

Sportsfish Licences

Trout, salmon and perch are all legally classified as sportsfish and a licence is required to fish for them. In most circumstances persons apprehended fishing without a licence will be prosecuted. Licence outlets are established in all main centres and most smaller settlements, however visitors may find it convenient to purchase their licence via the internet. Visit www.fishandgame.org.nz for easy purchase options.

Access

If you are wanting further information about access you can visit www.fishandgame.org.nz for more Fish and Game access points along with other useful information. If you're looking to get off the beaten track by not fishing one of our access points and are unsure if you have legal access, www.walkingaccess.govt.nz is the site to visit. The New Zealand Walking Access Commission maps outdoor access, provides information to the public, oversees a code of responsible conduct, helps to resolve disputes and negotiates new access.



Regulations

Please consult the West Coast section in the South Island Sportsfishing Regulation Guide for up to date information on the regulations. These booklets are issued free with every fishing licence issued. If you require this booklet, visit any sports store or other agent displaying the Fish & Game sign for a free copy.



WEST COAST

Sports Fisheries

WEST COAST REGION

Airport Drive

P.O. Box 179

Hokitika

New Zealand

Telephone 03 755 8546

Fax 03 755 6540

Email: westcoast@fishandgame.org.nz

Website: www.fishandgame.org.nz

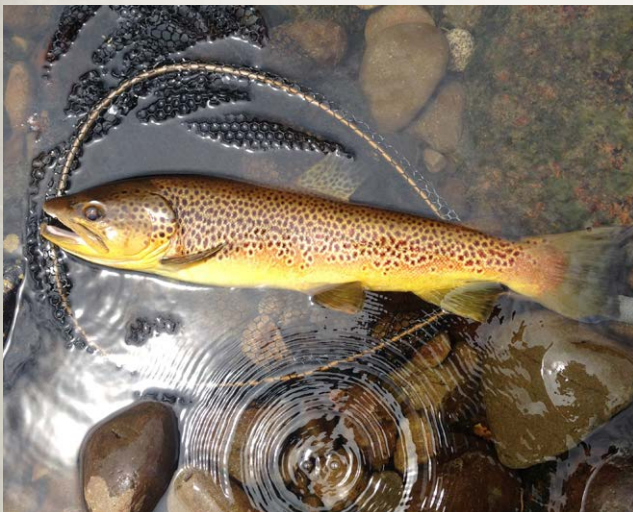


Introduction

The West Coast Fish and Game Region extends from Kahurangi point, north of Karamea, to Awarua point south of Haast. In between lies some 2m hectares, much of it in wilderness. With the pressures of modern life, increasing numbers of anglers rate isolation, peace and solitude almost as highly as the opportunity to fish for wild trout. On the 'Coast these attributes exist in abundance along with a surprising diversity of angling opportunity.

While the Region offers abundant opportunities for specialist methods such as fly fishing for sighted trout, there are also excellent prospects for novice or intending anglers using bait or spinning gear.

Brown trout and Salmon occupy a diverse range of habitats between the mountains and the sea including lakes, rivers, spring fed river tributaries and estuaries. With almost 90% of the Region in public ownership barriers to access for anglers are, for the most part, dictated only by climate and terrain. In the case of waterways with private land adjoining, where there is no marked access please ask at the nearest farm house.



The information in this pamphlet is limited to more popular or accessible waters. It is presented on the basis that from an angling perspective a feature of the Region is the opportunity for visitors to create their own special experience. From a management perspective Fish & Game deliberately avoids directing anglers to many of the more sensitive fisheries. This is because to over promote such places would be to threaten the very attributes that make them special - a lack of other anglers. Accordingly, to get the most out of a fishing trip to the 'Coast visitors are recommended to acquire the range of West Coast topographical maps and a willingness to explore new places. For

a full list, and GPS locations, of Angler Access points please visit www.fishandgame.org.nz

Fishing techniques

Many of the rivers mentioned support trout populations that fluctuate depending on the time of year. The usual pattern is for the lower reaches of the major rivers to carry more fish in spring and early summer, after which trout move upstream to occupy mid-headwater habitats. Smaller streams generally fish best in early season before water temperatures increase and trout become active for shorter periods. Evening fishing is usually best in mid to late summer when insect hatches peak. Sea Run Salmon turn up in the regions lakes and rivers from January with numbers peaking in March. River fishing and trolling in South Westland lakes is popular.

