Variability in connectivity and importance of nursery habitats for flounder species in Otago, New Zealand

Tim Currie, MSc candidate
Department of Marine Science

UNIVERSITY of OTAGO
Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo
NEW ZEALAND

Research aims:

Juvenile flounder stock structure

- Use morphology and DNA to differentiate species and stocks

Metapopulation connectivity

- Examine importance of nursery habitats in supporting adult population using flounder otoliths (ear bones)

200µm

Food-web dynamics in different localities

- Use stable isotope analysis to see how estuarine health impacts flounders feeding ecology

$\delta^{13}C$
$\delta^{15}N$
$\delta 34S$

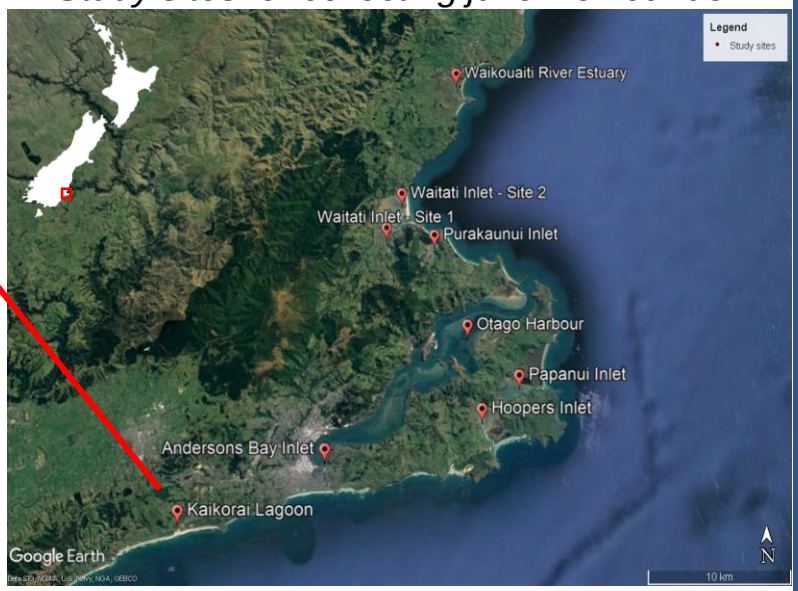
Importance:

Estuaries becoming degraded

Flounder are important:

- Ecologically
- Culturally
- Commercially
- Recreationally

Study sites for collecting juvenile flounder



Flounder populations are declining