

Te Hiku

Taeore (Aupouri), NRC Lake No. 38



Taeore, ephemeral lake with shallow water in 2016 (left), but dry in 2010 (right).

Summary	Taeore
Surveyed:	2010 and 2016.
Overall ranking:	Moderate: Ephemeral lake, dried up in 2010, filled in 2016. No submerged vegetation but supporting a range of rare annual species when dewatered. Emergent vegetation extensive, forming a complete buffer from the surrounding pasture catchment.
Threats:	Further decline in water table would reduce the habitat value. Invasive species are unlikely to be introduced or establish in this lake.
Management recommendations:	No monitoring.

Description

Taeore (2512332E, 6725132N) is a shallow basin of 14.7 ha area. The catchment is in farmland with a wetland margin. There are no inlets or outlets. Access is through private farmland by permission only.

Wetland vegetation

The lake basin was surrounded by raupo (*Typha orientalis*), *Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*, *Machaerina articulata* and *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*. Other indigenous wetland species seen included *Cotula coronopifolia*, *Persicaria decipiens*, *Eleocharis acuta*, *Cyperus ustulatus*, *Isolepis prolifera*, *Elatine gratioloides* and *Myriophyllum propinquum*. The annual herbs *Fimbristylis velata* (northern most record in NZ), *Alternanthera nahui* and *Centipeda aotearoana* were common on the lake margins. These annual species and the introduced *Ludwigia palustris* and seedling raupo occupied the dry lakebed in 2010.

Submerged vegetation

In 2016, the lake basin was covered in a maximum of 0.4 m of water. The water was turbid, and brown stained with no submerged vegetation seen.

LakeSPI

No LakeSPI score could be generated.

Water birds

A large number of Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) and mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were noted on Lake Taeore in 2016. Indigenous birds included grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*), shoveler (*Anas rhynchotis*) and dabchick (*Poliiocephalus rufopectus*).

Fish

Desiccated eels were seen in 2010.

Aquatic invertebrates

Desiccated mussels were seen in 2010.

Endangered species

A pair of the Nationally Critically Endangered grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and Nationally Vulnerable dabchick (*Poliiocephalus rufopectus*) were seen in 2016. The northernmost population of the At-Risk Naturally Uncommon sedge *Fimbristylis velata* was also recorded.

Lake Ecological Value

The 2016 Lake Ecological Value rating is 7 (Moderate). There was no submerged vegetation recorded with poor water quality. However, good emergent vegetation was present.

Threats

A lowering water table is the main threat to this lake and many other Northland lakes and wetlands.

Management recommendations

No monitoring.