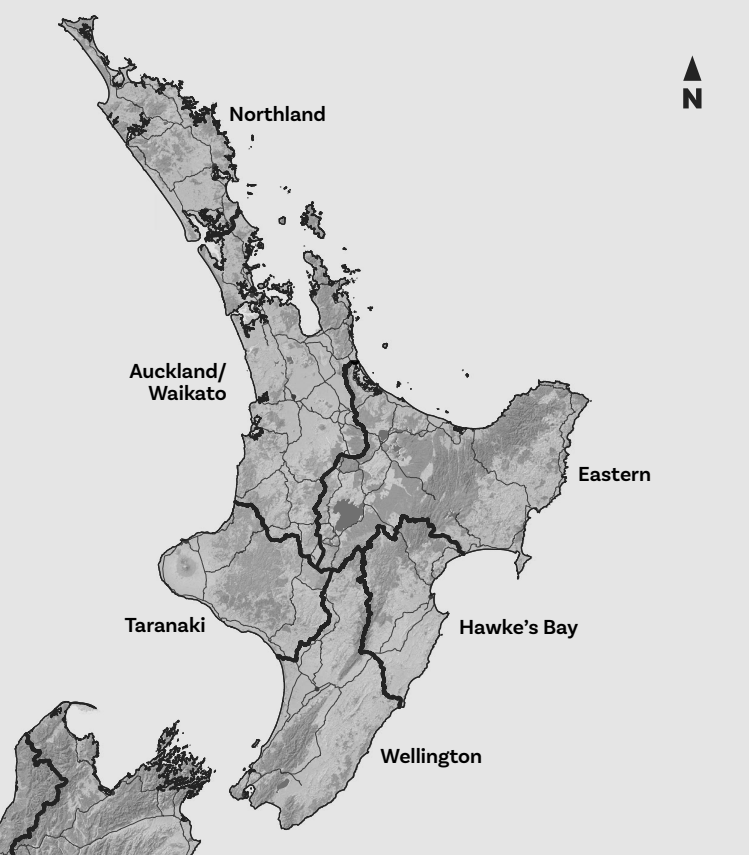
NORTH ISLAND

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND



Head Office: Level 1, Unit 2, 166 Featherston St, Wellington, 6011

Postal Address: PO Box 25055, Wellington 6146

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Email: nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

National Regulations

The Sports Fishing Regulations

These regulations are set to ensure that:

- Fish populations are maintained and that the number of fish caught does not threaten the sustainability of the fishery.
- The quality of the fishing experience is maintained.
- Spawning areas are protected.
- Angling opportunities are not unnecessarily restricted.
- Incompatible methods of fishing are kept separate.
- Anglers use sporting methods.

The main angling rules and catch limits are shown in this booklet, but there are other rules in the Conservation Act, Freshwater Fisheries Regulations and other legislation which affect sports fishing. For example, a current fishing licence is required to fish for the species listed in the First Schedule, and it must be carried with anglers at all times when fishing. The licence is to be produced upon demand by a Fish & Game Ranger.

If you are in any doubt about sports fishing regulations, please contact your local Fish & Game office.

These regulations are approved by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing on the advice of the 12 regional Fish & Game Councils. The Fish & Game licence allows an angler to fish New Zealand wide (except Taupō).

Anglers Notice

Fish & Game Regions 2026

Conservation Act 1987

Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983

Pursuant to section 26R(3) of the Conservation Act 1987, the Minister for Hunting and Fishing approves the following Anglers Notice, subject to the First and Second Schedules of this notice, for the following Fish & Game Regions:

Northland	Taranaki	North Canterbury
Auckland/Waikato	Wellington	Central South Island
Eastern	Nelson/Marlborough	Otago
Hawke's Bay	West Coast	Southland

Notice

1 Title

This is the Anglers Notice for Fish and Game Regions 2026.

2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on 1 October 2026.

3 Conditions for Sport Fishing Common to all Fish and Game Regions

(1) A person who holds a valid sports fish licence may fish in any region subject to the conditions set out in Schedule 1 of this notice.

(2) This Anglers Notice applies to sports fish which include species of Trout, Salmon, Perch and Tench (and Rudd in Auckland/Waikato Region only).

(3) Perch and Tench (and Rudd in Auckland/Waikato Region only) are also classed as coarse fish in this notice.

(4) Within coarse fishing waters (as defined in this notice), special provisions enable the use of coarse fishing methods that would otherwise be prohibited.

(5) Outside of coarse fishing waters an angler may fish for coarse fish wherever sports fishing is permitted, subject to the general provisions in this notice that apply for that region.

4 Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

(1) A person who holds a valid sports fish licence may fish in a Fish and Game Region subject to the conditions for that region set out in Schedule 2 of this notice.

5 Scope of this notice

(1) This Anglers Notice sets out the conditions under which a current sports fish licence holder or a person named on a family whole-season licence may fish for sports fish in the area to which the notice relates, being conditions relating to:

(a) The size and limit bag for any species of sports fish;

(b) Any open or closed season in any specified waters in the area, and the sports fish in respect of which they are open or closed;

(c) Any requirements, restrictions, or prohibitions on fishing tackle, methods, or the use of any gear, equipment, or device,

(d) The hours of fishing; and

(e) The handling, treatment, or disposal of any sports fish.

6 Revocation

(1) The Anglers Notice for Fish and Game Regions 2025 (2025-gs3978) that came into force 1 October 2025 is revoked.

Schedule 1

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

1. Interpretation

Words and expressions in this notice, which are defined in the Conservation Act 1987, the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, or the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2026, shall be so defined.

In this notice unless the context otherwise requires,—

Act means the Conservation Act 1987

assembled rod means a rod that is assembled from butt to tip, together with a line and lure attached

all methods means any artificial fly, or spinner or bait

artificial fly means any lure of feather, fur, wool or other material of any kind customarily used in the making of artificial flies

bait means

(a) Natural insect

(b) Natural spider

(c) Natural worm or worms

(d) Natural crustacean

(e) Natural fish, excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc), except where stated otherwise in Schedule 2 of this notice

(f) Uncoloured bread dough

(g) Any scented lure, soft bait and other synthetic imitations with chemical attractant properties except where stated otherwise in Schedule 2 of this notice

Bait assembly means either a hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks

Bait fishing means to fish for sports fish with bait

Boat means any manned flotation device

Closed means no fishing is permitted

Coarse fish means Perch, Tench (all New Zealand) and Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only)

Coarse fishing waters means named locations where anglers can fish for coarse fish with:

(a) A rod which has either a fixed or running line

(b) No restriction on the type or number of baits in use

(c) No restriction on the use of preparations to attract fish

Controlled fishery means a controlled fishery described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2026 and for which a controlled period licence is required when fishing during a controlled period

Daily bag limit means the total number of sports fish that may be taken or killed by any one person during any one day

designated waters means a designated waters fishery described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2026 or which a designated waters licence is required when fishing

fishing and **fish** in this notice means the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish; and includes any

(a) Other activity that may reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish

(b) Attempt to catch, take or harvest sports fish

(c) Operation in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition

Freshwater means:

(a) All waters of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, lagoons, wetlands, impoundments, canals, channels, watercourses, or other bodies of water whether naturally occurring or artificially made