Spinning

Spin anglers are advised to use light line (3kg max.) and small (7g) lures where circumstances permit, especially in clear water and during low flows. Popular colours are green and gold, black and gold, black, and white or silver near river mouths.

Bait fishing

Bait fishing is permitted in all waters. Smelt and large bullies are often very effective in tidal areas.

Fly fishing

A range of nymph sizes and weights is recommended depending on the water. Heavy hare and copper, stonefly or similar bead head patterns are useful for deeper headwater pools and riffles, while size 12-16 is necessary for spring fed streams and side braids where a more delicate presentation is required. Good streamer patterns for estuary fishing include Parsons Glory, Grey Ghost and Yellow Dorothy. After dark try Red Shadow, Black Hairy Dog or Dark Hopes Silvery. Commonly used dry flies include Deer Hair, Mole Fly or a similar good floater for big water, Adams, Khaki Queen, coachman or Blue Dun for smaller water. As always fly size and presentation are the keys to success.

Boat fishing

A popular method for trout and salmon in lakes. In South Westland lakes deeper trolling is recommended for both trout and salmon when surface temperatures are warm. A down rigger or 4-6 colours of leadline is useful. For salmon large zed-spinners in silver, yellow or white are a popular choice. For trout a toby type lure in black or green and gold is commonly used. Harling a large streamer type lure over shallow weed beds can bring success, especially in low light conditions.

10 quick tips for boat fishing success

1. First familiarise yourself with the intended fishing area.
2. Drop offs, river and stream deltas and edges are usually prime areas.
3. Abrupt changes in lake bed shape such as holes or pinnacles tend to concentrate fish.
4. Use a sounder or land marks to stay at the chosen depth and to plan ahead your trolling path.
5. Match trace length and weight to water clarity. Generally the clearer the water the longer and lighter the trace.
6. The best strike zone is within 2m of the bottom.
7. Vary trolling speed and direction.
8. When a trout is hooked, slow the boat and only stop when the fish is under control.
9. Re-fish areas where trout have been hooked as lake fish often congregate around food sources.
10. Lead line or downriggers improve success rates when targeting Salmon in lakes.



CENTRAL WESTLAND

Lake Brunner is the region's most popular angling destination but the area surrounding it is also building an angling reputation. The lower Grey River and tributaries contain some of the region's most accessible and productive trout fisheries.

Kapitea/Kumara Reservoir

Turn off SHWY 73 at Dillmanstown to reach lower lake. Continue along Goldsbrough Road and take first turn left to get to upper lake. Wading possible around shallow margins but dinghy is best. Trout typically ½kg to 1kg but numerous. Good summer evening hatches. Careful spinning with light gear is recommended as is dry fly fishing.

Taramakau

Good access for most of its length off SH 73. Brown trout are resident throughout, some rainbows are present in upper section. Salmon from January to April. The stretch of river between Jacksons and Kumara is ideal for quick stops.



