

# Social Survey of New Zealand Whitebaiters



## Monitoring and Evaluation Report: Perceptions of the Aotearoa New Zealand whitebait fishery 2022

Social Science and Monitoring Team

Cover: Whitebaiting, just before sunset, Okuru Estuary, Westland. Photo: *Philippe Gerbeaux, DOC*.

DOC - 7242095

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In the interest of forest conservation, we support paperless electronic publishing.

# Context

The Social Science and Monitoring team received an Assyst request from the Freshwater team to undertake a monitoring and evaluation programme during the New Zealand whitebaiting season of 2022. The objective was to gather baseline data to describe the whitebait fishery in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2022. The data will help identify the issues of most concern to whitebaiters and inform future whitebait fishing practices.

This report presents measures related to the following indicators from the DOC's Outcome Monitoring Framework (OMF):

- 3.1.1 - Current demand for recreation on public conservation land and waters

# Methodology and sample

Surveying was undertaken between October and November 2022 by means of:

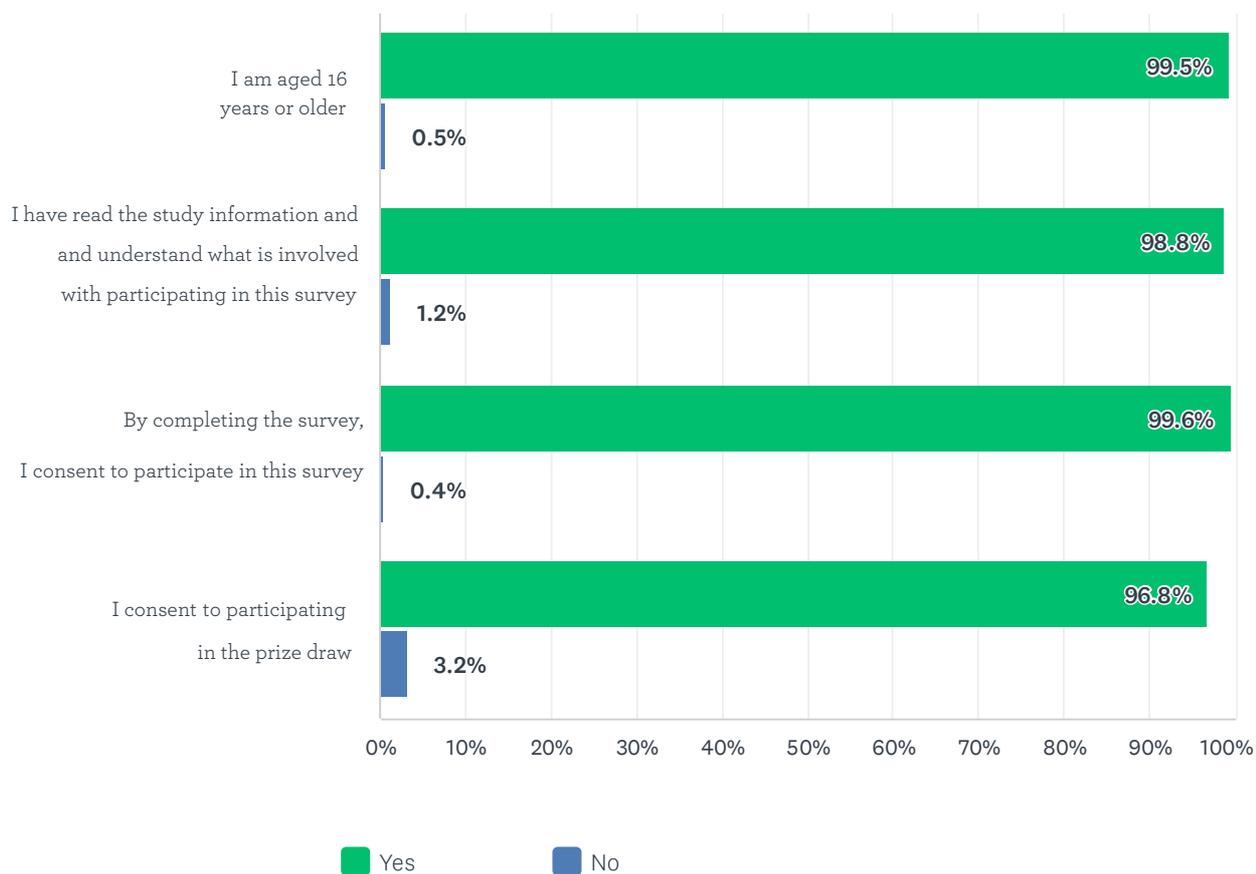
- An online advertising campaign, posted on Google, Facebook and Instagram,
- DOC Rangers distributing surveys to whitebait fisherman on river banks.

For the Online advertising campaign, survey respondents completed a total of 1247 questionnaires. As for the paper based surveys distributed by DOC Rangers, survey respondents completed a total of 55 responses. This yielded a total sample of 1302 surveys.

# Results

## Statement of consent (please tick relevant box)

Answered: 1,302 Skipped: 0



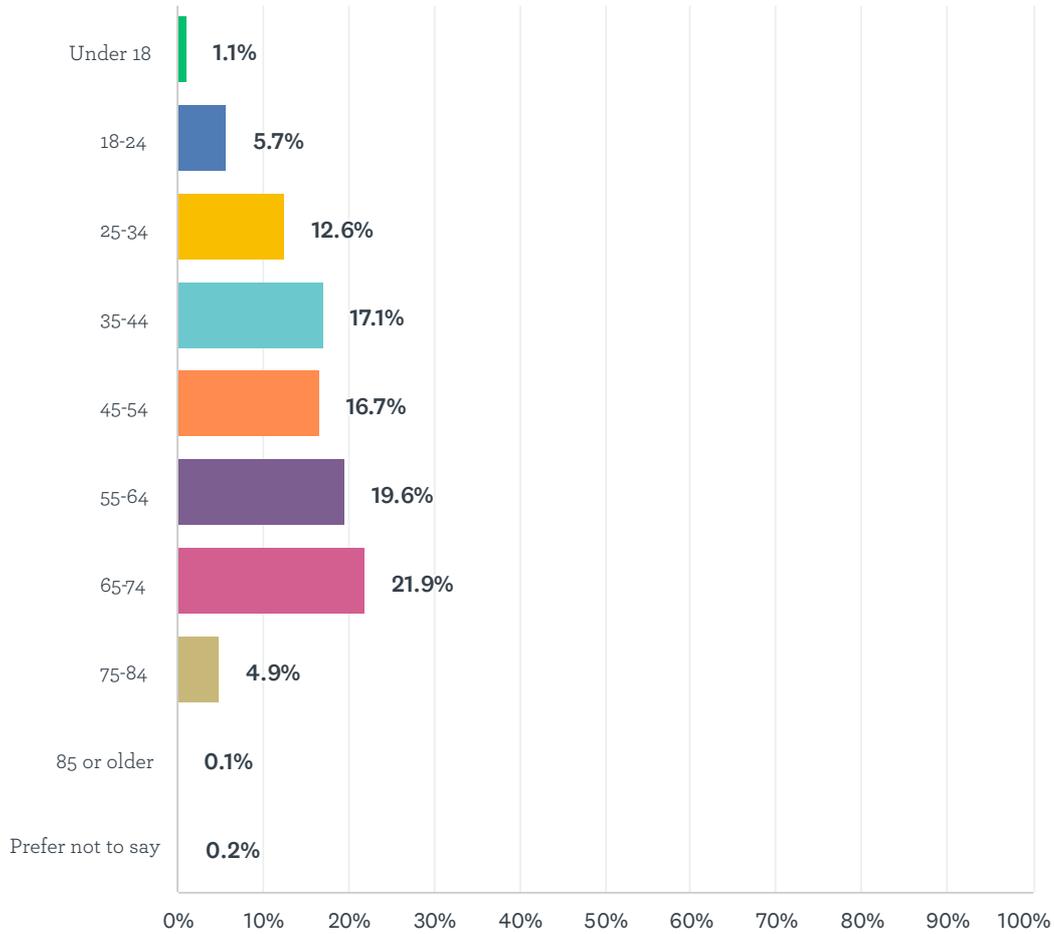
|   | YES            | NO         | TOTAL |
|---|----------------|------------|-------|
| I am aged 16 years or older   | 99.5%<br>1,295 | 0.5%<br>7  | 1,302 |
| I have read the study information and understand what is involved with participating in this survey | 98.8%<br>1,286 | 1.2%<br>16 | 1,302 |
| By completing the survey, I consent to participate in this survey                                   | 99.6%<br>1,297 | 0.4%<br>5  | 1,302 |
| I consent to participating in the prize draw  | 96.8%<br>1,260 | 3.2%<br>42 | 1,302 |

Due to the Department of Conservations Privacy Policy, the results presented in the the following top-line report includes participants who indicated they were over the age of 16, had read the study information and understood what was involved in participating, and consented to participating in the survey.

As a result, of the 1302 participants that submitted a response, 1274 were included in the analysis below.

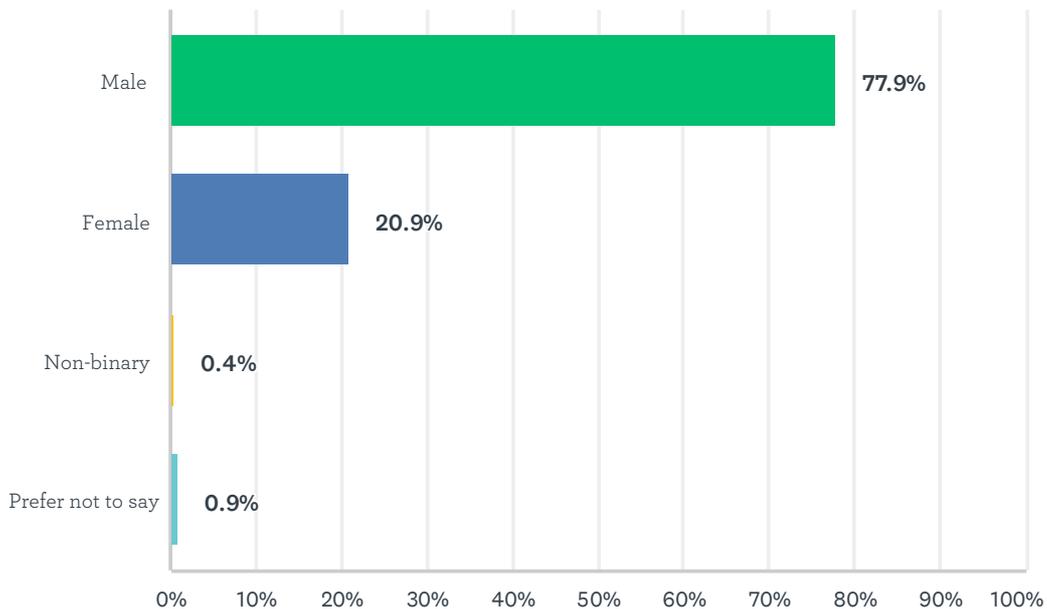
## Q1. What age group are you in?

