

One-hundred-and-twenty-seventh meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
CQ Hotel, Cuba Street, Wellington
Friday 21, Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 July 2017
Commencing 8.30 am

PRESENT

NZ Councillors

Lindsay Lyons (Chairperson), Noel Birchall, Colin Sherrard, Kevin Williams, Alan Flynn, Andrew Morris, Paul Dixon-Didier, Andy Harris, John Cumberpatch, Matthew Hall, John Jillett and Paul Stenning.

In Attendance

NZ Office Staff: Bryce Johnson Chief Executive, Alison Lyall Finance & Administration Manager (Friday & Saturday to 3.00 pm only), Don Rood Communications Manager and Robert Sowman Policy & Planning Manager.

Participants

Andrew Wilson, ForeConsulting (8.30 am to 1.30 pm Friday)

Rt Hon, Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC and Elana Geddis (3.30 – 4.45 pm Friday)

Lou Sanson Director-General Conservation (arrived Saturday 11.45 am – departed after lunch),

INTRODUCTION

1. Welcome

The Chairperson extended a welcome and outlined the programme for the meeting, commencing with a public excluded session of the Council to discuss the appointment of a new Chief Executive.

2. Apologies

No apologies, although the weather held up Matthew Hall and Paul Stenning on Friday morning. However, all were present by 11.45 am Friday.

3. Public Excluded session of the meeting

8.40 am Resolved (Paul Dixon-Didier/Colin Sherrard)

To move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss:

- a. NZ Council Chief Executive position**
- b. Minutes from the public excluded session May 19th 2017.**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

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
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

Note

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

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

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

12.30 pm Resolved (Kevin Williams/Paul Dixon-Didier)

To move out of Public Excluded and back into a Public Session of the Meeting

Break for lunch

2.22 pm Friday July 21 Public meeting commenced

4. Annual Agenda

July annual items requiring NZ Council consideration include: confirming resolutions taken in the July Telephone Conference, the NZC Business Plan final sign-off and the Chief Executive’s performance plan. The first two are itemised for consideration at this meeting.

5. Identification of Other Urgent Business and Agreement on Agenda Order

No change to the order of agenda items was requested but the Finance & Administration Manager asked to present finance and RM/Legal papers on Friday or Saturday and not attend the Sunday session of the meeting.

- CSI Legal fund – Infinity Investment Group vs Environment Canterbury

6. Conflicts of Interest Register

A change in how conflicts of interest are managed was decided at the May 2017 meeting and introduced for this July 2017 meeting. The change requires Councillors to sign the register and identify whether or not there were any topics to be discussed at this meeting that they perceive a potential conflict may arise.

- Register circulated.

7. Confirmation of Minutes from May 19 & 20, 2017 Meeting

Nothing was identified in the minutes requiring further discussion.

Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier/Paul Stenning)

That the minutes of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting of May 19 & 20, 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

8. Confirmation of resolutions from the Telephone Conference of 21 June, 2017

A telephone conference call is held each June to consider feedback from Fish and Game regional councils on consultation with them on the proposed new season licence fees. This provides for a NZ Council recommendation that can be incorporated into the licence fee submission to the Minister for consideration and approval in advance of the start of the new financial year on 1st September. The resolutions from a telephone conference need to be reaffirmed in a public meeting of the Council.

Resolved (Andrew Morris/Colin Sherrard)

That the notes from the telephone conference of June 21, 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record and the recommendation recorded below be adopted as Council resolution.

That following consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils and support for the proposal, the New Zealand Council seeks approval from the Minister of Conservation for the 2017/18 sports fish licence to be based on an adult whole season fee of \$127 and the game licence to be based on an adult whole season licence fee of \$91 plus \$3 for the Game Bird Habitat (GST inclusive).

9. Review of Accumulative Action List from Previous Meetings

Points were clarified with discussion resulting on some items but no recommended action recorded.

- Graeme Nahkies is giving advice on designing council activity audits.
- Cycleway expenditure now recorded correctly.
- Insurance policy does not include staff use of private vehicles. Up to individuals to determine with their own insurance company. Staff to be sent notification for follow-up.
- Privacy Commission was invited to attend a NZ Council meeting but there was uncertainty as to what contribution they were being asked to make.
- CE has been invited to speak to Overseas Investment Office staff so has paused writing to the Minister.
- Managing F&G Magazine remains in progress with discussion ongoing with auditors, and cover of defamation and liability insurance.

