Lake Rotoiti

Lake Rotoiti is a large and long lake with steep native forest covered bluffs along the North shore and pleasant sheltered bays on the South shore. The Ohau Channel enters Lake Rotoiti and the outlet is the Kaituna River. Lake Rotoiti covers 119km², average depth is 31m and the deepest part is 94m. Water

temperatures are 120 in winter to 220 in the summer. The lake is sheltered from the North and South but can get rough during strong West and East winds. Facilities include four boat ramps, car parking, toilets, hot springs and a variety of accommodation facilities.

Hishery

Lake Rotoiti produces quality rainbow trout that grow quickly to an average size of 2kg with many reaching 4kg or more. About 56% of the Lake Okataina catch is made up of fish that spent the first year of their life in the hatchery and the remaining 44% are fish from wild spawning.

The trout grow quickly on the abundant populations of smelt, bullies, koura and aquatic insects, such as dragon and damsel flys, until they reach 3-4 years and then spawn (breed) from May to September in the lake's tributaries and some shorelines. Some of the hatchery trout return to their release site in the winter shoreline fishing area.

Release Sites

Mature released trout often return to these sites and shoreline fishing opportunities are available there during July, August, and September when the rest of the lake is closed to all fishing.

Fish & Game New Zealand, Eastern Region, has produced an information sheet with maps of the winter shoreline areas. This is available from tackle retailers.

Boat Ramp Descriptions

<u>Delta</u> — wide single boat ramp, low gradient, sheltered good jetty and excellent parking.

<u>Otaramarae</u> - double boat ramp, low gradient, sheltered, good jetty, toilets and excellent parking

Gisborne Point - single boat ramp, sheltered good jetty and restricted parking

Hinehopu - single boat ramp and excellent parking. Exposed to strong West winds

Fishing Methods & Tackle

All popular and traditional lures and fly patterns successfully catch Rotoiti trout and your favourite ones will be successful. For up to date information and good advice see your local sports fishing tackle shop who also stock an information sheet produced by Fish & Game New Zealand, Eastern Region explaining how to use each angling method.

Fishing Method Calendar

Fly Fishing	Spinning	Jigging	Deep Trolling	Shallow Trolling	
×	×		:	X	October
×	×			×	November
×	Х	×	×	×	December
×	x	×	×	×	January
		×	×		February
×		×	×		March
X		×	×		April
×	×	×		×	May
×	×	×		×	June
×	×				July
×	×				August
×	×				September

Key Fishing Situations

October to January is when the main prey of trout, smelt, spawn in the shallow sandy shoreline areas. Trout are hungry after winter and spawning, and attack the shoals of smelt with vigour. Water temperatures are also ideal for trout to be in shallow water. Action can be found all day, but as water temperatures warm up, early morning and night become better.

January to March - higher water temperatures force trout into deeper water. Smelt and trout mainly stay around the thermocline depth at around 30m during the day and move close to the surface at night.

April to September is when trout spawn and gather in numbers at places like stream mouths and release sites within the winter shoreline fishing areas.

Fishing Regulations

Refer to your fishing regulation guide book for specific information regarding season lengths, bag limits, and fishing rules.

