

Hawke's Bay 2021-2022



Hawke's Bay Region

Trout Fishing Season

WHAT DO HAWKE'S BAY TROUT EAT?

Match your fly to the
conditions

BE SAFE THIS SEASON

Water safety and river
crossings

FOR THE FISH AND THE FOREST

A look at fisheries work
going on in your
local forests



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What Do Hawke's Bay Trout Eat?

While fly fishing I ask myself the question; Am I imitating the most common prey? Sometimes I like to take the odd rainbow home for the smoker and while filleting I always make sure to open up the gut cavity and have a good look inside to see if there is something out of the ordinary. I distinctly remember one fish had a

CASED CADDIS

The Cased or stick caddis is the most commonly eaten item in our waterways. Summertime on the rivers see huge numbers of caddis picked up by the current and washed downstream. Often to many hungry mouths! Cased caddis are fairly nondescript, looking like small twigs around 1cm long. Between 70 and 90 % of fish I open are chock full of them. Luckily they are easy to imitate. I have caught fish on hooks wrapped with only brown thread!

large rock in its stomach and another had 8 large smelt. Others have had bird feathers and one even had some cheese in its stomach! It pays to take note of what trout are feeding on and mimic their favourite foods. Here is a list of some of the most common food sources for trout in Hawke's Bays rivers and lakes.



REASONS TO JOIN A CLUB

- Fly tying evenings
- Trips away
- Access to fishing huts
- Social events
- Guest speakers
- Meet likeminded people

Visitors and new members are welcome to attend club meetings. Get in touch with your local club president to find out more.

CHB Freshwater Angler Club
johncheyne@xtra.co.nz

Hastings Freshwater Anglers Club
adamjer@icloud.com

Napier Freshwater Anglers Club
dstoney@xtra.co.nz

UNCASED CADDIS

The Uncased Caddis look very similar to a willow grub, with a green body and a black head. Trout seem to use these as a secondary food source when cased caddis aren't in high numbers. Using a small green nymph with a black head is perfect for imitating both a willow grub and the caddis. They are normally found living underneath rocks near the shore.



ADULT CADDIS

Caddis adults are the main evening rise food for trout in the Tukituki and Ngaruroro, and sometimes even during the middle of the day. The larvae rise up to the surface where they are taken by feeding fish. Sometimes you can watch trout feeding just under the surface as they emerge.



MAYFLY NYMPH

One of the most common flies used (The Pheasant Tail) imitates the very common mayfly nymph. Using a rough mayfly pattern (like the Hare & Copper) is often very successful due to the number of different mayfly species present in our rivers. Turning

over a rock or two will usually uncover a great range of nymphs in all different colours. Red, Black, Gold, White, Brown, and even Orange. Due to the large number of mayfly nymphs present in our rivers, these flies (in different colour variations) are the perfect choice to imitate a trout's third most important food source.



ADULT MAYFLY

Adult mayflies hatch on warm days, even during mid-winter, causing great commotion on the surface as trout scramble to take advantage of the new food source. Adults and emergers alike are a favourite food for young trout measuring 20 – 35 cm. The Tukituki can have largemayfly hatches; especially in the spring & summer. The Parachute Adams is the perfect fly to use if there are lots of mayflies hatching.



ADULT DAMSELFLY

Red Damselflies are most often found in our lake fisheries; Tutira, Hawkston and Kuripapango. Kuripapango is a huge damsel fishery, with all fish activity on a summers day based around these tasty red snacks. Make sure to have a few red flies in your tackle box.



DAMSELFLY NYMPH

When the weather is colder on our lakes, a damselfly nymph is the perfect fly choice. Adults don't hatch until it is warm enough, so on a cold overcast day the nymphs will be taken subsurface. A small Olive Woolly Bugger would be my pick. These nymphs are significantly larger than many other insect species and swim in a very enticing way. A slowly stripped bugger is excellent at imitating their slow wiggle as they go about day to day life.



SMELT

In the lower reaches of our rivers trout commonly eat smelt. Many rainbow trout caught just above the hightide mark will feed on smelt as they spawn on the muddy margins of our lower rivers and estuaries. There are a multitude of patterns to choose from, however my pick would be the Grey Ghost or Jack Spratt. Backwaters within 5 km of the ocean always seem to hold trout gorging on smelt.



