

9 September 2020

William Anaru
Te Arawa Lakes Trust
1192 Haupapa Street
Rotorua

Dear William,

Regional Pest Management Plan exemption to rules relating to aquatic pest fish

We understand that a Te Arawa Lakes Trust volunteer plans to store a catfish for display at the upcoming NIWA Bay of Plenty Science and Technology Fair on Thursday September and Friday 18 September 2020. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council biosecurity team supports your efforts to raise awareness on pest fish issues in the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes. However, given this activity involves the transporting of pests named within the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016 (RPMP) it is technically in breach of RPMP rules and an exemption is required.

Specifically, the pests of concern are: *Amerius Nebulosus* (Brown Bullhead Catfish) classified as an exclusion-eradication pest. The pest is subject to following rule contained within the RPMP:

- For catfish:
 - C (3): No person shall move, allow to be moved, any machinery, vessel, organism, risk goods or other goods that is contaminated with any exclusion and eradication pest animal.
 - C (4): No person shall knowingly communicate, cause to be communicated, release, or cause to be released, or otherwise spread any Exclusion and Eradication pest animal (see section 52 of the Biosecurity Act 1993).

Section 78 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 allows a Regional Council to exempt a person from a requirement of a rule. In considering your case for exemptions to rules C(3) of the RPMP we are satisfied that:

- That your proposed actions will not significantly prejudice the attainment of the RPMP's objectives.
- The prescribed requirements are clearly unreasonable or inappropriate in your particular case

Given this, I grant Te Arawa Lakes Trust and their agents exemptions to rule C(6) and C (4) of the RPMP subject to the following conditions:

- 1) To prevent the introduction (or further introductions) of any pest to any water body, the person managing the transportation of the catfish must ensure that the fish is secured in any vehicle while being transported to the site.

- 2) The fish must be caught from either Lake Rotorua or Lake Rotoiti and must not be move outside the surface water catchment of those lakes at any time.
- 3) Once on site, the fish must be stored securely overnight and all practicable steps must be taken to ensure that no persons have access to the fish after-hours.
- 4) Upon completion of the science fair, the fish must be destroyed and disposed of appropriately.
- 5) A copy of this exemption must be available at the science fair for the duration of the event.

This exemption applies only to the display of no more than one Brown Bullhead Catfish at the NIWA Bay of Plenty Science and Technology Fair at 325 Malfroy Road, Rotorua.

This exemption is valid from Monday 14th September to Friday 18th September 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the conditions we propose, feel free to contact the BOPRC Rotorua Office.

Yours Sincerely



Greg Corbett
Biosecurity Manager