

These straw bales are part of a project helping to restore inanga/whitebait spawning. Please leave the bales undisturbed.

National Inanga Spawning Education Programme from



Straw bales have been installed along the banks and will be monitored until the end of the spawning season. Along with improving spawning success they will also tell us exactly where inanga can spawn. This will help us identify the best places for long-term restoration of their spawning habitat. This is vital as whitebait numbers are declining and Inanga are currently listed as 'At Risk'.

Straw bales are good artificial spawning habitat for inanga. Adult inanga wriggle between the bales to lay their eggs during the high spring tides. The eggs are kept safe until the next spring tide when they hatch and the larvae are washed out to sea to grow into juvenile inanga, generically called 'whitebait'.*



* SPRING TIDE – a tide just after a new or full moon, when there is the greatest difference between high & low water

The National Inanga Spawning Education Programme is supported by...



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Find out more by going to the "Whitebait Connection" facebook page. Please let us know if the bales look like they have been damaged.

Contact us at:
info@whitebaitconnection.co.nz

Inanga/whitebait spawning restoration programme

National Inanga Spawning Education Programme from



photo © EOS Ecology



photo © EOS Ecology



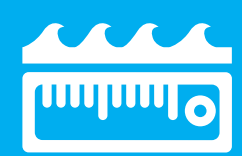
You may have seen the straw bales on the banks of this waterway over the summer/autumn months. These bales were part of a project aimed at halting the declining numbers of inanga/whitebait.



One of the main reasons for declining inanga numbers is the loss of suitable bank habitat for egg laying. The straw bales provided a temporary place for inanga to spawn in areas where the eggs wouldn't have survived otherwise. This has helped identify these areas that need long-term bank restoration/maintenance to restore spawning success for generations of inanga to come.

IDEAL INANGA SPAWNING HABITAT:

Right distance from estuary/sea

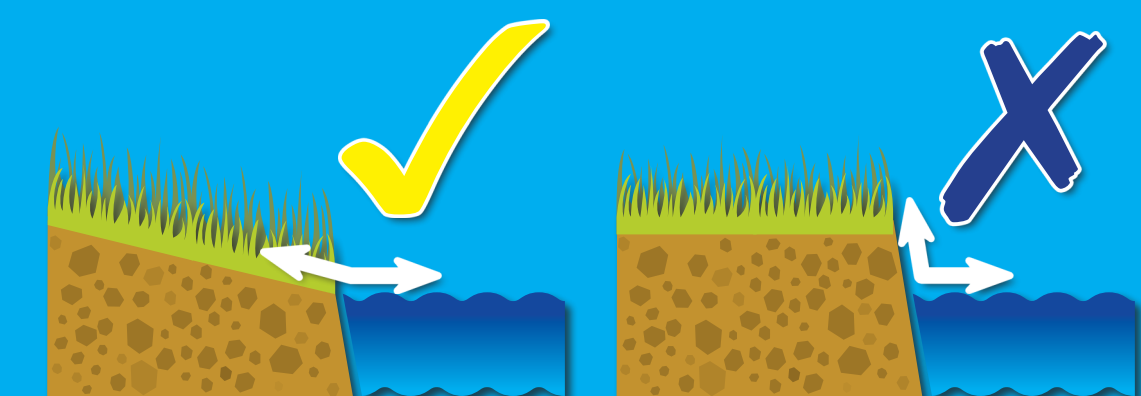


Some stretches of this waterway are optimal for inanga spawning due to their location in relation to the sea. Spawning occurs in areas where high spring tides* can reach, but the water isn't too salty. During spring tides inanga can lay their eggs in vegetation high up the riverbanks, above the normal river flow height.

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Gently sloping bank

Ideally the riverbank will be a gentle slope rather than a steep edge. This means there is more accessible bank area for inanga to lay their eggs on during the high spring tide.

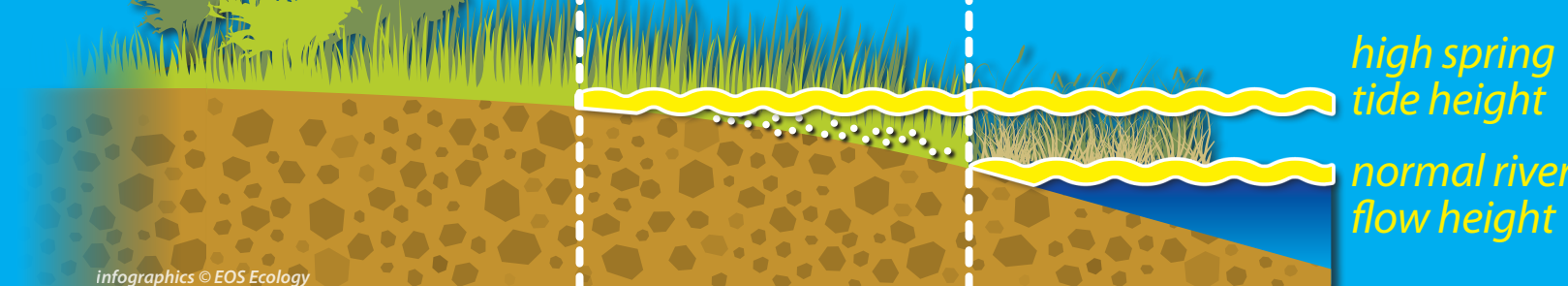


Good bank vegetation

Canopy of native trees/shrubs – provide shade for eggs while not dropping lots of leaves on them

Tall thick grass – so inanga eggs can be laid in the root mat

Plants rising from water – for inanga to hide in until high tide takes them up the bank



No predators

Inanga eggs are vulnerable to hungry pests.



No pollution



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