LOWER REACH

Sea to Peninsular Bridge

Open year-round (from the Woodstock Bridge downstream), and with bait fishing permitted, the lower reach has it all. From clear pools, runs and riffles to tidal water, this stretch of water has plenty of variation for all anglers.

Towards the sea is a top spot for flinging lures to hungry trout which dine on bait fish - especially in Spring and over the winter months. There are some fantastic ripples and willow edges to suit the consummate fly anglers also.

This reach generally holds good numbers of fish, but be prepared to walk as fish distribution can be more patchy here, depending on the time of year and river conditions.

1. SH 60 Bridge
Access available on both sides of bridge. Vehicle access on west bank up and down stream on the true left side of river. Foot access from parking area on true right.

2. West Bank Road "Gum Tree Corner"
Approximately 5km from SH 60 off West Bank Road true left side of river. Parking on side of road.

3. West Bank Road
Follow West Bank Road upstream 0.3km from Gum Tree Corner.

4. Douglas Road
Park at designated car park at end of Douglas Road. Walk over style and follow track markers to river. Note: access to this site is weekend only as it is under construction until further notice. No markers are in place, however you may cross the stile and walk directly to the river.

5. Whakarewa Street Motueka
Vehicle access to road end gate with foot access up and down true right of river.

6. Hurley Road
Vehicle access off Motueka Valley Highway and follow gravel road through gate over stop bank to parking area. Foot access up and down river.

7. West Bank Road
7.7 km upstream from Gum Tree Corner. Park at Annes Picnic Area below Rocky River Bridge.

8. Alexander Bluff Bridge
Best foot access via West Bank Road from car park below bridge on true left of river. 4WD access downstream of bridge off Motueka Valley Highway. No sign

9. West Bank Road
Approximately 3.0km upstream of Alexander Bridge at Herring Stream confluence. Further access to river upstream by walking along road and cutting to river.

10. 1076 Motueka Valley Highway
4.6km upstream from Alexander Bridge. Enter property at 1076 Motueka Highway - drive down lane to river.

11. West Bank Road
Approximately 2km upstream from Herring Stream bridge.

Temporarily closed until further notice

ALL METHODS PERMITTED

OPEN ALL YEAR

KEY
OPEN ALL YEAR
OPEN 1 OCT—30 APR
PUBLIC ROAD

SPIN FISHING TIP

The 'Mot" is an excellent spin fishing option, particularly in the early part of the season from October to December. Concentrate on fairly fast moving knee to chest deep water, but also remember to fish your feet, cast upstream on the river edges, as well as across. Fishing after a fresh when the water is a green tinge will see your catch rate improve.

Fish & Game™

MOTUEKA RIVER FISHING ACCESS GUIDE

A guide to fishing the Motueka: access points to the lower, middle and upper reaches - including the Wangapeka and Motupiko

Brought to you by Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game

MIDDLE REACH

Peninsula Bridge to Wangapeka

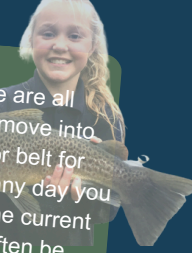
This stretch is the Motueka River at its finest. A famous section of the river, with the highest fish density and endless water to suit all anglers. There are stacks of angler access points too - on both sides of the river.

The river is willow-lined for nearly this entire reach, making it perfect habitat for trout, many of which enjoy the hydraulic diversity that 'willow bays' provide, and where trout can be easily found intercepting nymphs and floating morsels. There are some classy ripples here too, which generally hold good numbers of fish - particularly during normal to low flows.

The river is popular with locals over summer, but don't let swimmers and rafters put you off from going fishing. The trout are used to it and will return feeding very soon after being spooked.

WHERE TO LOOK

Willow edges, ripples, rock structure - these are all areas trout love to be. In summer, fish will move into shallow, fast ripples which act as a conveyor belt for food. You can fish ripples blind, or on a sunny day you might see a shadow working vigorously in the current intercepting nymphs with gusto. Trout will often be found around the many bedrock formations which provide shelter and current lines delivering food to waiting fish.



12. Peninsula Bridge
Best parking at TDC Reserve true left upstream of bridge off Peninsula Road, through gate beside Bowling Club.

13. Motueka Valley Highway
1.8km upstream from Peninsula Bridge. Park at access sign and follow track to river.

14. Motueka Valley Highway
1.5km upstream from access 14. Vehicle access through double gates to river.

15. West Bank Road/Graham Stream
Vehicle access to river through picnic area below Graham Stream Bridge.

16. Motueka Valley Highway
Opposite Pearse River confluence. Park through gate.

17. West Bank Road/Pearse River
Park at Pearse River Bridge.

18. West Bank Road
1km upstream from Pearse River bridge. Vehicle access to river.

19. Woodstock Bridge
Parking and foot access from both sides of bridge.

20. Motueka Valley Highway
2.5 km upstream from Woodstock Bridge opposite Baton River confluence. Vehicle access to river.

