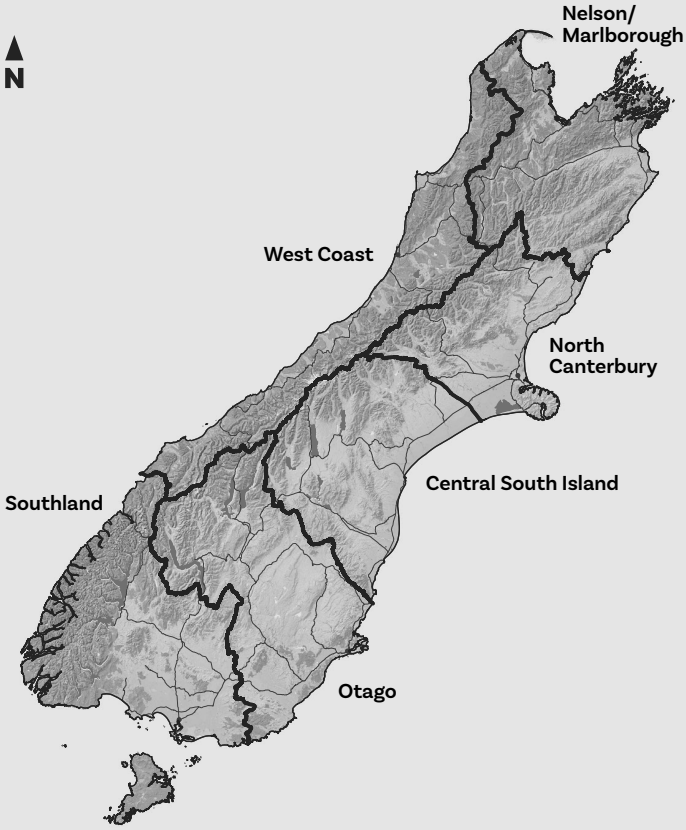
SOUTH ISLAND

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game™ NEW ZEALAND



Head Office: Level 1, Unit 2, 166 Featherston St, Wellington, 6011

Postal Address: PO Box 25055, Wellington 6146

Phone: (04) 499 4767

Email: nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

National Regulations

The Sports Fishing Regulations

These regulations are set to ensure that:

- Fish populations are maintained and that the number of fish caught does not threaten the sustainability of the fishery.
- The quality of the fishing experience is maintained.
- Spawning areas are protected.
- Angling opportunities are not unnecessarily restricted.
- Incompatible methods of fishing are kept separate.
- Anglers use sporting methods.

The main angling rules and catch limits are shown in this booklet, but there are other rules in the Conservation Act, Freshwater Fisheries Regulations and other legislation which affect sports fishing. For example, a current fishing licence is required to fish for the species listed in the First Schedule, and it must be carried with anglers at all times when fishing. The licence is to be produced upon demand by a Fish & Game Ranger.

If you are in any doubt about sports fishing regulations, please contact your local Fish & Game office.

These regulations are approved by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing on the advice of the 12 regional Fish & Game Councils. The Fish & Game licence allows an angler to fish New Zealand wide (except Taupō).

Anglers Notice

Fish & Game Regions 2026

Conservation Act 1987

Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983

Pursuant to section 26R(3) of the Conservation Act 1987, the Minister for Hunting and Fishing approves the following Anglers Notice, subject to the First and Second Schedules of this notice, for the following Fish & Game Regions:

Northland	Taranaki	North Canterbury
Auckland/Waikato	Wellington	Central South Island
Eastern	Nelson/Marlborough	Otago
Hawke's Bay	West Coast	Southland

Notice

1 Title

This is the Anglers Notice for Fish and Game Regions 2026.

2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on 1 October 2026.

3 Conditions for Sport Fishing Common to all Fish and Game Regions

(1) A person who holds a valid sports fish licence may fish in any region subject to the conditions set out in Schedule 1 of this notice.

(2) This Anglers Notice applies to sports fish which include species of Trout, Salmon, Perch and Tench (and Rudd in Auckland/Waikato Region only).

(3) Perch and Tench (and Rudd in Auckland/Waikato Region only) are also classed as coarse fish in this notice.

(4) Within coarse fishing waters (as defined in this notice), special provisions enable the use of coarse fishing methods that would otherwise be prohibited.

(5) Outside of coarse fishing waters an angler may fish for coarse fish wherever sports fishing is permitted, subject to the general provisions in this notice that apply for that region.

4 Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

(1) A person who holds a valid sports fish licence may fish in a Fish and Game Region subject to the conditions for that region set out in Schedule 2 of this notice.

5 Scope of this notice

(1) This Anglers Notice sets out the conditions under which a current sports fish licence holder or a person named on a family whole-season licence may fish for sports fish in the area to which the notice relates, being conditions relating to:

(a) The size and limit bag for any species of sports fish;

(b) Any open or closed season in any specified waters in the area, and the sports fish in respect of which they are open or closed;

(c) Any requirements, restrictions, or prohibitions on fishing tackle, methods, or the use of any gear, equipment, or device,

(d) The hours of fishing; and

(e) The handling, treatment, or disposal of any sports fish.

6 Revocation

(1) The Anglers Notice for Fish and Game Regions 2025 (2025-gs3978) that came into force 1 October 2025 is revoked.

Schedule 1

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

1. Interpretation

Words and expressions in this notice, which are defined in the Conservation Act 1987, the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, or the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2026, shall be so defined.

In this notice unless the context otherwise requires,—

Act means the Conservation Act 1987

assembled rod means a rod that is assembled from butt to tip, together with a line and lure attached

all methods means any artificial fly, or spinner or bait

artificial fly means any lure of feather, fur, wool or other material of any kind customarily used in the making of artificial flies

bait means

(a) Natural insect

(b) Natural spider

(c) Natural worm or worms

(d) Natural crustacean

(e) Natural fish, excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc), except where stated otherwise in Schedule 2 of this notice

(f) Uncoloured bread dough

(g) Any scented lure, soft bait and other synthetic imitations with chemical attractant properties except where stated otherwise in Schedule 2 of this notice

Bait assembly means either a hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks

Bait fishing means to fish for sports fish with bait

Boat means any manned flotation device

Closed means no fishing is permitted

Coarse fish means Perch, Tench (all New Zealand) and Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only)

Coarse fishing waters means named locations where anglers can fish for coarse fish with:

(a) A rod which has either a fixed or running line

(b) No restriction on the type or number of baits in use

(c) No restriction on the use of preparations to attract fish

Controlled fishery means a controlled fishery described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2026 and for which a controlled period licence is required when fishing during a controlled period

Daily bag limit means the total number of sports fish that may be taken or killed by any one person during any one day

designated waters means a designated waters fishery described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2026 or which a designated waters licence is required when fishing

fishing and **fish** in this notice means the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish; and includes any

(a) Other activity that may reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of sports fish

(b) Attempt to catch, take or harvest sports fish

(c) Operation in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition

Freshwater means:

(a) All waters of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, lagoons, wetlands, impoundments, canals, channels, watercourses, or other bodies of water whether naturally occurring or artificially made

(b) All waters of estuaries or coastal lagoons

(c) All other fresh or estuarine waters where freshwater fish indigenous to or introduced into New Zealand are found

(d) All waters in the mouth of every river or stream, and the mouth of every river and stream shall be deemed to include every outlet thereof and the seashore between those outlets and the waters of the sea or lying within a distance of 500 metres from any place

where at low tide the waters of a river or stream meet the waters of the sea

Fly fishing means to fish for sports fish with fly rod and fly reel and fly line and artificial fly

Foul hook means to hook a sports fish other than from within the mouth

Junior fishery means a named location where only a child or junior angler may fish

Landmark means a black, yellow and white ringed post or buoy

Length is the measurement from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail

Legal lure means any authorised artificial fly or spinner or bait

Sea-run Salmon waters means sea-run Salmon waters described in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2026 in the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game regions and for which a sea-run Salmon licence is required when fishing for Salmon and to which the Sea-run Salmon Season Bag Limit Notes apply

Season bag limit means the total number of sports fish that may be taken or killed by any one person between 1 October in any year and 30 September in the following year

Season bag limit card means a card upon which anglers taking or killing sports fish in Fish and Game regions that have a season bag limit must legibly record the date, name of water, sex (as can best be determined by the angler), weight in kilograms and length in centimetres of the fish, and whether it was fin clipped

Spin fishing means to fish for sports fish with a spinner

Spinner means any artificial lure other than an artificial fly

Sports fish means those freshwater fish described in the Schedule 1 of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, namely:

(a) Brown Trout
(b) Rainbow Trout
(c) American Brook Trout or Char
(d) Lake Trout or Char
(e) Atlantic Salmon
(f) Quinnat or Chinook Salmon
(g) Sockeye Salmon
(h) Perch
(i) Tench
(j) Rudd (Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region only)
(k) Any hybrid of the above species

Zero bag limit means fishing is permitted but no fish may be kept

2. Authorised Tackle

(1) No angler shall fish for Trout or Salmon except by using a rod and running line and authorised method (as defined in clause 8 of this Schedule 1).

(2) Nets and gaffs:

(i) When playing a sports fish, a landing net may be used to secure or land that fish.

(ii) For keeping coarse fish alive, a keep net may be used in the water from which the fish was caught.

(iii) No angler shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish except where provided for in Schedule 2 of this notice.

(3) No angler when fishing for sports fish shall:

(i) Use more than 1 assembled rod and running line.

(ii) Use more than 3 artificial flies or spinners.

(iii) Use more than 1 bait assembly.

(iv) Be more than 15m from the rod being used, except where stated otherwise in Schedule 2 of this notice.

(v) Use in waters other than those where bait fishing is permitted any lure treated with any chemical preparation other than that used solely to control the buoyancy of an artificial fly, except where stated otherwise in Schedule 2 of this notice.

(vi) Use any preparation not attached to a lure to attract fish except when fishing for coarse fish in coarse fishing waters.

(4) No person shall fish for sports fish by using felt-soled waders or footwear incorporating or having attached a sole of felted, matted or woven fibrous material when sports fishing.

3 Foul Hooking of Fish

(1) No angler shall attempt to foul hook any sports fish.

(2) Any angler who foul hooks a sports fish shall return it immediately to the water with as little injury as possible.

4 Fish Length

(1) Every angler who catches a sports fish which does not exceed the specified minimum length, or exceeds the specified maximum length, shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.

5 Open Season

(1) No angler shall fish for any sports fish except during an open season.

6 Daily Bag Limit

(1) No angler shall continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day in which the angler has already killed the limit bag for that species except where provided for in Schedule 2.

(2) It shall be permissible to make up the difference between a lesser limit bag prescribed in one place and a higher limit bag prescribed in another if the extra fish are taken in the area with the higher bag limit.

7 Season Bag Limit

(1) No angler shall continue to fish for sports fish in any season in which the angler has already killed the season bag limit for that species, except where provided for in Schedule 2.

