

TARGET TAUPO

A newsletter for Taupo anglers

JULY 2010, ISSUE 61



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

INNOVATION... ..IS EVOLUTION



Jim Tamblyn with a prime Rainbow Hen

The Innovation II fly rod uses state of the art technology, with high modulus blanks that have been tried and proven to suit the Kiwi style of fishing on our rivers and lakes. One thing has never changed: a dedication to making not just the best performing fly fishing rods in the world, but the most beautiful rods a fly fisher can own, and still handcrafted here in New Zealand.

With more than 75 years of award-winning history, you can be confident that a Kilwell product purchased today will be supported for a lifetime of use and enjoyment.



KILWELL GENESIS II

LARGE ARBOR FLY REEL

Features an aluminium die cast frame & spool, one way disc drag with smooth teflon washers, skeletonised frame for lighter weight, a large arbor to reduce line loop. Easy conversion from right to left hand operation. Offered in 2 sizes; #5/6 & #7/8.



Spare spools available.

FISHING  SHOOTING



PROUDLY



NZ MADE



INNOVATION II Models available:

9055
9', 5 Pce, Line #5

9064
9', 4 Pce, Line #6

9073
9', 3 Pce, Line #7

9083
9', 3 Pce, Line #8



www.kilwell.co.nz

TARGET TAUPO

A newsletter for Taupo anglers

JULY 2010, ISSUE 61

Published by:
Taupo Fishery Area
Department of Conservation
Tongariro Taupo Conservancy
Private Bag, Turangi, New Zealand
Telephone (07) 586 8907

Front cover: Autumn hives on the lower Tongariro River
Photo by: Ngāe Bodie

ISSN 0114-5185

General enquiries and address changes email: fishinfo@doc.govt.nz

Production and advertising by Fish & Game New Zealand

Contact Peter McIntosh: Telephone (09) 634 1800
Facsimile (09) 634 2948
Email: peter.mcintosh@fishgamenz.co.nz



Maori Cadet Nathaniel Mellon at Te Whaitau trap
Photo by Ray Parker



Driftnet sampling on a blustery day Waikanae River
Photo by Michael DeLuca



Waiting for the strike!
Photo by Mike Nicholson



Mike Bode releases a fine rainbow at Lake Oramangakau
Photo by Mark Eberidge



Success on a fish-out day for Rob Benge (11) from Palmerston North

Target Taupo

A newsletter for Taupo Anglers

Contents

- 3 Fishery foreword
- 4 Moulding the management plan
- 9 Bigger and better
- 14 Whats been happening then?
- 18 A successful summer
- 22 Turangi law - out there doing it
- 28 Receiving Target Taupo and new fees
- 29 The long trail to the Tongariro Delta
- 32 Exciting times ahead
- 36 War against the wilding pines
- 40 Celebrating the fabulous who
- 42 Fishing regulations and the rule of thumb
- 45 A taste of yesteryear
- 47 Whats up at TNTC
- 50 Lake Taupo catfish cull
- 52 Fish bytes
- 55 New faces in the fisheries team
- 57 Fishery team farewells

The views expressed in Target Taupo are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect Department of Conservation policy

Contributors and agencies are welcome to print articles in an unaltered form from this publication, providing full acknowledgement is given to the Department of Conservation.

The printing of information in any other form requires the express permission of the Conservation Tongariro Taupo Conservancy, Department of Conservation, Turangi.

Fishery Foreword

By Dave Lumley
Taupo Fishery Area Manager



Photo by: John Webb

WELCOME TO TARGET TAUPO

"Timing is everything" is one of my favourite sayings and so it was when I commenced my role as manager of the Taupo Fishery. Taking over from the inimitable John Gibbs was always going to be a tough ask, however the task was certainly made easier for me by the timely improvement in the state of our great Taupo Fishery.

There has been a definite and very welcome improvement in the overall condition of trout caught on the lake during summer and this trend has continued into autumn with some very good fish taken on the lake and at river mouths. To establish my credentials I have been, for many years, a keen 'after dark' angler at the Waiotaka and Waimarino River mouths and have caught bigger, better conditioned fish there this autumn than I can previously recall.

Glenn Maclean's article "Bigger and Better" in this issue makes it very clear the roles which phytoplankton and smelt play in the natural cycle affecting productivity of the Taupo Fishery. It is after all a truly wild fishery and with this there needs to be an acceptance of the impacts of the variability of nature.

Another exciting development for the Fishery this year has been the beginning of construction for the freshwater aquarium at the Tongariro National Trout Centre. Designed to display native fish species and examples of pest fish this aquarium will, when completed later this year, undoubtedly be a valuable addition to the already popular and natural TNTC experience. It will also add tremendous new tourism to the local economy and provide us with an innovative new way to reinforce the value of protecting our freshwater resources and compliment the success of the *Taupo for Tomorrow* education programme.

An unfortunate highlight of the year has been some high profile poaching incidents and this brings into focus one of the more demanding tasks undertaken by fisheries staff, which is compliance and law enforcement. Unfortunately this work is necessary because not all people using the fishery are prepared to do so legally. All offences against the Taupo Sports Fishery Regulations and the Conservation Act are treated seriously by the Department and in particular those which have the potential to have a serious impact on the sustainability of the fishery such as taking of spawning fish. The Department relies heavily on receiving information in a timely fashion from anglers who observe this type of activity both during the day and after dark and I encourage you to continue to use our duty phone number printed on the bottom of your licence to relay information to us.

With some experienced staff leaving recently we are pleased to welcome new members of the team in particular Ray Packer and Heath Cairns. This has been a time of change for the Fishery and this change will be ongoing with the recent announcement of some structural changes to the fishery office.

The trend within the Department in recent years has been towards the creation of larger Areas and Conservancies so locally we will see the structural change in the merger of the current Taupo Fishery and Tuarangi-Taupo Area offices. The combined Area will be managed by a team of six Programme Managers reporting to one Area Manager. This change will provide for cost savings which will enable return in the form of better services to anglers and you can be assured that there will be no difference in terms of the quality of the Department's management of the Fishery.

Speaking of anglers, a draft of the new Taupo Sports Fishery Management Plan is currently being prepared and this will be released for public comment during July. It provides the best opportunity for you as anglers to have input into the future management of our very special sports fishery. Some aspects of the management plan have been discussed in John Webb's article "Moulding the Management Plan" so be sure to take the advantage of the opportunity to have your say. We really look forward to receiving your submissions but in the meantime get out there and enjoy what looks like a very promising season, I know I will.

Moulding the Management Plan



By John Webb
John is the Community
Relations Manager

The Taupo Fishery Area is currently undertaking a review of the Taupo Sports Fishery Management Plan (TSFMP). Under the Conservation Act 1987, one of the legislated requirements is to produce a management plan that captures the management aspirations of the Department, anglers and other stakeholders for the next decade. In simple terms it determines how we shall manage the fishery in the interests of Taupo anglers - what we will do and equally what we won't do. It also needs to incorporate the desired flexibility to cope with changing circumstances.

Photo by: John Webb

The content of the TSFMP is therefore of some importance as it guides the actions of the Department for the ensuing 10 years, which in the modern context is quite a substantial timeframe.

The TSFMP requires approval by the Minister of Conservation and the first management plan was approved in 1995. Although many of the desirable core outcomes of the fishery have not altered since then, these are changing times. Shifts in the vision and strategic direction of the Department, the dynamic nature of the fishery itself and the sport of angling in recent years have given rise



to a different focus for some aspects of the plan. It has also raised some important questions about how it should best be moulded to meet the current needs of the fishery.

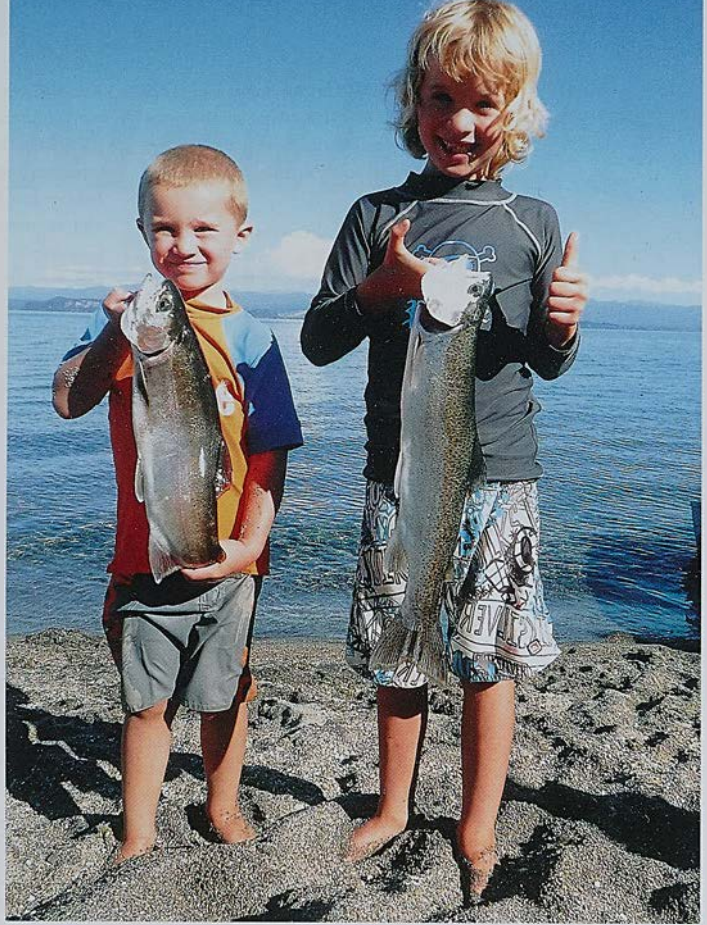
Some ideas have already surfaced during the preliminary stages of the review and discussing these here will hopefully provide food for thought, provoking debate and discussion about the Taupo fishery and its future. The first of these is gaining increased participation in the fishery. It is no secret that there is an older demographic using the fishery and recruiting people into it is a challenge that is becoming harder. A decline of participation in the Taupo fishery has a number of implications, not the least of which is that management is funded by license sales. The reasons for a decline are many and varied but include the influence of changing technologies, competition from new activities, less "handing down" of fishing knowledge through the generations and urban shift. If we are serious about the long term future of the Taupo fishery, indeed the wonderful sport of angling, then we just have to get more people involved, it is that simple - but how? We believe that the management plan should provide impetus for the recruitment of non-users and particularly children to the sport. In some regards we are already doing this by making children's licences affordable and supporting education programmes at the Tongariro National Trout Centre. But there are other ways that need exploring more fully. Engaging people is perhaps best achieved through rigorous promotion and marketing of the fishery, easing some parts of the fishery regulations to make trout easier to catch for children and encouraging families to get more involved. But how far should we go? We know perhaps the single most important key to hooking a child on fishing is that they have ready success. Should that mean allowing bait fishing for children in some circumstances?

A derivative of this is perhaps that fishery management should more actively participate in tourism and commercial interests reliant on its existence. The fishery has a huge recreational, social and economic influence nationally but particularly on Lake Taupo communities - easily being one of the biggest contributors to the region. It is estimated to be worth somewhere in the vicinity of \$90m annually to the local and national economies. Interestingly, most of this economic contribution comes from visitors. As the Taupo fishery is primarily visitor based, engaging more New Zealanders and international visitors with the fishery would seem to be a desirable goal. Indeed, it seems almost inevitable that it will become an important part of the fishery management ethos in the future. The need to involve and integrate tourism focussed organisations as well as the community in general is a real one.

To now change tack completely, another aspect of fishery management that always raises questions with a number of interested parties is managing the Taupo fishery as a wild fishery. There is no doubt that from a biological point of view the broad and healthy gene pool afforded by maintaining Taupo as a wild fishery is very desirable and should continue. However, if we try and manipulate the fishery is that consistent with a wild fishery? For example, research may well confirm that genetics are an important influence affecting the timing of spawning runs. In essence some fish are genetically coded to run early, some late. Is it therefore feasible to isolate fish with a genetic predisposition to spawning early and artificially raise or protect this part of the population in a bid to rebuild the autumn and early winter runs? There appears to be something very rewarding about landing fit silver maiden fish while the autumn leaves are falling; and certainly that is still when many anglers want to use the

Recruiting young people into the fishery like Joe and Gabe Thackham is of great importance.

Photo by: Caitlum Bourke



fishery. So perhaps bolstering the early runs would be of direct benefit to the fishery and anglers alike as well as the local community. However, to achieve this will come at a cost in the short term. Almost by definition, if we are to significantly increase the number of early run fish surviving to spawn, it has to come at the cost of angling opportunity. In other words, if the measures taken don't significantly restrict anglers killing these fish then it is unlikely to achieve much. But how much cost are anglers prepared to shoulder for a potential long term gain? For example, would you accept only being able to catch and release on the rivers between April and July and have restrictions on the lake as well?

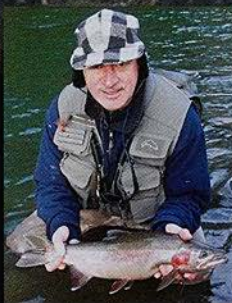
All of this is highly reliant on understanding the ecosystem of Lake Taupo and its tributaries more fully. In the past we took the view that other agencies were funded to investigate and monitor the wider aspects of the water quality and ecology of Lake Taupo and so we concentrated on the trout populations. However, as the recent downturn in the fishery highlighted we just have to better understand the wider processes going on and in particular the dynamics of the smelt population as the predominant food of Taupo trout. To this end our own research needs to be wider but we also need to take a leading role in bringing the research efforts of all the agencies and groups involved in Lake

www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz
We use Sage by choice

*The rivers around Taupo
are firing – get on down!*



Jared Goedhart



Stephan Baumberger



Graham Whyman



Jared Goedhart



Sage, the world's biggest selling premium rod by far.