10. Environmental Scan

This item is intended to last 30 minutes and allows councillors to raise or comment on recent media issues or matters occurring in the regions. Subjects discussed at this July meeting included:

- Regional Council in Northland is trying to get trout made a pest fish.

- Private contact details of F&G councillors have been requested and have now involved the Ombudsman.
- Lead contamination has become an issue with the Clay Target Association and concern for apiculture in the Wairarapa.
- Tainui looking at which native trees are more efficient at reducing nitrate.
- Lake Waikare is subject to disagreement between groups over concern for the health of this lake.
- North Canterbury's Snake Creek as a F&G project has been successful in getting environmental funding.
- Winter fisheries in North Canterbury will continue to have restrictions imposed including no take in some waters. Suggested a slotting limit would be a better approach.
- General Elections coming up make it an opportunity for F&G to think strategically over water. Regions need to highlight points for use in regional media releases.
- Water takes with Otago mining permits is ongoing. These are a major issue for F&G.

11. Meeting arrangements

The Chairperson spoke to this item, describing the need to limit the amount of extra spending required for councillors to travel to and from NZ Council meetings. One or two councillors may need to travel the day before or after a Council meeting due to flight time restrictions.

There is a preference of coming in the night before and leave the afternoon of the meeting. No one day meeting in the winter time.

The preference is the Brentwood over the CQ Hotel.

12. Staff Conference feedback

A report from staff was provided on the Fish & Game Staff Conference held in Dunedin Wednesday 5 July to Friday 7 July, 2017.

It was agreed to write to staff to congratulate and thank the Otago Fish and Game Council and organisers of the Staff Conference for staging a quality event.

Afternoon tea break.

Sir Geoffrey Palmer & Elana Geddis arrived to speak to the Council

The meeting was halted at this point to welcome and introduce Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Elana Geddis to the meeting. Sir Geoffrey was to speak on confidential matters that required the Council to break from its public meeting and go into a public excluded session.

13. Public Excluded session of the meeting

3.48 pm Resolved (John Jillett/Andy Harris)

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting to discuss:

- a.) Not for profit status of Fish & Game Councils**
- b.) Alternative funding opportunities**
- c.) Legal status of sports fish**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

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
Consideration of independent external advice) Good reason to withhold exists) under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.
	Maintain legal professional privilege	Sec. 9(2)(h)	To enable the Council to discuss legal advice.	Once the matter is completed and the legal advisor agrees to its release.

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- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

Time: 4.45 pm

Resolved (John Jillett/Kevin Williams)

That the open meeting of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council resumes.

14. NZ Council Audit proposals

In July 2016 the NZ Council resolved to set up an audit working group including representation from regional councils to establish templates and protocols in order that the NZ Council can complete audits according to the Act. Section 26C(1)(j) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the NZ Council “to audit the activities of Fish and Game Councils”.

The Office of the Auditor General recently visited the Central South Island and Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Councils. A letter from the OAG and reply is attached as correspondence to be considered at this meeting.

A number of areas for potential audit were identified. Some could be done internally, others independently and externally. The audit should establish processes to manage risks.

It is something the national office should play a key role in and involve one or two others, including a councillor. The July 2016 resolution to set up a working group would achieve this.

It is a management function under a risk management framework. It is not a single process, but would involve a number of methods and procedures.

It was suggested to invite someone with specialist knowledge to speak to the NZ Council at its September meeting on the subject and help the NZ Council formulate its thoughts and design an appropriate audit template to meet the role required of the NZ Council and agree on a way forward.

Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier/Andrew Morris)

That appropriate external advice be sought on the design of an audit procedure for the NZ Council to meet its audit function.

15. F&GNZ Financial Review Committee update

Councillor Matthew Hall as convenor of the Financial Review Committee provided an update on progress with the review. It was noted the Committee has not met in the interval since the last NZ Council meeting. The Committee, formed in November 2013, comprises Matthew Hall (convenor), John Cumberpatch, Alison Lyall, Jay Graybill, Carmel Veitch, Dean Kelly and Rod Cullinane. In March the NZ Council resolved to do certain things – donations & bequests, reserve policy to become national policy and youth programmes across regions. This required input by various people. The subject of donations and bequest will be incorporated in a marketing project commencing September 2017. The legality of a tick-box donation mechanism as part of a licence application form is being explored. These aspects are unlikely to be able to be reported back to the NZ Council until March 2018 at the earliest.

Revised reserve policy has been drafted for consultation with regions as proposed national policy. This is with those managers who are on the Financial Review Committee (Jay, Dean, Rod) for agreement before it is sent out to regions.

