

Te Hiku

Salt Lake (Aupouri), NRC Lake No. 48



Salt Lake showing the large beds of emergent raupo (*Typha orientalis*) surrounding open water.

Summary	Salt Lake Te Arai 6
Surveyed:	2005.
Overall ranking:	Low: Poor submerged vegetation, recent vegetation clearance.
Threats:	Already appears to be nutrient enriched. No pest species but low value habitat.
Management recommendations:	No monitoring.

Description

Salt Lake (1602314E, 6159583N) is 2.2 ha in area with a maximum recorded depth of 1.5 m. It is situated in a pasture catchment, with a surrounding fringe of wetland, much of which was recently drained. There are no inflow streams but the lake discharges into the Tauwhia Stream via a wetland

at the southern end of the lake. This stream flows to the East Coast. Access is off the Onepū Block Road through approximately 500 m of private farmland. Boat access is difficult.

Wetland vegetation

Tall (2.5 m) *Typha orientalis* dominated the emergent vegetation and occupied 50% of the lake area to a depth of 0.5 m, although rhizome mats had rafted over water 1 m deep in some areas. At one site *Baumea articulata* and *Eleocharis sphacelata* were also present. The wetland on the northern lake boundary was of similar composition to the emergent vegetation with additional cabbage trees (*Cordyline australis*), and mat-forming *Persicaria decipiens*, *Ranunculus amphitrichus* and the exotic *Ludwigia palustris*.

Submerged vegetation

A sparse submerged vegetation was present at one of the three profiles with low covers of *Potamogeton ochreatus* (0.5 to 1 m deep) and *Nitella* sp. aff. *cristata* (0.5 m deep).

LakeSPI

No LakeSPI score generates as vegetation cover <10%.

Water birds

The dense raupo vegetation provides good shelter for water birds. Paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) were the only species seen during the field visit. No rare species were reported in previous surveys.

Fish

No fish were observed.

Aquatic invertebrates

Backswimmers (*Sigara arguta*) were common.

Changes in indicators

Not previously surveyed. It appears that much of the wetland and scrub vegetation described in the 1991 DoC SSBI report has been cleared, some relatively recently.

Threats

No pest species present, but low habitat value. Drainage and clearance of surrounding native vegetation, especially wetland, further reduces value.

Management recommendations

No monitoring.