

One hundred and forty eight meeting
to be held in Wellington 20-21 November 2020

<i>Item</i>	<i>Pages</i>
1 Welcome and Chairperson's Introduction	
2 Apologies	3
3 Conflicts of Interest for the Meeting	4
4 Approve minutes for meeting 147	5
5 Health and Safety	25
6 Review Action List	26
<i>Decision Required</i>	
7 Approach to Access	31
8 Pheasant Preserves: Responding to Ministers Letter (Late Paper)	38
9 Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Management Strategy	44
10 Email Access Policy	65
11 Communications Policy	69
12 Trout Farming Research Proposal	74
13 Policy Prioritisation	76
14 Black Powder Submission for Exemption	80
15 Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order	87
16 Licence Sales System Policy and Data Usage MOU	94
17 Staff Grant Application	101
18 Reconsideration of Regional Budgets 2020/21	107
19 National Anglers Survey	109
20 Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 August 2020	123
21 NZC Finance Report to 31 October	168
22 National Finance Report to 31 October (Late Paper)	180
23 Organisational Reserves Update as at 31/08/20 (late paper)	181

24	Meeting Dates 2020/21	182
25	GBHT Report	187
26	Subcommittees Report	190
27	Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	191
	<i>Public Excluded Agenda Items Decisions Required</i>	
28	Confirm Public Excluded minutes for meeting 147	193
29	Pending Freshwater Litigation	203
30	Board Only – CEO Performance Appraisal	209
	<i>Reports to note</i>	
31	CEO and Staff Activity Report	210
32	RMA/Legal Report	215
33	Research Fund Update	219
34	R3, Marketing / Licence Sales	222
35	Website RFP Update	229
36	Correspondence	233
37	Meeting close	

Apologies

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Recommendations

That apologies from ... be received.

Declaration of Interest

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Councillors are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

Recommendations

That any conflicts be noted.

Approve minutes for meeting 147

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Recommendations

That the minutes of meeting 147 held in August 2020 be approved.

One hundred and forty-seventh meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd August
NZFGC Office Wellington

PRESENT

NZ Councillors:

Noel Birchall, Lindsay Lyons, Dave Harris (via Zoom), Paul Blewman, Paul Shortis (Chair), Bill O’Leary, Andy Harris, Rainsford Grubb, Roy Knight, Dan Isbister (arrived 10:30am Friday 21st August) and Greg Duley.

NZC Staff:

Martin Taylor Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch Finance, Brian Anderton Senior Communications Advisor, Richie Cosgrove Senior Communications Advisor, Steve Doughty Business Development Manager, Jack Kós Policy Advisor and Debbie Mair Policy Advisor.

Guests:

Jeff Niblett and Bruce Bates 11:00 - 11:30am Friday 21st August.

1. Welcome and Chairperson’s Introduction

- Meeting started 10:00am.
- Chairperson welcomed Cr Grubb to his first in person NZC meeting.
- Discussion surrounding meeting recording. Cr Grubb & Knight expressed concern at the recording of the meeting. The Chair identified that this is a public meeting, not a meeting of a commercial board, and that the circumstances are different.
 - Following discussion, it was determined that a voice recording will be retained for the purpose of accurate minutes, and for the recording to be destroyed once the minutes are approved.
- The Chair reminded Crs to not email in and out of the room during the meeting.
- CE set out the health and safety considerations for COVID Alert Level 2, and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies received

- Cr. Juby apologised for his absence.
- Cr. D. Harris apologised for being unable to attend in person.
- Cr. Isbister apologised for late attendance.

Recommendation

That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Knight - Carried

3. Conflicts of Interest

- Cr. Duley registered a conflict of interest in respect of the fact that he is the Hawke’s Bay appointee to NZC, and that the Hawke’s Bay council is in favour of pheasant preserves.

4. Minutes – Approve minutes for meeting 146

Recommendation:

That the minutes of meeting 146 held in July 2020 be approved.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/A. Harris - Carried

5. Health and Safety

Recommendation:

That the report be received.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Knight - Carried

6. Review Action List

- It was noted that the first three bullet points from 143 have been met. These were:
 - Principles to apply to this year's budget
 - Principles to apply to next year's budget
 - Principles to apply to reserves management
- CE queried whether the principles on setting budgets had actually been codified into one document. Clarified that the principles for this year and next year were discussed at SFC, then sent out recommendations to NZC. It was then suggested these be summarised into one document. The SFC asked for a written request from CE so that there is a paper trail.
- The Chair detailed his meeting with the new Federated Farmers President and detailed the invitation from Federated Farmers for both boards to meet. He has pencilled this in for the November NZC meeting.
- It was asked what the purpose of the meeting was. Chair responded that it was to discuss what we agree on and disagree on.

Recommendation:

That the action list be received.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/O'Leary - Carried

7. Resource Allocation Project

- Chair noted we have a paper supporting the resource allocation project from the CE and a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) prepared by the Chair and that the draft TOR is currently being considered by Mervyn English.
- Chair noted that there is scope to get some funding from DOC to assist the review, around \$20,000, and that DOC would recommend individuals to NZC, but the NZC makes the appointments.
- CE spoke to his paper saying the project must be up and running as soon as possible and the project must be anchored in principles and an accepted methodology.
- It was noted that the draft TOR does not have a goal and that the goal must be the starting point and proposed the one suggested in the paper.
- It was also pointed out the key principle is that money needs to be spent where activities take place or have potential to take place, while still enabling councils to meet statutory functions.
- It was suggested an amendment to the goal to recognise 'current, potential and future anglers and hunters.'
- Chair noted that CE's paper was the basis for his TOR, but that they had been refined.
- It was expressed that it was unlikely to be able to be finished by the end of the year.

- It was stated it's largely a desktop exercise, and that once data is given to external reviewer it could happen quite quickly.
- It was raised by NZC staff about whether the regions needed to be consulted on the TOR.
- Comment was made that this process could be substantially elongated by multiple rounds of consultation.
- It was further suggested that there is time to consult at this stage, and that consultation should come at the end of this process.

Recommendations

The NZC agree to the goal as follows:

To ensure that all funds received and held by Fish and Game are used in the most effective and efficient way in the short, medium and long term interests, of all current, potential and future anglers and hunters.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Lyons - Carried

The NZC agree to appoint independent external assistance.

Moved: Crs. Lyons/Duley - Carried

The NZC agree to make this project a priority.

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Blewman - Carried

The NZC agree to endeavour to have the draft policy for consultation ready by December 31, 2020.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Lyon - Carried

Recommendation - Amend the Terms of Reference:

- *Add 'retaining capability in restoration and habitat'. To point 3*
- *Move point 8 in outputs to point 8 in considerations.*
- *Adding in the goal from MT paper at the top.*

Agree that the NZC adopt the draft terms of reference subject to the above amendments.

Moved: Blewman/Lyons - Carried

10 for 1 abstention (Cr. Isbister)

- Cr. Isbister noted his abstention was on the basis of the lack of consultation with regions and the possibility for a rushed process.

Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Recommendation

That the Council, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Hawke's Bay Audit	Section 9(2)(f)(iv) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

And that staff and representatives of Hawke's Bay, Bruce Bates and Jeff Niblett, remain to provide advice to the Council.

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council

Moved: Crs. Isbister/O’Leary - Carried

Recommendation

That the NZC move out of public excluded.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/ O’Leary - Carried

Meeting broke for lunch at 12:50pm Friday 21st August.

Meeting recommenced at 1:25pm Friday 21st August.

8 (a). Reserves Policy (late paper)

- Cr. Grubb spoke to his paper and stated the SFC have had the first round of consultation with regions and 16 responses received. Next step is to finalise input from NZC and SFC and put it out as a final discussion document to go to regions for deliberations. Now seeking feedback from NZC on this paper.
- It was suggested by the CE that there are two competing principles running through the paper that are not reconciled: the collective principle v individual regional control. Difficult to make decisions for the benefit of the collective when all decisions are made at an individual regional level.
- In relation to point 6, it was suggested that allowing regions to set regionally specific upper and lower levels of reserves makes it very difficult to coordinate reserve levels around the organisation.
- It was also suggested that the paper is going away from the principles and stepping into the policy. A possible conflict was observed where paper says the regions

generally make their own decisions on the use of reserves, but they accept that there is going to be an overall view of the system by the NZC to ensure regions aren't diluting the reserves.

- There was a short discussion on how to approach large fixed assets, for instance OFGC's land in Wanaka, and that Otago was about to sell 5 sections to prop up their reserves to fund the Lindis case. No conclusions were reached at this time.

Recommendation:

That the report be received.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/A. Harris - Carried

8 (b)(i). Update on Contract signing (oral)

Recommendation:

That the report be received.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Blewman - Carried

- It was noted there is no report from the remuneration committee and that the remuneration committee has not met because of COVID and Cr. Weatherall's stroke.

8 (b)(ii). Licence Sales System Policy

- CE spoke to his paper and noted that now the licence sales system has been signed off, need to address some of the issues raised by regions during this process particularly around database access. CE stated that the NZC office cannot meet our statutory obligations if we cannot go out to licence holders when required without seeking the agreement of regions.
- A discussion followed in which it was detailed why NZC staff require access to the database. It was suggested by councillors that it makes sense NZC needs access to it and that regional concerns can all be dealt with through the communications strategy. There were a number of competing views, with some councillors believing that it was impossible for the CE and NZC staff to do their jobs without database access, whilst one councillor suggested NZC staff need the permission of regions because NZC only has the function of coordinating and consulting.
- The CE outlined that there are circumstances that are urgent and require the ability to act more immediately, and other instances where consultation/permission is appropriate.
- The Chair suggested all of the challenges could be met through a comprehensive MOU with the regions on database access.
- After further discussion it was agreed the CE pursue an MOU with the regions.

Recommendation:

Agree that the NZC has access to the national database in order to represent the interests of anglers and hunters and to meet its national advocacy and national research functions subject to a policy and/or MOU negotiated with regions.

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Duley - Carried

7 for 4 against (Birchall, Lyons, Blewman, A. Harris)

Meeting adjourned for the day at 3:03pm Friday 21/08/2020

Meeting recommenced at 8:30am Saturday 22/08/2020

Recommendation:

Agree the Licence Sub-committee continues to lead the development of the Licence System and establishes internal policy on the licence sales system.

Note: The day to day work of the subcommittee will be undertaken by national and regional staff, and all decisions will be made by the NZC on recommendation from the License Sub Committee.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Harris - Carried

9. NZC Strategic Communications Policy

- The CE spoke to the paper and noted it was the result of detailed consultation with regions based upon paper written with Mike Jaspers. The CE noted that the proposed policy is logical, concise and has a flow. He proposed that based upon this new draft we go back out for consultation with regions.
- There was a general discussion around the policy, and some Councillors suggested that consultation on the updated draft will come back with the same issues. It was noted that the proposed policy had a requirement to ‘inform’ regions, rather than consult with, on regional issues. CE agreed to change inform to consult in the proposed policy.
- The CE noted that this policy sits at a high level. NZC would not be doing a PR on someone doing earthworks at a local level. Instead NZC would be doing a PR on something like a national EPA report on estuaries, showing that estuaries are the breeding ground for trout and ducks then listing two degraded estuaries.
- Following the discussion there was a request for an overarching policy document to be produced for NZC approval, which will sit above the more substantive strategy. Councillors asked if the policy could be an overarching policy that is approved by NZC and then have a communications strategy that will be a more substantive process document that sits under that. The strategy would reflect the national policy. The chair suggested that this document could be considered over email or zoom before being sent out to regions for consultation.

Recommendation:

That a simplified policy document is produced and brought back to NZC.

Moved: Crs. Isbister/Duley - Carried

10. Pheasant Preserves

- CE spoke to the paper and stated it is based on getting a position on whether it is acceptable to commercialise a public resource and that NZC need to respond to the DOC paper. Feedback received by regions was outlined, particularly the recently received letter from Hawke’s Bay. CE took NZC through the response to the HB letter and specifically noted the implications at paragraph 5 about himself and Simon Lusk. CE further explained Simon Lusk was engaged by the NZ Game & Conservation Alliance to do their lobbying, which is how he came to be in contact with Mr. Lusk. CE concluded by stating that apart from two technical errors the Hawke’s Bay paper does not undermine the NZC paper.
- Chair set out his engagement with parties interested in pheasant preserves and explained that he met Wendell Phillips (Chair of the NZ Game & Conservation Alliance) on two occasions, initially to understand what the issues were from their perspective and subsequently in conjunction with Michael Gee [DOC Policy Advisor]

to consider the options available for resolution as presented in the DOC briefing paper to the Minister of Conservation dated 6 April 2020.

- There was a discussion around the status of pheasants currently in which the chair suggested that based on his meetings with the NZ Game & Conservation Alliance he was confident they had abandoned their intention to seek legislative change because the law changes could take years to come before Parliament. CE clarified that the Game & Conservation Alliance had employed a QC to draft legislation and sought his comment on this which he refused on our lawyers' advice. He noted legislative change is likely in the Wildlife and Conservation Acts in light of recent judicial decisions. CE then stated that at a fundamental level this is about is commercialisation. Does the NZC support the commercialisation of a game bird and wish to open this door?
- Background information on pheasant preserves was provided, noting that pheasant preserves were developed as an opportunity to improve upland game hunting and have operated for 20 years without issue. It was further stated that without commercial preserves there will be no breeding of a sufficient volume to stock non-commercial preserves, which will effectively end them too.
- The impacts of losing pheasants as a game bird were discussed and was suggested there would be minimal impact on licence sales but that there could be substantial backlash from licence holders. A counter point was put, suggesting that if the NZC moved to end game preserves this would also result in backlash from licence holders as there would be fewer pheasants on the peripheries of the preserves. CE suggested that if the NZC agree to let a discrete group set rules they want on a particular game bird we are giving away Fish and Game's control and that precedent has the possibility to flow through to other areas. He further suggested that it is the thin end of the wedge if you allow a small group of people to continue this and allow people to charge for access to a game bird.
- The potential flow-on effects of this decision, and the significance of this decision, were then debated. It was suggested that this decision has the potential to impact all fishing and hunting resources where there is a requirement to cross private land and it was also observed that in the governance manual it states Fish and Game are opposed to the commercial use of the wild sports fish and game resource. The CE noted that there is no legal difference between a duck and a pheasant, and queried if NZC allow commercial pheasant preserves what the argument for not allowing commercial duck shooting was. The chair suggested that from DOC's perspective there is a policy distinction in that pheasants are there by release, whereas ducks can fly in and out.
- It was then discussed whether pheasant preserves increased or decreased hunting opportunity, with one councillor suggesting that Fish and Game is about enhancing hunting and the use of a shotgun and that game preserves serve this purpose. It was mooted whether this legitimised the charging for access in light of the potential implications for other species.
- Following from this, the risks to the social licence of game bird hunting were discussed. There was a divergence of opinions, with some councillors suggesting that hunters go hunting and that people on the pheasant preserves go shooting whilst others believed that anti-hunting proponents were not nuanced in their perspectives but were simply opposed to all forms of hunting.
- There was then a discussion on what the implications of each option put forward in the DOC paper were. Following a show of hands it was agreed to skip the recommendations at paragraph 29 of the NZC paper and move on to the recommendations at paragraph 30.

Recommendations:

Agree to advise the Minister that the New Zealand Fish & Game Council endorses Option 1.

Moved: Crs. Lyons/Blewman - **Lost**

5 for 5 against, 1 abstention (A. Harris). Chair used his casting vote to decline the motion.

DOC Option 1 reads:

‘One option is to continue with the status quo. Under this option all commercial game preserves will close in 2 years’ time when the Wildlife Order 2019 expires. Non-commercial preserves may also need to close at this time, or the NZ Council may recommend to you that non-commercial preserves continue to be provided for in Open Season for Game notices for hunting seasons after 6 May 2022.’

Agree to advise the Minister that the New Zealand Fish & Game Council endorses Option 2.

Moved: Crs. Lyons/Blewman - **Carried**

7 for 4 against

DOC Option 2 reads:

‘A second option is that proposed by the NZ Game and Conservation Alliance – to amend the Wildlife Order 2019 by Order in Council to remove its expiry date. Pheasants and red-legged partridge would then remain listed on Schedule 3 when on game preserves until such time as the Order was revoked by Order in Council.’

Meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10:40am Saturday 22nd August.

Meeting recommenced at 11:05am Saturday 22nd August.

11. Trout Farming

- CE spoke to the paper and set out the context around this paper, including the increasing push from iwi for the legalisation of trout farming and a recent select committee report that supports trout farming. He noted that this needs to be distinguished from pheasant preserves, as this is not about charging for access.
- There was a discussion on the specific environment in which the Lake Rotoaira Trust Board were proposing to farm trout, and in particular interconnected nature of this environment with inflows from the Whakapapa River through Lake Otamangakau and outflows into Lake Taupo through the Poutu Canal and Tongariro River.
- A debate was then had on whether the best approach was to oppose trout farming in an absolute sense or to engage with the process so as to influence it to mitigate Fish & Game’s concerns. It was noted by many councillors that they strongly disagreed with trout farming. There was also a strong voice expressed that if we do anything but oppose trout farming we will upset every one of our licence holders.

- The CE noted that the PGF etc means that groups will get money and will be looking to spend it and the majority of the country will look on this opportunity favourably, meaning we may not be able to prevent it. CE continued that, whilst we know there's a biosecurity risk, there is no record of Fish & Game ever having commissioned research to quantify that risk. Notes that he is fairly confident the biosecurity risks of trout farming are being researched currently through channels that we aren't part of. Fish and Game needs to either undertake our own research or graft into existing research. Also need to be aware that when we receive the risk analysis, someone will point out our releases from open systems and ask what the biosecurity systems are like in our hatcheries. CE further queries the relative biosecurity risks of anglers bringing fishing gear in from overseas vs open or close trout farming systems and suggests these are the questions we need answered.
- Noted by NZC staff that there are currently three large closed recirculating systems operating in NZ and that they could overnight change to trout farming. Currently these systems are farming whitebait.

Recommendations

Agree to reassess Fish and Game's opposition to trout farming based on further independent research establishing the risk profile of different types of trout farming systems;

Moved: Crs. Blewman/O'Leary - Carried

10 for 1 against (Cr. Isbister)

Agree to reject and advocate against the importation of trout flesh;

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Grubb - Carried

Agree to consult with regional Fish and Game councils on the outcome of this paper.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Isbister - Carried

12. Non-Resident Levy

- Cr. Birchall spoke to his paper, noting that the levy was originally set aside for backcountry fisheries but that this was not a directive from the Minister. Since then the Minister has formally come back and said that the money can be used for any sports fish purpose. Currently there is over \$1million in NR reserves.
- A query was raised whether under the proposals in the Reserves paper the licence fund money would go into the whole pot to be split evenly or stay in the regions it was incurred in. It was clarified that the money in the reserves will remain in the regions where it is currently but that it will become part of the general reserves and considered in terms of applications for funding.
- There was concern expressed by some councillors that treating it as licence income would mean that it could be levied, as opposed to being spent in the fisheries directly pressured. It was confirmed that the proposal is that the existing reserves stay in the region they are in, but that the NR income is treated as normal income going forward in the interests of an open, transparent and simple financial system.

Recommendation:

That we rescind the previous motions on Non Resident Fish Levies and agree that the Non Residents Levy be treated as licence income for the budgeting

process and that all Non Resident Reserves become general reserves in the regions in which they are currently held.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Blewman - Carried

9 for 2 against (Crs. Knight & Isbister)

- Clarification sought on date this applies from. Chair confirms that it is from today and that regions would be told through a letter from Carmel.
- Subsequent debate around wording. Motion was put to a revote.

Recommendation:

That we rescind the previous motions on Non Resident Fish Levies and agree that the Non Residents Levy be treated as licence income for the budgeting process and that all Non Resident Reserves become general reserves in the regions in which they are currently held.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Blewman - Carried

8 for 3 against (Crs. Knight, Isbister, Grubb)

13. Mallard Research Fund Allocation

- Cr. Birchall spoke to his paper and set out that historically the licence fee was increased on the basis that a proportion of the additional money would be going towards research. He stated that the NZC have already agreed that we are not going to put anything into the Mallard Research Fund this year and that in the past we have spent far in excess of the amount of \$1 per licence. His paper proposed that all projects should be assessed on their merits.
- There was a general consensus that all research projects should be assessed on their merits, and it was noted that this approach doesn't preclude mallard research but simply removes a small discrete bucket of funding allocation.

Recommendation:

That we rescind the previous motion on mallard research contribution and agree to discontinue the separate mallard research fund and consider mallard research applications on their merit as funds allow.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Lyons - Carried

14. NZC Finance Report

- Carmel Veitch spoke to her paper and noted that whilst it looks like we are 'flush' with money we need to remember not all of the money allocated to research and RMA/legal will get spent in the year, goes back into reserves so the expenditure doesn't occur this year. i.e. RMA legal much of it is already allocated and may be an expense next year. So, looking at dollars on RMA legal and research they are dollars from previous years that are already approved.

Recommendation

Approve the Financial report as at 31 July 2020

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Lyons - Carried

15. National Finance Report

- Carmel Veitch spoke to her paper and explained that one table was inclusive of the wage subsidy, and one exclusive. Further noted that Auckland/Waikato are moving to Xero in the New Financial year.

Recommendation

Accept the National Financial Report as at 30 June 2020.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Isbister - Carried

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:30pm Saturday 22nd August.

Meeting recommenced at 1:10pm Saturday 22nd August.

16. Annual meeting timetable 2021/2022

- Carmel Veitch set out the different meetings, noting that with budget changes we have reduced face to face NZC meetings from 5 to 3 and 1 face to face managers meeting, all others will be via zoom. Paper lists where we have to make decisions. Detailed meeting dates proposed.
- Discussion held on the best way to organise and conduct Zoom meetings.
- It was noted the Ministerial Review is scheduled to deliver its recommendations to the Minister on 31 December and this may necessitate another face to face meeting at some stage in the New Year.

Recommendation:

1. *Agree that the proposed NZ Council meeting dates for 2020/21 become:*

- *November 20th -22nd in Wellington 2020*
- *February 16th and/or 18th by Zoom 2021*
- *April 16th and 17th in Wellington 2021*
- *June 17th by Zoom 2021*
- *August 27th and 28th in Wellington 2021 or other location?*

2. *That this paper goes out to Regions for feedback.*

3. *These dates may be subject to change due to the Review and other meetings may be required.*

Moved: Crs. Blewman/A. Harris - Carried

17. Economic Impact Analysis Proposal

- Jack Kós spoke to his paper, setting out the options and noting that, whilst this research is valuable, there is a question of whether this is the right time to do it in light of budgetary constraints.
- CE noted that the purpose is to come up with a figure to support national advocacy so we can speak to the value of the fishery as a counter point but while he thinks this is important, he doesn't think it is vitally important in light of our scarce resources.
- Chair proposed that we defer it for consideration at the April contestable funding round 2021.

Recommendation:

That the NZC defer the decision and that the paper is refined based on feedback from council.

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Blewman – Carried

18. National Angler Survey

- CE noted that Helen, Jack and he are working on a Business Plan and will have it to the November meeting. Noted we are waiting for information from NIWA and for a discussion with managers on how the regional staff hours are going to be covered, i.e., donated by regions or charged.
- Also noted that Helen is not an NZC employee so there needs to be a management group set up that she responds to with her manager which has some responsibility for delivery of the project.
- There was a view that this is a national project and that the CE has to be accountable for the overall management and delivery of the project.
- CE replied he has no problem doing that, but if he was to be fully accountable for delivery then he needs full management control.
- Chair suggested NZC defer a decision on this pending a further paper to come in November. The paper to cover accountabilities and mechanisms for managing the project.

Recommendation:

Defer decision and bring paper back in November.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Knight - Carried

19. Legal/RMA Applications

- There was a discussion around each proposal and its significance on both a regional and national level. CE also noted a number of other upcoming challenges that NZC had to be cognisant of, namely the Lindis appeal and the NPS FM.
- Chair stated we have limited resources and agreed with the CE that in the next year we are likely to face our first NPS FM regional plan and we cannot miss the bus because we don't have the money. While we need to look at both of the applications in front of us it needs to be in the context of knowing there is a third thing in the background that we have to provision for.
- CE noted that we have done a good job so far working with Helen Marr and Sarah Ongley and that we need to make sure we defend what we have got in the NPS FM and defend ecosystem health. Complexity of this is immense and it will necessitate a significant investment of time and research.
- There was then a discussion on the exact finances available to fund these applications in which it was noted that we have unspent money this year in the Legal/RMA budget and some other existing projects have finished and not used all their allocation resulting in a total of \$100k available from this year in conjunction with the budgeted amount for the next financial year.
- Chair detailed that in the 2020-2021 year there is \$415k available for RMA/Legal comprised of \$315k (original budget) plus \$100k unallocated from current financial year. In terms of costs we have \$230k from the applications, as well as a probably \$100k from Lindis and \$200k for NPSFW support, making a total of \$530k. Chair suggested that one answer is that NZC could allocate \$410k in total – based on Lindis \$100k, NPS \$150k, Southland \$60k and Auckland \$100k for example.
- It was then suggested that if we are not going to pay full requests we need to prorate reductions at same rate, with applications with national significance taking precedence over applications with predominantly local impact meaning \$55k for

Southland, \$110k for Auckland Waikato, Lindis \$100k, NPSFW \$150k (given it is unlikely the full \$220k will be needed in the next financial year).

- It was agreed to write to the regions concerned and communicate that the amount provided is based on the total amount available and that the projects need to be tailored to the amount supplied.

Recommendation

That the NZC allocate funds from the RMA/Legal fund on the following basis:

- *Southland application: \$55,000*
- *Auckland/Waikato application: \$110,000*
- *Lindis: \$100,000*
- *NPS-FM: \$150,000*

Moved: Crs. Isbister/Knight - Carried

10 for 1 abstention (D. Harris)

Meeting adjourned for afternoon tea 3:00pm Saturday 22nd August.

Meeting recommenced 3:20pm Saturday 22nd August.

20. Policy Review Timetable

- CE spoke to the paper and noted the purpose of the paper is to show how out of date our policies are and that they need a complete overhaul. Previous resolutions record some policy was updated in 2006 and that there was a review done in 2011/12 but there were no resolutions to adopt those policy papers. Robert confirmed this. With nothing confirmed, we have to default to what has been confirmed.
- Discussion ensued about what policies are needed and that we need to start with a one page summary on each. A councillor requested that the audit policy be reviewed.
- It was suggested that staff will come back in November with relevant policies prioritised and a brief description of what they contain.
- It was also noted that there should be a distinction between operational policy, and a higher level of strategic policy that sits above it. Currently, this is not clear in our existing policies.

Recommendation:

That this report be received.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Blewman - Carried

27. CEO and Staff Activity Report

- Discussion about whether governors needed this and the different approaches taken in the regions. Noted it is a requirement in our Standing Orders. Suggested that this type of reporting could be addressed in process-oriented zoom meetings.

Recommendation:

That this report be received.

Moved: Crs. Isbister/Grubb - Carried

28. Legal/RMA Report

- CE noted that in light of previous decision NZC need to make the decision that the remaining of the uncommitted funds from Auckland/Waikato healthy rivers and Northland regional plan allocations returns to the pool for reallocation.

Recommendations:

1. *That the \$13,791 from AW and the \$38,861 from Northland regional plan of funds that are no longer required will revert to the legal/RMA fund for the next financial year.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Blewman - Carried

2. *That this report be received.*

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Lyons – Carried

29. Research Report

- Discussion around some outstanding projects and it was agreed that a letter be sent following these up asking when the funds are going to be used or, if not used, whether they could be withdrawn.

Recommendation:

That this report be received.

Moved: Blewman/Knight – Carried

Meeting adjourned 4pm Saturday 22nd August.

Meeting recommenced at 9:08am Sunday 23rd August.

21. Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

(a) pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes	Section 9(2)(i) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
Discussion: Governance and Management Roles and Responsibilities	Section 9(2)(j) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the

	carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.	disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
Discussion: Strategic approach for the next 12 months	Section 9(2)(j) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

(b) And that staff remain to provide advice to the Council.

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

(a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council

Moved: Crs. Isbister/Blewman - Carried

Recommendation:

That the NZC move out of public excluded.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Knight – Carried

Recommendation:

That the remuneration committee motion be moved out of public excluded into public.

Moved: Crs. O’Leary/Grubb – Carried

Recommendation:

That the remuneration committee is disbanded, but there is an expectation that work is continued during or after the resource allocation project and the ministerial review.

Moved: Crs. O’Leary/Blewman - Carried

30. Meeting close

- Chair thanked everyone for the opportunity to sit around the table, and for working through a huge agenda. Specific thanks were extended to Cr. D. Harris for attending remotely. Thanks also extended to the staff also for the work that they have done.

Meeting closed at 11:37am Sunday 23rd August.

Next Meeting details

Next meeting the 148th 20/21/22 November

Summary of Public Resolutions from Meeting 147

2. Apologies received

Recommendation

That the apologies be accepted

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Knight - Carried

4. Minutes – Approve minutes for meeting 146

Recommendation:

That the minutes of meeting 146 held in July 2020 be approved.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/A. Harris - Carried

5. Health and Safety

Recommendation:

That the report be received.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Knight - Carried

6. Review Action List

Recommendation:

That the action list be received.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/O’Leary - Carried

7. Resource Allocation Project

Recommendations

The NZC agree to the goal as follows:

To ensure that all funds received and held by Fish and Game are used in the most effective and efficient way in the short, medium and long term interests, of all current, potential and future anglers and hunters.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Lyons - Carried

The NZC agree to appoint independent external assistance.

Moved: Crs. Lyons/Duley - Carried

The NZC agree to make this project a priority.

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Blewman - Carried

The NZC agree to endeavour to have the draft policy for consultation ready by December 31, 2020.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Lyon - Carried

Agree that the NZC adopt the draft terms of reference subject to the above amendments.

Moved: Blewman/Lyons - Carried

10 or 1 abstention (Cr. Isbister)

8 (a). Reserves Policy

Recommendation:

That the report be received

Moved: Crs. Blewman/A. Harris - Carried

8 (b)(ii). Licence Sales System Policy

Recommendations:

1. *Agree that the NZC has access to the national database in order to represent the interests of anglers and hunters and to meet its national advocacy and national research functions subject to a policy and/or MOU negotiated with regions.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Duley - Carried

7 for 4 against (Birchall, Lyons, Blewman, Harris)

2. *Agree the Licence Sub-committee continues to lead the development of the Licence System and establishes internal policy on the licence sales system.*

Note: The day to day work of the subcommittee will be undertaken by national and regional staff, and all decisions will be made by the NZC on recommendation from the License Sub Committee.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Harris - Carried

9. NZC Strategic Communications Policy

Recommendation:

That a simplified policy document is produced and brought back to NZC.

Moved: Crs. Isbister/Duley - Carried

11. Pheasant Preserves

Recommendation

Agree to advise the Minister that the New Zealand Fish & Game Council endorses Option 2.

Moved: Crs. Lyons/Blewman - Carried

7 for 4 against

11. Trout Farming

Recommendations

Agree to reassess Fish and Game's opposition to trout farming based on further independent research establishing the risk profile of different types of trout farming systems;

Moved: Crs. Blewman/O'Leary - Carried

10 for 1 against (Cr. Isbister)

Agree to reject and advocate against the importation of trout flesh;

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Grubb - Carried

Agree to consult with regional Fish and Game councils on the outcome of this paper.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Isbister - Carried

12. Non-Resident Levy

Recommendation:

That we rescind the previous motions on Non Resident Fish Levies and agree that the Non Residents Levy be treated as licence income for the budgeting process and that all Non Resident Reserves become general reserves in the regions in which they are currently held.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Blewman - Carried

8 for, 3 against (Crs. Knight, Isbister, Grubb)

13. Mallard Research Fund Allocation

Recommendation:

That we rescind the previous motion on mallard research contribution and agree to discontinue the separate mallard research fund and consider mallard research applications on their merit as funds allow.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Lyons - Carried

14. NZC Finance Report

Recommendation

Approve the Financial report as at 31 July 2020

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Lyons - Carried

15. National Finance Report

Recommendation

Accept the National Financial Report as at 30 June 2020.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Isbister - Carried

16. Annual meeting timetable 2021/2022

Recommendation:

1. *Agree that the proposed NZ Council meeting dates for 2020/21 become:*
 - *November 20th -22nd in Wellington 2020*
 - *February 16th and/or 18th by Zoom 2021*
 - *April 16th and 17th in Wellington 2021*
 - *June 17th by Zoom 2021*
 - *August 27th and 28th in Wellington 2021 or other location?*
2. *That this paper goes out to Regions for feedback.*
3. *These dates may be subject to change due to the Review and other meetings may be required.*

Moved: Crs. Blewman/A. Harris - Carried

17. Economic Impact Analysis Proposal

Recommendation:

That the NZC defer the decision and that the paper is refined based on feedback from council.

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Blewman - Carried

18. National Angler Survey

Recommendation:

Defer decision and bring paper back in November.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Knight - Carried

19. Legal/RMA Applications

Recommendation

That the NZC allocate funds from the RMA/Legal fund on the following basis:

- *Southland application: \$55,000*
- *Auckland/Waikato application: \$110,000*
- *Lindis: \$100,000*
- *NPS-FM: \$150,000*

Moved: Crs. Isbister/Knight - Carried

10 for 1 abstention (D. Harris)

20. Policy Review Timetable

Recommendation:

That this report be received.

Moved: Crs. Birchall/Blewman - Carried

27. CEO and Staff Activity Report

Recommendation:

That this report be received.

Moved: Crs. Isbister/Grubb - Carried

28. Legal/RMA Report

Recommendations:

That the 13,791 from AW and the 38,861 from Northland regional plan of funds that are no longer required will revert to the legal/RMA fund for the next financial year.

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Blewman - Carried

That this report be received.

Moved: Crs. Blewman/Lyons - Carried

29. Research Report

Recommendation:

That this report be received.

Moved: Blewman/Knight - Carried

Recommendation:

That the remuneration committee motion be moved out of public excluded into public.

Moved: Crs. O'Leary/Grubb - Carried

From PE:

Recommendation:

That the remuneration committee is disbanded, but there is an expectation that work is continued during or after the resource allocation project and the ministerial review.

Moved: Crs. O'Leary/Blewman - Carried

Health and Safety Report

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council requires a report at each meeting.

Bi-monthly update -

1.	Implementation and adherence to the Health & Safety policy/manual
	Yes. H&S meeting attendance: Martin, Jack, Brian, Steve, Richie, Carmel
2.	Risk Management (identification and treatment)
	Protocols in place for covid-19 track and trace with hand sanitizer placed at the office door, next to the visitor book. Anti-bacterial wipes are also available.
	Checked the first-aid kit.
3.	H&S matters included as an item at regular staff meetings
	Jack is the new office fire warden
3.	Training and awareness raising
	First Aid refresher completed on 4 November 2020 by R Cosgrove.
4.	H&S incidents
	None reported.
5.	Near misses and/or injuries
	One minor incident on 15 October 2020, Whilst filming a small streams video with Southland Fish & Game Near Gore. A line of barbed wire at ankle height and hidden by long grass tripped up and tore through both legs of the waders worn by Richard Cosgrove. No injury occurred but the waders were a write off.

Action Points from NZC 147 minutes and public excluded minutes

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
Martin Taylor & Brian Anderton	A simplified policy is developed by the NZC staff on the Strategic Comms Policy	November Meeting	Done
Martin Taylor	CE queried whether the principles on setting budgets had actually been codified into one document. Ray responded that the principles for this year and next year were discussed at SFC, then set out recommendations to NZC. Chair suggested we summarise these into one document. Ray asked for a written request from CEO so that there is a paper trail.	ASAP	
Paul Shortis	Amend the Terms of Reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Add 'retaining capability in restoration and habitat'. To point 3 · Move point 8 in outputs to point 8 in considerations. · Adding in the goal from MT paper at the top. 	ASAP	Done
Martin Taylor, Deb & Jack	To contact NIWA, MPI and Ngati Porou re: current Trout Farming research and modelling.	November Meeting	Done
Martin Taylor & Carmel Veitch	Check minutes as Ray believes a motion was made to separate National and NZC Accounts. No motion found.	November Meeting	Done
Martin Taylor & Jack Kós	Economic Valuation of NZ's sports Fishery – Motion to defer as no budget for it. Could go into April 2020 budget round.	Deferred	
Martin Taylor	National Angler Survey – Motion to defer to next November meeting. Approved. Decision date is June 2021	November Meeting	Done
Martin Taylor & Deb Mair	To review Policies and identify which are relevant today and prioritise them with a short description	November Meeting	Underway
Carmel Veitch	Chair confirms Regions are to be told through a letter from Carmel re: non-resident levy	After Minutes approved	Done

Carmel Veitch	To send out an email to the Managers outlining the annual meeting and budget schedule 2020/21	ASAP	Done
Paul Shortis	Write to Southland and Auckland Waikato on the outcome of their Legal/RMA applications	ASAP	Done
Paul Shortis	Write a letter to the Minister of Conservation re: Hawkes Bay Audit	ASAP	Done
Paul Shortis	Agreed to advise the Minister that the New Zealand Fish & Game Council endorses Option 2 Commercial Pheasant Reserves	ASAP	Done
Paul Shortis	Letter to Mr Bruce Bates from NZC apologising for the delay in reaching a resolution on this issue and any hurt as a result.	ASAP	Done
Paul Shortis	The Chair detailed his meeting with the new Federated Farmers President and will send an invitation email to attend an FF board meeting or for FF to attend a future NZC meeting. Chair pencilled in a 2-hour meeting for November 2020.	November Meeting	Done
Martin Taylor & Jack Kós	Research Report - Discussion around some outstanding projects which were queried. Could a letter be sent following these up, asking when the funds are going to be used or if not used, could they be withdrawn.	ASAP	Underway
Jack Kós	Public Excluded: CE sought clarification for a point on 228 specifying that Cr. Blewman referred to the NC budget, not the NZC budget. It was agreed for the PE minutes to be amended accordingly.	ASAP	Done 25/08/2020

Action Points from NZC 146 minutes and public excluded minutes

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
Jack Kós	Amend 12.2 to read: 'To accept the Research Reserve as at 30 April 2020 \$285,785 (\$221,785 if the NZC agree to reduce the budget from \$134k to \$70k in the current year).	August Meeting	Done 28/7/2020

Action Points from NZC 145 minutes and public excluded minutes

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
-----	--------	-------------	----------------

Carmel Veitch	NZC agreed that Carmel is to send an email to regions regarding interest at 1%.	Jul-20	Done
Martin Taylor	Can Martin put ½ page (advice/recommendation) on what we are sponsoring in the youth program please? Email from Richie	Jul-20	Done 3/6/2020
Deb Mair	Deb to include new up-to-date allocation figures into Minutes	Jul-20	Done 3/6/2020
Martin Taylor	Martin with Carmel to provide updated contestable funding applications from regions for Thursday. Email sent 3/6/20	Jul-20	Done 3/6/2020
Jack Kós & Martin Taylor	To come up with a NAS project plan, a formal scoping document and contract that NZC approves going forward for all research, as this will be repeated. A contract document with milestones and evaluate whether this is the best method to gather information and how to review it, confirming right decisions are made (Helen & Jack to assist).	August Meeting	Due August face to face NZC Meeting
Martin Taylor	To email Ray re: RFP in the Eyede contract. Was it sent to market with specs? Need to know where we are going with it, basic structure, costs and functions	Jul-20	Done RFP sent to Ray

Action Points from NZC 144 minutes and public excluded minutes

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
Paul Shortis	Ask Phil Teal for the Peter Wilson Gaant Schedule which outlines the regional projects and RMA commitments	Incomplete awaiting schedule	
Paul Shortis	Put an email together with Martin & Carmel outlining a request to the regions regarding wage subsidy applications to protect our reputation.	Jun-20	Done 28/05/2020
Deb Mair	Deb to include figures for North Canterbury loans in budget proposal documents.	Jun-20	Done 20/5/2020
Paul Shortis	Send out an email to regional chairs outlining the 5% savings and 10% reserve savings required from regional budgets.	Jun-20	Done 20/5/2020
Paul Shortis	NZC agree for Paul to start a conversation with Federated Farmers and other groups	Jun-20	Has contacted the Federated Farmers National President and agreed to engage once NZC have discussed and approved an engagement model.

