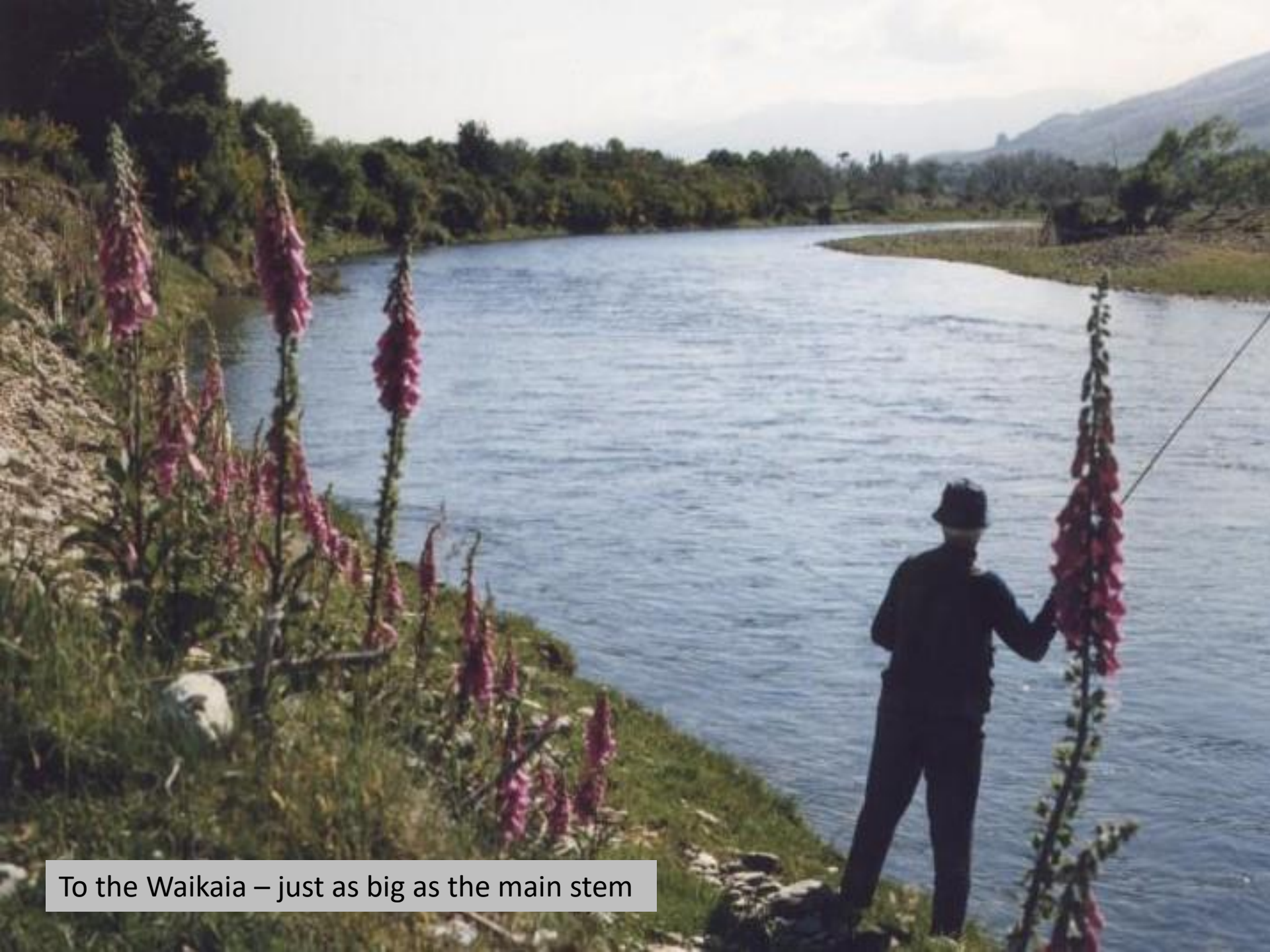


A close-up photograph of a brown trout, likely a hatchling, resting in a black mesh fishing net. The fish has a yellowish-brown body with numerous dark brown spots and a lighter, almost white, belly. Its mouth is slightly open, and its eyes are visible. The net is set against a background of water and a rocky riverbed. The text "The Mataura River and its Conservation Order" is overlaid in the center of the image.

