

Tauranga Area Trout Fishery

Photo, Lake McLaren



Fish & Game
NEW ZEALAND

EASTERN REGION

The Tauranga district offers a variety of small lake and stream fisheries within close proximity to the city. The following information is provided as a basic guideline to locations, access and the fishery. Anglers should check specific regulations for individual waterways. Much of the Tauranga district fishery is across private property. Anglers should always seek the permission of landowners.

Wairoa River catchment area:

1 Lake McLaren

Access is from SH29, sign posted at the McLaren Road turn off. Set in a tranquil park Lake McLaren, a hydro lake, is in the upper Wairoa catchment and on the eastern side of the Kaimai ranges. The lake is formed from the damming of the Opuaki and Mangapapa streams and flows into the Ruahihi canal. McLaren's features a meandering shoreline forming a number of small bays and points ideal for angling. The shore is also well planted with trees and shrubs which provide shady cover and habitat for insect life. Access to the water's edge is easily obtained by following a network of well formed roads and walking tracks.

Much of the lake is relatively shallow with many weed beds along the edge providing habitat for insects and small fish and creating the opportunity to target trout from the shore. All angling methods are popular and successful and the lake is open to fishing all year. During the heat of summer trout are less likely to be active during the



Lake McLaren, photo M Jarvie

day, but will feed at first light, during the evening and after dark. Trout rise in summer when terrestrial insects such as beetles and cicada fall on the water. Autumn through to late spring offers a good a chance to fish throughout the day by spinning or fly fishing with nymphs or wet flies.

Fish & Game stock the lake annually with around 500 rainbow and 200 yearling browns from the Ngongotaha hatchery. Lake McLaren also has some natural reproduction so anglers will catch both wild and hatchery raised fish. Trout commonly grow to 1kg with some specimens reaching 1.5-2kg.

The lake level fluctuates particularly in late afternoon when the Ruahihi power station starts drawing water. Motorised boats are not allowed on the lake but rowing dinghies, kayaks and float tubes are an ideal way to access the shoreline and weed bed edges to target cruising trout.

Lake McLaren is an ideal location for family picnics and introducing youngsters to the joys of trout fishing.



Ruahihi Canal, photo M Jarvie

2 Ruahihi Canal

Access is from McLaren's falls road off SH29 or from Ruahihi Road. Gates are frequently closed but foot access is available at all times. The canal which flows out of Lake McLaren's is a popular location and is known for its evening rise during summer. Spin fishing is also a good way to target the expanses of the canal. A long handled net is recommended to land fish as the canal has steep sides in places.

Fish & Game stock the Ruahihi canal annually with both rainbow and brown trout from Ngongotaha which reach 1-1.5kg. The upper most section (to the South) is closed to fishing between the landmark poles for spawning.

3 Ngamuwahine River

Access is from the unsealed Ngamuwahine Road, off SH29 into the Kaimai Mamaku forest park. The Ngamuwahine is a small river with high scenic value, featuring a variety of water from slow glides in the lower section to riffly pools and runs in the headwaters. The river is challenging to fish and is ideal for the experienced fly fisher with nymphs and dry flies. The river contains both brown and rainbow trout which reach 2kg



4 Omanawa River

The Omanawa River can be accessed from either Omanawa or Belk Roads from SH29 via private property. The river runs North and enters the Wairoa River below the Ruahihi power station. A deep gorge provides difficult going and should be attempted by fit anglers. Brown and rainbow are present in lower section and rainbow trout above the waterfall.

5 Wairoa River

The Wairoa River can be accessed from SH29. The lower reaches are tidal and can be accessed by boat from the SH2 bridge boat ramp. During spring, when runs of whitebait are present is an ideal time to target this area before the river warms in summer. The middle and upper reaches are favored by anglers and spin fishing is the best method on this large waterway. Has both brown and rainbow trout.

Be aware that due to the impact of hydro, water levels can change dramatically.

6 **Hourere (Minden) Stream**

Access is off Crawford Road, from Wairoa Rd and SH2 near Bethlehem and through private property (seek landowner permission). This small, appealing tributary of the Wairoa is ideal for fly fishing with dries and nymphs. Pools are well formed and separated by riffles and small cascades. Trout average 0.5kg.



Ngamuwahine brown, photo NZ Trout Fisher

7 **Opuiki River**

The Opuiki River is accessed off Soldiers Road from SH 29 just beyond the Ngamuwahine bridge and through private property (seek landowner permission). Fish numbers are not high but both brown and rainbow trout are present.

