

From: Matt Kavermann <mkavermann@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2025 8:47 am
To: Anastasia Boniface
Cc: Robert Rose
Subject: RE: Pukepuke lagoon - Updated bird numbers
Attachments: IMG_5519.JPG

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Kia ora Anastasia

You may or may not be aware that there were some issues with water levels in Pukepuke lagoon this year, and it was largely dry leading up to May – see attached image.

Observers completing aerial black swan counts for this site (completed in January 2025) recorded 65 black swan.

Dabchick numbers were not recorded during aerial counts but it might pay to check out ebird (see initial email below) to see if anyone else has been out recently and added their data to the database.

Mā te wā,

Matt

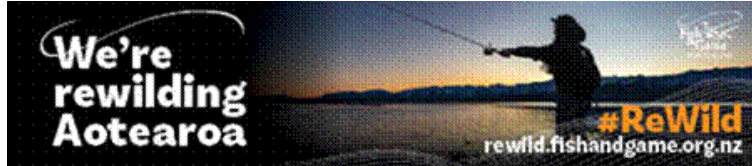
Dr Matt Kavermann | Senior Fish & Game Officer

Wellington Fish & Game Council

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From: Anastasia Boniface <Anastasia.Boniface@mdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 7:12 AM
To: Matt Kavermann <mkavermann@fishandgame.org.nz>
Cc: Robert Rose <Robert.Rose@mdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Pukepuke lagoon - Updated bird numbers

Good morning Matt,

As per the emails from last year below I am just wanting to know if Fish & Game have any updated data for black swan or dabchick numbers at Pukepuke Lagoon?

I understand there had been no data since 2022 for this location however I am just double checking as we are in progress of writing an annual report as per our concession requirements.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Anastasia Boniface
Environmental Officer
Āpiha Taiao



P: 06 323 0000
www.mdc.govt.nz

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From: Matt Kavermann <mkavermann@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 11:22
To: Anastasia Boniface <Anastasia.Boniface@mdc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Pukepuke lagoon - Fish and game data

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Thank you for the clarification Anastasia

Data I can find to hand below for Pukepuke Lagoon.

Black swan

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
130	60	40	27			

The absence of data from 2022 onward may be because no swan were present or the site was not counted. However this data should be taken in consideration to the wider black swan population trend for the lower western North Island – see below – with large increase in swan numbers in the past two years.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1346	2643	1040	2341	1171	1246	897	1262	670	2357	2258

NZ Shoveller/Kuruwhengi data below

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
92	363	217	0	52	320	45	77	107	16

Bird NZ (<https://ebird.org/newzealand/home>) may also be a useful resource to look at to examine trends in swan observations by regular birders over time. Kirsten Bendix Olsen [REDACTED] would be a key contact in the Manawatu region who may be able to assist on this front.

Given the area is regularly used for waterfowl hunting during the gamebird season will Fish and AGme have the opportunity to have input into the plan?

Ngā mihi anō,

Matt

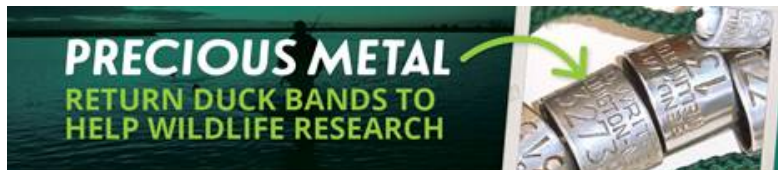
Dr Matt Kavermann | Senior Fish & Game Officer

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From: Anastasia Boniface <Anastasia.Boniface@mdc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 9:56 AM

To: Matt Kavermann <mkavermann@fishandgame.org.nz>

Subject: RE: Pukepuke lagoon - Fish and game data

Mōrena Matt,

If possible we would like to obtain any current and historic bird data you may have available for the Pukepuke Lagoon area. This information is required to help us gain an understanding of any long-term trends or changes which may have occurred following the easement concession in December 2000. Unfortunately, due to our concession requirements being somewhat neglected following the departure of staff responsible for it we have fallen behind in environmental monitoring requirements and are in the process of completing an environmental management plan.

Hopefully that makes sense! 😊

Ngā mihi nui,

ANASTASIA BONIFACE | Graduate Environmental Officer
| Manawatu District Council | Private Bag 10001 | Feilding 4743 |
| P: (06) 323 0000 | www.mdc.govt.nz |

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From: Matt Kavermann <mkavermann@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 9:38 AM
To: Anastasia Boniface <Anastasia.Boniface@mdc.govt.nz>
Cc: Robert Rose <Robert.Rose@mdc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Pukepuke lagoon - Fish and game data

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Tēnā koe Anastasia

Thank you for the email.

Just to clarify, you are after absolute numbers of swan counted rather than number of nesting swan? Aerial swan moult counts are completed in January.

Kia pai tō rā,

Matt

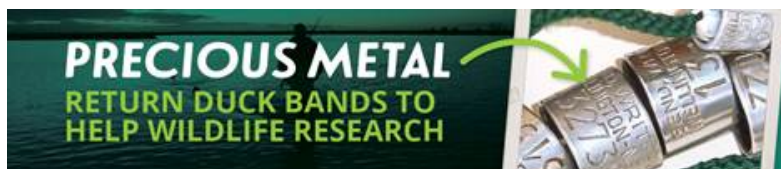
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From: Anastasia Boniface <Anastasia.Boniface@mdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 12:56 PM
To: Matt Kavermann <mkavermann@fishandgame.org.nz>
Cc: Robert Rose <Robert.Rose@mdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Pukepuke lagoon - Fish and game data

Good afternoon Matt,

Robert has given me your contact details to get in touch regarding the concession that Manawātū District Council hold with DOC to manage stormwater, maintain a weir and maintain a spillway at the Pukepuke Lagoon. Part of this concession requires MDC to undertake environmental monitoring, this includes ascertaining:

- *Whether nesting numbers of dabchick and swan within the reserve area are adversely affected by the spillway.*

This monitoring requires the following:

- *In relation to swans, MDC will obtain annual survey information on swan numbers for the lagoon from the relevant Fish and Game Council.*
- *No specific monitoring of dabchicks will be undertaken.*

Could you please provide the information required above for Pukepuke Lagoon in order for Council to fulfil this requirement of the concession.

Many thanks,

Anastasia

ANASTASIA BONIFACE | Graduate Environmental Officer
| Manawatu District Council | Private Bag 10001 | Feilding 4743 |
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