

# Angler Access to Kerikeri Rivers and streams

## Introduction

The Bay of Islands area boasts some wonderful and exciting Rainbow Trout Fishing opportunities centred near the township of Kerikeri. The fishing experiences offered to the angler vary from relatively remote through to easily accessible water minutes from the Kerikeri Township.

A Trout rearing facility located near the Rainbow Falls, upstream from the famous Stone Store in Kerikeri, was operational until the late 1980's. It was used for stocking of Trout in suitable Northland Rivers by the previous Northern Acclimatisation Societies. The operation functioned as a rearing facility for very young trout known as fry. These were transported by truck from the trout hatchery near Rotorua to the rearing facility in Kerikeri. The fry then continued to grow in the ponds until they reached fingerling size, or yearlings before being released into suitable Northland streams and rivers.

Today these rivers have become completely self-sustaining with stocks of wild Rainbow Trout, which have become truly acclimatised and survive in most of the major trout fishing rivers in the Bay of Islands catchment.

The river fisheries have low angler usage. In order to encourage greater angler participation, Fish & Game New Zealand, Northland Region, has organised this angler access brochure and associated signage programme.

The Far North District Council and the Department of Conservation administer many sections adjacent to the river, because of the presence of esplanade reserves or marginal strips. These sections of fishing water can now be accessed at various points, indicated by our signage.

There are sections of river where Fish & Game New Zealand, Northland Region have negotiated access with the current landowners. Please respect this access privilege by leaving the gates as you find them and use the stiles provided to cross the fences. Please avoid disturbing any stock, and leave your dog/s at home.

The map on the reverse of this brochure highlights the access points to the various fishing locations.



Waitangi River

Licence holders are warned that unattended vehicles are sometimes broken into when left for extended periods of time and due care should be taken.

## REGULATIONS FOR FISHING THE BAY OF ISLANDS TROUT FISHERY

### OPEN SEASON

All rivers and streams in the region - 1 October to 30 April  
Lake Manuwai - 1 October to 30 September

### BAIT FISHING WATERS

Bait fishing is permitted in the Waitangi River only when fishing for tench.

### COARSE FISHING WATERS

The only public coarse fishing water in the Northland Region is the Waitangi River and its tributaries, which hold tench.

### DAILY BAG LIMITS

All Rivers and Streams  
No Licence holder shall on any one day kill more than two trout.  
There is no daily bag limit for tench or perch.

Lake Manuwai No Licence holder shall on any one day kill more than three trout.

