Address to: Secretariat

 Environment Committee

 Select Committee Services

 Parliament Buildings

 WELLINGTON 6160

Covering Letter

Date:

Submission on the

**Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill**

**To the Environment Committee**

**Personal Details**

This submission is from:

***I wish to appear before the committee to speak to my submission***. Yes/No

My support person/persons are:

I can be contacted at:
(Phone number, email address, address)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Submission - Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill**

**I oppose the intent of this bill because, as read, it gives the Director General of Conservation the ability to regulate by notice, without proper consultation, due process or any substantial evidence. This could include changing the West Coast Whitebait Regulations.**

**I wish to make the following comments:**

**Clause 7**

I oppose this clause in its entirety.

Section 2 (b)(ii) of this clause would give the Director General the ability to enforce regulations by notice, which have the potential to severely curtail or stop whitebaiting altogether without an independent process to rigorously test the validity of issuing such a notice.

**Clause 13**

I oppose Clause 13 in its entirety.

It gives the Director General the ability to close the whitebait season indefinitely, by notice, without consultation, cutting out the ability for stakeholders involvement and without substantial evidence from prior research that proves there are grounds for this decision and without all other options being tested.

**Clause 16**

Section 48A

I oppose this clause completely as it could see the introduction of new measures that could stop whitebaiting altogether as well as other activities that occur in freshwater, e.g. jetboating, sport fishing, even swimming.

**Specific Comments**

The West Coast Whitebait Fishing Regulations that have existed since the early 1960s has set the West Coast aside as a special area and has provided conservation measures that have protected the indigenous freshwater fish on the West Coast as well as provided a long term, sustainable fishery for all to enjoy.

Whitebaiting is a substantial industry on the West Coast, supporting families, providing food, contributing to the economy and has significant cultural and lifestyle importance for West Coasters and visitors alike.

**Recommendation**: **THIS BILL SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN UNTIL FURTHER CONSULTATION HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITH ALL AFFECTED PARTIES.**