

# The 2018-2019 Trout Fishing Season

  
Fish  
& Game  
NEW ZEALAND  
Hawke's Bay Region

## *Features Inside:*

- Kid's Fishing Day
- Lake Tutira Updates
- The Magic Hour
- The Twins
- Looking after your Trout



# Kids Fishing Day and Anglers Hut

## Getting Hooked

A successful children's fishing day was held at the Game Farm on Saturday 3 March 2018. A total of 50 kids participated on the day and all children caught a trout fly fishing in the pond. There were plenty of happy faces, proud of what they had caught.

The rainbows caught averaged 497mm and 1.2kg. These were 60mm longer and 200g heavier than those caught at last years fishing day. The heaviest trout caught was a hen measuring 620mm and weighing an impressive 2kg. Better still, it was caught by one of the youngest kids present! Staff and volunteers helped gut, fillet and smoke the trout for the children and their families. The day would not be possible without the awesome support that we get from volunteers, so thank you for your time and for making the day such a success. It's great having members attend from all three of the regions fishing clubs. HBRC and Cape to City staff also attended the day and provided alternative activities for the children on the day, their support was much appreciated. This was a great day for introducing kids into fly fishing and hopefully something that these kids will remember for a long time! We will be looking to hold another kids fishing day in the new year, so be sure to keep an eye on our facebook page for dates and details.



## F&G Anglers Hut and Meeting Room Hire

The Glenfalls Hut, situated on the edge of the Mohaka River off SH5, has had a facelift with some fresh paint and a new fireplace. The new fire is great and will keep anglers warm on those colder winter fishing trips. The hut

is available to hire by full season or family licence holders. Rates are 25.00 per night (sleeps four).

Additional charge of \$5 per self-contained motorhome or tent. The bunk beds have mattresses but you would need to bring sleeping bags, pillows and single mattress covers. There is a gas cooker/oven and a bbq for cooking but you would need to bring your own gas bottle. Plates, bowls, cutlery, frying pan, kettle and large pot are all available at the hut. There is a table and chairs inside too. There is an outside sink and a long drop toilet nearby. Please take your own drinking water.



The meeting room at the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game offices is also available for hire by clubs, groups, businesses etc. Media equipment involves a large flat screen television which can play media via USB or via its DVD player, a data projector for laptop use, a portable whiteboard and a large pinboard. The room is complete with tea and coffee facilities and an air-conditioning unit. There is a large deck and picturesque grounds outside the double doors of the meeting room which enable good relief during a break.

Please contact the Hawkes Bay office on 06 844 2460 for further details on either the meeting room or Glenfalls Hut.



- Advice for beginners
- Fly tying tuition
- Trips to Taupo and Rotorua
- Club competitions
- Juniors most welcome

## CHB Freshwater Anglers Club

MEETS at St Mary's Hall, St Mary's Street, Waipukurau.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

President: Andrew Blake- Ph 027 485 9176 Secretary: Fred Nichol- Ph (06) 858 9733



*HBRC staff installing air curtain*

For the last decade the Lake Tutira catchment has been a big focus for a number of parties that have been concerned about its health and who are determined to turn it around and return it to a healthy, vibrant ecosystem. Here is an update on two projects happening in the catchment.

### **Tutira Mai Nga Iwi**

Plenty of spade wielding volunteers have been planting up a storm all around the catchment over the last decade. Sediment runoff into the lake has been a big problem. Thousands of trees later and the catchment and what has become the Tutira Regional Park is looking amazing. This work continues all around the catchment.

The Maungaharuru Tangitu Trust are now 2 years into their own hapū-led project, 'Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi', which involves extensive education and consultation, with a riparian planting, fencing and native regeneration schedule. Hawkes Bay Fish & Game, Department of Conservation, Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Hastings District Council, Guthrie-Smith and local landowners help form this Tutira Mai Nga Iwi Governance Group.

