



Whakamaru Dam Tail Water. David Moate

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WAIKATO TRIBUTARIES

Pueto Stream, Deep Creek, Whirinaki Stream, Tahunaatara Stream and the Mangakino River are excellent fisheries in their own right. The larger ones like the Pueto and Deep Creek offer kilometres of fishing. They receive large influxes of trout, during summer, seeking colder water, and again in winter, as adult trout move to their spawning areas. Numerous other small cold streams enter the main river and lakes providing fishing at their confluence or for a short distance upstream.



Lake Maratai. David Moate

WAIKATO HYDRO POWER LAKES

Each of the 5 lakes on the map has its own unique features and scenery that makes it interesting to explore them all. Lakes Ohakuri and Whakamaru have excellent camping grounds and facilities. Boat fishing on the lakes is productive using all popular methods. Summer fishing at cold water stream mouths is great for beginners or the family. The lakes hold smelt that are in the shallows spawning and feeding from August to December, attracting hungry trout that can be caught harling, spinning or flyfishing. All the lakes have high trout populations and are uncrowded.

FISHING METHODS

Trolling on the lakes is popular and successful particularly along dropoffs or around structures. Spin or fly casting into the shore near weed beds, trees or rocks in the water is a fun and productive way to fish especially in Spring. Rapal, cobra and toby lures will work well trolled or on a spinning rod. Fly patterns imitating bullies, smelt, dragon and damsel fly all catch fish in still or calm waters and weighted nymphs in the fast water and tributaries. Dam tail waters require heavy lures like Tokoroa Chickens or large flies on a trace with a lead sinker to get down in the strong flows. Bait fishing is productive and monster brown trout can be caught this way. The Waikato River is a great place to experiment and explore.

SPORTS FISHING REGULATION

Sports Fishing Regulations on the Waikato River are liberal and designed to encourage anglers to explore and enjoy this highly productive fishery. For details refer to your North Island Sports Fishing Regulation Booklet.

ACCESS

The Waikato River has extensive public access featuring excellent boat ramps and launching points on the lakes and main river. Angler access is permitted by Mighty River Power at the Ohakuri, Atiamuri and Whakamaru dam tailwaters, limited at Maraetai and not permitted below Aratiatia. Undoubtedly using a boat, canoe or float tube on the lakes or main river gives you the most access to the fishery and opens up many interesting situations like drifting or anchoring below dam tail waters or at stream mouths. Public shoreline access is available on the many reserves around the lakes and marginal strips along the rivers. Private landowners generally provide access to anglers who make the effort to gain permission first. Please respect access privileges to ensure they continue.

HYDRO LAKE LEVEL INFO

Lake Level Information www.mightyriverpower.co.nz
 Flow Information 0800 820082
 Phone 07-857 0199
 Fax 07-857 0177



SPORTS FISHERY ENHANCEMENT

Anglers who have plans to do anything to enhance the sports fishery in the Waikato River may be able to obtain some funding for their project from the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust.

Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust

Taking steps to improve our ecological heritage

Website www.wceet.org.nz
 Phone 0800 BIODIV (246348)

Waikato River Fishery

The Waikato River drains Lake Taupo and is New Zealand's largest catchment. Within the Eastern Region of Fish & Game New Zealand, the Waikato River, its 5 lakes, 4 key tributaries and a score of spring creeks support a diverse and highly productive trout fishery. Each lake and section of river offers different scenic surroundings and all year round fishing in over 330km of fishable water. Angler access is plentiful along shorelines, below dam tail waters and boat access is easy from the many well constructed boat ramps. The Waikato River is home to rainbow trout averaging 1 kg and brown trout averaging 1.5 kg, with many huge trophy specimens waiting to be caught. Every type of fishing method will work in the Waikato catchment with bait and spinning as popular as trolling and flyfishing. Productive fishing can be found all year round with spectacular summer fishing at coldwater sources or tail waters below dams where trout congregate often in large numbers.

Cover Photograph by: Lindsay Lyons



Waikato River above Lake Atiamuri. David Moate

GENERAL WAIKATO FISHING INFORMATION

The Waikato River has been modified by a number of hydro power schemes which produce a large percentage of the country's power needs. Today's combination of hydro lakes, dam tail waters and sections of original river plus numerous tributaries provide endless angling opportunities whatever your level of experience. Hydro power operations result in fluctuating river levels and care is required. Water temperatures during summer get very high in the lakes and main river. This forces many trout to congregate in sources of coldwater like spring creeks and dam tail waters. This creates spectacular fishing often resulting in high catch rates. Winter and Spring are productive times of the year to fish the Waikato main river and lakes. Other species of fish can be caught in the Waikato River and Lakes. Catfish, Carp and Golden Rudd are fun to catch on a light spinning outfit using a float with corn or bread impaled onto a size 16 hook. Due to the impact these species have on the environment please kill any of these species caught and never transfer to other waters.