BULLY

It's surprising just how many bullies populate our rivers and lakes in Hawkes Bay. Tūtira has an enormous population of common bullies which are landlocked, providing a good food source for lake dwelling trout. This boosts trout growth rates much more than insects ever could. In our tributaries, bullies are widespread in the rocky shallows. Very rarely have I seen bullies taken by trout in rivers. Throughout our lakes, they are a favourite for brown trout in particular.

ACCESS PAMPHLETS NOW ONLINE!

Wondering where to fish this season? Updated Hawke's Bay access pamphlets are now easily accessible online. There are access maps available for:

- Mohaka River (+Tributaries)
- Ngaruroro (+Tributaries)
- Tukituki (+Tributaries including Waipawa River)
- Tutaekuri (+ Tributaries and includes the Twin Lakes and Lake Hawkston)
- Northern HB (Covers Tūtira, the Esk River and the Aropanui/Waikoau River)

Use the following link to check them out: <https://fishandgame.org.nz/hawkesbay/freshwater-fishing-in-new-zealand/fishing-locations-and-access/>



Be Safe this Season

Water safety and river crossings

Kiwis spend a lot of time in and around our freshwater systems fishing, tramping, swimming and boating. We love to explore and with over 180,000km of mapped waterways in New Zealand there are always new locations to explore and new situations to face. Unfortunately, this comes with inherent risks with about a third of drownings in New Zealand taking place on our rivers.

Below are some reminders of things to think about when assessing the situation in front of you, on your next adventure out.

- 1. If in doubt, stay out. No fish is worth risking your life.** We know the temptation to wade out to that perfect spot, but it's not worth risking falling into swiftwater. Understand and assess every wading scenario you are in. Walk in up to your knees and test how strong the current is, how slippery the bottom is, water temperature, are you alone? Think of any other variables that might come into play if you do go for an accidental swim. Do you have an exit plan? Make an educated decision.
- 2. Throw a stick into the river and check the direction** – is the stick being pulled to the outer or inner bank? As a rule of thumb to check the speed of the current, see if you can keep pace at a walking speed with the stick. If you can't, don't cross there.

Find another spot where the current is not as strong.

- 3. Narrower stretches of the river are appealing, but in reality, this is where water pressure builds as it is forced into a narrow area, creating much faster currents.** Instead, look for where the river is wider. Where a river's gradient decreases the flow will be slower and the water will be shallower. Often in the lower stretches this is where the rivers become braided and there are often small temporary gravel islands. Use these to your advantage as places to rest before crossing the rest of the river.
- 4. Take a walking pole with you.** It may be a dent to the image but they can be a huge help in a tight spot. Having two points of contact will do wonders for your balance while moving out on the river; especially in faster water. Walking poles can be purchased for a reasonable price from most outdoor stores. Some are telescopic and lightweight making them easy to strap to your pack ready for when you need it.
- 5. Make sure in case of emergency your backpack can be easily removed if you fall.** Loosen shoulder straps and unclip the waist clip so it can be shrugged off easily before or shortly after entering the river. It is better to lose your backpack than your

life. Pack your gear in dry bags within your pack for an extra level of protection. You don't want to fall in, then go on to catch that trophy and have no camera to take pictures for bragging rights!

- 6. Make sure your wading belt is sufficiently tightened around your waist.** If you were to fall in the river with waders on, the water will begin to rush into your waders filling them up quickly. They become heavy, swimming becomes very challenging and you are now at risk of drowning. Wearing a tightly secured wading belt will keep water from rushing below your waist and filling up your legs.
- 7. Extra safety steps:** Before you leave home tell someone where you are going and how long you expect to be; that way if something does happen people know where to look. Even better take a personal locator beacon, rather than wait for people to wonder what's happened and help will come much quicker when you need it. It's always good to have a basic first aid kit handy, from small cuts to your mate hooking your ear it's always better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it!

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL AND CAN'T GET BACK UP?

If you happen to lose your footing and end up in the water and cannot get back up, don't panic. First move as stated above is to ditch your pack (if you have one). It's a shame to possibly lose some gear but you must reduce any chances of getting snagged on submerged trees/branches etc.

