

Kōaro

Galaxias brevipinnis

Native

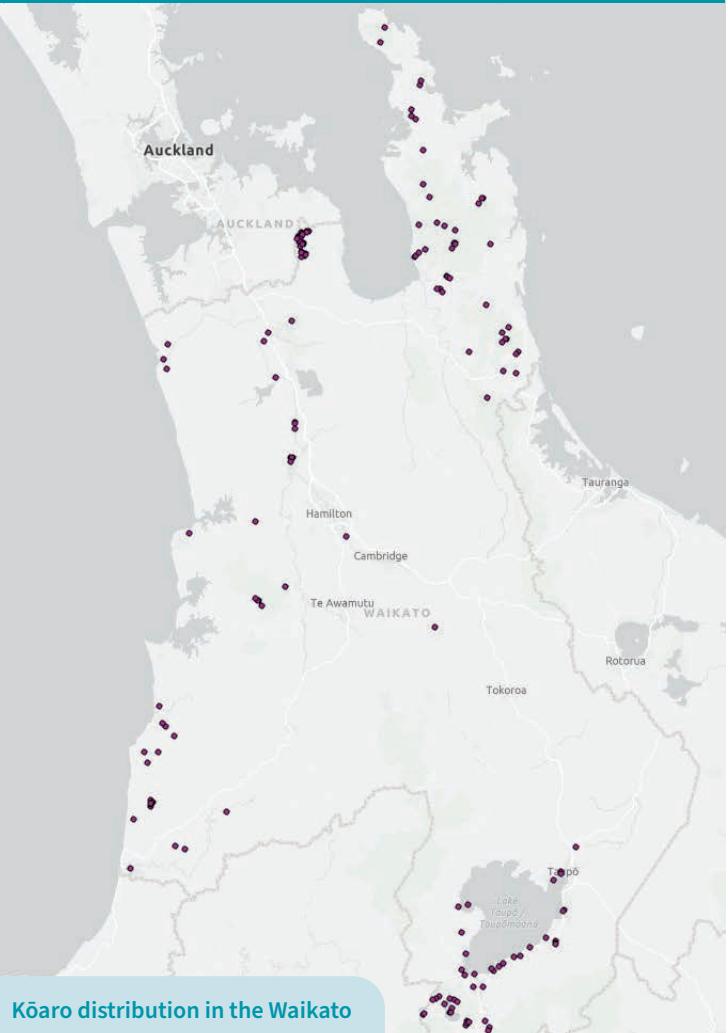
At risk - Declining

Kōaro are part of the whitebait run as juveniles and are the second most important species of this group after the inanga. These fish are also found in south-east Australia as well as Campbell Islands and other small South Pacific islands.

Kōaro are known for their strong climbing ability, which helps them access streams well inland. Of course, river connectivity affects these fish as it does all migratory fish but their climbing skills allow them to scale seemingly impassable falls. They prefer clear, faster flowing streams. Some populations of kōaro around Lake Taupō and some reservoirs in the Hunua Ranges are landlocked, meaning they have no life stages in the ocean.

This species is relatively long lived, sometimes reaching 10 years or more. The common adult size of kōaro is about 120 millimetres in the Waikato with the longest known being 288 millimetres.

Photo: Josh Smith



Kōaro distribution in the Waikato

Photo: Bruno David



Photo: Josh Smith



He taiao mauriora ▲ **Healthy environment**

He hapori hihiri ▲ **Vibrant communities**

He īhanga pakari ▲ **Strong economy**

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