



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

October 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1 -	Presidents Report
Page 3 -	Club Facebook Page
Page 4 -	Fishing Report
Page 6 -	What's Happening – Club Nights / Events
Page 9 -	Club Trips
Page 11 -	Defending New Zealand's Outstanding Waters
Page 14 -	Tips and Tricks
Page 15 -	Fish And Game Links
Page 15 -	Club Day Trips, Fly-tying, And Casting Practice
Page 18 -	Reel Life September 2025 – Northland
Page 19 -	Reel Life September 2025 - Auckland Waikato
Page 25 -	Reel Life September 2025 – Eastern
Page 29 -	Fish & Game New Zealand Announces Leadership Structure To Support Ministerial Reforms
Page 32 -	New Study Shows Fishing Can Support Your Mental Health And Wellbeing
Page 35 -	General Club Information Plus Committee Members Contact Details

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With spring here, daylight saving “switched on” and birds building nests, this time of the year always sees my excitement levels rising as the much anticipated last club trip of the year approaches. I am referring of course to Lake Otamangakau, a small “trophy fish” lake

situated in Tongariro National Park in the central North Island. I have been fishing the “big O” since the late 1970’s and it is probably fair to say that it is my favourite place to cast a fly. While it is certainly possible to fish much of the lake as a shore-based angler, the enjoyment and potential angling success is greatly increased by having access to some kind of watercraft from a float-tube to a small runabout. The average depth of the lake is only around 1.8 metres although there are a few deep channels up to 12 metres. Most of the time other than after periods of heavy rain, there are extensive areas of floating weed which, on one hand provide great cover for feeding trout but conversely means that boat operators need to be vigilant to avoid getting “hung up”!

The principal food in the lake are various insects, both adults and nymphs together with aquatic snails which, in fact, comprise the bulk of diets for the brown and rainbow trout. On occasion, when holding or releasing a trout, the belly can be quite “crunchy” with the hundreds of snails inside. To mimic the snails, a simple fly dressed with dark brown or black chenille on a 10 or 12 hook and a couple of “wavy” feelers would work. The actual snails rise and fall through the water column as they sink to graze on weed and then rise to the surface to breath before once again returning down to feed. The other dominant insects living in the lake are midges, caddis flies, damsel flies and dragon flies. The adults can be replicated by the appropriate dry flies but the most common way these insects are eaten is in the nymphal form as evidenced by inspection of the gut content when cleaning a “keeper”.

However, it is not always essential to mimic the recognised food items and on many occasions, when the fishing seemed a bit quiet, I have changed over to a larger streamer fly or a woolly bugger and cast into the water above a weed bed which is sometimes only 30 or 40 cm’s deep before doing a fast retrieve back to the boat. The rapid movement of the fly will often stir up a chase and a hard strike from a fish which, up until then, was slowly swimming around “mopping up” nymphs and snails.

A number of club members are regulars on these annual trips to Lake Otamangakau but many and especially our newer members have yet to enjoy the experience of fishing a trophy lake with the stunning nearby backdrop of the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park. For the “uninitiated”, most of us stay at the nearby Tongariro Holiday Park, about 5 minutes’ drive from the lake. It is situated at 2091 State Highway 47 about 100 metres south from the Rangipo intersection. Proprietors are Greg and Donna and the phone number is (07) 3868062. For our club members, the nightly tariff remains (as it has for some time) at \$55.00 for a 2 bed cabin on a single occupant basis. There are communal showers, separate toilets and a large kitchen/dining room with 2 stoves, 2 fridge/freezers and a microwave. However, visitors should be “self contained” with regard to all food, cooking vessels, crockery and cutlery. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Mob:021673045 or email: president@nsff.org.nz. The camp office is open until 6.00pm most days so if anyone is arriving later and particularly after dark, please call Greg or Donna beforehand on their number to confirm your arrival and also to get the code for the entry gate.

For further information about fishing the lake, I would suggest searching “Lake Otamangakau” on your device which will reveal an enormous amount of material about not only the angling possibilities but also the history of the lake, from its original formation as part of the Tongariro power project in the 1960’s through to the day to day management of the water by Genesis Energy and the Department of Conservation’s involvement in fisheries management. To fish the lake anglers must also have a DOC licence as it lies within the Taupo Conservancy as opposed to most of the rest of New Zealand, where freshwater fishing is administered by the Fish and Game Council.

While the trip is still some 5 weeks away, I would appreciate everyone letting me know their intentions regarding which days they would be staying and their approximate arrival times so I can let Greg and Donna know in advance.

Dave Symes,
President.

SCAMS

With the plethora of ever more sophisticated Scams out there these days we felt it a good time to remind everyone that the **Club Will Never Send You An Invoice** for Subs or Club Trips. If you receive an invoice saying it is from the Club then it is a Scam. Do not open it, do not pay it.

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

It's all open again! No reports from anybody yet but I know several are heading out this weekend so hopefully we will have some reports at next weeks Club Night. A good piece of advice if you are looking to fish dry flies is: Early and late in the season go for grey coloured flies (Parachute Adams etc) but through the middle warmer part of the season use brown and green coloured flies. This is from our own Patron and former world dry fly champion Dave McLellan.

Rotorua



Fikrit says the Ohau Channel is fishing well, and here is the proof. Just 'little ones', nothing bigger than 7 to 8pds.

No other reports from the Opening Day fun down there so far.

