

One hundred and fiftieth meeting
to be held in Wellington 17-18 April 2021

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Apologies

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting April 2021

Recommendations

That apologies from ... be received.

Declaration of Interest

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting April 2021

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 149

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting April 2021

Recommendation:

- 1. That the minutes of meeting 149 be approved.*

One hundred and forty-ninth meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
4.30-6.43 Tuesday 16 February
4.30-6.05 Thursday 18 February
6.30-8.35 Sunday 14 February
Zoom

PRESENT

NZ Councillors:

Ray Grubb (Chair), Debbie Oakley, Noel Birchall, Andy Harris, Dan Isbister, Nigel Juby, Bill O'Leary, Dave Harris, Greg Duley, Dave Coll, Gerard Karalus.

NZC Staff:

Paul Shortis, Acting Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch Finance, Brian Anderton Senior Advisor.

Guests:

-

1. Welcome and Chairperson's Introduction

2. Apologies received

- No apologies Tuesday.
- Greg Duley and Andy Harris Thursday

3. Conflicts of Interest

- Cr Isbister noted a potential conflict on the ORC appeal and winter grazing
- Cr Coll noted a conflict on the North Canterbury letter
Cr Paul Shortis declares he will not be attending this meeting in his capacity as a New Zealand Fish and Game Councillor. Instead, he will be there as Acting CEO.
He will not vote

4. Approve minutes for meeting 148

That the minutes of meeting 148 held in Nov 2020 be approved

Moved: Cr Dan Isbister / Cr Greg Duley

Cr Oakley, Cr Coll, Cr Karalus, Cr Paul Shortis abstained

Matters arising from minutes

Chair noted that NZC had not yet approached MPI and others on trout farming.
Upland game preserves policy is still under discussion with DOC.

5. Health and Safety

That the report be received.

Moved: Cr Bill O'Leary / Cr Nigel Juby

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

6. Additions to agenda

It was agreed that the North Canterbury Letter and the Chair report and advocacy report would be added to the agenda.

7. Report on the first NPS test case – plan change 7 & 8 ORC

Report on first NPS test case – plan change 7 & 8 ORC. Question was raised if it is the first test case or not. Questions asked if there has been regional consultation. NZC agreed that the first test case is important.

- 1. Agree to provide retrospective approval for the \$120,000 from its Otago reserves to part fund the two plan change cases.**
- 2. Approve \$50,000 from the RMA/Legal fund (NPS -test case fund of \$150,000) \$25,000 for each of the two plan changes.**

Cr Dave Harris / Cr Nigel Juby

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis, Cr Isbister and Cr Coll (Cr Coll was not present for part of the discussion)

8. NES – wetlands and maimai. Adopt NZ advocacy position

NZC supported the advocacy position. Special thanks were given to the Auckland / Waikato staff for their work on the proposal. Mischa Davis's work was superb.

That NZC adopts the wetlands and maimai positions as an advocacy position and the acting chief executive be delegated to finalise the advocacy position with regional fish and game managers.

Cr Nigel Juby / Cr Dave Harris

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

9. NES – Winter grazing – adoption of NZ policy position

Questions were asked if we should just focus on environmental issues not animal welfare issues. However, after debate it was agreed to support the proposal.

That NZC adopts NES – Winter grazing position as an advocacy position and the acting chief executive be delegated to finalise the advocacy position with regional fish and game managers.

Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Bill O'Leary

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis, Cr Juby and Cr Isbister

10. Proposal Subcommittees: membership and portfolios

It was noted that Cr Ray Grubb, as Chair is ex-officio a member of all committees.

That the Executive Committee membership and terms of reference be confirmed as:

- **Executive Committee (National Office, CEO, NZC performance reviews, Audit and Risk, National Policies review)**
- **Bill O'Leary (Deputy Chair NZC), Noel Birchall, Dan Isbister**

Moved Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Nigel Juby

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

That the Standing Finance Committee membership and terms of reference be confirmed as:

- **Standing Finance Committee (Budget cycle, Financial Management,)**
- **Debbie Oakley Chair, Dave Harris, (co-opted Richard O'Keefe)**

Moved Cr Dan Isbister / Cr Andy Harris

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

That the Organisational Structure and Strategic Planning Committee membership and terms of reference be confirmed as:

- **Organisational structure and Strategic Planning Committee (Resource Allocation, Ministerial Review, Strategy)**
- **Paul Shortis Chair, Dave Coll, Nigel Juby**

Moved Cr Ray Grubb/ Cr Greg Duly

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

That a Licence Working Party (LWP) be reformed with responsibility for the implementation and management of functional aspects of the licence system provided by ESL and that the Licence Subcommittee be disestablished.

That Steve Doughty will continue to manage the relationship with ESL until the appointment of an permanent CEO to co-ordinate the actions of the LWP and report regularly to NZC.

That the LWP will consist of Steve Doughty (NZC co-ordinator), Ian Hadland, Jay Graybill, Phil Teal, Kate Thompson and Carmel Veitch (financial).

Moved Cr Nigel Juby / Cr Bill O'Leary

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

11. 2021 Fish & Game Elections

NZC debated and agreed to enter into the contact to run the next Fish & Game elections.

Agree to enter into a contract with ElectionNZ for the provision of the 2021 Fish and Game elections.

Cr Noel Birchall /Cr Gerard Karalus

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

The Acting CE noted the proposed amendments in the paper could save around \$60,000. It was proposed they should go out for regional consultation while asking DOC if amendments can be progressed in time. Staff noted that the first proposal to remove the requirement for notice of the election and the results of the election to be advertised in all major daily newspapers was the better proposal. Staff view was the second proposal to remove the requirement to provide every eligible voter with a voter pack by mail was less likely to be able to be progressed in time and would be more controversial. After debate, NZC decided not to progress any changes to the election regulations at this time. However, Council requested the acting CE add to the work plan and follow-up in 12 months.

12. Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official

Recommendation:

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 148	<p>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.</p> <p>Section 9(2)(h) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.</p>	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.
CE Report Report on Future Management of NZC	Section 9(2)(i) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to enable a Minister of the	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of

Budget Review February Reserves Policy	Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	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 on all items except for the item Report on Future Management of NZC.

Moved: Cr Debbie Oakley / Cr Dave Harris

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

Meeting to be continued 15 March 4.30pm (moved to 14 March through other commitments)

13. Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official

Recommendation:

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 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
	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

	Section 9(2)(h) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.	exist.
NCFGC Loan and Budget	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.
Discuss possible legal action	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.

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

Moved: Cr Debbie Oakley / Cr Dave Harris

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

14. Move out of Public Excluded:

Moved: Cr Gerard Karalus / Dave Coll

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

15. Resolutions moved out of Public Excluded:

Approval of public excluded minutes

Motion: That the minutes be approved subject to the correcting public attendees.

Moved: Cr Bill O'Leary / Cr Greg Duly

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis, Cr Oakley, Cr Coll, Cr Karalus

Chair report to council

Motion: *That the report be received*

Moved: Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Dave Harris

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

CEO Report

Motion: *That the report be received*

Moved: Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Nigel Juby

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

Budgets

Motions:

1. *Removal of Martin Taylor as signatory and authoriser on all Bank Accounts held by New Zealand Fish and Game Council and*
2. *Add Rainsford J Grubb and Paul Shortis as signatories and Authorisers on all Bank Accounts held by New Zealand Fish and Game Council*
3. *Maintain authority rule "any two signatories to sign"*

Moved: Cr Nigel Juby / Cr Gerard Karalus

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

Motion: *That NZC recommend to regions that the Budget for 21/22 be on the same basis as 20/21 and with the same proportion of total budget for 20/21*

Moved: Ray Grubb/ Debbie Oakley

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

Motion: *Establish settings for a budget round, including a contestable fund round in April, and look for a second contestable funding round later in the financial year based on the known outcome.*

Moved Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Dan Isbister

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

Asset Replacement fund

Motion: *The paper from Carmel go out to regions for consultation and be raised at the Managers' meeting.*

Moved Cr Debbie Oakley / Cr Noel Birchall

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

Displacement project

Motion: *Commission a study of the social and economic impacts of non-residents and look at the licence structure and duration for non-residence licences.*

Moved: Cr Debbie Oakley / Cr Ray Grubb

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

Meeting to be continued 15 March 4.30pm (moved to 14 March through other commitments)

North Canterbury Fish and Game Loan and Budget

Motion: *That the NCFGC Loan of \$145,000 remain until there is a clear resolution with respect to NCFGC budgets.*

Moved: Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Debbie Oakley

Abstained: Crs Paul Shortis & Dave Coll

Motion: *That the Chair and Cr Dan Isbister visit NCFGC Chair as soon as practical to discuss the principles underlying the Fish and Game budgetary system with NCFGC Chair.*

Moved: Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Dave Harris

Abstained: Crs Paul Shortis & Dave Coll

20/21 Budget Cycle Recommendations

Motions:

1 *NZC agrees the LEQ for the 2021/22 year to be 68,245 for Fish and 30,500 for Game licences (equating to \$9,918,347) for the purposes of establishing budgets.*

Moved: Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Daniel Isbister

Abstained: Crs Paul Shortis & Noel Birchall (Received paper late).

2 *NZC Agrees the Contestable funding for the year to be capped at \$885,000 (this does not include CF's from regional Reserves).*

Moved: Cr Debbie Oakley / Cr Gerard Karalus

Abstained: Crs Paul Shortis & Noel Birchall (Received paper late).

3 *Permanent and ongoing CFA's (eg CPI Increases) need to be capped at \$298k (the surplus between forecast income and Baseline budget).*

Moved: Cr Dave Harris / Cr Bill O'Leary

Abstained: Crs Paul Shortis & Noel Birchall (Received paper late).

4 *Agree that all regions must have an ARF budget.*

Moved: Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Greg Duley

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

5 *NZC defers a decision on licence fees to the April NZC meeting.*

Moved: Cr Dave Coll/ Cr Daniel Isbister

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

6. *NZC adopts Option 2 for the basis of the 21/22 budgets.*

Moved: Cr Debbie Oakley / Cr Greg Duley

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

Non-Resident Levy Fund

Motion: *That NZC rescind the previous motion on Non-Resident Levies which stated NZC agree that the Non-Resident Levy be treated as licence income for budgeting purposes and that all Non-Resident Levy Reserves become general reserves in the regions in which they are currently held.*

Moved: Cr Debbie Oakley / Cr Greg Duley

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis. Against: Cr Noel Birchall

New Zealand Financial Reports

Motion: *That the report be accepted*

Moved: Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Dave Harris

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

National Finance Report

Motion: *That the report be accepted*

Moved: Cr Noel Birchall / Cr Bill O’Leary

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

Signing Authority by acting CEO

Motion: *The acting CEO asked NZC to confirm that it was comfortable for the acting CEO to sign on behalf of NZC.*

Moved: Cr Ray Grubb / Cr Dave Harris

Abstained: Cr Paul Shortis

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Health and Safety Report

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting April 2021

Prepared by: Debs Mair New Zealand Fish and Game Council

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 - Signed off Mon 22/03/21 at 10am in person and via zoom with NZC staff.

1.	Implementation and adherence to the Health & Safety policy/manual
	Yes. H&S meeting attendance: Paul, Jack, Steve, Carmel & Deb
2.	Risk Management (identification and treatment)
	Continued protocols in place for covid-19 track and trace.
	Checked the first-aid kit for expired items & replenished stock.
3.	H&S matters included as an item at regular staff meetings.
3.	Training and awareness raising
	Practice Drop, Cover and Hold and Identify safe places within the workplace.
4.	H&S incidents
	In light of threats received, NZC Office staff have changed protocols in relation to working alone.
	Earthquakes felt in the NZC office, however the building remained operational throughout.
5.	Near misses and/or injuries
	No injuries reported.
6.	Outcome of audits and reviews

Review Action List

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting April 2021

Prepared by: Debs Mair, Policy Advisor NZ Fish and Game Council

Recommendation

1. *That this report be received.*

Action Points from NZC 149 minutes and public excluded minutes

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
Carmel	Change signatories at bank	April	18/3/21
Paul	Commission Displacement Project		In progress
Chair	Chair & one other councillor to visit NCFGF to discuss the principals of the F&G budget	April	18/3/21
Paul & Carmel	Put consultation document out to Regions re: Non-Resident Levy	April	In progress

Who	Action	Target Date	Date Completed
Richie	Contact Blackpowder people with decision		Done.
Jack	Consult on Access paper with regions		
Jack	Consult on Pressure Sensitive with regions		Deferred subject to displacement research.
NZC staff	To approach regions to obtain examples of private capture	Feb 2021	
Debs	A draft national policy on pheasant preserves	Feb 2021	Deferred
Martin Taylor & Brian Anderton	Consult with regions on the Communications Policy, as set out in the policy for setting national policy.	Feb 2021	Deferred
Brian	Work with managers on SOP re email policy		In progress
Martin Taylor	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	Feb 2021	N/A

	officials to look into the potential risks of Trout Farming		
Martin Taylor	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.		Done.
Carmel Veitch	Undertake an analysis of licence sales and expenditure at the end of December to provide information for a budget review exercise.	Feb 2021	Done
Martin Taylor & Cr. Ray Grubb	Letter to Minister re Pheasant Preserves CE & Chair will respond to Minister's letter explaining policy background to decision	ASAP	Done.

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	In Progress
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	N/A
Martin Taylor & Carmel Veitch	Check minutes as Ray believes a motion was made to separate National and NZC Accounts.	November Meeting	No motion found.
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	Done.
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	Not Completed
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	Done.
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	Done
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Ministerial Review

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 16 and 17 April 2021

Prepared by: Paul Shortis, NZ Fish and Game Council

NZC Budget Approval (Combined NZC & National)

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 150, 16th – 18th April 2021

Prepared by Paul Shortis & Carmel Veitch, Acting CEO & Finance, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of the paper is to present the NZC Budget (combined NZC & National) for 2021/22 for approval.

Background

- 2 The Budget is set within the National Budgeting process.
- 3 Each Region's base funds are determined at the budget meeting held by the NZC each year.
- 4 The Base funds from the previous year (less any One off successful Contestable Fund Applications) determines the base funds for the next year.
- 5 Regions submit Contestable Funding Applications for one-off projects and/or for adjustments to reset their budget due to funding requirements required on an ongoing basis. (e.g. staffing including CPI and new projects)
- 6 All Contestable funding applications are reviewed by managers who in turn make a recommendation to the NZC.
- 7 The NZC approves the budgets and at the same time determines the licence fee and the levy's and grants as per Section 26C 1(f) of the Conservation Act.

Analysis

- 8 This report includes:
 - 8.1 Table 1: Combined Budget Forecast 2021/22 (NZC & National)
 - 8.2 Table 2: NZC Budget Forecast 2021/22
 - 8.3 Table 3: National Budget Forecast 2021/22
- 9 The Total Budget approved for the 2021/22 year for the NZC/National Combined is \$2,010,557. This was reduced from last year as the

RMA/Legal budget and the Website Development budgets in 2020/21 were one off budgets.

- 10 The Budget presented has been reduced by a further \$11,500 – to \$1,999,057 as savings from the regions no longer using Ferret have freed up money within the National Budget.

Financial Implications

- 11 Refer Table 1: Combined Budget Forecast 2021/22 (NZC & National)
- 12 This Table compares the Budget as per 2021 and compares to our forecast for 2022.
- 13 Income Forecast:
 - 13.1 Interest has fallen by \$5,188 – due to falling interest rates. The reduction in interest has been absorbed into the budget and no Contestable Funding Application is required.
 - 13.2 Sundry income – is the income received from the Gamebird Habitat Trust. This was underbudgeted last year due to a change in staffing in the NZC office.
 - 13.3 The income from the Magazine has been budgeted at \$180,000.
- 14 Outputs/Expenditure: All budgets have been scrutinised and reduced where possible. Budgets to note:
 - 14.1 RMA legal reduced by \$314,000 – As every year this was a one-off budget a contestable fund application will be put forward this again this year.
 - 14.2 Additional budget allocated to Business Development and marketing. This is being funded from the additional income from the Magazine.
 - 14.3 Reduced budget for the Information Technology as Ferret is no longer being used by the Regions.
 - 14.4 Website and Social media budget is increased by \$45k. These increased costs were outlined in the original Website proposal.
 - 14.5 Website Development – reduced by \$200k – as this was a one off for the 2021 year.
 - 14.6 Additional postage costs have been budgeted within Licence Production.
 - 14.7 Salaries reduced by \$11,477. This is due to budgeting for a part time Administrator. This budget will also be able to absorb a CPI increase of 1.4%.

- 14.8 Other overheads have been adjusted according to actual costs in past years. The NZC no longer have a carpark – hence a reduction in rent and FBT.
- 15 Refer Tables 2 and 3 for the Breakdown of the NZC Budget and the National Budget.

2021 22 Split of NZC and National Budget	Budget 2021	Budget 2022	Variance
NZC only - Table 2	1,134,917	1,102,607	32,310
National - Table 3	1,390,640	896,450	494,190
TOTAL - Table 1	2,525,557	1,999,057	526,500

- 16 Contestable Funding Applications. The following Contestable funding applications are required:
- 16.1 RMA/Legal - \$300,000 (or the figure recommended by the managers meeting – April 2021)
- 16.2 Fish and Game Cookbook. Seed funding of \$26k with anticipated income from sales to the value of \$39k.

Legislative Implications

- 17 N/A

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

- 18 N/A.

Policy Implications

- 19 N/A.

Consultation

- 20 N/A.
- 21 N/A.

Recommendations

- 1 *The Budget approved of \$1,999,057 be approved as presented in Table 1. With the breakdown of \$1,102,607 to the National Budget and \$896,450 to the NZC budget.*
- 2 *Contestable Funding applications for RMA/Legal and the Fish and Game Cookbook be approved.*

Table 1: Combined Budget Forecast 2021 2022 (NZN & National)

New Zealand Fish and Game Council For the year ended 31 August 2022

	2021 TOTAL BUDGET	2022 TOTAL BUDGET	CHANGE IN BUDGET
INCOME			
Interest Income	11,099	5,911	5,188
Other income			
Advertising & Merchandise	30,500	30,000	500
Sundry Income	6,000	12,000	(6,000)
Magazine Contributions	110,000	180,000	(70,000)
Total Other income	146,500	222,000	(75,500)
Total INCOME	157,599	227,911	(70,312)
OUTPUTS			
ADVOCACY			
Advocacy - Legal & Specialist Advice			
Advocacy - Legal	30,000	25,000	5,000
Advocacy - Specialist Advice	30,000	25,000	5,000
Total Advocacy - Legal & Specialist Advice	60,000	50,000	10,000
Advocacy for Fish & Game - NZC	7,500	8,000	(500)
National Public Awareness			
Public Awareness & Support	14,000	8,500	5,500
Public Awareness - National	7,000	8,500	(1,500)
Total National Public Awareness	21,000	17,000	4,000
National Magazine			
Other Publications	199,500	200,000	(500)
Total National Magazine	199,500	200,000	(500)
RMA/Legal			
Regional RMA	314,000	-	314,000
Total RMA/Legal	314,000	-	314,000
Total ADVOCACY	602,000	275,000	327,000
RESEARCH			
Research Programme	70,000	70,000	-
Total RESEARCH	70,000	70,000	-
CO-ORDINATION			
Business Development & R3	12,000	22,000	(10,000)
Marketing	30,000	60,000	(30,000)
Business & Financial Support	2,000	4,000	(2,000)
Co-ordination National - Chairman Travel	6,000	6,000	-
Elections	45,000	45,000	-
Regulations	72,000	72,000	-

Table 1: Combined Budget Forecast 2021 2022 (NZC & National)

	2021 TOTAL BUDGET	2022 TOTAL BUDGET	CHANGE IN BUDGET
Information Technology- National	46,000	40,000	6,000
Maritime NZ Compliance	5,000	3,000	2,000
Manager Meetings	12,000	12,000	-
Youth Education Programme	7,000	7,000	-
Website and Social Media	40,640	86,450	(45,810)
Website Development	200,000	-	200,000
Ranger Co-ordination	27,500	27,500	-
Licensing			
Licence Contract	245,000	245,000	-
Licence Working Party/CRM Database mngt	10,000	10,000	-
Licence Production	182,500	192,000	(9,500)
Licence Audit	6,000	6,000	-
Total Licensing	443,500	453,000	(9,500)
Total CO-ORDINATION	948,640	837,950	110,690
Total OUTPUTS	1,620,640	1,182,950	437,690
GOVERNANCE			
New Zealand Council	45,000	45,000	-
Governance Advice & Performance	20,000	20,000	-
Governors Forum	12,000	12,000	-
Regional Audit	10,000	10,000	-
Total GOVERNANCE	87,000	87,000	-
OVERHEADS			
Salaries & Contractors			
Salaries	813,880	802,403	11,477
Total Salaries & Contractors	813,880	802,403	11,477
Staff Expenses			
ACC Levy	1,800	1,800	-
Fringe Benefit Tax	2,400	-	2,400
Health & Safety (OSH)	300	300	-
Staff Expenses	5,510	6,500	(990)
Staff payroll outsourcing	800	1,000	(200)
Staff Training	4,500	4,500	-
Total Staff Expenses	15,310	14,100	1,210
Office Premises			
Cleaning Office	1,960	2,000	(40)
Rent	60,000	55,200	4,800
Office Kitchen Supplies	1,100	1,100	-
Repairs & Maintenance -Office	2,000	1,500	500
Power	3,000	3,000	-
Total Office Premises	68,060	62,800	5,260
Office Equipment			

Table 1: Combined Budget Forecast 2021 2022 (NZC & National)

	2021 TOTAL BUDGET	2022 TOTAL BUDGET	CHANGE IN BUDGET
Office Equipment Purchases (Under 2,000)	3,000	3,000	-
Total Office Equipment	3,000	3,000	-
Communications/Consumables			
Computer Expenses	8,832	7,000	1,832
Postage, Courier & Freight	2,700	3,000	(300)
Printing & Stationery	6,704	5,000	1,704
Telephone/Internet	10,000	11,000	(1,000)
Total Communications/Consumables	28,236	26,000	2,236
General (inc Insurance)			
Bank Charges	1,100	1,000	100
General Insurance	6,500	5,500	1,000
Subscriptions	4,200	4,500	(300)
Total General (inc Insurance)	11,800	11,000	800
Financial Audit Fee	14,000	14,000	-
Vehicle Expenses	9,000	9,000	-
Depreciation			
Depreciation	12,230	14,715	(2,485)
Total Depreciation	12,230	14,715	(2,485)
Total OVERHEADS	975,516	957,018	18,498
Total Expenses	2,683,156	2,226,968	456,188
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,525,557)	(1,999,057)	(526,500)

Table 2: NZC Budget Forecast 2021 2022

New Zealand Fish and Game Council For the year ended 31 August 2022

	2021 OWP NZC	2022 OWP NZC	CHANGE IN BUDGET
INCOME			
Interest Income	11,099	5,911	5,188
Other income			
Sundry Income	6,000	12,000	(6,000)
Total Other income	6,000	12,000	(6,000)
Total INCOME	17,099	17,911	(812)
OUTPUTS			
ADVOCACY			
Advocacy - Legal & Specialist Advice			
Advocacy - Legal	30,000	25,000	5,000
Advocacy - Specialist Advice	30,000	25,000	5,000
Total Advocacy - Legal & Specialist Advice	60,000	50,000	10,000
Advocacy for Fish & Game - NZC	7,500	8,000	(500)
National Public Awareness			
Public Awareness & Support	14,000	8,500	5,500
Total National Public Awareness	14,000	8,500	5,500
Total ADVOCACY	81,500	66,500	15,000
CO-ORDINATION			
Business & Financial Support	2,000	4,000	(2,000)
Co-ordination National - Chairman Travel	6,000	6,000	-
Total CO-ORDINATION	8,000	10,000	(2,000)
Total OUTPUTS	89,500	76,500	13,000
GOVERNANCE			
New Zealand Council	45,000	45,000	-
Governance Advice & Performance	20,000	20,000	-
Governors Forum	12,000	12,000	-
Regional Audit	10,000	10,000	-
Total GOVERNANCE	87,000	87,000	-
OVERHEADS			
Salaries & Contractors			
Salaries	813,880	802,403	11,477
Total Salaries & Contractors	813,880	802,403	11,477
Staff Expenses			
ACC Levy	1,800	1,800	-
Fringe Benefit Tax	2,400	-	2,400
Health & Safety (OSH)	300	300	-
Staff Expenses	5,510	6,500	(990)
Staff payroll outsourcing	800	1,000	(200)

