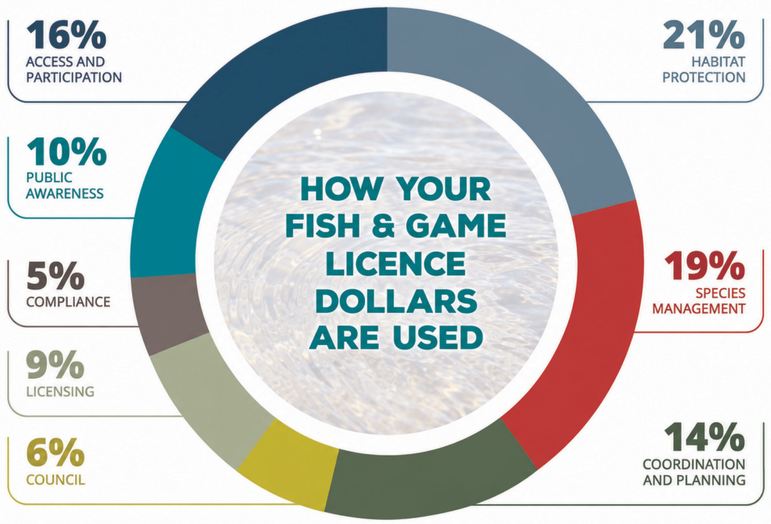
# WE'RE WORKING HARD FOR OUR ANGLERS
















**Here's a brief overview of the work Fish & Game NZ does on your behalf, to benefit your fisheries and your fishing opportunities:**

**Species Management: 19% -** Monitoring and surveying species populations; setting season regulations; managing pressure on the resource.

**Habitat Protection: 21% -** Protecting and enhancing lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands; RMA issues and advocating against consents which impact on valued habitats.

**Access and Participation: 16% -** Negotiating and advocating access for licence holders; maintaining a network of access signage, information and brochures; organising special fishing and hunting days.

**Public Awareness: 10% -** Maintaining public advocacy; novice angler programmes; website and newsletters; community liaison; promoting the right of licenced anglers and game bird hunters to pursue their chosen pastime.

**Compliance: 5% -** Recruiting, training, equipping and coordinating voluntary rangers, and enforcing regulations to ensure the fish and game resource is sustained.

**Licensing: 9% -** Providing a nationwide licensing system with a range of licence categories and sales channels that makes it easy to buy a licence.

**Council: 6% -** Holding regular public meetings of elected councillors to approve regulations and budgets, set policies and provide governance for the Fish & Game system run by licence holders.

**Coordination and Planning: 14% -** Providing research, planning, reporting and accountability requirements; financial management and general coordination across the organisation.

## LOOKING FOR A FISHING BUDDY OR MENTOR?



*Photo: Andrew Harding*

Clubs are a great way of meeting experienced anglers who have a wealth of knowledge to share or take you under their wing if you need some guidance. If you're interested in finding out more about a club in your region, get in touch:

**Hutt Valley Angling Club** - www.huttvalleyangling.org.nz
Al Markham: 027 345 3383

**Kapiti Flyfishing Club** - www.kapitiflyfishing.org.nz
Wayne Butson: 0274 962 461

**Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club** -
Email Doug Kidd: *manawatufreshwateranglersclub@gmail.com*

**Horowhenua Freshwater Anglers Club**
John Davenport: Email: *olport@windowslive.com*

**Wairarapa Fish & Game Club**
Craig Third: *craig.third@email.com*

**Wellington Flyfishers Club** - www.wellingtonflyfishers.org
Email Strato Cotsilinis: *strato.cotsilinis@gmail.com*

**Inglewood Rod, Gun and Recreational Club**
*inglewoodrgrc@gmail.com*



WELLINGTON AND TARANAKI FISH & GAME www.fishandgame.org.nz

SPRING 2026 - ISSUE 30

# ANGLING NEWS

## SEASON OFF TO A SENSATIONAL START!



*Photo: Hamish Carnachan*

As we head into summer and warmer weather, anglers across the Wellington and Taranaki Fish & Game regions have plenty of reasons to dust off their rods, check their tackle boxes and head for the water. From the rivers and streams flowing off the Tararua and Ruahine ranges, Ruapehu and Taranaki maunga, to the region's lakes and smaller backcountry waters, there has already been some great fishing with many anglers commenting on the number of trout around and excellent condition they're in.