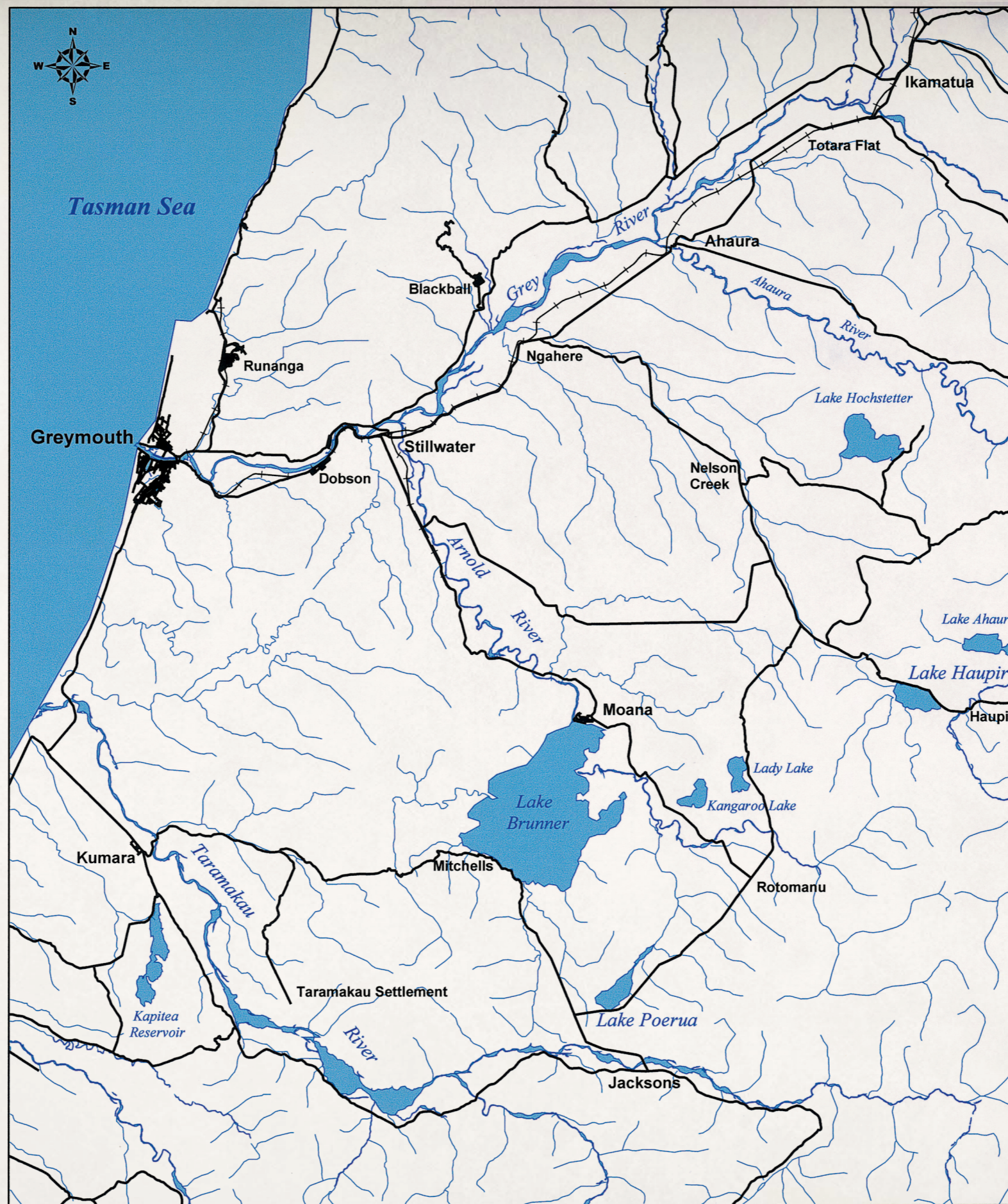
Arnold River

The Arnold exits Lake Brunner before joining the Grey River 15kms from Greymouth at Stillwater. It holds a high population of medium sized brown trout and is usually fishable in all but extreme flows.

Access: Watch closely for signs at marked access points along the Arnold Valley Rd. between Stillwater and Moana.

- Kokiri Bridge adjacent to the freezing works. Access is available up and downstream.
- Old Arnold Road between the Arnold River and Arnold Valley Rd. Two access locations are marked along this road.
- Upstream of Arnold Creek (signposted).
- Below the Arnold Dam.
- Aratika, sign posted on the gate. Contact R.L. or D.M. Milne on 03 738 0038
- Arnold River Bridge near Aratika. Fish either up or downstream
- Kotoku; Turn off the road following the true right of Molloy Creek.
- Moana Footbridge at the outlet of Lake Brunner.

Methods: The Arnold is popular with fly anglers especially during the prolific evening hatches of Oct/Nov and March/April. Fly fishing is favoured but all methods are successful.



Lower Grey River

Excellent access is available to the Lower Grey from roads on both sides up to Ikamatua. Popular access points are Greymouth, Omoto Racecourse, Taylorville, Stillwater Bridge, Matai, Blackball, Ahaura, Totara Flat and Ikamatua. Where the river does not run alongside the road, permission must be obtained from landowners. Please respect property, fasten gates and leave no litter.

