

From the sea to Waimarama Road bridge the Tukituki River is wide with a low gradient. Water clarity is often poor. Trout will be found throughout this section with many smaller rainbows in the long runs and larger trout under the willows. In the tidal zone both resident and sea run trout feed on whitebait and other baitfish. Trout feed voraciously on the whitebait that run up the river from September to November. This can be an exciting time for spin or fly fishing.

Photograph by Brad Parkes



LOWER TUKITUKI RIVER

The Tukituki River normally runs clear with moderate flows. For a period of time during winter and spring, waters rise and discolor from heavy rain and snowmelt on the ranges. Summer flows can get low, and water temperatures warm, resulting in weed growth in the slower sections forcing trout into fast or deep areas and into cold water tributaries. Sections of the Tukituki bed often change after high flows. While this means your favourite piece of water may change, with a little effort you will quickly locate new productive areas. Sections of the riverbed with lots of aquatic insects under the stones. Willow-lined banks, papa shelves and deep pools will consistently hold trout. The Tukituki is a superb fly fishing river with trout rising to mayfly hatches during the day in winter and spring, on humid summer evenings, and to caddis after dark in the summer. Nymph fishing the endless ripples and runs can result in some outstanding fishing. Waters are clear enough to stalk trout and you never know when you will bump into a large brown trout in a secluded backwater.

GENERAL TUKITUKI FISHING INFORMATION

Tukituki River Fishery



Photograph by Dave Herra



Hawke's Bay Region



Upper Tukituki River Photograph by Dave Herra

Upstream from the Tukituki River confluence the river is small and willow-lined. Sight fishing with light fly and spin fishing away.

UPPER TUKITUKI RIVER

From Waimarama Road bridge to the Tukituki River confluence the Tukituki River offers a huge variety of fishing. There are plenty of fast runs that are ideal for spin or nymph fishing, larger pools and willow-lined banks that hold big brown trout. Mayfly hatches are common throughout the day in summer. Slight fishing is possible in normal flows with trout moving constantly through this section to/from upper reaches. The river is wide in places and braided and can change frequently throughout the year although productive water is never far away.

MIDDLE TUKITUKI RIVER



Typical Tukituki River Scene Photograph by Heather McKenzie

REGULATIONS

Refer to topographical maps NZMS 260 V21, 22 & U 21, 22.

The limit bag for both the Waipawa and Tukituki (including tributaries) is two trout (brown or rainbow) per person per day.

Both the Tukituki and Waipawa downstream of the SH50 road bridges, excluding tributaries, are open to fishing all year.

The upper reaches of the Tukituki and Waipawa (above SH50) and all tributaries are open from 1 October to 30 April.

Regulations may change, and anglers should read the sports fishing guide for the current regulations.



Photograph by Brad Parkes

The Waipawa River is the largest tributary and provides 50km of productive water. It is a smaller version of the Tukituki with a similar range of fishing opportunities. The Mangaoanuku Stream runs into the river just above Waipawa. This medium sized stream is easy to fish and holds good trout especially early and late in the summer. The Tukituki River joins the Waipawa above the Waipukurau township. Easily waded, this river is also best fished early or late in the summer. The Makaretu, Mangatatura, Makaroro, Maharakeke, Tangarewai, Kahahakuri, Mangatewai and Papanui Streams are all well worth exploring.

TRIBUTARIES

The Tukituki River has a number of tributaries that are excellent fisheries and well worth exploring. They are prime trout spawning waters attracting large mature fish during autumn and winter. Many of these fish stay on into the spring until low flows force them back into the main river. Some tributaries are sources of cold water during hot summers and attract a large number of trout.

gear is the most successful way to fish this area. There is not generally a high density of trout in this section, but the surroundings and solitude will make it worth the effort.

Tukituki River Fishery

The Tukituki River is the most frequently fished and accessible river in the Hawke's Bay Region providing over 300km of highly productive water. The river originates in the Ruahine Range behind Waipukurau, flowing across Hawke's Bay before entering the sea at Haumoana. Wading is safe and access easy to all parts of this river. The riverbed is predominantly gravel with a braided course that often changes after flooding. Gradient is low with flows moderate. Scenery is typical rural Hawke's Bay dry hill country with contrasting lush river flats and willow-lined riverbanks. All types of fly-fishing and spin fishing are successful in the wide range of pools, runs, backwaters and tributaries available. Rainbow trout, often in high numbers, average 1kg and brown trout 1.5kg with trophy sized specimens up to 5kg caught annually. There are vast areas of the Tukituki River that anglers can legally access to fish. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council owns and administers large sections of the river, which are available for public access. In addition Fish and Game New Zealand has negotiated access with landowners across some areas of private land. Please respect this privilege by leaving gates as you find them and avoid disturbing stock.



Hawke's Bay Region

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- 21. MCKENZIE ROAD**
4km up Kahuranaki Road from Rochfort Road. An unformed public road leads to the river. The road is maintained by the adjacent landowner. Please notify the landowner that you wish to use the road and be aware of any farming operations in the area at the time. Either visit the house or phone 06-874-7613.
- 22. BLIND ROAD**
Foot access is available from the road end via a farm track.
- 23. ROCHFORD ROAD**
Access via double gates approximately 1km from the Kahuranaki Rd intersection. This is the top of the Wildlife Refuge. No dogs below here.
- 24. KAHURANAKI ROAD**
There are a number of access points along the road. Most landowners allow angler access as long as you ask first. Wildlife Refuge, no dogs.
- 25. WAIMARAMA ROAD BRIDGE**
Access via a gravel track on the true right, immediately upstream of the bridge. The track goes a short distance downstream, under the bridge. This is the bottom of the Wildlife Refuge, no dogs above here.
- 26. WAIMARAMA ROAD (SMALLS)**
Access is via the cattle yards approximately 1km downstream of the Waimarama Road Bridge on Waimarama Road. There are rough vehicle tracks, both up and downstream, and good walking access. This area has extensive reaches of papa bedrock that can be very slippery during the summer.
- 27. RIVER ROAD**
Hastings District Council Riverlands Park is at the end of the road. Lots of parking.
- 28. MOORE ROAD**
Off Tukituki Road approximately 7km from Haumoana. Walking access from road end, up or downstream.
- 29. TENNANT ROAD**
Off Tukituki Road approximately 6km from Haumoana. Walking access from road end. Good in early spring when whitebait are plentiful.
- 30. MILL ROAD (BLACKBRIDGE)**
Walking access from both sides of the bridge. Vehicle access on true right, downstream of the bridge via a shingle plant. Good in early spring when whitebait are abundant.