Action Points from NZC 143 minutes and public excluded minutes

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
Ray Grubb (Chair SFC)	<p>Questions to be addressed by SFC in the immediate future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles to apply to this year's budget • Principles to apply to next year's budget • Principles to apply to reserves management • Principles around determining levies and grants 	Nov-20	Done Done Submitted for approval Out for consultation

Action Points from NZC Meeting 140

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
Martin	Respond to Wellington Chair	Apr-20	Check up
Jack/Brian	Develop long term strategy on addressing exclusive capture	Apr-20	Two parts 1. For Election and 2. Post Election. Part 1: Letters to politicians sent.
Martin	Hold Strategic Planning Day 18 April in Wellington	Apr-20	Cancelled Covid
Brian/Jack	Write an options paper setting out cost and process of a parliamentary hunting and fishing trip	Sep-20	Options paper for November meeting.
Martin	Commercial and Non-commercial Pheasant Preserves options paper	Jun-20	For August meeting

Action Points from Meeting 139

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
Martin	In-house legal support proposal	Feb-20	Council postponed
Debs	National Infringement System. Create job description, roles and responsibilities for a National Compliance Coordinator		New target date December 2020. Draft completed and out with Anthony for feedback
Brain/Steve	Investigate establishing national environmental awards	Apr-20	Put forward at November meeting

Action Points from Meeting 137

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
Jack	Scope economic value to nz exercise re fishing	April-20	August 2020

Approach to Access

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Jack Kós, Policy Advisor, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to establish a basis for campaigning against the private capture of the public hunting and fishing resource.
2. It is also intended to set out the background to Fish & Game's position on private capture and to provide an updated definition.
3. Note: the terminology has been changed from 'exclusive capture' to 'private capture' as this better reflects the privatisation of a public resource.

Analysis

Fish & Game's position on private capture

4. The following are excerpts from Fish & Game policy:
 - a. In May 1999:
 - i. NZC 'reaffirms its total opposition to any form of charging for access'.
 - b. In March 2001:
 - i. 'That Fish & Game New Zealand reaffirms its total opposition to any form of charging for access.'
 - ii. 'That Fish & Game New Zealand is opposed to the exclusive commercial use of the wild sports fish and game resource.'
 - c. In March 2002:
 - i. 'Restrictions on fisher or hunter access to fish and game resources to facilitate semi-exclusive or exclusive use by private commercial interests will result in the following response.
 1. The regional Fish and Game Council will make a formal approach to the party concerned and attempt to resolve the situation.
 2. Where situations involving exclusive capture are unable to be resolved to the satisfaction of Fish & Game New Zealand the fishery concerned will be gazetted as not having an open season for fishing in the Anglers Notice of the region concerned.'
 - d. In May 2004:

- i. 'Confirm the national policy "that fisheries not accessible to the general licence holder be routinely not open to fishing."

Definition of private capture

5. Fish & Game's current definition of 'exclusive capture' is as follows:
 - a. 'Exclusive Capture is where a land occupier effectively grants themselves de-facto ownership of sports fish or game, akin to private property rights, by using the Trespass Act to selectively allow, for favour, contra deal or reward, a commercial operator (such as a guide, fishing/hunting lodge operator, or commercial transport operator) to enjoy sole or preferential access, including by way of exclusive method of access, to sports fish or game, over that available to ordinary licence holders who have no practical need nor wish to purchase such assistance or services.'
 - b. Our existing definition is caveated by excluding situations where a landowner reserves access for him/herself or family or friends (akin to a duck pond on a farm) and it also permits the non-selective charging of a reasonable use fee for vehicle passage or for accommodation.
6. Whilst the philosophy behind this definition remains valid the wording is unnecessarily complicated. The following definition is suggested:
 - a. Private capture is where a landowner receives a commercial benefit by allowing sole or preferential access to the sports fishing or game bird hunting resource whilst excluding the general licence holder or where a landowner allows a commercial operator sole or preferential access (even where the landowner themselves does not receive a commercial benefit).
7. A further definition needs to be registered, which is non-commercial private capture. The following definition is suggested:
 - a. Non-commercial private capture is where a landowner does not allow access to the sports fishing or game bird hunting resource, but also does not receive a commercial benefit by selectively allowing access and does not solely of preferentially grant access to commercial operators.
8. Non-commercial private capture is an entirely different situation and is not illegal; no laws are breached as there is no sale of fishing rights and where there are no public rights of access there is no ability to compel a landowner to grant public access.
 - a. It is recommended that these situations are referred to the Walking Access Commission to negotiate for the possibility of public access, or for regional Fish & Game councils to engage in communication with the landowner directly regarding access. The remainder of this paper will deal primarily with commercial private capture.

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Commercial Private Capture</u>	<u>Non-commercial Private Capture</u>
Landowner does not allow access to anyone.		✓
Landowner allows family and friends access		✓
Landowner allows public access but charges commercial operators	✓	
Landowner does not allow public access and charges commercial operators	✓	

Problem Definition

9. The private capture of the New Zealand game bird hunting and sports fishing resource represents one of the paramount threats to Fish & Game and our stakeholders. Although not a loss of habitat, it is a loss of access to that habitat that results in a loss of opportunity to the general licence holder. Further, it often has a disproportionate impact on some of the most special and significant areas of the resource as because of both their localities and desirability they are more susceptible to capture.
10. The issue of private capture is one that Fish & Game, despite having a strong position on, has never adequately dealt with on a national scale. In order to protect Kiwis' access to a public resource Fish & Game needs to be more active in this sphere at a national advocacy level. One of the founding premises of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, per s26B(1) of the Conservation Act is to 'represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters...' and we know from internal research that access is one of the most critical interests of anglers and hunters and further that a lack of access is one of the key barriers to participation.
11. Advocating in favour of free and unfettered access to a public resource is in the interests of all anglers and hunters and therefore consistent with our statutory mandate. Fish & Game therefore need to be assured that they have the ability to prevent individuals or companies from privately capturing the resource for their own commercial benefit.
12. This is further consistent with regional Fish and Game councils mandate under s26Q(1)(b)(i) to maintain and improve the sports fish and game resource by maintaining and improving access.
13. Organisationally, we have a strong and clear mandate to act on this issue.
14. Future factors:
 - a. Post Treaty Settlement Negotiations

- i. Recently access has been lost to the upper Whakapapa River where a legal right of access that was acknowledged in the Treaty settlement is not being recognised.
- ii. Whilst there is no suggestion that this specific situation is motivated by commercial interests, when considered in conjunction with the potential to charge for access the ability to renegotiate access arrangements post-settlement has serious present value.

Remedies

15. Currently the remedies available to Fish & Game remain untested, and as such it is unclear exactly what powers Fish & Game have to confront this issue. The following are potential avenues available

16. Prosecution for breach of the Conservation Act/Wildlife Act:

- a. S26ZN(1) of the Conservation Act sets out that 'Every person commits an offence against this Act who sells or lets the rights to fish in any freshwater.' S26ZN(2) then states that this does not apply to the sale of fishing rights on a licenced fish farm, to concessions granted by the Minister to sports fishing guides, or to charges made for guiding services.
- b. The same restriction applies to the sale or letting of hunting rights through s23(2) of the Wildlife Act.
- c. To date Fish and Game have used these sections in an educational or deterrent capacity but have not actually taken a prosecution under them.
- d. Therefore, finding a suitable example of private capture and undertaking a prosecution on it would, if successful, provide some clarity and direction from the courts on the illegal nature of this practice and would send a powerful message from an advocacy perspective.
- e. The outcome of this option would stem from a judicial, rather than political, process meaning that it will be subject to different influences.
- f. The primary issue with this option is that the wording of s26ZN creates a potential loophole where access, rather than a fishing right, is sold and this may mitigate our ability to successfully prosecute.

17. Closing an area through the Anglers' or Game Notice:

- a. Each year Fish & Game recommends to the Minister the conditions for angling (s26C(1)(ba) Conservation Act) and hunting (s15 Wildlife Act) in Fish and Game regions.

- b. One important thing to note is that the Notices open the season for angling and hunting; until that point the default is that the season is closed. No fishing or hunting can take place in an area unless and until it is opened by the Anglers' or Game Notice:
 - i. In the case of angling, regulations and seasons are typically specific to individual waterways and unspecified waterways are covered in a 'catch-all clause'.
 - ii. In the case of hunting regulations apply either based upon regional boundaries or are specific to defined hunting areas (still broader than a specific waterway) broadly. However, there are also specific 'Closed Game Areas' for areas where hunting is not permitted.
- c. An available remedy is thus to recommend to the Minister through the Anglers' or Game Notice that an area subject to private capture, and to which no public access is available, is not opened for angling or hunting that season.
- d. This remedy reflects Fish & Game national policy, following the May 2004 resolution to routinely not open fisheries that are not accessible to the general licence holder.
- e. The success of this option is subject to the views of the Minister (and the Department of Conservation in their capacity advising her) on the legitimacy of charging for access, as ultimately they are the decision maker regarding the Notices and Fish and Game simply makes a recommendation.
- a. Note: There have been historic views from the Department of Conservation that this approach is not legal, although this conflicts with legal advice received by Fish and Game that such an approach would be lawful. However, it has been used by the Minister of Conservation to close sections of the Waiotaka Stream (part of the Taupō Fishery District) when the local prison denied public access, so there is a precedent. Recent discussions with DOC have suggested that the current interpretation is that the choice to close a waterway is at Fish & Game's discretion, meaning that this option is entirely feasible.

18. Sponsor a private bill guaranteeing access:

- a. The most permanent solution to the question of access is to seek legislative amendment guaranteeing public access to a public resource and prohibiting the sale of an access fee for fishing or hunting.

- b. As part of a campaign for the 1999 general election the New Zealand Fish & Game Council sought to introduce a private bill known as the Conservation (Fishing and Hunting Access) Amendment Bill, drafted by Sir Geoffrey Palmer. Specifically, this bill sought to close the potential loophole created by s26ZN(1) where an access fee could be charged by explicitly precluding the charging of an access fee for sports fish.
- c. This option would require broad political support and prioritisation as it would be required to go through the full legislative process. Whilst the introduction of such a bill is feasible, its success would require a substantial advocacy campaign demonstrating the need for such an amendment and the significance of this issue to the New Zealand public.

Examples of endorsed private access arrangements

- 19. There are several private access arrangements, commercial and otherwise, that this paper is not seeking to address.
- 20. Salmon farms
 - a. Both Anatoki Salmon and Hook Wanaka sell fishing rights to fish for salmon on their licenced fish farms by virtue of charging a fee of \$28 per kg of fish caught. Neither permit catch and release angling. This is legal in New Zealand, as s26ZN does not apply to the sale of fishing rights on a licenced fish farm (s26ZN(2)(a)).
- 21. Rotokakahi
 - a. Rotokakahi, or Green Lake, is tapu and under the authority of Tūhourangi iwi. It is managed by the Rotokakahi Board of Control, who administer angling regulations on the lake. Only Tūhourangi can fish the lake.
- 22. Commercial Pheasant Preserves
 - a. Commercial Pheasant Preserves are legal per the Wildlife Order 2019.

Financial Implications

- 23. Prosecution under s26ZN would carry legal fees, however at this stage this is not a recommended option.
- 24. No further financial implications exist currently.

Legislative Implications

- 25. The recommendations as they stand could, if put forward by a region, result in amendments to the Anglers Notice.
- 26. The third remedy of a private members Bill, while not recommended in this paper, would amend primary legislation.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

27. Section 4 of the Conservation Act requires the Act to be interpreted to as to give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi. In effect, where ambiguity exists as to the implications of a section of the Act it should be interpreted to give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi. In this instance s26ZN is explicit, and there is no scope for interpretation. Accordingly, s4 implications do not arise in this case.
28. There is, however, a broader need to consider the approach to access issues on iwi held land and particularly Treaty settlement land carefully and it may be necessary to get legal advice on this in the future.

Policy Implications

29. As noted above this paper is consistent with NZC and National Policy.

Summary

30. Fish & Game policy is to totally oppose exclusive/private capture
31. Fish & Game has a statutory mandate to advocate for free and unfettered access to a public resource and to oppose the private capture of this resource.
32. There are a number of available remedies that have not been utilised or tested.

Recommendation:

1. *Agree that no-one should have to pay to access a public resource.*
2. *Reaffirm the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's total opposition to private capture.*
3. *Agree to the updated definitions of private capture and non-commercial private capture.*
4. *Agree for NZC staff to approach regions and licence holders to obtain examples of private capture*
5. *Agree to support regional recommendations on the use of the Anglers' Notice to close waters or sections of waters subject to private capture.*

LATE PAPER

Pheasant Preserves: Ministers Follow Up Questions

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Martin Taylor, Chief Executive, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. The purpose of this late paper is to agree on a response to the additional questions asked by the Minister in her letter dated 20 October regarding the NZC decision to support 'option two' in relation to Pheasant Preserves at the last meeting.
2. Also, since the Ministers letter arrived, we have also been asked by DOC to comment on a proposal from the Game Bird Conservation Alliance. As this request arrive just before Agenda papers were to be sent out, this paper will now be a late paper.
3. Attached are the two letters.



20 OCT 2020

Paul Shortis
Chairperson
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
PO Box 20-055
Wellington 6140

Ref: 20-B-0712

Dear Mr Shortis

Thank you for your letter of 31 August 2020, in which you provide the recommendation of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council regarding the future operation of game preserves.

You noted in your letter that I had asked you to provide reasons for your recommendation, but you have not provided your reasons. I therefore do not know what long-term objectives you have for game preserves that lie behind this advice, and therefore cannot assess how appropriate the recommendation is and whether it is likely to achieve those objectives.

If the best way forward involves an Order in Council (such as amending the Wildlife Order 2019 by removing its expiry date), Cabinet will want to know the objectives and policy basis before agreeing to any such Order.

I therefore need the NZ Council to advise me further, and provide the details of its long-term objectives and policies for upland game preserves. For example:

1. Is the Council suggesting that existing commercial preserves should be allowed to continue but that no new preserves should be established in future?
2. Does the Council expect to recommend the establishment of new commercial game preserves from time to time (or changes to the boundaries of existing preserves), and intend to ask me to seek an Order in Council on each occasion?
3. Does the Council intend to seek legislative amendment to specifically provide for commercial game preserves?
4. Does the Council expect to continue to recommend that non-commercial upland game preserves be included in the annual Open Season for Game notices, or expect to recommend that non-commercial preserves also cease to operate?

Depending on the Council's overall long-term goals for game preserves, other challenges arise and need to be addressed. For example, if existing preserves are to be allowed to continue, but no new ones established, this raises questions of unfair commercial advantage to existing operators, and could be considered unfair to those who have yet to establish commercial game preserve businesses. How does the Council suggest this be addressed?

If there is no widespread support among game licence holders for legislative change to specifically provide for commercial game preserves, it could be difficult to obtain sufficient public and parliamentary support for such amendments.

I therefore need a more detailed policy proposal from the Council, one that I or the incoming Minister can be confident will stand the test of time, and which could be supported by other Ministers if regulatory change (such as an Order in Council or an amendment bill) is required.

I look forward to receiving more detailed advice from the NZ Council in due course. DOC is of course available to meet the NZ Council.

Yours sincerely



Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

cc CEO Fish and Game NZ

7th October 2020

Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Dear Minister

Commercial upland game preserves

Thank-you for your letter of 2 July 2020 following our meeting on 8 April to discuss the future operation of commercial upland game preserves. Thank-you also for providing the Alliance with a copy of the Department of Conservation's briefing paper identifying the four possible options that you are consulting on with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

The Alliance has discussed the four possible options with our membership. On behalf of the Alliance, I have also discussed the options with Mr Paul Shortis, the Chairperson of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in order to identify areas of common ground and possible concerns which could be worked through. The Alliance understands that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council has recently advised you that it supports Option 2 (removal of the expiry date of the Wildlife Order 2019).

Option 2 revised framework

As you will be aware, Option 2 was proposed by the Alliance pending a long-term solution, such as an amendment to the Wildlife Act 1953. While Option 2 would allow existing commercial pheasant game preserves to continue operating indefinitely, we are concerned that this would not allow sufficient flexibility in the long term for future commercial operations. The process for amending an Order in Council is cumbersome and may inhibit regular updating to allow new preserves to be created or existing ones amended or removed.

The Alliance therefore suggests a revised Option 2 regime, based on the current framework of using an Order in Council made under section 8 of the Wildlife Act 1953 and a Notice made by the Minister under section 6 of the Act. It is proposed that a new Order should be made to replace the Wildlife Order 2019, to:

- amend Schedule 1 of the Act to declare pheasants and red-legged partridges to be game, other than on the Chatham Islands and *in the areas commonly known as upland game preserves specified in a notice made by the Minister of Conservation under s.6 of the Act*;
- amend Schedule 3 of the Act to permit the species to be hunted and killed (subject to the Minister of Conservation's notification) on the Chatham Islands and *in the areas commonly known as upland game preserves specified in a notice made by the Minister of Conservation under s.6 of the Act*.

It is proposed that the particular areas currently specified in the Schedule to the 2019 Order should be moved to a new Wildlife Notice made by the Minister under section 6 of the Act. Having the particular properties specified in the Minister's notice would allow the existing commercial game preserves to continue operating and for new preserves to be created, or existing ones amended or removed without having to amend the Order itself. This process would provide for more flexibility and direct control by the Minister who has authority to prescribe parts of New Zealand in which wildlife may be hunted or killed or had in possession under s.6(2)(c) of the Act.

The Alliance also suggests that the Notice should have a requirement that any person hunting pheasants and red-legged partridges in the specified areas must comply with a Code of Practice (developed by the Alliance and in consultation with other stakeholders) approved by the Minister.

The regime could be extended across other areas in New Zealand ensuring that there is one consistent set of requirements for the commercial pheasant game preserves.

The Alliance considers that reorganising the arrangement of the specified areas between the Order and Notice, ensures quality legislative design in terms of access and oversight of the law, while allowing for flexibility. There is currently legislation before Parliament, the Secondary Legislation Bill, which when enacted, will clarify the legal status of a notice made by the Minister under s.6 of the Act as "secondary legislation". This will have the effect that the notice must be publicly accessible on a website and is subject to the oversight of Parliament through scrutiny by the Regulations Review Committee and potentially, disallowance. The effect is that the Notice made by the Minister under s.6 of the Act will have the same legal status as an Order in Council made under s.8. Therefore, moving the details of the particular properties into a Notice where there is more flexibility and direct oversight by the Minister does not create any lesser obligation in terms of accessibility to and oversight of the law.

A draft Order and draft Notice have been prepared by the Alliance, as an example, to show what the instruments could look like and how they would work together. If this proposal seems workable to you, then the Alliance could assist the Department to update the specific areas and align across all parts on New Zealand.

Memorandum of understanding

It is also proposed that sitting alongside this framework of a s.8 Order and a s.6 Notice made under the Wildlife Act, a memorandum of understanding should be developed between the Alliance and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council concerning an agreed entry and exit control process, ensuring the currency of the specified areas and agreed standards for the operation of the game preserves to ensure national consistency. The Alliance could assist in developing this aspect if there is agreement in principle to the above proposal.

Option 3

The Alliance has also given considerable thought to the proposal under Option 3 creating a separate regime for pheasants and red-legged partridges preserves to operate alongside the Fish and Game Council game bird regime. We have discussed Option 3 with the Chairman of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, but it is our understanding that their preference is for Option 2.

In the Alliance's view, Option 3 would provide for greater flexibility than Option 2 because the areas will be defined in a notice made by the Minister. While the Option 3 proposal still requires specific areas to be defined in the notice, it would be a considerably simpler process for the Minister to

make changes, rather the Governor-General through an Order in Council process. In addition, as outlined above, once the Secondary Legislation Bill is enacted, a notice made by the Minister under s.6 will have the same legal status as an Order in Council under s.8. The Notice will be subject to the same standards of access and parliamentary oversight as an Order.

We understand that there may be some concerns about the removal of pheasants and red-legged partridges from the definition of “game” under the Wildlife Act and possible flow on effect on the functions of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council under the Conservation Act 1987.

As you will be aware, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council would still have responsibility for “the effective implementation of relevant general policies established under the Wildlife Act 1953” under the Conservation Act 1987, s. 26C(1)(a). Fish and game rangers also have powers in respect of ensuring compliance with both the Conservation Act 1987 and the Wildlife Act 1953, under sections 26FB, 26FC and 26HA of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Alliance respectfully suggests that in considering Option 3, one way to address the above concerns would be for the proposed notice issued by the Minister to clearly set out the dual regime for pheasants and red-legged partridges in both the upland game preserves and areas outside the preserves. An introductory clause could identify that the notice is intended to implement a policy under the Wildlife Act, relating to the hunting of pheasants and red-legged partridges to ensure the clear responsibility of NZ Fish and Game for the areas outside the upland game preserves.

The Alliance considers that Option 3 would be a workable long-term option, if you are not in agreement with the proposals in our suggested revised Option 2.

The Alliance appreciates the opportunity to provide our response to the proposed options. We would be very pleased to discuss our suggestions with you further or provide any further information, if required. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Wendell Phillips
Chairman
New Zealand Game and Conservation Alliance

Attachments

Draft Wildlife Order 2020

Draft Wildlife (Pheasant and Red-legged Partridge) Notice 2020

Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Options Paper

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Jack Kós, Policy Advisor, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to present a draft options paper for the management of pressure sensitive fisheries.

Background

- 2 Select fisheries in New Zealand are subject to unsustainable levels of angling pressure, with a disproportionate percentage of that angling pressure coming from non-resident anglers

Analysis

- 3 This options paper seeks to solve two interlinked problems:
 - 3.1 The unsustainable level of angling usage select fisheries are subject to.
 - 3.2 The disproportionate non-resident usage of these fisheries, resulting in the displacement of resident anglers.
- 4 It finds that the best way to address both problems is through a nationally consistent pressure sensitive fisheries management system that expands the current mechanisms available to Fish & Game and institutes a series of new measures specifically focused on addressing the displacement of resident anglers and achieving parity between resident and non-resident use of pressure sensitive fisheries.
- 5 It makes the following recommendations:
 - 5.1 Expand current pressure management mechanisms to a wider range of waters.
 - 5.2 Charge for a pressure sensitive licence; residents at a small annual fee, non-residents on a per diem basis.
 - 5.3 Put in place a limit of seven pressure sensitive per diem licences per 30-days for non-resident anglers.

Financial Implications

- 6 Implementing the options paper will require amendments and additions to the licence sale portal, which will have associated costs. However, ultimately

costs associated with the management of pressure sensitive fisheries will be met by the users in keeping with the philosophy of the Fish & Game system.

Legislative Implications

- 7 Implementing the options contained in the attached paper may require the amendment of tertiary legislation such as the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 and will impact upon the Anglers' Notice and the Sports Fish Licences, Fees and Forms Notice.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 8 No s4 implications at this stage.

Policy Implications

- 9 The paper is consistent with Fish & Game policy.

Consultation

- 10 Consultation will take place if the draft options paper is approved by NZC.

Recommendations

- 1 *Approve the attached options paper in draft form.*
- 2 *Agree to consult regional Fish & Game councils on the attached options paper.*

Fish & Game Proposal for Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Management Regime

Summary

New Zealand's freshwater sports fishery is world renowned as a premier trout fishery and is highly valued by both local and visiting anglers. It provides substantial economic benefits through the commercial guiding industry, the associated retail industry and both domestic and international tourism. The fishery is managed by Fish and Game Councils and the Department of Conservation (solely in the Taupō region), with management supported entirely through sports fishing licence fees and volunteer effort.

New Zealand offers an internationally unique sports fishing experience through the ability to fish for very large trout in clear water amongst astonishing and often remote settings. The nature of the fishing is also uncommon in other parts of the world in that these fish can be first sighted in the water, and then fished for, which is seen by anglers as very desirable. The result is a world-class and unique fishery that is increasingly sought after by both local and visiting anglers.

Two problems have arisen regarding these highly sought-after parts of the New Zealand sports fishery:

- First, angling pressure in select parts of the fishery is exceeding the social and fishability capacity. These fisheries have been labelled by Fish & Game as Pressure Sensitive Fisheries.
- Second, angling pressure in Pressure Sensitive Fisheries comes disproportionately from non-resident anglers and resident anglers have been displaced from the resource

This analysis finds that the first problem can be addressed by the current mechanisms that Fish & Game have to manage pressure, but that the second problem requires additional targeted mechanisms to provide for an equitable division of angling pressure between resident and non-resident anglers and to mitigate the displacement of resident anglers.

Background

Freshwater sports fishery

New Zealand is one of the world's great trout fishing destinations. The modern success and popularity of the trout fishery is in part founded upon the ability to sight fish to large individual trout in clear water, often amidst beautiful scenery. To this extent it is unique on a world scale.

Trout fishing has been a popular leisure activity in New Zealand ever since the Otago Acclimatisation Society instituted the first trout fishing season in 1875, just eight years after brown trout were first introduced to this country. Before long the novelty of such an exotic fishing destination, combined with the size of the trout, meant that anglers were travelling internationally to fish for trout in New Zealand. The visit from American author Zane Grey in the 1920s, and his declaration of New Zealand as an 'anglers el dorado', continued to build our reputation as a destination fishery.

Throughout the latter half of the 20th century a strong industry of professional trout fishing guides arose, primarily catering to international angling tourists. The guiding industry was centred on higher density rivers akin to the Buller, Mataura and Tongariro with occasional forays into more remote destinations. As the use of helicopters as a means of access grew in popularity, more remote rivers began to be fished regularly. These rivers, deep in Kahurangi or the Ruahine Ranges, were advertised by guides to clients as pristine wilderness rivers that saw almost no angling pressure. These wilderness trips, however, did not constitute the basis of a guiding operation but were more typically the exception – the cherry on top of a week's guided fishing. The unguided usership of these rivers, from both domestic and non-resident anglers, is hard to calculate across this period but was substantially lower than current levels.

Across the past thirty years this has changed on a fundamental level. As the value of these fisheries, both from an angling and experiential perspective, became realised by New Zealanders and international anglers alike their angling effort began to increase. The increasing use of helicopters as a form of access in the late 1970s was the catalyst for significant numbers of anglers to suddenly be able to access these remote areas and word quickly spread. Most significant amongst this increase was unguided non-resident anglers. Ascribing any absolute reasons to this increase is difficult, but specific rivers increasingly began to develop a reputation through word of mouth, publication in angling guidebooks and more recently on the internet and in social media. More generally the rise in popularity of headwater fisheries is also linked to the decline in lowland fisheries as a result of environmental degradation. Rivers such as the Oreti, Karamea, Greenstone and Rangitikei became world famous destination fisheries in their own right. Resultantly they became subjected to increasing levels of angler use, with very high proportions of non-resident usage. Over time the increasing usage of these rivers began to impact on both trout behaviour as well as the overall angling experience. The impacts, and need for regulatory change, were noted as early as 1994 and have been a recurrent theme in New Zealand fisheries management ever since.

Today Fish and Game face a situation where a small percentage of fragile fisheries are receiving an unsustainable amount of pressure that detrimentally impacts upon both angling experience and trout behaviour. These fisheries have been termed 'Pressure Sensitive Fisheries'.

Pressure Sensitive Fisheries

Pressure sensitive fisheries are defined as fisheries where angling pressure is adversely affecting the angling experience. Components to the angling experience are twofold:

- Adverse effects on the fishery itself, such as the catchability, visibility and population dynamics of the trout.
- Adverse effects on the angler's experience independent of the fishing, such as a sense of wilderness and solitude.

The defining feature of these fisheries is that the angling experience they offer is impacted by the angling pressure they receive. There are, however, some characteristics that are common across many (although not all) pressure sensitive fisheries:

- Almost exclusively rivers.
- Clear water.
- Excellent sight fishing.
- High average size of fish.
- High scenic value.
- Often in a wilderness or backcountry setting.

Some of these fisheries are in remote areas with very limited access, whereas others have substantial road access across their length. Angler numbers are typically higher in fisheries with good road access, but the expectation of solitude and wilderness is lower. Conversely, where access is limited to walking or flying, angler numbers are often lower but the impact on the angling experience of each encounter is higher (depending on the perspective of the angler). While pressure sensitive fisheries exist in both islands, the South Island has a high proportion of New Zealand's total pressure sensitive fisheries.

These most-desirable trout fisheries are limited in number and provide a limited number of prime angling spots. They also provide a limited amount of fishing time. To many anglers these are the most desirable trout fishing locations and are therefore sensitive to the amount of angling pressure they can sustain. New Zealand anglers, visitors from overseas, commercial fishing guides, and Fish and Game Councils are all very concerned about the ongoing sustainability of these "pressure-sensitive" trout fisheries. Many of these fisheries are now close to or at a tipping point. The increasing number of anglers and increasing fishing effort on a finite number of fish in a finite number of locations is threatening to destroy the fishing resource and experience.

A reality that also needs to be acknowledged is that there are waterways that provide an equal angling experience to pressure sensitive fisheries, but for some reason do not have the same reputation and accordingly do not receive the same pressure. In other words, the New Zealand angling resource as a whole can accommodate the angling pressure it receives provided that select concentrations of angling effort are redistributed.

Problem definitions

Fish & Game faces two interlinked problems surrounding the management of Pressure Sensitive Fisheries. Because these problems require individual, but co-ordinated, solutions they are addressed separately.

The keystone issue is that a relatively small number of fisheries that, because of their innate characteristics, are sensitive to pressure are receiving an unsustainable amount of angling pressure. This results in a potential risk to both the resource as well as Fish & Game licence holders' angling experience as rivers begin to exceed their fishability and social carrying capacity.

An associated issue is that a disproportionate amount of the angling pressure in these fisheries comes from non-resident anglers. As outlined above, New Zealand's trout fishery is world-renowned and is a source of significant angling tourism. The average non-resident angler exhibits different behaviour patterns to average domestic anglers, showing a strong preference for fishing rivers and a very high rate of backcountry river usership. These patterns, in conjunction with the reputation of certain fisheries, has meant that non-resident angling effort can constitute as much as 83% of total angling effort during peak summer months. As a result of this level of angling pressure New Zealand anglers are being displaced from these fisheries, either temporally or totally. There is a perception, and in some areas this may reflect a reality, amongst some resident anglers that these pressure sensitive fisheries are overcrowded and resultantly these resident anglers choose to fish these fisheries at different times of the year or choose not to fish these fisheries at all.

Problem A: Select fisheries are subject to an unsustainable amount of angling pressure.

New Zealand's headwater trout fisheries, as a result of the lower numbers of trout, the clear water and the response of the trout to disturbance, can only accommodate a relatively low number of anglers each day whilst maintaining the angling quality. The exact numbers are dependent upon the specific fishery (length, access opportunities and fishing characteristics), but overall the social carrying capacity of these waterways is relatively low. Angling success is only one component to the angling experience that is impacted by pressure and in fact often ranks below solitude, scenic and wilderness factors in many anglers' values. This view is echoed in a 1994 NIWA report 'Headwater Trout Fisheries in New Zealand', which suggested the '...possible need to restrict the numbers of anglers able to fish in some areas in order to maintain quality of fishing [in terms of both catch rates and the aesthetic features of peace and solitude].' Accordingly, both the fish and the experiential aspects are vulnerable to pressure.

There are then two distinct threads to Problem A: the impact of angling pressure on the physical resource and angling success and the impact of angling pressure on the angling experience.

Problem A1: The impact of angling pressure on the physical resource and angling success

New Zealand's backcountry fisheries typically feature relatively low numbers (>20 fish per/km) of large (<50cm) trout. Accordingly, the resource is far more susceptible to pressure than many of its international equivalents. Research has demonstrated a clear correlation between fishing pressure and probability of angling success in remote backcountry rivers, as naïve trout were the least likely to cease feeding and hide in reaction to angling attempts and

were the most likely to take a fly. It has also been observed that trout caught and released in a remote river were rarely observed out feeding the following day. Given the relatively low numbers of fish, and the tendency of caught (or even displaced) fish to not be available to subsequent anglers for a period, angling pressure in New Zealand can, therefore, substantially alter fish behaviour in both a relatively short time and with relatively little angling effort.

Research does, however, conclude that a balance can be reached in fisheries subjected to sustained pressure where the impacts of pressure stabilise over time. On more heavily fished rivers fewer fish proportionate to the population of the river will be seen and caught than in a remote and unpressured fishery, but overall quality angling can still be experienced. There is, therefore, a balance that needs to be met by New Zealand's sports fisheries managers where angling pressure is kept to sustainable levels that ensures appropriate levels of angling success can be attained.

Problem A2: The impact of angling pressure on the angling experience

As noted above, the angling experience encompasses a number of themes beyond simply angling success. One of the key components of the angling experience for those anglers fishing backcountry fisheries is solitude, with the result that angling encounters (actual or otherwise – i.e. seeing boot prints) can be detrimental to the angling experience. In many international destinations angling encounters are expected, and the collegiality of the encounter can add to the angling experience. There are areas and fisheries in New Zealand where this is the case, however research demonstrates that with regard to pressure sensitive fisheries angling encounters are typically viewed negatively. In a 2002 Cawthron 'Backcountry River Fisheries' report it was determined that 36% of angler encounters were always considered to be negative, with just 12% always positive (49% thought it could be either). Non-residents, who comprise a significant proportion of backcountry anglers, showed the most negative opinions of angler encounters. The same study also demonstrated that as difficulty of access increases tolerance of encounters decrease. Given many pressure sensitive fisheries are remote and have difficult access it is a safe assumption that encounters on these waterways will be perceived more negatively than the average encounter. The survey results also demonstrated that angler encounter rates were, in 2002, within the tolerable limits but that they already exceeded the preferable encounter rate. Subsequent increases in non-resident licence sales combined with habitat loss in lowland fisheries have led to a further increase in backcountry angling and encounter rates.

Sports fisheries managers are, therefore, required to manage angling pressure in order to ensure that the high quality angling experience that pressure sensitive fisheries are renowned for is retained going forwards, and require the mechanisms to address potential increases in angling pressure moving forwards.

Problem B: Angling pressure in pressure sensitive fisheries comes disproportionately from non-resident anglers, resulting in the displacement of resident anglers from the resource.

Non-resident anglers currently contribute a disproportionate percentage of total angling effort in pressure sensitive fisheries. In total, they comprised approximately 15% of licence holders in the 2019/20 season. However, in peak summer periods on pressure sensitive fisheries, surveys undertaken by Fish & Game have shown non-resident usage percentages as high as 83%, and typically well in excess of 60%. There is, therefore, a disproportionate focus on pressure sensitive fisheries amongst non-resident anglers. A likely reason for this is that

certain rivers have an international reputation, and that non-resident angling usage is disproportionately focused upon a small percentage of rivers as compared to resident angling. Currently the only management distinction made between resident and non-resident licence holders is that non-resident licence holders pay a licence fee of 1.35x the resident licence fee. For the 2020/21 angling season the resident fee was \$133, meaning the non-resident fee was \$180.

The issue of an unsustainable level of non-resident pressure on prized resources is not limited to sports fishing and is common to the wider tourism industry. A prime example of this is the Department of Conservation's trial of differential pricing for the premier Great Walk huts. This trial is motivated by similar considerations to those impacting on pressure sensitive fisheries, namely a disproportionate concentration of international attention in highly localised areas. Whilst Great Walk hut nights in peak periods are a finite resource, as compared with pressure sensitive fisheries as a theoretically infinite resource, the implications on the angling experience from excessive usage means that there is a finite amount of high quality angling experiences that a pressure sensitive fishery can offer.

It is very important to note that there are a number of distinct categories of non-resident anglers, many of whom do not contribute to the pressure on pressure sensitive fisheries through significant angling effort. Non-resident day licence holders are the least likely to fish backcountry waters (only 20% of their effort is in backcountry waters) and show a much stronger preference for lakes than other categories. Accordingly, their impact on these pressure sensitive fisheries is small. Of non-resident whole season licence holders the vast majority are fly anglers, and their angling effort is concentrated in the South Island (40.1% fish Nelson Marlborough, 40.4% West Coast, 29.4% North Canterbury, 47.5% Central South Island, 53% Otago and 44.4% Southland). There is also a clear preference for river fishing, rather than lake fishing, with 80.8% of total non-resident angling effort taking place on rivers. Most anglers spent between one and two weeks fishing in New Zealand, although 7.8% fished for more than 30 days. Whilst overall lowland rivers were the most fished, there was still a very high backcountry river usership rate amongst non-residents (32% of total Australian angling effort, 50% of UK effort and 52% of USA effort). Over all non-resident whole season licence holders the backcountry angling use rate is approximately 34%. There is also a very high rate of repeat visitors, with 50% of anglers surveyed visiting annually and 20% visiting more than once a year. Accordingly, there is a substantial amount of 'local knowledge' held by non-resident anglers, and this knowledge is often shared within international communities of anglers.

Fish & Game endeavours to include angling etiquette information in its regulation booklets and online. Concepts, such as not fishing the same pressure sensitive fishery on multiple consecutive days, are well understood by resident anglers, but are less commonly understood by non-resident anglers (although return and regular visitors are aware of this etiquette). Ultimately, fisheries managers do not possess a mechanism exists to enforce etiquette such as this

While non-resident anglers typically demonstrate some of the highest satisfaction ratings, there is also mounting concern regarding the increasing pressure on New Zealand's waters (particularly in the backcountry) and that this is degrading from the unique and wild nature of the fishery. What constitutes crowding differs for different people, although non-resident anglers typically have a higher encounter tolerance rate than resident anglers. Similarly, a frequently noted reason for choosing New Zealand over other angling destinations was that it was not crowded (60% of non-resident whole season licence holders whose primary motivation for the trip is angling noted this). However, non-residents, as well as residents,

have changed their angling patterns based on increasing encounter rates and those that currently visit are broadly tolerant of the current usage levels.

As a result of the increased angling pressure and, perhaps more pertinently, as a result of the perception of increased angling pressure on pressure sensitive fisheries, New Zealand anglers are being displaced from these fisheries. Displacement can take multiple forms; temporal displacement is when an angler changes the time of the year that they fish a, spatial displacement is when an anglers chooses to fish a different river, and total displacement is where an angler chooses to cease fishing entirely. All three forms of displacement occur on New Zealand's pressure sensitive fisheries.

In 2002 15% of anglers surveyed for the Cawthron Backcountry Fisheries report stated that they avoided backcountry rivers because of perceived crowding. More recent analysis in 2019 by the University of Otago's Tourism Department has demonstrated that crowding continues to result in substantial levels of displacement. For all 8 of the studied rivers, anglers have changed their fishing behaviour in response to crowding. In 6 of the 8 surveyed rivers, more than 25% of anglers now fish less often than they have previously because of crowding and for half of the rivers more than 20% of anglers that had historically fished them had stopped fishing them entirely because of crowding. Particularly significant are the statistics for the Upper Oreti River, which registered 83% non-resident usage in peak periods, where 45% of anglers fish it less often because of the crowding and 32% have ceased fishing it completely. This research demonstrates both the displacement of resident anglers and the correlation between the displacement of resident anglers and high levels of non-resident usage.

Displacement occurs, in this instance, because the angling experience (encompassing both angling success as well as less tangible qualities) is diminished as a result of angling pressure. Because resident anglers demonstrate a lower degree of encounter tolerance than non-resident anglers, as pressure sensitive fisheries become oversubscribed the first group to cease fishing them is typically resident anglers. This reduction in resident angling effort in pressure sensitive fisheries in turn feeds back into the disproportionate non-resident angling effort.

Displacement further occurs where there is a belief, even if not borne out, that the angling experience would be diminished by the perceived angling pressure. As anglers are displaced through actual crowding this experience is communicated to other anglers, who are then displaced because of the reputation of crowding. Often this perception-displacement is of a more general nature than anglers not fishing specific rivers because they have experienced actual crowding and may prove an impediment to newer anglers experiencing aspects of the New Zealand freshwater angling resource.

It is worth noting that internationally the displacement of resident anglers from highly sought-after fisheries is not uncommon, and the same phenomenon also features frequently in the non-angling tourism sphere (including, as noted above, with DOC Great Walk huts). In British Columbia it motivated a management regime dubbed 'Quality Waters', which began in 1990 and has been through several iterations and fine-tuned at each step. The management steps undertaken have resulted in increased resident satisfaction, whilst still providing excellent angling opportunities for non-resident anglers.

Current management mechanisms are unable to achieve parity between resident and non-resident anglers, nor mitigate displacement, and particularly perception-displacement, by providing specific opportunity for resident anglers.

Objectives and criteria for solutions

Objectives

- A. The first objective is to ensure that access restrictions are applied in a manner that minimises impact on the general angling public and that any restrictions are justified by data.
- B. The second objective is to achieve usage parity between resident and non-resident anglers in pressure sensitive fisheries.

