



DOC's Role in the Deemed Permit process

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Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Why is DOC Involved in this Process?

Functions of the Department under Section 6 and 53 of the Conservation Act include:

- a specific duty to preserve indigenous freshwater fish habitats
- to advocate for the conservation of natural resources generally.



Maintaining the persistence of native species is core work for the Department.

We manage natural resources for:

- their intrinsic values
- to safeguard options for future generations and
- for recreational use and enjoyment by the public.



Our interests extend beyond just Public Conservation Lands and Waters

On lands not administered by the Department, we advocate for conservation

- through the RMA process
- through developing relationships, management arrangements and partnerships



DOC as an 'Affected Party'

Potential effects to conservation values (eg. native fish habitat) may trigger DOC as an 'affected party' in your consent applications.



What are DOC's Interests?

Our two main biodiversity interests in Central Otago waterways are:

- Protection of remnant populations of Non-Migratory Galaxiids
- Protection of indigenous fish habitat and passage generally, through connectivity of waterways

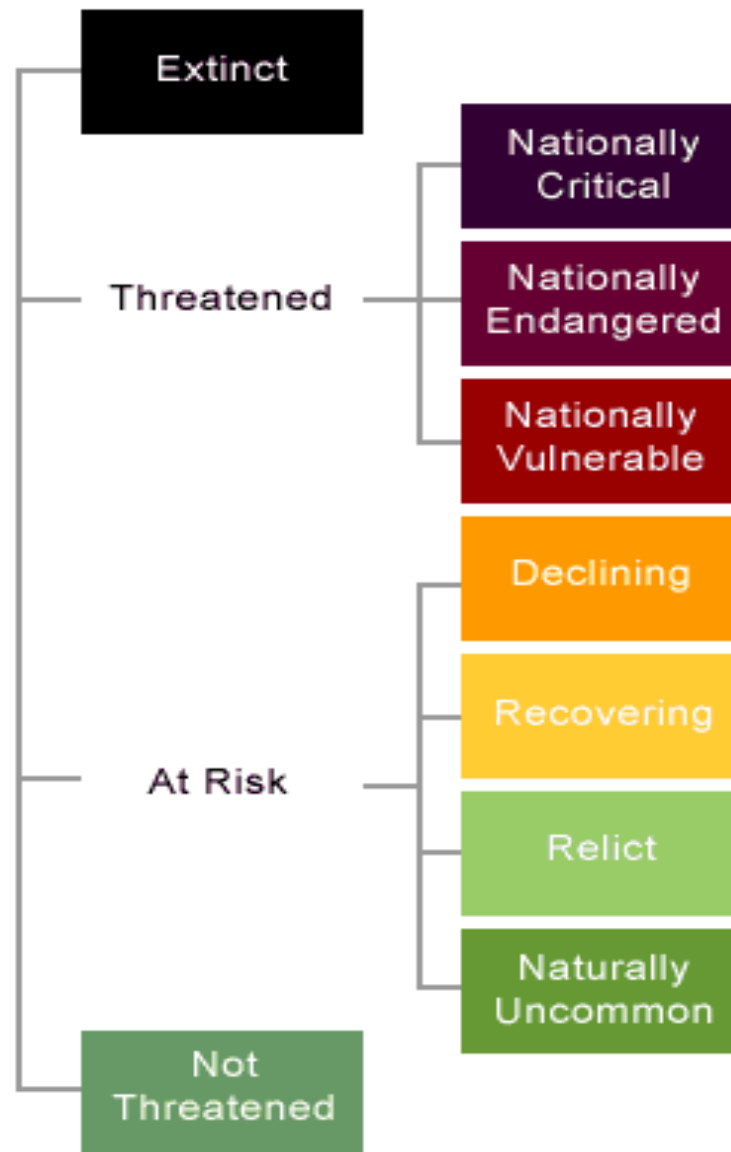


Some Context

New Zealand has 41 freshwater fish species.

- Of these, 12 are non-migratory galaxiids that are located only in Southland, Otago and Canterbury.
- 3 of these (Teviot Flathead, Clutha Flathead, Lowland Longjaw) are ranked as nationally critical
‘the kakapo of native fish’





Non-Migratory Galaxiids

- <http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/freshwater-fish/non-migratory-galaxiids/>
- <http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/freshwater-fish/non-migratory-galaxiids/clutha-flathead-galaxias/>
- <http://www.workingwaterstrust.org/>



Clutha Flathead Galaxias



The distribution of the flathead galaxias is fragmented. The preferred habitat for this species is cobble/boulder streams in tussock grasslands, and most populations occur above large waterfalls. Flatheads are found at altitudes of 140-1130 m in Otago, and they can live in steep mountain streams. Flatheads reach a maximum size of 168 mm, but are usually less than 125 mm.