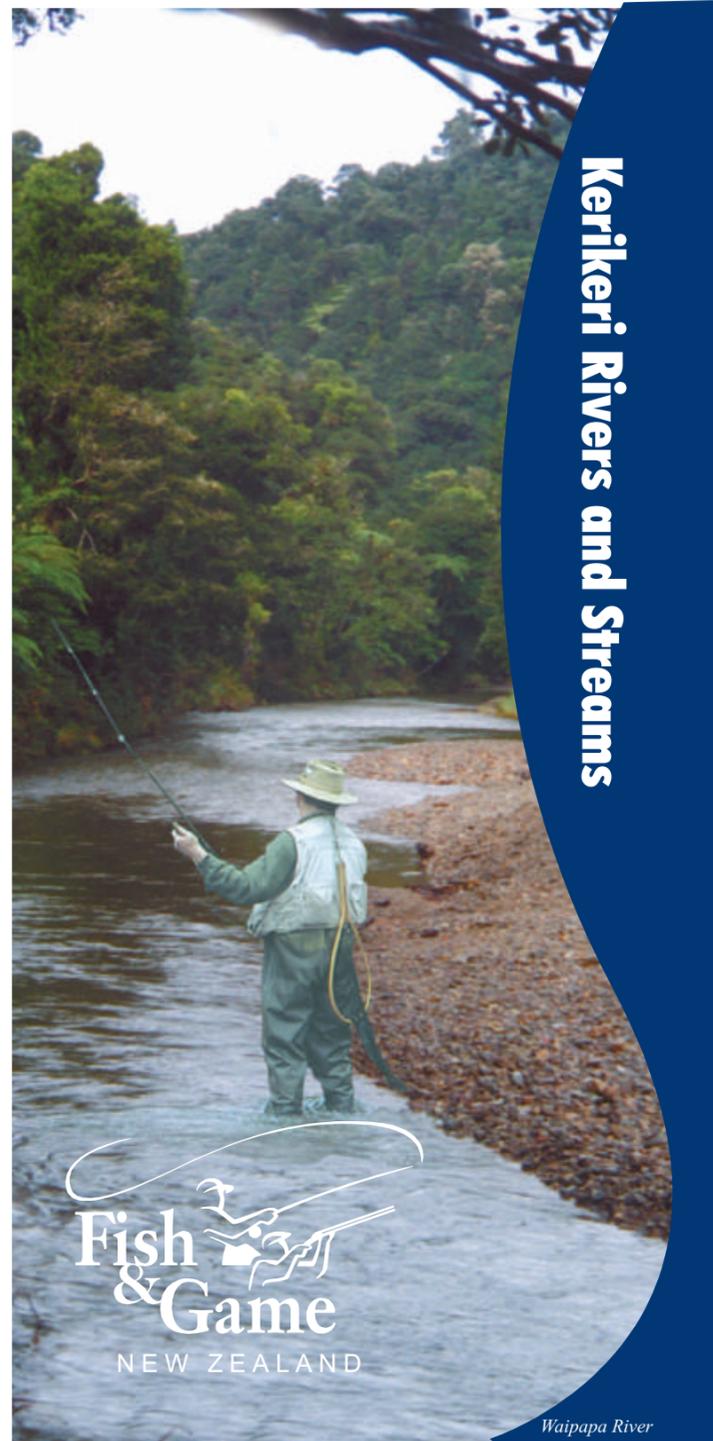
### FISH LENGTH

The minimum length for trout 300 mm  
The minimum length for tench or perch No limit

REGULATIONS MAY CHANGE AND ANGLERS SHOULD READ THE SPORTS FISHING GUIDE FOR CURRENT REGULATIONS.

### Note Definition

True Left Bank- This is the left bank when looking downstream.  
True Right Bank- This is the right bank when looking downstream.



## Kerikeri Rivers and Streams



Waipapa River

## Site 1. Kerikeri River

The Kerikeri River originates on the eastern edge of the Puketi Kauri State Forest and runs gradually downstream to where it flows out into the sea in the Kerikeri Inlet.

The river has a self-sustaining fishery of Rainbow Trout, which average in size from 0.75 to 1 kg. Anglers who regularly fish these waters catch the occasional fish as big as 2.5kg.

The river has a total of 13.5km of fishable water, but legal access can only be obtained to approximately 5.0 km for angler enjoyment. The river offers a mixed variety of fishing opportunity with scenery ranging from pristine forest to undulating farmland. Some stretches of the river are challenging to fish due to heavy vegetation, whilst other areas offer excellent unimpeded access to the river. Spinning as well as fly fishing works well on this river.

Angler access is gained from the reserve at the end of Rainbow Falls Road, which is located between Waipapa and Kerikeri on the Waipapa Road. Anglers are able to park their vehicles at the reserve car park and then follow designated tracks to the river.

Esplanade Reserve status is in place for 2000 metres upstream on the true left bank, with a further 3000 metres downstream on the true left bank. The river flows out to sea at the bridge near the Stone Store in Kerikeri.



## Site 2 Upper/Lower Waitangi River

The Waitangi River is a substantial waterway, which holds good numbers of Rainbow Trout up to 2 kg and the lesser-known coarse fish, Tench, which can grow to 6-8 kgs.

