



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

March 2025

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings everyone. Apologies for the absence of another “riveting” article but I am off to Great Barrier Island first thing in the morning and most importantly, I don't want to forget

anything. (Particularly my 12/13 weight Loop rod/reel setup). I'll report on any fishing results next month.

However, more important issues are at hand. Our AGM is coming up on the 16th of April and among matters to be considered is the need to replace our current constitution and reregister our club under The Incorporated Societies Act 2022. That process must be completed by 5th April 2026 after which the old 1909 Act becomes redundant. Put simply, any club/incorporated society which fails to reregister would “cease to exist” on that date.

Everyone will shortly receive (by email) a copy of a new draft Constitution, the form and content of which has been approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

Rule 17.2 of our current Constitution states the following:

“Any proposed motion to amend or replace these rules shall be signed by at least 15 members and given to the Secretary at least 2 full weeks prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be considered”.

Therefore, in order to facilitate an orderly procedure, I would ask everyone to read through the proposed new Constitution. I will be back from the island on 23rd March and shortly thereafter, a formal motion will be circulated to members and hopefully, at least 15 members (if not all) will support the motion and confirm that support by return email.

Thanks everyone.

Dave Symes - President

EDITORS NOTE

Once again I have received a bunch of great photos and fishing reports this month and a very big thank you to everyone who sent them through! It really is very appreciated.

CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE

Some of you will already know that the Club has a Facebook Page. It has been underutilized for a while and this is just a reminder to those who already know and information for those who didn't know until now. The link is below, and also on the Clubs Website <https://nsff.org.nz/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/217979378948826/members>

Please do join the page and post away, it really is a case of every post will encourage others to post and before we know it the Club will have a thriving online presence.

FISHING REPORT

Auckland / Waikato

On fire! That is the best description I can give. A day trip last weekend saw the best fishing I have ever had in the Coromandel with lots of fish taking the fly, from tiddlers to nice fat Browns and Rainbows, and at least half took the dry. The recent drop in daytime temperatures and especially the night time temperatures resulted in noticeably cooler water and I suspect this was responsible for the fish activity. Flies – size 14 attractor Dry and a size 16 Pheasant Tail variant.

Jaco with a fun 'pocket rocket' from one of the many Waipa tributaries. Photo courtesy of Johan Kok.



Rotorua

The rivermouths here have been fishing quite spectacularly with several of the guys on the Ngongotaha Club Trip returning to the Lodge and complaining of sore arms from fighting all their fish!

The Ngongotaha itself has had plenty of fish in it but they have definitely been harder to persuade to take your fly. The water has been extremely low and clear and this has made for some challenging fishing at times.

The Waiteti has also been extremely hard, but, like the Ngongotaha, there are fish there to be caught.



Andrew with another of his many Ngongotaha successes. Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.

Taupo

The following report is from Sporting Life in Turangi and was posted on their website on Tuesday 11th.

It's another great day in Turangi, with sun and next to no wind. The reports I have been getting in the last few days are there is a lot of great fish about the Tongariro and other surrounding rivers. AB has been doing a fair amount of swinging with great success, catching some impressive fish in the evenings. The back country rivers have also been providing excellent dry fly fishing, and the Cicadas or Adams flies are still on the menu out there.

The low clear water is still keeping the fish on edge, but it seems the mornings and evenings have proven to be the best times of day to be on the water. After a chat this morning with a local who spends a lot of time on the Waitahanui, he has been catching most of his fish on Glo-bugs. With photos to prove it. I have seen a lot of spawning fish in all the rivers, so it's worth having a few in the fly box.

Adams flies, Dads Favourites and Caddis Dries are doing it for many who come in the door. We have just done a Lace Moth order and should have them in store in the next couple of days.

There are still lots of browns out there, so keep an eye on the shallow water, before you head out a bit deeper. As these big browns, can be hiding just off the bank, and will spook if they catch sight of you.

The boat fisherman are finding it a bit slow at the moment. Having to move around a lot and vary their depths. We had a chat with Whiskery Mike Boat Charters recently, and he said covering ground, and getting deep to about the 50m mark was proving the best method. Small smelt patterns like the jack sprat, or the Epoxy Mallard Smelt U.V fly are working well. People stripping these flies at the river mouths have also been quite happy.

Saltwater

No reports unfortunately, but this is a great time of year to give it a go as the Snapper start to come in very close and the Kahawai chase the Anchovies.

Fishy Tales

- If you do have a report, success story, or anecdote to share then just send it to iconpromote@gmail.com . Happy Fishing and Tight Lines – Freddy Da Fish.



Pawel in a before and after with a great backcountry Rainbow. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.



LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had the extremely unfortunate situation of a last minute Club Night cancellation due to unannounced road works blocking access to the RSA. Peter Scott had driven all the way from his home near Taumaranui and was looking forward to talking to us. Thank you to Peter and a very big apology as well.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 19th MARCH 7.30 PM

This month we have Adam Daniel from Fish & Game Auckland Waikato. There have been some significant changes made in the rules for ‘our local waters’ and Adam will talk to them. As well as that Adam is an absolute font of knowledge in all things Trout.

This is sure to be an enjoyable night and we look forward to seeing you there.

WHY WE FISH

“In every species of fish I’ve angled for, it is the ones that have got away that thrill me the most, the ones that keep fresh in my memory. So I say it is good to lose fish. If we didn’t, much of the thrill of angling would be gone.”

Ray Bergman.

CHANGES TO CONTACT DETAILS

Committee members organising club trips and similar events are finding that the phone and email information that we hold for some members has become out of date. If you have changed your address, landline number, mobile number or email address in the last year or so and have not passed the new details on to NSFF, could you please advise Barrie Barnes by email, his email address is barrie@flyfishinginxs.kiwi .

FISHING BUDDIES SOUGHT

The intention is to display a list of names of Club Members that are keen on finding a ‘buddy’ to go fishing with, either on a regular basis or just for a day. In essence it’s a fly-fishing dating service...