UNCONDITIONAL LIFETIME WARRANTY.

Made in
U.S.A. 

SAGE
sageflyfish.com

NZ Sage representative - don.fraser@clear.net.nz



Murray Newbold wadlines the Taumanga-Taupo. In essence it is anglers that have to mould the management plan
Photo by John Webb

Taupo together to achieve a planned and integrated approach which maximises the returns from research

There are more narrowly focussed but equally important questions to address in the fishery too. One of these is what to do with the Lake Otamangakau fishery. Under the previous management plan the Lake O fishery was managed for its trophy status but the dynamics of this fishery have changed dramatically in recent years. Although there are many more fish to be caught at Lake Otamangakau they are now smaller. The big trophies of yesterday are becoming harder and harder to find. Therefore should Lake O continue to be managed as a trophy fishery or not? What do the users of this fishery feel is the best option? Through our trapping programme we have a much better understanding of how the Lake O fishery functions and if anglers are serious about a trophy fishery we would need to reduce fish numbers significantly.

This article has only touched on a few of the issues that you have strong views on. It has highlighted some of the strategic thinking with regard to the Taupo fishery. There is undoubtedly a

great deal more opinion out there. The basic process from here for the development of the final TSFMP is to undertake widespread internal and external consultation on a draft plan; a process which might already be underway when this goes to print. Part of the consultation will be the release of a discussion document that develops on the key questions raised in this article and elsewhere concerning important issues affecting the fishery. As part of this we will mail it to all anglers on our Target Taupo database for 2010/11. So if you are keen to make your views known please send us your contact details as outlined on page 28, and let the debate begin.

At the end of the day the Taupo fishery is managed by the Department of Conservation for Taupo anglers. It is your fishery. This is why it is so important that anglers and other interested parties engage in the discussion, debate and ultimately help to mould the management plan. During the consultation processes there will be ample opportunity to have your say so make sure you do.



Bigger & Better

By Glenn Mactean
Glenn is the Technical
Support Manager

Top: This year we are starting to see the sort of fish we typically associate with Taupo like this fine Rainbow maiden taken on 13 June
Photo by John Webb

After several years in the doldrums the size and quality of Taupo trout is rebounding. In the spawning run this winter we are starting to see the sort of fish we typically associate with Taupo, not before time I'm sure we would all agree.

The downturn in the fishery was bought about by the lake not fully mixing in the winter of 2005. The subsequent lack of

nutrients in the surface waters impacted severely on the food chain, ultimately causing huge starvation and mortality in the smelt population. Without a ready supply of smelt which is the predominant food for rainbow trout in Lake Taupo the trout in turn struggled. This reduced their survival and for those that did, the struggle for sufficient food was reflected in their poor condition and small size.



Great fish have been showing up at river mouths too. Graham Hamilton with another prime rainbow from the Tongariro Delta
Photo by Julie Greaves

Subsequently the lake has mixed every winter, the effect on the ecosystem productivity much like fertilising your lawn each spring. However the improvement in conditions has taken time to work its way through the various trophic layers. For example the smelt population can't recover until their food (zooplankton) recovers which in turn requires the little plants (phytoplankton) to rebound.

The net effect was the spawning runs last winter which reflected a low point in the rainbow fishery in Lake Taupo. These runs comprised fish that had spent their whole lifecycle subject to the tough conditions. It's a key point that we often overlook - the spawning runs reflect what trout have been

subject to over their whole life, not just the last few months. While we were aware conditions were improving in the lake last year the survival and growth of fish had already been determined previously.

This was reflected in the Waipa trap run which was the lowest recorded since trapping began in 1998. The estimated run is likely to be a slight underestimate due to not putting the trap in until May 2009 and no adjustment being made for any fish missed during a flood in early December. Nevertheless it is unlikely to be as large as the estimated run in 2008, the previous smallest run recorded.

Interestingly the brown trout run was also the lowest recorded despite the very high profile this fishery has received over

the last couple of years. This suggests anglers' recent success is due more to refinements in angling techniques and the sharing of this knowledge, perhaps aided by the bumper cicada year in 2009 and the angling opportunities this presented, rather than any increase in brown trout numbers.

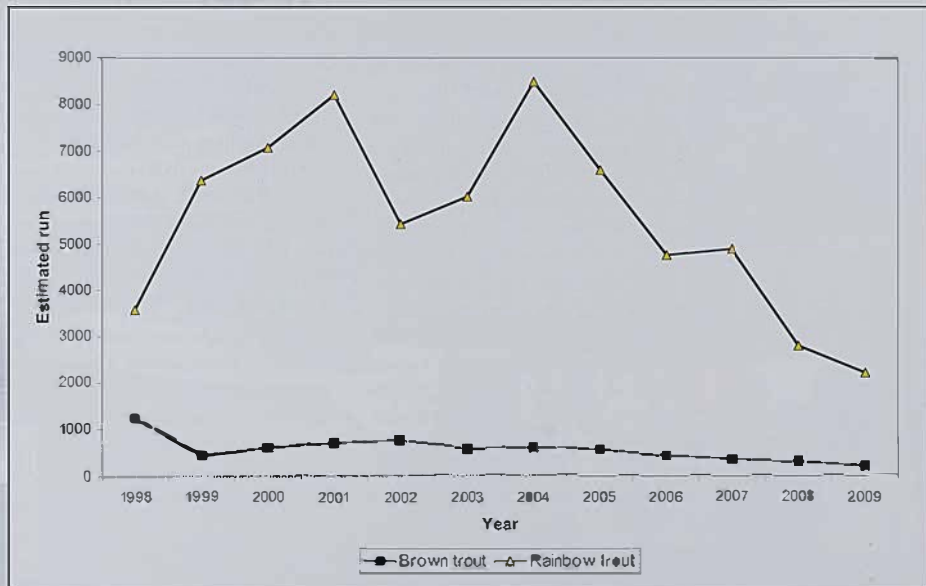
In keeping with the low run total, the rainbow trout trapped averaged 470mm and 1.2kg, the lowest average recorded over the 12 years of trapping and considerably smaller than the long term average of 520mm and 1.7kg. In other words they were about a pound smaller. However the average condition factor of 42.1 is consistent with the long term average and higher than the previous three years, the first indication of the improving feeding conditions. The brown trout were significantly larger averaging 2.4kg and with a condition factor of 45. All in all very nice fish but again slightly smaller than the long term average.

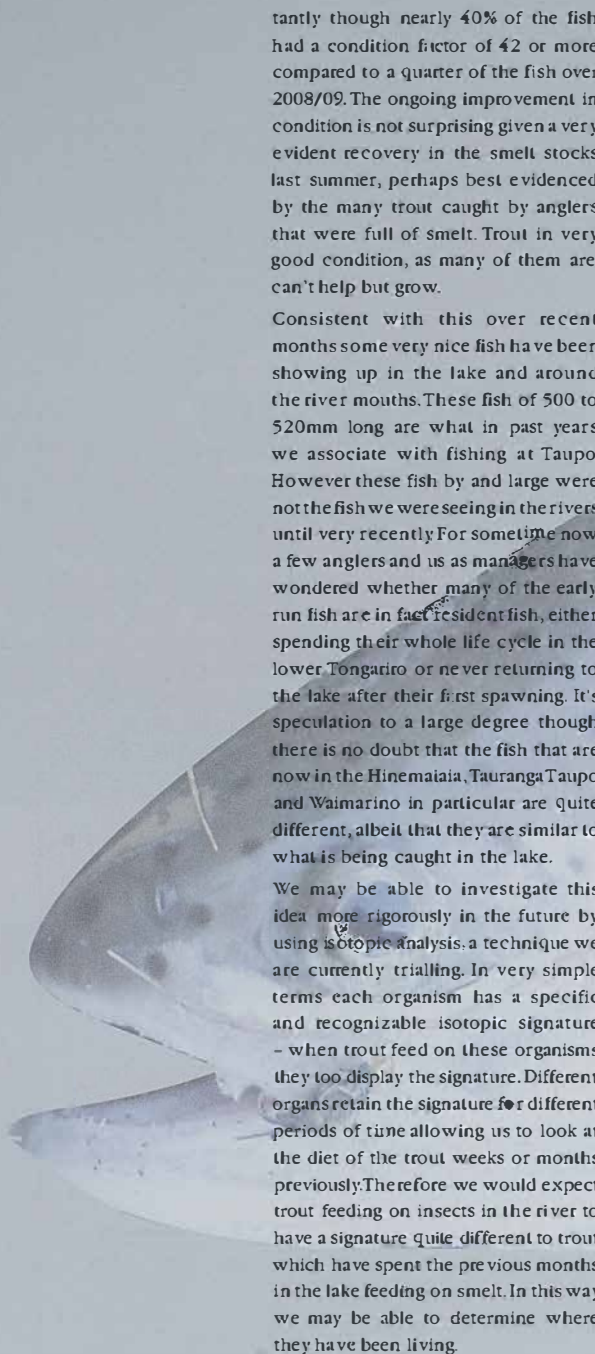
Moving into summer we measured an estimated average catch rate of 0.25 fish per hour out on the lake, or 1 legal sized

fish for every 4 hours of fishing. This is consistent with most years, however the slightly unusual feature was that jugging mirrored the average catch rate whereas normally we would expect jugging to be much more successful. This reflected an unusual pattern that was evident this summer in that the trout did not appear to concentrate around the thermocline (transition between the warm surface waters and cool bottom waters) in late summer and autumn as they normally do. Typically anglers who target this zone by jugging do very well due to there being a large number of trout concentrated in a relatively small area. However when the trout are more spread out then jugging becomes relatively less effective simply because the angler is not covering much water and therefore not getting their lures in front of very many trout.

The fish kept by anglers averaged 455mm and 1.06kg which is similar to the previous season. It's difficult to take too much from the average size as much of the catch comprises immature trout, many of which won't reach full size until late this winter. More impor-

Figure 1: Estimated spawning run through the Whinny trap for rainbow and brown trout 1998 to 2009





tantly though nearly 40% of the fish had a condition factor of 42 or more compared to a quarter of the fish over 2008/09. The ongoing improvement in condition is not surprising given a very evident recovery in the smelt stocks last summer, perhaps best evidenced by the many trout caught by anglers that were full of smelt. Trout in very good condition, as many of them are, can't help but grow.

Consistent with this over recent months some very nice fish have been showing up in the lake and around the river mouths. These fish of 500 to 520mm long are what in past years we associate with fishing at Taupo. However these fish by and large were not the fish we were seeing in the rivers until very recently. For sometime now a few anglers and us as managers have wondered whether many of the early run fish are in fact resident fish, either spending their whole life cycle in the lower Tongariro or never returning to the lake after their first spawning. It's speculation to a large degree though there is no doubt that the fish that are now in the Hinemaiaia, Tauranga Taupo and Waimarino in particular are quite different, albeit that they are similar to what is being caught in the lake.

We may be able to investigate this idea more rigorously in the future by using isotopic analysis, a technique we are currently trialling. In very simple terms each organism has a specific and recognizable isotopic signature - when trout feed on these organisms they too display the signature. Different organs retain the signature for different periods of time allowing us to look at the diet of the trout weeks or months previously. Therefore we would expect trout feeding on insects in the river to have a signature quite different to trout which have spent the previous months in the lake feeding on smelt. In this way we may be able to determine where they have been living.

So all in all the winter fishing is shaping up to be much better than in recent seasons. As I complete this on the 8th June the rivers are in flood, the third time in recent weeks they have discoloured. Typically over the last decade May and June have been very dry and settled but not this year. If the unsettled conditions continue, this can be expected to encourage both regular runs into the rivers but also to keep the runs moving through the river. Our various tracking studies highlight that the early run fish are very influenced by the conditions - under low settled flows they simply stay put in a particular pool and with the continual disturbance from anglers progressively tuck themselves under the banks and in the deep holes out of reach. It's probably no coincidence that most popular pools under these conditions such as the Bridge Pool on the Tongariro, are good holding pools but also ones in which the fish cannot escape the casts of anglers from one bank or the other. However with rough weather the trout are stimulated to move upstream into a new pool and again become vulnerable, at least for a few days until the disturbance and all the glo-bugs going past again has an effect.

By contrast late in the season the urge to spawn is getting more pressing and the need to get to the redcls causes the trout to run much more independent of the weather. Similarly late in the season we have fish running into our fish traps at any time of the day whereas early in the winter most movement is in the dark.

Perhaps this winter will be about hunkering down against a biting cold southerly as the showers whip past, all the time enjoying the scream of the reel as another prime Taupo rainbow takes hold. Now that would be nice after the last couple of years.



Call "The Boatmen"

Trev Terry Marine Ltd

Lake Taupo

www.trevterrymarine.co.nz



The highest quality boating goods and service for the central North Island



27 NUKUHAU ST, P.O. BOX 1038, TAUPO EMAIL: sales@trevterrymarine.co.nz PHONE: 07 378 7779 FAX: 07 378 8166 A/H: BROCK TERRY 027 294 0411





So What's Been Happening Then?

By Callum Bourke
Callum is a Ranger in our
field operations work

With winter fast approaching, fishery staff have been busy undertaking a range of projects in preparation for the river fishing season. Anglers from around the country and indeed the world descend upon Taupo and Turangi to fish our famous rivers so maintaining suitable access is an important aspect of our work, especially at this time of the year when the rivers are heavily fished. So over the past couple of months tracks on the Tongariro, Waioataki, Waitahanui, Tauranga-Taupo, Hinemaiaia and Waimarino Rivers have been "opened up" to allow keen anglers to access their favourite fishing spots. In past years we have used contractors to undertake a lot of this work but this year with more staff resources available we

decided to do it ourselves.

