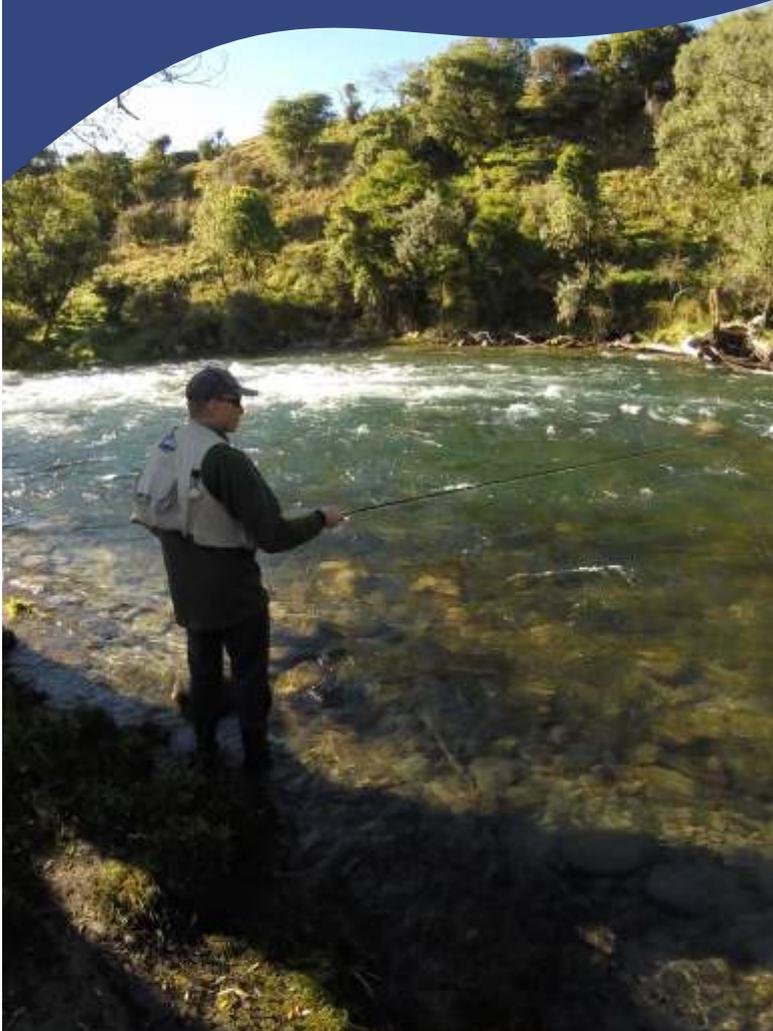


Wairoa fisheries catchment



EASTERN REGION

The Wairoa River catchment is one of the largest within the Eastern Region and includes catchments of the major tributary rivers the Waiau, Waikaretaheke, Ruakituri and Hangaroa. It drains the eastern side of the Te Urewera country and includes Lake Waikaremoana, and the Putere Lakes, and in the Gisborne back country the Tiniroto area includes Kents Lake. In addition there are numerous smaller streams many of which are also good trout fisheries. The catchment spans an enormous area of bush country and farm and forest lands in the Wairoa and Gisborne districts. Opportunity for trout fishing is immense.

For information on the Lake Waikaremoana and Ruakituri River fisheries, refer to the separate brochures specific to these fisheries.

Waiau River

The Waiau River commences in the heavily bushed Te Urewera at the confluence of the Parahaki and Wairoa Streams and drains the south eastern portion of Te Urewera, then flows through farm and forest country to be joined by the Waikaretaheke River. At Frasertown, the Waiau joins the Wairoa river which flows into the sea in northern Hawkes Bay near Wairoa town.

The Waiau provides considerable angler opportunity from remote back country experiences, through to locations easily accessed by road. Fly and spin fishing are permitted methods.

In its upper reaches within Te Urewera, much of the river can be accessed from tramping tracks, however a good level of fitness is advised if venturing into this area.

Headwater streams the Parahaki and Wairoa also provide good fishing particularly in the early season.

Main access points for anglers:

This is a description of the main angler access points beginning in the upper reaches.

1. Within Te Urewera the headwaters may be accessed by walking track from Okahu Road off SH38 into the Wairoa Stream, and from SH38 via Whites Clearing into the Parahaki Stream.



For permission to cross Whites Clearing, which is private land, contact Ahurei Adventures at Ruatahuna, website is www.ahureiadventures.co.nz, or phone 07 366 3941.

2. From Parahaki to Te Waiotukapiti, the river can be accessed from a walking track or route which provides access to the river in many places.
3. Putere Road end. From the end of Putere Road the Mangahopai Stream can be followed down to the river and once in the river bed anglers can fish both up and downstream. In this area it is important to remain in the river bed due to adjoining private land.
4. Waireka Road bridge. Access from the bridge up and down stream.
5. Otoi Domain. A short distance past the Waireka bridge turn into the Otoi Domain and follow the rough vehicle track to the river. Camping is permitted here, and this is a very scenic area with good access to the river.
6. Ruapapa Road bridge at Mangaone Stream bridge. The true right side of the Mangaone Stream down to the Waiau River is marginal strip and it can be possible to access the Waiau River by walking down the Mangaone Stream.
7. Patunamu Road. The Waiau River can be accessed in a number of places from Patunamu Road which runs adjacent to it for several kilometres.
8. Raupapa Road. The road runs near the river which can be accessed in various places.
9. Ruapapa Road bridge at confluence with Waikaretaheke River. The river is wider and slower here but still holds reasonable numbers of trout. The river can be accessed here, however downstream to the confluence with the Wairoa River most access is via private property and permission needs to be sought to cross land.

