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**SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR  
FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT  
SECTION 49 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

**To:** Board of Inquiry – Freshwater  
Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management  
Freepost Board of Enquiry – Water  
C/- P.O. Box 10362  
**WELLINGTON 6143**

**Submitter:** SURFBREAK PROTECTION SOCIETY INCORPORATED (“SPS”)

1. This is a submission on the **Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.**

2. The specific provisions of the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management that SPS's submission relates to are:

- Definitions – “**Freshwater Resources**”.

3. SPS's submission is: that it supports the notified version of the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

However, SPS is of the view that the definition of “**Freshwater Resources**” is incomplete in that it does not include any reference to where New Zealand's freshwater meets tidal zones; there is therefore a type of freshwater missing in the above definition - which is the mixing area of freshwater and saltwater i.e. the fresh/salt water mixing zone (“the fresh/salt water mixing zone”).

SPS is dedicated to the conservation of Surfbreaks. Surfbreaks are a natural characteristic, and part of the natural character, of the New Zealand coastline/coastal environment, of which there are few when compared to the total length of the New Zealand coastline<sup>1</sup>.

Nearly all surfbreaks are in, or very close to, the fresh/salt water mixing zones of the coastline/coastal environment. Most surfbreaks are situated on the coastline, within the coastal environment, at the entrance to rivers, streams, estuaries. Surfbreaks within or close to the fresh/salt water mixing zones have a freshwater factor. These freshwater sources help shape the foreshore and seabed which create surfable/surfing waves including contributing to sediment movement and sediment supply.

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<sup>1</sup> Scarfe (2008) states that there is only: “*one surfing break every 39km to 58km. Many of these surfing breaks are only surfable a few days per month or year when the tide, wind and wave conditions are suitable.*”

The quality of the freshwater outlets/ fresh/salt water mixing zones, both point source and non point source, close to surfbreaks affects the health and safety of surfers using those surfbreaks. The quality of the freshwater outlets/ fresh/salt water mixing zones, both point source and non point source, close to surfbreaks also contributes to amenity values/recreational amenity and natural character of the coastal environment; surfbreaks and surfing enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety.

SPS supports the objectives and policies of the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. However SPS is of the view that a major flaw of the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management is that no consideration is given to the freshwater component in relation to the fresh/salt water mixing zones (where New Zealand's freshwater meets tidal zones) of the New Zealand coastline/coastal environment in general and surfbreaks in particular.

SPS therefore seeks that the definition of "**Freshwater Resources**" is amended to include the words "fresh/salt water mixing zones".

SPS submits that the decision sought below is consistent with both the broad purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991("the Act") in Part 2 of the Act, and the purpose of national policy statements (other than New Zealand coastal policy statements) as specified in section 45 of the Act.

4. SPS seeks the following decision:

**Definitions – Freshwater Resources** - that the definition of "**Freshwater Resources**" is amended as follows:

“**Freshwater Resources**” means the fresh water of New Zealand’s rivers, lakes, wetlands, **fresh/salt water mixing zones** and groundwater systems [but does not include fresh water of any ephemeral stream or artificial watercourse].

And, such other changes as are necessary and consequent on this decision being granted.

5. SPS wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

6. If others make a similar submission, SPS will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

Dated 23 January 2009

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**SIGNED** on behalf of

**Surfbreak Protection Society Inc.**

By Monique Davis

Secretary

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Attention: Monique Davis, Secretary