



PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE

WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2025**

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

3rd December 2025

Hon. James Meager
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 2025.

Yours faithfully,



Chair
Paul Dewar
Wellington Fish and Game Council

CONTENTS

ENTITY INFORMATION	5
CHAIR’S REPORT	8
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY	12
STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE	13
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025	13
OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT	15
OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT	21
OUTPUT 3: ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION AND SERVICES	25
OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC INTERFACE	31
OUTPUT 5: COMPLIANCE	34
OUTPUT 6: LICENCING	36
OUTPUT 7: COUNCIL	39
OUTPUT 8: PLANNING & REPORTING	40
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	43
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	44
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS	45
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES	46
NOTES TO THE PERFORMANCE REPORT	50
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT	60

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 (including 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, regional strategic outcomes that align to a wider organisational strategy, 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 2024. 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. Professor Stephen Haslett remained the Wellington Region's appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council having been elected by the Council in December 2022.

Council and Staff

Council Members	Sub Region	Meetings Attended
Paul Dewar	Southern	7
Jim Cook	Northern	7
Jennifer Yanko	Northern	7
Steve Brown	Northern	6 (1*)
Stephen Haslett	Northern	7
Andrew McGregor	Northern	4 (3*)
Richard McIntyre	Southern	2 (5*)
Aaron Passey	Eastern	7
Damon Taylor (New Councillor October 2024)	Southern	4 (2*)
Ben Hancock (New Councillor October 2024)	Southern	6
Terry Inglis (New Councillor October 2024)	Eastern	5 (1*)
Kieran Bell (New Councillor October 2024)	Northern	5
Don Scott (until October 2024)	Northern	1
John Hancock (until October 2024)	Eastern	1
Colin Shore (until October 2024)	Eastern	1
Malcolm Francis (until October 2024)	Southern	1

* 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 & Game Officer</i>
Hamish Carnachan	<i>Senior Communications / Fish & Game Officer</i>
Ami Coughlan	<i>Resource / RMA Technical Officer</i>
Corinne Deans	<i>Administration Manager</i>
Jilli Steedman	<i>Financial Administrator P/T</i>

Auditors

Vivien Cotton (BDO Manawatu) 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

Email wellington@fishandgame.org.nz

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the 2024/25 Annual Report on the operations of Wellington Fish & Game Council.

The Wellington Fish & Game Council continues to endeavour to manage the fish and game resource sustainably by achieving long-term strategic outcomes, protecting the resource, and ensuring licence holders have continued access for recreational use.

Fish and Game Legislative Reform

The Minister for Hunting and Fishing, Hon. James Meager, announced in June 2025¹ that he would introduce a stand-alone Fish and Game Act to modernise Fish and Game and ensure it is a financially robust, fit-for-purpose organisation for the future. The major changes signalled include a new stand-alone Act, nationalising the licence management system, clarifying the respective roles of the national and regional councils, and reviewing the advocacy function.

The independent governance review undertaken in 2021² provided an opportunity for change to be driven from within the organisation, but there were too many polarised and divergent positions to generate sufficient momentum.

The proposed legislation is now likely to be introduced to Parliament in the first quarter of 2026. Wellington Fish and Game Council recognises when changes are proposed in legislation that **details matter**. We are optimistic that the final version will support Wellington Fish and Game Council's perspectives on required changes but also retain the fundamental strengths of the federal regional structure. We see this as an opportunity to strengthen the organisation and ensure its long-term relevance to effectively represent the aspirations of licence holders.

Fish and Game's Response to Changes

Big structural overhauls in an organisation are hard, especially if they're rooted in local stakeholder focus and traditions. This is not unique to Fish and Game in terms of governance and operational management. If done poorly, governance change could lead to instability, loss of stakeholder buy-in, and further fragmentation.

A key aspect will be how Fish and Game as an organisation reacts to the legislation and how it implements any changes. This needs to be done using three essential foundation values:

- (1) Trust: which requires accountability, competence and integrity in decision-making.
- (2) Openness: which requires genuine engagement, not just communication.

¹ Beehive.govt.nz. Hon. James Meager – Minister for Hunting and Fishing. 5 June 2025. *Fish & Game reforms to modernise organisation*

² 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.*

- (3) Transparency: which requires open disclosure and is the cornerstone of legitimacy.

Wellington Fish and Game Council has supported the principles of development of National Policies – with these being implemented by all entities in the organisation – that will promote consistency and efficiency of outputs. These provisions already exist, so a key element will be to develop high-quality fit-for-purpose National Policy that ensures it incorporates regional perspectives as well as achieving organisational outcomes.

We await clarity on the proposed resource allocation model in the legislative reforms and how it will be implemented by the NZ Council. Our focus remains on maintaining an efficient and effective operational model without fundamental disruption from change management.

Embracing Change – Progressing the Shared Resource Model

Over the past two years, the Wellington Fish & Game Council has committed to significant operational reforms, moving beyond ‘business as usual’ by developing a shared-resources operational model with the Taranaki Fish & Game Council. We have retained our own identity and our connections with local licence holders, communities, mana whenua, and resource agencies.

Wellington Fish & Game Council has played its part in promoting positive change within the organisation - where improvement is warranted. The independent governance review undertaken in 2021 noted variable governance practices, duplication of activities and staff resources, and an increasing disconnect from licence holders. A key recommendation was to work toward amalgamating regional governance and operational structures to encourage efficiencies and resilience, and to promote consistency in approach.

By working proactively with the Taranaki Fish & Game Council, we have shown that respectful, constructive collaboration can deliver positive change—strengthening operational resilience, maintaining strong local relationships, and preserving our voice in governance. This approach directly addresses the weaknesses identified in the governance review and allows both regions to shape change to meet their needs. This year, we decided to pause the full governance amalgamation of the Wellington and Taranaki regions, as we believed it would weaken our voice at a wider internal political level at this time. We still need to further adapt and refine our operational business model to take advantage of opportunities, meet emerging challenges, and maintain our resilience as an entity representing local hunters and anglers.

I applaud the pragmatic way in which the Wellington and Taranaki Fish & Game Council governors have embraced and supported these changes, and worked together to implement shared-resource proposals. In particular, I acknowledge the collaborative approach of my Taranaki counterpart, Chris Donald, as we continue to align our perspectives and approaches to operational change.