Name	Availability	Contact Details
Ron Blair	Anytime, has a 14.4 Marco with 60hp etec Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336 ron.blair@xtra.co.nz
Les Rose	Retired and is happy to take another person fishing during the week.	home 09 4183634
Graham Carter	Lives in Hamilton, keen on weekday / mid-week trips.	021 026 00437 07 855 1833
Lloyd Altham	Has 12' Pontoon boat /15 HP Honda. Available most time, but prefer weekdays.	Mob. 021 0295 9167 Home 09 420 3120 email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz
Gary Bolstad	Keen to get out Stream, Lake or even Saltwater fly-fishing. Has both Fish & Game and Taupo season licences so keen to go almost anywhere. Retired so free to go most of the time.	Mobile 022 379 3070 gd.bolstad@gmail.com
Derek Robinson	Retired available most times keen to do Waikato streams and most other things.	Ph 4437311 Mob: 0212 595 371 pamanddek@outlook.com

CLUB TROPHIES

Brown Trout Trophy – This is awarded to The Heaviest Brown Trout caught by a Club Member during the year – 1st April to 31st March. Current holder is **Fikrit Chinassi**.

Chain Snore Trophy – A fun award given immediately after any Club Trip to the person who has done the ‘funniest’ thing over the weekend. If nobody has had anything like this happen it may be awarded to the worst snorer. Current Holder is **Tim Ross!**

Ian Hunt Memorial Trophy – Heaviest Trout caught fly-fishing by a Club Member during the Pupuke Challenge Competition. A competition run every year to promote the Lake Pupuke fishery. This was not held this year. Current holder is **Lucas Bathurst**.

I Love Flyfishing Trophy – Awarded to the Club Member who has caught the most species of Saltwater fish fly-fishing over the year – 1st April to 31st March. Current holder is **Johan Kok**.

Rodd And Gunn Trophy – This is the Club Competition which takes place over two days. One day on a Lake and one day on a River. The Winner this year is **Johan Kok**.

The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. The winner of this year's event is **Duncan Frew**.

The winner of this year's River section is **Duncan Frew**.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“It is impossible to grow weary of a sport that is never the same on any two days of the year.”

Theodore Gordon.

BROWN TROUT TROPHY” COMPETITION RULES

Winning fish will be determined by weight.

Verification by partner where possible and/or by photograph.

Details to be provided to any committee member.

Competition period April 1st to March 31st . Prize awarded at AGM in April.

Winner's name and weight of fish to be published in May club newsletter.

NSFF CLUB SALT WATER FLY FISHING COMPETITION RULES

The “essence” of the competition is to encourage club member participation and in the process, to award a winner's trophy to the individual who catches the greatest number of salt water species. It will run from 1st April in one year to 31st March in the next year with the trophy awarded at the following AGM. For the full rules please refer to the Club Website www.nssf.org.nz

NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS DVD LIBRARY

Over the years the Club has purchased some videos and been very fortunate in having a number more donated for Club Members use. There is almost certainly something there that will appeal to you. So if you would like to borrow one just let any Committee Member know (contact details are on the back page of this Newsletter).

Club Videos

Flyfishing with Dave McLellan June 2015 (15 DVD's)
New Zealand FlyTying (with John Giacon) A Tight Lines Ltd Presentation (2 DVD's)
Tie A Fly with John Morton The Master Fly Tier
Blue Water Fishing Techniques (ITM Fishing Show) Matt Watson
New Zealand Trophy Waters (Volume 6) Bruce Masson A Deep Stream Production
New Zealand Trophy Waters (Volume 7) Bruce Masson A Deep Stream Production
Running Down The Man A Felt Soul Media Production
Advanced Fly Casting Doug Swisher Essence of Fly Casting
Chasing Silver (Tarpon fishing in Florida) Howard Films. Com
How to Succeed on Reservoirs Part 1 Boat Tackle, Tactics and Flies
How to Succeed on Reservoirs Part 2 Boat Tackle, Tactics and Flies
How to Succeed on Small Stillwaters Part 2 Stalking Patterns and Techniques
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Mike Kirkpatrick
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Volume I Nelson District-Mike Kirkpatrick
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Volume 2 West Coast-Mike Kirkpatrick
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures The Distant Browns of Emerald-Mike Kirkpatrick
The Manic Guide to Fly Casting Rene Vaz
Fly Fishing in NZ
Stealth with a Fly-NZ Wilderness waters Dean Bell Fly Fishing
SoulFish 2 Global fly fishing Adventures with April Vokey and others
Gulf Harbour Outdoors with Geoff Thomas NZ fly fishing for Trout and Salmon
Salt Water Fly Fishing Game Fishing
Bugs of the Underworld Lisa Cutter
NZ Fly Fishing MP4s Youtube Video's (4 discs)
Snapper Secrets (vol 2)
Fly Fishing in NZ (fishing Clips from Mobil Sport on TV3)
How to Fish Rapala Lures
Essential Patterns with Oliver Edwards Vol 1
Fly Fishing For Reservoir Trout (at Pitsford) Bob Church
Trout Secrets with Geoff Thomas
Fishing in Fiordland
Wee Wets and Small Dries

CLUB TRIPS 2025 - 2026

February –Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –FEB 2026
March – Lake Otamangakau – MAR 28th 29th 30th 2025
May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –MAY 16th 17th 18th 2025
July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo – JUL 2025

August – Tongariro – Club River Fishing Competition – AUG 2025
September – Tauranga Taupo – SEP 2025
November – Lake based Club Competition Trip – NOV 2025
December / January – Tuition weekend (Held if enough ‘novice’ anglers are interested)
December – Lake Otamangakau – NOV 2025

The NSF committee arrange various Club Trips over the year to different parts of the country. If you would like to be involved, or have an idea for a trip please let one of your committee know.



Simon with another of his and Pawel’s great backcountry Trout. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.

MARCH CLUB TRIP TO LAKE OTAMANGAKAU

I am proposing the weekend of 28th 29th 30th March (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) with a number of us arriving on Thursday the 27th.

While it is predominately a boat fishery, the Te Whaiiau (inlet) canal which can be fished from the shore, and particularly the “holding” area immediately above the road bridge, offers a big range of casting positions. Just be aware that with an altitude of some 2,000 feet above sea level, the conditions can go from warm and pleasant to bleak very quickly!