Table 2: NZC Budget Forecast 2021 2022

	2021 OWP NZC	2022 OWP NZC	CHANGE IN BUDGET
Staff Training	4,500	4,500	-
Total Staff Expenses	15,310	14,100	1,210
Office Premises			
Cleaning Office	1,960	2,000	(40)
Rent	60,000	55,200	4,800
Office Kitchen Supplies	1,100	1,100	-
Repairs & Maintenance -Office	2,000	1,500	500
Power	3,000	3,000	-
Total Office Premises	68,060	62,800	5,260
Office Equipment			
Office Equipment Purchases (Under 2,000)	3,000	3,000	-
Total Office Equipment	3,000	3,000	-
Communications/Consumables			
Computer Expenses	8,832	7,000	1,832
Postage, Courier & Freight	2,700	3,000	(300)
Printing & Stationery	6,704	5,000	1,704
Telephone/Internet	10,000	11,000	(1,000)
Total Communications/Consumables	28,236	26,000	2,236
General (inc Insurance)			
Bank Charges	1,100	1,000	100
General Insurance	6,500	5,500	1,000
Subscriptions	4,200	4,500	(300)
Total General (inc Insurance)	11,800	11,000	800
Financial Audit Fee	14,000	14,000	-
Vehicle Expenses	9,000	9,000	-
Depreciation			
Depreciation	12,230	14,715	(2,485)
Total Depreciation	12,230	14,715	(2,485)
Total OVERHEADS	975,516	957,018	18,498
Total Expenses	1,152,016	1,120,518	31,498
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,134,917)	(1,102,607)	(32,310)

Table 3: National Budget Forecast 2021 2022

New Zealand Fish and Game Council For the year ended 31 August 2022

	2021 OWP- NATIONAL	2022 OWP- NATIONAL	CHANGE IN BUDGET
INCOME			
Other income			
Advertising & Merchandise	30,500	30,000	500
Magazine Contributions	110,000	180,000	(70,000)
Total Other income	140,500	210,000	(69,500)
Total INCOME	140,500	210,000	(69,500)
OUTPUTS			
ADVOCACY			
National Public Awareness			
Public Awareness - National	7,000	8,500	(1,500)
Total National Public Awareness	7,000	8,500	(1,500)
National Magazine			
Other Publications	199,500	200,000	(500)
Total National Magazine	199,500	200,000	(500)
RMA/Legal			
Regional RMA	314,000	-	314,000
Total RMA/Legal	314,000	-	314,000
Total ADVOCACY	520,500	208,500	312,000
RESEARCH			
Research Programme	70,000	70,000	-
Total RESEARCH	70,000	70,000	-
CO-ORDINATION			
Business Development & R3	12,000	22,000	(10,000)
Marketing	30,000	60,000	(30,000)
Elections	45,000	45,000	-
Regulations	72,000	72,000	-
Information Technology- National	46,000	40,000	6,000
Maritime NZ Compliance	5,000	3,000	2,000
Manager Meetings	12,000	12,000	-
Youth Education Programme	7,000	7,000	-
Website and Social Media	40,640	86,450	(45,810)
Website Development	200,000	-	200,000
Ranger Co-ordination	27,500	27,500	-
Licensing			
Licence Contract	245,000	245,000	-
Licence Working Party/CRM Database mgmt	10,000	10,000	-
Licence Production	182,500	192,000	(9,500)

Table 3: National Budget Forecast 2021 2022

	2021 OWP- NATIONAL	2022 OWP- NATIONAL	CHANGE IN BUDGET
Licence Audit	6,000	6,000	-
Total Licensing	443,500	453,000	(9,500)
Total CO-ORDINATION	940,640	827,950	112,690
Total OUTPUTS	1,531,140	1,106,450	424,690
Total Expenses	1,531,140	1,106,450	424,690
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,390,640)	(896,450)	(494,190)

North Canterbury Budget Variation

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 16 and 17 April 2021

Prepared by: Cr Ray Grubb, Chair, New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. To update NZC on the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council (NCFGC) situation and to talk next steps with NZC, including undertaking a possible audit of NCFGC.

Email sent to NZC on 28 March from NZC Chair

2. You will all be somewhat familiar with the discussions with NCFGC re their 20/21 and 21/22 budgets. This is a briefing note for you all on recent discussions with NCFGC.
3. At the centre of this is the NCFGC view that their Council sets their own budget and the NZC has no role in amending or approving that
4. The budget process is:
 - the budget cycle commences with the previous year's budget.
 - contestable fund (CF) applications are submitted by Regions for two purposes:
 1. one off funding.
 2. adjustments to (a re-set of) their base budget, which will then continue for future years.
5. In the case of 2 the re-set may be for additional staff, for example.
6. The region's Governors approve their own Region's budgets and the CF applications. NCFGC is correct in saying their Governance role is to set their annual budget.
7. However, there is a further step in the process.
8. The CF applications are subject to review by all Managers at the Managers' meeting and the Managers make recommendations to NZC. NZC finally approves the budgets for the forthcoming year by setting the levies and grants and decides on any licence fee increase recommendation to the Minister.

9. The rationale for this step is that ultimately a body has to decide how much money is available and how much will be spent. Last year the Covid induced income losses highlighted that.
10. The relevant provision in the Conservation Act is 26C 1 (f) (ii)
11. The Act is actually silent on the view that the levy setting process determines the budgets for each region, but there is no doubt that it is lawful. If taken holistically if a Region (and it has to be one that takes in more licence money than its budget or has reserves) sets a budget and either takes licence money over and above the budget approved by NZC or uses its reserves in an unapproved manner, then the Act's purpose to allow for re-distribution is defeated.
12. Ironically, this is how NCFGC lost its very substantial reserves and has had to be bailed out by other Regions through use of the NZC reserves; NCFGC spent more than its approved budget and used its reserves to do so.
13. From our big picture perspective the Manager's budget review is a risk management exercise as amongst other things it provides the opportunity to assess whether inappropriate budget decisions are being made and to recommend to NZC remedial action.
14. I have recently met with Alan Strong and Dave Coll. Regrettably, I did not take Dan with me. My recollection of that meeting in the notes I took immediately following it is that Alan's message from his Council to NZC was:
 - NCFGC set their budget. That is the Regional Governor's responsibility. The Managers CF review and the NZC process of approval is not one they agree to.
 - all licence fees for licences sold in the NCFGC Region belong to the NCFGC.
 - they have missed out on increases given to other regions over the years (I consider that irrelevant; the real question is how much they need to do the job i.e. the annual budget)
 - the managers review is a trade-off exercise rather than a rigorous process.
15. So where are we at?
16. It seems reasonable that there should be some increase in the NCFGC budget. In particular they need and want to have an RMA specialist. Their assessment is an increase of \$170,000 for 21/22 which is around 23% over 20/21.
17. NZC makes reasoned decisions and negotiates on issues, and that is why I met with NCFGC and looked for solutions.

18. I have invited NCFGC to participate in 2 budget processes:
1. a bid for more money for the balance of the current financial year (20/21), an additional process to the usual budget round
 2. to submit a CF bid to re-set the base budget in 21/22 year.

19. The Ministerial Review and Resource Allocation project are in the wings also.

20. In summary the budget setting and licence fee re-distribution process follows directly from the Conservation Act. It has been tested over the years and has worked. In our federal system of management it is inter-reliant. If one region steps outside it and makes its own rules then then we are not following the Legislation and the system falls apart.

21. Making sure we follow the Legislation is one of the most important jobs of NZC.

Audit of North Canterbury

22. In the last NZC meeting, it was suggested that the NZC undertake a audit of NCFGC. This agenda item is a placeholder should NZC wish to continue that discussion.

Financial Implications

23. Depending on decisions taken there will be financial implications. These have not been modelled for this paper.

Legislative Implications

24. Covered above.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

25. Nil.

Policy Implications

26. Depends on decisions taken. If NZC decides to look into audit it will be a management audit limited to identified issues and suited to the circumstances

Recommendation:

1. *That Council Note this report.*

Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting April 2021

Prepared by: Jack Kós, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is:
 - a. to present regional feedback on draft Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy;
 - b. to present amendments to the draft policy based on regional feedback;
 - c. to recommend the adoption of the amended draft policy as national policy.

Background

2. In light of scientific advice received on the future management strategies for sea run chinook salmon (attached as Appendices 1 and 2), the National Sea Run Salmon Committee formulated a draft policy seeking to prevent the release of commercial origin chinook salmon into open systems in order to optimise the survival rates of genetically wild chinook salmon.
3. The draft policy was sent to regions seeking feedback and this feedback is summarised below.

Analysis

4. Regional feedback:

Region	Support	Oppose	Reason
Northland	✓		1. Support in principal but note that Northland does not have salmon fisheries and that the decision making should be left to Councils that do.
Auckland/Waikato	N/A	N/A	1. Council agreed it was inappropriate for them to comment given the absence of salmon fisheries in the North Island.
Eastern			

Hawke's Bay	✓*		1. Support given by staff, not considered by Council.
Taranaki	✓		1. Support on the basis that if trout farming eventually legalised TFGC would support the same policy approach around trout releases.
Wellington	✓		
Nelson/Marlborough	✓*		Support the policy in principal but: 1. Requested a minor change to the definition of 'Open System' to permit the ongoing releases of salmon into Lake Argyle.
West Coast	✓*		Support policy intent but: 1. Believe provision must be made for commercial origin releases into open systems with limited spawning and minimal potential for interference with existing wild population.
North Canterbury	✓		
Central South Island	N/A	N/A	CSI requested further time to consider the policy, but staff proposed a number of edits: 1. Revisions to definitions. 2. Addition of definition of 'wild sea run stock'
Otago	✓*		Support public intent but: 1. Recommend amendment to policy to permit use of lake origin wild stock for release into open system. 2. Recommend amendment to 'wild sea run stock' to require the brood stock to be first generation. 3. Recommend clarification of 'commercial origin' and noted we should be concerned about any release of fish that do not originate from wild salmon. 4. Recommend clarification to definition of 'open system' to include liberations of commercial stock to water outside Fish & Game jurisdiction (i.e. ocean).
Southland			

5. Based on feedback received from nine regions, eight supported the policy (subject to minor amendments) whilst one chose not to comment because of a lack of specific relevance to that region.
6. Note: Central South Island's Council have requested more time to consider the draft policy and make further comment. The draft policy was originally circulated for feedback on the 10th of September 2020. Amendments proposed by CSI staff have been incorporated.

Proposed Policy Following Regional Feedback:

Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

1. The release of commercial origin chinook salmon into open systems of water, where these fish are able to reach the ocean, is undesirable because it dilutes the wild chinook salmon population with genetically inferior fish that reduce the available food and spawning habitats for wild fish. The effect of this is a diminishment of wild fish spawning, resulting in an overall degradation of the wild salmon population.
2. For this reason, Fish & Game does not support the release of hatchery reared commercial origin chinook salmon into any open system of water, or the planting of ova from such sources.
3. In implementing this policy:
 - a. no Fish and Game council will release ova or hatchery reared commercial origin chinook salmon into any open system of water; and
 - b. no approval will be granted by any Fish & Game council for external parties seeking to release ova or hatchery reared commercial origin chinook salmon into open systems.
4. Note this policy explicitly does not apply to the release of commercial origin chinook salmon into closed systems and does not preclude any Fish and Game council from releasing chinook salmon into a closed system or from granting approval for an external party to do so.
5. It also does not apply to the release of salmon reared in a hatchery from **first generation** wild ~~sea-run~~ stock, as these are genetically similar to wild fish, and therefore do not have the same detrimental effect on wild populations.
6. This policy forms part of a co-ordinated set of initiatives to restore wild chinook salmon populations.
7. The scientific basis for this policy is supported by advice from both NIWA and the Cawthron Institute, and a review by Dr Robin Holmes (2018) from the Cawthron Institute. See the Appendix for further information.

Definitions:

- Open system is defined as any system of water where there is **a high risk of connection, or possible connection,** to the ocean. This includes waterways where a connection **may is likely to** occur at specific times of the year or during high water events **and includes the ocean itself insofar as a Fish and Game Council may be**

consulted by the Ministry for Primary Industries on the release of chinook salmon into the ocean.

- Closed system is defined as any system of water where there is no connection, or possible a low risk of connection, to the ocean.
- Hatchery reared commercial origin chinook salmon is defined as any salmon (or ova) originating from or bred in a commercial hatchery ~~or salmon farm~~, excluding those reared from first generation wild ~~sea-run~~ stock.
- ‘Wild stock’ is defined as any salmon that has spent its entire life cycle in the wild (Boyd, 2018)

Financial Implications

7. Potentially minor financial implications for regional F&G councils based on the need to source genetically wild salmon for stocking as opposed to using commercial.
8. However, restoration of the wild sea run salmon fishery would be financially beneficial to Fish & Game and this policy is intended to play a role in that process.

Legislative Implications

9. Nil.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

10. No change to current obligations.

Policy Implications

11. If adopted this would become a new national policy.

Recommendation:

1. *Agree to adopt the amended Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy as national policy.*

Appendix One: Cawthron Advice Letter

20 April 2020

ID: 2019

Rasmus Gabrielsson
North Canterbury Fish & Game Council
595 Johns Road, Harewood
Christchurch 8051

Dear Rasmus

We are collectively responding to your request for our opinion on North Canterbury Fish & Game Council's (NCF&G) recent decision to cease hatchery production of chinook salmon to support sea-run fisheries.

The decision to close the chinook salmon hatcheries during a time when wild salmon runs are in crisis may seem counter intuitive to some. Over the past decade, NCF&G have administered the release of about 200,000 salmon smolt annually into the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers, with undocumented ova planting also occurring throughout the region. The smolt releases were undertaken with the intention of augmenting angler catch and enhancing wild salmon runs. However, research both within the Canterbury region and from overseas shows that in most cases hatchery releases fail to improve fisheries in the longterm. In fact, there are many instances where hatchery release programmes have been demonstrably damaging to wild salmonid populations. Once released, hatchery salmon can breed with wild salmon and reduce recruitment rates by producing offspring with poor survival rates relative to wild fish pairings. Furthermore, hatchery fish can consume resources that would otherwise go to wild fish with higher survival rates (i.e. higher fitness).

If hatchery operations are undertaken at a vast scale they can produce good returns for anglers—albeit at the expense of the wild-run component of a fishery. For example, some hatchery release programmes in Japan and North America support commercial and recreational fisheries. However, these operations are undertaken with a level of state subsidised resourcing that is orders of magnitude above what would ever be available in New Zealand. NIWA trialled moderate-scale hatchery releases in New Zealand during the

1990's and showed that even well-resourced hatchery programmes here produce poor return-rates relative to overseas.

The sparse data that are available from the recent NCF&G hatchery operation at Montrose suggest paltry return rates for anglers during most years. From an estimated 200,000 smolt released

annually, numbers of returning adult fish (adjusted for a 40% angler catch rate and 10% strays) have varied from about 1000 to just 41 over the 2007 – 2017 period, with an average return rate of 433. In recent years, (adjusted) returns have been very low, between 260 – 41 fish over 2015 – 2017. This means that the estimated range of survival rates for released smolts is at best 0.5% and at worst 0.02%, depending on the year, with an average of 0.2%.

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Hatcheries are expensive to run and consume a substantial amount of staff time, even if they are supported by volunteers. The NCF&G licence holders ought to be aware that a substantial proportion of their licence revenue has been allocated to smolt production for returns of only 10's to 100's of adult salmon to anglers per annum. Before considering other pros and cons of running hatcheries to support sea-run salmon fisheries, NCF&G licence holders need to consider if the numbers of catchable salmon produced from hatchery releases warrant the investment.

Recently the National Fish and Game office contracted the Cawthron institute to undertake a review of Fish & Game New Zealand's hatchery release practices. Across the country we found many instances of hatcheries being put to effective use to support put-and-take style fisheries. However, our case study of NCF&G found an alarming lack of basic monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the hatchery programme and misleading reporting regarding salmon smolt production (See report online: <https://fishandgame.org.nz/dmsdocument/1418>).

Since writing that report we have become aware that commercial salmon farm ova were being used to produce salmon smolt for release into the Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers, as well as for various ova planting projects. The practice of sourcing eggs from salmon farms has been condemned internationally because it can introduce domesticated salmon traits into wild populations, reducing overall population fitness and run strength. By way of analogy, consider the survival rates of battery-farmed chickens (and their progeny) when released into the wild.

The hatchery stocking practices, including the sourcing of commercial stock ova for smolt releases, has likely reduced the resilience of the wild East Coast salmon populations at a time when they are subject to unprecedented pressures from increasing ocean and river temperature, hydropower, water abstraction, spawning and rearing habitat degradation associated with intensified agriculture and over harvest. Fish and Game can make a positive contribution to nursing the wild salmon fisheries on the road to recovery by concentrating management efforts on factors it can control (e.g. harvest regulations) or influence (e.g.

advocating for better environmental flows and habitat protection) and avoiding practices that science has demonstrated to be potentially damaging (e.g. hatchery liberations).

We support the collective management direction of NCF&G and the Central South Island Fish and Game Council to reduce harvest rates. In our opinion, implementing a season bag limit with the daily bag limit is the best available short-term management option to maintain the viability of the East Coast salmon fisheries. Most salmon anglers catch only one or two fish per season and will be

unaffected by the regulation changes. If anglers collectively abide by the new rules there will be more salmon available for all anglers to catch and more salmon successfully reaching the spawning grounds to improve the chance of better runs in the near future.

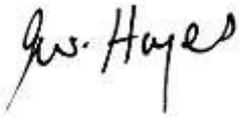
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Holmes'.

Robin Holmes

Freshwater Ecologist
Cawthron Institute

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hayes'.

John Hayes

Senior Scientist, Freshwater Fisheries
Cawthron Institute

Appendix Two: NIWA Advice Letter



5/3/2020

Rasmus Gabrielsson

Fish & Game New Zealand (North Canterbury Region)

595 Johns Road

Christchurch 8051

Local Adaptation in New Zealand Chinook Salmon

Hi Rasmus,

I'm responding to your email of 24 February 2020 seeking a scientific perspective on Fish & Game New Zealand's (FGNZ's) recent decision to close its sea-run Chinook salmon hatchery operations in the North Canterbury region.

Based on our understanding of this species in New Zealand waters I believe this decision to be justified on scientific grounds. This conclusion is well supported by the results of a six-year joint NZ (NIWA)/US research programme, conducted during the 1990s, which used New Zealand as a natural laboratory to study evolutionary changes and local adaptation in a newly established fish population isolated from its parent stock. Our results, which appeared as a series of scientific publications over the decade from 1993–2003, are well recognised internationally and include a core of 15 papers which have collectively been cited over 1,600 times.

Chinook salmon from the Sacramento River in California were introduced into the Waitaki River in the early 1900s, and by 1915 had established self-sustaining populations in large east coast South Island rivers such as the Rangitata, Rakaia, and Waimakariri. Hatchery releases were discontinued shortly thereafter, leaving the progeny of the original liberations to adapt through natural selection. Our research used this process as a natural experiment by rearing stocks from three distinct populations under controlled environmental conditions, and comparing their physical, behavioural, and genetic traits as they grew to maturity.

Our key finding was that within 90 years of their introduction — roughly 30 generations — Chinook populations in different New Zealand rivers had already begun to diverge in an evolutionary sense, in both behavioural and genetic traits. This created locally adapted, river-specific stocks with a marked advantage over stocks from other rivers, with lifetime survival rates up to three times higher for stocks released into their natal river relative to stocks originating from other rivers.

FGNZ re-established hatchery releases into North Canterbury rivers approximately 20 years ago but were only rarely able to draw on locally-sourced populations for their broodstock. In many instances, hatchery stock sourced from the salmon aquaculture industry were used as a surrogate, despite having been reared in captivity for up to 30 years under a selection regime which favoured maximising commercial production rather than survival in the wild.

Despite some initial successes, declining survival rates in recent years have led FGNZ managers to acknowledge the possibility that these releases have ultimately been counter-productive, creating populations of spawning adults that have reversed some of the evolutionary changes which occurred over the previous 90 years. Specifically, Chinook salmon returning to Canterbury rivers in 2020 may now be less well adapted to their local environment than the largely natural stocks which FGNZ hoped to enhance by supplementary hatchery releases.

National Institute
of Water & Atmospheric
Research Ltd (NIWA)

10 Kyle Street
Riccarton
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Christchurch

P: +64 3 348 8987
enquiries@niwa.co.nz
www.niwa.co.nz

FGNZ's shift in focus, emphasising habitat preservation and harvest management in preference to hatchery supplementation, is well supported by the underlying science. As one of my US colleagues put it in a 1999 review paper¹ on the application of our findings to managing salmon populations under the US Endangered Species Act:

"... for the most part we need to give salmon access to healthy, diverse physical habitats and allow these habitats to be filled (or over-filled) with the full community of salmonid species native to the region. The salmon can take it from there."

Kind regards,



Martin Unwin

Fisheries Scientist

¹ Quinn, T. P. (1999). Revisiting the stock concept in Pacific salmon: insights from Alaska and New Zealand. Northwest Science 73:312-324.

Jack Kos

From: Andy Garrick
Sent: Tuesday, 30 March 2021 2:33 pm
To: Jack Kos
Subject: FW: Consultation on Proposed Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

Hi Jack

This document wasn't formally considered by Council, but I'm forwarding brief comment I sought from Matt Osborne and Mark Sherburn.

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

From: Matt Osborne <mosborne@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 25 March 2021 11:06 AM
To: Andy Garrick <agarrick@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: RE: Consultation on Proposed Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

Thank you for forwarding the policy document for our and Eastern Region's consideration, and Mark and I have discussed this at length. Firstly, a disclaimer that we have only limited knowledge of the salmon fishery in the South Island, and this being so our feedback is brief and as follows.

Sound arguments have been put forward to stop the mass, non-documented release of commercially sourced salmon smolt into South Island rivers, these relating to issues around genetic fitness and intraspecific competition for resources.

The Policy as written does not preclude relevant F&G Councils from trapping and breeding from wild sea run stock if they experience a continued decline in the salmon population in their waters, and that is a useful facility to have on hand if required.

Cheers,
Matt O

From: Jack Kos <jkos@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 10 September 2020 3:41 PM
To: Regional Managers <regionalmanagers@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: Consultation on Proposed Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

Kia ora koutou,

We are seeking the feedback of your councils on a proposed Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy that stems from a recommendation of the National Sea Run Salmon Committee. The policy is simple, and seeks to prevent the release of commercial origin salmon into open systems of water where they may compete with wild fish. It does not

prevent the release of commercial origin salmon into closed systems of water. It is seen as a key part of the overall process of restoring the wild sea run salmon fishery. It further gives us a nationally consistent basis from which to engage with both DOC and MPI who, along with Fish & Game (depending on circumstance), govern aspects of the release and transfer of sports fish. It has been communicated to us that their position is simplified if they can refer to an agreed national Fish & Game policy.

Attached is the policy document and supporting advice from NIWA and Cawthron.

I look forward to hearing from your councils.

Cheers,

Dr. Jack Kós | Policy Advisor

New Zealand Fish and Game Council



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



Our ref: 1840

14 March 2021

NZ Fish and Game Council
PO Box 25055
Wellington 6146.

Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

Wellington Fish and Game Council considered the letter from NZ Fish and Game Council Chairman Ray Grubb (dated 26 January 2021) regarding gamebird guide's licence latent provisions.

Wellington Fish and Game Council understood that provisions for managing gamebird guide licences had been available in legislation since 1996 and confirmed that there had never been a push to licence guides in the Wellington region.

Wellington Council is aware of a small amount of gamebird hunting guiding activity that does occur, but this is not material. Council currently does not seek to licence this guiding activity and do not have interest in retaining the provisions for current situations in Wellington region.

Wellington Fish and Game then resolved to indicate to NZ Fish and Game Council that there was no interest to retain a provision to provide for a Game Bird Guide's Licence and would support its removal in a legislative review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Teal", written over a white background.

Phil Teal
Regional Manager

cc. **Attention: Jack Kós**
Policy Analyst

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

Wellington Region

292 Featherston St, Palmerston North 4410, New Zealand. Telephone (06) 359 0409 Facsimile (06) 356 2780
Email wellington@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz



Our ref: 1840

14 March 2021

NZ Fish and Game Council
PO Box 25055
Wellington 6146.

Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

Wellington Fish and Game Council considered the paper ***Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy*** (no author cited, undated) and confirm the feedback from discussions.

The relevance to the release policy might be limited in the Wellington region – even though there are sightings (albeit infrequent) of salmon in the larger river systems such as the Rangitikei River. It was not thought that a viable salmon fisheries would develop, particularly using releases from commercial origin hatcheries.

Wellington Fish and Game Council relied on the scientific advice that supported the development of the policy – that the release of hatchery salmon is likely to be detrimental to wild salmon fishery.

Wellington Fish and Game then resolved to indicate to NZ Fish and Game Council that it concurred with the intent of the policy and does not support the release of hatchery reared commercial origin chinook salmon (or ova) into any open system of water.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Phil Teal', written over a white background.

