

General Methods

For the larger inland waters fly anglers should try terrestrial-type dry flies such as Humpys or general nymph patterns such as bead-heads. Threadline anglers should try Veltic-type blade spinners, fished upstream into riffles. These will be more successful at change of light, or when rivers are discoloured.

Mararoa River

A medium sized fast flowing river providing excellent fishing. Access through the lower gorge requires an ability to cross the river. This is difficult unless it is low.

Waiau River

The Waiau is large with long pools, and bouldery runs. Medium sized rainbow and brown trout are abundant.

Lakes Monowai & Hauroko

Both lakes are relatively large with limited foot access. Trolling is the most popular technique. Shore-based fishing can be very successful off stream mouths. Cruising fish can be ambushed with general dry flies or damselfly-nymph patterns.

Borland River

The Borland is a beautiful large stream, lined with bush throughout. Conditions favour the fly angler who should approach with stealth!

The Borland Road takes you over the Borland Saddle and down the Grebe Valley to the South Arm of Lake Manapouri. The road is unsealed, narrow and steep in places, and subject to slips, washouts, snow and ice, and fallen trees. The gate at Borland Lodge is locked when conditions prevent access and over the winter.

Access to the Grebe River is difficult, although the fishing can be rewarding.

Lillburn Stream

Large, clear stream with good access. Delicate presentation with small patterns is recommended.

Wairaki River

A medium sized river, braided in its lower reaches. Some walking required between pools, but nice fish present.

Orauea River

Medium sized stream. Access improves above Pukemaori, where careful presentation is needed.

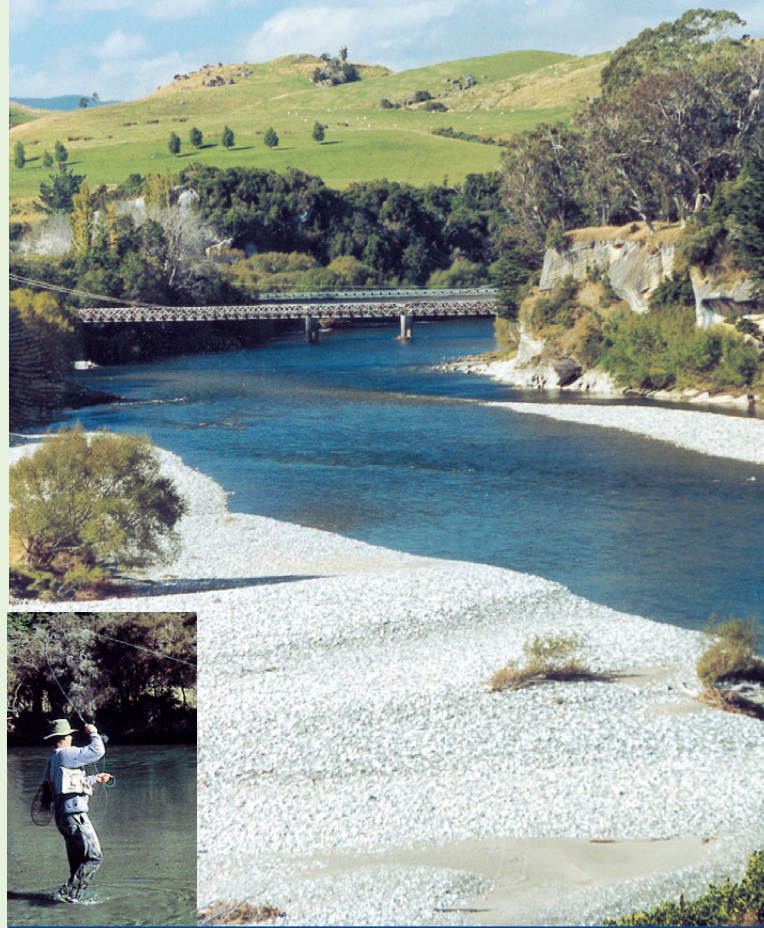
Aparima River

A medium sized river with easy access. Undervalued as a fishery the Aparima contains high numbers of medium sized brown trout.

