

Koaro

Galaxias brevipinnis

Native

Declining

Koaro 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.

Koaro are known for their strong climbing abilities which helps them access streams well inland. Of course, river connectivity affects these fish as it does all migratory fish but the climbing skills allow them scale seemingly impassable falls. They prefer clear, faster flowing streams and there are landlocked (do not have a lifestage that goes to the ocean) populations around Lake Taupo.

This species is relatively long lived, sometimes living for 10 years or more. The common adult size of koaro is 160-180mm with the longest known being 288mm long.

Photos: Bruno David, Waikato Regional Council

