

Appendix 11: Notes taken by DOC staff at 12 drop-in sessions held during this engagement process.

Whitebait drop-in session notes combined

This is a working record of the comments made at a series of drop-in sessions held as part of public engagement for an issues and options paper about whitebait prepared for the Minister of Conservation in late 2018 and early 2019. The record of each meeting was compiled using notes taken by DOC staff members in attendance.

Whitebait drop-in session – Invercargill

6 November 2018

No fishing in the locks (change rules about distance that can be fished below flood gates when shut)

Shorten season: Take 2 weeks of August out and half of November

Keep season to 2 months – September and October

Observation – see different species at different times in season

More compliance to enforce rules eg some people blocking river with screens and set nets

Look at rules in relation to first net screen and outer screen

Maybe take out November/half of November – although not sure if it will achieve anything because don't get as many whitebait/people fishing then anyway – November is when breeding whitebait and smelt turn up

More whitebait in rivers this year (Mataura)

Some stands have more than one net – should only be allowed one

Decommercialise fishery

Farm run off is having an effect

Restore habitat – farming and pollution having an effect on habitat

More compliance eg too many nets

Fish not breed in floods

Rules are Ok

Some rivers not fished – breeding grounds are still there

Fishing pressure – maybe shorten season

Good whitebait season – more climbers on the Oreti River

Stop commercial fishing/sale eg like trout

More compliance

6 metre rule is adequate although some people fish 18 metres

Honorary rangers that fish on rivers

Mataura river – someone caught 2 tonnes and then sold in Auckland market

Habitat restoration for adults – loss of adult habitat due to degradation from farming

More education and compliance around spawning areas – stop spraying river (eg regional council) banks to increase spawning habitat

Straw bale restoration for spawning ground restoration

Don't want to pay to fish – want it to be traditionally recreational – people are retired and can't afford it

Licence but don't need to pay for it

More compliance (eg fishing out of season)

More education

Regulations are fine just need more compliance

Shorten season

Ultimate decision on regulations should be decided by whitebaiters

Habitat degradation (eg nutrients) is affecting species

2 nets on one stand – should only be 1 net per stand as covers 12 metres with only a small gap between

Shorten season (take November out)

Stop sale of whitebait – just a recreational fishery

Fishery should be managed regionally because of climatic/weather conditions, differences in habitat and land use etc

More breeding ponds should be created and make sure they are working through monitoring

Clean up waterways as much as possible

Stop 1080 drops in shallow headwater streams where the adult fish live

Not sure about Science of species being endangered

Whitebait are prolific out in the open water off the coast – they only school when they are near shore, swim individually when in the ocean among zooplankton and phytoplankton and are active on full moon

Haven't seen any changes in the 25 years

Adults are affected by drought

More research needs to occur on a wider scale

Fishing needs to be sustainable

Licence

Restore habitat

DOC has been spraying in spawning grounds in the Maitava – spraying weeds/not native

Licence needs to be a decent price so can put money into habitat restoration

Form a whitebait management group/regional groups eg like regional groups such as Guardians of Fiordland, Cray8 – includes a wide range of people with differing knowledge – commercial, recreation, administrative – advising management organisations

Manage water pollution

Southland fishing influenced by weather eg flooding, cold water – fish don't migrate, droughts

Maitava River start of season was good – end of season was in flood

Whitebait migrate 7 months of year

Keep 6 metre rule – more equitable and lets more get away

Banned ghost nets

No regulations on distance between nets along river where no stands – eg 4 members of same family can stage nets so essentially blocking more of the river than legal

Need more compliance

Read book called 'Cascade on the run' published in 1970s/80s

In some rivers there are more people fishing, others there are not – maybe on Maitava but not Waiau

Inanga running up the Middle of the Aparima River

Maybe shorten season by 2 weeks (eg November)

Smelt are running now (November)

Not much happening in August/September

2-3 kgs/day is good – 1 kg is enough, these sized catches have been happening consistently – so limits not needed on Aparima

Heard that Waiatoto is not running well
40 years fishing – no difference, although numbers fluctuate from year to year and in season
Plenty of climbers around
Regional rules/management – need different rules for different rivers eg like trout
Flexible working hours these days vs 9 to 5 jobs of old – influence when people are fishing – can go when they want
No diggers in rivers
Licence (put money back into the fishery)
Spraying weeds – environment southland – needs to stop
Whitebait numbers fluctuate
Late October to early November is when shortjaw kōkopu turn up in the Maitai
Not reporting some non compliance because related to gangs – eg fishing behind tidal gates where whitebait are backing up
Whitebait not in decline
Look at fish at night time – eg shortjaw kōkopu
Concerned that trying to convert South Island fishers to the way fishing occurs in North Island
Rivers too high – so that's the reason why less whitebait ... whitebait are there, the river conditions just aren't right for fishing
Numbers down this year – not because decline just because of conditions
Don't sell bait
Angry about people not following regulations and flouting rules – sick of having arguments
DOC should have a boat to cruise and will see more people
People that cheat are the problem
Season length – once smelt start running most people pack up – so if cut November off season it won't make much difference
Southland fishing different to West Coast and North Island
Whitebait – starts running in Waiau and a week later will get bait in Maitai and if Maitai in flood then carry on up the coast
If could control the weather it would be good!
Maitai and Titirangi are fishing very well. Don't think any less whitebait than 25 years ago – but more people fishing now, but not getting less bait
Drag nets in Fortrose Estuary – would be keen to ban these and go back to the rules when MAF had it
Eg no ghost/wing nets – only one stand and one net
Stop people working together and blocking off bait from getting up stream
River needs to be cleaned up to start – too much pollution in it (Maitai)
Improve habitat – stop cows having access – dairy has a bit to answer for – dead cows floating down the river
Last year was best season ever had in 60 years with whitebait every year
Whitebait goes in cycles
Disappointing that some in Wellington can change way fish won't every be putting a net in the river
Lots of misinformation around
Forest & Bird – what do they know about fish – they do birds
40-50 tonne out of the Maitai River last year
Rules we have at the moment are ok with 6 metre rule

Get rid of ghost nets

One rule can't apply to the whole country

Can't make 1 regulation for whole country

Down on catches this year because of river conditions

Aparima River – best fishing ever had in October

Great to have DOC coming and talking to the guys on the river – not some guy in a suit in Wellington

Bank of filthy grey sludge on Aparima – water quality has gone downhill heaps over last few years

More focus should be put on water quality – never used to wash whitebait but certainly do now

Leave the rules as they are

27 years since last whitebaited and first year back now – don't think it's changed – always going to have good years and bad years

Get rid of ghost nets

Get rid of long poles

Keep it fair for all fishing

Not a shortage of whitebait as big shoals go up middle of Maitua

Let everyone fish a month before, in July, as everyone goes on about the bait going up the river then

1 net 1 person (shouldn't be able to run more than 1 net per stand)

Get a drone going for compliance work

Regarding 6 metre rule – should only be one 6 metre per stand

Only one 6 metre width per stand could have more than one net per stand but just keep all nets within 6 metres – allows all people to be treated the same up the river

Shortening season won't make much difference on Maitua

Appears to be tonnes still going up river just have good years and bad years

Season open 1 August, shut November when smelt come in

Need resources to be able to police regulations

Season started good – but with bad weather getting more people 'pushing/breaking' the rules

