Planned Result	Outcome
The payment of rates on the Council's "Simmonds Lagoon" property.	Rates were paid in a timely manner on the "Simmonds Lagoon" property.
The management of water levels within the wetlands of the "Tairoa/JK Donald Reserve" at Lake Wairarapa as authorised by Greater Wellington Regional Council.	No action required by staff to manage water levels within the wetlands of the "Tairoa/JK Donald Reserve"
The management of open water at Boggy Pond and Matthews Lagoon as authorised by the Department of Conservation.	No action was required by staff to manage open water at Boggy Pond and Matthews Lagoon.
Involvement of Fish & Game in the Wairarapa Moana management organisation or its successor.	Council staff attended and contributed to three Wairarapa Moana Governance Group meetings and provided feedback on one management report.

### Tairoa/JK Donald Drain Clean

To maintain and enhance the game bird habitat at the northeast margin of Lake Wairarapa.



Planned Result	Outcome
To clean drain in the Tairoa/JK Donald Reserve wetland to comply with arrangements with adjoining landowners.	One drain inspection completed. Drain status compliant and no work was required in 2024.

### Wetland Enhancement

The Wellington regional populations of game birds are managed to remain relatively stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
The provision of advice on request, and the promotion of sources of funding, for the construction and enhancement of waterfowl habitat by landholders within the Council's region by 31 August 2024.	Advice on wetland improvements was provided to five landholders with assistance with four funding applications of which two were awarded Game Bird Habitat Stamp funding.

### Habitat Management Opportunities

The Wellington regional populations of game birds are managed to remain relatively stable over time.

Planned Result	Outcome
To provide part funding for habitat enhancement projects.	Advice was provided on five habitat enhancement projects.



## OUTPUT 3: ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION AND SERVICES

### SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1310	Access	\$42,715	\$0	\$42,715	\$50,950	\$8,311	\$42,639
1320	Satisfaction Survey	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1330	Newsletters	\$21,149	\$0	\$21,149	\$41,067	\$0	\$41,067
1340	Other Publications	\$20,143	\$0	\$20,143	\$12,330	\$0	\$12,330
1350	Training	\$40,389	\$4,400	\$35,989	\$32,447	\$14,400	\$18,047
1360	Club Relations	\$5,486	\$0	\$5,486	\$6,375	\$0	\$6,375
1370	Huts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,882</b>	<b>\$4,400</b>	<b>\$125,482</b>	<b>\$143,169</b>	<b>\$22,711</b>	<b>\$120,458</b>

The Council's role is to assess the requirements of anglers and hunters, to provide them with information on their sport and its administration, and to manage access to publicly available hunting land where appropriate.

### Angler Access

Not less than 1,000 kilometres of angling water will be accessible to anglers in the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Planned Result	Outcome
The identification and negotiation of angler access as part of an access programme, with access signage and angler access brochures made available to licence holders by 31 August 2024.	Regional angler access brochure information was digitised, reviewed, collated online and made available for all licence holders.  Angler access signage and inventory completed and updated for the Wellington Fish and Game region.
Liaison with the Walking Access Commission to identify potential improvements in public (and specifically angler) access.	Staff liaised with the Walking Access Commission on two occasions to provide advice on improving public access to the hunting and fishing resource.



### Lake Wairarapa Hunter Access

The management of hunter access and the allocation of maimai sites shall be undertaken by Council, where a mutually acceptable written agreement to this effect between the Council and the landholder or land administering authority can be negotiated.

Planned Result	Outcome
Maintenance of Eric Kilmore Lodge, with costs recovered from users.	Eric Kilmore lodge was used by hunters on 67 nights, including three club weekend hunts.  Some maintenance costs were recovered from hunters through levies charged by the Council for lodge use.
The implementation of Council policy for the management of game bird hunter access at Wairarapa Moana/Lake Wairarapa, in accord with agreements with the Department of Conservation and farmers to this end, with some costs recovered from users.	Council staff maintain constructive working relationships with farmers allowing hunters to access the Tairoa/JK Donald block. Council staff continue to work with The Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board, DOC and other land administrators to maintain hunter access to Wairarapa Moana/Lake Wairarapa.  Some maintenance costs were recovered from hunters through levies charged by the Council for access to the Tairoa/JK Donald block.

### Hunter Access Permits and Access Management

The management of hunter access and the allocation of maimai sites shall be undertaken by Council, where a mutually acceptable written agreement to this effect between the Council and the landholder or land administering authority can be negotiated.

Planned Result	Outcome
The availability of duly negotiated and agreed access permits, with a small charge, to licenced hunters, by 31 March 2024 for the 2024 game season, for all areas publicly available to hunters in the Wellington region.	Access for game bird hunters was negotiated and agreed on all public areas available last year and permits for game bird hunter access on to nominated areas were provided through Council and regional sporting goods stores.
The management of hunter access (including allocation) of available hunting sites in forests and public access wetlands, in time for 2024 game season.	A report to Council on 15 October 2024 showed 557 permits were issued for the 2024 game bird season.



### Magazine and Newsletters

Not less than 85% of licenced anglers and hunters will be satisfied with the availability, quality, and extent of information available.

Planned Result	Outcome
The provision of a two-page regional supplement in each of the two Special Editions of the Fish & Game magazine to be published during the reporting year.	Wellington Fish and Game Council provided two four-page supplements for the two Special Editions (57 and 58) of the Fish & Game magazine.
The preparation and publication of two regional newsletters to licence holders (one angling and one hunting focused) during the reporting year.	Regional seasonal newsletters were made available through the Council and posted in summer 2023 (Angling News Issue 23) and autumn (Hunting News Issue 24).

### Information to Licence Holders

Not less than 85% of licenced anglers and hunters will be satisfied with the availability, quality, and extent of information available.

Planned Result	Outcome
Responses to requests for information will be provided as required.	Council staff provided responses to requests for information as required.
Weekly email reports from October to end of March that provide anglers with information on river levels and angling potential.	Weekly Fishing reports (29) were sent to ca. 10200 licence holders between September 2023 – March 2024.  Council staff appropriately contributed to 12 E-Zine – Reel Life national publications.
Weekly email reports from May to June that provide hunters with information on weather and hunting potential.	Weekly Hunting reports (12) were sent to ca. 5130 licence holders between April 2024 and June 2024.  Council staff contributed to 4 E-Zine – Both Barrels national publications.
Council's portion of the New Zealand Fish and Game website will be maintained as an important communication means with licence holders by 31 August 2024.	The website has downloads and links to access pamphlets, online maps and river level information. Other information on Council meetings and e-newsletters are also available on the website.