Taupo



Hugo hooked up on the Sunday morning of the Kereru Lodge Trip. Photo courtesy of Steve Charles.

After a bit of a lean patch the rivers in Turangi have all filled up with fish again. By all accounts it is currently fishing as well as it has all year. Flies to use: Soft Glo Bugs / Slushies / and once the sun is on the water, Hare and Coppers and Pheasant Tails.

Saltwater

The ' Reef' is continuing to fish well but apparently slowing off a little from earlier in the winter.

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.

LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had Andrew Burden talking to us about how he sets up for all his fly fishing scenarios. It was a very enjoyable evening and thank you once again Andrew.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 15th OCTOBER 7.30 PM

This month we have Ollie Bassett talking about summer stream tactics. Ollie Bassett is the current NZ Champion and finished in the top 10 in the World for the last 2 years. He is an exceptionally talented angler and full of knowledge.

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

WHY WE FISH

"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."

Doug Larson

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 **Allen French!**

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 **Russell Nelson**.

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 **Duncan Frew**.

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 **Johan Kok**.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"What a tourist terms a plague of insects, the fly fisher calls a great hatch."

Patrick F. McManus

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 Drys



CLUB TRIPS 2025 - 2026

February – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes – FEB 19th 20th 21st 2026

March – Lake Otamangakau – MAR 19th 20th 21st 2026

May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes – MAY 21st 22nd 23rd 2026

July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo – JUL 2026

August – Tongariro – Club River Fishing Competition – AUG 2026

September – Tauranga Taupo – SEP 2026

November – Lake based Club Competition Trip – NOV 2025

December / January – Tuition weekend (Held if enough 'novice' anglers are interested)

December – Lake Otamangakau – 27th 28th 29th 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.



Braai time! Nobody went hungry on the latest Club Trip to Kereru Lodge. Photo courtesy of Jaco Du Preez.

NOVEMBER CLUB TRIP TO LAKE OTAMANGAKAU

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

While it is predominately a boat fishery, the Te Whaiu (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. Plus of course, there are the numerous easily accessed little bays on the western side of the lake.

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 November, the Trout are in ‘eating’ mode, with lots of insect activity, providing some fantastic fishing activity. The fish are in fantastic condition, big, fat and powerful!
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



Rafted up for lunch. If you have an unpowered boat and want a tow across the lake others are happy to help. Or even if you want to shore fish but need a ride to get to your spot.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard.

The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a 'Thanks for flying United.'

'He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment.

Finally everyone had got off except for an old lady walking with a cane.

She said, 'Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?'

'Why no Ma'am,' said the pilot. 'What is it?'

The little old lady said, 'Did we land or were we shot down?'

DEFENDING NEW ZEALAND'S OUTSTANDING WATERS

Dear Fish & Game Licence Holders,

Many of New Zealand's most precious waterways are under pressure. The "National Parks of our waterways" – those protected by Water Conservation Orders (WCOs) – face serious challenges, and Fish & Game is leading the fight to preserve them for future generations.

What's At Stake

Water Conservation Orders represent the highest form of legal protection for New Zealand's most outstanding rivers, lakes, wetlands and aquifers.

These 16 protected waterways, including iconic destinations such as Canterbury's Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and the Kawarau River in Central Otago, are the crown jewels of New Zealand's freshwater heritage.

Fish & Game has been instrumental in securing 12 of these 16 protections – safeguarding world-class trout fisheries, swimming holes, and the cultural and recreational values that define the New Zealand experience.

Challenges

From time to time, we do see attempts to erode these protections, more recently through the Resource Management Act reform processes.

Critics argue these WCOs are "outdated," "too expensive," and create barriers to development.

Their vision would strip away a key legal mechanism that aims to ensure our most outstanding waters cannot be compromised by allocation pressures or degraded by intensive land use. It's a matter of ensuring that commercial activity in these catchments operates within limits dependant on the specific WCO.

Without WCOs, there would be no equivalent safeguard. Regional planning processes, while important, can change with shifting political priorities and have proven inadequate to protect water quality and quantity in many catchments across the country. Only WCOs provide the enduring, nationally consistent protection that transcends political cycles.

Why This Matters To You

As licence holders, you understand the irreplaceable value of healthy waterways and wetland habitats.

These protected waterways offer:

- World-class fishing opportunities for anglers
- Habitat for game birds and opportunities for hunters to harvest waterfowl.
- Guaranteed access to outstanding recreational waters for swimming, kayaking, fishing and game bird hunting.
- Tourism value that supports local communities and New Zealand's international reputation.

The economic benefits of these protections extend far beyond fishing licences. Tourism to WCO-protected areas is vital to local communities, whilst the recreational, wildlife, angling and cultural values they preserve are simply irreplaceable.

What We Are Doing

Fish & Game is engaging with the Government about the importance of WCO's by highlighting that:

- The WCOs are more vital than ever, given widespread water degradation across New Zealand.
- The robust legal processes that established these protections remain sound and democratic.
- There are already mechanisms within the law for review and amendment when needed.
- Regional planning alone has failed to protect water quality in numerous catchments.

We've also proposed targeted improvements to strengthen WCO protections whilst maintaining their core purpose.

Success Built On Experience

In 2013, we successfully fought off similar threats to WCOs when the Government backed down after a public outcry.

Our advocacy, combined with strong community support, preserved these vital protections for another decade.

The Bottom Line

Water Conservation Orders protect only a tiny fraction of New Zealand's outstanding waterways.

