

Waitomo & Kawhia Rivers Trout Fishing

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO



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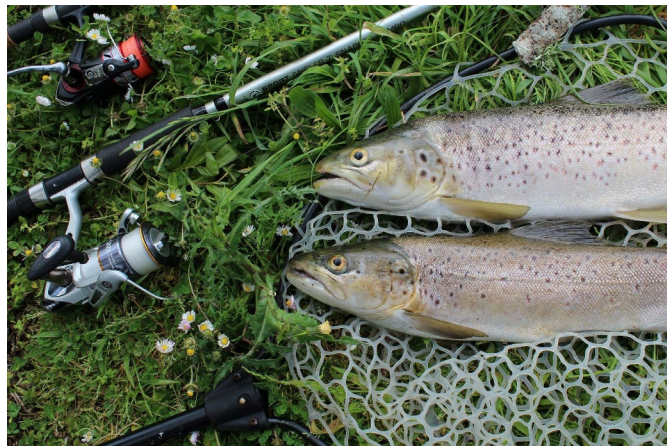
Continued angler access - it's primarily up to you!

Less than 50% of the rivers in the Auckland/Waikato region are covered by esplanade reserves (the "Queens Chain"). But notwithstanding the presence or absence of an esplanade reserve, anglers are dependent upon landowner goodwill to fully enjoy angling opportunities.

Accordingly make sure you take the time to extend to landowners the common courtesies that you would expect:

- Ask their permission before you cross their land.
- Don't
 - * clamber over fences
 - * walk through crops
 - * disturb stock
 - * leave gates other than as you found them
 - * deposit rubbish
 - * take your dog onto a landowners property unless you square it away with them that it is OK to do so. Hydatids and sheep measles can pose a serious threat to a farmers livelihood; so leave your dog at home unless you're certain that the farmer doesn't object to it on their land.

In our experience very few landowners will refuse access to genuine anglers.



For further information

The pamphlets shown below contain more detailed information and maps pertaining to the various types of fisheries in the Auckland/Waikato region. These are available on the website.

- South Waikato Spring Creeks.
- The Mighty Waipa.
- Whanganui Headwaters.
- Coromandel Ranges.
- Waikato Rivers.
- Auckland/Waikato Lakes.
- Getting started in freshwater fishing.



Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

156 Brymer Road, RD9

Hamilton

Telephone (07) 849 1666

aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz

WAITOMO & KAWHIA RIVERS

The limestone rock that creates the world-famous Waitomo caves also provides the Waitomo District with some outstanding trout rivers. Here you will find a variety of trout fishing opportunities in rivers that flow through the dramatic limestone landscapes that are unique to this district. Some Waitomo rivers provide ideal fishing waters for the novice angler with good access and clear banks, and high trout populations. Other rivers are less accessible but they provide a classic backcountry fishing experience for the more energetic angler.

While many of these waters can be fished on a day trip from Hamilton, there are camping sites alongside most rivers. Motel and backpacker accommodation is available in Te Kuiti and at Waitomo Village.

Also described in this pamphlet are two rivers that flow into Kawhia Harbour. Both rivers hold low trout populations but they are attractive rivers to fish especially for anglers looking for new waters to explore.

For current angling regulations please check the *"Sports Fishing Guide"*, provided free when you purchase a fishing licence.

Oparau River

An attractive small river that meanders across open farmland with an extensive length of fishable water that is especially suitable for anglers that have slight mobility difficulties. Unfortunately, trout numbers are low with a scattering of rainbows and the occasional large sea-run brown.

The Oparau flows into Kawhia Harbour and the river runs alongside Pirongia-west and Moerangi roads. The headwaters flow through a DoC Reserve but access to the middle reaches is across private farmland. The Okupata Stream also holds trout with access across private farmland alongside State Highway 31 (farmhouse at junction of SH 3 and Kawhia Harbour Road).



Kiritehere Stream and Waikawa River

Two small streams that flow directly into the Tasman Sea with access from the coast road between Marokopa and Awakino villages. Both waters hold brown trout, generally small fish but occasionally there are large sea-run browns. Although neither stream is worth a special trip, this is certainly an interesting area for a week-end away and these waters can be fished in conjunction with the other rivers described in this pamphlet.

Awaroa River

A small river flowing into Kawhia Harbour that holds a sparse population of brown trout. Fishes best in the middle reaches where the river flows through a scenic reserve. Access from Mahoe Road.



Marokopa River

The impressive Marokopa Falls divides the river into two fisheries. Below the falls, the best fishing is upstream from Te Anga where there is a succession of deep pools and runs over a wide shingle bed. Further upstream, in the short section of river below the Marokopa Falls, the river changes in character with small bouldery pools and pocket water and these waters usually hold good numbers of fish. Public access is provided from Speedies Road. A small tributary, the Puaroa Stream provides some small stream fishing across open farmland, landowners permission is required.