Bring back 1 net per stand and only 6 metres fishable off each stand

Titiroa whitebaiter for 40 years – lock gates and allowed to whitebait in there – this shouldn't be allowed as when flood gates shut the whitebait can't escape and get netted and there are 15 plus whitebaiters that operate in that area

Titiroa whitebait – 7 year cycle

Erosion – bank erosion on river Banks of Titiroa – given plants but on big tides they all washed away had to move stands back because of erosion

Lots of inanga this year in Titiroa – even 20 cm long ones

1 net per stand and no screens on outside side of net – only screen on bank side of net

Take November out of season – as only catch smelt then

DOC needs surveillance cameras

Environment Southland spraying low lying riverbanks for grass etc and destroying habitat

Niagara – runoff from farms impacting water and number of whitebait

Need a licence to whitebait

If have to pay to trout fish and duck shoot should have to pay for a licence to be able to whitebait and be able to sell it

Since been able to sell whitebait it's got out of hand

Harder now to get a feed as a regular old whitebaiter for recreation

Habitat gone because of dairying – used to swim in rivers and wouldn't go near it now
Stop selling whitebait
Have a licence to be able to whitebait but have a limit on how much whitebait they can take
Cut season back might help a bit
Stop dairy conversions on marginal land and on gravels
Lots of water getting sucked out for farming that may impact fishing too
Ban ghost nets (on pulleys)
Aparima – sock net/Haast- scoop net – completely different fishing
Aparima fished better than it ever has been this year
West Coast Waitoetoe River – catch has gone up 10% each year in the last 4 years
Commercial side – need to look at this
Need licence to whitebait
Only pay to keep stand with Environment Southland. Need to pay fishing fee to DOC to be able to fish for whitebait
Need to register people so have an idea of how many people fishers and where – as hard to tell number of people
Register the net – not the persons
Habitat – need to look after habitat – digger clearing drains feeding into river week before whitebait opening
Need to improve spawning habitat
Drain clearing – Dec – May – do outside whitebait season
Habitat is huge
West Coast fishery has its own rules and fishery going up no down as less stands etc but have pot netters
West Coast fishing works pretty good
Fishing better than has in years
Habitat improvement is massive
Season timing – end of season too much algae in rivers to fish could align with west coast timing of season and no one would worry x2 people
It's about the recreation and relaxing not about commercial stuff
Great way to get grandkids out of house and off couch and away from phones
On West Coast – less people fishing than have ever seen
West Coast – 3 people with 5 stands and got 1.5 tonnes
Aparima stand – 10kg, 5 kg, 5kg lifts – so plenty of whitebait
Dairy farming helped whitebaiting as little creeks used to be eaten bare – now that these are fenced off and have places for whitebait to spawn etc – but nitrogen and urea runoff that impacts river in later season in November with algae and growth in river
Don't allow to be sold commercially – native species sold without licence or any idea of numbers taken etc
Ridiculous introduced species have more protection eg trout and duck and salmon
Need a licence as might help get more people out regulating/policing fishery
Stop being able to sell whitebait
Take November off season as not good for whitebaiting anyway

Give DOC more staff so they are able to do their job of looking after whitebait fishery etc as under resourced

Don't need November in season

Split recreational and commercial fishing

Equipment makes it easy to catch whitebait now

More people

Better management would be instant fix

Reserves with no fishing

Prove any changes work

Rules for each district – no one rule

Do we all have 5 species?

Times are too long

Decision making by government not considering others – need careful decision making

Culture – majority respectful

Weather dependent – depends on season

Prove fish are diminishing

Where is research coming from

Education is important

Environment Southland not interested if rivers are showing dirty

Keep maintenance of streams up

Titiroa – lock gates swim around – why can people fish there?

Erosion on Banks – Environment Southland spraying?

Figures on historic catch records and compare to today – or estimate

Make data available

Season too long (x3 people)

Climate patterns linked too early

No quota too hard to enforce

Stop selling – social media (reinforce) purely recreational

Environment Southland or DOC habitat creation – bales of coconut fibre

Can whitebaiters help with habitat

1 stand, 1 net

Eg 6 stands with 11 nets

6 metre rule works

Usually 400-500lbs Titiroa this year – 300lbs

Better policing more often

Relax 10 metre rule in sight of stand

Resources to manage fisheries

Daily records for 8 years available

Shorter season – shorten hours

Aparima 5 stands = 14 nets

Take fortnight off start and finish of season (same as West Coast

Season is too long

1 net per stand

No screen on outside of net

Get rid of ghost nets

Environment Southland not mowing grass verges on Waihopi

Commercial – work with commercial fishers they have the most to lose if they lost their licence

Tax returns – amounts caught/noted

Reserves in South Westland - has many reserves ie low land creeks etc can this be established in other areas

Swamp and lagoons closed off – not enough habitat for whitebait

Ban commercial fishing

Stop night fishing – Waiau – more policing

All gear removed each night

Whitebait is not in decline

Spraying Banks to stop Environment Southland (Titiroa)

DOC never show their face enough – hasn't done for years, it's a disgrace

All DOC people to have the same rules

Fishing up by lock gates – Titiroa – should not be allowed between bridge and lock gates

Cut out November x 1 person

Whiteboard – not with set net

Oreti River – no cost fish off bank for free

Stop commercial fishing

6 metre rule to apply for all

Licence pay to fish

Stop commercial fishing

Whitebait not declining

DOC quoted that they don't work weekends

Sort out Environment Southland/District Council/DOC – combine and work together

One net per stand

Look at gap between nets

Net and screen not to be more than six metres - all New Zealand

Removal of locks stop fishing above Highway bridge on the Titiroa Stream

Stop the use of three or four nets per stand

More compliance officers on the ground

Police the laws we have got

No fishing of side streams these's are habitat and breeding areas

Stop the cleaning l'll side streams before and during whitebait season

All Rivers should have a high-water mark peg as they do on the West Coast - no fishing above this peg.

Change the 10-metre rule to - as long as the person turns up on the stand within 2 minutes of an officer arriving that would be fine.

Keep spraying off river banks, Environment Southland have been spraying the Titiroa riverbank for a weed - and this has caused the bank to start collapsing and destroying whitebait habitat.

Sale of whitebait stopped

All stand must be registered

Whitebait season to start first of September finish end of October

Habitat removal is a major cause of whitebait depletion

No net to be more than 6 metres from the bank

6 metre rule not to include the rope

Complete stop the sale of whitebait

Stop the season 15th of November start season first of September.

Have honorary Rangers on river

Have a licence fee for white baiting and funds go to whitebait compliance

All nets to be named or identified could be a number

Nets to have screens on the outside (of mouth) removed the screen going from the trap of the net towards the centre of the river

One net per stand only

Stop the commercial sale of whitebait

Stop fishing above road bridge on Titiroa

Use back pegs on river

Stop white baiters fishing between registered stands

Kaiapoi whitebait drop-in session
7 November 2018

Lack of ranger
Dairy
Breeding areas
Iwi fishery
back pegs
catch limit 10 lb
Closed areas
No management
Harvested and sold
Intimidation
Health
Exporting NZ whitebait
Even up gear confirm via licence
Good years and bad years
Fish salvage
Peg 20 m
Better signage
Wetlands, density of eggs
Fish passage
Irrigation
River health
Sock net
Honorary ranger
Gear
Transparency
Associations
Open platform
Data science
Licenses
Seasonal temperatures
Set flow back behind net
Burglar
Ranger on site
Aggressive
Regional fisheries guidelines
Back pegs
Limit
Access to fishing – reduce vehicles
License
Knowledge of rules
Signs vs personal knowledge

Floating pontoon

Selling on social media

License and no sales

Whitebait work has to make a difference

Reduce screens/boards

Selling of whitebait – no quality control and food safety is a major issue. Have seen very poor condition people are catching and storing it under.

