

We want everyone's opinion on whitebait



What we know

Whitebait are the young of native fish returning to rivers to grow into adult fish.

Whitebait are a mixture of six species: īnanga, kōaro, banded kōkopu, giant kōkopu, shortjaw kōkopu and smelt.

The three kōkopu species and kōaro have quite different life histories to īnanga.

Īnanga are the most common species nationwide.

Some regions have more healthy whitebait populations than others.

Poor river health, loss of wetlands, a lack of spawning sites, fishing, land-use changes and blocked fish passage have all contributed to the decline in numbers.

Tell us what you think – take our survey and find more information on www.doc.govt.nz/whitebait-management.