Above the Marokopa Falls there is at least 10 km of river with long deep pools and wide wadeable runs. The section running parallel to the Waitomo Caves Road is best suited for spin fishing though there is the occasional reach offering good fly fishing water. Further upstream there is a solid day's fishing up through farmland and into native forest. A small tributary, the Mangapohue Stream, also provides some fishing in its lower reaches.



Lower Tawarau River

Access to the lower reaches of the Tawarau River can be gained from Speedies Road upstream from the confluence with the Marokopa River. If you are an energetic angler who does not mind scrambling over boulders then this is a delightful river. Although the water is generally slightly discoloured, fish are usually plentiful both rainbows and browns. Above Speedies Road there is a short section where the river flows across open farmland.

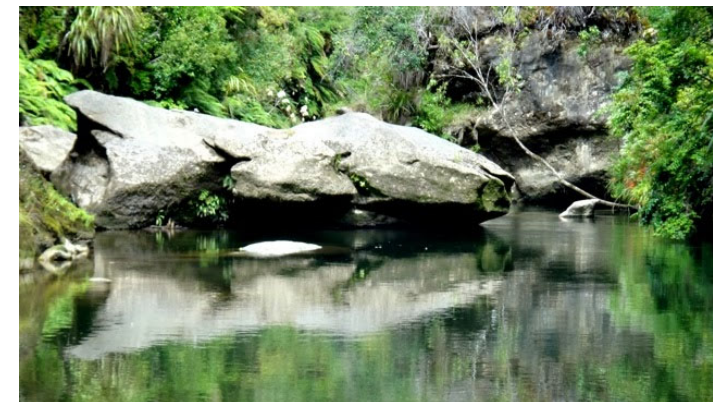
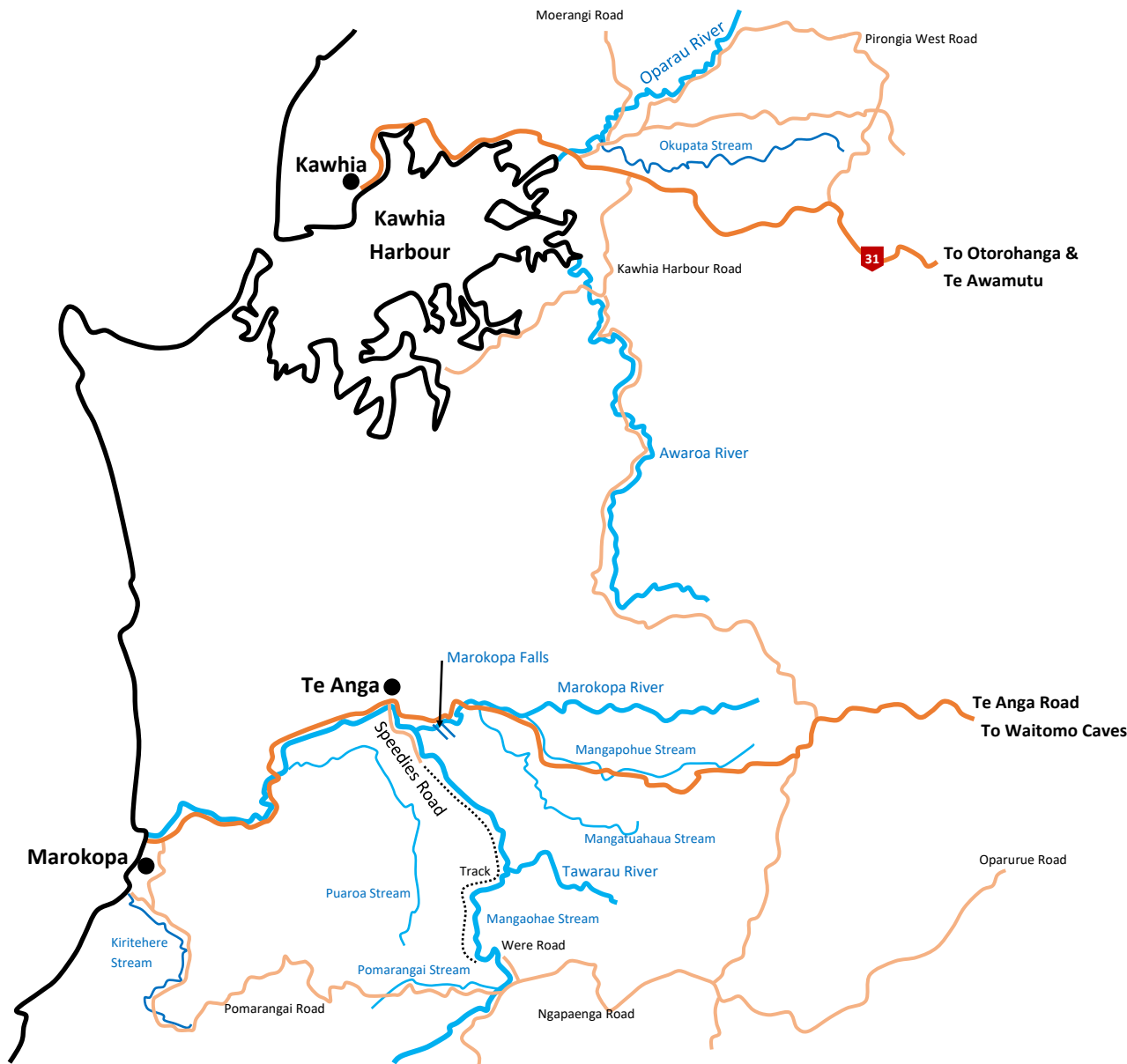
Further upstream the Tawarau flows as a series of cascades under a large rock fall. This section can be bypassed on foot using the DoC track to Weirs Road. The section above the rock fall is described elsewhere in this pamphlet.