Due to the recent poor water quality in Lake Tutira, especially during summer, Fish & Game decided to reduce its trout liberations from 5,000 to 2,000 until lake conditions improve. This resulted in funds being available for another project. The Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council decided to keep this money within the Lake Tutira catchment, and after consultation with the Tutira Mai Nga Iwi Governance Group it was decided that the

funds be spent on native plants to be used in re-planting the north-western shoreline which had been previously cleared of pest weeds and willow trees. The funds provided over 2,500 native plants. These were planted during a joint community planting day in July. Thanks to those who joined in, it was a great day and another step forward for the lake. It was especially pleasing to see members from all 3 of the regions anglers clubs coming to lend a hand. What a great day and what a great achievement by all. This area is going to look great in a few years once the plants have grown. You will all be able to look upon it with pride every time you drive past or call in for

a fish. Congratulations to the Maungaharuru Tangitu Trust for initiating the 'Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi' project, we all look forward to having further involvement in its progress and contributing to the restoration of a healthy Lake Tutira ecosystem.

### **Bubbles!**

Jumping back in the water, some may have seen signs of the 'air curtain' that is being trialled in Lake Waikapiro to improve water quality. It was a season of mixed results for the air curtain but signs are promising.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council Water Quality Scientist Dr Andy Hicks says the air curtain is now off and while the air curtain was mixing the lake efficiently, there was a major fish kill in January, when a non-toxic algal bloom crashed and consumed all of the oxygen in the lake.

He says there have been plenty of learnings through the season and next season they will be turning the air curtain on a month earlier to prevent any early algal blooms from being established and will continue to trial a 'pulsed mode' of operation, whereby the air curtain is turned off for a day or two at a time."

Despite the challenges, Dr Hicks says the air curtain resulted in the highest recorded water clarity in Waikōpiro Lake, and also meant the lake was theoretically 'safe to swim' for the entire summer period. Let's hope the trials over the coming summer go well and we make further steps towards a healthy lake that we can all enjoy. Watch this space.



*Planting day a success at Tutira*



The mouth of the Tuki, close to Havelock and Hastings.

No matter what the activity might be, when times are tough or the wallet is looking a little empty, we all start to reconsider how far we may travel for certain events or

recreation. These thoughts will definitely occur in anglers minds at some point when they go about deciding where they are going to fish. Anglers in different regions

will be affected differently depending on their proximity to fishable waterways. This is something the Hawkes Bay Region has over many others. This article will take you on a journey from the mouths of some of the North Islands best fisheries, to remote backcountry areas on the same rivers and all within a 'magic hour' drive of Napier and Hastings.

Between Hastings and Napier off State Highway 2 the river mouths of both the Tutaekuri and the Ngaruroro can be easily reached, not far off the highway near Haumoana the Tukituki river mouth is also accessible and again just off the



**Napier Freshwater Anglers Club**  
Meets at Fish and Game H.B. Region  
22 Burness Road, Greenmeadows,  
Napier, On the first Monday of each  
month at 7.30pm

- Fly tying
- Trips away
- Fishing huts
- Social events
- Guest speakers
- Stories and lies

*Visitors and new members welcome!*  
Email: [nfachb@gmail.com](mailto:nfachb@gmail.com)  
PO Box 69 Napier



The Tuki has easy and plentiful access for all.

*A nice fish caught right below the expressway.*



change their course leaving anglers to once again seek out new fishing holes or runs that hold trout. Both these rivers middle reaches are accessible well within 30 minutes of the bays main centres with the Mohaka being 45 minutes from Napier.

The Tukituki middle reaches are also easily accessible, especially for those

State Highway 2 near Bay View is the Esk River. So within 30 minutes drive from the central cities Napier and Hastings, are four very popular rivers all with easy access. This leaves just two of our other main fisheries in the region, Lake Tutira which is an excellent fishery, a place to relax and a great backup when the rivers are dirty and the Mohaka River, both of which can be reached within 45 minutes of Napier.