Phil Teal
Regional Manager

cc. **Attention: Jack Kós**
Policy Analyst

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

Wellington Region

292 Featherston St, Palmerston North 4410, New Zealand. Telephone (06) 359 0409 Facsimile (06) 356 2780
Email wellington@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

Jack Kos

From: Glenn Maclean
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2021 12:39 pm
To: Jack Kos
Subject: FW: Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

From: Glenn Maclean
Sent: Monday, 5 October 2020 3:27 PM
To: Jack Kos <jkos@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

Hi Jack, Taranaki F&G Council discussed this policy at their meeting of the 3 October 2020. While this council does not undertake management of salmon populations it was considered that if trout farming was permitted at some point in the future that we might face the same issue with respect to trout. Given the similarity of these species and the issues they face it would seem incongruous to have different policies in this case. Given that the council would strongly support this policy with respect to trout then council supported this policy for salmon in the interests of consistency.

RESOLVED

That Taranaki Fish and Game Council support the proposed policy to prevent the release of commercial origin salmon into open systems of water where they may compete with wild fish

Glenn

Glenn Maclean
Regional Manager
Taranaki Fish & Game
021 270 0231, (06) 345 4908

Jack Kos

From: Rudi Hoetjes
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2021 1:50 pm
To: Jack Kos
Cc: nbbirchall; Phil Durham
Subject: Consultation Papers
Attachments: Comments to NZFGC meeting papers..pdf

Dear Jack

Please find attached feedback/comments from the Northland Fish and Game Council regarding correspondence received from the NZFGC.

1. Reserves Paper
2. Salmon policy
3. Operation Consultation Licence Data MOU

I have responded back to the NZFGC with extracts taken from the confirmed minutes as per the attached.

1. The Northland councillors views around the Reserves paper was that this matter should be addressed once the Ministerial review has been finalised and the whatever recommendations come out of the review along with the resource allocation project, only then can an appropriate reserves policy can be drafted for consideration.
2. In regards to the salmon policy Northland does not have any salmon fisheries and the Council decided when the salmon enhancement committee was established about 4-5 years ago that it would leave the decision making to the appropriate regions which have a salmon sports fishery. It is on this basis that the NFGC supports the recommendations made in the policy paper.
3. The council considered the MOU developed by the Licence Management Group. The result of the discussions at the council table was that it posed further questions regarding who legally owns the data and information. An email was sent to CEO of the NZFGC Mr Martin Taylor however no reply has been received to date following this councils request for clarification and perhaps a legal opinion.

I attach for your information the extracts from the NFGC council meetings in October and December 2020

Regards

Rudi Hoetjes
Regional Manager
Northland Fish & Game Council
Unit A5
7 Nell Place
Whangarei 0110

094384135
021856228
rhoetjes@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





27 September 2020

Mr Paul Shortis
Chair, New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Via email

Dear Paul,

Re: Feedback on Release of Commercial Origin Salmon Policy

Our Council considered the NZC paper on this topic at its 23rd September meeting. The following feedback is provided;

- Otago Fish and Game Council agrees with the thrust of the policy. It supports what it is trying to achieve, namely that release of stock into the wild with inappropriate genetics may impact on the wellbeing of wild (naturalised) salmon.
- The Council appreciates that as a wide ranging species that national consistency is required. A lack of consistency could lead to releases in one region impacting upon another regions stocks, or being used as leverage for the authorisation of releases in other areas.
- In Otago, we may in the future want (or need) to use landlocked chinook salmon from Southern Lakes as brood stock in a hatchery programme for release into an open system – they are not ‘sea run’ but are still wild stock. [Edit 5 in the policy to include non anadromous wild lake stock]
- Council felt that ‘wild sea run stock’ could be more specifically defined – like wild stock are salmon with ‘*parents or brood stock originating directly (F1) from naturalised ocean-origin chinook salmon*’. (F1’ is first generation – meaning that you can’t use second generation fish as brood stock because they can increasingly lose their ‘wildness’ genes.)
- Similarly, the definition of ‘hatchery reared commercial origin chinook salmon’ needs clarification. What exactly is ‘commercial origin’? We should be concerned about any release of fish that do not originate from wild salmon.
- The definition of ‘open system’ needs to be clearer so that it includes liberations of commercial reared stock to water outside of F&G jurisdiction (such as seawater) as adult salmon may later re enter freshwater fisheries when they return to spawn and mix with wild stock.

Please let us know if you need any assistance with wording for the final draft.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monty Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Monty Wright, Chair, Otago Fish & Game Council

Jack Kos

From: Ben Wilson
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2021 1:36 pm
To: Jack Kos
Subject: Governance consultation

Hi Jack

The following decisions have been made by the Auckland/Waikato Council on recent consultation papers.

Draft National Policy on Reserves

At this stage, the Auckland/Waikato Council agreed not to provide comment on this discussion paper.

Draft National Policy on Salmon Releases

The Auckland/Waikato Council agreed that it was inappropriate for Council to comment on this draft policy due to the absence of salmon fisheries in the North Island.

Licence Data MOU

The Auckland/Waikato Council agreed that the draft MOU on the licence database, as amended by the regional managers, be approved.

Thank you for preparing a *Consultation Register*, which I've found to be very useful.

Kind regards
Ben

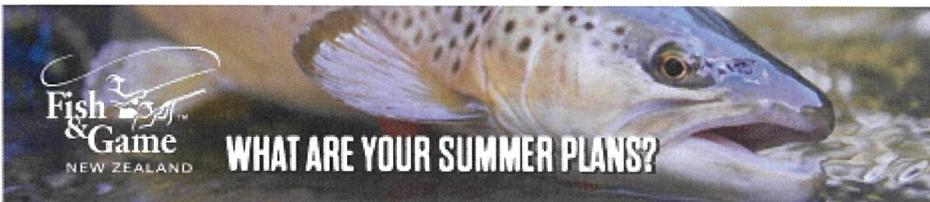
Ben Wilson / *Chief Executive*

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

156 Brymer Rd, RD 9, Hamilton

Ph: 021 848306

bwilson@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz





Commercial-Origin Salmon Release Policy

1. The release of commercial-origin chinook salmon into open systems of water, where these fish are able to reach the ocean, is undesirable because it dilutes the wild chinook salmon population with genetically inferior fish that reduce the available food and spawning habitats for wild fish. The effect of this is a diminishment of wild fish spawning, resulting in an overall degradation of the wild salmon population.
2. For this reason, Fish & Game does not support the release of hatchery reared commercial-origin chinook salmon into any open system of water, or the planting of ova from such sources.
3. In implementing this policy:
 - a. no Fish and Game council will release ova or hatchery reared commercial-origin chinook salmon into any open system of water; and
 - b. no approval will be granted by any Fish & Game council for external parties seeking to release ova or hatchery reared commercial-origin chinook salmon into open systems.
4. Note this policy explicitly does not apply to the release of commercial-origin chinook salmon into closed systems, and does not preclude any Fish and Game council from releasing chinook salmon into a closed system or from granting approval for an external party to do so.
5. It also does not apply to the release of salmon reared in a hatchery from wild sea run stock, as these are genetically similar to wild fish, and therefore do not have the same detrimental effect on wild populations.
6. This policy forms part of a co-ordinated set of initiatives to restore wild chinook salmon populations.
7. The scientific basis for this policy is supported by advice from both NIWA and the Cawthron Institute, and a review by Dr Robin Holmes (2018) from the Cawthron Institute. See the Appendix for further information.

Definitions:

- Open system is defined as any system of water where there is a connection, or **possible high risk of** connection, to the ocean. This includes waterways where a connection may occur at specific times of the year or during high water events.
- Closed system is defined as any system of water where there is no connection, or **possible low risk of** connection, to the ocean.
- Hatchery-reared commercial-origin chinook salmon is defined as any salmon (or ova) originating from or bred in a commercial hatchery, excluding those reared from wild sea-run stock.

- “Wild sea-run stock” is defined as any salmon that has spent its entire life cycle in the wild (Boyd, 2018).



26 March 2021

Mr Ray Grubb
NZ Fish & Game Council, Chair
PO Box 25 055
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Ray,

Commercial-Origin Salmon Release Policy

The CSI Council considered the draft policy proposed by the NZ Council on “commercial-origin salmon releases”. CSI Staff reviewed the policy and suggested revisions to the CSI Council. (See attached with suggested revisions shown in **bold** and highlighted). The suggested revisions to bullet points 1 and 2 place the element of “risk” on ‘connection to the ocean’ rather than the indeterminant ‘possible connection’ to the ocean. A 4th bullet point is suggested, which takes the definition of ‘wild sea-run stocks’ from the National Sea-Run Salmon Committee as proposed by Rick Boyd, Otago member of the Committee.

At the CSI Council meeting, some members expressed concern that the wider implications of the policy had not been taken into account, particularly as it related to the operation of ‘volunteer, small-scale, near-mouth hatcheries’. They requested the opportunity to submit their comments on the policy.

The CSI Council resolved:

THAT THE CHAIR WRITE TO NZ COUNCIL REQUESTING FURTHER TIME FOR CONSIDERATION ON THE ‘DRAFT’ POLICY ON COMMERCIAL-ORIGIN SALMON RELEASES TO ALLOW FOR FURTHER COMMENTS.

Please can NZ Council allow a further period for consideration and comment on the draft policy and notify CSIFGC accordingly?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Simpson".

Dr Andrew Simpson
Chair, Central South Island Fish and Game Council

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

Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka 7948, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 615 8400
www.fishandgame.org.nz

Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 16 and 17 April 2021

Prepared by: Jack Kós, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is:
 - a. to present regional feedback on the retention of the latent provisions for a game bird guide's licence contained in s6 of the Wildlife Amendment Act 1996; and
 - b. For NZC to make a recommendation to DOC on the retention or removal of the latent provisions for a game bird guide's licence.

Background

2. DOC has asked Fish & Game for a position on the retention of the game bird guide's licence latent provisions ahead of the review of latent legislation by Parliamentary Counsel Office.
3. The appended letter was sent to regions seeking feedback on this subject and provides further background.

Analysis

4. Regional feedback:

Region	Remove	Retain	Reason
Northland	✓		
Auckland/Waikato	✓		
Eastern	✓		
Hawke's Bay	✓		
Taranaki		✓	1. If an industry were to develop it should be managed consistent with sports fishing guiding.
Wellington	✓		
Nelson/Marlborough		✓	Not specified.
West Coast	✓		
North Canterbury			
Central South Island			

Otago		✓	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retaining the latent provisions for game bird guide's licences could make it easier to retain the fishing guide's licence provisions. 2. Original reasons for the provisions are still valid.
Southland			

5. Based on feedback received from 7 regions, four support the removal of the provisions and 3 support their retention.
6. Of those that support retaining the provisions, the broad view appeared to be that the reasons behind the original 1996 provisions remained relevant today.
7. It is worth noting that the retention or removal of the game bird guide's licence provisions will have no bearing on the retention of the sports fishing guide's licence provisions. There is significant policy work, both historic and current, on the sports fishing guide's licence and these provisions will be retained regardless of the stance taken on the game bird guide's licence.
8. The feedback received from DOC was that 'nice to have' would not be sufficient grounds to retain the game bird guide's licencing provisions and that there would need to be a reasoned case made for its retention and an intention to undertake work in this sphere in the near future. This was communicated in the consultation letter, as set out below.
9. Comment was also sought from the New Zealand Game & Conservation Alliance, however no response was received.

Financial Implications

10. Nil.

Legislative Implications

11. If Fish & Game support allowing the latent provisions to lapse then DOC will not advocate to retain them, and they will be removed by PCO.
12. If Fish & Game support retaining the latent provisions it is probable that DOC will advocate to retain them, however based on conversations with DOC policy staff it is not clear whether this will impact PCO's decision given that there is no clear and imminent intention to put forward a proposal for the licencing of game bird guides.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

13. Minimal. If a game bird guide's licencing system was instituted then certain s4 obligations may arise in line with the Supreme Court decision in *Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki Tribal Trust v Minister of Conservation* (specifically that there may be a preferential entitlement to iwi regarding concessions).

Policy Implications

14. Recommending to retain the provisions would indicate that a game bird guide's licence is a policy priority of NZC and would require significant staff time to be allocated towards it in the near future.
15. Recommending to allow the provision to be removed would indicate that a game bird guide's licence was not a policy priority of the NZC.

Summary

16. The primary intent of this paper is to make a recommendation to DOC regarding the retention or otherwise of the latent provisions in the Wildlife Amendment Act 1996 pertaining to game bird guide's licences.

Recommendation:

1. *Agree to advise DOC that NZC accepts the removal of the latent provisions for game bird guide's licencing; or*
2. *Agree to advise DOC that NZC supports the retention of the latent provisions for game bird guide's licencing.*

APPENDIX ONE:

Letter from NZC Chair to Regions

26 January 2020

Dear Regional Chairs,

Re: Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

The Department of Conservation has sought Fish and Game's view on the retention of the latent provisions for game bird guide's licencing under the Wildlife Amendment Act 1996 (see attached). Each year Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) reviews latent legislation with an eye to revoking superfluous latent legislation. As part of this process they seek DOC's comment on latent legislation within DOC's legislative framework, and DOC has in turn asked for our views.

In 1996, via s24 of the Conservation Amendment Act 1996 and s6 of the Wildlife Amendment Act 1996, latent provisions were inserted into the Conservation Act 1987 and the Wildlife Act 1953 to facilitate licencing schemes for sports fishing guides and game bird guides. There has been a significant amount of work done on a proposal to licence sports fishing guides since 1996, including the currently active proposal. However, to my knowledge there has been no substantial proposal put to DOC on licencing game bird guides in the past 25 years.

DOC have informed us that they intend to advise PCO to retain the latent legislation relating to sports fishing guide's licences but, unless Fish and Game provide them with adequate reason, they intend to advise PCO that they do not see any reason to retain the latent provisions relating to game bird guide's licences. We are, therefore, seeking feedback from regional Fish and Game councils on:

- Whether your council thinks the game bird guide licence provisions should be retained?

- And, if so, what your reasons for retaining the provisions are?

Note that it is unlikely to be sufficient for us to simply state that Fish and Game would like the option to licence game bird guides at some stage in the future. Rather, to retain the provisions there would need to be some intention to put forward a proposal or undertake work in this field shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rainsford Grubb', written in a cursive style.

Rainsford Grubb
NZC Chair

Jack Kos

From: Dean Kelly
Sent: Wednesday, 17 February 2021 9:26 am
To: Jack Kos
Cc: Andy Harris
Subject: Latent Provisions

Hi Jack

Our Council resolved the following at our February Meeting regarding the latent provisions...

NZ Council – Latent Gamebird Regulations

Motion proposed: **That the Council sees no need to retain the latent provisions for the West Coast Region.**

Proposer: R Roney Seconder: D Heine Outcome: Carried

Dean Kelly | Manager

West Coast Fish and Game Council

Airport Drive, Hokitika | PO Box 179, Hokitika 7842

P +64 3 755 8546 | **M** 027 244 2807

E dkelly@fishandgame.org.nz | **W** www.fishandgame.org.nz

Jack Kos

From: Glenn Maclean
Sent: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 9:57 am
To: Jack Kos
Subject: Gamebird Licence Provisions TF&G comment

Hi Jack, Taranaki F&G Council discussed the game bird guide licence provisions at their meeting of 13th February 2021. Council passed the following motion

“That Taranaki Fish & Game Council supports the retention of the game bird guide licence provisions on the basis that should an industry develop that this should be managed consistent with licencing fishing guides.”

Background

There is an obvious argument that if the provisions have not been pursued over the last 25 years then why retain them. However it is intended to retain the same provisions for fishing guides. A Fishing Guides licence is supported by different parties for various reasons. The reasons for licensing fishing guides would also apply to game bird guides (which is no doubt why these provisions were added for both fishing and hunting guides at the same time). However it is just that there are many fewer to date.

The development of a guided game bird hunting industry is outside of the control of F&G and DOC. That a significant industry has not developed to date does not mean one may not develop in the future. Society is changing rapidly and for example kiwis have embraced paying for deer hunting opportunities on private land, something that was mocked just a couple of decades ago. If an industry develops then guides should be licenced for exactly the same reasons as fishing guides (or conversely neither licenced). Therefore for the purpose of ensuring consistency should an industry develop Council recommend that the provisions are retained.

Cheers
Glenn



Our ref: 1840

14 March 2021

NZ Fish and Game Council
PO Box 25055
Wellington 6146.

Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

Wellington Fish and Game Council considered the letter from NZ Fish and Game Council Chairman Ray Grubb (dated 26 January 2021) regarding gamebird guide's licence latent provisions.

Wellington Fish and Game Council understood that provisions for managing gamebird guide licences had been available in legislation since 1996 and confirmed that there had never been a push to licence guides in the Wellington region.

Wellington Council is aware of a small amount of gamebird hunting guiding activity that does occur, but this is not material. Council currently does not seek to licence this guiding activity and do not have interest in retaining the provisions for current situations in Wellington region.

Wellington Fish and Game then resolved to indicate to NZ Fish and Game Council that there was no interest to retain a provision to provide for a Game Bird Guide's Licence and would support its removal in a legislative review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Teal", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Phil Teal
Regional Manager

cc. **Attention: Jack Kós**
Policy Analyst

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

Wellington Region

292 Featherston St, Palmerston North 4410, New Zealand. Telephone (06) 359 0409 Facsimile (06) 356 2780
Email wellington@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz



Our ref: 1840

14 March 2021

NZ Fish and Game Council
PO Box 25055
Wellington 6146.

Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy

Wellington Fish and Game Council considered the paper ***Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy*** (no author cited, undated) and confirm the feedback from discussions.

The relevance to the release policy might be limited in the Wellington region – even though there are sightings (albeit infrequent) of salmon in the larger river systems such as the Rangitikei River. It was not thought that a viable salmon fisheries would develop, particularly using releases from commercial origin hatcheries.

Wellington Fish and Game Council relied on the scientific advice that supported the development of the policy – that the release of hatchery salmon is likely to be detrimental to wild salmon fishery.

Wellington Fish and Game then resolved to indicate to NZ Fish and Game Council that it concurred with the intent of the policy and does not support the release of hatchery reared commercial origin chinook salmon (or ova) into any open system of water.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Phil Teal", written over a white background.

Phil Teal
Regional Manager

cc. **Attention: Jack Kós**
Policy Analyst

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

Wellington Region

292 Featherston St, Palmerston North 4410, New Zealand. Telephone (06) 359 0409 Facsimile (06) 356 2780
Email wellington@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

Jack Kos

From: Rudi Hoetjes
Sent: Wednesday, 24 March 2021 1:55 pm
To: Jack Kos
Subject: RE: Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

Hi Jack

The Northland Councillors reviewed the document at their meeting last evening. The Northland Council concurs that the legalisation for the requirement of a person who acts as a hunting guide without a gamebird hunting licence for hunting gamebirds is superfluous.

The current requirement for any person hunting gamebirds during an open season is required to be the holder of a current game bird hunting licence should suffice.

I am aware personally of individuals who have acted as guides for overseas tourists to hunt birds which are not gazetted as gamebirds under the 1st schedule of the Wildlife Act, namely peacocks and turkeys for which no licence is required and landowner permission is necessary for access.

Regards

Rudi Hoetjes
Regional Manager
Northland Fish & Game Council
Unit A5
7 Nell Place
Whangarei 0110

094384135
021856228
rhoetjes@fishandgame.org.nz

From: Jack Kos
Sent: Tuesday, 23 March 2021 2:23 p.m.
To: Rudi Hoetjes
Subject: FW: Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

Dr. Jack Kós | Policy Advisor
Ph: +6421862976

New Zealand Fish and Game Council



From: Jack Kos

Sent: Tuesday, 26 January 2021 1:21 pm

To: Regional Chairs <regionalchairmen@fishandgame.org.nz>; NZC Members

<NZCMembers20180924012720@fishandgame.org.nz>

Cc: NZC Office All <nzcofficeall@fishandgame.org.nz>; Regional Managers <regionalmanagers@fishandgame.org.nz>

Subject: Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

Kia ora koutou,

Please find attached a letter from the NZC Chair seeking your feedback on the retention of the latent provisions in the Wildlife Act relating to the licencing of game bird guides. The relevant legislation is attached. Note this does not impact on the latent provisions in the Conservation Act relating to sports fishing guides, which will be retained.

Each year Parliamentary Counsel Office reviews all latent provisions (provisions in legislation that are not in force) with an eye to tidying up superfluous pieces of legislation. The relevant government department, therefore, has to justify why the provisions should be retained if they wish to do so. DOC is of the view that, having not received a proposal or any indication from Fish & Game that they would like to licence game bird guides, there is no justification for retaining this provision. Effectively we are seeking your feedback on whether you agree or disagree with this so as to make a recommendation to DOC.

If I can have feedback sent back to NZC via me by the 26th of March so that NZC can consider this at their April meeting that would be brilliant.

Cheers,

Dr. Jack Kós | Policy Advisor

Ph: +6421862976

New Zealand Fish and Game Council



Jack Kos

From: Rhys Barrier
Sent: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 11:38 am
To: Ray Grubb
Cc: Jack Kos
Subject: RE: Reserves Discussion Paper

Hi Ray/Jack. At the Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Council meeting on the February 2nd the Council considered various papers from the New Zealand Council. Below are the responses to these papers.

Reserves Discussion Paper

Councillors found this paper confusing and tabled it pending the next draft but did wish to note that they agreed with the principal.

Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

This Council opposes the removal of the Game Bird Guide Licence provisions and suggest that this is looked at once the Fishing Guides licence has been approved.

Licence Data MOU

The Council considered both papers that were circulated on this and support the second draft prepared by the managers.

Email Security and Access MOU

This Council supports the draft MOU as presented to them.

Rhys Barrier
Manager.

From: Jack Kos <jkos@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2021 12:19 PM
To: Phil Teal <pteal@fishandgame.org.nz>; Rhys Barrier <rbarrier@fishandgame.org.nz>; Ian Hadland <ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz>; Zane Moss <zane.moss@southlandfishgame.co.nz>
Subject: Reserves Discussion Paper

Afternoon team,

I'm just trying to put together the final bits and pieces for the reserves discussion paper and Ray has asked me to check whether you might be able to resend your council's feedback through to me?

Cheers,

Dr. Jack Kós | Policy Advisor
Ph: +6421862976

New Zealand Fish and Game Council



Jack Kos

From: Jesse Friedlander
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 1:40 pm
To: Ray Grubb
Cc: Jack Kos
Subject: HB F&GC Feedback on Gamebird Guide Wildlife Act Provision

Hi Ray,

At last night's HB F&G Council meeting the following resolution was made:

That Council agrees to the removal of the provisions in the Wildlife Act relating to the licencing of game bird guides.

Bowcock/Mackay

Cheers,

Jesse

Jesse Friedlander
Regional Manager
Hawke's Bay Fish & Game

P 06 844 2460

M 021 274 6119





24 February 2021

Mr Ray Grubb
Chair NZC,
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Via email

Re: Feedback on Gamebird Guides Licence latent provisions

Dear Ray,

Otago Council considered the paper at its meeting held on the 13 February 2021.

Longer serving council members recalled that the gamebird hunting guides licencing provisions were inserted into the Act alongside the provisions for guiding for angling. The reasons for having both were similar;

- At that time there were a number of overseas guides operating in rural NZ. Some were tying up exclusive hunting and angling arrangements with landholders at the expense of more casual gamebird hunters and anglers.
- F&G had little idea of the number of guides operating and had no way to communicate with them directly.
- There was no mechanism in place to have gamebird hunting guides assist with information gathering on the resource or its use.
- There was no system in place to ensure they made a contribution to management of the resource.

The CE explained that the difficulties in getting the Fishing Guides licence into regulations and operational probably meant that the Gamebird Hunting Guide Licencing has become a secondary priority.

Council agreed that it was a shame that the gamebird guide licencing regime wasn't promoted in parallel with the Fishing Guide Licencing proposal. It was suggested that NZC should insert the development of a case for Guides Licencing regulations into their work programme while angling guide licencing matters are fresh in the Ministers mind. It is important that that process doesn't delay or derail the gains made on the Angling Guide licencing though.

A further reason for its retention at this stage is to ensure that removal of the latent provision doesn't put undue pressure on the Fishing Guides licence provision which could also be considered by some as latent, even though it is still being advanced, albeit slowly.

In summary, Otago consider that the original reasons for having Gamebird Hunting Guides are still valid so would rather see the provisions in the Act remain.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monty Wright', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Monty Wright
Chair
Otago Fish & Game Council

Jack Kos

From: Andy Garrick
Sent: Wednesday, 24 March 2021 4:54 pm
To: Jack Kos
Subject: Game Bird Guides Licence

Hi Jack

Eastern Fish and Game Council briefly discussed the background to the Game Bird guide licence provisions at its meeting last month and agreed that it was rarely utilised and not required.

