



# OUR RIVERS

## Trends in fish communities



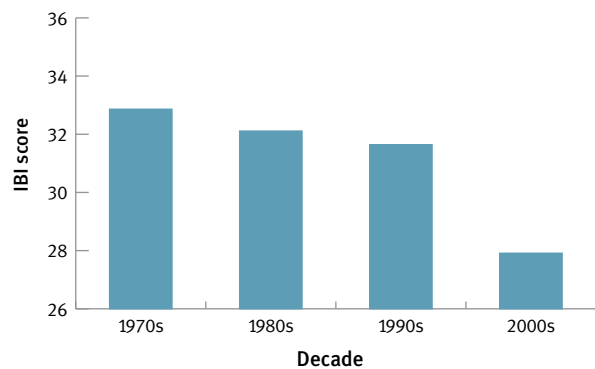
As part of its National Environmental Reporting Programme, the Ministry for the Environment reports on the health of fish communities in our rivers. This is the first time this data has been analysed and reported at a national level.

The Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) was used to analyse 22,546 records from the New Zealand Freshwater Fish Database between January 1970 and June 2007.

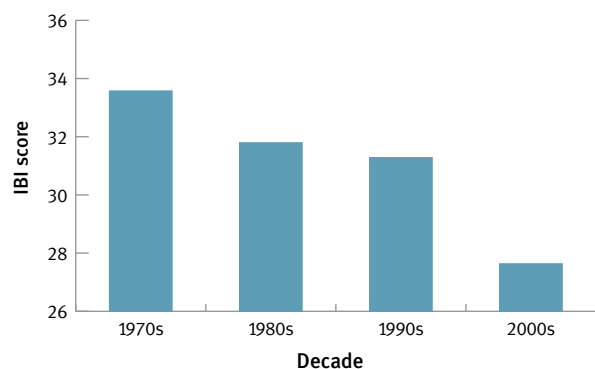
### Key findings

- On average, IBI scores in rivers surrounded by indigenous forest were 10.9 per cent higher (better) than rivers surrounded by pasture and 9.8 per cent higher than rivers in urban areas.
- At a national scale, average IBI scores for all sites decreased (worsened) by 8.3 per cent between 1970 and 2007.
- The biggest decreases in IBI were in rivers surrounded by pasture (11 per cent) and in rivers in urban areas (9.9 per cent).

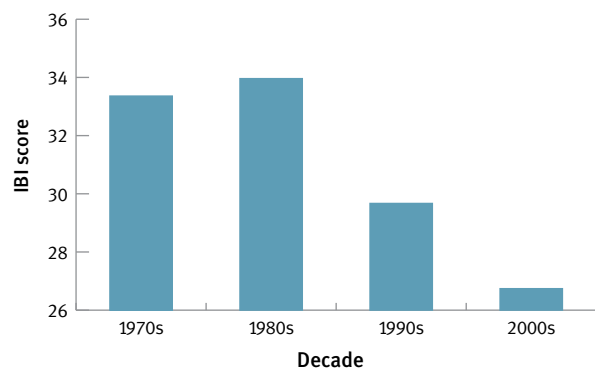
ALL LANDCOVER CLASSES



PASTURE



URBAN



AVERAGE INDEX OF BIOTIC INTEGRITY (IBI) SCORE FOR ALL SITES, GROUPED BY RIVER ENVIRONMENT CLASSIFICATION LAND COVER CLASS