### Lapsed Participants Survey and Parameter Analysis

The participation of hunters and anglers are to be at levels that will sustain effective management of the sport.

Planned Result	Outcome
Assist NZ Fish and Game Council undertake testing of marketing opportunities to lapsed participants and existing participants.	Undertook reactivations actions, including targeted email campaigns, consistent with national R3 strategy.

### Hunter Training Lake Omanu

Game licence sales are at a level that will sustain effective management of the sport.

Planned Result	Outcome
The Foxton Waterfowl and Wetlands Club will be assisted to run a hunter training programme at Lake Omanu.	The novice hunter training programme was undertaken on a as requested basis in 2024.

### Junior Angler Programme

Not less than 5,000 licenced anglers will undertake not less than 40,000 angling visits per year in the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Planned Result	Outcome
Establish an inventory of equipment that can be used in junior angler promotions.	Novice anglers' equipment was maintained for family fishing events along with school education programmes.
Assist clubs undertake junior angling training in public fishing open promotions.	Activities related to novice angler engagement as part of the Hokowhitu Lagoon family fishing event, Ōtaki Lakes family fishing, the Tutaenui (Marton) Reservoir family fishing events and novice recruitment events at the Capital Trout Centre.



### Junior Hunter Programme

The participation of hunters and anglers are to be at levels that will sustain effective management of the sport.

Planned Result	Outcome
Establish an inventory of equipment that can be used in junior hunter promotions and programmes.	Council staff assisted 3 novice hunter groups during the course of the 2024 game bird season.

### Club Liaison

The maintenance of a positive working relationship with clubs.

Planned Result	Outcome
Attend meetings on regular basis or as required.	Maintain active communications with 9 active Fish and Game Clubs.  Council staff attended six club meetings.



## OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC INTERFACE

### SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1410	Liaison	\$6,559	\$0	\$6,559	\$16,898	\$0	\$16,898
1420	Communication	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1430	Advocacy	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1440	Public Promotions	\$11,972	\$0	\$11,972	\$14,254	\$0	\$14,254
1450	Visitors/Education	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total		\$18,531	\$0	\$18,531	\$31,152	\$0	\$31,152

The Council's role is to promote public understanding and acceptance of angling and game bird hunting issues and values.

### Advocacy and Liaison

Not less than 80% of the Wellington regional general public knows and accepts the activities and interests of anglers and hunters.

Planned Result	Outcome
Liaison with Conservation Boards and Regional Councils at a governor level as opportunities permit.	<p>Signatory of the Manawatu River Accord which involved intent and commitment from iwi, environmental groups, industry groups and territorial local authorities to clean up the Manawatu River.</p> <p>Council staff attended and contributed to three Wairarapa Moana Governance Group meetings.</p> <p>No DOC staff attended Councils meetings.</p> <p>Council meeting agenda information was provided to DOC and Conservation Boards in the lower North Island.</p>



## Iwi Liaison

A positive relationship with the Wellington Fish and Game region's iwi will be sought in respect of the management of trout.

Planned Result	Outcome
The establishment of a positive working relationship with Iwi Authorities with a view to defining appropriate contacts by 31 August 2024	<p>Maintained contacts with iwi representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga</li> <li>• Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa</li> <li>• Rangitaane o Wairarapa</li> <li>• Te Mauri o Rangitaane o Manawatu</li> <li>• Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust</li> <li>• Te Runanga o Ngati Apa</li> <li>• The Muaūpoko Tribal Authority</li> </ul> <p>Staff from Te Mauri o Rangitaane o Manawatu and the Muaūpoko tribal authority collaborated with Council staff on game bird monitoring projects throughout the year.</p>

## Public Awareness

Not less than 80% of the Wellington regional general public knows and accepts the activities and interests of anglers and hunters.

Planned Result	Outcome
Publicity on angling, hunting, and the work of Fish & Game New Zealand is provided, with the coverage reported to Council by 31 August 2024.	<p>Press releases to newspapers and magazines.</p> <p>Social media outreach and regular updates to New Zealand Fish and Game website for campaigns.</p> <p>A summary report of these outcomes was received by the Council on 15 October 2024.</p>

## Promotions

The provision of news releases, displays and other forms of public communication as appropriate.

Planned Result	Outcome
To be involved in public promotions which advocate for Fish & Game interests and values.	<p>Staff input and support of #ReWild national Fish &amp; Game campaign.</p> <p>Ongoing recognition of volunteer contributions by Council.</p>



## OUTPUT 5: COMPLIANCE

### SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1510	Ranging	\$9,640	\$0	\$9,640	\$3,243	\$0	\$3,243
1520	Ranger Training	\$2,371	\$0	\$2,371	\$8,860	\$0	\$8,860
1530	Compliance	\$13,229	\$5,000	\$8,229	\$26,284	\$2,657	\$23,627
	Total	\$25,240	\$5,000	\$20,240	\$38,387	\$2,657	\$35,730

The Council's role is to seek to ensure that all anglers and game bird hunters are licenced, and that they are operating in compliance with the law and the season regulations.

### Ranger Management

Sufficient ranging resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions.

Planned Result	Outcome
The recruitment and retention of Council's ranger team meets adopted policy and is reported to Council by 31 August 2024.	At 31 August 2024, Council had eight warranted honorary rangers, and four staff rangers.  A summary report of these outcomes was received by the Council on 15 October 2024

### Ranger Training

The maintenance of an adequate number of properly trained Rangers; an annual ranging programme to check the compliance of ten percent of the region's anglers.

Planned Result	Outcome
Provide safety and compliance training and skill maintenance and is reported to Council to 31 August 2024.	A pre-hunting season ranger training day for staff and honorary rangers was held in Masterton.  A pre-fishing season ranger training day for staff and honorary rangers including the triannual CERTS refresher course was held in Upper Hutt.  Summary report of these outcomes was received by the Council on 15 October 2024.



## Compliance

The protection and enhancement of the region's sports fish and game resources by the operation of an enforcement program to deliver not less than 95% compliance of anglers and game bird hunters with licence and legal requirements and season regulations.

