

We want everyone's opinion on whitebait



What's the problem?

Tangata whenua, fishers and scientific research tell us that there are a lot fewer native fish in our rivers than there used to be.

Whitebait catch rates are anecdotally declining in many places.

Four of the six species that make up whitebait are classified as Threatened or At Risk.

Contributing factors could include: loss of spawning habitat beside rivers, drainage of wetlands, land-use changes, blocked fish passage upstream and downstream, polluted water, climate change, fishing and introduced species.

We don't know exactly what effect whitebait fishing has on native fish populations because of a lack of data.

We still have some big gaps in our knowledge of the species' life histories.

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