

TARANAKI - Fish & Game Region¹³

OFFICE/POSTAL:

WHANGANUI: P.O Box 4152, Whanganui 4541
NEW PLYMOUTH: 3/477A Devon Street East,
PO Box 662, New Plymouth 4340

PHONE:

WHANGANUI: 021 270 0239
NEW PLYMOUTH: (06) 757 9676

E-MAIL: taranaki@fishandgame.org.nz

MANAGER: Phil Teal

Senior Field Officer: Allen Stancliff

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Jillie Steedman

FIELD OFFICER: Jacob Morison (on leave)



¹³ Taranaki Fish and Game Region means the area so described in the NZ Gazette 24 May 1990, No.83 at page 1861

1 Game That May Be Hunted or Killed - Duration of the 2024/2025 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	4 May to 30 Jun 2024	12	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	4 May to 30 Jun 2024	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	4 May to 30 Jun 2024	10	All areas
	22 and 23 Feb 2025	10	Area C
	1 and 2 Mar 2025	10	Area C
	8 to 10 Mar 2025	10	Area C
Black swan	4 May to 30 Jun 2024	2	All areas
Pūkeko	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	5	Areas A & B
	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	10	Area C
California quail	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	5	All areas
Cock pheasant	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	2	All areas
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	5	All areas
Red-legged partridge	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	2	All areas
Pheasant, both sexes	4 May to 25 August 2024	No limit	Upland game properties with special conditions in clause 6 for this region

2 Definition of Areas

- 2.1 Area A:** That area within the following boundary commencing at Waiaruhe Road; then by that road, Owhakura Road, Whangaehu Valley Road and Fields Track to Kakatahi; then by straight lines to Pipiriki and Tawhata; then by Tawhata Road to the boundary; then by the generally eastern boundary of the region to Waiaruhe Road.
- 2.2 Area B:** That area within the following boundary commencing at Waiaruhe Road; then by that road, Owhakura Road, Whangaehu Valley Road and Fields Track to Kakatahi; then by straight lines to Pipiriki and Makakaho Junction down the eastern bank of the Waitotara River to the sea; then by the sea coast and generally eastern boundary of the region to Waiaruhe Road.
- 2.3 Area C:** The balance of the region contained by the westerly boundaries of Area A and B and the sea coast between the Mokau River and Waitotara River mouths.

3 Shooting Hours

6.30am to 6.15pm.

4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

5 Special Conditions

5.1 Special Paradise Shelduck Season

Area C only: For the Special Paradise Shelduck Season on 22 February, 23 February, 1 March, 2 March, 8 March, 9 March and 10 March 2025, the hours of hunting are extended to 6.30am to 8.00pm. In addition, all hunters, including land occupiers, must, within a month of the end of the season, provide the Taranaki Fish and Game Council with particulars of: the dates and locations where they hunted paradise shelduck; the hours hunted each day; the number of birds taken each day; and the number of birds not retrieved.

5.2 No person shall hunt, as specified, within 100m of any urban sewage oxidation pond.

5.3 No person may wilfully leave on the hunting ground any game bird(s) shot or parts of any game birds shot.

5.4 No person may shoot game from a boat on the Whanganui River downstream of Kemps Pole (Kauarapaoa Stream confluence).

5.5 No person may herd or drive waterfowl for the purpose of hunting or killing them.

5.6 Any game bird licence holder who has a Department of Conservation authorisation to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking or falconry may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for each game bird species in clause 1 of this notice for this region and subject to any conditions imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit

6 Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions

6.1 This clause applies to the following specified property only:

(a) Paetawa station: 1308 ha, more or less, at 366a Kauarapaoa Road, Whanganui, being Lots 1 and 2 DP 29356.

6.2 Where hunting takes place in any specified property defined in this notice, no person shall have in that

person's possession outside that specified property any game taken from that specified property, unless affixed to the game is a label with the name of the specified property where that game was taken or killed written legibly on it, and the additional words on the label, "for personal consumption, not for sale or profit" written legibly on it.

- 6.3** A person must not clip the wings of a bird released on any specified property after the bird is 8 weeks old.
- 6.4** A person must not clip the beak of any bird released on any specified property at any time.
- 6.5** A person must not hunt a pheasant before it is 18 weeks old.
- 6.6** A person must not hunt waterfowl on a specified property on the same day that a pheasant hunt takes place on that property.
- 6.7** The unlimited mixed sex daily bag limit for the specified property shall only apply when at least 400 pheasants have been released on to that specified property within 5 months of the opening day of the season, Otherwise the daily bag limit shall be 2 cock pheasants.
- 6.8** A property owner listed in subclause (1) or a lessee of that property owner must keep a register of:
 - (a) the names and addresses of hunters and all other persons who take game from that property;
 - (b) the number and type of birds taken by those persons;
 - (c) the description of that person's role in the hunting and killing of game birds on that day.

HUNTING TARANAKI WATERFOWL

The Taranaki Region has many rivers and streams, coastal dune lakes and ponds that provide good habitat for waterfowl. This translates into consistently good hunting and Taranaki duck hunters are among the most successful in the North Island.

Mallard duck is the predominant game species and in addition to traditional hunting from maimai on ponds and lakes, jump shooting along streams, rivers, drains and farm oxidation ponds is also productive. Good evening shooting can be had throughout the season on farm dams and wet paddocks, or on recently harvested stubble fields and in paddocks where supplementary feed is being fed to stock.

Paradise shelduck are widespread throughout the region and in

particular around the Taranaki ring-plain. Farmers and vegetable growers often welcome hunters harvesting these birds which may otherwise impact on areas of new grass or recovering pasture or crops at other times of the year. To further assist with managing their impact a special season for paradise shelduck will also be held in late February and early March 2025 in Area C (Taranaki) to disperse birds after the moult. All hunters, including land occupiers are required to hold a permit to hunt during a special season. Please contact the Whanganui or New Plymouth offices of Fish & Game NZ in early February 2025 for details.

Similarly, landowners are often supportive of hunting pūkeko from wetlands adjacent to maize growing or other cropping areas, where they can cause damage at planting time. Pūkeko numbers are greatest around the Taranaki ring-plain and south along the coast to Whanganui, and the extended season provides an additional hunting opportunity after the duck season has finished.

UPLAND GAME

Scattered populations of pheasant and California quail are present in the coastal sand country and lowland pine plantations. There are also good pheasant populations, which are often overlooked, in the back country, particularly where there are scrubby rough areas adjacent to streams and rivers. Driving around these areas early or late in the day and particularly in spring is a good way to identify productive spots and make initial approaches regarding access.

ACCESS

Most hunting opportunities are on private farmland and the appropriate permission should be sought. In this region many farmers are receptive to a polite request; just remember to leave the gun and dog behind when you make your first approach. Often farmers are hunters themselves and while access over opening weekend may not be an option there may be opportunities later in the season.

Permits are available through a weekly ballot from the Whanganui office of Fish & Game for upland game hunting in several Whanganui coastal areas, including Harakeke Forest and Nukumarū Recreation Reserve. Contact the Whanganui office for the latest opportunities and how to obtain a permit for these.