Planned Result	Outcome
Ranging to check compliance of target at least 350 anglers and hunters throughout the region, throughout the year, in line with adopted policy.	The Council's 8 active rangers and four Fish and Game staff checked 20 anglers and 62 hunters for compliance.
The processing of participants found un-licenced, or in substantial non-compliance with legal requirements or season regulations without just cause, in line with adopted policy.	A report received by Council on 15 October 2024 noted 7 offences were detected. 0 alleged offenders were prosecuted, 4 offenders accepted Diversion 0 alleged offences are pending, 3 adults were issued formal warnings for alleged offences.



## OUTPUT 6: LICENCING

### SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1610	Licence Production	\$6,657	\$693,635	-\$686,978	\$1,313	\$712,461	-\$711,148
1620	Agent Servicing	\$4,937	\$0	\$4,937	\$242	\$0	\$242
1630	Agent Payments	\$31,214	\$0	\$31,214	\$27,271	\$0	\$27,271
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,808</b>	<b>\$693,635</b>	<b>-\$650,827</b>	<b>\$28,826</b>	<b>\$712,461</b>	<b>-\$683,635</b>

The role of the Council is to issue hunting and fishing licences as the main source of income to fund the performance of its functions.

### Licensing

To issue hunting and fishing licences.

Planned Result	Outcome
2023/24 fishing licences will be available to licence agents and participants throughout the region by 31 August 2024.	Sports fish licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game region are presented in Output 6: Licencing Table 1 for the 2023/24 season.
2023 Game licences will be available through licence agents or on-line to participants throughout the region by 31 March 2024.	Game bird licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game region are presented in Output 6: Licencing Table 2 for the 2024 season.
An up-to-date data base of licence holders will be maintained.	Licence holder data base was regularly updated and maintained throughout the year.
Progress reporting on licence sales will be provided to the Council throughout the year.	Sports fish and game bird licence sales reports were included in each Council agenda.  Summary report of licencing was received by the Council on 15 October 2024.



## Licence Agents

An effective and efficient network of licence resellers.

Planned Result	Outcome
Council's Licence Agent Network is managed in line with adopted Council policy.	<p>The Council had a network of 15 licence agents through the region at balance date.</p> <p>Council's licence agent network was managed in line with adopted Council policy, as reported to Council on 15 October 2024.</p> <p>A licence management agreement with Eyede Solutions Ltd (ESL) to manage licence sales production, distribution, and invoicing was signed by Council as part of the New Zealand Fish and Game collective.</p>

### Output 6: Licencing Table 1. Seasonal sports fish licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game Region 2019/20 – 2023/24

FISHING LICENCES	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Family Fishing	464	492	502	402	380
Adult Whole Season	1605	1851	1870	1506	1462
Non-Resident Whole Season	159	30	20	172	135
Loyal Senior Whole Season	237	264	284	300	297
Local Area Whole Season	206	270	240	194	250
Adult Winter	157	157	125	119	140
Adult Long Break	17	8	8	11	13
Adult Short Break	89	98	85	64	101
Adult Day	472	579	508	374	639
Non-Resident Day	133	13	19	178	327
Junior Whole Season	265	279	276	221	396
Junior Non-Resident Whole Season	4	2	-	5	9
Junior Day	126	119	99	145	215
Junior Non-Resident Day	1	-	-	2	9
Child Whole Season	-	-	-	710	996
Child Non-Resident Whole Season	3	2	5	3	5
Child Non-Resident Day	1	-	-	2	2
Sea Run Salmon Endorsement	-	-	-	51	43
Designated Waters - Resident	-	-	-	-	326
Designated Waters - Non-Resident	-	-	-	-	76
<b>Total Fish Licences</b>	<b>3939</b>	<b>4164</b>	<b>4041</b>	<b>4460</b>	<b>5815</b>
Whole Season Licence Equivalent	3026	3251	3229	2848	3039



**Output 6: Licencing Table 2. Seasonal game bird licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game Region 2020 - 2024.**

<b>GAME LICENCES</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Adult Whole Season	3047	3315	3326	3199	3132
Junior Whole Season	287	319	315	327	344
Child Whole Season	142	138	135	170	134
Adult Day	141	132	106	129	192
Junior Day	9	5	3	5	11
<b>Total Game Licences</b>	<b>3626</b>	<b>3909</b>	<b>3885</b>	<b>3830</b>	<b>3813</b>
Whole Season Licence Equivalent	3133	3406	3409	3288	3237

## OUTPUT 7: COUNCIL

### SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1710	Council Elections	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$161	\$0	\$161
1720	Taranaki Fish & Game	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$29,107	\$34,511	-\$5,404
1720	Council Meetings	\$30,412	\$0	\$30,412	\$39,673	\$0	\$39,673
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,412</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$30,412</b>	<b>\$68,941</b>	<b>\$34,511</b>	<b>\$34,430</b>

The role of the Council is to represent the interests of all Wellington regional licence holders effectively in directing the management of the region's sports fish and game bird resources.

### Council Election

Planned Result	Outcome
Maintain electoral roll and assist returning officer	Assisted as required in preparation for 2024 elections.

### Council

The effective direction of the management of the Council's business.

Planned Result	Outcome
Not less than six meetings of the Council, that comply with all legal and policy requirements to be held before 31 August 2024.	Wellington Fish and Game Council held six meetings during the year with a quorum present at each meeting.  Summary details of Councillors attendance at meetings is presented on page 2.



## OUTPUT 8: PLANNING & REPORTING

### SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1810	Management Plan	\$17,143	\$0	\$17,143	\$0	\$0	\$0
1820	Annual Planning	\$3,429	\$0	\$3,429	\$5,234	\$0	\$5,234
1830	Reporting	\$15,172	\$0	\$15,172	\$24,386	\$0	\$24,386
1840	National Liaison	\$13,029	\$0	\$13,029	\$99,502	\$26,880	\$72,622
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$48,773</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$48,773</b>	<b>\$129,122</b>	<b>\$26,880</b>	<b>\$102,242</b>

The role of the Council is to prepare such plans as will assist the cost-effective performance of its functions, and to prepare and make available such reports as will provide transparent accountability for its activities and expenditure.

### Management Planning

Policies reflect national policies and good governance.