By March, the Trout are BIG, fat and in prime condition, with lots of insect activity, providing some fantastic fishing activity. Costs will be \$55 per person per night.

The Accommodation is your own little room with 2 beds, 1 for sleeping and the other for your gear.

There are shared cooking facilities.

I have “penciled in” 8 cabins at Tongariro Holiday Park so if anyone is interested, please let me know ASAP.

Dave Symes - Ph: 09 486-6257 - Email: dssymes@xtra.co.nz



The 'Big O' fish can be hard to catch at times, but when you do they are immensely memorable. Photo courtesy of Peter Schierhout.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class.

She came to the part of the story where first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home.

She read. 'And so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said:

'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?'

The teacher paused then asked the class: 'And what do you think the man said?'

One little boy raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly...

'I think the man would have said - 'Well, F#ck me!! A talking pig!'

The teacher had to leave the room.

TIPS AND TRICKS

At an earlier Club Meeting we had a session all about Tips and Tricks that we might choose to use with our fishing. With that in mind we will use this section for any helpful little Tips that anyone may have that can benefit us all. So, if you have a quick Tip that you are happy to share just let me know on iconpromote@gmail.com.

- 1) Always carry a wading stick. You probably won't use it in most of your fishing situations but when you need it, in a tricky crossing, or in a very boulder river, it can be a literal life saver!

FISH AND GAME LINKS

Fishing access maps

If you are travelling around the country or even if you are staying close to home, Fish & Game has updated our online access maps.

You can check out the links on this [page](#) for where you intend to fish this season. We have loads of locations for anglers around the country for you to get in a bit of fishing. Have a look; you might be surprised to find a spot close to you that you never knew existed.

Trout fishing made easy

Our [YouTube channel](#) has heaps of helpful videos that will help you catch fish.

We have everything from [Five Quick Tips for River Fishing](#) to [Lake Fishing](#) and our popular [boat fishing video](#). There are also many other videos on lures, soft baits and fishing locations that can provide tips and tricks for anglers of all skill levels.

FISH AND GAME NORTHLAND REEL LIFE FEBRUARY



Photo above: Some of the fish taken from Lake Manuwai, Waipapa

Reservoir Update

Lake Manuwai has been producing some good fishing at the moment. Non-motorised craft (kayaks and rowboats) can be used and is a good way to get too the hard-to-reach bays around its shoreline. All methods work well. If spinning from a kayak try and target the reed beds around the edges. Most lure colourations work. The good old reliable Mepps / Veltic and Rapala style lures are my choice. Any midge fly imitations seem to produce. Summer patterns like green beetle and bees/wasps are also the trout's favourite at this time of year.

River And Stream Update

Recent rains have lifted water levels and flushed the systems. We are getting reports of fish being caught throughout the Wairua catchment.

We Need Your Help!!

Keep sending in those fish photos. It's good to see what Northland is producing. Weight and length information would also be appreciated for research purposes.

Take The Family Fishing

The new season commences on Saturday 1st October 2024. The family licence is by far the best value for money licence on offer. A family licence can be made up of two parents or grandparents and up to four of their children or grandchildren under the age of 18. This licence can also be used anywhere in NZ, except the Lake Taupo fishery.

For more information about the new seasons licences check out our website: www.fishandgame.org.nz

FISH AND GAME AUCKLAND / WAIKATO REEL LIFE FEBRUARY



Highest Drift Dive Counts Since The 90's

There have been some incredible drift dive counts with some of the highest counts of fish over 40 cm since the 90's. We are not going to spot burn the locations but would encourage anglers to take advantage of one of the best summers of fishing on record. Water temperatures are hot so if you plan to catch and release, please remember:

Don't fish in water above 19°.
If you don't have a thermometer, consider fishing just the morning.
Keep your fish in the water.
If you take a photo, be prepared and make it fast.

Proposed Regulation Changes

The Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council has voted to change the sports fish regulations for the 2025/26 season. The proposed changes will include a two fish limit for all waterbodies and the fly fishing only area on the Whakapapa will be extended to 1 km upstream of the Ohinetonga Road Bridge. Auckland/Waikato streams have been divided into four levels of protection with closed waters (a small number of critical spawning streams), sensitive fisheries (fly fishing only closed for the spawning season), controlled fisheries (fly and spin waters open year-round), and all other waters (fly, spin and bait open year-round). A standardised bag limit and season length has reduced the number of specific regulations from over 90 listed streams to about 30. The proposed regulations are not final until they are approved by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

Stream	Reach	Open	Method	Limit
Awakino	upstream of Mahoenui Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2
Kaniwhaniwha	upstream of Quarry Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2
Mangatutu	upstream of Lethbridge Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2
Ngakoaohia	upstream of Ormsby Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2
Whakapapa	upstream of 1 km upstream of Ohinetonga Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	F	2
Whakapapa	downstream of 1 km upstream of Ohinetonga Road	1 Oct - 30 Jun	FS	2
Kakahu		All year	FS	2
Kaniwhaniwha	Downstream of Quarry Road	All year	FS	2
Little Waipa Stream	Upstream of Horahora Road Bridge	All year	FS	2
Mangaohae		All year	FS	2
Mangatepopo		All year	FS	2

Mangatutu	downstream of Lethbridge Road	All year	FS	2
Mangawhio Stream		All year	FS	2
Maramataha		All year	FS	2
Moakururu	upstream of Honikiwi Road	All year	FS	2
Okauaka		All year	FS	2
Ongarue	upstream of Waimiha Stream confluence	All year	FS	2
Piopiotea		All year	FS	2
Pokaiwhenua Stream		All year	FS	2
Puniu	upstream of Seafund Road Bridge	All year	FS	2
Tawarau	Above power station intake	All year	FS	2
Tumai Stream		All year	FS	2
Waione		All year	FS	2
Waipa	upstream of State Highway 3 Bridge	All year	FS	2
Waipapa River	above lower falls	All year	FS	2
Waitawheta	upstream of end of Franklin Road	All year	FS	2
Whakapapa-iti		All year	FS	2

Whakapapa-nui		All year	FS	2
Whanganui	upstream of Whakapapa River confluence	All year	FS	2
All other rivers & lakes		All year	FSB	2

FISH AND GAME EASTERN REEL LIFE FEBRUARY



Image above: Maple and her dog April with a 4kg Rotoiti rainbow caught jigging in February. This fish was a two-and-a-half-year-old hatchery liberation released in February 2023 showing incredible growth.