A review of activity involving youth across regions is now underway, with a request out for information. This will be assembled and presented once all material has been received.

16. Salmon Symposium update

A draft paper on the Salmon Symposium – 2017 was circulated by Councillor Hall at the May NZ Council meeting, outlining the reasons why a symposium is needed. Councillor Hall described a meeting of CSI and North Canterbury Council interests and their agreement on hosting this event. It is proposed that the symposium take place on Saturday & Sunday 11 – 12 November 2017 at the Hotel Ashburton.

Costs at this time are estimated to be \$20,000 that could be spread between CSI and North Canterbury but would require support from NZ Council.

Work is ongoing with a programme and key note speakers.

The NZ Council Chairperson was invited to attend and represent the Council at this event. Expenses for the Chairperson to participate would be met by the NZ Council.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Colin Sherrard)

That the NZ Council supports the Salmon Symposium and would welcome an application from one or both Fish and Game Councils to utilise reserves to fund this event to a maximum of \$25,000.

17. NZ Council 2015/16 Bi-Monthly Financial Report No. 4

Report No 4 records the Council being 83% through the year with expenditure at 72.38%. Several questions were raised and answered for clarification on expenditure.

Resolved: (John Cumberpatch/Andrew Morris)

That the Financial Report No. 4 to 30th June 2017 be accepted.

18. Fish & Game NZ Finance Report

This item provides an update on expenditure by all Fish and Game Councils as at 30th June 2017 (being 83% through the financial year).

This is the coordinated compilation of information from the regions. It is not something the National office has control over and requires constant prompts to managers to assemble this information in time for the agenda mail out.

Resolved: (John Cumberpatch/Andy Harris)

That the National Finance Report to 30th June 2017 be received.

19. RM/Legal updates report

The RM/Legal updates report provides details from the project manager, approved sums and spending to date of RM legal projects from around the country. There was discussion and verbal update provided on some cases.

The question of where court decisions result in costs awarded in favour of Fish and Game resulted in discussion and whether this money should come back to the legal fund. Policy 2.5.5 in Policy Manual covers regional legal expenses – the replenishment of any reserves spent in this way will have first call in the budget round for the following year.

The legal fund financial policy is being reviewed and court cost awards resulting in money in favour of Fish and Game that exceed reimbursement of a council's reserve should be considered in that review as deserving to be returned to the legal fund.

The Chief Executive reported that the One Plan Declaration case needs to be re-established as expert witness costs are being incurred on advice regarding decision implementation by the Horizons Regional Council.

The Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme (RWSS) Declaration Judgement applications is being parked pending what the Government does on the RWSS Supreme Court decision, but that Declaration may still be required to inform the implementation of Plan Change 6 in any event.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Andrew Morris)

That the 30 June 2017 RM/legal update report be received.

20. Exceptional Expenditure

There are situations which may arise where a council has unavoidable, unforeseen or emergency additional (capital or expense) costs which have not been considered and approved within the budget round. This application is presented to managers via a managers meeting, email circulation or telephone conference, depending on the urgency. After consideration by managers, the NZ Council consider the recommendation. Where approved, the extraordinary funding for expenditure is normally provided from regional reserves (where these are adequate to cover the expense).

The application for funding from North Canterbury reserves is to purchase a NICO Real-time Nitrogen Logger with essential controller and automated cleaning device. The NICO is a UV photometer for the determination of nitrate, taking into account turbidity and organic substances that pose a problem for many products on the market. The NICO will provide a nitrate update every 15 minute intervals.

The question of depreciation rate needing to be included in such applications was raised and should become part of future capital expenditure applications. This would show due diligence has been done. It should be included in a revised Exceptional Expenditure form and sent out to managers.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Andy Harris)

That the NZ Council approve the application for a NICO Real-time Nitrogen Logger by North Canterbury Fish and Game Council to be funded from that council's reserves to a sum of \$7,200 + GST.

21. Legal Funding Application

An application from Central South Island has been received and managers consulted about an appeal to the decision by the Environment Court to decline a resource consent application to the Canterbury Regional Council to take water from the Hakataramea River.

Resolve (Andrew Morris/Kevin Williams)

That the NZ Council approve the application from Central South Island Fish and Game Council for funding of participation in a High Court Hearing between Infinity Investment and Environment Canterbury to a sum of \$30,537 for payment from the RM/Legal fund.

Agenda paused at this point to discuss points to raise with Lou Sanson, Director-General of Conservation due to attend the meeting at 11.30 am Saturday.

