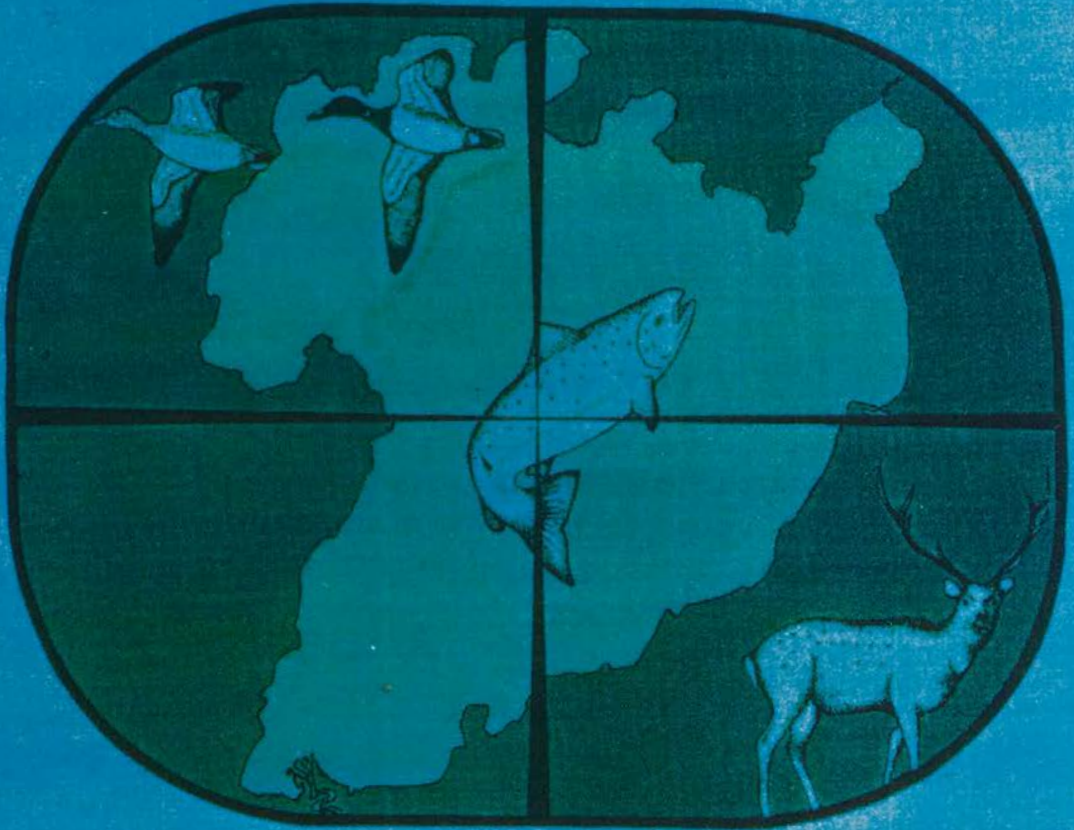


JULY 1992
ISSUE 10

TARGET AUPO

A Newsletter for Hunters and Anglers in the
Tongariro / Taupo Conservancy



CONSERVATION
TE PAPA ATAWHAI

TARGET AUPO

**A Newsletter for Hunters and Anglers
in the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy**

Published three times a year (March - July - November)

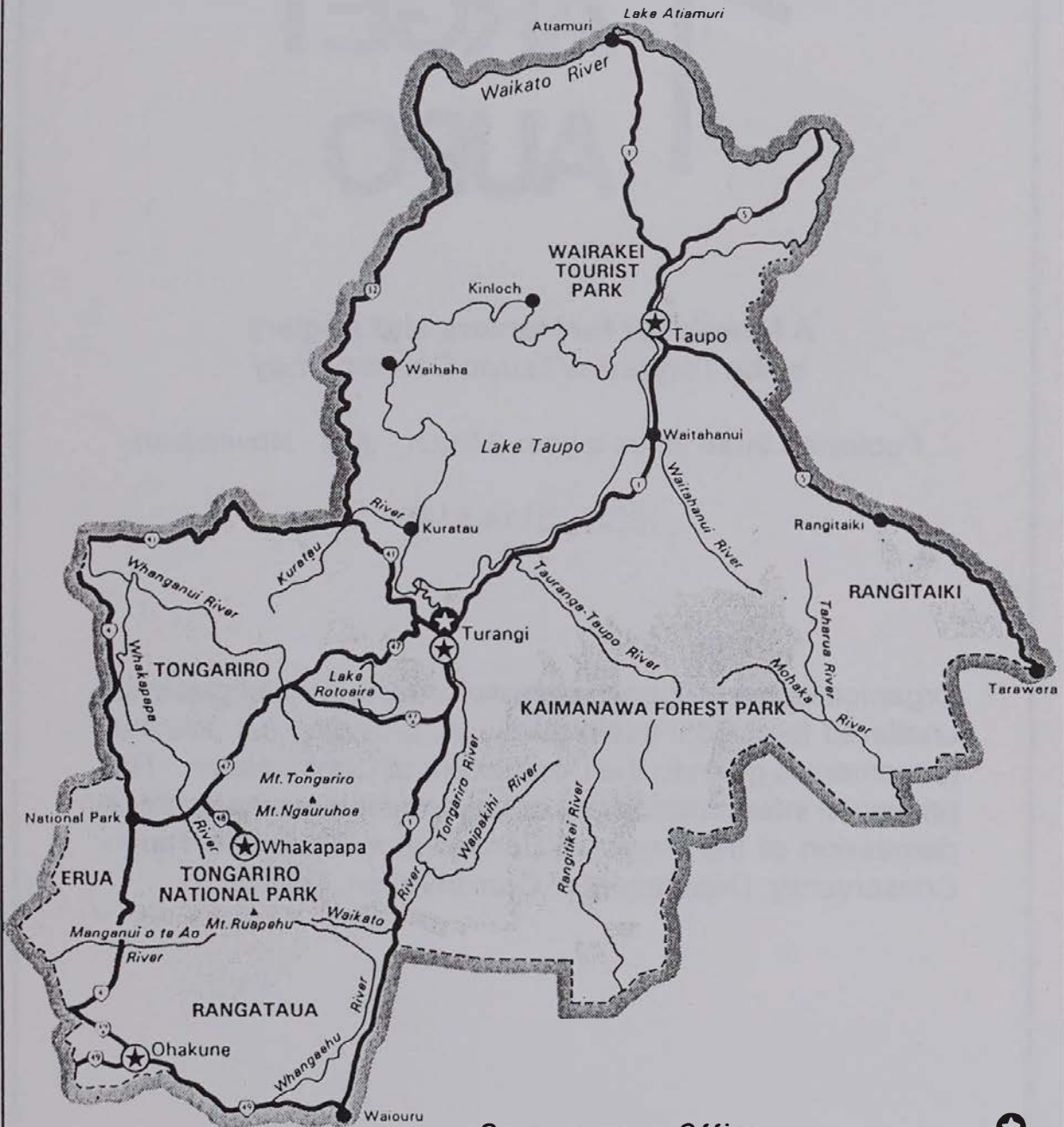
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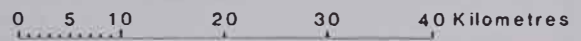
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Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy



★ Conservancy Office
 ★ Field Centre Office
 — Conservancy Boundary
 ■ Protected Areas





CONSERVATION
TE PAPA ATAWHAI

Dear Sportspeople

It seems like no time at all since we were mailing out the March issue, and suddenly the July issue is together. I guess that's just the way it is for those of us who enjoy the opportunities that Autumn offers. It takes so long to arrive, but when it does, you're so busy annoying the local farm stags through a toilet roll, hills trips, maimai preparation, dogs, deer, decoys and ducks, that before you know it the river's full of rainbows and the shortest day is here.

You will be pleased to hear that our March issue made a small operating profit thanks to an executive decision to increase the amount of advertising. We hope you will forgive us for this, but assure you that the continued viability of the publication was at heart. The publication now has a circulation of 800 clubs, organisations and subscribers and we hope this will continue to grow over the next few years. Thank you for your continued support. We would like to remind you that if there are any topics or issues you wish to see addressed in the publication, we would be happy to have your input and we have included the "Reader Questionnaire" again in this issue to encourage this.

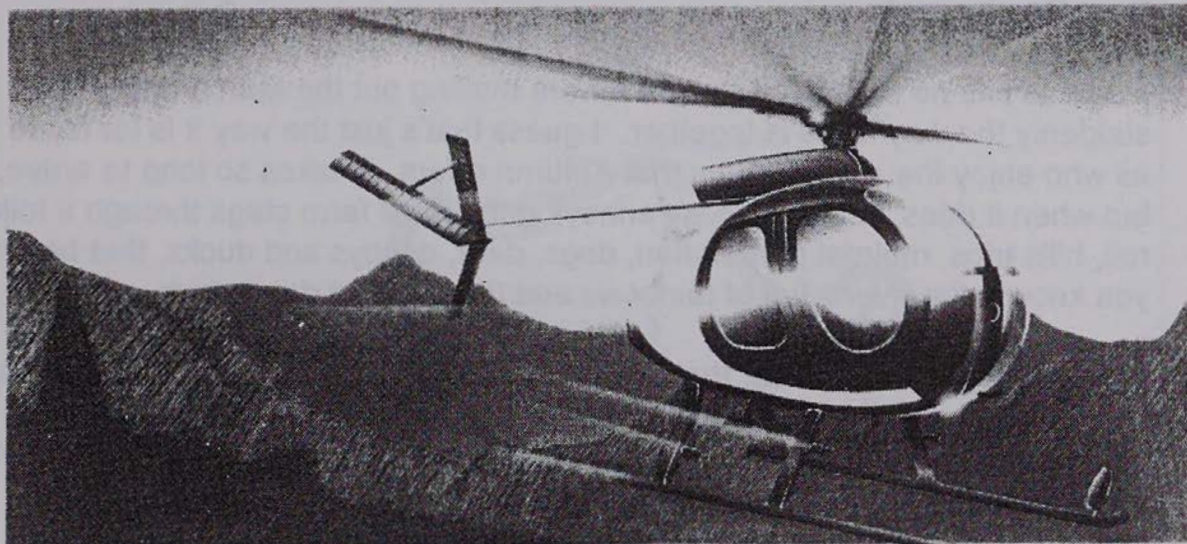
We are sure the issue we have put together for you this time will have something of interest for anglers and hunters alike. It has been a busy and productive autumn for hunters and gamebird shooters, although John Gibbs' sojourn to central Otago proved harder on the rabbits than the waterfowl or upland game populations (thank goodness for the humble rabbit ay John!) The early runs of rainbows also suggest this winter will see a marked improvement on the previous 2-3 seasons, so 1992 may at last give us a year to remember in our hunting and fishing diaries.

