

Lake Roto-otuauru (Lake Swan) – a biosecurity threat to the Pouto lakes

Lake Roto-otuauru is the only site of hornwort on the Pouto Peninsula. The lake is close to a number of other lakes and has a large source of invasive weed (both egeria and hornwort) which markedly increases the risk for other Pouto Lakes of weed invasion and loss of native plant biodiversity and habitat. It would take just one fragment with a viable bud to be transferred to infest another lake, such as adjacent Lake Humuhumu. This will not occur naturally, so containment could be achieved by controlling access to the lake (to prevent fragments being inadvertently or deliberately transferred) and / or by markedly reducing the weed abundance within the lake or ultimately eradicating it. A control programme using grass carp is currently being implemented by NRC, with grass carp being introduced in May 2009.

Lake Rotokawau (2008, not accessed 2009)

The lake was accessed at the north east corner in 2008 (2613645E 6599535N) and 2 scuba divers and 2 snorkelers searched the shoreline around this access point and along to the end of the bay 500 m to the south east. There was a thick band of egeria from 2 to 3 m water depth, but no new invasive weeds were found in 2008. The lake could not be accessed in 2009 due to maize plantings.

9. Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following:

NIWA: Aleki Taumoepeau for a huge amount of field work; John Clayton for pioneering the survey methods; Kerry Bodmin for wetland expertise, Mary de Winton for field work, charophyte expertise and lakes database work; and Tracey Edwards for LakeSPI processing data and guidance.

Northland Region Council: Lisa Forester for much organising and assistance in the field. Thanks to Lisa for her botanical assistance, enthusiasm, and intimate knowledge of the areas. Gail Townsend also assisted with shoreline botanical work on some lakes.

Department of Conservation: Andrew Townsend botanist assisted with shoreline botanical descriptions on some lakes.

Maureen Young, botanist, again gave freely of her time assisting with shoreline botanical descriptions and located some rare species.