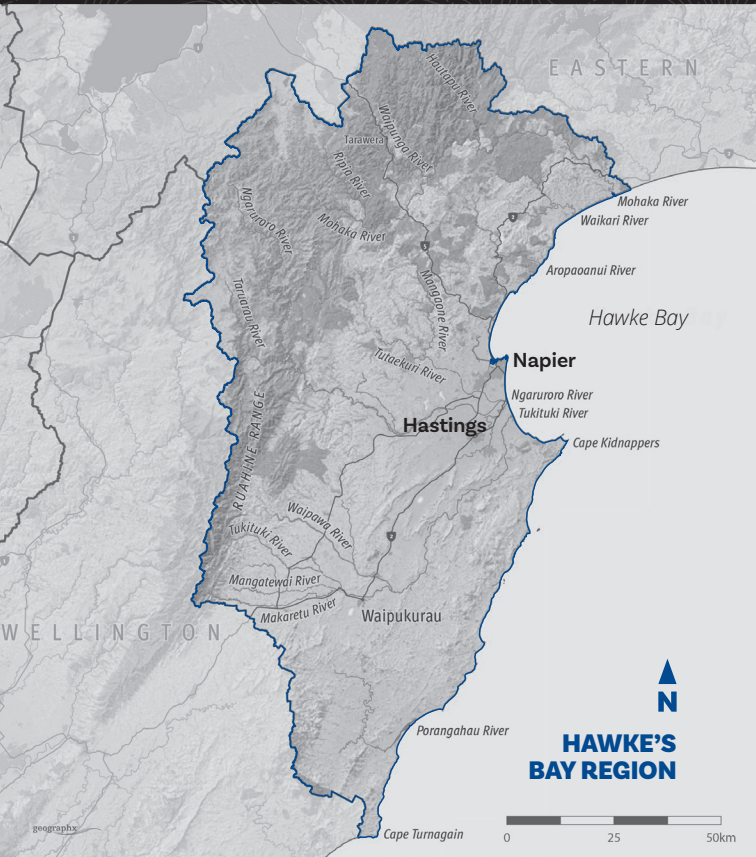


HAWKE'S BAY

Sports Fishing Regulations 2025/2026



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SCAN FOR
ALL REGIONS
REGULATIONS

The Hawke's Bay offers a huge range of angling opportunities, with some of the best and easiest access in the country. The region's rivers provide some spectacular headwater fishing as well as year-round lowland angling. Lake Tutira is the major lake fishery in the region. The fish provide excellent sport to both shore based and rowboat trolling anglers. The major river systems in the region are the Mohaka, Tutaekuri, Ngaruroro, Waipawa and Tukituki, all of which have comprehensive angler access pamphlets to assist anglers (see below). Both brown and rainbow trout are prevalent throughout the region. The dry fly fishing on the Tukituki, along with its many tributaries is a major attraction during the heat of the summer months as fish feed on the surface. The Ngaruroro and Mohaka River headwater wilderness fisheries are nationally rated and offer anglers the chance to catch trophy sized fish in gin clear waters. The middle and lower reaches of the region's rivers are easily accessible from a variety of public roads and provide anglers with vast amounts of fishable water.

ANGLER ACCESS PAMPHLET LIST

Comprehensive angler access pamphlets are available from licence agents, information centres, Fish & Game offices and the web for the following waters.

- Tukituki/Waipawa Rivers and tributaries
- Ngaruroro River Fishery
- Mohaka River Fishery
- Tutaekuri River Fishery
- Northern Hawke's Bay/Tutira Lake Fisheries

Lake Hawkston Fishing Access:

- Fishing is permitted only in daylight hours at Lake Hawkston. There is walk in access only. Please phone Dave McPhee 0275 422 665 prior to access of lake.

