

Plan Change 7 to the LWRP submission

**Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Land and Water Regional Plan
Environment Canterbury
P.O. Box 345
Christchurch 8140**

**Geoffrey Ackerley
153 Victoria Street
Ashburton**

E-mail : geoffackerley@gmail.com

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I cannot gain advantage in trade competition through this submission.

I oppose Policy 4.102 in the section – Habitat of Indigenous Freshwater Species.
My reasons are:

1. It is widely accepted that our sports fishery is currently at risk and, in particular, our salmon fishery is at a point where it could collapse. The implementation of this change has the potential to be the final nail in the coffin of both our salmon fishery and much of our trout fishery. Loss of passage means loss of spawning activity which means loss of the fishery.
2. Waterbodies that could be adversely affected have significant value, both for New Zealanders and overseas visitors, and the adoption of this change would be detrimental to what is both a way of life for many Kiwis and also a valuable tourism industry. As a keen angler I object to the potential for this change to have an adverse effect on many of the rivers and lakes in the Mid-Canterbury region that I have fished for over 50 years
3. The adoption of this change would be in conflict with existing Conservation Orders. This is because it would threaten outstanding sports fishery values of waterways which have WCO's in place, a key reason for having such WCOs.
4. The adoption of this change would be inconsistent with other regulations that are in place to protect our sports fishery, in particular the ability of Fish and Game to function effectively.

While I can support measures that provide for fish passage of indigenous species, I believe such measures must also cater for the passage of sports fish. Any related regulations must identify the importance of protecting and improving our sports fishery and must not provide opportunities to prevent the movement of sports fish for spawning purposes.