On the Tongariro River, one small section of track heading to the Pouitu Pool, accessed from the main track upstream of the Red Hut swing bridge, has been re-routed as this section has been coming under increasing pressure from flood erosion. After crossing the by-pass, the new track swings approximately 20 metres inland from the old one and meanders through an impressive stand of Totara trees.

Last season, the fishery team with help from the Waitahanui Anglers Improvement Association and the DOC Turangi - Taupo tracks team re-surfaced sections of the Waitahanui anglers track a short distance upstream of the State Highway Bridge. This section had become badly damaged from

*Top: Ranger Harry Hamilton
surveys the new track on the
Waitahanui River
Photo by: Callum Bourke*

flooding and was in need of repair. A small boardwalk has since been constructed and we are planning to continue re-surfacing these lower tracks with pumice in the near future to allow for easier access to some popular pools.

It is going to be an exciting season for anglers on the Hinemaiaia River now that the winter limit has been moved 2.75 kilometres upstream of the old limit at the SH1 bridge. The new winter limit is in the vicinity of the Cliff Pool. A sign has been erected on the track upstream of the Cliff Pool and also on the access road heading up to the Hinemaiaia HB dam to inform anglers on the location of the new limit. I'm sure anglers are going to thoroughly enjoy having more water to fish during the peak spawning season. Like many anglers I am looking forward to taking advantage of this increased angling opportunity.

The Tauranga-Taupo River angler access track is another track that has been in need of repair. Like all rivers it is dynamic and prone to flood erosion so we regularly reroute sections that have been washed-out or under-cut especially in the lower section below Maniapotos Pool. Several old willows have fallen over the track recently so we have to deal with

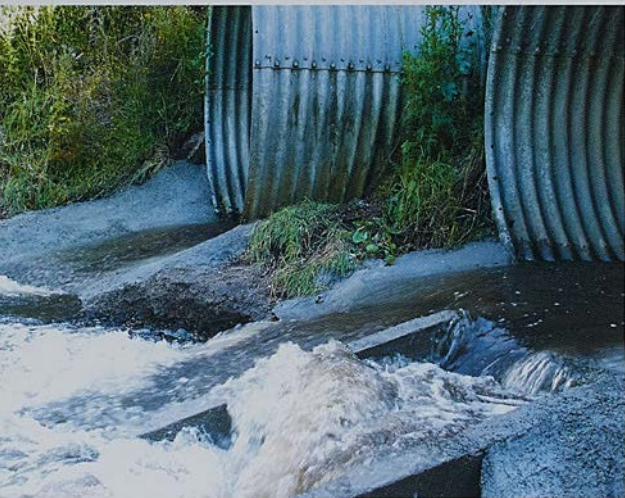
these obstacles also. It was great to see DOC Taupo Field Centre staff helping us out with this one. Also it is important to mention that if you plan to fish the Tauranga-Taupo River please use the angler access track that runs the majority of the way up the true left bank of the TF to the winter fishing limit at the Rangers Pool. The track is marked by poles with a blue cap. Walking through the pines is prohibited as this is private land.

Another regular task that was recently undertaken again was the clearance of Musk weed from the Whangamata Stream in Kinloch. Without regular spraying and raking the Musk weed chokes the stream and inhibits fish passage to the upper reaches. Now that this has been cleared we have heard reports of good runs of fish starting to migrate into the stream to spawn.

Last season we undertook a major vegetation clearance operation on the Mapara Stream east of Kinloch. The Mapara was covered in weeds such as blackberry and had a number of large fallen pine trees across it that were inhibiting fish passage. Now that the hard work has been done we intend to keep the blackberry at bay and have started trimming back the new season's growth. Although



New vehicle barriers and track work have been needed on the Hinemaiaia River in light of the new winter limit.
Photo by Callum Bourke



The new fish pass at the Omori Stream culvert will help the fish to reach their spawning grounds
Photo by Callum Bourke

only a small, streams like Whangamata and the Mapara contains some good spawning habitat and they are two of only a few streams entering the northern end of the lake.

In late February this year a fish pass was installed by contractors (on behalf of the Taupo District Council) at the downstream end of the Omori Stream culvert. Last season it became apparent that due to undermining of the culvert fish were having difficulty making their way upstream to their spawning grounds and were becoming increas-

ingly vulnerable. The Omori Stream is an important spawning tributary and is closed to angling all year round. The Omori mouth is highly valued by anglers for its runs of "trophy" fish, in particular Browns and it is a popular night spot, targeting these fish before they move into the stream. With the construction of this fish pass we hope that it will encourage them to move freely through the culvert and we will continue to monitor its effectiveness.

Earlier this year the fishery team with the help of abseiling instructor Terry Blumhardt cleared yet another obstacle in the Waiotaka gorge located within the Tongariro-Rangipo prison. Like the Whitikau "grotto" it is a narrow ignimbrite gorge that is prone to blockages. Above the gorge is superb spawning habitat so it is important that we regularly monitor this section and maintain access. This time, our task was to abseil down into the gorge and clear a small log jam that had the potential to cause problems for migrating fish. We also had to remove some large rocks that were inhibiting fish passage. Both operations were successful and we are confident that the Waiotaka fish will have an easier journey through the gorge this season.

Ranger Callum Bourke deals to Yet another log jam in the Waiotaka gorge.
Photo by Julie Greaves



WHEN BUYING WADING BOOTS,

— OUR ADVICE IS SIMPLE: —

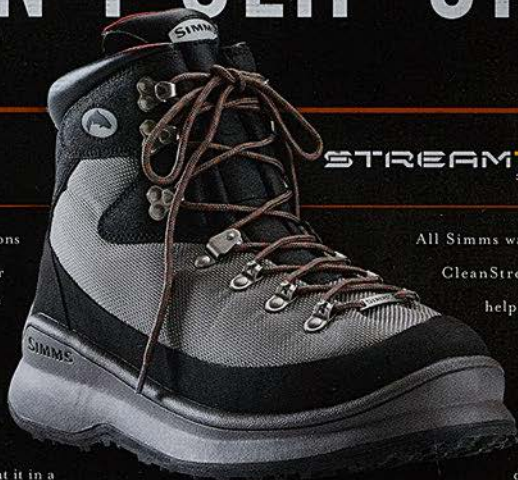
DON'T SLIP UP.



There are more than a few good reasons why Simms is known for superior fishing footwear. Take the G4 Guide™ Boot you see here. This cutting-edge boot offers outstanding traction and durability, is extremely comfortable and features numerous design innovations and technologies that put it in a class by itself. The G4 is one of six boots in the Simms lineup to feature our StreamTread™ sole technology. Co-developed



with Vibram®, StreamTread™ provides two distinct advantages compared to other soles. One is a 360-degree lug pattern that cuts through moss and mud. The second is a proprietary mix of rubber compounds that offer super grippy traction, are extremely easy to clean and ensure that the boots don't collect a lot of debris.



STREAMTREAD
360° / SOLE TECHNOLOGY

All Simms wading boots feature CleanStream™ technology to help minimize the spread of invasive aquatic species and make it easier for you to inspect, clean and dry your equipment

after a day on the water. Our materials and designs have less exposed stitching and minimal ridges in order to discourage

mud snails, zebra mussels and other hitchhikers. Every Simms boot with a StreamTread sole accepts our HardBite™ Studs and Star Cleats. Designed specifically for this sole, the studs and cleats feature 45 Rockwell hardness, zinc plating and are corrosion resistant. These removable studs and cleats can be used together or separately in any pattern you choose for added stability in difficult wading situations. When you want the best fishing boots made, the choice is an easy one:

Simms. Learn more at simmsfishing.com.

SIMMS.

VIBRAM® and the Yellow Octagonal Label are registered trademarks of Vibram S.p.A. of Italy. Quilong Corporation, North Brookfield, MA, is the North American manufacturer of Vibram wading products under exclusive license.

THE CHOICE OF PROFESSIONAL GUIDES WORLDWIDE. SIMMSFISHING.COM



By Glenn Maclean

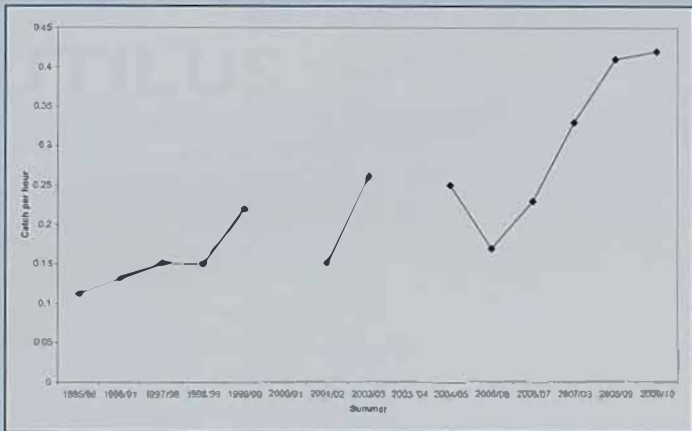
A Successful Summer



As expected based on last winter's trapping results Lake Otamangakau fished very well again this summer. Over the 166 interviews we undertook we measured an average catch rate of 0.42 fish per hour, identical to last summer and almost 4 times higher than that measured in 1995/96 (figure 1).

As discussed in issue 60 of Target Taupo this increased catch rate has however come at the cost of fish size. There are lots of fish of 2 to 3 kg, still very nice trout by any standards but the truly trophy fish in excess of 4.54kg (10lb) which made the reputation of the 'Big O' are

Figure 1. The estimated average catch rate on Lake Otamaŋakau 1995/96 to 2009/10



Top left: Neil Barnett with a 5.9kg brown jack taken in Lake Ōtamaŋakau before the season closed. Photo supplied

Bottom left: With high catch rates and more relaxed regulations, Lake Otamaŋakau is a great place to introduce children to fishing. Azcacia and Kieran Baylis with a nice summer rainbow from Lake. Photo by Kath Baylis

Far right: A feature of Lake Otamaŋakau is the old age that some fish live to. This brown mule has two trap clips on his pectoral fin (see the break in the fin rays 1/2 way along from 4 winters ago, and the new growth near the tip from last winter's clip) so it has spawned at least 5 times though potentially up to 8 times depending on whether the right pectoral also has a double clip. Photo by Royce Dowling

Right: While the rainbow fishery has the profile, stalking brown trout around the shore attracts its devotees too. Mick Hali with a typical Lake Otamaŋakau brown. Photo by Jim Cree

much rarer. Nevertheless there were several very memorable fish taken this season including a double figure rainbow by Royce Dowling and a brown trout of 5.9kg (13lb) by Neil Barnett.

While interviewing anglers this summer we took the opportunity to ask whether they would prefer a return to the old days of very low catch rates but with a high chance that what they caught was

very big; or a continuation of the status quo. Almost without exception those anglers who fished the lake through the early and mid 1990's would like to see the fishery return to a trophy fishery.



Success on Lake O is made
all the better by the stunning
volcanic landscapes
Photo by Julie Greaves



Royce Dowling with a
5kg rainbow taken in
January 2010.
Photo by: Kath Baylis

However those who have begun fishing the lake in more recent times are almost totally of the opposite view preferring that things remain the way they are.

How we might manage this lake is a key issue in the upcoming review of the Taupo Fishery Management Plan as discussed by John Webb on page 4. This details how you can make a submission on any aspects of the proposed plan, so if you have a strong view about the Lake O (amangakau) fishery please take this opportunity.

Children fishing
Lake O can have some
real success at the
moment
Photo by Julie Greaves





NAUTILUS

- The World's Finest Fly Reels
- 100% CNC Machined
- Superior Drag Systems
- Lighter than Competing Reels
- Stronger than Competing Reels

En-Vee (NV)



- The En-vee of all fly reels
- Lightest big game reel in the world
- Cork & Carbon Fiber (CCF) drag system
- Ceramic bearings (lighter/stronger), thrust bearings (support for immense radial drag pressure)
- Titanium drag shaft, 15+lbs of drag pressure
- Silent retrieve, outgoing click
- Overall tough: drown it, mud wrestle it, burn it (we would rather you did not), a work horse
- RRP \$920.00 - \$1250.00

CCF Series



Feather Weight (FW)



- Sealed carbon fiber drag (SCF) smoothest on the market
- 10% Lighter than any other comparable fly reel
- 20% Larger diameter than any other comparable fly reel
- TPX self-lubricating zero-wear space age bushings
- Will not seize - ever - in freezing weather
- RRP \$495.00 - \$615.00

CCFDrag System



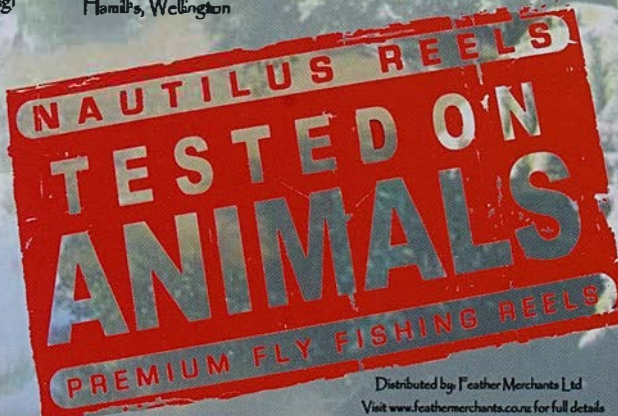
- *Compression washers
- *One way bearing
- *Cork & Carbon discs
- *Floating Ball Bearings

Complete series available from:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| -Hunts Sports, Auckland | Hunting & Fishing, Rotorua |
| -Fly & Gun, Taupo | Croftackle, Turangi |
| -Sporting Life, Turangi | Hampills, Wellington |



Nautilus Pro Team Member, Gary Lyttle
Fly and Gun, Taupo
Hunting and Fishing NZ



Distributed by Feather Merchants Ltd
Visit www.feathermerchants.co.nz for full details

Photo: Andrew Schuster

Turangi Law - "Out there doing it"



By Mike Bodie
Mike is a Conservancy
Solicitor based in the
Department's East Coast Bay
of Plenty Conservancy Office
in Rotorua

DOC'S LAW OFFICERS

Readers of *Target Taupo* will be well aware of the work done by the Department's rangers and technical specialists to maintain the Taupo fishery and to ensure compliance with the regulations. But readers may not be aware that behind the scenes, the Department has a small band of in-house lawyers who prosecute offenders and "go out to bat" for conservation through the justice system.