It passed the following resolution:

“Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ngahi Bidois) that Council does not see a need to retain the game bird guides licence provisions in the Wildlife Amendment Act 1996. [21/02/11.2]”

Kind 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



2 March 2021

Mr R Grubb
1 Eely Point Road
WANAKA 9305

Dear Ray

Feedback on Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

The Auckland/Waikato Council has considered your letter of 26 January 2020 seeking our views on the retention of the latent provisions for the game bird guide's licence under the Wildlife Amendment Act 1996.

Council agreed that we support the removal of the latent provisions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grant Annan'.

Grant Annan
Chairman

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

Auckland/Waikato Region

156 Brymer Rd, RD 9, Hamilton 3289, New Zealand. Telephone (07) 849 1666 Facsimile (07) 849 1648
Email: aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

Ranger Warrant Policy

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting April 2021

Prepared by Debbie Mair & Jack Kós, Policy Advisors

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to propose a draft policy framework for the Fish and Game Ranger system. Specifically, it outlines the foundational principles upon which the Fish and Game Ranger system will work across the organisation to maximise the health and safety of rangers and to meet the Health and Safety standards for those individuals appointing rangers and managing the operational side of the Ranger system.
2. NB: It is not intended to set out the current process by which rangers are appointed. This is covered in the operational level Fish and Game Ranger SOPs.

Background

3. To date there has been several questions raised by regional managers, NZC staff and Compliance Law Enforcement (CLE) Coordinators that has led to a review of our Ranger Policy with a view to evaluating the effectiveness of the current processes and requirements against Industry best practice.

Policy

4. The appointment and management of Fish and Game Rangers will be consistent across the country.
5. All Fish and Game Rangers will undergo the minimum standards of training needed prior to appointment or renewal.
 - a. The current requirements are:
 - i. For new Rangers to undergo a comprehensive two-day training course from an external provider prior to appointment, which includes a scenario-based competency assessment.
 - ii. For existing rangers to complete a refresher one-day training course once every three years.
 - iii. All rangers must read and sign the Fish & Game Honorary Ranger Agreement and Code of Conduct before starting ranging.
6. All Fish and Game Rangers will be appointed in the manner prescribed in the Fish and Game Ranger SOP, which will cover the appointment process, field powers, communication, practice, and procedures.
7. Fish and Game New Zealand recognizes its duty under the terms of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 to safeguard the health and safety of all Rangers and minimise hazards in the workplace.
8. The National Ranger Register is kept by the NZ Council office. This is a 'single source of truth' that holds the records of all Ranger certifications and training data.

Financial Implications

9. Nil.

Policy Implications

10. Once approved this would form national policy.

S4 Treaty Obligations

11. Nil.

Recommendation

1. That NZFGC approve this as draft policy and seek feedback from regions.

RMA/Legal Fund Application

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 150, 16-18th April 2021

Prepared by: Jack Kós and Carmel Veitch, New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Purpose

- 1 To present an application to the RMA/Legal Fund from North Canterbury Fish and Game Council for \$8,000 to pay for expert evidence to be presented at the Selwyn District Council District Plan Change hearings.

Background

- 2 See appended application from North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Regional Feedback

- 3 Lifted from application:

Region	Comments
Otago	Otago fully supports your application.
Southland	Southland is supportive of your application.
Nelson/ Marlborough	NMFGC supports your application for this modest amount of funding. They also were supportive of the expert stating: "Hard to find a better landscape architect than Di Lucas, you will recall she was involved with the Motueka/Buller WCOs here also."
Hawkes Bay	Hawke's Bay also supports this funding application.
Auckland/ Waikato	A quick read through and I'm in support of the funding application. It seems a small cost for what is an important issue regarding protecting the Canterbury high country. While I'm not familiar with the area myself I understand the concerns regarding pastoral intensification in the area and the need for rules to restrict it. I'm aware of Di Lucas and her credentials and I think it's better to put a strong case forward and secure what wins you can now using her expertise than try and do it later down the track when it could get a lot more expensive going to the environment court. And I agree with Angela about teaming up with EDS who no doubt have a good knowledge base from being leaders in the Mackenzie Basin area.
CSI	In general CSIFG is supportive of the application. The high country is a valuable area for sports fish habitat and angling. Action is warranted where provisions are contrary to protecting those values.

	<p>CSIFG would see value in utilising the expertise of EDS where possible as they have been leaders in the Mackenzie District right through to the High Court processes and have much knowledge. Is F&B involved as they would seem like a likely ally as well?</p> <p>District Councils have largely been absent in the past in terms of setting appropriate rules to protect vegetation clearance and landscape values. Timaru District has come a long way in recent years, which is good to see. Note this is an abbreviated version and the complete feedback delves into TDC rules.</p>
Eastern	<p>Thanks for sending your application through for comment. As identified the amenity and experiential values associated with those high-country fisheries are significant. There is obviously a host of other habitat protection and ecosystem values that should be protected from degradation at a regional rather than district level.</p> <p>It would be useful to collaborate with EDS if possible, to draw on their knowledge and experience in the Mackenzie District.</p> <p>Overall, EFGC supports this application, which is for a relatively small sum of money to be used to address a specific and important issue.</p>
Taranaki	Happy for Taranaki to support this application.
West Coast	Will send feedback from these regions as soon as it is received.
Northland	Will send feedback from these regions as soon as it is received
Wellington	Will send feedback from these regions as soon as it is received

Policy Implications

4 Nil.

Financial Implications

5 The cost of supporting this application is \$8,000.

6 The Legal/RMA fund is currently fully allocated, however there is an unallocated amount in the NPS FW project, which could be used if needed in this financial year, otherwise it could be allocated in the 2021/22 year once the budget has been approved.

7 There is also potential to share costs with Environmental Defence Society, which would lower the cost to Fish & Game.

S4 Treaty Obligations

8 No inconsistencies

Recommendations

- 1 *That \$8,000 be allocated from the RMA/Legal fund; or*
- 2 *That the application be declined.*

APPENDIX ONE

Application to the National RMA/ Legal Fund

North Canterbury Fish & Game

March 2021

North Canterbury Fish & Game are applying to the National RMA/ legal fund for **\$8,000** to go towards expert evidence to be presented at the upcoming Selwyn District Council district plan hearings.

What would be evidence be for:

If successful in obtaining funding the evidence we are seeking is to be given at hearings of the Selwyn District Plan; a plan that affects all the land around Lake Coleridge, a lot of the upper Rakaia, the entire upper Waimakariri Basin and the upper Selwyn/ Waikirikiri catchments.

In summary we are seeking evidence to support our request that the Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL) rules include provisions to restrict pastoral intensification. A Boffa Miskell report commissioned by the Selwyn District Council (SDC) recommended ONLs be established over the large, braided rivers of the Rakaia and Waimakariri and the other surrounding areas such as Lake Coleridge. The consultants said in their advice that vegetation clearance/ pastoral intensification was a major threat to landscape values. While the SDC has taken the consultants advice on establishing these ONLs they have not included any rules around vegetation clearance/ pastoral intensification within these ONLs. We think this is a massive oversight.

As you are likely aware, through the hearings on the Mackenzie district plan the Environment Court placed strict restrictions on pastoral intensification over a large area of the Mackenzie Basin that had been identified as an ONL, and it is my understanding that it is very difficult to clear vegetation and develop pasture within these areas now (this is based on the recent EDC report on landscape values). However, since this ruling other district councils (such as the SDC) have continued to produce plans that do not restrict pastoral intensification in ONLs.

If we were to receive the funding our evidence would be presented by Di Lucas. Di is a very well-known and respected Landscape Architect who has sat on several government advisory boards. She gave evidence on the Mackenzie District Plan and did her thesis on the Canterbury High Country.

We think a positive ruling on this would reinforce the Mackenzie Environment Court rulings and help solidify the practise of restricting vegetation clearance in ONLs, paving the way for better district plans elsewhere.

Initial Criteria

1. Identify the national precedent value in the proposed legal action

As mentioned above there has already been some precedent set in the Mackenzie Basin. Here the district council proposed an ONL through Plan Change 13 wherein controls were set on rural-residential subdivision and housing. Environment Court challenges ensued and through this process ‘pastoral intensification’ was also identified as being a threat to landscape values and new rules were put in place. As the EDS says in their report on the Mackenzie *“The Plan Change was effectively written by the Environment Court¹.”*

The report goes on to say: “Following PC13, pastoral intensification, irrigation or agricultural conversion can no longer occur as a permitted activity in the Mackenzie District. These activities are now largely discretionary. As most of the Basin has been identified as an ONL, and the effects of pastoral intensification and agricultural conversion have been identified as causing adverse effects on the landscape’s values, it is highly unlikely that a discretionary consent for intensive farming would be granted. There is now robust protection for landscape values in this part of the Basin”.

However this ruling has not led to this approach being adopted by other district councils on ONLs. For example the Queenstown Lakes District Council notified plan and the Selwyn District Council notified plan have no provisions to restrict pastoral intensification in ONLs. NCF&G believe it is important to push for this approach to be adopted more widely and that a success with the SDC district plan would pave the way for other district plan provisions regarding pastoral intensification.

2. Identify the regional significance in the issue for which legal action is being contemplated.

This issue is significant in that territorial authorities have established areas that they believe are ONLs through scenic high country landscapes in Nelson Marlborough, Otago, Central South Island, Otago and Southland regions. How they are managed can have a bit impact on the waterbodies that they contain and also have downstream effects on lowland waterbodies.

3. Detail the consequences of doing nothing.

Canterbury high country waterbodies are highly vulnerable due to the current rate of land use change. Many areas are changing rapidly from landscapes dominated by low fertility grasslands, native tussocks, and shrubs to more intensive cultivated pasture. We are also

¹ Peart R, Woodhouse C. 2020. “Te Manahuna – MacKenzie Basin Landscape Protection. The Environmental Defense Society 2020 report

concerned about the increasing use of intensive winter grazing practices in the high country.

Environment Canterbury have recently mapped land use change in the Canterbury high country. This process has shown that in the upper Rakaia from 1990 to 2000 there was 222 hectares of grazing land developed (converted to 'improved' pasture). From 2001 to 2008 there was 276 hectares developed. Since then, intensification accelerated with 2230 hectares being developed from 2009 to 2012 and then 1159 hectares between 2013 and 2019. This is, as yet, unpublished data from Environment Canterbury.

This land use development can lead to negative outcomes for ecosystem health, recreational fisheries, and outstanding natural landscape values. For example a recently released ECan report on high country lakes² shows that some iconic high country lakes in the Selwyn, such as Pearson and Grasmere are showing declining trends in water quality. These lakes are sliding down the trophic index level from being near pristine to a more turbid state.

Similarly a 2018 ECan report³ details detrimental effects on stream invertebrate and periphyton communities, with relatively small elevations in nutrients due to farming intensification.

Our input on the district plan is also an attempt to preserve the less tangible, but highly valued, high country 'experience' of fishing in relatively undeveloped landscapes dominated by native tussock and Matagauri; as opposed to waterbodies surrounded by intensive pasture.

If nothing is done to address this issue it is likely the high country will continue to be intensified at the rate it has been over the last 12 years and we are likely to see ongoing deterioration of vulnerable high country waterbodies.

4. Advise the prospects of a negotiated settlement or appeal to a higher court

A negotiated settlement is not relevant given this is not an Environment Court process however there could be caucusing/ joint witness statements prior to the hearings. There is potential, should the relief being sought by Fish & Game not come to fruition, that various organisations could join up to take the case further, in this case that would be to the Environment Court. A decision would be made on that at a later date.

5. The likelihood of an external organisation paying/ contribution to the financial costs

NCF&G have had a very early discussion with Cordelia Woodhouse from EDS who indicated they would also be giving evidence and would be engaging an expert on biodiversity values

² Bayer T, Meredith A. 2020: Canterbury high-country lakes monitoring program – state and trends, 2005 – 2019. Report No. R20/50

³ Gray D: 2018: High country spring-fed streams – effects of adjacent landuse, Report no. R18/32." Environment Canterbury.

and that we could potentially 'witness share' so as to cover the two important aspects of landscape and biodiversity.

6. Describe the significance to Fish & Game of the resource under challenge, including it's current and potential use and value

The Canterbury high country is the stronghold for the North Canterbury fishery. It is home to numerous outstanding lakes and spring-fed streams that provide excellent fishing opportunities for anglers.

The Selwyn district high country contains many of these lakes, namely: Lyndon, Letitia, Sarah, Blackwater, Hawden, Merymere, Guyon, Pearson, Grasmere, Selfe, Evelyn, Georgina, Henrietta, Ida, Lilian, Minchin, Monck, Rubicon and Coleridge.

It is also an important area for the salmon fishery, as approximately 95% of the salmon spawning grounds of the Waimakariri River are located in the SDC high country. North Canterbury has approximately 4000 salmon anglers, of which we estimate half of these anglers fish the Waimakariri. This valued salmon fishery is in decline and any steps we can take to help protect the spawning grounds are important.

7. Predict the risk to that resource of the proposed action being taken without Fish & Game contesting/ supporting the proposed action

The risk is that the current rate of intensification will continue and subsequently there will be effects on water quality and habitat in spring fed streams and lakes in the high country. That in turn will affect salmonid recruitment and thus the recreational opportunities in the region.

8. Anticipate the likelihood of Fish & Game succeeding in contesting the proposed action

This is unknown at this stage, but given the quality of the evidence we believe we can obtain and the precedent set by the Mackenzie country we believe there is a good chance we may achieve some wins through this process.

9. Outline whether other alliances could be considered in contesting/ supporting the proposed action

As described above in criteria five, there is a chance that we could collaborate with EDS on this action.

10. Quantify the dollar cost of any action by Fish & Game to first hearing/ court level with appropriate breakdown of costs for lawyers, expert witnesses and scientific support

The funding sought from the national RMA/ legal fund would be used to pay for expert evidence from a landscape architect Di Lucas. She has estimated it would cost \$8,000 (excluding GST) to prepare evidence and deliver it at the hearing.

11. Assess the likelihood of it being resolved at a particular level e.g. Council hearing, Environment Court , High Court, Appeal Court, i.e. the risk of it going to subsequent higher courts and the likely subsequent costs involved.

It is possible this may not be addressed adequately through these hearings and it may need to be taken further. This could be a costly undertaking and NCF&G would have to consider our options including any potential collaborations/ cost sharing.

12. What would be the alternative options (to court proceedings) to achieve the same goal.

Alternative approaches would be working with landowners. NC F&G have been working closely with high country stations for some time and have managed to achieve some positive outcomes, such as riparian fencing. However, there are very strong economic drivers behind land use change and voluntary measures will only ever be a small part in restricting development in the face of strong economic imperatives.

13. What are the alternative funding opportunities including shared costs.

At this stage no alternative funding sources have been identified or secured.

14. Your recommendation to managers

Support this request for approximately \$8,000 for the engagement of technical expertise to provide strong evidence to argue for the inclusion of pastoral intensification restrictions within high country Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

Policy Review

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting April 2021

Prepared by Debbie Mair, Policy Advisor

Purpose

1. To review and evaluate whether our current policies, (some of which are statements and advocacy positions) are fit for purpose and incorporate current legislation especially with the Ministerial Review about to be released.
2. A one-page synopsis of our current policies has been created. The task is now to read them to decide:
 - a. Which are no longer needed?
 - b. Which can be updated to incorporate new legislation?
 - c. Which are fit for purpose as is.
 - d. What is the policy priority order to update?
 - e. Or do we continue to tolerate these policies unamended, whilst we rewrite and format a new national policy under 9 proposed example headings e.g.
 - i. National Budget, Audits, procurement and Licensing Policies.
 - ii. HR Policy – Consultation, Complaints, Conflict of Interest, Privacy, Research, Staff Development, Projects.
 - iii. Health and Safety – Staff Manual, H&S in the field, Annual review and update on legislative changes.
 - iv. F&G Organisational and Integrity structure - Governance, Coordination, Planning, Reporting including Management principles (from Managers Accord update).
 - v. Advocacy – Water, Habitat, Firearms and public awareness
 - vi. Communications and Engagement – Treaty, business development etc
 - vii. Compliance and Enforcement – Ranger's appointment and training, prosecutions and diversion.
 - viii. Species Management – Fish and Game hatcheries, releases, transfers, removal, protection, and improvements.
 - ix. Security – web, databases and staff access

Financial Implications

3. Nil.

Policy Implications

4. Fundamental.

S4 Treaty Obligations

5. Nil.

Recommendations

1. That NZFGC review and accept the current policies and prioritise these, or
2. That NZFGC agrees that NZC tolerate the existing policies and statements whilst resetting and formatting new policies under the proposed 9 example headings.

3. Does the NZFGC agree to the sample headings?

Advocacy Positions

Purpose:

Fish and Game advocates for its fish and game licence holders. The main priority is growing public support and awareness for Fish and Game.

Principles:

Fish and Game is an active observer and looks to align with other NGOs to:

1. The NZFGC and the regional Fish & Game Councils have a statutory responsibility to promote gamebird hunting.
2. The NZFGC recognises that recreational hunting of certain gamebird species is a vital part of their population management and that for all species, the annual harvesting of gamebirds in accordance with Regional Fish & Game Council bag limits and conditions of hunting must ensure sustainable management of the resource.
3. Negotiating and advocating access for licence holders; keeping a network of access signage, information, and brochures; organising special fishing and hunting days.
4. Maintaining public advocacy; schools programme; website and newsletters; community liaison; promoting the right of licenced anglers and game bird hunters to pursue their chosen pastime.

Commercialisation of Water Resources - NZFGC strongly opposes any commercialisation of water resources that may affect the public fish and game resource and the associated recreational opportunities it supplies. Fish & Game New Zealand reaffirms its total opposition to any form of charging for access.

1. That Fish & Game New Zealand is opposed to the exclusive commercial use of the wild sports fish and game resource.
2. That despite policy 2, in the case of a generally available vehicular access, the New Zealand Council acknowledges that a fair and equitable contribution to track maintenance may be appropriate.
3. That Fish & Game New Zealand seeks a statutory authority to control the numbers of fishers and hunters who use the fish and game resource, to maintain its sustainability and the quality of the recreational experience.
4. That Fish & Game New Zealand considers that upland game preserves could supply legitimate hunting opportunity as long as the effects are controlled beyond the boundaries of the preserve, and do not adversely affect the sustainability of the wild resource or hunting opportunities for wild birds.

5. That the New Zealand Fish & Game Council look to establish the appropriate statutory authorities to allow it to regulate the establishment of upland game preserves based on criteria, to include but not be limited to, the following:

- The boundaries of any game preserve be specified and defined physically.
- Game bird habitat on the land would have to be significantly enhanced.
- It must be licensed by Fish & Game New Zealand.
- Game birds must be stocked through an active breeding and release programme.
- Hunters would still need to be licensed in the normal manner.
- Management of birds and hunting would need to meet humane guidelines.
- Management plans for each game preserve would be needed and would need to outline the basis of the management and cover the criteria outlined above.

Trout Farming - NZFGC opposes commercial farming of trout and the importation of trout fish.

Firearms Legislation and Reform - NZFGC recognises that owners of shotguns for gamebird hunting is legitimate and relies on hunters to secure firearms as per section 19 of the Arms Regulations 1992. Per section 26.Q.(1). (c) of the Conservation Act 1987 as amended by the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990, to promote and educate

1. by defining and promoting ethical standards of behaviour to be followed by anglers and hunters, and
2. by promoting recreation based on sports fish and game, the NZFGC has the following policy in relation to firearms and gamebird hunting:

Firearm Legislation

1. As only shotguns of a calibre 12 gauge or less (Wildlife Act 1953, 18(1)(c)(v)) may be legally used to hunt gamebirds (Wildlife Act 1953, First Schedule) the NZFGC will seek to ensure that the legal requirements of the Arms Act 1983 and amendments to not unduly affect the ability of gamebird hunting licence holders and potential gamebird licence holders to own and use such firearms.
2. The NZFGC recognises that owners of shotguns for gamebird hunting purposes have a responsibility to ensure the adequate firearm security of such firearms and endorses the provisions of section 19 of the Arms Regulations 1992.
3. The NZFGC endorses the seven-point firearm safety rules published in the Arms Code issued by the NZ Police.
4. The NZFGC reserves the right to comment on firearm matters that may or may not directly involve shotguns, but which may ultimately adversely impact on the ownership of shotguns and licensed gamebird hunting recreation.

Note, last amended NZFGC May 2004, partly amended in 2019 after new firearms reform legislation.

Organisational Resource Allocation Policy

Purpose:

To ensure that all funds received and held by Fish and Game NZ 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. Currently fees from licence sales are received by regional Fish and Game Councils – with licence applicants choosing which region they “want to support.” They can choose the region where they live, where they hunt/fish (if it differs), or some other choice if they want.

Principles:

Angler/hunter activity should be the primary basis for distributing resources – other factors such as underlying differences in costs should also be considered but as adjustments to the primary allocation.

- The contestable pool should be distributed based on operational needs and degree of linkage to strategic priorities.
- The relative need of each region should be assessed using objective measures as far as possible.
- Regions should be able to seek allocations which exceed their share of activity but would need to justify their bids – such as extra statutory costs to deal with multiple councils or underlying natural differences in habitat management costs.
- Conduct post-implementation reviews for projects which exceed a pre-defined cost to ensure that only the best projects are put forward for consideration.

Note, last amended NZFGC 2020.

National and Regional Budget Setting and Budget Compliance Policy

Purpose:

To ensure once budgets are set, and licence fees proven, budgets are not to be altered and actual performance should be measured against the finalised budgets. Note, all Councils must report to a generic format, both in terms of internal reporting within Fish and Game and for the financial statements and annual report to the minister.

Principles: Carmel to check

1. Model the financial position of Fish and Game as an organisation to the end of each budget year and suggest options on how to respond to whatever financial position occurs.
2. Model the potential impacts on the organisation's budget for the next two budget years considering the impacts on licence income relating to a reduction in non-resident revenue and an expected depression.
3. All interest, including that derived from investing the sale proceeds of major capital assets, shall be treated as income.

In September 2002 NZFGC approved National Budget System Policy which stated That all Fish & Game New Zealand Councils use the budget and historical financial models developed by Price Waterhouse Coopers, and that the historical report be the basis for each council's annual financial statements.

Note, last amended NZFGC 2003, with some changes in 2020.

Levy Setting Policy (Chair & SFC)

Purpose:

Principles:

Reserves Policy

Purpose:

Reserves are defined as unused licence holder funds or other funds derived from bequests, trusts, and donations.

General and Dedicated Reserves are defined as unused licence holder funds which have no restrictions on their use. They can be accumulated from several sources.

Restricted Reserves have specific limitations on their use, usually involving third party conditions, that make them unable to be used for any other purpose.

Principles:

The general principles are as follows.

1. To ensure all regions have adequate cash reserves (general and dedicated combined) to meet emergencies.
2. To ensure licence holder funds are not held unused for too long a time.
3. To identify noncash reserves and have them entered on balance sheets.
4. To have a central register of reserves and their use
5. To ensure there is full knowledge of and confidence in the Policy.

OR

1. Maintain core capability.
2. Maintain ability to meet National priorities across regions.
3. Maintain ability to achieve local performance priorities.
4. Ability to prioritise resources to where they are most needed.
5. Maintain minimum Statutory obligations in in all 13 councils set out in 3-year plans.

Agree to consult all regions on a reserves policy which has not less than 20% reserves of budget: and

Request regions restrict non-essential spending including replacing staff, positions open but not filled and staff positions approved but not filled and capital expenditure such as vehicle replacement.

Every Council shall report to each NZC meeting its.

1. Level of General Reserve
2. Movement in the level of General Reserve
3. Details of expenditure of General Reserve

Councils, as individual Bodies Corporate under the Conservation Act, have the responsibility to manage financial resources under the Public Finance Act. Regions shall therefore generally make their own decisions on the commitment and use of Reserves. Councils accept there is a collective responsibility for the health of the

overall Fish and Game Organisation. Councils accept there is a collective obligation to manage Reserves responsibly and therefore they accept the need for a monitoring system to ensure overall dilution of any Council's General Reserve is avoided. Councils acknowledge that all assets should be recorded on balance sheets to give a realistic picture of the overall financial position of the Organisation.

General Reserves

A key principle is that each Region should set its own levels of necessary General Reserves using a precautionary approach to Risk management and within guidelines set by NZC.

General Reserves are held for:

- Risk management
- Cash flow support

They are accumulated by allocation from the annual income distribution process and from any other local income stream. Some were of the view that any surplus operational funds held at the end of any budget year which are not committed should be returned to the overall national pool for re-allocation rather than be held in the Region's reserves.