Planned Result	Outcome
Policies will be developed and adopted covering a Public Awareness Strategy, a Regional Marketing Strategy, and a Regulation-setting model for the region's sports fisheries and game bird populations, by 31 August 2024.	Policy review programme actively considered.
Council will undertake a review of its approved Management Plan by 31 August 2024.	Formal review of a sports fish game management plan was initiated and a draft plan is finalised and potentially ready for consultations.

### Annual Plan

To formulate and adopt an annual operational work plan.

Planned Result	Outcome
Adoption of a Proposed Annual Plan for 2024/25 that meets organisational budgeting requirements by the Council, by 31 August 2024.	Council's Annual Plan for 2024/25 was adopted on 13 August 2024.



## Annual Reporting

To furnish the Minister of Conservation with an annual report on the operations of the Council for the year.

Planned Result	Outcome
The adoption and presentation by the Council at a public Annual General Meeting of its audited Annual Report for 2022/23 not later than 24 December 2023, and its dispatch to the Minister directly thereafter.	Council's audited Annual Performance Report for 2023 was adopted and presented at a public Annual General Meeting on 12 December 2023, was delivered to the Minister of Conservation in December 2023 and presented to parliament on the 26 March 2024.

## National Liaison

Effective liaison with New Zealand Fish and Game Council to meet all statutory requirements.

Planned Result	Outcome
Representation to New Zealand Fish and Game Council with respect to coordination of the Council's recommendations for licence fees, season regulation recommendations, fund redistribution for budgeting purposes, research requirements, and national policy development.	<p>Licence fee recommendations were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in June 2024.</p> <p>Game bird season regulations for the region were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in February 2024.</p> <p>Sports fish season regulations for the region were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in June 2024.</p> <p>Fund redistribution for budgeting purposes for the region were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in March 2024.</p> <p>Other recommendations from the region were approved by Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council as required.</p> <p>The Council CE attended national Fish and Game Managers' meetings on 27 occasions</p>



### National Projects

Wellington Fish and Game staff will contribute to strategic national projects which benefit the wider organisational goal and objectives e.g. region remains free of invasive species such as Didymo.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Staff assistance or management of research, advice or management of organisational operational requirements, or resource management advice as required.</p>	<p>Council staff assisted with research, advice or management of national projects involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National policy reviews.</li> <li>• Regional amalgamation projects.</li> <li>• Licence working party.</li> <li>• Communications media and outreach to licence holders and New Zealand community.</li> <li>• Indigenous fish and sports fish interactions research projects.</li> <li>• Interregional resource consenting expert witness advice.</li> <li>• Collaborative RMA position statement and resource development.</li> </ul>



**WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Actual 2024 \$	Unaudited Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Fish and Game licence sales	1	712,461	693,635	668,061
Funding from central/local government	1	20,320	4,000	34,100
Grants from non-government agencies	1	218,803	153,937	56,148
Interest	1	26,701	29,638	18,690
Other revenue	1	221,157	11,400	119,190
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>1,199,442</b>	<b>892,610</b>	<b>896,189</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Outputs</b>				
Species management	2	63,994	41,800	67,566
Habitat protection & management	2	306,045	125,500	55,218
Angler & Hunter participation	2	49,918	28,805	53,822
Public interface	2	148	1,250	641
Compliance	2	5,210	7,000	2,439
Licensing	2	27,618	34,305	26,741
Council	2	12,813	6,000	5,580
Planning & reporting	2	7,283	9,000	7,780
<b>Overheads</b>				
Employee related costs	2	629,296	622,090	540,374
Depreciation	4	34,933	34,114	40,698
Other expenses	2	127,402	151,706	123,751
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>1,264,660</b>	<b>1,061,570</b>	<b>924,610</b>
<b>Less Other Expenses</b>				
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(65,218)</b>	<b>(168,960)</b>	<b>(28,421)</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this performance report. This performance report should be read in conjunction with the independent auditor's report.



**WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
As at 31 August 2024

	Note	Actual 2024 \$	Unaudited Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Bank accounts and cash	3	216,949	350,000	211,795
Debtors and prepayments	3	117,931	80,000	145,972
Investments	3	381,283	350,000	359,342
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>716,163</b>	<b>780,000</b>	<b>717,109</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
Property, plant and equipment	4	256,150	256,380	296,221
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>256,150</b>	<b>256,380</b>	<b>296,221</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>972,313</b>	<b>1,036,380</b>	<b>1,013,330</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	71,129	55,000	66,103
Income in Advance	3	47,528	45,000	54,286
Employee costs payable	3	160,441	130,000	134,509
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>279,098</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>254,898</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>279,098</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>254,898</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>693,215</b>	<b>806,381</b>	<b>758,432</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	5	<b>693,215</b>	<b>806,381</b>	<b>758,432</b>

The accompanying accounting Policies and notes form an integral part of this performance report. The performance report should be read in conjunction with the independent auditor's report.



## WELLINGTON FISH &amp; GAME COUNCIL

## STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Actual 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Cash was received from:</b>		
Licence sales	713,857	665,931
Grants, donations and fundraising	275,465	51,296
Interest	27,098	18,522
Other revenue	207,300	97,521
<b>Cash was applied to:</b>		
Payments to suppliers	612,225	367,509
Payments to employees	603,364	531,087
GST (net)	2,501	(12,162)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>5,630</b>	<b>(53,164)</b>
<b>CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING &amp; FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Cash was received from:</b>		
Sale of property, plant and equipment	21,466	39,540
Sale of investments/deposits	-	-
<b>Cash was applied to:</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	106,877
Purchase of investments/deposits	21,941	13,994
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing &amp; Financing</b>	<b>(475)</b>	<b>(81,331)</b>
<b>Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash</b>	<b>5,155</b>	<b>(134,495)</b>
<b>Opening Cash</b>	<b>211,795</b>	<b>346,290</b>
<b>Closing Cash</b>	<b>216,950</b>	<b>211,795</b>
<b>This is represented by:</b>		
<b>Bank accounts and cash</b>	<b>216,950</b>	<b>211,795</b>

The accompanying accounting Policies and notes form an integral part of this performance report. The performance report should be read in conjunction with the independent auditor's report.



**WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL**  
**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**  
For the year ended 31 August 2024

## ACCOUNTING POLICIES APPLIED

### Reporting Entity

Wellington Fish and Game Council is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4). The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Section 153-6 of the Crown Entities Act 2004.