8 Authorised Methods

(1) Authorised methods (subject to any regional restrictions specified in Schedule 2) are:

(i) Artificial fly (F).

(ii) Bait (B).

(iii) Spinner (S).

Code of Conduct

Please consider the rights of others and observe the anglers code of conduct

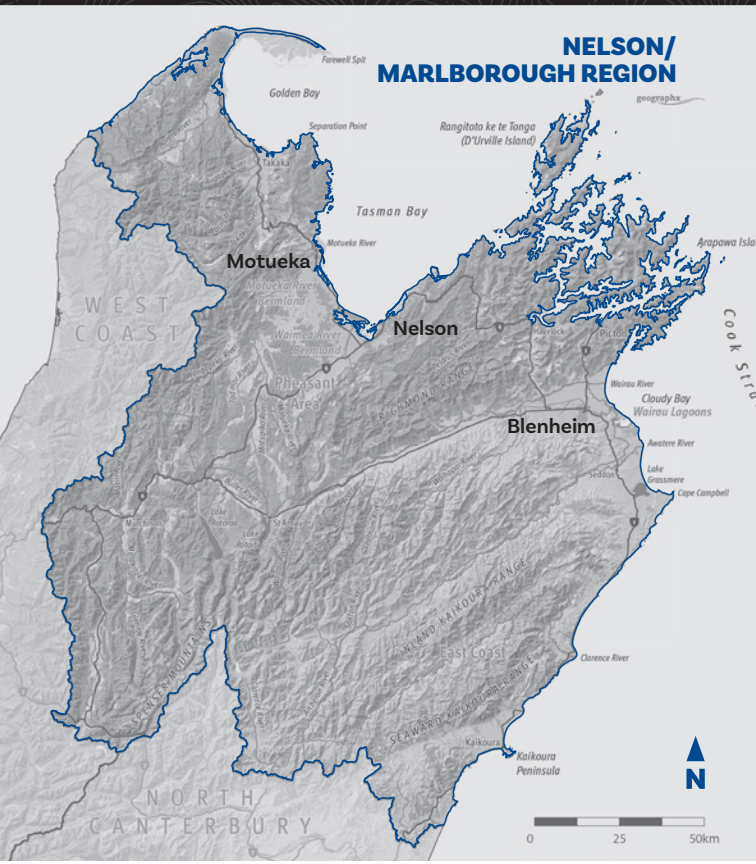
- Always ask permission from the land occupier before crossing private property unless a Fish & Game access sign is present.
- Do not park vehicles so that they obstruct gateways or cause a hazard on the road or access way.
- Always use gates, stiles or other recognised access points and avoid damage to fences.
- Leave everything as you found it. If a gate is open or closed leave it that way.
- A farm is the owner's livelihood and if they say no dogs, then please respect this.
- When driving on riverbeds keep to marked tracks or park on the bank and walk to your fishing spot.
- Never push in on a pool occupied by another angler. If you are in any doubt have a chat and work out who goes where.
- However, if agreed to share the pool then always enter behind any angler already there.
- Move upstream or downstream with every few casts (unless you are alone).
- Fish being returned to the water should be released as carefully and quickly as possible. Ideally leave the fish in the water and remove the hook with long-nosed pliers without handling the fish.
- While catch and release fishing is widely promoted by some as a conservation minded approach to angling it remains the angler's choice. However, the catching of large numbers of fish in a day can impact on individual fish and also on the angling experience for others. Fish & Game advocate hooking and landing a limited number of fish per day.
- Fish being retained should be killed as quickly as possible, ideally by spiking or stabbing the brain slightly behind and above the eye (also known as iki jime – pronounced "iki jimi").
- Always respect the environment, wildlife, other anglers and members of the public.
- Remove waste nylon and personal litter from the river banks and parking places.
- The only way we can protect our rivers in the long term is to CHECK, CLEAN and DRY all your gear before entering another river or lake anywhere in New Zealand.

Remember to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself!

NELSON/MARLBOROUGH

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game™ NEW ZEALAND



Nelson/Marlborough Office: 66-74 Champion Road, Richmond

Postal Address: PO Box 2173, Stoke, Nelson 7041

Phone: (03) 544 6382

Email: nelsonmarlborough@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

Fish & Game New Zealand's Nelson/Marlborough region offers some of the best, most easily accessible brown trout fishing in the country. In fact, many of New Zealand's fishing guides who specialise in sighted brown trout fishing, work in this region. There is wonderful diversity reflected in the waters of Nelson/Marlborough. Rivers in the Golden Bay area are crystal clear in normal flows and dark brown in freshes from tannic acid leaching out of the native bush catchments. Waimea basin catchments rise in the steep beech clad Richmond and Arthur ranges before flowing through intensely farmed lands growing pine trees, apples, kiwifruit and hops. The Murchison district offers everything from small feeder streams to the impressive Buller River. The Buller is New Zealand's fifth largest river, originating from the alps in the Nelson Lakes National Park. The run off and snow melt from these mountains flow into Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa. The two Lake outlets, although currently affected by invasive Didymo algae, form the upper Buller River until it is joined by the Matakitaki, Mangles, Matiri and Maruia at the 'four rivers plain' near Murchison. Marlborough rivers are a total contrast to the western Nelson rivers, often being blue coloured from glacial silt and wide, braided and undergoing extremes of flow. Molesworth Station is New Zealand's largest farm. This huge trackless area features many small alpine tarns and lakes and its western and southern boundary is the Clarence River-one of New Zealand's longest and more remote catchments that drain the Inland and Seaward Kaikouras. The lower Clarence and the Awatere Rivers flowing northeast from Molesworth are heavily silt laden for much of the year. Completing the circle of the region we finish in the Marlborough Sounds main catchment, the Pelorus Valley. Beginning in the Richmond ranges between Nelson and Marlborough, this river gouges its way through steep native bush covered mountains to slow down to a gentle pace in lush dairy farm land before entering the sea at Havelock.

ACCESS PAMPHLETS

Access pamphlets providing detailed maps with access points and fishing information for Golden Bay and the Buller, Motueka, Pelorus and Wairau catchments are available from most licence agents, or online at www.fishandgame.org.nz

PUT AND TAKE FISHERIES

The region has 2 put and take fisheries, Argyle Pond (Lake Argyle) and the Waimea River Park Fishing Ponds, more information can be found by visiting our website www.fishandgame.org.nz or wwwyouthfishing.org.nz for the Waimea River Junior Fishing Ponds.

TAGGED & FIN-CLIPPED FISH

Anglers are asked to report any tagged trout, and adipose fin-clipped trout and salmon to Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game.

DESIGNATED WATERS

For more information on Nelson Marlborough Designated Waters or to obtain a Designated Waters licence go to www.fishandgame.org.nz

Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	**1.1**	The daily bag limit permits the taking of two fish, although only one fish may exceed 500mm in length.
	1.2	Fishing for coarse fish is prohibited in all waters of the Nelson/Marlborough Region.
	1.3	There is no minimum size limit for Trout or Salmon.
	1.4	All lakes, rivers and streams not mentioned in the table below (and those where Note 1 applies) are fly/spin only and the daily bag limit permits the taking of two sports fish, although only one fish may exceed 500mm in length. Season 1 October – 30 April
	1.5	No angler shall continue to fish for sports fish at any time after having already taken a bag limit for that species.
	1.6	Scented artificial lures may be used where spin fishing is permitted, when actively fished so to imitate a bait fish.
Note 2		Down riggers are permitted when lake fishing.
Note 3		No angler shall fish for sports fish from any boat under motorised power in those parts of Lake Rotoiti within 100 metres from the centre of the meeting line with the lake and the Travers River, Coldwater Stream, Black Valley Stream and Buller River.
Note 4		No angler shall fish for sports fish from any boat under motorised power in those parts of Lake Rotoroa within 100 metres from the centre of the meeting line with the lake and the Sabine, D'Urville and Gowan rivers.
Note 5		Only Child anglers may bait fish.
Note 6		No angler shall fish for sports fish in a designated Junior Fishery unless they are a Child or Junior.
Note 7		Waimea River Park Fishing ponds may on occasions be temporarily closed to facilitate the running of organised events or for maintenance. Closures will be made public in advance and advertised on the Nelson/Marlborough Fish & Game website and sign posted at the ponds.
Note 8		**Designated Waters**: No angler may fish in a Designated Water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Other	
All waters or portions of waters not specifically listed below		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
Aorere River	upstream of Salisbury Road Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Salisbury Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3

Anatoki River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Notes 1, 5
Argyle Pond and lower hydro canals	from where powerlines cross at head of lake and downstream to Wairau River confluence	All year	FSB	2 sports fish			Note 1.2, 1.3
Argyle Pond Headrace	From Branch River hydro intake to powerlines at head of Lake Argyle	1 Oct – 31 May	FSB	2 sports fish			Note 1.2, 1.3
Awatere River		All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Branch River		1 Oct - 31 May	FS	2			Note 1.1, 1.2, 1.3
Buller River	upstream of Gowan Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Gowan Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Clarence River	upstream of Acheron confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Acheron confluence	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1.2, 1.3
Cobb Reservoir		All year	FSB	4			Note 1.2, 1.3
Conway River	upstream of SH1 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of SH1 Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Goulter River	upstream of its confluence with the Wairau River	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1			Note 1.2, 1.3
Lake Daniell		1 Oct - 31 May	FS	2			Note 1.1, 1.2, 1.3
Lake Rotoiti (Nelson Lakes)		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1.2, 1.3, 2, 3
Lake Rotoroa		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1.2, 1.3, 2, 4
Lake Tennyson		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4			Note 1.2, 1.3
Leatham River		1 Oct - 31 May	FS	2			Note 1.1, 1.2, 1.3
Lyell Creek (Kaikoura)	upstream of State Highway 1	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 1	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1.2, 1.3
Maitai River	upstream of Lower Nile Street Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Lower Nile Street Bridge	All year	FS	2			Notes 1.2, 1.3, 5
Maruia River	upstream of Maruia Falls	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Maruia Falls	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Matakitaki River	downstream of State Highway 6 Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
	between State Highway 6 Bridge and the Horse Terrace Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1