May your sorties to the central North Island this winter be safe and fruitful. Keep those subscriptions rolling in.

Hot barrels and tight lines.

Cam Speedy
Co-editor

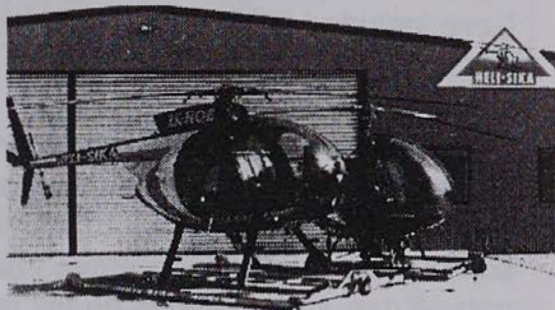
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- RIPIA – Brown trout, smaller fish, low numbers.
- TAHARUA – Brown trout, smaller fish, good numbers.
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CONTENTS

1. Adopt a Stream - Guest Article by Carol Harwood.
2. Helicopter Access to the Rangatikei Catchment.
3. Bitz "N" Pieces
4. Autumn Hunting Summary
5. Access and Willows
6. What to do with a Trophy Fish for the wall.
7. New Research Projects Planned.
8. Something Fishy.
9. Finding your way : Lake Taupo's Western Bays.
10. Tongariro Forest : Towards a Conservation Park.
11. Manager Profile.

Information about illegal activities is only of use when it is passed on immediately.

Please contact compliance staff:

Wayne Boness, Taupo Phone 378 5450 (work) 377 0112 (home)
Bryan Taylor, Turangi Phone 376 8607 (work) 386 6549 (home)
Sid Puia, Turangi Phone 386 8607 (work) 386 6700 (home)
or Conservancy Duty Officer Phone 386 8607 after hours.

ANYTIME

1. ADOPT A STREAM

Guest article by Carol Harwood.

Carol is the President of the local Turangi-Tongariro chapter of Trout Unlimited. This chapter has close links with the department and its work is a good example of the contribution anglers can make towards their fishery.

In 1990 the Turangi-Tongariro Chapter of Trout Unlimited approached the Department of Conservation and enquired about work which we could assist them with. DOC came back with a couple of suggestions and one in particular was just what we had hoped for, a stream on which to undertake habitat improvement.

One of the Department of Conservation Fisheries officers, Adrian Ngamotu, accompanied us to the Hirangi Stream and gave us a guided tour through the undergrowth. For years the Hirangi Stream which flows into the lower Tongariro River had been left and almost forgotten. Over a period of years the willows which grow along the banks had either been felled or blown into the stream and willows being prolific growers had re-rooted and clogged the waterway, causing it to shallow and spread. One of the other problems was the silt which had settled throughout the full length of the stream bed.

It was then Trout Unlimited and the department made the decision to clear from the Tongariro River up to the road culvert.

In December 1990 the Trout Unlimited 'Adopt a Stream' programme began. Our chapter was not very large, only about 20 or so members at that time, so those who were able to spare some time from their work would go down and do some clearing. The department supplied us with a chainsaw and five slashers, we used our own hand saws, rakes and garden hoes to help with the work.

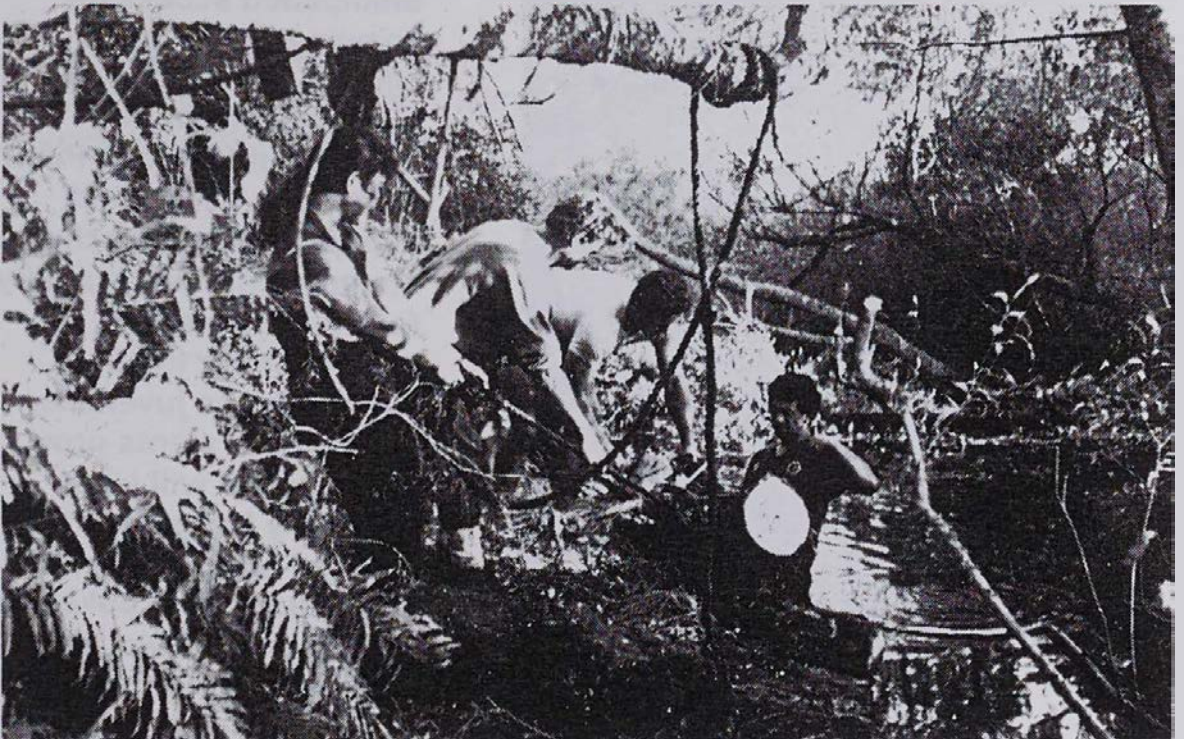
The lower section of the stream up to the road culvert was completed in the first year and the Department of Conservation followed up with a willow spraying programme to stop any regrowth.

In some places the stream was completely obscured from view with the dense growth of fallen willows and blackberry. The silt was stinking, at one time it attempted to swallow one worker who had to be helped from his thigh waders by one of the other members and then the boots were rescued from the silt.

The water flow improved and it was noticed that the level of the stream settled back into its original channel.

Now that we had come that far it seemed a great shame not to continue and complete the full length of the stream. On the left bank of the upper part of the Hiranji Stream a section of the land is privately owned. It was necessary for us to go to the Maori land owners to tell them of the project which we had started and given the blessing of the land owners, we were able to continue the work.

The water in this section of the stream was a lot deeper and very large willows had been felled directly into the water many years before, re-growing from the stream bed. A group of our members, the Otukou Guides, were at times up to their arm pits in dirty, smelly, silted water, working with chain saws and ropes to pull the large branches out of the water. The water was becoming too deep in this upper section so it was decided to ask the Department of Conservation for some help with heavy machinery. Adrian Ngamotu arranged to have the department's log skidder down one morning to pull out the large willows and when the morning's work was finished a large pool was revealed. It was now late February 1991 and the water temperature was becoming too cold for the boys to work. It was thought best that the stream be left to settle and wait for the new season's fish to move into the main river and then up into the stream to spawn.



Trout Unlimited members get to grips with the problem

The Department of Conservation asked us to monitor the stream through the winter and count any fish which moved up. In the year previous, approximately six redds were seen and in 1991 we counted 67 spawning redds and approximately 150 fish.

It was thought that maybe it would be necessary to put some spawning gravel into the stream because of all the silt but the fish did much of the work themselves, cleaning the gravel with their tails as they dug the spawning redds. Once a stone was visible regardless of the amount of silt which covered the gravel the fish cleared the area themselves. A pair of spawning fish will move a wheelbarrow load of gravel while digging and laying eggs.

Stream work began again on the final section in February 1992. It was necessary to wait that long because of all the small fry still feeding and sheltering around the aquatic weed which had grown in the clean clear water. The department needed to come in once more with the heavy machinery to clear one other deep hole which had been missed the year before. This last stretch of stream had a lot more gravel and the progress was a lot easier. By April the Trout Unlimited volunteers had come to the source of the Hirangi Stream, a small waterfall and a spring rising out of the stones.



The successful result - unimpeded access for spawning Taupo trout 500 flax seedlings were purchased from the department's Native Plant Nursery in Taupo and planted throughout the stream to provide stability for the banks and protection for the fish, especially the juveniles. When these plants grow and flower it will also hopefully bring back the Bellbird and Tui. Already some ducks and pukekos have found the wetland which has been created.

The Trout Unlimited "Adopt a Stream" project has been a highly successful joint project with the Department of Conservation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Department of Conservation for giving us the privilege of being able to restore this spawning stream and be involved with the future of our fishery. Many thanks to the Trout Unlimited members and non-members who took part in this project, a wonderful achievement.

The purpose of Trout Unlimited is to preserve, protect and enhance the cold water fisheries of New Zealand. Our 210 members are organised into more than six chapters nationwide. Chapters are the heart of Trout Unlimited and are, quite literally, where the action is. In addition, at their formal organisation, successful chapters use the valuable volunteer time, talents and resources of the members to accomplish projects designed to benefit the coldwater fishery.

The national organisation with its regional vice presidents play support roles to ensure the success of the local Trout Unlimited chapters. On the national level the regional vice presidents co-ordinate their projects and activities. They facilitate an open channel for communication between local chapters and the overall national organisation via representatives elected to the National Board of Directors.

National Trout Unlimited is a leadership body whose principal responsibility is to set the agenda for the Trout Unlimited programme nationwide - and provide the necessary direction and support to get the job done.

2. HELICOPTER ACCESS TO THE RANGITIKEI CATCHMENT

This roar, for the first time since the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone within Kaimanawa Forest Park was designated in 1978, hunters were permitted access by helicopter. This access was authorised as a result of concerns about the increasing impacts of red and sika deer on vegetation in the catchment.

The Conservation Management Plan for the Kaimanawa Forest Park adopted in 1991 recognises the role recreational hunting plays within the park and acknowledges the need for better access to more remote areas to ensure hunting pressure is sufficient to achieve effective control. As the plan also retains the Remote Experience Zone concept for the Rangitikei Catchment, there is a need to balance the wilderness values of the area, with the need for greater hunting effort.

