

Bluegill bully

Gobiomorphus hubbsi

Native

At risk

This species, like all bullies, is only found in New Zealand. It is highly distinctive with an iridescent blue stripe near the gill opening, hence the name. Bluegill bullies have upturned mouths that allow them to feed on aquatic invertebrates from beneath rocks. They are generally found in fast-flowing, loose-gravel-bed rivers and streams close to the coast in the Waikato. Little is known about their spawning habits, but it is thought that they lay eggs beneath rocks, which the males then guard. Larvae are carried downstream to sea after hatching where they spend a few months before returning again to fresh water to mature.

Bluegill bullies are the smallest of the bullies found in New Zealand. They typically reach sizes ranging from 50 to 60 millimetres, with the largest specimen on record being 100 millimetres. One of the seven species of bully found in New Zealand, they are considered to be in decline and are not common in the Waikato region.

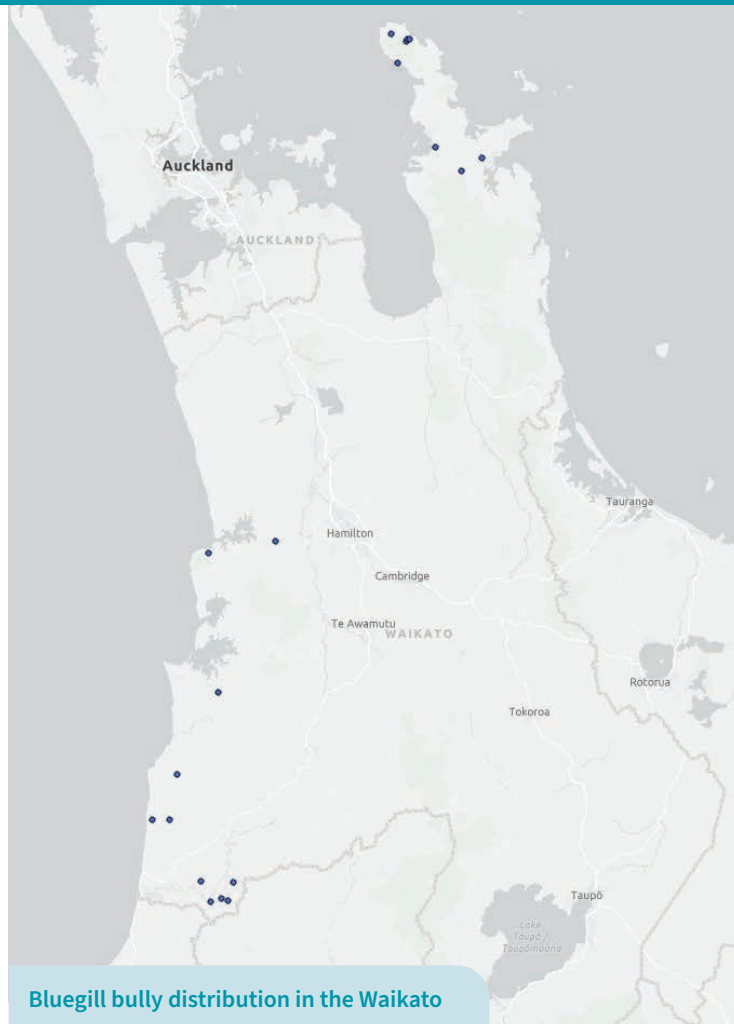


Photo: Waikato Regional Council



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7704 - January 2025