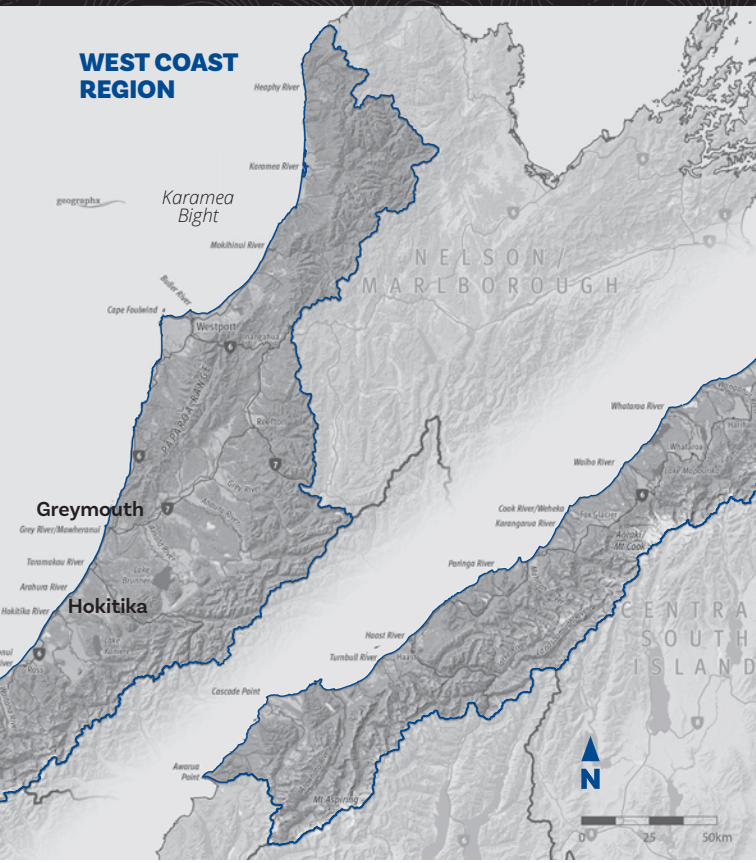
	Designated Water. The Matakitaki River and its tributaries upstream from the Horse Terrace bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Notes 1, 8
Middle Creek (Kaikoura)	upstream of State Highway 1	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 1	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Motueka River	upstream of Baton Bridge at Woodstock	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Baton Bridge at Woodstock	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Oaro River		All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Ōpaoa River	upstream of State Highway 1 Bridge (including Roses Overflow) but excluding the section covered by the Taylor River Family Fishery	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 1 Bridge (including Roses Overflow) but excluding the section covered by the Taylor River Family Fishery	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Pelorus River	upstream of Rai River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Rai River confluence	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Rai River	upstream of Carluke Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Carluke Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Takaka River	upstream of confluence with the Waingaro River	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of confluence with the Waingaro River	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Taylor Dam		All year	FS	2			Notes 1.2, 1.3, 5
Taylor River	upstream of New Renwick Road Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of New Renwick Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3
Travers River	**Designated Water** Travers River and its tributaries upstream of Lake Rotoiti	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Notes 1, 8
Waikoropupu River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
Waimea River Park Junior Fishing Ponds	Junior Fishery. Waimea River Park designated fishing ponds	All year (except when closed for organised events or maintenance)	FSB	1 Sports fish			Notes 1.2, 1.3, 6, 7
Waimea River Park Family/ Adult Fishing Pond	Waimea River Park fishing ponds	All year (except when closed for organised events or maintenance)	FSB	1 Sports fish			Notes 1.2, 1.3, 7

Wairau River	upstream of Wash Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Wash Bridge including the Diversion and Southern Valleys Irrigation Intake Pond	All year	FSB	2	1		Note 1.2, 1.3
	Designated Water. The upper Wairau River and its tributaries (but excluding Fish Lake) upstream from Six Mile Creek (upstream of Rainbow Ski field bottom carpark)	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Notes 1, 8
Wairoa/Waimea River (Nelson)	upstream of Lee River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
	downstream of Lee River confluence	All year	FSB	2			Note 1.2, 1.3

WEST COAST

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game™ NEW ZEALAND



West Coast Office: Airport Drive, Hokitika

Postal Address: 2 Bert Mercer Drive Hokitika 7810

Phone: (03) 755 8546

Email: westcoast@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

Fish & Game New Zealand's West Coast region extends from Kahurangi Point, north of Karamea, to Awarua Point south of Haast. In between lies some 2 million hectares, much of it wilderness and with more rivers and lakes than many people would fish in a lifetime. 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 range of angling opportunity. Brown trout occupy a diverse range of habitats between the mountains and the sea, including lakes and spring-fed river tributaries. The more popular sea-run salmon fisheries are centred on South Westland lakes—which also contain resident lake stocks—and from January until April salmon can be expected around most major river mouths south of and including the Grey River. Barriers to access for anglers are, for the most part, dictated only by climate and terrain. All that we ask is that you respect West Coast waters, leave no litter, and return fish that you cannot use. For more information on sports fishing in the West Coast region, please refer to the fishing locations and access pages on the Fish & Game website, which includes a downloadable PDF guide.

PUT AND TAKE FISHERIES

The region has two put-and-take fisheries: Lake Kaniere and Lake Ianthe. Both fisheries are undergoing ongoing enhancements to improve angling opportunities for lake-resident salmon.

ARAHURA RIVER ACCESS

Unlike most other West Coast rivers, the bed and banks of the Arahura River are not public land. In 1976 the Crown vested ownership of the Arahura River in the Mawhera Incorporation, a Māori landowners Trust, as Māori freehold land. At their discretion, the Mawhera Incorporation operates a permit system to allow for public access. To enquire about permits from Mawhera Incorporation contact: Rachel Scott (Mawhera Administrator), Proprietors of Mawhera Incorporation, Level 2, 83 Victoria Street, Christchurch, PO Box 13042, Christchurch 8141 T: (03) 964 7203 F: (03) 365 4098 E: admin@mawhera.org.nz

HAUPIRI RIVER ACCESS

A public access agreement is in place for Heaphy Road which provides access to the upper Haupiri River. Vehicle access to the carpark up the valley is ensured for recreational and commercial recreation purposes. Anglers must check in at the Christian Community Trust office as the access road is through private property. Access over the land is restricted to the marked route and is only permitted during daylight hours (except in the case of an emergency). Access from the carpark onwards is restricted to foot travel along the marked walking routes. No filming or recording of the Trust's members or property is permitted without the Trust's permission. The New Zealand Outdoor Access Code is to be complied with. No camping, lighting of fires, hunting, or discharging of firearms is permitted.

ANGLING ETHICS

The West Coast region encourages all anglers to restrict their season take to no more than six salmon. This will ensure this limited fishery will remain sustainable and provide opportunities for all anglers into the future. The West Coast region also encourages a voluntary catch-and-release limit of six trout per day. This is to minimise the impact of angling pressure in sensitive fisheries and ensure the catchability of fish for future generations.

DESIGNATED WATERS

To protect a high-quality wilderness fishing experience, the West Coast has two Designated Waters fisheries requiring anglers to hold a full season licence and a Designated Waters licence. For more information or to obtain a Designated Waters licence, go to www.fishandgame.org.nz.

POLLUTION HOTLINE

To report incidents of pollution or other damage to our waterways, please ring West Coast Regional Council's 24-hour Pollution Hotline on 0508 800 118 and tell them that you want to be advised of the outcome of their investigation.

Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

West Coast Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The West Coast Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this Notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	**1.1**	Daily Limit Bag. Except for Perch for which for which there is no daily limit, no angler shall on any one day take, kill or be in possession of more than 2 Brown Trout, 2 Rainbow Trout, 1 Salmon.
	1.2	Fish Length. There is no minimum length for Trout and Salmon in all waters of the region, except in Lakes Ianthe, Mapourika, Paringa, Moeraki, and Ellery, where the minimum length for Salmon shall be 450mm.
	1.3	Coarse Fish. There are no special conditions relating to coarse fishing other than those provided for in the Schedule 1 of this Notice.
Note 2		**Designated Waters**: No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.

3. Open Seasons for trout and perch, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits – Region Defaults

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Perch	
All freshwaters not mentioned in clause 4 for this region		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

4. Open Season for Trout and Perch, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits – Fishery Specific

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Perch	
Ahaura River	upstream of Granite Creek	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Granite Creek	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Arahura River	upstream of Milltown (Landsburgh) Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Milltown (Landsburgh) Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Arawhata River	upstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

	downstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Arnold River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Big Ditch Creek	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Big Totara River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Buller River	upstream of Lyall confluence is Nelson/Marlborough region – please refer to their regulations						
	downstream of Lyall confluence	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Cascade River	upstream of Martyr confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Martyr confluence	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Cook River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Crooked River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Deadmans Creek	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Grey River	Grey River Catchment upstream of Clarke River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Clarke River confluence	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Haast River	upstream of Pleasant Flat Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Pleasant Flat Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Hapuka River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Haupiri River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Hindleys Creek		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Hokitika River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Inangahua River	upstream of Perseverance Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Perseverance Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Jacobs (Makawhio) River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Kaniere River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

Karamea River	**Designated Water** Karamea River Catchment upstream of the Kakapo River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Notes 1, 2
	downstream of Kakapo River confluence and upstream of the cableway at the mouth of the lower gorge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of cableway at mouth of Lower Gorge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Karangarua River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Kohaihai River	upstream of Heaphy Track Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Heaphy Track Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Kokatahi River	upstream of Styx Confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Styx Confluence	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Kumara/Kapitea Reservoir system	upstream of Old Christchurch Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Old Christchurch Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Brunner		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Ellery		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Haupiri		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Ianthe		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Kaniere		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Mahinapua		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Mapourika		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Moeraki		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Paringa		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Poerua		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Lake Wahapo		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Larrys Creek (Awarau River)		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Little Grey (Mawheraiti) River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Little Totara River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Little Wanganui River	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Mahinapua outlet creek		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Mahitahi River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Manakaiaua River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Martins Creek	upstream of Martins Creek Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Martins Creek Bridge	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
MacDonalds Creek		Closed					
Mikonui River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Moeraki River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Mokihinui River	**Designated Water** Mokihinui Catchment upstream of the Rough and Tumble Creek confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Notes 1, 2
	downstream Rough and Tumble Creek confluence and upstream of cableway at Welcome Creek	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of cableway at Welcome Creek	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
New River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6 including estuary	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Ngakawau River	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Nile River	upstream of Awakere confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Awakere confluence	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Ohinetamatea River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Okari River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Okarito Lagoon		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Okarito River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Okuru River	upstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

	downstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Omoeroa River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Oparara River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Karamea-Kohaihai Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Orangipuku River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Orowaiti River	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Paringa River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Poerua River (South Westland)	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Pororari River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Punakaiki River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Rough (Otututu) River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Taramakau River	upstream of bridge at Jacksons	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of bridge at Jacksons	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Totara River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Turnbull River	upstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waiatoto River	upstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of Haast-Jackson Bay Road	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waikukupa River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waimangaroa River	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waita River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waitaha River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Waitahu River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Wanganui River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Whakapohi River	upstream of State Highway 6	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 6	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Whareatea River	upstream of State Highway 67	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
	downstream of State Highway 67	All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Whataroa River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1
Whitcombe River		All year	FSB	2	2	No limit	Note 1