Temporarily closed until further notice

21. Motueka Valley Highway/Macleans Reserve
Vehicle access along gravel track through picnic and campground area.

22. Motueka Valley Highway/Stanley Brook
Park on roadside. Short walk to river immediately below Stanley Brook confluence.

TACKLE TIP

Fly anglers - have your leader at least 12 foot long; small flies work well - basics nymphs such as weighted pheasant tail, hare & copper (#14-18) will catch 90% of the fish and dries like parachute adams & dad's favourite work well. In March the passionvine hopper is abundant and trout dine royally on them!

WHEN TO FISH?

Sunny days best for fly fishing. Cloudy, cold days are generally tough going - you want the water to warm up to spark increased insect life.

WATER CONSERVATION ORDER

Did you know the Motueka River is a nationally outstanding waterway and wild brown trout fishery, which is why it is protected by a National Water Conservation Order.

edges!

ripples!

^A classic "Mot" fish location
> Perfect blind fishing water

THE MOTUEKA FISHERY

The Motueka River supports one of New Zealand's highest trout populations. Drift dives undertaken in recent years in the Motueka River downstream of the Wangapeka River indicate populations of between 200 – 500 trout (>20cm) per kilometre!

The angling methods permitted are productive with water types to suit everyone. Water quality and clarity is excellent, wading is often safe and low summer flows can facilitate river crossings in middle and upper reaches. In some areas riparian vegetation limits access but provides ideal trout habit.

Many of the feeder streams such as the Baton, Graham, Motupiko and Wangapeka also provide good fishing. The Motueka enjoys some of New Zealand's best weather, offers pleasant and variable scenery and is less than one hour's drive from Nelson.

*Photos & design by Jacob Lucas

UPPER MOTUEKA & MOTUPIKO

The Upper Motueka & Motupiko Rivers provide a completely different fishing experience. The area runs from the Red Hills through a mixture of native, pines and farmland, with much of the lower reaches of both rivers willow lined.

This part of the catchment is prone to flooding as well as low flows, and therefore trout numbers tend to be more variable.

The Motupiko provides a 'small stream' experience, but can hold some fantastic fish, especially in the early season.

The Upper Motueka, from the Wangapeka confluence to Kohatu, can be susceptible to low, warms flows over summer, and fish often drop down to the cooler waters of the Wangapeka where they can be found in good numbers.

UPPER MOTUEKA

The Upper Motueka changes considerably upstream of the Wangapeka, and in fact, contribtes less water than the Wangapeka. From here up the river is on a wider shingle riverbed before becoming more confined further up. The trout population through this reach is far lower than the middle Motueka (at around 10-20 fish/km). The water clarity is excellent, and there are some very nice specimens to tempt the angler.

MOTUPIKO RIVER

The Motupiko is a small but very important river. Its head-water streams are some of the most important spawning areas in the Motueka catchment. The river fishes well early in the season as adult fish remain after spawning but can drop out if the river gets low. Long leaders and a stealthy approach are key to fishing

MOTUPIKO RIVER

1. SH6 Bridge at Kohatu
Drive over bridge on Western side. Access on left approximately 200m past bridge.

2. State Highway 6/Quinney's Bush
Permission required from landowner first. Phone Mark Quinney 03 522 4249.

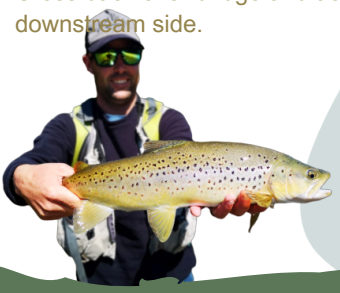
3. State Highway 6 (Long Gully)
Vehicle access down gravel road to river.

4. Korere Tophouse Road Bridge
Park on east side downstream on true right of river.

5. Korere Tophouse Road
4 km upstream from Korere Bridge. Park on left side of road away from gates. Foot access through private property.

Temporarily closed until further notice

6. Rainy River Road Bridge
Park on west bank true left upstream side of bridge. Cross back over bridge and access river on downstream side.



23. Wangapeka River Confluence
Vehicle access via Tapawera at the Tapawera Baton Road. Turn right onto Pikimai Road. Park on corner and follow track markers to river.

