

Please be aware that this area is used by game bird hunters pursuing pheasant and quail from early May through to mid-August each year. When you are out on the river please make sure that you avoid any areas where machinery is being operated.

## Ohau River

The fishing is patchy in the upper reaches within the Tararua Conservation Park, but improves further downstream. In the mid-reaches between the park boundary and State Highway 1 the river lends itself to fishing for sighted fish with a small dry fly or nymph. Downstream from State Highway 1 the river quickly becomes slower and deeper and although there is often a good evening rise in late summer, the heavy willow growth along the banks can make casting difficult. Anglers need landowner permission to fish the lower reaches as there are no public access points downstream from Parikawau Reserve.

## Access points

### 1. Poads Road

About half way between Ohau and Levin, turn off State Highway 1 onto State Highway 57 and drive 3.4 km to reach Tararua Road. Turn right onto Tararua Road and drive 2.9 km to reach Gladstone Road. Turn right onto Gladstone Road and drive 2.9 km to reach Poads Road and the suspension bridge over the Ohau River. Drive over the bridge, park beside the road and walk down to the river.

### 2. Tararua Conservation Park

To reach the headwaters of the Ohau River within the Park, drive along Poads Road until you reach the DoC signage in front of the private residence at the road end. Park your vehicle well away from the road on the grassy area in front of the sign, and then proceed on foot along the poled route across the farm paddocks until you reach the Park. The Ohau River flows through a steep gorge for about 3 km and there is little opportunity to fish until you get upstream from the Ohau Shelter.

### 3. Gladstone Reserve

Turn off State Highway 1 onto State Highway 57 and drive 3.4 km to reach Tararua Road. Turn right onto Tararua Road and drive 2.9 km to reach Gladstone Road. Turn right onto Gladstone Road and drive 1.8 km to reach Gladstone Reserve. Drive through the reserve and park by the river.

### 4. Kimberley Reserve

Turn off State Highway 1 onto State Highway 57. Drive 2 km along State Highway 57 until you reach an intersection, drive straight through this intersection onto Kimberley Road and continue for a further 2.4km until you reach the access road into Kimberley Reserve. There is ample parking space along the road once you are inside the reserve. When fishing your way upstream from Kimberley Reserve, please note that access to the river above the reserve has

been denied by the landowner. The upstream limit of the public land is marked by the edge of the forested area on the true left (eastern) bank of the river.

### 5. Kirkcaldie Bridge Reserve

At Ohau Township, turn off State Highway 1 onto Muhunua East Road and travel 3.1 km until you reach the Kirkcaldie Bridge Reserve. There is a parking area right next to the river. About 750m upstream from Kirkcaldie Bridge there is a swing bridge across the river which serves as a farm access way. Please do not use this bridge under any circumstances.

### 6. Parikawau Reserve

Turn off State Highway 1 400m north of the Ohau River. The access road to Parikawau Reserve is signposted "Car Clubs, Levin and Vintage". Drive 360m down this road to reach the reserve where you will find ample parking, a picnic area and toilet facilities.

**PLEASE NOTE:** To fish the lower reaches of Ohau River it is necessary to cross private land; and anglers must obtain the permission of the landowner before doing so. Soldiers Road and Kuku Beach Road provide the most convenient points from which to reach the river. Farm boundaries along the true left side of the river are shown on the map. To arrange access contact:

- A. John Catley: 06-3626528
- B. Francis & Alison Catley:  
Call in at the last house on the left-hand side of Soldiers Road.
- C. John Haines: 06-3626685
- D. John Allen (lease holder)

If fishing upstream from John Catley's property to Parikawau Reserve, stay within the bed of the river at all times.



# Kapiti Coast River Fisheries



Wellington Region

# Kapiti Coast River Fishery

There are three major rivers on the Kapiti Coast; the Waikanae, the Otaki and the Ohau. Each offers anglers a variety of opportunities to catch brown trout.

## Anglers!

**Sections of riverbed covered by this pamphlet are in PRIVATE ownership which means anglers do not have a right of access. Most landowners have agreed to anglers having access along the riverbed without having to obtain permission first. However, please note that to gain access to areas marked on the map with an orange circle or half circle you must ask the owner's permission first.**

**PLEASE respect the privilege of access. Once you are on the river, stay within the riverbed and do not wander onto adjacent farmland without the express permission of the landowner, unless there is a public access strip next to the river as shown on the map.**

**Conditions of access are:**

**NO dogs. NO firearms. NO camping. NO fires. NO vehicles on the riverbed. Leave gates as you find them.**

**Please Note:** Fish and Game NZ has endeavoured to show where legal public access exists to and along these rivers. Because of a variety of factors beyond our control this is a guideline only. The onus of avoiding trespassing rests with the angler and where doubt arises landowner permission should be sought. If any difficulty occurs through the use of this information please contact the Wellington Regional Office of Fish and Game NZ.

## Waikanae River.

Anglers on the Waikanae can experience a surprising diversity of opportunities along the river's short course from the bush clad hills behind Reikorangi to its estuary at Otaihanga. The upper river is beautiful but holds relatively few trout, while the middle and lower reaches hold moderate numbers of good fish with a few big sea run specimens.

## Access points

### 1. Mangaone South Road

Turn off State Highway 1 onto Reikorangi Road. After driving 4.1km you will cross a bridge over the Waikanae River. After crossing the bridge drive a further 400m and turn left onto Ngatiawa Road. Travel

along Ngatiawa Road for 700m to reach the turn off onto Mangaone South Road. Travel 3.7km along Mangaone South Road until you reach a Fish & Game 'Angler Access' sign which marks a 4-WD track that runs down to the river. Park your vehicle beside the road and walk down to the river. This upper part of the Waikanae is steep and gorgy; negotiating the riverbed can be difficult.