- Indigenous species vs trout and other introduced species
- DOC involvement with duck banding
- Delegation for disturbance
- Guide licence
- Ruataniwha land swap
- Taupo Fishery District
- F&G liaison

11.37 am – 12.35 pm.

Director-General of Conservation

- Fonterra is going to match DOC freshwater restoration and target 50 catchments.
- Freshwater issue is not going away. MfE would like to use its 'heat' map.
 - Primary industries CEOs (through LAWF) have met to look at the water issue.
 - Water user debate still to happen from a political point of view.
 - Ruataniwha is as good as dead. Legislation does affect the Waimea water scheme and probably others. Nothing will happen until after the General Election. Watch this space.
 - Farming community feeling under siege.
- Proposal to develop a Tier One monitoring regime for fresh water. DOC don't know where fresh water species are most at risk.
- Wairarapa Moana project is led by Wellington Regional Council. Full and formal consultation is wanted, with Wellington Fish & Game Council fully involved.
- Guide licence – DOC is not advising on this. It is up to Fish & Game to complete the necessary paper work and convince the Minister.
- Pest eradication is something DOC is willing to work on with Fish & Game.
- Engagement with Iwi is difficult. Although working hard in this space the pressure is coming on DOC over consultation.

- Tourism and differential fees are likely post-election. Similarly limits will be imposed on pressure points like Tongariro Crossing.
- Tourist anglers and pressure is growing. Dialogue with Taupo would help.
- A big issue is helicopter access.
- Recent criticism has been associated with MfE over compliance of water use. Auditor General has adopted water as a strategic theme.
- Kay Booth is a first point of call on points of concern between DOC and Fish & Game.
- Martin Kessick has taken up delegation responsibilities for the Department. F&G should write to Kay Booth about any concerns.
- Representative of the DG to attend F&G meetings – currently not present in Southland, Otago, Wellington, Hawke's Bay.

1.35 pm recommenced public meeting after lunch.

22. Health & Safety policy

Health and Safety plans were distributed in May 2016 to all Fish and Game Councils complete with appendices and hazard registers. These have since been customised for each council and are now being implemented and reported on at each Council meeting.

The NZ Council bi-monthly report has not been submitted for July due to staff commitments with other items. An oral report was provided. The CE has met with the building owner over responsibilities over earthquake and fire risks. The landowner believes he has no other responsibilities.

The CE to go back for legal advice on what the landlord has submitted.

All councils need to follow strict and daily reporting on the coming and going of staff.

23. Operational Report

The bi-monthly operational report was considered with questions raised mainly for information. Questions raised under various project headings were answered or the point queried was explained. Discussion included on the following projects:

Project 1210: Habitat Advocacy General

Forest & Bird is proposing to run an advertisement proposed to make it difficult for a government to change the law to overturn the Supreme Court decision about conservation land swaps. Fish and Game Council should help protect the law in this context.

Project 1330: Angler and Hunter Participation

Both Barrels could be published every month of the year, rather than restricted to the hunting season.

Project 1462: National Public Awareness Strategy

There is a need to look at what is going to happen ahead (future focused) and see whether there is an opportunity for Fish and Game.

Project 1720 NZ Council Governance & Performance Review

Thanks were recorded by the NZ Council for the work the Chairperson and Executive Committee supported by John Cumberpatch have put into the recruitment process for a new CE.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Andy Harris)

That the Operational Report for July 2017 be received.

24. 2017/18 NZ Council Business Plan

The Business Plan highlighted new projects and those provided under contestable fund consideration. It was recognised that the Business Plan was subject to approval of the licence fees by the Minister of Conservation in July. That approval was forthcoming on July 6th 2017.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Paul Stenning)

That the NZ Council agree that the May draft 2017/18 NZ Council Business Plan be adopted to become the final plan with integrated budget figures for inclusion into the NZ Council blue meeting folder.

25. Research Programme update

Each approved research project is required to provide an update on the project, project manager, sum and date approved, the amount yet to be drawn down, an indicative date for completion, plus a paragraph summarising the project's recent activity/findings. There was general debate on some projects but no issues were raised.

Discussion broadened out to that of support for managers and the opportunity to help-out, especially from neighbouring regions.

The Council acknowledged the research update is now at a standard they are happy with.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Colin Sherrard)

That this July 2017 Research Programme update report be received.