(b) All waters of estuaries or coastal lagoons

(c) All other fresh or estuarine waters where freshwater fish indigenous to or introduced into New Zealand are found

(d) All waters in the mouth of every river or stream, and the mouth of every river and stream shall be deemed to include every outlet thereof and the seashore between those outlets and the waters of the sea or lying within a distance of 500 metres from any place

where at low tide the waters of a river or stream meet the waters of the sea

Fly fishing means to fish for sports fish with fly rod and fly reel and fly line and artificial fly

Foul hook means to hook a sports fish other than from within the mouth

Junior fishery means a named location where only a child or junior angler may fish

Landmark means a black, yellow and white ringed post or buoy

Length is the measurement from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail

Legal lure means any authorised artificial fly or spinner or bait

Sea-run Salmon waters means sea-run Salmon waters described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2026 in the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game regions and for which a sea-run Salmon licence is required when fishing for Salmon and to which the Sea-run Salmon Season Bag Limit Notes apply

Season bag limit means the total number of sports fish that may be taken or killed by any one person between 1 October in any year and 30 September in the following year

Season bag limit card means a card upon which anglers taking or killing sports fish in Fish and Game regions that have a season bag limit must legibly record the date, name of water, sex (as can best be determined by the angler), weight in kilograms and length in centimetres of the fish, and whether it was fin clipped

Spin fishing means to fish for sports fish with a spinner

Spinner means any artificial lure other than an artificial fly

Sports fish means those freshwater fish described in the Schedule 1 of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, namely:

(a) Brown Trout
(b) Rainbow Trout
(c) American Brook Trout or Char
(d) Lake Trout or Char
(e) Atlantic Salmon
(f) Quinnat or Chinook Salmon
(g) Sockeye Salmon
(h) Perch
(i) Tench
(j) Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only)
(k) Any hybrid of the above species

Zero bag limit means fishing is permitted but no fish may be kept

2. Authorised Tackle

(1) No angler shall fish for Trout or Salmon except by using a rod and running line and authorised method (as defined in clause 8 of this Schedule 1).

(2) Nets and gaffs:

(i) When playing a sports fish, a landing net may be used to secure or land that fish.

(ii) For keeping coarse fish alive, a keep net may be used in the water from which the fish was caught.

(iii) No angler shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish except where provided for in Schedule 2 of this notice.

(3) No angler when fishing for sports fish shall:

(i) Use more than 1 assembled rod and running line.

(ii) Use more than 3 artificial flies or spinners.

(iii) Use more than 1 bait assembly.

(iv) Be more than 15m from the rod being used, except where stated otherwise in Schedule 2 of this notice.

(v) Use in waters other than those where bait fishing is permitted any lure treated with any chemical preparation other than that used solely to control the buoyancy of an artificial fly, except where stated otherwise in Schedule 2 of this notice.

(vi) Use any preparation not attached to a lure to attract fish except when fishing for coarse fish in coarse fishing waters.

(4) No person shall fish for sports fish by using felt-soled waders or footwear incorporating or having attached a sole of felted, matted or woven fibrous material when sports fishing.

3 Foul Hooking of Fish

(1) No angler shall attempt to foul hook any sports fish.

(2) Any angler who foul hooks a sports fish shall return it immediately to the water with as little injury as possible.

4 Fish Length

(1) Every angler who catches a sports fish which does not exceed the specified minimum length, or exceeds the specified maximum length, shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.

5 Open Season

(1) No angler shall fish for any sports fish except during an open season.

6 Daily Bag Limit

(1) No angler shall continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day in which the angler has already killed the limit bag for that species except where provided for in Schedule 2.

(2) It shall be permissible to make up the difference between a lesser limit bag prescribed in one place and a higher limit bag prescribed in another if the extra fish are taken in the area with the higher bag limit.

7 Season Bag Limit

(1) No angler shall continue to fish for sports fish in any season in which the angler has already killed the season bag limit for that species, except where provided for in Schedule 2.

8 Authorised Methods

(1) Authorised methods (subject to any regional restrictions specified in Schedule 2) are:

(i) Artificial fly (F).

(ii) Bait (B).

(iii) Spinner (S).

Code of Conduct

Please consider the rights of others and observe the anglers code of conduct

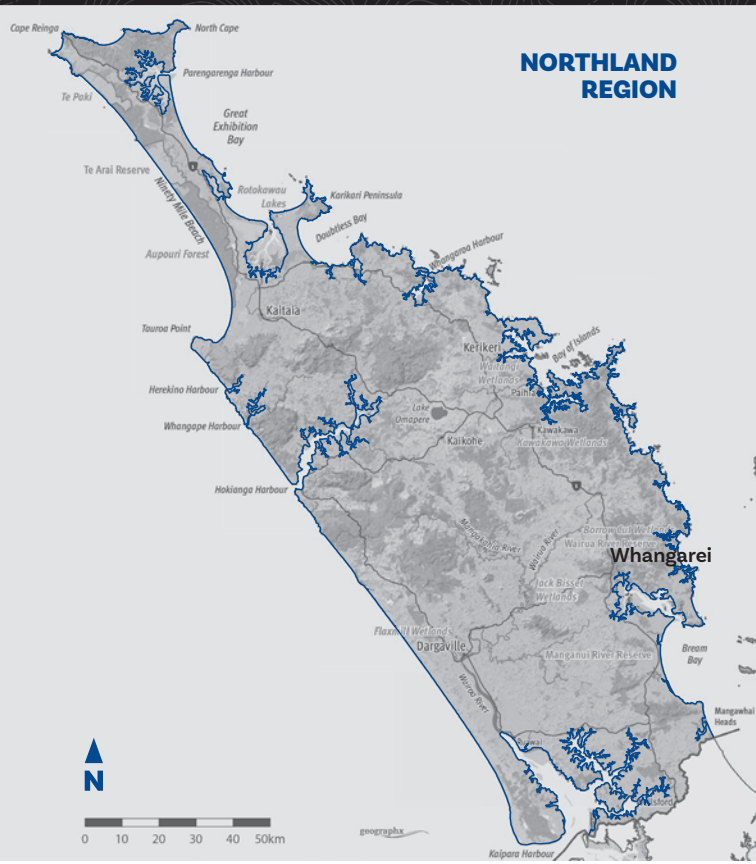
- Always ask permission from the land occupier before crossing private property unless a Fish & Game access sign is present.
- Do not park vehicles so that they obstruct gateways or cause a hazard on the road or access way.
- Always use gates, stiles or other recognised access points and avoid damage to fences.
- Leave everything as you found it. If a gate is open or closed leave it that way.
- A farm is the owner's livelihood and if they say no dogs, then please respect this.
- When driving on riverbeds keep to marked tracks or park on the bank and walk to your fishing spot.
- Never push in on a pool occupied by another angler. If you are in any doubt have a chat and work out who goes where.
- However, if agreed to share the pool then always enter behind any angler already there.
- Move upstream or downstream with every few casts (unless you are alone).
- Fish being returned to the water should be released as carefully and quickly as possible. Ideally leave the fish in the water and remove the hook with long-nosed pliers without handling the fish.
- While catch and release fishing is widely promoted by some as a conservation minded approach to angling it remains the angler's choice. However, the catching of large numbers of fish in a day can impact on individual fish and also on the angling experience for others. Fish & Game advocate hooking and landing a limited number of fish per day.
- Fish being retained should be killed as quickly as possible, ideally by spiking or stabbing the brain slightly behind and above the eye (also known as iki jime – pronounced "iki jimi").
- Always respect the environment, wildlife, other anglers and members of the public.
- Remove waste nylon and personal litter from the river banks and parking places.
- The only way we can protect our rivers in the long term is to CHECK, CLEAN and DRY all your gear before entering another river or lake anywhere in New Zealand.

