

Fishing Locations in the Wairoa District



1. PUKENUI BEACH

This beach is approximately 5 km long and has no vehicle access other than that at Mahunga. While the sand is hard enough most of the time for 2WD vehicles, it should be considered a 4WD beach for safety reasons. Snapper can be caught by fishing the shellfish beds at the southern end. Big kahawai and in recent years, trevally, inhabit this beach alongside some very big rays. Shellfish, sanma, pilchards and fresh kahawai are the best baits.

2. MAUNGAWHIO LAGOON

This is a salt water lagoon, and a wade around at night with a good torch and a flounder spear will yield a good tasty breakfast. For those wishing to be more sporting about it, use a light line, small hooks and sweet corn for bait. Mix some of the corn with sand to act as berley. Find where the deeper channels are at low tide and fish these.



3. ORAKA BEACH

The Maungawhio Lagoon joins the sea at Oraka Beach, and surfcasting and spinning will catch the odd kahawai. Once again, on light tackle you can have quite a lot of fun for a while.

The small bays and beaches along this area provide all types of fishing. You can do a bit of

rock hopping if you like. Be careful though, as there are plenty of rocks and weed beds around to cause snag ups. There are many good spots for swimming and snorkelling as well as surfcasting. From mussels, paua and crayfish to blue cod, kahawai and snapper, this area caters for all tastes.

At **SNAPPER ROCK**, about 750m past the cray boat wharf, you'll come across a large flat area of grey rock. Fish in this area and with conditions right, you will find out why it earned its nickname. When the surface is wet it becomes very slippery so extreme caution should be exercised. Fish close to the rock as this is far more productive. As well as snapper, kahawai and kingfish can be taken. Kingfish size and numbers have increased in the last couple of years. Live baiting with mid-size kahawai is the most productive method. The fish come in so close that a cast with a popper can do the trick too. Small boats can be launched in some of the channels. This is also a very good spot for those with diving gear.

4. THE CACTUS

The road ends there, but driving along the beach is possible for some distance. There is good shore fishing along papa rock reefs and this is also a popular dive spot. Casting lures works, and some

very good snapper and kingfish have come from along here.

5. TABLE CAPE



Marine charts show very deep water close in to Table Cape. If the wind conditions permit, kit fishing or live baits under a balloon should produce startling results. A good place to fish with 15kg plus line weights.

6. MAHIA

The Mahia Peninsula offers good fishing in almost all conditions. The main advantage is that because of the structure of the peninsula, if conditions are bad on one side you need only go over to the other. Take the Wairoa to Gisborne section of SH2 and turn off at Nuhaka. Northeast of Mahia are well-known rocks such as the "Cabbage Patch" and other pinnacles which fish well for tarakihi and hapuku. Ashworth Helicopters suggest flying fishermen to outer Portland Island for rock fishing, which would be excellent. Northeast of Portland Island is Bull Rock, a well-known hapuku stronghold.

Table Cape, the outermost point on mainland Mahia, fishes well for snapper close in and at times large albacore and yellow fin out wide.

7. BULL ROCKS

This is easy to find as the rocks rise above the surface for 30m. This is a popular dive and fishing spot, but be aware that there can be strong rips at times. A good spot for pelagic such as kingfish and kahawai, and has the reputation as a groper spot. Bottom species such as tarakihi, blue cod and snapper are also caught here.

8. DINAHS BEACH



Drive down the Mahia East Coast Rd and turn off at Wainuiorangi Rd. This leads directly down to Dinah's Beach where permission must be sought to pass through a gate. During October/November some big sharks come very close to shore. A short wade and lob cast with half a kahawai or skippy bait is virtually certain to result in a big hook up. This is a spot for very heavy line classes and wire traces.

9. MAHIA BAY

This is an ideal spot for a bit of jigging. The seabed is quite clear of foul so just let the boat drift with the current. As with jigging anywhere, all sorts of fish will end up in the boat with you.