Turn onto your back, and float, toes pointing downstream and keep your arms out trying your best to make a capital T shape. Your arms will increase the drag, slowing you down while you look ahead to see where it may be possible to get ashore safely. Also, in this position your feet will strike any projecting rocks rather than your head or back and you can use your feet to push off them and steer. You will eventually end up on the riverbank or an eddy where you can get back on your feet and call for help if needed.

Like your friends and family, we want you home safe after a great day of fishing. Be careful, have fun, and have a great season!

GLENFALLS HUT ON THE MOHAKA RIVER - WAITARA ROAD

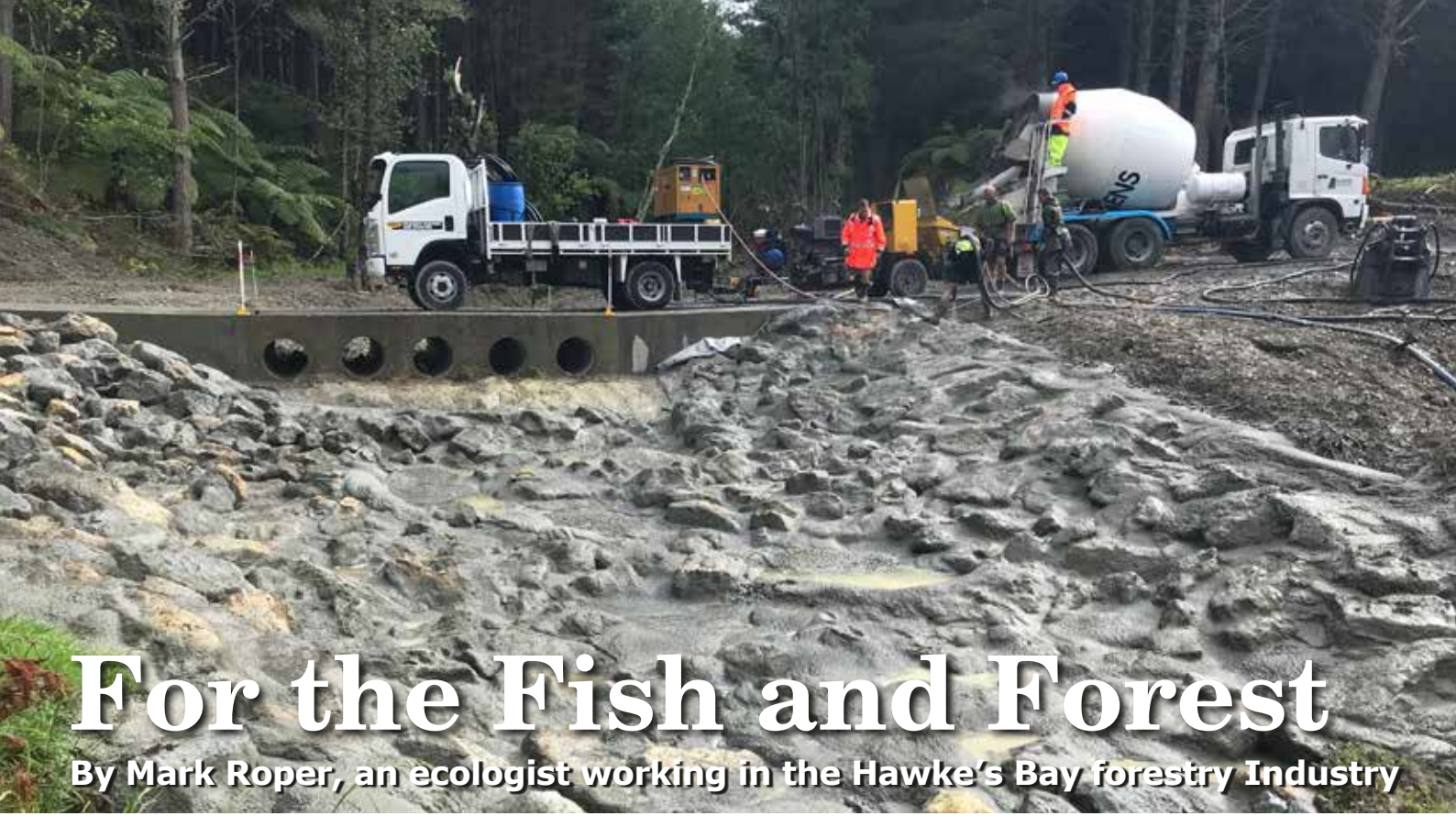


Glenfalls Hut is available to all licenceholders with a current whole season or family fish/game licence. Glenfalls is a great place to introduce the young ones to fishing during the school holidays!