The Principle of collective responsibility is noted in most responses; in the event of unfortunate events General Reserves could be pooled to ensure viability of the individual region or the overall Organisation. That means some form of monitoring is needed to ensure the 'safety net' is kept.

Dedicated Reserves

Definition: Held for specific purposes

Principles

- Able to be combined with General Reserves for essential Risk management.
- Dedicated reserves may be set up by any Council at any time.
- Every Dedicated Reserve shall be set up with a standard template and set of rules starting with
 - a. The purpose (and may only be used for that purpose)
 - b. The means for approving the actual expenditure.
 - c. The period within which the reserve shall be used.
 - d. The process for annual review of continuing purpose
- Any Dedicated Reserve shall be subject to external review if those unused licence holder funds are not used within a certain period.
- Dedicated Reserves should generally follow Statutory function.

Assets and Trust Funds

These include fixed assets (land and buildings), non-fixed assets such as vehicles, boats, and hatchery equipment.

Principles:

- Regions consider these should be shown in each regions balance sheet.
- Regions consider there should be a comprehensive asset register held at NZC.
- Valuations could use the QV Territorial Local Authority system
- Liability provision should be reported annually.
- There should be standardized rates of depreciation applied across the organization

Contingent Liability. There is also acceptance that adequate provision should be made for liability against the failure of an asset affecting others that should be included in the individual Regions risk management assessment. (For example, a wetland managed by Fish and Game causing flooding to nearby farmland)

NZC Reserves

Note: for the operation of the NZ Council, not for any National purpose.

Principles:

1. The NZ Council should work in the same way as Regions, that is, have an Audit and Risk Policy and General and Dedicated Reserves
2. The NZ Council General Reserves should support cash flow (both NZC and Regions as needed) and make provision for financial risk.
3. The Dedicated Reserves should follow Statutory obligations for RMA and Research, with levels set after consultation with Regions. Approval for the application NZC Dedicated Reserves should rest with the Audit and Risk Committee in consultation with NZC and the 12 Regional Councils

National Reserves

Regions generally agree that there should be a central financial reserve for the purposes of Risk Management against a significant nationwide financial shock or liability.

That Reserve should be built up by specific allocation from Licence funds, grants, by profit from activities at a National level or other nationally attributable activity. It should be kept entirely separate from NZC finances, the desired level set annually by agreement with the Regions, administered by the (National Audit and Risk) Governance group, and its use determined on the recommendation of that group.

Note, Draft created by NZFGC Chair and SFC, not approved by NZFGC yet.

Commercialisation of the Sports Fish and Game Resource

Purpose:

To set out Fish & Game's position on the commercialisation of the sports fish and game resource. The NZFGC strongly opposes any commercialism of water resources that may affect the public fish and game resource and the associated recreational opportunities it provides. The following national policy was adopted -

1. That Fish & Game New Zealand reaffirm its total opposition to any form of charging for access.
2. That Fish & Game New Zealand is opposed to the exclusive commercial use of the wild sports fish and game resource.

Principles:

To mitigate or reduce the threat of:

1. Commercialisation of public water, holding fisheries.
2. Commercialisation of the use of water imposing an artificial value on it which recreational use then must compete with.
3. Commercialisation of access to public water and public fisheries, and the commercialisation of the sports fish that the recreational fisheries are made up of

Note, last amended NZFGC March 2001.

Access and Exclusive Capture of Sports Fish and Game Resource

Purpose:

Fish and Game is fundamentally opposed to any exclusive capture or commercialisation of the wild sports fish and game resource. Fish and Game strongly opposes to any investments that undermine the historical and current public status of the species for which Fish and Game Councils are statutorily responsible under the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Conservation Act 1987.

Principles:

- Fish and Game should be actively consulted where an investment has the potential to affect our statutory mandate or threaten access to public resources anglers and game bird hunters rely on.
- Where situations involving exclusive capture are unable to be resolved to the satisfaction of Fish and Game New Zealand the game hunting location concerned will be gazetted as not having an open season for game hunting in the Game Season Notice of the region concerned. Or for fishing in the Anglers Notice of the region concerned.
- Natural resources are part of the public estate. To the extent they could be 'owned' it would be by everyone in general and no-one, in particular.

Note, last amended NZFGC 2002.

Access Policy

Purpose:

Fish and Game opposes any form of charging for access. Access to the public estate is central to the wellbeing of New Zealanders for tramping, hunting, and fishing. Public access is in the national interest. Fisheries not accessible to the general licence holder routinely not open to fishing (May 2004). Fish & Game continue to develop and implement measures to strengthen access opportunity across all lands, both public and private to sustainable sports fish and game resources in New Zealand.

Principles:

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 regional Fish and Game Council making a formal approach to the party concerned and attempt to resolve the situation.

Fish and Game continue to:

- Promote a safe, secure, and widely accepted operating environment for access across land.
- Promote a shared commitment to strengthening access across land within Fish & Game regions
- Share information on best practices and lessons learned with partner organisations in the public and private sectors.
- Follow relevant policies and procedures identified by partner organisations.
- Supply permits which do not grant exclusive use for hunting access.

Note, last amended NZFGC 2004.

Compliance Policy

Purpose:

The compliance policy is a national policy framework that analyses rangers, ranging and prosecutions based on the six management ingredients of time, place, quality, quantity, money and accountability. Every ranger must act following the national compliance and law enforcement policies set by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. Policies adopted at a national level will form a framework within which regions will run their compliance enforcement programme. The aim is to produce excellent compliance results to a high national standard while keeping costs to a minimum.

Principles:

Each Fish & Game region has specific problems and specific policies, thus there will be slight variations between regions as to how rangers are instructed to carry out their activities. Fish & Game New Zealand's principles for meeting their compliance goal of annually checking ten percent of licence holders (this rate may increase or decrease over time depending on the rate of compliance detected) are:

- To protect the Fish and Game resource
- To protect Fish and Game Licence income
- To protect the quality of the Fish and Game experience
- To enhance the public image of Fish and Game

Note, last amended NZFGC February 2001 and aspects updated in 2003.

Ranger Warrant Policy

Purpose:

Every ranger must act in accordance with the national compliance and law enforcement policies set by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. The primary aim is to protect the Fish & Game resource, the fishing/ hunting experience, and the income of the organisation. This ranger warrant policy outlines the selection, acceptance, and warrant approval process to ensure all candidates meet Fish & Game New Zealand standards.

Principles:

The NZ Council and all Regional Councils are recognised as Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBUs). The NZ Council and Regional Councils will have overlapping duties under the HSW Act, and both will be responsible as PCBUs for the health and safety of all rangers whether employed or honorary.

Responsibilities of roles in the appointment of rangers, within Fish and Game New Zealand are summarised below:

1. Responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer/Director
2. Responsibilities of Managers
3. Responsibilities of Rangers

Note, this is new Draft policy which could incorporate the three sets of responsibilities into one document.

Infringement Notice Compliance and Enforcement Policy

Purpose:

This policy is in accordance with the requirements of Section 26HA of the Conservation Act 1987, which relates to:

1. The authorisation of specified Fish & Game rangers to issue infringement notices under Section 51W (2) of the Conservation Act 1987 and Section 70V of the Wildlife Act 1953.
2. The procedure to be followed by authorised Fish and Game Ranger to issue infringement notices under Section 51W (2) of the Conservation Act 1987; and Section 70V of the Wildlife Act 1953; and
3. The exercise of other powers of Fish and Game rangers used to enforce, or ensure compliance with, the Conservation Act 1987 and/ or the Wildlife Act 1953, including any regulations made under those Acts.

Principles:

For Fish & Game NZ regions to issue infringement notices this policy must be approved by the Minister of Conservation by notice in the Gazette. On approval of this policy by the Minister the Director of the New Zealand Fish & Game Council may authorise trained and approved Fish & Game rangers to issue infringement notices under the Conservation Act.

This policy includes:

- Training of specific Fish & Game rangers to issue infringement notices.
- Matters around exercise of other Conservation and Wildlife Act powers; and
- Training of Fish & Game rangers about powers and procedures; and
- Annual reporting requirements.

The policy sets out the principles and guidelines which Fish & Game Regions will follow when assessing offences for resolution action and specifically around resolution of offences by issuing of infringement notices. The policy is to ensure that action taken by regions is:

- a. Consistent
- b. Transparent
- c. Fair; and
- d. Follows best practice.

Note, last amended NZFGC 2019. Policy with the Minister.

National Policy on Prosecutions

Purpose:

The purpose of this Policy is to set out principles and guidelines that Fish and Game Councils will follow in making the decision to initiate criminal proceedings, including infringement notice processes, and when considering appeals against Court decisions arising from prosecutions.

Principles:

1. This Policy must be adhered to by Fish & Game New Zealand staff involved in the preparation and conduct of all prosecutions, including infringement notice processes. It applies in conjunction with the Fish & Game New Zealand Infringement Notice Compliance and Enforcement Policy.
2. This Policy applies to all prosecutions and potential prosecutions arising from enforcement action and investigations by Fish and Game Councils under legislation, including regulations, anglers' notices and game bird season notices applicable to Fish & Game New Zealand, and / or that Fish and Game Councils may deal with breaches of, or consider taking action in relation to.

Note, last amended NZFGC 2019. Policy with the Minister.

Treaty of Waitangi and Customary Rights

Purpose:

The Conservation Act 1987, and all the Acts listed in its First Schedule, must be so interpreted, and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (section 4, Conservation Act 1987). Where, however, there is clearly an inconsistency between the provisions of any of these Acts and the principles of the Treaty, the provisions of the relevant Act will apply. When making decisions about environmental management, we proactively consider Māori interests and the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. We must do this under relevant legislation.

Effective partnerships with tangata whenua can achieve enhanced conservation of natural resources and historical and cultural heritage. Tangata whenua responsibilities to this heritage are embodied in the ethic of kaitiakitanga. The focus of kaitiakitanga is manaaki (care) and rahui (protection).

Principles:

In 1989 the Government published “Principles for Crown Action on the Treaty of Waitangi”. The principles are:

- The principle of government
- The principle of self-management
- The principle of equality
- The principle of reasonable cooperation
- The principle of redress.

The way these principles are applied will depend on the circumstances of each case, including the statutory conservation framework and the significance to tangata whenua of the land, resource or taonga in question.

Tangata whenua are kaitiaki for the environment. Their views and experience can aid all fish and game applications. Fish and Game values the knowledge of tangata whenua alongside that of contemporary science. We actively seek input from Māori into our activities and decision making.

We recognise that:

- Māori cultural practices have a strong environmental basis, which enhances environmental management processes.
- Iwis feel an obligation, as kaitiaki, to protect the natural world.
- Spirituality is integral to the connection between Māori culture and tradition, and the environment.

Note, this is a new Draft policy.

National Compliance Database (NCD)

Purpose:

The National Compliance Database (NCD) 2011 system is hosted on a server environment at the Southland Fish and Game office in Invercargill, administered by Bevan McNaughton. This database records details of all offenders and offences dealt with by Fish & Game Councils including resolution action and outcomes. It has multi-redundancy backups held offsite 600m in a controlled server room.

Principles:

All Fish & Game regions have access to the Fish & Game New Zealand National Prosecution Database and follow the 'How to on the National Prosecutions Database System, written by Bevan. All Fish and Game persons with authority to access the site, are assigned a username and password. Only selected staff will have access and their level of access to permissions on the page will differ. The system holds:

- Prosecutions details.
- Reporting of offender details.
- Seized equipment.
- Administration.

High-quality information is essential for response decision making and response operations setting up clear aims, performance measures, continuous improvement, and assurance reporting processes. These are needed to respond to the regions, the Minister of Conservation, Ministry of Justice, and the New Zealand Police.

Note, this is a new Draft policy covering the new Security and Privacy Acts which covers staff access.

Sports Fish Removal

Purpose:

Fish & Game New Zealand (F&GNZ) is a statutory entity set up by Parliament under the Conservation Act 1987 to manage, maintain, and enhance sports fish and game birds and their habitats throughout the country. In fulfilling its statutory mandate, Fish and Game can undertake the salvage, translocation, or removal of sports fish. This policy outlines how regions approve, agree, or decline requests to remove sports fish for control, removal, salvage, or research purposes.

Principles:

These principles maintenance the management of sport fish populations in our regions to support and potentially help with the removal to maximise angler opportunity. The policy covers decisions relating to the movement, removal and/or salvage of sports fish in New Zealand. The purpose of this policy is to enable Fish and Game to manage New Zealand's sports fisheries whilst setting conditions under which sports fish:

- Can be safely removed or salvaged.
- Are protected from adverse effects of releases of other exotic freshwater fish or other unwanted organisms.
- Can be translocated into water bodies by Fish and Game staff or other agencies.

This policy does not cover transfers or liberations of trout brood stock or hatchery fish.

Note, this is a new Draft policy 2020.

National Branding and Uniforms

Purpose:

In 1996 the New Zealand Council adopted the national brand. In 1997 NZFGC agreed that the Fish & Game New Zealand logo shall only appear on NZFGC approved clothing. Regions are authorised to adopt and use the registered brand subject to the use being in accord with the specifications laid down in the brand manual.

Principles:

The use of the fish and game New Zealand logo be restricted to Fish and Game Councils only, except with the approval of NZFGC.

1. There should be one range of branded clothing for Fish & Game staff throughout New Zealand, as developed by the Uniform Working Group
2. If branded clothing is worn, it be worn in accordance with a dress protocol to be prepared by each region.
3. The New Zealand Council request that regions develop dress protocols, stating clearly when branded clothing is to be worn, what clothing can be worn with it, and that staff must always have a neat appearance when representing Fish & Game New Zealand.

Note, last amended NZFGC 1997.

Sports Fish Release and Transfer

Purpose:

Fish & Game New Zealand advocates for the utilisation and appreciation of wild fish and game populations in natural habitats. In doing so, it accepts the scientific evidence that any attempt to increase wild populations of sports fish by hatchery reared stock are ineffectual and economically unsustainable, and can result in increased disease risk to, or adverse genetic effects on, wild fisheries.

- Fish & Game New Zealand does not allow or advocate for the introduction of hatchery reared fish into natural habitats where they do not already exist. This means:
- Fish & Game New Zealand will not liberate sports fish into natural waterways that have never previously held sports fish, except where adverse effects on existing biodiversity values or existing natural character can be avoided, remedied, or mitigated. Department of Conservation and other relevant agencies will be consulted as to proposed management of these effects.
- Where fisheries are capable of being maintained at optimal levels through natural recruitment, liberations will not take place unless there is a measured catastrophic loss of the fishery, and natural recovery has not subsequently occurred.

Principles:

The New Zealand Council, in association with Regional Fish and Game Councils, and noting the Crown Law Opinion that a Fish & Game licence is needed for people fishing for recreational sports fish in all circumstances, including at fish farms.

1. Where appropriate opportunities are identified for the introduction of coarse sports fish into a waterway, Fish & Game New Zealand accept responsibility for gaining the necessary approvals for a release, working with other organisations, as necessary.
2. Fishing opportunities within their region and as part of the overall management and promotion of the fisheries, include these fisheries.
3. Notes that the intention of the present legislation relating to fish farming was to allow limited recreational fishing as a by-product of a flesh producing operation.
4. Looks to limit the impact on the wild recreational fishery by –
 - a. Ensuring that any fish out pond allowing for recreational fishing for sports fish associated with a fish farm be restricted to no more than 0.5 hectares in area.
 - b. That recreational fishing at a licensed fish farm remains subservient to the predominant flesh producing operation of a licensed fish farm.

Note, last amended NZFGC 1993 with Managers input in July 2001.

Fish Hatchery Management

Purpose:

Fish & Game maintain fit for purpose hatcheries. There will be no liberation of sports fish into waters in their natural state which have never previously held sports fish. This policy was created to facilitate:

- Cost effective hatcheries.
- The protection the salmonid fishery
- Building and supporting trust within the community

Principles:

The NZ Council agree to the establishment of a working party, with particular emphasis on work establishing best practice on running a hatchery and stocking practices, to draft national policy for NZ Council consideration and once approved, then consultation with Fish and Game Councils. It is noted the Eastern Region's knowledge and experience needs to be the basis of the hatchery guidelines. The principles that manage our Fish & Game hatchery operations and facilities are:

1. Must hold current consents or authorities that may be needed for the operation of the facility, including building, and planning consents and resource consents for taking and discharging water and/or disposal of waste.
2. Must ensure staff have appropriate knowledge and experience, including any necessary training, qualifications, guidance, and supervision.
3. Must have a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the running of the hatchery.
4. Must be compliant with the Animal Welfare Act 1999, including ensuring stocks are treated humanely, kept healthy and in good condition, kept in clean and sanitary conditions at appropriate stocking densities, and are not subjected to unnecessary handling and stress.
5. Must maintain fish husbandry records, including brood stock origin and information on any biological, behavioural, or genetic metrics used for brood stock selection.
6. Must have bio-security procedures that prevent the spread of infectious diseases or other agents between animals within the aquaculture facility, and implement practices designed to prevent the infectious agent from leaving the hatchery site.
7. Must protect the genetic integrity of salmon populations.
8. Must keep records of all fish movements and stock on hand, including what fish marking has taken place to ensure a robust livestock tracking system is kept.
9. Must follow the Health & Safety at Work Act 2015.
10. Must supply an annual hatchery report and periodic audit report, independent of the Fish & Game region. The audit should be carried out no less than once every three years.

Note, last amended NZFGC March 1992 with Managers input in July 2004.

Game Hatchery Management

Purpose:

The main purpose of Fish and Game Councils is to manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resources in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.

Fish and Game are tasked with maintaining and improving the fish and game resource by maintaining hatchery and breeding programmes where required for the stocking or restocking of the wild resource. It is further endorsed in regional Sports Fish and Game Management Plans and in the New Zealand Fish and Game Council constitution under the Conservation Act (S26Q(b)(ii)) as a means of maintaining and enhancing populations.

Principles:

In fulfilling this purpose, the primary functions of Fish and Game Councils are to:

- Assess and monitor sports fish and game bird populations, habitats, and harvests.
- Assess and monitor angler and hunter satisfaction.
- Maintain and improve the sports fish and game bird resource.
- Supply information and promote angling and hunting.
- Represent the interests of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process.

Note, last amended NZFGC March 2004.

National Communications Policy

This policy is now superseded by the new Communications Strategy.

Purpose:

The Communications Strategy reflects and supports 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.

Principles:

Fish & Game's communications aims should support the organisation's purpose and goal. They will decide 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 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 – 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.

Note, last amended by NZFGC 2020.

New Zealand Council Standing Orders

Purpose:

The council must adopt a set of standing orders for the conduct of its meetings and those of its committees. These standing orders apply to all meetings of the council and its committees unless otherwise stated. This includes meetings and sessions that the public are excluded from. Standing orders of the council must not contravene any provisions of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

Principles:

The reference in the 2001 resolution to “Section 26(A)(1) d. refers to the Conservation Act, with 26A being the Functions of the Minister [to do with Fish and Game Councils].

26A Functions of Minister

(1) The functions of the Minister in relation to the conservation and management of sports fish and game shall be—

(2) To establish, by notice in the Gazette, rules for the conduct of the meetings of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and model rules for the conduct of Fish and Game Council meetings; and any such rules may in like manner be amended or revoked:

Approved in August 2016 with a recommendation that the Minister sets them as the model standing orders for Fish and Game (30 January 2017 Notice). Per section 26A (1) (d) of the Conservation Act 1987, the Minister of Conservation, hereby establish the standing orders set out in schedule 1 as:

- The rules for the conduct of meetings of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council
- Model rules for the conduct of regional Fish and Game council meetings

Note, last amended by NZFGC December 2015.

New Zealand Council Governance Policies

Purpose:

The purpose of the Council is to represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters and provide co-ordination of the management, enhancement and maintenance of sports fish and game. The Council has all such powers as are necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions. The governance policies were last reviewed in 2016, consisting of

- review the relevance and adequacy of the Council's current governance policies in relation to the national office.
- review the achievement of the Council's statutory purpose and functions through the national office.
- carry out a financial risk analysis.
- carry out a personnel survey.
- make recommendations were deemed appropriate.

Principles:

The functions of the Council are to:

1. Develop, in consultation with Regional 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 set up under the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Conservation Act 1987
2. Advise the Minister of Conservation ("the Minister") on issues relating to sports fish and game.
3. Co-ordinate the preparation and recommendation, for the Minister's approval, of Anglers Notices and notices for game seasons; to advise the Minister in relation to such matters; and to publish in the Gazette Anglers Notices and notices for game seasons.
4. Participate, with the Director-General and other interested parties, in the development of a research programme promoting the management of sports fish and game.
5. Oversee the electoral system by which members of Regional Fish and Game Councils are elected.
6. Recommend to the Minister a suitable fee for fishing and hunting licences, after having regard to the views and recommendations of Regional Fish and Game Councils
7. Recommend to the Minister fees for game hunting guide licences and sports fishing guide licences, after having regard to views and recommendations of Regional Fish and Game Councils
8. Decide, in consultation with Regional Fish and Game Councils, the amount of the levy payable by Regional Fish and Game Councils to the Council, from licence sales, for

9. the administration of the Council; and
10. redistribution between Regional Fish and Game Councils; and
11. advocacy and research
12. Advocate generally and in any statutory planning process the interests of the Council and, with its agreement, of any Regional Fish and Game Council in the management of sports fish and game, and habitats.
13. Supply regular reports to Regional Fish and Game Councils
14. Liaise with the New Zealand Conservation Authority
15. Audit the activities of Regional Fish and Game Councils
16. Recommend to the Minister, after having regard to the views and recommendations of Regional Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board, a suitable fee in respect of any game bird habitat stamp and the form of such stamps.
17. Sell or arrange the sale of, in New Zealand or outside New Zealand, game bird habitat stamps and associated products; and
18. Perform such other sports fish and game functions as the Minister may require.
19. These governance policies are to be reviewed by Council every three years.

Note, last amended by NZFGC December 2015.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to set out Fish and Game's, process for finding and managing actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest between a public duty and private and/or personal interests for governors, employees, and contractors.

The policy is intended to facilitate for Fish and Game to deal with conflicts of interest appropriately, and for employees and contractors to be alert to the possibility of conflicts of interest and let them know accordingly. The NZ Council adopted the conflicts of interest policy proposed by Chen & Palmer in its memorandum dated 18 May 2012 (Needs to be updated to new June 2020 policy - ISBN 978-0-9951321-5-3).

Principles:

Underpinning this policy is the principle that every person working in state sector has a duty to put the public interest above their personal or private interests when carrying out their official duties. This includes an ongoing obligation to show any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest and to update those disclosures from time to time and if circumstances change.

As a Fish and Game governor, employee, or contractor, you must ensure that your actions are not affected by personal interests, whether financial or otherwise and including conflicts relating to family, friends, or close associates, and that you never misuse your position for personal gain. Fish and Game expects its employees and contractors to act honestly and ethically and to fully and openly show actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest so that they may be formally recorded and resolved or managed appropriately.

A conflict of interest will arise where your duties or responsibilities to Fish and Game could be affected by some other interest or duty you have, for example by virtue of:

- Your own financial affairs
- Your relationship with someone
- Another role you have
- Something you have said or done.

Private activity that could conflict with your work for Fish and Game or that could compromise the Fish and Game's integrity, or reputation should be avoided wherever practical.

Note, a new Draft policy to incorporate new Security and Privacy Acts. Last amended in 2005 when conflict was included in policies but never as a stand-alone policy.

Elections

Purpose:

Elections are held to ensure licence-holders are effectively a shareholder in the Fish and Game organisation. Regional Fish and Game council elections are held every three years. To be a candidate for election to a Fish and Game Council you must be a holder of an adult whole season licence (or primary licence holder of a fish family licence) to hunt game in the season starting May in the year the election is held or fish for sports fish in the season starting October the year before the election is held. The other requirement is that you cannot have been bankrupt or convicted of an offence involving sports fish and game.

The responsibility for carrying out the election has been contracted out to electionz.com Ltd, an elections management company based in Christchurch. Warwick Lampp from electionz.com has been appointed as Returning Officer for eleven of the twelve regions, Auckland/Waikato, Central South Island, Eastern, Hawke's Bay, Nelson, Northland, North Canterbury, Southland, Taranaki, Wellington and the West Coast and Deputy Returning Officer for the Otago Fish and Game Region. Link: <https://www.electionz.com/home/>

Principles:

Each regional council needs more than 12 candidates to put their names forward before an election is needed. Registration as a candidate for Fish and Game Council elections open in August and close early October in the year of an election. Elections themselves take place in October.

