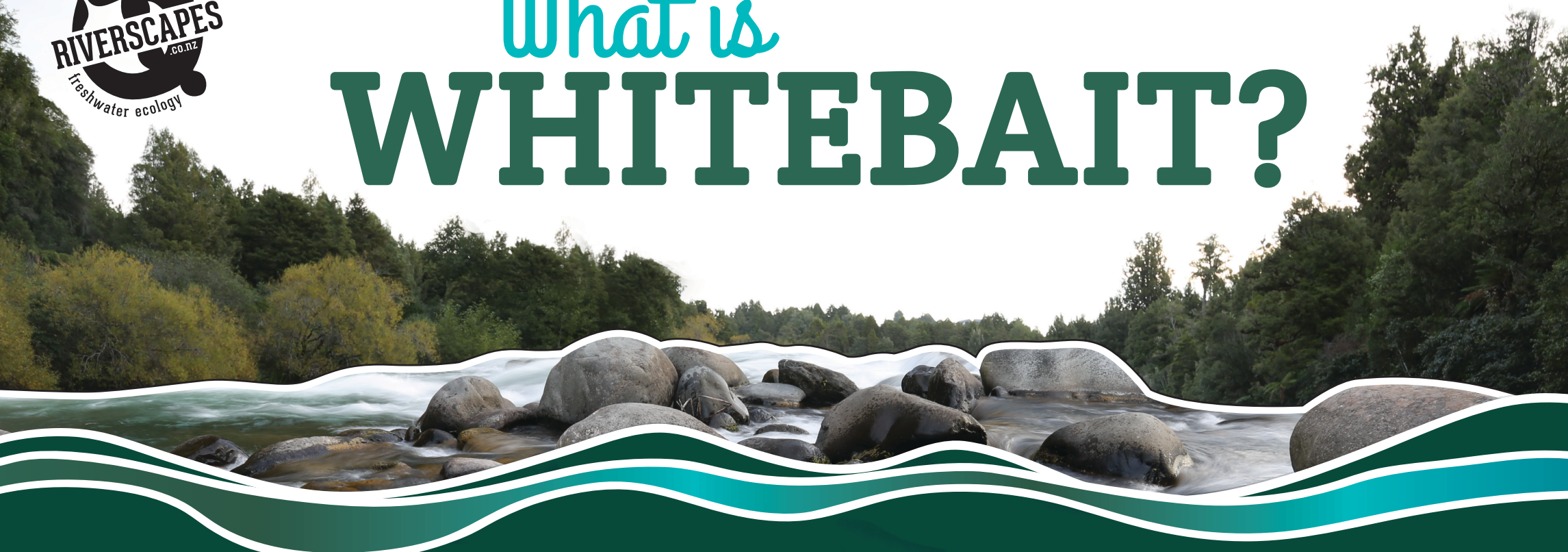


What is WHITEBAIT?



Whitebait is the name given to the young of five different species of native freshwater fish called **GALAXIIDS**.

Adult galaxiids live in our rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. They lay eggs, which then hatch and the tiny larvae are swept downstream and out to sea. They live in the sea for a few months before swimming back into rivers and beginning to migrate upstream. These migrating young fish are what people catch when they go whitebaiting.

GALAXIIDS ARE SPECIAL

3 of the 5 species are found nowhere else in the world. Most species grow up to be 20-30 cm long, with beautiful glittery markings.

GALAXIIDS ARE THREATENED

4 of the 5 species are more endangered than the little spotted kiwi.

GALAXIIDS ARE COOL...



banded kōkopu
can leap out of the water to grab insects off overhanging tree branches



short jawed kōkopu
only live in native forest streams



inanga
used to be so common that you could scoop them out of rivers by the bucketful



kōaro
can climb straight up enormous waterfalls.

giant kōkopu
can grow up to 40 cm long.



**WHITEBAIT TO
ADULT**



An adult kōaro