The hut is located above the DOC reserve alongside Waitara Road , 8kms from SH5 and is available for hire at \$25.00 per night (sleeps four).

Additional charge of \$5 per self-contained motorhome or tent.

Contact Hawkes Bay Fish & Game staff on 06 844 2460 or email hawkesbay@fishandgame.org.nz for further details and to check availability.



For the Fish and Forest

By Mark Roper, an ecologist working in the Hawke's Bay forestry Industry

Fish and forestry is not a connection that comes to mind instinctively for New Zealanders. Some anglers may be aware of the numerous environmental risks posed by the forestry industry during periods of harvest (e.g., sedimentation), while many more are probably familiar with images of bears eating salmon in places like Alaska. We are however, as an angling community, oftentimes unaware that these types of connections exist in our own backyard. With a large area of land within the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game region utilised for production forestry, it is important for us to understand the risks while recognising the ways in which the forestry industry helps protect our waterways and recreational fisheries.

New Zealand has more than 50 species of native freshwater fish, 70 percent of which are threatened or at risk of extinction. Hawke's Bay is home to 25 native species, the majority of which need to undertake migrations between freshwater during their lives. Whitebait for example (which encompasses īnanga, kōaro and three types of kokopu), lay their eggs in freshwater which after hatching move downstream to the sea where they grow, before returning upstream to mature and repeat the process. It is therefore essential that our migratory species can move freely within waterways to utilise habitats necessary to complete their life cycles. Trout and salmon are no different in this regard. Typically, New Zealand's sport fish spawn in headwater streams with juvenile hatchlings moving downstream to mature in the lower sections of the river or

associated lakes before migrating back upstream as adults to spawn.

One of the factors contributing to the decline of our native species and the reduction in accessible salmonid spawning habitat are river crossings. Structures like culverts that have large drops, are too small, or have very shallow water depths can all seriously restrict or prevent fish movement. In Hawke's Bay there are 440 man-made fish barriers that we know of. With around 162,000 ha of production forestry in Hawke's Bay, local companies are actively working to ensure that fish passage is provided past all infrastructure assets. This impressive project saw a 1.7 m high drop at a battery culvert retrofitted with a concrete rock ramp fish way as part of road upgrades in preparation for harvesting of the forest beyond. The fishway has several resting pools for fish and its length provides a natural gradient streambed (a little over 10%) which means even our weak swimming īnanga are able to move upstream.

Visit www.skogsmark.com or follow @skogs.mark on Instagram to see more of Mark's work within the forestry industry

This article is part of a series highlighting some of the good work local primary producers are doing in the Hawke's Bay to protect your fisheries. Sometimes this good work can fly under the radar and is not recognised. We look forward to sharing these positive stories with you.

Photo caption-The completed concrete rock ramp fishway is just over 15m long and incorporates 7 resting pools. Photo-Mark Roper



What's on at the Game Farm this season?

As in previous years, we will be holding courses at the Game Farm over the next year with the aim of encouraging more people into the sport we love! Popular courses we have

run in the past year have included junior/ladies fly fishing, families spin fishing courses and novice fly fishing. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to sign up for courses this year!

LICENCE		FULL SEASON				NON-RESIDENT		PART SEASON			
		WHOLE SEASON	LOCAL AREA ⁴	LOYAL SENIOR ⁵	FAMILY ⁶	FULL SEASON	ONE DAY	ONE DAY	SHORT BREAK ¹	LONG BREAK ²	WINTER ³
Adult (Age 18+)	\$	137	110	116	178	185	35	22	49	96	82
Junior (Age 12 - 17)	\$	27				35	21	5			
Child (under 12)	\$	Free				35	21				
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 apply for a sea run salmon licence		●	●	●	●	●					
Can be used anywhere in NZ ⁷		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Can register as a Fish & Game elector		●	●	●	●						
Receives special edition of F&G magazine		●	●	●	●						

2021/22 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 or grandchildren 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).
- All licence categories are available online (www.fishandgame.org) and via retail agents using the agency online licensing facility.

Hawke's Bay Fish & Game staff maintain a Facebook page to keep anglers and hunters up to date with our work and other 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.



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