

# Helping our freshwater friends

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Because our dams impede the migration paths of native fish and eels, we have to give them a little help.

We trap juvenile native fish and eels in our downstream river systems and transfer them upstream. This happens from October to March.

Adult eels – which can reach the age of 80 years old – migrate to the Pacific Ocean near Tonga to breed as they approach the end of their lives. We trap these eels in our dams and release them downstream so they can continue their journey to Tonga. This migration season is from March to June.

Did you know? New Zealand longfin eels breed only once at the end of their lives, so helping the eels from our dams to reach the ocean is essential for the survival of this declining species.



*An adult eel that has been safely captured is ready for release downstream.*



*Juvenile native fish are also safely captured and transferred upstream.*



*Eels being transferred from Lower Huia Dam to the stream below.*

