

Animal Ethical Considerations and our Kaupapa Policy

Policy type	Year	Approved by
WBC Operations		Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust – Co-Director Poutokomanawa - Fresh

All of our WBC experiences are to be of the 'no-take' kind! We think it's important for us to role-model the ethic of kaitiakitanga and utilise our resources for conservation purposes to be able to effectively communicate our messages. All native animals caught or handled during field trips or classroom experiences must be returned to the stream alive after observation and being photographed.

However, If you ever catch pest fish as part of your stream studies you MUST NOT return them to the stream – it is illegal. You must dispose of them humanely – either put them in the freezer straight away if possible (great if you can then use as plant fertiliser) or 'release them' onto the grass away from the waterway and try to squish or iki (spike) them quickly to minimise any suffering. Please see the [section 2.2. on gear sanitisation and biosecurity policy](#) for more information.

When trapping fish please follow best practice guidelines outlined in our WBC Freshwater Monitoring Handbook, keep the fish alive in well oxygenated fish tanks for observation and return to the stream alive no later than two hours after capture.

When netting and collecting macroinvertebrates, please model best practices and keep the invertebrates in the shade when they are in the trays. Return ALL invertebrates to the waterway after study, even if they have perished during observation.



Figure 2. Please keep invertebrates in the shade during observation and return to the stream afterwards.