Wider Legislative Reform – Uncertainty and Opportunity

The Government has undertaken an ambitious programme of legislative reforms that materially affect the environment in which Fish & Game operates and the outcomes achievable for licence holders. This has created both challenges and opportunities:

- **Resource Management Reform:** Major legislative changes are underway, with two new Bills due in late 2025. This has paused required regional plan reviews and created uncertainty across the sector.
- **Firearms Legislation Review:** Recent reforms provide clearer, more practical compliance requirements for licensed firearms owners.
- **Health and Safety Legislation:** Proposed amendments aim to remove ambiguity around landholder obligations when granting recreational access.
- **Local Government Reform:** Proposed restructuring of regional councils into combined territorial boards led by Mayors is likely to trigger wider structural changes across regional and district councils.
- **Local Water Done Well Reforms:** Changes to water management and infrastructure responsibilities will significantly affect how water quality and quantity outcomes will be achieved.

Operational Outcomes

When reviewing the Operational Project Reports for this year, it highlights how fortunate the Wellington region is to have such high performing competent staff undertaking the work outputs to such a high standard:

- **Species Monitoring Programmes:** The high-quality species monitoring programmes give the Council confidence when setting harvest regulations and provide essential information for advocacy in resource management processes. Monitoring results show that waterfowl and trout populations remain healthy, sustainably managed, and continue to support high-quality hunting and angling opportunities.
- **Access to the Resource:** We continue to advocate for access to key hunting resources including working with the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Reserve Board – and I see opportunities for collaboration where statutory responsibilities overlap to support improved lake ecosystem health.
- **High-Quality Communications to Licence Holders:** Council staff continue to deliver consistently high-quality, timely communications that set an organisational benchmark. This year saw further improvements, including refined electronic access maps, integration of Taranaki waters and anglers into the weekly e-report, and strengthened oversight of newsletters and magazines – all well received by licence holders. The Fish and Game NZ magazine recently received high accolades for readership – a project overseen by Hamish Carnachan as part of his secondment from Wellington to NZ Council.

Acknowledgement of the Efforts of Governors, Volunteers, and Staff

As Chair, I want to express my appreciation for the invaluable contributions of our volunteers, whose dedication underpins so much of what we achieve. Their skills, passion, and commitment to protecting and enhancing our fish and game resources make possible many projects that simply could not be delivered otherwise. My sincere

thanks go to our honorary rangers, club members who mentor new anglers, those engaged in conservation and operational support, advocates who give their time to champion our causes, and, of course, my fellow governors for their ongoing service and stewardship.

I also extend my thanks on behalf of Council to our staff for their professionalism, expertise, and unwavering commitment. We are fortunate to have a team that consistently goes above and beyond, delivering work of exceptional quality. Their contributions span across the functional areas by the integration of strategic direction into operational plans, to expert communications, technical species management advice, and resource management advocacy. Their efforts continue to strengthen our organisation and the resources we are entrusted to protect.

Our Focus into the Future

Wellington Fish and Game Council will continue to prioritise the needs of our licence holders by safeguarding access to high-quality hunting and fishing opportunities. Central to this is our commitment to effective environmental management that supports healthy, sustainable populations of freshwater fish and game birds.

While external pressures—such as changes in fisheries governance, environmental challenges, and financial constraints—will always exist, we also have strong opportunities ahead. By constructively addressing the areas within our control and being open to positive change, we can strengthen the organisation and enhance the value we provide to our communities.

Wellington Fish & Game Council remains firmly committed to this path and will continue to work proactively to secure the best possible outcomes for the resource and for our licence holders.



Paul Dewar
Chairman

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

3 December 2025

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 2025.



Paul Dewar
Chair



Jim Cook
Councillor

STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Introduction

The following is a summary of performance relating to objectives provided for in the 2024-25 Operational Work Plan, as adopted by Council on 13 August 2024, for commencement on 1 September 2024.

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 when 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 operational amalgamation of the two regions by operating with a shared resources model 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 expenses for service delivery 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	176,960	22,000	154,960	176,548	17,341	159,207
Habitat Protection	311,468	0	311,468	194,532	43,001	151,531
Angler & Hunter Participation	132,245	4,400	127,845	148,722	8,560	140,162
Public Interface	18,934	0	18,934	44,804	2,000	42,804
Compliance	25,667	5,000	20,667	33,467	870	32,597
Licencing Council	37,395	717,326	-679,931	27,377	710,167	-682,790
Council	30,983	0	30,983	88,576	43,906	44,670
Planning & Reporting	49,702	0	49,702	140,651	28,016	112,635
Total Outputs	783,354	748,726	34,628	854,677	853,861	816
Administrative Expense offset by administrative income	143,922	143,922	0	209,309	209,309	0
Levies, Interest		10,984	-10,984		23,148	-23,148
	927,276	903,632	23,644	1,063,986	1,086,318	-22,332



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	136,677	20,000	116,677	149,124	-	149,124
1120	Harvest Assessment	15,370	-	15,370	10,045	-	10,045
1130	Fish Salvage	-	-	-	-	-	-
1140	Hatchery Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
1150	Game Farm	-	-	-	-	-	-
1160	Liberations	12,904	2,000	10,904	4,628	17,341	-12,713
1170	Regulations	5,895	-	5,895	3,165	-	3,165
1180	Control	6,114	-	6,114	9,586	-	9,586
Total		176,960	22,000	154,960	176,548	17,341	159,207

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 will result in identifying implications for sports fish management.	49 drift dive reaches surveyed (68.1km) including 21 core reaches (25.2km).
A report by professional staff on the results of fieldwork up until 31 August 2025 will be presented to the Council	Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025



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 Genesis Power Limited).</p> <p>Operate a Designated Water Licence (backcountry licence) for the Upper Rangitikei fisheries.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of fieldwork up until 31 August 2025 will be present to the Council.</p>	<p>Drift dives completed for the Moawhango River (3.2km) and Mid-Rangitikei River (3.95km).</p> <p>473 Designated Water Fishing Licences were issued for the Rangitikei River Fisheries.</p> <p>A report to Genesis Energy Limited was completed in July 2025 and received by Council on 12 August 2025.</p> <p>Receipt of \$26,681.00 (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 obtained from drift diving programme will be used to assess of the potential impacts of river control works on trout habitats and populations in the Hutt, Otaki, and Waikanae Rivers.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the fieldwork up until 31 August 2025 will be presented to the Council – and a copy provided to Greater Wellington Regional Council by 31 August 2025.</p>	<p>Drift dives completed for the Hutt River (14km), Waikanae (7.39km), and Otaki rivers (4.75km).</p> <p>Trout Spawning confirmed on five sites on the Hutt River, and one site on a tributary of the Waikanae River.</p> <p>Project Report presented to Council on 12 August 2025.</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 obtained on game bird populations will inform management decisions to maintain sustainable populations: by autumn counts of the regional populations of mallard/grey ducks and pukeko; analysis of mallard banding data; summer trend counts of paradise shelduck and black swan; and winter counts of NZ shoveler.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the fieldwork will be presented to the Council for work completed up until 31 August 2025.</p>	<p>Counts of regional populations undertaken for: mallard/grey duck, pukeko, paradise shelduck, black swan, and NZ shoveler.</p> <p>Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025:</p>

National Hunter Harvest Survey

Hunter harvest of game birds will be estimated to assess trends and changes in harvest levels that inform game bird management objectives and regulations.