Waikato River Fishery



Eastern Region

Fish & Game
 NEW ZEALAND

Private Bag 3031, Rotorua
 Freephone 0800 434 742
 Telephone: 07 357 5501
 Facsimile: 07 357 5503
 Email: admin@efgc.co.nz
 Website: www.fishandgame.org.nz
 0800 LICENCE 0800 POACHING



Fish & Game
 NEW ZEALAND

Eastern Region



1. LAKE MARATAI
Angling is permitted near the dam face. The tail water is only accessible by boat due to steep gorgy terrain.

2. LAKE MARATAI
Excellent boat ramp, jety and toilets. Plenty of shore access near ramp and along reserve.

3. TWIN LAKES
A small boat launching site gives access to the main lake with another boat ramp and parking area giving access onto the small lake. The flow through the culvert under the road attracts large brown trout and the small lake above is productive.

4. MANGAKINO RIVER
In a small boat you can travel up the lower river for some distance. This section of water during summer and autumn holds high numbers of large brown trout. The upper reaches are well worth fishing.

5. LAKE WHAKAMARU DAM TAILWATER
Good access on true right

6. POKURU ROAD
Good boat ramp at the Whakamaru Ski Club. Easy shore access around ponds and culvert under road into Whakamaru Village with the Mangakowhitwhiri Stream staying cold in summer attracting lots of trout into the top pond

7. LAKE WHAKAMARU CAMPING AREA
Large camping area under trees, toilets and boat ramp. Good shore access

8. DUNHAM POINT RESERVE
Camping area, toilets, picnic area with good boat ramp and parking

9. ONGARAHU CREEK
The creek and mouth are productive in summer. The Waipapa Stream close by is thermal

10. MANGAHARAKEKE STREAM MOUTH
Summer and autumn hot spot with a small boat launching site off a 4wd track below bridge.

11. ATTAMURI DAM TAILWATER
Easy access and good fishing on the dam wall close to service entrance or through the reserve 150 meters down stream.

12. LAKE ATTAMURI
Drive through the village to a excellent boat ramp, jety and parking

13. WHIRINAKI ARM RESERVE
Rotorua District Council provide a excellent boat ramp, toilets, carpark and picnic area.

14. WHIRINAKI ARM
Excellent boat ramp, jety and parking below bridge off Whirinaki Arm Road

15. OHAKURI DAM FACE AND TAILWATER
Turn down road on true left bank below dam, turn left into a small grassed clearing and climb down the steep track to the river where you will find a small spring creek mouth. To access the tail water continue down the road and park by the bridge, walk across bridge and take the 2nd track to the dam on the true right bank or walk 100 meters along the road and take the track through the trees to a prime spot. Access is also off the dam road down the true right side to grassed area right beside the power station. A excellent public boat ramp, picnic and parking area is on the true left side of the dam of Lake Ohakuri.

16. LAKE OHAKURI FAMILY RECREATION RESERVE MANAGED BY CARTER HOLT HARVEY FORESTS
Excellent camping grounds, facilities and boat ramp available 24/7 for a small charge. Gates are open 1/12 to 28/2 annually otherwise keys can be obtained by calling 025 770 997 or at the Bull Ring Tavern.

17. TUTUKAU ROAD BRIDGE
Excellent boat ramp.

18. MINI ROAD BRIDGE
Good boat ramp, vehicle parking and Picnic area

19. TOROPATUHI RIVER (DEEP CREEK)
Vehicle access to Deep Creek mouth and boat ramp through a Rotorua District Council reserve off Vaile Road.