The role of councillor is an honorary position with no payment involved. It requires a commitment of time and effort to prepare for and attend council meetings. Councils meet at least six times a year. There is also time needed to work on issues and liaising with local clubs and licence holders.

Ensure voting rights in the management of guide licencing by guides, it was proposed to make voting eligibility in Fish and Game Council elections a prerequisite for holding a guide licence.

In 2016 a provision was made through an annual budget instalment and held within an Election Fund within the NZC accounts.

Note, last amended by NZFGC May 1999.

Procurement Plan and Template

Purpose:

This policy outlines the planning approach and choice of a supplier. A procurement plan describes the process used to approach the market, evaluate bids, and find the recommended supplier. Followed by questions to supply quality responses from the right suppliers or providers. Finalising with how to manage the contract once it is underway.

Principles:

This template covers the common principles usually included in a procurement plan.

- The level of analysis and detail you include should be proportionate to the nature, scope, value, complexity, and risk of the procurement.
- Procurement plan should/must be completed and approved before starting your tender process (e.g., advertising on GETS).

We may need approvals from:

- NZFGC confirming the plan meets Fish and Game requirements
- Delegated financial authority holder giving authority to spend.
- Subject-matter expert for the proposed evaluation criteria
- Legal advisor for the proposed contract.
- Parts of the document have suggested solutions (e.g., estimated whole-of-life costs, indicative timeline, and evaluation criteria). These are only examples. You should amend or substitute models to suit your procurement. For more information on procurement, visit www.procurement.govt.nz.

Note, a new policy following the 'all of government' procurement guidelines 2020.

Consultation Policy

Purpose:

Consultation can be defined as:

The communication of a genuine invitation to give advice on an issue not yet decided upon and a genuine and open-minded consideration of that advice so that it can influence decisions relating to the issue.

Consultation is a formal process which requires communication to be made in writing and each step to be signed off by way of a written response. The existence of a paper trail will allow procedural disputes to be resolved quickly.

There are three types of decision found where consultation is needed:

- Statutory and regulatory decisions
- Coordination decisions made by New Zealand Council
- Councils' decisions with significant cross boundary implications

Principles:

In 2019 Otago Fish and Game Council comment on the need to review Fish & Game's Consultation Policy and propose this be the subject of separate consideration at a future date.

This policy was created to include full disclosure of information as early as possible in the process including a draft of any proposed policy to ensure:

- Standardisation
- Consistency
- Cooperation
- Open discussions
- Organisational priorities

The principles of consultation legally defined by the Court of Appeal in Wellington International Airport v Air New Zealand (1993) [1 NZLR 671] are:

- Sufficient information needs to be made available to the consulted party or parties, including further information should this be requested.
- Meetings should be held with the consulted parties and these should be entered into with an open mind.
- Due notice should be taken of what consulted parties have to say.
- The consulting party should wait until all parties.

Note, discussed and agreed at Meeting of Managers 2006 & amended March 2007.

Privacy Policy

Purpose:

Privacy information applies to personal information collected through the New Zealand Fish and Game website, National Prosecution Database and Eyede NZFG licensing system. The Privacy Act regulates us through Information Privacy Principles as to how we collect, use, hold, disclose, access, correct, manage, and dispose of personal information. We may store personal information within servers provided by offshore cloud service providers.

Principles:

This privacy policy sets out how we follow our obligations under the Privacy Act 1993 (New Zealand).

FGNZ is bound by the requirements of these laws, which regulates how we may collect, use, show and store your personal information. These laws also specify how individuals may access and correct information held about them.

“Personal Information” means information or an opinion about an identifiable individual (or an individual who is identifiable), whether true or not, or recorded in a material form or not. For example, this type of information could include your name, contact details, age, and address.

Information gathering for regulatory compliance, law enforcement and protective security purposes is held in regions and on the national prosecutions database and licence holder database. This transparency statement explains how the New Zealand Fish and Game (FGNZ) gathers information for regulatory compliance, law enforcement and protective security purposes. FGNZ gathers information for these purposes to keep anglers, hunters, and staff in New Zealand safe and prevent harm by:

- Detecting, investigating, and prosecuting criminal offending (e.g., breaches of the law such as the Conservation Act 1987, Wildlife Act 1953, and Crimes Act 1961)
- Preventing, investigating, and responding to regulatory non-compliance; and
- Taking steps to respond to and mitigate threats to the physical security of staff, or the security of information or places (e.g., a physical security breach, web-hacking).

Note, a new Draft policy to incorporate new Security and Privacy Acts December 2020.

Licence Fee Setting Process

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide an effective management and development of licence sales system. The plan will be based on the five-year road map agreed with Eyede as part of a 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

In 1993 NZFGC resolved Sponsorship, advertising and contract income is to be independent of the licence fee setting process and left to the discretion of regional fish and game councils to enhance their statutory responsibilities.

Principles:

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 confirm 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.

Proactively ensure security of information is best management practice.

Ensure that licence holder records are securely managed following the Privacy Act 2020 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.

Note, last amended by NZFGC November 2003 and reviewed by NZFGC 2020.

Firearms and Gamebird Hunting Policy

Purpose:

To ensure the legal requirements of the Arms Act 1983 and amendments do not unduly affect the ability of gamebird hunting licence holders and potential gamebird licence holders. Shotguns of a calibre 12-gauge (NZFGC approved the use of 10-gauge shotguns Nov 2004) or less Wildlife Act 1953, 18(1) (c(v)) may be legally used to hunt gamebirds (Wildlife Act 1953, First Schedule).

In 1993 a draft policy "Firearms and Gamebird Hunting" was referred to regional councils for comment.

Principles:

No person may have lead shot, or use lead shot, while hunting or killing waterfowl within 200metres of open water, with guns of a 12-gauge calibre, on all lands managed by Fish and Game Councils and on all lands administered by the Department of Conservation.

Non-toxic alternative shot may be used including steel.

Note, last amended by NZFGC August 1998, shot size 2002 and non-toxic shot amended in 2016.

National Media Guidelines

These guidelines are now superseded by the new Communications Strategy.

Purpose:

Fish & Game needs 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.

Principles:

- 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 affect significantly on the NZC and Fish & Game New Zealand's reputation or stakeholder relationships should at once 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 decide 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.

Note, in February 2001 (EP4) agreed by NZFGC with the aim to ensure that the organisation responds to potentially significant media issues in a proper and professional manner.

Health and Safety in the Workplace

Purpose:

This policy applies to Fish and Game New Zealand officers and all contractors and consultants engaged by Fish and Game New Zealand to carry out work. It is therefore Fish and Game New Zealand's policy to do all that is reasonable to prevent personal injury to protect everyone from foreseeable work hazards and to ensure a safe workplace for all, including contractors, sub-contractors and the public, when they encounter the work activities of Fish and Game New Zealand.

Principles:

The Regional managers and CEO will as far as be reasonably practical, follow the provisions of legislation dealing with health and safety in the workplace by,

- Providing a safe and emotional work environment
- Ensuring a health and safety strategy/plan is in place and that engagement and consultation with staff on the strategy occurs.
- Providing adequate facilities and any safety equipment considered necessary, including ensuring access, property and equipment is safe to use and workers are not exposed to hazards.
- Ensuring there is an effective method in place for finding, assessing, and controlling hazards. This includes the recording and investigating of injuries and reporting serious harm incidents.
- Having a commitment to a culture of continuous improvement

Note, last amended by NZFGC in April 1998, March 2007 and revised February 2020.

Health and Safety in the Field

Purpose:

This policy covers off field templates for all regional activities involving field intention details, overdue return instructions, medical emergencies, and significant injury; also known as the Health and Safety Plan Tailgate Register.

Principles:

This policy and associated standards, procedures and guidelines outline the wellbeing, health, and safety responsibilities in the field; as the PCBU, has the primary duty of care to ensure the health and safety of workers while they are at work or undertaking voluntary or contractual work, covering:

- Staff working in the field - knowing where they are, contact and reporting in, actions if overdue, emergency equipment carried.
- Tailgate meeting or similar immediately before starting a task/project - (ensuring all staff aware of the risks or hazards, assessment of current conditions etc.)
- Incident and near miss reporting
- Accident Register (this is the only document that must be kept under current legislation)
- Emergency response outlined under different scenarios.

Note, last amended by NZFGC in April 1998 and March 2007.

Health and Safety Risk and Hazard Identification

Purpose:

This policy covers risk identification and hazard management plans.

Principles:

NZC uses the PLAN-DO-CHECK-ACT approach to assess, manage and monitor work risks. Identifying hazards that could give rise to work health and safety risks. Thinking about work activities with your workers, identify what could harm the health or endanger the safety of one or more workers or others (e.g., visitors, bystanders). Principles include.

- Staff involvement in Health and Safety and including regular meetings, identification of hazards and solutions, sharing of information etc.
- Effective and hazard identification and control process
- Effective accident and Incident reporting and investigation process
- Responsibilities towards contractors and volunteers defined.

Note, last amended by NZFGC in April 1998, March 2007 and revised February 2020 to incorporate Worksafe best practice.

National Licence System Database

Purpose:

New Zealand's freshwater sports fishing licences and game bird hunting licences are issued by 12 regional Fish and Game Councils. The details for issuing licences are contained in two sets of regulations - the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 and the Wildlife Regulations 1955 (the Regulations).

Principles:

1. Deliver a flexible range of licence options.
2. Improve perceptions of value for \$dollar.
3. Generate some goodwill and encourage participation.
4. Generate revenue.
5. Introduce categories of licence, in addition to the national licence categories to exploit niche marketing opportunities.

Note, last amended by NZFGC in April 2019 and entered a new contract 2020.

Licence Sales System

Purpose:

Fish and Game New Zealand is everyone who buys a fishing or hunting licence. We are a 'user pays, user Says' non-profit organisation that receives no government or taxpayer money. Providing a nationwide licensing system with a range of licence categories and sales channels that make it easy to buy a licence and provides the core revenue for Fish & Game.

Principles:

Licence fees are set to cover the costs attributable to management of the fish and game resource. The Licence sub-committee will handle.

- The coordination of the national licence sales system (including evaluate and recommend to the NZ Council and twelve Fish and Game Councils the best provider of a licensing system, associated CRM platform and continuing technical support)
- The preparation of a draft paper for circulation to the regions on the licence sales system options

Note, last amended by NZFGC in March 2005.

Infringement and Prosecutions

Purpose:

The purpose of this Policy is to set out principles and guidelines that Fish and Game Councils will follow in making the decision to start criminal proceedings, including infringement notice processes, and when considering appeals against Court decisions arising from prosecutions.

This policy is following the requirements of Section 26HA of the Conservation Act 1987, which relates to:

- The authorisation of specified Fish & Game rangers to issue infringement notices under Section 51W (2) of the Conservation Act 1987 and Section 70V of the Wildlife Act 1953
- The procedure to be followed by authorised Fish & Game Ranger to issue infringement notices under Section 51W (2) of the Conservation Act 1987; and Section 70V of the Wildlife Act 1953; and
- The exercise of other powers of Fish & Game rangers used to enforce, or ensure compliance with, the Conservation Act 1987 and / or the Wildlife Act 1953, including any regulations made under those Acts.

For Fish & Game NZ regions to issue infringement notices this policy must be approved by the Minister of Conservation by notice in the Gazette. On approval of this policy by the Minister the Director of the New Zealand Fish & Game Council may authorise trained and approved Fish & Game rangers to issue infringement notices under the Conservation Act.

Principles:

The policy sets out the principles and guidelines which Fish & Game Regions will follow when assessing offences for resolution action and specifically around resolution of offences by issuing of infringement notices. The policy is to ensure that action taken by regions is:

- Consistent
- Transparent
- Fair
- Follows best practice.

This policy includes:

- Training of specific Fish & Game rangers to issue infringement notices.
- Matters around exercise of other Conservation and Wildlife Act powers
- Training of Fish & Game rangers on powers and procedures
- Annual reporting requirements

Note, a new Draft policy which was sent for approval to the Minister November 2020.

Fish-out ponds

Purpose:

Fish-out ponds are stocked with sports fish reared in fish farms and which sell a recreational fishing experience. In most instances, the fish farm is set up solely to supply the ponds and does not supply the food trade. The ponds may be natural waterbodies or artificially built and may be found close to the facilities used for rearing the fish or elsewhere.

Fish and Game look to limit the impact on the wild recreational fishery by:

- a. Ensuring that any fish out pond allowing for recreational fishing for sports fish associated with a fish farm be restricted to no more than 0.5 hectares in area.
- b. That recreational fishing at a licensed fish farm remains subservient to the predominant flesh producing operation of a licensed fish farm.

Principles:

There are also several fish-out ponds where trout are released for 'kids-fishing-days' like the ones operated by Fish & Game New Zealand at Ngongotaha and Hawkes Bay, by DOC at Turangi, and the pond operated by the Wellington Angling Club at the Happy Valley Landfill. In some other areas fish are liberated into natural waters for similar purposes.

In 2004 the New Zealand Council -

1. Reaffirm its total opposition to any exclusive capture or commercialisation of the wild sports fish and game resource.
2. Oppose any proposals to change the total ban in New Zealand on the farming of trout, and the importation of trout flesh into New Zealand.
3. Note that the intention of the present legislation relating to fish farming was to allow limited recreational fishing as a by-product of a flesh producing operation.
4. Look to limit the impact on the wild recreational fishery by –
 - a. Ensuring that any fish out pond allowing for recreational fishing for sports fish associated with a fish farm be restricted to no more than 0.5 hectares in area.
 - b. That recreational fishing at a licensed fish farm remains subservient to the predominant flesh producing operation of a licensed fish farm.

Fish-out pond type operations could provide three main opportunities: -

- An introduction to freshwater/fly fishing – for both adults and children
- A regular easy fishing opportunity close to large urban areas
- A 'fishing experience' for general tourists

Note, last amended by NZFGC in November 2004.

NZC Staff Manual

Purpose:

This Manual has been developed to familiarize employees of Fish and Game about working conditions, key policies, procedures, and benefits affecting employment at Fish and Game Council.

Principles:

The following principles underpin by Standards within the Health and Safety Framework:

1. Fish and Game will as far as reasonably practical provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone using our facilities and those over which Fish and Game has an influence and ensure that workers have access to the information, they need to stay safe and well while at work and/or working.
2. Fish and Game will ensure workers and other persons are given the appropriate level of protection, as far as is reasonably practical, against harm to their wellbeing, health and safety from hazards and risks arising from Fish and Game work and will act in good faith in all matters relating to wellbeing, health, and safety.
3. Fish and Game will consult, cooperate, and coordinate with other PCBUs, when we work together, direct work or are co-located, to ensure the wellbeing, health, and safety of all workers.
4. Fish and Game is committed to engaging with our workers, providing ongoing opportunities for worker participation with regards to wellbeing, health, and safety practices.
5. Fish and Game is committed to measurable aims and targets towards continuous and enduring improvement to our wellbeing, health, and safety practices. (Health, safety and wellbeing planning and performance standard)
6. Fish and Game follows any associated legislation, codes of practice, standards, mandatory procedures, and any local standard operating procedures.
7. Fish and Game will review and update this policy, along with associated documents every two years or when there is significant legislative change and will consult workers and union representatives on any significant proposed changes.
8. Fish and Game will develop and keep emergency procedures and review associated exercises and incidents to ensure we are prepared for unplanned future emergencies.
9. Fish and Game will monitor and review the performance of Fish and Game wellbeing, health, and safety framework in practice to ensure continuous improvement.

10. Fish and Game accurately report, record, and investigate workplace accidents, incidents, and notifiable events. All employees are encouraged to take part in accident investigation as needed.
11. As part of its commitment to health and safety and supplying a safe workplace, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council needs a report from NZC at each meeting.

Note, a new policy for NZC Office, signed off by CEO in August 2020.

Managers Accord on Operational Principles

Purpose:

The purpose of this accord is to set up a decision-making process on 'operational' matters under a set of agreed operating practices and principles that applies to all councils. A forum for the managers of the thirteen councils which comprise Fish and Game New Zealand to discuss issues of significance to the organisation. A forum where, under delegated authority, each of the thirteen council's managers can agree to standard operating procedures, guidelines, and other organisational cooperation.

Currently the March 2004 version adopted by NZC stands, however in August 2019, a joint paper from the Managers asked for a review of the Managers Accord. It was agreed to review the Managers Accord with the view to increase consistency and smooth the delivery of operations nationally through open and respectful communications to enhance organisational cohesion.

Principles:

The managers group is not accountable to any single part of Fish and Game New Zealand, but each manager is solely responsible back to his council in respect of his performance and agreements reached at Managers' Meetings. For the Manager's group to work best together in the interests of the organisation the following principles apply to communications between managers:

- Communicate directly with the individual involved.
- Keep conflicts internal within the manager's group.
- Encourage collective ownership of decisions.
- No outflanking
- Recognise jurisdiction of the others authority and accountability.
- Better define lines of communication
- Look to achieve consensus.
- Obtain and agree a final statement of outcome and action.
- Utilise formal referral of disputes i.e., issues between managers should be kept at that level unless there is agreement to refer them to other manager(s) or to the councils involved.
- Where necessary use a disputes process by involving one or two other managers
- Avoid involving others in communication between two parties unless there is a benefit in informing other managers in which case the communication should be to all.

Note, last amended by NZFGC in November 2003, agreed by NZFGC in August 2009 for Jay Graybill and Andy Tannock to review. Draft expected April 2021.

Fishing Regulations

Purpose:

Fish and Game New Zealand (formed of 12 regional fish and game councils across New Zealand and one national office) are the statutory managers of freshwater sport fishing in New Zealand and represent the interests of anglers. This code of Practice has been developed to set standards of practice which clearly outline our responsibilities as freshwater anglers to support the practice of ethical fishing.

Principles:

These regulations are set to ensure that:

Fish populations are maintained and that the number of fish caught does not threaten the sustainability of the fishery.

1. The quality of the fishing experience is maintained.
2. Spawning areas are protected.
3. Angling opportunities are not necessarily restricted.
4. Anglers use sporting methods.

Note, last amended by NZFGC in May 2001.

Species Management

Purpose:

Fish & Game manages, maintains and enhances sports fish and game birds, and their habitats. Monitoring and surveying species populations; setting season regulations; managing pressure on the resource. Sports fish and game birds have no concept of any geographical delineation imposed upon a region by man and contain themselves to water catchment areas, breeding areas and feeding areas.

Principles:

1. Hunting regulations are published for each sub-area and are based on population trends and bird counts for those areas.
2. Regulations on sports fishing within the Region are restricted to individual rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and dams.

Note, last amended by NZFGC in May 2004.

Game Releases

Purpose:

Maintenance and enhancement of populations and diversity of game bird species in each Fish and Game Region to maximise hunting opportunities.

Principles:

To consider proposals to introduce new species of game birds to the region, establish existing species in areas where they do not currently exist, or reclassify nongame bird species as game birds. Considerations will include:

- Any adverse effects on existing game bird populations, such as those that result in loss of hunting opportunity or threaten the sustainability or genetic integrity of populations.
- Any adverse effects on existing populations of native fauna and flora. The Department of Conservation is to be consulted as to these effects.
- Whether suitable habitat is available
- Whether liberations optimise population size for increased hunter opportunities
- Are the liberated species likely to be self-sustaining?
- Whether benefits gained outweigh costs

Note, last amended by NZFGC in March 2004.

Game Regulations

Purpose:

Game bird hunting regulations are used to make species available to hunters, as well as regulating the way hunting takes place and the total number of birds harvested. This ensures that recreational opportunities are maximised, populations are maintained at sustainable levels, and harvest is optimised. All hunters must be licensed by Fish and Game New Zealand.

Submission of game season conditions for inclusion in the Game Gazette Notice. Conditions should be based on sound biological principles, maximise hunter opportunity, ensure the sustainability, quality, and diversity of the game bird resource, and set standards of acceptable hunting behaviour.

Principles:

To manage harvest by implementing game bird regulations that:

- Maximise hunter opportunity.
- Ensure the sustainability, quality, and diversity of the game bird resource.
- Are based on sound biological principles.
- Seek acceptable standards of hunting behaviour.

Information from monitoring programmes such as hunter surveys, trend counts, and banding is used to help establish regulations and to monitor their effectiveness. Species sustainability and diversity, maximising hunter opportunity, and reduction of potential effects on other users of the environment are all considered in the development of regulations.

Note, last amended by NZFGC in February 2001 with recommendations at Meeting of Managers May 2006.

Habitat Protection and Management

Purpose:

Protecting and enhancing lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands; RMA issues and advocating against consents which effect valued habitats and providing 'national park' status to our important rivers through Water Conservation Orders. Fish and Game is opposed to any development that threatens significant sports fishery and game bird values.

Principles:

Fish & Game reserves the right to object to utilisation or further intensification of New Zealand waterways if it believes that there is a realistic and significant risk to sports fish and game and its habitats. Fish and Game is opposed to development of further rivers for hydroelectric power generation where they support significant sports fishery values because of:

- The finite nature of NZ's river resources and river fisheries,
- The significant sacrifice of rivers that has already occurred through hydro development,
- The resulting high value needs to be placed on those rivers that remain as features of the NZ landscape.
- The irreversibility of hydro schemes by comparison with other 'renewable' electricity sources such as geothermal and wind power

Fish and Game does not oppose hydro development that increases the efficiency of existing schemes or where it occurs without significant adverse impact on fisheries, wildlife habitats or rivers.

Note, last amended by NZFGC in March 1992 and again in March 2004 about commercialisation of water resources.

Policy for Setting Policy

Purpose:

To set out the process for setting national policy providing guidance, cohesion, coordination, and direction to be consistently applied across the organisation.

Principles:

The following principles shall apply in the preparation and approval of a policy:

- a. Proposed policy initiatives can be put forward by the NZ Council or any Fish and Game Council for consideration by the NZ Council.
- b. The initiative will be drafted as policy and given to the NZ Council for its consideration.
- c. In determining what policy warrants becoming national policy, the NZ Council must agree to it as draft national policy and consult with Fish and Game Councils.
- d. Fish and Game Councils to include rationale for any change/amendment in a letter from the regional chair that can be attached to a report on consultation and feedback.
- e. Following a period (such as one meeting cycles) that allows Fish and Game Councils to consider and provide feedback on the draft national policy, the NZ Council can consider and where necessary amend that policy before resolving to adopt it as national policy.
- f. Once adopted, the NZ Council must circulate the document to all Fish and Game Councils, recording the date it was approved as National Policy.

Note, last amended NZFGC June 2018

Bequests and Donations

Purpose:

Sets out the process allowing licence holders or other members of the public wishing to bequeath gratuities or a donation to Fish & Game New Zealand.

Principles:

Bequests would be directed to a special central FUND with opportunities to specify sub-categories or locations. Bequeathed funds would be deposited into the FUND and used to support agreed activities. A Bequest Advisory Committee of 2-4 people appointed by the NZ Fish & Game Council would distribute funds against a set of merit criteria.

The Bequest and Donation Policy covers:

- The process for accepting a bequest or donation.
- The process for rejecting a bequest or donation.
- The process for deciding the use of bequeathed or donated funds.
- Monitoring and reporting requirements

The fund would be used for projects that further Fish and Game's strategic direction, are compatible with its sport fish and game species and habitat values and supply high profile or high impact outcomes. It would not be used in project situations covered by the usual activities of Fish and Game or where it would impose on Fish and Game's statutory ability to set and charge a licence fee.

Note, last amended NZFGC 2019.

Coarse Sports Fish

Purpose:

Fish and Game has a statutory duty to manage, maintain, and enhance coarse fisheries in the recreational interests of anglers. Fish and Game in general, advocate their retention and management for coarse fish unless there are significant conservation issues or high value salmonid sports fisheries are placed at risk, and it is practical and cost effective to remove a particular species from a particular waterway.

Principles:

Fish & Game New Zealand oppose the introduction of any new coarse sports fish species—

1. Into natural waterways where they have never previously existed, and
2. Into artificial or manmade waterways in catchments where they have not previously existed, and there is any possibility of their escape into that catchment.

It is recommended that Fish & Game New Zealand regions identify the coarse sports fishing opportunities within their region and, subject to a regional risk analysis, include these fisheries within their management and promotional programmes. Criteria to be considered within the risk analysis could include:

- Quality of the coarse sports fishery in question
- Potential demand for the coarse sports fishery
- Proximity of high value salmonid-based sports fisheries and their associated value.
- Risk to higher priority fisheries
- Proximity to alternative coarse sports fisheries

Note, last amended NZFGC March 2002

Sports Fish Salvage

Purpose:

Fish salvage is removing sports fish from an area prior to beginning works, with the aim of avoiding and minimising impacts of work activities on aquatic species. Fish and Game may undertake sports fish transfers between locations if the appropriate Ministry of Fisheries and Department of Conservation approvals have been authorised or under a relevant management plan or strategy. Such transfers shall usually be undertaken to salvage sports fish under stress or to restock waters where stocks have reduced to below self-sustaining levels.