Planned Result	Outcomes
<p>Information obtained from surveys of game licence holders during the 2025 game season, as part of a robust nationally co-ordinated annual survey, and will assist in identifying implications of harvest levels for game bird management.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the 2025 survey will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.</p>	<p>Harvest rates were estimated for regional populations undertaken for: mallard/grey duck, pukeko, paradise shelduck, black swan, NZ shoveler and upland game birds.</p> <p>Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025.</p>



Regional Angler Survey

Assess satisfaction and motivations of licensed anglers to consider degree of satisfaction of angling experience to provide direction on what additional information requirements are required to improve access to the resource, success of angling, and availability of this information to the angler.

Planned Result	Outcome
Information gained by surveying fish licence holders during the 2024-2025 financial year will result in identifying implications for fisheries management.	Information gained by surveying licence holders during the 2024-2025 financial year to identify effectiveness of providing information to licence holders through different communication channels.
A report by professional staff on the results of the survey will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.	No other regional surveys were completed by professional staff.

Regional Hunter Survey

Assess satisfaction, opinions, and motivations of licensed hunters to consider degree of satisfaction of hunting experience to provide direction on what additional information requirements are required to improve access to the resource, quality of the hunting experience, success of hunting, and availability of this information to the hunter.

Planned Result	Outcome
Information gained by surveying game licence holders during the 2024-2025 financial year will result in identifying improvements in the hunting experience for licence holders and implications for game bird hunting management.	Telephone surveys completed as part of the Game Bird Harvest Survey 2025.
A report by professional staff on the results of the survey will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.	Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025:



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 2025.	1,000 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 30 July 2025 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 3 December 2024 to the Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua. A family fishing event was held over the weekend of 7-8 December 2024.
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.	500 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 31 October 2024 to the Winstone Aggregates Family Fishing Pond, Otaki from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua. A family fishing event was held over the weekend of 2-3 November 2024.
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.	250 healthy two-year old rainbow trout were delivered on 31 October 2024 to the Tutaenui (Marton) Reservoir, Marton from the Ngongotaha hatchery in Rotorua.

Season Regulations

The maintenance and improvement of the region's sports fish and game bird resources, by the formulation and recommendations to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing (via 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
The dispatch of the Council's draft recommendations for 2025 game hunting season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by early February 2025.	The Council's draft recommendations for the 2025 game bird hunting season conditions were confirmed with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 14 February 2025.
The dispatch of the Council's draft recommendations for the 2024/2025 fishing season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 30 June 2025.	The Council's draft recommendations for the 2024/2025 fishing season conditions were confirmed with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 27 May 2025.



Permissions – Take, Keep, and Release Approvals

Consideration of requests for statutory approvals required to take sports fish e.g. for research purposes (using methods other than those specified as legal methods in the Anglers Notice), and for consideration of permissions to keep and release game birds.

Planned Result	Outcome
All keepings of game birds, and all releases of sports fish, other fish, and game birds will be subject to appropriate statutory approvals.	<p>There was one game preserve operating under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1953 and gazetted in the 2024 Game Notice.</p> <p>This game preserve continued operating from the start of the 2025 Game Season under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act 1953 (approved by the Minister of Conservation) in the Wellington Region.</p>

Game Bird Dispersal

Consideration of appropriate options to provide for the dispersal or control of congregations of game birds, where they cause unacceptable damage to farmers’ crops or other stakeholders – and is undertaken in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Planned Result	Outcome
The dispersal or control of gamebirds where they cause unacceptable damage to farmers’ crops is undertaken in a timely and cost-effective manner.	Responded to issues where congregation of game birds were causing perceived issues.
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 2025.	Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025.



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	269,134	-	269,134	178,939	-	178,939
1220	Works & Management	27,158	-	27,158	4,907	43,001	-38,094
1230	Assisted Habitat	15,176	-	15,176	10,686	-	10,686
1240	Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		311,468	-	311,468	194,532	43,001	151,531

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 and wetland habitat in the Wellington Fish & Game region will remain stable over time. Advocacy will focus on maintaining habitat quality and extent where it is good, and improving where it is degraded.

Planned Result	Outcome
Submissions on resource consent applications and regional planning processes will be made as appropriate, seeking to achieve trout habitat protection and wetland habitat conservation.	<p>Resource Consents Processing: <u>Interactions</u> – 7 Pre-applications liaisons and/or site visits <u>Submissions/Approvals</u> – 43 section 95 approvals/1 section 96 submission <u>Hearing</u> – 1 hearing – Featherston WWTP <u>Review consent compliance</u> – 28 (3 non-compliance actions)</p> <p>Regional Planning Processes: <u>Plan Reviews:</u> Horizons Oranga Wai RP Review, GWRC NRP Review, Hutt CC DP Review <u>Hearings:</u> GWRC RPS PC1, GWRC NRP PC1, Horizons One Plan PC2 (Environment Court).</p>
A report by professional staff on the advocacy activity throughout Wellington Fish and Game region for the reporting year will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.	Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025:



Habitat Advocacy

The quality and quantity of trout habitat and wetland habitat in the Wellington Fish & Game region will remain stable over time. Advocacy in non-statutory forums will focus on maintaining habitat quality and extent where it is good, and improving where it is degraded.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>The promotion of habitat protection and enhancement, outside the Resource Management Act procedures, as opportunities allow.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the advocacy activity throughout Wellington Fish and Game region for the reporting year will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.</p>	<p>Council staff met with local government staff to advocate for habitat protection and enhancement on four occasions.</p> <p>Council updated on specific interactions at Bi-Monthly Council Meetings.</p>

Trout Habitat and Wetland Inventory

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

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Identifying information on trout habitat and wetland extent will be undertaken where there is a need to update existing inventory information.</p> <p>Information gained by spawning surveys will result in identifying implications for sports fish management and confirm priorities for habitat protection.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of fieldwork up until 31 August 2025 will be presented to the Council.</p>	<p>53 waterways were assessed using various survey methods: electric fishing, visual observation, and observations from drift diving.</p> <p>Verified sites contributed to improved habitat mapping for advocacy purposes.</p> <p>Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025.</p>



Lake Wairarapa (Wairarapa Moana) Habitat

To maintain and enhance the game bird habitat at the northeast margin of Lake Wairarapa (Wairarapa Moana) by providing active management and/or advice on the management of wetland habitat.