Temporarily closed until further notice

24. Tapawera – Baton Road
6km downstream from Tapawera Road Bridge. Park at sign.

25. Tapawera Bridge off SH61
Vehicle access to river on true right downstream of bridge.

26. Valley Road
Take North Road at junction of State Highway 6 and turn left onto Valley Road. Drive 200m south to access sign. Good vehicle access to river upstream.

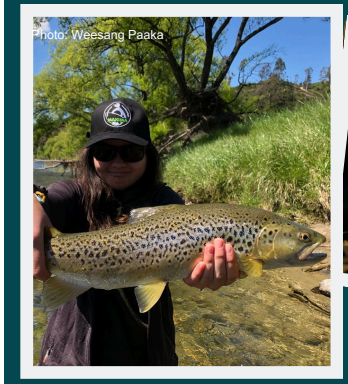
27. Opposite Gold Pine
Turn off Valley Road 3 km south of access point 27. Drive 200 m to river.

28. Valley Road
Downstream from Golden Downs Gun Club on true right. Follow track and park. Foot access approximately 500 m to river.

29. Janson Bridge
Park downstream side on east bank of bridge true right of river.

30. Motueka Gorge
Turn left after crossing Janson Bridge (Blue Glen Road) and follow gravel track to Motueka Gorge at end of road.

'True right' or 'true left' refers to the side of the river when you are facing downstream.



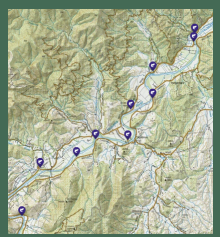
^ A typical Motueka brown trout
< Kaiva Paaka with a nice fish

WHERE TO LOOK

As well as willow edges, trout need protection from predators (including humans!) and floods. Rock structures provide this refuge - they also provide diversity in water current. Remember, brown trout are programmed to maximise food for their efforts, and that is why you will also often find them residing in slower water adjacent to faster moving water.

To find more information about fishing in the Nelson Marlborough region, or to see a more detailed map of fishing locations, visit: fishandgameaccessmap.org

SCAN ME!



WANGAPEKA RIVER

From the lowland surrounded by farming, to pristine native forest headwaters, the Wangapeka is a beautiful river made up of a number of very clear pools, runs and riffles, with plenty of structure and bedrock providing cover in numerous places.

The Wangapeka holds good numbers of fish that on average are larger than the mainstem Motueka, though you have to bring your 'A' game - these fish can be tough to catch and will be unforgiving with poor casts, or a clumsy approach.

In its headwaters, 'backpack' fishing is an option as the Wangapeka track winds its way alongside the river, offering the angler a truly backcountry experience.

1. Pikimai Bridge
Park on true right of bridge at sign, access upstream over style. Access to Wangapeka/Motueka confluence back down the road (access point 23 Upper Motueka) - walk downstream to confluence.

2. Tapawera Baton Road
1.5km upstream from Pikimai Road turnoff. Parking area true right side of river. – keep clear of gateway

3. Tapawera Baton Road
1.5km upstream. Park at access sign and follow short track to river.

4. Tapawera Baton Road
1km upstream from Cylinder Bridge. Park off road at sign. Foot access to river.

5. End of Wangapeka Plain Road
4 km upstream of Cylinder Bridge. Keep gateways clear. Park back down the road on verge at designated parking site. Stick to river edge on walk back to vehicle - keep off farm tracks.

6. Upper Wangapeka Road
Park at access sign 3 km downstream from Dart Stream Ford. Cross road and walk to river.

7. Upper Wangapeka Road
1.6 km downstream from Dart Ford. Park on hill side of road at carpark.

8. Upper Wangapeka Road
7.6 km upstream from Dart Ford. Park at gate next to road and walk through gate to river. Keep gateway clear. There is no sign here.

9. Upper Wangapeka Road
2.0 km above number 11. Turn off road and follow track to stile and park. Access is possible anywhere above this point.

10. Rolling Junction
Access to the upper Wangapeka walking track (DOC) and the Rolling River.

RIVER ETIQUETTE

If you see another angler car parked at an access point, please do not enter the river until the next access point upstream, head to another access point. Also:

- Do not park in front of gates
- Always use gates, stiles, or other recognised access points
- Be tidy! Take any rubbish home

ACCESS - Anglers seeking access to the Motueka River and tributaries other than areas identified in this pamphlet may need to gain landowners' permission first. For public access information, visit wams.org.nz

TACKLE TIP

Wangapeka trout can be notoriously tough to catch, especially as you move into the upper reaches. The fish up here are big, and big for a reason. Stealth mode is required for whatever type of fishing you're doing. If you're fly fishing, long leaders are essential. The good news is Wangapeka trout love big bugs, and will readily take insects like cicadas in summertime.

^ Weesang Paaka in action
> Blair Daniel with a stunner