

# Lake Okataina

Lake Okataina is a beautiful scenic lake surrounded by native forest that provides anglers with a wilderness experience. Lake Okataina covers 11.0km<sup>2</sup>, average depth of 39m and the deepest part is 79m. Water quality is excellent all year round with surface water temperatures 12° in the winter to 22° in the summer.

The Lake is sheltered from the West and East but can get rough during strong North and South winds. Northerly winds with rain produce the best winter shoreline area fishing conditions. Facilities include one boat ramp, car parking, public toilets, DoC walking track, boat tours and lodge accommodation.

## Fishery

Lake Okataina produces quality rainbow trout that grow quickly to an average size of 2kg with many reaching 4kg or more. About 70% of the Lake Okataina catch is made up of fish that spent the first year of their life in the hatchery and the remaining 30% are fish from wild spawning.

The trout grow quickly on the abundant populations of smelt, bullies, koura and aquatic insects, such as dragon and damselfly, until they reach 3-4 years and then spawn (breed) from May to September in the lake's tributaries and some shorelines. Some of the hatchery trout return to their release site in the winter shoreline fishing area.

## Boat Ramp Descriptions

This single lane, and fully concreted, ramp is suitable for all vehicle types and boat sizes. The ramp is long to reduce gradient and to get over the soft beach to the water and features low side walls to reduce sand build up. Care is required when backing down the ramp to ensure you do not contact the side walls. Be aware that strong South winds can make boat launching and retrieving difficult. The jetty by the ramp is very good and another jetty to the right is ideal for short term mooring. Vehicle parking is excellent and well lit at night. Toilets are good and there are plenty of places for a picnic.

## Fishing Methods & Tackle

All popular and traditional lures and fly patterns successfully catch Okataina trout and your favourite ones will be successful. For up to date information and good advice see your local sports fishing tackle shop who also stock an information sheet produced by Fish & Game New Zealand, Eastern Region explaining how to use each angling method.

## Fishing Method Calendar

	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Shallow Trolling	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Deep Trolling			X	X	X	X	X					
Jugging			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Spinning	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
Fly Fishing	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## Key Fishing Situations

October to January is when the main prey of trout, smelt, spawn in the shallow sandy shoreline areas. Trout are hungry after winter and spawning, and attack the shoals of smelt with vigour. Water temperatures are also ideal for trout to be in shallow water. Action can be found all day, but as water temperatures warm up, early morning and night become better.

January to March - higher water temperatures force trout into deeper water. Smelt and trout mainly stay around the thermocline depth at around 30m during the day and move close to the surface at night.

April to September is when trout spawn and gather in numbers at places like stream mouths and release sites within the winter shoreline fishing areas.

## Fishing Regulations

Refer to your fishing regulation guide book for specific information regarding season lengths, bag limits, and fishing rules.

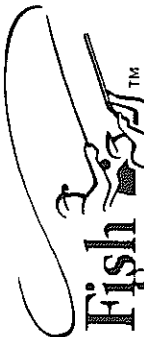
## Release Sites

Mature released trout often return to these sites and shoreline fishing opportunities are available there during July, August, and September when the rest of the lake is closed to all fishing.

Fish & Game New Zealand, Eastern Region, has produced an information sheet with maps of the winter shoreline areas. This is available from tackle retailers.

# Lake Okataina

North

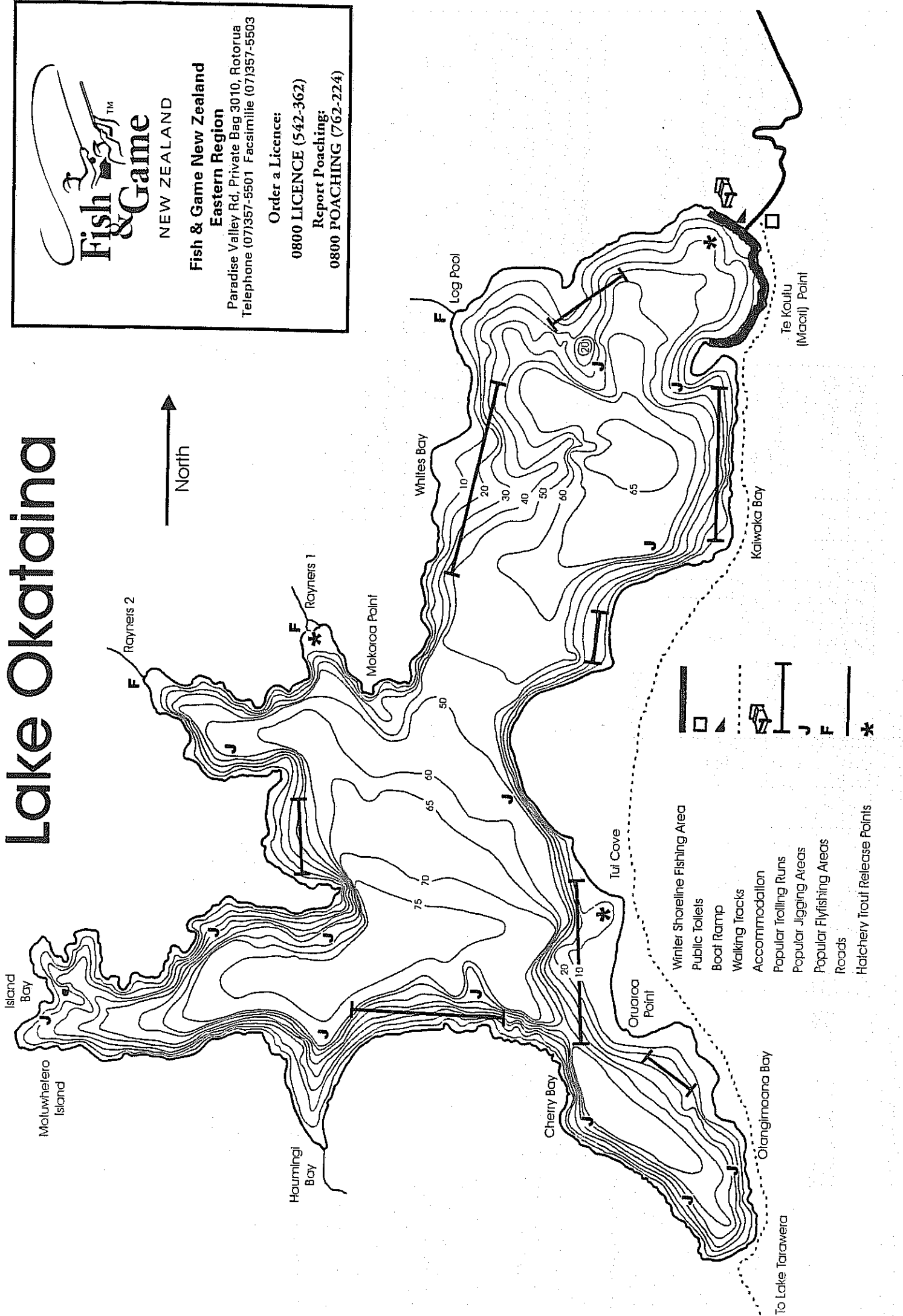


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**Fish & Game New Zealand  
Eastern Region**  
Paradise Valley Rd, Private Bag 3010, Rotorua  
Telephone (07)357-5501 Facsimile (07)357-5503

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To Lake Tarawera