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 one Wairarapa Moana Governance Group meeting.

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 2025.

Wetland Enhancement and Management Opportunities

To provide active management and/or advice on the management of wetland habitats in the Wellington Region to enhance wetland extent and quality.

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 2025.	Advice on wetland improvements was provided to four landholders with assistance with one funding applications of which one was awarded Game Bird Habitat Stamp funding.



Reservoir Trout Fishery – Feasibility and Management

The maintenance and improvement of trout fisheries by stocking with hatchery-reared fish where this is necessary, achievable and cost effective – for the purposes of maintaining and enhancing angling opportunity for novice anglers.

Planned Result	Outcome
To investigate the feasibility of potential reservoir fisheries in the Wellington Region. A report by professional staff on the current state of reservoir (small lake fisheries) will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.	Sites were investigated as potential reservoir fisheries, but no options formally pursued.



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	43,485	-	42,485	49,290	-	49,290
1320	Satisfaction Survey	-	-	-	-	-	-
1330	Magazine & Newsletters	21,386	-	21,386	44,310	-	44,310
1340	Other Publications	20,544	-	20,544	14,794	-	14,794
1350	Training	41,216	4,000	37,216	34,176	8,212	25,964
1360	Club Relations	5,614	-	5,614	6,152	-	6,152
1370	Huts		400	-400		348	-348
Total		132,245	4,400	126,845	148,722	8,560	140,162

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

The maintenance and improvement of public access to the fishing resources - rivers and lakes within the Wellington 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 2025.	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.



Hunter Access – Wellington Region (Focus on Wairarapa Moana)

The maintenance and improvement of hunter access to the hunting resources in the Wellington region with particular focus on wetlands adjacent to Lake Wairarapa

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Maintenance of Eric Kilmore Lodge, with costs recovered from users.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Eric Kilmore lodge was used by hunters on 70 nights, including three club weekend hunts.</p> <p>Some maintenance costs were recovered from hunters through levies charged by the Council for lodge use.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Some maintenance costs were recovered from hunters through levies charged by the Council for access to the Tairoa/JK Donald block.</p>



Magazine and Newsletters - Communications to Licence Holders

To provide anglers and hunters with information that will increase the satisfaction of the hunting and angling experience including access and 'how to' information to enhance success.

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 (59 and 60) 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 8-page newsletters were made available through the Council and posted in summer 2024 (Angling News Issue) and autumn 2025 (Hunting News Issue).

Information to Licence Holders

To provide anglers and hunters with information that will increase the satisfaction of the hunting and angling experience including access and 'how to' information to enhance success.

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 (28) were sent to ca. 11,500 licence holders between September 2024 and March 2025. 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 (9) were sent to ca. 6,100 licence holders between April 2025 and June 2025. 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 2025.	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

To provide novice hunters with a controlled and mentored hunting experience on Fish and Game land and encourage them to further participate in hunting and angling activities.

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 2025.

Junior Angler Programme

To introduce novice anglers to an angling experience in a controlled and mentored environment and encourage them to further participate in angling activities.

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 (Palmerston North) family fishing event, Ōtaki Lakes (Ōtaki) family fishing, and novice recruitment events at the Capital Trout Centre (Wellington).



Junior Hunter Programme

To introduce novice hunters to a hunting experience in a controlled and mentored environment and encourage them to further participate in hunting activities.

Planned Result	Outcome
Establish an inventory of equipment that can be used in junior hunter promotions and programmes.	Council staff assisted 2 novice hunter groups during the course of the 2025 game bird season.

Club Liaison

To maintain connections and positive working relationships with angling and hunting clubs within the region – that provide volunteer effort in initiatives that align with Fish and Game objectives.

Planned Result	Outcome
Attend meetings on regular basis or as required - as part of a consultation processes or information provision to club members.	Maintain active communications with 9 active Fish and Game Clubs. Council staff attended six club meetings.
A report numbers of Fish and Game Club meetings attended (and subject material presented) will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.	Reported to Council at Bi-Monthly 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	6,706	-	6,706	16,688	-	16,688
1420	Communication	-	-	-	-	-	-
1430	Advocacy	-	-	-	-	-	-
1440	Public Promotions	12,228	-	12,228	28,116	2,000	26,116
		18,934	-	18,934	44,804	2,000	42,804

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

Advocacy and Liaison

To maintain a positive public view and public awareness of issues to maintain a social license to continue undertaking hunting and angling pursuits.

Planned Result	Outcome
Liaison with Conservation Boards and Regional Councils at a governor level as opportunities permit.	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.
Attend liaison meetings on regular basis at different forums to provide a credible advocacy for hunting and fishing pursuits.	Council staff attended and contributed to one Wairarapa Moana Governance Group meeting. No DOC staff attended Councils meetings. Council meeting agenda information was provided to DOC and Conservation Boards in the lower North Island.

Iwi Engagement and Liaison

To engage with mana whenua on common issues relating to management of the fish and game resource and habitats that support them.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>The establishment of a positive working relationship with Iwi Authorities with a view to defining appropriate contacts by 31 August 2025.</p> <p>Develop an engagement strategy with mana whenua and attend liaison meetings and initiatives developed by iwi.</p> <p>A report numbers of iwi liaison meetings attended (and subject material) will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.</p>	<p>Maintained contacts with iwi representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga • Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa • Rangitaane o Wairarapa • Te Mauri o Rangitaane o Manawatu • Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust • Te Runanga o Ngati Apa • The Muaūpoko Tribal Authority <p>Council updated at Bi-Monthly Meetings of specific iwi liaison meetings.</p>

Public Awareness

To undertake actions that contribute to a positive public awareness of issues facing Fish and Game – and contribute to strengthening a positive social license relating to angling and hunting pursuits.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Contribute to public awareness campaigns co-ordinated by NZ Fish and Game Council.</p> <p>Undertake public awareness actions that focus on the positive aspects of angling and hunting, with a particular focus on the work undertaken by Fish & Game New Zealand.</p> <p>A report prepared by professional staff to summarise initiatives to maintain public awareness of issues affecting angling and hunting will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.</p>	<p>Press releases to newspapers and magazines.</p> <p>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 14 October 2025.</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.	Staff input and support of #ReWild national Fish & Game campaign. Ongoing recognition of volunteer contributions by Council.