10. OPOUTAMA BEACH

Rather shallow and sandy, this beach is an excellent spot for swimming. However, on the fishing side, a number of large tuatua beds dot the area. These change position from time to time depending on winter and summer storms. Large rays and kahawai are the main inhabitants of the beach, but the occasional good size snapper is taken in the evenings.

At the southern end of Mahia Beach the launching area for the Mahia Game Fishing Club is located. The general public have use of the area as far as boat launching goes as long as trailers and vehicles are parked in a civilised manner. As it is a gentle shelving beach, larger boats will need a tractor to save bogging down your rig.

This ramp allows access to the western side of the peninsula for boat fishermen.

11. BLACKS BEACH



When driving from Nuhaka, Blacks Beach is the first sighting of the sea before reaching Oputama. A narrow winding road runs parallel to the beach and care is needed when choosing a parking spot. Snapper, kahawai, dogfish, trevally, cod, gurnard and the occasional moki are taken here.

12. BLUCKS PIT ROAD

Nine to ten kilometres north of Whakaki you'll come to Blucks Pit Road. Well signposted, this road leads almost to the beach, a short walk being required to get to the water. The same fish species are caught here as at Whakiki.

13. WHAKAKI BEACH

Immediately past the old Whakaki School can be found the turnoff to Whakaki Beach. The road off the highway is right on a blind bend so extreme caution is necessary. There's ample parking at the end of the short metal road. The best part about fishing Whakaki is that you can cast a line almost anywhere with a pretty good chance of success. It's not uncommon for 10kg plus snapper to be caught as well as all sizes right down to school snapper. Whakaki fishes better when the water is a little rough but still clean. Small boats can be launched when the sea is calm.

14. WHAKAKI LAGOON

About 20 km north of Wairoa, again on SH2, is located Whakaki Lagoon. When the lagoon is open to the sea, a crab or cray bait will catch you a large spotted dogfish or two. They are good scrappers and truly excellent eating if killed and filleted immediately after capture.



15. WAIROA

Spin fishing in the river mouth will turn up a few kahawai. Like most rivers, the best time for this is when the fish gather to feed on whitebait as they endeavour to make their upstream journey. From time to time kingfish will come to visit. This is not a bad sort of snapper if you use cray, pilchards, skipjack or travelly for bait.

During big runs of whitebait into the river, large snapper gather out from the mouth. If you can scrounge some smelt from the whitebaiters, tie half a dozen or so onto your hook and cast well out. Large chrome spinners or rattle poppers are the way to go when the kingfish are about.

16. WAIHUA BEACH



Approximately 22 km from Wairoa south on SH2 is located the small Waihua settlement. The turnoff to Waihua Beach is well signposted and is only a short drive over a shingle road of approximately 1 km. The seabed in front of the car park is very rocky and swallows sinkers. A walk of 750m either way will take you clear of most of the foul ground and into good fishing.

Snapper of all sizes are regularly caught as well as kahawai, dogfish, trevally, gurnard and blue moki. As with all the beaches in this area, any sort of southerly wind or swell quickly rules out fishing off the beaches.

17. MOHAKA NORTH

To reach Mohaka North the turnoff is just before the bridge. Follow the road to the parking area. A short walk takes you to the beach or to the northern side of the river mouth. The river mouth offers excellent spin fishing for kahawai, especially when the whitebait are about. The beach away from the mouth offers snapper, kahawai, dogfish, gurnard, trevally and at times those pesky paddle crabs. Most bait will do the trick. If the crabs are about, try a piece of squid or octopus and add a cork or float to your trace to try and keep it out of reach.

18. MOHAKA SOUTH



Drive over the bridge and the road will take you to the southern side of the river. The last part of the road runs close to and parallel with the beach. The best part about this side of the river is that your vehicle remains in view while you are fishing. The same bait is used and the same fish found here as over on the northern side.

A small word of warning here. Part of the way along, the road crosses a dry stream bed. It's dry while the weather is dry but if rain threatens, pack up smartly, for the stream very quickly becomes a torrent. You'll be stuck there until the water goes down, and that could be days.

During norwesterly winds, this is an excellent spot for kontiki or kite fishing. You need to get the baits out quickly passed the crab population.

