



Many Taranaki trout fisheries have their source within either the Te Papakura o Taranaki (Egmont) or Tongariro National Parks and provide a high-quality angling experience in a scenic and un-crowded environment. In the west more than 40 small to medium sized trout streams radiate from the base of Taranaki Maunga offering a diversity of angling opportunity. These streams provide quality 'sight fishing' for large brown trout, while rainbow trout fishing is also available in several lakes, in the Waingongoro River between Eltham and the sea and in the Kaupokonui Stream. Further to the east within the Ruapehu district are some of the most productive rivers in the region including the Mangawhero River and also the Manganuioteao River, which is a nationally important brown and rainbow trout fishery offering a quality backcountry angling experience. Finally, for something different or as a great way to introduce children to fishing, Whanganui has a number of lakes that provide easy fishing for perch within a few minutes of the city.

### **ACCESS INFORMATION**

For the most comprehensive and up to date information on river and lake specific access and fishing techniques please refer to the fishing pages for the Taranaki Region at [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

## **National Regulations**

### **The Sports Fishing Regulations**

**These regulations are set to ensure that:**

- Fish populations are maintained and that the number of fish caught does not threaten the sustainability of the fishery.
- The quality of the fishing experience is maintained.
- Spawning areas are protected.
- Angling opportunities are not unnecessarily restricted.
- Incompatible methods of fishing are kept separate.
- Anglers use sporting methods.

The main angling rules and catch limits are shown in this booklet, but there are other rules in the Conservation Act, Freshwater Fisheries Regulations and other legislation which affect sports fishing. For example, a current fishing licence is required to fish for the species listed in the First Schedule, and it must be carried with anglers at all times when fishing. The licence is to be produced upon demand by a Fish & Game Ranger.

If you are in any doubt about sports fishing regulations, please contact your local Fish & Game office.

These regulations are approved by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing on the advice of the 12 regional Fish & Game Councils. The Fish & Game licence allows an angler to fish New Zealand wide (except Taupō).

# Anglers Notice

## Fish & Game Regions 2025

### Conservation Act 1987

### Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983

Pursuant to section 26R(3) of the Conservation Act 1987, the Minister for Hunting and Fishing approves the following Anglers Notice, subject to the First and Second Schedules of this notice, for the following Fish & Game Regions:

Northland	Taranaki	North Canterbury
Auckland/Waikato	Wellington	Central South Island
Eastern	Nelson/Marlborough	Otago
Hawke's Bay	West Coast	Southland

### Notice

This notice revokes all previous Anglers Notices and shall come into force on 1 October 2025.

#### 1. Application of this Notice

- 1.1** This Anglers Notice sets out the conditions under which a current sports fish licence holder or a person named on a family whole-season licence may fish for sports fish in the area to which the notice relates, being conditions relating to:
  - (a)** The size and limit bag for any species of sports fish;
  - (b)** Any open or closed season in any specified waters in the area, and the sports fish in respect of which they are open or closed;
  - (c)** Any requirements, restrictions, or prohibitions on fishing tackle, methods, or the use of any gear, equipment, or device;
  - (d)** The hours of fishing; and
  - (e)** The handling, treatment, or disposal of any sports fish.
- 1.2** This Anglers Notice applies to sports fish which include species of Trout, Salmon, Perch and Tench (and Rudd in Auckland/Waikato Region only).
- 1.3** Perch and Tench (and Rudd in Auckland/Waikato Region only) are also classed as coarse fish in this notice.
- 1.4** Within coarse fishing waters (as defined in this notice), special provisions enable the use of coarse fishing methods that would otherwise be prohibited.
- 1.5** Outside of coarse fishing waters an angler may fish for coarse fish wherever sports fishing is permitted, subject to the general provisions in this notice that apply for that region.

## First Schedule:

Fishing conditions generally common to all Fish & Game Regions.

## Second Schedule:

Regional specific fishing conditions, bag limits, closed and open waters, and the like.

# First Schedule

## 1. Interpretation

Words and expressions in this notice, which are defined in the Conservation Act 1987, the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, or the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025, shall be so defined.

*“assembled rod”* means a rod that is assembled from butt to tip, together with a line and lure attached.

*“all methods”* means any artificial fly, or spinner or bait.

*“artificial fly”* means any lure of feather, fur, wool or other material of any kind customarily used in the making of artificial flies.

*“bait”* means:

- Natural insect.
- Natural spider.
- Natural worm or worms.
- Natural crustacean.
- Natural fish, excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc), except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.
- Uncoloured bread dough.
- Any scented lure, soft bait and other synthetic imitations with chemical attractant properties, except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.