OUTPUT 5: COMPLIANCE

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1510	Ranging	9,842	-	9,842	5,859	-	5,859
1520	Ranger Training	2,404	-	2,404	6,827	-	6,827
1530	Compliance	13,421	5,000	8,421	20,781	870	19,911
	Total	25,667	5,000	20,667	33,467	870	32,597

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

To provide sufficient ranging resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions.

Planned Result	Outcome
The recruitment and retention of Council's ranger team with a substantial contribution by honorary rangers – that meet adopted policy for interactions.	Take appropriate actions that are consistent with an adopted Compliance Policy that provides direction on actions to take for non-compliance of regulations – i.e. the processing of participants found un-licenced, or in substantial non-compliance with legal requirements or season regulations without just cause.
A report prepared by professional staff to summarise compliance actions for the Financial Year will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.	Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025:

Ranger Training

To provide sufficient training of an adequate number of trained rangers to be able to interface professionally with the public.

Planned Result	Outcome
Provide safety and compliance training and skill maintenance and is reported to Council to 31 August 2025.	A pre-hunting season ranger training day for staff and honorary rangers was held in Woodville. A pre-fishing season ranger training day for staff and honorary rangers was held in Upper Hutt. Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025:



Compliance

To undertake necessary enforcement measures to mitigate non-compliance by public or licence holders, in order to protect and enhance the Region's sports fish and game resources.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Take appropriate actions that are consistent with an adopted Compliance Policy that provides direction on actions to take for non-compliance of regulations – i.e. the processing of participants found un-licensed, or in substantial non-compliance with legal requirements or season regulations without just cause.</p> <p>A report prepared by professional staff to summarise compliance actions for the Financial Year will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.</p>	<p>The Council's 13 active rangers and four Fish and Game staff checked 35 anglers and 75 hunters for compliance.</p> <p>A report received by Council on 14 October 2025 noted: 7 offences were detected. 0 alleged offenders were prosecuted, 2 offenders accepted Diversion 0 alleged offences are pending, 5 adults were issued formal warnings for alleged offences.</p>



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	3,649	717,326	-713,677	181	710,167	-709,986
1620	Agent Servicing	5,053	-	5,053	573	-	573
1630	Agent Payments	28,693	-	28,693	26,623	-	26,623
Total		37,395	717,326	-679,931	27,377	710,167	-682,790

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 manage a licensing system that provides for agent sales and public-on-line sales which is co-ordinated by an external provider for the sale of Fish and Game Licences nationwide.

Planned Result	Outcome
2025 Game licences will be available through licence agents and/or on-line to participants throughout the region by 31 March 2025.	Appropriate actions undertaken to manage licence agent network performance and interaction with external provider for licence management system.
2024/25 fishing licences will be available to licence agents and participants throughout the region by 1 September 2024.	
An up-to-date data base of licence holders will be maintained.	An up-to-date data base of licence holders will be maintained.
Progress reporting on licence sales will be provided to the Council throughout the year.	Progress reporting of licence sales provided bi-monthly to Council throughout the year.
A report prepared by professional staff to summarise licence sales will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.	Project Report presented to Council on 14 October 2025:



Output 6: Licencing Table 1. Seasonal sports fish licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game Region 2020/21 – 2024/25

FISHING LICENCES	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Family Fishing	492	502	402	380	382
Adult Whole Season	1851	1870	1506	1462	1368
Non-Resident Whole Season	30	20	172	135	79
Loyal Senior Whole Season	264	284	300	297	332
Local Area Whole Season	270	240	194	250	294
Adult Winter	157	125	119	140	129
Adult Long Break	8	8	11	13	7
Adult Short Break	98	85	64	101	90
Adult Day	579	508	374	639	654
Non-Resident Day	13	19	178	327	193
Junior Whole Season	279	276	221	396	560
Junior Non-Resident Whole Season	2	-	5	3	6
Junior Day	119	99	145	215	227
Junior Non-Resident Day	-	-	2	9	5
Child Whole Season	-	-	710	996	1135
Child Non-Resident Whole Season	2	5	3	5	3
Child Non-Resident Day	-	-	2	2	
Sea Run Salmon Endorsement	-	-	52	43	31
Designated Waters - Resident	-	-	-	326	302
Designated Waters - Non-Resident	-	-	-	76	63
Total Fish Licences	4164	4041	4460	5815	5860
Whole Season Licence Equivalent	3251	3229	2849	3039	2911

Output 6: Licencing Table 2. Seasonal game bird licence sales for the Wellington Fish and Game Region 2021 - 2025.

GAME LICENCES	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adult Whole Season	3315	3326	3199	3132	3119
Junior Whole Season	319	315	327	344	335
Child Whole Season	138	135	170	134	160
Adult Day	132	106	129	192	129
Junior Day	5	3	5	11	10
Total Game Licences	3909	3885	3830	3813	3753
Whole Season Licence Equivalent	3406	3409	3288	3237	3211



Licence Agent Network Support

To manage a network of licence agents and provide necessary support.

Planned Result	Outcome
Council's Licence Agent Network is managed in line with adopted Council policy.	The Council had a network of 16 licence agents through the region at balance date.
Council's Licence Agent Network is managed in line with adopted Council policy.	Council's licence agent network was managed in line with adopted Council policy, as reported to Council on 14 October 2025.
A report prepared by professional staff to summarise licence agent network performance will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2025.	A licence management agreement with Eyede Solutions Ltd (ESL) to manage licence sales production, distribution, and invoicing was signed by NZ Council (with a two-year right of renewal exercised) as part of the New Zealand Fish and Game collective.



OUTPUT 7: COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project cluster	Unaudited Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1710	Taranaki Fish & Game Council	-	-	-	41,723	43,906	-2,183
1720	Council Meetings	30,983	-	30,983	46,853		46,853
	Total	30,983	-	30,983	88,576	43,906	44,670

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

To manage and maintain an electoral roll for the purposes of Fish and Game elections – October 2024.