For more variety than just fishing river mouths, the middle reaches of these rivers can be accessed well within an hours drive of Hastings and Napier. The Mohaka can be accessed off State Highway 5 at numerous points from Waitara and McVicar Roads and offers probably the best range of fishing. The river runs from strong rapid to deep pool, providing challenging fishing but with rewards that could result in a wall hanger. The Ngaruroro's middle reaches near Highway 50 are vast, open, often braided and have strong currents. There is usually a high density of maiden fish in this area up to whanawhana. The mid reaches of the Tutaekuri River are somewhat similar, although smaller and easier to wade at its normal flow. These braided rivers can often be hard to predict and after high flows can

living closer to Central Hawkes Bay. From multiple points around Waipukurau and Highway 50, all of which are within 50minutes of Napier, anglers will find a river that fishes well during summer and produces some excellent dry fly fishing on those still, hot summer evenings.

On top of access to the lower and middle reaches of five excellent rivers and one lake, the Hawkes Bay Region also provides access to some first class wilderness fishing, some of which is within that magic hours drive from the main centres.

The main access for wilderness fishing on the Ngaruroro is at Kuripapango, located on the Napier-Taihape Road. From this location you can fish up or down stream for as far as you want to walk. The river here is flowing through the manuka, kanuka and beech forest of the Kaweka Forest Park, a place of stunning scenic beauty where the water is crystal clear and trout in great condition. Access to backcountry fishing on the Mohaka is available via Makahu and Pakaututu Roads. From the Makahu

road end a track leads to the river where the Mangatutu Hot Springs can be found and from there a big section of the Mohaka can be fished in the remoteness of the Kaweka Forest Park. The Tutaekuri also lends itself to some backcountry fishing via Lawrence Road. Fishing is possible up and down stream from this point. The fishing is great and the keener the angler the more secluded and un-fished pools they are going to find. These remote sections of the Ngaruroro, Mohaka and Tutaekuri are all about an hour from Napier.

So in a quick wrap up an angler based in say Napier, can access angling at: the river mouths of four major river fisheries, the lower and middle reaches of up to five rivers plus their tributaries, three backcountry wilderness fisheries, two of which are world renowned and one excellent Lake Fishery,



*Blair Whiting with a nice mid Tutaekuri rainbow.*

all of which would take no more than one hours drive to reach! We truly are blessed with an array of angling opportunities in Hawkes Bay.



**HAMILLS**  
NEW ZEALAND  
Fishing & Hunting Specialist Since 1955

"Hamills Killer"

**Hamills Napier** 46 Pandora Road  
Ph 06 835 5651 Email hb@hamillsnz.co.nz



*The lakes are a great walk for a picnic and fishing*

Tucked away, out of sight, hidden, unknown, remote, bush clad, picturesque, tranquil. Just a few of the words that could be used to describe the little lakes tucked away at the southern edge of the Kaweka Range. Yes, we are talking about those two little gems that make up the Kuripapango Lakes or Twin Lakes.

What makes these lakes extra special and what would surprise many, especially the non-angler, is that they support a nice brown trout fishery!!

The lakes were formed many thousands of years ago as a result of the damming of 2 streams by debris from a massive slip off Mt Kuripapango. Although small the lakes are of considerable ecological and botanical significance, for the large number of plant species and vegetation types in the immediate surrounds.

Although the level of the western lake fluctuates there is generally a sandy shoreline, where there is opportunity for picnics, and more importantly, fishing.

So how did this fishery establish? Well,

back in the heyday of the acclimatisation societies when almost anything was brought from overseas and into the region to try and establish sport, meat or fur trades, (mule deer and zebra are just two of the many that failed), trout were thrown around in almost any piece of water that looked like it would support trout. The Kuripapango Lakes just happened to be one of these. Short of having large trout trucks and trailers like we use today to transport trout, the metal milk jugs of the day were used. At about 35 litres they could hold a decent number of fingerlings depending on the distance they were taken. Tipped off the back of a ute, off bridges, carried right to the water, it happened any way they could. It is likely these jugs of trout were carried into the lakes from the road end. The brown trout that were released and established themselves were a strain of brown trout from Loch Leven in central Scotland. As the fishery only produced a high number of small brown trout, new measures were taken to try and improve the fishery in 1958. This involved the introduction of 'Flying Rainbow Trout'... As the photo suggests, a bi-plane was used to transport these 'flying-fish' up to the lakes. No, there wasn't a landing strip up there, the trout were tipped out as the plane sped over the lake!!! It was certainly sink or swim for those flying trout, they did survive the ordeal, but never established in the lake and the browns carried on as sole occupants. This aerial liberation, was possibly the first ever recorded liberation of trout, using a plane, in NZ!!