Remember to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself!

NORTHLAND

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND



Northland Office: Unit A5, 7-11 Nell Place, Whangarei 0110

Phone: (09) 438 4135

Email: northland@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

Northland has a temperate climate with summer water temperatures often above the optimum range preferred by trout. As a result, freshwater fishing is to some extent limited compared to other regions further south. The Northland Fish & Game Council have liberal regulations providing maximum fishing opportunity for different types of angling experience. The region has numerous small river and stream fisheries that hold rainbow and brown trout. Rainbows are inclined to be the dominant species as they are able to tolerate the warmer water temperatures. All methods are allowed in Northland's river fisheries, and the rivers are open to fishing all year round.

Many of the headwater streams in the region are heavily wooded along the banks which keeps the water cooler in the summer months. Angler pressure on these streams is low, offering a semi-wilderness experience in some locations. Angler access to most rivers in Northland requires permission from the individual landowner before you can cross their properties. Landowners are only too willing to grant approval providing you seek prior permission, shut the gates and do not disturb stock. Anglers should check out the Walking Access New Zealand Website https://www.wams.org.nz/PublicAccessAreas/ before heading out to ensure they know where angler and public access is available.

Early spring, late autumn and the winter offers the best freshwater angling in Northland's reservoirs when the trout become more energetic in the cooler surface waters. Northland Fish & Game undertakes an annual stocking programme of hatchery reared trout into three artificial reservoirs to provide further angling opportunities. All methods are allowed in the reservoirs which are open to angling for 12 months.

Anglers who require further information can obtain access guides through the Council office, sporting goods stores and on the region's webpage www.fishandgame.org.nz



Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Northland Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The Northland Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	Except in the case of Perch and Tench, for which there is no daily limit, no angler shall on any one day take and kill or be in possession of more than the prescribed daily limit from the waters specified in the schedule.
Note 2	An angler may continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day on which the angler has already killed a limit bag for that species, as long as fish taken are immediately returned with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.
Note 3	In all waters of the region there is a minimum length of 300mm for Trout.
Note 4	No angler shall fish from or troll from any boat which is motorised.
Note 5	No angler shall fish from any boat or flotation device.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Locations	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Species	Daily bag limit by species zero bag limit unless number shown	Refer Clause 2 for Additional Requirements
Lake Manuwai	Waipapa		All year	FSB	Rainbow	3	Notes 1, 2, 3, 4
Whau Valley Dam	Whangarei		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	3	Notes 1, 2, 3, 5
Wilsons Dam	Ruakaka		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	3	Notes 1, 2, 3, 5
Ahuroa River	Waipu		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Awarua River	Twin Bridges		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kaihu River	Kaihu		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kaikanui River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kaimamaku River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kerikeri River	Kerikeri		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Kirikiritoki Stream	Hikurangi		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangahahuru Stream	Hikurangi		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangakahia River	Twin Bridges		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Mangapa River	10 km north of Okaihau		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3

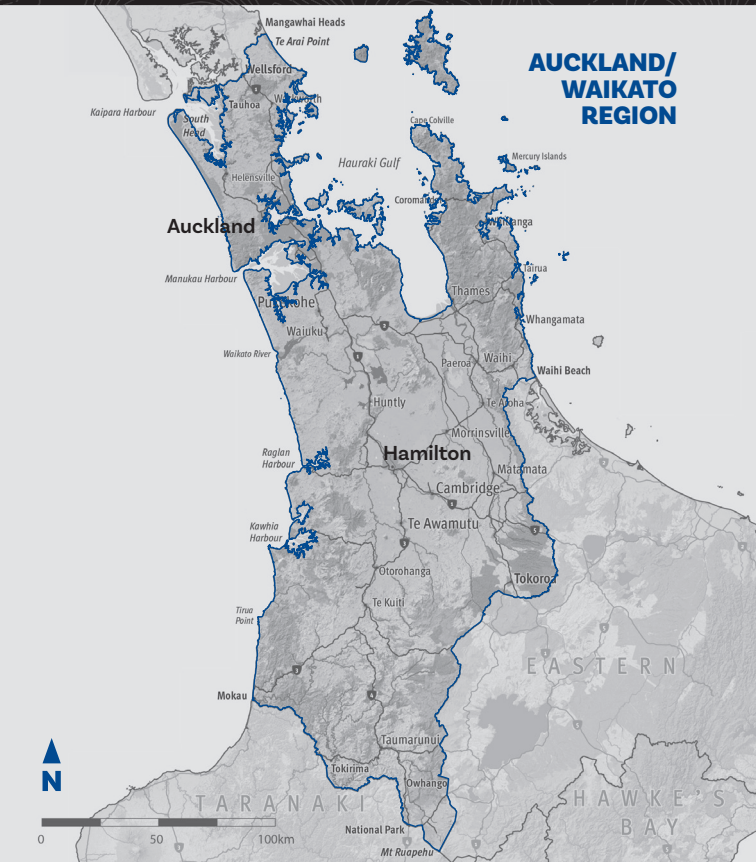
Mangatu River	Donnellys Crossing/Kaihu		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
North River	Waipu		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Opouteke River	Twin Bridges		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Punakitere River	10 km south of Kaikohe		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Tirohanga Stream	Kawakawa		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Victoria River	South of Kaitaia		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waima River	Donnellys Crossing		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waiotu River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waipapa River	10 km north of Okaihau		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Wairua River	Hikurangi, downstream of confluence of Waiotu and Whakapara Rivers		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Brown	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Waitangi River	Paihia		All year	FSB	Rainbow/ Tench	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
Whakapara River	Whakapara		All year	FSB	Rainbow	2	Notes 1, 2, 3
All other waters not listed			All year	FSB		2	Notes 1, 2, 3



AUCKLAND/WAIKATO

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND



Auckland/Waikato Office: 156 Brymer Rd, RD9, Hamilton 3289

Phone: (07) 849 1666

Email: aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

The Auckland/Waikato Region offers a wide diversity of fishing opportunities with many lake and river fisheries. Three lakes within one hour of Auckland City are regularly stocked with trout, and wild trout are present in the Mangatawhiri and Mangatangi reservoirs. There is also good trout fishing in the Coromandel Ranges with most rivers having easy access and high scenic values. Further south there are numerous spring-fed trout streams in the South Waikato, and many backcountry fisheries throughout the King Country including the headwaters of the Waipa, Whanganui, Whakapapa, and Awakino Rivers. The Waikato River has an abundant brown trout population, and the hydro-lakes provide excellent lake fishing. Coarse fisheries are present in most lakes north of Hamilton, including Lake Pupuke and Hamilton Lake. Good coarse fishing is also available in the lower Waikato and Whangamarino Rivers. Over 100 fishing locations are listed on the interactive map in the Fishing Locations and Access section of the Auckland/Waikato Region's web page.

