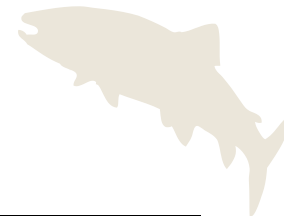


Taupō Fishery Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes – 19 March 2026, 5.30pm

The Board Room, DOC Office, Turangi.



Members Present:	Julian Proctor - JP	TALTAC- <i>Chairperson</i>
	Richard Kemp - RK	Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc.
	Louise Stuart - LS	Tongariro National Trout Centre Soc.
	Bob Crampton - BC	Motuoapa Fishing and Boating Club.
	Shirley Fraser - SF	Waitahanui Angling Improvement Assoc. Inc.
	Peter Bragg - PB	National Angling Interests - NZFFA
	Deb Mair - DM	Taupō Fishing Club
Taupō Fishery:	Dave Conley - DC	DOC – Operations Manager
	Mark Venman - MV	DOC - Principal Ranger
	James Barnett - JB	DOC – Media and Communications
	Steve Doughty - SD	DOC – Compliance Lead
	Tania Smallman - TS	DOC – Site Support Officer
	Tara Kingan - TK	DOC – Fishery Ranger
Apologies:	Debbie Oakley - DO	Fish & Game (National)
	Matt Osborne - MO	Fish & Game (Eastern Operations)
	Mike Fransham - MF	NZ Professional Fishing Guides Assoc.
Absent:	Representative	Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board
	Position vacant	Taupō Launchmen's Assoc. Inc.

1. Welcome and start.

- Meeting started at 5.30pm

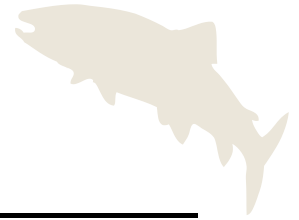
2. Apologies.

- Debbie Oakley, Matt Osbourne, Mike Fransham.

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3. Minutes of previous meeting.

- N/A

4. Matters arising.

- Nil.

5. Correspondence in and out.

- Nothing noted.

6. DOC Fishery Management Team Updates:

- All Fishery Team reports taken as read.
 - SF – Does the rise in compliance offences coincide with the drop in licence sales due to online purchasing? – DC responded, he is happy with the volume of sales considering the poor summer we had.
 - DM – Why are we celebrating so many warranted compliance officers and who is DOC using for their training? – SD replied, there was no celebration just stating the facts. Informed committee that government agencies used for training.

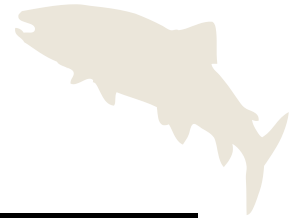
7. Agenda items:

- a – **Presentation by Gerald Wilson and associates - (External).**
 - Gerald and his colleagues suggested they represent anglers who fish at Lake Otamangakau. The group gave an introduction to the committee, outlined what they saw as a problem and proposed ideas for an alternative management approach. They acknowledged a successful meeting with the DOC Taupō Fishery Management Team. Gerald thanked DOC and TFAC for agreeing to invite them to attend the committee meeting. Gerald stated that they were looking to identify practical outcomes to benefit anglers.
 - There were some interesting ideas identified which prompted questions. There was an agreement to work together. A flexible management arrangement was discussed along with other ideas such as an angler consultation group, and increased promotion of best practices for fish handling.
 - Gerald and his colleagues left the meeting.

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- **b – Lake Otamangakau Management (DOC).**

- No further discussion required after Gerald and his colleagues left the meeting.

- **c – Regulations review and Anglers Notice - (DOC).**

- SD - Circulated a draft Anglers Notice document for committee members to review. Proposed changes would take effect at the start of the 2026/27 fishing season.
- Intention to protect the sustainability of the Taupō fishery and encourage anglers by clarifying regulations and creating new opportunities.
- Discussion revolved around various aspects. Timely feedback from members.

- **d – Willow control update - (DOC).**

- DC - advised that we have missed the boat this year in terms of practical work. Delays elsewhere restricted the ability of DOC to carry out additional works. This remains a priority piece of work and will be actively pursued.

- **e – Tauranga-Taupō flood protection works - (Julian).**

- JP – This is a major change to protect against potential erosion and flooding. The works were considerable and looks to have been done well. Currently looks an eyesore, however the land and river will settle and recover, and should be a good trout fishing spot. Fishery managers confirmed Regional council work closely with anglers and other community groups to minimise impacts where possible.

8. Verbal reports:

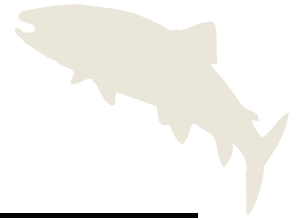
- **TALTAC – JP**

- During the TALTAC AGM the matter arose regarding a lack of young fish over the summer in the rivers. It was discussed that it maybe, due to climatic and environmental changes. Speculation around regular and significant flood events pushing young fish out into the river. No issue with recruitment of younger fish or river ecology.

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○ **Tongariro River Advocates - RK**

- Discussed plans to capture aerial images of the Tongariro River. Mike Fransham's original proposal and offer to use a drone has encountered a barrier, but a helicopter option remains viable.
- River etiquette promotional work is still in progress.
- Shared a Paper with the committee, relating to two matters - Tongario flood protection scheme and the Natural Environment and Planning Bills. Encouraged other committee members to read and consider. **Agreed to distribute via email.**

○ **Waitahanui Anglers Improvement Assoc. - SF**

- Carried out work rewriting their legal constitution and have been enjoying the process of working together with iwi, anglers and DOC.
- There has been an increase in compliance issues. In particular, boats and jet skis going up the river and the need to contact the Harbourmaster to intervene.

○ **Motuoapa Boating and Fishing Club - BC**

- Cancelled the fishing competition this year due to a lack of sponsorship - first time this has happened in 40 years.
- World Catfish Spearfishing Competition was a great success with over 2000 catfish removed from the lake. Competition won by a team from USA.

○ **Taupo Fishing Club - DM**

- Update on tagged trout competition. Only one trout caught.
- Meeting to complete the incorporated soc paperwork.
- Discussed the spin fishing proposal on the Tauranga-Taupo River. Encouraged members to complete the online survey. Discussed additional ideas about encouraging younger people to start trout fishing.

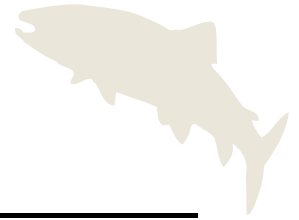
○ **National Angler Interests, NZFFA – PB**

- Nothing to report.

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- **Tongariro National Trout Centre – LS**
 - The new manager is doing a great job and presents an opportunity to introduce fresh changes.
 - Society is looking forward to working together with DOC and values the important relationship.
Review position and restart operations with a clean slate.
- **Fish & Game NZ, National and Eastern Region**
 - Apologies submitted. Reference notes provided ahead of meeting.

9. Other business.

- NIL

10. Next Meeting.

- Proposed to take place early June 2026.

Meeting Closed at approx. 7.30pm.