Autumn Opportunities Just Around The Corner

The continuation of mixed and unusual weather patterns has made predicting fishing opportunities difficult. As we roll into March and expect cooler conditions to prevail,

there's still plenty of daylight hours and midday warmth to keep trout actively feeding on insects.

Our rivers and streams have seen very few flushes this summer, so flows are low and clear resulting in spooky fish. In most cases, we would benefit from some late summer rain to clear filamentous algae and make slippery rocks easier to navigate. Dry fly activity hasn't been as prolific as it might, perhaps due to the weather, but evening hatches of mayfly and caddis are still worth waiting around for and fish have been responsive to cicada and cricket patterns.



Low, clear water conditions can be a challenge. Ngongotaha Stream.

Autumn signals the start of rainbow trout spawning in our big Rotorua lakes – with the spawning season here being much more traditionally timed than say the Taupo region. Anglers can expect fish to be mooching around the shoreline areas and release points from mid-March or even earlier if we get cold, rainy weather. It will be full-on from mid-April with pods of aggressive rainbows patrolling the shoreline spawning areas. Remember, for spawning fish rainy conditions after a fine spell are a trigger, so you might gauge the prospects of good fishing by whether you need your raincoat or not! And, just to so you know, from what we've seen on the lakes this summer we are expecting

some really big fish this winter!

Deepwater methods will continue to be successful until the end of June, when Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina close for the winter, re-opening again on October 1. Jigging and soft baiting down to 20m has been action-packed with a high average size. Shallow trolling usually takes off again from dawn about April and May when a second smelt spawning takes place. A Tassie and smelt fly combination fished just a metre or two below the surface

is hard to beat. Maturing fish tend to move towards their release locations from now, so look to the deep drop-offs along Rotoiti's southeast shore, Tarawera from the boat ramp access along Spencer Rd and at all of the stream mouths and Okataina from the main beach. The Lake Rotorua stream mouth action has taken off, although it might have been later this year due to the weather, the fishing has been superb with anglers reporting good catches of fat rainbow and browns. Small nymphs, such as size 16-18 pheasant tails fished under an indicator have been working well. Alternatively, wet flies such as smelt or bully patterns jerk-stripped on floating lines are the way to go.

Okataina Update

A new automated gate has been installed at Lake Okataina. As we write Reel Life the gate is in testing, but should be up and running by February 26th. The idea is to make access simpler for users and not restricted to specific times of the day.

The MPI Controlled Area Notice is still in place for Lake Okataina meaning boaties still need to wash their boats at The Wash Place, 338 Te Ngae Rd, Rotorua. Once this has been completed, users should scan the QR code at the wash station and fill out the online form while you are there. You will then receive a unique 4-digit PIN number sent to your phone and email. This number can be punched into a keypad at the lake which opens the automated gate. The PIN is unique and can be used only twice, once as you access the lake, and once as you leave. Sensors prevent the gate from closing while you are at the ramp. If you have issues you can call the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Contact Centre, 0800 884 880 or enquire at the Okataina Lodge. They will be able to provide access, as long as the washing/scanning requirements have been completed.

Updated information on the gate can be found at <https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/freshwater-gold-clam>

Biosecurity New Zealand and partners, iwi and other stakeholders have worked to contain Freshwater Gold Clam (*Corbicula*) to known locations in the Waikato River catchment area.

Datawatch Tagged Trout

Tagged trout can now be entered online. Entries go into the draw to win one of 10 free whole-season fishing licences: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCH5ZR6>
Eastern Region Fishing Diaries – All lakes and streams

Fill in your fishing diaries here to help us manage the Eastern Fish & Game region. Participants go in the draw to win a \$100 voucher from Kilwell: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QRSD7D3>



Tim with another fun Rainbow taken on the Club Trip to Ngongotaha. Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.

CLUB DAY TRIPS, FLYTYING, AND CASTING PACTICE

Back in early January we sent out an email asking for a show of interest in these activities and we had a great response resulting in them all going ahead. So far we have had 1 Day Trip out to an Auckland Saltwater spot, 1 Day Trip to fish a Waikato Stream, 2 Fly-tying sessions and 2 Fly Casting Practices at Onepoto Park in Northcote.

A massive thank you to Club Members who volunteered to help with these. Lewis Peart ran the Saltwater Day Trip and is already planning another. Johan Kok ran the Freshwater Day Trip on Saturday and he is also planning another for early next month. Warren Derrick and Mike Martindale have both been helping out with the Casting Practice. And Mike has also been helping out with the Fly Tying as well.

Everyone involved is extremely appreciative of your efforts and your free sharing of your fishing knowledge.

FLY FISHING IS A CRAZE IN BRITAIN

By Spencer Durrant – From the midcurrent.com website

Even though fly fishing is a global sport, I think many of us—myself included—forget how much of an impact it has on other people. It’s not just the North American market that dominates fly fishing.

In fact, a recent story from [The Times](#) in London claims that “fishing, and in particular fly fishing” is Britain’s favorite sport and a “new youthful craze.”

The Times goes on to describe fly fishing’s hold on Britain’s youth as follows:

“In contrast to the raucous and raunchy fare of TikTok and others offering clickbait to Gen Z, lingering videos of tranquil river depths and perfect rod casts are inspiring a new breed of social media influencer. From Premier League footballers to burnt-out clubbers, fishing offers relief to those who are anxious, depressed or seeking an escape from hectic urban stress. And it is cheaper than therapy or medication.”

Perhaps more surprising is [another Times article](#), published Feb. 24 by Lucy Holden, about fly fishing’s “anxiety-busting effects.”

