

# Lake Tarawera

Lake Tarawera is a deep, clear, lake with excellent water quality all year from strong winds, except Easterly winds. Facilities include five boat ramps, round. The lake covers 42km<sup>2</sup>, average depth of 50m and the deepest part is two Department of Conservation camping areas, lake-side accommodations, 88m. Surface water temperatures range from winter lows of 12° to tearooms, lake shore walks, hot pools, scenic boat tours, and fishing summer highs of 22°. The lake is sheltered with protected shorelines guides.

## Fishery

Lake Tarawera produces quality rainbow trout that grow quickly to an average size of 2.5kg, many reaching 4kg and larger. Tarawera trout progeny are used for stocking many of the Rotorua Lakes. About 65% of the Lake Tarawera catch is made up of fish that spent the first year of their life in the hatchery and the remaining 35% are fish from wild spawning. The trout grow quickly on the abundant populations of smelt, bullies, koura, and aquatic insects such as dragon and damselfly's until they reach 3-4 years and then spawn (breed) from May to September in the lake's tributaries and outlet. Some of the hatchery trout return to their release site on the shoreline.

## Release Sites

Mature released trout often return to these sites and shoreline fishing opportunities are available there during July, August, and September when the rest of the lake is closed to all fishing.

Fish & Game New Zealand, Eastern Region, has produced an information sheet with maps of the winter shoreline areas. This is available from tackle retailers.

## Fishing Regulations

Refer to your fishing regulation guide book for specific information regarding season lengths, bag limits and fishing rules.

## Boat Ramp Descriptions

**The Landing** - single boat ramp, low gradient, good jetty, and toilets and tearooms close by. Car parking is restricted, especially during holiday periods.

**Boatshed Bay** - double boat ramp, two jetties, toilet facilities, and a large parking area. This is a very sheltered launching area.

**Stoney Point** - single ramp, low gradient, can be shallow in mid summer. This area has a good jetty, toilets, playground, and attractive swimming and picnicking areas. Parking is restricted, especially during busy holiday periods, and the site is exposed to strong south to southeasterly winds.

**Otumuhi Lagoon** - at the end of Bay View Road, has a single boat ramp that is very shallow with a low gradient that is suited to boats under 5m long. It has limited parking and a jetty 40m away.

**Lake Outlet** - single boat ramp, shallow with no jetty, and a camping ground close by. A jetty is located on the opposite site of the outlet to access the Department of Conservation tracks along the lake shore and down to the Tarawera Falls. Vehicle access to this area is from Kawerau and requires a forest access permit. Free access permits are issued from the Redwoods Visitor Centre, Long Mile Road, Rotorua. Phone (07)346-2082.

## Fishing Method Calendar

	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Shallow Trolling	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Deep Trolling			X	X	X	X	X					
Jugging			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Spinning	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Fly Fishing	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## Key Fishing Situations