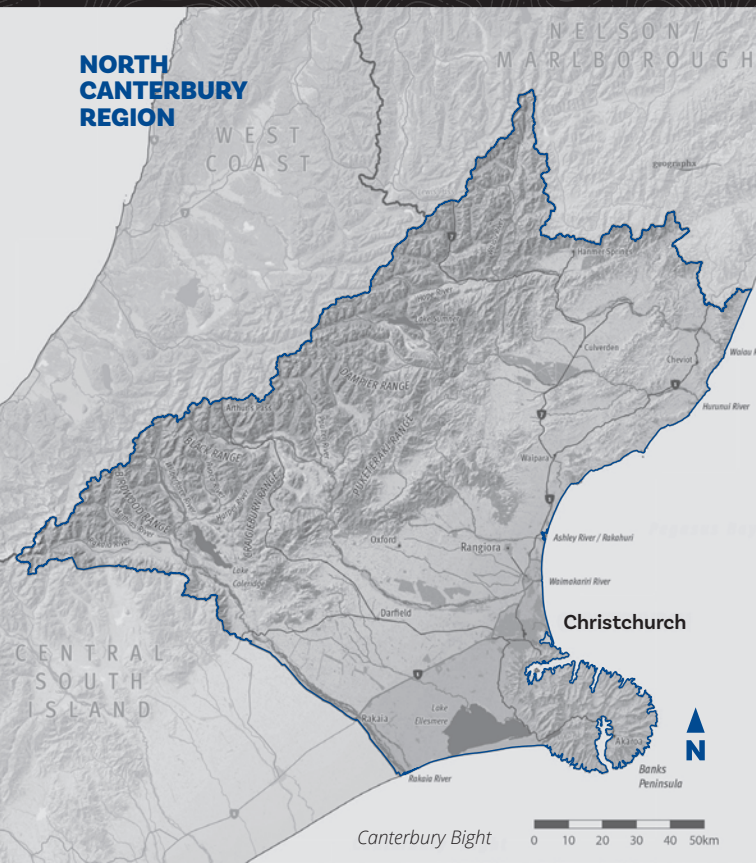
5. Open Season for Salmon, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit for Salmon	Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
All waters except where otherwise specified below		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1	Note 1
Lake Ianthe		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1
Lake Mapourika		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1
Lake Moeraki		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1
Lake Paringa		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1
MacDonalds Creek		Closed			
Ōkārito River (excluding Lagoon)		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1
Windbag Stream		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	1	Note 1

NORTH CANTERBURY

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND



North Canterbury Office: 595 Johns Road, Harewood, Christchurch 8051

Postal Address: PO Box 50, Woodend 7641

Phone: 03 366 9191

Email: northcanterbury@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

The North Canterbury region offers much to the angler. The Rakaia, Waimakariri, Hurunui and Waiau Uwha rivers offer sea-run salmon fishing in the summer months. The best time to plan a trip is during February when river flows tend to be stable after the period of snow melt in the Southern Alps. Most salmon are caught on heavy spinning tackle upriver or on specialised long-distance surf casting tackle in the surf next to the river mouth. Sea-run salmon are one of the most highly sought-after sports fish in the country. A season bag limit applies for sea run salmon, see the notes below or Fish & Game's website for more details.

In addition to the salmon fishery, North Canterbury also offers great fishing for other species. Over 30 high country lakes offer brown and rainbow trout with a few also offering landlocked Chinook salmon. The upper reaches of the braided rivers also offer high quality brown and rainbow trout wilderness fishing experience with some very big fish in places. Early season the lower reaches of the same rivers provide opportunities for sea-run trout fishing as well.

For more information on sports fishing in North Canterbury, consult the fishing locations and access pages of the Fish & Game website, there are downloadable pdf guides for the Rakaia River, Waimakariri River, Hurunui and Waiau Uwha Rivers, the High-Country Lakes, Junior Fisheries and Close to Christchurch.

To protect a high quality wilderness fishing experience North Canterbury has four Designated Waters fisheries requiring anglers to be holders of a full season licence and a Designated Waters licence. For more information or to obtain a Designated Waters licence go to www.fishandgame.org.nz

Boat Fishing: To clarify for anglers, the use of boats and/or flotation devices in the North Canterbury waterbodies is set by the Regional or District councils not by Fish & Game. It is important to note that those regulations can change without any notice. Please follow the direction of the relevant council.

Pollution Hotline: To report incidences of pollution or other damage to our waterways, please ring Environment Canterbury's 24-hour Pollution Hotline on 0800-76 55 88 and tell them that you want to be advised of the outcome of their investigation.

Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

North Canterbury Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The North Canterbury Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, at page 1861, as amended by the New Zealand Gazette, 3 September 1992, No. 141, at page 2958.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	**1.1**	Except for Perch for which there is no daily limit (see note 7), no angler shall on any one day take, kill or be in possession of more than 4 sports fish.
	1.2	No angler shall be in possession of a Trout or Salmon less than 300mm anywhere in the region.
	1.3	No angler shall fish for Salmon in any river from 1 May to 30 September.
	1.4	Scented artificial lures may be used in all waters, other than fly fishing only waters, when actively retrieved so as to imitate a moving bait fish.
	1.5	Any angler who lands a sports fish that will not be kept shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.
	1.6	No person may take Salmon from any river between the hours of 11pm to 4am in December and January, and between 10pm and 5am for any other month.
	1.7	No angler shall fish for sports fish within a 100-metre arc of the outfall of any licensed fish farm, with the exception of the Tentburn Outfall, where fishing for Trout and Salmon is permitted, but no fishing is allowed on the culvert.
Note 2		**Boat Fishing:** Fishing from boats is permitted.
Note 3		Fishing from boats which are not simultaneously being propelled by a motor, is permitted, including float tubes, kayaks and pack rafts.
Note 4		The use of motorised craft is prohibited.
Note 5		The daily limit bag for Lake Coleridge shall be 4 sports fish.
Note 6		No angler other than a Child or Junior angler shall fish in the Groynes Junior Fishing Lakes.
Note 7		**Coarse Fishing**
	7.1	Fishing for coarse fish is permitted only in listed Coarse Fishing Waters which are: the Avon River downstream of Barbadoes Street, Lake Forsyth, Okana River downstream of State Highway 75, Takiritawai River, Halswell River and Canal downstream of Neills Road, Kaiapoi Lakes, Gravel and Sands ponds, and Lake Rotokohatu. See Schedule 1 for permitted methods.
	7.2	The daily limit bag for Tench is 1 fish and no angler shall be in possession of a Tench that exceeds 150mm.
	7.3	There is no daily limit or size restriction for Perch.
Note 8		No angler other than a Child or Junior angler shall bait fish for Trout.
Note 9		No angler shall be in possession of a sports fish which exceeds a maximum length of 400mm from that water
Note 10		No angler shall be in possession of a Chinook Salmon taken from Lake Sumner or Loch Katrine.
Note 11		**Designated Waters:** No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.

Note 12 **Controlled Fishery.** No angler may fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period unless they are the holder of an appropriate controlled-period licence or are named on such a licence.

Note 13 **Sea-run Salmon Season Bag Limit:**

13.1 No angler may fish for Salmon in a sea-run Salmon water unless they are the holder of a sea-run Salmon licence or are named on such a licence.

13.2 All holders of a sea-run Salmon licence are eligible to receive a Season Bag Limit Card. Family whole-season licence holders that have a sea-run Salmon licence are eligible for one Season Bag Limit Card per family licence.

13.3 No angler shall fish for, take, kill or be in possession of a Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters within the North Canterbury Fish and Game Region without holding a Season Bag Limit Card.

13.4 No angler or family fishing under a family whole-season licence shall over the length of the season take, kill or be in possession of more than one Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters in both the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game regions combined.

13.5 Immediately upon taking or killing a Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters, the angler must complete an entry in their Season Bag Limit Card for that fish.

13.6 All anglers that fished for Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters in either the North Canterbury or Central South Island Fish and Game regions must return their Season Bag Limit Card data to either the North Canterbury or Central South Island Fish and Game Council by 7 May 2027, regardless of how many such Salmon were taken or killed.

13.7 All holders of a season bag card must produce it to a Fish and Game Ranger on demand.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits - Region Defaults

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown		Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	
All freshwaters not mentioned in clause 4 for this region		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1 sports fish		Note 1

4. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits - Fishery Specific

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown		Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	
Ada River	**Part of Waiau Uwha Designated Water**	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Ashley River	upstream of Ashley Gorge Road Bridge. including tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
	downstream of Ashley Gorge Road	Trout: All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Avoca River		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Avon River and tributaries	upstream of the Armagh Street Bridge at Hagley Park	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13

	between the Armagh Street Bridge at Hagley Park and the Barbadoes Street Bridge	Closed				
	downstream of the Barbadoes Street Bridge	Trout: All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 7
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Boyle River	**Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water**	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Broken River		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Cam River		Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
	from Kaiapoi River confluence to Smith Street Bridge	Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Cass Hill Stream (Bullock Creek)		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Clearwater Resort Lakes	except for Lake 3, Lake 4 and Lake 5	Closed				
	Lake 3, Lake 4 and Lake 5	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 3
Coleridge Tailrace		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Cora Lynn Stream		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Cust River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Double Hill Stream & Double Hill Flat Stream		1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Doubtful River	**Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water**	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Esk River and all tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Glenariffe Stream		1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Goat Hill Stream		1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Groynes Junior Fishing Lakes	four ponds at the western end of the Groynes reserve signposted as designated fishing lakes	All year	FSB	1 sports fish		Notes 1, 3, 6
Halswell River and Canal	upstream of Neills Road bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2,
	downstream of Neills Road bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 7
Harper River	including diversion and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Harts Creek		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Hawkins River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Heathcote River	upstream of Colombo Street bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
	downstream of Colombo Street bridge	Trout: All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Henry River	**Part of Waiau Uwha Designated Water**	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 11

Highbank Power Station	Tail race	Closed				
Hope River and all its tributaries	**Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water** Hope River and its tributaries upstream of State Highway 7 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
	downstream of State Highway 7 Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Hororata River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Hurunui River. North Branch	**Designated Water** North Branch and its tributaries 500m upstream of Lake Sumner, marked with sign (GPS co-ordinates 172° 9'25.97"E, 42°41'58.73"S)	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
	Controlled Fishery. North Branch and its tributaries upstream of swing bridge (GPS co-ordinates 172° 6'42.27"E, 42°42'20.15"S)	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11, 12
	North Branch downstream of Designated Water (500m upstream of Lake Sumner, GPS co-ordinates 172° 9'25.97"E, 42°41'58.73"S)	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Hurunui River South Branch	**Designated Water.** South Branch upstream of North Esk River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
	South Branch downstream of North Esk River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Hurunui River	Between Lake Sumner outlet and South Branch confluence	Trout: All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
	below the South Branch confluence	Trout: All year Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB FS	2	Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2 Notes 1, 2, 13
Hydra Waters	including Titan Stream	1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Irwell River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Kaiapoi River	downstream of the confluence of the Cust Main Drain	Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS			Notes 1, 2, 13
Kaituna River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Kowhai River and tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
L II River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Lake Blackwater		10 Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Coleridge		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Sep	FSB	4 sports fish		Notes 1, 2, 5
Lake Courtenay		All year	FSB	2 sports fish		Notes 1, 3,
Lake Ellesmere		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Lake Evelyn		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4