Putere Lakes

10. Two of the Putere Lakes (Lake Rotoroa and Lake Rotonuiaha) hold populations of mostly rainbow trout. The third lake, Lake Rotongaio, does not hold trout and is essentially wetland bird habitat. Lake Rotoroa has public access on marginal strip around much of its western side, and the lake can be accessed on this strip. Respect adjoining private land by remaining on the lake edge. Although Putere Road follows much of the northern side access is difficult due to vegetation and terrain.



Lake Rotonuiaha can be accessed from off Waireka Road by contacting the land owners – Phone John Broad on 06 8388894 for permission to cross land to the lake. The Putere Road side of Rotonuiaha is private land owned by the Putere marae. Permission must be sought first to access the lake in this area across their land. Fly and spin fishing is permitted on these lakes and a small boat or kayak is an advantage.

Waikaretaheke River.

The Waikaretaheke River begins near Tuai, east of Lake Waikaremoana. It's flow is provided by the waters of Lake Waikaremoana after passing through the hydro stations of Kaitawa, Tuai, and Piripaua. The river flows adjacent to SH38 and is subject to water level fluctuation due to the influence of hydro. Because of this care must be exercised when fishing and anglers need to be aware river levels can rise rapidly. The Waikaretaheke River does however hold high numbers of rainbow and brown trout. Angling can be difficult at times due to heavy water flow and obstacles both in stream and on the banks. Suitable fishing methods include deeply weighted nymphs and spinners.

Main access points are:

11. Off SH38 (Lake Road) downstream of Piripaua. A marked access point is the start of an angler access route along the river bank. Best suited to spin fishing. Heavy fast water.
12. At 'Parkhurst', a marked access point and stile gives access to the river and access is along an esplanade strip on the river edge. A sign at the upstream end of the esplanade strip indicates the end of public access. Suited to fly and spin fishing.
13. Off SH38 (Lake Road) at gravel pit lay by area. A marked access point is the start of an angler access route along the river bank. Suitable for fly and spin fishing.
14. Waihi Road bridge. The river can be accessed here.

Downstream of Waihi Road bridge the river flows away from the road and permission needs to be sought to cross land. In this area the river is slower in most areas, and generally fish numbers are lower than in the area from the Waihi Bridge upstream.

Wairoa River

15. The Wairoa River begins below the Te Reinga Falls at the confluence of the Ruakituri and Hangaroa Rivers. It is a wide slow river carrying a high water volume.

The main fishing location on this river is below the Te Reinga Falls which is accessible via a track from the top of the falls. Brown and rainbow trout can be caught here on fly or spinner, and below the falls the river is open to fishing all year round. At time some large trout are caught here.

Between the falls and Frasertown the river is accessible in several places however is variable in water quality and trout numbers, being deep , slow flowing and in many areas silted.

Hangaroa River

The Hangaroa River flows out of Te Urewera draining the area to the north east of Rua's track. It then flows through a considerable area of farm country to meet the Ruakituri River at Te Reinga. It contains brown and rainbow trout with the best fishing in the upper reaches. It can be easily accessed by road in many places.

Main angler access points are:

16. Waimaha Station. The river can be accessed from the Waimaha Road bridge. Anglers wishing to cross Waimaha Station to the river must obtain permission from Waimaha Station management to cross private land, Phone 06 867 0234.
17. At Tahunga. Access from the Pehiri Road bridge. Access both up and down stream. Marginal strips extend both up and downstream along the river banks in most of this area.
18. At Pehiri. Access from Pehiri Road both up and down stream.
19. Access from the Tiniroto Road. The road follows the river for some distance and access is possible from the road side

Hangaroa River

Photo Cory Scott



20. Donneraile Park. Off Ruakaka Road. The park provides picnicking and camping and the river is readily accessible for fishing.
21. Ruakaka Road. The road crosses the river again and provides another access point.
22. At Te Reinga. Access is possible to the river here near where the Hangaroa and the Ruakituri River converge. This is slow water and lower quality fishing.

Tiniroto Lakes

23. For many years only one of the Tiniroto Lakes has held trout. This is 'Kents Lake', access off Ruakaka Road at Tiniroto. This is a small scenic lake, best fished from a small boat – two row boats at the lake are available to use, bring your own life jackets. However since the summer of 2015-2016 there has been concern about the viability of this fishery as there have been issues with the lake water quality over summer. Stocking of this lake may still occur if conditions are viable. Contact our office for more information if considering fishing this lake.

Mangapoike Stream

The Mangapoike Stream is a tributary of the Wairoa river and joins it between Frasertown and Te Reinga. Brown and Rainbow trout may be caught, generally smaller size and low numbers. Access is from:

24. Off Kotare Road from the Frasertown – Te Reinga Rd.
25. Off the Mangapoike Road, also off the Frasertown Rd.
26. From the Gisborne side, off Papatatu Road off Waingake Road.

General access considerations: In many areas access to waterways is over privately owned land, and many parts of rivers and streams also do not have publicly accessible land on the banks – publicly accessible land is usually esplanade or marginal strips (commonly but inaccurately known as 'Queens Chain'). The Walking Access Commission mapping system provide useful information on public access, website is; wams.org.nz

Regardless it is advised that if in doubt be courteous and seek permission. Anglers heading into remote areas should leave notice of their intentions including when they are due back, and it is advised that a Personal Locator Beacon is carried as there is limited cell phone cover in most of the areas this brochure covers.



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