Sale of whitebait internationally – advertised in Australia

Use regulations to police type of gear to make more standard – fewer variations. People marking spots out two weeks before the season starts.

Recreational fisherman getting untaxed income

Who owns whitebait? With the current MOC aim to control all trout, salmon, deer, whitebait.

Habitat loss and water quality are major. Why aren't ECAN + Fish & Game here?

WCO on Rakaia and Rangitata not being complied with. Spraying of weeds in riverbed. Getting a model done of the Rakaia river with local info – problems with Central Plains Water releasing silt into water.

Abstraction of water leading to increased heating of water body. It's a major issue.

Fishing in Cam river for over 40 years and is very concerned. ECAN can put diquat into water. Good and bad years of white baiting. Wants everyone to work together. Need major improvements to the Kaiapoi river. Three streams area at top of Kaiapoi called beyond repair. In the Styx River ECAN has killed off all the water weeds which has decreased cover for fish. Naked riverbed.

Sludge all over the rocks at Waimak from discharge into it.

Kaipoi River – 30 years ago was heaps of factories discharging into the rivers. Maybe the problem is more water temperature.

Foul monger in the past colonising fish but now less macrophytes due to increased salinity up the Waimakariri.

Lots of flooding in 2017 season and not much fishing possible. This year 2018 has been very good, a year off makes a big difference.

In the Ashley River it starts drying up and fish are getting stranded, needs to be co-ordinated rescues.

On the Kaiapoi River. Pegging 20m points on rivers with official pegs.

In the past Christchurch City Council put \$ into protecting and working and managing wetlands.

Concentrate on identifying and protecting spawning grounds. Get a lot of benefit across the species from this.

Since the earthquake has fished at Lunns Bank but ECAN installed rock walls. Opposite Brooklands lagoon Styx mouth on the Waimakariri, it has dropped heaps and is now a potentially great spawning site.

Is all whitebait species threatened? This year has been very good for white baiting, is that the same for other fish species?

How much does irrigation affect spawning? No longer have the big flushes because water is being taken at higher flows.

Long term issue of river health is very important but thinks that right now we can do more. Fishes on West Coast with pristine rivers and foot access. Her catches have decreased as the number of fishermen increased (but not by heaps – 5%). She thinks it is the type of net. Other fishermen are using larger nets, so she wants to increase.

Sock net argument. Thinks they aren't that efficient compared to scoop nets. Other people disagree – net is in the water the whole time.

Honorary rangers, are they very efficient

In the 1950's were very simple nets.

Fitzgerald Ave Bridge – blocking more than a third.

Kerrs Reach – fishing gear left all night. Pallets and carpets.

West Coast rules – go by 20m long – how can that be allowed?

Thinks that all the information gathered at these meeting should be publicly available. The issues/options paper to the MOC should be available publicly.

Pegasus Beach – 18 months of consultation but only three people who fished came along and submitted. Their own fault for not being pro-active and actually submit. Be part of the consultation.

Majority (95%) of people would like to see a step before issues go to MOC when there is more consultation.

Thinks there should have been more structure – gone through gear, parts of regs etc.

Has anyone proved there is a decline?

We should go to rivers and watch what fisherman catch.

Have catch diaries for people to report back each year.

Thinks there should be a licence for the white baiters and \$ from that could go back into conservation.

Transparency over where \$ are spent.

Why is there a difference between seasons for West Coast and rest of New Zealand?

Why do we not have a rule about fishing from water's edge?

Thinks there are effectively no rules as we don't do decent enforcement.

Need ranges closer to where the white bait action is happening, rather than ringing town and waiting for someone to come out.

Vast majority of fishermen are very good and % of load is small.

We are all Kaitiaki, licence holder could be the honorary rangers. Empower the people to do the policing. Sort of working at the mouth of Ashley already with the fisherman's Association.

Needs to be more uniformity across country, but also some people very keen on guidelines for each river so can tailor rules to specific sites.

Suggests we write up saying what we think and then present it back to them in. Want transparency in decision making process.

Back markers widely used in West Coast. Thinks there should be back markers much lower down to stop fishing in small streams.

Need transport to get to white bait sites, so need to be careful that access isn't restricted eg out onto Waimakariri River bed. They need to be submitting themselves.

Access for handicapped people to riverbeds.

Conflicts are what irritates him the most – mouth of Kaiapoi – stream behind yacht club at mouth of Waimak.

Thinks there should be signage at all sorts of places for all regulations.

Rules are about education. Signage is possible. Having a license would provide an opportunity to educate people about the regulations – video to watch?

We could give rules out with keys at gates.

What would the price be on a licence? Could be differentiation between commercial and recreational.

Have a tiered licence, less than F + G licence as only for part of year.

Stop selling on social media, careful with what the conditions are.
More protection for other whitebait species, so fishermen can

Whitebait drop-in session – Napier 13 November 2018

One rule for all rivers doesn't suit. Need rules to fit the river.

But, if you set individual rules for rivers, would be difficult to police – may not work?

Could only do it if had local delegates – but would need DOC backing

10 m rule (ie distance from nets) isn't far enough/doesn't work

Get penalised for heading 50 m down the river (but still within sight of your net) to talk to someone, up onto the banks to go to the toilet, etc.

In some rivers – eg large rivers with wide gravel beaches, it's not possible to go to the toilet within 10 m of your net (would be on the open gravel beach). To comply with the regs, would have to pull out net, go up on the bank, and put your net back in when you come back – would lose your spot.

Need a common sense approach – but acknowledge that would be hard to set in a regulation to provide for this (ie people being able to be further than 10 m, but within sight of net), but prevent people from just setting a net and leaving it there all day while at work

When stay at the net, catch more whitebait than if leave it for a couple of hours (ie are actively fishing, so catch more fish) (1 person)

Discussion and general agreement that if could leave net unattended then in some rivers 'everyone' would leave nets all day (eg while at work), but in other rivers they wouldn't – ie fishing is different in different rivers

Need to focus on habitat – riparian, fish passage, etc.

People are using rocks, logs, etc. to build walls and extend their screen length. Isn't fair/shouldn't be allowed. Issues with regional council rules (eg control activities in beds) vs whitebait regs (eg equipment and catching fish).