The result was a eight week period between 20 March and 20 May 1992, during which hunters could be flown to one of four designated sites within the catchment by helicopter companies holding the appropriate concessions. It was hoped this would spread the hunting pressure from more accessible areas into areas where the hunting effort was needed most. Some thirty parties of between two and four hunters visited the catchment during the roar. This resulted in 257 days of reported hunting effort, for a total reported harvest of 20 sika deer (15 stags and 5 hinds) and 52 red deer (38 stags and 14 hinds), more than the reported harvest for the whole of 1991.

The higher proportion of red deer harvested in the catchment appears to reflect the poor sika roar throughout much of the Kaimanawa Ranges this autumn. The nature of the terrain and vegetation within the upper Rangitikei River Valley makes hunting sika during the roar very difficult if the stags are not vocal.

In contrast, the red deer roar on or near the tops was rather better and the harvest was substantially higher. Of concern was the fact that most hunters took only stags, as often happens when reasonable numbers of animals are encountered. The logic in such circumstances appears to be that shooting only stags will protect the breeding potential of the herd and hence the quality of hunting. While this is correct when animal numbers are low, it is flawed when animal numbers are higher.

When a deer population exceeds the carrying capacity of its habitat, a number of undesirable effects occur:

The first signs are a decline in the habitat quality. In simple terms, the forest becomes eaten out by the hungry herd. Evidence of this was recorded in the Ecology Stream Catchment in February/March 1991. (It was on the basis of these findings that the decision was made to open helicopter access for hunters to the Rangitikei Catchment).

As habitat quality declines, animal condition declines. This affects both herd productivity and trophy quality. There has been considerable comment from hunters about the poor condition of deer in the past twelve months in many parts of the Kaweka and Kaimanawa Ranges, particularly those deer in the higher altitude mountain beech forest. Poor condition reduces the productivity of the herd as hinds will not come in season if they are nutritionally stressed. Many hinds that dropped fawns over the 1991/92 fawning season appeared to struggle through the cooler than usual summer and many of these hinds are unlikely to have cycled in autumn. Less nutrition also means poorer antler growth on stags, although most would still have had better body condition than hinds by autumn since they are not having to produce milk for fawns.

If deer numbers remain high in depleted habitat, winter die-offs occur. Hunters reported a number of carcasses and skeletons in the Rangitikei Catchment and these observations combined with the well known and documented Kaweka deer die-off last winter, suggest there is a problem in much of the less accessible central North Island mountain beech forest.

From an animal control perspective, the opening of helicopter access for recreational hunters in the Rangitikei does not appear to have been particularly successful. The numbers of deer being born in the area next spring are not likely to be vastly reduced by this autumn's hunting activity. Environmental factors over winter are likely to have more of an influence.

An interesting point to note is the age of many of the animals whose jaws were supplied by hunters. The red deer harvest appears to have been mainly two, three and four year old stags, perhaps reflecting the impacts of helicopter hunting during the 1970s and 1980s. The more open habitat utilised by red deer in the Kaimanawas made them more vulnerable to helicopter harvest than sika deer and their numbers were kept low during this period. Numbers appear now to be expanding again, hence the young age of most animals.

While a good number of hunters appeared happy with their experience in the Rangitikei this year, others appeared less satisfied, some sufficiently so to make significant written comment. This is very useful for us and we encourage all users to do likewise.

Common complaints were that the animal numbers in the area were not as high as hunters had been led to believe. It is hard to explain this but the data shows that some hunters did very well. Others obviously struggled with the conditions they encountered. We never said things would be easy! Ecology Stream appears to have been the most productive area, while the Otamateanui Stream was by comparison, unproductive.

The winter die-off in the herd in 1991 has perhaps accounted for some decrease in the population, we have also had reports of illegal helicopter recovery operations in the area over autumn, and these are also likely to have had some impact. However, the majority of hunters reported “plenty of sign” so it seems most likely that the poor sika roar combined with the dense vegetation on steep country is responsible for at least some of the negative comment.

Another complaint was that of overcrowding at some sites. We tried to manage this problem once we realised the level of interest there was going to be in the area by restricting numbers to two parties per landing site at any one time. We ran a booking system in good faith but it seems this may have been disregarded by some. We hope to sort this and other problems out with a helicopter operators meeting during the winter.



The upper Rangitikei Catchment looking south down the Ecology Stream Valley. The remoteness of this area and DoCs policy on helicopter access to it, have meant hunting pressure has not been sufficient to keep animal numbers in balance with their habitat in recent years.

Some of our complaints relate to hunters with chainsaws, reported abuse of the fishery by some "angling" hunters (or were they "hunting" anglers?), and parties flying to sites other than the four designated with helicopter operators who were not authorised to be in the area.

Generally, the impact in terms of rubbish, campsites and so on was acceptable but any future exercises of this nature will be managed differently. The timing of such an exercise might be better targeted at the spring when animals, particularly hinds, are easier to hunt (for example, feeding on river flats, open tops and clearings); the number of helicopter operators could possibly be restricted even further to avoid overcrowding; bans on chainsaws would be more strictly enforced; campsites would be designated; gas cookers would be compulsory; and potential impacts on the fishery would have to be addressed. These are all important issues but they can be satisfactorily resolved. The most important issue is recognition by users that the catchment has special wilderness values and must be treated accordingly to ensure these are retained.

Lastly, if you visited the Rangitikei during autumn this year, we would value your thoughts and impressions. Please drop us a line.

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3. BITZ 'N' PIECES

1080 POISON OPERATIONS - WINTER 1992 .

The Manawatu/Wanganui and Waikato Regional Council's are now well into their winter 1080 poisoning operations to control Bovine Tuberculosis in the central North Island.

Two areas within the Conservancy area are subject to initial control operations involving aerial bait drops this winter while a large number of other areas are subject to maintenance control following initial control operations in previous years.

The areas being treated are as follows:

1 INITIAL CONTROL

(a)South Turangi:

This operation involves some 15,000 hectares of native forest, pine plantation, farm and swamp land in the lower Tongariro River catchment. Pine forests within the treatment zone are being aerially sown with 1080 impregnated carrot bait while native forest areas in the northwestern Kaimanawas and on Mount Pihanga are being aerially sown with manufactured bait to reduce the risk of killing non-target species. Public areas around the Tongariro River below the Whitikau Junction are being trapped to avoid conflict with anglers, although some ground poisoning is being undertaken in the Delta area of the lower river. Details of the operation are explained in two displays, one at the Turangi Department of Conservation office and other at the Turangi Information Centre.

(b)Raurimu:

This operation involves some 5,000 hectares of farmland and native forest remnants west of Raurimu Village and in the head of the Kaitieke Valley. It involves aerially sown manufactured baits impregnated with 1080 poison in Raurimu, Mangatepuhi and Konene scenic reserves, the northern boundary of Erua Forest and the Waimarino Scientific Reserve north of National Park township on State Highway 4.

2 MAINTENANCE CONTROL

Following initial control (aerial) operations, annual maintenance is carried out to keep possum populations on pasture margins low. This is undertaken using "flower pot" bait stations which are spaced at 20-50 m intervals on boundary fences, pre-fed for a week or more, and then poisoned with 1080 paste.

This type of control is occurring in the following areas:

- The Western Bay Reserves of Lake Taupo from Waihi around to Rangitira Point.
- The southern boundaries of Tongariro Forest on Raurimu and Taurewa stations.
- Along the Whakapapa River from Raurimu to Kakahi.
- The native forest boundaries around Raurimu Village.
- The northwestern boundary of Tongariro Forest east of Owango
- Waituhi/Kuratau Scenic Reserve on the Kuratau-Taumarunui Highway.

Signs will be placed in all areas subject to the control operations. Hunters should be aware that possum carcasses will remain toxic to dogs until they have completely decayed. These areas are clearly identified and described on the June-September hunting diary.

Southern Conservancy

The main hunting event over the past three months in this part of the conservancy would undoubtedly have been the roar.

Many hunters made the most of the long periods of fine frosty weather during April and were rewarded with some exciting hunting opportunities. Judging by the number of jaws deposited in the deer jaw collection box on the Ohakune mountain road, quite a few hunters were successful. To those hunters who deposited jaws, thank you for your continued support.

Hunters using the Horopito access road into Tongariro National Park should notice that there are a few less pot-holes in the road. Hopefully the gravel laid on the road will reduce wear and tear on hunters' vehicles. During this winter it is hoped that a series of mountain bike trails will be marked in Rangataua Forest. These trails will be in the lower section of the forest. Because of these trails there is expected to be an increase in the number of people using the lower section of the forest. Hunters using this area are therefore advised to make absolutely sure that you positively identify your target.

Update on the Kaimanawa Thieves

Those of you who had food or gear stolen from the Cascade, Boyd, North Arm, Oamaru, Tussock area between late 1990 and mid-1991 will be pleased to hear that the police successfully prosecuted one of the culprits recently.

The people involved are thought to have been living in the area for about nine months, based at a number of camps they had established around the area using material stolen from other hunters and from DOC huts.

Their eventual apprehension was a direct result of information passed on by hunters both through the permit system and directly by phone and is a good example of how information passed on quickly by the public can result in successful action.

Our thanks to the hunters involved.

Kaimanawa Forest Park Access

The recent extensions to Taharua Road now means the general public have legal vehicle access to a point further along the poled walking access through Poronui Station to the Kaimanawa Forest Park.

This will cut down the walking time for the poled route to approximately 1.5 to 2 hours.

Signs indicate the new start to the poled route and only Helisika clients have legal vehicle access beyond this point.

The remainder of the poled route has been re-vamped with the addition of more marker posts and the whole lot given a fresh coat of paint.

4. AUTUMN HUNTING SUMMARY

It was a reasonable red deer roar this autumn in the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy. The stags were vocal a little earlier than usual and roared extremely well on selected days through early April. However, as the hunting pressure increased during April and the harvest began to take its toll, things began to quieten down. By the Easter break the peak was well past.

In contrast the sika roar was a bit of a non-event, with little roaring heard over much of their range. For those wanting to cash in on the Easter break however, its timing was perfect this year. The peak of the stag harvest in the Kaimanawa RHA appears to have occurred between 14-24 April, with 26 sika stag jaws from the total of 98 jaws supplied through autumn, being shot during this period. These included 5 eight pointers and a nine pointer, with the remainder coming from young stags carrying generally six points or less. This is a fairly typical harvest and gives some insight into why trophy stags are so hard to find. They just do not get a chance to get old enough under such intense hunting pressure. The potential is definitely there, especially in the superb habitat offered by areas such as Clements Road, Merrylees and in the lower Kaipo and Oamaru catchments. The body condition of animals harvested in these areas is testimony to that, but age holds the key to a world class trophy.

Other points of interest this year were further observations, mainly in the higher altitude blocks, of poor conditioned deer (especially hinds). The late, harsh winter last year followed by a cool and very wet summer, is continuing to have an influence up in the mountain beech forest.