Mangaohae Stream/Upper Tawarau River

The upper reaches of the Mangaohae stream, alongside Were and Ngapaenga roads, provide excellent waters for the beginner angler or anglers with slight mobility difficulties. These waters often hold surprisingly high numbers of rainbow trout as the Mangaohae meanders across open farmland with a succession of pools and runs. Further upstream the Pomarangi Stream enters on the true left and although a small stream it does hold some large fish. Access to the middle and upper reaches of the Pomarangi can be gained from Pomarangi Road

At the end of Were Road, a signposted DoC track follows the Mangaohae Stream down to its confluence with the Tawarau River. The track then runs parallel to the Tawarau River before finishing at Speedies Road. These waters flow past spectacular limestone bluffs and native forest providing some of the most impressive scenery to be found in the Waitomo District. Rainbow trout are present in reasonable numbers and limestone formations provide a variety of interesting pools and runs. Camping sites are available along the track and this is an excellent area for a weekend away.

Were Road is reached by taking Oparure Road, 3 km north of Te Kuiti on State Highway 3, and then Ngapaenga Road. A marginal strip provides public access to virtually all of the Mangaohae Stream except where the stream loops away from the Mangaohae Road.



Awakino River

The upper reaches of the Awakino River hold some of the best fly fishing waters in the North Island. Indeed the whole river has a lot to offer anglers with many kilometres of good water and easy access.

The headwaters flow through one of the more rugged parts of the King Country. Here trout numbers are generally low, though the fish are often large and the scenery spectacular. A DoC track runs parallel to the river with several good camp sites and a well-maintained hut at Leitches Clearing. The track is reached from the end of Gribbon Road through the Spellman property (it is recommended that you contact Mr Spellman for access).

Further downstream, there is classic fly fishing water alongside Gribbon Road with a delightful sequence of pools and wadeable runs. The water is generally very clear, and the trout are wary as these reaches are much more heavily fished than the rest of the river. Upstream from Mahoenui Village the Awakino is restricted to fly-fishing only.

Near Mahoenui the river goes into a series of large loops away from the road. Each of these loops provides a good day's fishing, generally across private land so permission from the landowner is required. Good water can also be reached from Papakauri Road and downstream through the Awakino Gorge alongside State Highway 3.

Two streams flowing into the Awakino also contain fishable water. The Manganui Stream is generally fished in the middle reaches where it flows across farmland. The Mangaorongo Stream is heavily overgrown though there is some open water in the headwaters.



Mangaotaki River

The Mangaotaki River contains an extensive length of fishing water especially in the middle reaches where there is ideal water for the novice fly-fisherman.

Downstream from State Highway 3 the Mangaotaki flows through a steep gorge to the Mokau River. Although the water is often discoloured, there are usually good numbers of fish and this water is ideal for spin fishing. Above State Highway 3, there are a series of long deep pools leading up to a series of small waterfalls, and again these reaches provide good spin fishing water.

Access to the middle and upper reaches can be gained from Mangaotaki Road, via State Highway 3 at Piopio Village. Most angling occurs in the middle reaches where the Mangaotaki alternates between rugged gorges and long reaches across open farmland. Water clarity is not quite adequate to spot fish but there is generally no shortage of rainbows 0.5-1.5 kg. As you first approach the river from Piopio, there is a long section where the river flows through a scenic reserve providing public access for about 2.5 km. Otherwise the river flows across private land so please ask for access from the landowners.

Mokau River

Holds a reasonable trout population in the reach alongside State Highway 3, but this is not an attractive river to fish as the water is usually discoloured and there are numerous snags and weed beds. A small tributary, the Mangapehi Stream, also contains fish with access from State Highway 4.

