

The Longfin Eel, or Tuna, is a unique species of fresh-

water eel found in New Zealand's rivers and streams.

They can grow up to a metre long and weigh over 16kg!

One of the most interesting things about the Longfin

Eel is their life cycle. They are born in the ocean

near Tonga and Samoa, and then travel thousands of

kilometres to reach New Zealand's rivers and streams.

They spend many years living in fresh water, growing

and maturing, before making the long journey back to

the ocean to spawn and die. Longfin Eels have been

an important part of Maori culture and traditional

cuisine for hundreds of years. They are considered a

taonga, or treasure, and are an important species for

conservation efforts.