ACCESS INFORMATION

Over 100 fishing locations in the Auckland/Waikato Region alone are marked on the Outdoor Access Maps page (www.herengaanuku.govt.nz/maps). In addition, there are detailed descriptions of 31 river sections on the Auckland/Waikato Fishing Locations and Access page. The following paper pamphlets are also available from Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game:

- Trout fishing in the Auckland/Waikato Region
- Fishing in the lakes of the Auckland/Waikato Region
- Wanganui Headwaters
- Trout fishing in the Coromandel Ranges
- Trout fishing in South Waikato spring creeks
- Coarse fishing in the Auckland/Waikato Region
- Getting started in freshwater fishing
- Waitomo and Kawhia Trout Fishing
- Trout Fishing on the Mighty Waipa
- Trout Fishing on the Waikato River



Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861, as amended by New Zealand Gazette, 29 August 1991, No. 129, page 2786, and as further amended by the New Zealand Gazette, 28 January 1993, No. 11, at page 192.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this Notice or the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1		**Closed waters**
	1.1	The following waterways are designated as closed waters: No licence holder shall take (or attempt to take) sports fish from all rivers, streams and their tributaries which flow into, but not including, Lake Arapuni, Lake Waipapa and Lake Karapiro, and that part of the Waikato River downstream of the Maraetai Dam to upstream of the Karapiro Dam.
	1.2	The closed waters restrictions in note 1.1 for this region do not apply to the Little Waipa Stream, Pokaiwhenua Stream, Mangawhio Stream, Tumai Stream, Waipapa River, or flooded backwaters of Lake Arapuni, Lake Waipapa and Lake Karapiro, and that part of the Waikato River downstream of the Maraetai Dam to upstream of the Karapiro Dam.
Note 2		**Authorised Tackle:** Scented artificial lures may be used in all waters other than fly fishing only waters, when actively fished to imitate a bait fish.
Note 3		**Bait Fishing Waters**
	3.1	No angler, when fishing in bait fishing waters, shall use as bait any fish or clam taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring.
	3.2	No angler shall transport any water taken from any waterbody, including bait buckets or live wells, to another waterway.
Note 4		**Coarse Fishing Waters**
	4.1	The following waters are designated as coarse fishing waters: Mangatawhiri River from the bridge on State Highway 2 to its confluence with the Waikato River Whangamarino River All lakes and ponds, excluding Karapiro Reservoir, Arapuni Reservoir, Waipapa Reservoir, Mangatangi Reservoir and Mangatawhiri Reservoir.
	4.2	There are no restrictions on the numbers of rods and running lines that a angler fishing for perch, tench or rudd may have, provided only one of which shall be used for fishing at any one time.
	4.3	A roach pole may be used to fish for perch, tench and rudd.
	4.4	It is an offence to kill on any day more than five tench. There is no limit for perch or rudd
Note 5		**Use of Boats:** No angler shall fish for sports fish from any vessel in the upper reaches of Lake Karapiro (upstream from the white marker post, situated 200m below the Huihuitaha Stream mouth) unless the vessel is securely anchored.
Note 6		**Hours of Fishing:** There are no restrictions on the hours of fishing in the Auckland/Waikato Region.
Note 7		**Fish Length:** There are no length restrictions in the Auckland/ Waikato Region.
Note 8		**Tagged fish:** Anglers are required to report the length and if possible, the weight of all tagged fish caught in the Auckland Waikato Region.

3. Open season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Multiple sections	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit	Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
Lakes					
Mangatangi Reservoir		All year	FS	2	Note 4
Mangatawhiri Reservoir		All year	FS	2	Note 4
All other lakes/ponds		All year	FSB	2	Note 3

Streams	Section of water	Open	Method	Limit	
Awakino River	Upstream of Mahoenui Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Kakahu Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Kaniwhaniwha Stream	Upstream of Quarry Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Kaniwhaniwha Stream	Downstream of Quarry Road	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Little Waipa Stream	Horahora Road Bridge deemed to be the mouth	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Mangaohae Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Mangatepopo Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Mangatutu Stream	Upstream of Lethbridge Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Mangatutu Stream	Downstream of Lethbridge Road	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Mangawhio Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Maramataha River		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Moakurarua Stream	Upstream of Honikiwi Road	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Ngakoaohia Stream	Upstream of Pirongia/Kawhia Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Okauaka Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Ongarue River	Upstream of Waimiha Stream confluence	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Piopiotea Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Pokaiwhenua Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Puniu River	Upstream of Seafund Road Bridge	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Tawarau River	Above power station intake	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Tumai Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Waione Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Waipa River	Upstream of State Highway 3 Bridge	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Waipapa River	Above lower falls	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Waitawheta River	Upstream of end of Franklin Road	All year	FS	2	Note 2
Whakapapa River	Upstream of 1 km upstream of Ohinetonga Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2	
Whakapapa River	downstream from 1 km upstream of Ohinetonga Rd	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	2	Note 2
Whakapapa-iti Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Whakapapa-nui Stream		All year	FS	2	Note 2
Whanganui River	upstream of Whakapapa River confluence	All year	FS	2	Note 2
All other rivers & streams		All year	FSB	2	Notes 2,3, and 4

EASTERN

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND



Please note: Eastern Region does not include Lake Taupo fisheries.

Eastern Office: c/- Ngongotaha Hatchery,
1130 Paradise Valley Road, Ngongotaha

Postal Address: Private Bag 3010, Rotorua 3046

Phone: (07) 357 5501 / 0800 434 742
Report Poaching: 0800 762 244 (0800POACHING)

Email: eastern@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

Fish & Game New Zealand's Eastern Region offers a large range of fishing opportunities for both lake and river fishing. Access to much of the fishable water in the Eastern Region has been described in a series of comprehensive informational pamphlets. These can be obtained free of charge from most licence sellers and sports shops, as well as our Rotorua office or on the Eastern Region fishing pages on the www.fishandgame.org.nz website. These pamphlets have detailed maps of their respective catchments along with labelled access points and fishing information and outline the best fishing areas and methods to use. An active access programme is also being implemented throughout the region with extensive signage and tracks to guide anglers to many fishing opportunities.

The bush clad Lakes Waikaremoana and Waikareiti of Te Urewera provide spectacular boat and shoreline fishing for both brown and rainbow trout. The rivers of the area also provide opportunities to target headwater and spawning run fish. The Ruakituri River gives anglers a chance to catch world renowned strong trout while the Waiau River offers very high catch rates.

The Bay of Plenty has a large number of spectacular river fisheries from the Waioeka River in the east through the Rangitaiki, Tarawera and Kaituna catchments to the Ngamuwahine River in the west. Lakes like Aniwhenua and Flaxy also add to the diversity of fishing opportunities. The Rotorua lakes are the central feature of the region. Shoreline fly fishing and spin fishing can result in very good catch rates while boat fishing over the summer months provides action and fun for the whole family. Most of the Rotorua lakes lack suitable spawning rivers to sustain trout populations so supplementary stocking maintains high numbers for anglers. Lake Rotorua is not stocked but has one of the highest catch rates in the district while Lake Okareka also keeps anglers happy with high numbers of good quality fish. Lakes Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti can produce trophy fish. Lakes Rotoma and Rotoehu provide experiences for those wanting to get away from the crowds, and at Rotoma, the opportunity to chase tiger trout. Lakes Rotomahana and Tikitapu also have their own special charm and local devotees, while Lake Rerewhakaaitu attracts shore-based anglers targeting deep bodied fish. Smaller lakes with secluded bays and rising trout are there for the more adventurous anglers who want to "get off the beaten track".

