

Hi Pim

[Wetlands New Zealand \(wetlandsnz.com\)](http://wetlandsnz.com) is back up. Please show the content to your colleagues including Stephen Park, Senior Environmental Scientist.

Please note that forested land adjacent to a city has a higher capital value than any land within the city: Quote Jim Dahm, Coastal Scientist.

There are very sound reasons not to allow any commercial developments on floodable wetlands:

Please model the following:

1. Raising Maketu Road to stop-bank adjacent farmland and Maketu Village in case of sea level rise, or potential Kaituna River floods.
2. Lowering all of Ford Road between the mole and Fords Twin Cuts to just below the average high tide water level at that point. You could use culverts to maintain vehicular access to Te Tumu.
3. Leaving Te Tumu exit as it is. Every low tide Kaituna River flow would maintain the integrity of that exit for potential Kaituna River floods as well as for boating access as it does now. Note that we have always been able to walk across the mouth of the Kaituna River at Te Tumu at low tide during low river flows.
4. Turning Kaituna River catchment lowlands into kahikatea, harakeke (flax) and raupo planted north/south lying v-drain wetlands to receive Kaituna River flood flows, while simultaneously denitrifying effluent from Pukehina, Maketu, AFFCO Rangiuru, Te Puke Borough, Papamoa and Te Tumu, Mount Maunganui and Tauranga with plantings and with denitrifying bacteria that could be protected from the sun by a kahikatea forest, while simultaneously increasing coastal fisheries production with galaxius (whitebait) and tuna (eel) and bully juveniles from the ideal habitat created, that could inevitably increase sprats (yellow-eyed mullet), pilchards and herrings, elvers (juvenile eels returning from Tonga) and the commercial species of fish all of which feed on them all.

References:

A TREASURY OF NEW ZEALAND FISHES BY David H. Graham:

“Inanga will live in large areas of very slowly moving water, even in the most stagnant, swampy places that are growing raupo, rushes and toetoe grass, but there is always an outlet to a creek or river.”

(1930); ‘Kahawai not as abundant, with no apparent reason for change, as Kahawai has not been over fished like other fish.’

The New Zealand Whitebait Book” authored by R.M. McDowall:

“Manawatu river productivity in the early days was undoubtedly due to vast areas of lowland swamp. These provided extensive habitat for Inanga, Giant Kokopu and Banded Kokopu. Swamps have been drained, streams channelised, the forests felled, and the Whitebait have largely gone. Low lying estuarine vegetated flats at the river mouth for spawning have also disappeared. It is no wonder that the fishery isn’t what it was.”

“There is a higher density of adults in the lower river and they are found in predominance in brackish backwaters.”

“From the high fecundity (number of eggs) and the large size of fish living in them, lowland bush swamps with brown water appear to be the ideal habitat for *Galaxius maculatus*.”

The New Zealand coastal fishery could, I believe, be rebuilt from the bottom up with whitebait and with tuna elvers, if there was a mind to do it. Lowlands within a few miles of the tidal reach could be reflooded and whitebaiting could be outlawed. Native flora could be replanted along stream banks, pollution stopped, sediment traps built on tributaries in the form of ponds, and fish ladders could be built up waterfalls and hydro-dams. Stop-banks around tidal estuaries could be removed, and wetlands made inaccessible to stock. Productivity of the New Zealand coastal fishery may in future be limited only by the degree of action that is now taken to restore it.

Kindest regards

Don Paterson

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Kaituna River & Maketu Estuary Management Strategy

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