Lake Forsyth		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 7
Lake Georgina		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Grasmere		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Guyon		All year	FS	2		Note 1
Lake Hawdon		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Henrietta		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Ida & Little Lake Ida		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lakes Kaiapoi		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 3, 7
Loch Katrine		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 2, 3, 10
Lake Letitia		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Lilian		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Lyndon	Adult Fishery	All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 2, 8
	Junior Fishery	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2, 8
Lake Mason		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Marymere		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	1		Note 1, 3, 4, 9
Lake Minchin		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1
Lake Monck (Catherine)		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1, 3, 4
Lake Pearson		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Rotokohatu		1 October – 31 October, 1 April – 30 September	FSB	2 sports fish		Notes 1, 3, 7
Lake Rubicon		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2		Note 1, 3, 4
Lake Sarah		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Selfe		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 3, 4
Lake Sheppard		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2		Notes 1, 2, 4
Lake Stream		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2		Note 1
Lake Sumner		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 2, 10
Lake Taylor		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Leader River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Lee River		Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS			Notes 1, 2, 13
Lewis River	**Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water**	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Monopolies Pond		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2,

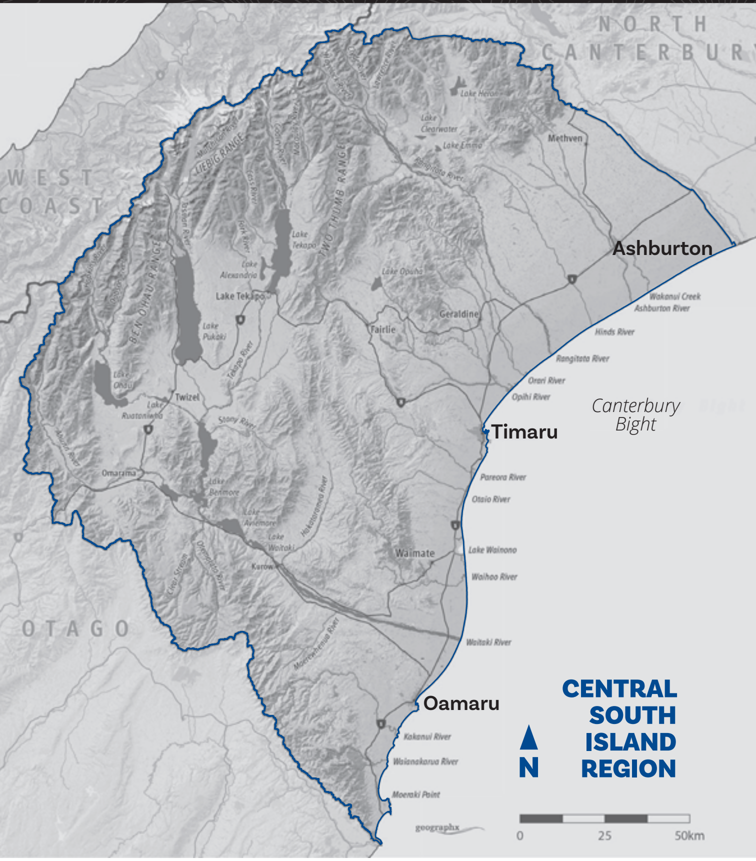
Mandamus River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Manuka Point Stream		1 Oct - 28 Feb	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Nina River	**Part of Lewis Pass Designated Water**	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11
Okana River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Note 1, 2, 7
Otukaikino Creek, South Branch of Waimakariri River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Okuku River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Okuti River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Pahau River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Porter River		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Poulter River and all tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Rakaia River	upstream of the line between the white posts at 171° 30.4822"E 43° 22.9378"S and 171° 31.5535"E 43° 22.1640"S near the Coleridge tailrace	1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
	downstream of the line between the white posts at 171° 30.4822"E 43° 22.9378"S and 171° 31.5535"E 43° 22.1640"S near the Coleridge tailrace	Trout: All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Ryton River		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Saltwater Creek		Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Selwyn River	upstream of State Highway 77 Bridge (at Glentunnel)	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2
	downstream of State Highway 77 Bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Slovens Stream		1st Saturday Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
St Annes Lagoon		Closed				
Styx River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Takiritawai (Wairewa) River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Tentburn Outfall		Trout: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS		Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2, 13
Waiau Uwha River and all tributaries (except Lake Guyon)	**Designated Water.** Waiau Uwha River and its tributaries upstream of Hope River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9, 11

	downstream of Hope River confluence	Trout: All year	FSB	2	Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS			Notes 1, 2, 13
Waikari River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Waimakariri River	Upstream of the Staircase Gully confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Waimakariri River tributaries	upstream of the Staircase Gully confluence, except for Cass Hill Stream, Cora Lynn Stream, Esk River, Poulter River, Winding Creek, Broken River and Porter River	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9
Waimakariri River	downstream of Staircase Gully confluence	Trout: All year	FSB	2	Refer Note 13	Notes 1, 2
		Salmon: 1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS			Notes 1, 2, 13
Waipara River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Waitohi River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Wilberforce Diversion		1st Saturday Nov – 31 May	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Wilberforce River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Winding Creek		10 Nov – 31 Mar	FS	1		Notes 1, 2, 9

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game™ NEW ZEALAND



Central South Island Office: 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka

Postal Address: PO Box 150, Temuka 7948

Phone: (03) 615 8400

Email: csi@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

Fish & Game New Zealand's Central South Island region (CSI) extends from the south bank of the Rakaia River in the north, to Moeraki in the south. The CSI sports fishery offers a lifetime of opportunity as it sustains six sports fish species in a myriad of waterways and landscapes that lie between the Southern alps, high-country basins, and the Canterbury Plains.

Smaller rivers including the Ōpihi and Ashburton / Hakatere together with many high-country lakes are habitat to prized brown and rainbow trout fisheries. Fontinalis (brook trout) are also present in some of these waters. In fact, CSI has some of the best fontinalis fishing in the country, with Lake Emily being renowned as the place in New Zealand to catch a trophy.

The Mackenzie Basin / Te Manahuna contains some of the most popular and picturesque fishing spots in New Zealand whilst still offering some secret spots for adventurous anglers. The Tekapo/ Takapō River and Lake Benmore contain good numbers of trout which are not overly difficult to catch. The canals that carry water for the many hydroelectric power stations in the Mackenzie Basin / Te Manahuna are world-famous for producing extremely large trout. Local and visiting anglers flock to the canals for their ease of access, scenic surroundings, year-round fishing and for the chance to catch wild trophy-size trout or salmon released from the commercial salmon farms that operate within the canals. Rainbow trout commonly reach 4-10kg and each season several brown and rainbow trout weighing 12-18kg are caught. Although yet to be proven, many anglers believe the canals can produce a trout weighing 50-pounds (22.7kg).

The Ōhau River between lakes Ruataniwha and Ōhau is a designated Controlled Area with a controlled period during September and October. The controlled period is colloquially known as the "Spring Season". Angler numbers are limited during the Spring Season to maintain the river's high-country fishery aesthetics. A ballot draw is held to randomly issue a limited number of controlled period licences for specified 2-day fishing allocations. For information about entering the ballot please visit our www.fishandgame.org.nz website or contact our office in Temuka directly.

With their headwaters in the Southern Alps, the Waitaki and the Rangitata/ Rakitata are the region's biggest rivers. These are noted sea-run Chinook salmon fisheries and usually produce their best fishing from December through March. Annual monitoring of these once productive salmon fisheries has established that populations are critically low and require restrictive regulations to ensure viable populations reach the headwaters to spawn. A sea-run salmon season bag limit was introduced in the 2021-22 sports fishing season across the CSI and North Canterbury Fish & Game regions as a tool to limit harvest while maintaining an open season for this treasured pastime.

The invasive algae didymo is present in many of the region's waterways. Please help us stop the spread of didymo to new areas by restricting use of fishing gear to exclusive use in a single waterway. If you move gear between waterways you must CHECK, CLEAN and DRY. For more information on didymo visit www.biosecurity.govt.nz.

SEA RUN SALMON
SCAN HERE

Sea run salmon licencing and information

For information about obtaining a Sea Run Salmon Licence and Season Bag Limit Card visit our website www.fishandgame.org.nz

FISHING & ACCESS
SCAN HERE

Fishing and Access information

Fishing and access information can be found by visiting our website www.fishandgame.org.nz

Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Central South Island Fish & Game Region

1. Definitions

The Central South Island Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861, as amended by New Zealand Gazette, 29 August 1991, No. 129, page 2786, and as further amended by the New Zealand Gazette, 3 September 1992, No. 141, at page 2958.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	**1.1**	Schedule 1 conditions apply.
	1.2	No angler shall continue to fish for sports fish at any time after having already taken a bag limit for that species.
	1.3	No angler when fishing for sports fish shall use any unsporting device or method.
	1.4	No angler shall continue to fish on any day after having foul hooked three sports fish, even though any such sports fish have been returned immediately in accordance with the Schedule 1 of this Notice.
	1.5	Any angler who lands a sports fish that will not be kept shall immediately return it with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.
	1.6	There are no restrictions on the hours of fishing except that no angler may fish for, take or kill sea-run chinook Salmon in any river between the hours of 11 pm and 4 am in December and January, and between 10 pm and 5 am for any other month of the year.
	1.7	There is no minimum length for Trout.
	1.8	The minimum length for Salmon killed in waters of the Region shall be 300mm except in lakes where the minimum length shall be 250mm and in Lake Heron / Ōtūroto where the minimum length shall be 300mm and the maximum length shall be 450mm.
	1.9	There is no daily bag limit and no minimum length for coarse fish except in designated coarse fishing waters (see Note 2).
	1.10	No angler shall fish for sockeye Salmon between 1 March and 30 April in - Deep Stream (Lake Aviemore), Otematata River / Ōtamatakou, Tekapo River / Takapō, Mary Burn / Te Kōhai, Grays River, Larch Stream, Ōhau River, Ahuriri River, Omarama Stream / Te Ao Mārama, , Twizel River / Whakatipu, or any other stream or river where sockeye Salmon are present.
	1.11	A portion of fish may be used as bait where bait fishing is permitted, excluding any portion of salmon, trout or any fish eggs.
	1.12	Scented artificial lures may be used where spin fishing is permitted, when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish.
Note 2		Coarse fishing waters - Centennial Park Lake (Timaru), Island Stream, Saltwater Creek, and Waiareka Creek. Daily limit 1 Tench. No daily limit for Perch. Minimum size 450mm for Tench and 250mm for Perch.
Note 3		No sports fishing from boats in lakes, Camp / Ōtautari, Denny, Donne, Emily and Spider.
Note 4		No sports fishing from any unmoored boat in lakes MacGregor / Whakarukumoana and Māori Lakes / Ōtūwharekai.
Note 5	**5.1**	An angler when fishing for sports fish in the Rangitata River /Rakitata or its tributaries may use, seaward of a line extending through two GPS points (-44.181807°, 171.499428° and -44.179319°, 171.504111°) and where part of the line is marked by two poles situated approximately 1km from the coast, an artificial fly only if the total weight of everything attached to the cast does not exceed 28g.