Holden interviews Amie Battans, a “YouTube star” who posts fishing and nature videos. Battans talks extensively about why she thinks so many young people are drawn to fishing,

pointing out how it helps get people out of the hustle-and-bustle of the world's busiest cities.

“Fly-fishing uses all of your senses — you’ve got the touch of the water, smell of the water, you’re actively looking where to throw the fly, feeling the depths and flows of the river ... it’s an overload in the best way,” Battans told Holden.

Fly fishing has also been given a shiny veneer through a BBC series, where comedians Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse head around Britain on a fishing trip. While many anglers are familiar with Britain’s contributions to fly fishing as we know it, there seems to be another resurgence of British love and appreciation for the sport.

At any rate, both these recent stories go to show how wide-reaching an impact fly fishing can have.

FISH FUTURES SURVEY

Fish & Game NZ

Help shape the future of NZ’s freshwater fish management AND be in to win a \$100-\$500 Hunting & Fishing voucher!

Researchers from the Cawthron Institute and Fish & Game NZ are running a survey for anyone who goes freshwater fishing. We want to understand the value of different fishing experiences and your views on modified fishing environments like canals and stocked ponds.

Your answers will help Fish & Game NZ to get more people involved in freshwater fishing, and to make policy and management decisions that reflect what matters to you.

The survey is anonymous and takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Take the survey here: <https://tinyurl.com/2zekjy5>.

TAUPO - NEW LICENCE SALES PLATFORM PROGRESSING.

DOC – Taupo Fishery Focus

Before Christmas we announced that a new Taupō fishing licence sales platform was under development. With a new season just around the corner, work on the platform is continuing at pace. The new platform will bring system stability improvements as well as enhanced

services for anglers and is due to be completed in time for the start of the 2025/26 fishing season.

In line with other modern online sales platforms, purchasers will be able to create a 'user profile' that will allow them to manage their account. Short duration licence purchasers will be able to choose a fast-track purchase option if preferred.

The Taupō fishing licence structure and costs will remain unchanged, although the high software development costs required to recreate the sales agent service means this facility will no longer be available. **This means anglers will no longer be able to purchase Taupō fishing licences from fishing tackle stores or other outlets.**

Over 80% of Taupō fishing licences are already purchased using our online fishing licence store - which is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, and can be accessed from anywhere with a good cell phone signal. The new platform reflects the growing demand for online services and will offer convenience as well as better functionality and greater reliability for anglers.

We will continue to share updates on the new platform as we get closer to the new fishing season.



Faith with a Tanty Pool special. Photo courtesy of Garry Roberts.

FEBRUARY CLOSURE AT LAKE OTAMANGAKAU

DOC – Taupo Fishery Focus

This article addresses concerns that anglers raised with Taupō Fishery Rangers during recent angler surveys, as well as emails and comments posted on social media. The information aims to help anglers further understand why the February closure was introduced and how it protects this very special and unique trophy trout fishery.



Background.

Firstly, we should reflect on why change was needed. During the summer of 2018 anglers reported increasing numbers of dead trout at Lake Otamangakau. This sparked a body of research into what could be causing these deaths. At the time, it was thought that marginal environmental conditions such as high summer water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen and/or poor catch and release technique could be the main causes. Sampling the water temperatures throughout the water column in some of the deepest sections of the lake commenced along with logging dissolved oxygen to determine what was actually happening under the surface. In addition, a timelapse camera was set up to quantify angling pressure over the fishing season. This was followed by a catch and release study on the lake to monitor the survival rate of fish after being caught during cold, average and warm water temperatures.

This research, combined with feedback from the angling community, informed the new regulations, including the February closure.

February Closure.

February is the last month of summer on the meteorological calendar and traditionally the warmest month of the year. It is also the time of year when surface activity at Lake Otamangakau is at a peak, with swarms of damselfly, cicadas and other invertebrates. So why close the lake to fishing in February?

Insect activity is high in February for a reason. Water temperatures also reach their peak, with surface temperatures regularly exceeding 20°C, promoting huge insect activity. Critically, this temperature can be lethal to trout. At this temperature, catch and release fishing becomes impractical, if not unethical. Prior to the introduction of the February closure, the typical warm water conditions would regularly result in large dead trout floating around the lake edge.

As water temperature approaches 20°C the chance of trout mortality increases even with proper catch and release techniques. Trout already weakened by heat stress are at risk and can die no matter how carefully they are handled. The warm water phase of our catch and release study confirmed that Lake Otamangakau trout only had a 60% survival rate when released. Stopping fishing during the hottest month of the year will reduce unnecessary post-release mortality and protect trout when they are most vulnerable to heat stress. Under these circumstances we should put the wellbeing of large trout ahead of an angler's desire to just go fishing. Without these trout, there will be no anglers.

Shallow lakes such as Lake Otamangakau are sensitive to temperature fluctuations due to the high surface to volume ratio. They have less water to absorb heat and so they warm up faster. Sunlight can penetrate through most of the water and heat the entire water column. Shallow lakes mix easily allowing the entire body of water to warm up rather than just the top layer. They are also more affected by air temperature and wind due to less thermal inertia. A dark muddy bottom can also absorb heat and transfer it to the water.