*“bait assembly”* means either a hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks.

*“bait fishing”* means to fish for sports fish with bait.

*“boat”* means any manned flotation device.

*“closed”* means no fishing is permitted.

*“coarse fish”* means Perch, Tench (all New Zealand) and Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Region only).

*“coarse fishing waters”* means named locations where anglers can fish for coarse fish with:

- (a) A rod which has either a fixed or running line.
- (b) No restriction on the type or number of baits in use.
- (c) No restriction on the use of preparations to attract fish.

*“controlled fishery”* means a controlled fishery described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025 and for which a controlled-period licence is required when fishing during a controlled period.

*“daily bag limit”* means the total number of sports fish that may be taken or killed by any one person during any one day.

“designated waters” means a designated waters fishery described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025 and for which a designated waters licence is required when fishing.

“fishing” and “fish” in this notice means:

the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish; and includes any:

- (a) Other activity that may reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish.
- (b) Attempt to catch, take or harvest sports fish.
- (c) Operation in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition.

“freshwater” means

- (a) All waters of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, lagoons, wetlands, impoundments, canals, channels, watercourses, or other bodies of water whether naturally occurring or artificially made.
- (b) All waters of estuaries or coastal lagoons.
- (c) All other fresh or estuarine waters where freshwater fish indigenous to or introduced into New Zealand are found.
- (d) All waters in the mouth of every river or stream, and the mouth of every river and stream shall be deemed to include every outlet thereof and the seashore between those outlets and the waters of the sea or lying within a distance of 500 metres from any place where at low tide the waters of a river or stream meet the waters of the sea.

“fly fishing” means to fish for sports fish with fly rod and fly reel and fly line and artificial fly.

“foul hook” means to hook a sports fish other than from within the mouth.

“junior fishery” means a named location where only a child or junior angler may fish.

“landmark” means a black, yellow and white ringed post or buoy.

“length” is the measurement from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

“legal lure” means any authorised artificial fly or spinner or bait.

“sea-run Salmon waters” means sea-run Salmon waters described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025 in the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish & Game regions and for which a sea-run Salmon licence is required when fishing for Salmon and to which the Sea-run Salmon Season Bag Limit Notes apply.

“season bag limit” means the total number of sports fish that may be taken or killed by any one person between the 1 October and 30 September.

“season bag limit card” means a card upon which anglers taking or killing sports fish in Fish & Game regions that have a season bag limit must legibly record the date, name of water, sex (as can best be determined by the angler), weight in kilograms and length in centimetres of the fish, and whether it was fin clipped.

“spin fishing” means to fish for sports fish with a spinner.

“spinner” means any artificial lure other than an artificial fly.

“sports fish” means those freshwater fish described in the First Schedule of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, namely:

- Brown Trout.
- Rainbow Trout.
- American Brook Trout or Char.
- Lake Trout or Char.
- Atlantic Salmon.
- Quinnat or Chinook Salmon.
- Sockeye Salmon.
- Perch.
- Tench.
- Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Region only).
- Any hybrid of the above species.

“zero bag limit” means fishing is permitted but no fish may be kept.

## **2. Authorised Tackle**

**2.1** No angler shall fish for Trout or Salmon except by using a rod and running line and authorised method (as defined in clause 8 of this First Schedule).

**2.2** Nets and gaffs:

**2.2.1** When playing a sports fish, a landing net may be used to secure or land that fish.

**2.2.2** For keeping coarse fish alive, a keep net may be used in the water from which the fish was caught.

**2.2.3** No angler shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish except where provided for in the Second Schedule of this notice.

**2.3** No angler when fishing for sports fish shall:

**2.3.1** Use more than 1 assembled rod and running line.

**2.3.2** Use more than 3 artificial flies or spinners.

**2.3.3** Use more than 1 bait assembly.

**2.3.4** Be more than 15m from the rod being used, except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.

**2.3.5** Use in waters other than those where bait fishing is permitted any lure treated with any chemical preparation other than that used solely to control the buoyancy of an artificial fly, except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.

**2.3.6** Use any preparation not attached to a lure to attract fish except when fishing for coarse fish in coarse fishing waters.

**2.4** No person shall fish for sports fish by using felt-soled waders or footwear incorporating or having attached a sole of felted, matted or woven fibrous material when sports fishing.

## **3. Foul Hooking of Fish**

**3.1** No angler shall attempt to foul hook any sports fish.

**3.2** Any angler who foul hooks a sports fish shall return it immediately to the water with as little injury as possible.

