

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 Maitai, 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 1 June 2003.
- 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.

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 starts 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.

More information

Chapter 11 of the Southland Regional Coastal Plan provides more detail on the rules.

We provide a copy of the plan along with a range of helpful tools on our website – www.es.govt.nz/whitebait, including:

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

What work can I do without a resource consent?

- You can carry out most maintenance and repairs, as long as the foreshore or seabed around the structure is not permanently disturbed, and no debris from maintenance enters the surrounding environment.
- You can extend your stand further out into a waterway, or back towards the bank i.e. if the river bank has eroded around your stand, as long as the stand does not exceed one-third of the width of the river, and no new piles are installed.
- You can add a pontoon, as long as it's temporary and removable, and it's attached solely to your whitebait stand.
- You can re-construct your existing stand, as long as it's in the same location as before, within the exact same footprint (including piles), and you notify us of your plans prior to the works.

When do I need a resource consent?

You need a new resource consent or variation to an existing consent if you can't meet the above criteria for repairs, alterations or reconstruction, or if you want to:

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

If your stand has been destroyed or needs to be moved from its original location, e.g. due to flood damage, bank erosion or changes to the river's course, you will need to apply for a resource consent for a stand replacement.

Contact us

If you're unsure whether the work you're planning to do will require a consent, it's best to check. Call 0800 76 88 45 or email service@es.govt.nz for any questions relating to whitebait stands.

Other whitebaiting regulations

- **Whitebait fishing rules** and regulations are managed by the Department of Conservation – www.doc.govt.nz.
- **Whitebait huts** are managed by the Southland District Council – www.southlanddc.govt.nz

Original extent of stand

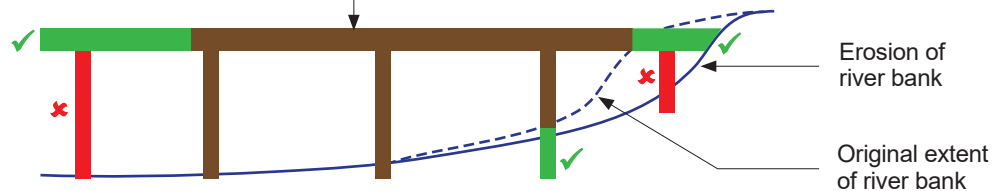


Figure 1: Extending your stand and replacing existing piles (as shown in green) doesn't require a consent. Installing new piles (as shown in red) does require a consent.

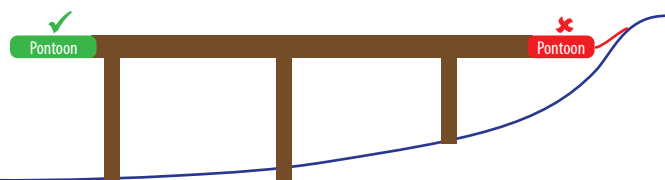


Figure 2: Attaching a pontoon to land (as shown in red) requires a consent. Attaching a pontoon solely to your stand (as shown in green) doesn't require a consent, provided the pontoon is temporary and removable.