Just over 600 of the 300 plus hunters who obtained permits for the conservancy had returned diaries by the end of June. This is considerably down on last year however, the data still shows some interesting trends. Some 47% of hunters returning diaries were successful this autumn, the highest proportion since data collection on the diary format began.

A summary of the data obtained is presented for your information in Table 1. Of note is the significant increase in hunting effort in the Rangitikei/Ecology Stream blocks with the authorisation of helicopter access (see also the feature article on this subject), and the high productivity in very popular blocks such as the Oamaru and Boyd (Ngaruroro) which is a real surprise. The continued low harvest of goats from blocks which were until 1991, real goat problem areas is a sign that control has been successful.

AREA	BLOCK	DAYS HUNTED	ENCOUNTERS				KILLS			DAYS/ENCOUNTER			DAYS/KILL
			SIKA	RED	PIG	GOAT	SIKA	RED	PIG	GOAT			
KAIMANAWA RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA	Clements	365.0	296	11	4	-	56	3	4	-	1.2	5.8	
	Hirameiaia	54.0	38	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	1.4	10.8	
	Cascade	39.0	35	4	-	-	10	1	-	-	1.0	3.5	
	Keipo	42.0	46	2	-	-	7	1	-	-	0.8	5.3	
	Damatu	97.5	99	6	-	-	34	4	-	-	0.9	2.6	
	Tikitiki	22.0	20	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1.1	7.3	
	Memlees	26.5	19	-	2	-	6	-	-	-	1.4	4.4	
	Jap Creek	39.0	52	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	0.8	7.8	
	Upper Damaru	36.5	65	9	-	-	15	4	-	-	0.6	1.9	
	ALL	749.5	689	33	6	-	145	13	4	-	1.0	4.6	
	1991 FIGURES	1 334.0	1 190	55	2	-	249	20	1	-	1.1	4.9	
	KAIMANAWA FOREST PARK (excluding RHA)	Waipakihi	155.0	80	38	-	-	25	11	-	-	1.3	4.3
		Desert Road	28.0	27	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	1.0	4.0
		Access 10	8.5	1	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	1.0	8.5
Umukerikeri		17.0	-	21	-	-	-	7	-	-	0.8	2.4	
Mount Uchiri		7.0	1	6	-	-	-	2	-	-	1.0	3.5	
Wairakea/Whitika		48.5	12	39	1	-	1	7	1	-	0.9	5.4	
Waimarino		32.0	9	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3.6	16.0	
Kiko Road/Tauranga-Traupo		115.5	108	21	-	-	26	4	-	-	0.9	3.9	
Tiraki		5.0	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1.0	5.0	
Rangitikei		196.0	71	151	-	-	18	38	-	-	0.9	3.5	
Ecology		71.0	10	46	-	-	2	14	-	-	1.3	4.4	
Ngauroro		62.0	84	1	2	-	21	-	-	-	0.7	2.9	
ALL		783.0	437	334	2	-	109	86	1	-	1.0	4.9	
1991 FIGURES		1 130.0	623	332	13	-	145	108	5	-	1.2	4.4	
TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK	Rangataua	30.5	1	18	1	-	-	13	-	-	1.5	2.3	
	Ohakune	28.0	3	12	-	-	-	8	-	-	1.9	3.5	
	Southwest	76.0	2	31	-	-	2	19	-	-	2.3	3.6	
	Hauhangatahi	14.0	-	11	-	-	-	4	-	-	1.3	3.5	
	Whakapapa	26.0	-	30	-	-	-	12	-	-	0.9	2.2	
	Phanga/Titia	13.0	-	10	3	-	-	4	1	-	1.0	2.6	
	Desert Road	20.0	7	2	-	-	5	1	-	-	2.2	3.3	
	ALL	291.5	13	159	4	-	7	77	3	-	1.7	4.0	
	1991 FIGURES	475.0	17	341	1	-	9	132	-	-	1.3	3.4	
	TONGARIRO FOREST	ALL	287.5	-	111	7	-	-	54	-	-	*2.4	*5.3
1991 FIGURES		359.0	2	132	16	-	-	73	4	-	*2.4	*4.7	
ERUA FOREST	ALL	57.5	-	32	-	-	-	11	-	-	*1.8	*5.2	
	1991 FIGURES	86.5	-	28	2	-	-	20	1	-	*2.9	*4.1	
RANGITAIKI FOREST	ALL	21.5	11	4	-	-	7	-	-	-	1.4	3.3	
	1991 FIGURES	60.0	52	20	5	-	13	5	1	-	0.8	3.1	
LAKESHORE RESERVES	ALL												
UNSPECIFIED RETURNS	WHOLE CONSERVANCY	244.0	-	-	-	-	7	34	13	1	-	*4.5	
TOTALS	WHOLE CONSERVANCY	2 446.5	-	-	-	-	275	279	21	46	-	*4.3	
	1991 FIGURES	3 896.5	-	-	-	-	436	429	17	109	-	*4.4	
	1990 FIGURES	3 551.5	-	-	-	-	371	400	41	205	-	*4.4	

Thanks to all hunters who returned diaries. Hopefully a few more will roll in through the winter to lift our sample to a level which allows us to make more direct comparisons with previous years data. Thanks also for the kiwi records many of you sent in on the survey form provided with permits this year. They were a real bonus and much appreciated.

Winners of the diary prize draw were as follows:

Air transport with Helisika: W M Cocks, Hamilton

Air transport with Lakeland Helicopters: P Sergeant, Waiuku

Air transport with Air Charter Taupo: C Davidson, Hamilton

Sporting Goods from the Fly and Gun Shop, Taupo : M Briggs, Petone

Ammunition from the NZ Ammunition Co Ltd : R Lamb, Taupo

Accommodation at Sika Lodge: H Crawford, Tauranga

Ten hunters also receive free copies of this issue of Target Taupo.

If you missed the sika roar or are starting to get the hunting itch again, remember that sika hunting can be very productive in July and August in the Kaimanawa RHA. The mid slope areas with a northerly aspect in catchments like the Kaipo, Oamaru, Jap Creek, Tikitiki and Cascade are all worth a look. The air transport companies advertising in this publication can fly you to some of these destinations for very competitive prices during the off season. Deer feed extensively on the summer growth brought to the forest floor by heavy snow at this time of year and animal condition should now be on the improve again as fawns are weaned and the stags recover after the roar.

A tip for spring - the Te Matea Stream catchment west of Boyd Lodge offers excellent prospects handy to very comfortable and accessible accommodation. Look for those white heart shaped rumps along the bush/scrub edge at change of light as soon as the grass begins to flush.

Good hunting!

SWAROVSKI
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Federal * Hart * Sierra * Swarovski

Imported and Distributed by New Zealand Ammunition Company
PO Box 31 096, Lower Hutt, Telephone (04) 567 0641

RECREATIONAL HUNTERS

MAJOR PRIZE DRAW

FREE TRIP WITH HELI-SIKA

The Forest Research Institute is studying sika and red deer diets from these areas:

Kaimanawas

Kawekas

Ahimanawas

Hunters who supply a gut sample before September will be entered into the prize draw.

- Samples kits available at DOC offices, air charter firms, back-country huts
- Full instructions in the sample kits

PRIZE DETAILS

- **A spring or summer hunting trip with Heli-Sika**
- **3 people flying into the Tarawera hunting block**
- **Drawn last week in September**
- **Total prize value \$880.00**

Wayne Fraser
Forest Research Institute
PO Box 31-011
CHRISTCHURCH

5. ACCESS AND WILLOWS

The Fisheries Enhancement Section of the Department of Conservation is headed by Conservation Officer, Adrian "Bonzo" Ngamotu, who is assisted by two conservation workers and an extra five or six University students over the summer period.

This section of the fisheries team is responsible for:

- Providing and maintaining fishing access tracks, roads and footbridges in the Taupo fishing district.
- Eradication of problem willow trees from stream beds and along the margins, and the removal of snags, windfalls and flood debris from streams and rivers to increase the amount of water suitable for angling and to maintain access for migrating spawning trout.

The Maori Land Amendment and Maori Land Claims Adjustment Act 1926, which vested the bed of Lake Taupo to the Crown, also provided for the holders of a Lake Taupo fishing district licence a right-of-way over a strip of land not exceeding one chain in width along the banks of most rivers and streams flowing into Lake Taupo.

The length of right-of-way varies between rivers. For example, on the Tauranga-Taupo River the distance is from the lake to a point three miles upstream, and on the Waimarino River it is from the lake to the source of the river. This right-of-way is often unproductive land, retired from farming under the Lake Taupo catchment control scheme and is difficult for anglers to walk along. For this reason we provide walking access tracks and sometimes footbridges to enable anglers to cross the river in safety.

There are approximately 75 kilometres of maintained access track on the Waitahanui, Hinemiaia, Tauranga-Taupo, Waimarino, Waiotaka and Tongariro Rivers. Most rivers have tracks on both banks from the river mouth upstream to the winter fishing limit. Walking access is kept to a standard such that anglers can walk along with relative ease while in waders and carrying their rods. Access roads are kept metalled and are suitable for the family car.

Willows were introduced into the Taupo catchment early in the century and initially spread quite slowly. Photographs taken on many of the rivers for the Right-of-Way Compensation Commission in 1948 show very few willows but in the intervening years they have colonised large areas on nearly all the streams and rivers.

The need for willow control is two-fold. Willows exert a strong influence on the stream's characteristics and when properly controlled they can be quite beneficial. However, as experience has shown in this country, very rarely has proper control ever been carried out.

Trees were often planted for bank stabilisation but in the long term often become too effective. Once heavy infestation occurs on both banks of a stream their root systems often overlap across the stream bed. The matting of the bed by the roots stabilises the river bed trapping fine silt and sand which would otherwise be swept down the river. Such a substrate is no longer suitable for trout spawning or for many of the aquatic invertebrates important in the diet of juvenile trout.

The physical presence of large trees particularly with overhanging branches is very significant in restricting river flow so that in high flow the impact of flooding is increased. A good example was the lower Waiotaka which was so clogged that in any sort of heavy runoff State Highway 1 flooded.

The second reason for control is the loss of angling water which has coincided with increased numbers of anglers fishing the rivers. This is reflected by high levels of crowding on the more accessible and successful angling areas during popular fishing periods.



The problems of unchecked willow growth are self evident.

Control presents a difficult situation. Removal of the protective cover on the stream bank increases the susceptibility to erosion under flood flows which in turn affects the stream habitat. However this is a short term effect and the cleared stream banks readily re-vegetate. It is almost impossible to pick many of the areas that were cleared only a few years ago on the Waiotaka, Waimarino, Tongariro or other rivers, except for the absence of willows.