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0



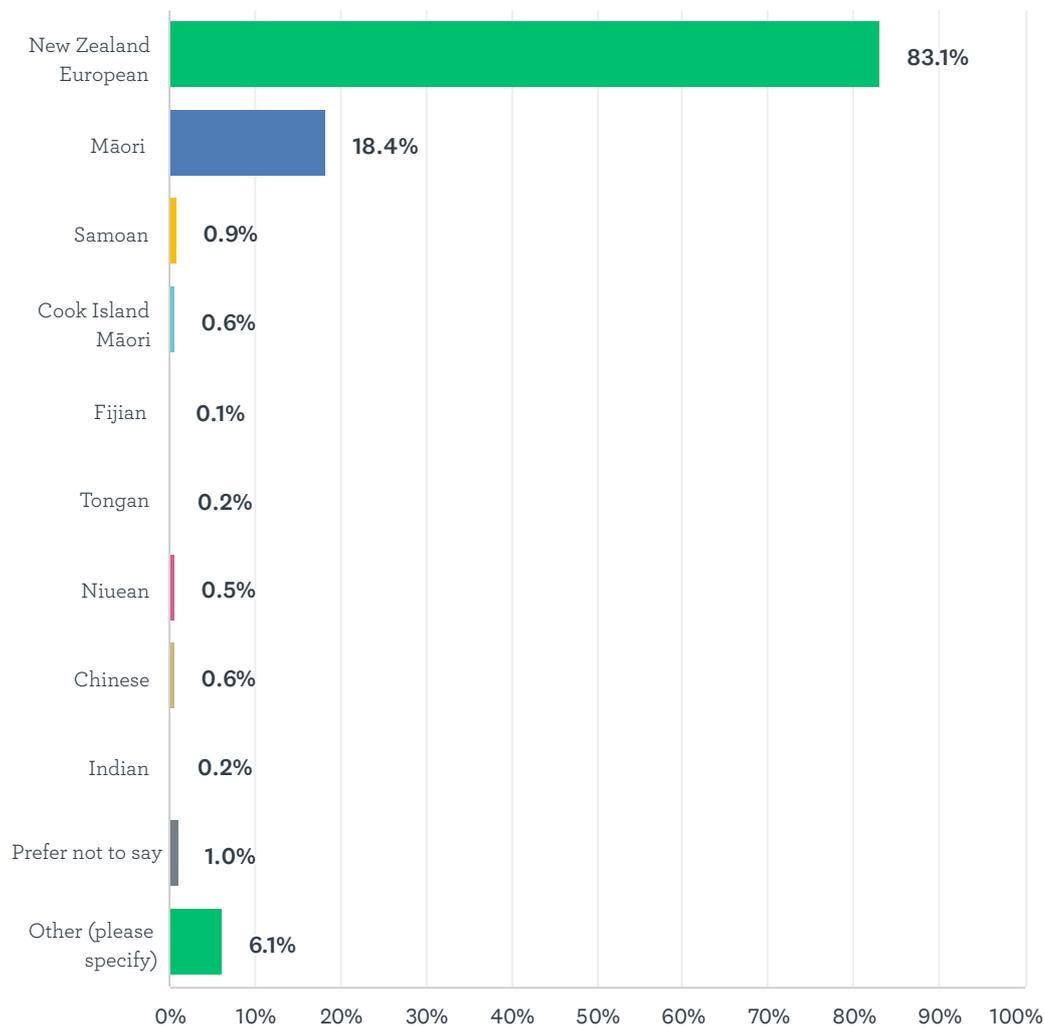
## Q2. What is your gender identity?

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0



### Q3. What ethnic group(s) do you belong to? (tick all that apply)

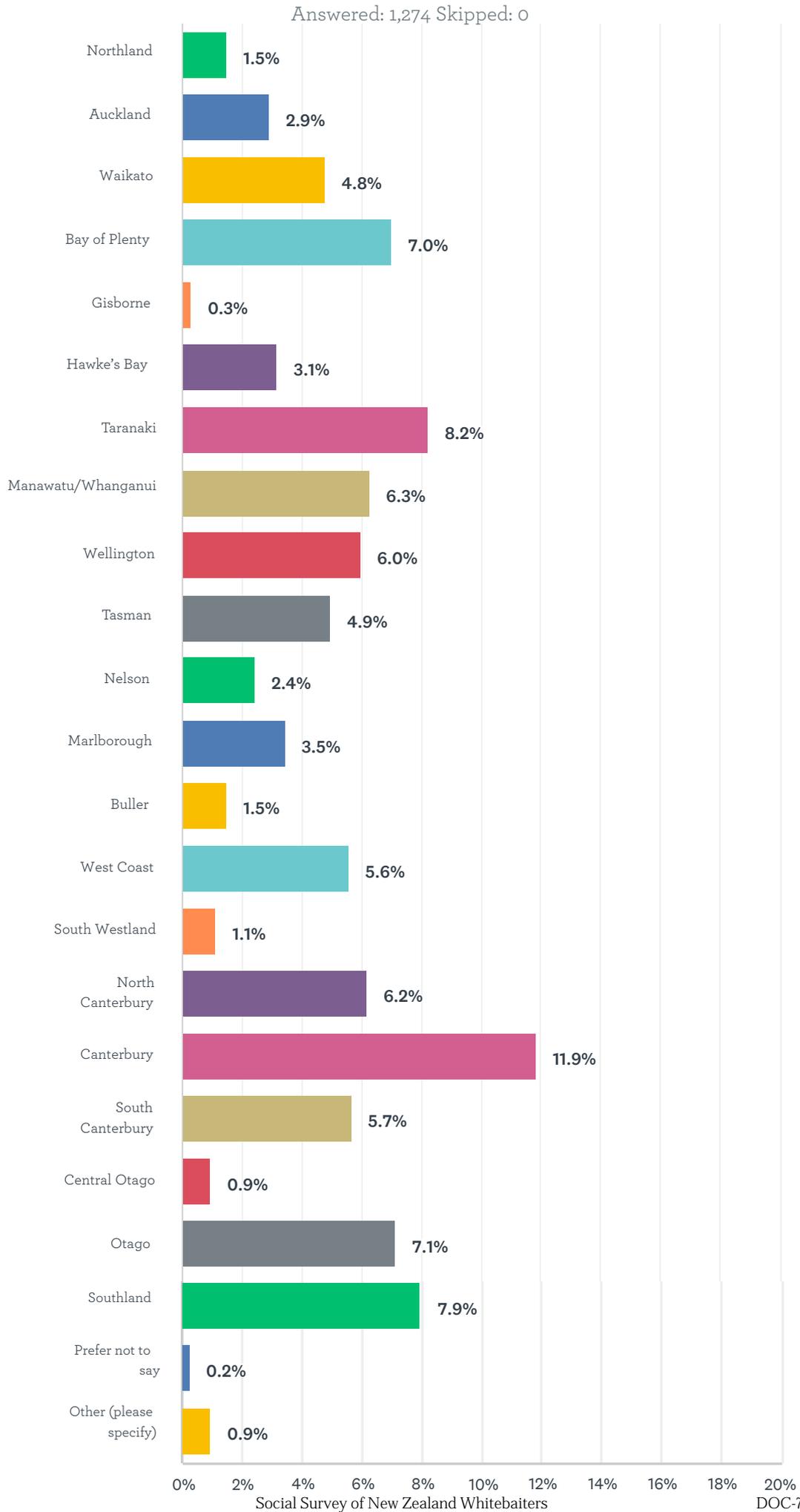
Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES           | RESPONSES |       |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| New Zealand European     | 83.1%     | 1,059 |
| Māori                    | 18.4%     | 234   |
| Samoan                   | 0.9%      | 11    |
| Cook Island Māori        | 0.6%      | 8     |
| Fijian                   | 0.1%      | 1     |
| Tongan                   | 0.2%      | 3     |
| Niuean                   | 0.5%      | 7     |
| Chinese                  | 0.6%      | 8     |
| Indian                   | 0.2%      | 2     |
| Prefer not to say        | 1.0%      | 13    |
| Other (please specify)   | 6.1%      | 78    |
| Total Respondents: 1,274 |           |       |

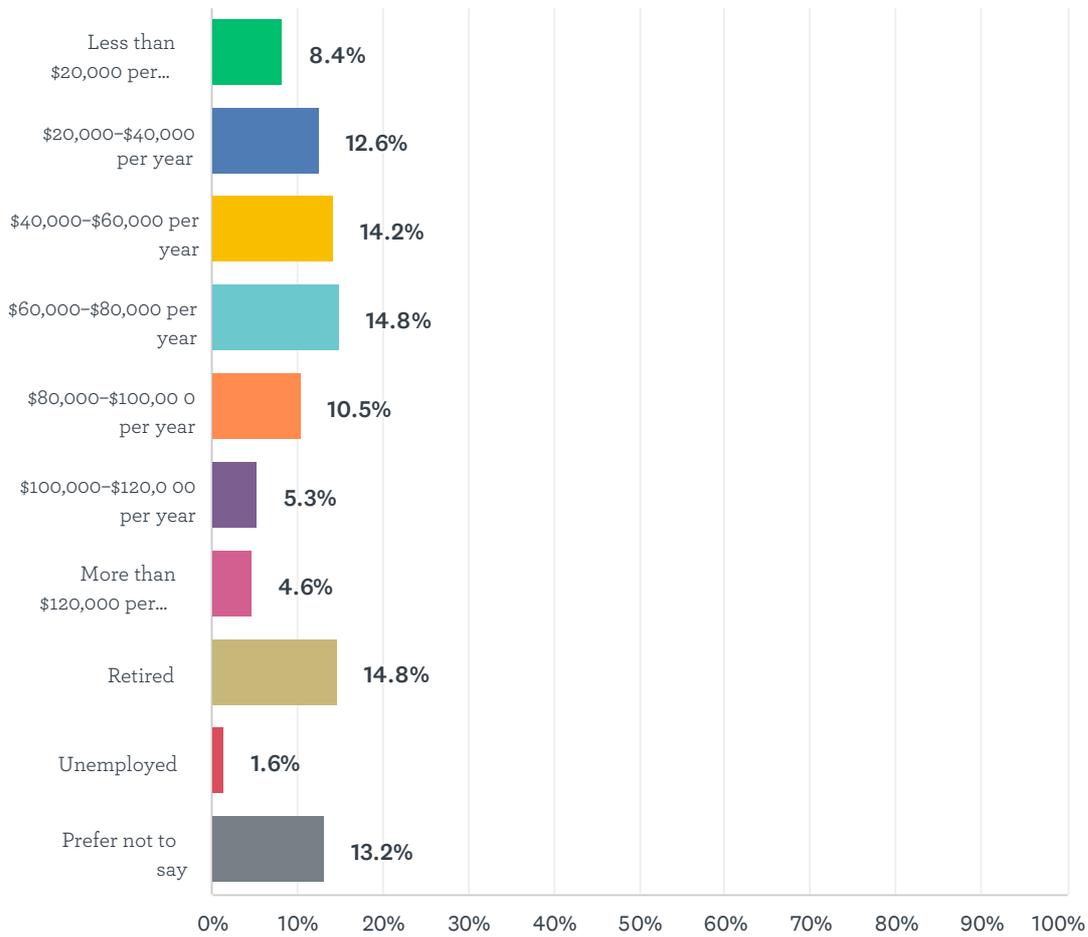
| The top three responses from the 'Other' category includes | %      | TOTAL |
|--|--------|-------|
| New Zealander  | 2.75 % | 35    |
| Kiwi   | 1.0 %  | 13    |
| Australian   | 0.2 %  | 3     |

# Q4. Which region do you live in outside of the whitebait season?



## Q5. What is your income?

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0

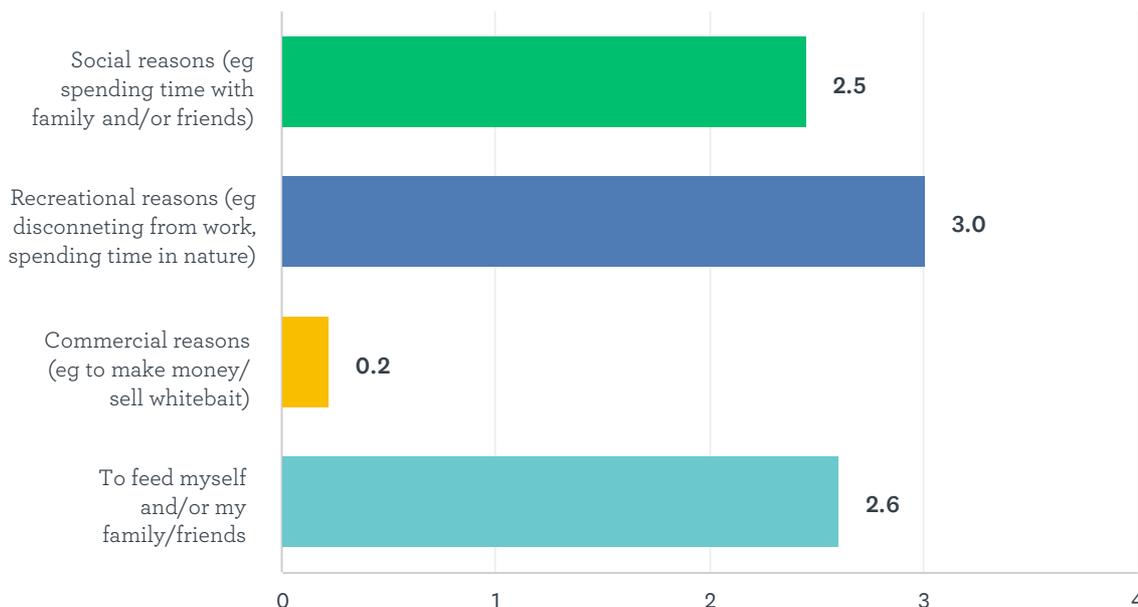


## Q6. How important are the following reasons for your whitebaiting?

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0

Participants were required to submit a response for each of the four reasons. Responses were on a scale of 0 to 4, where 0 = Not important at all, 1= Slightly important, 2 = Moderately important, 3 = Very important and 4 = Extremely important.