Whether the lawyers are seen as the last line of defence against the greedy few who selfishly pillage the fishery, or the "hard end" of community relations, we have an important, if not highly visible, role to play in fishery management. Whatever the perception, I consider it a privilege to use my legal training and experience to travel about the country (preferably with rod and reel) supporting all facets of conservation, including the Taupo fishery.

Top: Yes lawyers are anglers too. Mike Bodie at the Snag Pool on the Tongariro River
Photo by Ian Mitchell



One of the advantages of the Department employing in-house lawyers is that we generally know the work of the Department very well, and many of us are also active participants in recreational activities the Department fosters, such as fishing and hunting. I have personally been a prosecutor for 16 years, but that pales by comparison to the 26 years since I started trout fishing. One would hope as a seasoned angler and prosecutor when in Court there is likely to be very little chance to pull the proverbial wool when it comes to excuses for not complying with the Taupo Fishery Regulations.

The Taupo fishery is served by two prosecutors, myself based in Rotorua (conveniently where trout are also plentiful) and Kevin Smith based in Napier. Our job is to support rangers and other staff with legal advice, provide training on law enforcement issues, and to represent the Department in court on prosecutions. In terms of court appearances, typically the great majority of Taupo fishery prosecutions result in prompt guilty pleas because offenders are usually caught red-handed.

RECENT PROSECUTION

A recent example of the sort of jobs we prosecutors get called on to assist with was the netting of a large number of spawning fish in September 2009. This serious "catch" was reported in Target Taupo Issue 60 page 67. The incident played out in the Taupo District Court in June this year. The cases involved offenders who used gill nets in the Waimarino Stream on two occasions in September last year, when the river was closed to all fishing. Sadly, on these two occasions a total of 49 mature spawning fish were killed by this unsporting, indiscriminate approach. Netting trout congregated for spawning is a very serious offence under the Conservation Act, with a maximum penalty of 12 months imprisonment or a \$10,000 fine. This

compares with breaches of the Taupo Fishery Regulations, such as exceeding the bag or size limits, or using prohibited tackle etc, where the maximum penalty is a fine only up to \$5000.

The Department was concerned that in the past the sentences imposed for poaching spawning fish were often lenient, and varied widely from Judge to Judge. Given there were seven offenders appearing at once on the same charges I decided to use the cases as an attempt to "raise the bar" at sentencing by ensuring the Court clearly drew a distinction between the most serious and harmful spawning fish offences, and less serious regulation breaches. The judge went on to note that recent studies have suggested that the Taupo Fishery may be worth as much as \$80-\$90 million to the Taupo regional economy which equates to many jobs making it imperative that vandals of the fishery are sent a message that the community will not tolerate trout poaching, and tougher sentences should be expected in future.

The case was heard before a packed court room in the Taupo District Court, including several rangers and many supporters of the poachers. The hearing was dramatic with several outbursts from the supporters objecting to DOC taking a "hard-line" when they netted fish were claimed to be food for hui or tangi. Judge Chris McGuire listened to evidence from the Department and a member of the Hapū Tūwharetoa iwi, and heard arguments from the lawyers, before delivering his judgment. The Judge stated that he was not going to be party to giving a message to the Taupo community that poaching spawning trout was anything but destructive of the fishery, and that it was timely. DOC put a "stake in the ground" over its concerns about the continued poaching of spawning trout. The Judge remarked that the message that did need to be sent was that sentences will be increased and that the time for jail sentences was fast being

approached if no other deterrent starts working.

In the end, the Judge decided that a jail sentence was not warranted for these seven offenders because they cooperated with the rangers when apprehended, most of them were young, and none had been caught poaching spawning trout before. The Judge sentenced each offender to 200 hours community work, discounted on a guilty plea by 1/3 to 135 hours, ordered forfeiture of illegally used nets and other equipment, and gave each offender a final warning that if they are caught again, jail time is likely to be the result. At the time of writing one of the offenders had appealed his sentence as being too harsh, so the High Court will eventually rule on the case.

Overall, this case sent a positive message when compared to the typically small fines imposed for similar offending in the past. The Judge strongly reinforced the Department's stance and concern for the welfare of the fishery from poaching spawning fish.

Unfortunately this case was only one of several reaching the courts in recent times. Other poaching offences involving nets at Hapepe and Omori have recently been or are in the process of being prosecuted - some of them attracting significant media attention. This gives credence to the difficult, remote, and potentially dangerous work rangers do protecting our fishery from a selfish few.

TAUPO FISHERY REGULATIONS 2004

I will use this opportunity to highlight and remind readers of three areas of the Taupo Fishery Regulations where there are subtle but significant differences from the Fish and Game District Angler Notice regulations applying elsewhere in New Zealand. Experienced Taupo anglers will be familiar with the peculiarities of the Taupo Regulations. But for anglers who also mainly fish other regions, or who are from overseas, it is imperative that you not only "Check - Clean - Dry" but just as importantly understand and comply with the local rules.

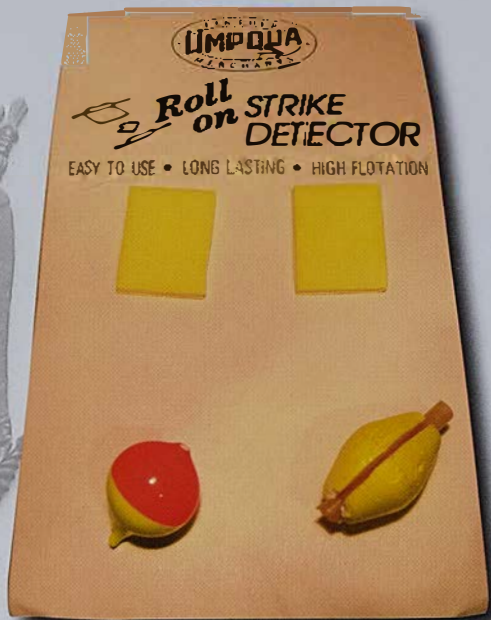
WHAT DOES "FLY FISHING" REALLY MEAN?

In all areas of New Zealand, except for the Taupo Fishing District, "fly fishing" means to fish with "fly rod and fly reel and fly line and artificial fly". It is clear that this definition excludes use of any natural bait and spin fishing.

In the Taupo Fishing District, however, "fly fishing" means to fish with "fly rod and fly reel, fly line, and a natural or artificial fly". This definition prohibits spin fishing but does mean fly-fishers can fish with a "natural fly". The term "natural fly" is helpfully defined in the Regulations to include spiders and insects, but koura, shellfish, worms, creepers, huhu grubs, fish or fish roe are specifically prohibited baits. In

The term "Natural Fly" in the regulations includes spiders and insects
Photo by A. The Bodie





True floats like these are prohibited in the Taupo fishery. Photo by Mike Bodie

summary then, outside the Taupo District spiders, cicadas, dragon flies, damsel flies and the like may only be used in designated bait fishing areas. But in the Taupo District, most insect baits are perfectly legal in all waters, including those areas restricted to fly fishing only.

STRIKE INDICATORS

The control of strike indicators is a peculiar concern of the Taupo Fishery, as there is no regulation of strike indicators in the Fish and Game regions. The important point to note for itinerant anglers to the Taupo District is that strike indicators such as plastic floats, bubbles, fish pimps, self-adhesive foam and the like are prohibited in fly fishing only areas. Regulation 20(5) prohibits, in fly fishing only waters, a "lead, glass, plastic or other material attached to the line to facilitate casting or to increase the buoyancy of the line, other than a "strike indicator". The term "strike indicator" is

FINALLY EGG PATTERNS THAT LOOK LIKE EGGS

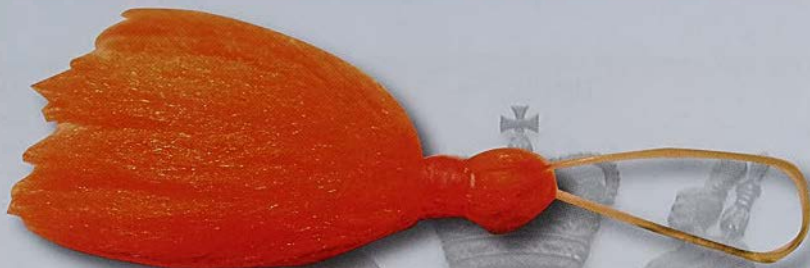


IT'S LITTLE WONDER OUR EGG FLIES CATCH MORE FISH. THEY ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE EGGS. WHETHER YOU'RE USING SOFT EGGS IN THE POOLS, OR TUNGSTEN EGGS AS A BOMB OR IN POCKET WATER, THE MANIC EGG SELECTION WILL CATCH YOU MORE FISH THIS WINTER.

Flyfishers
INC.
WWW.FLYFISHERSINC.COM

WWW.MANICTACKLEPROJECT.COM





Large brightly coloured strike indicators like these are commonplace when angling Taupo rivers

Photo by: Mike Boche

defined to mean "any synthetic or natural yarn and its means of attachment to the line or cast used by the person fishing as an aid to detect a strike".

While there are some shockingly large and bright strike indicators seen on the Taupo Rivers every winter, provided indicators are made of yarn, they are legal. The purpose of this regulation is to prevent anglers from using indicators of such size or weight that they in effect facilitate casting (like spin fishing), or more importantly enabling anglers to dredge the bottom of the deepest pools using heavier and heavier flies and more and more buoyancy in the float to compensate. In the past it was not unknown for anglers to have so much weight on, it was impossible to cast other than using a modified roll-cast. This was only possible by using a float to hold up the end of the fly-line and many anglers felt this style of fishing was not consistent with fly-fishing, hence the restriction. While purists may argue that large "budgie" yarn indicators serve a similar purpose, in practice it appears that the size of yarn indicators tends to be limited by the aerodynamics of their castability with a fly rod.

BOAT FISHING RESTRICTIONS

For the many harlers, trollers and jig fishers who visit Taupo every season, there is an important difference between the regulations that apply to the Rotorua lakes in Fish and Game's Eastern Region, and to Lake Taupo. On the Rotorua Lakes fishing from an unanchored boat is prohibited within a 200 m radius of specified stream mouths or in fly fishing

only waters, which extend 200 m out from the shore. On many lakes, the 200 m restriction is easy for anglers to identify because it coincides with large yellow 200 m triangular buoys installed by the Regional Council to designate the 5 knot speed restriction from shore.

Nothing in life is simple it seems. On Lake Taupo the boat fishing restriction extends 300 m from marked stream mouths or designated fly fishing only areas, such as the Kuratau Spit. It is important on the Great Lake for trollers not to be confused by 5 knot buoys at the 200 m mark. Boat anglers need to familiarise themselves with the fly-fishing only areas on the Lake and ensure they keep well clear - 300 m is a considerable distance.

To conclude, if any anglers have queries or concerns about The Regulations, please let our Rangers know who will be only too happy to answer your questions, or may perhaps seek a legal opinion if the issue is complex! The number of rangers is limited, and they can not be everywhere all the time, so it is important that responsible anglers help educate visitors about the importance of compliance with the rules. It is also crucial that if you witness a suspected breach of the Regulations to contact the Department as soon as possible on 027 442 4962 or 027 290 7758. Finally, I hope everyone has a productive season on the rivers and lake, and it would be better for all concerned to see you on the water "out there doing it" rather than standing in the dock of the Taupo Court up on a charge of breaching the regulations!

Testfish a Sage

Think **SAGE** Think **Hunting & Fishing**[®]
NEW ZEALAND



Mike Davis Co-Owner Rotorua
Hunting & Fishing New Zealand
- out there doing it!

Right now your Hunting & Fishing New Zealand store has Sage loan rods available. Sage challenge you to a Test Fish. See how a \$1,000+ fly rod is not just an investment in technology, it's simply the best kit out there to enhance the pleasure you get on the water.

There's a Sage option for every budget at Hunting & Fishing New Zealand*

Sage Vantage	2 piece	From \$389.99
Sage Vantage	4 piece	From \$439.99
Sage Vantage Combos		From \$679.99
Sage Flight	4 piece	From \$569.99
Sage VT2	4 piece	From \$799.99
Sage Z-Axis	2 piece	From \$1089.99
Sage Z-Axis	4 piece	From \$1199.99
Sage ZXL	4 piece	From \$1169.99
Sage TCX	4 piece	From \$1349.99

All Sage Fly Rods come with a Lifetime Guarantee

For information on other models check out
www.sageflyfish.com

30 Hunting & Fishing
New Zealand stores nationwide
Freephone 0800 HuntFish
(0800 486 834)



Made in the USA

*Prices may alter due to exchange rate fluctuations.

Are you enjoying reading *Target Taupo*?

By Carolyn Newell
Carolyn is our Programme
Manager, Service

Are you enjoying reading *Target Taupo*? If you would like to receive the next one then read on. From the start of the new season (1st July 2010) we will be requiring your postal information again so we can send you You only need to register once for the 2010/11 season.

Previously we used to compile the address list from the duplicates of all our whole season licences sold. However due to major ongoing issues of illegible scribe, incorrect or incomplete addresses and in conjunction with the very considerable staff resources to transcribe the 11,000 or so names and addresses, we have looked at new ways to collect this information.

So please send your contact details in via email or phone us. Receiving your postal information this way will also give us a point of contact to follow up on any vital information that may be missing, increasing the likelihood of you receiving your valued issues of the magazine. We need your full home postal address rather than your holiday home address. Similarly if you are Rural Delivery, as many homes are, please remember you have to be registered for Rural Delivery with New Zealand Post to receive mail.

