

Endangered Freshwater Fish

The majority (76%) of our native freshwater fish are at risk of extinction. Most are members of the galaxiidae family, which includes:

- all five species of mudfish
- four whitebait species
 - shortjaw kōkopu
 - giant kōkopu
 - kōaro
 - inanga
- kanakana/piharau (lamprey)
- tuna (longfin eel)
- Stokell's smelt.



Photos: DOC and Jason Burton

Awhi an Awa

How Can You Embrace a Stream?

1 Purchase a pack

Visit our website, purchase a pack register to adopt a stream:



www.endangeredspecies.org.nz/awhi-awa

2 Sign-up!

Sign-up to get our pānui.

3 Kete of Resources

Receive educational materials, signage and advice on how to adopt a stream in the mail.

4 Korero Mai Share your Story

Let us know how you're getting on and share your pictures and updates with us by emailing: info@endangeredspecies.org.nz



Help Restore Waterways

Aotearoa is home to a variety of native freshwater fish species, many of which are facing extinction due to water quality issues. You can help by adopting a drain and reducing stormwater pollution in your neighbourhood.

Drains are Streams

Each year thousands of litres of stormwater flows down the pipe network and out into our rivers, streams and the sea. Whatever goes down our drains, flows untreated into our lakes and rivers via a complex system of underground 'streams' and effects all wildlife and the health of biodiversity.

This project aims to create generational change in how we care for wastewater by reconnecting people with our waterways and our native freshwater fish.



Our Waterways Need Help

Freshwater here in Aotearoa is in a critical state. We have widespread pollution and declining water quality:

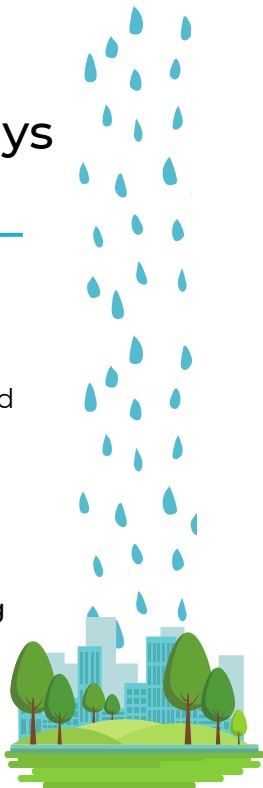
- Less than 2% of waterways are pristine
- 45% of rivers are unsafe for swimming
- 45% of our lakes are in poor health(1).

Wetlands are also suffering, with recent mass bird deaths highlighting the severity of the problem. New government regulations are expected to make the issue worse by making it easier to damage or drain wetlands.

Internationally

Biodiversity is declining twice as quickly in freshwater as in oceans and forests and nearly a third of all freshwater fish species are now at risk of extinction[1].

1. www.panda.org/discover/our_focus/freshwater_practice/the_world_s_forgotten_fishes/



Ways to Help Our Freshwater Fish

Awhi Awa

Embrace and care for a stream at your whare (house), school or business.



Sweep leaves and remove rubbish from your drain



Use only eco-friendly cleaning products when you wash your car



Report pollution - If you see something going down the drain that doesn't look or smell good, please report it on the Pollution Hotline which is staffed 24/7 on 0800 800 033 or fill in [this form online](#).



Join a riparian planting project near you



Put pet waste in the bin not into the drain / waterways



Support the increase of permeable surfaces to improve water absorption and reduce urban heat.



Visit the AquaWatch website to find out more about their water monitoring tool

SIGN UP

Join us!

Visit our website to adopt a stream and get a kete of resources including signage and education materials:

www.endangeredspecies.org.nz/awhi-awa

Healthy Waterways at Your Whare



In the kitchen

Don't pour fat down the sink. This can create "fat burgers" in the pipes which can cause major blockages and sewerage overflows.

In the bathroom

Only pee, poo and paper down the loo. Wet wipes and sanitary products can cause major blockages.

In the laundry

Get a PlanetCare filter which attaches to your washing machine and captures microplastics



Everywhere

Use eco-friendly cleaning products.

Avoid pouring common household products down the drain – they are hazardous to fish and wildlife:

- Paints and Solvents
- Pesticides
- Motor oil and petrol
- Antifreeze
- Drain & toilet cleaners
- Dry cleaning agents
- Household cleaners
- Washing detergent
- Degreasers
- Disinfectants

