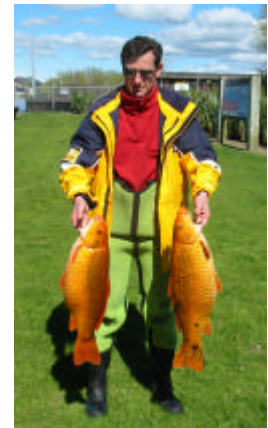
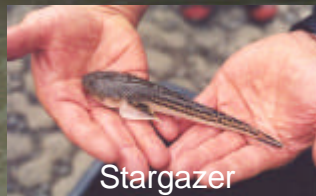
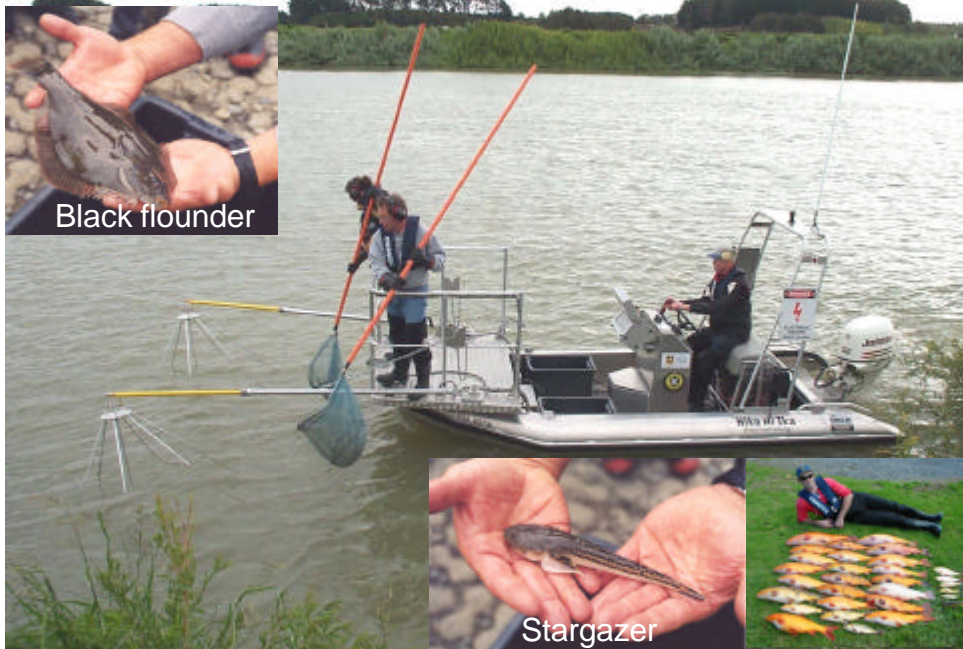


# Electrofishing boat: Te Waka Hiko Hī Ika

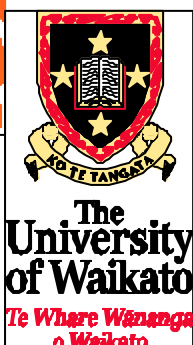
The Centre for Biodiversity and Ecology Research commissioned the first successful electrofishing boat in New Zealand in July 2003.



**Electrofishing equipment:** This 4.5-m aluminium vessel, named Hiko for short, was purpose built in Rotorua by Orca Engineering and Marine Ltd, and is powered by a 50 HP Johnson outboard motor. A 5-kW gas-powered pulsator (model 5.0 GPP), purchased from Smith-Root, Inc, in Washington, USA, provides the pulsed output for electrofishing. Smith-Root anode poles and droppers create the fishing field at the bow. A 6-kW custom-wound generator powers the pulsator.

**Safety:** The boat has a GPS, a depth sounder, emergency locator beacon, VHF radio, cardiac defibrillator, and live boxes. The boat's crew have undergone training to US Fish and Wildlife standards in the use and safe operation of electrofishing boats, and first aid training. The fishing and safety circuits of the boat were connected in consultation with New Zealand's electrical regulatory authorities, who also approved in the safety documentation.

**Purpose:** We use this boat to catch fish in navigable lakes and rivers, with an emphasis on research into the biology and control of pest fish species in the Waikato region. The boat is also available for hire.



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