

Fisheries Panel Meeting (Rotorua office – Environment Bay of Plenty)

9.30 am 17 August 2009

Present: Richard Barker (Otago Uni); Michel Dedual (DOC); Ian Kusabs (Fisheries consultant); Rob Pitkethley (NZFG); David Rowe (NIWA); Brendan Hicks (UOW);
 Matt Osbourne (Fish & Game); Joe Butterworth (EBOP/NIWA, present 2.40 – 3.45 pm)

Chair: Matt Bloxham (Environment Bay of Plenty)

Scribe: Jenny Clarke (Environment Bay of Plenty)

Item	Discussion/Decision	Action	Responsibility / Timeframe
Apologies	Andy Bruere		
1 Matters arising from previous minutes	Went through previous minutes of 18 August 2008 Corrections: Page 3, Richard doesn't remember making the comments stated; sentence should read "Richard Barker, however, felt the level of accuracy estimated was such that Matt Riceman's study was a useful indicator of lake of origin" Page 3, third Action: "Ian Kusabs suggested possible use of Joe Butterworth of Te Arawa Lakes Trust to assist with this work."	Subsequent acceptance of minutes by Panel	
	Action points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at possible engagement with local iwi to enable the gathering of Smelt catch data (Andy) – Reported there was no take-up on this offer 2. Follow up that all reports can be accessed through the internet shared file space (Andy) – No progress on this so far. Reports are circulated by email, but having historic information on the web could be useful 	1. Create shared file space on website for past reports and agenda	Andy/Matt

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	<p>17. Update Panel on any observed fisheries impact after opening weekend (Rob P) – This will be covered in Rob's report (Agenda Item 4)</p> <p>18. Add the goal for monitoring from the resource consent into the Monitoring Report (Richard) – Unsure of progress</p> <p>It was suggested that the document on monitoring needs to include the timing of monitoring and a yearly summary of people's work</p>	<p>5. Follow-up on including resource consent goal into draft monitoring report</p> <p>6. Include timing of monitoring and yearly summary of people's work in draft monitoring report</p>	<p>Andy</p> <p>Andy</p>
<p>2 2009 NIWA smelt report (David Rowe, NIWA)</p>	<p>David spoke to his paper on smelt in Rotoiti and discussed major points. No major difference in smelt numbers was noticed in the Channel data. Observations, however, indicated that there were runs of smelt. It is possible that small runs were not picked up by the monitoring. It was suggested that a search of historic diary data be done to look at trends.</p> <p>There was a change in adult smelt numbers in Lake Rotoiti, particularly with decline in numbers at the Eastern end. No change was noticed in larval smelt in the lake</p> <p>It is recommended to continue with yearly monitoring</p>	<p>7. Gather smelt monitoring data from Frank Thompson and circulate results</p> <p>8. Discuss if more otolith sampling needed from Ohau channel to augment beach sampling to determine origin of smelt (i.e. Rotorua or Rotoiti?)</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that yearly smelt monitoring is continued</p>	<p>Matt O</p> <p>Brendan H</p>
<p>3 Electric Fishing results (Brendan Hicks, UOW)</p>	<p>Brendan spoke to his power point presentation "Boat electro-fishing in the Ohau Channel December 2008). Nearly 800 fish were caught in a 0.8 ha site. There were three times more smelt than in 2007. Fishing sites are located in same place as NIWA monitoring sites.</p>		
<p>4 Trout Fishery data (Rob Pitkethley, NZFG)</p>	<p>An update was given by Rob P, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data sets, eg. opening day and summer survey data. There is no indication that trout have had an impact on smelt. The possibility was discussed that fish are taking longer to migrate. The percentage of wild fish caught during opening day and summer were low compared to historic data. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter surveys are considered unsuitable for determining wild fish numbers as bias occurs due to large numbers of released hatchery fish. • Fish catches by anglers were lower this year and there was indication that the catching period was shorter. No difference was noticed in catch-rate distributions <p>It was suggested to ask survey questions to anglers on their fishery experience. Questions need to be worded carefully so as not to bias results. (eg. if people say the wall is detrimental because of rumour rather than personal experience)</p>	<p>9. Conduct angler survey on whether Ohau channel has affected fishery experience</p>	<p>Rob P</p>
<p>5 Otolith update (Brendan Hicks, UOW)</p>	<p>Brendan spoke to his powerpoint presentation “Assessing movement of rainbow trout and common smelt between Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotorua using otolith chemical signatures; a summary of collections in 2008 and 2009” An explanation and background of the study was given, including the lake of origin of trout and smelt.</p> <p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most rainbow trout and common smelt caught in Lake Rotoiti originated from Lake Rotorua • Movement between the lakes not yet impeded by wall • Ongoing sampling and analysis needed <p>A discussion was held on possibilities for further analysis of data</p>	<p>10. Give pre-wall smelt to Brendan for otolith analysis</p>	<p>Ian</p>
<p>6 Monitoring programme, review items (Andy B)</p>	<p>Matt B gave an update on the monitoring programme as Andy B was away. Some changes were made.</p>	<p>Incorporate revisions to monitoring programme into report (refer Action points 5, 6)</p> <p>????</p>	<p>Matt/Andy</p> <p>Richard, Dave, Brendan</p>
<p>7 Koura and kakahi monitoring progress (Ian Kusabs)</p>	<p>Ian spoke to his powerpoint presentation “Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Koura and kakahi update”, as prepared by Ian Kusabs, Willie Emery, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Te Runanga Ō Ngāti Pikiao.</p>		
<p>8 Update on fish dynamics work UOW</p>	<p>An update was given on fish dynamics. Brendan spoke to his presentation on an overview of PhD studies on the dynamics of and factors affecting smelt</p>		

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(Brendan H)	populations. The study also looked at recommending how to enhance smelt populations and to mitigate against potential detrimental effects of the wall installation.		
General business	Joe Butterworth gave an update of his work/studies during a 12 month water quality programme in 2007. Information was gathered on the environmental status of lake Rotokakahi; this complimented studies on freshwater mussel kakahi. Tests were conducted such as surveying with an underwater camera, Secchi disk, chlorophyll counts, dissolved oxygen and algal fluorescence.		
9 Next meeting	TBA (August 2010)		

Meeting closed: 3.45 pm