19. WAIKARE



The Waikare Coast Road branches off SH2 at Putorino. About 12 km of metalled road takes you to a well-appointed car park area. Snapper of all size are caught with 9 kg plus being regular. The usual kahawai and gurnard are also taken, as well as large rays and at times sharks. Trevally and the occasional barracuda complete the picture. Best baits are shellfish, skipjack, whole pilchards and fresh kahawai.

20. LAKE TUTIRA

Lake Tutira is about 80.5 km from Wairoa. SH2 runs alongside the lake. It is a great picnic spot and the water holds good numbers of trout. The access road runs along the edge of the water, so in most cases it's but a few paces and you're fishing. Small boats are easily launched **but motorsof all types are banned**. It's wind or muscle power only. Spin and fly fishing work equally well, and the lure or fly of course depends on the season and what natural food is available at the time. Good standbys however are Mrs. Simpson red setter and small Hamills Killer in fly and black and gold toby or purple Tasmanian devil for those using lures.



21. ARAPAOANUI

The Arapaoanui Road is signposted at its intersection with SH2. The metalled winding road takes you to the beach in front of the Arapaoanui River. The beach in front of the river is sandy

with a lot of sinker hungry rocks and weed. About one to two hundred metres south of the mouth is clear, and snapper, kahawai, rays, gurnard and the occasional dogfish are caught. Go north on the walkway and you'll enjoy a mixture of beach and rock fishing. Stray lined whole pilchards work well off rocks and in channels, while shellfish on ledger rigs do the trick on the beach sections.

22. WAIPATIKI



Waipatiki now has a caravan/camping ground, so overnight fishing trips are a lot more comfortable. The beach is only a few hundred metres long and is steep, shelving sand. There are a couple of good easily spotted gutters running off the beach that are inhabited by snapper, gurnard, kahawai, trevally, blue moki and the odd barracouta. Because the rocks in the area hold good quantities of paua, mussels and other shellfish, this is the bait to use. The area between Waipatiki and Arapaoanui is a favourite haunt of the snorkel and wetsuit fraternity so if you've got yours, give it a go.

As with all beaches in this section, easterly or southerly conditions make it too rough for fishing. A good rule of thumb is, if from Napier you can see waves on the horizon, stay home or go somewhere else.

SOME ADVICE FOR FISHERMEN

Dogfish is a name applied to a number of small sharks found in the northeast Atlantic, Pacific, and Mediterranean.

The spiny dogfish is the most common shark in the western Atlantic. It is a small, slender shark with flattened head and a snout that tapers to a blunt tip. It averages 0.75cm to 0.90cm in length with the largest growing to 120 cm or more. It hunts both alone and in groups with other dogfish. It eats small fish, squid, and crustaceans, and has extremely strong jaws for crushing shells, with low, flat grinding teeth like the smooth dogfish, but also possesses an extra set of small, very sharp teeth. Records show that they can live from 25 to 30 years.

Care must be taken when handling dogfish due to the two venomous spines at the back of both dorsal fins. The venom is not likely to cause major damage, but the wound can take months to heal.

Bait Retailers:

Mahia Avenue Store
24 Mahia Avenue
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 8327

Nuhaka Stores
State Highway 2
Nuhaka
Tel: 06 837 8730

Wairoa Motorcycles Ltd
Carroll Street
Tel: 06 838 7454 or 06 838 6922
Cell: 0274 818 527
Fax: 06 838 7454

Deluxe Ford
Bridge Street
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 8374
Fax: 06 838 8372

New World
Queen Street
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 8019

Write Price Foodbarn
Paul Street
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 8588

Riverview Dairy
Marine Parade East
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 6500

Shell
Achilles Street
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 7768

Gasoline Alley
Cnr Paul & Lucknow Streets
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 3042

Fishing Equipment:

Wairoa Motorcycles Ltd
Carroll Street
Tel: 06 838 7454 or 06 838 6922
Cell: 0274 818 527
Fax: 06 838 7454

Estway Sports
Marine Parade
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 8677

Riverview Dairy
Marine Parade East
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 6500