The figure shows average scores and the table shows response category splits.



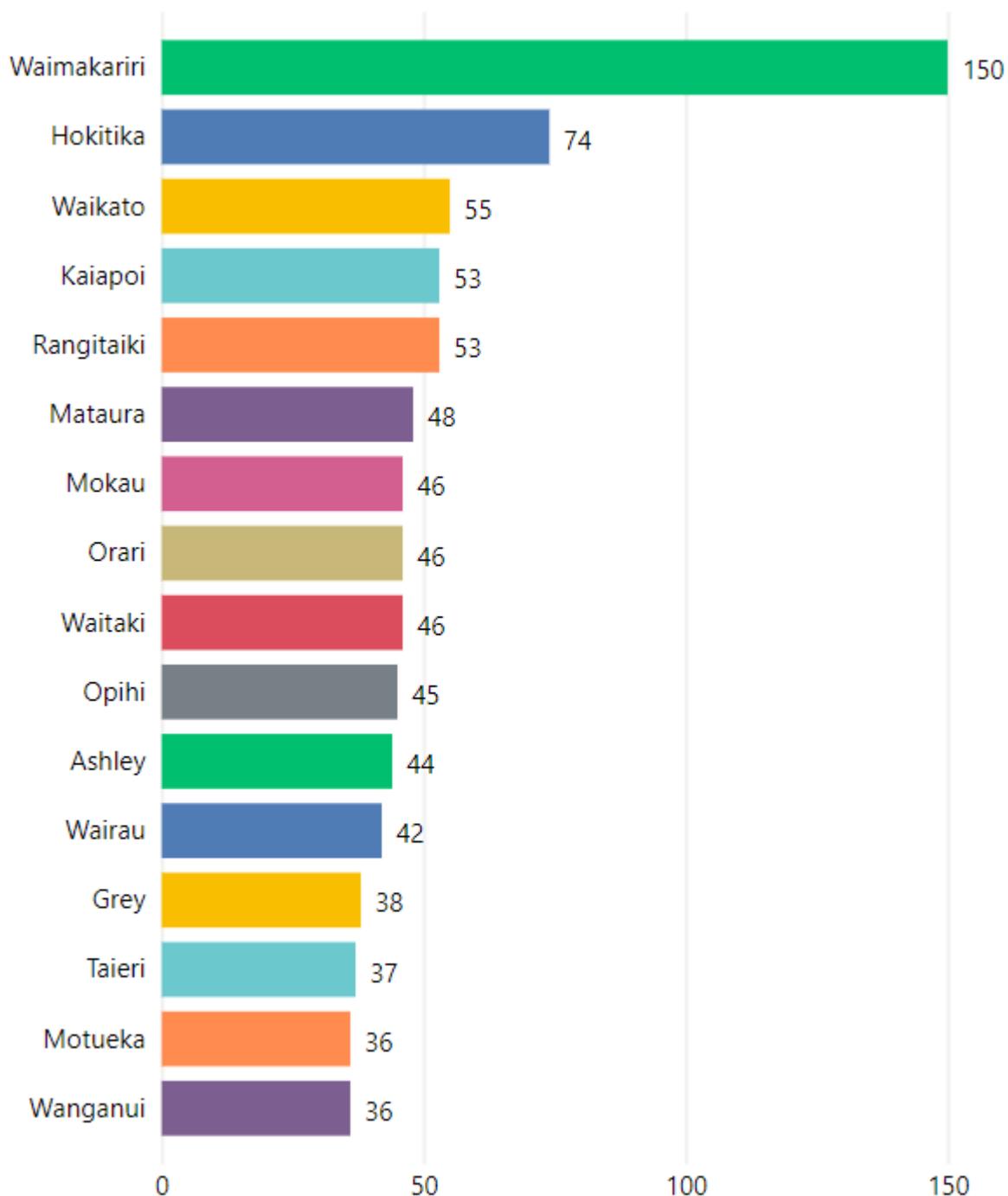
|  | NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT | SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT | MODERATELY IMPORTANT | VERY IMPORTANT | EXTREMELY IMPORTANT | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------|------------------|
| Social reasons (eg spending time with family and/or friends)               | 12.8%<br>163         | 9.7%<br>124        | 20.9%<br>266         | 32.3%<br>412   | 24.3%<br>309        | 1,274 | 2.46             |
| Recreational reasons (eg disconnecting from work, spending time in nature) | 4.6%<br>59           | 3.6%<br>46         | 14.4%<br>184         | 40.3%<br>513   | 37.0%<br>472        | 1,274 | 3.01             |
| Commercial reasons (eg to make money/sell whitebait)                       | 89.6%<br>1,141       | 3.9%<br>50         | 3.5%<br>45           | 1.3%<br>16     | 1.7%<br>22          | 1,274 | 0.22             |
| To feed myself and/or my family/friends                                    | 6.8%<br>87           | 11.7%<br>149       | 23.8%<br>303         | 29.0%<br>369   | 28.7%<br>366        | 1,274 | 2.61             |

## Q7.A. In the last five years, where have you been whitebaiting? (Please record up to 5 rivers)

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0

Respondents recorded a total of 2727 rivers, consisting of 472 individual rivers, over the past 5 years. The top 15 rivers are displayed below.

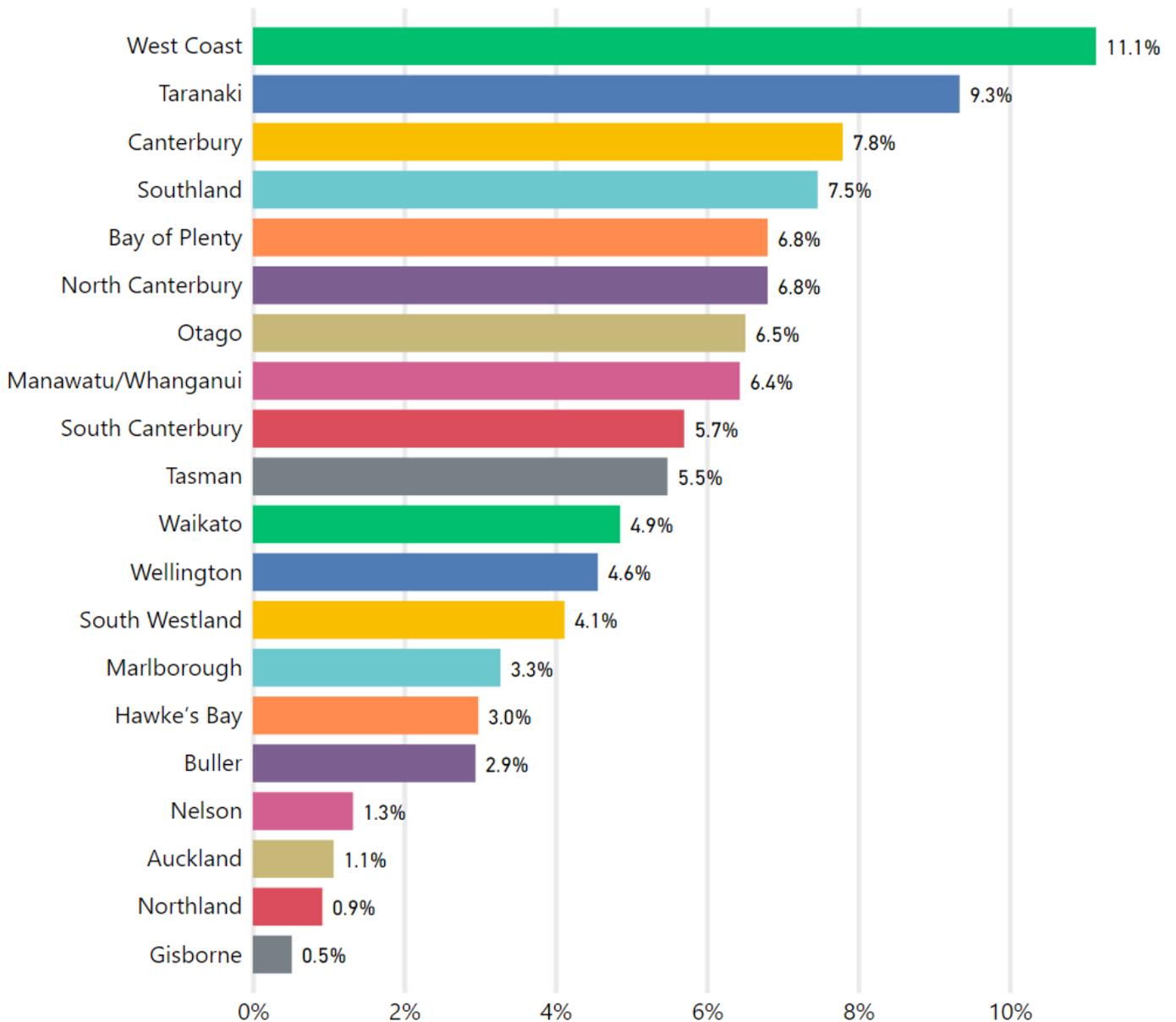
Open text responses that did not correctly identify a river were not included in graph below.