### Basis of Preparation

Wellington Fish and Game has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Public Sector) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$5,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Council is registered for GST. All amounts are recorded exclusive of GST, except for Debtors and Creditors which are stated inclusive of GST.

## SPECIFIC ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Revenue Recognition

Wellington Fish and Game Council derives revenue through the sale of fish and game licences, interest, contracts, rentals, grants, and miscellaneous sales.

#### *Licence Revenue*

Licence revenue is recognised in the period the licence fee is earned, for example, a fish licence sold in August of the current year which relates to the next fishing season is treated as income in advance.

#### *Grants Received*

Grants are recognised as revenue when they become receivable unless there is an obligation in substance to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when the condition of the grant is satisfied.

#### *Interest*

Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year.



### *Other Income*

Income from contracts, rentals and miscellaneous sales are recorded as revenue in the period they are earned.

### **Outputs**

The Council has allocated expenditure based on the 8 output codes - Species management, Habitat protection and management, Angler and Hunter participation, Public interface, Compliance, Licensing, Council, and Planning and reporting. These are expensed when the related service has been received.

### **Employee related costs**

Wages, salaries, and annual leave are recorded as an expense as staff provide services and become entitled to wages, salaries. Performance payments are recorded when the employee is notified. Superannuation contributions are recorded as an expense as staff provide services.

### **Bank accounts and cash**

Bank accounts and cash comprise cash on hand, cheque or savings accounts, and deposits held at call with banks.

### **Debtors and prepayments**

Debtors are initially recorded at the amount owed. When it is likely the amount owed (or some portion) will not be collected, a provision for impairment is recognised and the loss is recorded as a bad debt expense.

### **Investments**

Investments comprise investments in term deposits with banks. Deposits with banks are initially recorded at the amount paid. If it appears that the carrying amount of the investment will not be recovered, it will be written down to the expected recoverable amount.

### **Property, plant, and equipment**

Property, plant, and equipment is recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation, and impairment. Donated assets are recognised upon receipt of the asset if the asset has a useful life of 12 months or more, and the current value of the asset is readily obtainable and significant. Significant donated assets for which current values are not readily obtainable are not recognised. For an asset to be sold, the asset is impaired if the market price for the equivalent asset falls below its carrying amount. For an asset to be used by the Council, the asset is impaired if the value to the Council in using the asset falls below the carrying amount of the assets.



Depreciation is provided on a diminishing value basis at rates that will write off the cost of the assets over their useful lives.

	<u>Life</u>	<u>Depreciation Method</u>
Buildings	40 years	SL (2.5%)
Plant & Equipment	2-20 years	DV (11.4% to 50%)
Motor Vehicles	10 years	DV (10% to 24%)
Office Fittings, Furniture & Equipment	3-10 years	DV (11.4% to 50%)

### **Creditors and accrued expenses**

Creditors and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.

### **Game Bird Habitat Stamp levy**

Levies are collected and paid to New Zealand Fish and Game Council per the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp Regulations 1993. The levy is \$5 for every game licence sold within the financial year.

### **Employee costs payable**

A liability for employee costs payable is recognised when an employee has earned an entitlement. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date. A liability and expense for long service leave and retirement gratuities is recognised when the entitlement becomes available to the employee.

### **Restricted and dedicated reserves**

Restricted and dedicated reserves are those reserves subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be revised by the Council without specified purposes or when certain conditions are met.

#### *Asset Replacement Reserve*

The asset replacement reserve is a reserve set up to enable Council to replace property, plant and equipment.

#### *Non-Resident Levy / Designated Waters Reserve*

This reserve is for the purpose of management of "back country fisheries". Income for this reserve is derived from the sales of Designated Waters Licences. The funds include non-resident levy income from 2014 to 2022/23, which totalled \$50,551.

#### *Rangitikei Fish Monitoring Reserve*

This reserve is used for the monitoring of the upper reaches of the Rangitikei River.

#### *JK Donald Block Track*

This reserve is to fund the maintenance and upkeep of the JK Donald Block track at Lake Wairarapa. Income for this fund is derived from the sale of vehicle access stickers.

#### *Kilmore Lodge*

This fund is for the maintenance and upkeep of Kilmore Lodge at Lake Wairarapa. Income for this reserve is derived from hunters paying for accommodation costs.



### *Reparation*

This reserve is for works and projects that contribute to the Fish and Game resource such as habitat maintenance and compliance management.

### *Asset Replacement Funding*

For the maintenance and upkeep of the Fixed Assets.

### *Enhancement and Education Programme*

This reserve is for works and projects that contribute to the Fish and Game resource such as enhancement of the Fish and Game resource and education opportunities. Income for this reserve is derived from compliance actions.

### *Wairarapa Hunter Access*

This reserve is for works to the management of access to hunting around Lake Wairarapa. It was resolved by Council on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 that any surplus revenue from the sale of access permits be allocated to a dedicated reserve.

### *Hunter Access*

This reserve will be used for projects that increase or maintain hunter opportunity and access. It was resolved by Council at its 10 August 2021 meeting to establish a dedicated reserve to allow for funds to be accumulated from the sale of hunter access permits.

### *RiverLink – Hutt River*

This reserve will be used for projects relating to the Hutt River catchment. Approved by Council at its 9 August meeting 2022.

### **Income tax**

The Council is a Public Benefit Entity and is exempt from the payment of Income tax in terms of the Income Tax Act 2007.

### **Budget figures**

The Budget figures are derived from the Council budget that was approved at the Council meeting on 8 August 2023.

### **Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards applied.**

The Council has not applied any Tier 2 Accounting Standards in preparing its financial statements.