Oreti River

A relatively large and slow-flowing river in the lower reaches. The ripples around the Wallacetown bridge are only 10 minutes drive from Invercargill, and provide great fishing.

Fishing the Southern Scenic Route



Fish & Game
NEW ZEALAND
Southland Region

Information in this brochure provides an overview of the best angling opportunities available in close proximity to the Southern Scenic Route. However, it is not exhaustive and some anglers may wish to venture further afield within Southland. Only roads linking access points are shown.

This brochure is sponsored by

Venture Southland
Economic & Community Development Agency

The brochure is designed as an access guide. If more information is required regarding methods or regulations please contact

Fish & Game
NEW ZEALAND

Southland Region

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KEY
● = Suitable Anglers Access (Some signposted)

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Fish & Game and Access

Fish & Game New Zealand's, Southland Region has a history of negotiating and sign posting access for anglers. This has only been achieved through the willingness of landowners to allow anglers to cross their land to the river. Please ensure your behaviour doesn't jeopardise this goodwill by following the suggestions listed below.

- Park vehicles off tracks and away from gates
- Do not litter
- Leave gates as you find them
- Cross fences without damaging them
- Stay within river margins
- Don't walk through stock
- If in doubt ask for permission

Mataura River

Travelling towards Invercargill the Southern Scenic Route meets the Mataura at the Fortrose Estuary, where the river joins the sea. The Mataura is large and slow-flowing as it meanders across the lower plains, below Seaward Downs.

Spin and bait fishing are the most productive methods in the lower reaches. When sea-run browns are present fishing is excellent, however, their occupation is spasmodic.

The Mataura is world famous for its dry fly fishing. Those wishing to pursue this method should detour inland, above Seaward Downs, where the nature of the river changes and the dry fly fishing improves. An access brochure specific to the Mataura and its tributaries is also available.

Tips for the Rivers & Streams of the Catlins

As you travel from Balclutha around the Southern Scenic Route to the coastal plains of Southland you cross many streams and small rivers. Much of the character of these streams and rivers is similar, therefore techniques which are successful in one generally work in another.

Upper Reaches

For fly anglers the upper reaches of these small streams & rivers provide the best potential. Often the brackish waters limit spotting fish, and likely spots should be prospected with a nymph or dry fly. If in doubt try the 'old standby' New Zealand patterns, such as a small Hare & Copper or Pheasant-Tail nymph, or perhaps a small Adams or Dad's Favourite dry fly. Casting is often limited by bank-side cover, but anglers should use caution when wading.

In the upper reaches spin anglers can target water impossible to cast a fly into. A bubble with a trace and nymph can be used successfully in many of these areas. As always small Mepps or Veltic blade spinners cast upstream into riffles are successful. Natural bait is allowed in many of these streams, but check your regulation guide.