## Q7.B. For each of your stated rivers, please answer the following questions:

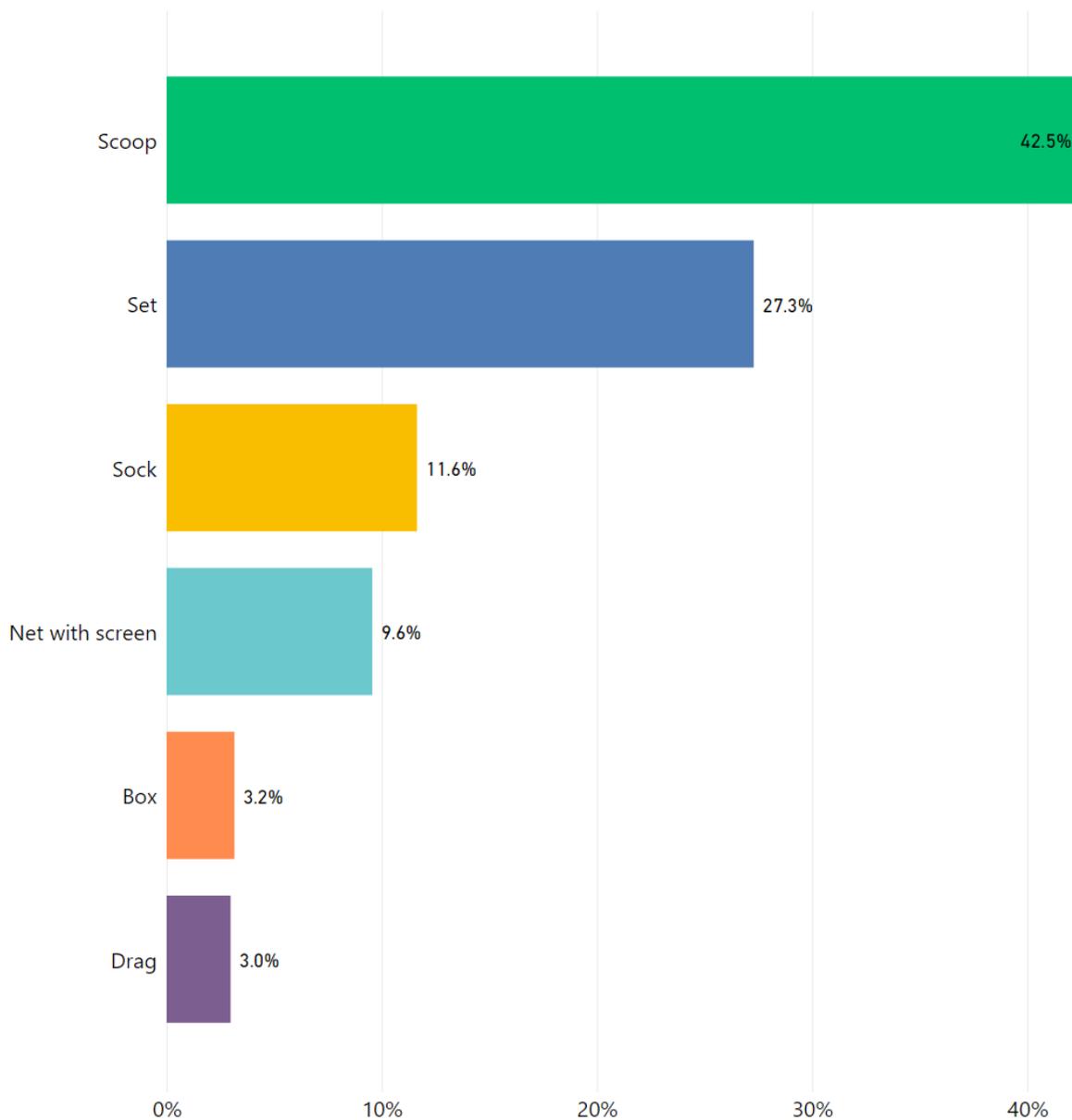
Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0

### Region name



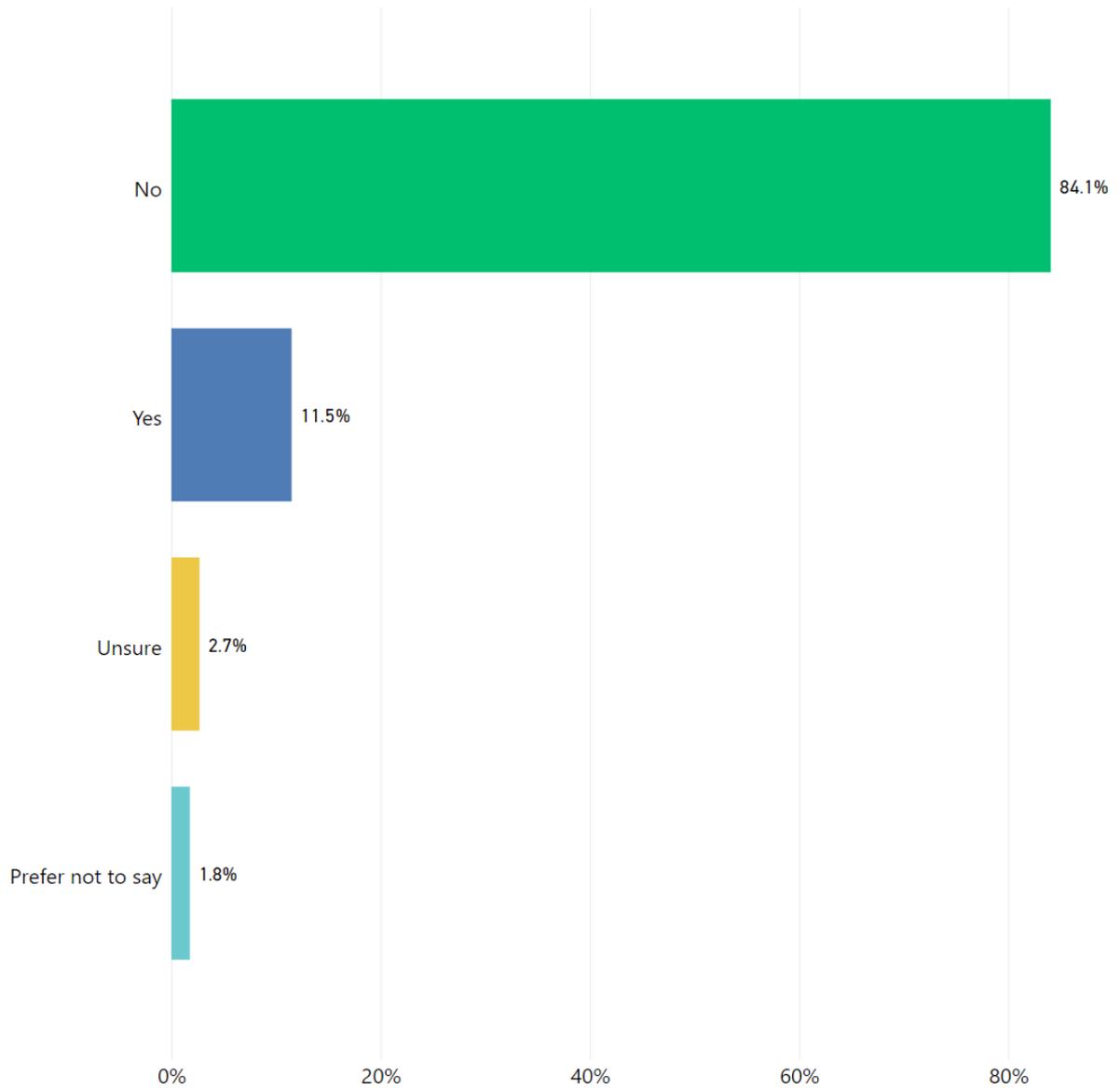
# What type of net did you use?