One person showed a photo of rock walls built – perpendicular to river banks, across gravel river bed. Covered during high tide (so can't be seen), but visible during low tides. One of the people that builds these has rock wall, then 3 screens, then net, then another screen – blocks almost all the channel – isn't fair

Upstream some people use channels to catch smelt – okay with that, but not the rock walls

Smelt are often forgotten about

Rules for fishing gear should be 6 m all up for everyone

Most people would have nets longer than 6 m when consider net + wings + screen combined

If everyone had 6 m, more whitebait would get up the river

Not certain that whitebait are in decline

Several people agreed that they don't think they are

They're not declining, but it is different in different rivers

One whitebaiter had caught 15 kg in one day when out fishing all day – unheard of for other rivers

Know of someone who caught 100 kg in 2–3 hours on the Tukituki

Talk in lbs and kgs in NI, tons in SI

It's 1st in 1st served on the shingle – need to get down early to get a good spot

Wet nets catch fish! Sometimes they see people who've headed down early during low tide to place their nets in a good spot – in the dry until the tide comes in.

Think that whitebait ran early this year (June–Aug)

Knows someone who was finding whitebait in net when hauling (sea)

Whitebait are only coming up on the tide this year

Should drop November from the season – go from 1 Aug (or July) instead

If shifted the season back to 1 Aug, more whitebait would be caught – one of the whitebaiters commented that this might not achieve the conservation objective though – others weren't clear on why it was changed in the first place, and if it was actually for conservation

Whitebait numbers are back, so can bring the season back earlier

Should shorten the season

There are issues in some rivers, but not others – eg Tukituki vs Clive

Lack of DOC presence on the rivers is a problem – enables people to just do what they want

When you see DOC staff presence, people obey the rules

DOC don't respond when whitebaiters call up to report issues

How many DOC inspectors are there in Hawkes Bay? One person thought there were 25. Never see a DOC officer on their river (Tutaekuri).

Need people/DOC staff to go down to the river – more presence – but provide information, not confrontation – 'these are the rules', etc.

Needs to be policed more

Pay \$10 a key (to council?) for access to some of the rivers – could they police somehow? Others said no, anyone can get a key, just have to pay.

There are Marae Fisheries Officers – two for each marae around Hawkes Bay – many are retired. Would like to be able to work with DOC to help police the regs.

Need to have better co-management with iwi – work together

Customary fishing allowed out of season – customary distinction needs to be clear

If extending for Māori, should extend it for everyone – okay if it's just for tangi etc. though.

Should be one rule for everyone, not customary/others distinction

If extending for smelt (run later in season), that's okay. Some people only like to catch smelt – don't start fishing until late October

For customary fishing out of season, you need to be issued a permit. Is not necessarily only for Māori – issuing of permit is based on the reason for fishing. Authority sits with those with mana whenua, usually marae [Ngāti Kahungunu Pouarataki]

There are some Māori fishing all year round, wouldn't be on a customary permit. Issue isn't Māori or pakeha – some Māori, some pakeha disobey the rules

Threats and aggression – getting worse as prices increase

One person is warden on Tutaekuri River – had complaint about a young guy fishing below the bridge and blocking most of the river – went down to respond to complaint and was threatened by a group of people – 3 to 1 – 'our river, our land, we can do what we want'

If you go to the river and someone threatens you, call the police

Would like to see a quota put on – some people catch 14+ kg. Unless this is for commercial sale, isn't good, not needed.

If bring in a quota system, commercial fishers should have to bury their quota, not have it given to them (1 person)

Should have recreational limit, max of 5 kg per day

Knows of someone who caught 700 kg in South Island – shouldn't be allowed – is commercial scale

Whitebait is the only thing you can sell without a licence or limit

Do people fish because they can sell it, or because they enjoy it?

Should licence everyone – can only whitebait if you have a licence, same as with all other game (ducks, trout, etc.)

Doesn't have to be a big cost

If had to have a licence, would probably be okay with that/get over it – as long as wasn't a huge cost

Shouldn't be able to sell whitebait

If you took the money out, would take the problem [with aggression] away – people just catch what they need for a feed

If illegal to sell, restaurants won't buy

Small sales to neighbours, etc. might still occur, but they're not the problem

Stop the selling, would stop a lot of problems

Quota might also help

Money has ruined whitebaiting – everyone was friendly before that

Should be registered, and can't sell otherwise

Over time, captive breeding will hopefully fill sale demand

Could close off a large river, operated by fisheries, all commercial catch from that one river

Mice eating eggs an issue (ie predation of eggs in spawning areas)

Whitebaiters should be involved in deciding what the rules are

Porangahau River – DOC came out to look at how spawning habitat could be improved – haven't seen anyone since

One place, channels have been dug, lots of fish

Big backwaters in lower river – tide pools there before going up the river – a place to restore spawning

Definite change in water quality

Thinks should dedicate someone to come out and engage with whitebaiters and community to improve habitat

Climate change is affecting whitebait

Needs to be taken into account in any changes to the regs.

There is too little water in the rivers (Porangahau especially) – where is water being taken? (ie upstream takes)

Real concern about water quality

Weren't allowed to eat the cockles this year, has never happened before

Tukituki is polluted (sewage from Havelock)

Problems with sewage at Waipawa last year – bad year for whitebait on the Tukituki

Against the dam proposal – would have impacted water quality and whitebaiting

Lots of algae in Tutaekuri at the moment (others also said is in other rivers)

Water is clear, but has flakes of algae in it

Years ago, had huge runs of whitebait in Tukituki and other rivers

More communication between DOC and regional council would be good

Unclear what regional council are doing (ie works in rivers)

Fish & Game wanted to put in a wetland between Tutaekuri and Ngaruroro

Fishing next to bridges – supposed to be 20 m from the bridge. Some people fish right up next to them

Rule about not fishing within 20 m of a man-made object doesn't make sense – some rivers are man-made!

Rules around stands, paying for stands – who gets the stands – passing stands on to others

Some fishers come in and fisher right in front of other people's stands

Scoop netting – is/should be 25 m from a stand

[About eels] – by fishing sustainably, eels grown faster and can be caught more regularly

Red worm in eels – also seen in carp

Government is not doing enough to look after our environment – biosecurity questions for people coming in to NZ, but we don't question ourselves within NZ – important to look after our waterways

People are starting to talk about it, get better at it though

Not fast enough

Used to see 'native trout' in big numbers in country streams, but now (last 10 years) don't see any Whitebait in 'my river' now called 'gangrene bait' sometimes, because colour is changing (greenish) – something in the environment is affecting them

'Don't fish, swim, eat' signs everywhere – how do you know that whitebait are safe to eat?

Whitebaiting at sea – not illegal, DOC's jurisdiction? Have caught them at sea before

Lots of whitebait at sea, must always be some that won't make it up the river – how much impact does whitebaiting have on this?

Glad that this is being raised – commercial, regulations, etc.