3.00 pm Alison Lyall departed the meeting

26. National licence sales & licence systems update

Data being reported is from YTD (1 September 2016 to 11 July) licence sales performance comparisons between the two completed financial years (2015/16 and 2016/17) by licence sales performance by sales channel and category, and LEQ targets with actual totals and total licence income. Overall nationally, sales are down compared to the same date last year, but much more so with fish licence sales (1,796 down) than game (4 down). Revenue wise this represents \$128,526 less at this time than the year before.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Andy Harris)

That this July 2017 national licence sales and licence systems update report be received for information.

27. Guide Licence

A Fish and Game licence proposal and associated Regulatory Impact Statement for the Minister of Conservation's consideration and approval was submitted on 9 November 2016.

The Minister has replied in June 2017 declining to adopt the NZ Council's recommendations for a guide licence but indicated a willingness to consider alternative proposals if they can be provided within 15 months of her letter. The two points of concern raised by the Minister were:

1. The Licences, Forms and Fees Notices only apply to specific licences of fishing and hunting. They do not provide for these notices to specify the scope and effect of licences for guiding. The Minister argues the need to bring the uncommenced or latent legislation into force.
2. The proposal does not describe what problems in the management of sports fishing and game hunting resources, or in the management of commercial guides, need to be addressed. The Minister is seeking a convincing argument to convince her Cabinet colleagues that a regulatory solution is the best option.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Paul Stenning)

That the NZ Council

- 1. refine the list of problems to be addressed by a guide licence and**
- 2. a revised proposal addressing the two primary concerns raised by the Minister of Conservation be prepared for consideration at the November 2017 NZ Council meeting.**

28. 2015 Fish & Game Council Election & consultation on the Returning Officer's recommendations.

The Returning Officer's report was referred to regions for consultation and feedback before the NZ Council considered the points raised. Consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils took place between December 2015 and September 2016. Not all regions responded and some of those that did merely noted the Returning Officer's report. Responses point to a lack of a common view across the suggested changes.

The problem of getting legislative priority to make many of these changes remains a barrier.

However, there is general support across regions for a number of the issues and the NZ Council could look to adopt its own set of preferences and processes to put in place until such time as these are corrected through legislative changes.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Andy Harris)

That the NZ Council:

- 1. Notes that there is not a common view on a number of suggested changes to the Fish and Game Council Elections.**
- 2. Notes that there are a number of small legislative changes that may be introduced through a general omnibus bill but that until then, the status quo will remain.**
- 3. Notes that until legislative amendments occur and the status quo remains, this does not prevent the NZ Council adopting its own set of preferences and processes in overseeing Fish and Game Council Elections.**
- 4. Agrees to adopt the following set of preferences and processes in overseeing Fish and Game Council Elections:**
 - a. The right to vote is available to all NZ resident adult whole season Fish & Game licence holders. This includes all who hold a Game Whole season, Fish Whole season, Local area and Loyal senior licence and the primary holder of a Family licence. Local area licence holders can only vote in the named region.**
 - b. The "Do you wish to register to vote" field on the online licence application form is a compulsory field requiring the applicant to answer yes or no before continuing to complete other licence details.**
 - c. The licence holder's right to be on the roll and to vote is restricted to one specified region and one vote (NB: A name can only appear once on a regional roll. However holders of both a fish and a game licence could be entitled to enrol once with two different regions if their fish licence was for one region and game licence for another region).**
 - d. Licence holders have the right to cast their vote by postal vote or by electronic online voting.**
 - e. To be eligible as a candidate to stand and retain office as a sitting Fish & Game member, that person must hold an adult whole season licence (as defined in a. above) for the entire term of office.**
 - f. Registration to stand for Council will close the same day as the Electoral Roll closes.**
 - g. The electoral roll will close before regional candidates are announced.**

- h. A candidate's "profile" is restricted to a statement of a candidate's background and not a statement with negative comments about another candidate.
- i. The Returning Office has the right to delete potentially inflammatory phrases from a candidate's profile, where a candidate refuses to make the amendment themselves.
- j. The Returning Officer is given the right to accept postal votes up to four days after the close of voting where it is evident this occurs due to delays in surface mail delivery.

29. 2018 Fish & Game Council Elections

The Conservation Act 1987 requires that elections be held every third year to elect not more than 12 people to be members of the Fish and Game Council. The last regional Fish and Game Council Elections were held on October 9 2015. The proposal is to hold the next regional Fish and Game Council Elections on Friday October 12th, 2018. The NZ Council has contracted Electionz.com to act as the Returning Officer for regional elections held since 2003. Electionz.com have provided an estimated cost and schedule for holding the 2018 elections.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/John Cumberpatch)

That the NZ Council:

1. Agree on Electionz.com being contracted to undertake the 2018 Fish and Game Council Elections.
2. Agree on a schedule of dates and process for holding the 2018 Fish and Game Council Elections (timetable attached).
3. Agree on voter eligibility. Currently to be eligible 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 commencing May in the year the election is held or fish for sports fish in the season commencing October the year before the election is held.