Lower & Tidal Reaches

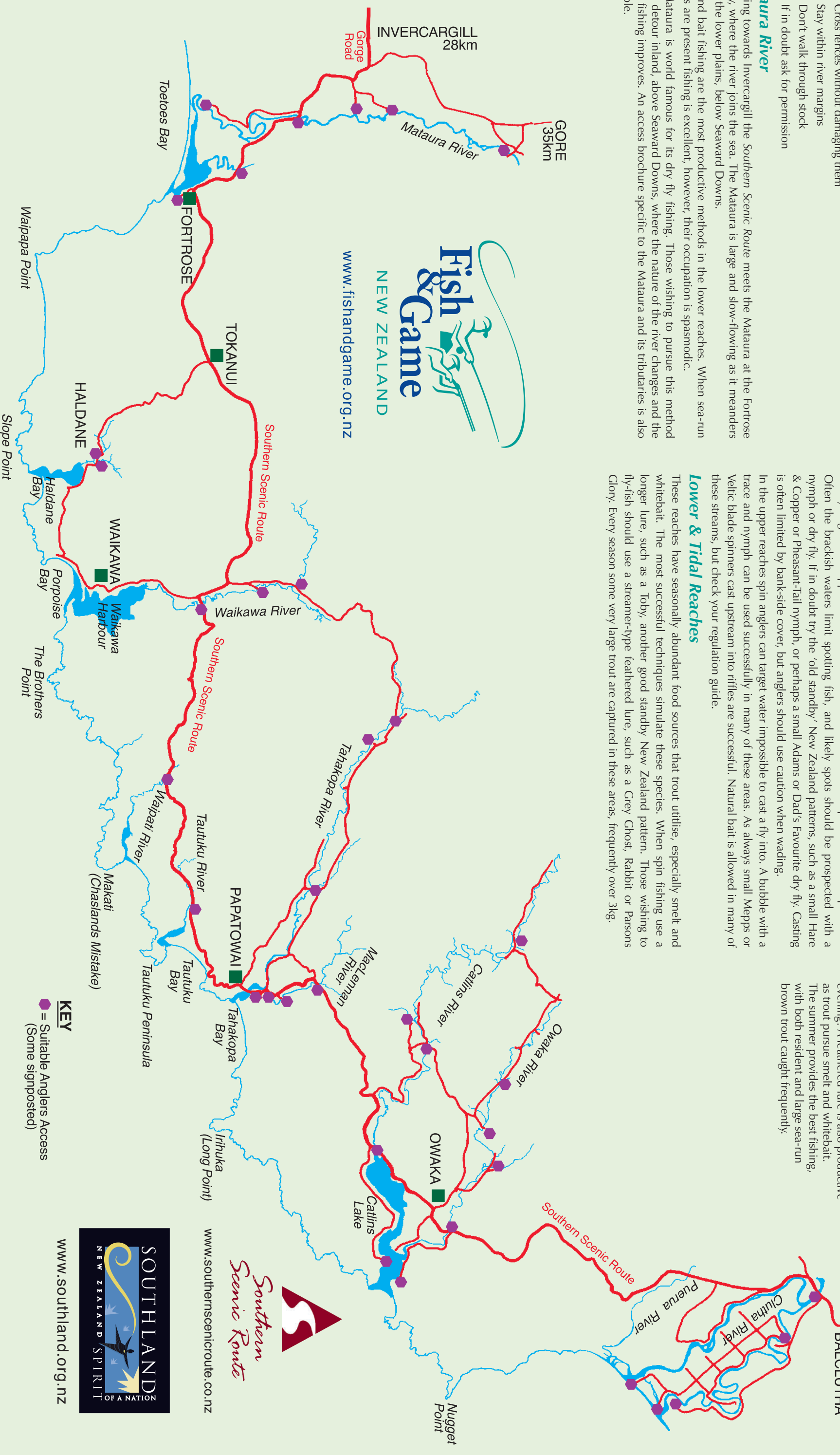
These reaches have seasonally abundant food sources that trout utilise, especially smelt and whitebait. The most successful techniques simulate these species. When spin fishing use a longer lure, such as a Toby, another good standby New Zealand pattern. Those wishing to fly-fish should use a streamer-type feathered lure, such as a Grey Ghost, Rabbit or Parsons Glory. Every season some very large trout are captured in these areas, frequently over 3kg.

Clutha River

The largest of New Zealand's rivers, the Clutha branches into the Koa and Matau branches below Balclutha and meanders smoothly to the sea.

The Matau Branch (true left) provides the best fishing with good access to both banks, right to the tidal reaches.

Spin and bait fishing is popular and productive. Fly anglers should anticipate a caddis hatch in the evening. A feathered lure is also productive as trout pursue smelt and whitebait. The summer provides the best fishing, with both resident and large sea-run brown trout caught frequently.



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