	5.2	An angler when fishing for sports fish in the Rangitata River / Rakitata or its tributaries may cast other than from the reel or retrieve other than by winding the reel only when using bait or fly fishing, or when fishing with an artificial fly seaward of a line extending through two GPS points (-44.181807°, 171.499428° and -44.179319°, 171.504111°) and where part of the line is marked by two poles situated approximately 1km from the coast.
Note 6		No angler shall fish in Lake Alexandrina / Takamana using down riggers, paravanes, metal cored or wire lines and weights to assist sinking of trolled lures.
Note 7		An angler may fish from any boat in Lake Middleton, Kellands Pond and Wairepo Arm except when being propelled by a motor.
Note 8		No angler shall use as bait any feed pellets used for the rearing of trout or salmon in the Tekapo / Takapō Canal, Pūkaki- Ōhau A Canal and - Ōhau canals.
Note 9		No angler shall use any lure with more than one hook and one point in Lake Heron / Ōtūroto.
Note 10		**Controlled Fishery**: No angler may fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period unless they are the holder of an appropriate controlled-period licence or are named on such a licence.
Note 11		Sea-run Salmon Season Bag Limit
	11.1	No angler may fish for Salmon in a sea-run Salmon water unless they are the holder of a sea-run Salmon licence or are named on such a licence.
	11.2	All holders of a sea-run Salmon licence are eligible to receive a Season Bag Limit Card. Family whole-season anglers that have a Sea-run Salmon Licence are eligible for one Season Bag Limit Card per family licence.
	11.3	No angler shall fish for, take, kill or be in possession of a Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters within the Central South Island Fish and Game Region without holding a Season Bag Limit Card.
	11.4	No angler shall fish for, take, kill or be in possession of a Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters within the Central South Island Fish and Game Region without holding a Season Bag Limit Card.
	11.5	Immediately upon taking or killing a Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters, the angler must complete an entry in their Season Bag Limit Card for that fish.
	11.6	All anglers that fished for Salmon from sea-run Salmon waters in either the Central South Island or North Canterbury Fish and Game regions must return their Season Bag Limit Card data to either the Central South Island or North Canterbury Fish and Game Council by 7 May 2026, regardless of how many such Salmon were taken or killed.
	11.7	All holders of a Season Bag Limit Card must produce it to a Fish and Game Ranger on demand.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown			Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Other	
All waters or portions of waters not specifically listed below		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2	no limit	Note 1
Ahuriri River	and tributaries upstream of and including Longslip Creek	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
	and tributaries downstream of Longslip Creek except Omarama Stream	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	4	2		Note 1
Ahuriri River Lagoons		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1

Ashburton River / Hakatere	North and South Branches and tributaries upstream of Taylors Stream confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
	South Branch and tributaries downstream of Taylors Stream confluence and Ashburton River downstream of North and South branch junction	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
	Winter season downstream of State Highway 1	1 Jun - 31 Aug	FS	2	Closed		Note 1
Aviemore spawning race		Closed					
Awakino River / Te Awakinonui		Trout: 1st Saturday Nov - 30 April	FS	2			Notes 1
		Salmon: 1st Saturday Nov - 31 Mar	FS		Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Bells Pond	Waitaki River irrigation pond at Ross Road	1 Oct – 30 April	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Bortons Pond	Waitaki River irrigation Pond at Black Point, State Highway 83	1 Oct – 30 April	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Deep Creek	a tributary to the upper Rangitata River / Rakitata	Trout: 1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2			Note 1
		Salmon: 1 Oct - last day of Feb	FS		Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
Deep Stream	a tributary to Lake Aviemore, and its tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
Deep Stream	a tributary to the upper Rangitata River / Rakitata	Trout: 1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2			Note 1
		Salmon: 1 Oct - last day of Feb	FS		Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
Fork Stream / Hakatere		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
Grays River		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
Hakataramea River		Trout: 1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
		Salmon: 1st Saturday Nov - 31 Mar	FS		Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
High-country tarns or lagoons		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
Hinds River / Hekeao - child anglers		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
Hinds River / Hekeao - other than child anglers		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11

Irishman Creek / Te Wai-a-Kohe		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Note 1
Island Stream / Kauru		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2
Kakanui River / Kakaunui	and tributaries upstream of Five Forks Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
	and tributaries downstream of Five Forks Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
Kellands Pond		All year	FSB	2 sports fish			Notes 1, 7
Lake Alexandrina / Takamana	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	4 Trout max 1 Brown	2		Notes 1, 6
	Winter season	1 Jun - 31 July	FS	2 sports fish max 1 Brown Trout			Notes 1, 6
Lake Aviemore / Mahi Tīkumu		All year	FSB	4 sports fish			Note 1
Lake Aviemore / Mahi Tīkumu tributaries	except Deep Stream and Otematata River	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Lake Benmore / Te Ao Mārama		All year	FSB	4 sports fish			Note 1
Lake Benmore / Te Ao Mārama Tributaries	except Tekapo / Takapō, Ahuriri and Otamatapaio rivers	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Lake Camp / Ōtautari		1st Saturday Nov - 31 May	FS	2			Note 1, 3
Centennial Park Lake (Timaru)		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2
Lake Clearwater / Te Puna-a-Taka	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
Lake Denny	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2			Notes 1, 3
Lake Donne	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2			Notes 1, 3
Lake Emily	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2			Notes 1, 3
Lake Emma / Kirihonuhonu	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
Lake Heron / Ōtūroto	and tributaries west of a line drawn between two GPS points (-43.469985°, 171.198733° and -43.467572°, 171.199181°) positioned at the entrance to Harrisons Bight.	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4 sports fish, no more than 1 salmon			Note 1, 9
	and tributaries east of a line drawn between two GPS points (-43.469985°, 171.198733° and -43.467572°, 171.199181°) positioned at the entrance to Harrisons Bight.	1st Saturday Nov – 31 Mar	FSB	4 sports fish, no more than 1 salmon			Note 1, 9
Lake Hood		All year	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Lake McGregor / Whakarukumoana		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Merino		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1

Lake Middleton		All year	FSB	4	2		Notes 1, 7
Lake Mystery		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1
Lake Ōhau		All year	FSB	4 sports fish			Note 1
Lake Ōhau tributaries		1st Saturday Nov – 30 Apr	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Lake Opuha / Ōpūaha		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4			Note 1
	Winter season	1 June – 31 Aug	FSB	2			
Lake Opuha / Ōpūaha tributaries		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Note 1
Lake Poaka		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1
Lake Pūkaki		All year	FSB	4 sports fish			Note 1
Lake Pūkaki tributaries		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Lake Roundabout	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1
Lake Ruataniwha		All year	FSB	2 sports fish			Note 1
Lake Spider	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2			Notes 1, 3
Lake Tekapo / Takapō		All year	FSB	6 sports fish total and no more than 4 to be Trout or 4 to be Salmon			Note 1
Lake Tekapo/ Takapō tributaries		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Lake Waitaki		–All year	FSB	4 sports fish			Note 1
Lake Waitaki tributaries		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Lake Wardell		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4			Note 1
Lake Stream		1 Oct - 31 Mar	FSB	2	Closed		Note 1
Larch Stream		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2		Note 1
Loch Cameron - child anglers		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	2	2		Note 1
Loch Cameron - other than child anglers		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
Maerewhenua River		Trout: 1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2			Note 1
		Salmon: 1st Saturday Nov - 31 Mar	FS		Refer Note 11		Note 1, 9
Māori Lakes / Ōtūwharekai	and their tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	F	2			Note 1, 4
Mary Burn / Te Kōhai		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
Ōhapi Creek		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
Ōhau Canal	from the Lake Ōhau outlet to the junction with Pūkaki – Ōhau A Canal	All year	FSB	2 sports fish			Note 1, Note 8

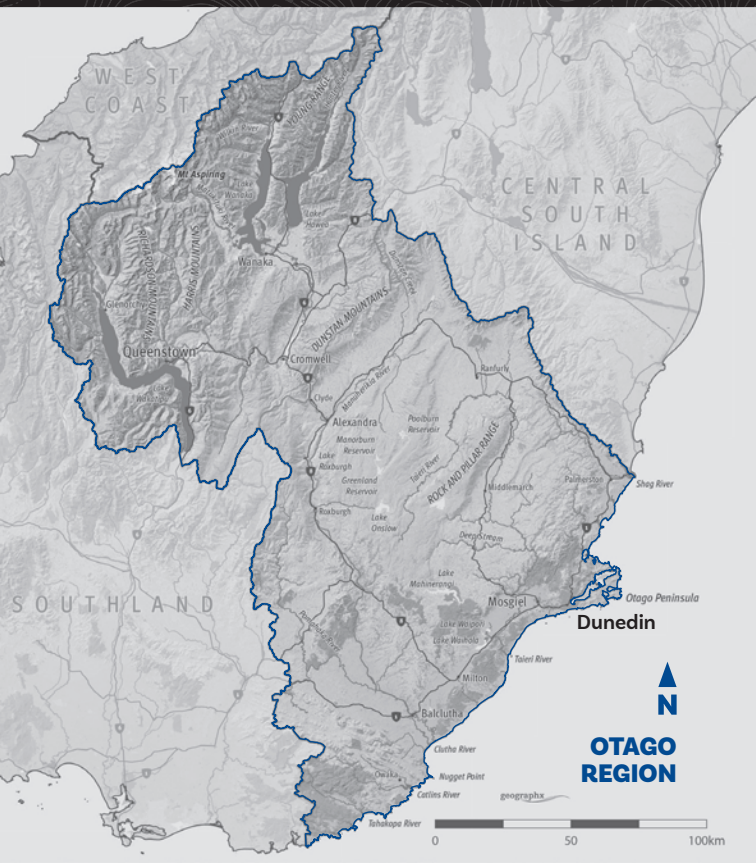
Ōhau B and Ōhau C Canals	From Lake Ruataniwha to the Ōhau C power station	All year	FSB	2 sports fish			Note 1, Note 8
Ōhau River	downstream of Lake Ruataniwha	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Ōhau River	Ōhau River from Lake Ruataniwha to the Lake Ōhau weir	1st Saturday Nov – 30 Apr	FS	2 sports fish			Notes 1
	Controlled Fishery Ōhau River from Lake Ruataniwha to the Lake Ōhau weir	1 Oct – 31 Oct 2026, and 1st Saturday Sep - 30 Sep 2027	FS	2 sports fish			Notes 1,10
Omarama Stream / Te Ao Mārama		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
Ōpihi River	upstream of Opuha River / Ōpūaha junction	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
	downstream of Opuha River / Ōpūaha junction	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
	Winter season downstream of State Highway 1	1 Jun - 31 Aug	FS	2	Closed		Note 1
Opuha River / Ōpūaha	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
Ōrāri River	and tributaries upstream of Slip Panel Stream	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Ōrāri River	and tributaries downstream of Slip Panel Stream	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
Otamatapaio River / Te Makatipua		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
Otematata River / Ōtamatakou	and tributaries upstream of Clear Stream	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
	and tributaries downstream of Clear Steam	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	4	2		Note 1
Pareora River / Pureora	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Pūkaki River		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Pūkaki - Ōhau A Canal	From the Lake Pūkaki outlet to Ōhau A power station	All year	FSB	2 sports fish			Note 1, 8
Rangitata Diversion Race RDR Canal / Rakitata	from intake downstream to Rakaia River Road	All year	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Rangitata River / Rakitata	and tributaries upstream of Turn Again Point about 12km above the gorge	Trout: 1 Oct - 31 Mar	FS	2			Note 1
		Salmon: 1 Oct - last day of Feb	FS		Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
	and tributaries downstream of Turn Again Point	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 5, 11
	Winter season downstream of State Highway 1	1 Jun - 31 Aug	FS	2	Closed		Notes 1, 5