Fish & Game will continue fighting to ensure that future generations can experience the same sparkling rivers, wetlands and lakes that drew you to angling, game bird hunting and outdoor recreation. These are not just environmental protections – they are investments in New Zealand's natural heritage and our shared outdoor future.

Water Conservation Orders Under The RMA (9 Orders)

1. Waikoropū Springs water conservation order 2023
2. Oreti River water conservation order 2008
3. Rangitata River water conservation order 2006
4. Mohaka River water conservation order 2004

5. Motueka River water conservation order 2004
6. Buller River water conservation order 2001
7. Mataura River water conservation order 1997
8. Kawarau River water conservation order 1997
9. Rangitikei River water conservation order 1993

Water Conservation Orders Pre-RMA (7 Orders)

10. Grey River water conservation order 1991
11. Ahuriri River water conservation order 1990
12. Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere water conservation order 1990
13. Lake Wairarapa water conservation order 1989
14. Manganuioteao River water conservation order 1989
15. Rakaia River water conservation order 1988
16. Motu River water conservation order 1984

For more information about our advocacy work, [visit our website](#) or contact your regional Fish & Game office. Your continued support makes this vital work possible.

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) Keep a couple of spare car mats in your vehicle, they lay flat and don't take up any room, but are a godsend when changing out of wet boots and waders, before heading back from your days fishing. (*Lloyd Altham*).

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.



Fikrits net only went up to 14pds.... Best estimate is 17! Caught at his 'secret spot'. Buy him a Tui and he might tell you where... Photo courtesy of Fikrit Chinassi.

CLUB DAY TRIPS, FLYTYING, AND CASTING PACTICE

We have set up 4 Whats Ap Groups for Freshwater Day Trips / Salt Water Day Trips / Casting Practice / and Flytying. We have had several Day Trips, Fly Casting sessions and Flytying sessions already.

If you are keen to join these groups just let us know.

Contact Mike secretary@nsff.org.nz or Duncan iconpromote@gmail.com

FOR SALE

Dennis Smith, a Founding Member of the Club is selling a bunch of his gear. If you are interested, give him a call.

FLY RODS FOR SALE

1	Sage	XP 890	8 line	9'0"	2 piece	s&t	\$500
2	Sage	Z – Axis 5100-4	5 line	10'0"	4 piece	s&t	\$500
3	Sage	GFL 890 RPL	8 line	9'0"	2 piece	s&t	\$300
4	Scott	Radian 4022107	5 line	10'0"	4 piece	s&t	\$900
5	Scott	L2H1158/4	8 line	11'6"	4 piece	s&t (2-handed rod)	\$900

FLY REELS FOR SALE

1	Lamson Guru G3 black	Reel + 2 spare spools Floating, int. sink & fast sink lines incl.	\$500
2	Lamson Velocity 2.0	Reel + 2 spare spools Floating & 2 sinking lines incl.	\$300
3	Lamson Velocity 1.5	Set up for Czech nymphing.	\$250
4	Scientific Anglers System2	89M size, reel + 2 spare spools Floating + 1 sinking line incl.	\$200
5	Scientific Anglers System 2	56L size, reel + 1 spare spool 1 Floating line incl.	\$150

TROUT JIGGING GEAR

2 no. Shimano Callisto reels with Shimano Catana rods. \$180 each

Enquiries: Dennis Smith de.smith@xtra.co.nz 09 376 3375

All items have been used, i.e. not brand new. S&t = Sleeve & tube incl.

INCREASE YOUR FISHING OPTIONS

I bought this *Bucks Bags* boat at Bob Marriots in Los Angeles when I was returning to NZ one time: it was a step up from my rather ancient float tube. It can be propelled with the oars, with your feet on the footrests at the very front of the frame (fast mode) or with fins on your stocking foot waders (slow, stealth mode.) Either way it's easy to manoeuvre. On each side of the seat is a removable gear bag. The black thing above the seat bottom is the equivalent of a stripping basket. I have used the boat on the Auckland, Rotorua and Taupo area lakes as well as in Nelson, inland Canterbury and the SI west coast. And on parts of the Rangitaiki River.



Cruising Lake Aniwhenua

My boat varies slightly from that shown insofar as the pontoons are attached differently. The assembled dimensions are 2.4 x 1.4m. The frame and oars can be disassembled, the seat back folded down and the pontoons deflated for transport, so that it all fits into a 1.2 x 0.6 x 0.25 vinyl bag. Weight without fishing gear is 21 kg. Load weight: 160 kg max.

For shortish trips, provided that you drive sensibly, (for example from Lake Aniwhenua to the Flaxy Lakes) the assembled boat, less appendages, can be roped on to Thule roof bars.

I've used it with a water-ski type life jacket.

Call me if you have any queries:

The plan is to offer it for sale at the February auction, if not sold before, with a reserve of \$500.

Dennis Smith 09 376 3375 027 412 2811 de.smith@xtra.co.nz

REEL LIFE SEPTEMBER 2025 – NORTHLAND



Photo above: Nice rainbow caught in the Waipapa River, Puketi Forest

Whau Valley Trout Fishing Day

The Whau valley trout fishing day is on 18 October. Come meet the team and potentially catch a Northland trout. The Whau valley dam is our most accessible trout fishery being right in the middle of Whangārei. The dam carpark is within a couple of steps of the best fishing spot on the grassy area. The dam is stocked annually with rainbows and is considered a put take fishery. Brown trout we stocked earlier in the year and should be a legal size by Christmas.