Methods: Spin fishing is popular all along the mid and lower Grey River. Bait fishing is also productive in the lower river, but is best early in the season up to late November. Fly fishing is best in the evening when trout often rise to hatches at dusk. Fly fishing with nymphs can be productive during the day, particularly in shallow riffles.

Lake Brunner

Located 25km from Greymouth. Follow SH 7 to Stillwater then turn off on to the Arnold Valley Rd to Moana. Lake Brunner holds brown trout averaging 1.1kgs and is the most popular angling water in the Region.

Foot Access is available at:

- Moana across the Arnold River foot bridge.
- Iveagh Bay, past Moana off onto Cashmere Bay Rd.
- Mitchells, a 38km drive from Moana to the South end of the Lake. Foot access is available to Carew Bay and Bain Bay via track starting at boat ramp.
- Boat Launching facilities are available at Moana, Iveagh Bay and Mitchells.

Methods: Successful trolling can be had along the margins of Lake Brunner, mainly from the foot of Te Kinga Hill through to Clematis Bay. Trolling near the outlet during summer is popular. Fly fishing from shore at the lake outlet during early morning or late evening, or at the mouth of Crooked and Hohonu Rivers during the day for cruising fish works well. Fly fishing from boat over the shallow weed beds between Orangipuku and Te Kinga is recommended. The best spinning is at the lake outlet or along the western shore where the water is a little deeper.



Lake Poerua

Lake Poerua is a 24km drive from Moana or 8km from the turn off at Jacksons SH 73. Brown trout average 1.8 kgs and are normally well conditioned.

Access: There is only one access point for the launching of small boats. Foot access is available to the right of the boat ramp along the lake edge.

Methods: Trolling and harling is successful over most of the lake. Fly fishing is productive but a boat is a definite advantage. Popular locations are near the narrow neck half way down the lake and around shallow margins.

Lake Haupiri

Haupiri contains brown trout and is located 42km from Greymouth. Follow SH7 to Ngahere, turn right onto Nelson Creek Rd.

Access: Foot access is limited by a forested margin and a boat is recommended. Launching ramp is located towards the eastern end of the lake.

Methods: Fly fishing off the mouths of the few small feeder streams located on the southern side of the lake is the most successful, followed by general trolling.

BULLER - NORTH WESTLAND

Kohakahi River

Access from road end at the beginning of Heaphy track. Trout not abundant and confined to the tidal lagoon and a few hundred metres above swing bridge. Spinning, fly and bait possible.

Karamea/Mokihinui area

Access: Lower reaches of the Karamea River up to the gorge may be accessed via farm land on either side of river but please leave gates as you find them. North River mouth access available via Karamea Holiday Park or South from Flagstaff Rd. Mid river reaches accessible from the Karamea gorge walking route.

Little Wanganui River offers good fishing from the Wangapeka valley or Blue duck. (5th bank)

Please ask landowners permission for access. Mouth accessible from Little Wanganui Hotel (Nth. bank) or via the subdivision Rd. Upper catchments of these rivers are truly wild and scenic and difficult to reach. Please note that to fish the upper catchments of the Karamea and Mokihinui rivers you will require a backcountry licence. Please refer to the website for more information.

Methods: Larger holes and runs in mid - lower sections of these rivers are more suited to spin fishing although during normal flows great opportunities for spotting feeding fish, particularly early morning /evening. Mid - late summer 'blind' dry fly fishing can also be rewarding.

Waimangaroa and Wharatea Rivers

Both accessible from S/H 67 downstream to tidal zone which provides the best opportunity for spin fishers.

Deadmans creek

Access via Utopia Rd. A moderate sized creek fishable in the tidal zone and a few hundred metres above the road bridge. Spinning and lure fishing to trout around half a kilo.

Ngakawanui River

Is crossed by S/H 67 bridge just upstream of mouth. Fishable from here upstream to entrance of gorge. Best during whitebait season, mainly spinning.

Oronahi River

Access from S/H 67 bridge. Small tidal river with mudflats, best fished on incoming tide.

Okari River

Small river with moderate population of browns in tidal zone. Best accessible by boat.