And there's plenty more to look forward to in the months ahead. Following regular snowfall events in the ranges and mountains last winter, including a recent dump in mid-October, environmental conditions are set up perfectly for the regions' fisheries with cool water and good flows. Now that the warmer weather and longer days have arrived, there are more opportunities to get out on the water. Whether casting a fly to rising brown trout in the backcountry, drifting a nymph through promising runs or spinning lures in a handy river, there's been plenty of action so far.

We haven't even hit the best part of the season yet, and the fishing is running hot with excellent catches in the mainstem rivers. Trout are chasing whitebait in the lower reaches and in some areas we're seeing fish taking dry flies, which is super early! With good flows and occasional small freshes, spin and soft bait angling have also been successful. The new season has plenty on offer so don't miss out – get out there and enjoy it!

## DON'T LET COST CRUNCH CURTAIL YOUR ANGLING




For just a few dollars a week, a Fish & Game licence delivers food, well-being, and unlimited outdoor experiences – making it one of the smartest investments you can make in tough times. Benefits of buying a licence speak for itself:

- Value for money – year-round fishing for much less than a cup of coffee or beer every week.
- Feeding the family – the price of protein from the supermarket is now exorbitant; catch your own healthy food and cut the grocery bill.
- Mental health – fishing is a scientifically proven way to unwind during stressful times.
- Protect what you love – your licence contributes directly to habitat and fisheries protection, and access to public waterways.
- Return on investment – the more you fish, the cheaper it becomes; and your licence encourages you to make the most of local angling resources.

## GRAB YOUR LICENCE ONLINE

If you've already bought your Whole Season Licence, we'd like to sincerely thank you. Not only is it your passport to adventure, you're making a direct contribution to the freshwater angling resource and investing in the future of the pursuit you love.

If you haven't got yours, grab it online the quick and easy way - scan the QR code (it only takes a few minutes) and get into the action.

**WELLINGTON AND TARANAKI FISH & GAME REGIONS**

Wellington: P.O. Box 1325, Palmerston North 4440 Ph: 06 359 0409 I Email: wellington@fishandgame.org.nz
Taranaki: P.O. Box 662 New Plymouth 4340 Ph: 06 757 9676 I Email: taranaki@fishandgame.org.nz

# HELPING YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

We want to help you have a successful 2026-27 season, so we have created a new Fishing Knowledge Hub - a one-stop, online home for everything freshwater fishing. Whether you are picking up a rod for the first time or you have fished our rivers and lakes for years, there is something for you. It brings together practical, easy-to-follow guides covering:

- Where to fish.
- Choosing your gear and reading the water.
- Techniques from spin and fly fishing, through to boat fishing.
- Preparing your catch for the table.

A growing library of 'how-to' videos sits alongside the guides, with more being added over time. New to freshwater fishing or after handy tips and info? We've got you covered. Everything you need for freshwater fishing in New Zealand, all in one place. Scan the QR code to start schooling up.

For those who prefer hard copies, we've got lots of info available including access brochures for the main river systems. Get in touch with either the Wellington or Taranaki offices if you'd like any of these (contact details on the cover).



*Photo: Hamish Carnachan*

# REGULATION CHANGES

If you haven't been out yet this season, check the relevant fishing regulations by scanning the QR code. At a glance…

**Taranaki Fish & Game:**

- No changes to the regs for the 2026-27 season.