The Waitangi River through this section flows over a solid blue rock base and provides some exciting and challenging fishing with small waterfalls, large pools and some good riffles. Access points (2a) and (2b) provide several kilometres of fishable water along Esplanade Reserves. Access point (2) on State Highway 10 opposite the Puketona Junction has a stile across the boundary fence installed to assist anglers obtaining access to the stream.

From this access point private property entry permission has been granted. Anglers are asked to respect this privilege by taking care with stock, fences and gates. Fishing can be undertaken on the true right bank when fishing upstream from the bridge for approximately 500 metres.

Information and signage indicating access to point (2b) is situated at Lillypond Lane, which is off Puketona Rd. This access point leads to the true right bank of the main river where anglers are able to walk upstream for 2,500 metres or downstream for 700 metres. Should anglers wish to fish the true left bank, they will need to wade across the Waitangi River.

Alternatively, access to the true left bank can also be gained through an access provided by LandCorp Farming Limited. This access point (2a) is at the end of Wakelins Rd, which is off State Highway 10 just north of the Puketona Junction. Entry is by the access signage, positioned next to a formed track, which will take anglers to the main river. Access is downstream for several kilometres and finishes at a stop fishing sign adjacent to the Haruru Falls Airstrip. Anglers are asked to observe any farming hazards and are required to stay in close proximity to the river at all times.

All spin and fly-fishing methods work well on the river. Bait fishing is permitted only when angling for the resident coarse fish population of Tench.

## Site 3 Upper Puketotara Stream

An access point is situated next to the State Highway 10 bridge, 200 metres North of the Waimate North Road turnoff. From this point anglers have access to the true right bank of the river for some 4,000 metres upstream. Terrain along this reserve strip can be difficult but is worth the challenge. Anglers fishing this water will eventually end up at Puketotara Rd where the reserve status ends.

Rainbow Trout reaching weights of 2.25kg have been caught in the past using spin and fly-fishing methods. The river fishery supports a reasonable number of Trout.

In this section of the river the water is clear, but looks dark due to the underlying rock formation. It offers shaded pools and good riffles for nymph fishing. Dry flies work well in this location as fish predate on falling insect life from the surrounding overhanging vegetation during warmer summer months.

## Site 4 Lower Puketotara Stream

The Puketotara Stream is a tributary of the Kerikeri River. The confluence of the two streams is located near the centre of the township of Kerikeri at the Golf Course.

As with the Kerikeri River the species of sportfish is the Rainbow Trout. Although the Puketotara is a smaller waterway, it is picturesque and delightful to fish. Good numbers of fish occupy these waters and have similar sizing to those in the Kerikeri River. Access signage is positioned at the bridge on Golf View Road, which leads to the Kerikeri Golf Course. Anglers have a limited length of fishable water, which only extends for 350 metres upstream from the sign on the true right bank, or downstream of the bridge for 200 metres on the true right bank, where they may cross the river to gain access to the confluence of the Kerikeri and Puketotara Streams.



Puketotara Stream

## Site 5 Waipapa River

The Waipapa River begins its journey deep in the Puketi Kauri State Forest and is the nearest representation of a wild back-country fishery in Northland. The usually gin clear water holds Rainbow Trout throughout its entire length.

The surrounding native bush scenery makes this waterway extremely attractive with long shingle runs and pools predominating on most stretches. A good bush walkway runs parallel to the river for several kilometres and anglers are able to spend many hours fishing the river. Fishing can be undertaken from either bank by wading the river.

Fish average 0.5 kg and can be caught on a wide range of nymphs such as Pheasant Tail, Halfback, and Hare and Copper. In the summer months imitations of cicada and green beetles work well as do dry fly imitations when the aquatic insects are emerging. The whitebait season will usually signal a move by most fish into the lower reaches where fish are readily caught using smelt flies like Parson's Glory etc.

The river can be accessed off State Highway 1, down Forest Road about 8 km North of the township of Okaihau. A reserve is located parallel to the river at the end of this road where anglers can leave their vehicles.

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