#### **4. Fish Length**

**4.1** Every angler who catches a sports fish which does not exceed the specified minimum length, or exceeds the specified maximum length, shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.

#### **5. Open Season**

**5.1** No angler shall fish for any sports fish except during an open season.

#### **6. Daily Bag Limit**

**6.1** No angler shall continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day in which the angler has already killed the limit bag for that species except where provided for in the Second Schedule.

**6.2** It shall be permissible to make up the difference between a lesser limit bag prescribed in one place and a higher limit bag prescribed in another if the extra fish are taken in the area with the higher bag limit.

#### **7. Season Bag Limit**

**7.1** No angler shall continue to fish for sports fish in any season in which the angler has already killed the season bag limit for that species, except where provided for in the Second Schedule.

#### **8. Authorised Methods**

**8.1** Authorised methods (subject to any regional restrictions specified in the Second Schedule) are:

- Artificial fly (**F**).
- Bait (**B**).
- Spinner (**S**).

# Second Schedule

## Taranaki Fish & Game Region

The Taranaki region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, at page 1861.

### 1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

### 2. Additional Requirements

- Note 1**
- 1.1 First Schedule conditions apply.
  - 1.2 There are no restrictions on the hours of fishing.
  - 1.3 There is no minimum length for Trout.
  - 1.4 There are no defined coarse fishing waters in the Taranaki Fish & Game Region.
  - 1.5 Scented artificial lures may be used in waters where spin fishing is permitted (FS) when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish.
  - 1.6 No angler shall use as bait any fish taken from any water other than where the fishing is occurring.

**Note 2** In the Hangatahua (Stony) River no brown Trout may be taken.

**Note 3** No angler shall fish for sports fish from a boat in Lake Mangamahoe, including the Waiwhakaiho Inlet.

### 3.1 Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits - Region Defaults

Water	Section of water	Open Season	Authorised Fishing Methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer Clause 2 For Additional Requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Perch	
All lakes, rivers and streams not mentioned in clause 3.2 for this region		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1

### 3.2 Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits - Region Defaults

Water	Section of water	Open Season	Authorised Fishing Methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer Clause 2 For Additional Requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Perch	
<b>Taranaki/Whanganui</b>							
Huatoki Stream	downstream of Brois Street Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Kai Auahi (Kaiauai) Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	1		Note 1
Kapuni Stream	upstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	1		Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FS	2	1		Note 1

Kaupokonui Stream	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Lake Kohata		All year	FSB			No limit	Note 1
Lake Mangamahoe	excluding the Waiwhakaiho Inlet and Mangamahoe Stream	All year	F	2			Note 1, 3
	Waiwhakaiho Inlet upstream of the normal site of a landmark located just upstream of the confluence with Lake Mangamahoe	1 Oct - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1, 3
	Mangamahoe Stream upstream of the walkway swing-bridge at the head of Lake Mangamahoe	1 Oct - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1, 3
	Any tributary other than Waiwhakaiho Inlet and Mangamahoe Stream	All year	F	2			Note 1, 3
Lake Namunamu		All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Lake Ngangana		All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Opunake		All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Lake Ratapiko		1 Oct - 30 Apr and 1 June - 30 Sep	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Rotokare		All year	FSB			No limit	Note 1
Lake Rotomanu		All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Rotorangi	downstream of Mangamingi Bridge	All year	FSB	2		No limit	Note 1
Lake Wiritoa		All year	FSB			No limit	Note 1
Manganui River	downstream of Bristol Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Mangaoraka Stream	downstream of State Highway 3 Devon Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Patea River	downstream of Patea Dam	All year	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1
Hangatahua (Stony) River		All year	FS	2 rainbow Trout zero brown Trout	1		Note 1, 2

Waiau River	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Waingongoro River	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Waiongana Stream	downstream of State Highway 3 Devon Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Waitara River	downstream of Manganui River confluence	All year	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1
Waiwhakaiho River	downstream of the normal site of a landmark that is at the end of Rimu Street extension walking track	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Te Ikaparua (Warea) River	downstream of State Highway 45 Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Whanganui River	downstream of Ohura River confluence excluding tributaries	All year	FSB	2	1	No limit	Note 1
Virginia Lake		Closed to fishing					

### Waimarino

Manganuioteao River	downstream of Ruatiti Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
	mainstem from Ruatiti Road Bridge upstream to confluence with Makatote River	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Mangawhero River	downstream of Raetihi - Ohakune Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Retaruke River	downstream of Oio Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1
Sattlers Dam		All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Tokiahuru Stream	downstream of State Highway 49 Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Waitaiki Stream	downstream of State Highway 49 Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1