PROPOSED CHANGES TO NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT

September 24, Napier, N.Z.

Napier Freshwater Anglers’ Club, a group of over 60 years standing, are pleased to be able to present their views to the proposed changes to the National Policy Statement Freshwater Management. (NPSFM)

We expect to be able to fish, gather food and swim in all our rivers, lakes and streams. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to tackle an issue New Zealanders are deeply concerned about. You must get it right.

We are in favour of Government imposed regulation, not an industry self-regulated model, and will support these proposals in the new regulations.

Trout and salmon are valued species for our club members. They provide a valued recreation resource to us and support a thriving tourist industry.

We support the protection of trout and salmon habitat, bearing in mind indigenous species need the same protection as well, as do the spawning areas, where sediment deposits from forestry and farm practices are presently silting ecosystems.

We don’t think exemption should be made for hydro-schemes as they use some 50% of all river flows in New Zealand.

We support setting bottom lines for nitrogen and phosphorus in rivers. Locally we would like to see all the wastewater systems (those which flow into the Tukituki river) returning water to the rivers in pristine condition.

We don't understand why Forestry is exempt from complying with the regulations. The National Environmental Standard for Forestry ignores small wetlands and allows harvesting to the very edges of wetlands and streams.

We are supporting the draft’s aim to increase protection of wetlands and the requirement of councils and consent holders to monitor the condition of wetlands. A positive recommendation is to exclude stock from these areas.

It is our member’s hope that we will see a major restoration within a generation, so that our grandchildren will be able see the results of our work in at least 30 years.

Submitted by:

on behalf of Napier Freshwater Anglers’ Club