### 2. Ngatiawa Stream

Turn off State Highway 1 onto Reikorangi Road and travel 4.5km to reach the turnoff onto Ngatiawa Road. Turn left onto Ngatiawa Road and drive 700m to reach the turnoff onto Mangaone South Road. Drive 300m along Mangaone South Road until you see an old timber suspension bridge on the left hand side of the road. Park your vehicle beside the road. Walk across the timber bridge to reach the true right bank of the Ngatiawa Stream. After crossing the bridge you will find a steep path on your left that runs down to the Ngatiawa Stream's confluence with the Waikanae River.

### 3. Reikorangi Bridge

Turn off State Highway 1 onto Reikorangi Road. Drive 4.1km to reach the bridge. Park your vehicle at the road side and then walk upstream along the bed of the river. The bed of the river immediately above the bridge is privately owned and the owner has generously agreed to allow anglers access. Please stick to the riverbed at all times and do not wander onto the adjacent paddocks.

### 4. Reikorangi Road

Turn off State Highway 1 and drive along Reikorangi Road until you reach a Fish & Game 'Angler Access' sign on the right-hand side of the road. Park your vehicle at the side of the road and walk across the paddock and down to the river.

### 5. State Highway 1 Bridge

Turn off State Highway 1 immediately south of the bridge. As soon as you are off the main road turn right onto a gravel track that will take you down to a parking area directly under the bridge.

### 6. Otaihanga Domain

South of Waikanae, turn onto Otaihanga Road. Drive about 1.5km and then turn left at the intersection of Ratanui and Otaihanga Road so that you stay on Otaihanga Road. Travel a further 1km past the intersection to reach Makora Road. Drive 500m along Makora Road to reach Otaihanga Domain. The river is a short walk from the parking area at the domain. This is a convenient point from which to put in a day's fishing along the true left (southern) bank of the Waikanae, as a public walkway runs along the rivers edge from the domain to within 1km of the State Highway 1 Bridge. The true right (northern) bank of the river can be reached from Otaihanga Domain via a footbridge.

### 7. North Bank Walkway

A public walkway provides access along the true right bank of the river from Karu Reserve just downstream from the State Highway 1 Bridge to Jim Cooke Memorial Park a further 1.5km downstream. Turn off State Highway 1 onto Te Moana Road; convenient access

points to the walkway are provided by Fleetwood Grove (800m from SH1) and Nimmo Avenue West (2km from SH1).

### 8. Greenway Road

Turn off State Highway 1 onto Te Moana Road and travel 2.7km to reach Greenway Road. Drive to the end of Greenway Road where you will find a small reserve area with ample parking close to the river.

## Otaki River

The Otaki has an extensive catchment within the Tararua Conservation Park that offers excellent angling to those who are prepared to walk to find it. Below the park boundary the river runs through a long gorge, which offers plenty of deep pools and great views of the steep bush clad slopes that run down to the river. This part of the Otaki is best fished from a raft. Below the gorge the river channel wanders across wide expanses of gravel that will require you to do a fair bit of walking between pools.

## Access points

### 1. Tararua Forest Park

Turn off State Highway 1 onto Otaki Gorge Road. Travel along Otaki Gorge Road for 15.9 km, until you reach the Boielle's Flat Picnic Area. The Picnic Area lies adjacent to the Waiotauru River, a tributary of the Otaki. To reach the Otaki River cross the suspension bridge to the east of the carpark and follow the Penn Creek track upstream.

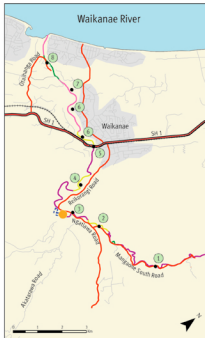
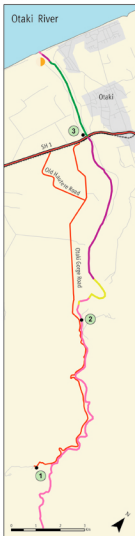
### 2. Otaki Gorge Road

Travel 7.8 km along the Otaki Gorge Road from State Highway 1 until you reach a Fish & Game 'Angler Access' sign on the left side of the road. This sign marks the entrance to a Kapiti Coast District Council Reserve that provides off-road parking and walking access down to the river. Turn off the road and park in the paddock just through the gate. From the parking area the river is a 230m walk down a 4-wheel drive track. Please make sure that you leave the gate as you find it and be aware that it is padlocked every evening at dusk.

### 3. State Highway 1 Bridge

If travelling north pull off SH1 and park in the rest area situated on the left about 150m before you reach the bridge over the Otaki River. From the rest area a 4WD track leads onto public land managed by the Greater Wellington Regional Council as a Water & Soil Conservation Reserve. Leave your vehicle at the rest area and proceed down the 4WD track on foot. The track runs alongside the Otaki River for about 2.5 km. The river can be accessed easily at many points along the track.

The fourth gateway that you reach after leaving SH1 carries a sign reading "Private Property, Please Keep Out", the limit of the public land is marked by a sign that is visible about 50m from this gateway on the right that reads 'No Hunter Access'.



**Legend**

- Built up areas
- No access to riverbed without landowners permission
- No access to bare left side of riverbed without landowners permission.
- Fishing access
- Highway
- Railway
- Roads
- Access limited to river bed
- Access along true right river bank
- Access along true left river bank
- Access along both sides of river
- No legal public access
- Coast
- Sea