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### SAMURS Abstract

Scientific information is an important aspect of sound watershed management. In collaborative watershed management many kinds of information are brought in by different stakeholders to make decisions. That being said, the question is how often scientific information is brought in to determine choices? In New Zealand, collaborative water management committees have been operating since 2009. In this study, we examine an increase in the inclusion of scientific information for the Selwyn Waihora water council's decision-making processes and try to explain this increase with correlating factors. Watershed management comes with a host of competing interests and problems as governing bodies attempt to reconcile economic and ecological issues. With this in mind, we've analyzed how the behavior of Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (SWZC) changed over time as they moved from creating policy to providing budgetary approval for citizen led ecologic projects. Observing the SWZC in New Zealand has provided insight into how council behavior changes as they are initially created, establish policy, then move to providing budget approval.