### **CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*There have been no changes in accounting policies.*



**WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL**  
**NOTES TO THE PERFORMANCE REPORT**  
for the year ended 31 August 2024

<b>Note 1: ANALYSIS OF REVENUE</b>	<b>Actual 2024 \$</b>	<b>Unaudited Budget 2024 \$</b>	<b>Actual 2023 \$</b>
<b>Fish and Game Licence sales</b>			
Fish licence	401,737	373,485	359,819
Non Resident Levy \ Designated Water	7,121	-	17,005
Game licence	303,603	320,150	291,237
<b>Total Licence sales</b>	<b>712,461</b>	<b>693,635</b>	<b>668,061</b>
<b>Funding from central/local government</b>			
Greater Wellington	4,000	4,000	4,000
River Link	16,320	-	30,100
<b>Total Funding from central/local govt</b>	<b>20,320</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>34,100</b>
<b>Grants from non-government agencies</b>			
National Fish & Game Grant	137,937	137,937	30,999
Taranaki Fish & Game Council - Management	28,000	-	-
Public Awareness Secondment	26,880	-	-
Grant from Genesis	25,986	16,000	25,149
<b>Total Grants from non-govt agencies</b>	<b>218,803</b>	<b>153,937</b>	<b>56,148</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>26,701</b>	<b>29,638</b>	<b>18,690</b>
<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>26,701</b>	<b>29,638</b>	<b>18,690</b>
<b>Other revenue</b>			
Taranaki Fish & Game	6,511	-	-
Trout Liberations	5,500	2,000	4,500
Gamebird Population Assessment	2,271	-	-
Other RMA Income	165,181	-	39,365
Lake Wairarapa Hunter Access	3,547	1,000	1,326
Hunter Access permits	2,947	3,000	4,956
Hunter Training Lake Omanu	348	400	348
R3 Novice Engagement	14,052	-	13,786
Kilmore Lodge	1,817	-	1,609
Fines & Prosecutions	2,657	5,000	461
National Projects	-	-	28,244
Back Country Licence Income	-	-	217
Gain on Sale of Fixed Assett	16,326	-	24,381
<b>Total other revenue</b>	<b>221,157</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>119,190</b>

<b>Note 2: ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES</b>	<b>Actual 2024 \$</b>	<b>Unaudited Budget 2024 \$</b>	<b>Actual 2023 \$</b>
<b>Species management</b>			
Population monitoring	48,616	26,500	52,754
Harvest assessment	4,970	3,300	4,370
Releases	10,408	11,500	10,442
Control	-	500	-
<b>Total Species management</b>	<b>63,994</b>	<b>41,800</b>	<b>67,566</b>
<b>Habitat protection &amp; management</b>			
Resource management	300,978	120,500	41,644
Works & management	3,731	4,000	13,545
Assisted habitat	1,336	1,000	29
<b>Total Habitat protection &amp; management</b>	<b>306,045</b>	<b>125,500</b>	<b>55,218</b>
<b>Angler &amp; Hunter participation</b>			
Access	5,371	9,800	11,706
Newsletters	17,714	11,000	18,315
Information to Clients	7,579	3,000	6,700
Training	19,160	5,005	17,009
Club relations	94	-	92
<b>Total Angler &amp; hunter participation</b>	<b>49,918</b>	<b>28,805</b>	<b>53,822</b>
<b>Public interface</b>			
Advocacy	148	1,000	166
Liaison	-	250	475
<b>Total Public interface</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>641</b>
<b>Compliance</b>			
Ranging	666	1,000	545
Ranger training	888	1,000	998
Compliance	3,656	5,000	896
<b>Total Compliance</b>	<b>5,210</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>2,439</b>



<b>Note 2: ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES CONT</b>	<b>Actual 2024 \$</b>	<b>Unaudited Budget 2024 \$</b>	<b>Actual 2023 \$</b>
<b>Licensing</b>			
Licence production & distribution	347	3,091	419
Commission	27,271	31,214	26,322
<b>Total Licensing</b>	<b>27,618</b>	<b>34,305</b>	<b>26,741</b>
<b>Council</b>			
Council meetings	6,254	6,000	5,580
Taranaki Fish & Game Meetings	6,559	-	-
<b>Total Council</b>	<b>12,813</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>5,580</b>
<b>Planning &amp; reporting</b>			
Annual planning	-	-	16
Reporting	7,072	9,000	6,272
National liaison	211	-	1,492
<b>Total Planning &amp; reporting</b>	<b>7,283</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>7,780</b>
<b>Employee related costs</b>			
Salaries and wages	617,312	603,688	524,630
ACC levies	1,233	3,600	1,164
Staff Training and Other expenses	10,751	14,802	14,580
<b>Total Employee related costs</b>	<b>629,296</b>	<b>622,090</b>	<b>540,374</b>
<b>Other expenses</b>			
Office premises	36,528	43,050	37,343
Office equipment	6,291	2,500	6,877
Communications	15,242	17,479	13,095
General	9,229	10,650	8,623
Field equipment	-	2,000	1,265
Vehicles	60,112	56,027	56,003
Asset replacement funding	-	20,000	-
Loss on sale of disposal of assets	-	-	545
<b>Total Other expenses</b>	<b>127,402</b>	<b>151,706</b>	<b>123,751</b>



<b>Note 3 : ANALYSIS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES</b>	<b>Actual 2024 \$</b>	<b>Unaudited Budget 2024 \$</b>	<b>Actual 2023 \$</b>
<b>Bank accounts and cash</b>			
ANZ Select	202,490	350,000	199,215
ANZ Cheque	53	-	27
Enhancement Programme	14,406	-	12,553
<b>Total</b>	<b>216,949</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>211,795</b>
<b>Debtors and prepayments</b>			
Accounts receivable	98,983	80,000	127,315
Prepayments	18,565	-	18,260
Accrued Interest	383	-	397
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,931</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>145,972</b>
<b>Investments</b>			
<i>Current portion</i>			
Term Deposits	381,283	350,000	359,342
<b>Total</b>	<b>381,283</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>359,342</b>
<b>Creditors and accrued expenses</b>			
Trade and other payables	43,501	55,000	38,506
Accrued expenses	12,305	-	9,773
GST Payable	15,323	-	17,824
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,129</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>66,103</b>
<b>Income in Advance</b>			
Income in Advance	47,528	45,000	54,286
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,528</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>54,286</b>
<b>Employee costs payable</b>			
Accrued salaries and wages	12,631	6,000	8,310
Annual leave and time in lieu	129,927	110,000	106,512
PAYE owing	17,883	14,000	19,687
<b>Total</b>	<b>160,441</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>134,509</b>



**Note 4 : PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT****2024**

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Opening Carrying Amount</b>	<b>Purchases</b>	<b>Sales/ Disposals</b>	<b>Current Year Depreciation and Impairment</b>	<b>Closing Carrying Amount</b>
Land	126,552	-	-	-	126,552
Buildings	2,565	-	-	182	2,383
Plant & Equipment	4,717	-	-	775	3,942
Vehicles	156,837	-	5,140	33,218	118,479
Office Equipment	5,550	-	-	756	4,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>296,221</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,140</b>	<b>34,931</b>	<b>256,150</b>