Over the past four years more than 20 kilometres of river bank willows have been cleared from Taupo rivers. Clearing of willows involves a team of workers getting into the river with chainsaws and then using a log skidder to pull the cut willows back from the river edge. It needs to be done carefully as a major problem with 'crack' willows is that they will re-sprout from any twigs left lying on the ground. For this reason cleared areas require annual maintenance in following years to control the regeneration which would otherwise quickly nullify the original efforts. The eradication of willows is mostly confined to maintenance now.



An example of what happens if follow up work is neglected.

6. WHAT TO DO WITH A TROPHY FISH FOR THE WALL.

Many of us have in the back of our minds that if we catch a 'special' fish we might get it mounted. We never give it any more thought until one day we have it flapping on the bank beside us. We know we need to get it to a taxidermist but just what do we do with the fish until we can hand it over. We approached Taupo Taxidermist Richard Abraham, who specialises in fish mounts for his advice to ensure the best possible result.

There are two key aspects which influence the final mount. The first is the 'quality' of the specimen and secondly is the way it is handled before it is given to the taxidermist. It is extremely important to have a specimen in which the natural colour and markings are as 'nearly perfect' as possible if one wishes to end up with a superior finished mount.

The main problem is staining and dehydration of the fish.

- 1 *Firstly, kill the fish quickly with a sharp tap on the head.*
- 2 *If possible, take a good quality close up colour photograph of the fish, preferably immediately after it has been landed.*
- 3 *Protect the fish from the sun. The fins dry out very quickly.*
- 4 *Select the side of the fish with least damage (scales missing and scars) and place this side uppermost.*
- 5 *To prevent staining do not wrap anything around the fish or let anything touch the showside.*

If you are not able to get the fish to the taxidermist within an hour or so of capture, it is important that the fish be frozen as soon as possible. Find a board that is slightly larger than the fish. Place your fish on this, show side up. Place the fish in the freezer, making certain that nothing touches the show side. Freeze overnight and when completely frozen the fish can be sealed in a plastic bag. Take care putting the fish into the bag as the frozen fins are very fragile. It can then be delivered at your convenience to the taxidermist.

Tight lines.

Richard Abraham
18 Wheretia Street
Taupo

Telephone : (07) 378 0935

7. NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS PLANNED

Dr Michel Dedual was recently appointed to fill the role of fisheries scientist with the department in Turangi. His first tasks are to investigate the trout run in the Tongariro River and survival of released trout caught in the lake by different methods.

Tongariro Study

To successfully manage the Taupo trout fishery it is essential to be able to detect changes in the trout population. One of the best tools we have is the trap on the Waihukahuka (hatchery) Stream, which is operated all year round, and through which all spawning trout entering the stream must pass. Information is collected on total numbers, size and condition of the fish.

At present we assume that the runs in this stream (a tributary of the Tongariro) reflect the runs in the whole Tongariro system. However it is essential we confirm this or conversely if it is not the case, look at some other way of monitoring this most important spawning river.

With this in mind we are initiating a programme to examine the characteristics of the migration of spawning trout in the Tongariro and to estimate the total run size.

The common methods of population estimation are ratio methods, catch-effort methods, and direct counting. Direct counting methods may be most accurate but are just not practical given the size of the Tongariro and the tendency for fish to run during flood conditions. Mark-recapture procedures are the most common ratio methods used in field studies and seem to hold the most promise for estimating the size of the Tongariro run. To estimate the run we have designed an experiment involving tagging fish as they enter the river and recapturing a proportion of them in the upper river. Such an experiment involving tagging pulses of fish and continuous recapture has never before been achieved.

To capture the fish we will set a number of fence and cage traps at the entrance of the Tongariro for periods of a few days throughout the year. The captured fish will be individually tagged and recaptured as they pass through traps in the hatchery and Whiti-kau streams. Simultaneously we will record the capture of tagged fish by the anglers. The results of this experiment will provide a lot of valuable data about how trout run in the Tongariro. Some will be of interest to anglers, for example the time it takes trout to run from the mouth to the upper river. This experiment should permit comparison of the

characteristics between the winter and the summer run and to determine the validity of using the hatchery trap data as an index of the total trout population in the Tongariro.

Post Release Survival

The Taupo trout fishery is subject to substantial recreational fishing pressure. Various regulations are imposed to alleviate the effects arising from this pressure, and are directed towards sustaining the quality of the fishery.

Inherent in several regulations is that anglers release fish they don't want or can't legally keep, for example the minimum size and daily bag limits. However, if fish released don't survive the trauma, these regulations are at best ineffective and perhaps quite detrimental. It is possible that angling mortality is much greater amongst trout caught by certain methods. It has also been suggested that several presently illegal angling methods should be permitted in the Taupo fishery. Therefore, we have decided to undertake a review of regulations that involve a catch and release component.

In the Taupo fishery the bulk of the fish are caught deep in the lake. In the harvest survey report we assessed that during the 1990/91 fishing season a total of 28,250 trout (13,000 legal size and 15,200 under legal size) were released after capture. Most of these fish have suffered a thermal shock, depressurisation, exhaustion and handling before being released. The number of sub-legal size trout released in the lake was approximately equal to the total harvest of legal size trout (16,500) from the Tongariro River during the same year. Therefore, there is a need to assess the level of the fish mortality induced by the capture and release of trout in Lake Taupo.

The aim of this study is to determine the mortality after release of trout caught in Lake Taupo by different types of gear and at different seasons. A lot of work has been done on fishing mortality overseas but very little of this has looked at the mortality of fish caught at depth which are subject to large pressure and/or temperature changes.

Initial ideas involve using anglers aboard local commercial launches to capture a large number of trout by a single angling method. The trout are then quickly transported to a floating cage 25 metres square and 30 metres deep. By using such a deep cage the fish have the opportunity to return to the depth from which they were caught which might or might not influence their ability to survive. The fish are held for four days after which the cage is lifted and any dead fish recorded.

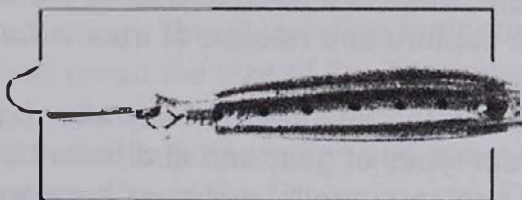
It is planned to do the first trials using fish caught by those methods we believe are most likely to cause mortality, i.e. 200 metres of wire and downriggers at 60 metres. The logic behind this is that each trial involves a lot of input from local launch operators and DOC staff. If these first methods appear to have little impact there is perhaps no need to investigate other methods. However, if mortality is significant we can repeat the experiment using lead lines, etc., to assess the impact of these methods.

It is important to remember that this project is designed to assess the sensibility of present regulations involving catch and release. It may well influence our thoughts on what methods are allowed, equally though it might involve modification of regulations such as minimum length, the daily bag limit and so on. However, this is a long way down the track and there are all sorts of other considerations which will also need to be taken into account.

CONGRATULATIONS KEITH WOOD

on your

“GREAT LAKE CHALLENGE”



98% of Woodie's trout were caught on this lure, Johnson's Fish-Tailed Kobra.

Other lures were tried but the fish-tail won hands down.

These lures are available in several fish-catching colours from: Waioranga Sports, Taupo; Sporting Life, Turangi and other outlets.

NZ Agents and Distributors

DRAPERS TACKLE HOUSE

TAUPO

8. SOMETHING FISHY

Prospects for the coming season

The indications are that the improvement in the Taupo fishery which was evident during the 1991/92 season is continuing. This spells good news for Taupo anglers.

Already this winter good runs of spawning rainbows have entered all the Taupo rivers, despite an almost total absence of rain during April, May and early June. Numbers of trout through the hatchery trap are on a par with last year but counts on selected stretches in the Hinemaiaia, Waimarino, Waipa and Whitikau Streams are all much higher.

Similarly, anecdotal evidence suggests that large numbers of fish are entering the Tauranga-Taupo River. Staff have regularly witnessed runs of several hundred fish passing through the lower river, even during times of settled weather. However, anglers often commenting these fish are hard to take. Under such conditions anglers need to be prepared to be a little more subtle in their approach than is often necessary in the Taupo fishery. Look to use longer leaders, lighter, smaller nymphs and take much more care in presenting the fly.

The other pleasing aspect is the superb condition of the trout and we are not using this superlative lightly. The larger fish which were absent from the fishery last year have been very apparent in the runs so far. We believe these maiden fish are a year older than the majority of the maiden run and therefore have survived an extra year in the lake before maturing. One of the ideas behind the reduced bag limit was to allow more of these fish to survive. Just how much effect the reduced bag limit has had in the recovery of the fishery is anyone's guess, but whatever the reasons, when combined with the increased natural productivity of the rivers and lake, the outcome has been most satisfactory. The increased vitality of the fishery is reflected by the excellent condition of the trout which, despite what the pessimists say, is not because the younger year classes are missing.

The weather pattern over the last couple of years appears to have been ideal for trout spawning and subsequent juvenile rearing. It would also seem likely, given trout growth and numbers in the lake, that the climate has favoured the ecosystem as a whole. It is interesting to note that this "El Nino" weather pattern appears to have exactly the opposite effect in the Rotorua fishery. It just goes to show how different these ecosystems are, despite their geographic closeness.

As this issue goes to press, it appears the El Nino cycle has come to an end. We will have to wait and see what effect this has on the fishery but things look promising at the moment so make the most of the next couple of years at Taupo.

National Trout Centre - Children's fishing

In May it was fine and everybody and their brothers and sisters were there. In June it was as wet as the inside of a cowshed with a leaky roof, snow halfway down Pihanga, as cold as the wind on an ice-bound shore and for the first time in ten years kids' fishing was cancelled after an hour of trying.

The first fishing day in May is always popular, school holidays, kids leaping and tugging, parents taking a break with them after 3-4 months grafting. Whatever the reason, we get our biggest tally in the May fishing day.

This year was no exception with 449 little darlings, third highest tally behind 533 in 1990 and 506 in 1989. An electronic counter recorded 1100 visitors for the day.

The trout were co-operative and a little larger than last year, averaging 438g (300g) and ranging from 150 to 1100g (100 - 1050g).