Buller River

The Buller enters the sea at Westport after its long journey from the Nelson Lakes.

Upstream of Lyell the river lies within the Nelson / Marlborough Fish and Game Region. Good numbers of medium sized brown trout are plentiful in the early to mid part of the season and sea-runners inhabit lower reaches before migrating up river later.

Access: True Right (Westport town side): Easy access is available from the picnic area at the bridge and above to the domain area. Good access is also possible from Reedy's Road which is the only turnout at the end of Victoria Rd. Alternatively, turn left off Victoria Road to Te Kuha.

True Left: The Buller River is easily accessible for many kilometres off the adjacent SH 6.

Methods: Bait and spin fishing are the preferred methods in the larger holes and runs, but fly fishing can also be productive especially at evening when trout often feed near the surface on hatching nymphs. Side braids, shallow runs and the edges may be fished with a heavier nymph such as Hares Ear or a large stonefly imitation. The Buller near Westport is popular, with good sea run trout regularly taken during the spring as they enter the river during whitebait season. Spin fishers do best with a bully or smelt imitation, although standard patterns such as the silver slice and toby can also be effective. Large wet (streamer type) flies such as Parson's Glory, Hopes Silvery, Dorothy and Grey Ghost can be effective in the right conditions, especially at night.

Big Totara River

Access from S/H 6 bridge or the lower reaches by road North of Mitchells gold mine. Not a lot of fish but very scenic. Fly fishing best above the bridge, spinning below.

Nile (Waitakere) River

Accessible from S/H 6 bridge downstream 1 km to mouth, and upstream via river bed to Awakari confluence and above. Fly and spinning both successful. Nymph or dry fly work well further up, particularly large cicada imitations during mid-late summer.

Onikanni River

Scenic bouldery bush clad Buller tributary accessible from S/H 6. Suitable both spinning and fly fishing in lower reaches, dry or nymph from about 1 hour's walk upstream. Recommended that at least a full day be set aside to fish this river.

Fox, Pororari and Punakaiki River

Access from S/H 6 bridges. Neither hold high trout numbers but very scenic above the bridge in limestone gorges. Fishable with fly and spinning gear.



Upper Ahaura and Haupiri Rivers

The Haupiri and Ahaura Rivers both carry populations of medium to large trout, although numbers are typically fewer in the upper reaches. The best fishing in the Ahaura River is from the Nancy River confluence downstream. In the Haupiri River fish density is highest in the first few kilometres downstream of the lake outlet. The upper Ahaura is rough and best suited to the fit angler.

Access: Turn off the Greymouth - Reefton highway at Ngahere, travel through Nelson Creek and on to Kopara (sign-posted). The Haupiri River is crossed 1km past Lake Haupiri. Further on this road leads to the upper Ahaura and tributaries such as the Trent and Waiheke.

Travellers on this route also have the opportunity to fish the Haupiri River. To gain access to the upper reaches of the Haupiri River, the landowner must be contacted in advance. Upper Haupiri River, Gloria Vale Christian Community Ph 03 738 0224.

Methods: These waters are influenced by heavy floods and fish numbers vary, however the mid - Haupiri normally supports good trout numbers and the upper Ahaura consistently produces good sized fish.

Mawheraiti River (Little Grey River)

This is a Grey tributary joining at Ikamatua (between Greymouth and Reefton). The Mawheraiti is a smallish tea coloured stream usually holding good numbers of medium sized trout.

Access: Available from the Atarau road bridge or where SH 7 crosses the Mawheraiti River. Where the river does not run alongside the road, permission must be obtained from adjacent landowners.

Methods: Nymph and dry fly both work well here. Spinning is effective during freshes, particularly in lower reaches.

HOKITIKA AREA

Hokitika River

Easy access is available in the lower reaches which usually hold 1-2kg browns and sea-runners in early season. Some sea-run salmon arrive between January and April. The middle reaches are accessible off Kokatahi Road which leads through Kowhitirangi to the Hokitika Gorge. Rainbows are present in the upper reaches and in the Whitcombe tributary. 1-2 hour's walk from the road end. Accessible mid section tributaries include Kokatahi, Styx and Toaroha River.

Rough River

The Rough also enters the Grey River near Ikamatua and provides challenging fishing for predominantly large brown trout.