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

Council – Governance and Meeting Management

To manage the effective direction of the management of the Council's business.

Planned Result	Outcome
Establish a meeting timetable that is complementary to the meeting cycle of NZ Council and complies with legal, policy requirements, and internal requirements for budgetary and regulation setting processes.	Wellington Fish and Game Council held seven meetings during the year with a quorum present at each meeting.
Not less than six meetings of the Council, that comply with all legal and policy requirements to be held before 31 August 2025.	Summary details of Councillors attendance at meetings are presented on page 2 of this Annual Performance Report.



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	17,544	-	17,544	543	-	543
1820	Annual Planning	3,509	-	3,509	5,155	-	5,155
1830	Reporting	15,316	-	15,316	33,388	-	33,388
1840	National Liaison	13,333	-	13,333	101,565	28,016	73,549
Total		49,702	-	49,702	140,651	28,016	112,635

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

To manage the effective operation and management of Council's business by developing strategies and processes that reflect national policies and good governance.

Planned Result	Outcome
<p>Policies will be developed, adopted, and reviewed including policy groupings for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources • Governance • Operational – covering functional categories and strategies • Health and Safety • Financial • Procurement <p>Council will undertake a review of the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan by 31 August 2025 – following adoption of a Plan template co-ordinated by NZ Council.</p> <p>Council will undertake a review of its approved Management Plan by 31 August 2025.</p>	<p>Policy review programme actively considered.</p> <p>Formal review of the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan was paused while a nationally consistent template was adopted.</p>

Annual Planning

To formulate and adopt an annual operational work plan.

Planned Result	Outcome
Adoption of a Proposed Annual Plan for 2025/26 that meets organisational budgeting requirements by the Council, by 31 August 2025.	Council's Annual Plan for 2025/26 was adopted on 14 October 2025.

Annual Reporting

To provide the Minister of Hunting and Fishing with an Annual Report on the operations of the Council for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Planned Result	Outcome
The adoption and presentation by the Council at a public Annual General Meeting of its audited Annual Report for 2024/25 not later than 24 December 2025, and its dispatch to the Minister directly thereafter.	Council's audited Annual Performance Report for 2024 was adopted and presented at a public Annual General Meeting on 10 December 2024, was delivered to the Minister of Conservation via New Zealand Fish and Game Council in December 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 2025.</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 2025.</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 2025.</p> <p>Fund redistribution for budgeting purposes for the region were approved by</p>



	<p>Council and provided to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in March 2025.</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 21 occasions</p>
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National Projects

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

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



WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	Actual 2025	Unaudited Budget 2025	Actual 2024
		\$	\$	\$
REVENUE				
Fish & Game Licence Sales	1	710,167	717,326	712,461
Donations, bequests, other fundraising	1	-	-	-
Funding from central/local government	1	17,045	4,000	20,320
Grants from non-government agencies	1	217,548	153,387	218,803
Interest	1	23,148	10,984	26,701
Other Revenue	1	46,488	13,935	221,157
Total Revenue		1,014,396	899,632	1,199,442
EXPENSES				
Employee Related Costs	3	654,021	639,878	629,296
Other Expenses Related to Service Delivery	2	311,360	259,754	600,431
Depreciation	5	26,681	23,643	34,933
Total Expenses		992,062	923,275	1,264,660
Net Surplus / (Deficit)		22,334	(23,643)	(65,218)

The accompanying statement of accounting policies and notes form an integral part of this performance report. This performance report should be read in conjunction with the Independent Auditors Report



WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 August 2025

	Note	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Short-Term Deposits	4	307,893	216,949
Debtors and Prepayments	4	67,914	117,931
Investments	4	401,923	381,283
Total Current Assets		777,730	716,163
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	236,927	256,150
Total Non-Current Assets		236,927	256,150
Total Assets		1,014,657	972,313
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	90,847	71,129
Employee costs payable	4	176,733	160,441
Deferred Revenue	4	31,527	47,528
Total Current Liabilities		299,107	279,098
Total Liabilities		299,107	279,098
NET ASSETS		715,550	693,215
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	6	308,743	341,887
Restricted Reserves	6	217,946	177,413
Discretionary Reserves	6	188,859	173,914
Total Accumulated Funds		715,550	693,215

The accompanying statement of accounting policies and notes form an integral part of this performance report. This performance report should be read in conjunction with the Independent Auditors Report



WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Licence Sales	705,331	713,857
Grants, donations and fundraising	256,274	275,465
Interest	23,249	27,098
Other revenue	54,049	207,300
Cash was applied to:		
Other expenses related to service delivery	282,069	614,726
Payments to employees	637,729	603,364
Net Cash Flows from operating activities	119,105	5,630
Cash Flows from Other Activities		
Cash was received from:		
Sale of property, plant and equipment	-	21,466
Sale of investments/deposits	-	-
Cash was applied to:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	7,521	-
Purchase of investments	20,640	21,941
Net Cash Flows from Other Activities	(28,161)	(475)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	90,944	5,155
Opening Cash	216,949	211,795
Closing Cash	307,893	216,950

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 2025

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

This performance report is prepared in accordance with the XRB's Tier 3 (PS) Standard. The entity is eligible to apply these requirements as it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of less than \$5million. All transactions in the performance report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. This performance report is prepared under the assumption that the entity is a going concern and will continue to operate for 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 deferred revenue.

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. An annual grant was provided from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, which is recognised as revenue when it is received.

Interest

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



Other Income

Contracts for services: Revenue is recognised over time as the Council performs the service obligations specified in the contract (e.g., education programmes, habitat restoration work). Progress is measured by outputs delivered or milestones achieved, as agreed in the documented expectation.

Sales of goods: Revenue is recognised at a point in time when control of the goods passes to the customer (dispatch or collection). Prepayments are recorded as deferred revenue until delivery.

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.

Cash and Short-Term Deposits

Cash and short term deposits comprise cash on hand, cheque or savings accounts, and short term deposits with original maturities of 90 days or less.

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 either a straight line (Buildings) or diminishing value basis using the rates as detailed below.

	<u>Depreciation Method</u>
Buildings	SL (2.5%)
Plant & Equipment	DV (11.4% to 50%)
Motor Vehicles	DV (10% to 24%)
Office Fittings, Furniture & Equipment	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.

