

Common bully

Gobiomorphus cotidianus

Native

Not threatened

Photo: Waikato Regional Council

Common bullies are the most widespread of the 7 freshwater bully species found in NZ. They can be often confused with cran's bully and giant bullies. 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 12-16 weeks there before returning to freshwater. Landlocked populations occur where common bully use lakes for the larvae to rear in such as Lakes Taupo, Waikare and Rotomanuka.

The lake-dwelling populations tend to be smaller than those that go to sea with average sizes reaching 60mm and 100mm respectively. Males also tend to be larger than females in size.



Note: This common bully was 111mm long.