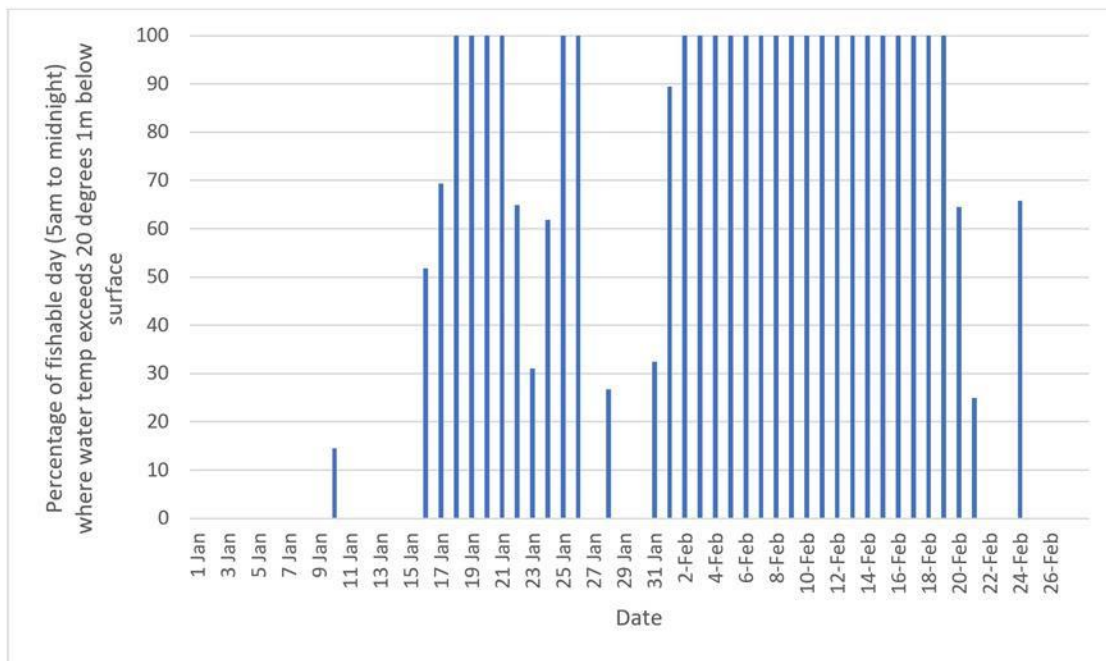
Lake Otamangakau shares many of these characteristics and tends to heat up during December and early January, then hold its heat like a bathtub during February before returning to more favourable temperatures in March.

This summer, the average daily surface water temperatures exceeded 20°C for the first time on 17 January 2025 and maintained this high average well into February. The maximum daily surface temperature reached 20 °C for the first time on 10 January. During the period 16 January to 28 January, the average maximum surface temps averaged 21.2°C and ranged from 20.3-22.1°C.

In an ideal world, the fishery would have been closed this year during the latter half of January, as surface water temperatures were already dangerous for trout. There was always

going to be a risk with closing the fishery during February only, as late January and early March could also see days where water temps regularly exceeded 20 degrees. However, a 4-week closure was a good compromise, giving trout a break for a month while the lake is typically at its warmest. This approach also provided clarity for anglers, allowing them to plan fishing trips – especially those travelling from overseas. Having a system that was fully temperature dependant could realistically mean no fishing from mid-January through until early March and so a February closure was the best compromise for both the trout and the anglers.

Figure 1. Percentage of the fishable day (5am-midnight) where water temperature exceeds 20°C at 1m depth in 10m of water during January & February 2025.

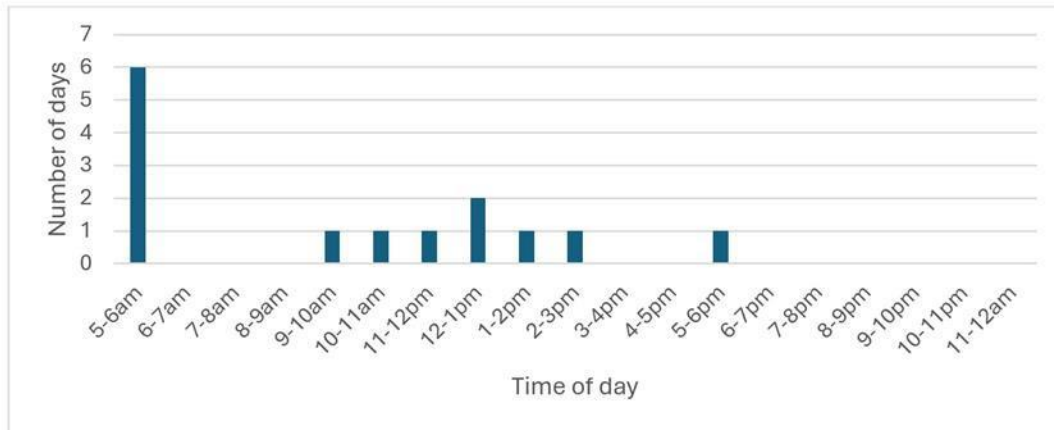


A 'hoot owl' style regulation concept, as used overseas to limit fishing during the heat of the day, is hard to manage and police on an hourly and daily basis. Moreover, when we looked at day to day temperature variation a large proportion of the time would not have been suitable for fishing as it was warmer than 20oC. (Fig.1). Looking purely at the period 5am to midnight, 30.7% of January and 78.6% of February saw surface water temperatures at 1m deep, exceed 20oC.

The time of day (5am to midnight) that the temperature exceeded 20oC was also examined (Fig.2). During January, there were a total of 6 days where the water had already exceeded 20 degrees before fishing is allowed to start - 5am. Temperatures then hit 20oC between

9am and 3pm during 7 days with two of those days reaching 20oC around midday. The last day saw the temperature reach 20 degrees as late as 5:45pm. This highlights the difficulty in using a hoot owl closure concept as the time of day where temperatures exceed 20oC is not consistent. Planning fishing trips around fluctuating temperatures just isn't practical.

Figure 2. Time of the day (between fishing hours 5am to midnight) where the temperature exceeded 20°C during the month of January 2025.