The Eastern Region offers diverse angler experiences, high catch rates and big fish. There is something for everyone.

PAMPHLET LIST

Comprehensive pamphlets are available for the following waters.

- The Rotorua lakes
- Lake Rotorua and tributaries
- The Waikaremoana lakes
- The Ruakituri River
- The Waioeka River
- The Wairoa Fisheries Catchment
- The Rangitaiki River System, Horomanga and Whirinaki
- The Waikato River and Waikato lakes
- Boat fishing information
- Tauranga area trout fishing

Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Eastern Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The Eastern Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

"Fly line" means any floating or sinking line used to facilitate casting that is greater than 3m in length.

"Set rod" means any assembled rod that is not in physical contact with an angler when being used to fish for sports fish.

"Landmark" means a black, yellow and white ringed pole.

"Rotorua lakes" means Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoma, Rotoehu, Rotomahana, Rerewhakaaitu, Okareka, Okataina, Okaro, Ngahewa, Ngapouri, Tarawera and Tikitapu.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1		**Closed Waters:** No angler shall fish for sports fish at any time from the following waters:
	1.1	All streams flowing into Lake Tarawera and that portion of the Tarawera River enclosed by landmarks at the Lake Tarawera Outlet and extending approximately 150m downstream to Tarawera River Foot Bridge, otherwise known as the Tarawera Outlet Spawning Sanctuary.
	1.2	The Awahou, Waiowhiro, Waiohewa, Waingaehe, Waimataa, Waikuta Streams and their tributaries.
	1.3	The Hamurana Stream upstream of the Hamurana Road Bridge.
	1.4	The Utuhina Stream upstream of the Pukehangi Road Bridge and all tributaries of this stream.
	1.5	All springs, streams and their tributaries which flow into Lake Waikareiti, and into or from Lakes Rotoma, Rotoehu, Rotomahana, Rerewhakaaitu, Rotokakahi, Okareka, Okataina and Rotoiti, except the Ohau Channel and the Kaituna River.
	1.6	The section of the Ruahihi Canal between the landmarks at the southern end of the canal which enclose the artificial spawning bed.
	1.7	Any waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, breeding, hatching, monitoring or other purposes (excepting 1.8 below).
	1.8	Ngongotaha Hatchery educational fishery (known as Children's Fishing Pond), except by special authorisation.
Note 2	**2.1**	No angler shall fish for sports fish with a set rod unless the angler is fishing from a boat.
	2.2	Scented and unscented artificial lures (known as soft baits) may be used in all waters other than fly fishing only waters. "Soft bait" means 'a soft plastic, silicon-style lure that imitates a baitfish, or invertebrate, or koura'.
	2.3	No angler shall use any soft putty-type mouldable material as a soft bait except in bait fishing waters.
	2.4	No angler shall add any chemical additive as an attractant to lures.
Note 3		No angler when fishing in bait fishing waters shall use any whole fish sourced from any water other than that where the fishing is occurring.
Note 4		Downriggers, paravanes and metal cored or wire lines are prohibited in Lakes Waikaremoana and Waikareiti.
Note 5	**5.1**	No angler shall fish for trout from any unanchored boat within 200m of a landmark.

	5.2	No angler shall fish for trout from a boat in the designated winter shoreline-fishing areas on Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina from 1 July until 1 October.
	5.3	No angler shall fish from any motorised boat or use an anchor when fishing in Lake Kaitawa or Lake Whakamarino (Tuai).
	5.4	Anchored boats should be anchored with no more than two anchors or a GPS anchor system.
	5.5	1) No boats are allowed to pass through the Tarawera Outlet Spawning Sanctuary at any time. 2) No boats are permitted under the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaws to anchor in the Ohau Channel.
Note 6		No angler shall fish for any sports fish between 12.00am and 5.00am.
Note 7	**7.1**	Minimum size limit for lakes Waikaremoana, Kaitawa, Whakamarino (Tuai) and Waikareiti, and the Rotorua Lakes and their inflowing tributary streams: 350mm.
	7.2	All other waters (excepting 7.1 above): No minimum size limit.
	7.3	Maximum size limit for Ruakituri River and tributaries upstream of Waitangi Falls: 600mm.
Note 8		No angler shall take more than 2 brown trout in a daily bag limit of 8 trout.
Note 9		Only female Trout may be taken within 200m of the Te Wairoa Stream mouth landmark at Lake Tarawera.
Note 10		There are no defined coarse fishing waters in the Eastern region.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits
F = Fly fishing, S = Spin, B = Bait

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Other	
All waters or portions of waters not specifically listed below and excepting closed waters		1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	2			Notes 1, 2, 6, 7
Aniwaniwa Stream	downstream of Aniwaniwa Falls	All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
Aniwhenua Lake and canal		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Aratiatia Lake		All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Atiamuri Lake		All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Flaxy Lake and Canal		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Hamurana Stream	downstream of Hamurana Road	All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 6, 7, 8
Horomanga River	downstream of Troutbeck Road	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Hopuruahine Stream and tributaries	upstream of the landmark pole	1 Dec - 30 Jun	F	8			Notes 2, 6, 7, 8

Hopuruahine Stream	downstream of the landmark pole	All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Kaitawa Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Kaituna River	downstream of control gates	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
McLaren Lake		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Mangamako Stream	downstream of Galatea Road	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Maraetai Lake		All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Matahina Lake		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Mokau Stream	upstream of the landmark pole	1 Dec - 30 Jun	F	8			Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
	downstream of the landmark pole	All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Motu River	upstream of State Highway 35	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 35	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Ngahewa Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Ngapouri Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7
Ngongotaha Stream	downstream of State Highway 5 Bridge	All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
Ngongotaha Stream and tributaries (excluding Waimataa)	upstream of State Highway 5 Bridge	1 Dec - 30 Jun	F	8			Notes 1, 2, 6, 7, 8
Ohau Channel	between Lake Rotorua Outlet weir and landmark approximately 200m downstream of the weir	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	8			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
	from landmark approximately 200m downstream of Lake Rotorua Outlet weir to Lake Rotoiti confluence	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Ohakuri Lake		All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Okareka Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Okaro Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7

Okataina Lake	excepting areas below	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	Winter shoreline fishing area from Te Koutu Point landmark to west of Okataina Lodge landmark extending 200m offshore	All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Otara River	downstream of Otara East Bridge	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Putere Lakes		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Rangitaiki River	downstream of Otamatea Stream confluence	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Rangitaiki Canal (Wheao)		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6 ,7
Rerewhakaaitu Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotoehu Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotoiti Lake	excepting area below	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	Winter shoreline fishing areas from Tapuaekura Bay landmark to Hinehopu landmark extending 200m offshore, and the 130m section of the SH33 shoreline between the Lake Rotoiti Control Gates at Okere Falls and the upstream end of the public jetty opposite the Okere Falls Store.	All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotoma Lake	excepting areas below	All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	Winter shoreline spawning areas between landmarks at Anaputa Point and Matahi Bay, and between landmarks in Manawahe Bay both extending 200m offshore	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotomahana Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Rotorua Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Ruahihi Canal		All year	FS	2			Notes 1, 2, 6, 7

