

What's happened to all the fish?

A NIWA scientific research project
looking at juvenile fishes and
their seafloor habitats

Can you help?

NIWA is looking for people who
have had a long association
with the Hauraki Gulf/East
Northland or the Marlborough
Sounds to help them with a
new research project.

We want to learn how juvenile
fish populations and their
environments have changed
over time and we're keen to
hear from people who have
observed these changes.



What's happened to all the fish?



What is the focus of the research?

We are particularly interested in juvenile snapper populations in the Hauraki Gulf and East Northland, or small blue cod and tarakihi in the Marlborough Sounds.

We are working from the hypothesis that the loss or reduction of juvenile fish habitats means fewer will make it into the adult populations.

Our goal is to identify where and how this is happening and work with interested groups to develop strategies to increase the number of small fish growing into adult fisheries.

Who can participate?

Anyone who has observed changes in the juvenile fish nursery grounds and/or the wider coastal environment over an extended period of time.

People may have noticed areas where the water has become more turbid, and the seafloor has become muddier. We are especially interested in the loss of 'biogenic' (living) habitats such as horse mussels, sponges, and kelp forests.

Do you have any historical records?

We are particularly interested in historical records that provide insight into the environmental history of the research areas. These could be historical photographs, personal field diaries or fishing logs, as these are especially valuable in helping us to understand how things have changed.

Can we interview you?

We would like to conduct face-to-face interviews that will last about an hour, using nautical charts, and a variety of pictures and specimens, to help identify where different species and habitats are found, and the changes to these and the wider environment that have occurred over time. You can remain anonymous if you wish.

How can you get in touch?

Go to:

www.niwa.co.nz/fishsurvey

click on the link, fill out the form, and we'll contact you.

Or get in touch with one of the following people:

Cameron Walsh (Both areas)

Fisheries Research Consultant
Stock Monitoring Services Ltd
09 483 7718
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**Emma Jones (Hauraki Gulf/
East Northland)**

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Niki Davey (Marlborough Sounds)

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