

Bait Fishing

- Bait fishing is restricted to one bait assembly, which is one hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks.
- Upstream from the marker poles, located 1km upstream from the mouth, anglers must cast from and retrieve by winding onto the reel.
- Bait fishing is not permitted upstream from Turn Again Point.

SAFETY

Your personal safety is your responsibility. The Rangitata is a big river. Fishing at the mouth, particularly from the beach, is not without risk from waves washing onto shore; keep an eagle eye out when angling within the wash zone.

Upstream the river channels can be deceptive - when crossing braids choose your crossing site carefully, usually the wide part of the riffle just upstream from a chute offers the safest crossing point.

Don't take unnecessary risks; if you feel unsafe back off - your partners and friends will always forgive you if you come back without a fish.

FLOW INFORMATION

Environment Canterbury operate an automated flow recorder at the Gorge. Flow information can be obtained from this site by telephoning 0900 748 37 (charges apply) or on the ECan website: www.ecan.govt.nz. The website also provides headwater rainfall useful for predicting flow changes.

ABOUT THE RANGITATA

Sourced in the Southern Alps, the Rangitata River has an average flow of 101 cumecs.

The Rangitata offers some of the best salmon fishing in New Zealand. Fish average around 6.5 - 8kg with a maximum of 16kg.

The salmon season sets in about mid November although some returning adults have been caught as early as late October. Fishing at the mouth and river downstream from the State Highway 1 Bridge predominates the early to mid season (Nov - mid Feb) while above State Highway 1 angling is better from February onward.

Water clarity influences angling success. Northwest winds during November, December and early January often bring heavy rainstorms to the Southern Alps with the result that the river may be rendered dirty and unfishable for a few days. To provide some guidance this occurs when the flow in the river at the Gorge exceeds about 125 cumecs. Best fishing often occurs when the water is slightly coloured and the flow is in the range 80 - 110 cumecs. Due to abstraction by the Rangitata Diversion Race this flow equates to 50-80 cumecs at State Highway 1.

The Rangitata also supports good stocks of rainbow and brown trout. Sea run browns occur in the Rangitata estuarine area during October - December. Both species are available in numbers above the Gorge and the rainbow trout fishery is very under-rated.

ACCESS ETIQUETTE

- No dogs
- No guns
- No camping
- Leave gates as you find them
- Stay within the river margins
- Do not litter
- Respect private property
- Avoid disturbing stock or damaging crops
- Do not park vehicles in gateways
- Be courteous to local landowners and others

Remember the reputation of **ALL** anglers is reflected by your actions

FISHING ETIQUETTE

- Respect other anglers already on the water
- Enquire politely about their fishing plans
- Start your angling in the opposite direction
- Refer to your current Sports Fishing Guide for fishing regulations and bag limits



Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka, New Zealand
Telephone (03) 615 8400, Facsimile (03) 615 8401

Corporate Print, Timaru

ANGLERS HINTS

The following recommendations are provided to assist first time anglers to the Rangitata River.

SALMON

- Lure Fishing
9-11 kg line; feathered lure plus added weight (see Regulations: Angling Methods)
- Spin Fishing
7-9 kg line; Z spinner (silver white or yellow) with 14-28gm weight
7-9 kg line; Colorado spoon and lead

TROUT

- Wet fly/lure fishing
1-4 kg line; smelt type lure (e.g. Grey Ghost, Parsons Glory, Mrs Simpson) with up to 28gm lead
- Dry fly fishing (mainly upstream from Rangitata Gorge)
1-4 kg line; nymphs and flies (e.g. Yellow Dorothy)
- Spin fishing
2-4 kg line; Tasmanian Devil, Toby



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USE OF BOATS

- Jet boats may travel in excess of 5 knots on all sections of the river except in the estuary where boating in excess of 5 knots is only permitted within the marked lanes linking marked launching sites on the north and south sides of the estuary.
- Seaward from the mouth fishing from boats is permitted but only between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, when fishing boats must be anchored and at a distance greater than 200 metres from the nearest shore at low tide.
- No powered craft are permitted upstream of Turn Again Point between 1 March and 31 July in any year.
- Boating is not permitted in Deep Stream or Deep Creek.

ANGLING METHODS

Spin Fishing

No restriction as to practice.

Fly Fishing (no added weight)

No restriction as to practice.

Fishing with an artificial fly and added weight

- Seaward of the marker poles located approx 1 km upstream from the mouth:
 - a) The total weight of the cast assemblage including trace, weight, and fly shall not exceed 28 grams.
 - b) Anglers may cast other than from the reel or retrieve other than winding onto the reel.
- Upstream from the marker poles:
 - a) There is no weight limitation.
 - b) Anglers must cast from and retrieve by winding onto the reel.

ACCESS MAP FOR RANGITATA RIVER