River And Stream Conditions

Heavy rains over the winter made fishing challenging. There were periods of low flows and the anglers who got out there during this period were successful. Spring is the best time to fish Northlands waterways, when water temperatures are still low and fish are actively feeding.

Regulation Changes

No changes to the regulations this season. All our waters are open year round to all permitted methods.

All river and streams, methods - FS, Limit - 2 fish

Stocked reservoirs, methods - FSB , Limit - 3 fish

We Need Your Help!!

If you catch a trout in Northland can you please weigh and measure the fish. Then email that information along with the location and fin clips (if any) to northland@fishandgame.org.nz This will give us useful information on the health of the fishery. Don't worry we will keep your prized spot secret. Any fish catch data submitted will go into the draw for a whole season licence for the 2026-2027 season.

Take The Family Fishing

The new season commenced on Saturday 1st October 2025. 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](#)

REEL LIFE SEPTEMBER 2025 - AUCKLAND WAIKATO

Get ready for opening day

Our rivers are in good condition going into opening day with extremely high drift dive counts during the summer of 2025. Due to the unpredictable weather it is always good to have a backup stream like one of our great spring creeks. Keep in mind that fish will be spread out so it is a good idea to cover lots of water if you are not getting into fish. Remember that the Whakapapa is not the only great river in the southern portion of the region and if you want fish with less people, we recommend exploring the Ongarue tributaries.

Significant rule changes for the 2025/26 season

There is a desire to make freshwater fishing more accessible for New Zealanders. Staff at Auckland/Waikato have investigated simplifying fishing regulations and reducing restrictions to increase opportunity for anglers while also ensuring the sport remains sustainable. After extensive consultation with anglers, including an online survey and dozens of written submissions, the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council have made significant changes to the fishing regulations based on licence holders' feedback and staff recommendations. Auckland/Waikato anglers requested that regulations be simplified, fly fishing-only areas be retained, and trout limits be lowered. The regulation changes approved by the council include:



- 2 fish limits on all rivers and lakes with no minimum size limit
- Most rivers with no spawning will be open for fishing all year
- Most fly fishing only areas have been retained, and the upper Whakapapa River has been designated fly fishing only
- Most lowland rivers will be open to all methods of fishing

The new regulations aim to balance the protection of fish stocks through lower limits and closed spawning areas with regulations that increase angler opportunity, uphold traditions, and make it easier for newcomers to enter the sport. The regulations will be reviewed annually by the council to ensure any unforeseen issues are addressed.

The new seasons regulation booklet can be found here

New Mapping System - For Access and Regulations

We're stoked to launch our new online access map for anglers and it's available here

- **Please select here**



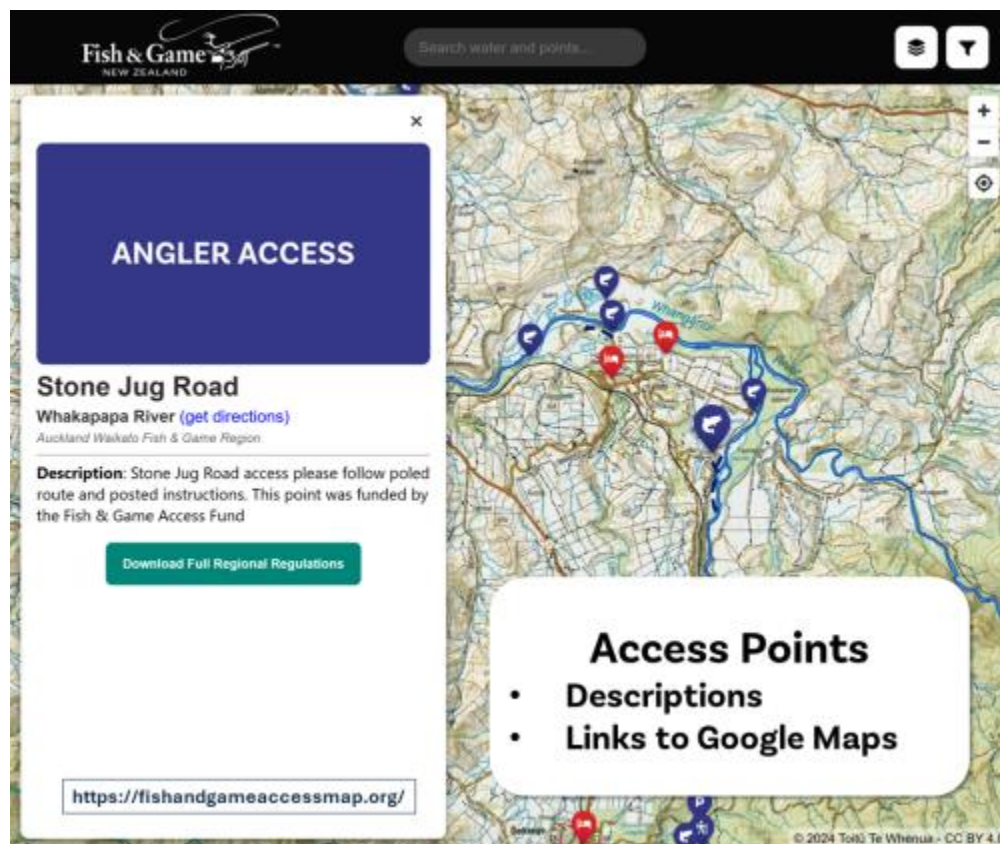
The map features:

- A short, tailored description for each access point
- Rivers and lakes (with regulations and descriptions) – in Auckland/Waikato, Northland and Eastern (for now) - an easy way to check where and how you can fish! The rivers and lakes will also change colour, so you can tell if they are open or closed.
- 1: 50k Topo and satellite imagery basemaps.
- Land ownership overlays, including unformed legal roads (paper roads), marginal strips, esplanade strips, esplanade reserves, hydro parcels, DOC estate and huts

- A direct link to Google Maps for quick navigation.
- Live location tracking.
- A search function so you can find that spot you may have heard whispered in hushed tones.
- A filter system – so you can hone in on what matters most to you

We're still adding more detail, so we'd love to hear your feedback—get in touch with us at bjarvis-child@fishandgame.org.nz to let us know what would make it even better.

Create a shortcut to the map on your phone's home screen for quick and easy reference.



Dickey Flat Campsite
 Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park ([get directions](#))

Description: This campsite is located beside the Waitawheta River, known for its trout and some great swimming holes downstream. There is a year-round liquor ban at the campsite.

More Info: doc.govt.nz

<https://fishandgameaccessmap.org/>

DOC Huts & Campsites

BOAT RAMP

Jones Landing
 Lake Arapuni ([get directions](#))
 Auckland Waikato Fish & Game Region

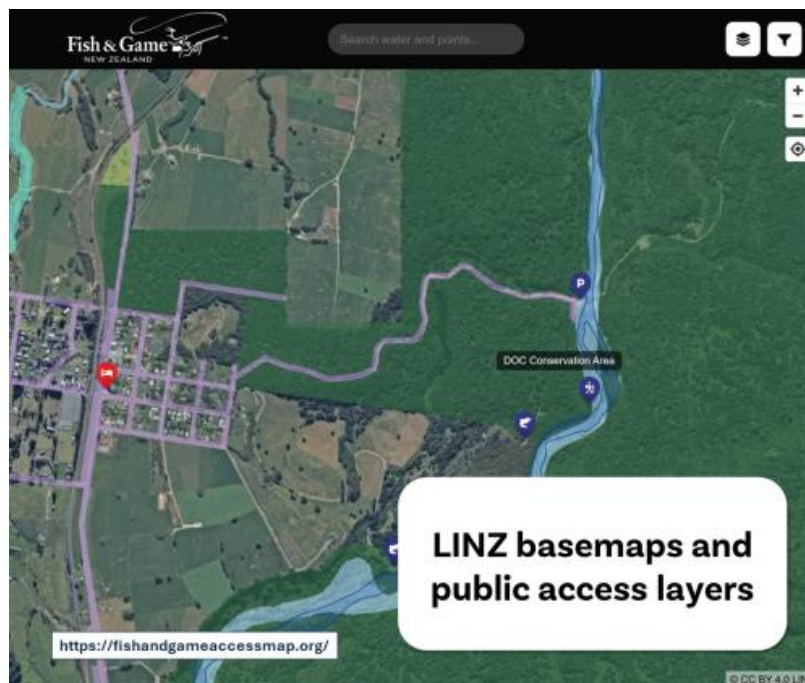
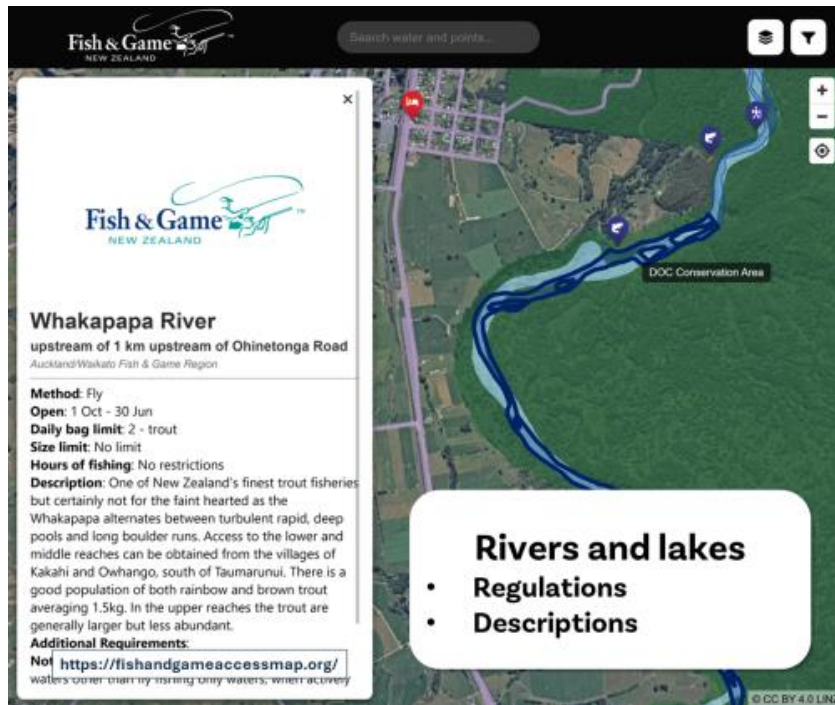
Description: Boat ramp off Lake Arapuni Rd (camping permitted short term). Provides access to whole lake especially north-eastern arm

[Download Full Regional Regulations](#)

<https://fishandgameaccessmap.org/>

Boat ramps

- Descriptions
- Links to Google Maps





REEL LIFE SEPTEMBER 2025 – EASTERN



Photo: Anglers share a hotspot on Lake Rotoiti

It's that special time of year when Eastern Region anglers look forward to 1 October like kids look forward to Christmas day! Anticipation and excitement for the start of the new trout season builds over winter as we all look forward to the excellent angling opportunities that spring and summer bring.

