



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

September 2026

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report from Dave this month, he is on a well-earned holiday.

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.

NEW CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE

The Club now has a **NEW Facebook Page**. The old one has been underutilized for a while and this new one is open to anybody, Club Member or not. The only restriction is that posts will be approved before they are posted so as to protect from the random idiots that can lurk on the net. The link is below, and also on the Clubs Website

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1ArtnBvMAW/>

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



3pds of Coromandel fun! Photo courtesy of Jesse Willson.

Recent visits to the Coromandel by Club Members have found the fishing relatively hard, but there are still fish to be caught. Hopefully the end of the spawning season will see a lot of hungry and hard feeding fish return downstream to the easier accessed waters.

Also, a whole bunch of water will reopen on October 1st all over the Auckland / Waikato region!

Rotorua

All reports are saying the shoreline fishing has gotten a lot harder. Even Hans has had the odd blank day. But as can be seen below, perseverance can pay off.



What's that you ask, are the Tarawera Trout bigger this year? Above is the proof from Hans, 4.3pd, 8.3pd and 10pd! Photo courtesy of Hans Sabrowski.

Taupo

The latest report this week is saying "Low, Clear, Hard". But just over a week ago it was all on with big numbers of fish running into all the rivers. There is only one way to find out and that is to get down there and catch a few!

Saltwater

No report from the salt this month.

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 our fishing Tips night. Thank you again to everyone.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 16th SEPTEMBER 7.30 PM

This month we are having Andrea Mattioli talking to us. He is originally from Italy, and has been a Guide for a number of years and prior to that used to work at Rod and Reel. He is well respected and well connected in the fly-fishing community, with a wealth of knowledge. He will talk about Euro Nymphing.

This is sure to be an enjoyable night and we hope to see you all there.

WHY WE FISH

"The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad."

A.K. Best

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 **Duncan Frew!**

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. No entries were made this year. 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 current holder is **Duncan Frew.**

The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. This could not be held this year. The current holder is **Duncan Frew.**

The winner of this year’s River section is **Konrad Dorfling**. *This has not had a trophy in the past but our own artistic craftsman, Allen, is making one for us.*

Unfortunately, due to the Lake Otamangakau Trip (and the Lake Competition being cancelled) we can not award the I love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy or the Rodd and Gunn Trophy this year. Also, despite lots of Club Members catching fish Saltwater Flyfishing, nobody entered their catch, so we are unable to award the I love Flyfishing Saltwater Trophy either.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Like they say, you can learn more from a guide in one day than you can in three months fishing alone.”

Mario Lopez

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 2027

March – Lake Otamangakau – MAR 2027

May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes – MAY 2027

July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo – JUL 2027

August – Tongariro – Club River Fishing Competition – AUG 2027

September – Tauranga Taupo – SEP 2027

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

December – Lake Otamangakau – DEC 10th 11th 12th 2026

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.

DECEMBER CLUB TRIP TO LAKE OTAMANGAKAU

I am proposing the weekend of 11th 12th 13th November (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) with a number of us arriving on Thursday the 10th.

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 December, 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 \$60 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



*Simon with a shore based Brown taken on a previous Lake Otamangakau Club Trip.
Photo courtesy of Leon Bathurst.*

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Even eminent chartered accountants are known, in their capacity as fishermen, blissfully to ignore differences between seven and 10 inches, half a pound and two pounds, three fish and a dozen fish."

