

Giant bully

Gobiomorphus gobioides

Native

At risk

Giant bully, as the name suggests, is the largest of the nine freshwater bully species found only in New Zealand. Lowland rivers and streams appear to be their preferred habitat and therefore, they are found at low elevations not far from the sea, including estuaries. The giant bully is nocturnal and is usually found under the cover of logs and large rocks during the day, coming out at night to feed. Giant bullies can be difficult to distinguish from common bullies but have six spines on their dorsal fin as opposed to common bullies that will have seven or eight.

Giant bullies are found close to the coast throughout the Waikato, but little is known about their reproduction. It is most likely that they spawn in spring with the larvae carried to sea before returning after a few months to adult habitats. On average, giant bullies grow to between 120 and 150 millimetres but fish exceeding 250 millimetres have been recorded.

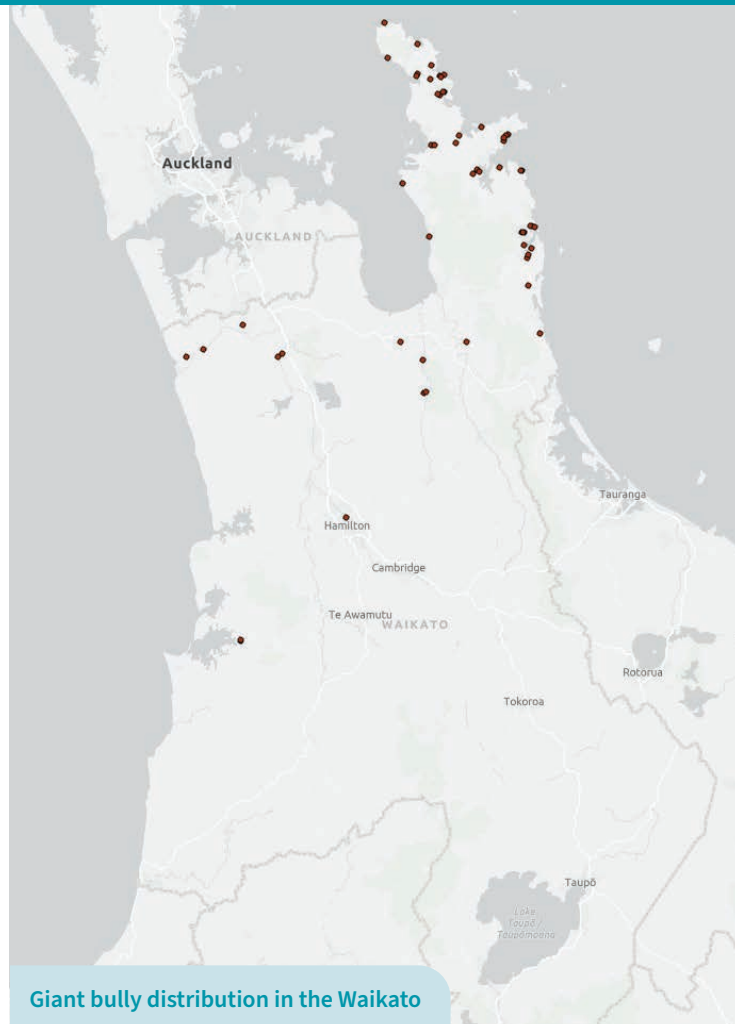


Photo: Waikato Regional Council

He taiao mauriora ▲ Healthy environment

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