

Common bully

Gobiomorphus cotidianus

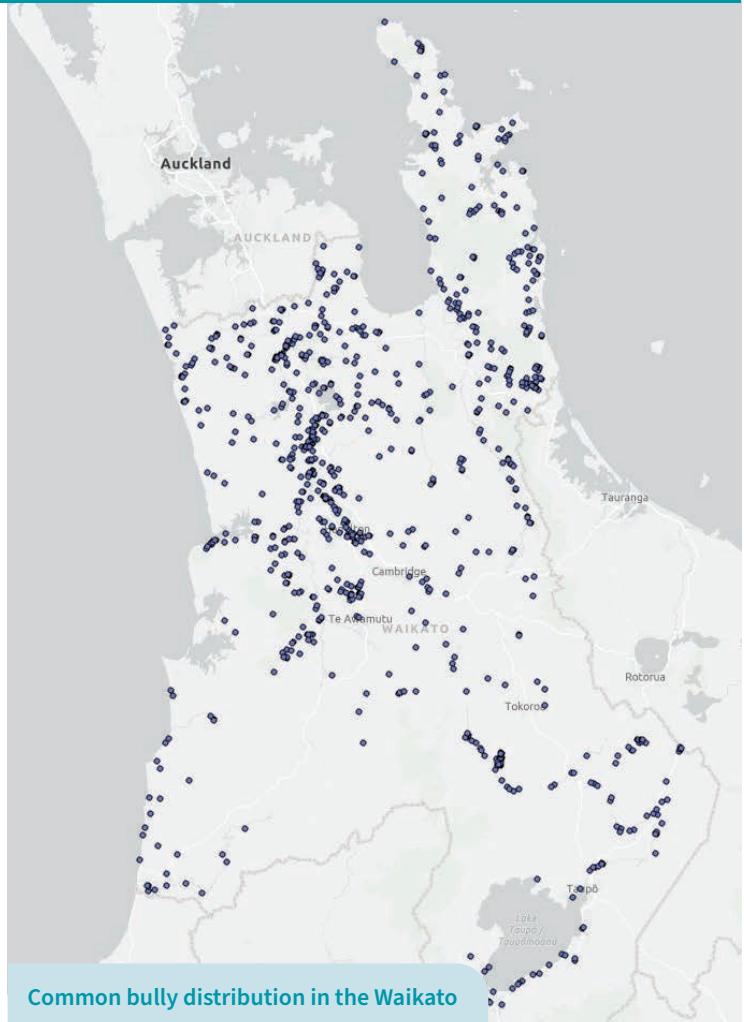
Native

Not threatened

Common bullies are the most widespread of the nine freshwater bully species found in New Zealand and are commonly found throughout the Waikato region. They can be often confused with Cran's bully and giant bullies, having similar features and distribution overlap. Common bully lifecycles are flexible meaning they can use either the ocean or large lakes to rear their larvae. Those larvae that go to sea spend 12 to 16 weeks there before returning to fresh water and generally remain close to the coast at lower elevations. Landlocked populations occur where common bully use lakes for the larvae to rear such as Lakes Taupō, Waikare and Rotomānuka. In both lake and river populations, eggs are laid by the female and guarded by the male.

Common bullies can grow to relatively large sizes with individuals greater than 120 millimetres not being unusual. The lake-dwelling populations tend to be smaller than those that go to sea, with average sizes reaching 60 and 100 millimetres respectively. Males also tend to be larger than females in size.

Note: It is likely that some of the locations on this map are Cran's bully rather than common bully as these species are sometimes hard to differentiate.



Common bully distribution in the Waikato



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Photo: Josh Smith

He taiao mauriora ▲ Healthy environment

He hapori hihiri ▲ Vibrant communities

He īhanga pakari ▲ Strong economy

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