

Jollytail

Galaxias maculatus



Common and widespread around coastal Tasmania. A landlocked population occurs at Tooms Lake where it was inadvertently translocated in the 1990s.

Description: A small elongated fish that has a single soft-rayed dorsal fin on their back. The dorsal fin starts directly above the start of the anal fin and the tail is distinctly forked. As with all *Galaxias* they don't have scales.

Colour: Generally translucent olive-green on the back and upper sides with regular sparse speckling along the sides, with a silver belly.

Size: Commonly from 40 to 120 mm, but up to 180 mm.

Habitat: Adults are commonly found in the lower reaches of coastal streams and rivers. They are also found around lake and lagoon margins, usually in schools. They can tolerate a wide range of habitat and conditions.

Diet: Will feed on a wide variety of small aquatic insects, crustaceans and molluscs. They also feed on terrestrial insects.

Life Cycle: In coastal populations, the adult fish migrate downstream during Autumn to spawn in estuaries. Eggs are deposited amongst vegetation on the margins of river estuaries when inundated at the peak of high tide, leaving the eggs exposed until hatching on the next spring tide. Four to five month old fish return from the sea and migrate up the rivers during Spring as part of the whitebait run. They generally mature after one year, and most adults die after spawning. Landlocked populations spawn during late Winter.

Distribution status: Native.

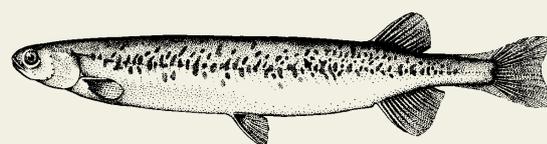
Original range: Found in Tasmania, southeast Australia, New Zealand, South America and some Pacific islands.

Reasons for change to distribution: Has expanded to more landlocked populations through translocation with elver restocking of dams and lakes.

Legal status: **Whitebait.**

Can it be taken? This species may not be taken without a licence or a permit (for purposes other than fishing). Young fish are often found in whitebait runs, for which there is a restricted recreational season requiring a Whitebait Licence.

Other names: Common galaxias, minnow.



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