How has the fishery survived? Well, when you walk to the larger lake

via the DOC track you will cross over a tiny wee stream that only requires a small hop to cross, this is your answer! The small streams that feed these lakes are enough to provide sufficient spawning grounds to support the fishery. The streams themselves also hold their own resident population of brownies, they are no longer than your hand, but the stream holds plenty of food so they survive there quite happily. The population in the lake don't grow very big either, this is due to the colder temperatures and limited food supply of the lake. Catching a two pounder would be considered an excellent catch from the lakes.



*The old milk jugs used to liberate trout*

How do you get there? Drive up the Napier-Taihape road then follow the DOC signs to the 'Lakes Carpark'. The track to the lakes heads left from the carpark. It passes through kanuka and hardwood forest, and after 30 minutes branches left and descends to the western lake.

Regulations? These lakes can be fished by licenced anglers all season with fly or spinner. The larger western lake has no bag limit, whereas the small eastern lake has a limit of 4. There is no size limit for either lake.

The Lakes maybe hidden away, but they are a great asset to the region and worth a visit, if not for the fishing, then even just for a stroll in the hills to a place many people don't even know is there.



*A Tiger Moth dropping rainbow fingerlings into the lake.*

## Handle With Care

Anglers love trout. They spend thousands of dollars on the best gear, amass extensive collections of flies and lures and travel huge distances to cast to fish they may never catch.

So it is puzzling that when they do catch something, some don't always treat the object of their affection with more care. With social media there are plenty of people posting photos of trout they have caught, some photos are amazing and the trout looked well cared for, others pure cringeworthy!

Anglers need to avoid fighting trout for too long on light line, dragging them onto hot rocks and extracting hooks with little care or delicacy. The fish may well be returned to the water, allowing the angler to congratulate themselves on their angling ethics because they let the fish go "to grow bigger".

But the sad reality is that the fish could die as a result of the rough handling they endured and this has an impact on the fishery. If an angler keeps their limit of say two trout and releases the other six they also land but treat badly, then the real impact on the fishery could well be eight fish killed, not two.

It doesn't take long before the compounding toll has a real affect and soon those same anglers are shaking their heads and blaming everyone but themselves for the falling trout numbers. So, to help change any bad habits you may have, here are the do's and don'ts of handling trout.

### Do's:

Looking after the trout you catch begins with your equipment.

- Use the heaviest line you can get away with. Too light a line means you will have



*keep them in the water until ready for a photo*

to fight the fish for longer and that takes a toll – an exhausted fish has much less chance of surviving.

- Use a single hook and consider trying barbless hooks.
- Aim to land your fish quickly. Modern reels have great drags, so make the most of these and the rod's leverage to get the trout close enough to net.
- Use a net to land your fish, preferably a knotless one.
- Keep the trout in the net and in the water while releasing it.
- Unhook the fish gently, preferably with long nosed pliers.

- Work quickly and avoid touching the fish at all.
- If you want a photo, make it quick and get the fish back into the water without delay.
- Wet and cool your hands before handling the fish and consider using gloves.
- Ideally, take the photo of the fish still in the water.
- If you have to hold the fish, do it gently with one hand around the tail and the other carefully cradling the fish.
- Keep your hands, hooks and anything else away from the trout's gills.

