

Inanga

Galaxias maculatus

Native

Declining

Photo: Bruno David

Inanga are native to New Zealand and are the main species found in whitebait run. During the autumn, inanga move downstream in-time to catch the new and full moons and the associated spring tides. Because of this, bankside vegetation is submerged which is where the inanga spawn hundreds to thousands of eggs. The eggs develop in the humid air and hatch when they become inundated by the next spring tide in the cycle. The hatchlings are swept to sea where they grow for approximately 20 weeks before returning as whitebait.

Inanga can be found also in some parts of Australia, some south pacific islands and southern areas of South America. You can generally find them shoaling during mid-water in pools near gentle flowing sections of the stream. However, it is possible to find them by themselves and in faster flowing water channels.

The average lifespan for inanga is one year, although, some can live for three years and possibly more. An average sized inanga would measure between 80-100 mm in length with the longest recorded being 190 mm.