Ruakituri River and tributaries (excluding Hangaroa)	upstream of Te Reinga Falls	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Tarawera Lake	excepting areas below	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9
	Winter shoreline fishing area from Tarawera Outlet landmark to Te Tapahoro Bay landmark and 200m offshore	All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	Winter shoreline fishing area from The Landing landmark to Otumutu Lagoon landmark and 200m offshore	All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Tarawera River	from the outlet to the Tarawera falls, excluding the spawning sanctuary	1 Oct - 31 May	F	8			Notes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
	from the falls to State Highway 2	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Tikitapu Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 6, 7
Tiniroto Lakes		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Utuhina Stream	downstream of Devon Road Bridge	All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 6, 7, 8
	upstream of Devon Road Bridge but downstream of Pukehangi Road Bridge	1 Dec - 30 Jun	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 6, 7, 8
Waikareiti Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
Waikaremoana Lake		All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Waikaretaheke River	downstream of Piripaua Powerhouse	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Waiau River	downstream of the Waikaretaheke River confluence	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Waihua Stream	downstream of Galatea Road	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Waikato River	from Huka Falls to Maraetai	All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Waikokopu Stream	downstream of Galatea Road	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Waimana River	downstream of Matahi Bridge	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Waioeka River	downstream of Tauranga Stream confluence	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7

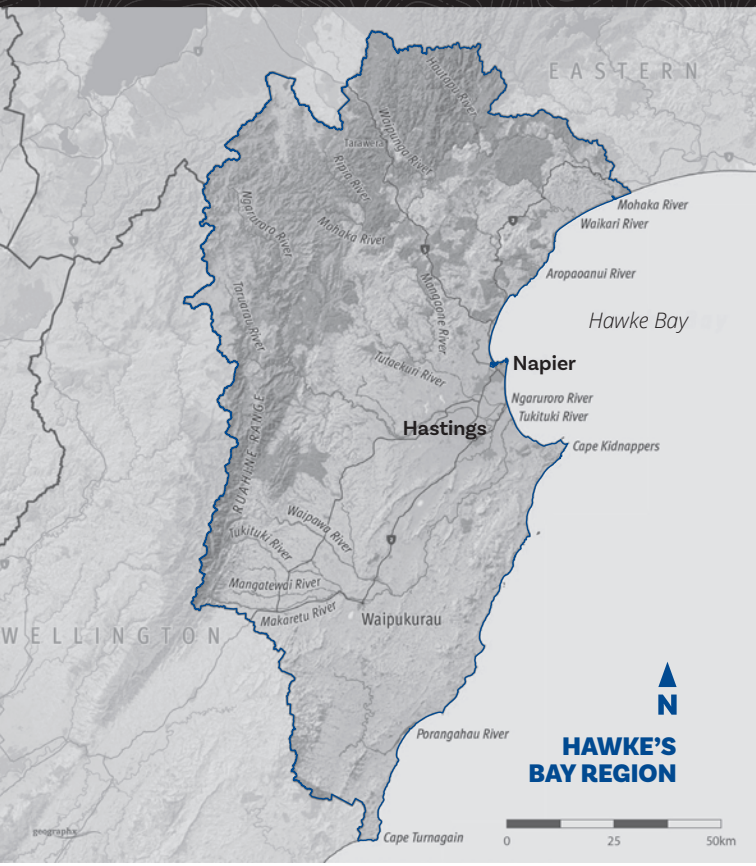
	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Wairoa River	downstream of Te Reinga Falls to State Highway 2	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Wairoa River (Tauranga)	downstream of Lake McLaren	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Waiteti Stream	downstream of Hamurana Road	All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
	upstream of Hamurana Road	1 Dec - 30 Jun	FS	8			Notes 2, 6, 7, 8
Whakamarino Lake (Tuai Lake)		All year	FS	8			Notes 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Whakamaru Lake		All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Whakatane River	downstream of Owaka Stream confluence	All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
	downstream of the State Highway 2 Bridge	All year	FSB	No limit			Notes 2, 3, 6, 7
Wheao River		All year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
Whirinaki River	downstream of Whirinaki Road	All Year	FS	2			Notes 2, 6, 7
All waters or portions of waters not specifically listed below and excepting closed waters		1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	2			Notes 1, 2, 6, 7



HAWKE'S BAY

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND



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Email: hawkesbay@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

The Hawke's Bay offers a huge range of angling opportunities, with some of the best and easiest access in the country. The region's rivers provide some spectacular headwater fishing as well as year-round lowland angling. Lake Tutira is the major lake fishery in the region. The fish provide excellent sport to both shore based and rowboat trolling anglers. The major river systems in the region are the Mohaka, Tutaekuri, Ngaruroro, Waipawa and Tukituki, all of which have comprehensive angler access pamphlets to assist anglers (see below). Both brown and rainbow trout are prevalent throughout the region. The dry fly fishing on the Tukituki, along with its many tributaries is a major attraction during the heat of the summer months as fish feed on the surface. The Ngaruroro and Mohaka River headwater wilderness fisheries are nationally rated and offer anglers the chance to catch trophy sized fish in gin clear waters. The middle and lower reaches of the region's rivers are easily accessible from a variety of public roads and provide anglers with vast amounts of fishable water.

ANGLER ACCESS PAMPHLET LIST

Comprehensive angler access pamphlets are available from licence agents, information centres, Fish & Game offices and the web for the following waters.

- Tukituki/Waipawa Rivers and tributaries
- Ngaruroro River Fishery
- Mohaka River Fishery
- Tutaekuri River Fishery
- Northern Hawke's Bay/Tutira Lake Fisheries

Lake Hawkston Fishing Access:

- Fishing is permitted only in daylight hours at Lake Hawkston. There is walk in access only. Please phone Dave McPhee 0275 422 665 prior to access of lake.



Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1		**Use of Motorised Crafts**	
	1.1	No angler may fish from a motorised craft on Lake Waikopiro.	
	1.2	Only boats that are propelled by sails, oars, or paddles can be used by an angler to fish in Lake Tūtira	
Note 2		Fishing is permitted only in daylight hours at Lake Hawkston.	
Note 3		**Fish Length**	
	3.1	Esk River (Waiohinganga) above the Waipunga Road Bridge, including tributaries	550mm maximum
	3.2	Maraetotara Stream	350mm maximum
	3.3	Ngaruroro River upstream of Whanawhana cable, including tributaries	550mm maximum
	3.4	Lakes Tūtira and Waikopiro	350mm minimum
	3.5	All other waters	No minimum or maximum size limit

3. Open season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species	Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
All waters or portions of waters not specifically listed below		1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
Larger of Twin Lakes (Rotoroa), Kuripapango		All year	FS	No limit	Note 3
Lake Hawkston		1 Nov - 31 Mar	FS	1	Notes 2, 3
All other lakes of the region (except the larger of Twin Lakes & Lake Hawkston above)		All year	FS	2	Notes 1, 3
Aropaoanui River	downstream of the landmark opposite Wareham Road	All year	FSB	1	Note 3
Esk River/ Waiohinganga	upstream of Waipunga Road Bridge and all tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	downstream of Waipunga Road Bridge	All year	FS	1	Note 3
Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council's Burness Road Ponds		All year	FSB	1	Note 3
Karamu Stream, excluding tributaries		All year	FSB	2	Note 3

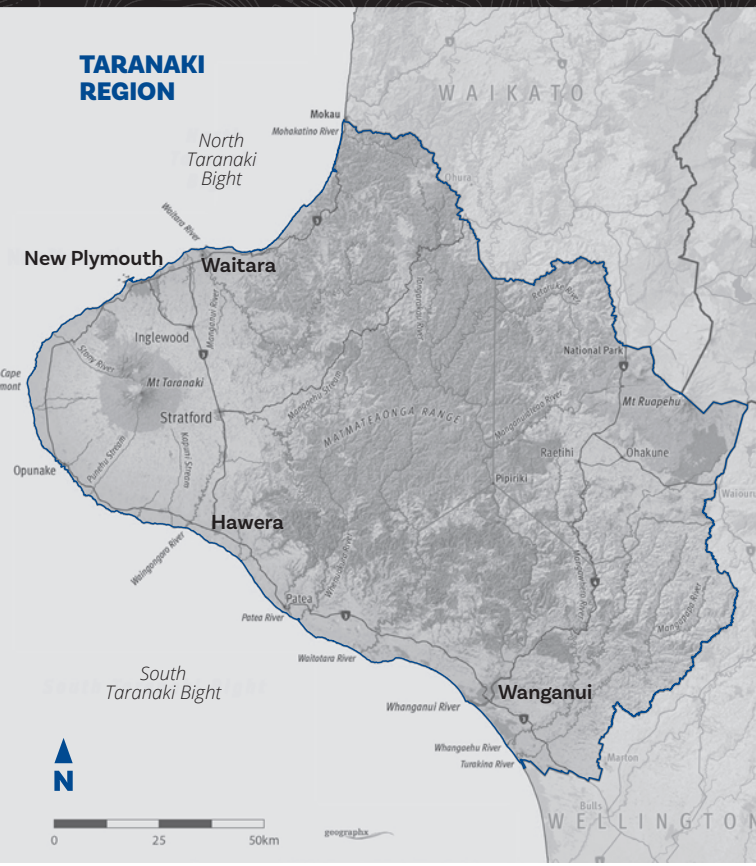
Maraetotara Stream		All year	FS	1	Note 3
Mohaka River	downstream of the confluence with the Mangatainoka River to State Highway 5, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
	downstream of State Highway 5 Bridge	All year	FS	2	Note 3
Mohaka River tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
Ngaruroro River	upstream of Kiwi Creek confluence, including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	from Kiwi creek to Whanawhana cable, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
	Whanawhana cable to Fernhill (Omahu) Bridge, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
	downstream of Fernhill (Omahu) Bridge	All year	FSB	2	Note 3
Ngaruroro River tributaries	upstream of Whanawhana cable	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	downstream of Whanawhana cable	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
Porangahau River	downstream of confluence with the Mangawhero Stream, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	1	Note 3
Tukituki River	upstream of State Highway 50 Road Bridge, excluding tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	State Highway 50 Road Bridge to Red Bridge, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Notes 3
	downstream of Red Bridge	All Year	FSB	2	Note 3
Tutaekuri River	downstream of confluence with the Mangaone to Redclyffe (EIT) Bridge Stream, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	1	Notes 3
	downstream of Redclyffe (EIT) Bridge	All year	FSB	1	Note 3
Waipawa River	upstream of State Highway 50 Road Bridge, excluding tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	downstream of State Highway 50 Road Bridge, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
Waipunga River	downstream of the falls, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3



TARANAKI

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND



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SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

Many Taranaki trout fisheries have their source within either Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki (formerly Egmont National Park) or Tongariro National Parks and provide a high-quality angling experience in a scenic and un-crowded environment. In the west more than 40 small to medium sized trout streams radiate from the base of Taranaki Maunga offering a diversity of angling opportunity. These streams provide quality 'sight fishing' for large brown trout, while rainbow trout fishing is also available in several lakes, in the Waingongoro River between Eltham and the sea and in the Kaupokonui Stream. Further to the east within the Ruapehu district are some of the most productive rivers in the region including the Mangawhero River and also the Manganuioteao River, which is a nationally important brown and rainbow trout fishery offering a quality backcountry angling experience. Finally, for something different or as a great way to introduce children to fishing, Whanganui has a number of lakes that provide easy fishing for perch within a few minutes of the city.

ACCESS INFORMATION

For the most comprehensive and up to date information on river and lake specific access and fishing techniques please refer to the fishing pages for the Taranaki Region at www.fishandgame.org.nz



Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Taranaki Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The Taranaki Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, at page 1861.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	**1.1**	Schedule 1 conditions apply.
	1.2	There are no restrictions on the hours of fishing.
	1.3	There is no minimum length for Trout.
	1.4	There are no defined coarse fishing waters in the Taranaki Fish and Game Region.
	1.5	Scented artificial lures may be used in waters where spin fishing is permitted (FS) when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish.
	1.6	No angler shall use as bait any fish taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring.
Note 2		In the Hangatahua (Stony) River no Brown Trout may be taken.
Note 3		No angler shall fish for sports fish from a boat in Lake Mangamahoe, including the Waiwhakaiho Inlet.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits - Regional Defaults

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Perch	
All lakes, rivers and streams not mentioned in clause 4 for this region		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1

4. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Perch	
Taranaki/Whanganui							
Huatoki Stream	downstream of Brois Street Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Kai Auahi (Kaiauai) Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	1		Note 1
Kapuni Stream	upstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	1		Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FS	2	1		Note 1
Kaūpokonui Stream	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Lake Kohata		All year	FSB			No limit	Note 1

Lake Mangamahoe	excluding the Waiwhakaiho Inlet and Mangamahoe Stream	All year	F	2			Note 1, 3
	Waiwhakaiho Inlet upstream of the normal site of a landmark located just upstream of the confluence with Lake Mangamahoe	1 Oct - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1, 3
	Mangamahoe Stream upstream of the walkway swing-bridge at the head of Lake Mangamahoe	1 Oct - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1, 3
	Any tributary other than Waiwhakaiho Inlet and Mangamahoe Stream	All year	F	2			Note 1, 3
Lake Namunamu		All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Lake Ngangana		All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Opunake		All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Lake Ratapiko		1 Oct - 30 Apr and 1 June - 30 Sep	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Rotokare		All year	FSB			No limit	Note 1
Lake Rotomanu		All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Rotorangi	downstream of Mangamingi Bridge	All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Wiritoa		All year	FSB			No limit	Note 1
Manganui River	downstream of Bristol Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Mangaoraka Stream	downstream of State Highway 3 Devon Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Patea River	downstream of Patea Dam	All year	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1
Hangatahua (Stony) River		All year	FS	2 rainbow Trout zero Brown Trout	1		Note 1, 2
Waiaua River	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Waingongoro River	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Waiongana Stream	downstream of State Highway 3 Devon Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Waitara River	downstream of Manganui River confluence	All year	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1
Waiwhakaiho River	downstream of the normal site of a landmark that is at the end of Rimu Street extension walking track	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1

