

Rainbow trout

Oncorhynchus mykiss

Introduced

Sportsfish

Photo: Waikato Regional Council

Most commonly known for its value as a sports fish, rainbow trout were introduced in 1886. As sportfish they are managed by Fish & Game throughout NZ, the exception being the Taupo 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 region.

Rainbow trout feed on various aquatic insects, snails and crustaceans including the native koura (freshwater crayfish *Paraneohpops planifrons*) as well as other fish, such as the native common bully and common smelt. Anglers commonly catch trout 600mm long and 2-3kg in weight however 4-5kg fish are not uncommon.