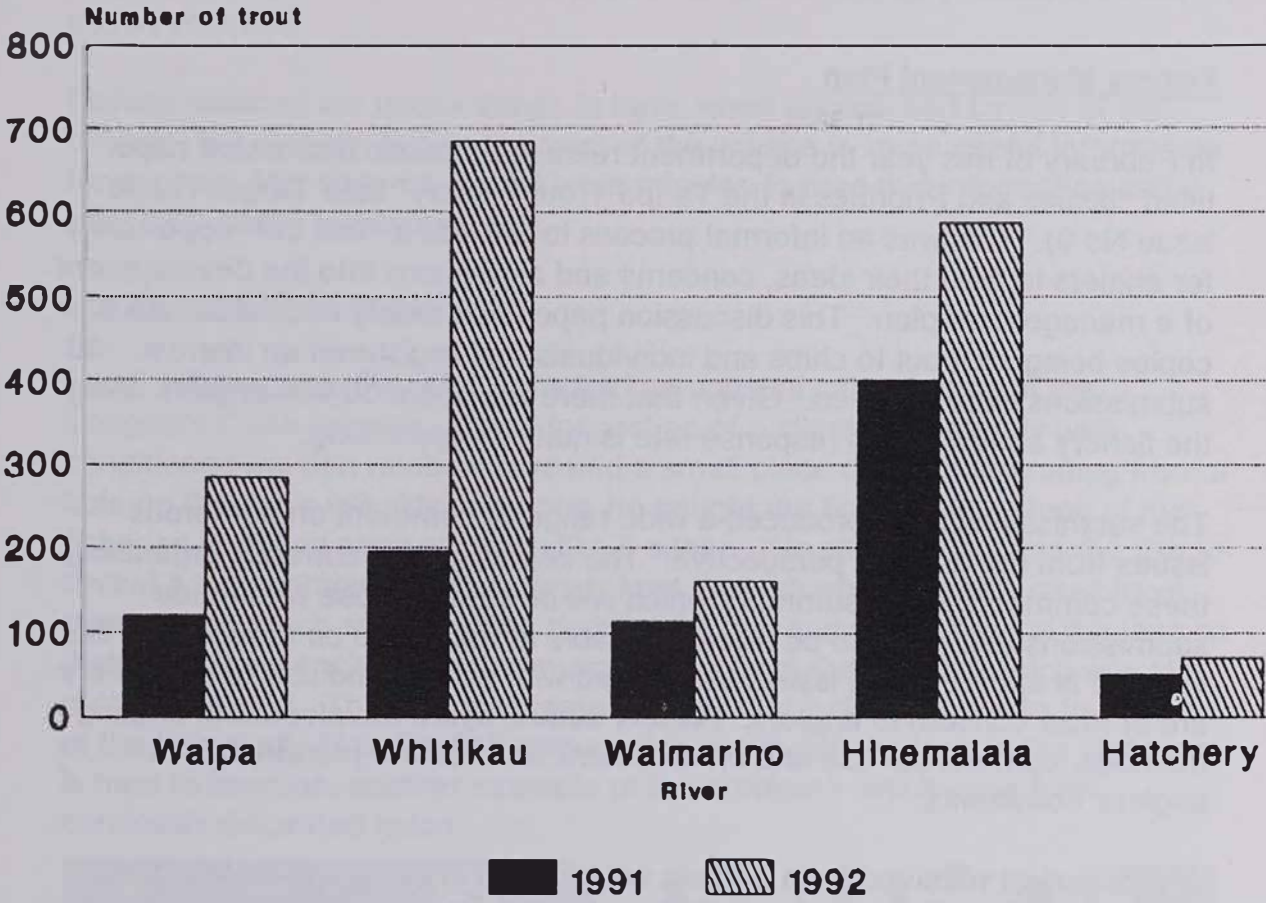
The foul day in June kept many people away but real anglers don't worry about a bit of weather and at 9 a.m. there was a queue of budding anglers - 50 went through in the first hour and then the TALTAC volunteers went home. Visitors kept coming however, and kept two remaining DOC staff busy for another three hours.

Whether the trout felt a bit deflated when everyone shot through or were also of the opinion that it was too wet for fishing nobody knows, but they certainly went all coy! It was good casting practice anyway

Staff wedding

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in February, fisheries staff member Glenn Maclean married Sue Lamberton on the banks of the Tongariro River. The ceremony occurred beside the Birch Pool at the National Trout Centre and then an hour or two was spent in the informal setting of the NTC grounds. The reception was held at Bridge Lodge and as you might guess the menu was dominated by wild game and trout. Sue and Glenn live in Taupo where Sue is a teacher at Wairakei Primary School.

JUNE TROUT COUNTS 1991 & 1992



Comparison between June 1991 and 1992 counts on several Taupo tributaries.



If we get this over quickly, we'll have time for the evening rise.

Fishery Management Plan

In February of this year the department released a public discussion paper titled "Issues and Priorities in the Taupo Trout Fishery" (see Target Taupo issue No 9). This was an informal process to provide a "first cut" opportunity for anglers to feed their ideas, concerns and aspirations into the development of a management plan. This discussion paper was widely circulated with 324 copies being sent out to clubs and individuals that registered an interest. 30 submissions were returned. Given that there are about 50,000 anglers using the fishery annually, this response rate is quite disappointing.

The submissions have produced a wide range of comment on numerous issues from the angler's perspective. The department is currently organising these comments into a summary which will be sent to those who made submissions and will also be freely available to the public on request. At this stage, it is apparent that issues associated with access and use of the fishery are of most concern to anglers. Fishery status, hydro development, angling methods, commercial use and enforcement also feature prominently in anglers' comments.

The comment received from anglers will be used in the preparation of the draft management plan. This document will also be released for public scrutiny and comment and it is anticipated that this will occur around August of this year. This will provide a further (and formal) opportunity for anglers to have a significant influence on the future management direction for their fishery.

Compliance Update

Winter has brought shift in emphasis from lake patrols to checking of vulnerable spawning streams which in the past have attracted poaching activity.

Information from the public is essential if we are to successfully combat illegal activity and we appreciate your continued assistance in this regard.

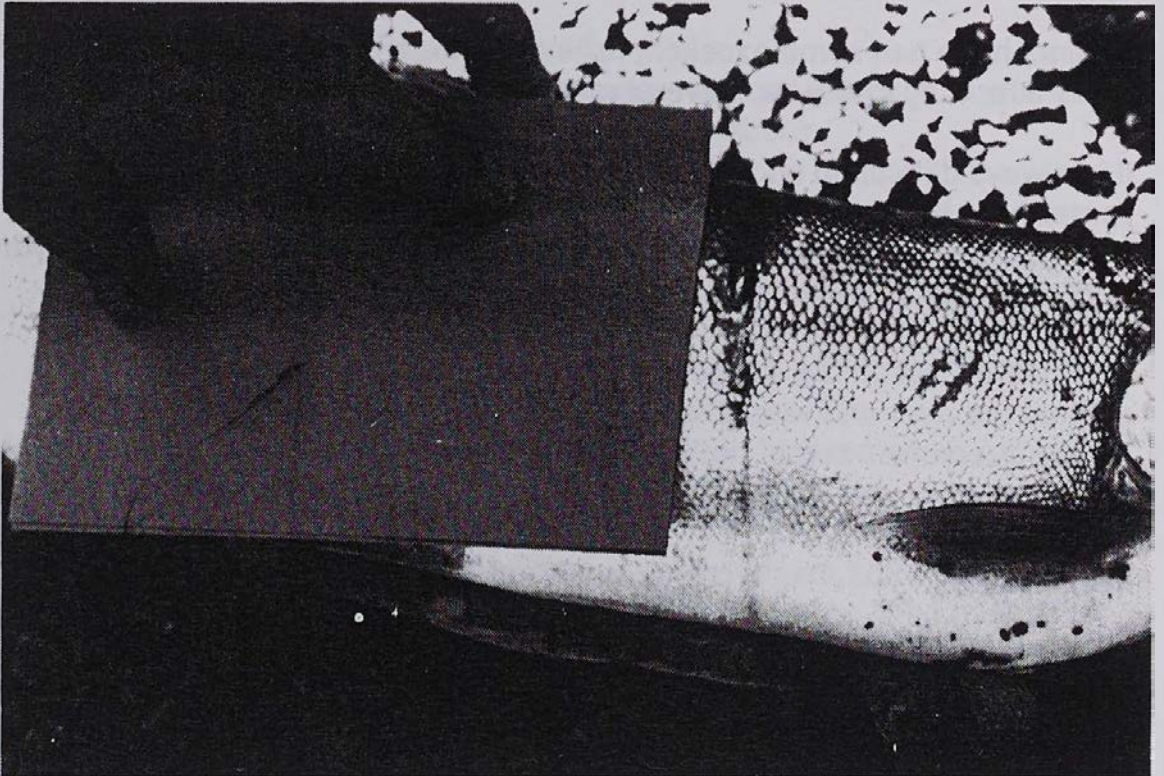
When noting any illegal activity it is helpful if vehicle registration numbers are recorded, number of people involved, type of activity taking place and location of activity. It is essential that this information be passed on to our office as quickly as possible. It can be quite frustrating to receive information on activities that happened a month before and then be asked "What are you going to do about it?" If you have any information regarding compliance and enforcement matters, please contact 386 8607. If after hours please be

prepared to receive a contact telephone number of the duty officer who will action your call.

Fishing licences are useful things to have when approached by one of our officers, but also printed on the front of the licence is some useful information for anglers. We suggest you take ten minutes to read this information and it may save some tense moments.

The dangers of discarded nylon

Local fishing guide Tim McCarthy had an unusual catch fishing at the Tongariro Delta recently. Close inspection of a client's apparently well conditioned maiden rainbow revealed a small piece of nylon protruding from a hole on the fish's left side. Curious, he bought the fish into us. None of the fisheries staff had seen anything like it either. We carefully cut into the fish to reveal a loop complete with a proper knot through which the fish must have swum when much smaller. The body of the fish had grown around the loop so that it was now enclosed in the muscle apart from the tag end which was still outside the skin. The loop was large enough that it did not cut into the viscera of the fish at all. How the fish managed to get inside the loop in the first place is hard to imagine, another example of the problems which arise from carelessly discarded nylon.



The monofilament loop removed from the fish. The scar to the right of the card indicates where the loop lay under the fish's skin.

New fishing regulations

There are two changes to the fishing regulations for the 1992/93 season.

A request from anglers to extend the upper winter fishing limit on the Tongariro River has been approved. From 1 July a further 500 metres of river from the Whitikau Pool to just above the Fence Pool is open all year round. The new limit is clearly marked with signs and landmark poles and is as far as an angler can walk upstream without wading across the Tongariro River. The only access to this stretch is along the riverbank and anglers should ensure they do not trespass on neighbouring Justice Department prison land.

The colour scheme for poles marking fishing limits and stream mouths has also been changed. The black and yellow ringed poles were sometimes hard to see but field trials showed including white on the poles made them much more visible without being too intrusive. The new poles will be erected later this year.

Brown trout run late

Anglers have had some excellent fishing for large brown trout in the Tongariro River over May and June, several months later than usual.

It is always difficult to know just how many large trout are taken but it seems somewhere between five and 10 fish of 13 to 15 lbs. have been caught recently. One angler is reported to have taken 40 brown trout from the hydro pool over May and June and another 50 from the Waitahanui river mouth.