Restricted and discretionary reserves

Restricted and discretionary 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 licence income from years 2014/15 to 2022/23. Revenue from Non-Resident licence sales has been regarded as part of total licence income for New Zealand since 2023/24, rather than allocated as region specific revenue.

Rangitikei River 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.

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.

Lake Wairarapa Standholders

This reserve is for works to the management of access to hunting around Lake Wairarapa. Any surplus revenue from the sale of access permits is allocated to a dedicated reserve.

Hunter Access

This reserve will be used for projects that increase or maintain hunter opportunity and access. This 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.

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 13 August 2024.

CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Some comparatives have changed to align with new Tier 3 (PS) reporting requirements.



WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE PERFORMANCE REPORT
for the year ended 31 August 2025

Note 1: ANALYSIS OF REVENUE	Actual 2025	Unaudited Budget 2025	Actual 2024
	\$	\$	\$
Fish and Game Licence Sales			
Fish licence	394,040	405,464	401,737
Non-Resident Levy	6,674	-	7,121
Game licence	309,453	311,862	303,603
Total Licence sales	710,167	717,326	712,461
Funding from central/local government			
Greater Wellington	725	4,000	4,000
River Link	16,320	-	16,320
Funding from central/local government	17,045	4,000	20,320
Grants from non-government agencies			
National Fish & Game Grant	137,387	137,387	137,937
Taranaki Fish & Game Council – Management	26,600	-	28,000
Public Awareness Secondment	26,880	-	26,880
Grant from Genesis	26,681	16,000	25,986
Total Grants from non-government agencies	217,548	153,387	218,803
Interest			
Interest	23,148	10,984	26,701
Total Interest	23,148	10,984	26,701
Other Revenue			
Taranaki Fish & Game	17,306	-	6,511
Trout Liberations	17,341	2,000	5,500
Gamebird Population Assessment	-	-	2,271
Lake Wairarapa Hunter Access	1,217	1,000	3,547
Hunter Access Permits	4,969	3,000	2,947
Hunter Training Lake Omanu	348	400	348
R3 Novice Engagement	2,000	-	14,052
Kilmore Lodge	2,026	-	1,817
Fines & Prosecutions	870	5,000	2,657
National Projects	411	2,535	165,181
Gain on sale or disposal of assets	-	-	16,326
Total other revenue	46,488	13,935	221,157



NOTE 2: OTHER EXPENSES RELATED TO SERVICE DELIVERY	Actual 2025	Unaudited Budget 2025	Actual 2024
	\$	\$	\$
Species Management			
Population Monitoring	39,429	26,500	48,616
Harvest Assessment	4,438	3,300	4,970
Releases	106	11,500	10,408
Control	-	500	-
Total Species Management	43,973	41,800	63,994
Habitat Protection & Management			
Resource Management	334	500	300,978
Works & Management	3,641	4,000	3,731
Assisted Habitat	15	1,000	1,336
Total Habitat Protection & Management	3,990	5,500	306,045
Angler & Hunter Participation			
Access	8,866	9,800	5,371
Newsletters	20,074	11,000	17,714
Information to Clients	6,474	3,000	7,579
Training	19,164	5,005	19,160
Club relations	183	-	94
Total Angler & Hunter Participation	54,761	28,805	49,918
Public Interface			
Liaison	48	250	-
Advocacy	17,083	1,000	148
Total Public Interface	17,131	1,250	148
Compliance			
Ranging	252	1,000	666
Ranger training	1,582	1,000	888
Compliance	1,247	5,000	3,656
Total Compliance	3,081	7,000	5,210
Licencing			
Licence production & distribution	-	-	347
Agent Servicing	302	-	-
Commission	26,623	28,693	27,271
Total Licencing	26,925	28,693	27,618
Council			
Council Meetings	6,520	6,000	6,254
Taranaki Fish & Game Meetings	17,306	-	6,559
Total Council	23,826	6,000	12,813
Planning & Reporting			
Annual planning			
Reporting / Audit fee	7,072	9,000	7,072
National liaison	551	-	211
Total Planning & Reporting	7,623	9,000	7,283



NOTE 2: OTHER EXPENSES RELATED TO SERVICE DELIVERY (cont'd)	Actual 2025	Unaudited Budget 2025	Actual 2024
	\$	\$	\$
Other expenses			
Office premises	40,055	43,050	36,528
Office equipment	3,139	2,500	6,291
Communications	17,046	17,479	15,242
General	14,471	10,650	9,229
Field equipment	2,130	2,000	-
Vehicles	53,145	56,027	60,112
Loss on sale of disposal assets	64	-	-
Total Other expenses	130,050	131,706	127,402
Total Other Expenses Relating to Service Delivery	311,360	259,754	600,431

Note 3: EMPLOYEE RELATED COSTS	Actual 2025	Unaudited Budget 2025	Actual 2024
	\$	\$	\$
Employee related costs			
Salaries and wages	635,647	621,476	617,312
Fringe Benefit Tax	6,566	9,090	-
ACC Levies	1,350	3,600	1,233
Staff Training and other expenses	10,458	5,712	10,751
Total Employee related costs	654,021	639,878	629,296



Note 4: ANALYSIS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
Cash and Short-Term Deposits		
ANZ Select	290,673	202,490
ANZ Cheque	54	53
Enhancement Programme	17,166	14,406
Total Cash and Short-Term Deposits	307,893	216,949
Debtors and prepayments		
Accounts receivable	52,898	98,983
Prepayments	14,734	18,565
Accrued Interest	282	383
Total Debtors and prepayments	67,914	117,931
Investments		
Term Deposits	401,923	381,283
Total Investments	401,923	381,283
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Trade and other payables	68,105	43,501
Accrued expenses	8,553	12,305
GST payable	14,189	15,323
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	90,847	71,129
Deferred Revenue	31,527	47,528
Employee costs payable		
Accrued salaries and wages	10,567	12,631
Annual leave and time in lieu	149,563	129,927
PAYE owing	16,603	17,883
Total Employee costs payable	176,733	160,441



Note 5: PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT**2025**

	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Land	126,552	-	-	-	126,552
Buildings	2,383	-	-	182	2,201
Plant & Equipment	3,942	-	-	636	3,306
Vehicles	118,479	-	-	25,245	93,234
Office Equipment	4,794	7,521	64	617	11,634
Total	256,150	7,521	64	26,680	236,927

2024

	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
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
Total	296,221	-	5,140	34,931	256,150

