

Rainbow trout

Oncorhynchus mykiss

Introduced

Sports fish

Most known for its value as a sports fish, the rainbow trout was introduced in 1886. As sport fish they are managed by Fish & Game throughout NZ, except in the Taupō basin where they are managed by DoC. Their distribution is largely controlled by their need for cool, bouldery headwaters rich in oxygen; however, populations exist in many lakes and rivers within the Waikato region.

Rainbow trout feed on various aquatic insects, snails and crustaceans including the native koura (freshwater crayfish *Paranephrops planifrons*) as well as other fish, such as the native common bully and common smelt. Anglers commonly catch 600-millimetre rainbow trout weighing 2 to 3 kilograms; however, 4 to 5 kilogram fish are not uncommon.

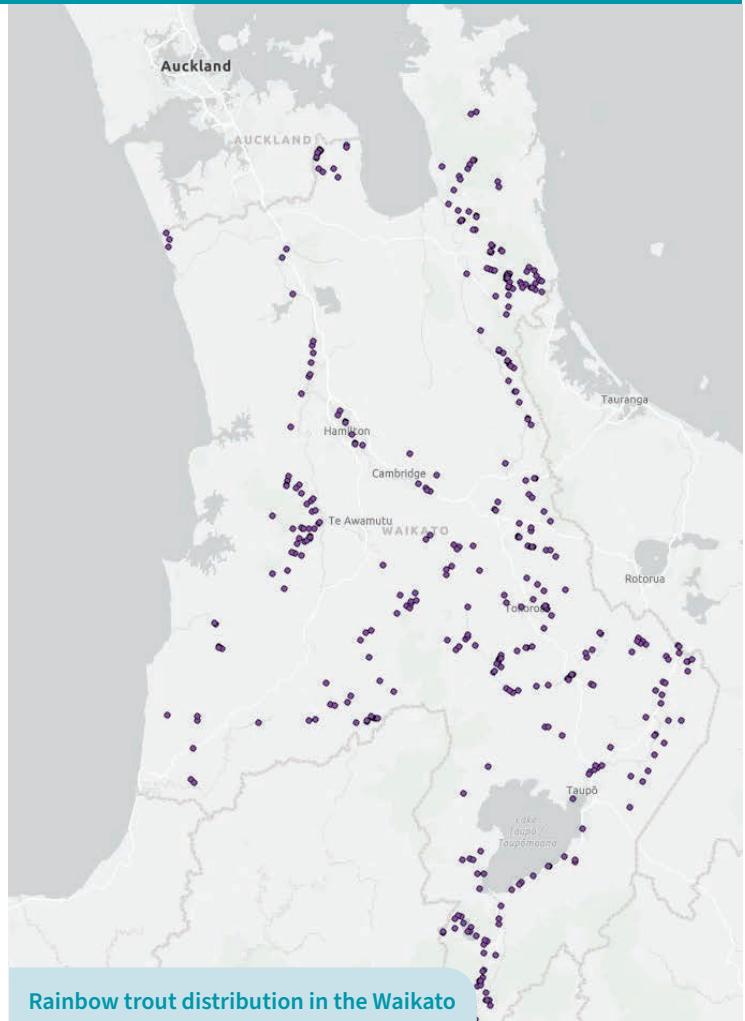


Photo: Josh Smith

He taiao mauriora ▲ Healthy environment

He hapori hihiri ▲ Vibrant communities

He ūhanga pakari ▲ Strong economy

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