Criteria for solutions

Any solution intended to meet **Objective A** needs to meet the following criteria:

1. Ensure that access restrictions do not have a detrimental impact on anglers not fishing pressure sensitive fisheries.
2. Management costs for pressure sensitive fisheries are met, where possible, by the users of these fisheries.
3. Be efficient and minimise the cost of enforcement.
4. Be flexible to reflect changing usage statistics
5. Efficiently and reliably provide data on the physical use of pressure-sensitive trout fisheries by anglers
6. Provide data on social pressures affecting pressure-sensitive trout fisheries
7. Provide data on fishery impacts of resident verses non-resident anglers.
8. Be part of a nationally consistent framework, whilst allowing for specific regional characteristics.

Any solution intended to meet **Objective B** needs to meet the following criteria:

1. Minimise restrictions on non-resident anglers not fishing pressure sensitive fisheries.
2. Seek spatial and temporal redistribution of non-resident angling effort.
3. Address the perception of crowding, as well as actual crowding.
4. Ensure that management mechanisms do not further deter resident anglers.

Options analysis

This section considers options for addressing each of the problems described above.

Options for Problem A: Select fisheries are subject to an unsustainable amount of angling pressure.

Reducing total angling pressure on pressure sensitive fisheries could be achieved by expanding Fish & Game's current pressure management mechanisms.

Expand current pressure management systems

Fish and Game currently have three primary mechanisms to manage pressure in pressure sensitive fisheries, which could be expanded to cover a wider range of waters.

Backcountry licences

The backcountry licence, although coming into fruition subsequent to both the beat system and controlled fisheries, has become the most widespread tool. Currently six Fish and Game regions – Wellington, Nelson/Marlborough, West Coast, North Canterbury, Otago and Southland - have designated backcountry fisheries, which require an angler to hold a backcountry licence in order to fish them. 25 rivers are currently covered by this system. All beat system and controlled fisheries also require a backcountry licence. The backcountry licence is available as a free endorsement for all whole season (resident and non-resident) licences (with the exception of the Rangitikei backcountry fishery, where a fee is required to cover insurance). It can either be selected at the point of purchase, or at a later date. Endorsements apply on a per region basis, and an angler intending to fish backcountry fisheries on both the West Coast and in Otago would need to apply for each of these endorsements.

The primary purpose of the backcountry licence is to allow Fish and Game to survey users of these fisheries and generate information on encounter rates, success and overall experience. In that way it is a valuable tool to inform management strategies for pressure sensitive fisheries, although does not itself manage pressure. The only limitation it imposes is the requirement to have a full season licence, which likely means a small number of anglers that only hold short-term licences either choose not to fish a backcountry water or fish it without the licence endorsement.

The backcountry licence allows Fish and Game to gather data on backcountry fisheries through surveys conducted on backcountry licence holders. However, it does not actually manage pressure or restrict/control access in any sense. There is further a degree of misalignment between the name of the licence 'Backcountry Licence' and pressure sensitive fisheries, in that not all pressure sensitive fisheries are backcountry fisheries (such as the upper Mataura River). Accordingly, while a backcountry licence will comprise a part of a pressure sensitive management scheme it does not singularly provide a solution to Problem A, nor Problem B.

Beat Systems

Official beat systems are currently in place on two backcountry fisheries: the Oreti River in Southland and the Wairau River in Nelson/Marlborough. These function on a first come first served basis, where an angler parks their vehicle in a specified position marked by signage to demonstrate their intention to fish the beat. Beats are established lengths of river, again marked by signage. Anglers fishing a beat have confidence that they will not encounter another angler ahead of them on their beat, which allows them to pace their angling at their

discretion. Anglers arriving to find a beat occupied are welcome to fish in behind the other party. In general, the beat system, particularly the more established system on the Oreti, appear to be well-regarded by anglers and have improved angling opportunities. Likely the greatest benefit is that other anglers that arrive subsequently have clear information about where angling effort is located, and these anglers then can choose whether to fish in behind the other party or fish another location. The result is that this mitigates actual angler encounter rates by providing anglers the ability to avoid a probable encounter if they desire.

Beat systems, however, have limitations. Foremost is that it is a voluntary system that relies on the co-operation and understanding of anglers and cannot ultimately be enforced. Beat systems are also able to be subverted by parties leaving vehicles at the specified beat parking spot overnight, allowing them to arrive the following day at their leisure. Their application is also largely limited to areas with good road access, and as a result they can only be applied to certain pressure sensitive fisheries.

Whilst beat systems do provide a partial solution to Problem A, and this paper does recommend that they are expanded to a wider range of fisheries, they do not solve or assist with Problem B.

Controlled Fisheries

Controlled fisheries represent the most regulatory and restrictive approach Fish and Game has attempted to manage pressure in sensitive fisheries in that they actively limit the number of anglers that can fish a river in a set period. There are currently four controlled fisheries in operation: the Greenstone River in Otago and the Ettrick Burn in Southland which operate on a booking system, and the Clinton and Worsley Rivers in Southland that operate on a ballot system. For booked controlled fisheries a beat must be booked online, and the booking can be made up to five days in advance of the fishing date. Only one party may book a beat per day, although that party can comprise multiple anglers (two in the Greenstone, and up to four in the Ettrick Burn – all of whom must have a backcountry licence). For balloted controlled fisheries the angler applies to the Southland Fish and Game Council to be put into a ballot, with one party selected to fish each beat per available day.

For the Greenstone River the controlled period applies during the peak months of February and March and comprises three individually bookable beats. In contrast, the Ettrick burn controlled fishery applies across the course of the season as its primary function is to limit angling traffic to minimise disturbance to the population of Takehē in the valley. It comprises one beat and only two angling parties are permitted into the valley each week: one on Wednesday and the other on Saturday.

Controlled fisheries are an extremely effective tool for controlling angling pressure and mitigating encounter rates. They ensure anglers have unimpeded fishing for the day by allocating specific sections of a river to each party. They are also enforceable, unlike beat systems, and failure to comply with these restrictions may lead to prosecution. It also provides comprehensive and accurate data of angler usage throughout the controlled period. Controlled fisheries, therefore, represent an excellent solution to Problem A.

They do not, however, offer a solution to Problem B in their current format. It is also probable that there would be a negative reaction from resident anglers if too many waterways were placed within such a heavily regulated system. This view is supported by research that demonstrates New Zealand anglers are more opposed to regulations than non-resident anglers, meaning controlled fisheries may in fact be counter-productive to addressing displacement.

Expansion

There is scope to expand aspects of Fish & Game's current pressure sensitive management system as a solution to addressing Problem A on a national basis, rather than simply in isolated areas.

The backcountry licence regime should remain as the overarching licencing mechanism, although it is suggested that the name be changed to 'Pressure-Sensitive Licence' or similar to better reflect the range of waters this licence is intended to apply to. As the concept of a backcountry, or pressure sensitive, licence becomes familiar to anglers across the country there is also scope to significantly expand the waters covered by this licencing regime to encompass all pressure sensitive waters in the country. Currently there is no cost associated with this licence (except for insurance purposes), and the appropriateness of this will need to be considered moving forward in light of the infrastructure costs of a pressure sensitive management system and the cost of enforcement. Internationally the concept of a 'stamp' applied to the licence when fishing either an area that has a higher management cost, or when targeting a species that has a higher management cost, is well accepted. It is recommended that Fish & Game consider placing a fee on backcountry licences. This would be consistent with Objective A, as only those anglers using these fisheries would be required to purchase the licence meaning that the management cost was more closely met by the user base.

Beat systems have proven to be one of the most effective and least intrusive mechanisms to address angling pressure. They do not necessarily reduce total angling effort, but they do reduce some of the negative impacts of high angling effort by lowering encounter rates and accordingly improve the angler experience. This paper recommends the expansion of voluntary beat systems to all appropriate pressure sensitive waters with road access along their length, or pressure sensitive waters subject to day trip use where access is from a common point.

Finally, the expansion of controlled fisheries should be considered as an intensive step for rivers subject to the highest level of angling pressure and where the angling experience is being severely impacted as a result. However, it is recommended that caution is exercised in expanding controlled fisheries too widely given the potential for resident anglers to find restrictions less palatable than non-residents.

Problem B: Angling pressure in pressure sensitive fisheries comes disproportionately from non-resident anglers, resulting in the displacement of resident anglers from the resource.

Reducing the proportion of non-resident angling pressure in pressure sensitive fisheries, and addressing the displacement of resident anglers, could be achieved through five options:

1. Controlled fisheries with set residency quota
2. Non-resident licence fee increase
3. Per diem fees for Pressure Sensitive Fisheries
4. Limiting number of Pressure Sensitive Fisheries days per month
5. Resident only periods

Controlled fisheries with set residency quotas

The controlled fishery mechanism outlined above, which requires a beat to be booked for a specific day online or for a ballot to be entered, could be engineered to provide equal

opportunity to resident and non-resident anglers. Effectively this would be achieved by allocating a minimum of 50% of angling days for each available period to holders of a resident licence. This would require only a very small change to the controlled period booking website to enact.

This has two primary benefits – it ensures usage parity on these specific waters, making it consistent with Objective B, and it addresses the perception amongst resident anglers that there are no opportunities to fish these pressure sensitive waters. However, as noted in the options for Problem A, controlled fisheries are not suitable for all waters and there is scope for a negative reaction amongst resident anglers if they are implemented too widely. It is recommended that this option is not implemented initially, and that the success of the other options to solve Problem B are assessed prior to implementation. If subsequently implemented, it is recommended that this option is reserved for the most severe instances of unsustainable angling pressure where alternative mechanisms are simply not working.

Non-resident licence fee increase

One of the most commonly advocated for mechanisms to control the disproportionate non-resident usage of pressure sensitive fisheries amongst resident anglers is to increase the resident licence fee. Currently non-resident licence fees are set at 1.35x the resident licence fee rate for adult licences, and at varying rates for junior and child licences:

Licence Type	Resident	Non-resident
Wholeseason Adult	\$133	\$180
Day Adult	\$21	\$34
Wholeseason Junior	\$27	\$34
Day Junior	\$5	\$20
Wholeseason Child	Free	\$34
Day Child	Free	\$20

Certain licence categories are also only available to resident anglers, such as the Local Area, Loyal Senior, Family, Short Break, Long Break and Winter licences.

As a proportion of resident licence fees, New Zealand's non-resident licence fees are quite cheap by international standards for fisheries of that quality as the following table demonstrates:

Country/State	Resident	Non-Resident	Non-resident Proportion
New Zealand (excl. Taupō)	\$133	\$180	1.35x resident
Taupō, New Zealand	\$99	\$129	1.3x resident
British Columbia, Canada (steelhead)	\$36 licence, \$25 steelhead stamp, \$15 classified waters licence = CA\$76 (NZ\$86)	\$80 licence, \$60 steelhead stamp, \$40/day Class 2 classified waters ticket or \$20/day Class 2 classified water ticket = CA\$140 (NZ\$157+per diem fee)	2.3x resident + per diem fee

Washington, USA (salmon/steelhead)	\$36 licence, \$8.75 Columbia Basin endorsement = US\$44.75 (NZ\$68)	\$84.5 licence, \$8.75 Columbia Basin endorsement = US\$93.25 (NZ\$141.5)	2.1x resident
Oregon, USA (salmon/steelhead)	\$41 licence, \$40.5 salmon/steelhead tag, \$9.75 Columbia Basin endorsement = US\$91.25 (NZ\$138.5)	\$103.5 licence, \$60.5 salmon/steelhead tag, \$9.75 Columbia Basin endorsement = US\$173.75 (NZ\$264)	1.9x resident
Alaska, USA (salmon/steelhead)	\$29 licence, \$10 salmon stamp = US\$39 (NZ\$59)	\$145 licence, \$100 salmon stamp = US\$245 (NZ\$372)	6.3x resident
Nova Scotia, Canada	CA\$42 (NZ\$47)	CA\$157.4 (NZ\$166)	3.7x resident
Quebec, Canada (salmon)	\$22.79 licence, \$50.99 salmon tag = CA\$73.79 (NZ\$83)	\$81.54 licence, \$163.30 salmon tag = CA\$244.93 (NZ\$276)	3.3x resident

Based upon this analysis, it would suggest that there is scope to increase the non-resident angling fee substantially to bring New Zealand's fees into line with international standards for fisheries of comparable quality. However, one of the key criteria for Objective B is that impacts on non-resident anglers not fishing pressure sensitive waters are minimised. In total only 34% of non-resident angling is undertaken on backcountry waters (which is indicative of time spent in waterways likely to be considered pressure sensitive). The vast majority of non-resident angling effort, especially amongst day licence holders, is in waters that are not likely to be pressure sensitive. At a certain point increasing fees will certainly result in declining participation from non-resident anglers, including a decline in non-resident use of pressure sensitive fisheries, however it is probable that this user group, being typically the most passionate and committed category of visiting anglers will be the least price sensitive. As a result, the impact would be likely first felt amongst non-resident anglers that do not contribute to the pressure on pressure sensitive fisheries.

The consideration of a non-resident licence fee increase to make our fee scheme more closely aligned to international standards is a separate matter for Fish & Game to consider, however a blanket non-resident licence fee increase is not recommended as part of a pressure sensitive fisheries management system because it is inconsistent with the criteria of minimising the impact on anglers not fishing pressure sensitive fisheries.

Per diem fees for Pressure Sensitive Fisheries

Instituting a per diem fee for non-resident anglers fishing pressure sensitive fisheries in peak periods would ensure that licencing increases exclusively impact those anglers that are contributing to the pressure in pressure sensitive fisheries. Such a licence would be supplemental to the standard Fish & Game licence, rather than instead of and would only be available for purchase by those anglers that can acquire a current backcountry licence i.e. wholeseason licence holders. A per diem licence fee for select fisheries follows the same

principle as the above section on general non-resident licence price increase but localises the impact to the resource rather than the broader user group of non-residents.

Whilst there is no domestic precedent for a per diem licence fee specific to certain rivers, internationally a similar system has been in force in British Columbia since 1990. The 'Classified Waters' system requires resident anglers to purchase an annual stamp at a cost of CA\$15, which allows them to fish the listed waters unrestricted throughout the season. In contrast, non-resident anglers are required to purchase a ticket for each day that they wish to spend on a classified water during the peak period (many waters remain unlisted and can be fished on a basic non-resident licence). These are priced at CA\$40/day for a Class I water and CA\$20/day for a Class II water. Tickets are purchased online via the general licence sales system and can be purchased on the day or in advance. Tickets do not grant an angler exclusive use of that section of water, but simply gives them the right to legally fish it. A similar system also exists in New Zealand with the Department of Conservation's differential pricing trial for select Great Walk huts, which demonstrated that price was an effective mechanism to redistribute non-resident usership. Particularly pertinent to the current situation is that the proportion of New Zealand resident Great Walk bed nights increased from 40% in 2018 to 54% in 2020 amongst huts subject to the differential pricing, and the total number of New Zealand resident Great Walk bed nights increased by 18%.¹ Across the four trial sites non-resident bed nights declined, but the non-resident contribution to the cost of managing these walks increased.²

In New Zealand, given the fact that each specific water or section of water accommodates fewer backcountry trout anglers than the equivalent British Columbian steelhead river accommodates, the system would be required to provide flexibility in the event that another angler is already at the intended water. Accordingly, it is recommended that the per diem licence be applicable to a catchment, rather than specific river (i.e. an angler would purchase a Karamea catchment daily licence, rather than a Leslie River – a Karamea tributary – daily licence). It is also suggested that this system would not need to operate for the entire angling season, but exclusively the peak summer period of December – March.

Instituting such a system would seek to use price as a mechanism during peak season to distribute non-resident angling effort to other fisheries less subject to pressure sensitivity (spatial distribution) and to other periods of the year (temporal distribution). The following effects, consistent with the criteria for Objectives A and B, would result from instituting a per diem licence fee for non-resident anglers:

- Only non-resident anglers seeking to fish pressure sensitive waters would be impacted.
- Per diem fees would result in users of pressure sensitive fisheries more directly contributing to the cost of their management.
- By using a per diem system extremely accurate and detailed data on angling frequency and effort would be generated, facilitating informed future management decisions.
- Non-resident anglers would be temporally and spatially redistributed by the additional fees required to fish pressure sensitive fisheries.

- As a result of the redistribution of non-resident angling pressure, resident displacement would be mitigated.

The primary barrier to the establishment of such a system is the infrastructure costs associated with upgrading the Fish & Game licencing system. It would also be necessary to obtain policy approval from the Minister of Conservation in the form of the Sports Fish Licences, Fees and Forms Notice, which would contain a per diem licencing regime.

Overall, it is recommended that this option be advanced as part of a solution to Problem B, with the specifics around pricing and operations to be determined as this proposal progresses.

Limit on Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Days

Currently no mechanism exists to regulate the number of days that non-resident anglers can spend on pressure sensitive waters in a set period. Although not applicable to all non-resident anglers, there is a tendency amongst certain demographics of non-resident anglers to effectively cherry-pick the best of the best during a visit to New Zealand. Resultantly, it is not uncommon for anglers to spend a significant portion of their total trip on pressure sensitive fisheries.

If the above per diem licence fee mechanism is instituted, it is recommended that the number of pressure sensitive licences that a non-resident angler can purchase in a 30-day period is limited to seven. Whilst the per diem licence fee will redistribute some non-resident angling effort from pressure sensitive fisheries, price is not an absolute barrier to participation and a select group of anglers will be willing to pay increased daily fees for a sustained period. Accordingly, in order to ensure the equitable redistribution of non-resident anglers, to actually achieve parity between resident and non-resident anglers use of these fisheries and to increase the opportunities available to resident anglers to offset the displacement currently occurring it is necessary to put in place some absolute limitations.

The British Columbia Classified Waters systems limits the number of consecutive days that a non-resident angler can fish the same section of water to eight (there is no limit for resident anglers). However, there are some resource differences between New Zealand and British Columbia that mean this would not be appropriate for New Zealand. The majority of British Columbia's Classified Waters pertain to anadromous fisheries, where the fish are running up a river to spawn and accordingly fishing the same stretch for a sustained period does not necessarily pressure the same fish as they are moving upstream. In contrast, the majority of New Zealand's pressure sensitive fisheries are based upon resident fisheries where the fish are static and where it is not considered appropriate for an angler to fish the same stretch of water for even two consecutive days. The impact of each individual angler on the fishery is likely greater in New Zealand than British Columbia, meaning that a restriction on the total number of days that a non-resident angler can fish pressure sensitive waters in an approximately one month period is more appropriate for our resource.

Permitting the purchase of seven Pressure Sensitive licences in a 30 day period provides balance in that it offers ample opportunity for non-resident anglers to experience some of the premier fisheries that New Zealand has to offer, whilst precluding them from exclusively concentrating their angling effort on these fisheries in an unsustainable fashion that

displaces resident anglers. Pressure sensitive fisheries comprise a relatively small part of the overall resource, and there would still be exceptional angling opportunities available to non-resident anglers that would not be subject to any additional regulations; i.e. when a non-resident angler reaches their seventh pressure sensitive day they would not have to stop fishing entirely until the period reset, but simply fish areas that are not pressure sensitive. It further has the benefit of not negatively impact the majority of non-resident anglers, or even the majority of non-resident anglers that fish pressure sensitive fisheries, as the average non-resident angler stays in New Zealand for between one and two weeks and will not fish more than seven days in pressure sensitive fisheries. Resultantly it's consistent with the criteria set out for Objectives A and B.

Limiting the total number of days in a 30 day period that each non-resident angler can fish pressure sensitive fisheries will materially reduce the proportion of non-resident angler usage of these fisheries and will assist in mitigating the displacement of resident anglers providing part of a solution to Problem B.

Resident only periods

The last remaining option to directly address the displacement of resident anglers is to allocate certain periods on pressure sensitive fisheries for the exclusive use of resident anglers. This provides a defined opportunity for resident anglers thus addressing absolute displacement, but perhaps more importantly it will address perception-displacement. Where an opportunity for resident anglers exists that is not available to non-resident anglers it offsets the ability for resident anglers to believe they are displaced from the resource. Accordingly, this option would provide a solution to Problem B.

The feasibility of this option is also, to a certain extent, dependent on the implementation of the per diem licencing scheme for pressure sensitive fisheries. This system would provide the mechanism to restrict non-resident angling effort on weekends, by simply not issuing pressure sensitive licences on Saturday and Sunday. Accordingly, this option would not require any further infrastructure development. It would, as with several the options contained in this section, require policy approval from the Minister of Conservation as its regulatory foundation would be the Sports Fish Licences, Fees and Forms Notice. As restrictions are increased, the policy approval may be progressively more difficult to obtain and a stronger case with data to substantiate will be necessary.

This option does, however, pose a risk of concentrating non-resident angling on pressure sensitive fisheries in to the remaining five days available to them at a higher intensity. Given the sensitivity of the fisheries themselves (independent of the angling experience) to angling pressure this may result in a poorer angling experience for resident anglers during the resident only periods. This pattern of higher concentrations during the week has been shown to be the case in British Columbia, although as a result of resource differences the impact that this has on resident anglers in British Columbia is much less severe.

One non-regulatory option that could be done currently would be for Fish & Game to advocate that non-residents voluntarily choose to avoid pressure sensitive fisheries on weekends. Many non-resident anglers already do so out of respect for resident anglers, and there is scope for Fish & Game to communicate more directly with non-resident anglers on etiquette questions such as this.

Overall, it is recommended that this option is not implemented immediately, and that the success of the alternative solutions to Problem B are assessed. Across this period more accurate data on pressure sensitive fisheries usage will be collected and, if it is shown that

the additional measures are not sufficient to address resident displacement, a data-based case for resident only weekends can be made.

Conclusion

New Zealand's pressure sensitive fisheries are at a social and fishability tipping point, and action is required to ensure that the quality angling experience that is cherished by resident and non-resident anglers alike remains into the future.

This analysis finds that Fish & Game's current mechanisms in an expanded form are sufficient to address the total angling pressure that pressure sensitive fisheries are subject to (Problem A), but that they are not sufficient to achieve usage parity between non-resident and resident anglers on pressure sensitive fisheries or to address the displacement of New Zealand anglers from the resource (Problem B). Accordingly, it is recommended that Fish & Game takes two distinct steps in response to the issues currently facing pressure sensitive fisheries.

Expand the current toolkit

The current management mechanisms (backcountry licence, ballot systems and controlled fisheries) should be expanded to cover a significantly greater number of fisheries subject to intensive angling pressure.

It is recommended that the terminology of this toolkit transitions away from managing 'backcountry' fisheries towards managing 'Pressure Sensitive' fisheries to better reflect the diversity of waters subject to problematic angling pressure. This would mean that waters such as the upper Maitai River, which do not fit into the definition of a backcountry fishery but that receive heavy angling pressure and require special management attention, are covered. It is also suggested that a small annual fee is charged for the Pressure Sensitive licence endorsement so that management costs are met as closely as possible by the users of these fisheries.

There is substantial scope to expand the beat system to a wider range of suitable waters. In instances where there is road access along a length of the river, or where there is a single point of access from which multiple sections of a river can be accessed in a day, beat systems provide clarity and certainty to anglers and offset the likelihood of encounters. Whilst not enforceable, an extremely high voluntary compliance rate can be expected as it is typically in all parties (those already at the river and those arriving to find a beat occupied) interest to not cohabit a beat.

Finally, controlled fisheries represent the most intensive and regulated option for managing fisheries subject to the highest level of angling pressure or where the impact of encountering an angler is greatest (perhaps because of the effort expended to reach the area). In these situations they are a very successful and valuable tool to control pressure. It is, however, suggested that caution be exercised in rolling these out too widely given the potential for strong regulations to disproportionately disincentivise resident anglers from fishing these locations.

The above steps will result in a system that more accurately reflects the resource that is being managed, which more closely aligns management costs with use, and which has the potential to manage both total pressure and angling encounters. However, it will not significantly adjust the balance of resident and non-resident anglers fishing pressure sensitive fisheries, nor will it mitigate the displacement of resident anglers.

Achieving parity and addressing displacement

In order to achieve usage parity between resident and non-resident anglers on pressure sensitive fisheries and to mitigate the displacement of resident anglers it is necessary to

implement a new set of targeted management mechanisms that directly address this problem.

Because only a relatively small proportion of the total non-resident angling effort is on pressure sensitive fisheries it is not recommended that there be any increase made to the overall licence price. However, it is suggested that a per diem pressure sensitive licence fee is required for non-resident anglers wanting to fish pressure sensitive fisheries in peak summer to spatially and temporally redistribute non-resident angling effort. Based on Department of Conservation trials price has been an effective tool to increase opportunity for residents and achieve usage parity. This further ensures that only those non-resident anglers fishing pressure sensitive fisheries are impacted.

In conjunction with this it is suggested that there be a limit of seven pressure sensitive per diem licences that non-resident anglers can purchase in a 30-day period. Price is not an absolute barrier to participation and providing an absolute limit to the number of days that can be spent on pressure sensitive fisheries will mandate the redistribution of non-resident angling effort. This ensures that all non-resident anglers can experience some of the premier fisheries in New Zealand while precluding exclusive or unsustainable focus on such fisheries. Because of the average length of stay of non-resident anglers this will not impact the majority of non-residents, but only those that are substantially contributing to the pressure in these fisheries.

Two further mechanisms are proposed as options that could be implemented in the future if the above does not solve Problem B; quota based controlled fisheries and resident only weekends. Neither of these options are recommended at this stage, however it is proposed that angling data be collected and the success of the recommended mechanisms assessed.

Recommendations:

- Expand current pressure management mechanisms to a wider range of waters.
- Charge for a pressure sensitive licence; residents at a small annual fee, non-residents on a per diem basis.
- Put in place a limit of seven pressure sensitive per diem licences per 30-days for non-resident anglers.

Email Access Policy

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Brian Anderton, Senior Communications Advisor, Martin Taylor, Chief Executive, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for consultation with regions on the adoption of an email access policy.

Background

- 2 The New Zealand Council coordinates the hosting of all Microsoft 365 accounts on the fishandgame.org.nz domain on behalf of all 13 Fish and Game Councils.
- 3 In the August 2019 Managers meeting, it was suggested an email access policy should be created.
- 4 This was progressed in the February 2020 meeting and in August 2020 meetings.

Proposed Email Access Policy

- 5 The Email Access Policy sets out the groundwork on how the shared emails will be managed and how they will be accessed when we have legal obligations such as Official Information Act requests and other legal processes.
- 6 NZC Staff View is they support a operational document / SOP been established at the management level that is agreed by the 13 Chief Executive/ Managers. Staff don't think this needs to be a National Policy as established by the NZC after consultation.
- 7 However, in August 2020, the Manager of the West Coast Fish and Game Council contacted the Chair of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council with a request for National Policy to be established.
- 8 The proposed Email Access Policy has been based off a draft the Wellington Fish and Game manager produced.
- 9 It is mindful of the fact that each Council is in independent legal entity and that each Council should not have access to each others emails. It establishes a process that should be followed when legal obligations require access.

Financial Implications

- 10 NZC cover Office 365 from its Information Technology National Budget. In the last financial year total cost of providing this service was \$23,446 pa (plus GST).
- 11 There are limited financial implications of the policy as proposed. However, if it is amended to give all administrative rights to the provider it is expected they will change for all email password resets etc.

Legislative Implications

- 12 There are no legislative implications. NZC Coordinating emails is provided for by our coordination role and setting National Policy is provided for under Section 26C of the Conservation Act.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 13 There are no section 4 implications.

Policy Implications

- 14 If adopted, this will become National Policy

Consultation

- 15 Consultation has taken place with regional managers at the Managers Meetings. This has taken place at 3 meetings in August 2019. February 2020 and in a Zoom Meeting in late 2020.
- 16 If recommendation 1 is accepted, it is proposed that this Email Access Policy will undergo a round of national consultation as per the latest "Setting National Policy" process confirmed in 2018. Once this has been consulted on, and if then adopted by NZC it will become National Policy.
- 17 If recommendation 2 is accepted, the NZC Chief Executive will table the Email Access Policy at an upcoming Managers meeting and if there is consensus it will be adopted as an operational management document / SOP.

Recommendations

- 1 *Consult with regions on Email Access Policy (below), as set out in the policy for setting national policy.*

OR

- 2 *Agree that the NZC Chief Executive should alongside the Regional Managers/ Chief Executive work towards adopting this as a operational management document / SOP.*

DRAFT Email Security and Access Policy (Microsoft 365)

1. The purpose of the policy is to minimise risk associated with Internet and e-mail services, and defines controls against the threats of unauthorised access, theft of information, theft of services, and malicious disruption of services.

Principles:

- The New Zealand Council coordinates the hosting of all Microsoft 365 accounts on the fishandgame.org.nz domain on behalf of all 13 Fish and Game Councils.
- All emails are considered the property of each individual entity (regional Fish and Game Council/NZ Fish and Game Council).
- All Intellectual Property (IP) contained in the emails of an individual entity is considered the property of that entity.
- Appropriate security protocols and security updates must be used by The Provider and these security protocols provided in writing. This documentation should include, but is not limited to, security protocols, security updates, hacking notification and protocols, details of System Administrator (postmaster) access, privacy policy, and a copy of the contract documents.
- The emails of each individual entity must be considered in the context of the Privacy Act, Public Records Act and Official Information Act and is a matter between the employer and employee.

Operational Policy:

2. The New Zealand Council coordinates and pays for all Microsoft 365 accounts on the fishandgame.org.nz domain on behalf of all 13 Fish and Game Councils.
3. The NZC Administrator at the NZ Fish and Game Council must be nominated by name and confirmed as the principal point of contact between the service provider and all Fish and Game regions. The Regions will contact the NZC Administrator before contacting the provider in order to ensure there is one point of contact.
4. NZC Administration logon
 - a. The NZC Administrator has a limited admin login that allows them to change a password if requested by a region entity and add or delete users when staff change.
 - b. The updating of system users noted in 4(a) should be conducted at six monthly intervals.

- c. The NZC Administrator does not have access to any content of emails, (including recipients, senders, or subject title data) or any metadata¹ relating to those emails.
 - d. The NZC Administrator does not have access to users' passwords. They can only reset the passwords (on request as noted in 4(a). When the System Administrator resets passwords, users will have to change the reset password first time they logon.
 - e. The administration function and abilities to interact with the Provider are to be specified (including the necessary authorisation of any entity to undertake requests of the Provider).
5. Metadata and search requests:
- a. The Provider² is able to provide metadata reports on all *fishandgame.org.nz* emails, on request.
 - b. The New Zealand Council will only request metadata reports once any region that might be impacted by a request has been consulted. This will only ever be needed to meet specific Official Information Act or legal requirements.
 - c. The Provider will also notify regions if a metadata search is undertaken under 5a.
 - d. Any region can also request a metadata search be undertaken. The regions shall consult with the NZC Administrator who will pass the request on to the Provider.
6. Monthly Reporting to all entities by the NZC Administrator including information on:
- a. Security updates
 - b. Any formal requests of the Provider, and a summary of the action taken.
 - c. Notification of any hacking attempts, malware detection, and unusual activity noted.

¹ Email Metadata - Data stored in an email about the email. Often this data is not even viewable in email client application used to create the email

² The Provider as at 10 February 2020 is *Redstripe IT*

Communications Policy

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Brian Anderton, Senior Communications Advisor, Martin Taylor, Chief Executive NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Council on the proposed Communications Policy and seek approval for consultation with regions on its adoption. In NZC meeting 147 it was requested that the policy be shorter and at a high level, around one page long.

Background

- 2 The NZC Communications Strategy needs to reflect and support our statutory functions such as national-level advocacy and national-level coordination. These functions are unique to the NZC, i.e., no region has these statutory functions or a national focus.
- 3 As everyone is aware, this creates tension as every national issue is based on a regional example somewhere.
- 4 We began the review of our communications strategy in 2019. Our process was to use an external communications professional (Mike Jaspers) to assist in writing the document and working through the steps required to come up with a robust strategy. This approach was in part to address the concerns from regions that the NZC did not have enough experience and in part to indicate we have been guided by someone who has a strong independent track record in communications.
- 5 It is worth noting the CEO has been undertaking communications at a national level for over 15 years, Brian at a national level for six years and Richard at a national and regional level for decades. Mike Jaspers has been a journalist and communications professional for over 30 years.
- 6 The brief given to Mike Jaspers was that we required a NZC Communications Strategy that was based on best practice and designed to reflect a modern organisation that requires consistent, informed media comment across national and regional media.
- 7 This draft was presented to the NZC in November 2019 and NZC approved it to go out for consultation.
- 8 In the August 2020 NZC meeting, feedback from consultation was presented it was agreed that a simplified policy document is produced and brought back

to NZC. Councillors requested that an overarching policy document to be produced for NZC approval, which will sit above the more substantive strategy. The strategy would reflect the national policy.

Proposed National Communications Policy

- 9 Following feedback, and the NZC direction in the August 2020 meeting it is now proposed the NZC agree to consult with regions on the proposed Communications Policy.
- 10 The proposed policy is based on best practice. It will ensure that the 13 Councils have the best approach to media engagement.
- 11 As the NZC agreed in August. The Communications Policy will be supported by having a Communications Strategy under it. It is proposed that NZC Communications Staff consult and work with regional PAN staff to finalise a Communications Strategy. The Communications Strategy would be an operational document that supports the Communications Policy.

Financial Implications

- 12 There are no financial implications of this proposal. NZC Communications is supported by the Public Awareness budget.

Legislative Implications

- 13 Section 26C of the Conservation Act 1987 provides that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall develop, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, national policies for the carrying out of its functions for sports fish and game, and the effective implementation of relevant general policies.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 14 NZC is obligated to consider the Treaty partnership in all communications. The proposed Communications Policy has no impacts on our Section 4 Obligations.

Policy Implications

- 15 This will replace the previous National Policy on Communications that have become dated.

Consultation

- 16 The NZC approved the initial draft NZC Strategic Communications Strategy in November 2019 for consultation.
- 17 The initial NZC Strategic Communications Strategy was the subject of consultation earlier this year. The feedback from this consultation was presented to the August 2020 NZC meeting.

- 18 It is proposed that this updated Communications Policy will undergo a second round of national consultation as per the latest “Setting National Policy” process confirmed in 2018. Once this has been consulted on, and if then adopted by NZC, it would replace the 2009 National Media policy and become national policy. The Setting National Policy” requires that NZC approve a draft policy for consultation, as opposed to consultation happening beforehand.

Recommendations

- 1 *Consult with regions on the Communications Policy (below), as set out in the policy for setting national policy.*

DRAFT COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Fish & Game's communications objectives should support the organisation's purpose and goal. They will determine the tactics that will drive overall communications activity across all parts of the organisation. All activity should be measured in terms of how it contributes to the goals.

Effective communication by Fish & Game (NZC and regional councils) will:

- Improve and enhance our reputation and credibility and trust – so that we are seen as powerful advocates for anglers and hunters
- Improve public understanding of the issues we care about – so that the public understand what we do and what we say
- Strengthen and deepen relationships with stakeholders
- Grow our base – increasing participation and expanding our audiences – in order to protect and strengthen our social licence
- Ensure we are prepared when our views are challenged – that our research and knowledge is respected and used by others
- Ensure our voice is heard and the way we talk (our messages) are consistent across the organisation
-

To ensure a 'single voice' Fish & Game New Zealand will:

- Coordinate media activity through the NZC Comms Team
- Empower the Chief Executive of the NZC to serve as official spokesperson on public policy issues and in appropriate high-profile media opportunities, and, where appropriate, the South Island and North Island Communication Advisors.
- Empower the Regional Managers/Chief Executive serve as official spokesperson on regional matters.
- On matters related to governance, the New Zealand Fish and Game Chairperson may speak to the media on behalf of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
- Where an issue or topic is run by the NZC, in the first instance the NZC takes the lead on responding. Regions are empowered to localise these issues
- NZC office will maintain a nationwide network of media Spokespersons, who represent Fish & Game in regional media markets and on topics of expertise who are invited by the NZC Office to speak on campaigns as needed – e.g. Fish & Game scientists, regional experts, managers etc.
- NZC office will organise an extensive training program for Spokespersons including media training
- NZC office will provide media relations guidance and support to the regional Fish & Game Councils

Media Policy

Aligned to the spokesperson policy, Fish & Game also needs to have a clear policy on media statements and press releases. This acknowledges regions will issue media statements from time to time. This should happen following consultation with the NZC communications advisors and NZC communications advisors will consult with regions effected before issuing national media statements.

The media policy is:

- Fish & Game’s New Zealand has a strong commitment to no surprises – regions do not engage with media without first informing NZC Comms Team and the NZC does not engage in media that has a regional focus without first informing the region.
- The NZC Comms Team keeps regions informed in advance of its media activity, particularly when its media activity has a regional focus.
- Regions are empowered to comment on and issue media statements on local issues subject to checking in with the NZC Comms team.
- Regions will keep NZC Comms Team informed in advance of its media activity particularly if the issue may have national implications.
- Any staff member or region who becomes aware of an issue or event that has the potential to impact significantly on the NZC and Fish & Game New Zealand’s reputation or stakeholder relationships should immediately notify the NZC Comms team and their manager. The staff member should not make any comment to the media, even if it is the media who have alerted him or her to the issue/event. The NZC Comms Team will then follow the above policy to determine who the spokesperson should be.
- The research by Fish & Game scientists is a critical element in underpinning the credibility of what the organisation says on various issues. It also provides valuable opportunities for proactive media. Fish & Game Comms team will ensure it keeps exploring opportunities to better harness the research.
- Fish & Game New Zealand is committed to following its style guide.

This Communications Policy will be supported by a Communications Strategy

Trout Farming Research Proposal

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Martin Taylor, Chief Executive, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is set out a research question on Trout Farming to establish the bio security risks of this practice.

Background

2. In the last meeting the NZC agreed to reassess our position on Trout Farming following research on the risk profile of different types of trout farming system.

Analysis

3. NZC staff have worked with the Research Reference Group and the following research question has been proposed:

What biosecurity risks does trout farming in New Zealand pose to the wild trout fishery?

- a. *What are the risks of different types of trout farming systems?*
 - b. *How would you monitor the biosecurity impacts of each type of trout farming system on wild trout populations?*
 - c. *How do these risks compare to the prospective biosecurity risks posed by a) the transportation of angling gear into the country by visiting or returning anglers, b) importation of fish food, c) illegal importation of freshwater fish or other freshwater related products or d) the operations of Fish and Game hatcheries?*
4. When these research questions are answered it will enable the NZC to determine whether to reassess their current position on Trout Farming or not.

The process for answering the research question

5. There are two possible paths to answering the research question. The first is to pay for it ourselves at an estimated cost of \$30,000 to \$100,000 depending on the approach taken. The second path is to work with other groups including Iwi and the government as any research we do will be of interest for these groups just as their research will be of interest to Fish and Game.
6. I believe we should write to both the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Fisheries and suggest a group be established which includes officials, Iwi and Fish and Game. This group should be tasked with collating and paying for all of the research questions from Iwi, the Ministries and Fish and Game.

7. The reason why the research should be paid for by the government is the impact of continuing to ban Trout Farming, or allowing Trout Farming has significant public risks, and the Crown should pay to determine what those risks are. This group would then assess the research and then each group could then determine their position on Trout Farming or determine the position on different types of Trout farming.

Financial Implications

8. Depending on the option chosen there will be financial implications to this proposal.

Legislative Implications

9. None.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

10. None at this stage.

Policy Implications

11. None at this stage, but depending on the outcome of the research the existing policy position on Trout Farms may change.

Consultation

12. There is no requirement to consult with the regions on this proposal.

Recommendations

1. *Recommendation: Agree to write to the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Fisheries asking them to establish a group comprised of Fish and Game, Iwi and their officials to look into the potential risks of Trout Farming.*

OR

2. *Agree to engage a scientific consultancy to answer the research question set out above.*

Policy Prioritisation

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Martin Taylor, Chief Executive, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. In the last meeting it was agreed to clarify what policies are required and the priority order of those policies. The purpose of this paper is to suggest a priority order for the review of existing policies and the consideration of new policies.

Background

2. At present the NZC has a policy manual which was largely written almost 20 years ago with occasional updates. In terms of the organisation of the existing policy manual there is a mix of NZC Policy, National Policy, and Standard Operating Procedures masquerading as National Policy.
3. Definition: It is important to recognise that the term 'Policy' covers the following three categories of documents which all have different functions:
 - a. NZC Policy – this is policy that the NZC set on how to carry out the functions they are responsible for such as meeting policy, and the NZC communication policy. NZC policy does not require regional consultation in the same way that regional policies do not require NZC consultation.
 - b. National Policies – the NZC has a statutory responsibility to set policies, following consultation, which govern the whole organisation, such as Reserves Policy. National policies follow the consultation steps outlined in the Policy for Setting National Policy.
 - c. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) – setting these is part of our coordination function, they are not policies as they affect regional operations but are required for consistency of operation across the country, such as a staff manual, and Fish Release and Transfer. In the past these SOPs have been called national policies.

