

# Whitebaiters' rough guide to our rules



Environment Southland regulates and manages the permissions to occupy river banks with whitebait stands. We also have the statutory responsibility to ensure the maintenance of waterways that contain the different life stages of whitebait.

## Overview

The main rules we ask whitebaiters to be aware of at the start of each season are:

1. Keep your stand well maintained.
2. If you plan to modify, remove or replace your stand, discuss it with Environment Southland first as you may need a new consent.
3. Remember to take all your fishing gear out of the water at the end of the day.

## Stand sites

There are around 680 whitebait stands in Southland, with most being located on the Mataura, Titiroa and Aparima Rivers. The number of whitebait stands permitted in Southland is fixed to contain the effects on the environment and amenity values.

Sites for whitebait stands are restricted to:

- existing sites that have been lawfully occupied since 1997;
- new sites that are in the immediate vicinity of existing sites, where they can no longer be practically used (eg due to river bank erosion or changes to the course of the river).

## Stand construction

All stands must be:

- structurally sound;
- secure against flows and coastal processes;
- located so that they don't deflect flow into the river bank or increase water velocities near the bank;
- no more than one third of the width of the river, stream, estuary, or channel at any place or time;
- displaying the name of the owner on a post or handrail at the entrance to the stand.

## Stand maintenance and repair

Maintenance and repair of whitebait stands is usually minor, and as long as the foreshore or seabed around the structure is not permanently disturbed and no debris from maintenance enters the surrounding environment, no resource consent is required.

If you're unsure whether the repair you're planning to undertake will require a consent, it's best to check with us first.

## Stand replacement

Whitebait stands can be replaced when:

- the original stand has been destroyed;
- a stand needs to be moved, e.g. due to bank erosion or changes to the course of a river.

If possible, replacement stands should be located as closely as possible to the former site.

Replacement stands must be placed a minimum of 20 metres from other existing stands.

Note that if the replacement stand is not completed within one year of the loss of the original stand, the consent will lapse.

## Transfer of ownership

To transfer the ownership of your whitebait stand to another person, you have to fill out a transfer coastal permit form. The cost for this is noted on the form. Section 19.2.11 of the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland sets out the requirements for the transfer of a consent.

## Awarua and Hollyford Rivers

There are special rules for whitebaiting on the Awarua and Hollyford Rivers:

- stands may only be erected up to 14 days before the whitebait season and dismantled with all materials removed no later than 14 days after the end of the season;
- stands on the Awarua River must not exceed 10 metres in length from mean high water springs level;

- stands on the Hollyford River must not exceed 24 metres from mean high water springs level;
- the spacing between stands must be no less than 40 metres.

- ▶ **Whitebait fishing rules and regulations** are managed by the Department of Conservation.
- ▶ **Whitebait huts** are managed by the Southland District Council.

## More information

Chapter 11 of the Southland Regional Coastal Plan ([www.es.govt.nz/whitebait](http://www.es.govt.nz/whitebait)) provides more detail on the rules above.

We provide a range of helpful tools through our website [www.es.govt.nz/whitebait](http://www.es.govt.nz/whitebait), including:

- online map of whitebait stand locations;
- live river level data;
- forms;
- factsheets and whitebait survey results.

## Stand alterations

Without a resource consent you can:

- extend your stand further out into a waterway, as long as the total length of the stand doesn't exceed one-third the width of the river and no new piles are installed;
- extend your stand back towards the bank if the river bank has eroded around your stand, as long as the total length of the stand doesn't exceed one-third

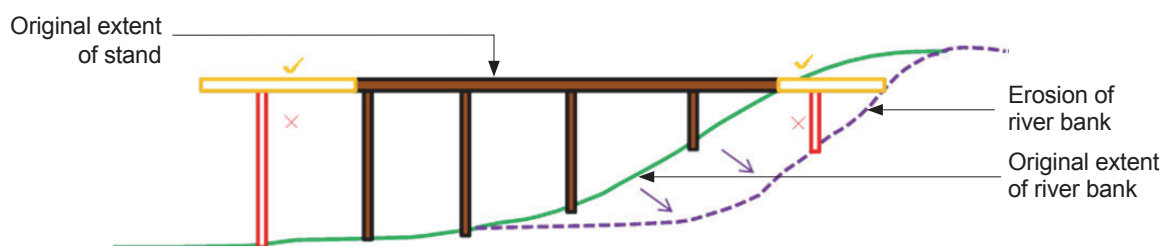
the width of the river and no new piles are installed;

- attach a temporary and removable pontoon solely to the whitebait stand.

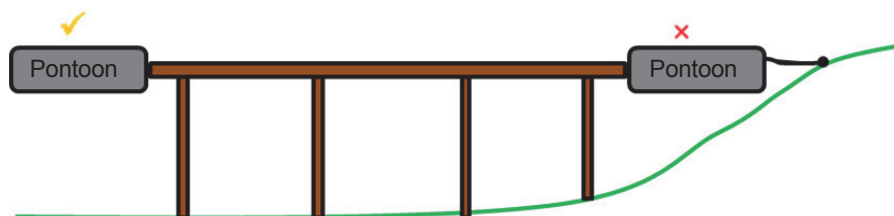
You need a new resource consent, or variation to an existing consent if you want to:

- install additional piles when extending a whitebait stand;

- attach a pontoon to land;
- permanently attach a pontoon to your whitebait stand;
- carry out bank protection around or near a whitebait stand; or
- exclude the public from accessing your stand and/or pontoon structure.



▶ **Figure 1:** The gold sections show circumstances in which consent is not required to alter a whitebait stand. The red sections show circumstances in which consent is required to alter a whitebait stand.



▶ **Figure 2:** Consent is required to install a pontoon attached to land (as indicated on the right-hand side of the diagram). A pontoon attached solely to the whitebait stand (as shown in the left hand side of the diagram) does not require consent, provided that no exclusive occupation is sought.

## Contact us

For any questions relating to whitebait stands, ring us on 0800 76 88 45 or send an email to [service@es.govt.nz](mailto:service@es.govt.nz).

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