### Don'ts:

- Don't drag the fish onto shore and leave it flapping around on hot rocks, beating itself up on the unforgiving shore. This is a death sentence.
- Don't touch the trout's gills. If your fish is bleeding from the gills, kill it as studies have shown that they won't survive to see another dawn.
- Don't squeeze the fish, especially around its belly.
- Don't keep the trout out of water any longer than necessary. Remember, fish don't breathe any better in air than we do underwater.
- Don't use treble hooks, especially the double sets found on some lures. Replace them with a single hook, they work just as well and make it much easier to release fish.

Follow these guidelines as best you can and not only will your angling still be enjoyable, but the next angler will also benefit from your care, and not doubt the trout will be grateful as well!!!



*Use a net to land them quickly, don't drag them onto the shore.*

**2018/19 FISHING REGULATIONS**

There have been no amendments to the region's regulations for the 2018/19 fishing season. Angler Notice submissions were received for the addition of minimum and maximum

size limits on the Mohaka River and for headwaters to become fly-fishing only but Councillors decided that more monitoring and compliance checks were required to obtain further information before any changes could

be considered. Submissions were also received requesting a ban on the use of treble hooks but such a change would need to be consistent across the whole of NZ as it forms part of Schedule 1 of the regulations.

**LEARN WHAT LICENCE WILL BEST SUITE YOU THIS SEASON**

LICENCE		FULL SEASON				NON-RESIDENT		PART SEASON			
		WHOLE SEASON	LOCAL AREA <sup>4</sup>	LOYAL SENIOR <sup>5</sup>	FAMILY <sup>6</sup>	FULL SEASON	ONE DAY	ONE DAY	SHORT BREAK <sup>1</sup>	LONG BREAK <sup>2</sup>	WINTER <sup>3</sup>
Adult (Age 18+)	\$	130	104	111	169	169	34	21	47	91	78
Junior (Age 12 - 17)	\$	26				34	20	5			
Child (under 12)	\$	Free				34	20				
Requires specified start time							•	•	•	•	
Available as a plastic licence		•	•	•	•	OPTIONAL					•
Available as a receipt-only							•	•	•	•	
Available to non-residents						•	•				
Can apply for a backcountry licence		•	•	•	•	•					
Can be used anywhere in NZ <sup>7</sup>		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Can register as a Fish & Game elector		•	•	•	•						
Receives special edition of F&G magazine		•	•	•	•						

2018/19 SEASON

1 Short-break is for a consecutive three-day period  
 2 Long-break is for a consecutive nine-day period  
 3 Winter licence is available from 1 April to 30 September  
 4 Local Area is restricted to one named region  
 5 Loyal Senior requires those over 65 years of age to have held a Full Season licence for the last five seasons  
 6 Family is two resident adult spouses and children under 18 years of age  
 7 Other than the Taupo fishery which is administered by DoC. For a Taupo licence see www.doc.govt.nz

PLEASE NOTE  
 • NZ resident children under 12 on 1 October can fish for free but need a child licence (issued free).  
 • Non-resident children under 12 on 1 October must buy a non-resident child day licence.  
 • All licence categories are available online (www.fishandgame.org) and via retail agents using the agency online licensing facility.

**CALL IN & SEE JEREMY, JAKE, AND EUAN FOR FRIENDLY EXPERT ADVICE**

Jeremy Hanaway



**Your specialist Fishing & Shooting store**



Receive a **FREE** Led Lenser K2L torch with every new Adult or Family whole season fishing licence purchased!!



**ONLY WHILE STOCKS LAST!**

106 Nelson Street South, Hastings riverstoranges.co.nz sales@riverstoranges.co.nz Ph:06 8787177

Hawke's Bay Fish & Game staff have created a Facebook page to keep anglers and hunters up to date with our work and items of interest. Staff hope to tap into the younger generation of anglers and hunters and help them get into the sport and be successful. Search for "Hawke's Bay Fish & Game" and click "Like" to receive regular updates.



**Contact:** Hawke's Bay Fish & Game  
 PO BOX 7345  
 Taradale, Napier, 4141  
 Ph: (06) 844 2460 Fax: (06) 844 2461  
 Email: hawkesbay@fishandgame.org.nz  
**0800 LICENCE 0800 POACHING**