The Hydro Pool on the Tongariro is by far the most productive brown trout pool on the river and when the word is out anglers descend on it in droves. It's not everyone's cup of tea but it does offer a reasonable opportunity to catch the otherwise elusive Taupo brown trout.

Licence fees

Fees for some licence classes have been increased for the 1992/93 season. An adult season licence will cost \$46.00 (against \$45.00 last year), a week licence is \$22.00 (\$21.50) and a child's day licence \$2.00 (\$1.60). All other prices are unchanged.

These fees are still extremely good value for money. The new season charges for most fish and game councils have yet to be decided (currently

\$50.00 for an adult season). A whole season licence in the neighbouring Eastern Fish and Game Council region will cost \$50.00 and a child's season licence will be \$10.00, against \$6.00 at Taupo.

All of the revenue from licence sales is returned directly to the fishery for its management. With the appointment of a new fishery scientist, essential research projects that had been postponed will now proceed and this will utilise a greater proportion of available finance.

Compliance and Enforcement - After hours contacts

Occasionally, people calling our Turangi after hours number to report fisheries offences have had some difficulty in making contact with a real people - as opposed to disembodied electronic answer machines.

Well we can't entirely re-humanise the process but we can go some way. In future people ringing the normal Conservancy office number after hours ((07) 386 8607), will receive a message advising them of the number of the current Turangi duty officer. A call to that number will put the caller in touch with the duty officer who in turn will take whatever action is necessary.

When reporting offences or suspicious activity, please call promptly. Some important details are:

-Provide a contact name, number or address so we can get back to you if needed. (NB - We guarantee your anonymity if desired).

-Provide a full description of:

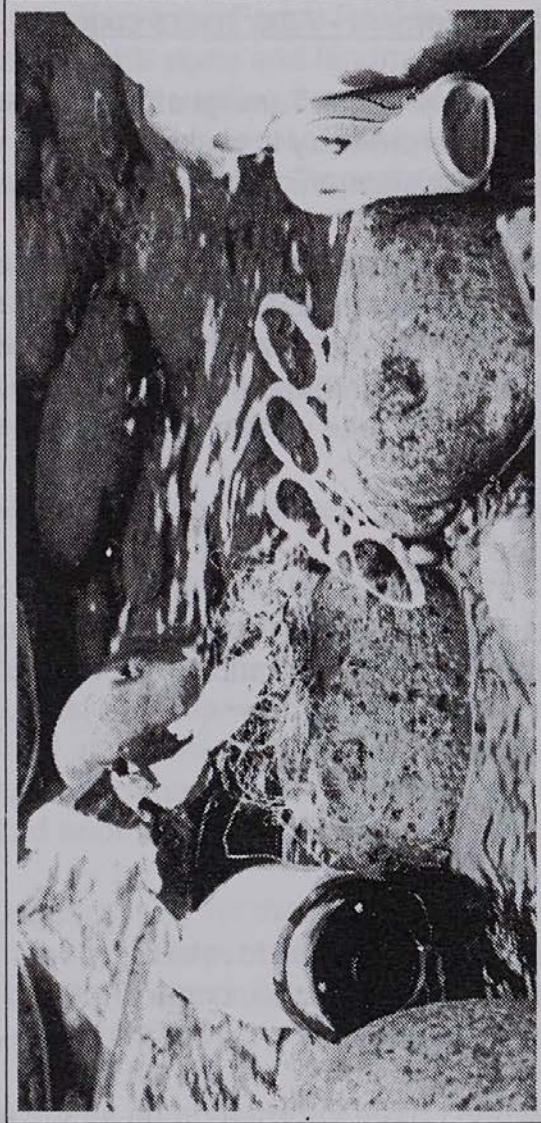
- events observed or known
- precise location
- time of occurrence
- descriptions of people involved
- descriptions of vehicles, boats or other relevant items
- registration numbers

-Don't worry if you don't have information on all the above items. However, details that may seem trivial or irrelevant on their own often fill in gaps in a larger picture.

Well over half the apprehensions for major fishery offences result from information received - most often from anglers. Your support and co-operation, especially a prompt response, is vital to protect your fishery.

IS THIS

ANYWAY TO TREAT A FRIEND?



Please take your tins, bottles, litter & nylon home!

9. FINDING YOUR WAY : LAKE TAUPO'S WESTERN BAYS

There are very few people who visit Lake Taupo's remote Western Bays who are not impressed by the splendour and tranquility of this area.

In the past, to visit involved a long slow launch trip, but the reward was invariably peace and solitude, wonderful fishing and perhaps even the opportunity to shoot a deer or wild pig on the beach. Today however the Western Bays are in the reach of far more people but it still retains much of its charm.

The Western Bays extends from Kinloch in the north round to Whareroa, just north of Kuratau. In between, the shore is characterised by sandy beaches which are set against a backdrop of native bush and sandwiched amongst sheer ignimbrite cliffs. These cliffs may be 100 metres high and fall straight into the lake.

The countryside on top of the escapement is mostly developed farmland but from the lake you are largely unaware of its existence. Instead the surrounding lake shore is clothed in regenerating native bush, a legacy of past fires. Only on the cliff edges do you occasionally see stands of the original Kanuka, Kowhai and podocarp forest.

Of particular note is a stand of black beech on the cliffs to the north east of Whanganui Bay. It has been suggested that this is a remnant stand of the forest before the last eruption of the lake and somehow survived the flows which smothered all other vegetation out to a distance of 80km around the lake.

The only way to access the majority of the Western Bays is by boat. Closest launching is from either Kinloch, Kuratau or Whareroa and with today's boats you can be anywhere in the bays within half an hour of leaving the ramp.

A word of caution though! If there is a strong wind getting up from an easterly quarter you should head for one of the very few safe anchorages or get right out of it. The many kilometres of sheer cliffs provide no sanctuary at all and while you can at least get ashore on the exposed beaches your boat is unlikely to survive the battering. When the lake level is high you can tuck a moderate sized boat inside the Waihaha, Waihora or Whanganui river mouths, but at low levels you will not get across the bar. One of our ex compliance officers can testify how hard it is to get an upside down boat off the shore - it makes for a very long walk.

If you are caught by an unexpected easterly and do need to seek shelter, look to get to boat harbour at the western end of Kawakawa Bay or inside the headland at the eastern end of Kawakawa Bay or to Cherry Bay, just around from Whanganui Bay.

Secondly, the lake can go from flat calm to metre high waves within 15 minutes. If you are in a small boat and see a dark black line coming across the surface of the lake it is time to run for home. A few years ago a boat was anchored against the shore at Waihaha, its passengers just settling down for their evening meal. One of our staff who was based there at the time saw such a change coming and suggested they might like to get off the beach. They less than politely told him to go away and 15 minutes later were upside down amongst the trees on the foreshore.

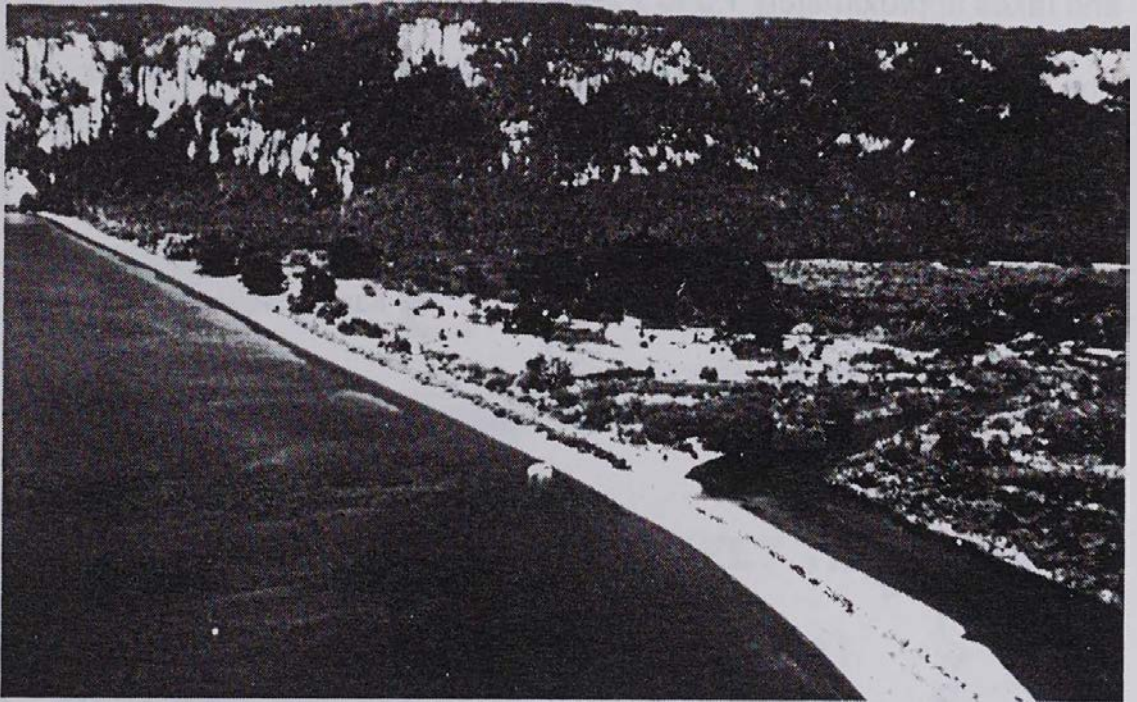
Thirdly, it is 16 miles across the lake from the eastern shore, much the same distance as Alderman Islands from the lower Coromandel coast. Very few of us consider travelling to the Aldermans except with a very favourable forecast yet exhibit no such caution about travelling to the Western Bays.

Shore based camping opportunities are limited in the Western Bays and most people sleep on their boats. However, campsites are available at Waihaha, on payment of a small fee to the owners. Camping permits for Waihaha can be obtained from Mr David Crystal on (07) 347 8515. Camping is also permitted on private land at Waihora, Cherry Bay and at the western end of Kawakawa Bay including boat harbour. Please respect the goodwill of the owners by not cutting any of the surrounding vegetation and take away all of your rubbish. All fires require a fire permit available from the DOC offices in Taupo or Turangi. Remember if a fire gets away in the surrounding scrub and bush it will burn very readily and the inaccessibility of most of the area will severely hamper our efforts to control it.

One of the attractions of this area is the excellent fishing which can be had. Deep trolling throughout the year is very successful round all the rocky headlands and the wide sandy shallow bays of Waihaha, Whanganui and Kawakawa provide some of the best harling on the whole lake during spring and summer. At this time of year 'smelting' trout can often be seen right in against the beach at Waihaha or Whanganui though catching them is often quite a different story. Perhaps best of all though is the fly fishing at any of the stream mouths in the area, the Whanganui, Waihaha or Waihora or any of the small streams entering into Kawakawa Bay. These stream mouths fish consistently right through the year, particularly at night, but really come into their own during spring and early summer. If you are lucky enough to fish one of the larger river mouths on a day when large schools of trout have followed

the smelt into the rip, you may well have one of your most memorable fishing experiences.

