

Submission on the National Policy Statement for Freshwater which introduces the National Objectives Framework (NOF) for Freshwater Management.

As a recreational user of water ways throughout their length, I believe the proposed standards contained in the document are too low.

I think nitrate levels should be set at a level that is not harmful or toxic to aquatic life including invertebrates, eels, whitebait, trout and salmon. I believe the proposed standards are damaging to the environment and harmful to the community.

I think waterways need to be managed in total from headwaters to river mouths. Wetlands should also be protected and covered by water quality standards. Species such as fish often travel the length of waterways so require healthy conditions throughout the waterway.

I believe its really important that all rivers and lakes remain healthy and fishable. As a New Zealander who gathers food from waterways this is something that is really important to me. Its important that local rivers and lakes are protected and healthy habitats for trout and salmon. Its important that the fish I gather is safe to eat. It is also economically important for our inbound tourism industry.

I believe all New Zealand freshwaters should be swimmable, fishable and safe for food gathering. I believe that the National Objectives Framework should include measurable parameters that directly relate to these values. I believe strong leadership needs to happen at a national level as regional councils have often failed to enforce required existing standards.

Yours sincerely

Greg Beitchef
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