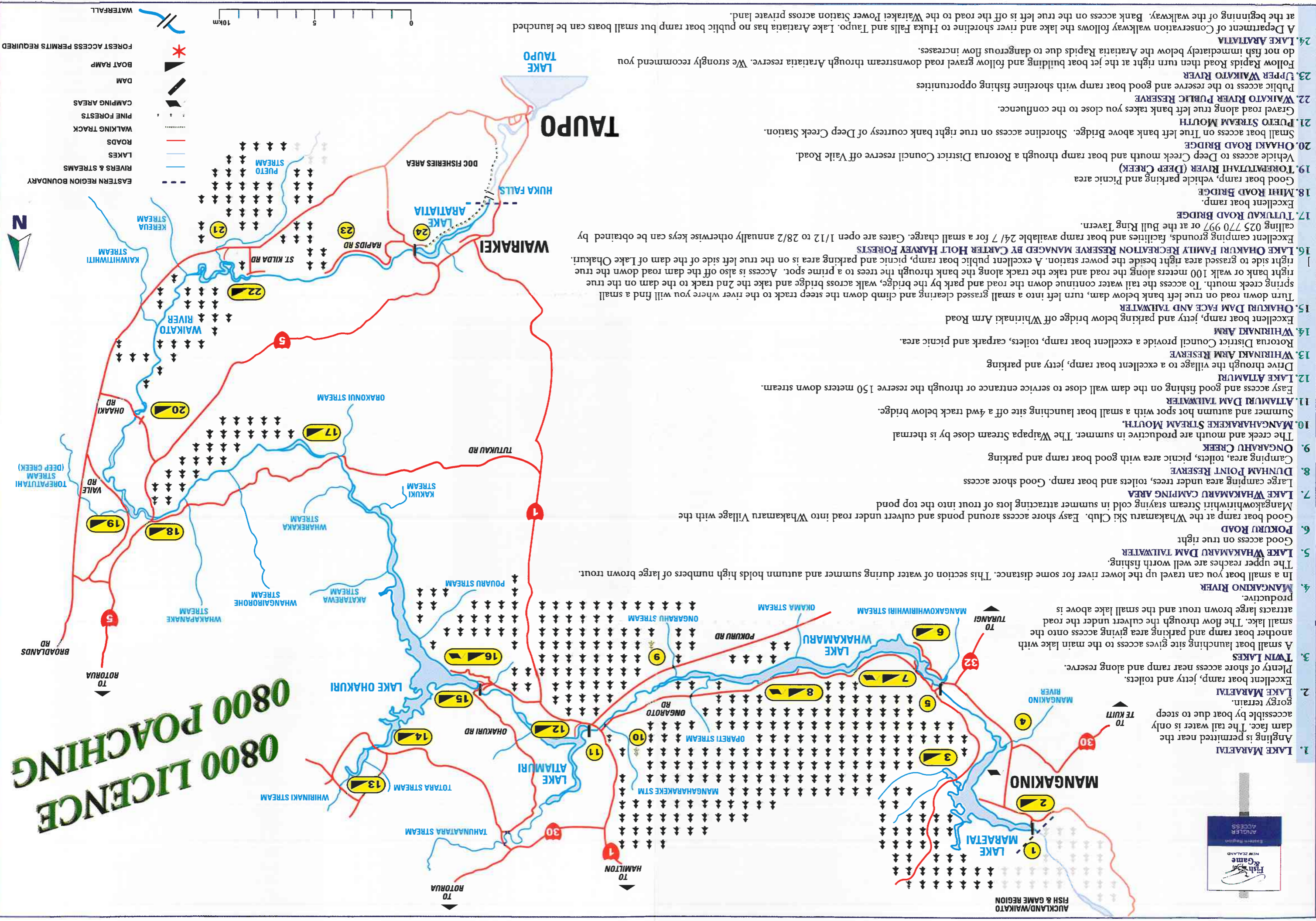
20. OHAKI ROAD BRIDGE
Small boat access on True left bank above Bridge. Shoreline access on true right bank courtesy of Deep Creek Station.

21. PUETO STREAM MOUTH
Gravel road along true left bank takes you close to the confluence.

22. WAIKATO RIVER PUBLIC RESERVE
Public access to the reserve and good boat ramp with shoreline fishing opportunities

23. UPPER WAIKATO RIVER
Follow Rapids Road then turn right at the jet boat building and follow gravel road downstream through Aratatia reserve. We strongly recommend you do not fish immediately below the Aratatia Rapids due to dangerous flow increases.

24. LAKE ARATATIA
A Department of Conservation walkway follows the lake and river shoreline to Huka Falls and Taupo. Lake Aratatia has no public boat ramp but small boats can be launched at the beginning of the walkway. Bank access on the true left is off the road to the Waitakeri Power Station across private land.



0800 LICENCE POACHING