

# LAKE ROTORUA AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Lake Rotorua is a large shallow lake with safe wading at all stream mouths. It has extensive public access, with boat ramps at Sulphur Point, Ngongotaha (2), Hamurana (2) and Hannah's Bay.

Both brown and rainbow trout can be caught anywhere in the lake, but rainbow predominate. Rotorua is fished heavily throughout the year and produces an amazing number of fish to both fly fishermen and trollers. Rainbows average around 1.5 to 2 kg, but many larger fish are taken. Browns of up to 6 kg are regularly caught, both trolling in the lake and fly fishing the streams and their mouths.

The lake is open to fishing all year round, but the tributaries are closed from 30 June to 1 December, with some exceptions:

Ngongotaha Stream open below SH5 bridge all year.

Waiteti Stream open below Hamurana Rd all year.

Utuhina Stream open below Devon St bridge all year.

Awahou Stream open below Hamurana Rd all year.

Hamurana Stream open below Hamurana Rd all year.

Trolling and spinning are allowed over the whole lake, with the exception of within 200 metres of the Awahou Stream mouth and the Ohau Channel entrance (these areas are fly fishing only). In addition, fishing from an unanchored boat within 200 metres of the Utuhina, Waiteti, Ngongotaha, and Hamurana Stream mouths is prohibited (i.e. fly and spin fishing only).

Spinning is now allowed in all open areas of the tributary streams, with the exception of the Ngongotaha Stream above the SH5 bridge, the Awahou Stream, and the Utuhina Stream between the Devon St and Pukehangi Rd bridges (fly fishing only in these areas)

**These regulations can change from year to year, so please refer to your Fishing Regulations booklet for up to date information.**

**For the boating angler**, both harling over weedbeds early morning and evening, and deeper trolling during the day, can be productive over all parts of the lake. All the usual harling flies are effective, including the various smelt patterns, Green Orbit, Woolly Buggers, etc. For trolling, generally use lures in the darker colours on dull days, brighter colours in bright sunny conditions.

During summer, lake water temperatures rise above the comfort level for trout, and large numbers of fish congregate near the stream mouths to find cooler, better oxygenated water. This can create excellent fly fishing, especially at the mouths of the spring-fed Awahou and Hamurana Streams, from December through to February. During the day smelt patterns, killer patterns, and nymphs all catch fish. At night, the dark marabou style streamers, pukeko patterns, and lumo flies all have their adherents. In general, rainbows will take lumo flies readily, but browns prefer the dark flies and pukeko patterns – but there are always exceptions! Fly sizes vary from 4 to 10, better small than too big. As the water being fished is not often any deeper