Access: The lower reaches are accessed from the Atarau Road Bridge and the upper reaches via Mirfins Road on the true left. Access to the river may also be gained via the old sawmill.

Methods: Water is usually very clear and best suited to dry fly and nymph techniques for fish that become more wary as the season progresses.

Inangahua River

The Inangahua River flows through forest and farmland to the Buller River near the Inangahua settlement. It is a medium to large river, generally clear with a slight brown tinge during freshes. The Inangahua contains a very good population of trout, mainly small to medium sized but many larger fish in late season.

Access: Angling is most popular in the middle reaches, both above and below Reefton. Above Reefton, SH7 follows close to the true right of the river and there are many locations where easy access off the side of the road is available. Although there are medium sized fish in the upper section they are usually outnumbered by smaller trout. Access downstream of Reefton is more difficult, although landowners are helpful if asked and 'Anglers Access' signs are located in places where access has been negotiated. Brazils, O'Grady, Golf links and the Perseverance Road provide easy access roads directly to the River. The Landing Bridge is another and following the Larry or Waitahu rivers down to the confluence also provides quick access.

Methods: All methods work well, with spinning the most popular when the river is high. The mid-section around the Stony confluence is most suited to a heavy nymph fished

Murray and Harris Creeks

Smaller spring fed streams accessible from Kokatahi/Kowhitirangi Rd. Permission from adjacent landowners essential. Brown trout between 1-3kg are typical. This is a popular fishery close to a population centre so catch and release is requested.

Mahinapua Creek

Enters the Hokitika near the mouth on south side. The best access is via Golf Links Road. Turn hard right over Mahinapua Creek Bridge and follow dirt road to confluence. Good early season tidal water for sea-run browns, especially when main river is in flood. Large perch inhabit the creek above tidal reach.

La Fontaine

A delightful spring fed tributary of the Wanganui River. Access is available at various points off La Fontaine Road (turn off at Harihari). The upper section is accessible off Petersons Rd. If in doubt about access ask at nearest farmhouse. An abundance of brown trout around 1 to 3 kg but for inexperienced anglers can be challenging.

Waitangi-Taona

A medium sized river, which flows crystal clear in normal conditions. Good trout numbers in the lower section which is easily accessible from the Lower Whataroa Flat Rd. Turn off at Whataroa and follow signs to 'White Heron Sanctuary Tours' boat launching ramp. Approximately 4 to 5km of good water are available above and below this point.

Okarito River

Contains a resident brown trout population and sea-run salmon from December to April. Access is difficult due to the forest terrain and steep river gradient but try near the source (Lake Mapourika outlet) and near Zalas Creek (Power house) confluence, 15mins drive from Franz Josef.

Okarito Lagoon

Is only accessible by boat but offers excellent trolling and margin fishing. The lake offers good estuarine habitat for brown trout and chinook salmon. Flounders and mullet are also plentiful. Navigating the lagoon channels can be difficult, seek local advice.

Lake Mapourika

Mapourika is fringed by SH 6, 10km north of Franz Josef, and is a productive brown trout and quinnat salmon fishery. Lake resident salmon (1-3kg) are available October to March, sea run salmon can be expected from January to the end of March.

Access: A boat ramp is located at Jetty Bay. Foot access is limited to McDonalds Creek mouth and off SH 6 at various obvious points. Please note that McDonalds creek is closed to angling year-round.

Methods: In calm conditions (generally early morning and evening) large brown trout are easily spotted cruising lake margins. Spinning for cruising browns can be successful but wet fly fishing is best. Deep water trolling is most productive for salmon along the western fringe south of the lake near the outlet, off the entrance to Jetty Bay where the main boat ramp is located, or off the roadside edge from Jetty Bay to the mouth of Redjacks Creek. Popular sites are off the mouth of McDonalds Creek and by boat, in areas referred to above. Because most fish are hooked close to the bottom, a slow retrieve is recommended. Refer to regulations for season details.

near the edges. A large dry fly in any popular pattern will often produce a fish from the deeper runs.

Waitahu River

This is the largest of the Inangahua River tributaries approximately 4.5km north of Reefton. The Waitahu provides opportunities for spotting and stalking trout in a particularly scenic setting.