Saltwater Creek / Ōtipua		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2
Tengawai River / Te Ana-a-wai	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Tekapo Canal / Takapō	upstream from the State Highway 8 Bridge	1 Oct - 31 May and 1 - 30 Sep	FSB	2 sports fish			Note 1, 8
	downstream from the State Highway 8 Bridge	All year	FSB	2 sports fish			Note 1, 8
Tekapo River / Takapō	upstream of lower powerlines across river about 1km upstream of Lake Benmore	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4	2		Note 1
	downstream of lower powerlines across river about 1km upstream of Lake Benmore	All year	FSB	4	2		Note 1
Temuka River / Te Umu Kaha	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Tinwald Domain pond, child anglers only		All year	FSB	2			Note 1
Tinwald Domain pond, other than child anglers		Closed					
Twizel River / Whakatipu	and tributaries	1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
Waihao River	upstream of Forks Bridges	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	2	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
	downstream of Forks Bridges	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Waihī River	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
Wairepo Arm		All year	FSB	2 sports fish			Notes 1, 7
Wairepo Arm tributaries		1st Saturday Nov - 30 Apr	FS	2	2		Note 1
Waiareka Creek		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2
Waitaki River	downstream of a line running beneath the power lines across the river at the Stonewall or in any tributary of that part of the river	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	Refer Note 11		Notes 1, 11
	from the Waitaki Dam downstream to a line running beneath the power lines across the river at the Stonewall or in any tributary of that part of the river excluding the Hakataramea and Maerewhenua rivers	Trout: 1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4			Note 1
		Salmon: 1 Oct 31 Mar	FSB		Refer Note 11		Note 1, 11
	Winter season downstream of State Highway 1	1 Jun - 31 Aug	FS	2	Closed		Note 1

OTAGO

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game™ NEW ZEALAND



Dunedin Office: 5 Hazlett Road, Mosgiel 9092

Phone: (03) 477 9076

Email: otago@fishandgame.org.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

Otago Fish & Game Region extends from Shag Point/Matakaea on the South Island's East Coast south to The Brothers Point in the Catlins area. The region runs inland to include the entire Clutha/Mata-Au and Taieri river catchments as well as several smaller coastal river catchments such as the Catlins, Tahakopa, Tokomairiro, Waikouaiti and Shag/Waihemo.

The Otago Region has a wide range of fishing opportunities set in diverse landscapes from pristine high country and barren Central Otago plains to the lush lowland pastures of coastal Otago. All anglers and methods are catered for.

The large southern lakes - Wānaka, Wakatipu, Hāwea and Dunstan - hold rainbow and brown trout and Chinook salmon, attracting boat and shore anglers.

The Clutha, Pomahaka and Taieri rivers are popular and productive trout fisheries. If you prefer to fish smaller water, try the many coastal and inland streams.

Central Otago irrigation reservoirs offer good fishing. Fish & Game also stocks rainbow trout in about a dozen put-and-take fisheries.

Perch are abundant in most coastal reaches and in many lakes and ponds.

Please respect our angling waters by obeying the regulations that apply to them, not leaving rubbish and obtaining the landowner's permission where required.

ANGLING INFORMATION

Access pamphlets including maps are available for many of the popular waters. Pamphlets are available to download on the Otago pages of the website www.fishandgame.org.nz or from selected outlets. You may also visit the office or email us to have them posted to you. For regular updates, sign up for the Otago Weekly Fishing Report on our website, and you can find Otago Fish & Game Council on Facebook.

DESIGNATED WATERS FISHERIES

Otago has nine Designated Waters fisheries requiring anglers to be holders of a full season licence and a Designated Waters licence. For more information or to obtain a Designated Waters licence go to www.fishandgame.org.nz. To manage pressure and provide the best angling experience, the Greenstone River has a controlled fishery period from 1 February to 31 March. A voluntary beat system operates in the Nevis River.

LAKE, RIVER AND ROAD CONDITIONS

For up-to-date weather information visit www.metservice.com or www.yr.no/en. Another source of information on river conditions is the Otago Regional Council's Environmental Data Portal: https://envdata.orc.govt.nz/AQWebPortal/Data

Check your local district council for road conditions before heading to remote areas, especially winter road closures.

POLLUTION COMPLAINTS

For complaints about pollution or damage to rivers contact the Otago Regional Council's 24-hour Pollution Hotline on 0800 800 033 in the first instance.

Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Otago Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The Otago Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	**1.1**	Scented artificial lures may be used where spin fishing is permitted, when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish
	1.2	There is no bag limit for perch.
	1.3	An angler may continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day on which the angler has already killed a limit bag for that species as long as fish taken are immediately returned with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.
	1.4	In all waters of the region there shall be no minimum length except in the -
	1.4.1	Nevis River where no angler shall take or be in possession of any sports fish greater than 400mm in length.
	1.4.2	Clutha River and its tributaries downstream of Roxburgh Dam and all other waters running into the sea, where no angler shall take or be in possession of any Salmon less than 450mm in length.
Note 2	**2.1**	Anglers may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device.
	2.2	Anglers fishing from boats that are being propelled by a motor must stay at least 100 metres from any anglers fishing from the shore.
Note 3		Anglers may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device provided it is not being propelled by a motor.
Note 4		No angler may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device except in the tidal reaches of this waterway if applicable.
Note 5		Closed to all sports fishing in September except for Otago Fish and Game controlled fishing events.
Note 6		**Designated Waters.**
	6.1	No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.
	6.2	Only single-point hooks may be used, and a lure (including flies) may not have more than one hook attached in a designated waters fishery in this region.
Note 7		**Controlled Fishery**. No angler may fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period unless they are the holder of an appropriate controlled-period licence or are named on such a licence.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown		Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	
All waters or portions of waters **not specifically listed below**		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Note 1
For all lakes, rivers and streams within the Clutha River catchment **lying upstream of Clyde Dam** except where otherwise specified below		1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
For all lakes, rivers and streams within the Clutha River catchment lying **downstream of Clyde Dam** except where otherwise specified below		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Akatore Estuary		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Akatore River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Albert Burn		1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Arrow River		1 Nov – 31 May	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Blakelys Dam		1 Oct – 15 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Bullock Creek	from Lake Wānaka to source	Closed				
Butchers Dam		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Caples River	**part of Greenstone Designated Water** Caples River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 6
Cardrona River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Careys Creek	upstream of the rail line bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of the rail line bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Catlins Estuary	downstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Catlins River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Clutha River/ Mata-au	Lake Wānaka Outlet to Roxburgh Dam (excluding Deans Bank section)	All year	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 3
	Deans Bank section (defined by landmark posts 1km downstream of Lake Wānaka and 600m upstream of Albert Town Bridge)	1 Oct – 31 May	F	2	1	Notes 1, 4
	below Roxburgh Dam	All year	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 2,
Coal Pit Dam		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Conroys Dam		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2

Contour Channel		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Dart River /Te Awa Whakatipu		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Dart River tributaries	not mentioned elsewhere	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Deep Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Diamond Creek		1 Oct – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Diamond Lake (Glenorchy Area)		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Dingle Burn	**Designated Water** Dingle Burn upstream of the bridge on the Dingle Burn Station access road	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 6
	downstream of the bridge on the Dingle Burn Station access road	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Falls Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Fraser Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Fraser River	downstream of dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Fraser River Upper	upstream of dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Glenorchy Lagoons		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 2
Greenstone River	**Designated Water** Greenstone River and tributaries, including the Caples River, between the swing bridge at the Greenstone Station Road car park and the outlet of Lake McKellar	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 6
	Controlled Fishery Greenstone River and tributaries between the confluence of Sly Burn and the outlet of Lake McKellar	1 Feb – 31 Mar	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 6, 7
	downstream of the swing bridge at the Greenstone Station Road car park	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Hamiltons Dam		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Hāwea River		All year	FS	2	1	Notes 1, 4
Hoffmans Dam		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Hore's Control Pond		1 Nov – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Horne Creek	from Lake Wakatipu to source	Closed				
Hunter River	**Designated Water** Hunter River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 6
Ida Burn Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kaihiku Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Kaikorai Estuary	downstream of Abbotts Creek confluence	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kaikorai Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4

Kawarau River	from its source at Lake Wakatipu to Lake Dunstan	All year	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 3
Knights Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kuriwao Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Kye Burn		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Dispute		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 3
Lake Dunstan		All year	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 2
Lake Hāwea		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
Lake Hayes		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 3
Lake Johnson		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 3
Lake Kirkpatrick		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Mahinerangi		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake McKellar		1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Lake Onslow		All year	FSB	10		Notes 1, 2
Lake Reid		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 3
Lake Roxburgh	from the State Highway 8 bridge at Alexandra downstream to the Roxburgh Dam	All year	FSB	4	2	Notes 1, 2
Lake Sylvan		All year	FSB	6		Notes 1, 2
Lake Tuakitoto	including outlet channel and inlet channel	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Waihola	including outlet and waterways connected with Lake Waipori	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Waipori		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Wakatipu	within the waters of Queenstown Bay bounded by a straight line drawn from the outermost point of Queenstown Gardens to the point where the south bank of One Mile Creek meets Lake Wakatipu	Closed				
	within 100m of any part of the wharf in Black Bay (commonly known as the Walter Peak Jetty)	Closed				
		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
Lake Wānaka	within 150m of any part of the launch wharf at the township of Wānaka, within 150m of any part of the public jetty at the Wānaka Marina, and anywhere within 150m of the shoreline between the wharf and the jetty	Closed				
		All year	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 2