Answered: 2711



# Do you fish from a registered stand?

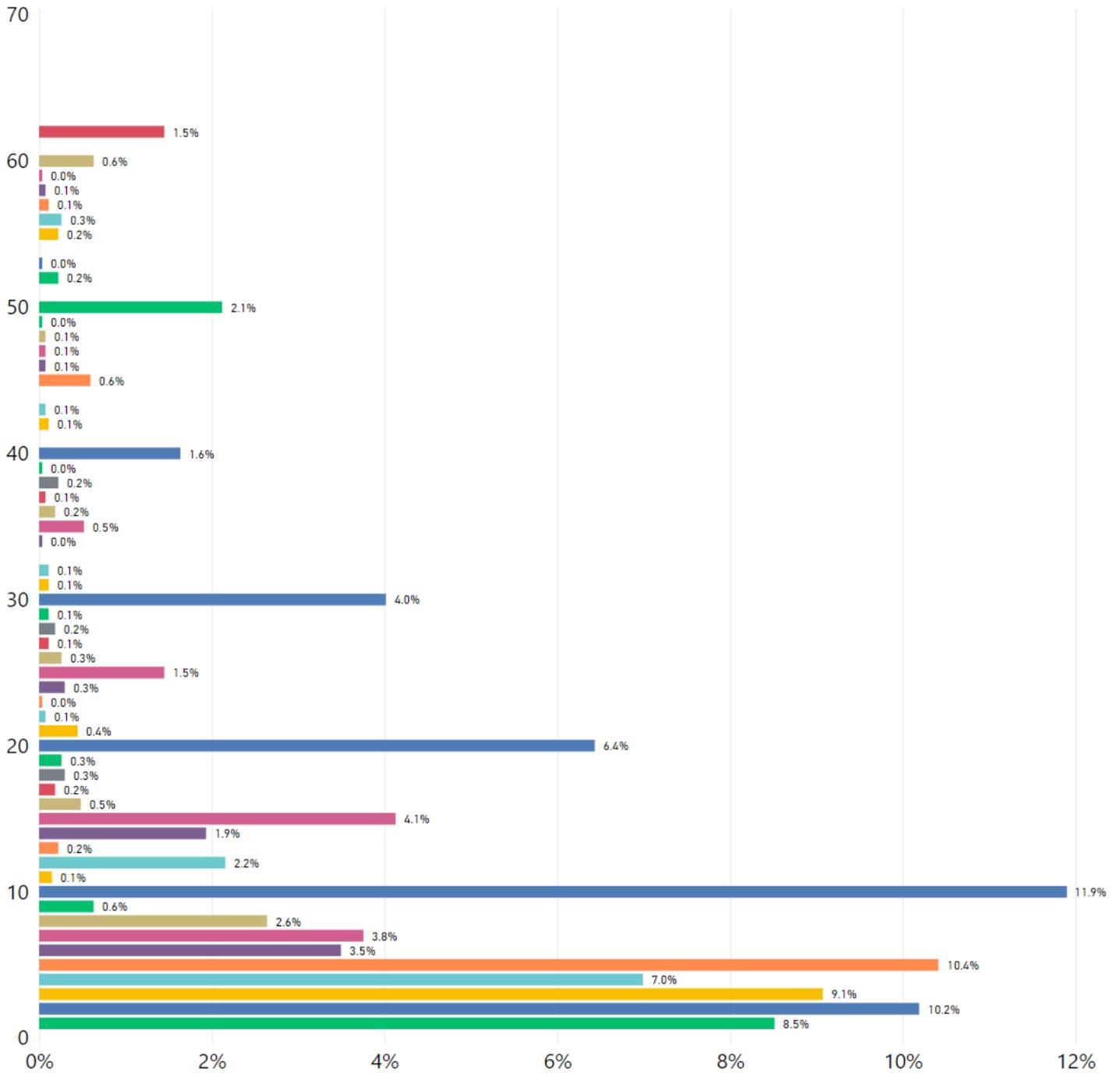
Answered: 2715



# What is the average number of days per season you fish this river?

Answered: 2689

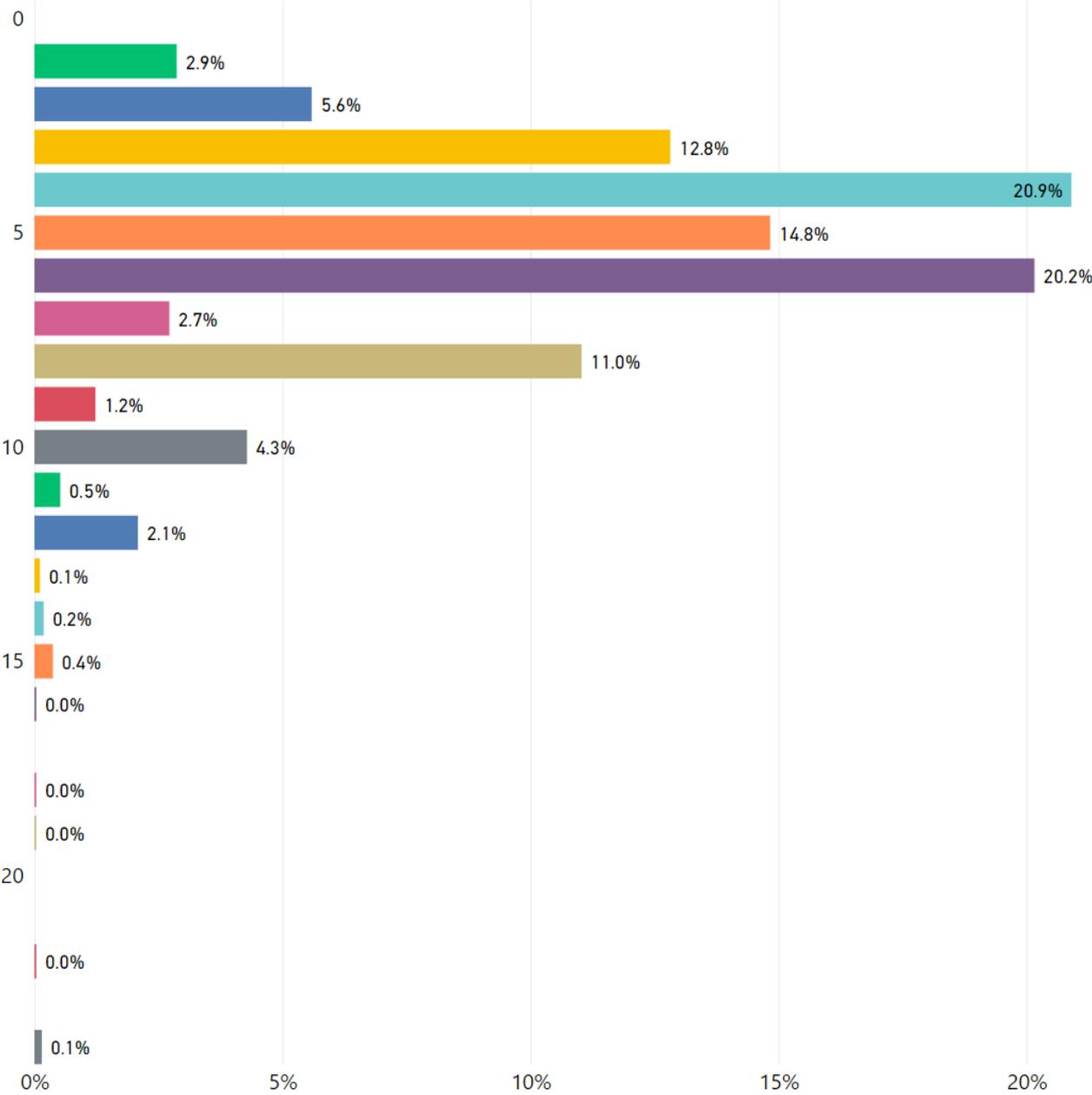
The average across all survey participants was 12.35 days per season.



# What is the average number of hours per day you fish this river?

Answered: 2684

The average across all respondents is 5.39 hours per day.

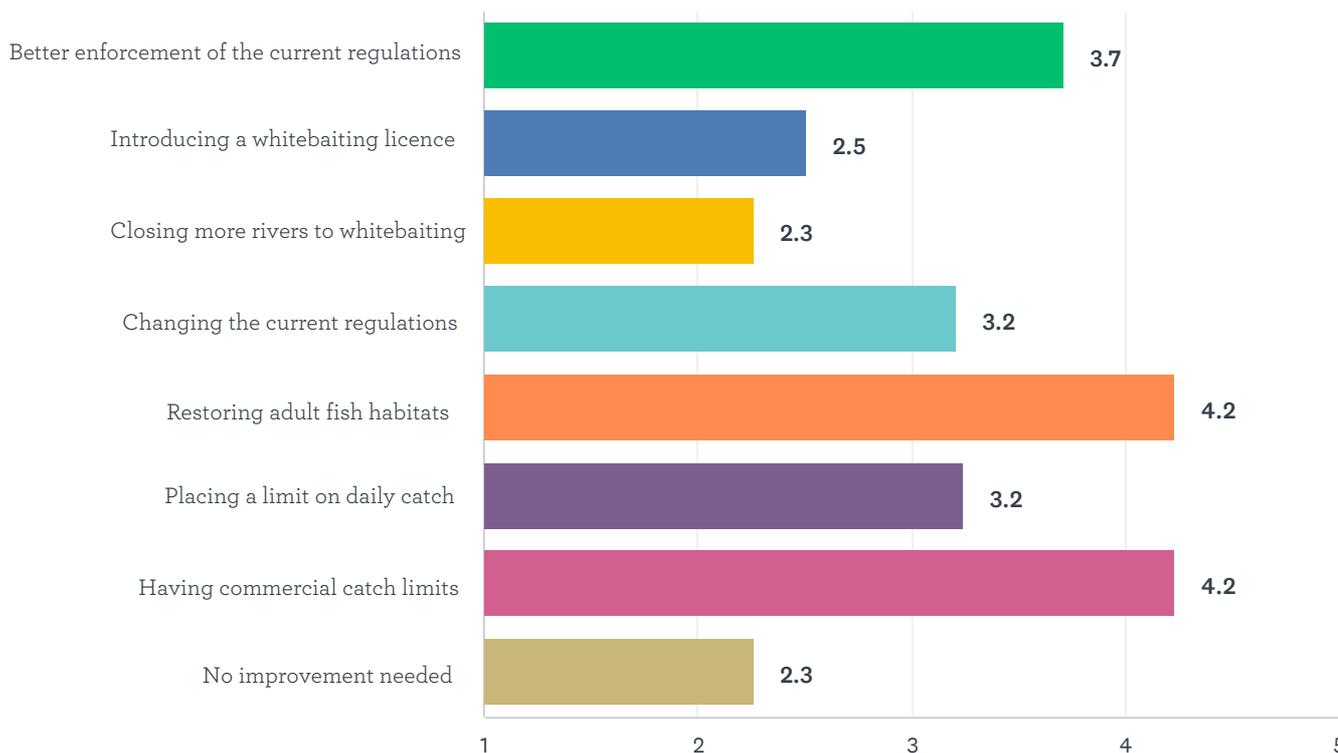


## Q8. Do you agree that the following things are needed to improve the whitebait fishery?

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0

Responses were on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree and 5 = Strongly agree.

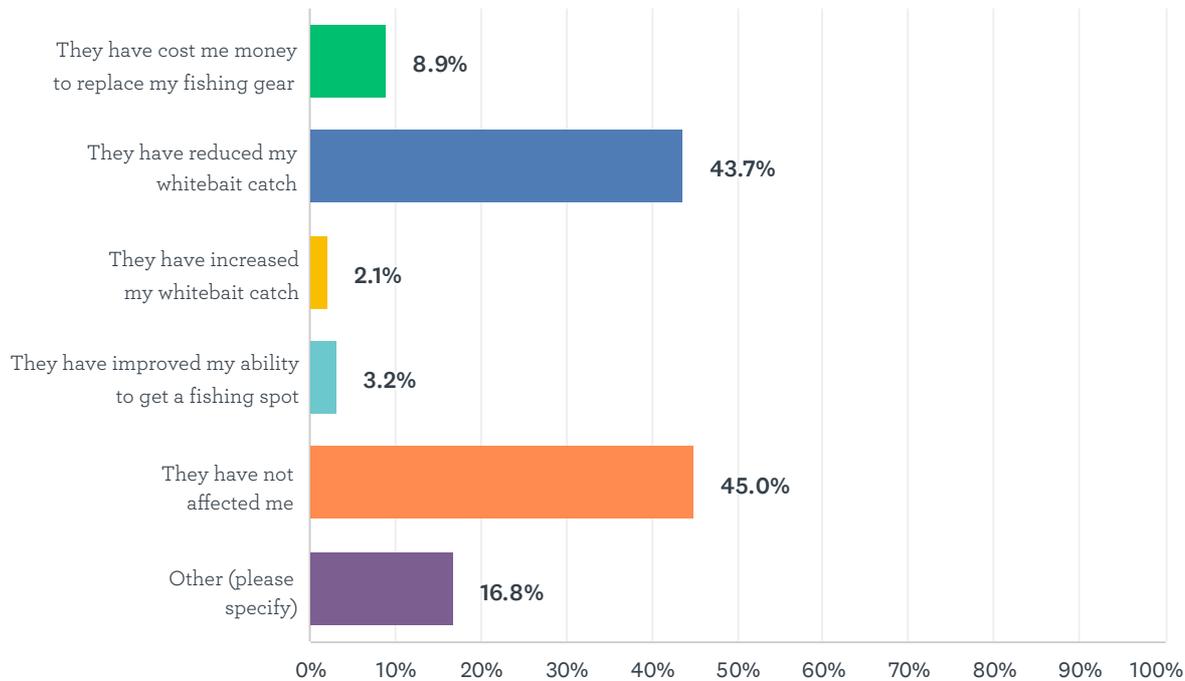
The figure shows average scores and the table shows response category splits.



|   | STRONGLY DISAGREE | DISAGREE     | NEUTRAL      | AGREE        | STRONGLY AGREE | TOTAL |
|---|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| Better enforcement of the current regulations | 8.1%<br>103       | 7.2%<br>92   | 23.3%<br>297 | 28.3%<br>360 | 33.1%<br>422   | 1,274 |
| Introducing a whitebaiting licence            | 36.6%<br>466      | 18.7%<br>238 | 16.2%<br>206 | 14.1%<br>180 | 14.4%<br>184   | 1,274 |
| Closing more rivers to whitebaiting           | 37.0%<br>471      | 26.1%<br>332 | 19.5%<br>248 | 9.3%<br>118  | 8.2%<br>105    | 1,274 |
| Changing the current regulations              | 16.1%<br>205      | 15.0%<br>191 | 23.3%<br>297 | 23.2%<br>295 | 22.4%<br>286   | 1,274 |
| Restoring adult fish habitats                 | 2.1%<br>27        | 2.0%<br>25   | 14.4%<br>184 | 33.4%<br>426 | 48.0%<br>612   | 1,274 |
| Placing a limit on daily catch                | 18.4%<br>234      | 14.9%<br>190 | 17.1%<br>218 | 23.5%<br>299 | 26.1%<br>333   | 1,274 |
| Having commercial catch limits                | 6.9%<br>88        | 4.8%<br>61   | 8.3%<br>106  | 18.3%<br>233 | 61.7%<br>786   | 1,274 |
| No improvement needed                         | 33.2%<br>423      | 25.4%<br>323 | 28.3%<br>361 | 8.3%<br>106  | 4.8%<br>61     | 1,274 |

## Q9. New whitebaiting regulations were introduced in 2021. How have these regulations impacted your whitebaiting experience? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0

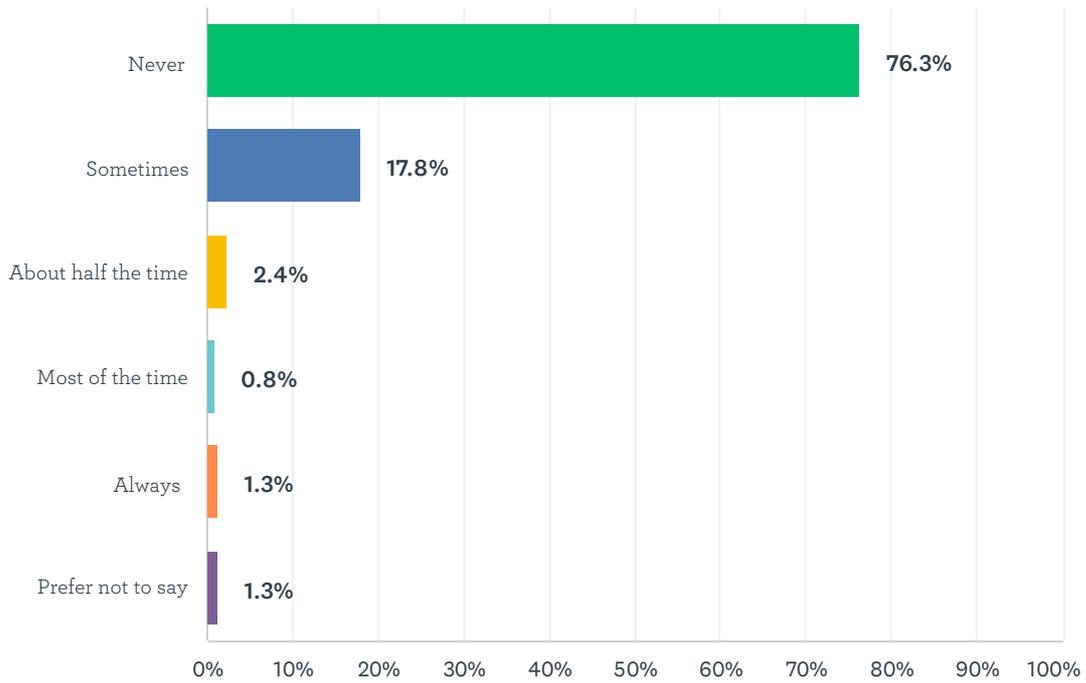


See Appendix for 'Other' comments

| ANSWER CHOICES                                      | RESPONSES |      |
|---|-----------|------|
| They have cost me money to replace fishing gear     | 8.9%      | 113  |
| They have reduced my whitebait catch                | 43.7%     | 557  |
| They have increased my whitebait catch              | 2.1%      | 27   |
| They have improved my ability to get a fishing spot | 3.2%      | 41   |
| They have not affected me                           | 45.0%     | 573  |
| Other (please specify)                              | 16.8%     | 214  |
| Total Respondents: 1,274                            | 119.7%    | 1525 |