Whitebait drop-in session – Nelson 30 October 2018

Sock nets/Scoop nets

No sock nets

Only use scoop nets

Scoop nets let some whitebait past whereas sock nets don't

Sock nets can be set all day and lifted at the end ... eg a couple may turn up in a campervan and set their sock net in the morning and then one may go off for the day while the other sits in the campervan all day until the other returns, so then two people at the end of the day to lift a heavy net

Screens should be reduced in size

Everyone have the same rules

Everyone throughout New Zealand should have the same rules eg follow West Coast

Season may need to be altered

Commercial vs Recreational

If commercial fishers can sell, recreational fishers should be able to sell too

Licence

License would penalise children or people who only want to fish for a couple of weeks

How would you police this

Needs to be a package of changes

No. 1 changes to make first should be to change season to 1 September to 14 November; ban sock nets; reduce screen size

Other comments made

Bellies are already in Waimea and Mokihinui River catches which is early

Not so many whitebait in Orchard Creek (Nelson/Tasman) this year

Scoop netters at the mouth of the Mokihinui are like penguins swapping their position at the front of the line and then moving back

Mostly retired people fishing and always has been

Sometimes children fish in the school holidays

Younger people are generally unemployed and may be catching to sell but not in huge quantities because only using scoop nets

Fish the incoming tide and turn of outgoing tide on the coast

Nice to be able to go fishing to catch a feed for yourself and give some to family and friends, scoop nets allow some bait past and don't take it all like sock nets

Kaitiaki/Honorary rangers

Could set up a system so they can help with compliance

eg talked to local Kaitiaki **** and was wondering about the idea of a kaitiaki from local iwi representing iwi and crown with authority to undertake compliance

Quota – limit amount

Review customary fishing rights for whitebait fishery

Perhaps could fall within the role of honorary ranger

Fish and Game introduced trout into Riwaka River without iwi consultation

Need to do habitat restoration

Manage the fishery

Ban sock nets at the top of the south as is a recreational fishery
Might be commercial other parts of the country/possibly still allow sock nets in some parts of the country
Sock nets get by catch eg bullies, adult fish etc
Local councils not doing their job with habitat protection and restoration
Developments destroy habitat – eg grasses that inanga spawn in; lease berm land out to farmers
Ban sale of whitebait for private individuals, ok for registered people/licensed stand holders
Decisions to make changes need to be made across multiple seasons
- long term data. Because of the influence of weather patterns, ocean currents, fluctuations in whitebait catches, predators, tides, floods eg floods destroy eggs and influence migrations
If it helps, shorten the season for a period of time not indefinitely – this needs to be done as a package with other actions
Aorere had a bad season because of floods in the spawning season
Whitebait migrate all year, have seen shoals in April
Ban socknets
Only allow to fish with 1 net (either set, sock or scoop) – people will have a socknet and the if they a scoop net will scoop when no one is around
Have a Quota/catch limits
One set of rules around the country
No commercial fishing
Ban socknets/entrapment nets
Concerned with spawning and adult habitat loss (grazing, forestry, orchards)
Recognises the importance of riparian planting and has done on his own farm
Needs to be sustainable
Reduce the size of screens or ban screens
Alternate closure of rivers for a season
Reduce the length of the season
Could you allocate a certain number of fishers to each river
Other comments
Wants the fishery to be around so his children can take their children fishing
People are catching too much and catching bellies which are the breeders
Motueka River hasn't had a great season
Needs to be sustainable and don't think it is currently

Whitebait drop-in session Pokeno 9 November 2018

Start season 1st August

Don't fish in November

Warmer H₂O -> giants

Habitat getting better

Thought NIWA would be here

Regs fine – self regulating – needs to be different to West Coast

Symbiosis – nitrates out of the H₂O

Wants it to be commercialised - ie no off the side of the road sales

Low river fish pushed all the way to Tualiau (big runs) on one tide

On a flood catch fish

Lots of mother whitebait (silverfish) at the moment

Could get rid of November no problems

Too much blackfish at the moment

Need more education of fishery

**** paper is going to government next month

Recommendations are ridiculous eg no screens

6m screen + net + outside screen causes most problems

Breeding -> Stock rivers that low, -> Taken trouble to do it for trout -> Our river (Waikato) doesn't need much

Don't fish November

Good season for fish to get through

I'm no angel, break the rules like anyone else

25T caught 50T get through

Fishery in pretty good condition, not as good as 100 years ago

van de Molen – local MP

Needed better notice to get people here

Waterway cleans – silt, gator weed – not running straight-

More fish than ever

Does cycle, rainfall/floods affect?

Good year – 2014 more fish than ever, old guys never seen so many fish in his life

More river fenced off than before

Stu Muir done some good stuff – good block

River too channelized -> too hot, deoxygenated

Black bait – ****, knows heals -> Talk to him! ****

Habitat is really important

All year to run

Shouldn't ban fishing on high tide – just stupid (referring to Baker report)

Less mullet, something wrong with the river for mullet not to come

Since new dairy factory (5yrs) -> Does dairy factory put waste in?

Doesn't seem to affect whitebait

License probably wouldn't work
Fishing part of our culture
Perfectly healthy
Could drop November
This year big run before the season
Last 20 yrs his catch diaries have gone up
Fishing the same spot
What happens at sea?
Carp love them
This year worse in the media, people don't have the facts
Buy habitat, flood it
Don't think should ban it, pocket money goes back into society. No one's making millions. -> Black market
People still going to catch, barter it
Ban commercial sale isn't going to change anything
More compliance
More resources
Cameras
Honorary fishery
Advertising of pop-ups
Fishery officers at meetings
Statistics on populations
More days on the river
No one would be against taking November off the season
Cattle feeding over stop banks -> How do we enforce this?
Enforcement
Is the science working? Hay banks test....
Not keen about customary catch
Do it on a weekend..

Wellington drop-in session

8 November 2018

(West Coast whitebaiter) Stands go too far out into the river, blocking too much of it off. Stands should not be able to block off as much of the river as they do.

Sides of rivers are damaged by farming, slash from logging and rivers are damaged by run-off and siltation.

Sock nets should be banned (6+ participants).

Sock nets are unfair. Some people have a number of nets which is a disproportionate share of the fishing effort and potentially catch.

Scoop nets only should be allowed (5+ participants).

Have a rahui on sock nets (eg Waikanae River. Most people stick to this).

Commercial fishers are allowed traps in their nets. These are not allowed in recreational nets.

Season ends too late. Should bring the end of the season forward.

Standard practices - no set nets in lower reaches only. Scoop nets in the mouth of rivers.

Farmers are denying access to fish under health and safety regs

There is no point fishing towards the end of the current season because you catch "gutty" (low quality) fish that you throw back anyway.

Increased fishing effort (more people fishing) at the weekend.

Catch limit would be extremely difficult to police.

Westport: word gets around when the fish are running and people know to come out and fish.

Shared access for recreational jetboaters and whitebaiters (eg Ashley area, Canterbury). Jetboaters are concerned about maintaining access with so much interest in whitebaiting.

There could be things that jetboaters do to reduce impact on whitebait and facilitate whitebait conservation and effective shared use of common spaces (eg not jetboating at certain times of year).

Need to have sensible and holistic planning for multiple uses of the habitat. This will involve compromise for everyone.

No commercial sales at all

No commercial sales unless licensed to sell

Recreational fishers should not be able to sell

Food safety issues are another reason why rec fishers shouldn't sell. No idea where the fish came from.

If you can't sell homemade marmalade, how can it be legal to sell whitebait caught who knows where.

DOC needs to own the whitebait situation and control it properly

DOC not following up on offences

Must require licenses

Don't get a licence without producing catch data

Create a licence so it is easy to get - eg online, using your mobile phone

Need national consistency in councils' response to whitebait

Need to sort out permissible activities that have negative impacts on whitebait (nationwide consistency, good practice guidelines that councils are required to follow)

Need education so whitebaiters don't damage eg areas restored by revegetation programmes

Habitat loss and water quality must be addressed (eg widespread habitat loss on the Kapiti Coast over several decades) (broad agreement amongst about 10 of group)

Spraying of riverbeds is a problem

Willow in some rivers is a problem

Use whitebait as the point of leverage that can act as an umbrella to preserve habitats and other species

Chatham Islands: Whitebait run January, February

Break down the animosity between DOC and users of the outdoors, river and estuarine environments (including whitebaiters). DOC should get out on the river more to meet and engage with users.

Protect/rehabilitate Waikanae River from sea to watershed. Needs planting and other activities that should be planned properly as part of a catchment-wide plan. This should be rolled out with the support of users.

Can't apply the same rules to all widths of streams.

Screens should not be allowed

Enforce a decent gap between fishers (eg 22 yards)

Users should not be able to stagger their nets on alternating banks (which effectively in the end largely blocks streams). Also, shouldn't be able to have nets directly across the stream from each other (ie same location coming into the river from opposing banks and just leaving a space in the middle) (5 participants)

Need to have a bag limit by weight

Issues with whitebaiters camping riverside and polluting with their own poop and rubbish, and causing habitat damage.

DOC should go onto apps like "Snap, Send and Solve", where citizens photograph problematic/illegal activity and send to enforcement authorities. Rangers could keep an eye on this to collect intel on non-compliance (ie without even going to the river).

The flavour profile of whitebait comes from the river it is harvested from. Cleaner rivers have better flavour. Purely from a culinary perspective, keeping good quality whitebait habitat is essential. (2 participants)

The fact that whitebait is currently classified as threatened is already affecting consumer preferences.

This is the subject of dialogue amongst food sellers (2 participants)

What are the ecosystem effects of fishing whitebait? Everything eats it, so taking large amounts would presumably impact those that feed on it (birds etc)

Catfish is banned from being harvested in the central North Island. Why?

Westport whitebait drop-in session

13 November 2018

Ban nets with traps

DOC (Geraldine) not enforcing regulations well

Concerned about differences between West Coast regulations and rest of NZ regulations

Concerned about timing of drop in session during season

Lack of expertise within DOC (old whitebaiters)

Why want to change whitebaiting, happy on the coast. Problems created by DOC - one set of rules for all, same season length for excursions

Habitat the issue

Overhanging culverts an issue

Poisoning willows.

DOC not responding to concerns (cows in martins creek – told were an issue recently)

Concerns with West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) not responding to concerns – farmers redirecting creek

Bigger impacts on fishery in rest of NZ

Evidence for this assessment/consultation

No concerns of lack of fish. Might be a regional problem. Need to identify this.

Extreme conservationists getting too much influence

Get diaries of whitebaiters to support claims there has been no reduction in catch over the last 40 years

Against license

Commercial fishing? If sustainable ok

Local economy benefits considerably from selling whitebait need to show these benefits

License – No good if person only wants to fish once or twice a year

Think it is a habitat issue rather than a fishing issue

Control fish at sea as eating whitebait (seals, kahawai)

If no issues with west coast fisheries- why hounding west coast?

Why not farming whitebait if in decline to save them

Only closed rivers on the west coast. Why not close them in other regions? Need to know they work in a particular river

Do whitebait come back to the same river? No. Some say they do

Develop farms so leave habitat for whitebait

Compliance needed for farmers. DOC & West Coast Regional Council work together

Concerned about silos between organisations. Should be represented at meeting.

Compliance stay with DOC or got to MPI?

Designate some rivers scoop net only (eg Buller)

Ban sock nets, traps and scoop nets

One season for whole country

Some people are fishing at night down in Temuka (full moon)

6m of screen reg; different elsewhere

Bad timing of meeting (tide is coming in)

Regulations should be the same around the country

No evidence of decline of whitebait

Issues around fish (eg Mukitahi R.), lack of follow up on cow grazing in creek (were told to go to WCRC); issue on Totara River, redirection of flow – another example given

Bring the rest of the country into the West Coast regulations

Wairau – lots of campervans; sock nets and big screens; set nets work where there is current

Who are the people complaining; how many? Where are the studies monitoring complaints

Clarify the subject of complaints (who- fishers or not; specify the type of complaint)

No one should have a say unless they are whitebaiters

In one year, people in the Cascade catch as much as I can catch in 40 years

Each river can sustain different levels of catch – story about a guy catching 140kg in 4 days

Big contributor to the local economy; good season = good Christmas for the grandkids – lots of people fishing are pensioners who need a little extra money, saving money by not having to buy fish

We shouldn't license to enable kids to experience whitebaiting at no cost

Relationships between predators and whitebait

Why not whitebait farming safeguard the future of breeding

Why not closing rivers around elsewhere (other than WC)

Do whitebait come back to the same river???

Owned a farm at Fairdown – drains on landlocked situations, if well managed can enhance habitat

Reality of ??? between agencies. Be wary of what you wish for. Be more strategic as a community.

Send the message where it needs to be directed. ***: rep of WCRC in Westport challenged by the locals

Could MPI manage the fishery with a QMS

There may be a possibility to fish with sock nets in certain rivers, identify those.

Hokitika whitebait drop-in session

13 November 2018

Align the rest of NZ to West Coast regulations (eg wingscreens are wrong; set nets right against the banks)

People from elsewhere don't seem to know the local regulations

Timing should be the same everywhere

Don't think anything needs to change

Last on Hokitika River – Best year ever – 30k/year – nothing wrong with the water quality - Eels caught in quantity as well.

Swimming with whitebait in December

30m too long for stands. License for potters/scoop netters.

Go back to old regulations (husband and wife – no others on stands)

License rules unclear (visitors on someone's land; do they need a license? Do they use owner's license?)

What is this meeting about? Low fish? Most whitebaiters won't share their information.

What evidence is available?

If the problem is outside West Coast bring the rest of NZ to the same level of regulation – **** replies that regulations only one affect sustainability. Habitat also important.

Des: getting a balance between the West Coast Whitebaiters Association extreme views. All policies agree some issues can be addressed. Core issues water quality agreed upon – Breeding sites, fish Forest & Bird restrict their facts on catch in a few rivers only. Are secondary issues helpful to the fishery? (eg regulations). Politicians like to be perceived to do the right things; do what does not cost; buy time (more research?). Core problems don't get any money.

Sock nets should be banned. Traps in nets also. Only one family per stan. Sock nets didn't exist initially. West Coast does a lot for conservation of whitebait. Bring the regulations of West Coast to other regions.

Important role of regional councils.

If ban of commercial fishery, how do you define it? How is it going to be patrolled?

Selling on social media may need more control.

Scoop netters often catch more whitebait than those on stands.

18% of all whitebaiters (several hundred surveys) commercial. That doesn't mean if they were banned less fish would be caught – misinformation on commercial fishing.

QMS would destroy the whole whitebait fishery.

Importance of fixing farming before 1080 -> discussion around the impact of 1080 on fish and invertebrates

keep access to using traps

Support for license but not on top of stand license – 5 against license – 15 for considering a system

Fish & Game license has done nothing for me (\$250/year for license)

Not declining = more fishermen means less fish per fisherman

Regional council is giving a ? Ignored customary

Value to West Coast of whitebait fishery (visiting whitebaiters boost local economy; new regulations could stop people coming to the coast)

People coming from outside (early 30s, 55-60s) don't know the West Coast regulations. They also breach their own regulations fishing away from net (sometimes fishing at 2 places). Not as many people fishing, it seems – need to monitor fishing pressure?