Analysis

4. *Policies and SOPs*: The tables below set out the policies and SOPs that need to be written, and those that need to be reviewed. The prioritisation is indicated by: 1 (urgent), 2 (necessary), 3 (good to have).

NZC Policies		
Priority	Policy Name	Comment
1	Advocacy Positions	NEW The existing policy has many topics that are not policies but advocacy positions. These need to be consolidated into a living policy that is reviewed and amended as issues arise. Existing topics to be included in this are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercialisation of Water Resources • Trout Farming • Firearms Legislation and Reform
2	National Communication Policy	REVIEW - underway
2	NZ Council Standing Orders	REVIEW – post Review
2	NZ Council Governance Policies	REVIEW – post Review
2	Pandemic Response Plan	Up to date
2	Conflict of Interest	REVIEW – post review
2	Elections	REVIEW – post review
2	Procurement Plan & Templates	NEW - underway
2	Consultation Policy	REVIEW

National Policies		
Priority	Policy Name	Comment
1	Organisational Resource Allocation Policy	NEW Urgently required to ensure organisation is effective and efficient Need to wait till review and Resource Allocation Project concludes.
1	National and Regional Budget Setting and Budget Compliance Policy	NEW This needs to be written in conjunction with the Resource Allocation Policy and the Levy Setting Policy
1	Levy Setting Policy	NEW NZC has a Levying function in the Act so we need a policy to make sure NZC is meeting its legal obligations.
1	Reserves Policy	REVIEW Reserves play a central part in the organisations viability so must be written in conjunction with other financial policies.

1	Commercialisation of the Sports Fish and Game Resource	REVIEW
1	Access and Exclusive capture of sports fish and game resources	REVIEW
2	Licence Fee Setting Process	REVIEW
3	Policy for Setting Policy	REVIEW
2	Firearms and Gamebird Hunting Policy	REVIEW
2	National Media Guidelines	REVIEW – underway
1	Compliance Policy Rangers	REVIEW
2	H&S in the Workplace	REVIEW
2	H&S in the Field	REVIEW
2	H&S Risk & Hazard Identification	REVIEW
1	Treaty of Waitangi & Customary Rights	REVIEW
1	National Offence Database	REVIEW
2	National Licence System Database	REVIEW
2	Bequests and Donations	REVIEW
1	Fish Removal Policy	REVIEW
1	National Branding and Uniforms	REVIEW
2	Compliance Policy Rangers	REVIEW
3	Bequests and Donations	REVIEW
2	License Sales System	REVIEW – underway

Standard Operating Procedures		
Priority	Policy Name	Comment
2	Prosecutions The objectives for Fish and Game Compliance Compliance Policy Infringement Ranger Compliance and Enforcement	There needs to be consistency across the country in all of these areas.
2	Fish-out Ponds	
2	F&G Staff Manual	
3	Coarse sports fish	
1	Fish Release and transfer	
2	Managers Accord on operational principles	
3	Fish Salvage	
2	Fishing Regulations	
1	Fish Hatchery Management	
2	Species Management	

1	Game Hatchery Management	
2	Game Release	
2	Game Regulations	
2	Habitat Protection and Management	

5. These policies and SOPs are reflective of what we have at present and what we have identified as required. It's possible there may be more policies required following the Review.

6. At present work on policy development has slowed down as one of our policy staff members is on long term leave in the UK.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications of this proposal.

Legislative Implications

8. There are no legislative implications from this paper.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

9. There are no implications for the NZC's obligations under Section 4 of the Conservation Act from this proposal.

Policy Implications

10. The proposal contains new policies, suggests a change in categorisation for many and will possibly reduce the number of overall policies.

Consultation

11. The paper does not require consultation with the regions.

Recommendations

1. Accept the Policy Prioritisation Report.

Black powder submission for exemption

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Richard Cosgrove, Senior Communications Advisor South Island, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. A submission for an exemption to the lead shot ban by Black Powder hunters

Background

2. The NZ council has received a letter from the NZ Black Powder Shooters Federation asking for an exemption to use lead shot over water whilst game bird hunting.

Analysis

3. Starting in 1998, New Zealand has embarked on a process by which lead is being removed from all aspects of society. Waterfowl hunters have been involved in this by the banning of lead shot in 12-gauge shotguns in 2005 and again in 2017 when the phase out process for sub gauge shotguns was started.
4. In 2021 the only exemption for using lead shot within 200 metres of water will be for .410 bore shotguns which are generally used by junior hunters.
5. Black powder firearms owners prior to this had an exemption to use lead shot over water.
6. The Black Powder Shooters Federation submission to New Zealand Council (attached) is predicated on their being no non-toxic alternatives available for black powder hunters to use (Point 4 that they raise in their letter).
7. This is no longer the case, Target Products in Washdyke, the manufacturers of Falcon ammunition, importers of Fiocchi and other shotgun ammunition, are now importing substantial quantities of bismuth shot to produce another non-toxic alternative shotgun ammunition.
8. Following the NZ Black Powder letter, I embarked on enquiries as to what it would entail to import bismuth into New Zealand, this revealed that Target Products were embarking down the path to import bismuth shot into New Zealand.
9. Approaching Simon at Target Products in October revealed that they had been discussing the importation of bismuth alongside their steel shot order

that week. In further discussions and a visit to their facility in Washdyke they confirmed they have ordered several hundred kilograms of bismuth shot to arrive this year.

10. It is Target Products intention to produce a 12-gauge bismuth Number 4 shot with fibre wad round for the 2021 game bird season. It will be offered for sale at approximately half the price of the current imported bismuth rounds available in New Zealand.
11. This will be beneficial for anyone wanting to use an heirloom firearm or wants to reload but can't use steel (the price point Target Products are looking at will place it around the premium steel 12-gauge ammunition price point).
12. For the black powder firearm owners and those that reload shotgun ammunition, Target Products have agreed to make available a quantity of bismuth shot for purchase via Gunworks Canterbury in Christchurch.
13. It's important to note that the lead shot ban across all gauges in New Zealand has now made it economic for Target Products to import bismuth and to make a competitively priced hunting load for waterfowlers to use.
14. When sub-gauge shotguns were still able to use lead, there was no economic reason for any manufacturer to import commercial quantities of bismuth.
15. If the New Zealand Council were to recommend to the Minister that an exemption be given to Black Powder hunters, then this would fly in the face of the whole of Government effort to remove lead from our environment which started in 1996.
16. Whilst there are only a small number of hunters an exemption would impact, now that there is the ability for them to use a non-toxic alternative to lead, there is no need for an exemption.
17. It is worth emphasising the fact it is the lead ban that has made it economic for a sizeable quantity of bismuth to be imported to New Zealand and a commercial quantity of ammunition to be produced with a portion of that to be available for purchase by black powder hunters and reloaders.
18. It is certainly a case of the market responding to changing conditions and seeing an opportunity that exists now.
19. The option of a useable hunting round for heirloom firearm owners is quite exciting for any hunters wanting to use a heritage firearm for hunting for instance those wanting hunt with a late family members firearm.
20. The timing of Target Products efforts will enable Fish & Game to promote these options to hunters in 2021 game bird special edition of the Fish & Game magazine. Which gives us another chance to once again reiterate that "lead is dead" and there are now viable alternatives available in New Zealand.
21. This of course will be needed to be communicated to the NZ Black Powder Shooters Federation, as they will not be aware of Target Products efforts and

the process Fish & Game have negotiated to have a quantity of bismuth available for purchase via Gunworks Canterbury.

Financial Implications

22. No implications to NZ Council finances

Legislative Implications

23. Voting to give the Black Powder Shooters federation and exemption would require an approach to the Minister of Conservation to ask her to provide an exemption to the regulations.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

24. None

Policy Implications

25. If an exemption was decided on this would require a backtracking on previous policy decisions and opening up the spectre of other organisations seeking similar exemptions and therefore watering down the impact of the all of Government move to be lead free.

Consultation

26. Firearms industry partners, Fish & Game staff in South Island regions of North Canterbury, CSI, Otago and Southland.

Recommendations

- 1 *Agree to no exemptions for Black Powder hunters as a suitable non-toxic shot option is now available to them on the New Zealand market.*
- 2 *Agree to communicate the updated situation and the means by which they can purchase bismuth shot in New Zealand to NZ Black Powder Shooters Federation.*
- 3 *Agree to promote the availability of Bismuth ammunition to hunters and highlight the opportunity it gives for heirloom firearm owners to be able to hunt waterfowl.*



New Zealand Black Powder Shooters Federation Inc.

C/- 19 Maple Grove, Acacia Bay, R.D.5 . Taupo 3385. secretary@nzblackpowder.nz www.nzblackpowder.nz

Ref: NZBPSF sub re lead shot

Date: 18 September 2020

NZ Fish and Game Council
For the attention of Mr Martin Taylor
Cc: Paul Shortis

THIS DOCUMENT TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH, AND IN FURTHER SUPPORT, THE NZ BLACK POWDER SHOOTERS FEDERATION (NZBPSF) REQUESTING EXEMPTION FOR THE CONTINUED USE OF LEAD SHOT IN MUZZLE LOADING SMOOTHBORES

Dear Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your reply to my email of 7 Sept and the copy of Robert Sowmans paper "Black powder Muzzle Loading Shotguns and the Lead Shot Ban".

As I advised the NZBPSF held their AGM on 12 September at which time the matter of their submission to NZF&G requesting a continued exemption for the use of lead shot in muzzle loading smoothbores was discussed.

From the information and recommendations within the Sowman paper and it's attachment (page 69 from another associated document?) it is clear that;

1. That steel shot cannot be used in muzzle loading smoothbores.
Refer NZBPSF Submission cls 1
2. That plastic wads cannot be used in muzzle loading smoothbores but only compressed fibre wads can be used, which is an environmental plus!
Refer NZBPSF Submission cls 2 & 3
3. That alternative non-toxic shot options (Bismuth and Tungsten Matrix) are expensive, have limited availability and considered unreasonable to impose such a requirement on the proportionately very few muzzle loading smoothbore hunters.
Refer NZBPSF submission cls 4 and 5
4. That an undefined small number of hunters use muzzle loading smoothbores for waterfowl hunting and likely to be no greater than .410 users.
Refer Submission introduction which notes our survey of all financial NZBPSF members and showing that 26 confirmed who hunt waterfowl with muzzle loading smoothbores and cls 6 which notes the exemption for .410 users.

Sowman paper – Recommendations

5. 2 - Agree to seek support for the reintroduction of an exemption for the use of lead shot for Black Powder muzzle loading and Damascus type guns for waterfowl hunting.
NZBPSF, as bonafide recognised firearms organisation, has provided a submission which provides the necessary support for the NZF&G Council to provide an exemption for the use of lead shot in muzzle loading smoothbores for the purpose of hunting waterfowl.
6. 3 - Agree, subject to any modifications determined at the at the June 2019 NZ Council meeting, that F&G Councils be consulted on the status of black powder muzzle loading shotguns in the ban on use of lead shot and asked to provide feedback by the 1st November 2019.
The NZBPSF, as bonafide recognised firearms organisationcccs representing muzzle loading black powder shooters throughout NZ, have never been consulted for feedback by NZF&G or its Regional Councils regarding the proposed ban for the use of lead shot in muzzle loading smoothbores.p

From the Sowman paper, which was available to the NZF&G Council prior to the November 2019 NZ Council meeting, it is apparent that the NZF&G Council has taken no regard for the statements made within that document nor sort any input, as recommended, from the NZBPSF as representatives of NZ's black powder hunting and shooting community.

The NZBPSF and those members who regularly hunt waterfowl during the Gamebird Hunting Season look to the NZF&G Council to review their position in regard to the ban on lead shot for muzzle loading black powder firearms and in consideration of our submission dated the 8 April 2020 and this addendum to that submission rescind the ban on the use of lead shot for these smoothbores and reinstate the previous exemption for the use of lead shot in muzzle loading black powder smoothbores.

We look forward to a favourable response in this regard following the NZF&G Council meeting this coming November.

This addendum to the NZBPSF submission has the unanimous support of the New Zealand Black Powder Shooters Federation Executive Committee representing the recreational hunting and shooting interests of all current and future members.

John Rehm
For and on behalf of NZBPSF



New Zealand Black Powder Shooters Federation Inc.

C/- 19 Maple Grove, Acacia Bay, R.D.5 . Taupo 3385. secretary@nzblackpowder.nz www.nzblackpowder.nz

Ref: F&G submission re Lead Shot ban

Date: 08 April 2020

NZ BLACK POWDER SHOOTERS FEDERATION SUBMISSION TO NZ FISH AND GAME REQUESTING EXEMPTION FOR THE CONTINUED USE OF LEAD SHOT IN MUZZLE LOADING SMOOTHBORES

BACKGROUND

My name is John Rehm and I am an Executive Committee Member of the New Zealand Black Powder Shooters Federation (NZBPSF).

The NZBPSF is a recognised firearms organisation founded in 1979 and since 1983 has been the official New Zealand representative of the Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation (MLAIC). It is also one of the founding members of the Council of Licenced Firearms Owners Inc. (COLFO) and the Firearms Safety Council Aotearoa New Zealand (FSCNZ).

NZBPSF has a New Zealand wide membership of some 140 members throughout the country and runs National and International competitions, selects and supports members chosen to compete in International Competitions and supports individual Black Powder Clubs throughout the country.

As a Hunter and Black Powder (BP) exponent I confirm that I have been hunting with BP rifles since 1975 and BP smoothbores (shotguns) since 1981. I have hunted extensively with those firearms and continue to do so.

In 2004 when lead shot was banned in 10 and 12 gauge shotguns for taking waterfowl I made a personal submission to Fish and Game (F&G) Auckland for an exemption to the steel shot requirements for those shotguns to enable lead shot to continue to be used in (my) muzzle loading 12 gauge smoothbore whilst hunting and shooting waterfowl. That exemption was provided to me and was eventually enshrined in the F&G regulations up to the time of the most recent amendments, Non-Toxic Shot Regulations 2019, banning the use of lead shot in all shotguns/smoothbores but only exempting .410 shotguns.

SUBMISSION

As noted above the NZBPSF has at this time 140 members. We have conducted a Nationwide survey of all members to determine who, within the membership, have actively hunted waterfowl over previous Game Bird Hunting seasons, and wish to continue to hunt waterfowl with BP smoothbores during future Game Bird Hunting Season. We can advise that 26 members have confirmed that they use their muzzle loading smoothbores to hunt waterfowl during the legal Game Bird Hunting Season.

The NZBPSF submit that the Non-toxic Shot Regulations 2019 be amended by way of exemption to allow the use of lead shot in muzzle loading smoothbores (shotguns) for the following reasons;

1. The barrels in older (original) and newer (replica) smoothbores built for the use of black powder only, regardless of gauge, are constructed of iron or soft steel that **cannot** withstand the abrasive nature of steel shot on their bores. As a consequence those guns would be irreparably damaged, with possible serious injury to the shooter, if steel shot loads were used.
2. It is impossible, by the very nature of the muzzle loading smoothbore having to be loaded with components individually from the muzzle, to use a plastic combined wad and shot collar to affect any sort of protection to the bore. This is notwithstanding that plastic wads/shot collars are severely burnt on ignition of black powder leaving plastic residue in the bore and destroying the guns patterns.
3. Muzzle loading smoothbores, by virtue of the nature of the firearm, use bio degradable wads as part of their loading procedure. This has to be a plus!
4. Bismuth shot is the only viable option as a non-toxic shot substitute, used by BP waterfowl hunters overseas, that would likely comply here in NZ and would therefore comply with the new regulations. From research of importers of shotgun componentry, it has been determined that there is no plan to import Bismuth shot into New Zealand as, quote, "there is little demand for it given the small number of shooters requiring it". So, on

that basis we can be confident that there is no alternative manufactured shot available for those using muzzle loading smoothbores.

5. The Non-Toxic Shot Regulations 2019 clause 6 states in principle that all shotguns smaller than 12 gauge (this recognises that gauges 10 & 12 gauges have previously been limited to non-toxic shot) and all muzzle loading smoothbores will be encouraged to use non-toxic shot for 2019 season and required to use only non-toxic shot from 2021. It is not possible for muzzle loading smoothbores to comply with that regulation, refer clause 4 above.
6. It is also part of the Non-Toxic Shot Regulations 2019 that an exemption for .410 shotguns has been granted as, quote, “.410 shotguns are sometimes used by beginner hunters and non-toxic shot loads are not currently available for them.” On that basis then the same exemption must apply to muzzle loaders.
7. The numbers relating to .410 shotgun users for waterfowl hunting has not been published, as far as I am aware, and we doubt as to whether there has been any survey done in that regard by F&G to support their statement.
8. We contend that the stated situation that exists for the exemption of .410 shotguns should apply equally for muzzle loading smoothbores as there is no non-toxic shot alternatives to be available here in NZ. In terms of the numbers of hunters (26) using muzzle loading smoothbores, would in all probability be on a par, if not less than, those using .410 shotguns.
9. We believe that NZBPSF have a compelling argument for the provision of an exemption for the continued use of lead shot in muzzle loading smoothbores and look to Fish and Game to enact the appropriate alterations to the Non-Toxic Shot Regulations 2019.

This submission has the unanimous support of the New Zealand Black Powder Shooter's Federation Executive Committee representing the recreational hunting interest of all current and future members.

John Rehm
For and on behalf of NZBPSF

Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Jack Kós, Policy Advisor, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to come to a position on seeking an extension of the Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 2018 (**CIPO**), which prohibits the importation of trout and trout products into New Zealand.

Background

- 2 The CIPO 2018 is scheduled to cease in 2021, and the Department of Conservation have sought comment from Fish & Game on whether we still support a prohibition on the importation of trout into New Zealand.

Analysis

- 3 Historically both the Department of Conservation and Fish & Game have supported the prohibition on the importation of trout flesh on the basis that the sale of trout in New Zealand would put the wild resource at risk of poaching and:
 - 3.1 that imported (or farmed) trout meat could not be reliably distinguished from NZ wild trout, and
 - 3.2 that it would be unaffordable for licence holders to meet the costs of increasing the compliance effort sufficiently to prevent illegal taking of spawning wild trout at levels that damaged the fishery.
- 4 There has been no material change that would impact this position and these reasons remain valid.
- 5 The importation of trout and trout products also poses a potential biosecurity risk to the wild fishery in the form of introducing pathogens and organisms not currently present in New Zealand. Whilst all products imported would be subject to New Zealand customs biosecurity standards this does not entirely remove the risk.
- 6 Although the paper pertaining to trout farming at meeting 147 did suggest that it could be possible to create auditing and reporting frameworks to mitigate the risk to the wild fishery from the sale of trout, the cessation of the CIPO would not result in that. Until such time, it is recommended that the CIPO continues to be in effect.

Jack Kos

From: Andy Garrick
Sent: Thursday, 5 November 2020 5:09 PM
To: Jack Kos
Subject: Import Prohibition Order

Hi Jack

Your email to Regional Managers dated 3 September 2020 was tabled and discussed at Eastern Fish and Game Council's meeting on 15 October. Council made the following resolution:

Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Alan Beard) that Council advocates for the ongoing prohibition of trout (live or dead), and any product or derivative obtained from trout (e.g. milt or ova). [20/10/12.2]

Regards

Andy Garrick
Manager
New Zealand Fish & Game – Eastern Region
T +64 7 357 5501
F +64 7 357 5503
M +64 21 847 227
E agarrick@fishandgame.org.nz
1130 Paradise Valley Road, Rotorua
Private Bag 3010, Rotorua 3046
www.fishandgame.org.nz

Jack Kos

From: Jesse Friedlander
Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 11:26 AM
To: Jack Kos
Cc: Christine Tuck
Subject: Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order

Hi Jack, here is a resolution from our last Hawkes Bay Council Meeting providing feedback on the trout order.

Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order

That Council approves the continuation of the Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order and is totally opposed to the import of trout or any product derived from trout into New Zealand.

Lumsden/Mackay 20/10/2020

Cheers,

Jesse

Jesse Friedlander
Regional Manager
Hawke's Bay Fish & Game
22 Burness Road, Greenmeadows
PO Box 7345, Taradale, Napier, 4141

P 06 844 2460

M 021 274 6119

W www.fishandgame.org.nz

Jack Kos

From: Rhys Barrier
Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 5:11 PM
To: Jack Kos
Subject: Feedback from our Council meeting

27 October 2020

To: Jack Kos Policy Advisor NZ F&G Council

From: Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Council feedback following our regional Fish & Game Council meeting on October 20th.

Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order

As requested in your email dated 3 September on the above subject this Council strongly opposes any changes to the current legislation. It is suggested that Fish & Game write to the Minister asking for the reinstatement of the Conservation Amendment Bill 1998 so that this Order does not have to be considered every three years.

Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

As requested in your email dated 10 September on the above subject this Council accepts in principal the Policy as presented, however they would like to see a change in the wording of the first Definition of an open system so that structures which under normal circumstances do not allow salmon access to rivers and the ocean (e.g. dams or excavated fish out ponds), don't fall within this definition if the possibility of salmon reaching the river or ocean is low.

The Council observed that technically the current definition could preclude this year's release of commercial origin salmon into the enclosed Lake Argyle R3 fishery or Challies Island fish out pond (for example if a 15 year plus return period flood went through the fish out ponds and a few salmon escaped into the Waimea River), which would be a significant backwards step for the regions R3 program. The NMFG Council requested that the manager liaise with you over potential wording changes to address this concern, but still retain the general intent of the policy.

Rhys Barrier
Manager

*Rhys Barrier, Manager
Fish & Game
PO Box 2173
Stoke
NELSON 7041
03 5446382, rbarrier@fishandgame.org.nz*

Jack Kos

From: Dean Kelly
Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 9:02 AM
To: Jack Kos
Cc: Martin Taylor
Subject: Council position on NZC consultation documents

Hi Jack

Our Council met earlier in the month as resolved the following positions on NZ Council consultative documents;

8.2 NZ Council consultation regarding trout import prohibition order

Motion proposed: **That the West Coast region supports NZ Council recommendation 1 “to reassess Fish and Game’s opposition to trout farming based on further independent research” and in the interim supports recommendations 2 and 3 to confirm Fish and Game’s opposition to trout farming and to reject and advocate against the importation of trout flesh.**

Proposer: J Derks Second: M Smith Outcome: Carried

8.3 NZ Council commercial Salmon release policy.

Motion proposed: **That the West Coast region agree with the policy in general terms but in the West coast region believes there must be provision for the commercial releases into open systems such as Lake lanthe where hatchery reared fish are being released into an open fishery with limited spawning and minimal potential to interfere with existing wild populations and where the release could benefit control of a pest fish issue (Rudd in this instance).**

Proposer: J Derks Second: M Smith Outcome: Carried

8.4 NZ Council non-resident levy directive

Motion proposed: **That the be NZ Council directive regarding distribution of the non-resident levy be received.**

Proposer: D Heine Second: J Derks Outcome: Carried

Regards

Dean Kelly
Manager
West Coast Fish and Game Council

Jack Kos

From: Ian Hadland
Sent: Monday, 28 September 2020 12:19 PM
To: Jack Kos; Regional Managers
Subject: RE: Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order

Hi Jack,

The Otago F&G Council considered this request at its September 23 Meeting. It made the following points by way of feedback:

- Agreed that the ban should continue – its original purpose is still valid (including potential for generation of black market for trout flesh utilising spawning stock illegally harvested from accessible spawning streams)
- Relaxation could act as a precursor to support a move to remove legislative barriers to trout farming.

Council also questioned why this was distributed for consultation to regional Councils. They agreed it was a technical matter which could have been handled adequately by the managers group or by way of email circulation to relevant staff.

Thank you

On behalf of chair,

Ian Hadland | **Chief Executive**

Cell: 027 254 9700
DDI: +64 3 479 6555
Email: ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz
Web: www.fishandgame.org.nz

Otago Fish & Game Council
PO Box 76
Dunedin
New Zealand

From: Jack Kos <jkos@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 1:10 PM
To: Regional Managers <regionalmanagers@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order

Kia ora koutou,

We have been asked by DOC for our position on the continuation of the Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order, which is the instrument that prohibits the importation of trout (alive or dead) and any product derived from trout into New Zealand. DOC are happy to argue in favour of continuing the order, but to do so they are seeking Fish & Game's position. At the 147th NZC meeting the Council resolved to 'Agree to reject and advocate against the importation of trout flesh'. We are now seeking regional council's perspectives specifically on the continuation of this Order, so NZC can make a recommendation to DOC.

Financial Implications

7 Nil.

Legislative Implications

8 If the recommendation is adopted it will result in DOC advocating for a new legislative instrument, the Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 2021, that will continue the prohibition for a further 3 years.

Section 4

9 No Section 4 implications.

Policy Implications

10 Recommendations are consistent with Fish & Game policy.

Consultation

11 Regional Fish and Game Councils were asked for feedback on this topic on 03/09/2020. Four councils have responded, and their feedback is attached at the end of this paper. All councils support seeking a continuation of the prohibition on the importation of trout and trout products.

Recommendations

1 *Agree to advise the Department of Conservation that Fish & Game supports the continued prohibition on the importation of trout and trout products because of the risk to the wild fishery from poaching and biosecurity.*

Licence Sales System Policy and Data Usage MOU

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Martin Taylor, Chief Executive, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. In the last meeting it was agreed to update the NZC on (a) the Licence Sales System Policy, and (b) the MOU on License Data Usage

(a) Licence Sales System Policy Usage

2. Two Zoom meetings have taken place with the group established under the Licence Sub Committee to work on the policy document, at the time of writing that document is out for feedback with the group. That document is attached. Once the group have agreed on a final version then this document can be considered by the NZC and then sent it out to the regions for consultation.

Recommendation: Note the contents of this report.

(b) MOU on License Data Usage

3. As agreed in the last NZC meeting I have written an MOU for consideration by the regions on access to the national licence database for regions and the NZC. The MOU is attached. This was sent to regions for their feedback on Tuesday 27 June. The MOU was discussed with Phil Teal, Ian Hadland and Jay Graybill and their feedback was considered. When regional feedback is received the MOU can be signed or amended as necessary.

Recommendation: Note the contents of this report.

Memorandum of Understanding
on
Use of Data Collected through the Sales of Licences
Between
NZ Council and Regional Fish and Game Councils

Context

1. The sale of fishing and game bird licences creates a data set of licence holder details (the database).
2. The principal purpose of the database is to support regional Fish and Game councils (Regional Councils) to carry out their statutory functions at a regional level and to support the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) to carry out its statutory functions at a national level.
3. The principle functions at a regional level are to validate a sports fishing or game bird hunting licence, communicate and promote recreation with licence holders, compliance monitoring, and to assess and monitor the success rate and satisfaction of licence holders.
4. The principle functions at a national level are to advocate in the best interests of all licence holders, co-ordinate across regions and research.

Purpose

5. The purpose of this MOU is to agree on the access to licence holder data between Regional Councils and between Regional Councils and the NZ Council.

Regional Council's Access to Licence Holder Data

6. A Regional Council has access to licence holder details contained in the database to carry out its statutory functions, including
 - communication with, and promotion of the recreation to, licence holders within its region
 - monitoring of compliance and enforcement of regulations for all licence holder details,
 - assessment and monitoring success rate and satisfaction of licence holders within its regions.
7. Tasks which may be typically undertaken by Regional Councils are described further in Schedule 1.
8. Regional Councils may access the database for the reasons listed in Schedule 1 without the need to consult with other Regional Councils or the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

NZ Council's Access to Licence Holder Data

9. The NZ Council has access to licence holder details contained in the database to carry out its statutory functions, including:
 - Advocating in the best interests of all licence holders
 - Co-ordinating the distribution of Fish & Game print and electronic magazines, marketing campaigns and the election of Fish & Game councils.
 - Research, such as the National Angler Survey, licence holder surveys, market analysis.
10. Tasks which may be typically undertaken by the NZ Council are set out in Schedule 2.
11. The NZ Council may access the database for the reasons listed in Schedule 2 and will consult with Regional Councils when it uses the national database to carry out its statutory functions. Where NZ Council seeks access to the database for reasons other than those listed in Schedule 2 it requires the permission of the relevant Regional Council.

Schedule 1 Regional Councils

- Communication with Licence Holders in its own regions, such as:
 - Newsletter distribution by post and email
 - Weekly reports distributed by email
- Promotion and Management of Recreation Resource:
 - Marketing: Part of regional marketing programme, e.g. contacting previous year's licence holders but 'yet to purchase' current season
 - Part of regional marketing programme to re-engage lapsed licence holder – e.g. assessment of licence holder purchase patterns
 - Surveys of back country licence holders for the express purpose of management of those designated fisheries.
- Compliance and Enforcement
 - Assessing whether an alleged offence has occurred – e.g. licence /no licence, or licence purchase history
- Assessment and Monitoring of Success Rate
 - Assessing harvest rate from Game Bird Harvest Survey
- Assessment and Monitoring Licence Holder Satisfaction
- Assessing hunter or angler opinion on issues relating to satisfaction
- Research
 - Assess patterns of a region's licence holder purchase patterns and licence category switching

Schedule 2 NZ Fish and Game Council

- Advocacy
 - Contact licence holders to seek views and support on national level issues
 - Contact licence holders to inform them on national level issues

- Coordination:
 - Co-ordinating Fish & Game's financial viability from an organisational perspective
 - Fish and Game magazine distribution
 - Electronic Magazine distribution, such as Reel life and Both Barrels ezines
 - Marketing to promote programmes, including marketing communication actions e.g. early bird licence communications to previous year's licence holders for the upcoming new season.
 - Triennial Fish and Game elections
- Research
 - National Angler Survey
 - Licence holder surveys
 - User surveys to test licencing, categories, switching and other buyer behaviour
 - Marketing analysis
 - Financial viability analysis
 - Licence holder behaviour analysis

DRAFT

License Management System Policy

Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to provide an effective management and development of licence sales system

Business Plan

2. A business plan including a roadmap and timeline shall be developed in consultation with regions to provide a five-year expectation of licence management outcomes and outline of continual improvement of processes and stepwise innovations anticipated. The plan will be based on the five-year road map agreed with Eyede as part of the new contract. This plan shall include:
 - Functionality as required by the contract
 - Integration with other Fish & Game digital platforms
 - Annual review and reporting for continuous improvement

Data Ownership and Use

3. Data is owned by the region of origin as they are the principal licence sellers.
4. Data has been collected from licence holders to be used for the benefit of Fish and Game as an organisation.
5. The use of the data inter-regionally and by the New Zealand Council will be governed by an MOU separate to this policy.
6. The MOU will cover all potential uses of data by regions and the NZC, the protocols and permissions required.

Operational Management – Regional Input

7. The Licence System and Business Administration Agreement between the licence system provider (e.g. Eyede Ltd) and Fish & Game defines NZC as managing the agreement. This assigns to NZC the single internal delegation to liaise with the supplier (e.g. Eyede Ltd) as a single point of contact.
8. All communication from the regions regarding the licensing system, including wider input to the development of the functional requirements as outlined in Functional Requirements Schedule supplied by the licence system provider (Eyede), must be formally notified to the relationship manager of their delegate. This include notification of system failures and shortfalls.
9. All requests from the regions for added functionality or a change in functionality, or which could generate costs with Eyede must be made through the NZC relationship manager in the first instance.
10. Regional input into operational management will be provided through the three regional managers appointed to the NZC Licence Sub Committee group. These managers will work with NZC staff and together they will bring any matters to the NZC through the NZC Licence Sub Committee.

11. The three managers and NZC staff will be responsible for:
 - a. dealing with the contributions from regions involving trouble shooting,
 - b. identifying potential interface improvements,
 - c. approving final licence format,
 - d. listing of fixes identified by regional staff,
 - e. maintaining oversight of progress of five-year business plan.
 - f. Any other matter that requires attention
12. The three managers and NZC staff will agree on when wider regional input is required to ensure all regions have input into implementation of changes to the system (e.g. implementation of a charge for a plastic licence considering the value perception to the licence holder v cost).

User Support

13. Fish and Game will work with Eyede to ensure support for when system has been rolled out such as video tutorials (e.g. licence holder customers or agents), online support, Pdf guides with step-by-step processes for licence purchase etc.

Reporting

14. The relationship manager will pass on all reports (as set out in the contract) to regional Fish and Game Councils received from Eyede on system performance, service disruption events, and system improvement progress. This includes:
 - KPI performance. Monthly reporting at frequency provided by the provider (Eyede Ltd) on KPIs and a summary annual report provided to regions
 - Disruption to service. Reported to Regional Managers/CEs (operational issue) asap and included in the monthly reporting
 - System performance and improvements. Reporting to regions of progress of upgrades and improvements to system bi-monthly

Financial Distribution – License Sales

15. As per the contract the financial distribution of net income from licence sales will be monthly to each regional Fish and Game Council.

Financial Distribution - Other Income

16. The principal purpose of the licence management system is to sell licences. There will be functional capability to provide for additional income streams such as donations, permit fees, bookings for events other income.
17. The financial distribution of Other Income goes to each specific Fish and Game Council including tagged donations, ancillary permitting options such as backcountry licence booking.
18. Financial distribution of Game Bird Habitat Distribution income will go to a separate GBH Trust account

Business Operations

19. A contract for BPO is to run in parallel with the licence management system in all cases. Preference for outsourcing provider unless there is a compelling business plan developed.

Security of Information

20. Proactively ensure security of information is best management practice.
21. Ensure that licence holder records are managed in accordance with the Privacy Act 2018 and all other government standards and legislation. e.g. ensuring processes to deal with requests for 'unsubscribe' for email communications and/or sign up requirements.
22. All regions and NZC will ensure Internal security prevents any mis use by any staff member.

User Privileges Matrix

23. The User Privileges Matrix (UPM) will be confirmed as fit for purpose to meet regional expectations – e.g. selling licences, administration of corrections, viewing by rangers (stipendiary ranger v honorary ranger), data download, and general administration. The matrix will clearly state access/viewing rights, searching rights, edit rights, etc.

Contract Duration and Review

24. The contract period is five years. A review of the contract will begin in year three and a decision on whether to go to market or renegotiate will be made by the NZC, taking into account advice from the regions.

Staff Grant Application

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Martin Taylor, Chief Executive, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to revisit the decision to not allocate any funds for a Staff Grant in the 2020 – 2021 financial year, and then to consider an application from an Otago staff member.

Background

- 2 The NZC in April 2020 agree to reduce its 2020-2021 budget to save money to mitigate the impacts of Covid 19. One cost centre postponed until revenue returns to normal was the Staff Grants.
- 3 An application for the 2020-2021 year from Otago for Nigel Paragreen was therefore turned down by the NZC.

Analysis

- 4 Fish and Game NZ has sought to reduce the expenditure of the organisation in light of the modelled impacts of Covid 19. This has affected many areas of the NZC and the wider organisation.
- 5 If the NZC wish to revisit its cost saving decisions, then it needs to decide what has changed in order to make those decision on a principled basis.
- 6 At this point in time there is no indication we will be in a less worse position than modelled. Early licence sales are not an indication of more licence sales.
- 7 Also, if the NZC decide to change its decisions on Staff Grants and re-establish this cost centre then it should consider opening this up to all of the organisations staff again. Otherwise it might appear unfair to other regions.
- 8 It is worth noting that the NZC made the decisions to postpone Staff Grants on the basis of cost savings in light of Covid 19 impacts and that situation remains. Across the organisation the impact of Covid 19 has meant discretionary spending has had to be reduce where it can, and/or reserves reduced.
- 9 If the NZC agree with the importance of this training for Otago's staff member, then they could support Otago in using some of their reserves to cover the cost.
- 10 Otago Fish and Game have sufficient reserves to cover this cost.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Applicant: Nigel Paragreen
Region and Position: Environmental Officer, Otago Region

Summary of Itinerary and Project:

I propose that a small amount of the Staff Development Grant be used to enable me to attend the Making Good Decisions – Foundation Course. This course provides training and certification so that a student becomes equipped to a run fair and effective hearing and make informed decisions under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

I expect that a greater understanding of decision-making processes will improve my performance as an RMA practitioner, advocating for the interests of Fish and Game.

Funding will be required to cover the cost of the course, plus an allowance for travel, accommodation and meal expenditure. This is expected to be approximately one third of the total fund, leaving ample funding for other projects. The project is expected to be excellent value for money, as it is low cost and will directly train staff.

Please see the attached application sheet, running through the application requirements set out in the grant criteria.

Summary of funding applied for:

Fees:	\$2,198.00
Travel:	\$ 750.00
Accommodation:	\$ 340.00
Other:	\$ 200.00
TOTAL:	\$3,488.00

Total funding granted: \$..... Date:.....

A description of the planned programme and of what benefit it will be to Fish and Game New Zealand

The Making Good Decision – Foundation course is delivered by WSP Environmental Training Centre on behalf of the Ministry for the Environment, with the purpose to train and accredit individuals to run fair and effective hearings, and to make informed decisions. The course is held over 2 days, typically in Wellington or Auckland, with a pre-assessment prior and an assessment being undertaken either side of the course. Unfortunately, dates for the courses have not been released for the next financial year. However, there will be plenty of opportunities to book and attend one.

As an RMA practitioner, developing an understanding the decision-making process from the perspective of a decision maker will be immensely helpful in developing successful hearing cases. As Fish and Game relies primarily on wild spawning populations for angling and hunting, and the RMA is the primary decision-making tool for protecting habitat, improved performance in hearing cases will directly assist with maintaining and improving recreation opportunities.

The recognition of this course and accreditation will also aid in my presentation as a knowledgeable and reliable RMA practitioner. Cultivating this reputation amongst RMA staff is crucial for Fish and Game, as it means the advice the organisation provides will be highly regarded.

Below, I have listed the 10 modules covered in the foundation course. I have placed emphasis on the modules that have direct relevance to improving the success of Fish and Game cases.

Natural Justice and Ethics	<u>Roles of Participants in Hearings</u>
<u>Principles of RMA Decision Making</u>	<u>Procedures for Hearings under the RMA</u>
Considerations Relating to Māori	Managing Hearings
<u>The Planning Framework and Hearings</u>	<u>Considering, Testing and Weighing Evidence</u>
<u>Consent Hearings</u>	<u>Deliberation and Preparing Decisions</u>

The amount of money being sought including cost breakdowns and quotations where appropriate

The total funding sought is \$3,488. The breakdown for the estimated cost is as follows:

Cost	Amount	Evidence
Course fees	\$2,198	Based on course costs for the 2019/2020 financial year. The costs for the 2020/2021 financial year have not yet been released but are not expected to be change dramatically.
Airfare	\$750	Approximate cost of flights to Wellington from Dunedin, based on flights booked for RMA workshop in 2019.
Accommodation	\$340	Approximate cost of two nights’ accommodation at \$170 per night in Wellington CBD.
Food	\$200	Approximate cost for food expenses for 2.5 days (approx. \$80 per day)

Details of any other sources of funding being sought

No other funding sources are sought.

A copy of the applicant's CV, including a description of training undertaken since he/she commenced work within Fish and Game New Zealand

A copy of my CV is attached to this submission.

Since beginning my employment with the Otago Fish and Game Council, I have focused on building skills as an RMA practitioner, including developing case strategy, writing planning evidence and developing productive relationships with parties aligned to Fish and Game's interest. This has taken the form of undertaking in-house training under the guidance of experienced Fish and Game Officers and Fish and Game's RMA practitioners.

Given my formal training on environmental policy took place in Australia and I have not yet undertaken additional formal training in this field with Fish and Game, the next logical step is to take my training to the next level in a formal setting that is highly regarded by others in the industry.

Information on any Fish and Game projects the applicant has contributed to

In my role I take a leadership position on RMA processes. This has meant that I have undertaken and contributed to around 250 discrete RMA projects – be it written approval feedback, submissions, hearings or all three. I expect that the training proposed would improve my performance in projects such as these.

In Otago, the wider focus during my time at Fish and Game has been on resolving historic water allocation issues, where massive amounts of water have been distributed to a small number of users, to the detriment of society and the environment. My role in this has involved leading Fish and Game's response to many complex deemed permit applications; assisting with existing cases; providing planning advice internally and externally; advocating for improvements to the Otago water policy framework; participating in plan writing exercises; and representing the Otago Fish and Game Council at hearings. All of these functions too would benefit greatly from the training proposed.

In the next 5 years, the Otago region will move into a plan writing exercise as the regional council has finally recognised that their planning framework is out of date and ineffective. During this time, I expect to continue my leadership role, developing feedback and case strategy for the extensive plan change and plan writing exercises that are to come. I expect the training proposed will improve my knowledge and better prepare me for success in this endeavour.

A written endorsement from the applicant's manager

Please see the attached letter from Ian Hadland.

A written endorsement from the host agency if appropriate

It is not appropriate for the host agency, WSP Training Centre, to provide an endorsement at this stage as a prospective student must pass a pre-assessment before being eligible to attend the course. However, to undertake this the student must first register and to do so I need confirmation that funding will be approved.

The pre-assessment is designed to enable councillors, board members and other un-trained or non-professionals to take the MGD course. Because of my experience in the field, I am confident

that this pre-assessment will not prove an issue and therefore, there is minimal risk associated with approving my application.

Confirmation of acceptance as a conference presented if appropriate

This is not applicable.

Course Fees

HOME ABOUT COURSES UPCOMING COURSES NEWS COURSE INFORMATION CONTACT ENROL NOW ▶

Please note there is a Pre Assessment that needs to be completed prior to attending the course. There is also a post assessment on completion of the course.

Show dates for
All locations

APR 7	2 days, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Wellington \$2,198.00 excl. GST	Course is full Join waiting list
APR 21	2 days, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Christchurch \$2,198.00 excl. GST	Course is full Join waiting list
MAY 20	2 days, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Dunedin \$2,198.00 excl. GST	Course is full Join waiting list
JUN 22	2 days, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Auckland \$2,198.00 excl. GST	Course is full Join waiting list
JUL 14	2 days, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Wellington \$2,198.00 excl. GST	Register

Airfare Dunedin to Wellington, return



BOOKING REF. **DCAVKH**

Receipt

MR NIGEL PARAGREEN Tkt No. 0862192049343

PAYMENT

MODIFIED TAX INVOICE IRD APPROVED (GST No: 10-795-869)

Fare	NZD	674.78
GST	NZD	101.22
TOTAL	NZD	776.00

NZD 776.00 has been charged to **Travelcard**
Cost Centre **1240**

Financial Implications

- 11 The financial implications of the proposal would be, all things being equal, the NZC reserves would reduce by \$3,500 if the NZC agreed to the Otago request.

Legislative Implications

- 12 None

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 13 None

Policy Implications

- 14 None

Consultation

- 15 Not required as the impact is on the NZC budget.

Recommendations

- 1 *Agree to maintain the status quo position with Staff Grants as agreed in April 2020 when the NZC budget was confirmed.*
or
- 2 *Agree to establish a Staff Grant at a particular level*
And
- 3 *Agree to invite applications for a Staff Grant from all regional staff members.*
or
- 4 *Agree to Otago's Staff Grant application for \$3,500.*
or
- 5 *Agree to support Otago use their reserves to cover the costs of their Staff Grant application.*

Reconsideration of Regional Budgets 2020/2021

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20-22 November 2020

Prepared by: Martin Taylor, Chief Executive, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

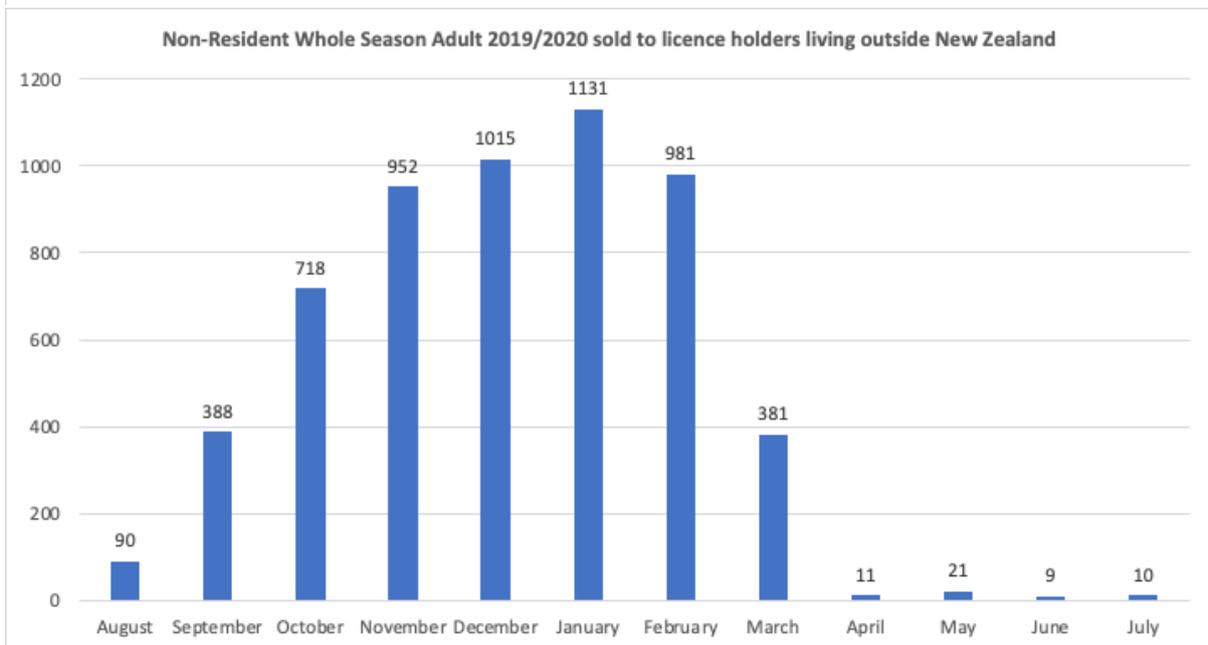
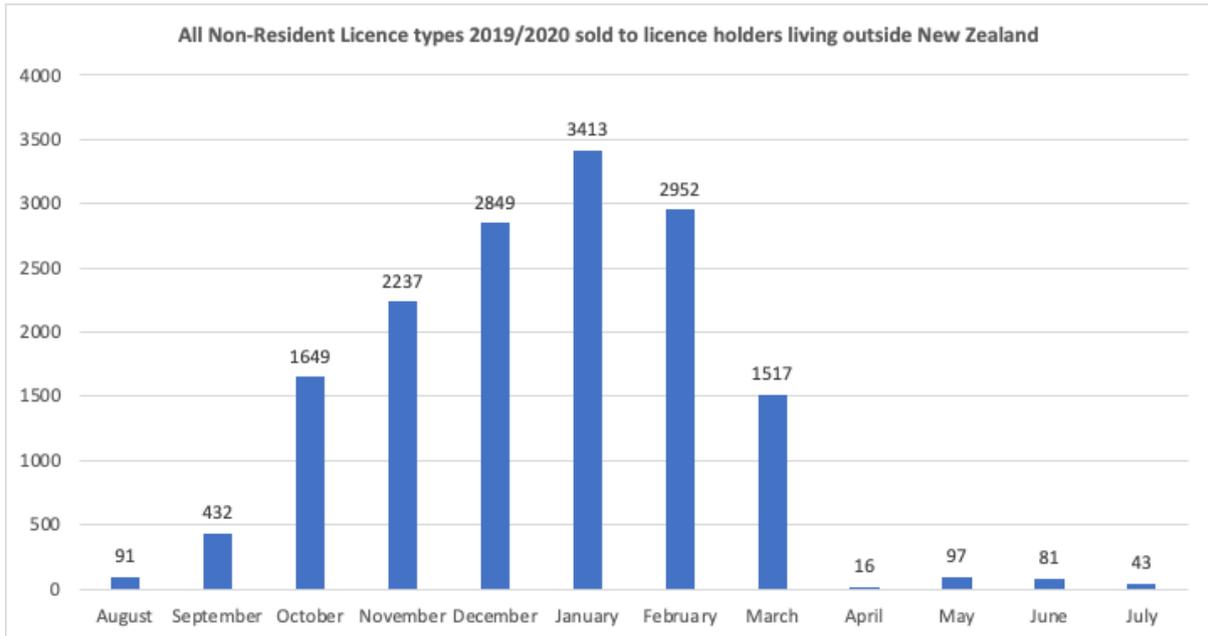
1. The purpose of this paper is to set out a practical timeline for the reconsideration of the 2020/2021 budgets.

Analysis

1. Earlier this year, following consultation, the NZC set the budgets for the regions and itself. The NZC said during the consultation phase that it would reassess the budgets in light of licence sales in the first quarter of the financial year.
2. The problem with reassessing budgets in December, or after the first quarter, is there is not enough licence sales data to create robust information on which to base sensible reforecasting budget decisions. While it's true that licence sales are ahead of projections, this does not mean we can assume overall annual revenue will be less bad than what was projected in April this year. It could just mean anglers have purchased their licences early because the weather has been more settled.
3. It is worth noting that we can say with a high degree of certainty that licence revenue will be down in this financial year as Covid 19 will stop non resident anglers coming to NZ which will drop the organisations overall revenue.
4. As set out in the graphs below, the majority of licence sales are made from October to the end of January. We believe it would be more appropriate for NZC staff to undertake an analysis of licence sales in early February 2021, for the February NZC meeting. This will give a guide as to how many new licence holders we have, how many licence holders have been reactivated, and how many have been retained. This will give us a better understanding if our revenue is going to be less bad than modelled, and if so, whether reforecasting budgets is a financially prudent exercise.

Recommendation

1. *Undertake an analysis of licence sales in February 2021 to provide information for a budget reforecasting exercise.*



National Anglers Survey

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Prepared by: Martin Taylor, Chief Executive, Jack Kós, Policy Advisor, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval of business plan for the National Anglers Survey (NAS) for NZC to determine the approach to the NAS in terms of whether it is co-ordinated internally or externally.

Background

- 2 The NAS is undertaken every 7 years and determines angling usage and patterns of use across the country. It provides an extremely valuable resource to Fish & Game, both regionally and nationally, in terms of assessing national usage patterns, as an advocacy tool in regional plan hearings (i.e. the ability to demonstrate that a river receives 800 angler days per year establishes its recreational value) and in assessing usage patterns relative to changing environmental conditions to determine the impact of degradation on anglers.

Analysis

- 3 The substantive detail of this paper is contained within the attached Business Plan. The plan details two possible avenues to complete the survey:
 - 3.1 Internal co-ordination at a cost of \$139,895+GST.
 - 3.2 External (NIWA) co-ordination at a cost of \$175,848+GST.
- 4 Each option has associated pros and cons.
- 5 Internal co-ordination:
 - 5.1 Pros:
 - 5.1.1 Cost savings of approximately \$36,00.
 - 5.1.2 Internal retention of knowledge/process.
 - 5.2 Cons:
 - 5.2.1 Final product may be more subject to challenge in resource management hearings because of perceived bias.
 - 5.2.2 Staff time diverted from other projects.

- 6 External co-ordination:
 - 6.1 Pros:
 - 6.1.1 Final product may be less subject to challenge in resource management hearings because all work undertaken externally.
 - 6.1.2 Staff time available for other projects.
 - 6.2 Cons:
 - 6.2.1 Increase in cost of approximately \$36,000
 - 6.2.2 No internal retention of knowledge/process
- 7 In terms of how the project is organised I will be ultimately responsible for the NAS, and Helen Trotter (depending on the option chosen) would be the Project Manager. To ensure that the lines of accountability are clear, I would sign a service level agreement with Helen and Jayde.

Financial Implications Financial Implications

- 8. The financial implications are dependent on which option is agreed to.
 - 1. If the survey is undertaken with internal co-ordination it will cost approximately \$139,495.
 - 2. If the survey is undertaken with external co-ordination it will cost approximately \$175,848.
- 9. The payment schedule occurs over 3 financial years and is set out in the Business Plan.
- 10. \$96,400 is currently committed towards the survey, including \$10,000 allocated from the research fund from each of the next two financial years.
- 11. This leaves a funding deficit of \$43,088 if it is run internally and \$79,442 if it is run externally. Both deficits could be covered through the normal research allocation as the project spans three financial years (2020-21/2021-22&2022-23).
- 12. We will, however, need to increase the funding for the next NAS – to say \$30k per annum.

Legislative Implications

- 8 Nil.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 9 Nil.

Policy Implications

- 10 No policy inconsistencies.

Consultation

- 11 Significant consultation undertaken with regional staff through Managers Meetings and communication directly with the Project Co-ordinator Helen Trotter.

Recommendations

- 1 *Agree to approve the NAS Business Plan as presented.*
- 2 *Agree to undertake the NAS with internal co-ordination at an estimated cost of \$139,495; or*
- 3 *Agree to undertake the NAS with external (NIWA) co-ordination at an estimated cost of \$175,848.*

2021-22 National Angler Survey Business Plan

Prepared by Helen Trotter, Otago Fish and Game Council

Executive Summary

The National Angling Survey (NAS) is a high-value long-term research programme funded and coordinated by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. Since 1994 a series of four surveys have been completed, at approximately 7-year intervals. This has resulted in a nationally significant quantitative dataset which is used range across Fish and Game New Zealand and as well by external agencies. The current project proposes to undertake the fifth national survey of freshwater angling activity in New Zealand. While the survey methodology is now well established the retirement of Martin Unwin (NIWA; survey developer and project lead) presents an opportunity for Fish and Game New Zealand to undertake some of the more administrative project and database management tasks, building internal capacity and reducing external costs, while continuing involvement of key external providers to ensure the quality and credibility of the dataset is maintained. This approach was recommended following consultation with Martin Unwin and NIWA and a working party of key staff and managers from NZC and the regions. An alternative approach for external implementation of the NAS project is presented in the Appendix.

Survey Process

The full process for the NAS is outlined in detail in the report *The 2021/2022 National Angling Survey – Procedures, Guidelines and Datasets*, prepared by Martin Unwin (available at the link below).

[NAS Procedure, Guidelines and Datasets](#)

Finalised Quotes

- [Global Office – Angling Survey Tool and Azure subscription](#)
- [NIWA – Martin Unwin survey advice contract](#)
- [Southern Institute of Technology \(SIT\) call centre](#)
- [NIWA – Analysis and reporting of 2021-22 survey](#)

Total Cost

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$139,495 (+ GST).

This includes an estimated cost of \$6960 relating to regional staff time for survey coordination and database management involved with FGZ leading the data collection component of the survey internally.

In addition to the estimated cost of 2021-22 survey, there was expenditure of \$15,552 (+ GST) associated with the production of a NAS Survey Manual in which Martin Unwin documented the survey process in detail. This will be a key resource for the next and future surveys as well as an important reference for understanding the existing database of surveys to date.

The breakdown of total annual and project total costs is provided in the payment schedule below. All costs are excluding GST.

Schedule of Costs

Item	Provider	Invoice date	Amount
2020-21			
Survey design advice	NIWA, MU	Quarterly (as required)	6000
Angling Survey Tool website set-up	Global Office	31 July 2021	2475
Monthly monitoring, uptime reporting (150 per month)	Global Office	31 August 2021 30 September 2021	300
Microsoft Azure 'serverless' hosting monthly subscription fee (170 per month)	Microsoft, Global Office	31 July 2021 31 August 2021 30 September 2021	510 (total)
Survey coordination, regional staff time	Otago		1200 (~40 hours)
Database management, regional staff time	Central South Island		1200 (~40 hours)
SIT call centre training session	SIT, FGZ	August 2021	500
2020-21 TOTAL			12,185
2021-22			
Microsoft Azure 'serverless' hosting monthly subscription fee (170 per month)	Microsoft, Global Office	31 October 2021 30 November 2021 31 December 2021 31 January 2022 28 February 2022 31 March 2022 30 April 2022 31 May 2022 30 June 2022 31 July 2022 31 August 2022 30 September 2022	2040 (total)*
Monthly monitoring, uptime reporting (150 per month)	Global Office	31 October 2021 30 November 2021 31 December 2021 31 January 2022 28 February 2022 31 March 2022 30 April 2022 31 May 2022 30 June 2022 31 July 2022 31 August 2022 30 September 2022	1800 (total)
Period 1 survey	SIT Call Centre	31 December 2021	8500
Period 2 survey	SIT Call Centre	28 February 2022	8500
Period 3 survey	SIT Call Centre	30 April 2022	8500
Period 4 survey	SIT Call Centre	30 June 2022	8500
Period 5 survey	SIT Call Centre	31 August 2022	8500

Item	Provider	Invoice date	Amount
Survey advice	NIWA, Martin Unwin	Quarterly (as required)	4000
Survey coordination, regional staff time	Otago		1200 (~40 hours)
Database management, regional staff time	Central South Island		2400 (~80 hours)
2021-22 TOTAL			53,940
2022-23			
Microsoft Azure 'serverless' hosting monthly subscription fee	Microsoft, Global Office	31 October 2022	170*
Monthly monitoring, uptime reporting	Global Office	31 October 2022	150
Contingency	Global Office	31 October 2022	500
Period 6 survey	SIT	31 October 2022	8500 + 2300
Non-resident survey	SIT	31 October 2022	1240
Analysis & reporting	NIWA	30 June 2023	59,550
Survey coordination, regional staff time	Otago		240 (~8 hours)
Database management, regional staff time	Central South Island		720 (~24 hours)
2022-23 TOTAL			73,370
PROJECT TOTAL			139,495

*Microsoft Azure monthly subscription costs are subject to change (see Global Office proposal).

The payment schedule has split the total estimated centre costs evenly across survey periods. However is expected that based on the final survey design and the distribution of licence sales for the 2021-22 season, that costs will be higher in the peak summer periods as more call will be required to meet the minimum representative samples sizes, with fewer calls required in the early and later stages of the season (consistent with the methodology of previous surveys).

Internal staff time for the survey coordination and database coordination tasks have been roughly estimated to enable comparison of costs with a NIWA coordinated survey approach (see Appendix). As there is limited information available from previous survey projects to guide these estimates it is proposed that these estimates are reviewed regularly throughout the project. It is to be confirmed whether or to what extent these costs (\$6,960) would be reimbursed to the relevant regions.

DOC Project Contribution

The Department of Conservation (DOC) has confirmed that they wish to be involved in the 2021-22 NAS and will cover the costs for all calls to DOC Taupo Licence holders (to be confirmed and budgeted separately) as well as a share of costs for Global Office and analysis and reporting from NIWA (summarised below). It was also signalled that a contribution could also be made to additional costs associated with project management and survey coordination. A formal agreement outlining the basis of DOC involvement will be drawn up outlining these terms by early in 2021.

Item	Provider	Invoice date	Amount
2020-21			
Angling Survey Tool website set-up	Global Office	31 July 2021	90
Monthly Azure subscription and service fees	Global Office/Microsoft	30 September 2021	62
Survey design advice	NIWA, Martin Unwin	Quarterly (as required)	462
2021-22			
Monthly subscription and service fees (Global Office/Microsoft)	DOC contribution	30 September 2022	295
Survey advice	NIWA, Martin Unwin	Quarterly (as required)	308
2022-23			
Monthly Azure subscription and service fees	Global Office/Microsoft	31 October	25
Analysis & reporting	NIWA	30 June 2023	4581
ESTIMATED PROJECT CONTRIBUTION FROM DOC			5,823

In-kind Regional Support

The staff hours estimated for each region to undertake the preliminary data review for each survey period, are consistent with the approach taken in previous surveys and has been supported by the regions in the past. This contribution will be required regardless of whether the survey is internally or externally coordinated.

Item	Provider	Completion date	Amount
2021-22			
Regional data review, staff time (2-4 hours per region for each survey period. 10-20 hours per region total)	All regions	Following each survey period	120 – 240 hours (total across all regions, 2-4 hours per region, per period)
2022-23			
Regional data review, staff time	All regions	Following each survey period	12-48 hours (2-4 hours per region)

Deliverables and Key Performance Indicators

Key deliverables

1. *Final report produced by NIWA which:*
 - Estimates annual usage by NZ resident anglers for all lake and river fisheries managed by FGNZ and DOC;
 - Estimates corresponding annual usage of non-resident anglers¹ and;
 - Tabulates and characterises these results at national, regional and local scales (including relationship with REC, out of region fishing, inter-region fishing etc)
2. *Updated master database of angling usage estimates*
3. *Peer-reviewed journal article presenting key findings published in the scientific literature*

Key Performance Indicators:

1. *Project delivery time*
 - a) Percentage of total project milestones not met (see milestone table below)
 - Target <10 %
 - Reviewed at bi-monthly meeting from September 2020
 - b) Project completion date met
 - Target within 30 days of identified completion date
 - Reviewed monthly from November 2022
2. *Budget Variance*
 - Deviation between the actual costs and the planned (budgeted) costs for the same period.
 - Target $\pm 3-5\%$
 - Reviewed at bi-monthly meeting from September 2020.
3. *Data Quality*
 - a) Licence holder participation
 - Target <1% interview refusal (comparable with 2014-15 survey)
 - Reviewed following each survey period
 - b) Contact success rate
 - Target $\geq 55\%$ for resident anglers and $\geq 23\%$ for non-resident anglers
 - Reviewed following each survey period
 - c) Angling waters accurately identified
 - Target <160 custom waters entered throughout the survey, <20 records discarded due to unidentifiable/marine waters
 - Reviewed following each survey period
 - d) Robust usage estimates and publication of results
 - Target $\geq 95\%$ of staff/Councils satisfied data is fit for purpose; meets their advocacy and management needs and is used regularly; manuscript accepted by peer-reviewed journal; updated estimates are referred to by Regional Councils and other external agencies.

¹¹ The COVID-19 pandemic may affect the inclusion of non-residents in the 2021-22 survey

- Reviewed annually following project completion (it would be helpful to establish a record of use to assist with assessing the value of the dataset and objective setting in future).

4. Project process

a) Progress reporting

- Target at least bi-monthly project progress meetings, quarterly reporting to NZC
- Reviewed at project completion

Milestones to assess progress

Milestone/task	Person / Provider Responsible	Additional Personnel / Provider Involved	Completion date
Survey Planning and Preparation			
Business Plan prepared	Helen Trotter	Martin Taylor	20 August 2020 <i>(completed)</i> Subsequent request for additional information by November 2020
Manual reviewed and key tasks identified	Helen Trotter	Jayde Couper	31 August 2020 <i>(completed)</i>
Database management and survey design workshop held	Helen Trotter	Jayde Couper, Martin Unwin	September 2020 <i>(completed)</i>
DOC survey involvement formally confirmed (agreement for cost-sharing, survey design process, information sharing etc.)	Helen Trotter	David Conley (DOC) Martin Taylor Martin Unwin	30 September 2020 <i>(Meeting held 30 Sep. Involvement confirmed. Survey start date confirmed. Licence sales data provided to inform sampling design. Further details to be confirmed. Discussions ongoing.)</i>
Budget and contracts confirmed	Martin Taylor	Helen Trotter	31 Jan 2021

Milestone/task	Person / Provider Responsible	Additional Personnel / Provider Involved	Completion date
Database management tasks completed	Jayde Couper	Martin Unwin	31 Jan 2021
Survey design confirmed	Jayde Couper	Martin Unwin Helen Trotter	28 Feb 2021
Licencing system changes identified and ordered	Helen Trotter	Martin Taylor Licence sub-committee David Conley (DOC)	28 Feb 2021
Licence system changes completed and tested ahead of opening of 2021-22 licence sales	Eyede Solutions Ltd	Martin Taylor Licence sub-committee David Conley (DOC)	31 May 2021
Communications plan developed (Discuss with DOC for alignment of messaging)	NZ Communications Staff	Helen Trotter	Plan confirmed by June 2021. Implementation in line with licence sale opening for 2021-22 season
Data collection			
SIT call centre staff training session 1	Judy Fleck (SIT)	Nick Witterman (Global Office) Jayde Couper	August 2021
Bi-monthly surveys completed within the first 2 weeks of each survey period (from September 2021 for DOC and December 2021 for Fish and Game; non-residents surveyed once during the last survey period)	Judy Fleck (SIT)	Helen Trotter Jayde Couper	September 2021 November 2021 January 2022 March 2022 May 2022 July 2022 (for DOC Taupo) December 2021 February 2022 April 2022 June 2022 August 2022 October 2022 (for FGNZ)
Regional review of datasets completed by the end of the survey month (for each period)	Jayde Couper	DOC Taupo staff	September 2021 November 2021 January 2022 March 2022 May 2022 July 2022

Milestone/task	Person / Provider Responsible	Additional Personnel / Provider Involved	Completion date
		Fish and Game Regional staff	December 2021 February 2022 April 2022 June 2022 August 2022 October 2022
Data collated and delivered to NIWA	Jayde Couper	Helen Trotter	October 2022
Data Analysis and Reporting			
Monthly progress reports from NIWA (via email)	Phil Jellyman (NIWA)		From November 2022
Draft report received	Phil Jellyman (NIWA)		May 2023
Review of draft and feedback provided to NIWA	Helen Trotter	Jayde Couper Martin Taylor Selected regional staff and managers	May/June 2023 (within 2 weeks of receiving draft)
Final report received and distributed to regions	Phil Jellyman (NIWA)	Helen Trotter	30 June 2023
Key findings communicated to licence holders and stakeholders	NZC Communications staff	NIWA Helen Trotter	30 September 2023
Co-publication of findings in journal (and presentation at relevant conference)	Phil Jellyman/NIWA	Helen Trotter, Jayde Couper	31 December 2023

Division of Roles

Name/Organisation	Role	Responsibilities
Internal Staff		
Martin Taylor, NZC	CEO	As CEO, responsible for ultimate oversight of contracts, spending sign-off in line with approved Business Plan. Delegation of tasks and/or appointment of roles Relationship manager with Eyede Solutions Ltd Reports on progress to NZC

Name/Organisation	Role	Responsibilities
Helen Trotter, Otago	Project Manager	Project management, planning, coordination and scheduling, monitoring progress, budget review Liaison between external providers. Provide support to the Database coordinator
Jayde Couper, CSI	Database coordinator	Updating and managing the supporting datasets Preparing the random sample of licence holders for each survey period (including determination of sample size for each stratum/region), preliminary data processing Collation of survey data and preparation of data for delivery to NIWA
Regional staff	Data Review	After the end of each survey period regions will be required to review the data collected to look for any abnormalities or errors and report back to the Database Manager. Estimated at 12-24 hours per region total, (2-4 per survey period)
Licence sub-committee	Licencing System	Investigation of adjustments required to the licence sales/database system
NZC Communications staff	Public awareness	Assist with development of and implement communications plan for Regions, agents and licence holders
External Providers / Contacts		
Martin Unwin	Survey Advisor	Provide advice on survey design and database management
Judy Fleck, SIT Call Centre	Call Centre Manager	Manage the collection of data by SIT call centre staff in line with the confirmed survey design, using the Angling Survey Tool
Nick Witteman, Global Office	Survey website	Reactivate and manage Angling Survey Tool, facilitate secure data storage
Phil Jellyman, NIWA	Project lead - Survey analysis and reporting	Confirm survey design Analyse raw data and report on results in line with objectives
David Conley, DOC Taupo	DOC contact	Coordination of DOC involvement (survey design, access to licence holder data, approval of budget contributions)
Eyede Solutions Ltd	Licence sales system and database management	Manage licence database Activate the required reporting functions (i.e. secondary licence holders) Make required adjustments to licence sales system to collect required data at the point of sale

Project Management Process

At least bi-monthly meetings will be held with the project manager (Martin Taylor) and the survey coordinator (Helen Trotter) and database coordinator (Jayde Couper) when required. The purpose of these meetings will report on work undertaken, assess progress against the identified milestones and identify any issues or additional support required for the project. Additional project contributors/advisors should be requested to attend these meetings as required. This may include for example a member(s) of the Research Committee or NIWA project staff. The project manager will then report to the NZC at their scheduled meetings.

The involvement of regional staff has been agreed in principle by the relevant regional CE/managers based on the terms outlined in this Business Plan (noting that the issue of reimbursement for staff time from NZC is still outstanding). If any problems with regional staff involvement arise or the required contribution is found to deviate significantly from that indicated in the Business Plan the project manager will need to raise this with the relevant regional CE/manager and a mutually agreeable solution identified. Communication between the project manager and relevant regional CE/managers should occur throughout the project on an as required basis, however it not considered necessary that regional CE/managers sit on a project working party.

A Microsoft Teams groups (NAS) has been established to facilitate file sharing and collaboration between the various internal and external parties involved in the project.

Peer Review

Survey Design

Martin Unwin will advise on the survey design and data collection to ensure that Fish and Game undertake this component of the project in a consistent manner to previous surveys. The final survey design will also be approved by Phil Jellyman/NIWA to ensure that the data collected will meet the requirements for analysis and reporting consistent with the project objectives.

Data Collection

The SIT call centre has internal quality control and training processes to ensure data collection processes are sound. The Angling Survey Tool (Global Office) will also greatly reduce error rates by standardising interviewing and data entry processes. Following each survey data will be reviewed by regional staff to check for anomalies. Utilizing local expert knowledge held by regional staff has proven to be an effective method to detect issues with fishery names, invalid data etc. in previous surveys.

Analysis and Reporting

NIWA has a robust internal peer review process as a standard component of all client reports. This is considered fit for purpose and additional external peer review has not been included in the project budget.

Co-publication of findings with NIWA in the scientific literature will provide additional opportunity for peer review of the research and will support the impact and value of the dataset.

COVID-19 Situation

The ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic presents considerable uncertainty for future licence sales, particularly for non-residents. The inclusion of non-resident anglers in the survey will need to be revisited closer to the time. This may require that adjustments to the budget and

survey objectives are made. The inclusion of non-residents is not considered to be critical to the successful completion of the project as a telephone survey of non-residents has only been included in one previous survey (2014-15) and non-resident activity makes up only a small proportion of angling overall.

Appendix

Survey Coordination Approach

An alternative approach to that outlined in the Business Plan would be to contract the entire survey project to NIWA (as previously) so that all components of the survey would be undertaken externally. This would shift all accountability to the external provider and would be a somewhat less complex approach as it would not require the coordination and cooperation of regional staff. However, this approach would not build the internal expertise required to allow FGZ to make optimal use of the database and lead NAS survey projects into the future and was expected to result in higher costs.

Following the first NAS workshop in 2017 (attended by regional managers and staff and Martin Unwin), as well as subsequent conversations with NZC staff, other CE/managers, and NIWA, it was recommended that FGZ coordination of the survey/data collection with external data analysis and reporting was the best approach overall for the 2021-22 survey. This approach (involving regional staff involvement) was also formally supported by the managers based on papers presented to the managers' meetings in 2018 and 2020. However, a full cost comparison of the two approaches was not considered previously and is provided here to assist NZC in confirming its preferred approach.

- [NIWA – Implementation, analysis and reporting of 2021-22 survey](#)

Costs for NIWA to undertake the survey implementation task is estimated at \$43,313 (+GST). This approach would increase the total estimated project costs to \$175,848 (+GST).

Consolidated Financial Statements

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20-22 November 2020

Prepared by: Carmel Veitch, Finance, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 To present for approval to the Council the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Background

- 2 The Annual report has been prepared by Staff of the NZ Council and has been Audited by Grant Thornton. At the time of writing this agenda item the report had not been signed off by the Auditor, hence a draft is included for your information. (see attached)

Analysis

- 3 The Annual report includes the following Statements:
 - 3.1 Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense (Profit & Loss).
 - 3.2 Statement of Financial position (Balance Sheet)
 - 3.3 Statement of Cashflow
 - 3.4 Statement of Service Performance the goals and outputs for the year)

Financial Implications

- 4 A summary of the results are detailed:
 - 4.1 The Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense shows a surplus of \$433,751 was achieved against an original budget surplus of \$1,027. There are 3 main areas where this surplus has been achieved:
 - 4.1.1 Revenue is ahead of the original Budget by \$150k. The majority of this is additional revenue gained from the magazine. Interest and Sundry Income is also above budget.
 - 4.1.2 RMA funding – see note 2 \$180k spent vs \$450k original budget. Of the funding approved there is a commitment of \$561k to the RMA/legal fund. Likewise, in Research – there was an original budget of \$134k with only \$51k spent -the research fund has \$200k committed.

- 4.1.3 Savings made due to Covid. Many budgets were underspent due the need to make savings and preserve our reserves. For example, face to face meetings were cancelled and budgets like RMA legal and Research were reduced. Note at the time that Covid impacted New Zealand the Council approved a re forecast budget – this budget showed a surplus of \$317k. Under Section 54 the Crowns Entity Act we must include forecast financial Statements (budgets) which are prepared at the start of the Financial year.
- 4.2 Statement of Financial Position – this is the Balance Sheet and gives us a snapshot of our Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2020. Our financial position has improved from 12 months ago with net Assets improving by \$434k (our profit for the year). A provision has been made for the funds advanced to the NCFGC – this provision is \$147k (see note 8 in the accounts). The reserves are split into Dedicated and Restricted. Restricted reserves are \$762,647 - \$561,710 for RMA legal commitments and \$200,937 to Research Commitments.
- 4.3 Statement of Cashflow outlines where cash has been earned and spent in the period. The statement shows an outflow of cash from the beginning of the year to the end of the year of \$151,254. The cashflow statement is split in to 3 areas:
 - 4.3.1 Cashflow from operating Activities – This showed and inflow of \$698K
 - 4.3.2 Cashflow from Investing Activities - this showed an outflow of cash for investing in term deposits (\$697k) and purchase of Fixed Assets (\$24k)
 - 4.3.3 Cashflow from Financing Activities – an outflow of \$128k – which is the Advance to NCFGC.
- 4.4 The Statement of Service Performance describes each of the three goals, key activities and associated performance measures and results achieved. The objectives are per our annual plan.

Legislative Implications

- 5 The annual report is presented in pursuant to Section 26l of the Conservation Act 1987, Section 45M of the Public Finance Amendment Act 2004, and Section 154 of the Crown Entities Act 2004

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 6 n/a

Policy Implications

- 7 The results presented in the report will impact on the Reserves Policy currently being written.

Consultation

8 n/a.

.

Recommendations

- 1 *Council approve the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2020.*



CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE

**NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME
COUNCIL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2020**

12 November 2019

Hon Kiri Allan
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Minister

I have the honour to submit, pursuant to Section 26I of the Conservation Act 1987, Section 45M of the Public Finance Amendment Act 2004, and Section 154 of the Crown Entities Act 2004, the Performance Report of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, for the period ended 31 August 2020.

Yours faithfully

Paul Shortis
Chairperson

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

INDEX

ENTITY INFORMATION	1
VISION	2
PURPOSE	2
CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT	3
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY	6
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE ...	7
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	8
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	9
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS STATEMENT	10
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	11
STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE	26
AUDIT OPINION.....	36

ENTITY INFORMATION

Council

Noel Birchall	<i>Northland Fish and Game Council</i>
Nigel Juby	<i>Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council</i>
Lindsay Lyons - <i>Chairperson until April 2020</i>	<i>Eastern Fish and Game Council</i>
Kevin Williams (Concluded November 2019) Greg Duley (Commenced November 2019)	<i>Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council</i>
Paul Blewman	<i>Taranaki Fish and Game Council</i>
Paul Shortis - <i>Chairperson from April 2020</i>	<i>Wellington Fish and Game Council</i>
Bill O'Leary	<i>Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council</i>
Roy Knight	<i>North Canterbury Fish and Game Council</i>
Andy Harris	<i>West Coast Fish and Game Council</i>
Daniel Isbister	<i>Central South Island Fish and Game Council</i>
Colin Weatherall (Concluded March 2020) Rainsford Grubb (Commenced April 2020)	<i>Otago Fish and Game Council</i>
Chris Owen (Concluded February 2020) Dave Harris (Commenced February 2020)	<i>Southland Fish and Game Council</i>

Staff

Martin Taylor	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Debbie Mair (From 10 February 2020)	<i>Policy Advisor</i>
Jack Kós	<i>Policy Advisor</i>
Steve Doughty	<i>Business Development Manager</i>
Richard Cosgrove	<i>Senior Communications Advisor</i>
Brian Anderton	<i>Senior Communications Advisor</i>
Carmel Veitch (From 1 June 2020)	<i>Finance Manager</i>
Jordyn Mclean (Finished 17 January 2020)	<i>Office Administrator</i>
Yi Yang (From 9 October 2019 to 3 April 2020)	<i>Administration Assistant (part time)</i>

Council Office

Address: Level 2, Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington, 6011

Postal Address: P O Box 25-055, Wellington, 6140

Tel: (04) 499 4767

Email: NZCouncil@fishandgame.org.nz

Website: www.fishandgame.org.nz

VISION

Fish and Game Determines the terrain for Anglers and Hunters.

PURPOSE

To represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters and co-ordinate the management, enhancement and maintenance of sports Fish and Game birds as a recreational resource.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2020

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council), established under the Conservation Act 1987, is comprised of one appointee from each of the twelve regional councils. Under the Act its functions are set out in Section 26C which are broadly, in consultation with the regional councils, to develop national policies, advise the Minister of Conservation, oversee the electoral system and coordinate the national interests of the organisation including the distribution of licence fee income (virtually the only source of income for Fish and Game). The 12 regional councils operate autonomously once annual budgets have been set through a collaborative process that is coordinated by NZ Council.

I am the seventh chairperson of NZ Council. I was elected to the position on Friday 24th April 2020. The 2019/20 financial year represents the second and middle year of this NZ Council in a triennial election process. The NZ Council's financial year starts on 1 September and ceases on 31 August.

The year has been a challenging one due to both internal and external forces. This report will cover the main issues encountered during the year, not necessarily in a chronological order but rather in cascading order of importance.

Ministerial Review

At the commencement of the financial year the Minister announced a Ministerial Review of the organisation. Fish and Game has existed as an entity since 1990. While there was initially some concern internally, the organisation recognises that a "health check" is overdue. The Review Panel were appointed in June and have been meeting with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders and have a programme to visit all 12 regional councils. The Review is scheduled to deliver its recommendations to the Minister by the end of the calendar year.

Covid 19

Fish and Game is funded almost entirely from the sale of fishing and hunting licences. In the 2018/19 year this amounted to nearly eleven million dollars. Overseas anglers account for approximately \$1.5m of the total and, with the borders likely to be closed for the next year at least, the drop in income is significant for Fish and Game. While both NZ Council and most regional councils hold reserves it became obvious, as the crisis deepened, that we needed to take an organisation wide approach.

Firstly, NZ Council requested all councils to exercise fiscal restraint for the balance of the financial year. Secondly, at the time the pandemic struck we were embarking on the

budgeting process for the 20/21 financial year. The NZ Council developed a number of financial scenarios to model the likely impact of Covid 19. As a result of the modelling the budget setting process for the organisation was well informed and, utilising a combination of cost saving and use of reserves, budgets for the forthcoming year were agreed for both NZ Council and all regional councils.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the huge amount of work that was undertaken by NZ Council's Standing Finance Committee, the NZ Council staff and the regions. The annual budget setting process is a naturally challenging process in normal times. This year Covid 19 added a whole new level of complexity and the organisation came together in a spirit of cooperation. The challenge going forward will be to deliver on our statutory responsibilities whilst maintaining capacity and capability.

Advocacy and Public Awareness

In January the NZ Council continued to survey the public on their attitudes to water pollution and the state of our rivers and lakes. The survey asked people how concerned they were about a range of issues, including the cost of living, health system, child poverty and water pollution. Three quarters of those surveyed said they were extremely or very concerned about the pollution of lakes and rivers. Only five per cent said they were not that concerned. The only issue people were more worried about was the cost of living. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, we asked this same question. The concern for water quality has remained in the top two concerns for Kiwis each year that we have conducted this survey. We continue to deliver key messages on water quality.

It has been a very busy year for our advocacy role with many major government reforms needing our support and attention. Anglers and hunter interests have been well represented by the NZC with submissions and representations to the Government on gun control, the National Policy Statement – Fresh Water, the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, the National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity and on a number of new pieces of legislation that have the potential to affect licence holders. Covid 19 and the impact on the Game Season also resulted in a lot of advocacy work by the NZC and we were successful in ensuring a season took place.

Gamebird Habitat Trust

The Gamebird Habitat Trust continued its work over the year funded by the Habitat Stamp Programme. This year the stamp featured a female Paradise Shelduck/Pūtangitangi (*Tadorna veriegata*).

The Board's primary focus is applying the net receipts from the Habitat Stamp programme as grants to applicants for the protection, restoration, improvement, creation, or procurement of game bird or other wildlife habitat. Over the year the Board funded 19 projects and invested \$134,000 in support of habitat creation.

The Council

This has been a particularly demanding year for the NZ Council in terms of dealing with significant external and internal issues. Despite that, we have managed a huge programme of work. Councillors have adapted to the Zoom format of meetings and given up more than a few evenings to work through the challenges of governance in rapidly changing and often complex times. I am grateful for the dedication and support of the NZ Council through a very difficult period in Fish and Game's history. While there remain many challenges, I am confident we have the quality of thought and experience to serve Fish and Game into the future.

National Office

If the year has been demanding for the Council, it has been equally so for our CEO and the staff of the NZ Council office. Last Christmas our longstanding Policy and Planning Manager retired followed by the Administration Manager moving on to her preferred career in accountancy. Given budget restraints we did not replace the Administration Manager, so the team have been covering the administration function as well as their own role.