**2023**

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Opening Carrying Amount</b>	<b>Purchases</b>	<b>Sales/ Disposals</b>	<b>Current Year Depreciation and Impairment</b>	<b>Closing Carrying Amount</b>
Land	126,552	-	-	-	126,552
Buildings	2,747	-	-	182	2,565
Plant & Equipment	6,159	-	488	954	4,717
Vehicles	103,690	106,877	15,159	38,571	156,837
Office Equipment	6,598	-	57	991	5,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>245,746</b>	<b>106,877</b>	<b>15,704</b>	<b>40,698</b>	<b>296,221</b>

The combined value of the Council's land at Simonds Lagoon and at Lake Omanu is disclosed in the Schedule of Fixed Assets at a total value of \$126,552. The Council considers that the fair values of these lands are respectively \$610,000, as determined at 1 September 2023 for South Wairarapa District Council, and \$780,000, as determined at 1 August 2022 for Horowhenua District Council, by Quotable Value New Zealand Ltd. The Council does not consider the cost of formal revaluation that would be required to substantiate any write up of land values to be warranted at this time.



**Note 5: EQUITY**

	Actual 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
Balance as at 1 September	493,842	520,493
Surplus/(Deficit)	(65,218)	(28,421)
Transfer to Reserves	(102,003)	(128,994)
Transfer from Reserves	15,266	130,764
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>341,887</b>	<b>493,842</b>
<b><i>Dedicated Reserves</i></b>		
<b>Asset Replacement Reserve</b>		
Balance as at 1 September	(2,373)	56,115
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	41,465	48,388
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	(106,876)
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>39,092</b>	<b>(2,373)</b>
<b>Non - Resident Levy / Designated Waters Reserve</b>		
Balance as at 1 September	50,551	33,546
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	7,265	17,005
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(1,021)	-
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>56,795</b>	<b>50,551</b>
<b>Reparation Reserve</b>		
Balance as at 1 September	35,361	35,361
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>35,361</b>	<b>35,361</b>
<b>Kilmore Lodge</b>		
Balance as at 1 September	5,315	4,120
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	1,817	1,609
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(2,145)	(414)
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>4,987</b>	<b>5,315</b>
<b>JK Donald Track</b>		
Balance as at 1 September	6,061	5,066
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	1,478	1,326
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(331)	(331)
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>7,208</b>	<b>6,061</b>



**Note 5: EQUITY Con't****Education & Enhancement Programme**

Balance as at 1 September	12,194	11,733
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	2,656	461
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>14,850</b>	<b>12,194</b>

**Lake Wairarapa Standholders**

Balance as at 1 September	4,371	2,875
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	2,069	1,873
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(437)	(377)
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>6,003</b>	<b>4,371</b>

**Hunter Access**

Balance as at 1 September	7,515	5,272
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	2,947	3,083
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(844)	(840)
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>9,618</b>	<b>7,515</b>

<b><i>Total Dedicated Reserves</i></b>	<b><i>173,914</i></b>	<b><i>118,995</i></b>
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***Restricted Reserves*****Rangitikei River Fish Monitoring Reserve**

Balance as at 1 September	115,495	112,272
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	25,986	25,149
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(7,975)	(21,926)
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>133,506</b>	<b>115,495</b>

**Riverlink - Hutt River**

Balance as at 1 September	30,100	-
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	16,320	30,100
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(2,513)	-
<b>Balance at 31 August</b>	<b>43,907</b>	<b>30,100</b>

<b><i>Total Restricted Reserves</i></b>	<b><i>177,413</i></b>	<b><i>145,595</i></b>
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<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>693,215</b>	<b>758,432</b>
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## Note 6: COMMITMENTS & CONTINGENCIES

### Commitments

Commitment to Explanation and Timing

Palmerston North

Office Lease Lease expiring 28 February 2025

Operating leases means payments for the Wellington Fish and Game Council premises.

Wellington Fish and Game Council has a lease in place for the Council premises, in Palmerston North, expiring in February 2025 costing \$26,000 per annum. The lease was renewed in 2022.

### Contingency

There are no contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2023 (Last Year - nil).

## Note 7: OTHER

### Goods or Services Provided to the Entity in Kind

Description	Amount
Honorary ranging activities	No Charge
Councillor meetings and events	No Charge

## Note 8: RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related-party disclosures have not been made for transactions with related parties that are within a normal supplier of client/recipient relationship on terms and conditions no more or less favourable than those that it is reasonable to expect the Council would have adopted in dealing with the party at arm's length in the same circumstances.

Related Party	Description	2024	2023	2024	2023
		\$	\$	\$	\$
		Value	Value	Amount Outstanding	Amount Outstanding
New Zealand Fish and Game Council	Grants Received	137,937	30,999	-	-
	Reimbursement of Legal costs	189,564	37,365	29,409	19,877
	Public Awareness secondment	30,912	28,336	2,576	-
Taranaki Fish and Game Council	Managerial support	28,000	-	-	-
	Admin support	8,652	3,748	-	-
Lee Cook	Councillor's son assisted with field work	2,136	3,720	-	-
Colin Shore	Councillor, assisted with banding 22/23	-	3,769	-	-

New Zealand Fish and Game is by statute a related party, with a financial redistribution for regional Fish and Game Councils. In the reporting year, Wellington Fish and Game Council received a grant totalling \$137,937 from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (2022/2023 received a grant of \$30,999). Outstanding balance at 31 August 2024 \$39,657 (2022-2023 - \$8,912).

New Zealand Fish and Game is by statute a related party, that holds a regional fund for use by regions in RMA processes. There are nil outstanding balances at year end (2023 - nil).

New Zealand Fish and Game is by statute a related party, that has an agreement with Wellington Fish and Game for Public Awareness Support. There are nil outstanding balances at year end (2023 - nil).

Taranaki Fish and Game is by statute a related party, and provides administrative support to Wellington Fish and Game. There are nil outstanding balances at year end. (2023- nil)

Taranaki Fish and Game is by statute a related party, with an agreement with Wellington Fish and Game to provide Managerial support. There are nil outstanding balances at year end (2023 - nil).