The combined value of the Council's land at Simmonds 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 6: ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
Accumulated Surplus / (Deficit)		
Balance as at 1 September	341,887	493,842
Surplus/(Deficit)	22,334	(65,218)
Transfer to Reserves	(67,606)	(102,003)
Transfer from Reserves	12,127	15,266
Total Accumulated Surplus / (Deficit)	308,743	341,887
Discretionary Reserves		
Asset Replacement Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	39,092	(2,373)
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	8,849	41,465
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	(7,521)	-
Balance at 31 August	40,420	39,092
Non-Resident Levy Reserve / Designated Waters		
Balance as at 1 September	56,795	50,551
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	6,674	7,265
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	-	(1,021)
Balance at 31 August	63,469	56,795
Reparation Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	35,361	35,361
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	-	-
Balance at 31 August	35,361	35,361
Kilmore Lodge		
Balance as at 1 September	4,987	5,315
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	2,026	1,817
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	(960)	(2,145)
Balance at 31 August	6,053	4,987
JK Donald Track		
Balance as at 1 September	7,208	6,061
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	1,217	1,478
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	(352)	(331)
Balance at 31 August	8,073	7,208
Education & Enhancement Programme		
Balance as at 1 September	14,850	12,194
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	870	2,656
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	-	-
Balance at 31 August	15,720	14,850
Lake Wairarapa Standholders		
Balance as at 1 September	6,003	4,371
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	2,131	2,069
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	(296)	(437)
Balance at 31 August	7,838	6,003



Note 6: ACCUMULATED FUNDS (cont'd)

Hunter Access		
Balance as at 1 September	9,618	7,515
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	2,838	2,947
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	(531)	(844)
Balance at 31 August	11,925	9,618
<i>Total Discretionary Reserves</i>	188,859	173,914
<i>Restricted Reserves</i>		
Rangitikei River Fish Monitoring Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	133,506	115,495
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	26,681	25,986
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	-	(7,975)
Balance at 31 August	160,187	133,506
River Link – Hutt River		
Balance as at 1 September	43,907	30,100
Transfer from Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	16,320	16,320
Transfer to Accumulated Surpluses and Deficits	(2,467)	(2513)
Balance at 31 August	57,759	43,907
<i>Total Restricted Reserves</i>	217,946	177,413
Total Accumulated Funds	715,550	693,215



Note 7: COMMITMENTS**Commitment to Lease or Rent Assets**

Commitment to	Explanation and Timing
Palmerston North Office Lease	Lease expired 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, expired in February 2025. A new lease agreement is being discussed and currently in draft. A month to month charge consistent with the expired lease agreement is currently being charged.

Note 8: CONTINGENCIES**Contingency**

There are no contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2025 (last year nil)

Note 9: OTHER**Goods or Services in Kind**

Description	Amount
Honorary ranging activities	No charge
Councillor meetings and events	

Note 10: 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	2025 \$ Value	2024 \$ Value	2025 \$ Amount Outstanding	2024 \$ Amount Outstanding
New Zealand Fish and Game Council	Grant Received	137,387	137,937		
	Reimbursement of Legal costs	259	189,564		
	Public Awareness secondment	26,880	30,912	2,576	2,576
Taranaki Fish & Game Council	Management Services	26,600	28,000	4,255	
	Admin Support	8,267	8,652	207	
Lee Cook	Councillor's son assisted with field work	3,029	2,136		



Wellington Fish and Game Council

New Zealand Fish and Game Council 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 \$ 137,387 from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (2023-2024 received a grant of \$137,937). Outstanding balance at 31 August 2025 \$ nil (2023-2024 \$ 30,999) New Zealand Fish and Game Council 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 (2024 – nil)

The manager of the Council is also contracted to provide managerial services to the Taranaki Fish and Game Council.

New Zealand Fish and Game Council is by statute a related party, that has an agreement with Wellington Fish and Game Council to receive communications services. There are nil outstanding balances at year end. (2024 – nil)

Taranaki Fish and Game Council is by statute a related party. There are agreements for shared services – Taranaki Fish and Game Council provides administrative support to Wellington Fish and Game Council, and Wellington Fish and Game Council provides Taranaki Fish and Game Council with managerial services. There are nil outstanding balances at year end (2024 – nil)

Jim Cook is a Councillor, and Lee Cook is his son. Lee Cook worked for Wellington Fish and Game Council for 129.5 hours assisting with field work and was paid \$ 3,029.

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 11: 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 12: ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS TO OUTPUT AREAS FOR 2025

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 2025

	Actual Direct \$	Actual Hours	Allocation of Overheads \$	Total Costs per Output \$
Output Area				
Species Management	43,973	1,466	132,575	176,548
Habitat Protection & Management	3,990	2,107	190,542	194,532
Angler & Hunter Participation	54,761	1,039	93,961	148,722
Public Interface	17,131	306	27,673	44,804
Compliance	3,081	336	30,386	33,467
Licencing	26,925	5	452	27,377
Council	23,826	716	64,750	88,576
Planning & Reporting	7,623	1,471	133,028	140,651
Totals	181,310	7,446	673,367	854,677

Actual Overheads

Employee related costs	654,021
Other Expenses	130,050
Depreciation	26,681
Less Administrative Income	(137,385)
Total Overheads to Allocate	673,367

UNAUDITED BUDGET 2025

	Actual Direct \$	Actual Hours	Allocation of Overheads \$	Total Costs per Output \$
Output Area				
Species Management	41,800	1,926	135,160	176,960
Habitat Protection & Management	5,500	4,360	305,968	311,468
Angler & Hunter Participation	28,805	1,474	103,440	132,245
Public Interface	1,250	252	17,684	18,934
Compliance	7,000	266	18,667	25,667
Licencing	28,693	124	8,702	37,395
Council	6,000	356	24,983	30,983
Planning & Reporting	9,000	580	40,702	49,702
Totals	128,048	9,338	655,306	783,354

Actual Overheads

Employee related costs	639,878
Other Expenses	131,706
Depreciation	23,643
Less Administrative Income	(139,922)
Total Overheads to Allocate	655,305



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 2025

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 43 to 59, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 August 2025, 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 13 to 42.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council: on pages 43 to 59:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 31 August 2025; 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 Tier 3 (PS) Standard; and
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on pages 13 to 42:
 - presents fairly, in all material respects, the Fish and Game Council's performance for the year ended 31 August 2025, 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 3 December 2025. 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 5 to 11, 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