

Citizen science fish monitoring – Waiwhetu Stream

Introduction

As part of a Citizens Science initiative supported by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), Friends of Waiwhetu Stream volunteers Rosemary, Grant and Steven Webby and Marilyn Merrett participated in a fish monitoring survey in the middle reaches of Waiwhetu Stream on 18 February 2018. This was done under the guidance of Grace Leung from GWRC, Biodiversity Department and Liz Gibson from Mountains to Sea Trust.

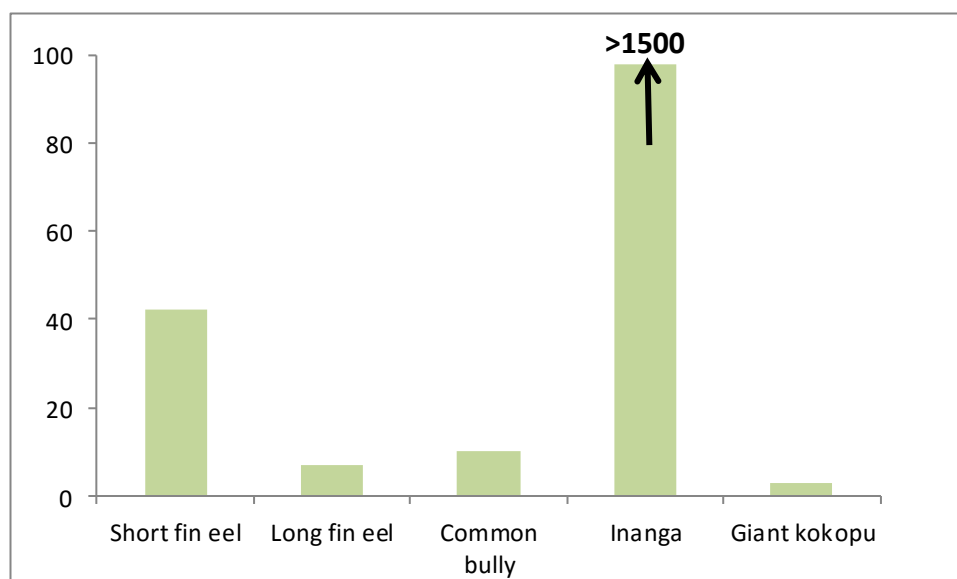
Fyke nets were set at six sites along approx. 500m of the stream and left overnight. All captured fish were counted, identified and carefully released back into the stream.

Results

Fish species captured were:

- shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*)
- longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*)
- inanga (*Galaxias maculataus*)
- common bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*)
- giant kokopu (*Galaxias argenteus*)

The most abundant species was inanga followed by shortfin eel as the second most abundant. Most of the eels were in the large size-category. A few common bullies were found but the most exciting were three giant kokopu. A reasonable number of inanga appeared to be fat with eggs ready for spawning.



Numbers and species of fish captured and released



Grace and Steven retrieving fyke net



Identifying and counting fish



Eels



Inanga



Common bully



Giant kokopu