Jim Cook is a Councillor, and Lee Cook is his son. Lee Cook worked for Wellington Fish and Game Council for 97.5 hours assisting with field work and was paid \$2,316.

Colin Shore is a Councillor, who was employed to assist with banding and various other field work. There was no work provided by Mr. Shore for 23/24 .(22/23 186 hours and was paid \$3,769).

There were no other related party transactions. There are nil provisions for doubtful debts or expenses for bad debts, and no guarantees given or received for all related parties.

### **Note 9: EVENTS AFTER BALANCE DATE**

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report. (Last Year - nil).



### **Note 10: MINISTERIAL REVIEW**

In February 2021, the Minister of Conservation presented the review for Governance of Fish and Game New Zealand and the New Zealand Fish and Game Councils. This report sets out [36 recommendations](#) to be implemented for the future of Fish and Game.

A review team was established, including the then Chair of the NZFGC, Ray Grubb, Brian Anderton, the acting CEO of the NZFGC, and DoC representatives. After 18 months, the ISG Report from this committee was drafted but was never approved by the Minister. In November 2022, the Minister disbanded this group. The NZC had been waiting on this report for the direction to implement the Review, as many of the recommendations were reliant on legislative changes. One of the recommendations was for the amalgamation of Councils (reducing the number of Councils from 12 to 6).

In October 2022, the Regional Fish and Game Chairs wrote to the NZC asking them to implement the non-legislative parts of the Review. In November 2022, the NZC, agreeing with the Regional Chairs, instructed the NZC CEO to implement the non-legislative parts of the Review. On 6 December 2022, Sia Aston, Deputy Director - Public Affairs on behalf of the Department of Conservation, wrote to the New Zealand Council, advising that Fish and Game should proceed with implementing the review recommendations that do not require legislative changes.

Due to time lost with the ISG, the implementation of many of these recommendations only commenced at the end of November 2022.

In February 2023, the New Zealand Council (NZC) established two work groups - Future Finance and Future Structures, which are working on structural and financial considerations for the organisation. These draft reports were presented to the NZC in April 2024 and sent to Regions.

The NZC has instigated a Cost Optimisation project to determine areas where Fish and Game can identify savings and efficiencies. This report has not yet been completed.

The NZC is currently working with the Minister for Hunting and Fishing to determine the legislative changes required to ensure Fish and Game can operate more efficiently.

NZC have been supporting the Wellington and Taranaki regions in their shared resources arrangement with a view for formal amalgamation.

National Policies have been adopted this year which are consistent with the recommendations of the Ministerial Review.



**Note 11: ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS TO OUTPUT AREAS FOR 2024**

In the Statement of service performance, overheads are allocated across the 8 Output areas based on the hours worked within those Outputs over the year. Below is the calculation for distributing the overheads across the output area.

**ACTUAL 2024**

Output Area	Actual Direct \$	Actual Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	63,994	1,257	101,224	165,218
Habitat protection & management	306,045	2,349	189,161	495,206
Angler & hunter participation	49,918	1,158	93,251	143,169
Public interface	148	385	31,004	31,152
Compliance	5,210	412	33,177	38,387
Licensing	27,618	15	1,208	28,826
Council	12,813	697	56,128	68,941
Planning & reporting	7,283	1,513	121,839	129,122
Totals	473,029	7,786	626,992	1,100,021

**Actual Overheads**

Employee related costs	629,296
Depreciation	34,933
Other expenses	127,402
Less Administrative Income	(164,638)
Total Overheads to Allocate	626,993

**UNAUDITED BUDGET 2024**

Output Area	Budget Direct \$	Budget Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	41,800	1,926	132,072	173,872
Habitat protection & management	125,500	4,360	298,979	424,479
Angler & Hunter participation	28,805	1,474	101,077	129,882
Public interface	1,250	252	17,281	18,531
Compliance	7,000	266	18,240	25,240
Licensing	34,305	124	8,503	42,808
Council	6,000	356	24,412	30,412
Planning & reporting	9,000	580	39,773	48,773
Totals	253,660	9,338	640,337	893,997

**Budget Overheads**

Employee related costs	622,090
Depreciation	34,114
Other Expenses	151,706
Less Administrative income	(167,575)
Total Overheads to Allocate	640,334



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE READERS OF WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Wellington Fish and Game Council (the Fish and Game Council). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Vivien Cotton, using the staff and resources of BDO Manawatu Audit Limited, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on his behalf.

#### Opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance

We have audited:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council on pages 37 to 54, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 August 2024, the statement of financial performance, and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on pages 10 to 36.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council: on pages 37 to 54:
  - present fairly, in all material respects:
    - its financial position as at 31 August 2024; and
    - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
  - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with the Public Benefit Entity Simple Formant Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector) framework; and
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on pages 10 to 36:
  - presents fairly, in all material respects, the Fish and Game Council's performance for the year ended 31 August 2024, including for each class of reportable outputs:
    - its standards of performance achieved as compared with the forecasts included in the annual operational plan for the financial year; and
    - its actual revenue and expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the annual operational plan for the financial year; and
  - complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 6 December 2024. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements and the statement of performance, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

#### Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Responsibilities of the Council for the financial statements and the statement of performance**

The Council is responsible on behalf of the Fish and Game Council for preparing financial statements and a statement of performance that are fairly presented and comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

The Council is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements and a statement of performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements and the statement of performance, the Council is responsible on behalf of the Fish and Game Council for assessing the Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. The Council is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of the Fish and Game Council, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Council's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989, the Crown Entities Act 2004, and the Conservation Act 1987.

### **Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the statement of performance, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of these financial statements and the statement of performance.

For the budget information reported in the financial statements and the statement of performance, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Fish and Game Council's annual operational plan.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and the statement of performance.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the statement of performance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fish and Game Council's internal control.

- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the Fish and Game Council's framework for reporting performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Council and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements and the statement of performance or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fishing and Game Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and the statement of performance, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and the statement of performance represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

#### **Other Information**

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 1 to 8, but does not include the financial statements and the statement of performance, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the statement of performance or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Independence**

We are independent of the Fish and Game Council in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Professional and Ethical Standard 1: *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Fish and Game Council.



Vivien Cotton  
BDO Manawatu Audit Limited  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Palmerston North, New Zealand