As always, I am particularly impressed by the way in which this small team go the extra mile on many occasions. For example, as previously mentioned we have had a number of Zoom meeting which have often extended well into the evening, yet our staff always attend and contribute.

Paul Shortis
Chairperson

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY
for the year ended 31 August 2020

12 November 2020

The Council and management of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council accept responsibility for the accuracy of any judgements used in the preparation of the following financial statements of performance.

We are responsible for the end of year performance information provided by New Zealand Fish and Game Council under section 19A of the Public Finance Act 1989.

We have the responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurances as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting.

In our opinion, these financial statements and statements of performance fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Signed on behalf of the Council

Paul Shortis
Chairperson
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Martin Taylor
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE
REVENUE AND EXPENSE
for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Actual 2020 Group \$	Budget 2020 Group \$	Actual 2019 Group \$
REVENUE FROM NON-EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS				
Levies		3,866,123	3,866,123	3,757,526
Other Revenue		3,051	-	317
		3,869,174	3,866,123	3,757,843
REVENUE FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS				
Interest		31,186	19,868	39,143
Magazine Contributions		178,068	70,000	108,398
Regulations Revenue		29,014	30,500	22,038
Sundry Income		35,151	6,000	12,522
		273,419	126,368	182,101
Total Revenue		4,142,593	3,992,491	3,939,944
EXPENSES				
Species Management	2	121,920	96,000	99,396
Habitat Protection & Management	2	180,485	450,000	436,766
Angler & Hunter Participation	2	221,551	199,500	234,020
Public Awareness	2	118,749	132,140	143,705
Compliance	2	16,404	27,500	19,917
Licensing	2	707,518	683,500	688,136
Council	2	94,397	130,000	127,113
Co-ordination and Reporting	2	147,940	217,500	368,342
Research		51,424	134,000	90,477
Distribution to Regional Budgets		956,992	891,308	830,877
Personnel Costs	3	821,977	888,990	689,976
Depreciation	9	13,166	12,230	11,739
Other Expenses	4	256,319	128,796	140,380
Total Expenditure		3,708,842	3,991,464	3,880,844
Net Surplus/(deficit)		433,751	1,027	59,100
Total comprehensive revenue and expense		433,751	1,027	59,100

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 Group \$	2019 Group \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5	1,179,334	1,330,588
Receivables - Exchange	6	29,543	66,174
Receivables - Non Exchange	6	138,579	148,175
Other Financial Assets	7	1,361,704	833,782
Prepayments		-	77,163
Accrued Income		97,500	61,843
Total Current Assets		2,806,660	2,517,725
Non-Current Assets			
Funds Advanced to NCFGC	8	-	19,025
Term Deposits		170,000	-
Property, Plant & Equipment	9	50,395	39,529
Total Non-Current Assets		220,395	58,554
TOTAL ASSETS		3,027,055	2,576,279
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	10	500,994	523,165
Employee Entitlements	11	66,623	57,408
NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust	12	133,337	103,357
Total Current Liabilities		700,954	683,929
TOTAL LIABILITES		700,954	683,929
NET ASSETS		2,326,102	1,892,350
Accumulated Funds	13	1,539,316	1,442,295
Dedicted Reserves	13	24,139	29,085
Restricted Reserves	13	762,647	420,971
EQUITY		2,326,102	1,892,351

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Equity			
Balance as at 1 September		1,892,351	1,833,251
Comprehensive Revenue and expense for the year			
Net Surplus		433,751	59,100
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year		433,751	59,100
Balance as at 31 August	13	2,326,102	1,892,351

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Levies		3,866,123	3,686,789
Other revenue		250,959	131,882
Interest received		36,080	36,103
GST (Net)		14,600	-
Cash was applied to:			
Payments to suppliers		2,656,175	3,174,954
Payments to employees		812,762	691,331
GST (Net)		-	6,340
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		698,825	(17,851)
CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Net amount received from investments		-	115,136
Cash was applied to:			
Net amount paid to investments		697,922	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		24,157	2,796
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		(722,079)	112,340
CASHFLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Repayment of Loan		-	-
Cash was applied to:			
Long term Loan to NCFG		128,000	-
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		(128,000)	-
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash		(151,254)	94,489
Opening Cash		1,330,588	1,236,099
Closing Cash		1,179,334	1,330,588
This is represented by:			
Cash & cash equivalents	5	1,179,334	1,330,588

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

REPORTING ENTITY

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group 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. The Council has a wholly owned subsidiary, Fish and Game Publishing Limited, with the same balance date, which holds the Fish and Game magazine intellectual property. This entity has been consolidated in these financial Statements.

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE) for financial reporting purposes. These statements were authorised to issue on the 22nd November 2019 by the Council. No other party has the power to amend these financial statements.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period. The financial statements have been recognised on a historical cost basis.

Statement of Compliance

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Crown Entities Act 2004, which includes the requirement to comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP). For the purposes of complying with the NZ GAAP, the Council is a public benefit entity.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 2 Public Benefit International Public Sector Accounting Standard – RDR (reduced disclosure) as annual expenditure is between \$2,000,000 and \$30,000,000.

Changes in Accounting Policy

There have been no changes in accounting policy in the accounts for 2020.

Presentation of Currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, and are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Consolidated Accounting Policy

The Group financial statements are prepared by combining the financial statements of all the entities that comprise the Group, on a line by line basis. In preparing the Group financial statements, all inter-entity balances and transactions are eliminated in full.

Revenue Recognition

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group derives revenue from Fish and Game Council levies, interest on interest bearing deposits and miscellaneous income. Any amounts collected as an agent or on behalf of the other third parties (for example the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy) is not considered economic benefit and therefore is not revenue.

Revenue from Non-exchange Transactions

Levies

New Zealand Fish and Game Council is primarily funded from the levies payable by Fish and Game Councils, in accordance with 26C(f) of the Conservation Act 1987. These levies are used for the administration of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council; and for redistribution between Fish and Game Councils; and advocacy and research. Levies are recognised when the invoice is issued.

Revenue from Exchange Transactions

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.

Magazine Contribution

Income generated from the advertising within the Fish and Game magazine is recognised in the period that the magazine is distributed.

RMA Legal Revenue

RMA Legal revenue is recognised when the invoice is issued following awarding costs.

Operating Leases

Leases that do not transfer substantially all risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset to the Council are classified as operating leases. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense.

Distribution to Fish and Game Councils

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council makes distributions to Fish and Game Councils in the form of Grants to support regions; and reimbursement for RMA/legal funding; and Research projects.

FINANCIAL ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, bank balances, deposits held at call with the bank, and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Receivables

Short term receivables are recorded at their face value, less any provision for impairment. A receivable is considered impaired when there is evidence that the Council will not be able to collect the amount due. The amount of the impairment is the difference between the carrying amount of the receivable and the present value of the amounts expected to be collected.

Other Financial Assets

Short term deposits have maturities between three months and one year. Investments in deposits are measured at amortised cost using effective interest method. At reporting date, the Council assesses whether there is any objective evidence that an investment is impaired. Any impairment loss is recorded as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and expense.

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Council prior to the end of the financial year which is unpaid. Payables are recorded at the amount of cash required to settle those liabilities. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Employee Entitlements

Short-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits that are due to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employee renders the related service are measured based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken

Long-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits that are due to be settled beyond 12 months after the period in which the employee renders the related service, such as long service leave and retirement gratuities. The calculations are based on:

- Likely future entitlements accruing to staff, based in years of service, years of entitlement, and likelihood of that staff will reach the point of entitlement, and the contractual entitlement in formation; and
- The present value of the estimated cash flows.

Superannuation Schemes

Defined Superannuation Schemes

Obligations for the contribution to KiwiSaver are accounted for as defined contribution superannuation schemes and recognised as an expense in the surplus or deficit as incurred.

Equity

Equity is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity is disaggregated and classified into the following components:

- Accumulated Funds - surplus/(deficit)
- Dedicated Reserves and Restricted Reserves

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

Asset Replacement Reserve

The asset replacement reserve is a reserve set up to enable the Council to replace plant & equipment.

Election Reserves

A reserve set up to enable the Council to budget yearly for elections which are required by law to be held every 3 years. Exact election costs are variable dependent on the number of candidate nominations received for each council, with an election held in regions which have greater than 12 candidates. In the 2020 year this cost has been accrued into the balance sheet.

Research Reserve

A reserve has been maintained to undertake research projects approved & committed by the Council.

Legal Fund Reserve

A reserve set up to undertake legal cases approved & committed by the NZ Council.

Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST, with the exception of receivables and payables which are stated GST inclusive.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the IRD is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

The Statement of Cash Flows is presented on a gross basis, and any GST component in the investing or financing activities are incorporated into the operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

Income Tax

New Zealand Fish and Game Council is a public authority and consequently is exempt from the payment of income tax. No income tax provision has been made.

New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp Fee

New Zealand Fish and Game collects from each Fish and Game Council the Game Bird Habitat stamp fee on behalf of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust. The fee is (\$4) from the sale of every Game Bird licence sold for the most recently completed financial year. This fee has no economic benefit to New Zealand Fish and Game Council and is not treated as revenue. Likewise, any outgoings on behalf of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust are not recognised as expenditure in the New Zealand Fish and Game Council Financial Statements. Refer Note 12.

Accounting for Estimates and Assumptions

In preparing these financial statements the Council has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future in regard to asset lives and impairment of assets. None of these estimates and assumptions are considered material to the Council.

Note 2 : ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Species Management			
Regulations	110,417	76,000	79,962
Sea Run Salmon Committee	11,503	20,000	19,434
Total	121,920	96,000	99,396
Habitat Protection & Management			
Resource Management	124,087	350,000	247,294
Advocacy	47,459	70,000	71,631
Water Conservation Orders	8,939	30,000	117,841
Total	180,485	450,000	436,766
Angler & Hunter Participation			
Access	-	-	31
National Magazine	221,551	199,500	224,836
General	-	-	9,153
Total	221,551	199,500	234,020
Public Awareness			
Advocacy	6,874	7,500	6,697
Communication	58,517	40,640	34,792
Education	6,241	7,000	6,385
Public Promotions	47,117	77,000	95,831
Total	118,749	132,140	143,705
Compliance			
Ranger Co-ordination	16,394	27,500	19,417
Compliance	10	-	500
Total	16,404	27,500	19,917
Licensing			
Licence Production and Distribution	190,949	182,500	177,239
Licence Projects	27,914	50,000	59,939
Licence Audit	6,000	6,000	6,000
Licence Contract	482,655	445,000	444,958
Total	707,518	683,500	688,136

Note 2 : ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES Continued	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Council			
Council Meetings & Sub-Committees	70,239	108,000	100,906
Governance and Performance Review	24,158	22,000	26,207
Total	94,397	130,000	127,113
Co-ordination and Reporting			
Management/Strategic Planning	23,947	48,000	124,169
Annual Planning	54,908	85,500	54,708
Assurance Services	4,116	5,000	4,055
Elections	45,000	45,000	119,657
Financial Audit Fee	14,001	14,000	13,699
Regional Audits	2,500	10,000	40,788
Staff Scholarship	3,468	10,000	11,266
Total	147,940	217,500	368,342

Note 3 : PERSONNEL COSTS	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Salaries and Wages	788,806	847,973	658,560
Recruitment and Welfare	11,668	13,910	14,136
KiwiSaver Contributions	20,619	25,307	16,238
ACC Levies	884	1,800	1,042
Total	821,977	888,990	689,976

Note 4: OTHER EXPENSES	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Communications	10,330	10,000	6,511
Loss On Sale of Disposal of Assets	126	-	-
Occupancy Expenses	70,193	74,560	99,402
Purchases Under \$2,000	6,056	12,332	10,818
Stationery, Postage and Couriers	7,945	11,904	9,751
Storage & Insurance of Art	2,544	2,500	6,254
Subscriptions	4,330	3,200	2,936
Vehicle Expenses	6,682	11,500	-
Doubtful Debt	147,025	-	-
Sundry Expenses	1,088	2,800	4,708
Total	256,319	128,796	140,380

Note 5 : CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	1,179,334	995,813
Term Deposits with maturities less than 3 months	-	334,775
Total	1,179,334	1,330,588

The Council has a Credit Facility with ANZ of \$14,000. At reporting date \$14,000 was issued to card holders. The amount payable at reporting date is \$6,113 (2019 \$10,333)

Note 6: RECEIVABLES

	2020	2019
	\$	(restated) \$
Receivables (gross)	164,098	205,430
Interest Receivable	4,024	8,919
Total Receivables	168,122	214,349

Total Receivables comprises:

Receivables from exchange revenue	29,543	66,174
Recoverables from non-exchange revenue	138,579	148,175
Total	168,122	214,349

Note 7: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current portion		
Term Deposits	1,361,704	833,782
Total Other Financial Assets	1,361,704	833,782

Note 8: FUNDS ADVANCED TO NCFGC

	2020	2019
	\$	(restated) \$
Funds advanced to NCFGC	147,025	19,025
Less Provision for Doubtful Debt	(147,025)	-
Total Funds Advanced to NCFGC	-	19,025

Note 9: PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT*Movement for each class of property, plant and equipment as follows:*

	Motor Vehicle	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Total
Cost or Valuation				
Balance At 1 Sept 2018	37,594	65,659	7,815	111,068
Additions	-	2,796	-	2,796
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance At 31 Aug 2019	37,594	68,455	7,815	113,864
Balance At 1 Sept 2019	37,594	68,455	7,815	113,864
Additions	-	24,157	-	24,157
Disposals	-	(5,924)	-	(5,924)
Balance At 31 Aug 2020	37,594	86,688	7,815	132,097
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment losses				
Balance at 1 Sept 2018	2,820	53,735	6,041	62,596
Depreciation Expense	3,759	7,714	266	11,739
Eliminate on Disposal	-	-	-	-
Balance At 31 Aug 2019	6,579	61,449	6,307	74,335
Balance at 1 Sept 2019	6,579	61,449	6,307	74,335
Depreciation Expense	3,759	9,179	227	13,165
Eliminate on Disposal	-	(5,799)	-	(5,799)
Balance At 31 Aug 2020	10,338	64,829	6,534	81,701
	Motor Vehicle	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Total
Carrying Amounts				
At 31 Aug and 1 Sept 2019	31,015	7,006	1,508	39,529
At 31 Aug 2020	27,256	21,858	1,281	50,395

Note 10: PAYABLES

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<i>Payables under exchange transactions</i>		
Creditors	304,937	317,493
Income In Advance	-	12,690
Accrued Expenses	130,208	141,733
	435,145	471,916
<hr/>		
GST payable	65,849	51,249
	65,849	51,249
<hr/>		
Total	500,994	523,165

Note 11: EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Annual Leave	63,882	50,408
Accrued Wages	2,741	7,000
Total	66,623	57,408

Note 12: NZ GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<i>Income</i>		
Game Bird Habitat Stamps sold with licences	120,263	97,933
General sales	14,019	16,616
Total Income	134,282	114,549
<i>Less Expenses</i>		
Product Production	18,306	21,786
Meeting Costs	-	2,887
Programme Administration	-	-
Total Expenses	18,306	24,673
<hr/>		
Net Transfer to NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board	115,976	89,876
<hr/>		
GST Applied	17,361	13,481
Gross payable at Reporting date	133,337	103,357

Note 13: EQUITY	2020	2019
	Group \$	Group \$
<u>Accumulated Funds</u>		
Balance as at 1 September	1,442,295	913,203
Surplus/(Deficit)	433,751	59,100
Transfer to Reserves	(715,002)	(305,000)
Transfer from Reserves	378,272	774,992
Total Accumulated Funds	1,539,316	1,442,295
<u>Dedicated Reserves</u>		
Asset Replacement Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	29,085	29,085
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	37,002	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	(41,948)	-
Balance at 31 August	24,139	29,085
Election Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	-	70,000
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	(70,000)
Balance at 31 August	-	-
Total Dedicated Reserves	24,139	29,085
<u>Restricted Reserves</u>		
Research Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	202,861	204,881
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	70,000	134,000
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses/withdrawn)	(71,924)	(136,020)
Balance at 31 August	200,937	202,861
Legal Fund Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	218,110	616,082
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	608,000	171,000
Transfer to Accumulated Funds - spent /withdrawn	(264,400)	(568,972)
Balance at 31 August	561,710	218,110
Total Restricted Reserves	762,647	420,971
Total Equity	2,326,102	1,892,351

Note 14: COMMITMENTS	Actual 2020	Actual 2019 (restated)
	\$	\$
Commitment to:		
Eyede Ltd	650,000	444,600
Staff Development Fund	-	10,000
Research Projects approved to Regions	200,937	202,861
RMA Legal funding to Regions	562,643	218,110
Total	1,413,580	875,571

The above contracts have been approved by the Council and will be recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense when the contract service conditions have been met by the third party or when a constructive obligation exists.

Operating Leases:

Photocopier Rental

Within 1 year	1,901	1,901
1-2 years	1,901	1,901
3-5 years	3,485	5,386
Total Photocopier	7,287	9,188

Premises Rental

Within 1 year	46,475	55,770
1-2 years	-	46,475
3-5 years	-	-
Total Premises	46,475	102,245

Total Operating Leases

Within 1 year	48,376	57,671
1-2 years	1,901	48,376
3-5 years	3,485	5,386
Total Operating Leases	53,762	111,433

Note 15: CONTINGENCIES

During the year the Council agreed to top up any region that has a reduction in Reserves below 20%. As at 31 August 2020, the financial impact can not be accurately determined as it is contingent on the financial result of each regional council. (last year nil).

Note 16: CATEGORIES FOR FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Actual 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,179,334	1,330,588
Receivables	168,122	214,349
Accrued Income	97,500	61,843
Term Deposits	1,531,704	833,782
Total Financial Assets	2,976,660	2,440,562
Financial Liabilities - at amortised cost		
Trade and other payables	435,145	471,916
Employee Entitlements	66,623	57,408
NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust	133,337	103,357
Total Financial Liabilities	635,105	632,681

Note 17: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**Related Entities**

New Zealand Fish and Game Council manage the stamp programme activities on behalf of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. Income is collected from the Fish and Game Councils and New Zealand Post. The net income after associated expenditure is transferred to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. Refer to note 11.

Related party transactions

New Zealand Fish and Game Council receives levies from the Fish and Game Councils. Levies from Fish and Game Councils are legislated by the Conservation Act 1987. Transactions with Fish and Game Councils are not disclosed as related party transaction when they are consistent with normal terms and conditions for such transactions.

There is a total of \$152,451 outstanding from Fish and Game Councils as at 31 August 2020 (2019 \$180,123)

Key Management Personnel compensation

Key management personnel compensation	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
Remuneration	\$435,043	\$489,279
Full time equivalent	3.3	4.3
<i>Note remuneration includes holiday pay and long service leave paid out on Key Personnel during the year.</i>		

Note 18: COVID RESPONSE

Covid-19 has had a financial impact on the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. In this financial year the revenue from levies has not been impacted, however, the forecast for the next financial year will see reduced levies. At the beginning of the lockdown there was uncertainty as to whether there would be a game season, however, positive lobbying from the Council staff ensured that there was a Game season, all be it delayed. This softened the financial impact of reduced income for the Regions. The 2019/20 budget was scrutinised, and only essential work and spending was undertaken to mitigate the impact of reduced licence income.

There has been a national response to the next financial year (2020/21) and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council has reduced the budget for the 2020/21 year along with a reduced projection of income. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council has accepted that in the 2020/21 year it will use reserves to cover any shortfalls.

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council has established a policy to support any Fish and Game region to ensure liquidity and to ensure that all Fish and Game Councils remain a going concern.

Note 19: EVENTS AFTER BALANCE DATE

There have been no significant events after balance date (2019 nil).

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE

For the Year ended 31 August 2020

INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) was established “to represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters and provide co-ordination of the management, enhancement and maintenance of sports fish and game” (section 26B (1) of the Conservation Act 1987).

The proposed projects and activities of the NZ Council for the year ended 31 August are set out in its Strategic Plan. This Statement of Service Performance describes each of the three goals, key activities and associated performance measures, results achieved, and total output expenses incurred for the year.

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
We are seen as a powerful advocate for Anglers and Hunters.	Advocate for the protection and enhancement of sports fish and game bird habitats	<p><i>Achieved positive outcomes for: Anglers and hunters with advocacy on the NPS-FM, NES-FM, s360 regulations and NPS-IB.</i></p> <p><i>Representing Fish & Game interest on NES Forestry Group, New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy stakeholder working group, and NPS-FM implementation group.</i></p> <p><i>Presented and submitted to RMA review panel and attended select committee on RMA reforms.</i></p>
	Increase public awareness and support for sports fish and game birds and associated fishing and hunting	<p><i>Achieved positive outcomes for hunters with submissions on the Firearms Law Reform second tranche.</i></p> <p><i>Engaged with hunting sector groups – Federated Farmers, Game Animal Council, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, Wapiti Foundation, New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association, Safari Club International.</i></p>

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
		<p><i>Achieved positive outcomes for game bird hunters during the Covid-19 period by ensuring there was a game bird hunting season and extending the season to ensure equitable access.</i></p> <p><i>Communicated legal obligations to game bird hunters through Covid-19 period.</i></p> <p><i>Liaised closely with Ministers of Conservation, Sports and Police on the game bird hunting season to ensure that game bird hunters had an equitable opening day and extended season.</i></p> <p><i>Highlighted negative impacts of winter-break feeding and bad freshwater practices.</i></p> <p><i>Ran photographic competition to select a winning image for the 2020 fishing licence and the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Habitat Stamp.</i></p>
The public support what we do and what we say.	Promote public opinion Survey Public Opinion	<p><i>Released 79 press releases.(76 in 2019)</i></p> <p><i>Monitored public references to Fish and Game in media.</i></p> <p><i>Commissioned one Colmar Brunton poll to determine public attitude towards freshwater quality.</i></p>
To protect environmental resources that affect Anglers and Hunters.	Advocate generally Fish & Game interests in management of sports fish and game and habitats	<p><i>Achieved positive outcomes for: Anglers and hunters with advocacy on the NPS-FM, NES-FM, s360 regulations and NPS-IB.</i></p> <p><i>Representing Fish & Game interest on NES Forestry Group, New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy stakeholder working group and NPS-FM implementation group.</i></p>

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
		<p><i>Presented and submitted to RMA review panel and attended select committee on RMA reforms.</i></p> <p><i>Maintained social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.</i></p>
	Utilise the Resource Management Group for technical input	<i>Organised meeting of Resource Management Group to consider Fish & Game's submission on the RMA Law Reform Bill.</i>
	Secure RMA legal aid	<p><i>Financially supporting regions with approved funding for 2020/21 to represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters.</i></p> <p><i>The NZC approved funds for 2020/21 from the RMA/Legal fund on the following basis:</i></p> <p><i>Southland: \$55,000</i></p> <p><i>Auckland/Waikato: \$110,000</i></p> <p><i>Lindis: \$100,000</i></p> <p><i>NPS-FM: \$150,000</i></p>
To promote improved and enduring public access for all Anglers and Hunters.	Advocate for securing access points	<p><i>Established regular quarterly meetings with Walking Access Commission to determine access issues across the country.</i></p> <p><i>NZC resolved at February 2020 meeting for staff to develop long term strategy for promoting public access. Strategy development deferred by Covid.</i></p>
We build strategic alliances with groups who share common goals	Work with environmental NGOs on shared issues	<i>Participated with Environmental NGOs – Greenpeace, Forest & Bird, Environmental Defence Society & WWF. Met with the Prime Minister, Leader(s) of the Opposition, Minister for the Environment and Minister of Conservation, plus Labour, NZ First and National's Environment Caucus committees.</i>
	Identify other strategic partners	<i>Engaged with hunting sector groups – Federated Farmers, Game Animal Council, New Zealand Deerstalkers</i>

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
		<p><i>Association, Wapiti Foundation, New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association, Safari Club International.</i></p> <p><i>NZ Professional Fishing Guides Association with proposed Guide Licence.</i></p> <p><i>NZ Police, Fire & Emergency & Ministry of Primary Industries in development of an Infringement Notice system.</i></p> <p><i>Working with NZ Police and Ministry of Health through Covid-19 to ensure safety of staff, honorary rangers and licence holders.</i></p> <p><i>Building stronger relationships to share knowledge and research with Victoria University Wellington, NIWA, and the Cawthron Institute</i></p>
	Maintain working relationship with DOC	<p><i>Working relationship at multiple levels within DOC and involved with DOC stakeholder forums.</i></p> <p><i>Providing support for a review of Fish & Game.</i></p> <p><i>Participated in ENGO meetings with DOC Director General.</i></p> <p><i>Relationship with DOC Taupo renewed over shared issues such as trout farming, guides licence, licence sales, licence system and hatchery operations.</i></p> <p><i>Work with DOC on various matters such as implementation of Indigenous Freshwater Fish Bill, Infringement Fines system, salmon season bag limit, guides licence.</i></p>
Grow strategic alliances with Maori	Co-opt a Māori appointee to the NZ Council	<i>Deferred due to review.</i>

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
Our research and knowledge is respected and used by others.	Secure commitment from the scientific community	<i>Established Research Reference Group.</i> <i>Defined research priorities.</i> <i>Committed \$70,000 for annual research programme.</i>
	Mine Licence data for management benefits	<i>Analysed database for marketing, promotional and R3 purposes.</i>

Goal 2: To ensure NZC is a robust entity		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
We are seen by the 12 regional F&G councils as leading and coordinating the organisation	Set national policies in three areas	<p><i>Continued with “This Week in Wellington” report to regions.</i></p> <p><i>Renewing the NZ Council’s Communications Strategy</i></p> <p><i>Undertook review of New Zealand Council policies, both internal and organisation wide.</i></p> <p><i>Amending Reserves Policy considering economic implications of Covid.</i></p> <p><i>Amended Non-Resident Levy Policy.</i></p> <p><i>Confirmed Hunting Code of Conduct as National Policy November 2019.</i></p> <p><i>Approved Infringement Fines policy and submitted to Minister for approval.</i></p>
	Adhere to sound governance and meeting practices	<p><i>Ensured compliance with Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act as amended by Covid-19.</i></p> <p><i>Supported review of Fish & Game by Minister of Conservation.</i></p> <p><i>Presented advice on levying and budgeting powers and functions to regional managers.</i></p> <p><i>Held meeting of NZ Council with regional Fish & Game Chairs and provided governance training.</i></p> <p><i>Supported governance training for North Canterbury Fish and Game Council and recommended governance training for Hawke’s Bay Fish and Game Council.</i></p>

Goal 2: To ensure NZC is a robust entity		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
	Promote new opportunities for costs savings & efficiencies across the organisation	<p><i>Established NZ Council standing finance committee to review strategic finance and remuneration.</i></p> <p><i>Continued with introduction of a R3 customer-oriented focus to F&G activity.</i></p> <p><i>Undertook a Request for Proposals to introduce a new licensing administration system and CRM system to better engage with licence holders.</i></p> <p><i>Agreed to prioritise research on licence price optimisation</i></p>
We attract and retain high quality board and members of staff	Attract councillors	<i>Inducted three new councillors to the NZC.</i>
	Support executive	<i>NZC maintained executive committee.</i>
	Maintain a staff development programme	<i>No staff development grant approved due to reduced budgets because of Covid-19.</i>
We have a sustainable budgeting cycle	Have a robust finance management and reporting system	<p><i>11 regions utilising Xero.</i></p> <p><i>Standing finance committee established to consider Fish & Game's long-term financial position and implications of Covid for Fish & Game.</i></p>
	Manage costs	<p><i>Co-ordinated with regions to reduce costs because of implications of Covid.</i></p> <p><i>The Council operated to Covid-reduced budget for the year.</i></p>
	Financial statements and service performance accepted in annual audit	<i>Financial statements readable and transparent.</i>
The NZ Council co-ordinates and implements national policy across the entire organisation	Complete a review of budget policy	<i>A NZ Council Standing Finance Committee set up in April 2020, but review of budget policy not achieved.</i>
	Establish a policy on setting national Policy	<i>National Policy on Setting National Policy approved in June 2019.</i>

Goal 2: To ensure NZC is a robust entity		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
	Recommend the fee, form and sale of Game Bird Habitat Stamp & Associated products	<i>Recommended to Minister on 18 May 2020.</i>
	Maintain co-ordination and review of operational policies with regional managers	<i>Weekly Managers Meetings held via zoom through Covid period, and subsequently on a bi-monthly basis via zoom.</i>

Goal 3: To ensure Fish and Game as a National Body is unified and robust

Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
Increased Angler and Hunter satisfaction.	Retain active angling and hunting participants at all levels	<p><i>Undertook Colmar Brunton survey on public perceptions of Fish & Game’s freshwater advocacy.</i></p> <p><i>Continued R3 programme focusing on retaining, recruiting and reactivating anglers and hunters.</i></p> <p><i>Approved R3 roadmap.</i></p> <p><i>Website review undertaken to improve user experience.</i></p> <p><i>Work undertaken to standardise fishing events across the country.</i></p> <p><i>Support given to retaining and recruiting anglers in Fish & Game regions.</i></p>
	Initiate campaigns and support other initiatives to grow Angler & Hunter participation	<p><i>Bought together all national fishing events and workshops under one brand – “Take me Fishing”. This will enhance awareness and promotion of these events, which are designed to grow participation.</i></p> <p><i>Established a partnership with Geozone which saw 500 angler access points included on the Campermate and NZ Motor Caravan Association apps. This initiative was aimed at recruiting holiday makers into fishing.</i></p>
	Promote new angling and hunting opportunities	<p><i>Work ongoing on sensitive fisheries and how to best manage them.</i></p>
	Reactivate lapsed anglers and hunters and maintain their participation	<p><i>Emails sent out to all whole season licence holders from two years previous who have not purchased a new season licence.</i></p> <p><i>R3 programme includes initiatives to target and reactivate licence holders.</i></p>

Goal 3: To ensure Fish and Game as a National Body is unified and robust

Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
There is parity of budgets and staff salaries across the organisation	NZ Council will audit the activities of Fish and Game Councils	<i>Audit of the Wage Subsidy</i> <i>Review of Health & Safety practices undertaken in 3 Regions – Hawkes Bay, West Coast and Taranaki</i>
	Establish a remuneration policy	<i>Not achieved.</i>
There is majority support for decisions across the organisation	Coordinate the recommendation for Minister’s approval of all Notices	<i>Anglers Notice approved 20th July 2020</i> <i>Open Season for Game Notice approved 2 March 2020. Revocation and Replacement Game Notice approved 12th May 2020</i> <i>Licences, Fees and Forms Notices secured for both fish and game seasons.</i>
	Strive for policy consistency across all Councils	<i>Not achieved.</i>
The organisation has a sustainable income base and budgeting cycle	Recommend appropriate licence fees to the Minister after having regard to views of Fish and Game Councils	<i>Licence fees and categories submitted to Minister of Conservation and approved May 2020.</i>
	Determine, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, the amount of levy for administration of the NZ Council, redistribution between councils, advocacy and research	<i>Levy amounts determined and agreed at budget setting meeting in July 2020. (via zoom).</i>
	Maintain an effective compliance and law enforcement programme	<i>14 Rangers appointed or renewed in 2019-20.</i> <i>National Ranger Register updated.</i> <i>CERT training for new rangers and refresher courses provided across several Fish & Game councils.</i>

AUDIT OPINION

NZC Finance Report to 31 October 2020

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20-22 November 2020

Prepared by: Carmel Veitch, Finance, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to update the NZC financial position to the period ended 31 October 2020 and to approve the financial budget for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Background

- 2 This report will include.
 - 2.1 Table 1: Profit and Loss for the 2 months ended 31 October 2020
 - 2.2 Table 2: Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2020
 - 2.3 Table 3: Aged Receivables Summary as at 31 October 2020
 - 2.4 Table 4: Aged Payables Summary as at 30 September 2020
 - 2.5 Table 5: Aged payables Summary as at 31 October 2020

Analysis

- 3 **Approval of Budget.** Under Section 54 the Crowns Entity Act we must include forecast Financial Statements (budgets) at the start of the Financial year. In the Budget round the NZC Approved a budget for NZC of \$2,525,557. This budget includes an allocation for Asset replacement but excludes levies, grants and depreciation. Included in Table 1: Profit and loss for the 2 months ended 31 October 2020 is the Financial Budget for 2020/21. This forecasts a deficit of \$486,938. A reconciliation of the approved budget to this Financial Budget is attached.

Reconciliation of Approved budget to Financial Budget

Approved Budget	2,525,557
Adjustments for	
Less levies	(2,765,615)
Plus grants	722,456
Less ARF	(12,230)
Plus Depreciation	16,770
Net Adjustments	(2,038,619)
Projected Deficit 2020/21	486,938

Financial Implications

- 4 **Current year performance – 2020/21.** Table 1 reports on the first 2 months of the Financial year. That is 16% of the year. In these accounts, I have

accrued for annual expenses such as Audit Fee, Depreciation and Election costs.

- 4.1 Income: Levies (\$691,989) for the first quarter have been invoiced in October and are due for payment on 20 November 2020. Other income is \$17,745, this is made up of advertising from the magazine and other web advertising.
- 4.2 Grants to regions: All regions receiving a grant have invoiced the NZC – not Northland have invoiced for 2 quarters. These are payable to regions on the 20th November 2020.
- 4.3 Outputs:
 - 4.3.1 Advocacy: total spend YTD \$7,778 – 1% of budget. Costs incurred in this area relate to advice re Mai mai guidelines, and trademarks for the take me Fishing/Hunting programme. Other costs incurred in Public Awareness was for the opening video and photo imagery for the support of the opening of the 2020 fishing season.
 - 4.3.2 Research programme: only \$140 spent YTD.
 - 4.3.3 Co-ordination: the monthly accrual for the election \$3,750 per month has been processed. Information Technology \$ 6,953 are the national costs for office 365 and Ferret costs (a filing system used by a few regions). The \$6,037 is the annual sponsorship for the youth secondary schools' championship. Website and Social media, \$5,953 YTD are costs incurred for the upkeep of the website. Note the Budget is for \$240,640 which includes the budget for the upgrade of the website. Once these costs start being incurred I will split the cost code identify the upgrade costs. Ranger Co-ordination costs relate to Cert training in Invercargill and Rotorua.
 - 4.3.4 Licensing: the quarterly contract payment of \$34,546. The costs for the postage and production of the fish licence are included in the \$52,547.
 - 4.3.5 Governance: Flights for the November meeting are included in the \$6,419 for New Zealand Council expenses.
- 4.4 Overheads:
 - 4.4.1 Salaries and Contractor expenses are at 14% of budget compared to the 16% (2 months) The reason for this to be down slightly is due to not having replaced the admin position and also a staff member being on unpaid leave.
 - 4.4.2 Other overheads are in line with budget, however, vehicles is at 25% of budget as the vehicle has just had a 90km service.

- 4.5 NZC is currently posting a surplus of \$183,678 compared to the budget deficit of \$486,938.

Current year Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2020. This compares to 31 August 2020.

4.6 Current Assets

- 4.6.1 Cash & Cash Equivalents \$659,836.
4.6.2 Receivables – see attached Summary of Aged receivables- the majority outstanding relate to levies which are due on the 20th November.
4.6.3 Non – current Assets – this includes Plant and Equipment, Funds advanced to NCFGC (with provision) and term Deposits greater than 12 months.

4.7 Current Liabilities

- 4.7.1 Accounts payable \$365,214 – see table 5.
4.7.2 Accruals \$75,090 relate to the accrual for the Election and Audit fee.
4.7.3 Employee entitlements is the accrued leave as at 31 October 2020.

- 4.8 Accumulated Funds – reserves have ben updated to reflect movement in the period. The RMA/legal and Research reserves reflect the outstanding commitment that that the NZC have to these projects.

- 4.9 Financial position after commitments– Current Surplus of \$183,679 less Commitments to RMA and Research \$790,900 creates a Deficit of \$607,221

Legislative Implications

- 5 Section 154 of the Crown Entities Act 2004 re presentation of financial forecast.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 6 n/a.

Policy Implications

- 7 n/a.

Consultation

- 8 n/a.

- 9 n/a.

