

**13 SH2 Access**

Approximately 1km north of the SH2 bridge an unnamed gravel road on the right leads down to the Mohaka River. It is possible to park close to the edge of the water and fish about 1km of river. Not a well recognised spot but worth a go.

**14 Mohaka Township Road**

This road provides access to the river mouth and the road bridge 1km upstream from the mouth. Some good sea run fish use this reach, particularly late in the whitebait season (November).

**15 Tatarakina Bridge**

The road to Tatarakina Station and the Waipunga River turns off SH5 about 5km south of the Tarawera Tavern. Because of the steep nature of the river channel and thick bank vegetation, only about 1km of river is fishable from this point.

**16 Tarawera Hot Springs**

The access track to the hot springs and adjacent river heads north from the Tarawera Tavern carpark. Please leave gates as you find them. Approximately 2km of river is reasonably accessible from this point.

**17 State Highway 5**

SH5 follows the river which can be accessed from a number of points. Note that these points are adjacent to SH5 and considerable care should be exercised when parking in this area.

**20**

**21 Upper Waipunga**

Turn right onto Pohukura Road after passing the Waipunga Falls lookout area when travelling from Napier. Then turn onto Waipunga Road. Above the falls the river supports only brown trout. An access permit is needed.

Phone: 07-350 1234 or 07-366 1000.

**Mohaka River Fishery**

The Mohaka River originates in the Kaimanawa Forest Park and flows to the sea half way between Napier and Wairoa, with many kilometres of fishable water in between. Both rainbow and brown trout are present, with rainbow trout generally predominating below Pakaututu and brown trout above that point. The spawning tributaries in the upper reaches creates ideal areas for producing the abundance of wild trout the river is famous for. The trout are generally in excellent condition and the chance of a trophy is high.

Anglers will find a wide variety of angling experiences on the Mohaka River, and its tributaries, from remote back country fishing in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Forest Parks to more accessible sites in the middle sections of the main river. The Mohaka provides for all types of fishing from nymphing, wet and dry fly fishing and spinning.

The river generally has large boulders which means that care is required when crossing most places. Some access routes are covered by public easements negotiated between the Crown and forestry companies, and in some instances private landowners. Please respect these arrangements. Access to some of the more remote areas can be gained by aircraft or rafting.



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Photographer: Dave Hern



## General Mohaka Fishing Information

### Upper Reaches Mohaka River

Primarily remote back country water with the only public road access at the Blue Gums or Hotsprings in the Kaweka Forest Park, Pakaututu Road bridge, and via the poled route of Taharua Road. All types of flies, nymphs and spoons are suitable. Larger and heavier lures give best results due to the depth and strength of flow of the river. Large browns are regularly caught following heavy beech seeding years with the resulting explosion in the mouse population.

Tributaries in this section include the Oamaru, Kaipo, Makino and Makahu Rivers. These are smaller waters and generally require lighter gear and a more discrete approach. Topographical Maps NZMS 260 - U19, U20 and V20 provide more detail. Refer to access points 1-3.

### Middle Reaches Mohaka River

The river and some of its tributaries can be reached from a number of sites accessible by vehicle off the Napier-Taupo Road (SH5). Rainbow trout are more commonly landed than brown trout in this stretch. Similar fishing methods to the upper reaches. The river from this area down is deceptively large and powerful. The most successful anglers use gear that allows the lure to fish deep enough to reach the trout. Be prepared to add weight to nymphs or use large spinners.

Tributaries in this section include the Inangatahi, Waipunga, and the Te Hoe Rivers.

Topographical Maps 260 - V19 and V20 provide more detail. Refer to access points 4-9, 15-21.

### Upper Reaches Mohaka River

A large area of water is accessible from a number of points off the Napier- Wairoa Road (SH2). There is the possibility of some large sea run trout in the spring. Large streamer flies and spinners will be more suitable due to the size of the river. Topographical Maps 260 - V19 and W19 are useful.

Refer to access points 10-14.

### Tributaries

The Mohaka River has a number of tributaries that are exceptional fisheries in their own right. Access to the tributaries can be physically challenging and in some cases you may need a permit to enter the land adjacent to them.

#### Makino

Originates in the Kaweka Forest Park just upstream from the Te Puia Lodge. It is a small back country river that fishes well early in the season. As with most rivers of its size care in presentation is required to achieve success.

#### Makahu

As with the Makino it fishes well early in the season and requires care in your approach to achieve success.