Discussion around ways of fishing depending on age

License potentially useful for compliance work. Idea of tags of ≠ colour each year. Several tags for several people on the same net.

Gear removal at end of the season can be an issue (like this year – often a flood)

Need for more enforcement in remote places (especially outside season)

Haast whitebait drop-in session

14 November 2018

Cynical timing of the consultation (too late!)

Whitebaiters are interested to contribute as required and where necessary to research undertaken in West Coast

Why is the rest of the country not aligned with West Coast regulation – (Length of season, screens/nets)

Fish observed in Turnball in June.

Mass migration observed in March in the Panago

2000 mullets

Waiatoto. **** research remembered (2y ago) ?

Enforcement should focus on pre- and post season illegal fishing.

License - > Positive for enforcement; return for more research/actions; More equitable/stand holders.

Ensure any return/region would be proportional to numbers of whitebaiters in the region; Happy to pay an extra \$100

Discussion about need for better collaboration with regional council (eg habitat, water quality)

Last two years good in Canterbury, possibly because of earthquakes (Some wetland areas)

Impact of cyclones at spawning time could impact numbers in spring time. Role of marine phase (currents)

Glacial rivers did well this year (one person fishing in Moeraki)

Educate to throw back “gullies” one pot fisher

Once licensed, could be added regulations (people throwing gullies penalised)

Whitebaiting is now better recognised in 5th Westland (Most in attendance are members) Need for support (Secretary?)

**** acknowledges she is a commercial fisher. Chose and is able to do this. Does it properly (pay tax), Supports commercial fish.

QIS not possible due to lack of data

Holiday park – kept growing (1973-2003)

People with set nets can catch more than stand holders.

Lots of wastage at the end of the season (gullies)

Stability of habitat - sustain the fishery

DOC should not allow grazing along the banks of some rivers

Bring back pegs further downstream suggested for the Moeraki. Reduce the length of fishing day also concerns about MPI being involved.

Limiting selling season (no more than 3 months in the freezer)

False statements by New Zealand Geographic magazine (Dave Hansford)

Worries/concerns about proper consultation or not – is this exercise another political trick (decision has already been made). Fearful of process.

Conclusive comments thanking DOC. Also notify that ?? are doing a lot for conservation.

On the online survey concerns = have people ticked the right boxes (eg are they real fishers?)

Fox Glacier whitebait drop-in session

14 November 2018

Person fished since 1982

82-97 Karangarua -> 97-now Saltwater.

Last year most catch in Sept/Oct, this year in November. Some years no more than 100kg, sometimes up to 1500kg.

We should align the rest of NZ with West Coast.

Stumbled across a pile of dead whitebait once along the Karangarua (caught in a pool after flood receded.

No traps wanted

Timing of the session very poor (out of season, tide)

Season shorter in WC, and has worked -> Bring the rest of the country in line with WC

Early whitebait don't survive as well as others arriving later

Too many people keeping "old" whitebait -> waste of breeders. Related to "goonies" (fishing behind the lagoon.

90% of whitebait can be caught in 3 days at the end of the season

Whitebait can run from July-Christmas

Should employ someone who fishes and records catches throughout the season

Willingness to share data

Drains poorly designed

Spawning habitat management very important

Province privileged not too have too much pressure in catchments

Issues outside West Coast not respecting West Coast rules (eg 3 brothers and their families in Jacobs River)

Importance of whitebait for the economy. Part of what West Coaster is. Cottage industry. Be good guardians of conservation but don't want to be penalised.

Don't mind license fee if return goes to research

No evidence of decline – adults perhaps but not juveniles

Boom in Queenstown and Wanaka has brought numbers to Jackson Bay -> soon it will affect even more with the increase of whitebaiters.

Regional council too slack with people building along the banks

Usefulness of satellite information every season

Bill discussion should have happened after this whitebait discussion

Whangarei whitebait drop-in session

15 November 2018

Whitebait in his stream eat cow poo, but only the poo from beef cattle, not dairy cows. This is because the poo is influenced by the fertilisers used on the pastures eaten by these two types of cattle. Different fertilisers are used for beef and dairy. He feeds whitebait poo from beef cattle. Last year there were more whitebait

Habitat is a key issue for whitebait. Swamp drainage has been huge over time, and this must have had significant detrimental impacts.

Extensive clearance of bush must have also reduced the natural organic matter in the streams/rivers.

There is a bit of whitebait fishing in the region eg Horohoro estuary. Not that much though.

Working with Whitebait Connection to sponsor their activities. Decided to do that having been interested in fish from a young age.

Educating the younger kids on the issues is paramount.

Managing habitat is vital.

Need to make people appreciate what is in streams. People mostly don't even realise what is there.

Used to be a few whitebaiters around when he was a kid. Doesn't know if people still fish for whitebait around the area.

Need to make people realise they cannot keep taking the fish indiscriminately. There will not be enough.

Polarising the community into "us and them" is not the answer.

If a licence is introduced, it needs to bring in sufficient funding to make the administration worthwhile.

Increase awareness with factual information, to get people to understand the issues.

60 years whitebaiting around the Hokianga (Tahake / Takeke River)

Does not believe whitebait should be sold. It should be shared when abundant, in line with the principle of manaakitanga.

The undeclared income of those who sell is another problem. Sale is not right. However, how will restaurants get whitebait if it's not sold?

Erosion of banks and sediment are big issues. He has lost 5 fishing spots due to erosion. It is worse on the east side of the river.

County council years ago cut the willows -> erosion

River banks are not fenced off from stock, and the stock are in the waterways up to their hocks eating the rushes. This is a big loss of spawning habitat.

Need to fence river edges to stop stock trampling.

A particular problem with large paddocks as a lot of stock have access from a single paddock.

Māori land is often divided into very large paddocks.

Around the Tahake Pub area, there used to be whitebaiters up to about 1/2 a mile above through 2 miles below the Pub. Now about 10 people fish there at the most.

He caught 25.5 kg of whitebait this year; it was a bad season.

Last season - 50 kg; 2015 - 87 kg; 2013 - 228 kg; 2012 - 186 kg; 2011 - 86 kg. In 2013, he stopped catching because he didn't want to buy a fourth freezer to store the catch.

The whitebait started running early this season.

Thinks that whitebait home to the stream where they hatched.

Smelt come in at the end of the season.

The biggest schools of whitebait occur 3 days after a flood.

Uses a net based on the Māori method of catching (with supplejack going into a sock net). No trap is used in the net.

You know when the whitebait have stopped running because you catch the "koriwokas" which look like young kokopu. They are brown without a silver belly. Usually the whitebait stop running by Labour weekend.

Whitebait come up all sorts of little side creeks that are brackish too. They also come up a few of the large drains in the Taheke River.

Thinks he is getting more fish now because fewer people are fishing.

Work with Whitebait Connection

There is concern amongst folks potentially interested in restoration, because if they restore, there is nothing to stop someone coming in and fishing out the whitebait.

People fish at "secret fishing spots" that they don't want known, and so there may be a perception that there is not much fishing going on in the area. However, there is probably more than most people realise. Building relationships is required to find out what is happening.

DOC in Northland don't always realise that they are responsible for whitebait, eg when calling DOC about illegal fishing activity, the caller has been referred to MPI.

WB work is an opportunity for landowners to make a positive contribution.

To have whitebait species on an ongoing basis, the habitat must be there. Freshwater reserves are needed in some rivers. 1 - 5 year priorities for Whitebait Connection are focused on inanga spawning habitat and increasing awareness of the life cycle of the other whitebait species. For commercial harvest, there is a need to "close the loop" and make commercial fishers give back. Whitebait Connection's vision includes whitebaiting to catch a feed.

Erosion and sedimentation are big issues. Sediment smothers eggs.

Commercial harvesting should be managed like any other business, with appropriate regulation and accountability. It needs to be fair, including how much is taken. Currently commercial fishers can benefit from the work of those restoring habitat. This is not appropriate and someone interested in restoration might think 'why bother'? Is aquacultured whitebait now (eg Manaaki in Warkworth). Fishing needs to be stopped in the first instance.

Council activities can affect whitebait (eg mowing and vegetation trimming) - affect erosion and spawning habitat.

New Plymouth whitebait drop-in session

29 November 2018

Maraekopa Valley – used to catch lots of Whitebait

All drains used to have inanga in them

Need more research

Not sure about selling Whitebait

Catching as many as you like is not good

Trout fisherman – concerns about fisheries amendment bill and the impact on trout fisheries

Whitebait coming up river all year

2 years ago was a good season

Catches fluctuate from year to year

Have captured the same amount for 3 years

Season should stay the same

Only catch 20-30% of what's migrating upstream

Leave season the same

More DOC rangers, more compliance required ... no DOC rangers seen on Mokau

Some people using 2 nets

Net sizes and types need – make sure compliance is occurring

More education about the rules – make them more visible

Some rivers should only have scoop nets, especially smaller rivers

People are fishing outside of the times allowed eg early in the morning, more compliance needed

Should be recreational – can't sell it ... selling makes people greedy and want more

More DOC presence on rivers for compliance

Make sure people don't have more than one net and their screens are not too big

Someone put a manikin on a chair to make it look like they were still there

Need to make sure people are present on their stand

Being within 6 metres of net should maybe be extended a bit so can go to the toilet

Could open 1 August, close 30 October for conservation of giant kōkopu

Some months are better than others but migrating all the time

Data gathering – collecting data since 1970 – Tainui Whitebaiters association

Can remember the tracking survey when fish were dyed and released instream

DOC, NIWA – all organisations etc should get together to share information

Get surveys together to see what is happening throughout New Zealand

Awakino and Mokau – giant kōkopu present – as identified by ****

Was great having Mark on river to explain all the different species etc

Look after river Banks and fence them off and plant with natives

Look after sensitive spawning grounds

Get Friesian cows off river flats in the winter – think about farm management practice – put more jersey cows on

Commercial licence needed

Licensing system for sellers/should be registered

People need to be made more aware of regulations

Some whitebaiters self-regulating of each other
Last 10 years may be not declined but look further back then it has declined
QMS is unworkable
Nationwide maybe some rivers should be closed
More compliance and DOC presence on rivers
No changes required in Taranaki
Fewer whitebaiters on the river – no young people on river now
Lose end of November and end of August eg September/October for season
Shouldn't be able to sell take away greed
More compliance required
People ringing DOC and telling them about fishing outside of times/season etc – DOC doesn't do anything because they're iwi – iwi threatened another whitebaiter with a rifle
Some areas worse than others for Whitebait fishing
Mokau not good
Please provide people with a hard copy summary of survey results etc – will it be broken down by region
Hard to make decisions based on own region for the rest of the country
Restoration of spawning grounds
Licensing to fund compliance
Closed rivers or rotation of closed/open
No sale of Whitebait – may be can sell some from South Westland rivers, but not in Taranaki
Recreational people selling Whitebait – should be licensed to sell/have an authorisation to sell
Concerned about extinction of species – distortion of Whitebait populations eg taking out early and late spawners
Eliminate commercial sale/moratorium of fishing for at least a couple of years – surveys required to get more black and white data, elasticity required
Whitebait catches fluctuate a lot
Need some freshwater pushing up the river so Whitebait swim near enough the bank to catch them otherwise they swim right past up the middle
Rats and mice eating eggs
Ban sale of whitebait – if sell should be licensed
Management of fishery – condense the season
Make the rules “national”
More research – funded by commercial licenses
Recreational licenses (per stand) where appropriate – fund more research eg water quality
Habitat restoration
Fixing access for adult galaxias
Predators – mice, rat, ferrets
Community/schools involved in research
Upstream pollution
Are you having another hui (meeting) before you make decisions about the Whitebait challenges?
More DOC presence
Excessive screens or more than one net and fishing like that all season
Make it fair for everyone
Much more research

More study and research required
Commercial whitebaiters to be licensed
More Science/research
Licence fee per stand or per persons and family, money to go back to research
Water control is big part
Compulsory licence to sell Whitebait
Properly funded ecological survey of the resources with identification related to species and areas
Such a survey should be transparent and peer reviewed
Co-operation of analogous organisations
A survey of historical whitebaiting with methodology and chronology
More fencing off of the bigger waterways and pest control. Most of our rivers are infested with rats which eat the eggs
The population has increased so there are more people whitebaiting than there used to be
Survey outside current season to collect data before making any decisions
Management of habitat and water quality
Fencing off spawning areas
Commercial licence to sell Whitebait
More funding for DOC
Awareness for protecting spawning areas
Representative from rivers to liaise with DOC
Closing headwaters in sensitive areas
Increased fencing of breeding areas (habitat)
No further increase in stand numbers on major rivers
Increased data collection to ensure correct decision making for future (not just during season time limit)
Limiting commercial sale
Potential inclusion of future Whitebait farms to supply breeding stock for release in headwaters or some other way they could contribute
Register commercial fishers – ie in line with boaties
Habitat restoration
Better adult fish access/improved fish passage
Habitat restoration and Science/management information available
Raising awareness of public and contractors (eg mowing too close to river Banks and other issues)
There is no shortage of Whitebait. There are just more people now whitebaiting. I still catch the same every year as I have for 50 years. Some years are good, some are really good and most are average
Suggest no changes manage as per status quo
More signage at popular fishing spots
Sellers should be registered
Whitebait look after themselves
Existing rules need enforcing. Stands being built too close together. Stands too close to mouths of creeks.
Stand size and locations need to be enforced. I fish regularly and have not seen an inspector for 3 seasons. No fishing out of boats. Stand size not being enforced. Too much rubbish in rivers. Old stands plastic pellets car tyres corrugated iron. Owners should remove
River fenced off and planted to improve spawning
No animals damaging river sides

More DOC getting up the river

The season should start August 1st finish 2nd week in November – my husband and I both share the one stand

Open fishing season earlier and close earlier eg 1st August to 31st October

DOC to patrol rivers more often and enforce whitebaiting rules and regulations

Suggest regulating commercial sales

Pay for the commercial licence

Record catch amounts

Shorten the season – cut off November

Commercial whitebaiters should pay to licence and have a quota

More inspection to police regulations and gear

Commercial fishers should have a licence and a quota

Reduce water abstraction from rivers

No stands

More DOC presence on all rivers throughout the season