

Taupō Fishery Advisory Committee Meeting.

Turangi DOC Office, Thursday 18 July 2024, commencing at 5.30pm.

Agenda.

1. **Welcome.**
2. **Apologies.**
3. **Minutes of previous meeting.**
4. **Matters arising.**
5. **Correspondence.**
6. **DOC Fishery Management Team updates:**
 - 6a - Managers report: Dave Conley – annual leave
 - 6b - Licence Sales update: James Barnett – chart and tables
 - 6c – Communications update: James Barnett - written report
 - 6d – Technical update: Mark Venman – written report
 - 6e – Operations update: Aaron Sargent – written report
7. **Agenda Items:**
 - 7a – Tongariro willow update (DOC).
 - 7b – Angler etiquette (Mike).
 - 7c – WRC management plans (Julian).

8. Verbal reports.

TALTAC (Chair TFAC)	Julian Proctor
Taupo Fishing Club	Russell Graham
Waitahanui Anglers...	Shirley Fraser
Tongariro River Advocates	Richard Kemp
Motuoapa Boating...	Bob Crompton
TNTCS	Mike Fransham
Taupo Launchmen's...	Simon Jolly
NZPFG	Dave Wood
National Angling...	Ian Rodger
Fish & Game NZ	Debbie Oakley (National Council) Matt Osborne (Eastern Region)

9. Next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: That the information be received and noted.

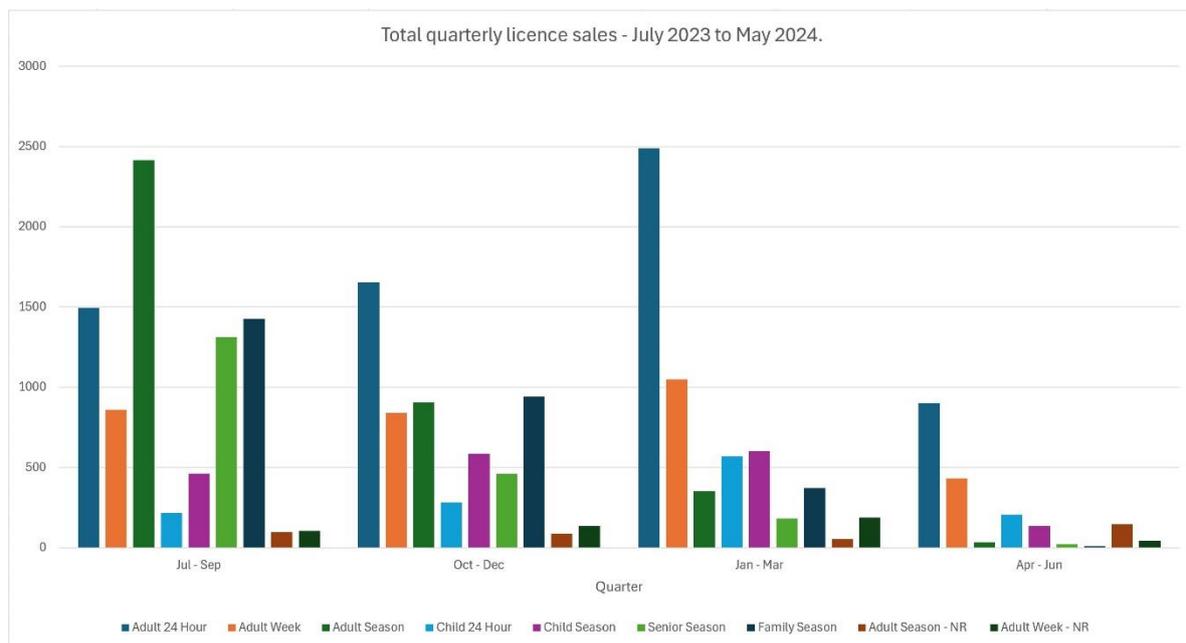
Agenda: 6 DOC Fishery Management Team updates.

Item: 6a – Operations Manager Taupō Fishery
 Dave Conley

Dave Conley is on annual leave, so the update from the Operations Manager is not available for inclusion within this agenda. Dave will be back next week and is due to attend the meeting, so will provide a full verbal update directly to the committee.

Item: 6b – Licence sales
 James Barnett

1. Public and Agent sales for the 2023/24 Season (excluding June).



In response to feedback from the committee, sales information has shifted to focus more on revenue rather than the numbers of licences sold. The above chart still provides information about numbers sold but the information is presented by quarter. It also combines both public sales and agent sales into a single chart, rather than separately.