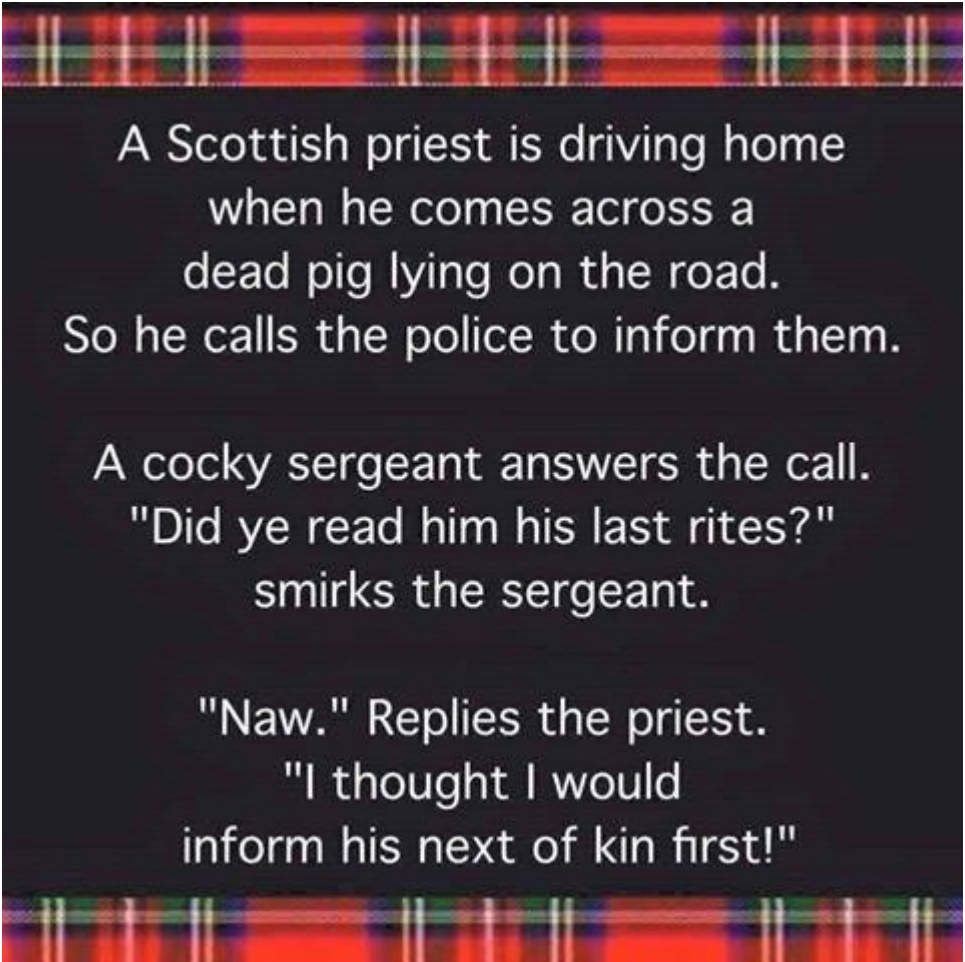
William Sherwood Fox



**Pics from the
Inter-Club Comp
Trip. The boys
had a great time!**



JOKE OF THE MONTH



A Scottish priest is driving home
when he comes across a
dead pig lying on the road.
So he calls the police to inform them.

A cocky sergeant answers the call.
"Did ye read him his last rites?"
smirks the sergeant.

"Naw." Replies the priest.
"I thought I would
inform his next of kin first!"

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) Try fishing a wet fly lure like a Woolly Bugger or even a Grey Ghost behind a weighted fly on your conventional nymphing rig (or even on your Euro Nymphing

gear). This can work really well on those long drifts where you allow the flies to swing at the end of the drift. You will be surprised at how many Trout will hit the fly!



Tim in action on a Coromandel river. It was a hard days catching but a great days fishing. Photo courtesy of Matt Bourne.

THIS ELECTION AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR RIVERS, LAKES AND WETLANDS

Fish & Game NZ

Kia ora,

With the 2026 general election approaching, we want to share where Fish & Game stands and what we are asking of everyone seeking your vote.

As one of New Zealand's 175,000 licensed anglers and game bird hunters, you are part of a community the size of Hamilton, that means your views carry weight.

Ours is a community of everyday New Zealanders from rural communities, towns and cities who love spending time in our wild places, value the quality of freshwater, rivers, lakes and wetlands, care about healthy habitats, and take pride in putting sustainable wild kai on the table.

Our latest annual licence holder survey clearly tells us what is important to you.

When we asked what you expect of a government, you told us:

- Almost 90 per cent said it is important that a government protects public access to rivers, lakes and wetlands for fishing and game bird hunting
- Around 87 per cent want minimum freshwater standards that protect trout, salmon and game bird habitat and the same proportion want government to continue recognising and protecting trout and salmon habitat
- More than eight in ten people want no further loss of wetlands and want anglers' and game bird hunters' interests recognised when laws affecting our species are reviewed

You were just as clear about the work you want us to do on your behalf.