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR COPY OF 'TARGET TAUPO', PLEASE FORWARD YOUR

- NAME
- POSTAL ADDRESS
INCLUDING POSTAL CODE
- LICENCE NUMBER

to targettaupo@xtra.co.nz or if you do not have access to a computer, call Taupo Fishery Area office, 07 386 9243 upon purchasing your adult season or adult week licence. Registration will entitle you to receive the next 2 issues of Target Taupo. These contact details will also be printed on your licence.

NEW FISHING LICENCE FEES

At Taupo the fishing season extends from 1 July to 30th June the following year so it's time again to purchase a new fishing licence for the Taupo District. The fees have increased slightly for 2010/11 and are:

ADULT SEASON	\$88.00
CHILD SEASON	\$12.00
ADULT WEEK:	\$37.00
ADULT 24 HOUR	\$16.50
CHILD 24 HOUR	\$4.50

Under the Conservation Act we are required to set licence fees to recover the costs of managing the fishery.



Long Trail to the Tongariro Delta

By Jill Larsen-Welsh
Jill is the Area
Compliance Officer

One sunny afternoon in early autumn a couple of us went exploring down the true left bank of the Tongariro River from the end of Awamate Road. This was very enjoyable as prior to this year the lower Tongariro River has not been easily navigable by foot for a long time. The rise in the water table of the adjacent land had meant to access the very lower reaches of the river used to be an all day trek through mud and swamp – that's if you were able to find your way at all. Furthermore, after heavy rain the way would become impassable due to flooding.

Interestingly the surrounding land was once fertile farmland stocked mostly with sheep and the grass grew well to support them, however when farming

ceased the land slowly deteriorated. Grass eventually succumbed to the taller, more robust reeds that flourish in wet soil and willows established slowly on occupying the area. During this time the river clogged with fibrous root systems from the willow trees causing the bed and in turn the water level to rise. Debris and silt became trapped in amongst these root systems narrowing the banks and slowing the water flow in some parts. This made the water exude outwards through the vegetation and shallow embankments.

However, recent work undertaken by Turangitukua has seen most of the big willows removed from the banks and the larger debris taken out of the river. After the willows were removed, the landscape looked quite barren and in

Top: Removal of the willows has really opened up the lower river such as here at Church's farm.
Photo by: Jill Larsen-Welsh

some places the banks were caving in and falling into the river. This was quite disconcerting at the time and made for risky walking in places but as with most things, time heals. The big willows are gone but in their place the grass has returned and grows vigorously on the edges, overhanging in lots of places offering sanctuary for those big wily browns that occupy the river nooks. The river flow is much improved and the silt simply doesn't get as much chance to settle as it once did. The river has widened and become deeper, increasing the amount of water it can hold comfortably and so reducing the incidence of flooding. The changes in the river will be ongoing as the roots holding the bank and bed rot away but the net effect in

association with the low lake level this summer has been a significant reduction in the river level and water table.

If you venture anywhere below Delatour's Pool you will find the walking tracks clear and easy to navigate for the most part. On the true left as you head down through what used to be known as Church's farm the willows have been cleared only part of the way. Contractors found it impossible to get their big machinery into these very lowest reaches because of the swampy nature of the land. One can clearly see the contrast between areas that have and have not been cleared at this location. Some of the willows and root systems persist but the dropping water table has helped to slowly dry the swampy areas making the trek down into these lowest

Some of the banks became unstable after the willows were removed
Photo by: Jill Lanse-Welsh



regions a pleasant one. Trees of other species that once looked dead seem to be resurrecting and the gass is beginning to win the fight with the reeds that established there years before.

A short drive from the end of Awamate Road will lead you to a locked gate where there is room to park a vehicle or two. Remember to keep the gateways clear. You'll have to rely on Shank's pony from there on. There is still a reasonable amount of willow in the general area but by keeping to the river's edge a pleasant walk all the way to the Delta can be achieved without too much trouble. We went down at a time when there had not been a lot of preceding rain, and found the walk very easy. It took us about an hour and a half to trek the seven kilometres right to the First Mouth at the Delta. I would advise anyone undertaking the walk to allow a good two hours to get there. It seemed to take less time to walk back, or perhaps it was just that we knew the way a bit better by then.

If you do want to take the walk, it is well worth taking the flyrod for a bit of quiet, relaxed angling on the way. Remember though that for the right of way along the river bank, the land is leased, dogs and firearms are not welcome and you will need to keep close to the river's edge and not take shortcuts across the land. This way we can be assured of continued access to one of the more remote parts of the Tongariro for years to come. And finally, when you catch that trophy fish, let us know. We're always keen to hear how the fishing's going. Take a few photos and share!



THE WATERWORKS L A M S O N



Lamson Litespeed Reels

Not long ago we introduced a Limited Edition Series 1 Litespeed with great success. With more extensive frame and spool porting, the 2007 Litespeed is based on the Series 1 development. Lighter without sacrificing strengths, the new Litespeed will come in a close second to a corresponding Force reel in terms of retrieve rate and weight, and each shares our patented maintenance-free super smooth conical drag.



Lamson Velocity Reels

Velocity: only the name remains the same. Totally redesigned and machined using a unique "3 plane" pocket milling technique, every aspect of performance, strength-to-weight ratio, line pick-up speed and storage has been improved. And as is often the case, the distinctive new engineered "truss" wall structure give Velocity a personality all its own. Bigger, faster, lighter and stronger.



Lamson Guru Reels

We're pleased to introduce the new Guru, an enlightening reel. Guru enters the family as our lowest-priced fully machined reel. The signature arm-style element on the frame combines with open spokes to maximize structural strength and minimize weight. As with our other reels, Guru features true large arbor ratios. Guru is available in 4 weight through 10 weight, and shares identical drag design and components with our most expensive reels. Guru is finished with a clear type 2 anodize.

ALL PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL TACKLE STORE

ROBERT A CONAGHAN (NZ) LTD:
47 NORMANBY RD, MT EDEN, AUCKLAND
PH: 09 638 6100

ALEXTO SPORTS 2000 LTD:
624 KAIKORAI VALLEY RD, DUNEDIN
PH 03 488 4962



Exciting Times Ahead

By Mike Nicholson
Mike is the teacher of the
Taupo for Tomorrow educa-
tion programme

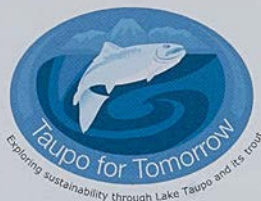
An old saying goes 'tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand'. In 2010, the Taupo for Tomorrow learning programme is poised to take advantage of some exciting developments at the Tongariro National Trout Centre. One of the main drivers behind these developments is that they are designed to involve students in their learning and assist them to understand of a range of important sustainability issues.

At the core of any successful education programme is the ability to provide

exciting, engaging and real learning experiences for students. The Taupo for Tomorrow partnership (Genesis Energy, DOC and the National Trout Centre Society), encourage learners visiting the site to enjoy their experience but also to engage with, and learn about the fragile fresh water resources our region is so famous for.

The new fresh water aquarium complex currently under development at the site will become a teaching tool perhaps unequalled anywhere in New Zealand. Students will not only learn about the

Primary sponsor:



Tongariro
National Trout
Centre Society

Fantastic Whio

The central North Island's
endangered white water specialists

Education resource kit for New Zealand schools

JANUARY 2010



The new Fantastic Whio education resource centres around the endangered blue duck and teaches about freshwater sustainability and quality.

Photos by:
Steve Nicholson
and Paul Smith



Tongariro
National Trout
Centre Society



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Ataturu



animal species that inhabit our rivers and lakes, but importantly be able to view them and engage with them in the aquarium. Students on site historically engage with trout very successfully and this allows a raft of learning opportunities to be presented using this context. The aquarium will facilitate the development of a whole new range of learning opportunities and conservation stories. Our native fresh water fishes, rainbow and brown trout and even pest

fish species all have a part to play in building a real and deep understanding of water ecology issues for learners. The development of a new learning resource for schools is also in its final stages of development. "Fantastic Whio" revolves around the whio or endangered blue duck is designed to raise awareness of this unique threatened species of waterfowl endemic to New Zealand and make clear links between this white-water specialist and its need for large areas of quality, fast



LEARNZ coordinator Andrew Penny, Pou Kouta Taio Hupa (Jim) Maniapoto and Fisheries Scientist Dr Michel Dedual field questions from students during the LEARNZ virtual field trip.
Photos by Mike Nicholson

flowing river habitat. The presence of whio and trout within our river environments is a good indicator of high quality habitat and water quality. Both species depend entirely on macro-invertebrates found in the river as their primary food source so complement each other extremely well when presenting freshwater conservation learning to students. With increas-

ing numbers of whio returning to the Tongariro River thanks to the efforts of groups like the Central North Island Blue Duck Trust and the Blue Duck Project Charitable Trust, the opportunity for students to engage with whio on a regular basis appears increasingly likely.

Another key event that has occurred this year that very much deserves a mention was the visit by LEARNZ to the Taupo for Tomorrow learning programme. This year's field trip was titled 'Freshwater Ecology' and proved very popular with students and schools right around the country. LEARNZ enables us to reach out to students across NZ and advocate for freshwater conservation and sustainability of our renewable resources when we would not normally be able to do so. The LEARNZ team are skilled educators and in conjunction with us create a fieldtrip that is focused, relevant and packed to the brim with learning opportunities



Year 13 Thames High School
Science students at work
Taupo for Tomorrow
education programmes water
for all ages
Photo: Milsa Nicholson



for students. This year we managed to present a multi dimensional view of water ecology in our region which included cultural, recreational, business and conservation interests. Students got to meet a range of people involved in freshwater conservation and begin to build a big picture of how crucially important our freshwater resources are to the long term well being of the environment, and themselves.

The Taupo for Tomorrow learning

programme asks students to become involved in their natural environment with the recognition that these young people are going to be the leaders and decision makers of the future. We want them involved because we want them to understand. Teaching too is like the aquarium, the whio resource and the LEARNZ fieldtrips are key developments in allowing this to happen. Exciting times indeed!

www.sportinglife-turangi.co.nz

SPORTING LIFE Lake Taupo/Turangi
Ph 07 386 8996 • Fax 07 386 6559

War against the Wilding Pines

By Mark Cosgrove
Mark is an active
member of Advocates
for the Tongariro River

The Advocates for the Tongariro River (AFTR), envisions the Tongariro River corridor being returned as closely as possible to its natural state so that the river valley's landscape values and its biodiversity status are restored. Part of this vision is the eradication of exotic pests such as wilding pines. As a pioneering species, pines are aggressive colonisers and the New Zealand climate affords many pine

species ideal growing conditions. As a consequence they are especially undesirable where native forest regrowth is being encouraged. They can overpower emerging native plants in a bid to win the competition for forest space and are also visually intrusive, the distinctive form of their canopies on the skyline visible from a considerable distance. This is an important factor where aesthetic landscape values are desirable. For native

The canopies of wilding
pines are distinctive
against the skyline
Photo by Mark Cosgrove



Wilding pines after poisoning
and needle fall. These skeletons
should start to rot away
within 5 years
Photo by Mark Cosgrove



fauna, pines offer fewer advantages than native trees which have berries or nectar to encourage bird and insect life.

Like many the AFFR regard the Tongariro River as a taonga of the highest regard and it is committed to helping the river's recovery and eventual restoration. This commitment is encapsulated in four practical steps:

- Protection of existing indigenous flora.
- Planting of local varieties of native plants along the riverside walkway.
- Maintaining areas of newly planted natives, especially weeding, in conjunction with other community interests.
- Eliminating wilding pines.

Nationwide there are many campaigns aimed at curtailing wilding pines. A simple Google search will show the vigour of the overall crusade as there are over 300 pages of websites dedicated to the subject. Regional Councils are taking action against wilding pines as part of New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy. In the Marlborough Sounds eradication of pines is a priority and closer to home the Kinloch Community Association is tackling the issue at the northern end of

Lake Taupo. DOC and the army have also long waged battle to keep much of the Kaimanawas and the corridor along the Desert Road pine-free in association with a number of community groups like the Tongariro Natural History Society. DOC has also successfully controlled many of the wilding pines in the Hinemaiaia River Valley and the Motuoapa wetlands and this work is clearly visible from State Highway 1.

The project to eliminate pines from the Tongariro River started several years ago in collaboration with DOC by the drilling and poisoning of trees in Department of Conservation reserves on the true left bank of the Tongariro River - mainly upstream of the Tongariro National Trout Centre. Later the AFFR embarked on a programme to remove the pines from the right bank. The project which has not yet finished is progressing upstream and is currently about 1 km above the Red Hut suspension bridge.

Unfortunately, despite the good intentions behind removing pines from the Tongariro River there are some immediate disadvantages with such a project. The AFFR appreciate the

concern at the temporary harm done to the visible landscape in parts of the river valley. The effect of the poisoning is not subtle, many trees are now browning off causing the needles die and drop which is not a very inspiring sight. But soon the skeletons will turn grey and later they will rot away hopefully leaving the native understorey to re-establish and colonise. Understandably, some people do not like the effect of rust brown pine needles while they are angling. But to leave the pines longer would make the ability to manage them even more difficult and perhaps cause the persistence of a wilding pine forest along the Tongariro River.

Another option for the removal of the trees is to fell them. Not only is this an inherently time consuming and dan-

gerous job but there are a number of disadvantages with this option. Firstly, particularly in areas of high pine density, felling the trees is very destructive to the surrounding native vegetation. Further, felling the trees increases the available fuel loading for fire, particularly the heavy fuel fraction which increases the risk of extreme fire behaviour should a wild fire become established. As there is some pine seed already in the soil, sudden removal of pines also encourages their regeneration.