Sales revenue tables can be found in appendix 1

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Item: 6c – Communications and community.

James Barnett

The build up to the start of the new Taupō fishing season is a busy time within the Taupō fishery calendar. Promotional activity and communications are critical components of our work at this time of year. Equally important is the preparation work required to set up new season licences, which involves working closely with business support staff, external technical partners and print suppliers.

From a promotional perspective, the annual photo competition provided a lunch pad for stories highlighting the new Taupō fishing season. This included a national media release distributed through DOC communications, plus more targeted messages directed at anglers through our newsletter and Facebook channel.

The competition attracted a variety of entries reflecting the wide range of ways people engage with the Taupō fishery. This year we were particularly struck by the number and quality of images showing families and children enjoying trout fishing. The overall winning photo (to be used on the plastic season licence) captured a grandfather, a father and grandchildren enjoying a fishing trip to the Tongariro River. This multigenerational photo epitomises how trout fishing can bring families together, sharing a healthy outdoor pursuit.

Behind the scenes, we also worked closely with the Business Support Team and external technical support provider Seekom, to deliver the online licence sales platform for the new season. Due to the revised fishing regulations additional preparations were required to ensure support information was updated and ready to be sent out to anglers along with their new licences.

Simple changes to fishing regulations are delivered using an Anglers Notice. The Notice must first gain Ministerial approval, so we developed a Briefing for the Minister for Hunting and Fishing. Once Ministerial approval was received, we submitted the Anglers Notice to the NZ Gazette for publication.

Other communications focussed on sharing technical fishery information, to further inspire anglers ahead of the new season. The results from the Autumn Lake Taupō productivity survey suggest anglers could be in for a good winter. Data from the Waipa fish trap also offers promise for the months ahead.

We also met with MPI as part of a gold clam initiative that aims to better understand the needs of the angling community and to identify a national calendar to assist with coordinating activities.

Progress has been made identifying a potential replacement for the aging Taupō fishery licence sales platform. Over time the current system has become inefficient, requiring considerable manual input which places additional burden on the Business Support Team. An updated system will deliver administrative benefits plus an improved customer experience.

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Item: 6d – Technical update

Mark Venman

Our main monitoring focus has moved from the lakes to the rivers as we are now well and truly into winter. The Waipa fish trap has been operating since May and has seen some good sized browns and rainbows pass through during the last couple of months. Rainfall is down in comparison to recent years, but numbers of spawning fish are still trickling through despite the cold, dry and settled weather of late. Following on from the encouraging results from the lake productivity monitoring at the end of summer, the trout appearing in the region's rivers are in good condition with some exceptionally well conditioned fish amongst them which is encouraging news for the remainder of the season. Anglers can expect some very good fishing when we do finally get some decent rain as many of these fish will still be feeding in the lake prior to running the rivers.

June saw the installation of the new fish trap at the Te Whaiiau Stream, near Lake Otamangakau, after major modifications and improvements earlier this year. Early indications show that the trout trapped are similar in size to those from last season with a few more trout being trapped this winter. It has been encouraging to see a number of fish 4kg+ amongst the run this year with a few more showing up during early July. The stand out was a 5.5kg (12.2lb) female rainbow trapped at the end of June. A summary of the results so far from June can be found in the attached technical monitoring report.

For detailed technical report see appendix 2.

Item: 6e – Operations update

Aaron Sargent

The data outlined in appendix 3 is on par with the previous seasons activities on average and is representative of the time and resourcing available to the Fishery Team to undertake compliance data.

This time of year, The Fishery Team is undertaking its core business as usual with no marked changes. Core business this time of year is comprised of:

- Routine track maintenance
- Fish Trap(s) monitoring
- Undertaking Angler Surveys
- Compliance activities.

We have had a new staff member start this week named Daniel Shanks. He is currently going through his induction process and will take some time before he is working to full capacity.

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Agenda: 7 Committee Agenda Items.

Item: 7a – Update on willow control (DOC).

An update for committee members on progress with this important initiative to tackle invasive willow and other woody weeds within the Taupo District.

Item: 7b – Angler etiquette (Mike).

Every winter a large influx of visiting anglers puts addition pressure on the Taupō fishery. This is particularly evident on popular, easily accessible sections of the Tongariro River.

Item: 7c – WRC management plans (Julian).

Julian would like to discuss WRC plans for the river ahead of their survey.

Agenda: 8 Verbal Reports

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Agenda item: 9 – Next Meeting

To be agreed.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Licence sales.
- Appendix 2 – Technical report.
- Appendix 3 – Compliance data.

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