The Rotorua lakes, in particular, are a hotspot on opening day with thousands of anglers heading to Vegas for a few days of angling fun. But opening on the lakes is so more than fishing. Valuable time spent with the family building long lasting memories, getting back together with old mates or making new ones, remembering friends passed and the all-important de-stress from life's hustle makes Opening Day more of a celebration than simply a fish-catching exercise.

That said however, the lakes appear set to turn it on again this season with some bumper growth. We predicted good fishing this time last year, and weren't disappointed at the size of the 2-year old fish that are commonly caught on opening.

Our monitoring indicates we'll likely be seeing Tarawera 2-year-old fish averaging around 2kg and 53cm. Rotoiti and Okataina around 1.8kg. Remember, at this time of year, you'll mostly be catching 2-year-old fish, both hatchery and wild origin. The hatchery 2-year-olds will be Right pelvic (Rp) clipped. Some post-spawning 3-year-olds (Lp clipped) will be in the catch, and you can expect these to be longer and leaner than the 2's as they recover from spawning. We also see some smaller, fat 1+ year old fish at opening, and these demonstrate just how exceptional the growth is in the Rotorua lakes, often being well over the minimum 35cm length despite only being in the lake a few months.



Rotorua's Noel Hyde with a fat rainbow from last summer

If the crowds of Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina boat fishing aren't your thing, then don't worry, there are still another six or seven lakes to fish in the Rotorua region – and you might be surprised to know how good the fishing can be. Lake Rotorua for instance produces a very high catch rate and recently excellent size and condition. The sighted brown trout shore-based fishery is now well underway and will continue to improve as the lake warms.

Okataina Gate Access

A reminder regarding access to lake Okataina. Boats need to go through the Wash Place, 338 Te Ngae Rd, Rotorua before accessing the lake. Once you've washed your boat, you will receive two 4-digit codes, one to access the lake and one to exit at the end of your days of fishing.

New Access Mapping System

A new online mapping system has just been adopted by the Eastern Fish & Game Region (and several other regions). It is still in development, but is already a useful tool for finding fishing locations and the regulations that apply to that spot. The filter tool (top right of screen) enables users to focus on the access or fishing style they are interested in.

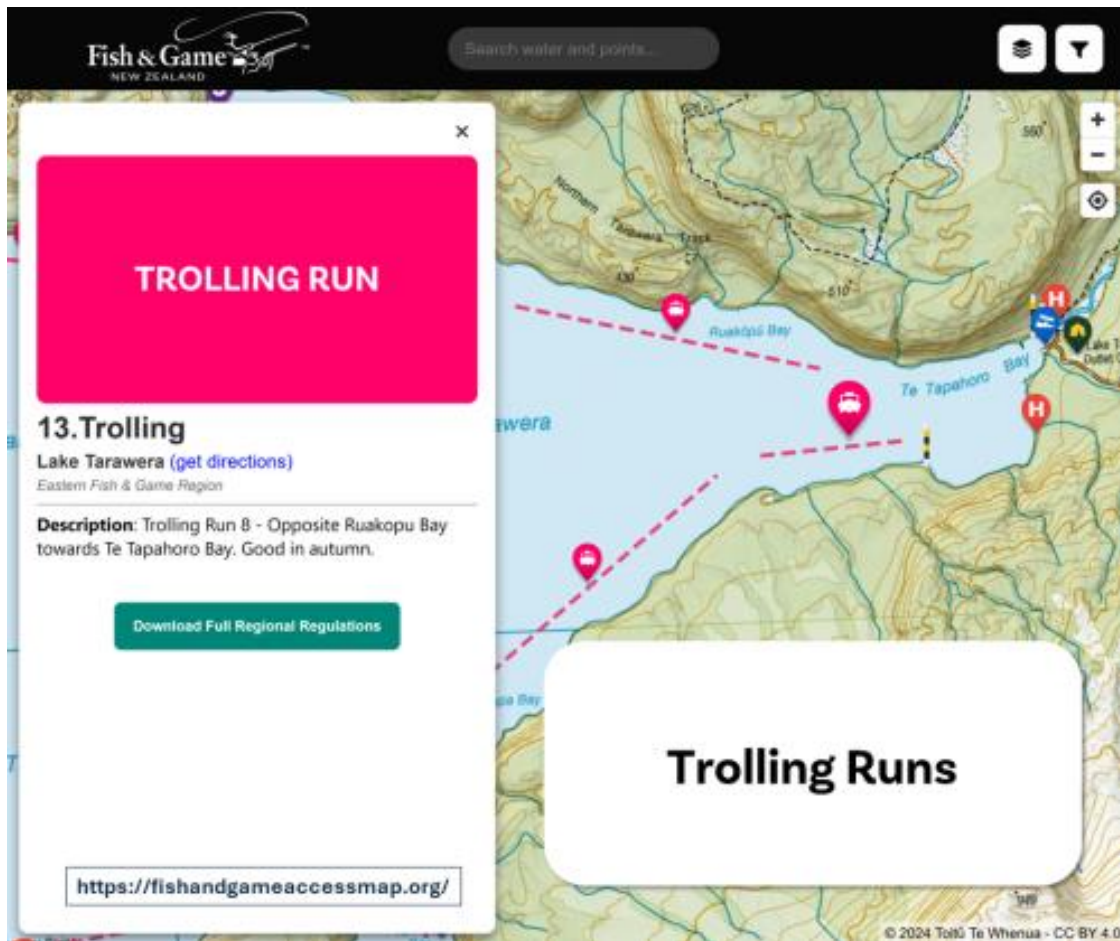
[Select here to view](#)