Recommendations

- 1 *The New Zealand Council approve the Financial budget as presented in Table 1 with a Deficit of \$486,938*
- 2 *The New Zealand Council approve the Financial reports for the 2 months ended 31 October 2020.*

Table 1: Profit and Loss - NZC Meeting

New Zealand Fish and Game Council For the 2 months ended 31 October 2020

	YTD 2020 21	BUDGET 2020 21	% OF BUDGET
INCOME			
Levies	691,989	2,765,615	25%
Interest Income	336	11,099	3%
Other income	17,745	146,500	12%
Total INCOME	710,071	2,923,214	24%
GRANTS TO REGIONS			
Grants to Regions	256,817	722,456	36%
Total GRANTS TO REGIONS	256,817	722,456	36%
OUTPUTS			
ADVOCACY			
Advocacy - Legal & Specialist Advice	3,440	60,000	6%
Advocacy for Fish & Game - National	96	7,500	1%
National Public Awareness	2,103	21,000	10%
National Magazine	1,599	199,500	1%
RMA/Legal	540	314,000	0%
Total ADVOCACY	7,778	602,000	1%
RESEARCH			
Research Programme	140	70,000	0%
Total RESEARCH	140	70,000	0%
CO-ORDINATION			
Business Development & R3	-	42,000	-
Business & Financial Support	21	2,000	1%
Co-ordination National	-	6,000	-
Elections	7,500	45,000	17%
Regulations	-	72,000	-
Information Technology- National	6,953	46,000	15%
Maritime NZ Compliance	-	5,000	-
Manager Meetings	-	12,000	-
Youth Education Programme	6,037	7,000	86%
Website and Social Media	5,363	240,640	2%
Ranger Co-ordination	6,617	27,500	24%
Licensing			
Licence Contract	32,546	245,000	13%
Licence Working Party/CRM Database mngt	513	10,000	5%
Licence Production	52,547	182,500	29%
Licence Audit	1,000	6,000	17%
Total Licensing	86,606	443,500	20%
Total CO-ORDINATION	119,096	948,640	13%
Total OUTPUTS	127,015	1,620,640	8%

Table 1: Profit and Loss - NZC Meeting

	YTD 2020 21	BUDGET 2020 21	% OF BUDGET
GOVERNANCE			
New Zealand Council	6,419	45,000	14%
Governance Advice & Performance	-	20,000	-
Governors Forum	-	12,000	-
Regional Audit	-	10,000	-
Total GOVERNANCE	6,419	87,000	7%
OVERHEADS			
Salaries & Contractors	112,097	813,880	14%
Staff Expenses	1,866	15,310	12%
Office Premises	10,682	68,060	16%
Office Equipment	29	3,000	1%
Communications/Consumables	2,090	28,236	7%
General (inc Insurance)	2,146	11,800	18%
Financial Audit Fee	2,332	14,000	17%
Vehicle Expenses	2,215	9,000	25%
Depreciation	2,684	16,770	16%
Total OVERHEADS	136,141	980,056	14%
Total Expenses	526,392	3,410,152	15%
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	183,678	(486,938)	-38%

Table 2: Balance Sheet

New Zealand Fish and Game Council As at 31 October 2020

	31 OCT 2020	31 AUG 2020
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
NZ Fish and Game Council	272,859	381,507
NZ Fish and Game Council - Sav	83,991	93,354
Serious Saver	304,884	704,473
Credit Cards	(1,897)	(6,131)
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	659,836	1,173,203
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	806,995	164,024
Accounts Receivable - Other	10	74
Interest Receivable	4,024	4,024
Total Receivables	811,029	168,122
Term Investments	1,361,703	1,361,703
Prepayments and Accrued Income	(2,332)	97,500
Total Current Assets	2,830,237	2,800,529
Non-current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	47,711	50,395
Funds Advanced to NCFG	147,025	147,025
Provision for Doubtful Debt	(147,025)	(147,025)
Term Deposits >12mths	170,000	170,000
Total Non-current Assets	217,711	220,395
Total Assets	3,047,947	3,020,924
Liabilities		
Payables		
Accounts Payable	365,214	298,807
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	75,090	130,208
PAYE Clearing	-	-
GST	31,763	65,849
Total Payables	472,067	494,864
Employee Entitlements	66,524	66,623
NZGBHT - Stamp Programme	(422)	133,337
Total Liabilities	538,169	694,824
Net Assets	2,509,778	2,326,100
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,538,380	1,442,292
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	(71,358)	(337,663)

Table 2: Balance Sheet

	31 OCT 2020	31 AUG 2020
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	183,679	433,751
Total Accumulated Funds	1,650,701	1,538,380
Reserves		
Asset Replacement Reserve	26,177	24,139
RMA/Legal Fund Reserve	562,104	562,644
Research Reserve	270,796	200,937
Total Reserves	859,077	787,720
Total Equity	2,509,778	2,326,100

Table 3: Aged Receivables Summary

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

As at 31 October 2020

CONTACT	CURRENT	< 1 MONTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	OLDER	TOTAL
Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council	33,918	844	-	-	-	34,762
Central South Island Fish & Game Council	192,229	851	-	-	-	193,080
Eastern Fish and Game Council	49,654	1,274	-	-	-	50,927
Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council	8,791	407	-	-	-	9,198
Kilwell Sports Ltd	552	-	-	-	-	552
Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Council	-	589	-	-	-	589
North Canterbury Fish and Game Council	163,769	834	-	-	-	164,603
Northland Fish and Game Council	-	551	-	-	-	551
Otago Fish and Game Council	204,644	1,145	-	-	-	205,788
Our Man In New Zealand	276	-	-	-	-	276
Outdoor Access Limited	690	-	-	-	-	690
Owen River Lodge	368	368	-	-	-	736
Southland Fish and Game Council	142,784	835	-	-	-	143,619
Taranaki Fish and Game Council	-	401	-	-	-	401
Wellington Fish and Game Council	-	827	-	-	-	827
West Coast Fish and Game Council	-	395	-	-	-	395
Total	797,674	9,321	-	-	-	806,995

Table 4: Aged Payables Summary

New Zealand Fish and Game Council As at 30 September 2020

CONTACT	CURRENT	< 1 MONTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	OLDER	TOTAL
Aged Payables						
2degrees	273	-	-	-	-	273
Air New Zealand Travel Card	1,034	-	-	-	-	1,034
Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council	58	-	-	-	-	58
BP Oil New Zealand	363	-	-	-	-	363
Cert Systems limited	3,880	-	-	-	-	3,880
Christchurch Mitsubishi	1,699	-	-	-	-	1,699
Computer & Telephone Services Ltd	70	-	-	-	-	70
Countdown	32	-	-	-	-	32
Department of Internal Affairs	66	-	-	-	-	66
Eastern Fish and Game Council	3	-	-	-	-	3
Eyede Solutions Limited	17,865	-	-	-	-	17,865
Ferret Software Ltd	1,380	-	-	-	-	1,380
Fuji Xerox New Zealand Limited	41	-	-	-	-	41
Gemtech Solutions Limited	719	-	-	-	-	719
GlobalHQ Limited	192	-	-	-	-	192
Google	22	-	-	-	-	22
Hothouse Communications Limited	2,873	-	-	-	-	2,873
Id Solutions 1993 Limited	58	-	-	-	-	58
Maritime New Zealand	1,095	-	-	-	-	1,095
Mobile On-Site Shredding Ltd	-	58	-	-	-	58
Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Council	-	2,546	-	-	-	2,546
New World Metro	23	-	-	-	-	23
New Zealand Couriers- Wellington	146	-	-	-	-	146
NZME Holdings Ltd	-	10,350	-	-	-	10,350
Officemax New Zealand Limited	-	16	-	-	-	16
Peter Shakes- Jeweller Ltd	173	-	-	-	-	173
Real Creative Media Limited	73,976	-	-	-	-	73,976
Redstripe Limited	2,848	-	-	-	-	2,848
Rieger's Print and Copy Limited	24	-	-	-	-	24
RnR Publishing	2,300	-	-	-	-	2,300
Steve Doughty	100	-	-	-	-	100
Wellington Fish and Game Council	1,633	-	-	-	-	1,633
Windcave New Zealand Limited	50	-	-	-	-	50
Zone ip	2,530	-	-	-	-	2,530
Total Aged Payables	115,526	12,970	-	-	-	128,496
Total	115,526	12,970	-	-	-	128,496

Table 5: Aged Payables Summary

New Zealand Fish and Game Council As at 31 October 2020

CONTACT	CURRENT	< 1 MONTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	OLDER	TOTAL
Aged Payables						
2degrees	117	-	-	-	-	117
ACC Workplace Cover	1,016	-	-	-	-	1,016
Air New Zealand Travel Card	6,050	-	-	-	-	6,050
BP Oil New Zealand	208	-	-	-	-	208
Cert Systems limited	3,655	-	-	-	-	3,655
Computer & Telephone Services Ltd	-	70	-	-	-	70
Countdown	-	32	-	-	-	32
Dropbox International Unlimited Company	(115)	-	-	-	-	(115)
Eastern Fish and Game Council	71	-	-	-	-	71
Evolve Outdoors	283	-	-	-	-	283
Eyede Solutions Limited	43,146	-	-	-	-	43,146
Ferret Software Ltd	920	-	-	-	-	920
Fuji Xerox New Zealand Limited	29	-	-	-	-	29
Google	-	-	22	-	-	22
Hothouse Communications Limited	2,713	-	-	-	-	2,713
Id Solutions 1993 Limited	16	-	-	-	-	16
Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Council	1,295	-	-	-	-	1,295
New Zealand Clay Target Association	6,900	-	-	-	-	6,900
Northland Fish and Game Council	173,920	-	-	-	-	173,920
Perception Planning Limited	1,272	-	-	-	-	1,272
Redstripe Limited	2,848	-	-	-	-	2,848
Taranaki Fish and Game Council	49,410	-	-	-	-	49,410
Wellington Fish and Game Council	39,623	-	-	-	-	39,623
West Coast Fish and Game Council	31,713	-	-	-	-	31,713
Total Aged Payables	365,089	102	22	-	-	365,214
Total	365,089	102	22	-	-	365,214

National Finance Report to October

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20&21 November 2020

Prepared by: Carmel Veitch, Finance, NZ Fish and Game Council

A late paper will be emailed out to the NZC prior to the meeting.

The paper is late as all regional information was not available at the time of writing.

Organisational Reserves Update as at 31/08/20

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20&21 November 2020

Prepared by: Carmel Veitch, Finance, NZ Fish and Game Council

A late paper will be emailed out to the NZC prior to the meeting.

The paper is late as all regional information was not available at the time of writing.

Meeting Dates 2020/21

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20-22 November 2020

Prepared by: Carmel Veitch, Finance, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 To approve the meeting dates for the New Zealand Council for the 2020/2021 year.

Background

- 2 The Fish and Game budgeting cycle is connected to the dates required to submit the fee submission to DOC and the Minister of Conservation. Within the process the New Zealand Council must consult with regions on the licence fee, budgets and levies. The meeting timetable must take into consideration the time needed to consult with Regions.

At the 147th meeting of the New Zealand (August 2020) the Council was presented with the Draft meeting dates for the 2020/21 year. At this meeting the Council:

Agree that the proposed NZ Council meeting dates for 2020/21 become:

- *November 20th -22nd in Wellington 2020*
 - *February 16th and/or 18th by Zoom 2021*
 - *April 16th and 17th in Wellington 2021*
 - *June 17th by Zoom 2021*
 - *August 27th and 28th in Wellington 2021 or other location?*
2. *That this paper goes out to Regions for feedback.*
 3. *These dates may be subject to change due to the Review and other meetings maybe required.*

Moved: Crs. Blewman/A. Harris - Carried

Analysis

- 3 A Consultation letter was emailed to all Regional Chairs and Managers on the 14th September 2020.

A further reminder was emailed to Regional Managers on the 3rd of November 2020.

Responses have been received from 7 Regions.

6 Regions accepted the timetable as it stands.

Auckland/Waikato, have held back on their decision until they received further information regarding the impact of the election on meeting scheduling.

The Election sets out rules under cl26 of the Fish and Game Elections Regulations 1990 regional Fish and Game councils need to hold a meeting within three weeks of the date members come into office. Last electoral cycle this date was the 31st of October, so if meetings are scheduled for the first two weeks of November then this should satisfy this regulation and allow the newly appointed NZC members to attend the scheduled NZC meeting on the 26th and 27th of November 2021.

Financial Implications

- 4 There is currently a budget of \$45,000 for Council meetings. Traditionally each meeting costs between \$12-15k, hence there is adequate budget to cover these 3 meetings.

There is a further \$12,000 set aside for Governors forum – which can be utilised if additional meetings are required due to the review.

Legislative Implications

- 5 The proposed meeting schedule is compliant with our legislated meeting requirements.
- 6 One particular point to note is that s26 of the Fish and Game Elections Regulations 1990 requires Regional Fish and Game councils to hold a meeting within 3 weeks of the date members come into office, and they must appoint an appointee to the NZC at this first meeting. Based on previous election schedules this will mean that regions need to hold a meeting in approximately the first 3 weeks of November 2021.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 7 n/a

Policy Implications

- 8 n/a

Consultation

- 9 Consultation has been undertaken.

Recommendations

- 1 *Council approve the following dates for meetings for the 2020/21 year:*

- November 20th -22nd in Wellington 2020
 - February 16th and 18th by ZOOM 2021
 - April 16th and 17th in Wellington 2021
 - June 17th by ZOOM 2021
 - August 27th and 28th in Wellington 2021 or other location
 - November 26th and 27th in Wellington
2. These dates may be subject to change due to the Review.

2020/21 Annual Timetable – FINAL

Colour Key:

	Public Holidays
	NZ Council Meetings
	Meetings of Managers
	NZGBHT Board

Month	Date & Day	Subject
2020		
September	1 st Tuesday	New Financial Year for Fish & Game NZ
	18 th -19 th	GBHT Board Meeting in Dunedin
October	1 st Thursday	Sport Fishing Opening
	26 th Monday	Labour Day
November	1 st Sunday	Back country sports fishing opening
	20 th -22 nd Friday-Saturday	NZ Council meeting in Wellington
December	3 rd Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30 by ZOOM
	25 th Friday	Christmas Day
	26 th Saturday	Boxing Day
	31 st Thursday	All Annual meetings must be completed
	31 st Thursday	All Variance report and Reserves Schedules to CV - Finance
2021		
January	1 st Friday	New Year's Day
	4 th Monday	Day after New Year's Day
	29 th Friday?	Final Day for regulation details from Fish & Game Councils for Game Notice
	22 nd Friday	CV to return summary of Variance Reports to Managers with queries
February	2 nd Tuesday	World Wetland Day, release of 2021 Habitat Stamp
	5 th Friday	Final circulation of Variance Reports to Managers
	8 th Monday	Waitangi Day
	5 th Friday	Draft Game Notice submission to DOC officials

Month	Date & Day	Subject
	16 & 18 Tues & Thurs evening,	NZ Council meeting ZOOM
	16 th Tuesday	Adjust submission following consultation with DOC & submit to MOC
	26 th Friday OR following week	Publish Game Notice in NZ Gazette
March	4th Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30 by ZOOM
	18 th Thursday	Game hunting licences go on sale
	24 th Wednesday	Final date for receipt of draft budgets and contestable fund applications
April	2nd Friday	Good Friday
	4 th Sunday	Mark-up or Pegging Day
	5th Monday	Easter Monday
	6 th Tuesday	Circulation of budgets, contestable funds & budget summaries
	15th Thursday	Meeting of Managers in Wellington
	16th Friday	Joint NZ Council & Managers Meeting in Wellington
	17th Saturday	NZ Council Meeting in Wellington
	26th Monday	Anzac Day observed
	29th Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30 by ZOOM
May		
	1 st Saturday	Game Season Opening
June		
	7th Monday	Queen's Birthday
	16 th Wednesday	Final date for receipt of Fish & Game regional responses to licence fee proposals
	17th Thursday evening	NZ Council Meeting - ZOOM
	21 st Monday	Draft licence fee submission to DOC officials
	22 nd Tuesday	Final Day for regulation details from Fish & Game Councils for Anglers Notice
	30th Wednesday	Final Day for submissions for NZGBHT Grant applications
July		
	1 st Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30 by ZOOM
	5 th Monday	Adjust fee submission following DOC consultation & submit to MOC
	7 th Wednesday	Draft Anglers Notice submission to DOC officials
	13 th Tuesday	Send out grant submissions to GBHT Board members
	16 th Friday	Adjust Anglers Notice submission following DOC consultation & submit to MOC
	21st Wednesday	GBHT Board Telephone Conference
	27 th Tuesday	Publish Anglers Notice in NZ Gazette
August		
	9th Monday	Election Nominations Open
	19 th Thursday	Sports Fishing Licenses go on sale
	20th Friday	GBHT Board Meeting in Wellington
	26th Thursday	Election Nominations Close
	27 th & 28 Friday-Saturday	NZ Council Meeting in Wellington
	31st Monday	End of Financial Year Fish & Game
September		
	8th Wednesday	Electoral Roll Closes
	9th Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30 by ZOOM
October		
	1st Wednesday	Sport Fishing Opening
	8th Friday	Election Day

Month	Date & Day	Subject
	25 th Monday	Labour Day
November		
	1 st Sunday	Back country sports fishing opening
	26 th & 27 th Friday - Saturday	NZ Council Meeting, location tbc
December		
	9 th Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30 by ZOOM

Recommendation:

1. Agree that the proposed NZ Council meeting dates for 2020/21 become:
 - November 20th -22nd in Wellington 2020
 - February 16th and 18th by ZOOM 2021
 - April 16th and 17th in Wellington 2021
 - June 17th by ZOOM 2021
 - August 27th and 28th in Wellington 2021 or other location
 - November 26th and 27th in Wellington
3. These dates may be subject to change due to the Review.

Notes:

- the June dates of 17th June will require regional Fish and Game Council June meeting dates to fall prior to 17th June to feed into a NZ Council recommendation.
- that a licence fee submission to the Minister of Conservation should be prepared in anticipation of a 17th June recommendation and sent the week commencing 21 June.



GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST BOARD in 2020

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Coordinator

The NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board (the Trust Board) is an independent body established by statute primarily to improve game bird habitat and the habitat of other wildlife. Its membership is made up of six nominees appointed by the Minister of Conservation. In July 2020 the Minister announced a new Trust Board appointed for a three year term (2020-2023) consisting of: Andy Tannock (Chairperson), Jan Riddell, Mark Sutton & Chantal Whitby (3 nominees from F&GNZ), John Cheyne (nominee of DG DOC) and Neil Candy (nominee of DUNZ).

The Trust Board held a Zoom meeting on 13 August 2020 as a meet & greet and to discuss Habitat Grant applications received by the annual 30 June deadline. The annual meeting of the Trust Board was held on 18 September 2020 at the Otago Fish and Game Council office in Dunedin.

The functions of the Trust Board are set out in Section 44D (s44D) of the Wildlife Act 1953.

S44D(e). The board's primary focus is applying the net receipts from the Habitat Stamp programme as grants to applicants for the protection, restoration, improvement, creation, or procurement of game bird or other wildlife habitat. Eleven grant applications were received in 2020. This was half the number received the year before. Given the constraints of Covid-19 lockdowns, this number was still encouraging. The Board approved grants for all 11 projects with a total allocation of \$58,000.

A further \$82,000 was earmarked for on-site habitat improvements on the JK Donald Block on the NE edge of Lake Wairarapa. The JK Donald Block is the fourth major project supported by the Trust. It has previously invested in the Para Wetland (Marlborough), Underwood Wetland (Northland) and Takitakitoa (Otago).

S44D(f). The board is also charged with promoting the sale of game bird habitat stamps and associated products. Mindful that the general use of adhesive stamps has declined significantly, along with habitat stamp income generated through philately, the Trust Board is exploring other avenues for increasing income. It wants to encourage the merchandising of products featuring the stamp image. To create sufficient lead-in time for participating partners, the Trust Board created two photographic competitions in 2020 to identify both a 2021 and a 2022 image for the habitat stamp.

The purpose of this is to allow, going forward, an additional 12 months for creating the stamp, production of associated merchandise and the stamp's release date (World Wetlands Day on 2 February). It is proposed that expressions of interest be invited for the artwork of these bird habitat stamps to appear under licence on suitable merchandise items. A fee would then be negotiated for a realistic quantity to be produced and sold, with contributions going to the stamp programme. It is suggested that the artwork will 'add value' to the item, giving it a more desirable commercial and long-term collectable value.

S44D(k). The Trust Board recommends to the NZ Council the hunter contribution of the habitat stamp. It is recommended the current value of \$4 on each licence is retained for a further year. The Board views this as a good PR exercise and visible evidence of the contribution made by hunters to conservation. This amount should be increased over time.

S44D(l)(i). Each year the Trust Board recommends to the NZ Council the game bird or other wildlife species to be depicted on the following year's habitat stamp. The board is recommending the 2023 stamp feature a wetland bird species. All game bird species have now been depicted 3 times previously on the stamp. With some species harder to capture than others, the board sees an opportunity to open the competition wider to the best image of any wetland game bird or other wildlife species.

S44D(l)(ii). The board appoints, or selects by competition, an artist to produce the stamp work. This is the second year a photographic competition has been held. The competition was for two species this year. The successful art photographer for the stamp artwork in 2021 was Matt Winter



and for 2022 it was Jean Nae.



The winning entries each received \$1k in prize money from the GBHT Account. The Trust Board is recommending a repeat of a photographic competition to select the 2023 stamp image.

In other business, the Trust Board approved its 2019/20 draft Annual Accounts and a 2020/21 budget based on the receipt of net stamp funds:

NZC Payover	
LEVY from Game Licence	120,263.00
NZ POST	14,018.61
PRODUCTION COSTS	- 18,270.13
GST	17,360.33
Due 30 November 2020	133,371.81

The Board also agreed to an investment policy, to explore further participation in the One Billion Trees Programme with MPI and seek technical assistance to improve its online application forms.

It set its meeting schedule for 2021 to be a zoom meeting on 31 July and annual meeting on 20 August 2021 in Queenstown (due to 4 board members living within 3-4 hours' drive away). The full minutes are available on request.

Recommendations

- 1. Note the new ways of generating funds for the trust by having commercial items licensed to carry the artwork of the latest game bird habitat stamp*
- 2. Agree to the hunter licence fee contribution for the stamp being retained at \$4.00 but to see this increasing in the future to help further enhance the public image of hunters.*
- 3. Agree the game bird or other wildlife species to be depicted on the 2023 habitat stamp be open to any wetland bird species.*
- 4. Agree to a photographic competition to select an artist to produce the artwork of the 2023 stamp.*
- 5. Note the Trust Board's 2020 meeting will be held in Queenstown on 20 August 2021.*

Subcommittee Reports

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20-21 November 2020

Prepared by: Martin Taylor, Chief Executive, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the activities of (a) the Standing Finance Committee, (b) the Licence Sub Committee, and (c) the Remuneration Committee

(a) Standing Finance Committee

Cr Ray Grub will provide a verbal update.

(b) Licence Sub Committee

There have been no meetings of this committee since the last NZC meeting. The staff members of the Licence Sub Committee have met on two occasions to discuss a Licence Sales System Policy. That policy was the subject of an earlier agenda item.

(c) Remuneration Subcommittee

In the last NZC meeting the Remuneration Subcommittee was disestablished. At the time of establishing the Subcommittee it was agreed the NZC needed to give advice to regional governors on salary levels for their managers and staff to achieve national consistency as set out in the Fore Consulting report.

It is important to understand that two of the unresolved issues on the Remuneration Sub committee was whether a regional manager required a post graduate science degree, and whether there were national aspects to their regional positions. If both of these are confirmed in the manager's job description, then the salary bands increase significantly.

It is worth noting that the vacuum created by the disestablishment of this Subcommittee is being filled by regional managers who on 15 October in an Operational Managers meeting resolved, *“Managers agreed to undertake a review of JD’s (largely done) and assessment/job sizing. Phil to pull together bands, generate a blank table for current staff, and check on cost for a sizing with external market. Agreed this is not a NZC issue and one for individual Council managers/CEs”*.

The NZC need to agree on whether they still have a responsibility to establish guidance and policy on remuneration levels and job descriptions for regional governors or to let managers as a collective set guidance and policy for regional governors.

Recommendation: Note the contents of this report

Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

Motion 1:

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

(a) pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Confirm Public Excluded minutes for meeting 147	Section 9(2)(i) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
Pending Freshwater Litigation	Section 9(2)(h) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

(b) And that staff remain to provide advice to the Council.

Motion 2:

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

(a) pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE
-------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	RELATION TO EACH MATTER	PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Board Only – CEO Performance Appraisal	Section 9(2)(a) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

(a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council

CEO and Staff Activity Report

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20 & 21 November 2020

Prepared by: NZC Staff

Chief Executive

Research Allocation Project (RAP)

Following the last meeting I worked with DOC on writing the proposal for the short listed consultancies on the RAP project and organising the evaluation of proposals. Following the selection of the successful consultant I supported them to get up and running. I also had one formal Zoom meeting with them along with other participants in the reference group. The NZAC office has also assisted satisfying any request for data.

Licence Policy Discussion and MOU on Licence Sales Data

There have been two meetings on the Licence Policy which has resulted in a draft which at the time of writing is being reviewed by participants of the group. I have also written an MOU on access to the License Sales data which is with regions for consideration.

Annual Audit

The annual audit cycle took place in the last month which was supported by myself and the NZC staff team.

Meetings

There have been a number of ENGO meetings on how we can work through Fast Track RMA process which has the potential to create a lot of work for all of the entities listed. We are also working on our approach to the implementation of the Freshwater reforms and how we can share resources on the RMA reforms which will occur in the next three years.

As the relationship manager for the licence sales system I have meet with Eyede's CEO to discuss each parties' expectations over the next few years in terms of the development pathway.

I have attended a Landcare Trust board meeting

I have had to catch ups with the DOC policy manager who has now moved on and will be meeting with his replacement shortly.

I have attended another meeting of the Implementation of Essential freshwater Group. This group is very important to whether the freshwater reforms will work in practice. The amount of work this group generates will increase dramatically in the coming months as there are some difficult questions to answer before progress can be made on the ground.

Communications

Brian

Governance support:

- Support has been given to arrange NZC and managers meetings. preparation of agenda packs, advice on meeting procedures

IT support:

- Support has been given to NZC Staff, governors, regional staff and regional governors with Office365.

Advocacy:

- Meetings with DOC, MfE, Ministerial offices and Opposition offices have been undertaken. Weekly meetings with MfE on Comms for NPS implementation and meetings with MPI on Check Clean Dry Campaign.

Comms support:

- Several PRs and media responses have been issued. Support been given to North Island regions when requested.

OIAs

- OIAs have been responded to. Advice has been given to regions on OIAs

Richie

With the fishing season underway, production of the monthly Reel Life eZine has started as well as publishing the Weekly Fishing Reports to North Canterbury and CSI anglers. A planning meeting for the 2021 Game bird magazine has been held also. A large piece of work was filming, editing and producing a 15-minute video for Southland on a joint Ngai Tahu proposal for the enhancement of Waituna Lagoon which has been presented to DoC.

Footage of winter grazing practices was also obtained for Southland and presented to the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister for the Environment. Support has also been provided to the Game Bird Habitat Trust at their first meeting in Dunedin. The Game bird Habitat Trust photo competition for the next two stamps has also been judged and winners decided.

Media releases, interviews and coverage was also coordinated for the opening of the fishing season, as well as assisting regions with specific releases for their local media. There has been ongoing support for all regions around day-to-day website issues such as access points, uploads, creation of ballot pages and forms for Backcountry fisheries etc. Support was also provided to the Secondary Schools Clay target championships.

Several other videos have been filmed and distributed: Lake Brunner fishing secrets; Lake Opuha opening day; Bait fishing basics; soft bait tips; spin fishing tips; spin fishing lures that work; fishing small streams; baked trout recipe; trout tacos recipe; Game bird habitat trust and Takitakitoa wetland.

Business Development Manager

Website RFP

Covered in separate report, this has been a key project since August. This has included multiple meetings with Diagram Limited, Eyede and Hothouse, the incumbent website supplier.

Eyede Functionality

Liaising with Eyede regarding the Functional Requirements Schedule that sits alongside the Licence System and Business Administration Agreement. Eyede have appointed Louis van Zyl as their new project manager to lead the development of the new system requirements for our licensing system. This work will be ongoing and intensive in the initial stages of development.

Marketing Reference Group

Have established and met regularly with this group, the focus is on marketing messages, channels and reaching target groups with a view to increasing participation. The group is active and committed to the marketing goals of Fish & Game, an excellent and productive collaboration. The MRG members are myself, Erin Garrick, Ian Hadland, Jacob Lucas, Hamish Carnachan, Mark Sherburn and Adam Daniels.

Website

Developed Park & Cast pages on website to offer most of what a novice spin angler would need all on one section of the website.

Campaigns

- Season opening – “Park and Cast”, trout fishing made easy
- Season opening – “Every bridge you cross is a fishing opportunity”
- Develop campaign image and video assets
- Email campaign to lapsed anglers and early bird buyers

Acknowledgment to the hard work of the MRG in the development of these successful campaigns.

Take me Fishing / Take me hunting

Have completed trademark applications for these initiatives. They have been approved by IPONZ and remain open for objections until April 2021 at which time we can start using them.

Finance

Annual reports & Audit

The majority of my time since our last meeting has been spent preparing our Annual report and liaising with the Auditors. I spent a week in Wellington in mid-October to ensure the Auditors had access to the relevant information. The Audit team were good to work with and there were no major concerns.

Xero Training

Auckland Waikato Fish and Game Council have now moved to Xero. I have been involved in the set up and the training. This transition has been relatively simple with the Auckland Waikato staff embracing the move.

Regional Support

I have assisted all regions with year end and dealt with many of the regions auditors and Accountants. I have prepared the financials for North Canterbury. I facilitated our first Administrators zoom meeting which we intend to make a regular event.

NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust

I met with the GBHT in Dunedin for their meeting. Have prepared the Financial Statements and worked with the Auditor. On a monthly basis I continue to support the trust with Financial matters.

Policy Advisors

Jack

Research

Met and engaged with Cawthron to discuss upcoming research they are undertaking in the freshwater sphere, with Research First to discuss actioning the NZC's research priorities and with MPI to discuss potential avenues to undertake research on aquaculture.

Guide's Licence

Worked with DOC and NZPFGA to finalise guide's licence proposal.

Pressure Sensitive Fisheries

Completed draft paper on pressure sensitive fisheries for NZC.

Indigenous Freshwater Fish Bill

Met with DOC implementation staff to discuss the process for gazetting spawning sites.

Ministerials

Written several ministerial replies, some in consultation with regional managers where

Ranger Warrants

Coordinated ranger warrant applications and ranger IDs for regions.

Misc

Coordinating meetings on Whakapapa Access, assisted preparation of SSP and collation of information for auditors.

Deb

On extended leave in the UK.

Recommendations

1. *That the report be received.*

RMA/Legal Reserves Report

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20-22 November 2020

Prepared by: Carmel Veitch, Finance, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 To present to the New Zealand Council the Legal/RMA commitment as at 31 October 2020.

Background

- 2 Each year the NZC has a budget towards RMA/Legal projects. In the current year there is a budget of \$315k for RMA/legal funding. . All of this budget was allocated to the projects in the August 2020 NZC meeting.

Analysis

- 3 Table 1 attached outlines the projects that the NZC have committed to and are yet to be paid out. When the NZC approve a RMA/legal project there is uncertainty as to the timing of that project and often the cost does not fall within the financial year that it was budgeted.

At the time the project is approved the Reserve is updated accordingly – the commitment increases)

When a Region claims from the RMA/legal reserve the transaction becomes a cost to the NZC and the Reserve is decreased accordingly.

Financial Implications

- 4 As at the 31 October 2020 there were 11 outstanding RMA/legal projects totalling \$562,103.

There are 2 RMA/legal projects that are currently being funded out of the Regions reserves. The SWALP – which is overspent by \$59k. The RMA/legal project from the Otago Reserves for the Transitional Mining has a balance of \$23,947.

As all of the \$315k budget for RMA was allocated in the August 2020 meeting, unless the NZC increase the budget for RMA no further applications can be approved in the financial year.

Legislative Implications

5 n/a.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

6 n/a.

Policy Implications

7 n/a.

Consultation

8 n/a

9 n/a.

Recommendations

1 *The RMA/legal Reserves report to the value of \$562,103 be accepted as a at 31 October 2020.*

Table 1: RMA /Legal Fund Reserve

LIVE and Approved RMA/legal Fund Applications									
As at 31 October 2020									
Region	Project Name	Date Approved	Total Approved	Source	Total Spent to Date	Withdrawn	Under/Over Spent to date	Committed Funds	Update
Auck/Wai	Whangamarino Weir and Waikato Regional Council	22-Aug-20	\$110,000	NZC Fund	-	-	\$110,000	\$110,000	Discussion continue with DOC, F&G & Waikato Regional Council over the scope of the review.
Auck/Wai	Whangamarino Weir and Waikato Regional Council	11-Nov-17	\$50,000	NZC Fund	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	Discussion continue with DOC, F&G & Waikato Regional Council over the scope of the review.
Nel Mar	Tasman DC Plan Change 52	7/06/2019	\$7,000	NZC Fund	\$854	\$0	\$6,146	\$6,146	Ongoing - \$ required 2021
Nel Mar	Marl Envi Plan Appeal	22/11/2019	\$15,000	NZC Fund	\$9,284	\$0	\$5,716	\$5,716	Ongoing - \$ required 2021
Nel Mar	2 nd Generation Pol Stat	04-2015/16	\$96,404	NZC Fund	\$89,791	\$0	\$6,613	\$6,613	Ongoing - \$ required 2021
NZC	NPS FM	Aug-20	\$150,000	NZC Fund	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	
NZC/Otago	Lindis River Appeal	22/11/2019 & August 2020	\$200,000	NZC Fund	\$83,981	\$0	\$116,019	\$116,019	
Otago	Transitional Mining Consents-Exceptional	11-Nov-17	\$150,000	Otago Reserves	\$126,053	0	\$23,947	\$23,947	Ongoing. NZC notified of upcoming application around \$150k to manage plan change and mining right renewal processes
WGTV	Wairarapa Water Project	07-2016/17	\$20,000	NZC Fund	\$19,249	\$0	\$751	\$751	
WGTV	GW Natural Resource Plan	24/11/2019	\$40,000	NZC Fund	\$15,145	\$0	\$24,855	\$24,855	Progress from Mediation process in Environment Court has been very slow . Commenced late February 2020 and updated schedule has 3-4 days per week until the end of December
WGTV	One Plan Change 2	23/11/2019	\$38,000	NZC Fund	\$998	\$0	\$37,002	\$37,002	Pre-Hearing meetings completed and part progressed expert caucusing. Many parties appear to be resourceing for potential Environment Court hearing rather than regional council level hearing.
Southland	Southland Water & Land Plan appeal	23/Nov/18	\$84,000	Southland Reserves	\$143,089	\$0	-\$59,089	\$0	Likely to require a further \$100k over year. See funding application in agenda
Southland	Southland Water & Land Plan appeal - NZC meeting 147	21/Aug/20	\$55,000	NZC Fund	\$0	\$0	\$55,000	\$55,000	Likely to require a further \$100k over year. See funding application in agenda

TOTAL ACROSS ORGANISATION									
			Live and Approved Applications		Spent to Date	Withdrawn	Under/Over Spent to date	Committed Funds	NZC Legal/RMA Fund 2019/20

Region	Project Name	Date Approved	Total Approved	Source	Total Spent to Date	Withdrawn	Under/Over Spent to date	Committed Funds	Update
Totals - includes closed projects			\$3,584,681		\$3,080,082	\$297,610	\$379,061	\$586,050	
Less RMA out of Regions Reserves - includes			\$736,320		\$742,467	\$4,858	\$34,953	\$23,947	
Total Committed from National Budget			\$2,848,361		\$2,337,614	\$292,752	\$344,109	\$562,103	\$562,643

Movement in Reserves since 31/8/19

-\$540

Recommendation: RMA/Legal report be accepted - as at 31 October 2020

Research Fund Update

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 20-22 November 2020

Prepared by: Carmel Veitch, Finance, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 To present the Research Fund Reserve to the New Zealand Council as at 31 October 2020.

Background

- 2 Each year the NZC allocate a budget towards Research projects. In the past this budget has been \$134,000. Of this \$34,000 was allocated to mallard research.

In the 2019/20 year and the current year the budget for research has been reduced to \$70,000 (as a response to reducing costs re COVID)

At the August 2020 meeting of the NZC the council agreed to rescind the prior commitment of \$34,000 allocated to Mallard research and for all of the research budget to allocated on the merit of the project and if it fell within the NZC research priorities.

As per the budget each year \$70,000 is allocated to the Research Fund. Annually \$10,000 goes towards the National Anglers Survey and \$500 towards Game Harvest Survey costs. If there are no further applications on the fund then the remaining \$ are treated as uncommitted funds.

As research projects are claimed the cost is incurred by the NZC and the Research fund is reduced by the cost.

When Research projects are completed, they are presented to the NZC.

Analysis

- 3 Refer Table 1 for a summary of the Research fund. As at 31 October 2020 there are currently:
 - 3.1 11 Projects with a financial commitment
 - 3.2 4 Projects where the funding has been made but reports are still outstanding.

Financial Implications

- 4 As per Table 2 the NZC commitment to Research is \$270,797. Included in this total are “uncommitted funds” from previous years.

Summary of uncommitted Funds			
Total Mallard Research uncommitted Funds			27,976
Total Other Research uncommitted Funds			78,500
Total Uncommitted Funds			106,476

Legislative Implications

- 5 n/a.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 6 n/a.

Policy Implications

- 7 n/a.

Consultation

- 8 n/a.

- 9 n/a.

Recommendations

- 1 *The NZC accept the Research Fund Report with a balance of \$270,797 as at 31 October 2020.*

**TABLE 1: New Zealand Fish and Game Council - Research Fund
As at 31 October 2020**

Project Ref	Project Name	Coordinator	Council	Date Approved	Total Approved	Total Spent to Date	Withdrawn/ \$ not required	Commitment	Comments
51	Grey Teal Monitoring	Phil Teal	Wellington	May-14	4,400	-	-	4,400	Funds needed for presenttion for publication
55	Mallard Research - Captive Reared Mallards		NZC	Sep-14	5,000	5,000	-	-	Completed Doc to review
56	Game Harvest Survey Analysis	Matthew Mc Doug	Eastern	May-13	3,000	2,208	-	792	Ongoing \$500 budget every yr
57	NAS -National Anglers Survey (includes committed funds to Sept '22 10k per yr)	Helen Trotter	NZC	May-13	209,984	113,718	-	96,266	Total committed to 2021
59 &66	Trophic interactions and potential use of food-web manipulation in the resotration of two eutropic Central Otago Lakes	Helen Trotter	Otago	May-15	10,000	10,000	-	-	All Payments made HT to complete work
61	Mallard Research -Duck Management Units	Andy Garrick	Eastern	Sep-15	3,000	655	-	2,345	Waiting on band locations from Regions
67	Mallard Research General			May-16	19,700	4,724	-	14,976	UNCOMMITTED
67.2	Mallard Research -Cat GPS pilot study	Zane Moss	Southland	May-16	9,300	7,617	-	1,683	
68	Environmental DNA to identify spawning & establish protocols	Phil Teal/Adam Canning	Wellington	May-17	50,000	41,290	-	8,710	Massey Sequenincing DNA, trial continues next spring spawning
69	NIWA Didymo study to expore water Chemistry	Rhys Barrier	N/Marl	May-17	20,000	8,767	-	11,233	Fieldwork progressing \$2773 in here that may need to be in other project 39?
70	Liminological variables on food web dynamics in Lake Tarawera	Matt Osborne	Eastern	May-17	15,000	6,065	-	8,936	Fieldwork progressing
71	Genetic variation in South Island Salmon	Helen Trotter	Otago	May-17	10,000	10,000	-	-	Waiting on report - no Furtther costs
72	Fighting for the public good (over 3 years 10k12k,12k)	Jack	NZC	May-17	34,000	28,603	-	5,397	2021 completion date
73	Efficacy of stocking sports fish to supplement wild populations(Cawthron)		NZC	Feb-18	30,000	30,000	-	-	Completed - Do we have report?
75	Native Fish/Sports interactions	Phil/Adam Canning	Wellington	Apr-18	50,000	29,050	-	20,950	Fieldwork progressing
76	Mallard Research - Brood Habitat selection and use	David Klee	Akld/Waik	Jul-18	21,000	17,391	-	3,609	Fieldwork progressing
76.1	Mallard Research -Uncommitted 18/19			Apr-18	13,000	-	-	13,000	UNCOMMITTED
77	Uncommitted funds Other Reseach 2018/19 (bal of \$100 k)			Apr-18	9,500	-	-	9,500	UNCOMMITTED
78	Uncommitted funds Other Research 2019/20 (bal of \$70k)			Apr-19	9,500	-	-	9,500	UNCOMMITTED
79	Mallard -Uncommitted funds 2019/20 no funds committed this year			Apr-19	-	-	-	-	
80	Uncommitted funds Other Research 2020/21 (bal of \$70k)				59,500	-	-	59,500	UNCOMMITTED
	TOTALS - includes closed research projects				\$ 1,278,934	\$ 868,078	\$ 143,444	\$ 270,797	

Recommendation: Accept Research Fund as at 31 October 2020

R3, Marketing / Licence Sales

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 148 November 2020

Prepared by Steve Doughty, Business Development Manager, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 To inform us on historic and current sales including items that could impact sales in the coming year.

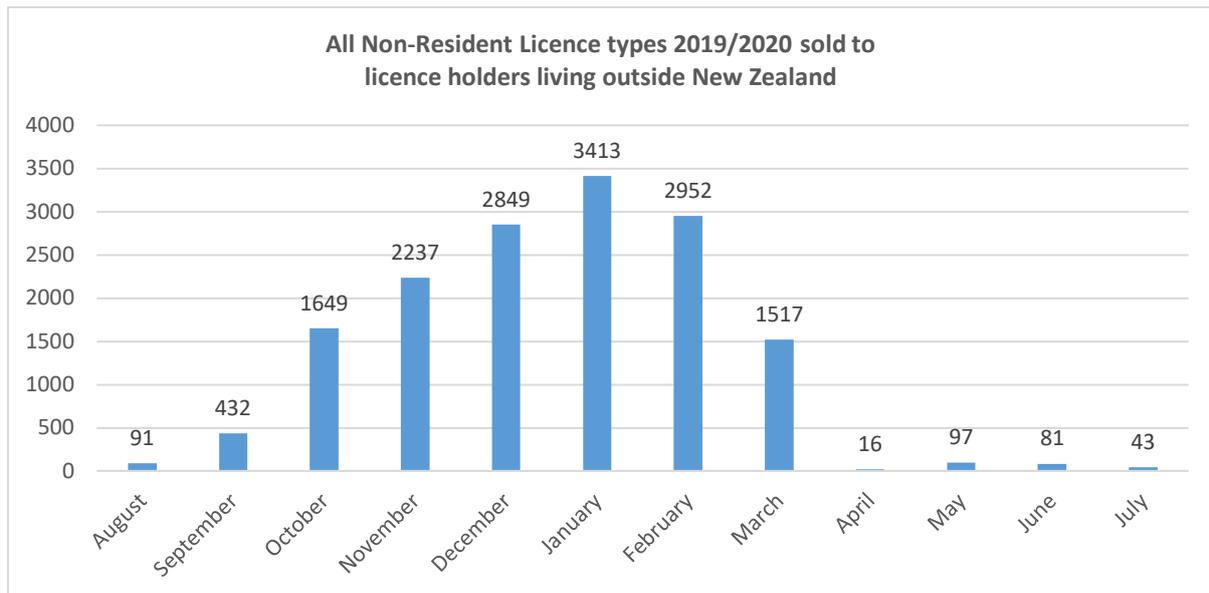
Background

- 2 No decision is required however this information will have an impact on decisions made about 20/21 budgets and reforecasting.

Analysis

Licence Sales

- 3 At the time of writing, fishing licence sales revenue is tracking at 7.5% ahead year to date compared to last year. Revenue is 67.1% of total budget at October 31st compared to 48.3% of total budget at the same time last year. Whilst this is good, it may not be a trend until we see comparisons for the full financial year. Up to date sales year to date will be provided at the meeting.
- 4 The current results are likely to be affected by favourable weather in comparison to the same time last year, a significant mobilisation of Kiwis holidaying in NZ and the recent marketing campaigns we have run using "Park and Cast" and "Every bridge you cross is a fishing opportunity".
- 5 On the following pages are tables and graphs showing the trends of 24 years of licence sales against population with licence price and revenue. This gives a clear picture of the rise in population and our shift from nearly 2% of the population fishing to just over 1% in that time and a more static percentage of game bird hunters. These figures are based on LEQ (revenue divided by the full season adult licence price) and whilst not an exact science the trend is shown through a consistent measurement.
- 6 Current fishing licence sales against last year are ahead year to date despite reduced non-resident sales. Whilst this is an excellent result, the impact of non-resident sales is yet to come as it peaks from November to February.