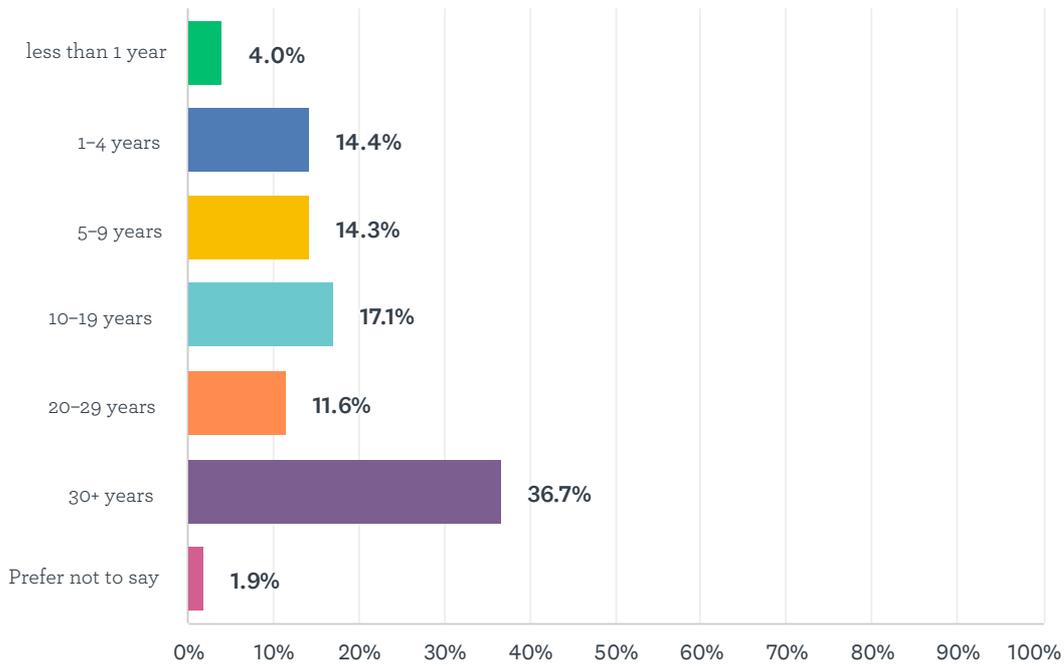
# Q10. Do you ever sell or trade the whitebait that you catch?

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0



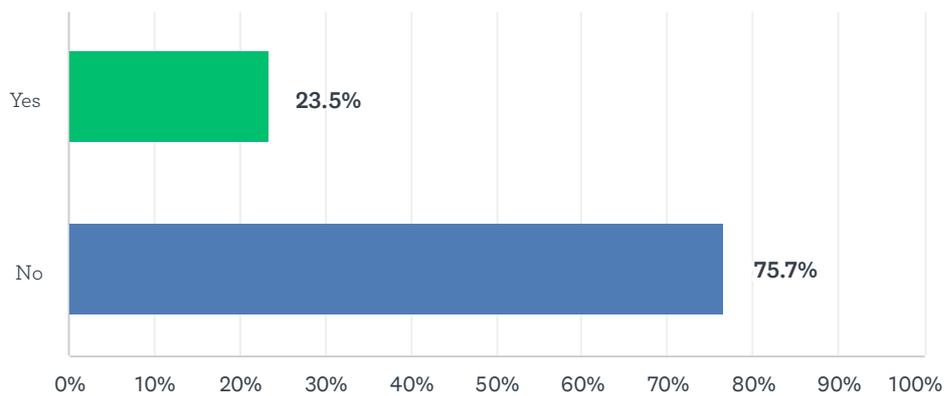
## Q11. How long have you been whitebaiting?

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0



## Q12.A. In the last five years, have you paid for accommodation while whitebaiting?

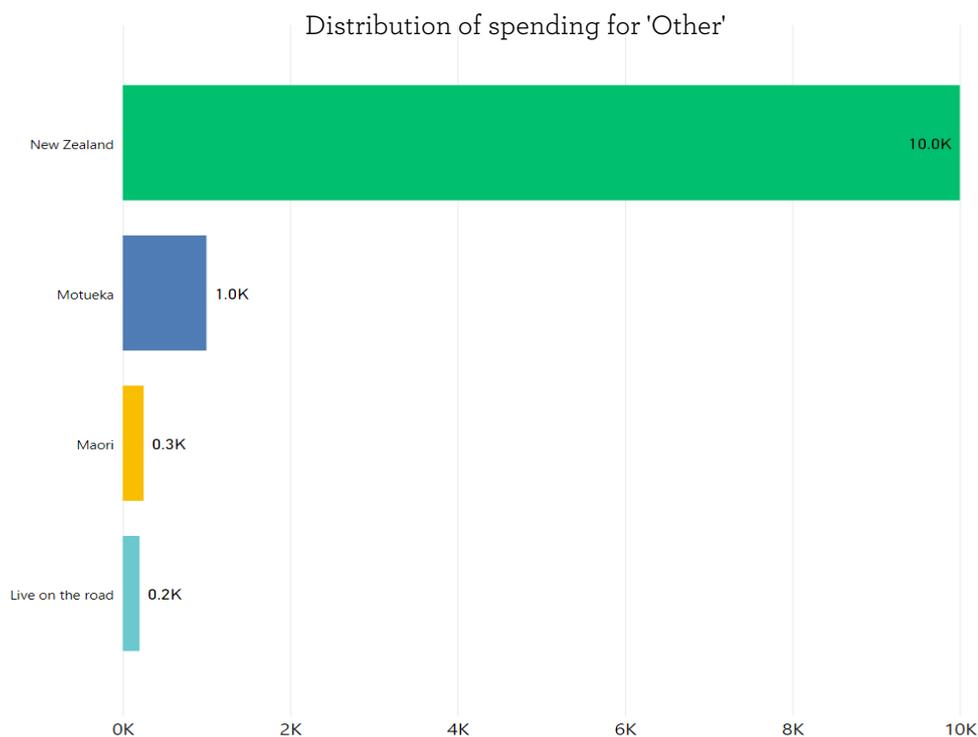
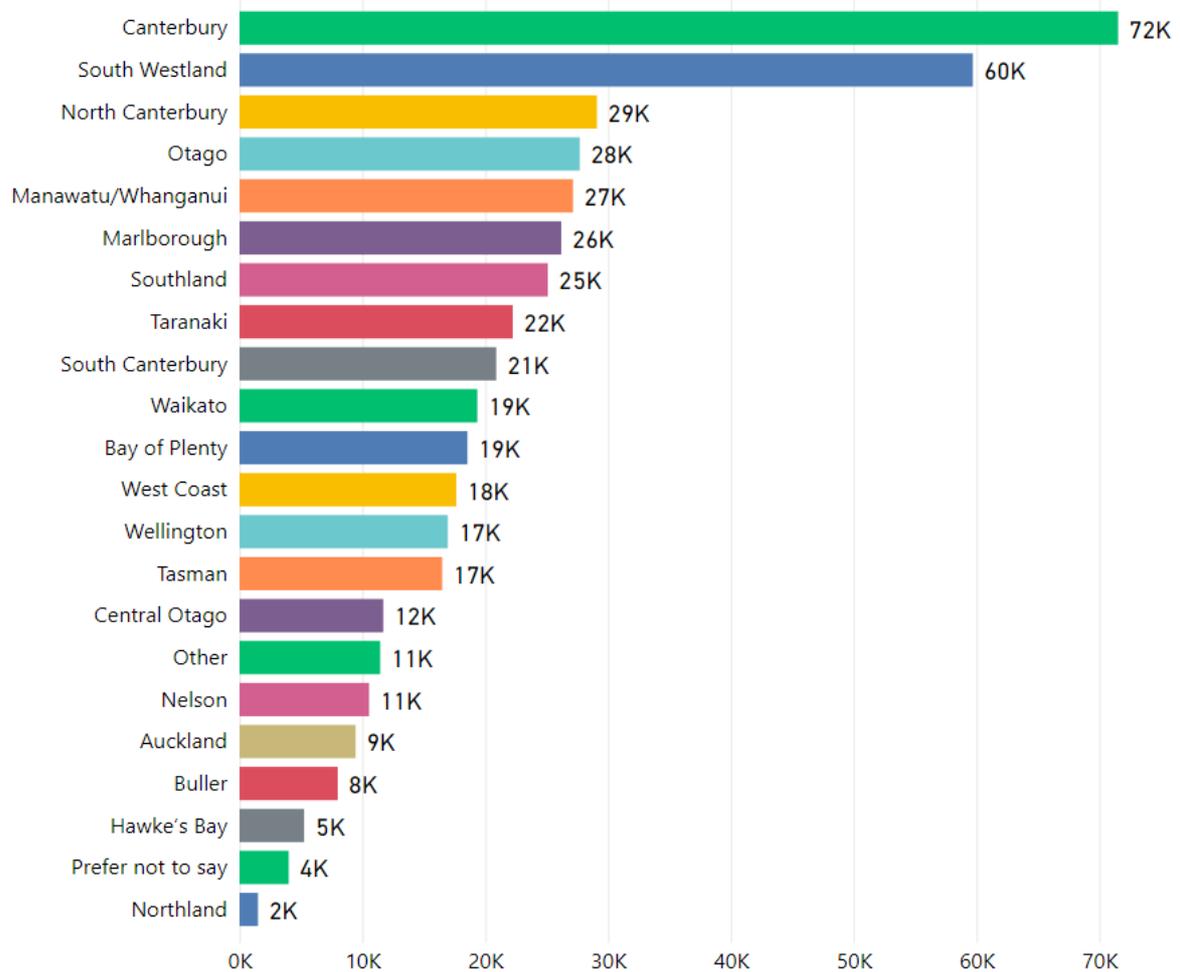
Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0



## Q12.B. How much in general do you spend each season on accommodation, travel and food costs?

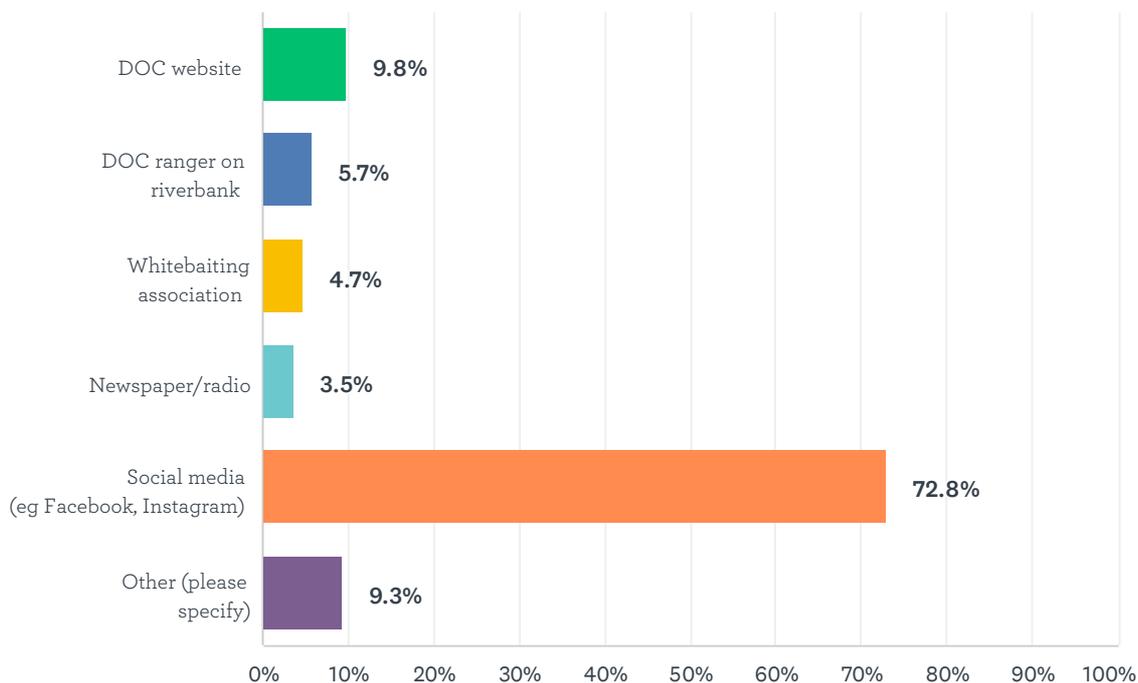
Answered: 259 Skipped: 1,015

Of the participants who indicated they spent money on accommodation, travel and food costs, the average spend was \$1675, with a total revenue of \$461,000.