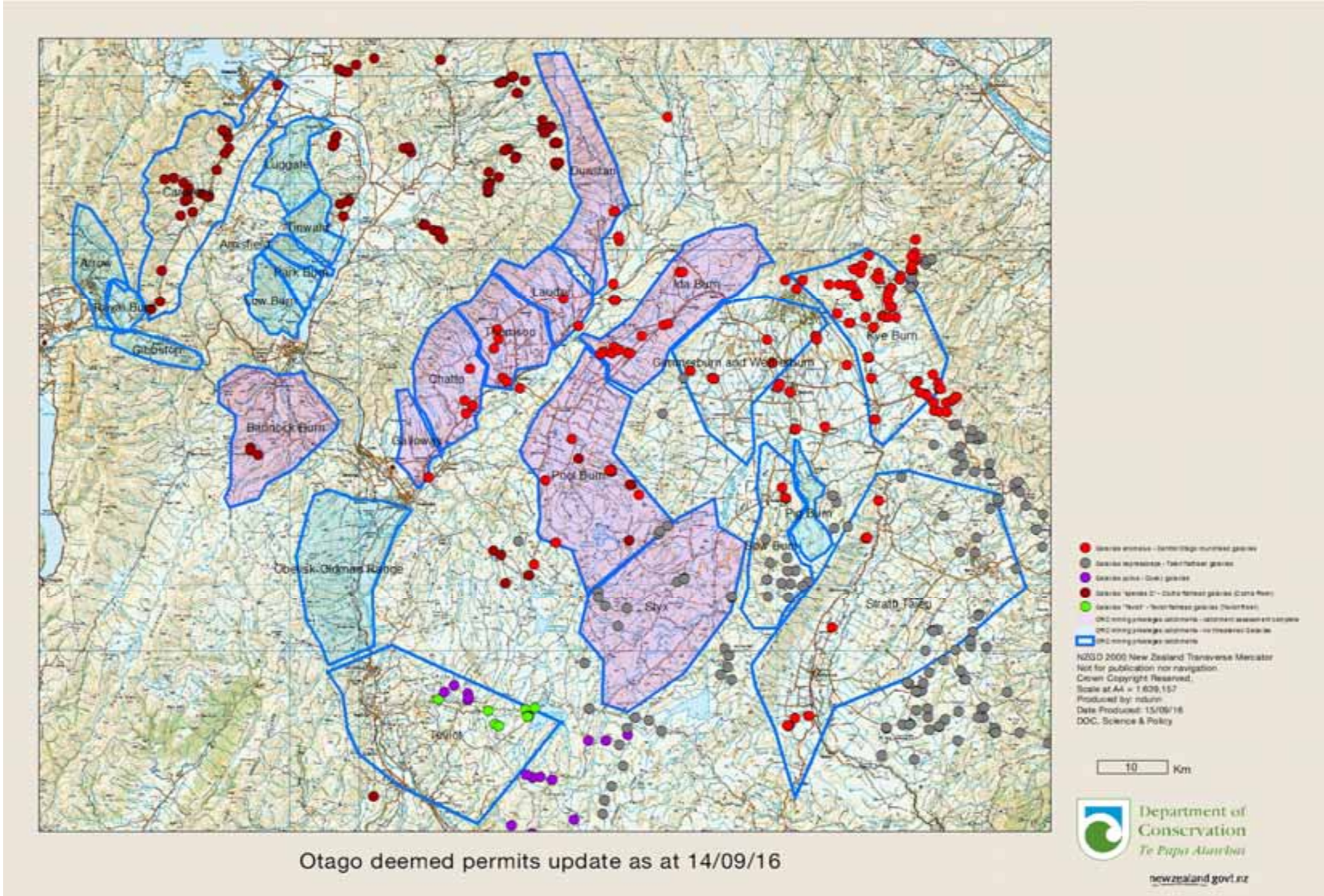


Most habitat of non-migratory galaxiids occurs in small streams running through farmland.





NMG's – Example of Distributions



Otago deemed permits update as at 14/09/16

Securing populations from extinction involves a mix of approaches including:

- Freshwater advocacy via RMA to secure/restore habitat
- Ongoing work with landowners and community on projects for installation and maintenance of trout barriers, surveys and riparian restoration



Other species

- Koura (freshwater crayfish)
- Bullies
- Koaro
- Tuna (Longfin eel)
- Braided river birds – eg. terns, pied stilts



How to navigate through this with DOC ?

- Motivated to work with groups in conjunction with other stakeholders and Ngāi Tahu prior to lodging an application
- gain a realistic appreciation of each others interests at site, and try to sort out any issues outside of the formal process.



Key things

- ORC are leading the process
- In-stream values need to be taken into account under the RMA
- Some key threatened native species could be present