The map features:

- A short, tailored description for each access point
- Rivers and lakes (with regulations and descriptions) – in Auckland/Waikato, Northland and Eastern (for now) - an easy way to check where and how you can fish! The rivers and lakes will also change colour, so you can tell if they are open or closed.
- 1: 50k Topo and satellite imagery basemaps.
- Land ownership overlays, including unformed legal roads (paper roads), marginal strips, esplanade strips, esplanade reserves, hydro parcels, DOC estate and huts
- A direct link to Google Maps for quick navigation.
- Live location tracking.
- A search function so you can find that spot you may have heard whispered in hushed tones.
- A filter system – so you can hone in on what matters most to you

We're still adding more detail, so we'd love to hear your feedback—get in touch with our office to let us know what would make it even better.

Create a shortcut to the map on your phone's home screen for quick and easy reference.



Check out the new online mapping system

Don't Forget To CCD!

The new season is a good time to remind everyone of our need to Check, Clean and Dry gear between waterways. Pest organisms are sadly on the increase and the precious resource we all love is at risk. Please remember to CCD between your fishing trips, follow the instructions of the Regional Councils and MPI.

FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE TO SUPPORT MINISTERIAL REFORMS

- Maggie Tait



Caption: Corina Jordan

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council has announced a leadership change to provide strategic direction for the sector and support the implementation of proposed legislative changes designed to strengthen and modernise the organisation.

Corina Jordan, current CEO of the Game Animal Council, will be seconded to serve as CEO of both New Zealand Fish & Game and the Game Animal Council on a fixed term basis.

This joint role recognises the significant overlap of interests between Fish & Game licence holders and other game hunters, who hunt valued introduced species, and share environmental and community values.

The joint CEO, Corina Jordan, will be supported in Fish & Game by the newly created role of Chief Operating Officer, Richie Cosgrove, who has been serving as Acting CEO, and will transition to this role.

In this position, Cosgrove will provide operational management of Fish & Game whilst supporting the implementation of legislative changes with minimal disruption to day-to-day business.

This will ensure that Fish & Game maintains its capability to fulfil its current purpose whilst best placing the organisation to work with its stakeholders and the government to ensure that legislative changes strengthen the organisation and the sector.

Jordan was CEO of New Zealand Fish & Game from 2022 to 2025, and led significant change across Fish & Game in modernising the organisation.

“The reforms to Fish & Game provide further opportunity to build on this work, and as such having continuity in strategic leadership is important,” New Zealand Fish & Game Council Chairman Barrie Barnes said.

"This is a measure that draws on Corina's extensive knowledge, policy expertise and leadership skills to support and guide Fish & Game through upcoming change.

“It will help ensure the proposed reforms are implemented effectively, while looking after the interests of New Zealand's angling and hunting community.

“Richie will remain a leader in his new role as Chief Operating Officer, ensuring operationalisation of Fish & Game's core statutory functions, and working closely with our regions to maintain a unified organisation during this period of change."

The arrangement will see costs shared between the two statutory bodies and is designed to support the effective management of strategy and implementation of the Ministerial changes whilst maintaining Fish & Game's accountability to licence holders.

The sharing of a joint CEO with the Game Animal Council, along with the creation of the COO position, will ensure that Fish & Game continues to build on the substantial work undertaken over the last three years in meeting the needs of game bird hunters and anglers, increasing value for licence holders, and promoting healthy habitats and ecosystems.

“Importantly, this will also best place the organisation to represent licence holders and strengthen the recognition of hunting and fishing and valued introduced species and their management, through this period of legislative reform,” Barnes said.

Corina Jordan said the move was a practical step.

“Hunting and fishing bring both economic and societal benefits to the New Zealand community,” Jordan said.

“The value of which can be measured in more than dollar terms, including improved mental health and physical wellbeing, a sense of community, conservation benefits, and attracting the next generation of hunters and anglers to continue our outdoor traditions that Kiwis value so much.”



Steve with the first fish of the Kereru Lodge Club Trip. Photo courtesy of Steve Charles.

NEW STUDY SHOWS FISHING CAN SUPPORT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Fish and Game NZ Media Release – 6/10/25

Dear Fish & Game Licence Holders,

Many of you already know this but it's great to have research to back it up.

Our research involving nearly 1,900 anglers, the largest of its kind globally, has shown that fishing can significantly boost wellbeing and mental health.

Key Findings

Key findings from this landmark study published in [Leisure Sciences](#):

Active anglers were

✓ 52% less likely to experience moderate-to-severe psychological distress

✓ 46% less likely to experience moderate-to-severe anxiety

✓ 52% less likely to report thoughts of self-harm

The research found a clear "dose-response relationship" - the more you fish, the better your mental health outcomes.

Specific Elements Of Trout Fishing That Enhanced The Benefits:

- Wading in water
- Fishing with companions
- Physical activity from accessing fishing locations
- Catching fish!

