

From: [Sarah Drummond](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Variation 3
Date: Tuesday, 26 May 2015 8:06:51 a.m.
Attachments: [MAB-264450-58-2-V1 \(Variation 3 Submission\) \(2\)Final.pdf](#)

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From: Maree Baker-Galloway [mailto:maree.baker-galloway@andersonlloyd.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2015 5:09 p.m.
To: Sarah Drummond
Cc: Mailroom Mailbox
Subject: Variation 3

Please find attached submission on behalf of Central South Island Fish and Game Council.

Please include both myself and Fish and Game directly as the address for service.

Yours faithfully

Maree Baker-Galloway

Maree Baker-Galloway
Partner

ANDERSONLLOYD

d: +64 3 450 0736
m: +64 27 295 4704
f: +64 3 450 0799
p: +64 3 450 0700
e: maree.baker-galloway@andersonlloyd.co.nz
w: andersonlloyd.co.nz

Level 2, 13 Camp Street
Queenstown 9300 New Zealand
PO Box 201
Queenstown 9348

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SUBMISSION FROM: **CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

SUBMITTER: **Jay Graybill**
Chief Executive
Central South Island Fish and Game
32 Richard Pearse Drive
PO Box 150
Temuka 7948
email: jgraybill@csifgc.org.nz

Regional Council: Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

This submission is made in reference to the *Variation 3 (South Coastal Canterbury Area) to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan*.

Trade Competition

Pursuant to Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, Fish and Game confirm they could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

Hearing

Fish and Game wish to be heard in support of our submission and will consider presenting a joint case at hearing with others presenting similar submission.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J P Graybill'.

Jay Graybill
Date: 25 May 2015

ROLE OF FISH AND GAME

Fish and Game Councils are Statutory Bodies with Functions (*inter alia*) to:

'manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game bird resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters...

(b) 'to maintain and improve the sports fish and game resource-

(i) by maintaining and improving access

(c) 'to promote and educate-

(i) by promoting recreation based on sports fish and game

(e) 'in relation to planning-

(i)'to represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process; and

(vii)'to advocate the interests of the Council, including its interests in habitats...'

Section 26Q, Conservation Act 1987.

In addition, Section 7(h) of the RMA states that all persons *'shall have particular regard to... the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.'*

Introduction: The importance of sports fishery and game bird resource in the region

Reasons for the submission are:

1. Canterbury is one of the key regions in the South Island for quality river fisheries. The sports fish and game bird resources of the Central Sought Island Fish and Game region are highly valued. On the basis of 2010/2011 licence figures, Fish and Game represent holders of over 33,000 angling and hunting licences in the Canterbury Region. The sports fishery, in particular is significant, with over 450,000 angler days being spent on the Region's waters (NIWA National Angling Survey

2007/08). The value placed on the sports fish and gamebird resource in a wider context is encapsulated by the four operative Water Conservation Orders in the Region (Te Waihora/ Ellesmere, Rakaia, Rangitata and Ahuriri.)

2. Gamebird hunting in the rivers and wetlands of South Canterbury between Timaru and the north bank of the Waitaki is undertaken annually by between 300 and 350 hunters who account for between 4,000 and 9,000 waterfowl. Fish & Game aerial surveys, which identify waterfowl hunting habitat for compliance monitoring, indicate that other than on Wainono Lagoon, approximately 91% of hunting (103 to 113 hunting sites) is on private land in the HDI area.
3. The Northern Streams Area includes the Otaio River and the Makikihi River catchments.
4. The Otaio River has its headwaters in the Hunters Hills. The Otaio mainstem then continues through hill country, across alluvial gravels and river terraces to the sea, a total of 47.5 kilometres. The river has a shallow, gravel bed and frequently dries out. Angling value has progressively declined over the years in the lower section due to low flows.
5. The Otaio Gorge is the mainstay of the brown trout fishery. When flows in the lower river are sufficient to provide adult trout habitat, the migration of fish from the gorge sustains angling activity. During these periods, anglers make use of the trout fishery in the lower reaches and if flows maintain an open mouth, sea-run trout supplement and replenish the resident population. However, as the lower section dries up, the majority of these fish become stranded in pools by receding flows and perish unless salvaged.
6. Primarily as a result of abstractions, the Otaio River suffers extended periods of dryness. Current allocation is 406 l/s. The mean flow of the river is in the order of 741 l/s measured at the Otaio Gorge and naturalised 7dMALF is approximately 117 l/s.
7. A critical physical constraint on the health and sustainability of native and sports fish populations of the Otaio River is the frequency of occurrence of river mouth opening and the duration of these events.
8. The Makikihi River drains five small catchments of the Hunters Hills range. There are numerous springs in the upper Makikihi catchment; however, the river tends to be dry most of its length. All of the main stream channels in the Makikihi River catchment have gravel beds and are characterised by low-volume water and sediment discharges. The Makikihi River mouth is rarely open.
9. The Makikihi River is approximately 25 kilometres in length. The mean flow at Teschemaker Valley Road is 389 l/s and the 7dMALF is in the order of 26 l/s. Current allocation, which includes surface water and hydraulically connected groundwater, is approximately 65 l/s.

