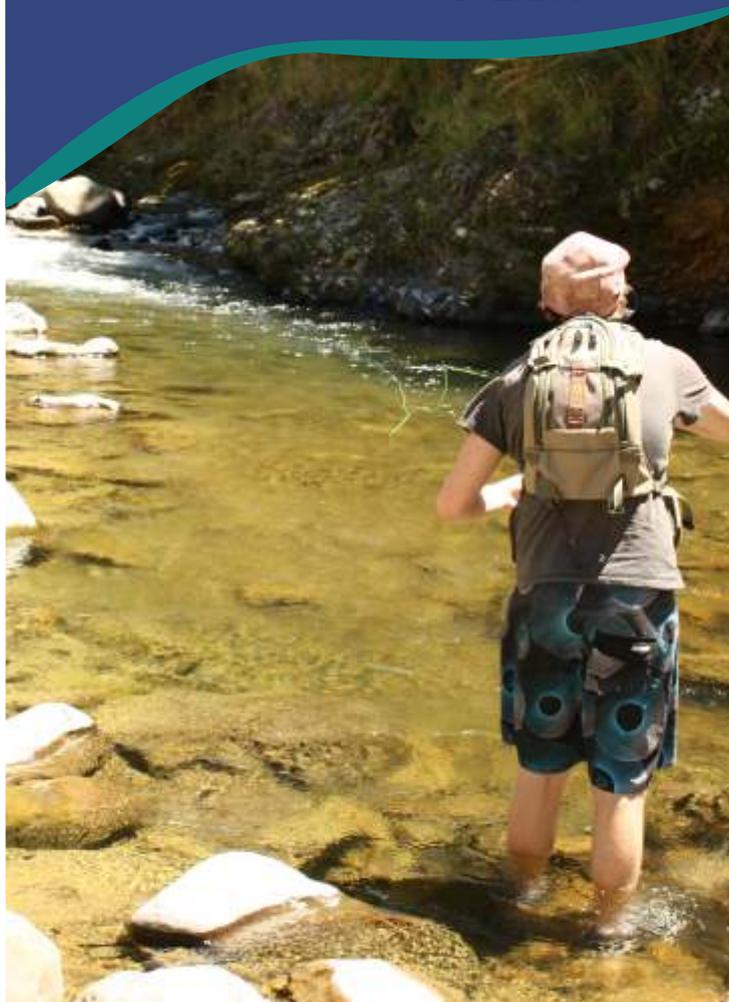


Waioeka River Fishery



EASTERN REGION

The following information is an overview of the Waioeka River fishery catchment and how to access it

Waioeka River Fishery Catchment

Scenic beauty and a large amount of fishable water are features of the Waioeka River and its tributaries. The Waioeka River flows in a northerly direction from its source in the Huiarau Ranges to its outlet in the Bay of Plenty at Opotiki. It offers fishing opportunities from wilderness fishing in the headwaters to easily accessible stream fishing close to the main road, to larger water in the lower Waioeka River closer to Opotiki, where sea run brown trout can at times be caught. Access to much of the river system is generally easy due to the close proximity of State Highway 2. Rainbow and brown trout are present in this river system.

Waioeka River

The Waioeka River in its lower reaches downstream of the Tauranga Stream confluence is open all year round, while the upper river and its tributaries above the Tauranga Stream confluence is open 1 October to 30 June. Both fly and spin fishing are permitted; check the current regulation guide to ensure you are familiar with the regulations before fishing.

General fishing information

In much of the Waioeka River system anglers will need to fish deep to reach fish. Tackle such as weighted nymphs, or a deep sinking line will be suitable. In summer if there is an insect hatch or cicadas present then a dry fly may bring success. During late summer in the Waioeka lace moth hatches can may for exciting fishing.

Lower Waioeka River

Spin fishing is popular in the lower river where there are larger pools and long sweeping runs. (sites 1 to 4)

Middle Waioeka River

Broad shingle beaches are found in many parts of the river in this area. Riffles, runs and deep pools provide ideal trout habitat. This part of the river is easily accessed from State Highway 2 (sites 5 to 23)

Upper Waioeka River

From the end of Redpath Road (site 23) it is possible to walk up into the headwaters of the Waioeka River. In this area the river flows through both native bush and farmland and can offer those who make the effort a wilderness fishing experience. Before crossing private land it is important to gain permission from the landowners, and accommodation is available at farm stays on Wairata and Redpath Roads.

