

FAQ



DESIGNATED WATERS (DW) LICENCE

Why has the new Designated Waters (DW) Licence been developed?

The DW Licence has been developed to:

- Allow Fish & Game to reduce overcrowding on a small number of sensitive fisheries.
- Enable Fish & Game to improve monitoring of angler usage of these sensitive fisheries.

What has happened to the Backcountry Licence Endorsement?

There is no longer a Backcountry Licence. The Backcountry Licence has been replaced with the DW Licence. Many (but not all) rivers that once required a Backcountry Licence are now classified as DW.

Who needs a DW Licence?

Any angler who wishes to go fishing in a river/stream that is classified as a DW. The following regions have DW:

Wellington:

- Rangitīkei River

Nelson/Marlborough :

- Mātakitaki River
- Upper Wairau
- Travers River

West Coast:

- Karamea River
- Mokihiui River

North Canterbury:

- Hope River
- Hurunui River North Branch
- Hurunui River South Branch

- Waiau Uwha River

Otago:

- Dingle Burn
- Greenstone River
- Hunter River
- Lochy River
- Nevis River
- Pomahaka River
- Wilkin River
- Young River

Southland:

- Ōreti River

Are there different DW Licence categories?

Yes, there are whole-season regional DW Licences which are available to resident anglers only, and a regional DW Day Licence which is available to non-resident anglers only.

Which licence categories can buy a full season DW Licence?

Only resident anglers who have a full-season licence (e.g., family, whole-season adult, local area, loyal senior, whole-season junior) can buy a whole-season DW Licence for each region.

Which licence categories can buy a DW Day Licence?

Only non-resident anglers who have a whole-season non-resident licence can buy a DW Day Licence for each region. A maximum of five DW Day Licences can be purchased per region.

Why are residents charged \$5 per region for a full season DW Licence?

Resident anglers who fish on DW are charged a nominal fee of \$5 per region so they make a small contribution towards the more intensive management required for sensitive fisheries.

Why are non-residents charged \$40 for a DW Day Licence?

Non-resident anglers are charged a daily fee to access DW because Fish & Game monitoring data suggests that much of the overcrowding on DW is from non-resident anglers.

This daily fee also aligns with the licence costs for comparable high-quality international fisheries.

Why can non-resident anglers only purchase up to a maximum of five DW Licences per Fish & Game Region per season?

Fish & Game monitoring data suggests that much of the overcrowding on DW is from non-resident anglers. Limiting the number of times non-residents can access these sensitive fisheries will help reduce overcrowding.

Where does the money from the DW Licence go?

Compliance and enforcement of DW regulations as well as research and monitoring of these DW.

Can a DW Licence be purchased on the day an angler decides to go fishing?

Yes. Anglers don't need to buy a DW Licence/licences when they buy their whole-season fishing licence. They can buy a DW Licence at any time during the season.

Do non-resident anglers need to purchase all their DW Day Licences in advance?

Only in advance of going fishing, non-resident anglers can purchase DW Day Licences as they need them. If they have reception on the riverbank, they could buy their DW Day Licence online then and there, on the day they decide to go fishing.

Do anglers need to buy a DW Licence if they have no intention of fishing a DW?

No. If an angler does not want to fish in a DW, they just buy any of the established licence categories that suits them.

What happens if an angler is found fishing in a DW without a DW Licence?

This will be treated as a 'fishing without a licence' offence and the angler will be liable for prosecution.