Principles:

A range of fish salvage methods are available, but the method used should be effective at avoiding and minimising sports fish mortality and be appropriate for the scale and significance of potential effects caused by the activity. Activities that may require sports fish salvage or other justification include:

- Waterway restoration projects
- Installation of fish passes
- Channel dewatering
- Canal repair and/or maintenance
- Bank protection works.
- Sediment removal (including routine waterway maintenance)

Note, The Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 make no distinction regarding the scale of the activity, so fish salvage or other justification should always be considered, regardless of the size of the project. When working in rivers the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 dictate that Indigenous, or native, fish shall not be knowingly destroyed, as detailed under Section 70: No killing of indigenous fish.

(1) No person shall in any water intentionally kill or destroy indigenous fish.

(2) No person, having taken indigenous fish from any water, shall leave the fish upon the bank or shore of any stream or lake, except where such indigenous fish is used in accordance with any provisions of a District Anglers Notice relating to lures.

Note, last amended NZFGC July 2001

Exclusion of the Public

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 16 and 17 April 2021

Recommendation:

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 149	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.
	Section 9(2)(h) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.	

(b) And that staff remain to provide advice to the Council on all items except for the item Report on Future Management of NZC.

Chair's Report

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 16 and 17 April 2021

Prepared by: Ray Grubb, NZ Fish and Game Council Chair

1. Overall, the focus of the last month was to re-establish confident relationships with the people who are important to us. We should follow 2 key principles:
 - We get our results in the Regions and the NZFGC role is to create the climate within which that can happen.
 - Consult not confront.
2. I have been surprised at just how poor relationships had been, but the corollary has been an excellent reception to a perceived new broom. That has at times made it necessary to stress that we will not relax our environmental advocacy standards and intend to improve our effectiveness.
3. With the NPS FM and NES we have a one-off opportunity to make a quantum shift in habitat improvement for our licence holders' sport. Putting together structures where we can work effectively with disparate interest groups to deliver excellent outcomes in Regional Plans is a key focus for the next period.
4. I have yet to meet with our Minister; the meeting scheduled was cancelled at short notice. Besides the Ministerial Review we need to get DOC more involved in freshwater as an absolute priority

CEO recruitment

5. A small number of potentially suitable candidates have been identified and by the time this report is delivered initial interviews should have been completed.

Advocacy

6. NES: Intensive winter Grazing and Wetlands
 - Papers putting NZFG positions have been delivered to Ministers.
 - There have been further negotiations with Southland and Otago over IWG and questions asked of Minister Parker.
 - I had a lengthy interview with Minister Parker to discuss the NES, implementation of the NPS FM and NZFG and Region's role in advocating for Freshwater, and the DOC absence from that space
7. Battery Project Lake Onslow

There was a meeting with Ministers Woods and Parker and the eNGOs to assess research need for this project. I initiated NZFG positions as follows;

 - The project would have 30 year power demand security. If it proceeds can we have at least for that period of time a guarantee that no new river etc hydro schemes will be initiated given the damage to NZ rivers and lakes to date

- No irrigation into dryland areas and no intensive agricultural development from the scheme

Minister Parker supported these positions.

I offered the Otago F&G records of Lake Onslow.

8. ENGOs and the FIG network

Minister Parker will sort out our membership. The eNGOs have left a position vacant for F&G to be present in its own right. I have stressed this is not specific to an individual as the eNGO 2 places are, but is for our Organisation and whoever may represent us from time to time

9. Met with Jacqui Dean, National spokesperson for Conservation; courtesy meeting. Meeting with the ACT spokesperson postponed. Damien O'Connor has invited me to meet, and an appointment will be scheduled.

10. eNGO network. After initial suspicion there is a clear understanding on their part that we not only have not changed our positions but are in fact beefing up our advocacy. Good relationships have been established and I have confidence we will work well with them.

Industry Meetings

11. Dairy NZ Farm leaders

Phil Teal and I addressed this group of dairy farmers selected as leaders in environmental practices. We stressed we will support good practice but our attitude to poor practice remains as strong as ever.

12. Irrigation NZ. They asked to meet with us. There is clear concern on their part that the full effects of intensive agriculture supported by intensive irrigation are yet to be seen and there needs to be a re-think on placement.

Regional F&G Councils

13. At their request I met with the Chair Alan Strong of NCFGC and Dave Coll in Christchurch. You have seen the correspondence. I consider that by and large they have a much more competent Council but equally they are proceeding down the same track as got NCFGC into serious trouble in the past. We simply cannot afford to support any Region to the same extent in the future. I note they have rejected my suggestion of mentoring for their relatively new CE.

Implementation of the NPS FM – Otago plan changes 7 & 8

14. Judge Borthwick is running a 7 week hearing which is critical as the first test of in particular Te Mana o te Wai. I attended small parts of 2 days and met with Nigel Paragreen (Otago RMA) and our legal counsel Marie Baker-Galloway. It is very clear we need to negotiate with both DOC and MfE to improve their support for freshwater advocacy.

NZFFA

15. Their Secretary Rex Gibson has been running a destabilisation campaign against NZ Council both in their Newsletter and on RNZ. As is usual with accusations without substance we have never been offered the opportunity to comment. NZ Council has been accused of corruption in his latest rant. This needs to be addressed and arrangements are in hand.

High Country Advisory Group (LINZ)

16. This group advises LINZ on management of the Crown Pastoral Lease properties. Fish and Game is represented for the first time with my appointment by Ministers. The High Country of the South Island is very important to us, and we will be able to work with the DOC, Forest and Bird and EDS representatives.

CEO Report

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 16-18 April 2021

Prepared by: NZC Staff

1. CEO Report

2. Operational Report

Chief Executive

Since the last meeting, the NZC Office has been extremely busy dealing with a number of issues. The team has risen to the various challenges despite reduced resources and continuing uncertainty caused by the impending Ministerial Review and having to deal with an acting Chief Executive. Key points to the reporting period are:

CE Recruitment

At time of writing SWR (our recruiting agency) were closing applications and starting preliminary screening. We have several strong candidates and a "long list" will be finalised the week ending April 9 with interviews starting the following week. The long list (probably six individuals) will be reduced to two or three and in-depth interviews, testing and referencing will be conducted over early May.

Office Accommodation

The current lease expires at the end of June this year. We lease approximately 120m² comprising 107m² of office space and 10m² of storage for archives (which are extensive). Cost is \$55,770+ GST. Current and foreseeable need is around 100m². I conducted some due diligence with Colliers (the leading office accommodation realtors in Wellington). I have visited 6 sites in Wellington in the wider CBD but within easy reach of Parliament and Government Department Buildings. All are around 100m². I have also met with our current landlord.

Generally, we could find more modern accommodation with a saving of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 dollars pa. Despite that I am recommending we renew the current lease for a further 3 years. While there would be savings there would also be hidden costs of a move offsite. In particular:

1. Our current lease includes a meeting room and boardroom. Our landlord has agreed to upgrade the boardroom with a bigger, better table that will seat 14, (12 NZC Councillors, CEO and CFO). No other accommodation I have found could accommodate NZC or Managers' meetings so offsite hireage for Wellington meetings would be required. This ranges between \$400 and \$1000 a day depending on catering and facilities.
2. Our landlord has agreed to waive a rent review and roll the lease over at current rates (with a small addition for the storage space that was wrongly

calculated three years ago). There has been a significant rise in rentals in Wellington over the last three years due to sharp increases in insurance and rates.

3. The building we are currently in is rated at 100% of Building Code. Most of the properties I looked at are below this level.
4. The current space, with an open area, meeting room, utility room and two offices, meets our needs with some flexibility. Most of the accommodation I looked at was open plan and would require quite close workstations. There would also be hidden fitout and moving costs.
5. In addition to meeting facilities the current accommodation has additional benefits not present in most available, modern space. This includes showers, significantly better kitchen facilities and bike storage. While not vital to the running of F&G, they are welcome additions to staff.

In conclusion, while the current offices are not ideal, they will serve us for a further 3 years while we work through the Review. We have sufficient flexibility to accommodate change and a move late June may well be an extremely unwelcome distraction.

Displacement Project

Accompanying this agenda is a study conducted by Otago and Southland in 2019. If Councillors have time please read the entire report. If, however, time is short I would commend you to read pages 121-124.

In scoping this project, we quickly realised, as is often the case, there are two distinct parts to the project. Firstly, defining the problem in a way that leads to, secondly, designing solutions. The attached paper goes a long way towards defining the problem on a scientific basis.

Next steps are to engage with a researcher who can refine what we have and start to design solutions and test those in the market. While we would have liked to be further advanced than we are at this time, we will be progressing this project through May and June.

Magazine Review

The recent debacle with the printing of the magazine will be reviewed with the publishers and printers. There have been a growing number of quality issues with respect to the twice-yearly magazine that we will be addressing at the review. At this stage we plan to meet them straight after Easter.

It is worth noting:

- There were about 600 magazines printed with blurred images. These were the last of a print run of 35,000 copies and all were despatched to regional offices (a lucky quirk of the distribution process). To the best of our knowledge no substandard copies went to licence holders.
- The printer has replaced the substandard copies at no cost to F&G.
- The contract with the publisher expires in November. We will run an open tender at that time.

Communications

Brian

- Seconded to DOC
- One OIA received since the last meeting from a student journalist seeking information on our OIA policies

Richie

- Videos produced on: Xmas bonus for Anglers/NCFG kids fishing day/Wainono Wetland hunting opportunities/Otago Creel survey/NCFG trout festival/GBHT visit to Takitakitoa/Canterbury fish community survey/Rudd removal with DOC & CCC/Southland Smelt survey/Gun City summer season with Rasmus Gabrielsson.
- Media releases as requested including: Summer parrie hunting seasons for AW/T/N and NC F&G/World Wetland Day/ Southland F&G eel research/Otago fish kill & regional councils.
- Magazine articles written and coordination of other magazine articles and production coordination with publishers.
- Weekly Fishing Reports for CSI & NC.
- Monthly Reel Life and Both Barrels production.
- Web support for regions as requested but including special support for: Managed wetland hunting ballots for CSI & NC F&G/NM F&G Quail hunting permits page/ Clinton Worsley Ballot page for Southland F&G.
- Drone filming for CSI F&G for the Ealing Springs habitat enhancement project with DOC.
- Design and production of a salmon season bag limit harvest card for CSI & NC F&G.
- GBHT Photo Competition winner judging and support to NZ Post.
- Design and production completed of the CSIFG Strategic Plan.
- Attend Zoom meetings for the Check Clean Dry Comms coordination group and the Freshwater Implementation Group's Communication and Engagement group.
- Support for the CEO including Joint GAC and FG letter on firearms licencing backlog/Managers Meetings.
- Attend NCFG meeting in February.
- Support Steve Doughty with Website RFP project.

Business Development Manager

Steve Doughty

- Website RFP
 - RFP was completed and delivered to prospective web companies
 - Questions and consultation with suppliers
 - RFP's received and evaluated
 - Decision to retain Hothouse made
- Contract and functional site build for ESL licence website
 - Management of this contract ongoing

- Oversight of function for new licence website and integration with other digital platforms
- Licence working party reformed and assisting this process
- Summer Digital Marketing Campaign
 - Campaign scoped by marketing reference group
 - Targeted to kiwis adding fishing to summer holidays
 - Executed across social media and SEO advertising by Hothouse
 - Results excellent with significant growth in domestic licence sales
- Sales Forecast
 - Modelling sales predictions for balance of 2021 and 2022 budgets
 - Working with licence working party
- Take me Fishing / Take me Hunting
 - Trademark process completed for these brands
 - Developing national launch programme

Finance

-

Policy Advisors

Jack

- Game Bird Regulations
 - Primary workstream since the February meeting has been the preparation and publication of the Game Notice, the Game Licences Fees and Forms Notice and the game bird regulation guides. Broadly this was the most efficient Notice process that I've been involved with although we did have some delay on the actual publication of the regulation guides. As a result I will be putting in some strict deadlines with the publisher for future regulations.
- Policy development:
 - Drafted Ranger Warrant Policy with Deb.
 - Revised Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy.
 - Guide's licence:
 - The guide's licence has been returned to DOC with a complete list of questions for Government departments and we hope to socialise this the relevant departments before seeking policy approval from the Minister of Conservation.
 - NZPFGA Concession:
 - We are awaiting response from DOC on Fish & Game consultation as part of this process.
- Regional co-ordination:

- Set up consultation register on SharePoint, which records documents that are currently out for consultation at either governance or operational levels and records receipt of feedback.
- Co-ordinated and processed ranger warrants.
- Provide support and advice to regions on legislation/policy.
- Meetings:
 - I attended a meeting of the Taupō Fishery Advisory Committee and a meeting of the New Zealand Fish Passage Advisory Group.
 - Regular meetings with DOC staff on various issues.

Deb

- Completed the Policy Review
- Created a Request for Quote (RFQ) for Staff Safety and Security Training
- Drafted a Ranger Warrant Policy
- Created a Needs Assessment of the current ranger training
- Moved all my files onto the new Sharepoint Directory
- Assist Jack in responding to the MPI proposal for a new special permit purpose for aquatic pest species

Recommendations

1. *That the report be received.*

CEO Recruitment Update (Oral)

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 16 and 17 April 2021

Prepared by: Cr Ray Grubb, Chair, New Zealand Fish and Game Council

NZC Finance Report

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 150, 16th – 18th April 2021

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

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of the paper is to update the NZC financial position to the period ended 28 February 2021.

Background

- 2 This report includes:
 - 2.1 Table 1: Income & Expenditure for the 6 months ended 28 February 2021 – Combined Budgets (NZC & National)
 - 2.2 Table 2: Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2021
 - 2.3 Table 3: Aged Receivables Summary as at 28 February 2021
 - 2.4 Table 4: Aged Payables Summary as at 28 February 2021
 - 2.5 Table 5: Income & Expenditure for the 6 months ended 28 February 2021 –NZC budget only.
 - 2.6 Table 6: Income & Expenditure for the 6 months ended 28 February 2021 – National budget only.

Analysis

- 3 **Income and Expenditure to 28 February 2021** – NZC is tracking to Budget. YTD Surplus of \$62,291.
- 4 Total income YTD is \$1,421,931 which is 49% of the Budgeted income.
- 5 At the halfway point in the year the expenditure YTD is 40% of budget. There are a few outlying budgets that impact this:
 - 5.1 There have been no expenses to date in the budgets for Business Development & R3, Maritime Compliance, Managers meeting and the Website development. These budgets total \$229k. These budgets will be spent by Year end.
 - 5.2 Governance Advice is over budget by \$21k and it is anticipated there will be additional costs in this area.
- 6 **Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2021** - see attached on Table 2 with supporting reports for the Accounts receivable (Table 3)and Accounts payable(Table 4).

- 7 Reserves reflect the current commitment for RMA and Research.
- 8 NZC accounts are split by National budgets and NZC budgets. The National Budget is the budgets the NZC co-ordinate on behalf of the Regional Councils. The NZC budget represents budgets that are for the running of the NZC.
- 9 Tables 5 & 6 split the combined budget into National and NZC budgets. The split between the 2 budgets are:

February 2021 Split of NZC and National Budget			
		YTD Actual	Budget
	NZC only - Table 6	439,275	903,702
	National - Table 7	(376,984)	(1,390,640)
	TOTAL - Table 1	62,291	(486,938)

10

Financial Implications

- 11 A summary of commitments is attached. This gives an indication of unspent portion of the budget that to date do not contracts. Note only cost centres with remaining budgets of over \$10k have been identified.

Schedule of Commitments

Budget	Remaining Budget	Committed Funds	Uncommitted Funds/(over committed)
Advocacy - Legal & Specialist Advice	40,200	20,000	20,200
Business Development & R3	12,000	0	12,000
Communications/Consumables	18,675	18,675	0
Elections	22,500	22,500	0
Governors Forum	12,000	12,000	0
Grants to Regions	360,057	431,283	(71,226)
Information Technology- National	25,706	25,706	0
Licensing	209,460	209,460	0
Manager Meetings	12,000	12,000	0
Marketing	10,432	10,432	0
National Magazine	197,172	197,172	0
National Public Awareness	10,067	0	10,067
New Zealand Council	26,127	13,000	13,127
Office Premises	35,196	35,196	0
Ranger Co-ordination	16,897	16,897	0
Regional Audit	10,000	0	10,000
Regulations	64,047	52,000	12,047
Salaries & Contractors	398,206	398,206	0
Website and Social Media	17,065	17,065	0
Website Development	200,000	0	200,000
TOTAL	1,697,805	1,491,591	206,214
Other Commitments			
Research Reserve as at 28 Feb 2021	260,637	232,927	27,710
RMA/Legal reserve as at 28 Feb 2021	504,916	414,916	90,000
TOTAL Commitments 28 Feb 2021	2,463,358	2,139,434	323,924

12

Legislative Implications

13 N/A

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

14 N/A.

Policy Implications

15 N/A.

Consultation

16 N/A.

17 N/A.

Recommendations

1 *The NZC Finance Report for February 2021 be accepted.*

Table 1: Income & Expenditure - NZC meeting

New Zealand Fish and Game Council For the month ended 28 February 2021

	FEB 2021	TOTAL YTD 2020 21	TOTAL BUDGET 2020 21	REMAINING BUDGET	% OF BUDGET SPENT
INCOME					
Levies	7,645	1,383,979	2,765,615	1,381,636	50%
Interest Income	936	3,973	11,099	7,126	36%
Other income	2,345	27,599	146,500	118,901	19%
Donations - Water Quality	-	6,380	-	(6,380)	-
Total INCOME	10,927	1,421,931	2,923,214	1,501,283	49%
GRANTS TO REGIONS					
Grants to Regions	-	362,399	722,456	360,057	50%
Total GRANTS TO REGIONS	-	362,399	722,456	360,057	50%
OUTPUTS					
ADVOCACY					
Advocacy - Legal & Specialist Advice	3,359	19,800	60,000	40,200	33%
Advocacy for Fish & Game - NZC	1,450	5,664	7,500	1,836	76%
National Public Awareness	305	10,933	21,000	10,067	52%
National Magazine	209	2,328	199,500	197,172	1%
RMA/Legal	4,943	57,727	314,000	256,273	18%
Total ADVOCACY	10,265	96,453	602,000	505,547	16%
RESEARCH					
Research Programme	-	300	70,000	69,700	0%
Total RESEARCH	-	300	70,000	69,700	0%
CO-ORDINATION					
Business Development & R3	-	-	12,000	12,000	-
Marketing	701	19,568	30,000	10,432	65%
Business & Financial Support	-	328	2,000	1,672	16%
Co-ordination National - Chairman Travel	1,364	3,275	6,000	2,725	55%
Elections	3,750	22,500	45,000	22,500	50%
Regulations	4,096	7,953	72,000	64,047	11%
Information Technology- National	3,145	20,294	46,000	25,706	44%
Maritime NZ Compliance	-	-	5,000	5,000	-
Manager Meetings	-	-	12,000	12,000	-
Staff Development Grant	-	(1,796)	-	1,796	-
Youth Education Programme	-	6,037	7,000	963	86%
Website and Social Media	4,468	23,575	40,640	17,065	58%
Website Development	-	-	200,000	200,000	-
Ranger Co-ordination	68	10,603	27,500	16,897	39%
Licensing	41,802	234,040	443,500	209,460	53%
Total CO-ORDINATION	59,393	346,378	948,640	602,262	37%
Total OUTPUTS	69,658	443,132	1,620,640	1,177,508	27%
GOVERNANCE					

Table 1: Income & Expenditure - NZC meeting

	FEB 2021	TOTAL YTD 2020 21	TOTAL BUDGET 2020 21	REMAINING BUDGET	% OF BUDGET SPENT
New Zealand Council	513	18,873	45,000	26,127	42%
Governance Advice & Performance	7,238	41,105	20,000	(21,105)	206%
Governors Forum	-	-	12,000	12,000	-
Regional Audit	-	-	10,000	10,000	-
Total GOVERNANCE	7,751	59,978	87,000	27,022	69%
OVERHEADS					
Salaries & Contractors	52,547	415,674	813,880	398,206	51%
Staff Expenses	443	10,340	15,310	4,970	68%
Office Premises	5,256	32,864	68,060	35,196	48%
Office Equipment	147	322	3,000	2,678	11%
Communications/Consumables	1,207	9,561	28,236	18,675	34%
General (inc Insurance)	67	3,716	11,800	8,084	31%
Financial Audit Fee	1,166	6,996	14,000	7,004	50%
Vehicle Expenses	971	6,670	9,000	2,330	74%
Depreciation	1,326	7,987	16,770	8,783	48%
Total OVERHEADS	63,129	494,130	980,056	485,926	50%
Total Expenses	140,538	1,359,640	3,410,152	2,050,512	40%
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(129,612)	62,291	(486,938)	(549,229)	-13%

Table 2: Balance Sheet

New Zealand Fish and Game Council As at 28 February 2021

	28 FEB 2021	31 AUG 2020
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
NZ Fish and Game Council	562,949	381,507
NZ Fish and Game Council - Sav	116,587	93,354
Serious Saver	503,351	704,473
Credit Cards	(5,730)	(6,131)
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,177,157	1,173,203
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	4,077	164,024
Accounts Receivable - Other	118	74
Interest Receivable	-	4,024
Total Receivables	4,195	168,122
Term Investments	1,267,969	1,361,703
Prepayments and Accrued Income	-	97,500
Total Current Assets	2,449,320	2,800,529
Non-current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	42,113	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	212,113	220,395
Total Assets	2,661,433	3,020,924
Liabilities		
Payables		
Accounts Payable	90,867	298,807
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	80,780	130,208
PAYE Clearing	-	-
GST	62,252	65,849
Total Payables	233,899	494,864
Employee Entitlements	38,767	66,623
Rounding	-	-
NZGBHT - Stamp Programme	375	133,337
Total Liabilities	273,042	694,824
Net Assets	2,388,391	2,326,100
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,538,380	1,442,292

Table 2: Balance Sheet

	28 FEB 2021	31 AUG 2020
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	(8,088)	(337,663)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	62,292	433,751
Total Accumulated Funds	1,592,584	1,538,380
Reserves		
Asset Replacement Reserve	30,254	24,139
RMA/Legal Fund Reserve	504,917	562,644
Research Reserve	260,637	200,937
Total Reserves	795,808	787,720
Total Equity	2,388,391	2,326,100

Table 3 : Aged Receivables Summary

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

As at 28 February 2021

CONTACT	CURRENT	< 1 MONTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	OLDER	TOTAL
Eyede Solutions Limited	811	-	-	-	-	811
Kilwell Sports Ltd	552	-	-	-	-	552
Our Man In New Zealand	276	-	-	-	-	276
Outdoor Access Limited	-	690	-	690	690	2,070
Owen River Lodge	368	-	-	-	-	368
Total	2,007	690	-	690	690	4,077

Table 4: Aged Payables Summary

New Zealand Fish and Game Council As at 28 February 2021

CONTACT	CURRENT	< 1 MONTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	OLDER	TOTAL
Aged Payables						
2degrees	215	-	-	-	-	215
Air New Zealand Travel Card	875	-	-	-	-	875
BP Oil New Zealand	340	-	-	-	-	340
Computer & Telephone Services Ltd	71	-	-	-	-	71
Department of Internal Affairs	4,721	-	-	-	-	4,721
Eastern Fish and Game Council	1,792	-	-	-	-	1,792
Eyede Solutions Limited	46,063	-	-	-	-	46,063
Ferret Software Ltd	748	-	-	-	-	748
Fuji Xerox New Zealand Limited	25	-	-	-	-	25
Gemtech Solutions Limited	690	-	-	-	-	690
Geoff Davenport	8,323	-	-	-	-	8,323
Google	676	-	-	-	-	676
Hothouse Communications Limited	4,030	-	-	-	-	4,030
Id Solutions 1993 Limited	78	-	-	-	-	78
New Zealand Couriers- Wellington	20	-	-	-	-	20
Otago Fish and Game Council	5,897	-	-	-	-	5,897
Redstripe Limited	2,870	-	-	-	-	2,870
Road Rubber tyres	197	-	-	-	-	197
Steve Doughty	100	-	-	-	-	100
Stoney Creek	140	-	-	-	-	140
SWR Group NZ Limited	9,047	-	-	-	-	9,047
Taxicharge New Zealand Limited	36	-	-	-	-	36
Wendy Aldred	3,863	-	-	-	-	3,863
Windcave New Zealand Limited	50	-	-	-	-	50
Total Aged Payables	90,867	-	-	-	-	90,867
Total	90,867	-	-	-	-	90,867

Table 5: Income & Expenditure - NZC only

New Zealand Fish and Game Council For the month ended 28 February 2021

Region is NZC.