Te Ikaparua (Warea) River	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Whanganui River	downstream of Ohura River confluence excluding tributaries	All year	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1
Virginia Lake		Closed to fishing					

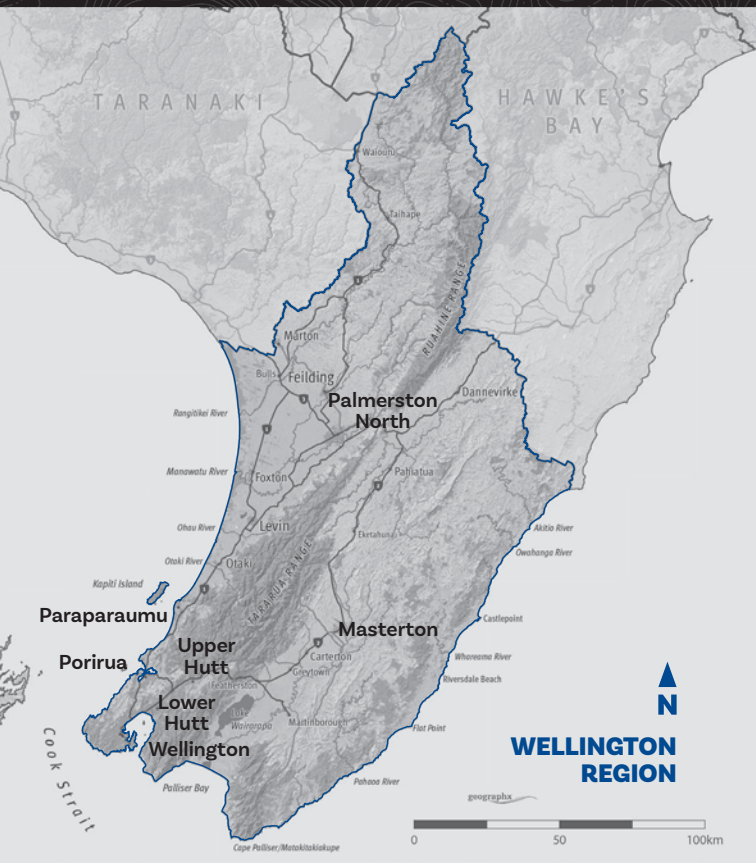
Waimarino							
Manganuioteao River	downstream of Ruatiti Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
	mainstem from Ruatiti Road Bridge upstream to confluence with Makatote River	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Mangawhero River	downstream of Raetihi - Ohakune Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Retaruke River	downstream of Oio Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Sattlers Dam		All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Tokiahuru Stream	downstream of State Highway 49 Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Waitaiki Stream	downstream of State Highway 49 Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1



WELLINGTON

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND



Wellington Office: 292 Featherston Street, Palmerston North 4410

Postal Address: PO Box 1325, Palmerston North 4440

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SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

The Wellington Region encompasses the area roughly from Waiouru, across to Norsewood and south to Cook Strait. It includes four large river catchments: the Rangitīkei, Manawatū, Ruamāhanga, and Te Awa Kairangi (Hutt) which provide great opportunities for principally brown trout river fishing. An extensive range of local angling opportunities ranges from spectacular wilderness backcountry streams in the Kaimanawa, Ruahine, or Tararua Forest Parks to highly productive rivers on the doorstep of urban centres of Wellington, Masterton, and Palmerston North.

For more information on angling access, scan the QR code.

Upper Rangitīkei River Designated Waters Licence

This licence is available to all anglers with a Whole Season or Family Season fishing licence. The Designated Waters licence can be obtained online www.fishandgame.org.nz, whereupon an individual licence will be issued. The Designated Waters licence must be carried with you at all times while fishing, along with your Whole Season or Family Fishing licence. For further information phone 06 359 0409.

Lake Waitawa Fishing Access:

To access Lake Waitawa (Forests Lakes), please contact Forest Lakes Camping and Conference Centre (06) 364 8218 for permission.



Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Wellington Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The Wellington Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	**1.1**	Except in the case of Perch, for which there is no daily limit, no angler shall on any one day take and kill or be in possession of more than the prescribed daily limit from the waters specified in the schedule.
	1.2	Scented artificial lures may be used in fly fishing and spin fishing waters, when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish.
Note 2		**Coarse Fishing Waters:** The following waterways are designated as course fishing waters:
	2.1	Lake Waitawa (Forest Lakes) (catch and release).
	2.2	Wairarapa Moana.
	2.3	Upper and Lower Whitby Lakes (catch and release).
Note 3		**Designated waters:**
	3.1	No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.
	3.2	No angler shall take or be in possession of any sports fish greater than 550 mm in length from the Rangitīkei River Designated Water.
Note 4		Wairarapa Moana means the waters within the Lake Wairarapa Wetland Conservation Area, the Owhanga Landing Reserve, the Matthews & Boggy Pond Wildlife Reserve, the Ruamāhanga Cut-off Wildlife Reserve, the Allsops Bay Wildlife Reserve and the Wairarapa Lake Domain management reserve.

3. Open season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species	Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
All waters or portions of waters not specifically listed below		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Note 1
All coastal dune lakes		All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Henley Lake		All Year	FSB	2	Note 1
Hokowhitu Lagoon (also known as Centennial Lagoon)		All Year	FSB	Rainbow or Brown Trout 2	Note 1
Kawhātau River		All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Kourarau Dam (Upper) Reservoir, except all inflowing streams		All year	FSB	Rainbow or Brown Trout 2 Tench no limit	Note 1
Lake Waitawa (Forest Lakes)		All year	FSB	Tench 0	Note 1, 2

Mākākahi River	downstream of the State Highway 2 road bridge at Eketahuna	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Manawatū River	downstream of the Maunga Road Bridge (upstream of Dannevirke)	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Mangahao River	downstream of Marima Reserve Bridge	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Mangaone River (a tributary of the Tiraumea River)		All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Mangatainoka River	downstream of Scarborough-Konini Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Moawhango River		All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Ōhau River		All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Oroua River	downstream of Ruahine Forest Park boundary	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Ōtaki River	downstream of Tararua Forest Park boundary	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Ōtaki Winstone Quarry lakes		All year – weekends only	FSB	2	Note 1
Pohangina River	downstream of Piripiri Bridge	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Rangitīkei River	**Designated Water** Rangitīkei River upstream of Ohinewaione Stream confluence (about 9 river kilometres upstream of the Springvale Bridge), including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Note 1, 3
Rangitīkei River	downstream of the Matawhero Road Bridge (commonly called the Mangaohane Bridge)	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Ruamāhanga River	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Tauwharernīkau River	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Te Awa Kairangi (Hutt) River		All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Tiraumea River		All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Waingawa River	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Waiōhine River	downstream of State Highway 2	All year	FSB	2	Note 1
Wairarapa Moana		All year	FSB	2	Notes 1, 2, 4
Whitby Lakes		All year	FSB	Tench: 0	Note 1, 2