10. Teschemaker Creek runs for 14 km from Mt Cecil before joining the Makikihi River of which it is the main tributary. The creek may provide spawning habitat and refuge during low flows for juvenile trout.
11. The mid-reaches of the mainstem below the gorge down to the Teschemaker confluence, and the tributaries, are popular waterfowl hunting sites.
12. The Waihao-Wainono Area includes all of the waterbodies from the Hook Beach drain catchment to the Waihao River, which have a flow connection with Wainono Lagoon.
13. The Hook River is a tributary of Lake Wainono and drains the eastern faces of the Hunters Hills. The upper reaches are permanently flowing and the streams are stony bottomed. The middle reaches are naturally intermittent, with a loss of flow to alluvial gravels; however, the intermittency may be exacerbated by water abstraction. The lower reaches pick up water from groundwater and the flow becomes more permanent.
14. The mean annual flow at the Hook Beach Rd recorder is 522 l/s and the 7dMALF is about 57 l/s. Current allocation, which includes both surface water and hydraulically connected groundwater, is in the order of 99 l/s.
15. Water quality at the top of the catchment is generally very good with respect to nitrogen but a deteriorating trend in water quality is recorded moving down the catchment. The upper reaches of the Hook River are generally very healthy, with extremely high ecosystem health scores (QMCI), and little algal growth although they are prone to low summer flows. The upper reaches provide important trout spawning habitat. When there is flow in the middle reaches, the river provides important passage for sports fish. The lower Hook is a major spawning area for lagoon resident brown trout and is known to contain long fin and shortfin eel and common bully; therefore, it has high ecological value. The lower reaches have low flows, an increasing trend in concentration of nitrogen over time, and are prone to large growths of cyanobacteria.
16. An unnamed tributary in the upper Hook catchment collects water from the Hunters Hills and runs through native forest at Gunns Bush. This tributary exhibits high amenity values and features unmodified, native bush clad riparian margins, with an intermittent bedrock and gravel bottomed substrate. The tributary has good riffle, pool characteristics that support healthy populations of small brown trout. The recruitment of juvenile fish from the unnamed stream to the Hook River is likely to be valuable in sustaining the fishery of the Hook River.

