

# Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 feedback

\* Compulsory question

## Your contact details

Only your name will be publicly visible as part of your submission.

Name

[REDACTED]

Organisation (if you are submitting on behalf of an organisation): The Otago Fish and Game Council

Email address:

[REDACTED]

Phone number

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Do you wish to speak to your submission at a public hearing?

No

Please make sure you have provided your contact details (email and/or phone number) so we can be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online. Hearings will be livestreamed.

Hearings will be sometime in late February to March 2026 (date will be confirmed closer to the time).

## Your feedback

**Please give us your feedback on the changes to the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2020, as outlined in the Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026. What would you change? What do you support or not support?**

Please see attached submission

## Upload any supporting documents (optional)

Upload any documents you have to support your feedback, or upload your feedback itself. For visual and audio feedback, please include the links in a document.

Accepted file formats: PDF, Word, Excel, JPG, PNG.

Max size of each file: 5 MB

Maximum number of files you can upload: 3

### File upload



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## About you (optional)

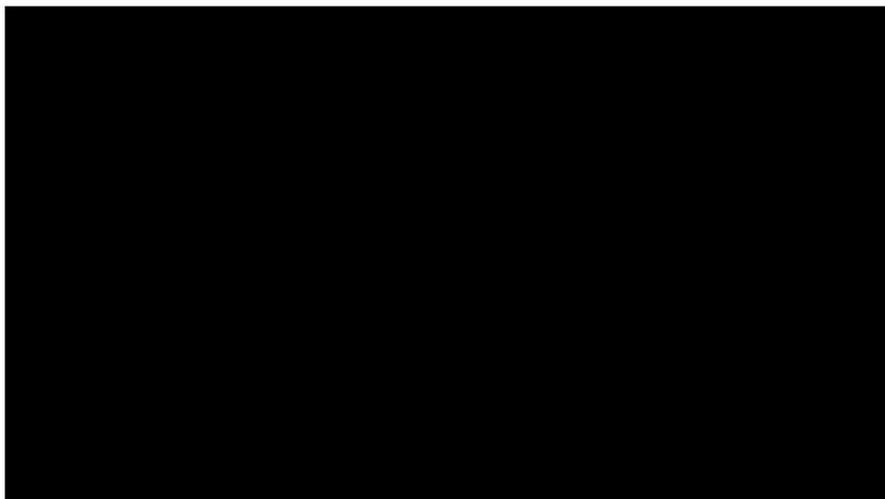
What area do you live in?

Please specify.

Which age group are you in?

Which of the following describe/s you? Select all that apply.

Please specify.





11 February 2026  
Otago Regional Council  
Private Bag 1954  
Dunedin 9054

### **Submission on the Navigation Safety Bylaw review**

This feedback is provided on behalf of the Otago Fish and Game Council (**Fish and Game**). For additional information please contact Ian Hadland using the details below.

#### **Submitter Details**

Submitter: The Otago Fish and Game Council

Contact person: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11 February 2026

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#### **Introduction**

1. Fish and Game is the statutory manager of sports fish and game bird resources within Otago. It holds functions and responsibilities set out in the Conservation Act 1987. The organisation's functions include managing, maintaining and enhancing the sports fish and game resources of Otago in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters; representing the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process; and advocating the interests of the Council, including its interests in habitats. This submission has been developed in line with these functions.
2. Fish and Game has used the Draft Otago Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 (Tracked changes version) for references in this submission.

#### **General speed limits on rivers**

3. Fish and Game supports the retention of the general speed limit of 5 knots on rivers via the Navigation on rivers provisions, to protect the environment and other river users. Boats

travelling at speed on many river reaches in Otago can pose a safety issue to anglers and hunters, as well as disturb the peacefulness of the surrounds.

4. Where speed uplifts are appropriate, they can be identified and added into Appendix E.

#### **General speed limits near vessels, people and the shore**

5. The deletion of section 17 sees the removal of 5 knot speed limits within 50 meters of other vessels and people; and within 200 meters of the shore. Presumably, the intent is for these spaces to be managed by the requirement for safe and considerate navigation instead.
6. These speed restrictions are of concern to anglers, who spend time fishing from boats, on riverbanks and when wading in waters. Boats at speed travelling very close to anglers in these circumstances may cause disruption and put safety at risk through the risk of hitting people, boats or fishing line. The distance limits in section 17 provided an easily enforceable mechanism to ensure that boats at speed remain safely away from anglers when fishing.
7. Fish and Game acknowledges that there is already a 5 knot general speed limit imposed on rivers via the Navigation on rivers section. Its concern will be mostly limited to Otago's lakes.
8. Removing the distance limits in favour of a general requirement to not endanger any person or vessel adds considerable ambiguity to the system. Whereas a distance is objective and can be at least estimated while operating a boat, whether a person or vessel is endangered is subjective. This makes it difficult for people to work out when their behaviour is in breach of the bylaw. As people push the limits, the risk of injury and damage increases.
9. Fish and Game seeks that the general speed limit of 5 knots is retained with 50 meters of other vessels and people; and within 200 meters of the shore.
10. In addition, by retaining these limits the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 will retain consistency with the rules for fishing from boats in the Fish and Game Fishing Regulations for Otago, which states in Note 2.2 of the Second Schedule that *"Anglers fishing from boats that are being propelled by a motor must stay at least 100 metres from any anglers fishing from the shore."*

#### **Otago Jet Boat Association Proposals**

11. Fish and Game has been approached by the Otago Jet Boat Association about a number of speed uplifts that they intend to propose through this bylaw review. Having reviewed the proposals, Fish and Game offers no objection should they be put forward. This is because they are targeting rivers during high flows when anglers are unlikely to be present and the environmental impact is lessened.
12. The speed uplifts which were proposed to Fish and Game are as follows:
  - a. Manuherikia River

- i. Current uplifting: August/September when flow at Ophir gauge is between 10–45 cumecs
  - ii. Agreed: Add July to current parameters and October to March if above 20 cumecs
- b. Upper Taieri
  - i. Location: Pukerangi Road Bridge to Hyde Gravel Pit
  - ii. Current uplifting: August/September, flow above 20 cumecs at Waipiata gauge
  - iii. Agreed: Add October, November, and December to current uplifting period
- c. Lower Taieri
  - i. Location: Confluence of Waipori River to Outram
  - ii. Current: 15 July to 15 August, flow >30 cumecs at Outram gauge
  - iii. Agreed: Closed April/May and September/October; open the rest of the year with flow above 20 cumecs
- d. Lindis River
  - i. Current: Closed
  - ii. Agreed: Open July, August, and September when above 20 cumec

## Conclusion

13. Thank you for the consideration of this feedback. Fish and Game does not wish to appear at a hearing, if one is held, but would be open to further discussion of any of the points which have been raised in this submission.