Access: The main access is along Gannons Road off S/H 69. A 4WD is advisable beyond the bridge at the end of the tar seal and the track maintains good contact with the true right bank enabling easy access upstream for 9-10 kms. For the more active a walk further up to the Montgomerie is recommended. The Waitahu holds good sized fish throughout, while the Montgomerie is a mid-sized tributary offering excellent headwater angling prospects.

Methods: Some spin fishing is possible in the larger pools following freshes but high water clarity during summer means it is more suited to the fly fisher. Heavy nymph in deeper runs most effective, but don't overlook the fish in seemingly impossibly deep holes. They can sometimes be tempted to rise.

Larrys (Awarau) River

Another tributary of the Inangahua located approximately 15km north of Reefton along SH69. The Awarau supports good numbers of medium to large trout and some of 'trophy' size.

Access: Turn right off SH69 onto a forestry road. If you prefer to fish upstream drive to picnic area at the road end. Continue by foot along a track that eventually leads back to the river. For downstream fishers access is available directly in front of the picnic area or from the SH69 bridge.

Methods:

As for the Waitahu River, fishing is good all season-but as the season progresses so does the required skill level.

Lake Mahinapua Turn off SH 6 at Mahinapua Hotel 12km south of Hokitika. Perch up to 1kg abound in the lake and outlet creek, providing excellent angling for kids. Brown trout are present but are seldom caught before hooking a perch.

Access: Boat launching available at Shanghai Bay. Foot access is limited to the foreshore at the bay or part way around the Lake Mahinapua walkway.

Methods: A boat is necessary to fish the lake successfully. Soft bait jigging or bright spinners work best for perch. Fishing from the shore is limited to the jetty and a small beach behind the Girl Guides Hall. The weedy margins make shore angling difficult but good fishing on deep side of weed beds.

Manakiauna River

Lower reaches accessible via Hunts Beach Rd. Typical tidal habitat for brown trout with sea runners available early season.

Mahitahi River

Good access up and downstream from S/H 6 bridge, and mouth within easy walking distance from Bruce Bay settlement.

Paringa River

A few good holes within reasonable distance downstream of S/H 6 but jet boat recommended for lower reaches and river mouth. Upper river above Otoko confluence offers clear water stalking opportunities.

Lake Paringa

Adjacent to SH6 south of Fox Glacier. Paringa is well stocked with 1 to 2 kg brown trout. The lake resident salmon population is smaller than in Mapourika, but sea-run salmon appear from January on.

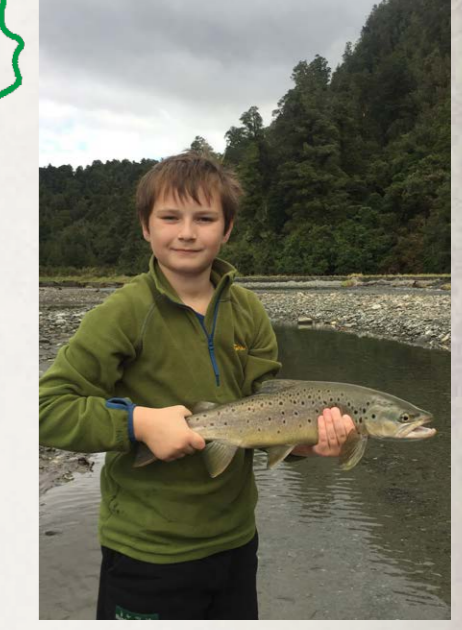
Access: Boat ramp at Jamie Creek camping area. Foot access is limited to the area around from the mouth of Jamie Creek.

Methods: The shallow margins suit wet fly fishing (#6-8 Mrs Simpson or similar) or light lures for spinning. Small bullies are the primary food source although trout will take an unweighted nymph and often rise freely to a large dry fly. Salmon are taken mostly off the mouth of the Windbag Stream. Lead line is generally used to reach sea-run fish down deep. For salmon white or silver lures are recommended or black/green and gold when the water is discoloured.



