

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Upper Rangitikei River Backcountry Fishery Fees

If you plan to fish the upper Rangitikei River and tributaries in the backcountry fishery area above the Ohinewaione Stream, you need to be aware of important changes that come into force this season.

At the behest of the NZ Defence Force, Wellington Fish & Game has secured public liability insurance for all anglers (to the value of \$2,000,000 per angler) to ensure ongoing and unimpeded angler access to the nationally and internationally important Rangitikei River backcountry fishery.

Wellington Fish & Game will underwrite the cost of the insurance but will recuperate it through a \$25 fee on the Backcountry Licence Endorsement required to fish the Rangitikei River backcountry fishery.

From October 1, 2018, the Backcountry Licence Endorsement, and public liability insurance by default, is mandatory for all anglers and guides accessing the Rangitikei River backcountry fishery.

Q&A

Q: What changes are being proposed and why?

A: Wellington Fish & Game will become responsible for managing public angler access via helicopter to the NZ Defence Force land on the true right hand side of the upper Rangitikei River. The insurance is a specific requirement from the NZ Defence Force for ongoing public angler access to the Rangitikei River backcountry fishery.

Q: When do the changes come into force?

A: From October 1, 2018, anglers planning to fish the Rangitikei River backcountry fishery must pay \$25 for a Backcountry Licence Endorsement. Anglers must have a Whole Season Licence (or non-resident equivalent) to qualify for a Backcountry Licence Endorsement.

Q: What does the Backcountry Licence Endorsement fee pay for?

A: The Backcountry Licence Endorsement fee provides anglers with public liability insurance cover to the value of \$2,000,000 per angler and allows continued public angler access to the Rangitikei River Backcountry fishery.

Q: For which waters do I have to purchase a Backcountry Licence Endorsement?

A: You need a Backcountry Licence Endorsement for the Rangitikei River backcountry fishery – those waters north of the Ohinewaione Stream confluence, 9 km upstream of the Springvale Bridge.

Q: What are the penalties for not having a correct Backcountry Licence Endorsement for the Rangitikei River backcountry fishery?

A: Anglers can expect a strong ranger presence in the remote headwater reaches. Non-compliance is an offence under the Conservation Act and subject to a maximum fine of \$5000, conviction, and confiscation of all equipment.

Wellington Fish & Game will seek from the NZ Defence Force trespass orders for guides and/or helicopter operators who take clients and passengers into the backcountry fishery area without checking they have the appropriate Backcountry Licence Endorsement.

Q: Where do I get a Backcountry Licence Endorsement for the Rangitikei River backcountry fishery?

A: The Backcountry Licence Endorsement can be purchased online. Visit the Fish & Game website (www.fishandgame.org.nz) and click on the orange 'Licences' tab at the top of the homepage. This will take you to the licence purchase page where you have an option to click 'Endorse my backcountry fishing'.

Q: Who can I talk to if I have more questions?

Call Wellington Fish & Game on (06) 359-0409 or email wellington@fishandgame.org.nz

Q: What else do I need to know?

A: Anglers and guides wanting to access the Rangitikei River backcountry fishery on NZ Defence Force land must be aware that carrying firearms is strictly prohibited. Also, the NZ Defence Force requires one member of the party to have completed an unexploded ordinance course – Contact: Adam Hoffman at adam.hofman@nzdf.mil.nz, or call Waiouru Military Camp on (06) 387-5599.

Q: I only want to fish the Whakaurekou River backcountry fishery – do I still need the insurance?

A: Yes. The two backcountry fisheries controlled by Wellington Fish & Game are managed under the same Backcountry Licence Endorsement.

For more information on Wellington Fish & Game's backcountry fisheries, scan the code below, or search 'Backcountry Licence Endorsement' on the Fish & Game website – www.fishandgame.org.nz

