

Brown trout

Salmo trutta

Introduced

Sports fish

Native to Europe, brown trout were first introduced into New Zealand in the late 1860s, with many subsequent introductions since then. They are now present in lakes, rivers and streams across New Zealand below Auckland. Where conditions are suitable, brown trout are occasional to common in the Waikato. Like the rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brown trout require well-oxygenated water, small gravels and stable flows to spawn. The trout fry hatch from the redd (nest) and live in the side channels and backwaters of streams where the flows are more gentle.

Brown trout feed on a wide variety of aquatic arthropods including the native koura (*Paranephrops planifrons*), as well as small fish, and even frogs and mice. Adults can spawn annually and may live for up to ten years. In New Zealand, both the brown and rainbow trout fishery is managed by Fish and Game (DoC in the Taupō region). Brown trout are highly valued as sports fish with anglers occasionally catching specimens around the 800 millimetre mark, weighing approximately 5 kilograms. Fish up to 14 kilograms have been recorded.

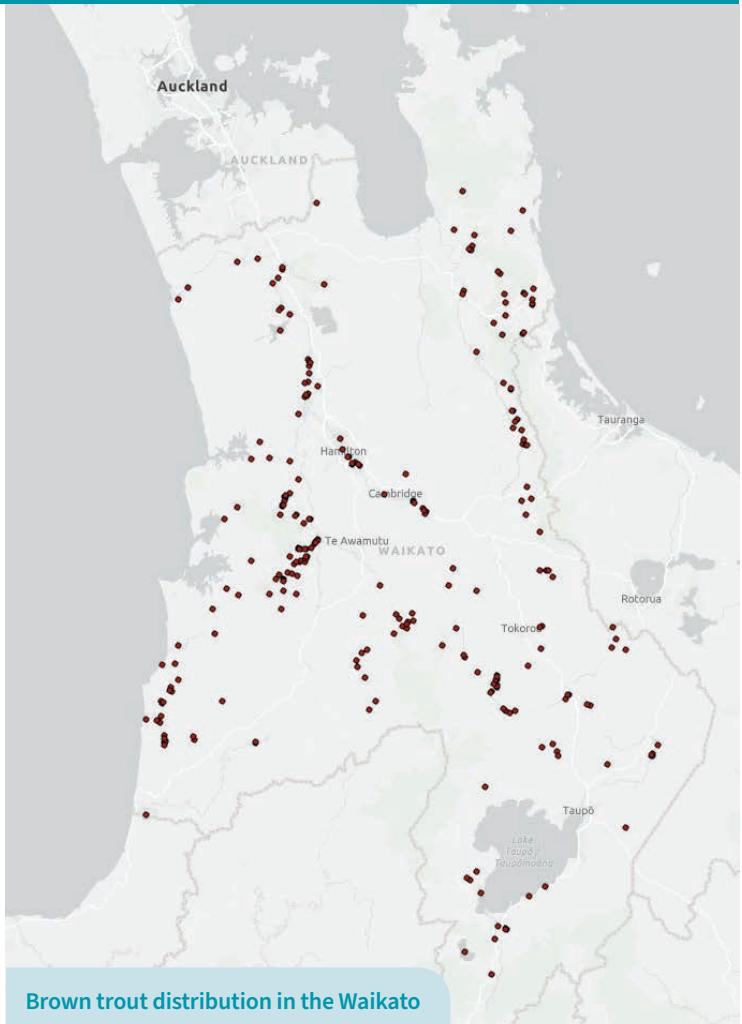


Photo: Bruno David



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