**Wellington Fish & Game**

- All waters in the region are open to all legal methods (fly, spin, bait) except for the Rangitīkei Designated Waters Fishery which remains fly and spin only.
- There is now a universal two-fish daily bag limit for sports fish (except perch and tench) for all waterways in the region.
- Size limits remain in place for the Rangitīkei Designated Waters Fishery; no size restrictions for all other waterways in the region.

# FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

For all the latest news and updates throughout the season, including fishing reports and results of the work we've been carrying out – such as drift dive counts etc. - be sure to find Wellington and Taranaki Fish & Game on Facebook and follow us.

# GREAT PRIZES UP FOR GRABS IN OUR PHOTO COMP!

Our photo competition is back again for 2026-27 with an even bigger prize pack on offer. Once again, we've got some fabulous support from Hunting & Fishing Wairarapa who have put up a $300 voucher, and Want 2 Catch More Trout has come on board with an array of flies and branded T-shirts.

Details on how to enter are in our weekly fishing report – the Lower North Lowdown (scan the QR code to sign up if you aren't already receiving it). The Lower North Lowdown has details of weather and river conditions, tips, news and regional updates, emailed to you on Thursday each week throughout the season to help you plan your weekend fishing adventures.




*Photo: Andrew Harding*



# SAVE ON TRAVEL COSTS - FIND SPOTS CLOSE TO HOME

*Photos: Andrew Harding*



One of the features of the trout fishing in the lower North Island is that you don't have to travel far to find quality angling. In fact, throughout the Wellington and Taranaki Fish & Game regions, there are literally hundreds of top-quality rivers, streams and lakes either in town and city centres, or no more than a short drive or bike ride away.

The price of fuel still stings, and the cost of living is something we're forced to consider daily, but it doesn't have to curtail your angling this season. Plan your fishing trips wisely and you can experience some awesome action. We've made planning your fishing close to home a whole heap easier with our web-based angler access platform. It combines all the established fishing access points, on all the key waterways across the country, in a simple-to-use and interactive map.

Scan the QR to start exploring. You'll be able to find access points close to where you live by panning around the map, zooming in and clicking on the access icons for more details. Another useful tool for those looking to explore new or potential fishing spots is the Walking Access Mapping System (https://www.herengaanuku.govt.nz/maps).

The high-resolution satellite imagery on WAMS gives good insight into what a particular stream or river looks like, and hence it's potential to hold fish. Avid anglers can discover all sorts of likely locations by investigating side-streams off main rivers.

For those waterways where there is no marked angler access signage, layers on the WAMS platform identify public land parcels such as DOC estate, esplanade reserves, easements and, in some cases, hydro layers. WAMS lends itself more to anglers looking for fishing away from the beaten track, while the Fish & Game platform is super handy for identifying easy access points for the main fisheries close to where you live. Both will serve you well this season as you start planning your next angling adventure.

# FISHING HANDY TO HOME

*Photo: Andrew Harding*

Anglers in the lower North Island are luckier than most, in that you don't have to travel very far to find quality trout fishing.

**WELLINGTON FISH & GAME REGION:**

- **Hutt River** – right on the doorstep of the capital and neighbouring cities.
- **Ruamahanga River** – middle reaches are just 10 minutes' drive from any of the four Wairarapa towns.
- **Manawatū River** – fished superbly last season and flows right through Palmerston North.
- **Rangitīkei River** – fishing really well this season; close to many smaller towns with 20 public access points along its length.

**TARANAKI FISH & GAME REGION:**

- **Waiwhakaiho River** – flows right through New Plymouth and is already fishing well this season.
- **Lake Mangamahoe** – a short drive from New Plymouth; holds quality browns and rainbows in a scenic setting (fly fishing only).
- **Waingongoro River** – holds good numbers of brown trout in the headwaters close to Stratford and Eltham, and a productive brown and rainbow fishery in the mid and lower reaches for Hawera anglers.
- **Patea River** – the upper rivers is another great quick-session option for Stratford and Eltham anglers, holding both browns and rainbows.