Drilling and poisoning the trees is not only a cost effective way of dealing with the problem, but it is also very successful. The gradual shedding of needles as the trees die means that the light entering the forest floor gradually intensifies. This favours the establishment

Below: A native understorey should establish in the absence of the pines and this will be followed by bigger native trees

Photo by Mark Cosgrove

Toft right: The advocates for the Tongariro River are committed to the river's restoration

Photo by Mark Cosgrove





of understorey native plants many of which are inherently shade tolerant. In the long term, through succession, larger native trees will establish. The length of time taken to achieve this is very dependent on climate but the effects of rotting and disintegration should be noticeable within 5 years. As the trees rot, wind will also play a major role in breaking them down.

Despite this preferred method of removal for most of the pines, the collaboration between DoC and AFTR requires some trees along the access tracks and river banks to be felled. This is to provide a measure of safety from falling debris and decaying trees for people using tracks and favourite fishing pools.

Already biodiversity gains have been detected. A stand of juvenile rotara in the upper river has been given a better start and should grow to maturity now that the pines there have shed their needles, thus letting light in.

The AFTR works within the guidelines of New Zealand's Biodiversity Policy

and it cooperates with the Department of Conservation in the task of controlling exotic pest species so that native flora and fauna may thrive. Many of the members of the AFTR are residents of Turangi and keen anglers. We share and enjoy the Tongariro River and are committed to preserving its heritage and quality not only for our own enjoyment but for future generations. The steps that have been taken to control wilding pines are in the long term interests of not only Tongariro River users but the river itself.

The AFTR has received a number of awards for its ecological work. We warmly welcome the involvement of others committed to the preservation and enhancement of the river, and if you would like to find out more about us refer to our website: www.tongariro-river.org.nz

For more information about wilding pines Google 'wilding pines NZ'



All photos by John Webb and Kim Turia

Celebrating the Fabulous Whio



Some will remember Kim Turia's article 'We're not Quackers' on the rare whio or blue duck in issue 60 of Target Taupo. The article explained in some detail about the predator traps that anglers are seeing on the Tongariro River being used to protect the whio. Well, on 20 March 2010 a whio family fun day was held down at the Tongariro National Trout Centre to celebrate and promote the bird.

The day was hugely successful with over 500 visitors and it was a fantastic way to showcase and raise public awareness about the whio and have heaps of fun into the bargain. The major sponsors of

the day were Genesis Energy (who led the event), Department of Conservation, Forest & Bird and Central North Island Blue Duck Trust. Genesis Energy are also the sponsor of the Taupo for Tomorrow education programme which uses the whio to educate young people about the importance of freshwater sustainability and quality. It was great to see all of these organisations working together for such a great cause.

There were many additional participants that made the day a success including the Didymo Dave (Dave Cade) doing a wonderful job of advocating for the protection of whio through predator control and the amazing Blue Light Trust BBQ and members of the Tongariro National Trout Centre Society that fed all the hungry mouths on the day. There were presentations, face painting, a bouncy castle, colouring competitions with neat book prizes. DOC even had some colleagues from the Whanganui Conservancy office and Andy Glaser with his cool blue duck dog from Whakatane office. The following images are some of those taken on the day. Enjoy.





Fishing Regulations and the Rule of Thumb

By Dr. Michel Dedual
Michel is the Fisheries
Scientist

The Taupo Fishery Regulations make it illegal to fish from a moving boat closer than 300 m from a marked river mouth - with the exception of the Tongariro and Tauranga-Taupo mouths where the boat must be anchored and fly-fishing only is permitted. Although the large majority of boats comply with this rule there are still too many skippers who get caught trolling or jigging within the 300

metre limit. When we talk to skippers in this situation, a common excuse is "I know the rule but I thought I was well over 300m away!" This embarrassing and potentially costly situation could easily be avoided by purchasing a laser range finder or using a GPS to measure the distance from the stream mouth. However, the high accuracy and high cost of these instruments is not necessary unless people want to fish as close



as possible to the limit. If your intention is to troll or jig at a safe and acceptable distance from the limit then there is a much cheaper and easy "rule of thumb" that you can apply.

The exact origin of the term "rule of thumb" is uncertain: either it is derived from the use of the thumb in a number of fictional "rules" or it is derived from the use of the thumb as a measurement device ("rule").

British common law once held that it was legal for a man to chastise his wife in moderation. Because the definition of moderation is subjective it was proposed that as long as the stick used for punishment was no thicker than a thumb then the man was acting legally (terrible isn't it).

In 1782, Judge Sir Francis Buller is reported as having made this legal ruling and in the following year James Gillray published a satirical cartoon (on opposing page) attacking Buller and caricaturing him as 'Judge Thumb'.

The caption reads "patent [thumb] sticks - for family correction: warranted lawful!"

However, even if this mythical view was true it is difficult to imagine how beating your wife as you are trolling past a river mouth will help you stay the legal distance away. In fact thumbs have been used in numerous ways to estimate things like the alignment or the distance of an object and the temperature of brews of beer. Before the invention of thermometers, the brewer tested

the wort (brewing liquor) by placing his thumb in it. When he could put his thumb in the wort without being burnt it was cool enough to add the yeast. Wood workers regularly used the width of their thumbs (i.e. inches) rather than rulers for measuring things, cementing its modern use as an imprecise yet reliable and convenient standard.

However, in terms of the fishery a very relevant use of the rule of thumb is when trolling in the vicinity of a river mouth. It can be used to estimate distances to the marker posts or to other boats anchored at river mouth in the case of the Tongariro or Tauranga Taupo.

To achieve this we need to use two very simple premises one anatomical and one based on trigonometric functions. First, the distance between your eyes is approximately one-tenth the length of your arm. Second, if you draw a diagram as in Figure 1 this ratio of 1/10 will remain constant regardless of the distance beyond your stretched arm. This is the key, because it will allow you to estimate the distance between yourself and any object of known size with surprising accuracy.

Mathematically $\frac{D_1}{W_1} = \frac{D_2}{W_2} = 10$
we can write

where D_1 is the distance between your arm, W_1 is the distance between your eyes, D_2 is the distance from you to the boat (or marker), and W_2 is the distance your thumb has moved when you switched eyes. This is where we need to

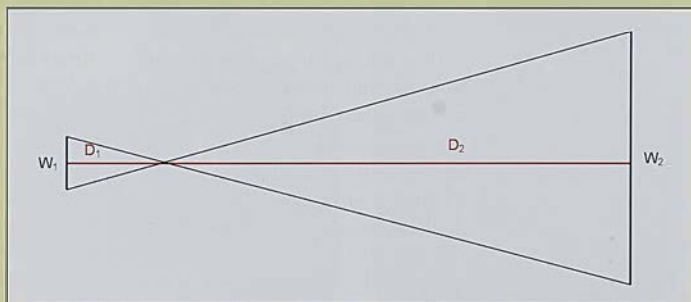
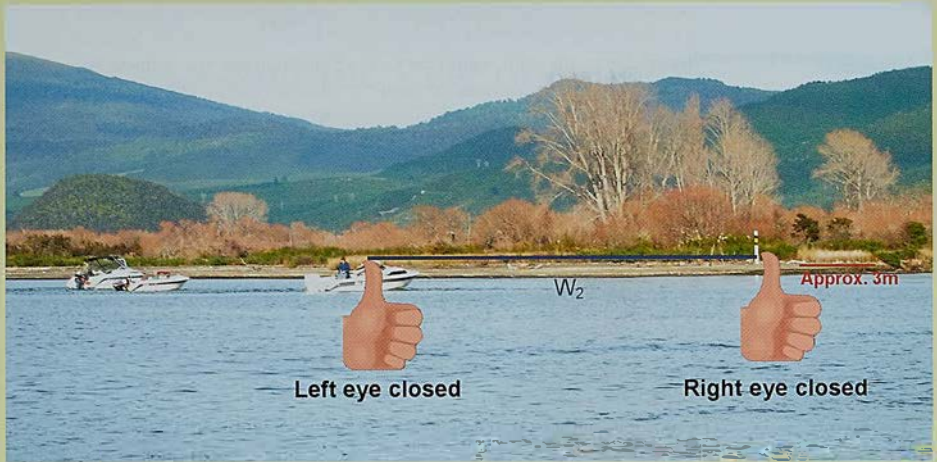


Figure 1



know how long is W_2 .

We are naturally better at estimating distance across our field of vision rather than along it. To help us further, we can also use objects that we roughly know the size of like boats, vehicles or buildings. For example we know that a typical boat will be about 5 to 6 metres, a truck with a trailer 30 m or a medium size home about 12m.

For example you approach the Tongariro River Delta trolling. You are not too sure how far you are from the river mouth. You can try to beat your wife with a stick the thickness of your thumb but this may not be the best approach for measuring the distance. All you need to do to estimate the distance is use this classic method:

- Hold your arm out between your two eyes and use your thumb like the open foresight of a rifle with an eye closed.
- Then you switch eyes and look out how far your thumb (or the object) appears to have moved to the side.

● In the photograph above it jumped by W_2 . Now all you need is a reasonable estimation of the length of a nearby landmark or object to estimate W_2 . In this case we can use the clump of dry grass on the right hand side of the

marker pole. We have walked this area before and estimate this patch of grass is about 3m wide. Your thumb has moved the equivalent of 3 lengths of the clump or 9 m. So the marker pole is about 10 x 9m or 90m away and it's time to change bearing and put some distance between you and the marker pole.

One way to increase the accuracy of your estimations is to "calibrate" your $\frac{D_1}{W_1}$ ratio by asking someone to measure exactly the distance between your eyes and the length of your arm thumb up. Alternatively you can verify how good the ratio of 10 is by using objects of an exactly known W_2 length and then measuring D_2 with a tape measurement or a range finder.

As we said before this method will not give you the exact distance but it will certainly help you to be an acceptable distance from a river mouth marker.

Finally, one last important point though. Always remember that the regulation is 300m from the centre of the river mouth, not from the marker pole. The pole is simply there to indicate that the 300m exclusion exists for this stream mouth. This is significant, particularly at stream mouths like the Waitahanui River that are constantly moving.

Happy thumbs up.



A Taste of Yesteryear

By Mike Hill
Mike is a ranger in our field
operations work

This photo assay presents a window into the Taupo fishery of yesteryear. Under the watchful eye of my grandmother these old photos lay in a cardboard box in the back room. I would see her browse through them like relics from time to time. They would then always be neatly organised and safely stored away again. She becomes wary when my aunts come to visit and

want to look through them. Borrowing any of these historic photos would be studiously noted and usually require a swift return. Some would not be allowed out of the house. To her they are taonga, treasures held dear and tell a story of family history.

Fortunately thanks to modern technology and my mother I was able to obtain these few and scan them. In these





photos the year is 1911 and believed to be when the honourable Lord Percy Edward Thellussun, 7th baron of Rendlesham and his companion, understood to be his wife Gladys Dunlop Best, came to Taupo to fish. All of the photos are taken at or around Waihaha. The young boy in the photos (usually with the gaff) is my great grandfather John Rameka, aged 13. At this time he worked as their fishing guide. The only unidentified person in the photos is the gentleman in the photo at the top of page 45, but he was almost certainly associated with Lord Percy's visit. During their stay

which lasted only several days the party caught a record 77 trout and the total catch weighed 772 lbs. At first glance the thought that comes to my mind is wow - look at the size of those fish. It's no wonder they had to use a gaff! Looking at these magnificent Taupo trout I very soon become hungry. I hope these photos will allow your imagination to ponder fishing in the days before smelt when the food resource for trout was primarily koaro, high energy and abundant allowing some fish to grow very big indeed.





Whats Up @ TNTC

By Randal Hart
Randal is the Ranger
at the Tongariro
National Trout Centre

Primary sponsor:



Tongariro
National Trout
Centre Society

There have been a lot of exciting changes and activity at the Tongariro National Trout Centre since the December 2009 Target Taupo article "A New Era for the Trout Centre".

The new entrance to the Visitors Centre was opened on Christmas Eve 2009 and has been well received by all with many visitors enjoying the ambience of the new entrance way with its seats and the availability of the toilets. The new Visitors Centre entrance combined with the new pathway from the car park offers a stunning introduction to what is an iconic visitor's attraction.

In January 2010 I was appointed as the DOC Community Relations Ranger based at the Trout Centre where my responsibilities include the day to day management of the Centre in conjunction with the Tongariro National Trout Centre Society volunteers who run the Visitors Centre. The Ranger's role is challenging and enjoyable and the presence of a full time ranger is invaluable both for the visitors and the Society volunteers. A lot of visitors are very interested in what we are achieving and their questions are many and varied from "how many trout are there in the kid's fish out pond" to "what is the pH of the water in the Waitukahuka stream" which runs through the Trout Centre grounds.

The new fresh water Aquarium was started on the 15th February 2010 after the site was blessed by Rangi Downs. The Aquarium is scheduled for completion later in the year. The Aquarium

complex is being built between the Visitors Centre and the Hatchery and the final outcome will be a combined walkway which starts in the Visitors Centre and ends in the Hatchery. Due to the nature of the work being carried out on the Hatchery building, the fry in the Hatchery tanks were moved to the Fish and Game Hatchery in Ngongotaha for safe keeping. When visitors ask where the fry are we say they have been sent to Rotorua for a holiday which raises a smile or two. DOC acknowledges the help of Fish and Game in the transfer and care of the fry while the Aquarium is being built. This is a long standing relationship that has allowed both parties to help each other out in time of need. DOC is also looking at taking the opportunity to replace the main water supply line within the Hatchery while it is out of service. This supply line is the original fitted when the Hatchery was built in 1926 and is now showing distinct signs of corrosion.