17. Wainono Lagoon is fed by a variety of small rivers and springs in the coastal plains between the Hook and Waihao Rivers. The lagoon is formed behind a coastal wave-formed bar and lies at a typical level of about 1 m above mean sea level. The total area of Wainono Lagoon is approximately 350 ha when it is at this level.
18. Data indicates an overall increasing trend in the annual maximum nitrogen concentrations over time, with peaks occurring during the winter and spring months.
19. The beach barrier, lake, and surrounding wetlands provide habitat for 57 different bird species. Many of these species are resident and others are migratory. In late summer, waterfowl counts on Lake Wainono Lagoon and Wainono Wetlands typically show 12,000 - 18,000 game birds present of which 75% are mallard duck. The Department of Conservation considers the lagoon a nationally important locality for 7 bird species - white heron/kotuku, royal spoonbill, wrybill/ngutupare, black swan, Canada goose, grey teal/tete, and pied stilt/poaka.
20. The lagoon is identified as meeting the criteria for a RAMSAR wetland of international importance (Golder 2012).
21. Wainono Lagoon and its immediate surrounding area are used extensively by several hundred gamebird hunters, anglers and birdwatchers, and is a mahinga kai site.
22. The Waihao River catchment drains an area of 541 km² at its mouth. The river's two branches combine at the Waihao Forks and flows as the Waihao River in an easterly direction for about 19 km to the coast. Downstream of Wains Crossing to Bradshaw's Bridge, flow is lost to alluvial gravels and the river is intermittent. Around Bradshaw's Bridge, flow is re-gained from the alluvial gravels and the Morven-Glenavy Irrigation Scheme bywash discharge and the river becomes perennial.
23. The mean flow at the Waihao River recorder at McCullough's is about 3890 l/s and the 7dMALF is in the order of 304 l/s.
24. The recreational sports fishery is largely supported by brown trout with occasional catches of Chinook salmon in the lower reaches and rainbow trout, thought to originate from the Morven-Glenavy irrigation bywash below SH1. Resident brown trout are found throughout the catchment and sea-run stocks provide a boost to the fishery in spring and early summer. Sea-run trout appear to restrict their range to the lower river, the dead arm and Wainono Lagoon.
25. Summer low flows and ceasing of continuous flow almost annually in the river reach around SH1 restricts trout migration between the upper and lower Waihao River.
26. A review of anglers' diary schemes from 1957 to 1968 rated the Waihao River trout fishery as the most important of the coastal fisheries in the Waitaki Valley Acclimatisation Society (WVAS) district, an area that covered from Shag Point, near Palmerston in the south, to the Pareora River in the north. The report noted that

some decrease in the anglers' crop from the Waihao and the Kakanui Rivers has probably occurred because of continued water abstraction (Graynoth and Skrzynski, 1973).

27. The NAS (National Angler Survey) of 1994/95 and 2001/02 identified similar levels of angler use of the Waihao to that of the Pareora River and similar trends related to the presence and timing of river flows sufficient to accommodate angling. The 1994/95 season was the poorer of the two seasons on the Waihao and the median flow for the October 1994 to April 1995 fishing season was 506 l/s at McCullough's. The NAS estimated 650 ± 290 angler days were spent on the Waihao that season. Early season effort in October and November accounted for about 20% of the season total although flows were too high for angling for most of October. There were no more freshes in the river flow until mid-April and daily mean flows were below 1000 l/s for 143 days in succession. Flows of less than 1000 l/s do not appear to offer good conditions for angling, and without freshes, anglers had no other fishable flows to target. Low season angling effort reflected poor season angling conditions.
28. October 2001 to April 2002, the season median flow was 1614 l/s and 1100 ± 590 angler days were sustained. Over 80% of the 01/02 season effort occurred in October and November when the median flow was 2200 l/s and only 5% of angling effort occurred in April when the median flow was 524 l/s.
29. It appears from flow records, trout population dynamics, and angling results from 1994/95 and 2001/02 seasons, flows of 1,500 l/s or more at McCullough's will maintain continuous flow to the sea, provide for trout passage, and improve the diversity of angling experiences available to Waihao River anglers.
30. Sports fisheries have existed as part of a statutory regime in NZ since 1867, with the largely salmonid based fisheries a key value in and attribute of our freshwaters. The current statutory basis and regime for sports fishery management is provided under Part 5A of the Conservation Act 1987, as part of freshwater fisheries management, together with associated Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 and Angler's Notices promulgated annually under this legislation.
31. Game birds are recognised in the First Schedule of the Wildlife Act 1953 and their management by Fish & Game Councils under Part II of that Act, with analogous regulations and annual Game Gazette Notices to the Anglers Notice. Please note that several of the principle game birds (grey duck, paradise shelduck, shoveler duck, black swan and pukeko) are native species.

