

# Life Cycle of the Tuna!

The long finned eel (Tuna in te reo māori) is catadramous. Starting in the Pacific ocean, Tuna migrate to freshwater in Aotearoa to mature, then back to the ocean to spawn! Tuna undergo changes in their body and behaviour at each stage of their life cycle, to continue the migration journey!

Large (up to 2m long)  
Bulbous head and small eyes.  
Lives for a long time in freshwater (about 20-30 years).

Dark, pigmented juvenile with small head and streamlined body.  
Migrates upstream to reach inland freshwater.

Tapered head and large eyes.  
Leaves NZ for Pacific ocean to spawn.  
Dies after spawning.

Small, transparent juvenile.  
Moves from saltwater ocean into freshwater NZ river mouths.

Tiny, transparent and leaf shaped.  
Drifts to NZ on Pacific Ocean currents.

