

Fightbait Times

The Final Scoop.

Kathy Shoal & Brad Spotter

14 • Nov • 2015

Work is for people who don't know how to Bait.

As another season draws to a close, we take a little moment to recap on what has been, by all accounts, another productive and profitable foray. As reported by us earlier, there was a slow but steady stream of incidents early in the season on the river. However, as the fever began to subside and the shoal seekers began to wind their heads in, it would seem normal business has resumed and the white gold has been flowing freely. With the long hours on the river beginning to take their toll on weary souls, many will be relieved to go back to their regular lives, taking some time to reflect, and of course count all their loot! We hope everyone had a fun and worthwhile season out there. We look forward to what next year will bring.

**CAN'T DECIDE IF I NEED
A HUG, AN XL COFFEE,
6 SHOTS OF VODKA,
OR 2 WEEKS OF SLEEP.**

Little Wanganui Whitebaiters Ball

This year, as in years past, we came together to celebrate the splendor that is whitebait season with the Little Wanganui Whitebaiters Ball. A massive thank you to the Little Wanganui Hall Committee for once again providing a fantastic event. There was an abundance of patties for everyone, slaved over by the wonderful Theresa. Local Band Jamming kept the dancefloor rockin with some awesome tunes. Thanks to everyone who got involved and made it a great night.

Results:

Best Whitebait Fritter

1st place: Darren Rich
2nd place: Owen Duncan
3rd place: Ken Trathem

Best Costume

1st place: Sacha Healey

Best Hoe Down Dance

Jude Hayton



Fun facts for 2015

- 1x broken windscreen.
- 2x court appearances.
- Numerous nets, buckets, spotters and egos lost to mother nature.
- 10,000 + Glad Ziploc Bags sold locally. Intel suggests they are flying off the shelf in the 100 packs now as opposed to the 25 packs earlier in the season.
- 1x ruptured achilles tendon
- 2x reported incidents of bullying the elderly.
- 2014 West Coast Whitebait Season, 23 white baiters were prosecuted and convicted for breaches under the Whitebait Fishing and were fined \$300 each by the Court.
- How many this year??

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It's a gold rush!

Galaxiids

The Galaxiidae family was named after the Milky Way galaxy, as the very first species described was sprinkled with dazzling spots. Although galaxiid species are found in many places in the Southern Hemisphere, the giant, shortjaw and banded kōkopu only exist in New Zealand. The main breeding season for our galaxiids is autumn. Inanga migrate downstream to estuaries and lay their eggs among plants and grasses, whereas kōaro and kōkopu stay where they are and lay their eggs on leaf litter and forest plants. The eggs stay out of water for



several weeks, and need good plant cover to keep moist. They hatch when re-immersed by spring tides (for inanga) or floods (for kōaro and kōkopu). The larvae then float out to sea, where they live and grow over winter, migrating back upstream as whitebait in spring.

Letter To the Editor:

Inland Revenue
Blanchfield House
Guinness Street
P O Box 7410
Greymouth 7410

To whom it may concern,

The West Coast Whitebait season is approaching, anticipation of the big catch heightens the nets are cleaned and repaired, the stands rebuilt and the fishing stories start to circulate. Some myth and some tall tales.

At Inland revenue we hear from Coasters about what we are doing during the whitebait season-most of it falls into the tall tales and myth category! So does some of the tax information that gets passed around stand owners, fishers, buyers and West Coasters in general.

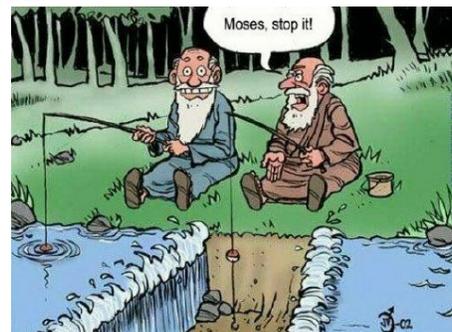
The purpose of this letter is to give you the facts:

It's a myth that Inland Revenue officers are patrolling the rivers" catching sellers of Whitebait!

It's true whitebait caught on the Coast one day can be served in a restaurant in New Plymouth the next.

It's a myth that all sales of Whitebait are "tax-free" income:

1. If you catch whitebait and sell the occasional kilo or two to friends and family then this is considered to be a pastime/hobby and you do not have to pay tax.



2. If you work a stand on a regular basis and sell the whitebait you will need to pay tax on your sales.
3. If you sell your whitebait stand you may have to pay tax on this.
4. If you lease your stand then you will need to pay tax on the proceeds.

It's true that it is easy to get tax your obligations right:

1. If you sell whitebait to a wholesale buyer, a restaurant or similar you need to supply a Tax code declaration (IR330) to that buyer and they will deduct tax from your payment.
 2. Keep records of all your whitebait sales, lease payments received or proceeds from the sale of your stand.
 3. Include your sales and lease payments in your income tax return (IR3)
- It's true most people pay the right amount of tax.

Got questions? Need help? Want to hear some "true tales? The team at Inland Revenue West Coast are here to help. Email advisory. Greymouth@ird.govt.nz. Telephone 03-906 0320, call into our office in Guinness Street Greymouth or try www.ird.govt.nz

Fishing has made more liars than taxes

"A whitebaiter caught breaching the West Coast whitebait regulations claims he had been blown away from his net by a low passing helicopter. Nathan Healey's excuse was the most colourful of several offered in the Greymouth District Court this week for fishing breaches.

Healey pleaded guilty to a Department of Conservation charge of failing to remain within 10m of his net, but said the force of the helicopter down-draught had had "blown him away". He was fined \$450." The Messenger

Men are like fish neither would get in trouble if they kept their mouths shut.