

Torrentfish

Cheimarrichthys fosteri

Native

Declining

Photos: Bruno David

Typically found in the rapids and cascades of faster flowing streams, it is surprising to see some torrentfish in the slower-moving, main stem of both the Waikato and Waipa rivers. It is unlikely this species of fish will be confused with anything else as their streamlined body shape is quiet distinctive.

The spawning period for torrentfish is uncertain but studies and reports suggest this is probably between January to late May. Larvae are thought to float downstream to the sea, and then make their way back up in spring and summer as juveniles (16-20 mm).

Torrentfish commonly grow to 150 mm.

