

**21 August 2024**

## **Whitebait Season 2024**

West Coast Regional Council staff have been out across the region this month undertaking preparations ahead of the forthcoming 2024 whitebait season.

Compliance staff visited the Paringa and Haast Rivers last week to mark out and map stands with GPS to ensure uniformity for whitebait stand holders.

WCRC Regulatory & Policy Group Manager Jocelyne Allen says the team have been assessing stand locations on the rivers to ensure consistent boundaries, as some may have shifted over the course of the year.

“Where stands are positioned on braided rivers, Compliance staff have assisted with marking out the stand locations as there’s likely to have been movement in the river since the previous season.”

The Regional Council issues resource consents for whitebait stands on 23 rivers across the West Coast.

Whitebait stands are deemed temporary structures only and can be built no more than 15 days before the season starts and must be removed within 15 days of the season ending.

Between 15 August and 30 October over 650 resource consents are authorised for the construction and maintenance of whitebait stands on West Coast rivers.

Stand owners must comply with all conditions of their resource consent, as well as the relevant requirements in Schedule 17 of the [West Coast Regional Council Land and Water Plan](#) which outlines the management of whitebait stands and Department of Conservation rules and regulations.

A resource consent for a whitebait stand has an annual monitoring fee of \$230 including GST and stand consent holders must also pay an annual administration charge of \$132.25 (including GST) for each individual whitebait stand consent file.

The WCRC Compliance team will continue to monitor the rivers during the season, visiting twice over the next two months to ensure stand owners are observing consent conditions and complying with procedures.

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