WEST COAST FISH & GAME REGION

KEY	
TOWNS	●
MAIN HIGHWAYS	—
RIVERS	—
LAKES	—
FISH & GAME BOUNDARY	—



Windbag Stream

Flows close to S/H for several kilometres before entering Lake Paringa. Nice water but can be difficult to wade in parts due to deep holes and fallen trees.

Lake Moeraki

As with Paringa a boat is useful, but lake-edge fishing is available at various points adjacent to S/H 6 and, in low conditions, around the Northern margin. Good fishing for cruising browns with wet (bully) imitation most successful.

Moeraki River

Nice water for a kilometre or two above lake confluence however mid-reaches, although accessible at various points, are quite unstable and often hold few fish. Upper reaches accessible via Haast / Paringa cattle track starting near Moeraki bluffs.

Haast River

Flows adjacent to S/H 6 for much of its length. During normal flows stable side braids and backwaters in the mid - headwater reaches often hold good fish and the tidal portion provides interesting early season opportunities for sea run browns. In a good salmon year both the Haast and Landsborough Rivers provide viable opportunities.

Okuru, Turnbull and Hapuka Rivers

All exit to the sea usually through a common mouth near Okuru settlement off the Jackson Bay Rd. The estuary and tidal reaches support good numbers of trout up until December, and the lower - mid reaches of both Turnbull and Okuru provide good fishing later. Both are accessible from public roads but upper reaches are definitely walking country.

Waiatoto / Arawhata

Both big rivers requiring a minor expedition to access upper reaches. Arawhata tidal reaches accessible from Neils Beach off Jackson Bay Rd, or to reach lower Waiatoto section turn hard right off southern end of Main Rd. bridge.

Jackson River

An Arawhata tributary easily accessible in many places off the Haast Cascade Rd. Turn left off Sth. end of Arawhata Bridge. Fish numbers vary but most likely looking reaches are worth a look, particularly if the Arawhata is running high.

Lake Ellery

The only practical access is by boat up the lake outlet creek from Arawhata / Cascade road. Very scenic lake populated by small / medium sized browns. Methods as for Paringa and Moeraki.

Cascade catchment

The road stops at Martyr homestead where permission should be sought to access downstream reaches. The lower river supports large numbers of trout in the early part of the season, fish that are widely distributed throughout the catchment by late summer. A boat is essential for the lower river, while much legwork and difficult river crossings can be expected in the rest of the catchment.

SOUTH WESTLAND

South Westland Rivers

Part of the appeal of South Westland is its 'wildness', which while providing for scenic values, often makes access to good fishing challenging. The following information barely scratches the surface of what is available. However, for visitors it is a quick guide to some of the more accessible waters. Anglers intending to fish back country rivers are recommended to get information on impending weather conditions from DoC offices at Haast, Franz and Fox Glacier.

Mikonui River

The lower reaches are best for the casual angler. Easy access can be gained to the tidal portion of Mikonui from SH6 Bridge. Upper reaches are accessible by taking first right turn Nth. of Ross. This road also gives access to Totara River gorge.

Waitaha River

The section of river from the bridge down 2-3 km to the mouth is best. Turn west at the north end of bridge on S/H 6. Good sized trout may be expected, also salmon from January - April.

Lake Ianthe

Lake Ianthe is south of Ross on SH 6 near Pukekura and is an excellent brown trout fishery. This lake produces beautifully marked fish up to 2.5 kg.

Access: A boat ramp is available off SH6 at southern end of the lake. A forested margin generally prevents foot access.

Methods: Proliferous weed beds make deep trolling difficult near the edges, but harling with a feathered lure is a popular method. The deeper water is suitable for trolling a spinning lure with light nylon. Fly casting to cruising fish under the bush fringed margin is a good method in suitable conditions. Watch for subtle rises near the weed beds and fish an unweighted nymph, otherwise bully imitation fished wet.

Wanganui River

The lower reaches are best with access via Wanganui Flat Road. (turn off at Harihari) Brown trout are common in early season and some salmon appear from January. To access upper river take road to quarry off North end of S/H 6 bridge.

Poerna River.

The best water is downstream of SH 6. Peterson Road (turn off at Harihari) follows the lower river giving access to tidal water, a short walk from road end. River mouth often provides good fishing for sea-run browns, and in some years, salmon.