- Some 93 per cent of you supported working collaboratively with landowners and community groups to protect fish and bird habitat
- Almost nine in ten backed us in persuading lawmakers to set freshwater health outcomes that protect that habitat. That mandate is what we are bringing to every political party this election

WHAT WE'RE ASKING PARTIES TO COMMIT TO

We have set out what we would like to see from political parties:

- Recognise fishing and game bird hunting in law, so trout, salmon and game birds are provided for alongside indigenous species
- Protecting public access to the outdoors is the number one issue for licence holders. Fish & Game maintains more than 3,000 access points nationwide and we want access kept front of mind in resource management reform, along with an end to the quiet loss of access through paper road closures and land sales
- Protect our rivers and lakes, with clear bottom lines for water quality and quantity, continued protection for trout and salmon habitat and Water Conservation Order processes that work. Almost half of New Zealand's lakes are in poor health and nearly a fifth of rivers are affected by nutrient pollution
- Protect our wetlands, of which only around 10 per cent remain. Anglers and game bird hunters have invested millions of dollars restoring wetlands on private land and we want restoration made easier and further loss halted

THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REFORMS

Fish & Game NZ

The Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill are working their way through Parliament now, and they matter greatly to fishing and game bird hunting.

We are asking for a small number of practical changes before the Bills pass their final readings:

- **Trout and salmon** - Fish & Game's main concern is that the Natural Environment Bill does not clearly recognise trout, salmon, game birds, their habitats, or angling and hunting values. The Bill focuses on environmental outcomes and limits on indigenous species and what this means is regional and local councils won't be able to set environmental limits that protect trout and salmon or game bird habitat. We'd like to see trout and salmon included
- **Public access** - The Bills protect existing access but do little to improve it and they weaken the main tool that secures new access. We'd like the legislation to provide for access to be enhanced, not just maintained and esplanade reserves kept as a standard

part of subdivision, outside the compensation framework, so new access is secured when land is subdivided. Once that's missed at subdivision, it's gone for good

- **Fish & Game's management plans** - Our Sports Fish and Game Management Plans reflect decades of monitoring and regional expertise and we would like new planning documents to take them into account
- **Wildlife permits** - The Bills propose that regional councils be able to issue wildlife permits. We would like decisions about culling the species we manage to be informed by Fish & Game's knowledge and monitoring

The select committee has already made some welcome improvements, including clarifying that wetlands sit within freshwater ecosystems, retaining Water Conservation Orders and restoring the more workable concept of mitigating adverse effects. We are grateful for those changes and are asking for a few more sensible improvements to finish the job

We are not asking for a rewrite. We are asking for sensible, achievable changes that would give anglers and game bird hunters certainty and help deliver on what these reforms promise.

How you can help

The single most useful thing you can do is talk to the candidates standing in your electorate. They will be out and about over the coming months at public meetings, community events and on the doorstep.

If you get the chance, let them know that quality freshwater and healthy habitats, public access and getting outdoors matter to you and ask where they stand.

When candidates hear directly from people who fish and hunt in their own communities, it makes a real difference.

Thank you for being part of this. Together, 175,000 strong, we can make sure the things we value are heard this election.



If we had a Club Photo Cup this one above would, for me, be an absolute winner. The angler is Stephen Charles and the photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.



Free, but grumpy!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

I was thinking it would be nice to have some Trout recipes in the Newsletter again so I have gone all the way back to recipes we had in the Newsletter over 16 years ago. Hopefully they are helpful and will encourage some 'adventurous' cooking.

This recipe is courtesy of Shane French when he ran the Waitahanui Lodge, right on the edge of Lake Taupo, and once again looks delicious.

Sesame & Ginger Barbi Trout

Summer is here (at times anyway), so I thought this might appeal. It is very easy to put together as well.

You will need

1/4 cup of Paul Newman's Light Sesame and Ginger Dressing. Most Supermarkets stock this.

1 Packet of Kan Tong Honey, Soy and Garlic sauce, again from the Supermarket.

Juice of one Lime.

1 Tbls of Brown Sugar.

2 T-spoons of Smoked Hickory BBQ sauce.

2 T-spoons of Sweet Chilli Sauce.

Mix all ingredients together and place fillets of Trout onto this. Leave to marinate for 8 hours or more.

Place on a HOT well oiled Barbecue plate. Sear first side for four minutes then flip over and cook other side.

Yummy!!!!



Bon Appetite!

If you have a recipe you would like to share please send it in.

BE READY FOR BIRD FLU

Fish & Game NZ

H5 bird flu (H5N1 avian influenza clade 2.3.4.4b) has been detected in wild birds in New Zealand.