The Mataura River and its Conservation Order



The Mataura is one of the world's great brown trout fisheries, from tributaries such as the Waimea



To the Waikaia – just as big as the main stem



Hill streams such as the Mimiha



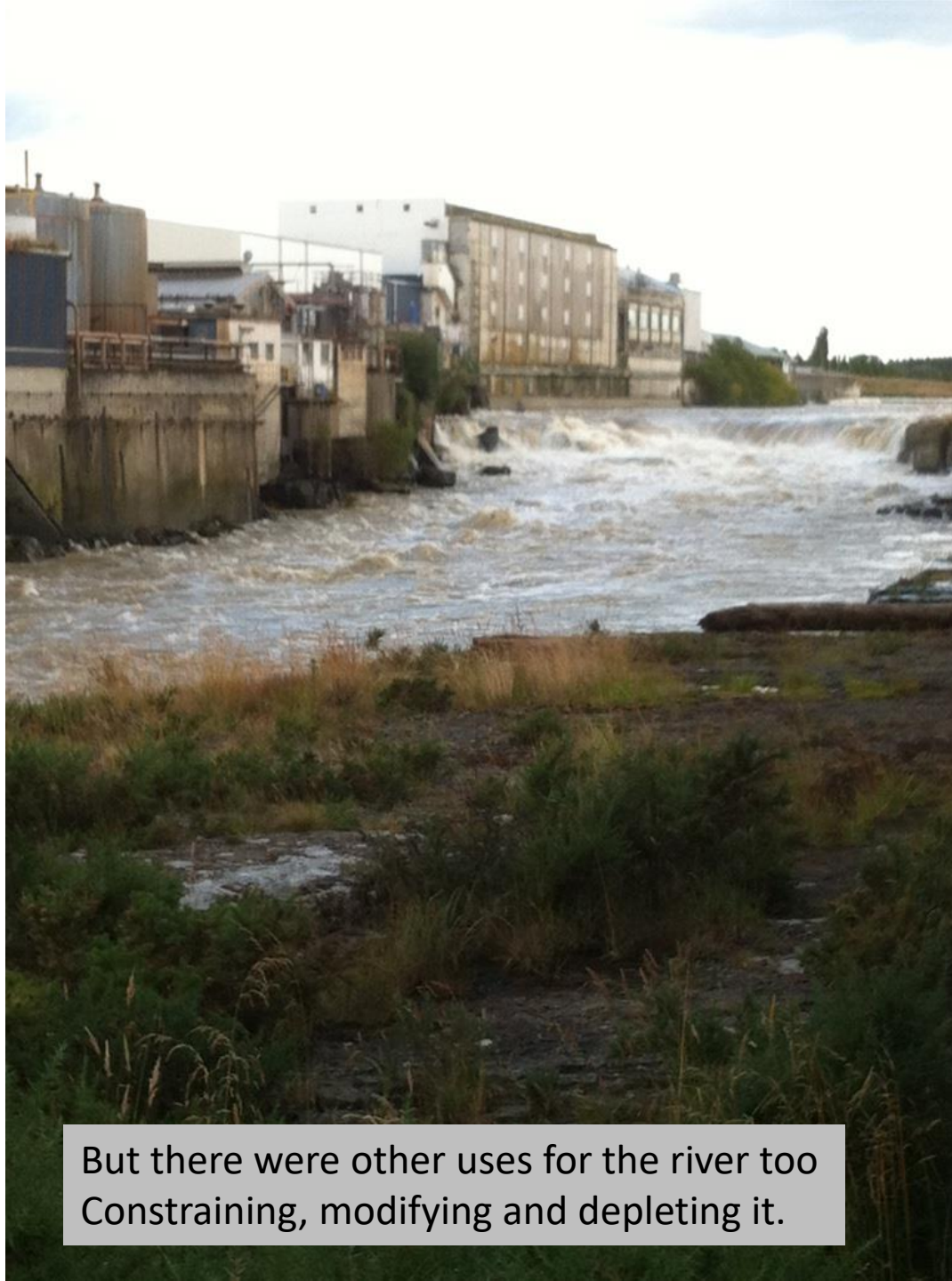
And the Otamita



Its lower reaches provide many kilometres of fine trout habitat



Attracting anglers from all over the World



But there were other uses for the river too
Constraining, modifying and depleting it.



Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislation 1981 – Conservation orders

Water bodies must be outstanding

To be protected and kept in their existing state



Acclimatisation Societies applied in 1984 to the NWSCA

NWSCA recommended an order in 1986

Appealed to PT, hearing in 1989, 16 day hearing in Invercargill and Gore in 1990

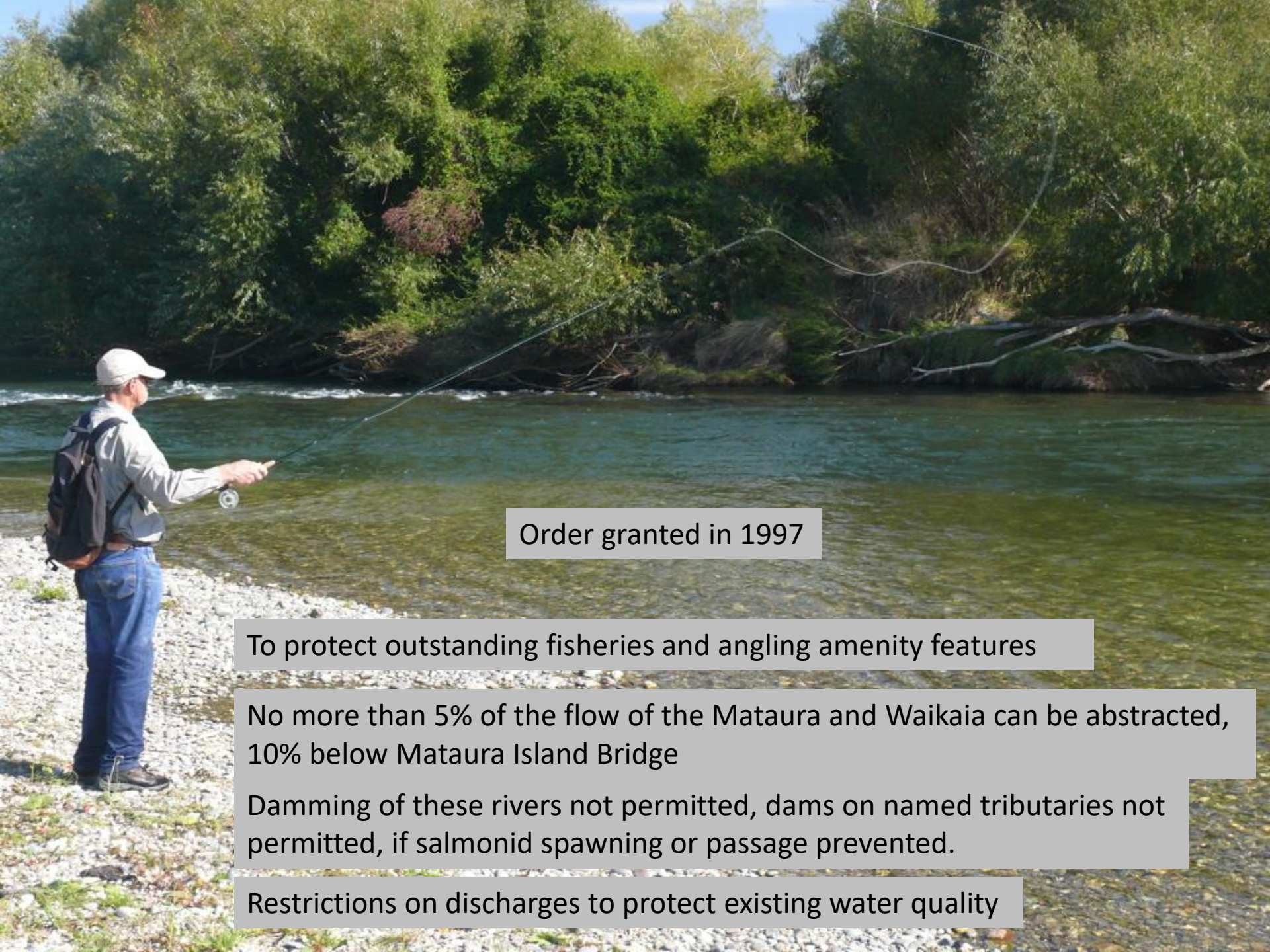
Draft order supported by RC SDC Anglers ACC Socs

Opposed by Electricorp, industries, GDC

Local iwi also opposed the order

Evidence established that the river fishery was outstanding

Changes made to clarify clauses relating to water takes



Order granted in 1997

To protect outstanding fisheries and angling amenity features

No more than 5% of the flow of the Maitara and Waikato can be abstracted, 10% below Maitara Island Bridge

Damming of these rivers not permitted, dams on named tributaries not permitted, if salmonid spawning or passage prevented.

Restrictions on discharges to protect existing water quality