#### Ripia

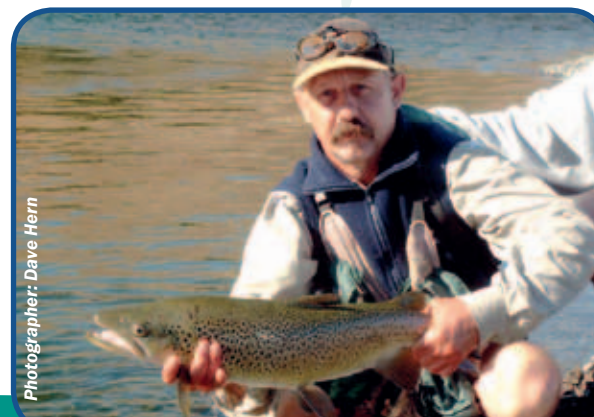
The Ripia enters the Mohaka downstream of the Pakaututu Road Bridge on the true left side. It is a fast flowing bouldery river that requires care when wading and can hold good numbers of trout. A strip of public land runs up the true right bank of the river for approximately 10km. The land adjacent to this is privately owned.

#### Inangatahi

This little known tributary runs into the Mohaka River near the SH5 bridge. It can be accessed from Potter Road. A permit is required to access this road. This can be obtained from Rayonier (06-834-0713 or 0274 477 0815).

#### Te Hoe/Hautapu

Two lesser known tributaries of the Mohaka River. Both present access difficulties due to a lack of public access and the nature of the terrain. The upper reaches of both rivers within the Whirinaki Forest Park can be accessed by aircraft. Permits are required from Rayonier New Zealand (06-834 0713 or 0274 477 0815) to access the Te Hoe River from the confluence of the Mohaka River.



Photographer: Dave Hern



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### Regulations

The Mohaka River is open all year round downstream from the confluence of the Mangatainoka River, excluding tributaries. The tributaries and the upper river open for fishing on 1 October and close on 1 May. The Waipunga River, downstream of the falls, excluding tributaries is open all year around.

There is no minimum size limit for trout caught in the Mohaka River, or its tributaries, and both fly and spin fishing are permitted.

The following bag limits apply:

Above the SH5 bridge (excluding tributaries) the limit is 2 sports fish;

Below the SH5 bridge (excluding tributaries) the limit is 4 sports fish;

All tributaries a 1 sports fish limit applies;

**Regulations may change and anglers should read the sports fishing guide for the current regulations.**

### Releasing Trout

If treated with care, unwanted trout can be released successfully. It is important that the correct technique is used to ensure the survival of released trout. Generally you should observe the following:

1. Play the trout as quickly as possible to the bank or your net.
2. Keep the trout in the water at all possible times.
3. Moisten your hands or the net you use to prevent damaging the mucus on the trout's skin.
4. Hold the trout upside down in the water to relax it.
5. Use forceps or pliers to remove difficult hooks. If the trout is hooked deeply, cut the line as close as possible to the lure. The lure will eventually drop out.
6. Revive the trout in flowing water prior to releasing it.



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## Mohaka River Access Points