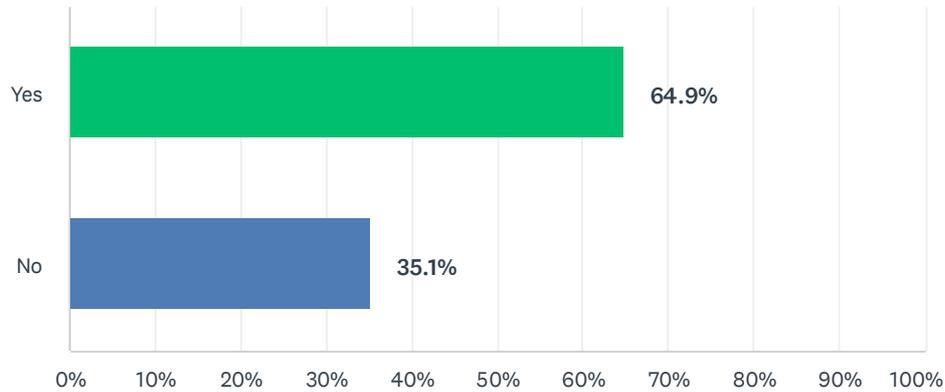
# Q13. How did you hear about this survey? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0



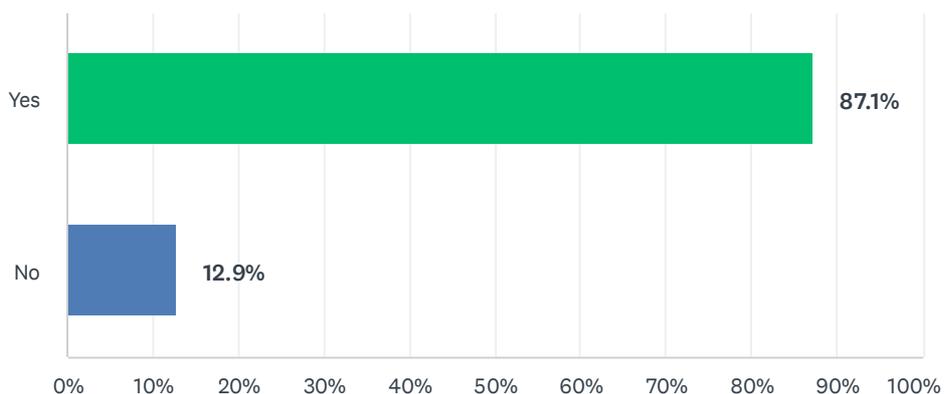
Q14.A. Are you willing to provide some details (email address or telephone number) that could be used by the department to contact you for feedback on the whitebait fishery in the future? Your contact details will not be linked to your survey responses or made public.

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0



Q15. If you have opted-in to the prize draw, the contact details you provide for that draw will only be used for that purpose. Once the prize has been drawn, those contact details will be deleted. Would you like to enter the prize draw for a Hunting & Fishing voucher valued at \$100?

Answered: 1,274 Skipped: 0



Q21 Before submitting your response, do you have any additional information you would like to add on your opinion of the Whitebait fishery in New Zealand?

Answered: 193 Skipped: 1,081

See individual responses: DOC-xxxxxx

# Appendix

Online and paper based questionnaires



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Perceptions of the Aotearoa New Zealand whitebait fishery in 2022 – survey

You are invited to participate in a survey on the perceptions of the Aotearoa New Zealand whitebait fishery in 2022. This research is being conducted by the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC).

### **What is the purpose of this research?**

This research will gather baseline data to describe the whitebait fishery in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2022. The data will help identify the issues of most concern to whitebaiters and inform future whitebait fishing practices.

### **Why have I received this invitation?**

You are invited to participate in this research because you have some involvement with the whitebait fishery in Aotearoa New Zealand.

### **What is involved in participating?**

Your participation is voluntary and anonymous, and any identifiable data will be kept confidential. The survey involves answering questions about your personal perceptions and experience in relation to the whitebait fishery. Completing the survey should take around 5–10 minutes. You can withdraw from the survey at any time.

### **What are the benefits of taking part in this research?**

A potential benefit of taking part in this research is that you can choose to enter a prize draw to win a \$100 Hunting and Fishing voucher. The information gathered from the survey will also benefit the Aotearoa New Zealand whitebait fishery by providing direction to actively support a long-term sustainable fishery.

### **Are there any potential risks involved in this research?**

There are no risks to participants in the research.

### **What if I change my mind during or after the survey?**

You are free to withdraw at any time. However, because this is an anonymous survey, it will not be possible for you to withdraw your information once you have completed the survey.

### **What will happen to the information I provide?**

Any identifiable data will be kept confidential. Aggregated data with no identifying information will be kept long-term and may be shared with other researchers in an online repository in keeping with open science practices. Any contact information provided will be isolated from the survey data and will not be linked with any responses you provide. All raw and identifiable data will be

stored on DOC's computer network in password-protected files.

If you have opted-in to the prize draw, the contact details you have provided for that draw, will only be used for that purpose. Once the prize has been drawn, those contact details will be deleted.

For more information, see the [DOC Privacy Statement](#) on the DOC website.

**Will the results of the study be published?**

The findings of this research will be used by the Department of Conservation for improving future fishery practices and regulations. The final research report will be available through the media, the DOC website and in DOC's engagement with the whitebaiting community.

**Who can I contact if I have any questions or concerns?**

If you have any questions about the research, please contact: [whitebait@doc.govt.nz](mailto:whitebait@doc.govt.nz).

Please read and complete the following statement of consent before starting the survey.

**\* Statement of consent** (please tick relevant box)

|   | Yes                   | No                    |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I am aged 16 years or older   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I have read the study information and understand what is involved with participating in this survey | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| By completing the survey, I consent to participate in this survey                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I consent to participating in the prize draw  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

\* Q1. What age group are you in?

\* Q2. What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

\* Q3. What ethnic group(s) do you belong to? (tick all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand European   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongan            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Māori                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Niuean            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Island Māori      | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fijian                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |  |

\* Q4. Which region do you live in **outside of the whitebait season**?

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Northland              | <input type="radio"/> Wellington       | <input type="radio"/> Canterbury        |
| <input type="radio"/> Auckland               | <input type="radio"/> Tasman           | <input type="radio"/> South Canterbury  |
| <input type="radio"/> Waikato                | <input type="radio"/> Nelson           | <input type="radio"/> Central Otago     |
| <input type="radio"/> Bay of Plenty          | <input type="radio"/> Marlborough      | <input type="radio"/> Otago             |
| <input type="radio"/> Gisborne               | <input type="radio"/> Buller           | <input type="radio"/> Southland         |
| <input type="radio"/> Hawke's Bay            | <input type="radio"/> West Coast       | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> Taranaki               | <input type="radio"/> South Westland   |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Manawatu/Whanganui     | <input type="radio"/> North Canterbury |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) |  |   |

\* Q5. What is your income?

- Less than \$20,000 per year
- \$20,000–\$40,000 per year
- \$40,000–\$60,000 per year
- \$60,000–\$80,000 per year
- \$80,000–\$100,000 per year
- \$100,000–\$120,000 per year
- More than \$120,000 per year
- Retired
- Unemployed
- Prefer not to say

\* Q6. How important are the following reasons for your whitebaiting?

|  | Not at all important  | Slightly important    | Moderately important  | Very important        | Extremely important   |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Social reasons (eg spending time with family and/or friends)               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Recreational reasons (eg disconnecting from work, spending time in nature) | <input type="radio"/> |
| Commercial reasons (eg to make money/sell whitebait)                       | <input type="radio"/> |
| To feed myself and/or my family/friends                                    | <input type="radio"/> |

\* Q7.A. In the **last five years**, where have you been whitebaiting? (Please record **up to 5** rivers)

|         |                      |
|---------|----------------------|
| River 1 | <input type="text"/> |
| River 2 | <input type="text"/> |
| River 3 | <input type="text"/> |
| River 4 | <input type="text"/> |
| River 5 | <input type="text"/> |

\* Q7.B. For each of your stated rivers, please answer the following questions:

|         | Region name          | What type of net did you use? | Do you fish from a registered stand on this river? | What is the average number of days per season you fish this river? | What is the average number of hours per day you fish this river? |
|---------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| River 1 | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/>          | <input type="text"/>                               | <input type="text"/>   | <input type="text"/>   |
| River 2 | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/>          | <input type="text"/>                               | <input type="text"/>   | <input type="text"/>   |
| River 3 | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/>          | <input type="text"/>                               | <input type="text"/>   | <input type="text"/>   |
| River 4 | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/>          | <input type="text"/>                               | <input type="text"/>   | <input type="text"/>   |
| River 5 | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/>          | <input type="text"/>                               | <input type="text"/>   | <input type="text"/>   |

\* Q8. Do you agree that the following things are needed to improve the whitebait fishery?

|   | Strongly disagree     | Disagree              | Neutral               | Agree                 | Strongly agree        |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Better enforcement of the current regulations | <input type="radio"/> |
| Introducing a whitebaiting licence            | <input type="radio"/> |
| Closing more rivers to whitebaiting           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Changing the current regulations              | <input type="radio"/> |
| Restoring adult fish habitats                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Placing a limit on daily catch                | <input type="radio"/> |
| Having commercial catch limits                | <input type="radio"/> |
| No improvement needed                         | <input type="radio"/> |

\* Q9. New whitebaiting regulations were introduced in 2021. How have these regulations impacted your whitebaiting experience? (Tick all that apply)

- They have cost me money to replace fishing gear
- They have reduced my whitebait catch
- They have increased my whitebait catch
- They have improved my ability to get a fishing spot
- They have not affected me
- Other (please specify)

\* Q10. Do you ever sell or trade the whitebait that you catch?

- Never
- Sometimes
- About half the time
- Most of the time
- Always
- Prefer not to say

\* Q11. How long have you been whitebaiting?

- less than 1 year
- 1-4 years
- 5-9 years
- 10-19 years
- 20-29 years
- 30+ years
- Prefer not to say

\* Q12.A. In the last **five years**, have you paid for accommodation while whitebaiting?

Yes

No



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Perceptions of the Aotearoa New Zealand whitebait fishery in 2022 – survey

Q12.B. How much in general do you spend each season on accommodation, travel and food costs?

