

## Summary of Freshwater Fish work as part of the Freshwater Ecosystems Programme

### Work completed:

- A review of existing information about freshwater fish in the region.
- Surveys of freshwater fish at 150 sites across the Region's rivers.
- An easily accessible GIS database of freshwater fish records in the region.
- Surveys of Inanga (whitebait) spawning habitats at 36 sites around the region.
- A model that identifies expected freshwater fish in all rivers of the region.
- Compilation of information on each freshwater fish present in the region.
- A public lecture by Bob McDowall "*Hidden treasures exposed: discovering our freshwater fish fauna*".
- Talks to rotary clubs, environmental groups and care groups.
- An inventory of 150 structures affecting fish passage across the region.
- An information sheet for landowners "*Fish friendly culverts and rock ramps in small streams*".
- Mitigation of structures on our own land for fish passage (Orongorongo weir, Rimutaka Incline, Whakatakei River).
- Restoration of whitebait spawning habitat on the Kakaho Stream.
- **The development of a computer-based mapping and information system called "Point, Click, Fish" that brings together the information that we hold on freshwater fish (and habitats) with a model that predicts fish presence.**

### Work in progress:

- Technical guidelines to help people design and build new structures in rivers and to alter existing structures so that the successful passage of freshwater fish is provided for.
- Information sheets on freshwater fish species "Freshwater fish favourites".
- Mitigation of structures for fish passage in Taupo Stream, Kaiwharawhara Stream and Waiwhetu Stream.