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

Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Region

The Hawke's Bay region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this Notice or the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	Use of Motorised Crafts	
1.1	No motorised craft permitted on Lake Waikopiro.	
1.2	Similarly, except with the prior written authority of the Director-General of Conservation, and subject to compliance with any conditions that the Director-General may impose, no person shall use any boat in Lake Tūtira that is propelled by any means other than sails, oars, or paddles.	
Note 2	Fishing is permitted only in daylight hours at Lake Hawkston.	
Note 3	Fish Length	
3.1	Esk River (Waiohinganga) above the Waipunga Road Bridge, including tributaries	550mm maximum
3.2	Maraetotara Stream	350mm maximum
3.3	Ngaruroro River upstream of Whanawhana cable, including tributaries	550mm maximum
3.4	Lakes Tūtira and Waikopiro	350mm minimum
3.5	All other waters	No minimum or maximum size limit

Water	Section of water	Open Season	Authorised Fishing Methods	Daily bag limit by species	Refer Clause 2 For Additional Requirements
All other waters not listed below		1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
Larger of Twin Lakes (Rotoroa), Kuripapango		All year	FS	No limit	Note 3
Lake Hawkston		1 Nov - 31 Mar	FS	1	Notes 2, 3
All other lakes of the region (except the larger of Twin Lakes & Lake Hawkston above)		All year	FS	2	Notes 1, 3
Aropaoanui River	downstream of the landmark opposite Wareham Road	All year	FS	1	Note 3
Esk River/ Waiohinganga	upstream of Waipunga Road Bridge and all tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	downstream of Waipunga Road Bridge	All year	FS	1	Note 3

Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council's Burness Road Ponds		All year	FSB	1	Note 3
Karamu Stream, excluding tributaries		All year	FSB	2	Note 3
Maraetotara Stream		All year	FS	1	Note 3
Mohaka River	downstream of the confluence with the Mangatainoka River to State Highway 5, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
	downstream of State Highway 5 Bridge	All year	FS	2	Note 3
Mohaka River tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
Ngaruroro River	upstream of Kiwi Creek confluence, including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	from Kiwi creek to Whanawhana cable, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
	Whanawhana cable to Fernhill (Omahu) Bridge, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
	downstream of Fernhill (Omahu) Bridge	All year	FSB	2	Note 3
Ngaruroro River tributaries	upstream of Whanawhana cable	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	downstream of Whanawhana cable	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
Porangahau River	downstream of confluence with the Mangawhero Stream, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	1	Note 3
Tukituki River	upstream of State Highway 50 Road Bridge, excluding tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	State Highway 50 Road Bridge to Red Bridge, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Notes 3
	downstream of Red Bridge	All Year	FSB	2	Note 3
Tutaekuri River	downstream of confluence with the Mangaone to Redclyffe (EIT) Bridge Stream, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	1	Notes 3
	downstream of Redclyffe (EIT) Bridge	All year	FSB	1	Note 3
Waipawa River	upstream of State Highway 50 Road Bridge, excluding tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	1	Note 3
	downstream of State Highway 50 Road Bridge, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3
Waipunga River	downstream of the falls, excluding tributaries	All year	FS	2	Note 3

Code of Conduct

Please consider the rights of others and observe the anglers code of conduct

- Always ask permission from the land occupier before crossing private property unless a Fish & Game access sign is present.
- Do not park vehicles so that they obstruct gateways or cause a hazard on the road or access way.
- Always use gates, stiles or other recognised access points and avoid damage to fences.
- Leave everything as you found it. If a gate is open or closed leave it that way.
- A farm is the owner's livelihood and if they say no dogs, then please respect this.
- When driving on riverbeds keep to marked tracks or park on the bank and walk to your fishing spot.
- Never push in on a pool occupied by another angler. If you are in any doubt have a chat and work out who goes where.
- However, if agreed to share the pool then always enter behind any angler already there.
- Move upstream or downstream with every few casts (unless you are alone).
- Fish being returned to the water should be released as carefully and quickly as possible. Ideally leave the fish in the water and remove the hook with long-nosed pliers without handling the fish.
- While catch and release fishing is widely promoted by some as a conservation minded approach to angling it remains the angler's choice. However, the catching of large numbers of fish in a day can impact on individual fish and also on the angling experience for others. Fish & Game advocate hooking and landing a limited number of fish per day.
- Fish being retained should be killed as quickly as possible, ideally by spiking or stabbing the brain slightly behind and above the eye (also known as iki jime – pronounced "iki jimi").
- Always respect the environment, wildlife, other anglers and members of the public.
- Remove waste nylon and personal litter from the river banks and parking places.
- The only way we can protect our rivers in the long term is to CHECK, CLEAN and DRY all your gear before entering another river or lake anywhere in New Zealand.

Remember to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself!