

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.

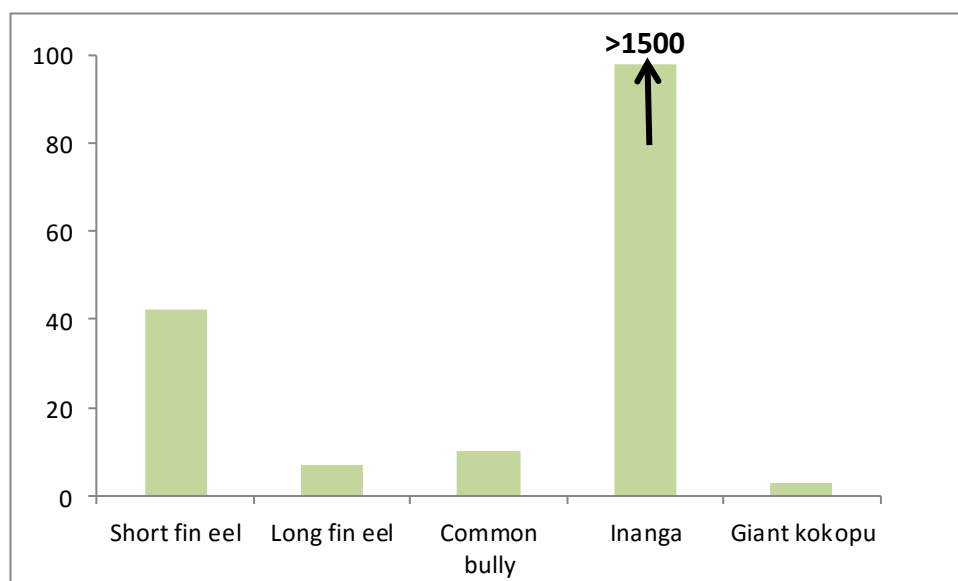
Fyke nets were set at six sites along approx. 500m of the stream and left overnight. All captured fish were counted, identified and carefully released back into the stream.

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

Citizen science Invertebrate monitoring – Waiwhetu Stream

Introduction

As part of a Citizens Science initiative supported by Greater Wellington Regional Council, Friends of Waiwhetu Stream volunteers Rosemary, Grant and Steven Webby have been monitoring invertebrates in the middle reaches of Waiwhetu Stream.



Grant in the stream collecting samples

Invertebrate diversity and abundance provides an indication of the stream water quality. Very high water quality is required for safe swimming and drinking.

Some of our native fish are not present in streams with too-low water quality. However, the water quality in the Waiwhetu Stream is somewhere in the middle. Due to the high number of stormwater pipes that discharge into the stream, contaminants from roads, rooves, driveways etc. add pollution. For this reason, people should not gather plant material or fish from the stream channel for consumption.

There are apparently abundant food resources in Waiwhetu Stream to support quite large populations of inanga as well as other native fish (see the article about fish monitoring).

The invertebrates found in the stream include:

- Damselflies
- Leeches
- Left-handed snails
- Mud snails
- Segmented worms
- Water fleas

The most abundant were mud snails, worms and water fleas.



The most exciting find was a baby koura



Worms and tiny snails



Segmented worms



Damselfly larvae