Marketing

- 8 Recently I formed a marketing reference group to assist with the broader development of marketing ideas, coordination of key messages and campaign strategy. The group has collectively formulated and executed the campaigns referred to above. The skills and commitment of the group has been key.
- 9 The team consists of myself, Erin Garrick (Southland), Ian Hadland (Otago), Jacob Lucas (Nelson/Marlborough), Hamish Carnachan (Wellington), Mark Sherburn (Eastern) and Adam Daniel (Auckland/Waikato). Each of these people bring some marketing expertise to the group and regional on the ground experience. Their input has been very valuable.

Park and Cast

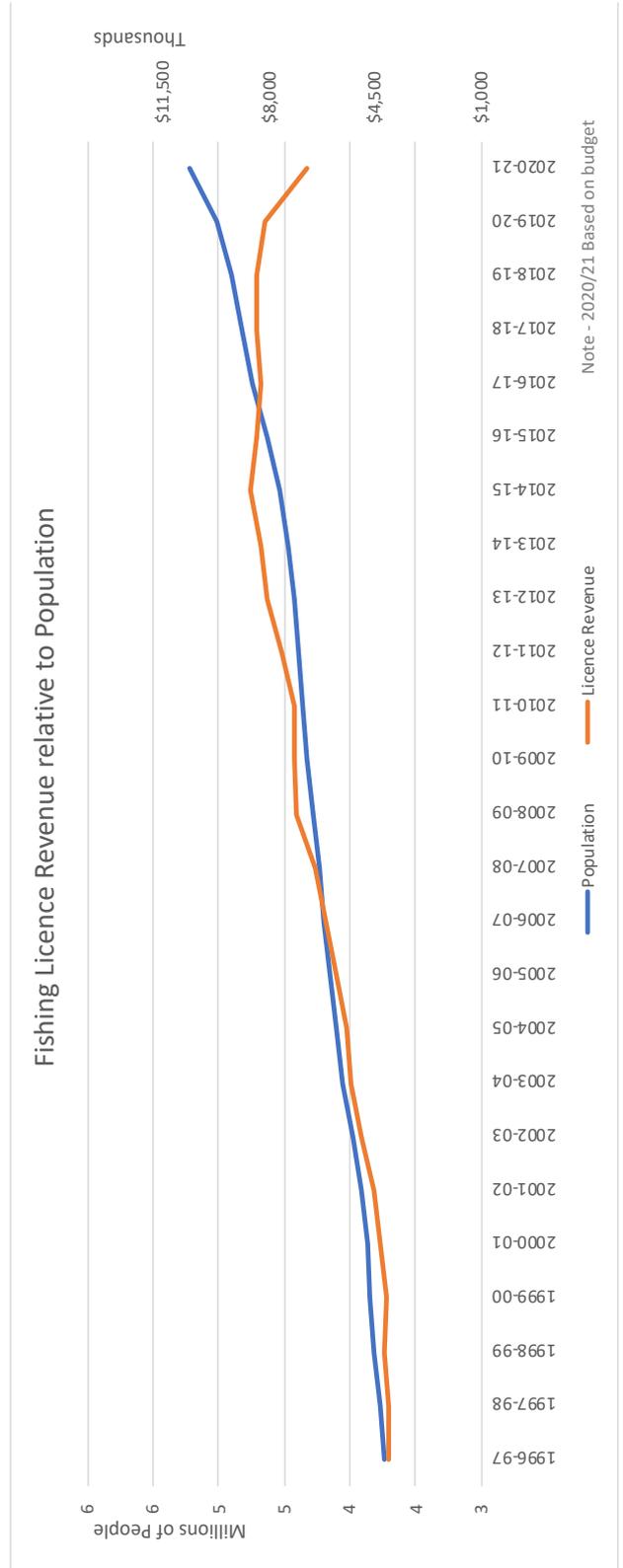
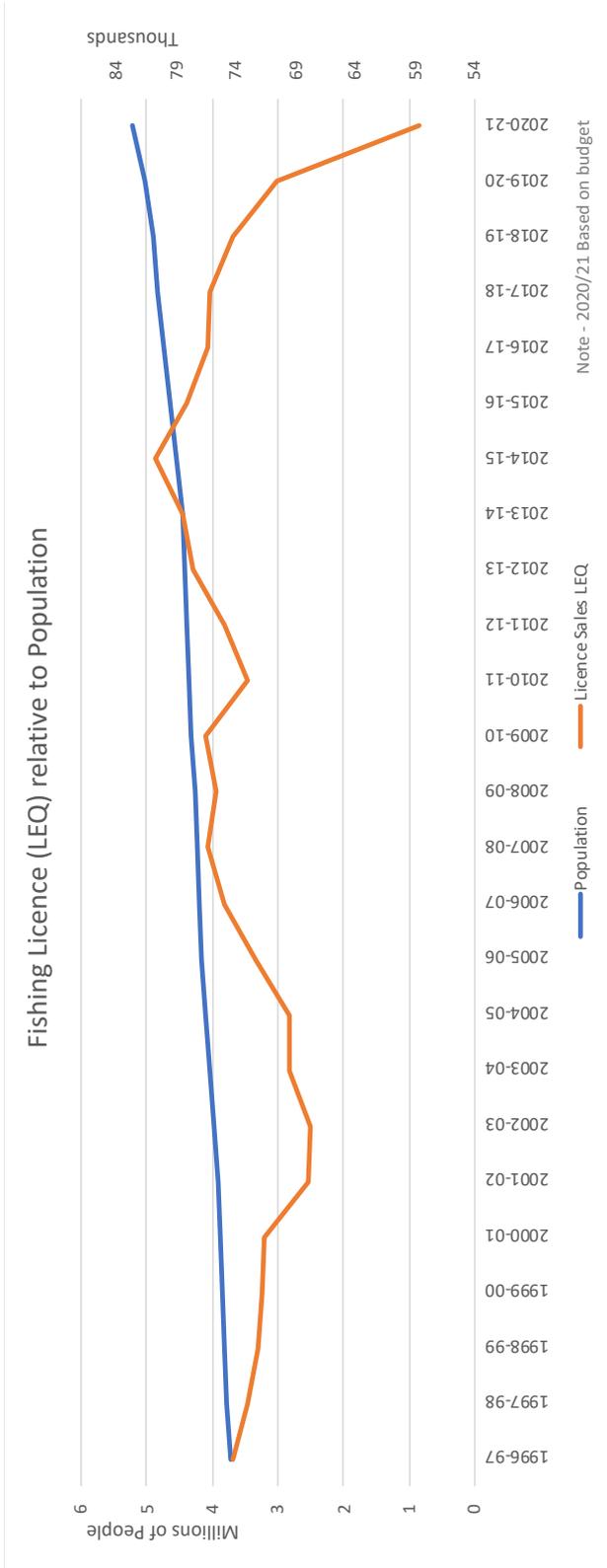
- 10 This campaign will now be a key feature over the fishing season. The goal has been to make trout fishing easy and accessible. New landing pages on the Fish & Game website with simple access information, how to videos and basic gear needed have been added. These Park and Cast spots are the 5 easiest spots to get to in each region with good fish populations making success for the novice relatively easy.
- 11 In addition, a digital marketing campaign was run early October through NZME using the Park and Cast info with the addition of a video highlighting that as you travel NZ, every bridge you cross is a fishing opportunity.
- 12 This ties in with the now live access points listed on the Campermate app and the NZ Motor Caravan Assoc app which captures a huge audience of those travelling around NZ.

Pre-Summer / Summer Campaign

- 13 This campaign will run from late November through to late January using the same themes with emphasis on families getting outdoors over the summer and seeing the country. This will be followed up in February with a “summer is not over yet” campaign. These will be run by Hothouse for us using social media and search engine marketing (Google AdWords) which will give us excellent metrics and allow us to track our reach and engagement.
- 14 Figures below are actuals except 20/21 which represents budget

Year	NZ Population	% Growth	Fish LEQ	% Growth	% of Population	Licence Price	% Increase	Revenue Incl GST	Revenue Excl GST	% Change
1996-97	3,732,000		74,204			\$62.00		\$4,600,648	\$4,089,465	
1997-98	3,768,800	0.99%	73,073	-1.44%	1.94%	\$62.00	0.00%	\$4,530,526	\$4,027,134	5.35%
1998-99	3,825,100	1.49%	72,104	-1.33%	1.89%	\$65.00	4.84%	\$4,686,760	\$4,166,009	3.45%
1999-00	3,846,100	0.55%	71,738	-0.51%	1.87%	\$65.00	0.00%	\$4,662,970	\$4,144,862	-0.51%
2000-01	3,869,000	0.60%	71,603	-0.19%	1.85%	\$68.00	4.62%	\$4,869,004	\$4,328,004	4.42%
2001-02	3,905,800	0.95%	67,935	-5.12%	1.74%	\$75.00	10.29%	\$5,095,125	\$4,529,000	4.64%
2002-03	3,978,600	1.86%	67,718	-0.32%	1.70%	\$82.00	9.33%	\$5,552,876	\$4,935,890	8.98%
2003-04	4,053,100	1.87%	69,596	2.77%	1.72%	\$86.00	4.88%	\$5,985,256	\$5,320,228	7.79%
2004-05	4,107,500	1.34%	69,609	0.02%	1.69%	\$88.00	2.33%	\$6,125,592	\$5,444,971	2.34%
2005-06	4,153,100	1.11%	72,363	3.96%	1.74%	\$90.00	2.27%	\$6,512,670	\$5,789,040	6.32%
2006-07	4,202,300	1.18%	74,995	3.64%	1.78%	\$92.00	2.22%	\$6,899,540	\$6,132,924	5.94%
2007-08	4,240,000	0.90%	76,333	1.78%	1.80%	\$96.00	4.35%	\$7,327,968	\$6,513,749	6.21%
2008-09	4,274,900	0.82%	75,771	-0.74%	1.77%	\$105.00	9.38%	\$7,955,955	\$7,071,960	8.57%
2009-10	4,324,700	1.16%	76,546	1.02%	1.77%	\$105.00	0.00%	\$8,037,330	\$7,144,293	1.02%
2010-11	4,368,300	1.01%	72,995	-4.64%	1.67%	\$113.00	7.62%	\$8,248,435	\$7,172,552	2.63%
2011-12	4,395,700	0.63%	75,014	2.77%	1.71%	\$116.00	2.65%	\$8,701,632	\$7,566,637	5.49%
2012-13	4,420,700	0.57%	77,593	3.44%	1.76%	\$120.00	3.45%	\$9,311,184	\$8,096,682	7.01%
2013-14	4,466,800	1.04%	78,563	1.25%	1.76%	\$121.00	0.83%	\$9,506,067	\$8,266,146	2.09%
2014-15	4,543,100	1.71%	80,816	2.87%	1.78%	\$123.00	1.65%	\$9,940,341	\$8,643,775	4.57%
2015-16	4,633,900	2.00%	78,175	-3.27%	1.69%	\$124.00	0.81%	\$9,693,683	\$8,429,289	-2.48%
2016-17	4,751,100	2.53%	76,458	-2.20%	1.61%	\$125.00	0.81%	\$9,557,191	\$8,310,601	-1.41%
2017-18	4,829,100	1.64%	76,160	-0.39%	1.58%	\$127.00	1.60%	\$9,672,373	\$8,410,759	1.21%
2018-19	4,905,500	1.58%	74,315	-2.42%	1.51%	\$130.00	2.36%	\$9,660,942	\$8,400,819	-0.12%
2019-20	5,017,800	2.29%	70,593	-5.01%	1.41%	\$133.00	2.31%	\$9,388,909	\$8,164,269	-2.82%
2020-21	5,230,000	4.23%	58,578	-17.02%	1.12%	\$133.00	0.00%	\$7,790,874	\$6,774,673	-17.02%

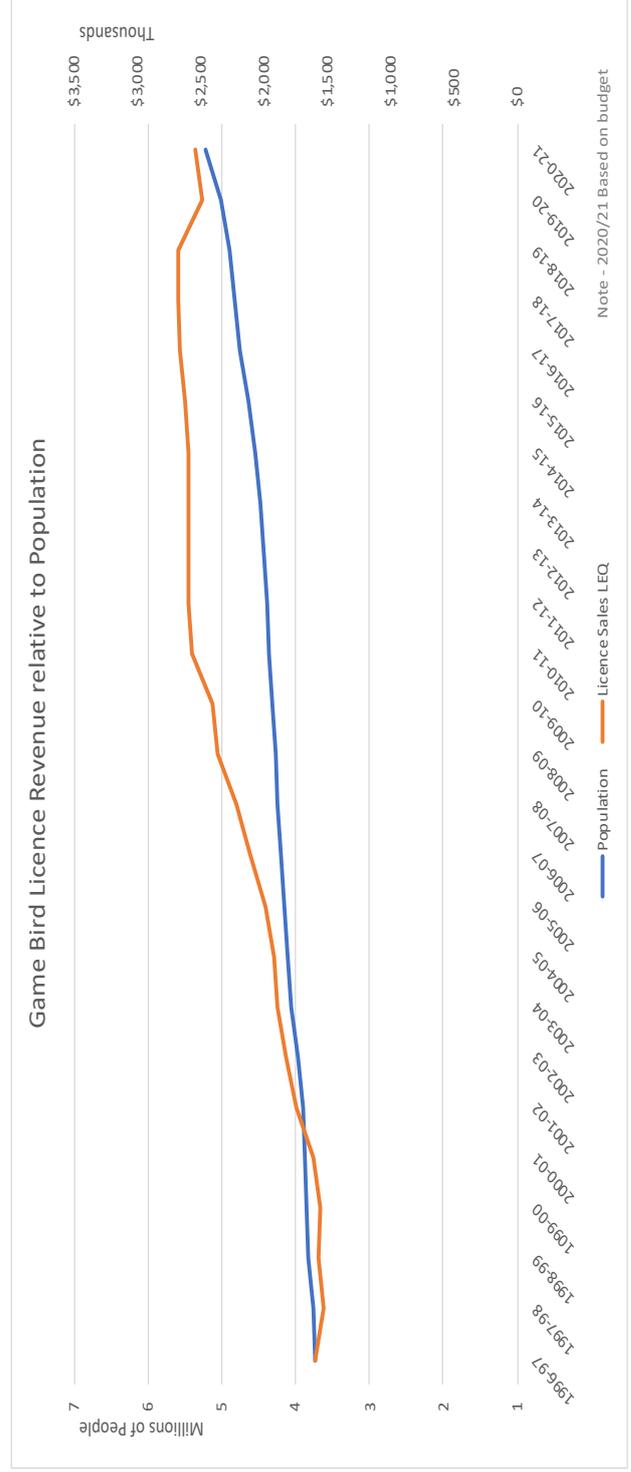
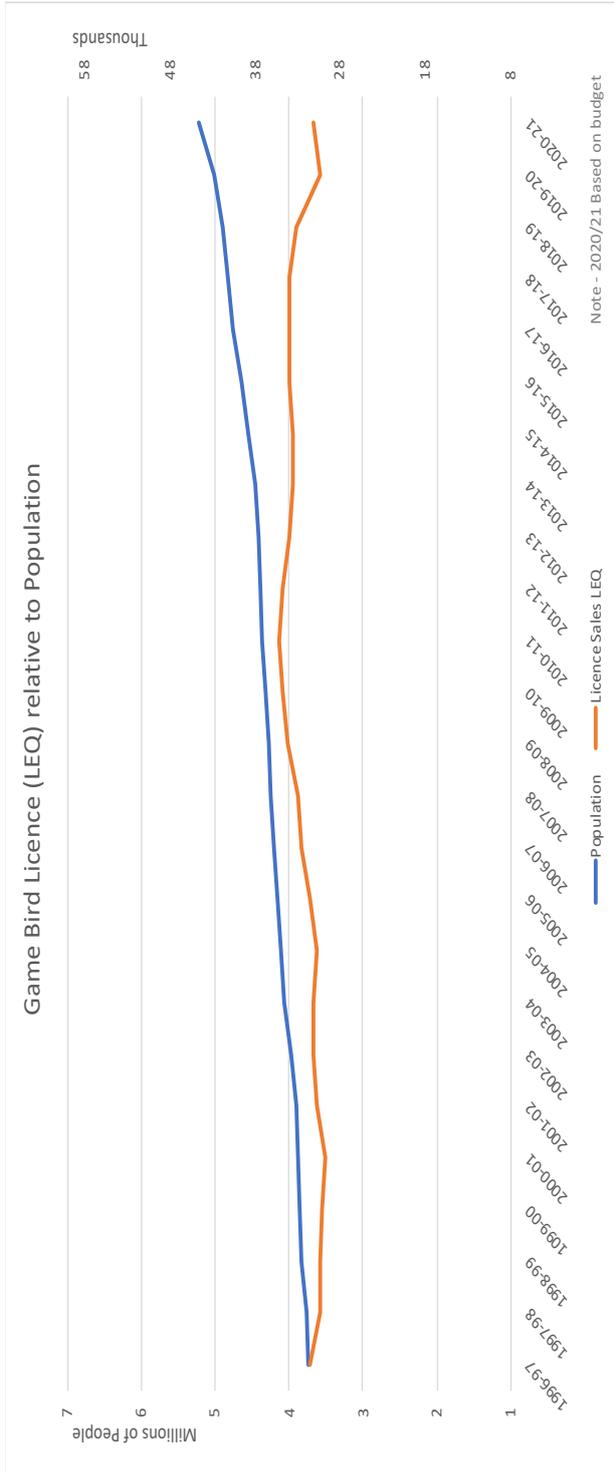
Graphs are dual axis which indicate trend not scale



Game licence Sales 1996 - 2020

Year	NZ Population	% Growth	Game LEQ	% Growth	% of Population	Price Ex GBHT	% Increase	Revenue Incl GST	Revenue Excl GST	% Change
1996-97	3,732,000		31584			\$57.00		\$1,800,288	\$1,600,256	
1997-98	3,768,800	0.99%	30253	-4.21%	0.80%	\$57.00	0.00%	\$1,724,421	\$1,532,819	-4.21%
1998-99	3,825,100	1.49%	30395	0.47%	0.79%	\$58.00	1.75%	\$1,762,910	\$1,567,031	2.23%
1099-00	3,846,100	0.55%	30081	-1.03%	0.78%	\$58.00	0.00%	\$1,744,698	\$1,550,843	-1.03%
2000-01	3,869,000	0.60%	29747	-1.11%	0.77%	\$61.00	5.17%	\$1,814,567	\$1,612,948	4.00%
2001-02	3,905,800	0.95%	30761	3.41%	0.79%	\$64.00	4.92%	\$1,968,704	\$1,749,959	8.49%
2002-03	3,978,600	1.86%	31205	1.44%	0.78%	\$66.00	3.13%	\$2,059,530	\$1,830,693	4.61%
2003-04	4,053,100	1.87%	31223	0.06%	0.77%	\$68.00	3.03%	\$2,123,164	\$1,887,257	3.09%
2004-05	4,107,500	1.34%	30834	-1.25%	0.75%	\$70.00	2.94%	\$2,158,380	\$1,918,560	1.66%
2005-06	4,153,100	1.11%	31577	2.41%	0.76%	\$71.00	1.43%	\$2,241,967	\$1,992,860	3.87%
2006-07	4,202,300	1.18%	32544	3.06%	0.77%	\$73.00	2.82%	\$2,375,712	\$2,111,744	5.97%
2007-08	4,240,000	0.90%	32861	0.97%	0.78%	\$76.00	4.11%	\$2,497,436	\$2,219,943	5.12%
2008-09	4,274,900	0.82%	34082	3.72%	0.80%	\$78.00	2.63%	\$2,658,396	\$2,363,019	6.45%
2009-10	4,324,700	1.16%	34724	1.88%	0.80%	\$78.00	0.00%	\$2,708,472	\$2,407,531	1.88%
2010-11	4,368,300	1.01%	35127	1.16%	0.80%	\$84.00	7.69%	\$2,950,668	\$2,565,798	8.94%
2011-12	4,395,700	0.63%	34689	-1.25%	0.79%	\$86.00	2.38%	\$2,983,254	\$2,594,134	1.10%
2012-13	4,420,700	0.57%	33858	-2.40%	0.77%	\$88.00	2.33%	\$2,979,504	\$2,590,873	-0.13%
2013-14	4,466,800	1.04%	33569	-0.85%	0.75%	\$89.00	1.14%	\$2,987,641	\$2,597,949	0.27%
2014-15	4,543,100	1.71%	33566	-0.01%	0.74%	\$89.00	0.00%	\$2,987,374	\$2,597,717	-0.01%
2015-16	4,633,900	2.00%	33911	1.03%	0.73%	\$89.00	0.00%	\$3,018,079	\$2,624,417	1.03%
2016-17	4,751,100	2.53%	33965	0.16%	0.71%	\$90.00	1.12%	\$3,056,850	\$2,658,130	1.28%
2017-18	4,829,100	1.64%	33865	-0.29%	0.70%	\$91.00	1.11%	\$3,081,715	\$2,679,752	0.81%
2018-19	4,905,500	1.58%	33101	-2.26%	0.67%	\$93.00	2.20%	\$3,078,393	\$2,676,863	-0.11%
2019-20	5,017,800	2.29%	30445	-8.02%	0.61%	\$94.00	1.08%	\$2,861,830	\$2,488,548	-7.03%
2020-21	5,230,000	4.23%	31078	2.08%	0.59%	\$94.00	0.00%	\$2,921,332	\$2,540,289	2.08%

Graphs are dual axis which indicate trend not scale



Financial Implications

15 The analysis of these figures may affect reforecasting.

Legislative Implications

16 No implications

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

17 No implications

Policy Implications

18 No policy implications

Consultation

19 No consultation required in preparation of this report

20 Regional consultation will be required if budgets are revisited

Recommendations

21 *That this report be accepted*

Website RFP Update

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 148 November 2020

Prepared by Steve Doughty, Business Development Manager, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 Update progress on the Fish & Game website RFP and required integrations to provide the best user experience and provide a fit for purpose platform.
- 2 As part of the process of updating the Fish & Game website, an essential element is moving it to a Silverstripe 4 platform. This allows redesigning the current regional structure of the website, the content, navigation and integration with other digital platforms being used such as Eyede and a future CRM. The content and function of the website will change considerably however the current look and feel of the website is accepted as fit for purpose.
- 3 \$20k was approved for the development of an RFP and in July 2020 we engaged Diagram Limited to lead this project and deliver an RFP for the new Fish & Game website. Diagram describe their service as “providing independent advice to help clients determine what they should do with their digital channels, then find the right partners to bring the vision to life”.

Diagram has created and supported RFP processes for a range of clients including: Institute of Directors, Wellington City Council, Wellington Zoo, Powershop, New Zealand Law Society and Antarctica NZ.
- 4 It is expected that an RFP will be completed and ready for distribution to potential suppliers in December.

Analysis

Current situation

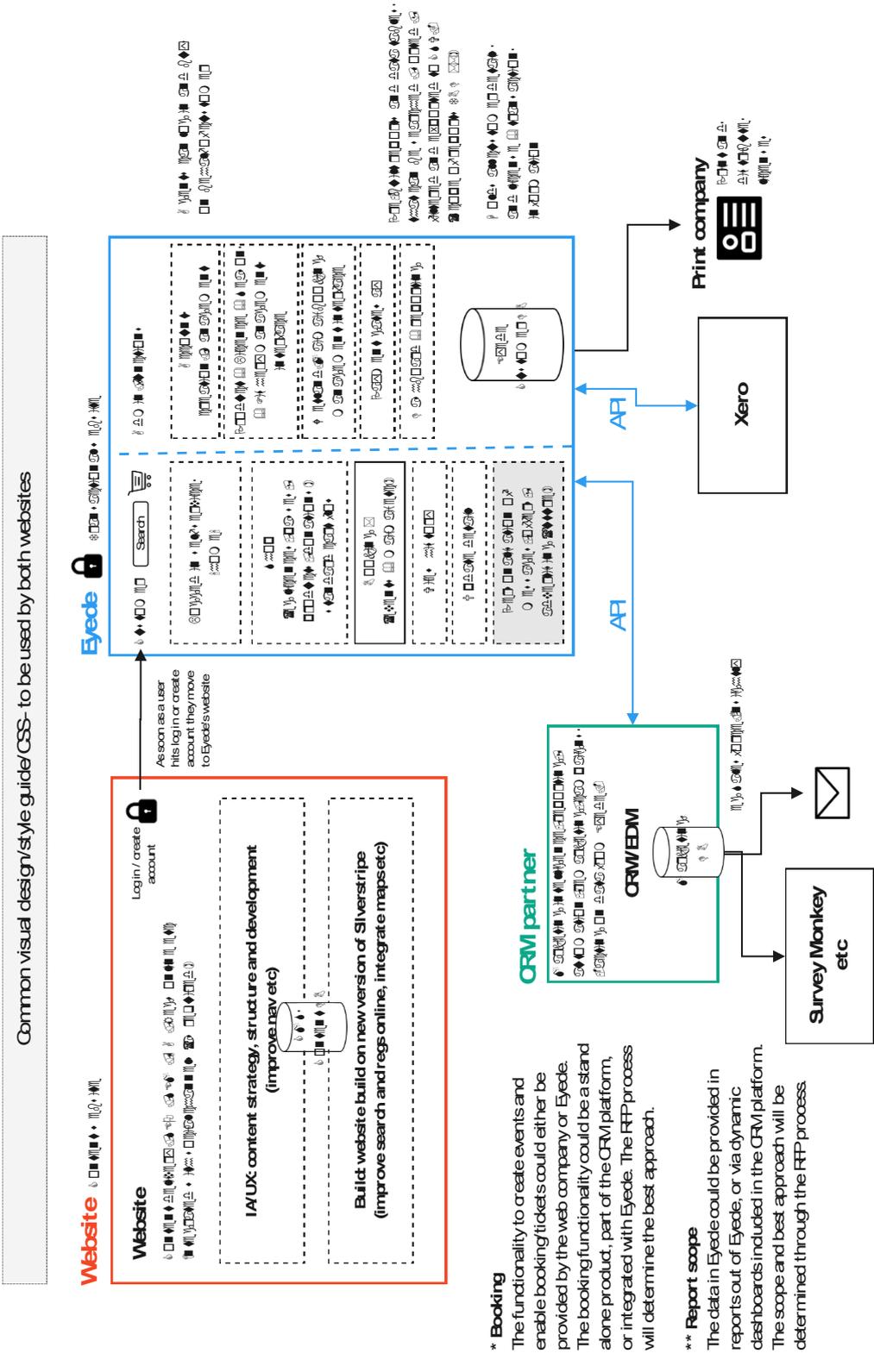
- 5 Diagram have provided excellent advice throughout the process with a 360 view of the requirements of the Fish & Game website including the required integration with the Eyede licence system, a CRM/EDM, document management system, booking system for events and information being transferable to development of a future app.

- 6 Integration has been a key focus given that Eyede are currently providing transactional functions for Fish & Game and our own website being largely informational. Under the new contract with Eyede, and the programme they have in place to deliver new functions within a website to process licences, we are commissioning two websites in a similar timeframe.
- 7 A key deliverable for both websites is integration and a seamless user experience with no visible difference between the sites. This has brought about the need for a more thorough initial process between Fish & Game, Diagram and Eyede to ensure functionality is optimised, duplication is minimised, and we have a thorough understanding of what our stakeholders require.
- 8 The process has identified that a CRM is required. Earlier advice from Eyede and potential web developers spoken to in the initial part of the process indicated that a CRM was not required. In the interest of removing duplication the Fish & Game website will be informational and the Eyede website will be transactional. The CRM connecting the two will provide the business intelligence, reporting and defined marketing information and communication channels.

Proposed RFP Process

- 9 The decision has been made that we will stay with Silverstripe as the preferred platform. We are familiar with it, it is the preferred government platform, many of the assets are transferable and it meets the requirements of the current and future needs of Fish & Game.
- 10 With that in mind, there are approximately 15 companies in NZ capable of delivering our requirements. These companies are well known to us and the expertise offered by Diagram Limited allows us to be confident in capturing the best the market can offer without the need to go to an all of government tender which could be time and resource consuming.
- 11 Because the rebuild will concentrate on informational priorities rather than transactional ones, the design and build of the new site is relatively straight forward piece of work for the successful provider. However, for the website to be fit for purpose, we will require significant input from IA (information architecture) and the UX (user experience) experts. This means the design and build, and information architecture components will need to be listed as separate items in the RFP. Some companies may be able to bid for all aspects of the rebuild but listing separately ensures those specialist skills in each area can be engaged for a successful rebuild.
- 12 In the RFP developed by Liquid IT for the licencing system and CRM, the CRM component was never awarded. This will need to be revisited and a CRM chosen to complete the project. Choosing a CRM is outside the scope of the website RFP.

Two websites, three components



Financial Implications

- 13 The estimated budget for the project remains the same as earlier indicated at around \$200,000.

Legislative Implications

- 14 Yet to be determined but there will be aspects of this project that will require alignment with our responsibilities under the both Conservation and Wildlife Acts as well as the Fresh Water Fisheries Regulations. There will also be requirements under the Privacy Act and Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 15 None

Policy Implications

- 16 There will be future policy implications as we will need to create policy for the use and administration of the website.

Consultation

- 17 Regional consultation will be required
- 18 A consultation group will need to be formed for the project for input, workshops and determination of content.

Recommendations

That this report be accepted

Correspondence register

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting November 2020

INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE SCHEDULE - September 2020

Date	Reference	Received From	Summary
10-Sep-20	I01	Archives New Zealand	Notification of Public Records Act 2005 Audit for 2020-2021
12-Sep-20	I02	NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers	A Discreditable Discussion Paper on Trout Farming
14-Sep-20	I03	Minister of Health	Restrictions on Game Bird Hunting at Level 3
14-Sep-20	I04	North Canterbury Fish & Game	Notification of Transfer from North Canterbury General Reserve to Repay McIntyre Beq
27-Sep-20	I05	Otago Fish & Game	Feedback on Release of Commerical Origin Salmon Policy
28-Sep-20	I06	Sport Fly Fishing New Zealand	NZ Gazette, Schedule One, Paragraph 2.3.1 re 1 assembled rod and running line
29-Sep-20	I07	Otago Fish & Game	Licencing Subcommittee Seperating Governance from Management

INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE SCHEDULE - October 2020

Date	Reference	Received From	Summary
20-Oct-20	J01	Minister of Conservation	Future operation of game preserves

22-Oct-20	J02	Auckland Waikato Fish & Game	Non Resident Levy
22-Oct-20	J03	Auckland Waikato Fish & Game	Mallard Research Levy
22-Oct-20	J04	Auckland Waikato Fish & Game	Commercial Pheasant Preserves
27-Oct-20	J05	North Canterbury Fish & Game	Resolutions from Last Meeting



22 October 2020

Mr P. Shortis
Chairman
NZ Fish & Game Council
PO BOX 25 055
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Paul

Non Resident Levy

At our October 2020 meeting the Auckland/Waikato Council considered the letter from Martin Taylor regarding the decision of the NZ Council to treat the Non Resident Levy as licence income for the budgeting process and that all Non Resident Reserves become general reserves in which they are currently held.

Council also considered the position of the Otago Council on this issue as stated in an email received from Ian Hadland on 29th September 2020.

We strongly support the concerns of the Otago Council regarding the lack of consultation on this decision by the NZ Council. We also support their concern that the funds were gathered in good faith from overseas anglers, many of whom know that the premium they pay is directed back into waters of interest to them.

Therefore, we request that the NZ Council rescinds this decision and then consults with the regions on the future of the Non Resident Reserves.

The Auckland/Waikato Council agreed to retain the Non Resident Reserve and declined to amalgamate these funds with general reserves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grant Annan'.

Grant Annan
Chairman



22 October 2020

Mr P. Shortis
Chairman
NZ Fish & Game Council
PO BOX 25 055
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Paul

Mallard Research Levy

At our October 2020 meeting the Auckland/Waikato Council considered recent decisions made by the NZ Council on the mallard research levy. Council was disappointed with the decision to eliminate the mallard research fund and that this decision occurred without any consultation with regions. Nor was there any consultation with key regional staff who have been implementing research projects reliant on this fund since its inception.

The fund was implemented, as it was acknowledged at the time, because game bird research had historically received little support from the general research fund despite mallard populations being under significant stress in many North Island regions. Research supported by the fund has shown that in many years the North Island mallard population cannot sustain itself. Critical population bottlenecks, particular duckling survival and has led to management decisions in those areas. Information is also critical to set sustainable harvest regulations.

Most North Island regions have been forced to set more restrictive harvest regulations in recent years due to declines in mallard populations and this has undoubtedly had an impact on hunter satisfaction and licence sales. Reducing the opportunity for gaining better understanding of these issues seems illogical.

It is unclear what will happen to the extra \$1 that was specially tagged to go towards mallard research. At the time of its approval by the Minister it was under the specific requirement that it was to be spent on this issue alone. Will it now be used to augment the research fund or get swallowed up by other projects? If it is the later, Auckland/Waikato Council is of the opinion that our hunters can rightly feel aggrieved and that extra \$1 should be removed from the licence as it no longer being used for its intended purpose.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G Annan', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Grant Annan
Chairman

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

Auckland/Waikato Region

156 Brymer Rd., RD.9, Hamilton 3289, New Zealand. Telephone (07) 849 1666 Facsimile (07) 849 1648
Email aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz



22 October 2020

Mr P. Shortis
Chairman
NZ Fish & Game Council
PO BOX 25 055
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Paul

Commercial Pheasant Preserves

At our October 2020 meeting the Auckland/Waikato Council considered the recent decision made by the NZ Council to amend the Wildlife Order 2019 to remove its expiry date thereby allowing pheasants and red-legged partridge to remain on Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act for commercial game preserves.

As you will be aware, there was consultation with the regions over the future of commercial pheasant preserves in February 2019. One of the options was to move pheasants and red-legged partridge to Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act for three years. However, this was clearly envisaged to be a temporary arrangement for a fixed period. There was no suggestion that this would be a permanent legislative change, and indeed we understood that this arrangement was to allow commercial preserves adequate time to cease operations in an orderly manner.

Nevertheless, the Auckland/Waikato Council did not support this initiative because we considered that a phase out period was unwarranted because commercial preserves have never been legal under the Wildlife Act.

Therefore, we strongly oppose the recent decision by the NZ Council not to consult with the regions before deciding to remove the expiry date from the Wildlife Order 2019. We believe that allowing for commercial pheasant preserves to continue under Schedule 3 is setting a dreadful precedence by allowing the management and control of gamebirds to be taken away from regional Fish & Game councils and given to commercial operators.

The Auckland/Waikato Council requests that the NZ Council rescinds this decision and then fully consults with the regions on the future of the commercial pheasant preserves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grant Annan'.

Grant Annan
Chairman

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

Auckland/Waikato Region

156 Brymer Rd, RD 9, Hamilton 3289, New Zealand. Telephone (07) 849 1666 Facsimile (07) 849 1648
Email aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

Hon Chris Hipkins



MP for Remutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of Health

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Martin Taylor
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz

Ref. CH201384

Dear Martin

Thank you for your letter of 14 August 2020 about restrictions on game bird hunting at Alert Level 3. I appreciate you sharing the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's concerns.

I am advised that Ministry of Health officials have been in contact with officials from the Department of Conservation regarding the legislative concerns raised in your letter.

As you may be aware, on 20 August 2020 I signed the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Levels 3 and 2) Order (No 2) 2020 which came into effect as of 11:59 pm on Saturday 22 August 2020. The amended Order removes the restriction on game bird hunting that you have raised in your letter. A copy of the Order can be found at: www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0222/latest/LMS393957.html.

Thank you again for writing to bring this matter to the Government's attention. I trust this resolves New Zealand Fish and Game Council's concerns on this matter. I wish you the very best.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', written over a light blue circular watermark.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Health

From: Johannes Krill <jkrill@xtra.co.nz>

Date: Monday, 28 September 2020 at 7:14 AM

To: Reception <nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz>

Subject: NZ Gazette, Schedule one, paragraph 2.3.1. No licences holder: shall use more than 1 assembled rod and running line.

Dear Sir / Madame,

My name is Johannes Krill. I am the current president of Sports Fly Fishing New Zealand. One of our activities is to promote and organise sports fly fishing (competition fly fishing) in New Zealand. If you are not familiar with our organisation, I would like to invite you to have a look at our web site

(<http://www.sffnz.org.nz>

[SFFNZ :: Home](#)

ABOUT US. Sport Fly Fishing NZ is a not-for-profit organization aimed at promoting sports fly fishing in NZ. We regional championship events throughout NZ mainly over the summer months from which anglers compete to the NZ National Championships which are held on lake and river venues.

www.sffnz.org.nz

).

We are a member FIPS Mouche (Fédération Internationale de Peche Sportive Mouche), the world wide body that oversees and manages international fly fishing competition. Our local competitions are held under FIPS Mouche rules. Among many other rules are catch and release, incl. barbless hooks, knotless nets, etc. If the fish is harmed or injured in any way before release, it is not eligible for scoring. Every year we send a team of our best fly fisher persons to participate in the world champion ships and other international competitions.

In almost all of these international competitions we are allowed to have more than one rod made up, but only allowed to fish with one rod at the time. In order to simulate the international conditions as close as possible we would like to practise and compete locally with more than one rod assembled but only fish with one at the time, as per FIPS Mouche.

The above paragraph is open to interpretation. Could I kindly ask you to clarify its meaning?

Does the term "use" mean the number of rods made up or does it mean the number of rods being actively fished with? Thank you.

I am looking forward to your reply.

Kind Regards

Johannes Krill

President SFFNZ



27 October 2020

Paul Shortis
Chairman
Fish and Game New Zealand
PO Box 25055
WELLINGTON

Dear Paul

The North Canterbury Fish and Game Council (NCF&G) at our last meeting asked me to write to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) to communicate our regional position on a number of current issues. The issues are as follows:

1. The NCF&G council does not support NZC's recent decision on pheasant preserves. We also question the legitimacy of the process used in making that decision. NCF&G Council believes, Pheasants should be returned to Schedule 1 without delay as a failure to do so sets an extremely concerning precedent.
2. The NCF&G Council does not support the decision by NZC to consider the non-resident Levy reserve as income and remove the levy from being considered a restricted reserve. When advocating for the development of this levy it was accepted by the Minister of Conservation that additional funds received from non-resident anglers would be spent on the areas which they most frequently fished. Considering the non-resident Levy as standard licence income will redirect it away from targeted spending in South Island regions which generate most (ca. 75%) of the non-resident Levy. We question the NZC decision making process on this matter as its both poor and improper process for NZC to change national policy without full regional consultation.
3. The NCF&G Council do not support any decision which could result in the relaxation of the rules around trout farming, and the Importation of trout flesh and its potential consequences under WTO rules. We believe NZC should be clear about opposing any changes to the status quo.

I understand that other regions have written to you on these matters and we (NCF&G) feel it is important for your council to consider the collective views of all regions when making important decisions.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Strong", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Alan Strong
Chairman
North Canterbury Fish and Game

<i>Item</i>	<i>Pages</i>
1 Welcome and Chairperson's Introduction	
2 Apologies	3
3 Conflicts of Interest for the Meeting	4
4 Approve minutes for meeting 147	5
5 Health and Safety	25
6 Review Action List	26
<i>Decision Required</i>	
7 Approach to Access	31
8 Pheasant Preserves: Responding to Ministers Letter (Late Paper)	38
9 Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Management Strategy	44
10 Email Access Policy	65
11 Communications Policy	69
12 Trout Farming Research Proposal	74
13 Policy Prioritisation	76
14 Black Powder Submission for Exemption	80
15 Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order	87
16 Licence Sales System Policy and Data Usage MOU	94
17 Staff Grant Application	101
18 Reconsideration of Regional Budgets 2020/21	107
19 National Anglers Survey	109
20 Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 August 2020	123
21 NZC Finance Report to 31 October	168
22 National Finance Report to 31 October (Late Paper)	180
23 Organisational Reserves Update as at 31/08/20 (late paper)	181
24 Meeting Dates 2020/21	182
25 GBHT Report	187
26 Subcommittees Report	190
27 Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	191
<i>Public Excluded Agenda Items Decisions Required</i>	
28 Confirm Public Excluded minutes for meeting 147	193
29 Pending Freshwater Litigation	203
30 Board Only – CEO Performance Appraisal	209
<i>Reports to note</i>	
31 CEO and Staff Activity Report	210
32 RMA/Legal Report	215
33 Research Fund Update	219
34 R3, Marketing / Licence Sales	222
35 Website RFP Update	229
36 Correspondence	233