

## SPORTS FISHING REGULATIONS

Please refer to your North Island Sports Fishing Regulation booklet or our website for the current regulations on the Tutaekuri catchment

### ACCESS

The Tutaekuri River has extensive public riverbed access from the sea to the mountains with easy access to the lower section made easy by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, who provide excellent access points with vehicle tracks, picnic areas and safe parking. The middle section of the river above Dartmoor and tributaries have fewer public access points due to the steep terrain but private landowners generally provide this to anglers who make the effort to gain permission first. The Lawrence hut area is reached via a public access road through the pine forest and the upper reaches are on crown lands managed by the Department of Conservation. Fish and Game have placed angler access signs at key public access points and some private land access points negotiated with the land owner. Please respect access privileges to ensure they continue.

### CATCH AND RELEASING A TROUT

The decision to keep or release a trout is personal choice. If you wish to release your trout be aware some will not survive this experience but with careful handling you can significantly improve survival.

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.

# Tutaekuri River Fishery Catchment

The Tutaekuri Catchment is the fourth largest in Hawke's Bay providing over 130Km of interesting and varied fishing water all within easy driving distance of Napier and Hastings. Wading is safe and access easy in this medium sized river that supports a productive and exciting wild rainbow and brown trout fishery. Scenery is varied and pleasant with the full range of fishing experiences from waters very close to the city to more remote and challenging upper reaches and tributaries. The fishery is predominantly rainbow trout with a sprinkling of brown trout throughout the catchment. Trout average 1 to 1.5Kg in weight, with a good number of 2 to 3kg fish available, especially in the lower reaches where sea run brown trout often dwell.



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# Tutaekuri River Fishery



Hawke's Bay Region

## GENERAL TUTAEKURI FISHING INFORMATION

The Tutaekuri catchment begins in the steep native bush clad Kaweka Ranges east of Napier. Leaving the ranges it flows between high steep river terraces until meandering out onto the Heretaunga plains to enter the sea via the mouth of the Ngaruroro river near Clive. The Tutaekuri normally runs clear except after heavy rain that can discolour the water. Tributaries will clear in a few days with the main river taking longer. During summer, flows can get low and water temperatures increase forcing trout to move to the deep, cool water of the upper reaches and tributaries. Typical of braided catchments, the Tutaekuri bed frequently changes after high flows. This means you will have to cover plenty of water and constantly search for stable sections of riverbed, however the trout can be easily caught in their new home or as they move around.

### LOWER TUTAEKURI RIVER

From sea to Dartmoor the Tutaekuri River is low gradient and braided. Access is easy and extensive from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council access points and vehicle tracks. The tidal zone holds large brown trout with spring being a popular time to target them as they feed on whitebait. Above the tidal area trout frequent deeper holes, stable runs and around willows. Spring, autumn and winter are excellent times to fish this section, with trout often moving upstream, back to the tidal zone or to the deep pools during the hottest months of summer.



Lower Tutaekuri River



Lower Tutaekuri River

### MIDDLE TUTAEKURI

From Dartmoor to above the Mangatutu confluence the Tutaekuri River is confined between high terraces and is less braided, featuring more deep pools and shallow runs. Above the Mangaone confluence the river is much smaller, easy to fish and is good for sight fishing. Trout frequent the deep holes and stable runs with numbers increasing during summer and autumn. The scenery is pleasant, interesting and the water uncrowded.



Upper Tutaekuri Photo by Marty Fitch

### UPPER TUTAEKURI

The river is quite different in character in this reach. It is squeezed between the steep ranges, and forced to flow fast over and around large boulders. From the Mangatutu stream confluence to the Lawrence Hut, river access is good for the fit angler. Above the Lawrence Hut the terrain is more challenging with fishing ending at the waterfalls. Refer to Topographical maps NZMS 260 U20 for more details.

### TUTAEKURI TRIBUTARIES

The main tributary the Mangaone, offers many miles of excellent fishing water. River access is good in normal flows but gets more difficult above the middle reaches as terrain becomes rugged and flows are faster. The Mangatutu stream has several days of fishing available. Both tributaries hold nice trout in the 0.5 to 2Kg range and numbers increase at the end of the season as adult trout start spawning migrations. The Kuripapango lakes hold lots of hungry small brown trout, making it a great place for the family to fish. Fishing from the shore or a float tube is productive. Refer to Topographical maps NZMS 260 U20, U21, 21 and V20,21 for more details.

### FISHING METHODS

Large wet flies or lures such as a yellow rabbit or grey ghost that imitate whitebait and smelt are excellent for catching sea run and resident trout in the lower to middle reaches. Use a slow sinking line casting across and down the current bringing the fly upstream through the pools or along the banks. Spin anglers can do the same using a plastic bubble or by using spinners such as silver and gold tobies. Dry fly fishing is popular using royal wulff, humpies, adams and march brown dry flies. Nymph fishing is often the most productive especially in the fast water. Patterns weighted to sink fast and imitating stonefly and the larger mayflies work best in the upper reaches with small mayfly and caddis patterns further downstream. Try green stonefly, bead head hare/copper, pheasant tail and yellow caddis patterns.