Lee Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lindis River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Lochy River	and tributaries downstream of Disputed Creek confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4
	Designated Water Lochy River and tributaries upstream of Disputed Creek confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	F	0		Notes 1, 4, 8
Logan Burn Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Maclennan River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Makarora River	and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Wilkin River confluence	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Manorburn Dam Lower		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Manorburn Dam Upper		1 Nov – 31 May	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Manuherekia River	and tributaries above Shaky Bridge (Kerry Road)	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
	below Shaky Bridge (Kerry Road)	All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Mathias Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Matukituki River	and tributaries above Glenfinnan Stream confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	between Glenfinnan Stream confluence and Motatapu River confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 3
	downstream of Motatapu River confluence	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 3
McAtamney's Head Pond		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Meggat Burn		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Mill Creek (a tributary to Lake Hayes)	above Waterfall Park	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
	from the Speargrass Flat Road Bridge to Waterfall Park	Closed				
	downstream of Speargrass Flat Road Bridge	All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Moke Lake		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 3
Molyneux Pond		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Motatapu River	and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Nenthorn Pond		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Nenthorn Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Nevis River	**Designated Water** Nevis River and tributaries	1 Oct – 30 Apr	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 6
Owaka River	upstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4

Pinders Pond		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Pleasant River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Pomahaka River	**Designated Water** Pomahaka River upstream of the Hukarere Station Bridge on Hukarere Station Road	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FS	1	1	Notes 1, 4, 6
	downstream of the Hukarere Station Bridge on Hukarere Station Road to Swans Bridge on Clydevale Road	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Swans Bridge (Clydevale Road)	All year	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 4
Poolburn Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Puerua Estuary	downstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Puerua Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Rees River	and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Muddy Creek	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Route Burn	and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	F	0		Notes 1, 4
Rutherfords Dam		1 Nov – 15 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Shag River/ Waihemo	upstream of State Highway 1 bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of State Highway 1 bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Shotover River		All year	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
Silver Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Southern Reservoir		1 Oct – 31 Aug	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 5
Styx Weir Pond		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Sullivans Dam		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Sutton Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Tahakopa River	upstream of Tahakopa Valley Rd	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Tahakopa Valley Rd	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 3
Taieri River	above Styx Weir Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
	between State Highway 87 bridge at Outram and Styx Weir Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 4
	downstream of State Highway 87 bridge at Outram	All year	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 2
Tautuku Estuary		All year	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 2
Teviot River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Three O'Clock Stream		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
Timaru River	and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4

	downstream of Timaru Creek Road bridge	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Tokomairiro River	above Coal Gully Road bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Coal Gully Road bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Tomahawk Lagoon		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Tuapeka River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Victoria Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Von Lake		1 Nov – 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 2
Von River	and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4
Waikouaiti River	upstream of State Highway 1 road bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of State Highway 1 road bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waipahi River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Waipori River	upstream of the Contour Channel confluence	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of the Contour Channel confluence to the Taieri River confluence	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Waitahuna River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waitati River	upstream of Orokonui Stream confluence	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Orokonui Stream confluence	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waiwera River		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Water of Leith	upstream of Leith Street Foot Bridge and including Lindsay Creek	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Leith Street Foot Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
West Eweburn Dam		1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2		Note 1, 2
Wilkin River	**Designated Water**. Wilkin River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 6
Young River	**Designated Water**. Young River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 6

SOUTHLAND

Sports Fishing Regulations 2026/2027

Fish & Game™ NEW ZEALAND

Southland Offices: 17 Eye Street, Invercargill
178 Manapouri-Te Anau Highway

Postal Address: PO Box 159, Invercargill, 9840

Phone: (03) 215 9117

Email: information@southlandfishgame.co.nz

SCAN FOR ALL REGIONS REGULATIONS

Southland offers a wide variety of trout fishing opportunities and is home to some of the best freshwater angling in New Zealand. The region is one of the country's strongholds for brown trout, which are widely distributed throughout the main stems of our major rivers including the Aparima, Oreti, Mataura, and Waiau, as well as their many tributaries.

Several of these rivers are internationally recognised trout fishing destinations. The Mataura River, for example, flows through the town of Gore which is proudly known as "The Brown Trout Capital of the World". The upper Oreti, Aparima and Waikaia Rivers are also renowned for their fishing quality and scenic surroundings, attracting anglers from around the globe.

Some of Southland's popular fisheries have voluntary beat systems in place to help manage angling pressure and improve the angling experience. We ask that all anglers respect these systems so everyone can enjoy their time on the water. In addition, the upper Oreti has a Designated Waters Licence requirement to help further protect the angling experience on this exceptional fishery.

While Southland's headwater fisheries receive a lot of attention, anglers should also explore the mid and lower reaches of our major rivers as well as their lowland tributaries. These sections are often overlooked, particularly by visiting anglers, yet they hold excellent trout populations, offer easy access, and the fish are often less challenging to catch. In these lower, slower-flowing reaches, redfin perch are also present and provide great angling, particularly for beginner anglers or family groups.

If you're looking to target rainbow trout, you will need to head west to the Fiordland lakes and their connected rivers, the likes of Lakes Te Anau, Manapouri, and Monowai, along with the Waiau and Mararoa rivers. These western waters provide a very pleasant angling experience set against exceptional scenery.

Anglers should be aware that some rivers in Southland are unfortunately affected by the invasive alga didymo. As didymo and other aquatic pests can spread easily, it is essential to check, clean and dry all fishing gear when moving between waterways. This is especially important in Fiordland, where many rivers remain didymo-free, and our aim is to keep them that way. Please note that some areas in Fiordland require a Clean Gear Certificate before fishing. Contact our office for details and ensure you obtain your certificate before you head out.

For more information about fishing in Southland, including access maps, scan this QR code:
https://www.fishandgame.org.nz/freshwater-fishing-in-new-zealand/where-to-fish/regional-info/southland/

Schedule 2

Conditions for Sport Fishing Specific to Particular Fish and Game Regions

Southland Fish and Game Region

1. Definitions

The Southland Fish and Game Region is the region so defined in the New Zealand Gazette, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

For interpretation of terms, refer to the Schedule 1 of this notice.

2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	**1.1**	Fishing for coarse fish in all waters of Southland region is prohibited.
	1.2	With the exception of Perch for which there is no limit, no angler shall on any one day take, kill or be in possession of -
	1.2.1	more than 1 Salmon from any waters of the region
	1.2.2	more than 4 sports fish.
	1.3	There are no minimum or maximum lengths for sports fish in Southland region.
Note 2		No angler may take, or attempt to take, Salmon from any river during the months of April and May.
Note 3		Scented artificial lures may be used in Fly and Spin waters, when actively fished so as to imitate a bait fish.
Note 4		Molluscs or parts of molluscs may be used in bait fishing waters.
Note 5		No angler shall fish from any motorised boat (including electric motors) in Lake Thomas and South Lake Mavora.
Note 6		No angler shall fish from any boat or any form of flotation device.
Note 7		No angler shall fish for sports fish in a designated Junior Fishery unless they are a child or junior.
Note 8		**Designated Waters**: No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.
Note 9		**Controlled Fishery.** No angler may fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period unless they are the holder of an appropriate controlled-period licence or are named on such a licence.

3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit see Note 1.2 for Salmon and other bag limits			Refer clause 2 for additional requirements
				Trout	Salmon	Other	
All waters or portions of waters not specifically listed below		1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
All rivers and lakes draining to the Tasman Sea and Foveaux Strait west of Waiau River except where otherwise specified below		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Acton Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4

Aparima River	Upstream of the Thornbury Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	Thornbury Bridge to sea	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Borland Burn		1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Brightwater Spring		1 Nov -30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Clinton River	**Controlled Fishery.** Clinton River Catchment from Lake Te Anau to "The Prairie" Flat (NZTOPO50-CB08 9045 2047) and entire North Branch and tributaries.	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 9
	Clinton River Catchment upstream of "The Prairie" Flat (NZTOPO50-CB08 9045 2047).	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			1, 2, 4
Cromel Stream		1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Eglinton River	and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 6
Ettrick Burn	**Controlled Fishery** Ettrick Burn from Lake Te Anau to the upstream limit of Log Cabin Slip at NZTOPO 50-CC07 796753	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 9
Hamilton Burn	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Irthing Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Lake Fergus		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
Lake Gunn		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
Lake Hankinson		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
Lake Hauroko		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
	tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
Lake Henry	**Junior Fishery**	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4, 7
Lake Manapouri	including Waiau Arm	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
	tributaries, excluding Mararoa and upper Waiau Rivers	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
Lake Mavora	North	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
	South	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4, 5
Lake Monowai		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
	tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
Lake Poteriteri		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
Lake Te Anau		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
	tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4

Lake Thomas		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4, 5
Lake Waituna	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 4
Lill Burn		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Makarewa River	and tributaries upstream of Riverton - Invercargill Highway	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of Riverton - Invercargill Highway	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Mararoa River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Mataura River	upstream of the Gore Bridge and all tributaries except Brightwater Spring	1 Oct –30 April	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 6
	downstream of the Gore Bridge and upstream of the Mataura Island Bridge	1 Oct - 31 May, excluding 1 and 2 May 2027	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 6
	Mataura Island Bridge to the sea	All year, excluding 1 and 2 May 2027	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
McGregor Pond (Whitestone River Berm)	**Junior Fishery**	All year, excluding 19 Oct to 23 2026, inclusive.	FSB	Daily catch limit of 2 fish applies, regardless of whether fish are kept or released.			Notes 1, 4, 7
Mimihau Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Mokoreta River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Monowai River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Orauea Stream	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Ourawera Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Oreti River	**Designated Water.** Oreti River and tributaries upstream of State Highway 97 Bridge near Mossburn	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1			Notes 1, 2, 3, 6, 8
	State Highway 97 Bridge to State Highway 94 Bridge just north of Lumsden	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 6
	State Highway 94 Bridge just north of Lumsden to Riverton-Invercargill Highway	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	Riverton-Invercargill Highway to sea	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Otamita Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Pourakino River	and tributaries upstream of Waipango Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4

	downstream of Waipango Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Rakatu/ Redcliff wetland complex		All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Taunamau Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Titiroa Stream	and tributaries upstream of The Locks	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of The Locks	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Tokanui River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Upukerora River		1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Waiau River	between Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri	1 Oct - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	From the downstream extent of the Manapouri Lake Control structure, also known as the Mararoa Weir, to Tuatapere	1 Oct - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	Tuatapere to the sea, including the Waiau Lagoon	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	The area enclosed by the side-walls of the Manapouri Lake Control structure/Mararoa Weir downstream of the main control gates	Closed					
Waiau River tributaries	Mararoa Weir to the sea	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Waihopai River	upstream of Queens Drive	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of Queens Drive	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Waikaia River	and tributaries	1 Oct –30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 6
Waikaka Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Waikawa River	and tributaries upstream of Niagara Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of Niagara Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Waikiwi Stream	upstream of North Road Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of North Road Bridge	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Waimatuku Stream	and tributaries upstream of Rance Road bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of the Rance Road bridge	All year	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Waimea Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Wairaki River	and tributaries	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2
Whitestone River	upstream of Prospect Bridge	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
	downstream of Prospect Bridge	1 Oct - 30 April	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4
Worsley River	**Controlled Fishery.** The Worsley River and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	2			Notes 1, 2, 4, 9