	YTD NZC 2020 21	NZC BUDGET	% OF BUDGET	REMAINING BUDGET
INCOME				
Levies	1,383,979	2,765,615	50%	1,381,636
Interest Income	3,973	11,099	36%	7,126
Other income	954	6,000	16%	5,046
Total INCOME	1,388,905	2,782,714	50%	1,393,809
GRANTS TO REGIONS				
Grants to Regions	362,399	722,456	50%	360,057
Total GRANTS TO REGIONS	362,399	722,456	50%	360,057
OUTPUTS				
ADVOCACY				
Advocacy - Legal & Specialist Advice	19,800	60,000	33%	40,200
Advocacy for Fish & Game - NZC	5,664	7,500	76%	1,836
National Public Awareness	4,054	14,000	29%	9,946
Total ADVOCACY	29,519	81,500	36%	51,981
CO-ORDINATION				
Business & Financial Support	328	2,000	16%	1,672
Co-ordination National - Chairman Travel	3,275	6,000	55%	2,725
Total CO-ORDINATION	3,603	8,000	45%	4,397
Total OUTPUTS	33,122	89,500	37%	56,378
GOVERNANCE				
New Zealand Council	18,873	45,000	42%	26,127
Governance Advice & Performance	41,105	20,000	206%	(21,105)
Governors Forum	-	12,000	-	12,000
Regional Audit	-	10,000	-	10,000
Total GOVERNANCE	59,978	87,000	69%	27,022
OVERHEADS				
Salaries & Contractors	415,674	813,880	51%	398,206
Staff Expenses	10,340	15,310	68%	4,970
Office Premises	32,864	68,060	48%	35,196
Office Equipment	322	3,000	11%	2,678
Communications/Consumables	9,561	28,236	34%	18,675
General (inc Insurance)	3,716	11,800	31%	8,084
Financial Audit Fee	6,996	14,000	50%	7,004
Vehicle Expenses	6,670	9,000	74%	2,330
Depreciation	7,987	16,770	48%	8,783
Total OVERHEADS	494,130	980,056	50%	485,926

Table 5: Income & Expenditure - NZC only

	YTD NZC 2020 21	NZC BUDGET	% OF BUDGET	REMAINING BUDGET
Total Expenses	949,630	1,879,012	51%	929,382
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	439,275	903,702	49%	464,427

Table 6: Income & Expenditure - National only

New Zealand Fish and Game Council For the month ended 28 February 2021

Region is National.

	YTD NATIONAL 2020 21	NATIONAL BUDGET	% OF BUDGET	REMAINING BUDGET
INCOME				
Other income	26,646	140,500	19%	113,854
Donations - Water Quality	6,380	-	-	(6,380)
Total INCOME	33,026	140,500	24%	107,474
OUTPUTS				
ADVOCACY				
National Public Awareness	6,879	7,000	98%	121
National Magazine	2,328	199,500	1%	197,172
RMA/Legal	57,727	314,000	18%	256,273
Total ADVOCACY	66,934	520,500	13%	453,566
RESEARCH	300	70,000	0%	69,700
CO-ORDINATION				
Business Development & R3	-	12,000	-	12,000
Marketing	19,568	30,000	65%	10,432
Elections	22,500	45,000	50%	22,500
Regulations	7,953	72,000	11%	64,047
Information Technology- National	20,294	46,000	44%	25,706
Maritime NZ Compliance	-	5,000	-	5,000
Manager Meetings	-	12,000	-	12,000
Staff Development Grant	(1,796)	-	-	1,796
Youth Education Programme	6,037	7,000	86%	963
Website and Social Media	23,575	40,640	58%	17,065
Website Development	-	200,000	-	200,000
Ranger Co-ordination	10,603	27,500	39%	16,897
Licensing				
Licence Contract	120,538	245,000	49%	124,462
Licence Working Party/CRM Database mngt	3,294	10,000	33%	6,706
Licence Production	107,208	182,500	59%	75,292
Licence Audit	3,000	6,000	50%	3,000
Total Licensing	234,040	443,500	53%	209,460
Total CO-ORDINATION	342,775	940,640	36%	597,865
Total OUTPUTS	410,010	1,531,140	27%	1,121,130
Total Expenses	410,010	1,531,140	27%	1,121,130
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(376,984)	(1,390,640)	27%	(1,013,656)

National Finance Report to 28 February 2021

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 150 16-18th April 2021

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

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to update the New Zealand Council on the YTD expenditure by each Council against budget as at 28 February 2021.

Background

- 2 The New Zealand Council approved the 2020/21 Budgets/Levies and Grants on the 27th July 2020. These Budgets also included each Council making at least a 10% loss for the year. Refer Table 1 for the Approved Budget/Levy/Grants and Budgeted Deficits for each Council for the 2020/21 year:

Region	Net Total Licence Income	Approved Budget	Less use of Reserves 10%	Levy/ (Grant)	Forecast Surplus/(Deficit)
Northland	\$152,238	\$508,200	53,495	(\$302,470)	(\$53,493)
Auckland/Waikato	\$811,735	\$795,379	81,619	\$117,976	(\$101,619)
Eastern	\$1,131,483	\$1,071,572	112,797	\$172,709	(\$112,798)
Hawkes Bay	\$359,956	\$368,127	38,750	\$30,579	(\$38,750)
Taranaki	\$149,130	\$357,970	37,764	(\$171,861)	(\$36,979)
Wellington	\$544,418	\$762,502	80,263	(\$137,820)	(\$80,264)
Nelson-Marlb	\$383,149	\$444,491	45,352	(\$2,343)	(\$58,999)
Nth Canterbury	\$1,264,526	\$775,672	80,776	\$569,630	(\$80,776)
West Coast	\$194,753	\$346,448	35,889	(\$110,306)	(\$41,389)
Central SI	\$1,259,743	\$673,164	69,544	\$668,622	(\$82,043)
Otago	\$1,572,186	\$961,612	101,222	\$711,804	(\$101,229)
Southland	\$1,072,580	\$643,699	67,758	\$496,639	(\$67,758)
NZC inc Research & RMA	\$0	\$2,525,557	240,379	(\$2,043,159)	(\$482,398)
TOTAL	\$8,895,898	\$10,234,393	\$1,045,607	(\$0)	(\$1,338,495)

Analysis

- 3 With 6 months of the year completed (50%), The total YTD expenditure across all Councils is 44%. (refer Table 3) Councils fall within 27% to 55% of spending to Budget. The National Budget is only at 27% as some major project budget will not be spent until the end of the year. In general Councils are operating within their Approved Budget YTD.

Table 3: National Fish & Game Financial Report

As at 28 February 2021 Year to Date Expenditure against Total Approved Budget

Council	Accounting Basis	Total Budget (inc from Reserves)	Net Expenditure to 28 Feb 2021	YTD %	% of Reserves to Budget 31/8/20	Excess \$\$ General Reserve (Inc Dedicated reserves) over 30%
Northland	Accrual - Xero	508,203	225,835	44%	71%	194,829
Auckland/Waikato	Accrual - Xero	795,379	385,410	48%	43%	69,435
Eastern	Accrual - Xero	1,071,572	426,706	40%	48%	162,584
Hawkes' Bay	Accrual - Xero	368,127	116,079	32%	140%	394,805
Taranaki	Accrual - Xero	357,970	183,910	51%	23%	0
Wellington	Accrual - Xero	762,502	355,503	47%	64%	234,502
Nelson/Marlborough	Accrual - Xero	444,491	212,010	48%	33%	0
North Canterbury	Accrual - Xero	775,672	306,099	39%	11%	0
West Coast	Accrual - Xero	346,448	152,796	44%	62%	99,985
Central South Island	Accrual - Xero	673,134	341,453	51%	95%	411,876
Otago	Accrual - Xero	961,604	529,255	55%	93%	577,475
Southland	Accrual	643,699	301,483	47%	105%	462,425
NZC	Accrual - Xero	1,134,917	568,203	50%	41%	192,157
National inc RMA & Research	Accrual - Xero	1,390,640	376,984	27%		
Total		10,234,358	4,481,724	44%		2,800,073
6 months of the year completed, which represents				50%	of the year	

4

Financial Implications

5 At present there are no concerns as to the spending of Council's Budgets.

Legislative Implications

6 n/a

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

7 n/a.

Consultation

8 n/a.

Recommendations

1 *The New Zealand Council Accept the National Financial report as at 28 February 2021.*

RMA/Legal Update

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 150, 16-18th April 2021

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

Purpose

- 1 To update the Council on committed funds in the RMA Legal Fund as at 28 February 2021.

Background

- 2 Each year the NZC applies puts in a Contestable Funding application for the RMA/legal fund.
- 3 In the 2020 21 year the \$314,000 was allocated to RMA Funding.
- 4 All funding has been allocated to projects as per the table attached.

Analysis & Financial Implications

- 5 At present the balance of the RMA/legal fund is \$504,916. This represents the commitment that the NZC have to Regions for their RMA/legal projects.
- 6 Funding was approved in August 2020 for the NPS FM (\$150,000). Of this, \$50k has been committed to Otago and \$10k spent – the balance of \$90k is uncommitted.
- 7 There are 3 projects that are being paid for out of the Regional reserves .The Southland Water & Land Plan appeal and Otago have 2 – the Transitional Mining and One Plan Change 2.
- 8 The NZC will need to put in a Contestable funding application for the 2021/22 year for legal/RMA funding.

Consultation

- 9 RMA funding is applied for by the regions and managers are included in the approval process.

Recommendations

- 1 *That the report be received.*

RMA /Legal Fund Reserve

LIVE and Approved Legal/RMA Fund Applications									
As at 28 February 2021									
Region	Project Name	Date Approved	Total Approved	Source	Total Spent to Date	Withdrawn	Under/Over Spent to date	Committed Funds	Status Update
Auck/Wai	Healthy Rivers	22-Aug-20	\$110,000	NZC Fund	-	-	\$110,000	\$110,000	
Auck/Wai	Whangamarino Weir and Waikato Regional Council	11-Nov-17	\$50,000	NZC Fund	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	
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	\$5,000	\$0	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$50k committed to Otago projects Feb 21
NZC	Lindis River Appeal	22/11/2019 & August 2020	200,000.00	NZC Fund	\$131,696	\$0	\$68,304	\$68,304	
Otago	Lindis River Minimum Flow Plan Change 5A	17/03/2018 & 23/11/18	\$360,000	Otago Reserves	\$439,174	\$0	-\$79,174	\$0	
Otago	Transitional Mining Consents-Exceptional	11-Nov-17	\$150,000	Otago Reserves	\$132,463	0	\$17,537	\$17,537	
Otago	Plan Change	16-Feb-21	\$120,000	Otago Reserves	\$26,899	0	\$93,101	\$93,101	
WGTN	Wairarapa Water Project	07-2016/17	\$20,000	NZC Fund	\$19,249	\$0	\$751	\$751	
WGTN	GW Natural Resource Plan	24/11/2019	\$40,000	NZC Fund	\$19,616	\$0	\$20,384	\$20,384	
WGTN	One Plan Change 2	23/11/2019	\$38,000	NZC Fund	\$998	\$0	\$37,002	\$37,002	
Southland	Southland Water & Land Plan appeal	23/Nov/18	84,000.00	Southland Reserves	\$145,385	\$0	-\$61,385	\$0	
Southland	Southland Water & Land Plan appeal - NZC meeting 147	21/Aug/20	\$55,000	NZC Fund	\$0	\$0	\$55,000	\$55,000	

TOTAL ACROSS ORGANISATION									
			Live and Approved Applications		Spent to Date	Withdrawn	Under/Over Spent to date	Committed Funds	NZC Legal/RMA Fund 2019/20
Totals - includes closed projects			\$3,704,681		\$3,172,874	\$297,610	\$234,196	\$615,554	
Less RMA out of Regions Reserves			\$885,320		\$921,162	\$4,858	-\$40,700	\$110,638	
Total Committed from National Budget			\$2,819,361		\$2,251,712	\$292,752	\$274,896	\$504,916	\$562,643

Movement in Reserves since 31/8/20

-\$57,727

Recommendation: RMA/Legal report be accepted with committed funds of \$504,916 as at 28 February 2021

Research Update

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 150, 16-18th April 2021

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

Purpose

- 1 To update the Council on committed funds in the Research Fund as at 28 February 2021.

Background

- 2 Each year the NZC allocates funding towards Research for the whole of Fish and Game to utilise. In the current year \$70,000 (in previous years \$120k) was allocated to the research fund.
- 3 Funds are allocated to projects each year and any uncommitted funds are held in the Research Fund reserve for future projects.

Analysis & Financial Implications

- 4 At present the balance of the Research fund is \$260,637, with uncommitted projects totalling \$117,709. (\$28k for Mallard and \$89k for “other” research) (see attached schedule)
- 5 At present the National Anglers Survey is underfunded by \$90,000.
- 6 There has been \$11,233 withdrawn from the fund for the NIWA Didymo study that was a N/Marl research project 69. This amount has been added to the uncommitted funds.

Consultation

- 7 Regions have provided updates on research projects and funding requirements.

Recommendations

- 1 *Note: That the \$11,233 withdrawn by project 67 has been transferred to the uncommitted fund*
- 2 *That the report be received.*

**New Zealand Fish and Game Council - Research Fund
As at 28 February 2021**

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 presentation 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	2,368	-	632	Ongoing \$500 budget every yr
57	NAS -National Anglers Survey (includes committed funds to Sept '21 10k per yr)	Helen Trotter	NZC	May-13	199,984	113,718	-	86,266	Total committed to 2021
59 & 66	Trophic interactions and potential use of food-web manipulation in the resotation 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 Sequencing 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	-	Withdrawn by N/M at managers meeting 4/3/21
70	Limnological 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
	Uncommitted funds - withdrawn project 69							11,233	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				\$ 1,268,934	\$ 868,238	\$ 154,677	\$ 260,637	

Recommendation: Accept Research Fund of \$260,637 as at 28 February 2021

Summary of Uncommitted Funds

Total Mallard Research uncommmited Funds	27,976
Total Other Research uncommmited Funds	89,733
Less underfunded NAS project	(90,000)
Total Uncommitted Funds	27,709
Net Committed Funds to Research	232,927

Correspondence Register

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 16 and 17 April 2021



26 March 2021

Mr Ray Grubb
NZ Fish & Game Council, Chair
PO Box 25 055
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Ray,

Future of National Sea-Run Salmon Committee

The National Sea-Run Salmon Committee (Salmon Committee) was formed by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) following a recommendation by the Salmon Symposium held in Ashburton in November 2017. The Salmon Committee was chaired by the NZC Chief Executive and was made up of governor representatives from the South Island “salmon regions” plus stakeholder representatives.

Progress was made after the Salmon Committee sought advice from experienced salmon management practitioners, primarily from the CSI and North Canterbury Fish and Game regions. The Salmon Committee’s main accomplishments were to adopt a definition of “wild salmon” and to successfully initiate a season limit bag to the Minister of Conservation, with the assistance of the NZC staff. The previous Minister approved the “principle” of a season limit bag, which was to be referred to Cabinet. We await that referral and the necessary Cabinet decision.

Since these achievements, the Salmon Committee has not met for just over a year. CSI believes that this signals that the policy work of the Salmon Committee has been completed and it is now time for implementation by the South Island “salmon regions”.

The CSI Council resolved:

TO RECOMMEND TO THE NZ COUNCIL THAT THE NATIONAL SEA-RUN SALMON COMMITTEE BE DISBANDED AND THAT THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE SEA-RUN SALMON FISHERY BE UNDERTAKEN COLLABORATIVELY BY THE SOUTH ISLAND SALMON REGIONS.

Please can NZC consider this recommendation and advise NZC’s decision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Simpson'.

Dr Andrew Simpson
Chair, Central South Island Fish and Game Council

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

Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka 7948, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 615 8400
www.fishandgame.org.nz



15 March 2021

Hon Poto Williams
Minister of Police
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

poto.williams@parliament.govt.nz

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koe, Minita,

Resolving the backlog of firearms licence renewals affecting the hunting season

We are writing jointly as the two statutory bodies that represent hunters in New Zealand to request you formally extend the expiry date of all firearm licences that have applied for renewal and are affected by delays in process caused by the changes in firearms legislation.

It is important that this extension covers all outstanding licence renewals and also licences that are about to expire before 31st July 2021. This will ensure that licence holders are able to participate in the key hunting periods of the roar and the duck hunting season.

Both the Game Animal Council and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council are receiving regular communications from firearms licence holders going through the renewal process and experiencing significant and unexpected delays in that process. These delays are due to the combination of systemic challenges presented by COVID-19 and changes to the Arms Act that were enacted last year.

Licence holders subject to these delays are distressed at the possibility of not being able to partake in the roar or game bird season, which are traditional activities and important food gathering opportunities for many communities. The roar typically starts towards the end of March while the game bird season begins on 1 May.

Our most pressing concern is for firearms licence holders who are going through the renewal process. These hunters have already been through the Police vetting and security check process and, in many cases, have submitted their renewal well before the expiry of their current licence.

You will have been briefed by Police on their efforts to remedy this situation, but both the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the Game Animal Council are concerned that any remedy may be some months away and after the current hunting seasons have ended.

Deer hunters, in particular, had a truncated hunting season last year due to the level 4 lockdown and it is disappointing that licence renewal delays could force many hunters to again miss out on the season this year.

A pragmatic solution to this problem would be to take the immediate pressure off Police and grant a further extension to licence holders who have started the renewal process, but whose licence will expire before the renewal is processed.

This would also mean that law-abiding licence holders don't need to relocate their firearms and ammunition. We are not aware of the number of firearms licence holders who are refused a licence at renewal, but our expectation is that this is a tiny minority. Therefore, the overall risk would seem to be extremely small.

Considering licence holders have already been vetted by Police at least once (some may have been vetted up to three times), we view an extension to their licences would be the most practical solution. This will enable Police to get on top of the backlog and ensure hunters get to enjoy the most important period of the hunting year.

Both the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the Game Animal Council would be happy to meet with you and your officials to discuss this proposal. Alternatively, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Ngā mihi



Grant Dodson
Chairperson
NZ Game Animal Council
grant.dodson@nzgac.org.nz
0276546554



Rainsford (Ray) Grubb
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
raygrubb@gmail.com
0211335570



Hon David Parker & Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister for the Environment and Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

1 March 2021

**The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater)
Regulations 2020 (NES-FW)**

Dear Ministers,

As you know, Fish & Game New Zealand administer sports fishing and game bird resources in New Zealand under the Conservation and Wildlife Acts. We are responsible for managing, maintaining, and enhancing the sports fish and game resources and the habitat they live in as trout, salmon, and game birds, to provide healthy recreation for Kiwis. Fish & Game works to protect the environment that anglers and hunters have enjoyed as a tradition for over 150 years.

The NPS-FW and NES-FW are critical pieces in the protection of habitat that Fish & Game strongly supports.

However, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council have identified amendments in two areas that would make the NES better fit for purpose.

These are in the areas of wetlands and standards for Intensive Winter Grazing.

Wetlands

In Fish & Game's view, the NES-FW restrict restoration and simple structures in wetlands (such as maimai, boardwalks and signs) to such an extent that they will discourage people from caring for and making wetlands accessible. The regulations will have a considerable detrimental impact on the Fish & Game's licence holders and on Fish and Game's operations regarding the maintenance and construction of maimai and other activities in wetlands, including wetland restoration works. We believe these detrimental outcomes will also affect all regional councils and NGO's who routinely undertake wetland restoration and maintenance.

Standards for Intensive Winter Grazing

Fish & Game is concerned that the minimum requirements in the NES-FW for intensive winter grazing are inadequate to mitigate the risk that the activity's effects pose to the health of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. Regional councils have had ample opportunity to regulate poor practice intensive winter grazing of forage crops appropriately but have not, hence the need for an NES-FW. Therefore, to now rely on Regional Councils to manage the

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

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.

activity through a consenting regime, where practitioners cannot meet permitted activity conditions, will not be effective. Regional Councils will seek to imbed the NES-FW minimum requirements at a regional level concerning intensive winter grazing and not regulate further where required. In response, Fish & Game recommends changes are made to strengthen the NES-FW provisions with intensive winter grazing.

Fish & Game's view

Appended are two advocacy statements highlighting requested changes to the NES-FM if you seek further information on our positions. These have been adopted by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council with the support of regional Fish & Game councils.

If you or your officials have any questions, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely



RJ Grubb
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Fish & Game Website RFP

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting 16 and 17 April 2021

Prepared by: Steve Doughty, Business Development Manager, NZ Fish and Game Council

Purpose

1. To inform NZC of the decision made in engaging a web development company for the redevelopment of the Fish & Game website and authorise the acting CEO to sign the contract for the project.

Analysis

2. Following approval of budget for the redevelopment of the Fish & Game website a robust and thorough RFP and supplier selection process has been completed using Diagram Limited, a well-respected digital consultancy based in Wellington.
3. Diagram Limited worked with us to develop the RFP which was offered to 12 potential suppliers, all of whom met the capabilities of the project. Of the 12, 4 declined based on capacity, 8 offered proposals which were then reduced to a shortlist of 3 by myself and Diagram Limited.
4. With 3 proposals on the table from Catalyst, PS Digital and Hothouse, an RFP evaluation team was formed of Paul Shortis, Ian Hadland, Richie Cosgrove, Tom Hovey of Diagram Limited and myself. All 3 companies had offered strong proposals within budget and meeting all the technical requirements of the RFP.
5. The selection process involved initial assessments of proposals against the RFP, meetings with suppliers and reference checks. All data was collated in to a final meeting moderated by Diagram Limited with a scoring and weighting process to determine the best proposal. This resulted in Hothouse as a clear winner which can be seen on the chart attached.

Financial Implications

6. The budget indicated in the Website RFP is \$100,000 for discovery and build of the website. Hothouse have quoted \$96,780. They also offered the lowest hourly rate for ongoing maintenance and hosting.

7. The budget for the entire project is \$200,000. The balance of the project will account for the other \$100,000 and these decisions, yet to be made, will include:

- \$15,000 - Retain Diagram Ltd for 6 months for digital implementation across the website, ESL licence system, booking system, CRM and EDM
- \$15,000 - RFP for a CRM and EDM system managed by Diagram Ltd
- \$30,000 - Implementation of CRM and EDM systems
- \$20,000 – Online booking system
- \$20,000 – Contingency for website functionality identified in discovery phase that cannot be determined until that process is complete.

Legislative Implications

8. Website will meet legislative requirements in terms of content and security.

9.

Section 4 Treaty Obligations

10. Will form part of website content.

Policy Implications

11. NZC office is coordinating the website redevelopment under its coordinating function.

Summary

12. The primary intent of this paper is to inform the NZC of progress on the overall digital project and selection of a web development partner.

Recommendation:

1. *The CEO be authorised to sign the contract with Hothouse up to a maximum cost of \$116,780 comprising the \$96,780 as part of the RFP and up to \$20,000 for functionality identified in the discovery process.*

APPENDIX ONE:

RFP selection panel scores.

Fish & Game partner evaluation matrix

		Scoring the partners from 1 to 10					
		HotHouse		Catalyst		PS digital	
Weighting	RFP factors	Raw score	Weighted score	Raw score	Weighted score	Raw score	Weighted score
15%	User experience and IA Example sites are easy to use and organised in a way that makes sense?	8	1.2	6	0.9	7	1.05
15%	Content Have they demonstrated a good approach to improving content?	7.5	1.125	7	1.05	7	1.05
10%	Front-end capability Do the example websites have good menus and interactive elements that load quickly and work well on mobile?	7	0.7	8	0.8	6	0.6
20%	Silverstripe and Backend capability Have they demonstrated Silverstripe expertise and provided examples of websites more complex than just showing content?	7	1.4	8	1.6	6	1.2
10%	References and project approach Do their clients rave about them, and how they approached their project?	8	0.8	7	0.7	8	0.8
30%	Budget Are we confident about where the money goes and the value delivered?	8	2.4	7	2.1	7	2.1
		Weighted total 76%		Weighted total 72%		Weighted total 68%	
		HotHouse		Catalyst		PS digital	
Weighting	Non RFP factors	Raw score	Weighted score	Raw score	Weighted score	Raw score	Weighted score
33%	Relationship What are they like? Can we work with them, will they be a good partner?	8	2.64	7	2.31	8	2.64
33%	Enthusiasm How keen do we feel that they are to do this project?	8	2.64	8	2.64	7	2.31
33%	Comprehension How well do we think they understand us, the brief and the 198 project?	9	2.97	7	2.31	8	2.64
		Weighted total 83%		Weighted total 73%		Weighted total 76%	