



Where are our inanga?

Northland Regional Council has a new map to show potential inanga spawning sites. You can use it to identify whether you might have inanga spawning sites on your land so you can help to protect them.

What are inanga and why do we need to protect them?

Inanga are an important whitebait species, recognised by their silvery bellies and lack of scales. Found in lowland freshwater areas - coastal creeks, lagoons, estuaries, streams, drains, rivers, and wetlands - they grow to around 11 cm. In Northland, they spawn from January to September.

Inanga populations are declining and considered At Risk. One major threat is the loss and damage to their spawning habitats. Inanga spawn where spring high tidal flows meet freshwater, laying their eggs in vegetation high up the riverbanks, above the normal river flow height. By protecting these areas, we can help their numbers recover and support other species that share these habitats—like eels, smelt, and other types of whitebait.

Got questions?

If you have any questions about our inanga spawning map or activities that may affect inanga spawning, please contact us at **0800 002 004** or **info@nrc.govt.nz**

How you can help

You can help by understanding which activities can affect īnanga. These include stock crossing water channels, laying concrete around waterways, mowing long vegetation around waterways during spawning season, excessive sediment on banks, and fish barriers such as culverts, weirs, and tide gates.

If you may undertake these activities, make sure you're aware of the rules in our Regional Plan to protect īnanga spawning sites:

- Livestock must be excluded
- Land drainage and flood control are not permitted between 1 March and 30 September, when īnanga are spawning
- Earthworks, land preparation, damming and diversion of stormwater, and discharge of stormwater may not occur within 10 metres of the spawning site.

If you can't meet these standards, you will need to apply for a consent.

Check our īnanga spawning map to see if there could be spawning sites on your land. If so, check for īnanga eggs in the roots of vegetation at the high tide mark. You can also place straw bales at the high tide mark as temporary spawning habitat.

More information

[Department of Conservation \(2018\). *Care for inanga: Te Tiaki inanga*.](#)

[Whitebait Connection. *Inanga: What, Where, Why, How*.](#)

How will council use the īnanga spawning map?

The new map is for information only. It shows sites that are likely to be suitable for īnanga spawning, but we'll always check 'on the ground' whether a spawning site is present before taking enforcement action if we have concerns about your actions.

How can I access the īnanga spawning map?

You can find the [īnanga spawning map](#) on the NRC Local Maps page of our website, www.nrc.govt.nz/LocalMapsGallery.