The benefits were consistent across gender and ethnic groups, including both New Zealand European and Māori participants.

Read our media release and fact sheet about the study [here](#).



WHAT WE SAY

What Our People And Researchers Said:

Fish & Game New Zealand Chief Operating Officer Richie Cosgrove said the scale and rigour of the findings provided significant evidence of fishing's mental health value.

"We've long suspected that the peace and connection anglers find on our rivers and lakes goes deeper than just recreation, but this research provides further proof at a scale never before achieved globally."

Southland Fish & Game's Cohen Stewart led the research: "With nearly 1,900 participants from across Aotearoa, this study contributes to previous international research and gives us confidence that trout fishing genuinely supports mental wellbeing. The fact that we found a clear dose-response relationship – the more anglers fished, the better their mental health outcomes – is particularly compelling."

Dr Nada-Raja, a wellbeing and suicide prevention researcher from the University of Otago, collaborated with Fish & Game on the research and said the findings could reshape approaches to mental health support.

"What we're seeing here is evidence that nature-based activities like trout fishing could serve as valuable complements to traditional mental health treatments.

"Some people who might not access conventional counselling services may find heading out to a river for a few hours both appealing and beneficial."

Dr Nada-Raja said another special thing about the study was it was essentially one of the largest studies on men's mental health and wellbeing done in New Zealand.

"By seeking information about angling and its benefits we have learned a lot about the mental health and wellbeing of men from all walks of life as they were the majority of participants."

Can You Help Spread The Message?

This is an important message

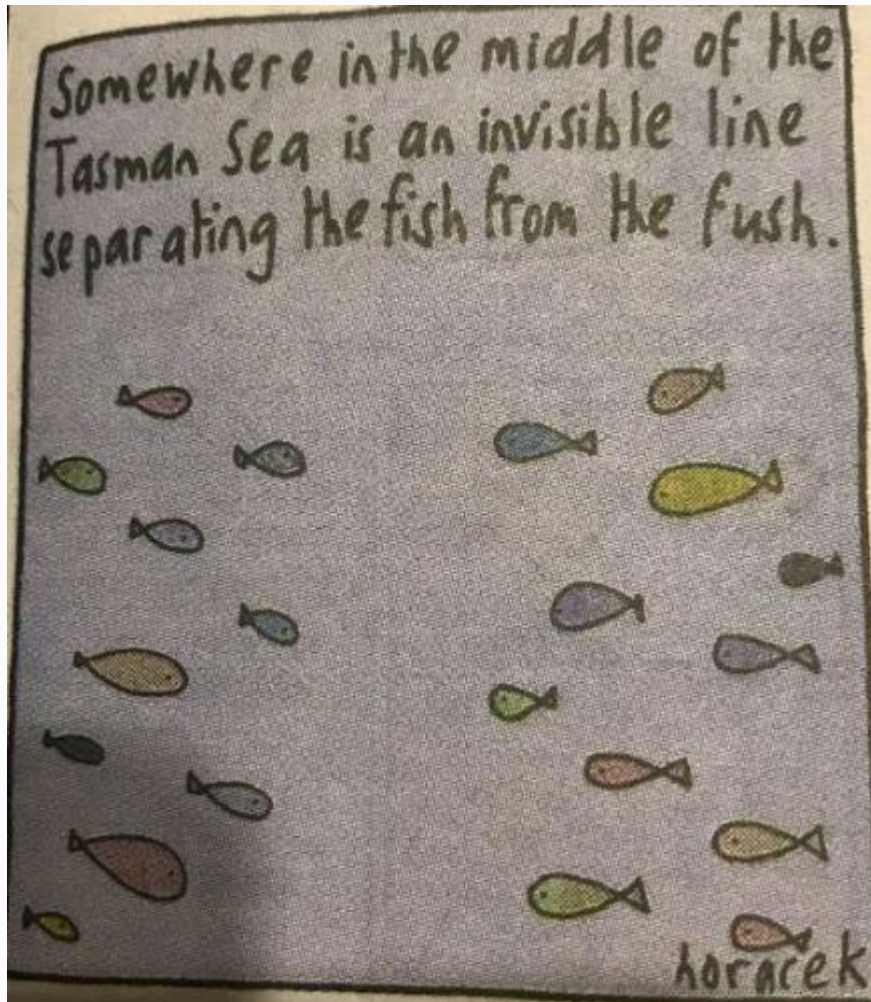
This research highlights a clear link between recreational trout fishing and improved mental health and well-being among anglers.

Angling may play a valuable role in supporting mental health and can reduce pressure on our healthcare system, especially at a time when the well-being of the population is declining and healthcare services are under increasing strain.

The benefits of angling are clear. Let's ensure everyone knows. Please share what you get out of fishing with your communities, friends and families. Comment on our post on Facebook or just drop us an email.

[Need to Talk? Free call or text 1737 any time to speak to a trained counsellor, for any reason.](#)

FISHING FUNNIES



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 etc Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336 ron.blair@xtra.co.nz
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

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.nsff.org.nz

(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

NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE

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President - Dave Symes 486-6257 Takapuna

president@nsff.org.nz

Secretary - Mike Martindale 020 445 4337 Takapuna

secretary@nsff.org.nz

Treasurer - Barrie Barnes 021 925 006 Glenfield

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Magazine - Duncan Frew 021 648 956 Torbay

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