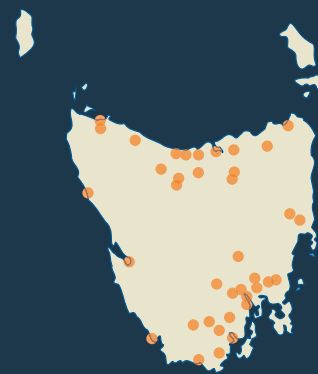


Tasmanian smelt

Retropinna tasmanica



Widespread at low elevations and close to the coast, especially in the north and south-west, but also in eastern and western drainages.

Description: Small, slender, silvery fish, with the dorsal fin origin slightly ahead of the anal fin. Freshly caught fish have a characteristic cucumber smell. Thin scales are present as well as an adipose fin. They have no lateral line.

Colour: Uniform translucent olive to bronze along their back and sides, with a white/silver belly. They have a pigmented stripe where the lateral line would be.

Size: Commonly 50 to 60 mm, but up to 70 mm.

Habitat: Unstudied, but likely to be slow flowing water with cover provided by logs and aquatic plants.

Diet: They feed on small aquatic insects and crustaceans such as mosquito, beetle and caddis larvae and amphipods.

Life Cycle: Not studied, but they are believed to spawn during Spring in the lower reaches of coastal streams. Larvae once hatched are washed to sea where most growth takes place. Young fish and adults may also be found with schools of whitebait.

Distribution status: Endemic.

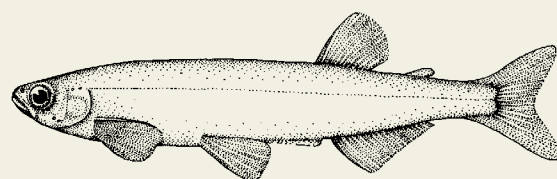
Original range: Found around coastal Tasmania. Known to have some landlocked populations.

Reasons for change to distribution: Range reduced from loss of in-stream habitat and in-stream barriers preventing migration runs. Predated on by introduced species.

Legal status:

Can it be taken? This species may not be taken without a permit.

Other names: N/A.



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