The Kid's fish out days continue to be a success and are well supported by schools and visitors. There were three very successful public fish out days in January and the largest trout caught was 1.95 kg and 54 cm. After the last fish out in January the fish were removed and sent to a kid's fish out facility in Stratford. The fish out pond was then cleaned out and the new season's fish were transferred from the raceways to the pond in preparation for the 2010 fish out program. To date there have been two public fish out days and nine school fish

Top Photo by Andrew
Penny (LEARNZ)



The aquarium is progressing well
Photo by: John Webb

out days with the new season's fish. The last public fish out day was extremely wet and it showed the dedication of the Tongariro National Trout Centre Society volunteers and DOC staff who supported the activity to ensure all the kids caught a fish and went home happy.

During March Genesis Energy sponsored a Whio day at the Trout Centre and there is a photo assay of the event on page.... The activities focused on the various Whio programs in the Central Plateau area and there were many very interesting demonstrations, displays and lectures. The Whio day was well supported by the public even though it competed with the local Junior Triathlon event on the same day. The general consensus is that the Whio day was a success and should be repeated next year. There have been several sightings of Whio on the Waihukahuka stream within the Trout Centre grounds which

is also very encouraging as it shows the Whio is starting to get established in the Tongariro river system.

An active rodent trapping program is underway at the Trout Centre to keep the population of rats, stoats, possums and feral cats to a minimum. This has resulted in an increase of bird life in the grounds with large numbers of Kereru, Tui, Robins, Bellbirds, Fantail and Quail being seen and heard. Perhaps some Whio ducklings may even turn up in the Waihukahuka Stream during spring.

The fish trap on the Waihukahuka stream is part of DOC's program for collecting data about the Taupo Fishery. This trap is a smaller version of the other traps in operation within the fishery but it provides valuable information to DOC. To date the fish numbers through the trap are increasing with some good quality rainbows and the odd brown trout being seen. Some of these fish can be seen




Controlling predators is protecting birds like this Kereru atTNTC
 Photo by: Kim Alexander-Turia

in the viewing chamber as they slowly move upstream for spawning. The trap is also proving to be a focal point during the school visits where the students are able to see how the trap works and how the fish are processed.

In conclusion the Tongariro National Trout Centre is an invaluable and iconic gem which continues to give a lot of pleasure to all its visitors and is a tribute




to the relationship that exists between DOC, the Tongariro National Trout Centre Society and Genesis Energy. The site will continue to develop and updates will be published in future editions of Target Taupo. In the mean time remember to Check, Clean, Dry to keep our Fishery in its world class condition and enjoy your fishing. Tight Lines.




Parklands Motorlodge

HOTEL COMPLEX • CONFERENCE CENTRE • RESTAURANT AND BAR

The Ideal base for skiing, fishing, tramping, rafting and exploring the Tongariro National Park. Best Western Parklands Motorlodge features 31 comfortable ground floor units - 12 Studio Units sleep 1-2 persons, 19 One bedroom family units sleep 1-5 persons all with kitchenette. A 20 point Motorhome Park and ample parking for vehicles and boats. Coach groups welcome. 35mins to Whakapapa Skifield, 2 minutes to the Tongariro River. A great base Summer or Winter.

Cnr State Highway 1 & Arahori Street, Turangi
 Freephone: 0800 456 284, Ph: 07 386 7515, Fax: 07 386 7509
 Email: info@parklandsmotorlodge.co.nz
www.parklandsmotorlodge.co.nz





By Bob Rosemergy
Bob is Chairman,
Spearfishing NZ

Lake Taupo Catfish Cull



Fifty spearfishing divers from all over NZ met at Motuoapa for the last weekend of January 2010, intent on 'thinning out' Lake Taupo's catfish population. Each diver had a handspear, a diving partner, float with dive flag attached and either swam from the shore or used a boat in the southern half of the Lake over a 6 hour period. Competitors had to free dive and were able to weigh in their largest 40 catfish with the heaviest gross weight being declared the winner. While 680 catfish were officially weighed in, many



competitors had extra catfish, so it was estimated that around 1000 catfish were taken altogether on the day. The largest individual catfish was 985 grams, not that big compared with some found elsewhere in NZ.

Catfish were speared in and around the weed beds in water between 2m and 12m deep. Compared with spearing fish in the ocean they are not that difficult in fact, if you are quick you can catch the odd one by hand. However, as some divers pointed out, they could be quite elusive when they literally disappeared by swimming into half a metre of fine silt.

With so many divers in the water it

was probably not surprising they came across many lost lines, down riggers and even an anchor. The underwater logs they were attached to would surely put a smile on the face of those who sell replacement trout fishing gear!

The competition proved to be something different for many of the divers used to the marine environment, and at the same time definitely makes a dent in the local catfish population. Given the success of this event another is being planned for the last weekend of January, 2011 which will be open to all divers. Details can be found later this year on our website: www.spearfishingnz.co.nz

Top left: A catfish caught by hand.

Bottom left: Napier competitor Kolt Johnson with some of his catch attached to a float line.

Top right: The catfish spearfishing group at Stump Bay.

Bottom right: A total of 680 catfish were weighed in.

Photos by Bob Rosemergy.



Fish Bytes

Fish Bytes are short interesting stories from the Taupo fishery – feel free to contribute if you have one!

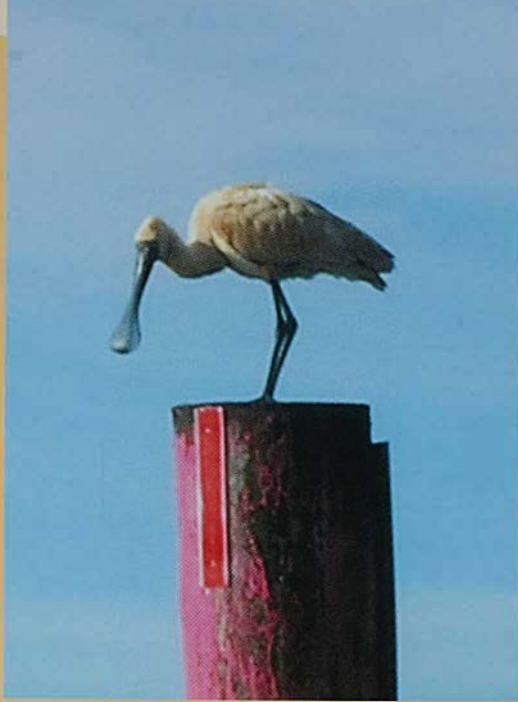


Fisheries scientist Michel Oedual and the most interesting eel
Photo by: John Webb

INTERESTING EEL

By John Webb

A great deal of interest was generated in the local media recently when an eel was caught at the Taupo Boat Harbour. The eel which was a sizable specimen at 129cm and 69kg was a most unusual catch because traditionally eels are not associated with Lake Taupo – even though there have been attempts to establish them there on a number of occasions. The reason for this is that eels go to sea as part of their breeding cycle (to spawn near Tonga) and although they can migrate from the lake to the sea, there are obstacles like the Huka Falls and dams which prevent their return. There was some speculation about the age of the eel and that it could possibly be very old as they can be up to 100 years of age before migrating but this particular specimen was only 19. It must have been eating well while it was in the lake! The catch was a little unfortunate as long finned eels like this one are becoming rare due to their slow rate of reproduction and overfishing. The species now deserves our care and conservation where possible.



The bird in question, on one of the channel markers at the Tokaanu Tailrace.
Photo by: Michel Dedual

to feed in what is a very characteristic manner. Typically spoonbills are gregarious so this one maybe be feeling a bit lonely. However as the photo shows it is not shy of people.

SOLITARY SPOONBILL

By Glenn Maclean

If you have used the Tokaanu Tailrace ramps recently you were probably concentrating on avoiding running aground with the very low lake level. However if you looked up you may have noticed a solitary white wading bird amongst all the ducks and swans on the exposed gravel bar beside you. This bird is a Royal Spoonbill, most likely a winter visitor from Australia though a very few pairs have established and breed in NZ. The royal spoonbill is almost exclusively an estuarine bird, though it is occasionally spotted on freshwater lakes close to the sea. The major wintering ground is on the Manawatu River estuary.

This particular bird is likely to be part of a pair which were first seen in the Waihi Bay and Tokaanu area several years ago. One of the pair disappeared shortly after but the other bird has shown up each winter since. It is a very distinctive bird with its unusually shaped beak, which it partially opens and sweeps from side to side



The team on the hunt for koi carp in lake Kuratau Photo by: Julie Greaves

KOI CARP CAPERS

By John Webb

Several months ago the fishery team were informed of a possible koi carp sighting in Lake Kuratau. This was of some concern because if they have the opportunity to breed they would be able to fit through the debris screens on the canal and enter Lake Taupo. Koi can have a very adverse impact on water clarity/quality through feeding habits. In Lake Kuratau particularly there was a substantial risk to the flora in the lake as there are no exotic weed species present and Koi are plant feeders. An investigation team was sent to look into the issue but no koi were found, only goldfish. This was supported by the fact that the lake has been drained to very low levels recently and there have been no further sightings. Koi are easy to identify by having two prominent barbels (spikes) in the corners of their mouth.



The harvest survey will assess angling effort and harvest for the Taupo fishery
Photo by: Ian Mitchell

HARVEST SURVEY UPDATE

By Mark Waman

The last five years have literally flown by since the last major Harvest Survey in 2005/06, and in July 2010 we are about to embark on our fifth major year long survey. These surveys have been conducted every 5 years since 1990. They are expensive but form an important part of our monitoring to ensure that the fishery is being managed at a sustainable level.

With several factors influencing the wild fishery back in 2005/06 and some rough times in terms of fish size and condition over more recent years, it will be interesting to see what state the fishery is in since the last survey. With data available every 5 years since the first harvest survey 20 years ago, we will be able to assess trends in the harvest of trout over this period. Ultimately this should ensure that the fishery is still being managed sustainably.

The main idea behind the project is to produce a comprehensive estimate of the number of trout caught and taken from the Taupo Fishery during the entire 2010/11 season. In other words we are trying to estimate the angler effort (hours spent fishing) as well as the catch and harvest (fish killed) from the entire Lake Taupo fishery and the inflowing tributaries over an entire year. We will do this by combining aerial counts of anglers on both the lake and the rivers with interview data from anglers on the ground.

Such a large project requires a lot of resources especially in terms of staff and we will be employing two temporary staff to help us with the angler interviews as several thousand anglers will be interviewed during the year long survey. As a result there is a high probability that you will be interviewed by one of our staff and so please answer any questions that they ask about your fishing as we require the survey to be as accurate as possible. The questions at the time may seem insignificant but once the data is analysed, the results of the project could have some significant implications for the fishery in terms of how we manage it in the future.

New Faces in the Fishery Team



RAY PACKER

Ray was born and raised in Turangi and his father would often take him on fishing and camping expeditions on Lake Taupo and its rivers. Schooling was done at Tongariro High School and at 15 he left to work in forestry doing pruning and thinning. Ray then moved into logging and relocated to Rotorua where he worked extensively in the forest industry. Eventually, he had the opportunity to train and assess crews for their NZ Qualifications Authority unit standards in forestry. This was a good job but challenging because many students were 'old school' loggers who didn't necessarily see the benefits of further training. Ray worked for Carter Holt Harvey, EIT and Wajariki Polytechnic out of both Rotorua and Napier during this time.

He moved back home to Turangi 4 years ago, remarried and was fortunate enough to secure a job with the Biodiversity team in the Turangi Taupo Area of the Department of Conservation before joining the fishery team in March this year.



RANDAL HART

Randal recently joined the DOC Taupo Fishery Team as a Community Relations Ranger based at the Tongariro National Trout Centre. Randal retired from the Aviation Engineering Industry in 2006 and after spending time working and travelling offshore "retired" to Turangi to live.

Randal, who is commonly known as "Ranger Randal", is a dedicated trout angler who enjoys promoting the Taupo fishery and the goals of DOC and the Tongariro National Trout Centre Society. He is an active volunteer and committee member of the Tongariro National Trout Centre Society and is often seen helping out during the school and kids public fishing days.

Randal is responsible for the day to day running of the Trout Centre site and he works closely with the Tongariro National Trout Centre Society to ensure visitors enjoy their TNTC experience. He is also involved with other activities of the Fishery Team and enjoys the challenges of learning new skills and working in an outdoor environment.

New Faces in the Taupo Fishery Team



HEATH CAIRNS

Kia ora koutou, Ko Heath Cairns ahau. no Ruatahuna.

Heath recently joined the Team at the Taupo Fishery. Before this he was in the Navy for 20 years, initially as an Apprentice Electronics Technician before transferring to the Navy Dive Team for his final 15 years of service. Heath left the Navy as a Warrant Officer having enjoyed an experience filled career all over the world including tours in East Timor (sub-surface security) and Afghanistan (EOD - bomb disposal). On leaving the Navy Heath worked predominantly as a Commercial Dive Instructor, teaching/qualifying people (foreign and domestic) to work on oil rigs anywhere in the world.

The change in career choice to DOC was an easy one to make, being such a community/environment focussed organisation with values synonymous with his own. The work/family life balance evident at DOC came as a welcome change too, as life in the military and as a commercial diver required Heath to be away from his family a little too often. Staff in the TF and Taupo Fishery (now one entity) have been bringing Heath on board and he looks forward to many years here working towards and making a positive difference in this beautiful country of ours.



KAREN MOHR

Karen is working as a fish trap operator and first decided to come to New Zealand 2 years ago while working as a resource officer in Manitoba, Canada. She was inspired by one of her fellow officers who had worked as a hut warden in Tongariro National Park. Karen has worked with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans as a trap operator and spent the months leading up to her NZ departure counting millions of sockeye salmon fry on Babine Lake in North-western British Columbia.