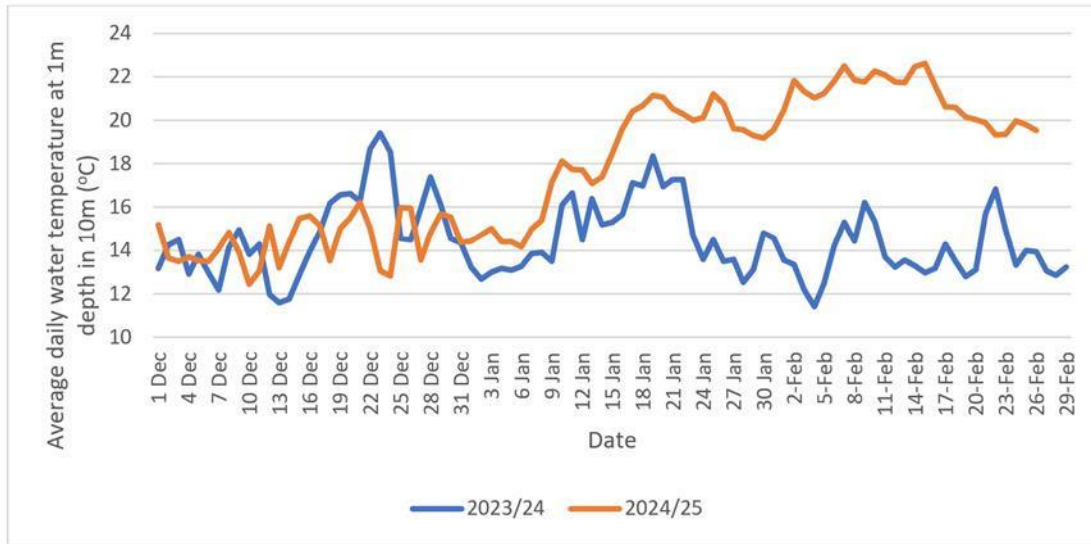


The time of day when the temperature peaked was not consistent either with temperatures peaking at midnight, midday, mid-afternoon and evening over the period of just a few days. In general, the lake temperature would decrease slowly between midnight and 9am before warming with the effect of the sun until about 3pm, before starting to cool down slowly again towards midnight.

It is also important to remember that the surface water temperature we record is taken at 1m below the surface in 10m of water. Shallower parts of the lake will be well above 20oC and so our temperature monitoring provides a fair guide for how warm the lake generally is as a starting point. Anglers rarely fish in the deepest sections of the lake and so they will be targeting trout in waters 5m or less and so surface water temperatures will be even warmer in these shallower locations.

On the plus side, the fish and the anglers get to rest for a month and a new “opening day” is created on 1 March. If water conditions are favourable anglers and trout can resume battle, where released trout stand a much better chance of survival. One downside we noticed to the February closure was the final rush of anglers and boats towards the end of January, squeezing in a fishing session before the fishery closed, irrespective of what the water temperature data was indicating.

Figure 3. Average daily water temperatures at Lake Otamangakau at 1m deep in 10m of water during summers 2023/24 and 2024/25.



Water temperatures at 1m depth and at 10m depth are automatically logged with readings taken every 5 minutes which produces 288 individual readings during a 24-hour period at each depth. The 1m temperature readings were averaged each day and plotted in Figure 3. The orange line representing this summer which saw the average daily temperature stay above 19oC from mid-January remaining above 20oC until the third week of February. This is in stark contrast to the blue line representing early 2024 which was unusually cool. The difference between the maximum and minimum daily temps was calculated and averaged for each month to determine the average daily fluctuation (Table 1). This summer, December saw the lake surface warm daily by an average of 2.5oC with a range of 0.9 to 5oC. January saw an average daily temperature difference of 1.7oC with temps ranging from 0.4 to 3.9oC. February recorded an average of 1.2oC with a range from 0.5 to 2.6oC. Daily warming of the lake by as much as 5oC is significant. As expected, daily temperature fluctuations at 10m depth were much less than at 1m depth, with an average of 0.6oC in December, 0.8oC in January and 0.6oC again in February. The largest temperature difference in December was 3.3oC followed by 1.6oC in January and 1.1oC in February.

Table 1. Average difference of daily maximum and minimum water temperatures at 1m & 10m, by month, during summer 2024/25.

	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025
1m depth	Av.=2.5°C (range 0.9-5°C)	Av.=1.7°C (range 0.4-3.9°C)	Av.=1.2°C (range 0.5-2.6°C)
10m depth	Av.=0.6°C (range 0.15-3.3°C)	Av.=0.8°C (range 0.3-1.6°C)	Av.=0.6°C (range 0.3-1.05°C)
Difference between 1m and 10m	Av.=2.4°C (range 0.05-6.7°C)	Av.=3.9°C (range 0.85-7.5°C)	Av.=5.2°C (range 3.1-7.7°C)

The heating effect of the sun on the water column can be seen by looking at the daily difference between the 1m temperature readings and the 10m readings. This difference averaged 2.4oC in December and almost 4oC in January with daily differences varying by as much as 6.7 degrees in December and 7.5 degrees in January between the top and bottom of the lake at one of its deepest points. This heating effect will be even more extreme in shallower water.

Predicting what the weather will do from one day to the next has its challenges in NZ, let alone forecasting what the weather will be doing in several months' time. The February closure is timed to capture the most intense period of heating and is there to protect the trout when they are at their most vulnerable. The previous two summers were much cooler than normal. However, this summer saw a return to the more typical water temperatures and so the closure delivered the protection trout needed.

The Future

Looking ahead, we will continue to monitor the lake closely. This includes angler surveys, water temperature monitoring, and capturing spawning data from the fish trap. In addition, we are keen to understand how many times a specific trout is caught and released during a fishing season. A tagging programme could be a good solution to capture this data.

Renowned angler Lee Wulff once said, "A game fish is too valuable to be only caught once." This is certainly true for the trophy sized trout in Lake Otamangakau.



Kerry hooked up on the Club Trip to Ngongotaha. Photo courtesy of Garry Roberts.

FLY FISHING NEW ZEALAND'S LOWLAND STREAMS

Article by Rene Vaz and taken from his <https://www.manictackleproject.com/> website.

Roderick Haig-Brown wrote in Fisherman's Spring “There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home”. I’m in a stage of fishing now where I’m just enjoying being on the water. As a kid growing up in Hamilton I cut my teeth fishing the streams around the Waikato. Although a few of these streams have stunning sections that carve their way through a back drop of native bush, the large proportion of them meander through farmland. Access is easy, once you’ve asked permission you can simply wander your way along the river bank, crossing where you need to. Although the fish at times seemed to lack the energy of their cousins in highly oxygenated back country rivers, what they lacked in power they certainly made up for in difficulty and ultimate reward.

