

# Shortjaw kokopu

*Galaxias postvectis*

Native

Declining

Photos: Bruno David

One of the five galaxiid species of fish found in whitebait and can be hard to tell apart from other whitebait species at that stage. As adults typically exhibit a large black blotch on the side behind their head (a feature often also seen in banded kokopu) and, with a closed mouth, have a lower jaw that tucks well behind the upper jaw. Orangey fins with dark lines between the fin rays (see photo below) is another feature often seen in adult fish.

These fish are usually present at in mid elevation streams and inhabit undisturbed, boulder rivers. Shortjaw kokopu are solitary and nocturnal, feeding heavily on terrestrial invertebrates such as ant, spiders and cicadas which fall onto the surface of the water or aquatic invertebrates which live among rocks on the stream bed.

Records indicate that common adult size is between 150-220mm.