Small tributaries in the middle Waioeka River

Tributaries such as the Waiata Stream, Oponae Stream, Omaukora Stream, Okurata Stream, Wairata Stream, and the Te Pato Stream all provide scenic small stream experiences for anglers. Note access to some of these streams is across private land so anglers must ensure that they first obtain permission from landowners before crossing private land.

Opato Stream

Access sites along the Opato Stream are easily accessed from State Highway 2. Picnic facilities makes these areas ideal for family outings. Clear water and bouldery runs and deep pools offer a very scenic angling experience to fish for rainbow and brown trout. The Opato Stream can fish well as far upstream as Sandys Bridge, about 2.6 km upstream from the Manganuku Stream camping and picnic area.

Koranga and Kahanui Streams

Both these streams are important headwater tributaries of the Waioeka River, and provide scenic wilderness fishing experiences for anglers who are prepared to walk from the Koranga Road end. From the Koranga Road end a track follows the true right of the Koranga Stream to the Koranga Forks hut at the confluence with the Kahanui Stream, and the start of the Waioeka River. This area is within Conservation land, and anglers can use the DOC huts or camp. More remote areas can be walked to or accessed by helicopter.



Using the map (overleaf)

Most access points are described using reference points such as culvert numbers (look for the green numbered culvert markers) or other landmarks. Some have angler access signs where these have been able to be placed clear of the highway environs.

Most of the Waioeka catchment lies within Department of Conservation lands including scenic reserve. Please respect the special scenic and conservation values of this area.

Major access points for fishing - numbers correspond to those marked on the map overleaf.

Waioeka River

1 Hine Rae Historic Reserve

Drive through gate into reserve area 8 km from Opotiki. A track leads to the river, wide shingle river bed suitable for spin fishing.

2 Culvert 41

A loop off road layby area gives access to a side track to the river.

3 Aro Aro Bridge

On the upstream side of the bridge follow a track down to the Aro Aro Strea, then follow the stream down under the SH2 road bridge to the river.

4 Pine Trees

Park on road side just past angler access sign. Follow a short track or route to the river. The river can be accessed down the bank.

5 Rest area

Look for the rest area on the river side of the road. From the Angler Access sign, drive to the river side down a gravel access track through native bush. This is an attractive family picnic area and suits spin fishing.

6 4WD track

An Angler Access sign marks the start of a short track to the river which is most suitable to high clearance vehicles. The river here has a mostly shingle bed, suitable for fly or spin fishing.

7 Side track

An Angler Access sign marks the start of this track. Gives vehicle access to the river, where some boulder areas are now appearing. Good for spin or fly fishing.

8 Owहितoa Stream

Park at the layby at the Mangapumarumar Stream confluence and take the short track down to the river. Faster water with rapids and pools, suits nymphing and spin fishing.

9 Macrocarpa tree

Look out for an old macrocarpa tree in a grassy area towards the river. Take a vehicle access track and park near the tree, and to the right of the grassy area look for a track down a small gully to the river.

10 Gravel pit

Upstream of Grahams Bridge, a large gravel pit area gives good access to the river. Suits fly or spin fishing.

11 Tauranga track

The Tauranga track carpark is the start of a good DOC track to the river (5 minute walk) and the historic Tauranga bridge. Good access up and downstream from the bridge.

12 Culvert 98

Opposite culvert 98 the river can be accessed by climbing down bank reinforcing rocks to the river bed.

13 Flow gauge (culvert 2)

Look for the river flow gauge tower. A short distance further upstream locate culvert 2. Park on the road side and then walk back downstream about 10 metres and look for a steep 'zig zag' track down to the river.

14 Kahikatea Tree, (culvert 35)

Look for a kahikatea tree on the side of the road, and an access track which starts near it leading to the river.

15 Waiata Bridge

The river can be accessed from near the Waiata Bridge. Good parking at a rest area near the bridge.

16 Fishermans Bend

Look for the Angler Access sign, and take a 4 WD vehicle track to the river. Suits spin or fly fishing.