For those who don't have the opportunity to visit this area by boat there is very limited foot or vehicle access to Whanganui, Waihaha and Kawakawa Bays. To visit Whanganui Bay, take the private road through Whakarawa Station which turns off Western Bay access road (SH 32) approximately 33km from Turangi. Once past the sign at the gate follow the road which goes off to the right and then take the first left past the half round barn. We do not recommend taking the family car down this road. You must obtain a permit from the Whakarawa Maori Trust to use this road and permits are most easily obtained from either Waioranga Sports in Taupo or from Mr Joe Hepi who lives at Whanganui Bay.



Waihaha Bay

To get to Waihaha, stay on SH32 and take the first right (Waihaha Road) after you cross the Waihaha River. Situated one kilometre north of the Waihaha bridge, Waihaha Road is a metal road which you need to follow until you come to a wooden gate across the road. Go through the gate (please shut it after you) and follow the farm track. This track is suitable for cars but you will need to take it slowly in places. The track takes you to the edge of the farmland where many people park, or you can drive down the track in the reserve which only goes for another couple of hundred metres.

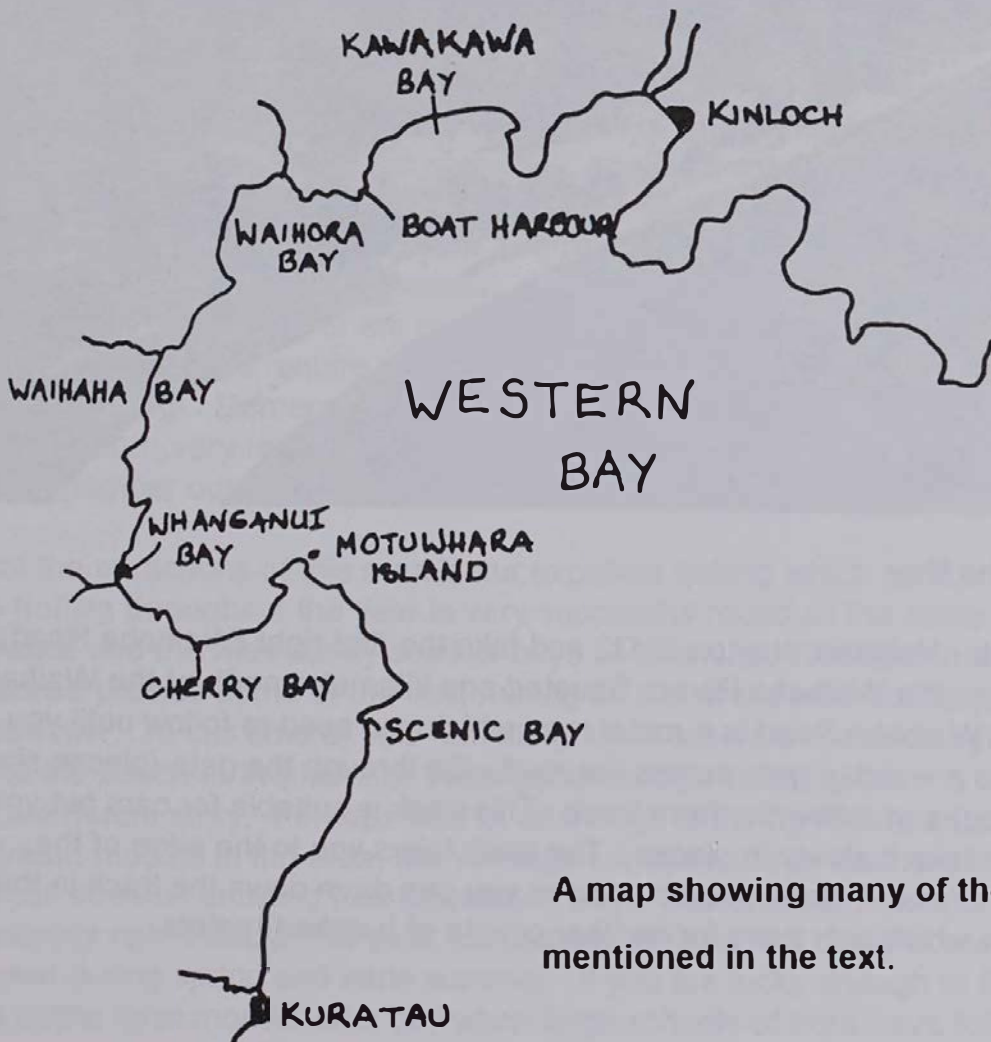
From here a steep walking track drops down to Waihaha. The track begins in the reserve but the majority is over private Maori land. Please respect their generosity by not picking or cutting any plants or dropping litter. In wet weather the track

gets very slippery so wear suitable footwear. The track will bring you out on the true left of the river mouth after approximately 15-20 minutes walk.

Remember if you wish to camp you will need to get a permit as discussed earlier. The camp ground is under the trees on the other side of the river and in high flows the river may well be waist deep though not swift flowing.

Kawakawa Bay is accessed by taking the track which starts at the Okaia Stream mouth in Whangamata Bay. This stream mouth is approximately 300 metres along the beach from the Kinloch shops. The track itself is 5.8km long and takes approximately 1.5 to 2 hours.

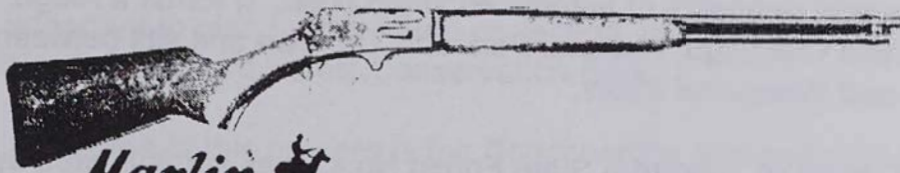
The Western Bays is a special place and well worth a visit. However, make sure you treat it with the care it deserves. Take all your rubbish home, don't cut the vegetation and please don't discharge your toilets into the lake.



A map showing many of the areas mentioned in the text.

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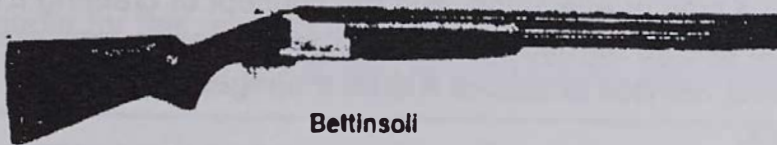


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10. TONGARIRO FOREST : TOWARDS A CONSERVATION PARK

Tongariro Forest consists of approximately 25,000 hectares of cut-over native bush, with several remnants of untouched virgin bush. It forms a rough triangle between Owhango, National Park and Taurewa and sits between the Whakapapa and Wanganui rivers.

Prior to 1987, most of Tongariro State Forest No 42 was administered by NZ Forest Service, with the adjacent farmed areas of crown land at Raurimu and Taurewa being administered by the Lands and Survey Department. Both these organisations were dissolved in 1987 and a number of new government organisations and enterprises were created, including the Department of Conservation.

Approximately 10 years ago the Forest Service commenced plans to clear-fell native bush and plant exotic trees on large areas of Tongariro State Forest. Mounting opposition from conservation-minded people both locally and nationally resulted in a stay of execution, and the concept of creating a Forest Park emerged. Local people formed an advisory committee to promote the concept and the Forest Service produced a draft management plan for the proposed Forest Park.

In 1987 the Forest Service was dissolved and the Department of Conservation took over the administration of the native forest areas. These areas became known as Tongariro Forest. Timberlands took over the areas of pine plantations, and Landcorp took over the two farmed areas Raurimu and Taurewa.

The Department of Conservation administers Tongariro Forest as a "stewardship area" under the Conservation Act 1987, and is working towards the creation of a Conservation Park. The latest step towards this goal was the recent survey of the Landcorp and Timberlands boundaries carried out by Department of Survey and Land Information (DOSLI). This was necessary so that the proposed park area could be legally defined. At present DOSLI are putting the finishing touches to the compiled plan of the boundaries.

When the survey data is complete we will be able to proceed with the gazettal of the new Tongariro Forest Conservation Park, an event long awaited by many people in the community. Many of our DOC staff members have also eagerly awaited this outcome which is now near at hand and in fact should be completed by the end of 1992.

The status of Conservation Park will make very little difference to the existing level of protection of the area. At present it is managed so that its natural and historic resources are protected. As a Conservation Park it will additionally be managed to facilitate public recreation and enjoyment, provided that the natural and historic resources are not compromised.

It is important to plan for the future protection, use and development of facilities in Tongariro Forest Conservation Park.

The first stage of this process is the Conservation Management Strategy, a document which is currently being put together to provide general guidelines for how all the land within Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy is managed. Public input is part of the process of putting together the CMS. The first round of public meetings was held in January, and further consultation will happen later this year.

The next stage will be the compiling of a Management Plan specifically for Tongariro Forest Conservation Park. This will set out the nuts and bolts of how we will manage the area to protect the natural and historic resources and provide for public recreation and enjoyment. Public consultation and input will be sought for this process also, and some likely issues will be vehicle access, endangered species protection, walking tracks, and concessionaire activity.

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11. MANAGER PROFILE

Dr Michel Dedual



Michel is based in Turangi and he is the Fisheries Scientist.

He gained his masters degree in Biology in 1983 from Fribourg, Switzerland. From 1986 to 1990 he completed a Ph.D thesis investigating the different effects of the management of a hydro-electric power station on the population dynamics of the nose carp (*Chondrostoma n.nasus*). These studies were carried out in Switzerland. The big move to New Zealand as a post doctoral fellow occurred in 1990 when he decided to study the reproductive physiology of blue maomao and sweep at the University of Auckland's Leigh Marine Biology laboratory.

To act as a counterbalance to the science, Michel enjoys fishing, wind surfing (when the lake is too rough for fishing), ice hockey, fine wines and food

TARGET TAUPO READER QUESTIONNAIRE

As a reader of Target Taupo you are invited to have an input into the type of information you would like to read about in the newsletter. By answering the few questions below you will also give us a clearer picture of how we can best circulate the newsletter to ensure that all who are, or might be interested, can get hold of it. Your contributions and comments are appreciated.

1. How did you get to read Target Taupo ?

- a. Subscriber
- b. Through your club
- c. Purchased from sports shop
- d. Other (please specify)

2. Is the newsletter useful to you as a hunter/angler or does it have just interest value ?

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4. General comments :

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