Karen did some volunteer work for the fishery during days off from Hut

Wardening once she had started with DOC and when job as a trap operator for the fishery arose her background and qualifications matched the job description nicely. Fish trapping is good character building stuff and in her own words: "I have been soaked by rain, beaten up by fish, sunburnt and lost in the woods by the trap... and I am loving every minute of it". She has also been introduced to boating on Lake O, counting smelt on Lake Taupo, opening the Trout Centre and undercover operations so it has been a whirlwind start. Karen reckons the only thing better than the fishing here, has been the people

Fishery Team Farewells



STORM KEEN

I came to work for the Taupo Fishery Area just over four years ago now, fresh out of Africa knowing more about elephants, lions, and the African bush and not much about the central north island and trout. I remember being most excited to get my appointment with the Taupo Fishery Area not realising the opportunities that lay ahead of me. I have worked in one of the most spectacular parts of the country with a great team. I've spent 3 years with the Taupo Fishery Area as Ranger Service working with the Taupo District Fishing Licence Program. Dealing with our hundred or so agents across the North Island was a challenging and rewarding experience. I also spent twelve months working with the concessions team in the Conservation Support Unit processing and managing concessions in the Tongariro Taupo, Wanganui, East Coast and Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancies.

The experiences and knowledge obtained has been invaluable, from learning to fly fish, to walking in some of New Zealand's pristine bush; from jet boating down the Whanganui River to fighting bush fires.

So with this short note, I bid every one farewell, as I embark on the next chapter of my life. I would like to thank the Department of Conservation, the Taupo Fishery Area, our Fishery Agents and my manager and friend Carolyn Newell for their support and all that you have taught me over the last four years. I will leave with great memories and carry life experiences that I can and will always fall back on.



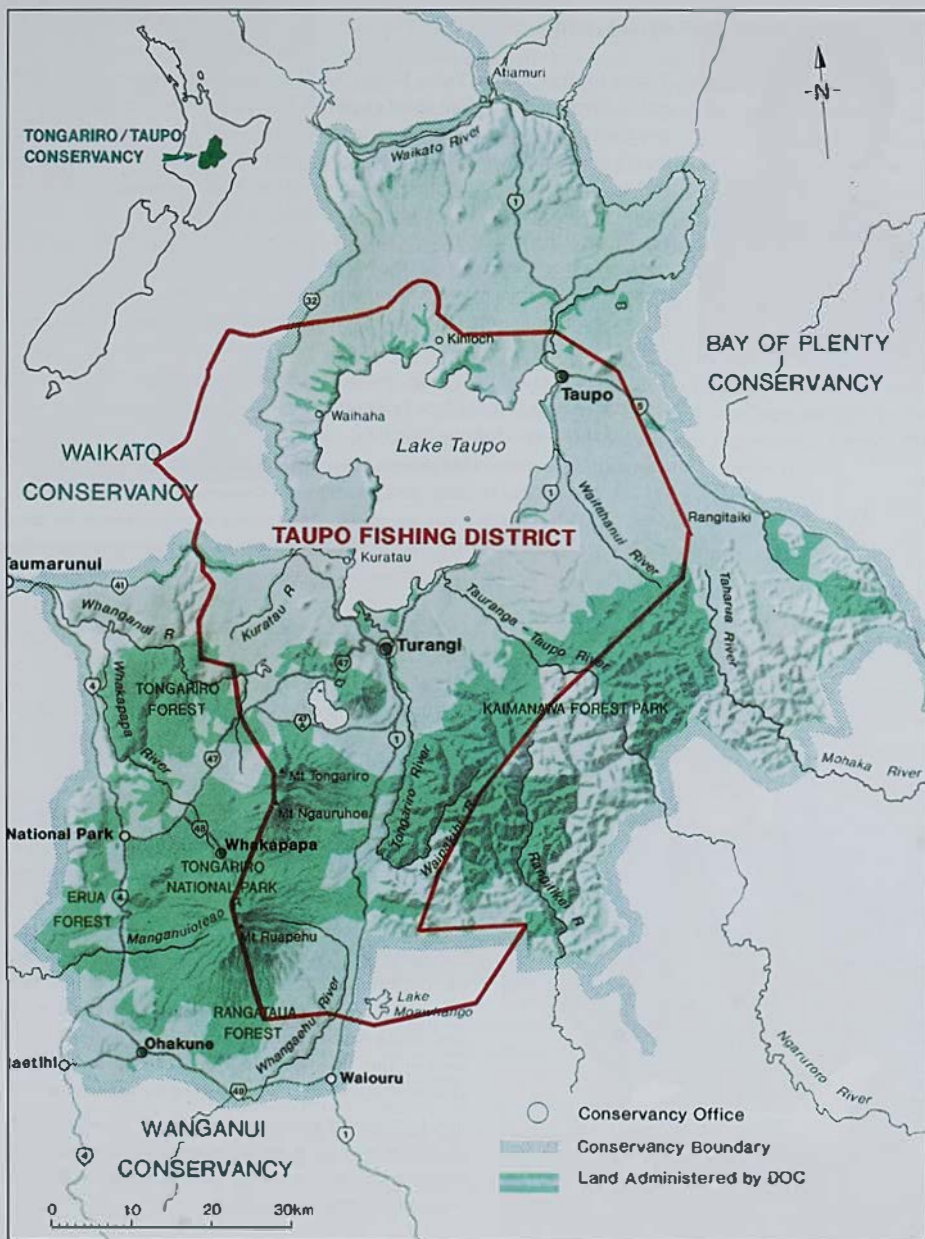
JULIE GREAVES

Julie began working for the Department of Conservation in 2003 as a 'weedie' in the biodiversity team of the 'Tirangi' Taupo Area. She then moved to the Fishery Area in 2005. Initially Julie was contracted to work as part of the Harvest Survey team as an interviewer and later she was employed permanently, working in a variety of roles as a ranger, including health and safety representative. More recently she was the Area Asset Planner looking after all of the visitor assets for the fishery.

Julie had a strong background in the outdoors studying eco-tourism and working as a tafting guide before joining the Department of Conservation. Her commitment as a past volunteer for the Tirangi Coastguard and St John Ambulance were contributors to Julie leaving the Fishery team in April this year to pursue a career in nursing - a change which she had been keen on for some time.

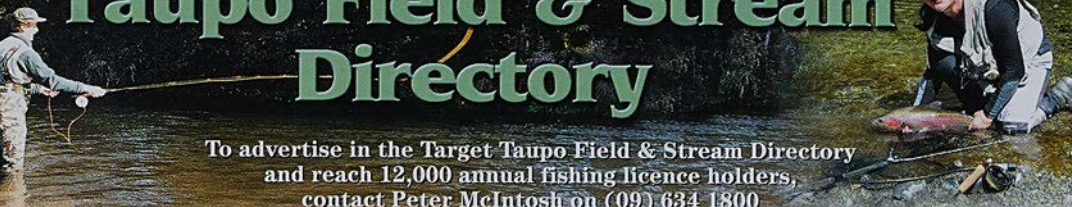
Julie became well known to many people associated with the fishery over the years, her sense of humour and ability to give anything a go should stand her in good stead in her new profession. Cheers Julz.

Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy



Taupo Field & Stream Directory

To advertise in the Target Taupo Field & Stream Directory and reach 12,000 annual fishing licence holders, contact Peter McIntosh on (09) 634 1800



Greenstone Fishing

Specialising in:

- Fresh & Saltwater Tackle
- Rod & Waders Hire
- Fishing Licences
- Hunting Permits
- Fishing Guides & Boat Charters
- Home stay accommodation and 24hr service

Steve and Angela Barry
(new owners)
147 Tongairiro Street
Taupo

Ph/Fax:
07 378 3714
Mobile:
0274 458 964



Judge's Pool Motel

- 9 self contained units
- Quiet surroundings, no traffic noise
- 100m to Tongairiro River
- Full facilities for fishermen
- Spa pool

5% discount on accommodation when you show this ad



92 Taupahi Road, Turangi
Phone: 07 386 7892
Fax 07 386 7890



Creel Tackle House

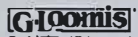


189 Taupahi Road, Turangi
Brian Scott: Phone/Fax 07 386 7929

FLY FISHING TACKLE SPECIALISTS

- Quality fly tying materials
- Hire tackle
- Open 7 days

Central North Island Agents for:



Sportsman's Lodge

- Right on the banks of the world famous Tongairiro River.
- Inexpensive riverside accommodation. Twin/Doubles from \$65 per night.
- Large shared Kitchen/Dining Room with all facilities.
- TV Lounge with open fire and sun decks.
- Fishing guides available.

15 Taupahi Road, Turangi
New Zealand. Ph: (07) 3868
150 Fax: (07) 386 8150
Email: sportsmanslodge@xtra.co.nz

Turangi Cabins & Holiday Park

- Campervans/Caravans • Tent Sites
- 96 Budget Cabins • On-site caravans

FACILITIES INCLUDES:

- Kitchens & dining rooms catering for over 100 people
- laundries with automatic washing machines, dryers & drying room • TV room • BBQ area • Table Tennis
- Childrens Play Area • Telephone • Fish cleaning area & fish freeze • Caravan & boat storage

Ohuanga Rd,
PO Box 41, Turangi
Ph (07) 386 8754

TONGARIRO RIVER RAFTING

MEMBER OF NEW ZEALAND RAFTING ASSOCIATION

Raft Fish the Central Plateau Rivers



For Rafting and Raft Fishing in the North Island contact: Garth and Leigh Oakden

Freephone
0800 10 10 24
email info@trr.co.nz
www.trr.co.nz



To advertise in the Target Taupo Field & Stream Directory and reach 12,000 annual fishing licence holders, contact Peter McIntosh

on (09) 634 1800

peter.mcintosh@fishgamenz.co.nz

Kereru Lodge



Tauranga-Taupo
Riverside Retreat
secluded • unspoilt

Phone 07 386 6011
Mobile 027 - 464 2847
Email yerex@xtra.co.nz

www.flyfishingtaupo.nz

TARATA FISHAWAY

• ACCOMMODATION • GUIDED OR UNGUIDED FISHING •

Situated in the remote Mōkai Valley where the picturesque Rangitikei River meets the rugged Ruahine Ranges. Unique trout fishing right at our doorstep.

Location, location, location New River Retreat, Spa Bath, Homestead, Fisherman's Cottage, Trout Fishing, Rafting, Tramping, Spotlight Salaris, Camp Outs, "Mini" Golf, Clay Bird Shooting.



Your Hosts: Trudi & Stephen Matlock.
Ph: 06 388 0354.
Fax: 06 388 0954

E: fishaway@xtra.co.nz
Web: www.tarata.co.nz

HORTY'S

HORTY'S
SMOKEHOUSE &
FISHERMANS ACCOMODATION

SKY TV! **\$30**
A NIGHT
SLEEPS 6!

\$10
TROUT
SMOKING
Vacuum packed!

273 Taupahi Rd
Turangi, New Zealand
Ph: 07 386 5441

Kaimanawa Bistro

LICENCED RESTAURANT

at the Kaimanawa Lodge, Turangi

*Delicious food
for hungry fishermen*

HOSTS: Chris and Marilyn

258 Taupahi Road

Phone 07 386 8709

Fax 07 386 8768

Email chris_wright@xtra.co.nz

Ken Drummond

Fly fishing adventures

Phone: 07 386 0411

Cell: 027 362 1051

Email: kenny@troutfish.co.nz

web: www.troutfish.co.nz

PROTECT YOUR HERITAGE

Contribute to the wellbeing of
the iconic Tongariro River:
FISHERY • ENVIRONMENT
ACCESS • MANAGEMENT
Your views can be heard.



JOIN US NOW;
WWW.TONGARIRO.RIVER.ORG.NZ

To advertise in the
Target Taupo Field &
Stream Directory
and reach 12,000 annual
fishing licence holders,
contact Peter McIntosh

on (09) 634 1800

peter.mcintosh@fishgamenz.co.nz



REALISE YOUR DREAM



THE SF660

Our vision is your dream. "Style, functionality, cockpit space," this superb craft has it all. Family boating pleasure is right here, with all tastes well and truly catered for, and don't forget "THE RIDE". The Haines Hunter SF660 is a new boat, designed and built from scratch. The hull is a completely new development. The 21 degree deep V that is the standard for Haines Hunter has been taken to a new level that provides maximum beam aft (for stability and fishing room) combined with a totally new approach to the forward sections. The fine entry provides softness in the ride. Add our famous planing strakes that provide maximum lift for performance and dryness and we have "the ride" that only Haines Hunter boats share. The pedigree of this design exhibits superb, vice free handling without the need for big horse power. Inside the boat is big, very big with huge cockpit space for fishing or diving and no compromise for family comfort. Available with the conventional fold back canopy or the optional factory Sport Fishing Bimini Top complete with rocket launchers. This boat has excellent seated visibility with all driving & electronics functions at your fingertips. Spend some time and enjoy a thorough look at this all new Haines Hunter SF660. it's a beauty.



HAINES HUNTER

THE SECRET IS IN THE RIDE

Haines Hunter NZ Ltd, 50 Cowley Street
or P.O. Box 11015, Ellerslie, Auckland, New Zealand.
Free Phone 0508 HAINES, Phone 09 579 9881, Fax 09 525 0173.
Email sales@haineshunter.co.nz • www.haineshunter.co.nz



LEADER OF THE PACK



IN-LINE PERFORMANCE

Compact and lightweight the Yamaha 150 Four Stroke In-line four cylinder outboard is designed to run quietly, economically and very, very cleanly. The Double overhead camshafts and four valves per cylinder create increased air supply and volumetric efficiency increasing power and performance.

The Twin Counter Balancer Shafts minimize engine vibration for a smooth, pleasant boating experience.

New Zealand's most popular outboard has earned the reputation of being the ultra reliable, long lasting with a start every time reputation.

Invest in the a new Yamaha 150 four stroke with all the advantages.



For more details and technical information
please visit www.yamaha-motor.co.nz