17 Culvert 60

Park on the roadside near culvert 60, and take the track down to the river. Narrow, deep, swift water. Suits a heavy nymph.

18 Culvert 70

Opposite culvert 70 a good benched track leads down to the river.

19 Culvert 83

Park near culvert 83 and starting at the culvert take a steep track down through bush to the river.

20 Omaukora Stream

Park on the downstream side of the bridge and take the track to the river which is just next to the bridge.

21 Wairata

Cross the bridge on Wairata Road. Just after the bridge on the right a short track leads to the confluence of the Waihoekia River and Opato Stream.

22 Redpath Road

The Waihoekia River can be easily accessed from various points along Redpath Road which runs alongside it. There are also several picnic spots so this is also a location suitable for families.



23 Redpath Road end

This gives access to the upper river, through farmland and into the DOC land. Access across private property to the river is at the discretion of the land owners, the Redpaths. Please call ahead for permission, phone 07 315 7763. Please leave all gates as you find them, and respect the privilege of access through their property. Nikau Hut (DOC) is situated about 3 hours walk up river from the road end. Check with DOC for track conditions as slips in the past have affected parts of the DOC walking track

Opato Stream

24 The Monument

At the monument rest area steps lead to the stream. Good access upstream from this point.

25 Upstream of monument

About 250 meters upstream from the monument park in the off road area where the old road line cuts behind a small hill. Follow the old road behind the hill and in the corner of the road line locate a track which leads downhill to the stream.

26 Lone Matai tree

Park in a layby downstream of an old lone matai tree. Track starts about 100 meters downstream at the rear of a grassy area behind a roadside barrier. Take track through bush to the stream.

27 Gibsons Bridge

From the carpark just upstream of the bridge take the track down to the stream. Good access both up and downstream from this point.

28 Manganuku Bridge and rest area/camp ground

Park in the DOC picnic area/camping ground. Gives access to the Opato Stream and to the Manganuku Stream.

29 Upper Opato Stream

The Opato Stream can be accessed in various places upstream of the Manganuku Stream confluence. This area is best fished in early season while water levels are usually higher, and does not hold high numbers of fish but can be worth a look by those looking for a small stream experience.

Koranga Stream

30 Koranga Road end

From the Koranga Road end a public walking track follows the stream down to the Koranga Forks where there is a DOC hut situated. This will take about 2–3 hrs walking. The Koranga Stream can be accessed from this track in many places. At the Koranga Forks anglers can access the Kahanui Stream, or go downstream which is the Waioeka River.



Eastern Region

Private Bag 3010 Rotorua

Email: eastern@fishandgame.org.nz

Website: <http://fishandgame.org.nz/eastern/>

0800 POACHING

Telephone 07- 357 5501



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 Email: eastern@fishandgame.org.nz
 Website: http://fishandgame.org.nz/eastern/
0800 POACHING
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Protect our waters



Unwanted aquatic weeds, algae and pest fish threaten freshwater environments for the trout fishery, native species, and all recreational users. Be a responsible user...



Check, Clean, Dry

Anglers should refer to the latest North Island Sport Fishing Regulations for season duration, bag limits and regulations. It is available through licence agents or from Fish & Game, and can be downloaded from the Eastern Fish & Game web site. Anglers should seek the permission of landowners before accessing private property.

- 1 Hine Rae Historic Reserve
- 2 Culvert 41
- 3 Aro Aro Bridge
- 4 Pines
- 5 Rest area
- 6 4WD track
- 7 Side track
- 8 Owihitoa Stream
- 9 Macrocarpa tree
- 10 Gravel pit
- 11 Tauranga track
- 12 Culvert 98
- 13 Flow gauge culvert 2
- 14 Kahikatea / culvert 35
- 15 Waiata bridge
- 16 Fishermans' bend
- 17 Culvert 60
- 18 Culvert 70
- 19 Culvert 83
- 20 Omaukora Stream
- 21 Wairata
- 22 Redpaths Rd
- 23 Redpaths Rd end
- 24 Monument / Opato Stream
- 25 Upstream of monument
- 26 Lone matai tree / 35km/hr corner
- 27 Gibsons Bridge
- 28 Manganuku Bridge
- 29 Upper Opato Stream
- 30 Koranga River



KEY

- Road
- River/stream

