Waitomo & Kawhia Rivers

The limestone rock that created the world-famous Waitomo caves also provides the Waitomo District with some outstanding trout rivers. Here you will find a variety of trout fishing opportunities in rivers that flow through the dramatic limestone landscapes that are unique to this district. Some Waitomo rivers provide classic fly fishing water, while others are more suited for spin fishing, generally across open farmland.

**Oparau River**

An attractive small river that meanders across open farmland with an extensive length of fishable water that is especially suitable for anglers that have slight mobility difficulties. Unfortunately, trout numbers are low with a scattering of rainbows and the occasional large sea-run brown.

While many of these waters can be fished on a day trip from Hamilton, there are camping sites alongside most rivers. Allom and backpacker accommodation is available in Te Kuiti and Kawhia Village.

**Kawhia Harbour River**

Two small streams that flow directly into the Tasman Sea with access from the coast road between Manganuku and Awakino villages. Both waters hold brown trout, generally small but occasionally large sea-run browns. Although neither stream is worth a special trip, they are an interesting area for a weekend away and these waters can be fished in conjunction with the other rivers described in this pamphlet.

For current angling regulations please check the "Sports Regulations" provided free when you purchase a fishing licence.

Marokopa River

The impressive Marokopa Falls divides the river into two fisheries. Below the falls, the best fishing is upstream from Ta Arapiri, where there is a succession of deep pools and race over a wide stelke bed. Further upstream, in the short section of river below the Marokopa Falls, the river changes in character with small bouldery pools and pocket water and these waters usually hold good numbers of brown trout. Above the state highway 42 bridge, a DoC track runs parallel to the river for 700 metres. Further upstream, the Pākai Stream enters on the true left and although a small stream it does hold some large fish. Access to these waters is easy and there is a DoC track that runs to a point on the river just upstream from the Pākai Stream. Access to the upper reaches of the Pākai Stream can be gained from the state highway 42 bridge.

**Lower Tawarau River**

The upper reaches of the Tawarau River, with access from the coast road and Waitomo Road, provide excellent waters for the beginner or anglers with slight mobility difficulties. These waters often hold good numbers of brown trout. The upper reaches following the Pohatu Stream also provide some fly fishing opportunities. Further upstream, the Awakino River enters on the true left and although a small stream it does hold some large fish. Access to these waters is easy and there is a DoC track to a point on the river just upstream from the Awakino River. Access to these waters is easy and there is a DoC track to a point on the river just upstream from the Awakino River.

**Mangapohue Stream**

The upper reaches of the Mangapohue Stream, with access from the coast road, provide excellent waters for the beginner or anglers with slight mobility difficulties. These waters often hold good numbers of brown trout. The Mangapohue Stream also provides some fly fishing opportunities. Further upstream, the Awakino River enters on the true left and although a small stream it does hold some large fish. Access to these waters is easy and there is a DoC track to a point on the river just upstream from the Awakino River.

**Awakino Gorge**

A small river flowing into Kawhia Harbour that holds a sparse population of brown trout. Follows below the main reaches where the river flows through a scenic ravine. Access from Makanu Road.

**Kaituna Stream**

A small stream that flows into Waitomo Caves near the confluence with the Tawarau River. Access from Kaituna Valley.

**Awakino River**

A small river flowing into Kawhia Harbour that holds a sparse population of brown trout. Follows below the main reaches where the river flows through a scenic ravine. Access from Makanu Road.