Whilst the streams may lack the total wilderness experience many of them are accessible within an hour of our largest cities and when you only have a short break that means more fishing time and less car time. As a draw card these streams often carry exceptional fish and with the right approach can be just as productive as their headwater reaches. As pressure mounts on our back country fishing I've found myself drawn back to my routes in search of some of the countries lowland gems. Although they are by far easier to access than many of our famed back country rivers our lowland waterways are often overlooked in regard to fishing opportunities.



When I first started fishing these streams I dropped down from fishing a 8/9 Tongariro outfit to use a six weight set, which at the time seemed lightweight. I'm finding now as technology is improving that a four weight outfit is more than adequate for making the short casts required on these streams, also even the slower action modern four weights have enough back bone to land large fish in tight conditions. The advantage the lighter line weight has is the ultra subtle presentations you get when casting into slack pools when ambushing cruising fish. Remember lowland streams tend to be dominated by smooth slow glides and pools where there isn't the cover of a ripple to hide a sloppy cast. What's more light rods and softer rods in general load much easier at low line speeds and on shorter casts, and when you're not needing to throw flies packed with 4mm tungsten beads then

you will have plenty of power from a soft rod to drive home your short cast. For similar reasons I've found that shorter 7'11" – 8'9" rods such as the [Primal Point](#) have the ability to tuck a tighter loop under the canopy of overhanging trees. In principal the tip of a shorter rod travels in a straighter line than a longer rod and so will create a tighter loop. What is most important is that the loop doesn't open out at the end of the cast. If it does your line will shoot under the branch but your fly will end up embedded in it (not that we don't all do that from time to time). To help control the leader turn over I have found it best to keep the leader short and controlled.

It's become the norm in back country situations to extend out a long leader of 14-20 feet to help keep the fly line away from the fly and to make sure that the fish is unable to see the fly line during false casts. On lowland streams especially when fishing lighter fly lines this is less important, firstly the water clarity is rarely comparable to a headwater fishery and consequently fish are less affected by a fly line in the air and conversely the shorter leader makes it easier to cast a tight loop under an overhanging tree. A [light five foot polyleader](#) will help to keep the loop tight and then an additional four to five feet of tippet is all that is needed to finish off the leader.



Although less current creates a challenge in presenting to shallow feeding fish, it also makes it easier to make a single cast without having to continually mend your line.

Additionally trout in these situations are used to cruising to find their food rather than a fast water fish which will hold station and wait for its food to be brought to it. With this in mind it's important to take your time when fishing these slow pools, reduce your line mending and casting and allow the fish time to spot your flies and come to them. And as everything including the fish moves in such slow motion, make sure you give the trout plenty of time to pick up the fly properly and turn before you set the hook.

As in all types of fly fishing the key element is getting your presentation right and when you're dealing with spooky fish in slow water then it's critical to take your time to work out the best position to make each cast. Some tight situations are best covered by simply poking your rod through the trees and dropping your flies into a likely hole, other areas are too tight for a back cast so a bow and arrow cast is necessary to propel your flies across stream. It can be a foreign thought to many kiwi anglers but don't be afraid to make a cast and drift downstream. Again some pools are best fished this way, the key to downstream presentations is to make sure you throw plenty of slack and make sure your flies are floating down ahead of the fly line. When setting the hook once again make sure the fish has turned down or you will simply be pulling the fly straight back out of its mouth.



When selecting flies for lowland streams, due to the slow nature of the current and the fact that the fish are more than happy to move to the flies nymphs do not need to be heavily weighted, similarly dry flies only need to be lightly hackled in order to float correctly. Consequently there is no need for beads on your nymphs, simply a few turns of lead and a strong hook will be enough weight. Parachute and other film flies work well along with big buggy dry fly patterns like [Russell Andersons spider](#) that sit well in the film and have plenty of on the water action to gain any trout's attention.

There is certainly few better ways to spend a day than to walk uninterrupted up your favourite trout stream, working your way from pool to pool only to wonder what the next pool holds.

Perhaps next time when looking for new water you may find something closer to home, you may never know what you've been driving past for all these years.

FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND CHIEF EXECUTIVE CORINA JORDAN RESIGNS



Fish & Game New Zealand today announced that chief executive Corina Jordan has resigned from her role to take up the position of chief executive of the Game Animal Council (GAC).

Barrie Barnes, Fish & Game New Zealand chair, acknowledged Corina’s contribution to the organisation.

“Corina has provided strong leadership and made a significant impact in her time with Fish & Game.

“She has built and delivered Fish & Game New Zealand’s organisational strategy and strengthened our advocacy and engagement with stakeholders across government, the sector and the wider fishing and hunting communities.

“She has also led key initiatives such as the ReWild campaign and implemented critical improvements to Fish & Game New Zealand’s operational systems and structures. We thank Corina for her dedication and leadership and wish her the very best in her new role.”

Corina Jordan said it had been a privilege to serve as Fish & Game chief executive for nearly three years.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to have led Fish & Game New Zealand. While there have been challenges, the experience has been rewarding and has enabled me to grow professionally.

“Fish & Game has made significant progress but there is still important work ahead to ensure the organisation remains relevant and fully aligned with the needs of our licence holders and stakeholders. I am proud to have helped lay the foundation for this journey.”

Jordan will remain in her role over the next three months to support Fish & Game to deliver key priorities and the transition to new leadership.

Fish & Game New Zealand deputy chief executive Richie Cosgrove will lead the organisation in the interim.

FISHING FUNNIES



(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated)

MEMBERS FEEDBACK

We, your committee, are always trying to give you what you want.

But are we??

In order for us to do our job properly we need to have your feedback, positive or negative. For example, have you been on a club fishing trip? Did you enjoy yourself? What would you change, if anything? Club nights – what would you like to see more of? Less of? In short, talk to us.

The contact details of all your committee members are listed at the end of every newsletter. So if you have something on your mind let us know.

Thank you - Your committee

NSFF CLUB MERCHANDISE

Cap – \$15.00 Inclusive of GST

Green or Beige, one size fits all, with embroidered badge.

Embroidered Cloth Badge - \$7.50 Inclusive of GST

Brushed Brass Metal Pin Badge - \$12.50 Inclusive of GST

If anyone is interested in purchasing these products please place an order at Club Nights.

Meetings held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm:
Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead, North Shore City

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