

North of Dargaville

Waipoua Lagoon South (Waipoua) NRC Lake No. 201



Figure 3-10: Waipoua Lagoon South. Photo taken from the southern end (Photo: Lisa Forester, NRC 3 May 2018).

Summary

Surveyed 2018 (reconnaissance only).

Overall ranking

Moderate to Low: A narrow lagoon, situated at the seaward end of an unnamed stream, formed by dune encroachment at the outlet. A mostly native submerged vegetation, in water up to 1 m deep.

Threats

Low risk of pest plant introduction due to difficult access along the beach from the Waipoua River, and a large wetland bounding much of the upstream area. The lower catchment is mostly open dune, with moderate risk of increased nutrient loading dependent on forestry and pasture management in the upper catchment of the stream.

Management recommendations

No monitoring.

Description

A small (0.63 ha) lagoon (1645020E, 6050455N) with a 30 m wide channel extending for around 250 m. The maximum depth was approximately 2 m. The seaward end of the catchment was open spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*) and pampas (*Cortaderia selloana*) dominated duneland. The upper catchment of the unnamed stream was around 25% pine plantation forest, with the remainder a combination of pasture, scrub and wetland vegetation. Access is via 4-WD on forestry roads, then driving along the beach.

Wetland vegetation

Waipoua Lagoon South had a narrow (1 m) fringe of emergent oioi (*Apodasmia similis*), with localised *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*, raupo (*Typha orientalis*), spike sedge (*Eleocharis acuta*) and *Persicaria decipiens*.

Submerged vegetation

Submerged vegetation was primarily native with *Ruppia polycarpa*, *Myriophyllum propinquum* and the introduced swamp lily (*Ottelia ovalifolia*) all with maximum covers > 5%. Lower covers of *Potamogeton ochreatus*, *P. cheesemanii*, *Nitella* sp. aff. *crinata* and the invasive *Utricularia gibba* were recorded. The normally short growing turf plant *Lilaeopsis novae-zelandiae* grew to 0.3 m tall in scattered areas. The water was turbid, and visibility was poor, estimated to be ~0.8 m.

Water birds

None recorded.

Fish

Inanga (*Galaxias maculatus*) were observed in the lagoon, with the stream currently discharging to the Tasman Sea in a wide shallow channel.

Aquatic invertebrates

None noted.

Endangered species

Inanga (*Galaxias maculatus*) are considered to be At-Risk Declining with a large national population > 100 000 mature individuals, but a predicted decline of 10–70% (Goodman et al. 2014).

Lake Ecological Value

Waipoua Lagoon South ecological value rating is assessed as “5 – moderate to low”, a small water body. Derived from a stream draining pasture and forestry, it is formed by mobile dune obstruction of the outlet. Mainly native vegetation, but with limited habitat and a population of the at-risk inanga.

Threats

There is a very low risk of pest plant introduction due to difficult access. Catchment activities in the pasture and forestry areas could include either nutrient enrichment or pest species introduction, but impacts are likely to be buffered by the large wetland bounding much of the upstream area.

Management recommendations

No regular monitoring is recommended.