Sports Fish and Game Bird Management

32. Sports fishery management sits within a framework established for freshwater fishery management and similarly game bird management within a framework of wildlife management jointly between Fish & Game Councils and the Department of Conservation in Part VB of the Conservation Act 1987. Aspects of fishery and game bird management (such as which species should be managed where) are covered by that legislation. Thus species management is primarily the function of DOC

and Fish & Game Councils. The nature of this management is set out in some detail for each Fish & Game region in their respective statutory Sports Fish & Game Management Plans, which have been through a public process and approved by the Minister of Conservation. These cannot be inconsistent with Conservation Management Strategies, for example. As statutory management plans, this regional plan and other such plans prepared under the RMA are obliged to have regard to such plans in their preparation (section 66(2)(c)(i)).

33. Management of the habitat of all freshwater fish and wildlife and appropriate provision for the amenity derived from the fishery and game bird resource, however, is also the responsibility of regional and district councils under the RMA. Sections 5(a) and (b), and section 6(a) (preservation of natural character), section (6)(d) (regarding public access to water bodies), section 7(c) (the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values), 7(h) (protection of the habitat of trout and salmon), and 7(d) (intrinsic values of ecosystems) are directly relevant to sports fishery management. While sections 5(a) and (b), and sections 6(a) (preservation of natural character of water bodies including wetlands), 6(c) (protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous flora and fauna), 7(c), and 7(d) are directly relevant to game bird management.
34. The inclusion of the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon (s(7)(h)) in the RMA (1991) has a dual purpose; firstly in recognition of the national importance of these species. Freshwater sports fisheries are of high socio-economic and socio-cultural importance both domestically and internationally, providing a myriad of benefits to society (Weithman, 1999; Welcomme and Naeve 2001; Arlinghaus, Mehner & Cowx 2002).
35. Secondly, s(7)(h) provides de facto protection for our other freshwater species. Trout and salmon are amongst the most studied fish in the world. Salmonid habitat requirements (water quality and quantity and physical habitats) are well established in the literature. Regrettably the habitat requirements of most of our native fish species are much less well known. Given the sensitivity of salmonids to habitat degradation, it is recognised that the provision of salmonid habitat requirements provides protection for the health of other species in aquatic ecosystems, and for Life Supporting Capacity generally. This is another reason for the inclusion of the protection for the habitats of these species in section 7(h). There is a good correlation between the habitat requirements of salmonids and suitability for other species and other purposes.
36. The region's sport fishery and gamebird habitat provide significant economic benefits to the Canterbury Region and the national economy through generating increased visitor spending. There are many tourism associated activities and service providers who cater for anglers and gamebird hunters, including specialised guiding services, accommodation and hospitality providers, transport and retail services. Many overseas anglers and hunters are affluent high-value visitors.

General Submission on Variation 3

37. Fish & Game support the intent of Canterbury Regional Council in reviewing, and the Waitaki-South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee in developing an integrated catchment land and water plan variation to address the resource management issues in the South Coastal Canterbury area to ensure that the catchment's land and water resources are sustainably managed and their values protected. In particular, Fish & Game supports the intent of Variation 3 to reduce nitrogen leaching from farming within the catchments, improve the health of Wainono Lagoon, and address water quantity issues and over-allocation. However, Fish & Game submit that in its current form the Variation fails to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, will not achieve the freshwater objectives of the Land and Water Regional Plan, and cannot achieve the targets of the Zone Implementation Programme.

Reasons for this submission are:

38. The variation in its current form does not adequately provide for/ give effect to/was not prepared in accordance with:

a. The purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act, including but not limited to:

(i) Safeguarding the life supporting capacity ofwater, soil, and ecosystems; and

(ii) The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development; and

(iii) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscape; and

(iv) The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna; and

(v) Maintenance and enhancement of amenity values; and

(vi) Protection of the habitat of trout and salmon

b. s15 RMA

c. s30 RMA

d. s32 RMA

- e. s67 RMA
- f. s69 RMA and Schedule 3 RMA
- g. s70 RMA
- h. National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM)
- i. New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS)
- j. Canterbury Water Management Strategy (2009)
- k. Canterbury Regional Policy Statement 2013
- l. Ensure that water resource use is necessary, reasonable, and efficient
- m. The protection of recreational fisheries and gamebird resources, including the protection of rivers, lakes, wetlands, and their margins
- n. Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of freshwater environments, including wetland environments, as habitats for sports fish and game birds
- o. Maintenance and enhancement of recreational values, amenity values, and the intrinsic values of ecosystems
- p. Adequately identify and list the values of freshwater in the region including but not limited to: recreational salmonid fishery and spawning values
- q. Set numerical water quantity limits to protect freshwater values, and give effect to the NPS Freshwater Management and Canterbury Regional Policy Statement
- r. Ensure that land use activities and development are managed so that life supporting capacity of water is safeguarded; and freshwater values including trout fishery, trout spawning, recreational, and amenity values, areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, and the natural character of waterbodies is protected