It's still safe to fish and hunt and there have been no further detections since 17 July. H5 bird flu is a low health risk to the public, but it's a good idea to form some simple habits now to protect wildlife and limit the spread of the virus.

Keep your distance

Stay away from sick or dead wildlife and keep pets and children away too. Don't touch or move birds and don't let your dog pick up birds that are sick or already dead.

Keep clean

Clean your gear, clothing and footwear when moving between sites. Wash your hands regularly with soap and running water, or use an alcohol-based hand rub, especially before and after contact with animals and their environments.

Know when to report

You're valuable eyes on the ground. Signs of bird flu include the sudden death of multiple birds in a group, drowsiness, lack of coordination and an inability to fly. If you see three or more sick or dead wild birds, marine mammals or other wildlife in a group, report it to the exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or at report.mpi.govt.nz. Don't handle or move wildlife.

For more information, visit mpi.govt.nz/bird-flu.

ŌHAU CHANNEL WALL REPAIR TRIALS BEGIN AS LAKE ROTOITI ADVOCATES ACCUSE COUNCIL OF DELAYING ACTION

[Mathew Nash](#) - Rotorua Rotorua Daily Post - 1 Sep, 2026

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is trialing repair options for the deteriorating Ōhau Channel diversion wall, with a decision on the structure's future likely early next year.

Lake advocates say the work falls short of a commitment to fix the wall and accuse the council of delaying action while the structure corrodes away.

Since 2014, microbial corrosion has caused the [wall to deteriorate faster than expected](#), leaving holes in parts of the structure.

The council says councilors need more information to make a decision, with repair estimates ranging up to \$25m.

It has allocated \$1.9 million to test two potential fixes for the wall, built in 2008 to stop polluted water from Lake Rotorua flowing into Lake Rotoiti.

One involves sealing corrosion holes with polyethylene mouldings. The other would encase the wall's king piles in concrete and replace ageing sheet piles with plastic alternatives.

The council's lake operations principal adviser Andy Bruere said the first option could extend the wall's life until about 2042, while the second could provide a solution lasting more than 50 years.

"The trials are designed to test the engineering workability of each option and help the regional council better understand their respective cost," he said.

Trial results, alongside engineering, scientific and economic assessments, are estimated to be available in early 2027, when councilors would make their next major decision on the wall's future.

Bruere said the decision would also be informed by further modelling examining whether improvements in Lake Rotorua's water quality have reduced the need for the wall.

The \$11 million Ōhau diversion wall was built to divert polluted water from Lake Rotorua away from Lake Rotoiti and down the Kaituna River, reducing nutrient inputs into the lake.

For Lakes Water Quality Society chairman John Gifford, the latest trials do little to resolve the central issue.

"At the bottom line right now, there's no commitment from the regional council to repair the wall," he said.

"Basically, their position is that they are of the view the wall may not be needed."

The regional council has previously argued improvements in Lake Rotorua’s water quality have reduced the wall’s importance, while modelling suggested a “no wall” scenario would have only a minor impact on Lake Rotoiti.

Rotorua Mayor Tania Tapsell [publicly criticised the regional council over the wall in July 2025](#), backing calls for urgent action. That council called for urgent investment in March.

Gifford said his organisation was unconvinced the council would need further years of investigation before committing to a solution.

“Our view is that it’s largely delay tactics,” he said.

“That will have a significant detrimental impact on the nutrient load of Lake Rotoiti and, more than likely, create the opportunity for a marked deterioration in water quality.”

Gifford said the society had commissioned its own modelling on the effects of leakage through the wall and expected results later this year. He was confident the findings would strengthen the case for repairs and said legal options remained under consideration.

Bruere said councilors were seeking more information before making what could be a costly decision.

“The decision to repair the Ōhau Wall could have a very significant cost to our community,” he said.

“Repair estimates are in the range of \$25 million.”

Bruere said councilors wanted better information about the costs and benefits before committing to a programme of work.

The council maintains there is no evidence leakage through the wall is causing measurable harm to Lake Rotoiti.

Bruere pointed to a 2023 review that found the wall had improved water quality in the lake, while long-term monitoring showed no signs the holes were causing a decline.

The council has not updated its estimate of leakage through the wall since 2023.

Bruere said the earlier modelling was now out of date because corrosion had continued and the holes had grown larger. The council had instead focused on repair trials and other work to inform future decisions on the wall.

For Gifford, the “wait-and-see” approach risks allowing the problem to worsen.