\* Q13. How did you hear about this survey? (Tick all that apply)

DOC website

DOC ranger on riverbank

Whitebaiting association

Newspaper/radio

Social media (eg Facebook, Instagram)

Other (please specify)

\* Q14.A. Are you willing to provide some details (email address or telephone number) that could be used by the department to contact you for feedback on the whitebait fishery in the future?

Your contact details **will not be linked** to your survey responses or made public.

Yes

No



## Perceptions of the Aotearoa New Zealand whitebait fishery in 2022 – survey

Q14.B. You have agreed to provide some contact details for feedback on the whitebait fishery in the future, please fill in the following fields:

Name

Phone number

Email address

\* Q15. If you have opted-in to the prize draw, the contact details you provide for that draw will only be used for that purpose. Once the prize has been drawn, those contact details will be deleted.

Would you like to enter the prize draw for a Hunting & Fishing voucher valued at \$100?

Yes

No



## Perceptions of the Aotearoa New Zealand whitebait fishery in 2022 – survey

Please enter your contact details to be in the draw to win a Hunting & Fishing voucher:

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Name          | <input type="text"/> |
| Phone number  | <input type="text"/> |
| Email address | <input type="text"/> |

Thank you for completing the survey. Please click '**Done**' to submit your survey.

The findings of this research will be used by the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai for improving future fishery practices and regulations. The final research report will be available through the media, the DOC website ([www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)) and in DOC's engagement with the whitebaiting community.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please send an email to [whitebait@doc.govt.nz](mailto:whitebait@doc.govt.nz).

You are invited to participate in a survey on the perceptions of the Aotearoa New Zealand whitebait fishery in 2022. This research is being conducted by the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC).

## What is the purpose of this research?

This research will gather baseline data to describe the whitebait fishery in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2022. The data will help identify the issues of most concern to whitebaiters and inform future whitebait fishing practices.

## Why have I received this invitation?

You are invited to participate in this research because you have some involvement with the whitebait fishery in Aotearoa New Zealand.

## What is involved in participating?

Your participation is voluntary and anonymous, and any identifiable data will be kept confidential. The survey involves answering questions about your personal perceptions and experience in relation to the whitebait fishery. Completing the survey should take around 5-10 minutes. You can withdraw from the survey at any time.

## What are the benefits of taking part in this research?

A potential benefit of taking part in this research is that you can choose to enter a prize draw to win a \$100 Hunting and Fishing voucher. The information gathered from the survey will also benefit the Aotearoa New Zealand whitebait fishery by providing direction to actively support a long-term sustainable fishery.

## Are there any potential risks involved in this research?

There are no risks to participants in the research.

## What if I change my mind during or after the survey?

You are free to withdraw at any time. However, because this is an anonymous survey, it will not be possible for you to withdraw your information once you have completed the survey.

## What will happen to the information I provide?

Any identifiable data will be kept confidential. Aggregated data with no identifying information will be kept long-term and may be shared with other researchers in an online repository in keeping with open science practices. Any contact information provided will be isolated from the survey data and will not be linked with any responses you provide.

All raw and identifiable data will be stored on DOC's computer network in password-protected files.

If you have opted-in to the prize draw, the contact details you have provided for that draw, will only be used for that purpose. Once the prize has been drawn, those contact details will be deleted.

## Will the results of the study be published?

The findings of this research will be used by the Department of Conservation for improving future fishery practices and regulations. The final research report will be available through the media, the DOC website and in DOC's engagement with the whitebaiting community.

## Who can I contact if I have any questions or concerns?

If you have any questions about the research, please contact: [whitebait@doc.govt.nz](mailto:whitebait@doc.govt.nz).

This research is in accordance with the guidelines laid down in DOC's Social Research Policy.

*Please read and complete the following statement of consent before starting the survey.*

## Statement of consent (please tick relevant box)

|   | Yes                      | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I am aged 16 years or older   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I have read the study information and understand what is involved with participating in this survey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| By completing the survey, I consent to participate in this survey                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I consent to participating in the prize draw  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Q1. What age group are you in?**

- Under 18
- 18–24
- 25–34
- 35–44
- 45–54
- 55–64
- 65–74
- 75–84
- 85 or older
- Prefer not to say

**Q2. What is your gender identity?**

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

**Q3. What ethnic group (s) do you belong to?**

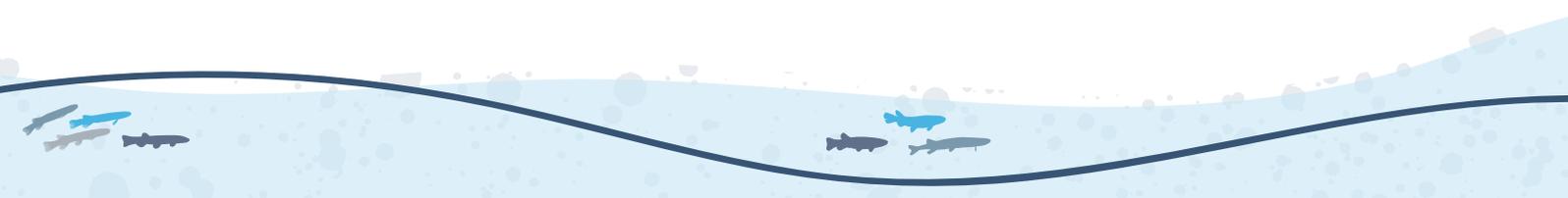
- New Zealand European
  - Māori
  - Samoan
  - Cook Island Māori
  - Fijian
  - Tongan
  - Niuean
  - Chinese
  - Indian
  - Prefer not to say
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**Q4. Which region do you live in outside of the whitebait season?**

- Northland
  - Auckland
  - Waikato
  - Bay of Plenty
  - Gisborne
  - Hawke's Bay
  - Taranaki
  - Manawatu/Whanganui
  - Wellington
  - Tasman
  - Nelson
  - Marlborough
  - Buller
  - West Coast
  - South Westland
  - North Canterbury
  - Canterbury
  - South Canterbury
  - Central Otago
  - Otago
  - Southland
  - Prefer not to say
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**Q5. What is your income?**

- Less than \$20,000 per year
- \$20,000–\$40,000 per year
- \$40,000–\$60,000 per year
- \$60,000–\$80,000 per year
- \$80,000–\$100,000 per year
- \$100,000–\$120,000 per year
- More than \$120,000 per year
- Retired
- Unemployed
- Prefer not to say



**Q6.** What are the reasons you go whitebaiting and how important are these to you? Tick **one box** in each row.

|  | NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT | SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT | MODERATELY IMPORTANT | VERY IMPORTANT | EXTREMELY IMPORTANT |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Social reasons (eg spending time with family and/or friends)               |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |
| Recreational reasons (eg disconnecting from work, spending time in nature) |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |
| Commercial reasons (eg to make money/sell whitebait)                       |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |
| To feed myself and/or my family/friends                                    |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |

**Q7.** In the last five years, where have you been whitebaiting, what type of net did you use and how many days did you fish there?

| River | Region | What type of net do you use in this river? (eg scoop, set, sock, drag, box, net with screen) | Do you fish from a registered stand on this river? | What is the average number of days per season you fish this river? | What is the average number of hours per day you fish this river? |
|-------|--------|--|--|--|--|
|       |        |  |  |  |  |
|       |        |  |  |  |  |
|       |        |  |  |  |  |
|       |        |  |  |  |  |

**Q8.** Do you agree that the following things are needed to improve the whitebait fishery? Tick **one box** in each row.

|   | STRONGLY DISAGREE | DISAGREE | NEUTRAL | AGREE | STRONGLY AGREE |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|
| Better enforcement of the current regulations |                   |          |         |       |                |
| Introducing a whitebaiting licence            |                   |          |         |       |                |
| Closing more rivers to whitebaiting           |                   |          |         |       |                |
| Changing the current regulations              |                   |          |         |       |                |
| Restoring adult fish habitats                 |                   |          |         |       |                |
| Placing a limit on daily catch                |                   |          |         |       |                |
| Having commercial catch limits                |                   |          |         |       |                |
| No improvement needed                         |                   |          |         |       |                |

**Q9.** New whitebaiting regulations were introduced in 2021. How have these regulations impacted your whitebaiting experience?

- They have cost me money to replace fishing gear
- They have reduced my whitebait catch
- They have increased my whitebait catch
- They have improved my ability to get a fishing spot
- They have not affected me
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Q10.** Do you ever sell or trade the whitebait that you catch?

- Never
- Sometimes
- About half the time
- Most of the time
- Always
- Prefer not to say

**Q11.** How long have you been whitebaiting?

- Less than 1 year
- 1–4 years
- 5–9 years
- 10–19 years
- 20–29 years
- 30+ years
- Prefer not to say

**Q12a.** In the last five years, have you paid for accommodation while whitebaiting?

- No
  - Yes
- If yes was ticked go to Q12b.

**Q12b.** How much in general do you spend each season on accommodation, travel and food costs?

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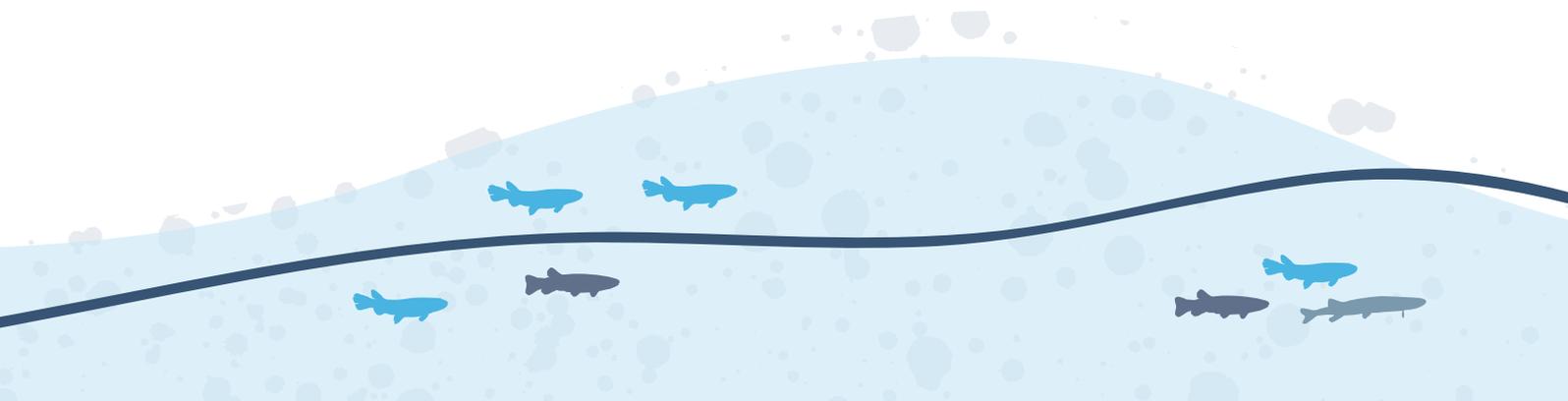
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**Q13.** How did you hear about this survey?

- DOC website
- DOC ranger on riverbank
- Whitebaiting association
- Newspaper/radio
- Social media (eg Facebook, Instagram)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for completing the survey. The findings of this research will be used by the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai for improving future fishery practices and regulations. The final research report will be available through the media, the DOC website ([www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)) and in DOC's engagement with the whitebaiting community. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please send an email to [whitebait@doc.govt.nz](mailto:whitebait@doc.govt.nz).

Please place the survey in the attached Freepost envelope and post to: The Whitebait Team, Aquatic Unit, Department of Conservation, National Office, PO Box 10420, Wellington 6140.



**Q14.** Are you willing to provide some details (email address or telephone number) that could be used by the department to contact you for feedback on the whitebait fishery in the future?

*Your contact details will not be linked to your survey responses or made public.*

Yes

No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Q15.** If you have opted-in to the prize draw, the contact details you provide for that draw will only be used for that purpose. Once the prize has been drawn, those contact details will be deleted.

Would you like to enter the prize draw for a Hunting & Fishing voucher valued at \$100?

Yes

No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

