

AGENDA ITEM 12.2

Game Bird Hunting Regulations Review 2025

Prepared by: West Coast Fish & Game Staff

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Background

Following the December 2015 West Coast Fish and Game Council Meeting, it is now West Coast Fish and Game policy:

“That the West Coast Fish and Game Council conduct a consultation process with licence holders regarding key regulation proposals being considered for implementation in sufficient time to enable the feedback to be considered for regulation setting in 2016 and use this as a basis for a 3 yearly regulation set to be reviewed 3 yearly.”

West Coast licence holders were surveyed again in 2019, 2022, and now three years on from the last game bird regulation review, another review and survey is due.

Purpose of the Game Bird Hunting Regulation Review

In line with the West Coast Fish & Game 10-Year Management Plan, game bird hunting regulations are reviewed every three years to ensure they remain effective, sustainable, and responsive to environmental changes and community needs. This regular review supports healthy game bird populations and provides opportunities for stakeholder engagement to maintain recreational hunting opportunities for current and future generations.

Staff Proposed Regulation for Consultation

Staff have no proposed regulations to consult on with licence holders. Current game harvest data and game bird trend counts suggest that the West Coast liberal bag limits and seasons are both sustainable and effective in delivering positive hunting experiences.

In the absence of proposed regulations, staff recommends seeking feedback from licence holders on current regulations in conjunction with a general feedback survey.

Proposed survey questions:

1. Do you have any West Coast game bird regulations that you would like to see reviewed?
2. Do you currently reside outside the West Coast Fish & Game Region?
3. What motivates you to hunt in the West Coast region? *(Only asked of those who answer “Yes” to residing out of the region).*
4. In a few sentences, please describe your understanding of Fish & Game's role and activities.
5. Has Fish & Game done anything that has impacted or benefited your hunting activities? If yes, please explain.
6. What prevents you from hunting more often?
7. What suggestions do you have for Fish & Game to enhance your hunting experience?
8. Do you have any additional comments or feedback for Fish & Game?

Ngāi Tahu engagement

Staff have emailed Ngāi Tahu inviting their participation in the game bird hunting regulations review, and any feedback received will be considered as part of the review process.

Staff Recommendation:

That the Council review the proposed regulation consultation process and provide feedback.