

# Angling Manners

Understanding fishing etiquette in the Taupo region



TAUPO FISHERY



## Angling manners on the lake

- Anglers trolling or harling may have up to 200 metres of line trailing behind their boat. Give them plenty of room before cutting across behind them or you may cut their lines.
- Try to 'go with the flow' which is usually to troll parallel to the shore rather than at right angles to everyone else.
- When you meet another boat head on, leave them room to manoeuvre. Skilled skippers will be trolling their lures close to the bottom and will be unable to turn into shallower water without snagging their lines.
- When parking your boat at a popular spot on the lake for jigging or flyfishing, give other boaties room to cast and fish. Avoid parking in popular trolling runs.
- The lake is a big place and many anglers value being able to get away on their own. Respect this and avoid fishing on top of other boats if possible.
- On still days sound travels a long way. If you want to make a lot of noise, get away on your own somewhere so you don't disturb everyone else.

Be aware that boats may have multiple lines up to 200 metres long trailing behind. In this photo the boat has a downrigger out on either side. Lines may not easily be seen (highlighted in this photo with circles). Photo: DOC



Try to troll parallel to other boats. Photo: DOC



Never cross this close behind another boat with trolling lines out or you will cut their lines. Photo: DOC

## Further information

A more comprehensive guide to fishing etiquette can be found in the book *Volcanic trout - A complete guide to fishing in the Taupo region*, Brendon Mathews, Longacre Press Ltd. 2003.

For more information on the Taupo fishery visit the DOC website: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

Other brochures also available from the Turangi office of the Department of Conservation:

- Hooked - Releasing trout so they survive.
- Trolling - Tips for boat fishing Lake Taupo
- Map of the Tongariro River showing pool names and angler access tracks

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Cover photo: Fishing the  
Tongariro River. Photo: DOC



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*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Good angling manners

### It is important to know and practice good manners

In many New Zealand trout fisheries it is still common to fish your chosen stretch of water without seeing another angler. If you arrive at your favourite fishing possie and it is already occupied, you simply move on to somewhere else.

However, in the Taupo fishery, things are a bit different in that there are usually many more anglers sharing the preferred fishing locations, especially on the popular rivers such as the Tongariro. In these situations, there is potential for conflict and therefore it is necessary for anglers to collectively adopt and implement a code of practise that allows everyone a reasonable opportunity to catch trout.

The code of practice, sometimes called 'angling etiquette' is a simple set of guidelines for generally agreed good behaviour when fishing. If you implement the simple set of rules outlined in this brochure, you will not upset other anglers and enjoy your Taupo fishing experience.

Very rarely do anglers set out to be unpleasant. Most arguments are simply a result of misunderstanding. For example, most anglers realise they should not crowd others. However, someone who is used to the hustle and bustle of inner city streets will have quite a different perception of what crowding is, compared to someone from rural New Zealand.

If anglers are patient and considerate towards each other then issues are invariably resolved amicably in a peaceful stream bank comradeship that typifies the Taupo fishery.

## Angling manners on rivers

- If you are fishing one of the smaller rivers and find that a pool is already occupied, leave the angler to it and move onto a quiet stretch.
- If you are fishing a major river with popular pools, such as the Tongariro:
  - ▶ Always enter the pool behind any angler already there. Wetfly anglers will move downstream so enter upstream them. Conversely, nymph anglers fishing with a floating line will be moving upstream so enter below.

- ▶ If the pool is full, wait on the bank until someone leaves or move on to a less crowded spot. Slotting into an overfull pool with people already waiting simply encourages those already fishing to stop moving as they are no keener to wait on the bank than you. There are 35 or so major pools on the Tongariro River. Our aerial counts over winter average 40 - 45 anglers at any time with 70 - 80 in busy periods and on the odd occasion over 100 anglers. Given the large numbers obvious around the highway bridge there is clearly always large areas of the river with relatively few people.
- ▶ If you are sharing a pool keep moving through it steadily. The accepted practice is to take a step every time you cast.
- ▶ Never push in on an occupied pool without at least the courtesy of asking those already present whether or not it is OK with them



Never push in on an occupied pool without at least the courtesy of asking those already present if it is OK with them. Photo: DOC

### In all cases, on rivers and streams:

- If an angler beside you hooks a fish leave them room to play it and allow them to return to their position after they have landed it.
- If you have hooked several fish in succession in one spot then move a few steps so that everyone else gets the same opportunity. Remember that on another day it may be you waiting to get a turn and wishing your neighbour would move on.
- Don't be so close to another angler that you restrict their casting.
- Occasionally an angler moving upstream nymph fishing will encounter a downstream angler wetfly fishing. Be patient and considerate and respect each other's preferred fishing method and you will be able to pass each other happily.



Above: If a popular pool is already crowded, either wait on the bank patiently until someone leaves or move to a quieter stretch of the river so everyone gets an opportunity to fish. Photos: DOC