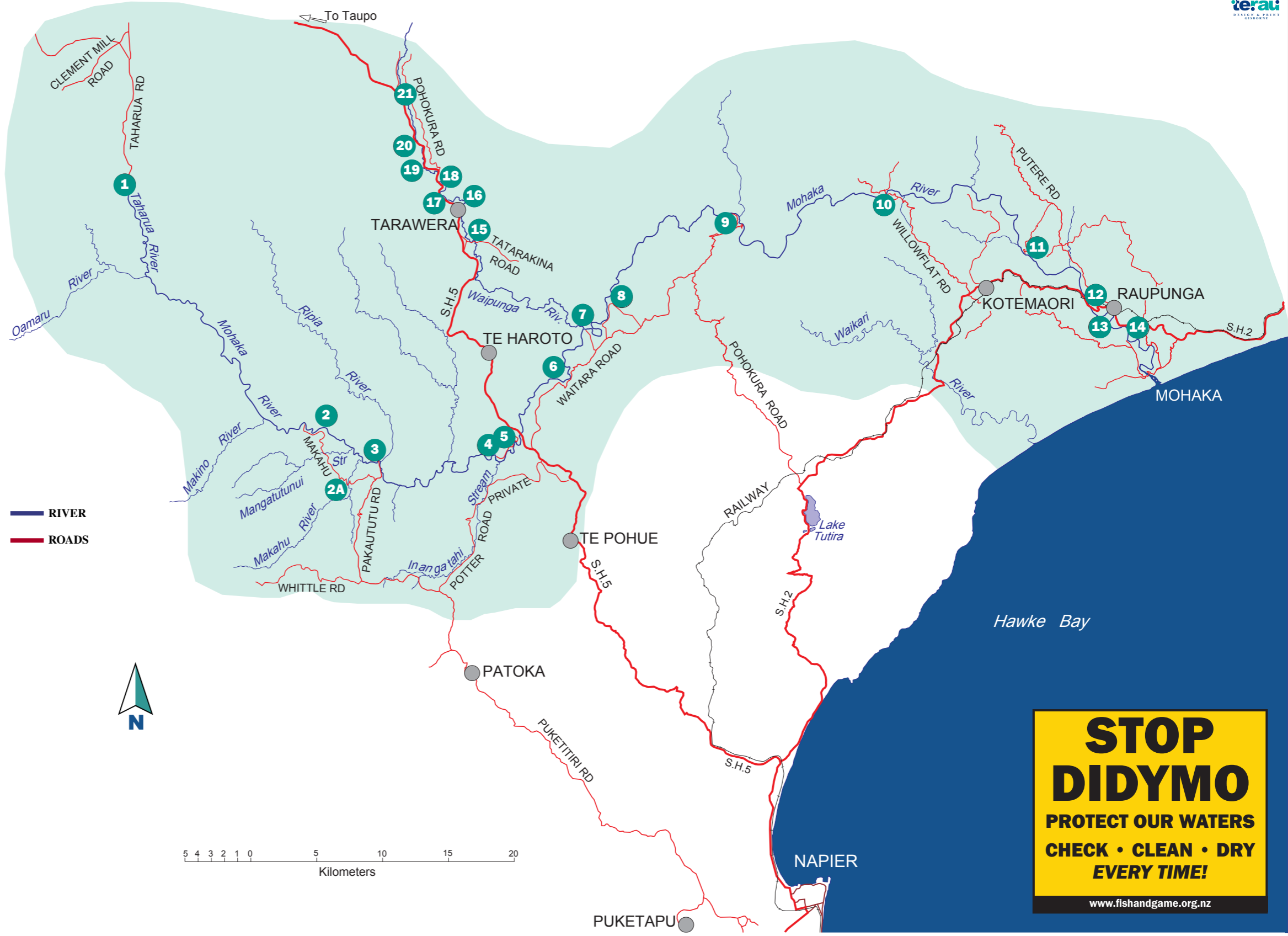
- 1 Poronui Station Poled Access**  
A poled public walking route to the Mohaka River starts at the end of Taharua Road which is accessed off SH5 near Rangitaiki. The land adjacent to the track is privately owned and should not be crossed. It is a 9km walk to the river. The alternative is to fly into one of the private airstrips or the Department of Conservation (DOC) helicopter pad at Oamaru hut. The Oamaru and Kaipo Rivers meet at this point to form the Mohaka River. The public access continues downstream of the confluence for approximately one kilometre on the true left bank.
- 2 Blue Gums or Hot Springs**  
DOC Kaweka Forest Park. Drive via Puketitiri, Pakaututu and Makahu Roads to the Blue Gums/Hotsprings road end. The Te Puia hut track provides good walking access to the upper reaches including the Makino River. The hut is approximately three hours walk from the carpark (camping is permitted).
- 2A Makahu River**  
The Makahu River is crossed on the way to the Blue Gums/Hotsprings. Please contact Oliver Nicholas (ph 06-839-8629) for permission to fish the Makahu either upstream or downstream from this point. No dogs or firearms.
- 3 Pakaututu Bridge**  
This gives good access to the Mohaka River at this point. A strip of public land on the true left bank leads downstream to the Ripia River confluence and up the true right bank of that river for approximately 10km.
- 4 McVicars Road Bridge**  
Turn onto McVicars Road from SH5 on the Taupo side of the river. About 3km along this road you will reach the McVicars Road bridge. A strip of public land on the true right bank provides access both upstream and downstream from this point.
- 5 McVicars Road**  
Approximately 1km from SH5 a metal vehicle track leads off to the left and down to the river. Further along the road, near the confluence with the Inangatahi Stream, there is an esplanade reserve on the true left bank.

- 6 Glenfalls Recreation Reserve**  
Good access and camping is available at this Department of Conservation reserve alongside Waitara Road, 6kms from SH5.
- 7 Jock Sutton Road**  
This Panpac Forestry road leads off Waitara Road and provides public access to the Mohaka River opposite the Waipunga River junction. Camping is allowed on the riverbank. The road can be closed for forestry operations or at times of high fire risk. Please drive with lights on for safety reasons. No open fires permitted.  
**Glenfalls Forest (Auroa Road)**

- 8** Off Waitara Road, this Panpac Forestry road provides public access to about 5km of river. A number of grassed sites are available for camping. Take care with the ford over the small creek which is normally passable in a car. This road can also be closed for the same reasons as 7. Please drive with lights on for safety reasons. No open fires permitted.
- 9 Te Hoe Junction**  
The site is accessible from both SH5 via Waitara Road and SH2 via Pohokura Road (Tutira store turnoff). The end of Pohokura Road passes down through Waitere Station to opposite the Mohaka

- 10 Patuwahine Road**  
This forestry road leads steeply down to the river and in wet conditions is only accessible by four
- 11** wheel drive vehicle. Turn off SH2 at Raupunga on to Putere Road and Patawahine Road is approximately 10km on the left.  
**SH2 Bridge**  
A parking and picnic area on the true right bank provides access to a short stretch of river.

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