- s. Ensuring that land use activities and development are managed so that where numerical water quality and quantity limits are currently being achieved that they continue to be met, and where water quality and quantity limits are not met and are currently degraded, that water quality and quantity is restored towards meeting the limits

RMA s69 and Schedule 3

39. Fish & Game submits that Variation 3 should identify which water bodies support the values set out in Schedule 3 to the RMA, and include these as freshwater objectives. Relevant to Fish & Game's submission are the following classes:
 - a. Aquatic ecosystem purposes (Class AE)
 - b. Fishery purposes (Class F)
 - c. Fish spawning purposes (Class FS)
 - d. Contact recreation purposes (Class CR)
 - e. Natural state (Class NS)
40. Both nitrogen and phosphorus instream water quality limits should be set to safeguard life supporting capacity and ecosystem health, and to protect, and where degraded enhance, macroinvertebrate community health, and prevent undesirable macrophyte, periphyton and cyanobacteria blooms.
41. The policies and Tables 15(a), (b), (c), (d), and (p) should reflect the numerical water quality and quantity freshwater objectives.
42. Variation 3 should establish management approaches for land use, which ensure that where the appropriate instream concentrations of contaminants and other water quality characteristics are met, and where they are currently exceeded, land use activities are managed to improve water quality and quantity over time to work back toward the "targets" (as defined by the NPSFW).
43. Amend Table 15(c) to levels that safeguard life supporting capacity and ecosystem health.

44. Amend Tables 15(m), (n), (o), and (p) so that the nitrogen load limits (tonnes per year) and phosphorus load limits (tonnes per year) are calculated to achieve the set concentrations for DIN and DRP in the amended Table 15(c).

Section 32

45. Fish & Game submits that the policies, methods and rules are not suitable to achieve the objectives nor have sufficient reasonable alternatives been identified.

46. Fish & Game submits that s32 has not been complied with, as it is not possible to assess the benefits, costs or effectiveness of an instrument, including that which references "irrigation schemes" or "restoration projects" that are central to the proposed methods that have are not constructed.

NPS Freshwater Management

47. Fish & Game submits that Variation 3, in relation to managing water quality, does not give effect to the NPSFM for the following reasons:

- a. Variation 3 will not result in maintenance or improvement of water quality, and instead allows degradation from current state by setting the current nitrogen loads from calculations of current leaching and land use and not from current water quality.
- b. Tables 15(a) and 15(p) require further work to ensure that numerical freshwater objectives, limits and targets are set to safeguard the life supporting capacity and ecosystem health of freshwater, and protect the values of waterbodies, including recreational salmonid fisher and spawning values.

Fish & Game seek the following relief:

48. That the relief outlined under the specific submission points, and as appended, is accepted; and additionally in general terms;

- a. That provisions are included that ensure the life supporting capacity of water, soil and ecosystems are safeguarded
- b. Fish & Game water body values be identified at least in accordance with the Schedule 3 water quality classes
- c. Fish & Game submit that the following values, at a minimum, should be included in Variation 3. These values should be identified ideally to the river, stream, or where appropriate reach level; however, if this is not achievable, the values should be identified to the sub-catchment level:

- Amenity values

- Aesthetic values
 - Native fish values including inanga spawning
 - Trout fishery and spawning values
 - Game bird habitat
 - Native bird habitat
 - Riparian habitat
- d. Fish & Game submit that the Variation should identify contact recreation sites in relation to the regional salmonids fishery and include these as "contact recreation sites," incorporate numerical water quality and quantity limits to protect these values, and include rules in relation to those identified waters which must ensure the standards set out in Schedule 3 are complied with.
- e. Fish & Game submit that the Stock Exclusion rule must include ephemeral waterways in addition to that already specified in rule 15.5.19 and in addition to the stock exclusion rules in the LWRP.
- f. Provisions are included in the Variation to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- g. Amend Tables 15(c), (d) and (e) to include target dates.
- h. Amend Table 15(b) so that the *E.coli* figure is improved beyond the NPS bottom line within a set timeframe.
- i. Amend Table 15(k) so that the Sum of granted water permits at 1 May 2015 has a quantifiable number.
- j. Amend Table 15(p) to include amended and lower Nitrogen load limits (tonnes per year) from 2030. s30 RMA inherently requires Regional Councils to achieve DIN instream concentrations in order to maintain and enhance water quality and ecosystem health.

Specific Submission Points

Note: The submission has been set out in an attempt to be user-friendly. The outcomes sought and the wording used is as a suggestion only, where a suggestion is proposed it is with the intention of "or words to that effect."

Submissions on Variation 3	Support/Oppose	Reason (in addition to the above)	I seek the following decision:
New provision: identification of values of water bodies		The plan should identify the values of freshwater resources within the catchment	Include in the plan a table that identifies the values of the waterbodies and management objectives for each value, as summarised in this submission.
Policy 15.4.1	Support in part	<p>Nitrate nitrogen is a toxicant and should be included in the consideration of other losses to be managed to improve water quality</p> <p>While excluding intensively farmed stock from drains in addition to the region-wide stock exclusion provisions is supported, it does not provide for enough protection in waterways with degraded water quality.</p> <p>Enabling the Wainono Restoration Project is supported; however, it should not be relied upon as a means to improve water quality</p>	<p>Replace with:</p> <p>Improve water quality in the South Coastal Canterbury Area by reducing losses of microbial contaminants, nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment by excluding cattle, pigs and deer from surface waterbodies, drains and ephemeral waterways and enabling the Wainono Restoration Project through constructing, planting, and maintaining suitable riparian areas to buffer waterways, including artificial waterways, from the effects of stock and surrounding land use.</p>
Policy 15.4.4	Oppose	Improving water quality by requiring all farming activities operate at GMP is ambiguous as GMP is not defined and Overseer already assumes farms are operating at GMP.	<p>Insert:</p> <p>Improve water quality in the South Coastal Canterbury Area by requiring:</p> <p>a) all farming activities to comply with the nutrient discharge allowance</p> <p>b) all farming activities to prepare and implement farm environment management plans in accordance with schedule 24B, which sets out and defines good environmental practice to reduce current nitrogen,</p>

			phosphorus and microbial contaminant losses.
Policy 15.4.8	Oppose	Fish & Game supports the intention to improve water quality in Wainono Lagoon with augmentation; however, this policy appears to only offset the augmentation by allowing higher flex caps when augmentation has occurred.	Delete.
Policy 15.4.9	Oppose	By allowing farming activities to increase nitrogen limits will not meet the freshwater objectives of the NPSFW.	Delete.
Policy 15.4.14	Support in part		Amend policy to: Nutrient discharges within the command area of an irrigation scheme are managed by requiring any discharge <i>consent</i> granted to an irrigation scheme to include....
Policy 15.4.15	Oppose	The policy is void of a timeframe or target date to work towards. If water quality standards or goals are not met, there is no set timeframe identified to achieve this by, nor target nutrient loss calculations specified to improve water quality.	Amend policy to: Improve water quality of the Waihao-Wainono Area by enabling augmentation of Wainono Lagoon and catchment restoration activities by 2035, and in the absence of either occurring require nutrient loss reductions beyond those achieved with farm environment management plans in accordance with schedule 24B, which sets out and defines good environmental practice to reduce current nitrogen, phosphorus and microbial contaminant losses.
Policy 15.4.23	Support with amendment	Fish & Game supports provisions that enable surface water or hydraulically connected groundwater to be swapped for deep groundwater that is not hydraulically connected on the condition that the surface/shallow	Amend to include: The water resulting from any surrendered surface water and stream depleting groundwater takes in the catchment will not be reallocated and will be left in the river until such time as the catchment is no

		ground water cannot be reallocated.	longer over allocated.
Policy 15.4.27	Support	Fish & Game supports minimum flow conditions for groundwater abstraction less than 30m below ground level to protect ecological health of surface water.	Retain.
Policy 15.4.29	Support in part	Fish & Game seeks that the conditions attached to the policy b), c), d) have numerical values attached to them to clearly identify flow requirements to achieve the objectives set out.	Amend policy to include the numerical groundwater block (Mm ³ /y) to b), c), and d) as the sum of granted water permits at 1 May 2015.
Policy 15.4.32	Support	Fish & Game supports augmentation into the Waihao and avoiding allocation of water discharged from this for abstraction.	Retain
Policy 15.4.35	Support	Fish & Game supports a common catchment expiry date, limiting subsequent catchment expiry dates to ten yearly intervals, and aligning the duration of consents. This allows for a more calculated assessment of water availability.	Retain
Rule 15.5.2 and Schedule 24B	Oppose	<p>The policy deems that the use of land for a farming activity as a permitted activity provided that 5) The farming activity is operating at good management practice as set out in Schedule 24B.</p> <p>Because this is a permitted activity, it seems that it cannot be audited or enforced. Permitted activity rules should be clear and certain and not</p>	<p>Amend Rule 15.5.2</p> <p>Replace 15.5.2 (5) with:</p> <p>5. The practices in Schedule 24B are being implemented and the information required is recorded in accordance with Schedule 24B, and supplied to Canterbury Regional Council on request; or</p> <p>6. A Farm Environment Plan has been prepared and is being implemented in accordance with Schedule 7 Part A, and supplied to Canterbury Regional Council on request.</p>

		require third party audit.	
Rule 15.5.19	Support in part	Fish & Game support exclusion of stock from waterways; however, stock with access to ephemeral waterways can also have adverse and significant impact on water quality. Ephemeral waterways have the capacity to transport sediment, faecal contaminants and nutrients.	Amend Rule 15.5.19 to: Any reference to the bed of a lake, river or wetland in Rules 5.68, 5.69, 5.70 and 5.71 also includes a drain and ephemeral waterways...
Table 15(a)	Support in part	Table 15(a) sets out the freshwater outcomes to be achieved by 2030.	Amend Table 15(a) to include all relevant Freshwater Objectives such as DIN, DIP, clarity, Nitrate and other toxicants, and PH that will achieve life supporting capacity and ecosystem health. See Appendix 1 for amended Table 15(a)
Table 15(b)	Support in part	Table 15(b) identifies the freshwater outcomes for Wainono Lagoon. However, the <i>E.coli</i> indicator is set at the national bottom line and does not provide adequate protection for the customary gathering and harvesting of mahinga kai.	Amend the <i>E.coli</i> indicator to gradually improve over time to meet at least Attribute State "B" (540/100ml) as defined by the NPSFW from the national bottom line.
Table 15(c)	Support in part	Fish & Game support all DIN limits to 0.8 mg/l or less and seek all limits above that to reduce to that over time.	Amend Table 15(c) so that all DIN limits are improved to 0.8 mg/l or less.
Table 15(g) and 15(h)	Oppose	The proposed flow allocations in Tables 15(g) and (h) are over the Ministry for the Environment's (2008) proposed NES default allocation recommendation of 90% of 7dMALF. Under this regime, the Otaio and Makikihi Rivers block allocations are considerably more than the	Insert a new allocation framework that protects life supporting capacity and ecosystem health. The Ministry for the Environment (2008) NES can be used as a starting point and states: For rivers and streams with mean flows less than or equal to 5 m³ /s A minimum flow of 90% of the mean annual low flow (MALF) as