8 **Waimapu Stream**

The Waimapu Stream is accessed off Oropi (from SH29) and Heriford Roads through private property (seek landowner permission). It flows northward entering Tauranga Harbour near Greerton. The stream has limited fishable water but offers quality dry and nymph fishing in clear water to brown trout.

Kaituna River catchment area:

9 Kaituna River

The Kaituna River flows from Lake Rotoiti near Rotorua, through bush clad gorge, into farm land before entering the sea near Maketu. Access to the lower reaches is from Rangioru Road or Kaituna River Road East off SH2 South of Te Puke.

The lower sections of the Kaituna are suitable for spin fishing during the spring when smelt and whitebait enter the river. Rainbow and brown trout are available.

10 Waiari Stream

Access is from Te Matai and No 1 roads off SH2 just east of TePuke, and through private property (seek landowner permission). This small stream meanders across farm land and enters the Kaituna near the sea. The lower reaches and mouth are popular with spin fishers. Rainbow and brown trout.



Anglers should refer to the latest North Island Sport Fishing Regulations for season duration, bag limits and regulations applying to the Tauranga area available through licence agents or from Fish & Game. Anglers should seek the permission of landowners before accessing private property. For more information about the Tauranga fishery contact; Tauranga Anglers Club.



Eastern Region

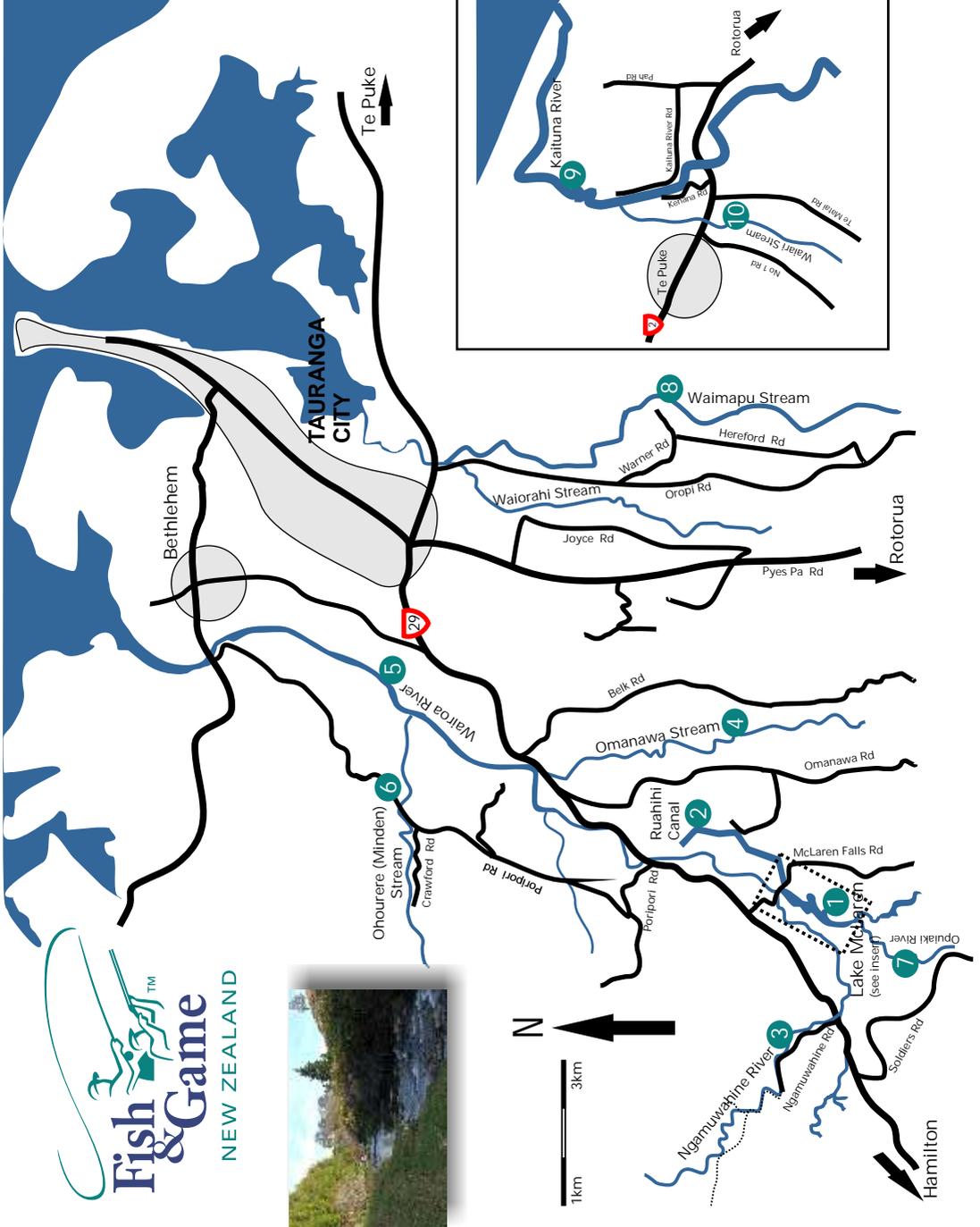
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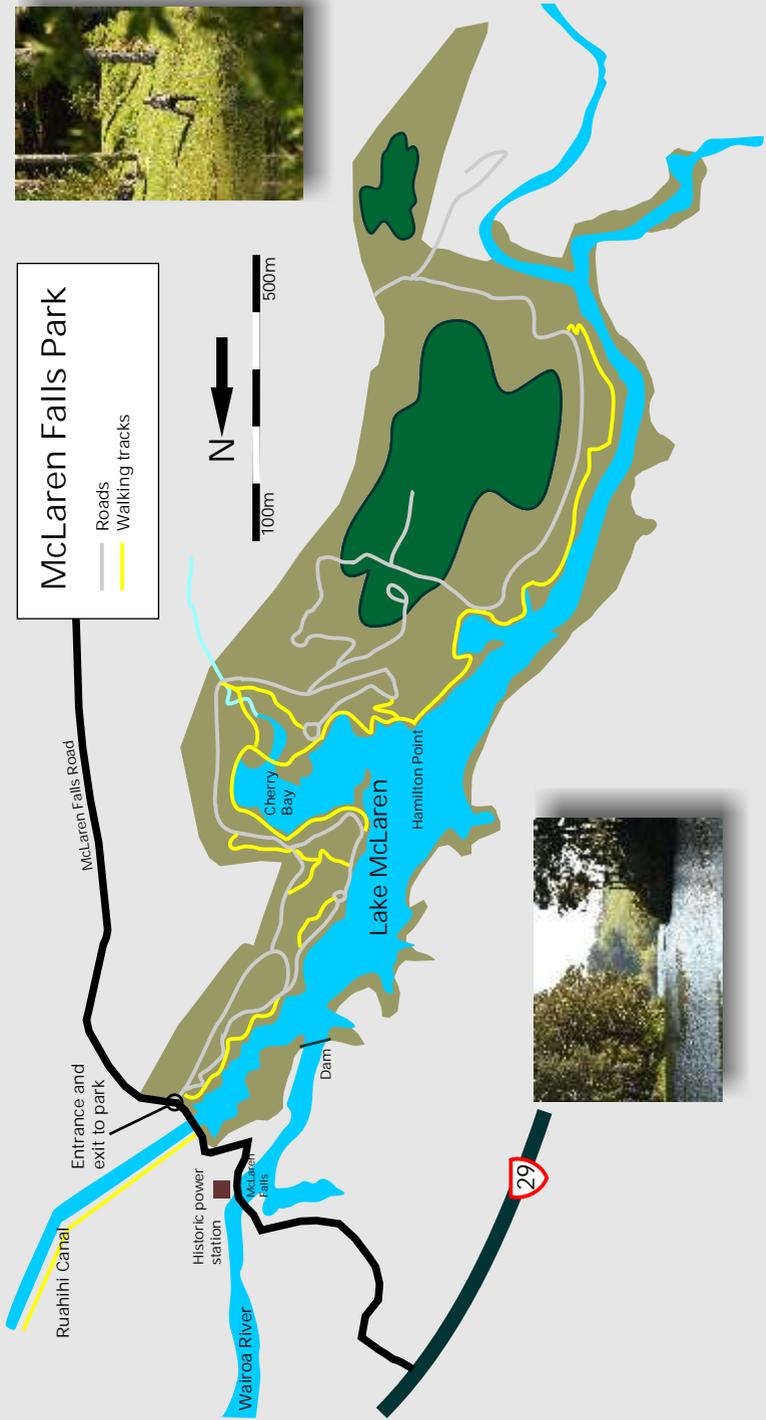
0800 LICENCE 0800 POACHING





McLaren Falls Park

-  Roads
-  Walking tracks



Fish & Game Eastern Region

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