30. Hunting & Harvest Ethics

In response to media coverage of plastic in the environment and increasing use of hunter 'gadgets', the NZ Council consulted regional Fish and Game Council on the merits of having national policy on hunter harvest and ethics.

There were three general areas of discussion. One around sportsmanship and animal welfare, another on "tools" or devices to enhance harvest and the third is the impact on the environment.

It was agreed the priority for discussion and an attempt to seek consensus is on the environment. The NZ Council has already agreed to promote shell recovery. There is a need to continue to get information and explore possible solutions, including in relation to plastic wads..

A discussion about supporting limited shotgun shot capacity for animal welfare reasons resulted in agreeing to continue the debate at the November strategic planning session.

Resolved: (John Cumberpatch/Paul Stenning)

That the NZ Council develop a formal policy committing Fish & Game to working towards an environmentally friendly solution to plastic.

31. Angling Ethics – Catch & Release

Councillor Andy Harris provided a description of the West Coast Fish and Game Council's voluntary code of practice proposing 6 fish limit per angler per day for fish landed and released. Consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils found a good deal of support for such a practice. However,

concern was raised about the need to educate anglers on handling of fish and release techniques and practice selective harvest.

Helen Trotter from Otago Fish and Game Council has put together a code of conduct based on 2 or 3 overseas examples and nationalised them into something up-to-date and useful.

Before this is adopted, the NZ Council proposed it be circulated to regions for comment before being finalised and put on the website with an abbreviated version updating what is in the regulations guide.

Resolved: (John Jillett/John Cumberpatch)

That the NZ Council:

- 1. Thanks the efforts of Helen Trotter from Otago Fish and Game Council for putting together a useful code of conduct.**
- 2. That this code of conduct be circulated to regions for feedback before finalising.**
- 3. Provides educational material on handling of caught fish**
- 4. Promotes the hooking & landing per angler of no more than 6 fish a day.**

32. Council decisions impinging on others

Andrew Morris, the appointee to the NZ Council from Wellington Fish and Game Council proposed possible actions by one council having the potential to impinge on another. Regional Fish and Game Councils were consulted on this proposal, resulting in a good deal of agreement. It was pointed out that a national policy on consultation already existed and that this could be reviewed and promoted. Consideration of your neighbour is the essential message. It was agreed the consultation and feedback made this point.

33. Anglers Notice and the complexity of rules

The preparation of the 2017 Anglers Notice highlighted the detail and complexity of the conditions imposed on anglers. Many of the conditions are phrased in technical language, or list exceptions to more open interpretations, making it hard for those without English language skills or knowledge of traditional fishing etiquette to follow.

The Department of Conservation in commenting on the Notice has also recognised it would benefit from a major overhaul to get consistency of format/layout.

It was suggested a template is needed to show what is wanted. This could be designed by a couple of staff and shared with regions for consideration.

Resolved: (John Cumberpatch/Kevin Williams)

That a template be provided to show simpler and consistent rules that will be applied across all Fish & Game regions and for this to be shared for regions to consider and complete.

34. Correspondence

Correspondence received during the period was considered with recommended replies provided for the Chairperson to include in his responses.

35. Tourism – opportunities & threats

The NZ Council asked for an opportunity to discuss the subject of tourism at a future meeting. Looking ahead a decade, 2027 is likely to reflect a different age and linguistic range as well as varying levels of ability and technical understanding which will challenge the packaging of fishing and hunting information.

Fish & Game has recognised the need for a guide licence and introduced a non-resident fishing licence. It has yet to decide whether to promote more licence holder recruitment, retention and reactivation and risk putting more pressure on sensitive areas, or to look for a wider audience with different demands that might be met with different preferences for fishing and hunting. The NZ

Council's conclusions need to be channelled into a Fish and Game marketing and management strategy for the decade ahead.
Further discussion needs to follow and it was agreed this become a topic for the November strategic planning session.

36. Urgent General Business

No further urgent general business was discussed.

Closing Remarks

The Chairperson thanked Council and staff for their support.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 12.25 pm Sunday 23 July 2017.

Confirmed:

Date:/...../2017