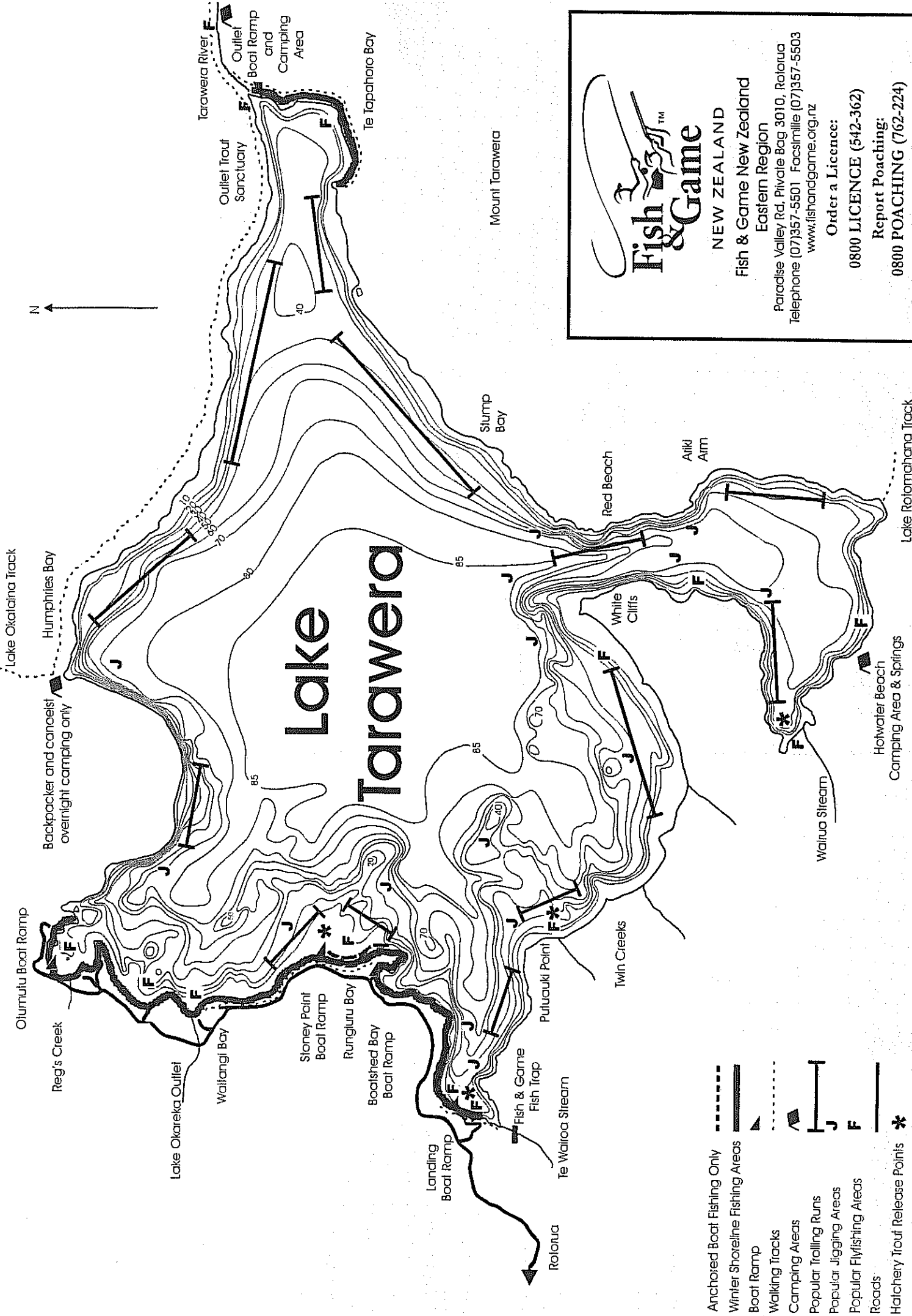
**October to January** is when the main prey of trout, smelt, spawn in the shallow sandy shoreline areas. Trout are hungry after winter and spawning, and attack the shoals of smelt with vigour. Water temperatures are also ideal for trout to be in shallow water. Action can be found all day, but, as water temperatures warm up, early morning and night become better.

**January to March** - higher water temperatures force trout into deeper water. Smelt and trout mainly stay around the thermocline depth at around 30m during the day and move close to the surface at night.

**April to September** is when trout spawn and gather in numbers at places like stream mouths, the lake outlet, and release sites within the winter shoreline fishing areas.

## Fishing Methods & Tackle

All popular and traditional lures and fly patterns successfully catch Tarawera trout and your favourite ones will be successful. For up to date information and good advice see your local sports fishing tackle shop who also stock an information sheet produced by Fish & Game New Zealand, Eastern Region explaining how to use each angling method.



**Fish & Game**<sup>TM</sup>

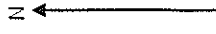
**NEW ZEALAND**  
**Fish & Game New Zealand**  
**Eastern Region**  
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[www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

**Order a Licence:**  
**0800 LICENCE (542-362)**

**Report Poaching:**  
**0800 POACHING (762-224)**

# Lake Tarawera

Mount Tarawera



Olumutu Boat Ramp  
 Reg's Creek  
 Lake Okareka Outlet  
 Waitangi Bay  
 Stoney Point Boat Ramp  
 Rungluru Bay  
 Boatshed Bay Boat Ramp  
 Landing Boat Ramp  
 Te Wairoa Stream  
 Fish & Game Fish Trap  
 Putuauki Point  
 Twin Creeks  
 White Cliffs  
 Red Beach  
 Slump Bay  
 Te Tapahoro Bay  
 Outlet Trout Sanctuary  
 Outlet Boat Ramp and Camping Area  
 Tarawera River  
 Lake Okataina Track  
 Humphries Bay  
 Backpacker and canoeist overnight camping only  
 Lake Rotomahana Track  
 Aitiki Airm  
 Waitutu Stream  
 Hotwater Beach Camping Area & Springs