



Ūawa Catchment Working Group

Outstanding and Scheduled Waterbodies

15 October 2024

1. Introduction

The Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) includes a range of waterbodies that are ‘scheduled’ for particular values. Scheduled waterbodies have rules that require a more careful approach to activities around these waterbodies, where activities might impact on their values.

Currently the TRMP includes the following schedules:

- Regionally outstanding waterbodies
- Regionally significant wetlands
- Aquatic ecosystem waterbodies
- those with significant native freshwater fish values
- Habitats of threatened indigenous species
- Whitebait/inanga spawning sites
- Important habitats of trout
- Watercourses in land drainage schemes with ecological values,
- Significant swimming sites.

2. Outstanding Waterbodies within the Ūawa Catchment

During the development of the 2015 Regional Freshwater Plan, it was decided that the process of identification and evaluation of Regionally Outstanding Waterbodies would be undertaken through the catchment planning process. As a consequence there were no outstanding waterbodies identified in the Ūawa Catchment. Examples of outstanding waterbodies in the Waipaoa Catchment are Te Arai River (waterworks bush area above the water supply intake) and Lake Repongaere.

These waterbodies were identified via a “long list” that were then evaluated against criteria.

Any waterbodies suggested as being “outstanding” in the Ūawa catchment would also be evaluated against the same criteria.

A key question for the group is whether there are any potentially outstanding waterbodies that should be evaluated.

3. Regionally Significant Wetlands

There is one regionally significant wetland identified in the Ūawa catchment Plan area – the Nuhiti wetland in the Hikuwai Catchment. This is described as an unmodified high altitude wetland with high water quality and a very high degree of naturalness, surrounded by native vegetation.

4. Aquatic Ecosystem Waterbodies

Aquatic ecosystem waterbodies were identified based on the known information about native fish presence in 2014. Few studies of native fish prevalence have been undertaken in the Ūawa catchment plan area and as a consequence there are no aquatic ecosystem waterbodies for wider native fish values identified in the catchment. The Hikuwai River and the Maungahauini River/Stream were identified as being significant habitats of Longfin Eel – a nationally threatened species that has its stronghold in Tairāwhiti (see [Schedule G15B](#)).

Appendix 1 records recent eDNA results of ‘At risk’ species found at sites in the Ūawa catchment.

5. Whitebait Spawning Areas

One whitebait spawning area is scheduled in the TRMP – on the Ūawa River. It is important that these areas are protected from riparian disturbance during the spawning season and there are rules in the TRMP focussed on this.

If members of the group are aware of other locations for whitebait or other native fish spawning that can be identified and mapped, then these could be brought through into the updated Freshwater Plan.

6. Significant Recreation and Swimming Areas in the Ūawa Catchment Plan Area

As well as important ecological values, the schedules identify significant recreation and swimming areas in the catchment.

There are a range of locations in the catchment plan area identified as important recreation areas as follows:

- Anaura Bay – Hawai Stream at the campground
- Anaura Bay – Anaura Stream at the rivermouth
- Maungahauini River at the rivermouth
- Maungahauini River at Maungahauini Dam
- Waiotu Stream (Tokomaru Bay) at the footbridge
- Waitekeo Stream by Te Ariuru Marae
- Ūawa River at Hinekura Road

- Ūawa River at SH35 bridge
- Ūawa River by Tolaga Bay Area School.

Ensuring that swimming areas have safe water quality is a key part of developing the catchment plan.

The group is asked to consider:

Are the important swimming sites correctly identified?

Are there particular sites of greater importance for swimming?

Are there other recreation sites that should be identified – eg for waka ama or other boating use?

7. Other Features required by the NPSFM

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) requires Council to include a range of requirements around the identification and protection of wetlands, mahinga kai and wāhi tapu sites in our reviewed freshwater planning provisions.

The first requirement is for all wetlands in the region to be identified and mapped. Council has started this process by undertaking a desk-top study using LiDAR data to identify potential and likely wetlands across the region. This map has been provided to the group. The next step will be to undertake more detailed surveys and confirm the size, extent and type of each wetland.

Based on the work done to date in addition to identifying and protecting wetlands, it appears valuable to specifically pinpoint mahinga kai and wai tapu sites in the new Waipaoa Catchment Plan. This is important because there are specific environmental outcomes sought for these.

8. Next Steps

The Group is asked to review the scheduled areas outlined in this report and reflecting on:

- ***Are there any areas not mentioned from the schedules that should be assessed for potential inclusion?***
- ***Should there be specific scheduling for other types of areas connected to freshwater values?***

This information will be collated and shared with the wider plan development team who are reviewing the Schedules at the Regional Plan level.

Appendix 1 – eDNA results in the Ūawa catchment

River, Stream, or Lake	Fish Species present
Waihi	Longfin eel, Kōaro
Waima	Longfin eel, Bluegill bully
Mangamate	Longfin eel, Kōaro
Waitekeo	Longfin eel, Kōaro
Karoronui Stream	Longfin eel, Torrentfish, Kōaro, Īnanga
Waimanu Bridge	Longfin eel, Īnanga, Giant bully
eDNA Monkhouse site (Ūawa River)	Longfin eel, Īnanga, Giant bully
Mangaheia	Longfin eel, Īnanga, Bluegill bully, Giant bully
Kaitawa	Longfin eel, Īnanga, Giant bully
Mangakino Stream	Longfin eel, Kōaro, Īnanga, Bluegill bully
Makokomuka Stream	Longfin eel
Arero Road site	Longfin eel
Uawanui o Ruamatua	Longfin eel, Īnanga, Giant bully
Tolaga Wetlands	Īnanga

Table 1: Scientific and common name of species with classes as defined in the New Zealand Threat Classification System (NZCTS).

Category - Status	Species name	Common name
At Risk - Declining	<i>Anguilla dieffenbachii</i>	Longfin eel
At Risk - Declining	<i>Cheimarrichthys fosteri</i>	Torrentfish
At Risk - Declining	<i>Galaxias brevipinnis</i>	Kōaro
At Risk - Declining	<i>Galaxias maculatus</i>	Īnanga
At Risk - Declining	<i>Gobiomorphus hubbsi</i>	Bluegill bully
At Risk – Naturally Uncommon	<i>Gobiomorphus gobioides</i>	Giant bully