“If it was your roof, you’d be up there fixing it straight away, wouldn’t you?” he said.

“But it’s taken them two years to get to the point where they’re looking at some options.

“In the meantime, the wall will just continue to deteriorate. The holes will get bigger, the intrusion will get greater, and the time for recovery within Lake Rotoiti will increase.”

Mathew Nash is a Local Democracy Reporting journalist based at the Rotorua Daily Post. He has previously written for SunLive, been a regular contributor to RNZ and was a football reporter in the UK for eight years.



Fikrit's 17.5pd monster from the Ohau Channel. An example of the sort of fish caught before the 'Wall' was built. Photo courtesy of Fikrit Chinassi.

2026-27 FISH & GAME FISHING LICENCES AVAILABLE NOW!

The new season is almost here. Grab your licence, dive into our brand-new 'Fishing Knowledge Hub', and get set for some awesome angling adventures.

The 2026-27 freshwater fishing season opens on October 1 and licences are available to purchase now.

Get in early so you can spend the run-up to Opening Day on the good stuff, sorting your gear, lining up trips with mates, and learning how to be more successful.

The Full Season Licence offers the best bang for buck. At just \$158, allowing you to fish throughout the country (except Taupo) right through to the end of September next year!

[**Buy your licence now**](#)

BAG LIMIT INCREASE TO ENHANCE TROUT

DOC – Taupo Fishery Focus

This season saw the introduction of an increased bag limit within the Taupō Fishing District - from 6 trout to 8. In response to questions from anglers, we thought it would be useful to explain why the change was introduced.

Lake Taupō is a complex ecological system. Fortunately for anglers, the trout of Lake Taupō have been the subject of decades of scientific study. The fishery benefitted from the work of Fishery Scientist, Dr. Michel Dedual, who dedicated his scientific career to improving our understanding of the fishery through the introduction of a comprehensive technical monitoring programme. Much of this work continues to this day.

Taupō catchment streams can be described as hyper-productive. Their cold, clean, clear, highly oxygenated waters and ideal substrates provide near perfect spawning conditions for trout. This translates into exceptionally high levels of juvenile recruitment. When high juvenile recruitment occurs in parallel with reduced trout harvest (due to changing angler habits such as an increase in catch-and-release), there is a significant risk the population can exceed the food supply needed to support it. The relationship between trout and smelt

is critical here. Unfortunately, history has shown how devastating it can be for the fishery when this balance is lost in Lake Taupō.

Lake Taupō is an oligotrophic lake, which means it is clear and low in nutrients. With restricted nutrient levels, lower-level trophic activity is restricted, which results in reduced zooplankton, when compared to more productive mesotrophic lakes. This is why Taupō smelt tend to be smaller than those found elsewhere.

We know the Taupō smelt population is largely controlled by two key factors - the availability of food (zooplankton) and predation (trout). Given the critical importance of lake productivity and food availability, we have a specific technical programme dedicated to measuring and monitoring it – the echo-sounding monitoring programme.

The echo-sounding measures trophic levels in the lake, which measures lake productivity and helps predict potential impacts on the trout population. Our echo-sounding technology is similar to 'fish-finders' used by boat anglers, just far more powerful. A 'back-scattering coefficient' helps us differentiate important details such as zooplankton, smelt, bullies, catfish and trout.

Turning our attention to trout, we know more than 90% of rainbow trout in Lake Taupō are pelagic, feeding almost exclusively on smelt for a large proportion of their lives. This means the relationship between rainbow trout and smelt is critical to the Taupō fishery.

Data about rainbow trout size, condition and numbers is captured in a variety of ways. Data from the fish traps, escapement counts and angler surveys, suggest that current trout numbers are relatively high and trout size has declined. Average trout size is an important metric. Smaller trout indicates reduced growth rates and points to a reduction in their primary food source, smelt. In addition, at our fish trap, we have seen a decline in the number of rainbows that have previously spawned. This also points to a reduction in food supply, where trout returning to the lake after spawning have struggled to regain sufficient condition to enable them to spawn again. Angler surveys also confirm fish size is currently down.

When trout size begins to fall (as evidenced through multiple studies) it is a signal that the smelt population is under pressure.

As previously mentioned, direct predation by trout can be a significant factor in smelt population levels, particularly when trout numbers are high. Winter weather can also impact smelt by significantly influencing nutrient levels. Storms agitate the surface of the lake and cause the thermocline, which developed over summer, to break down. This allows

water layers to mix, freeing up access to surface nutrients, which in turn increases the production of plankton. When this does not happen, the smelt population can be negatively impacted.