		<p>7dMALF. This is likely to cause longer stretches of the river to dry out for longer periods of time. Proposed allocation blocks of this magnitude will have negative impacts on instream habitats and ecosystems.</p> <p>While it is accepted that the proposed framework is better than the current situation, it is still extremely overallocated and will continue to have negative impacts and therefore, not meet NPS Freshwater Management, CRPS, LWRP, or the targets of the Zone Implementation Programme.</p>	<p>calculated by the regional council and an allocation limit of, whichever is the greater of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of MALF as calculated by the regional council • the total allocation from the catchment on the date that the national environmental standard comes into force less any resource consents surrendered, lapsed, cancelled or not replaced. <p>For rivers and streams with mean flows greater than 5 m³ /s</p> <p>A minimum flow of 80% of MALF as calculated by the regional council and an allocation limit of, whichever is the greater of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of MALF as calculated by the regional council • the total allocation from the catchment on the date that the Standard comes into force less any resource consents surrendered, lapsed, cancelled or not replaced.
Table 15(k)	Oppose	<p>The Waihao is the only river where a groundwater allocation block is indicated with numerical data. The other rivers specified need to have an associated numerical number attached to them so that it is clear what the block is for each river as of 1 May 2015 as the table indicates.</p>	<p>Replace wording for Groundwater block allocation with numerical figures</p>
Table 15(m)	Oppose	<p>Table 15(m) does not appear to be congruent with Policy 15.4.15 or 15.4.16 in that the policies refer to augmentation as a means to dilute nutrients and thereby improve water quality. However, this table allows for a flexibility cap (an increase in nitrogen) whenever augmentation occurs, seemingly negating the possible beneficial outcome for water</p>	<p>Delete Table 15(m)</p>

		quality.	
Table 15(n)	Support	Fish & Game supports N limits based on soil types.	Seek assurance that the kg/N/ha/yr N limits will achieve the freshwater objectives.
Table 15(p)	Oppose	The load limits from 1 May 2015 for the Northern Streams increase from 2030. To achieve the water quality outcomes where water quality is currently degraded, it would seem that N load limits would have to decrease over time.	Seek assurance that the N load limits will meet the NPSFW and achieve life supporting capacity and ecosystem health. If the loads do not meet the objectives, then they must be reduced.
15.9 High Naturalness Water Bodies	Support with amendment	The Hook River is an important trout spawning area and contains shortfin and longfin eels and common bullies.	Add to Outstanding and Significant Characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological habitat of high value

Appendix 1

Management Unit	River	Critical Values	Ecological health freshwater outcomes													Primary Contact Recreation Freshwater objective	Microbial Freshwater Objective	Cultural Freshwater Objective		
			QMCI [minimum score]	Dissolved oxygen [minimum daily saturation] (%)	Temperature [daily max] (°C) to apply from October to April inclusive	Temperature [max] (°C) to apply during May to September inclusive	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (mg/L)	Dissolved Inorganic Phosphorus (mg/L)	Emergent Macrophytes [Max. cover of Bed](%)	Total Macrophytes [Max. cover of bed](%)	Macrophyte Freshwater objective		Periphyton Freshwater Objective		Siltation Freshwater Objective				Microbial indicator for contact recreation [SERG]	
											Chlorophyll a [max. biomass] (mg/m²)	Filamentous algae >20mm [max. cover of bed](%)	cyanobacteria [max cover of bed] (%)	Fine Sediment <2mm diameter [max. cover of bed](%)	Clarity black disk (m)					Nitrate & Other toxicants (Protection level)
Hill-fed Upland	Hook R. Waimate Ck.	High Biodiversity Salmonid Fishery	6	90	19	11	0.21	0.006	No Value set	No value set	50	10	15	15	4	99%	Good	Freshwater mahinga kai species are sufficiently abundant for customary gathering, water quality is suitable for their safe harvesting, and they are safe to eat		
Hill-fed Lower	Horseshoe Bend Ck. Kohika R. Makikihi R. Otaio R. Waihao R.	Salmonid Fishery Amenity Contact recreation	6	90	19	11	0.47	0.006	No Value set	No value set	120	30	15	15	4	99%	Good- fair			
Spring-fed plains	Buchanans Ck Hook Dn. Merrys Stm. Sir Charles Ck. Waituna Stm.	Moderate Biodiversity Salmonid Fishery	5	70	19	11	0.8	0.016	30	50	120	30	20	20	3	95%	Fair			
All Rivers		Observed minimum flow of 80 to 90% of the naturalized 7 day MALF																		