While our echo sounding work offers a powerful insight into the productivity of Lake Taupō, there is still more to learn about how lake currents shift over time and how these currents influence plankton and smelt productivity, and in turn impact trout. We are in the process of developing a technical study to help us understand this.

In summary, Lake Taupō is a very large complex system however the relationship between trout and smelt is clearly understood. Recent data trends suggests the fishery would benefit from increased trout harvest, hence the increased bag limit from 6 to 8 fish. The associated reduction in predation pressure on smelt, will help their numbers to recover and improve trout growth and condition. We will continue our monitoring programmes and modify fishing regulations as needed.



A harvested Lake Taupo Trout that went to John's dinner table. Photo courtesy of John Cuthbertson.

LATEST E-DNA SAMPLES TEST NEGATIVE

DOC – Taupo Fishery Focus

Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board recently participated in a nationwide surveillance programme designed to better understand the distribution of invasive aquatic pest species. They submitted e-DNA samples from key locations around Lake Taupō, which were tested for *Corbicula* (invasive freshwater clam), Golden mussel, Zebra mussel and Quagga mussel. Tests confirmed no detections for any of these invasive species.

This is great news and reinforces the value of active preventative measures such as the ongoing public education and awareness building programmes. But most importantly, it underlines the benefit of practical tools such as Check Clean Dry.

If you are planning a visit to the Taupō Fishing District, make sure you are familiar with the risks associated with invasive species and are aware of the actions required to protect our very special freshwater fishery. Find details online: [Check, Clean, Dry your gear](#)

ROTORUA TROUT FISHING: ANGLERS URGED TO CHECK WEATHER BEFORE OPENING DAY

Rotorua Daily Post - 3 Sep, 2026 02:00 PM

Hundreds of trout anglers are expected to hit the water across the Rotorua lakes region when the new trout fishing season opens on October 1.

Opening day is one of the most anticipated dates on the angling calendar, with fishers from around New Zealand counting down to the start of the season, according to an Eastern Fish & Game media release.

The annual opening traditionally attracts large numbers of anglers to Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Ōkātina, which are closed to trout fishing over winter.

The closure allows fish stocks to rest and often results in productive fishing when the season begins.

Fish & Game said opening day regularly delivers strong catch rates as trout are less wary after several months without angling pressure.

The region is coming off what Fish & Game described as an outstanding season, with catch rates, fish size and overall condition among the best seen in many years.

Lake Tarawera was a standout, recording the largest trout seen there in more than 25 seasons.

The organisation said annual releases of juvenile trout from the Ngongotahā hatchery help maintain strong fishing opportunities and increase anglers' chances of success.

Fish & Game highlighted the physical and mental wellbeing benefits of fishing, with the opportunity to provide fresh food for families.

It also encourages family participation through a family licence option, which can include a partner and up to four children or grandchildren under the age of 18.

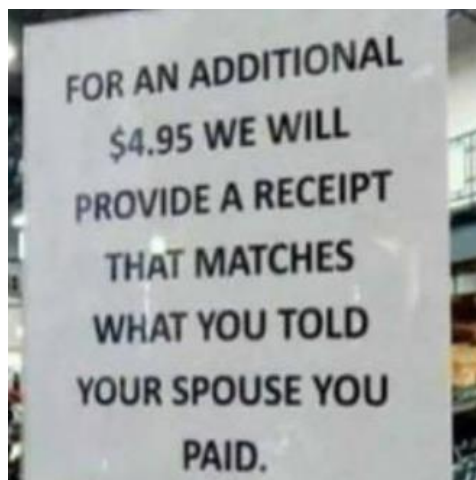
Licences are available online and through fishing tackle retailers.

Fish & Game said purchasing a full-season adult licence at the start of the season offers the best value, with the cost working out at less than 50 cents a day.

Anglers planning trips into more remote areas are being urged to keep an eye on weather forecasts and river conditions before opening day.

Fish & Game is also reminding anglers and other lake users to follow the “Check, Clean and Dry” biosecurity message to help prevent the spread of aquatic pests.

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

Club Patron – Dave McLellan

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

treasurer@nsff.org.nz

Magazine - Duncan Frew 021 648 956 Torbay

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Committee – Allen French 021 1018 838 Birkdale

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