

Basic Fly-fishing patterns & techniques

Watch the trout carefully and ensure that they are taking hatched duns and not 'emergers' in the surface film. If you are satisfied that they are taking duns try using standard patterns such as Dad's Favourite, Blue Dun or Adams. Adams' tied in parachute style, with a white calf-hair wing, are particularly effective and allow you to follow progress of your fly. Whilst there are many patterns that will work, if in doubt try the 'old faithfuls' and then experiment if not successful. Use size 16s and 18s.

If the trout appear to be targeting 'emergers' try using CDC patterns, which have become extremely popular over the last few seasons. CDC feathers can be obtained from Mallard ducks around the oil gland on their tail, and are impregnated with the duck's natural water repellent. These feathers provide moderate floatation to the fly wing, with the body sinking below the surface film. Other anglers use unweighted nymph patterns and grease their leader to present the fly in the surface film. Once again use small patterns.

When surface activity is not obvious trout may be targeting nymphs in the riffles. Often this is when the fish are most vulnerable. Most standard patterns will work, if fished in smaller sizes and tied relatively sparsely. The ubiquitous Pheasant-tail remains productive, although patterns tied with a very small bead head are now popular. Don't be scared to fish shallow, as many browns will lie in water that hardly covers their backs!

Willow grubs are a popular summer food source for the browns in all of the rivers mentioned in this brochure, where willows over-hang the water. Whilst these fish can be frustrating, with a very small imitation fished in the surface film they can be successfully targeted.



Basic spin-fishing techniques

Generally spin fishing is most productive in the early mornings and evenings. If fishing during the day, a slightly discoloured river will be an advantage. If you're not having any success, vary your method of presentation, casting upstream and retrieving rapidly downstream, versus swinging your lure slowly across the current.

As with all fishing methods, first consider what the trout you are fishing for are likely to be feeding on. If you're in the lower reaches of the rivers, especially early in the season, trout are likely to be feeding on smelt and whitebait. Use patterns that best represent these small fish, or use smelt as natural bait.

If using natural bait, such as worms or huhu grubs, these are best fished as waters recede from floods. Erosion associated with floods make these food items available for trout, so find a good backwater and a comfy spot and give it a try, especially when the river is too discoloured for other methods. This is also an ideal way to introduce young anglers to the sport, as there is minimal casting required, it is easy to supervise, and it can be very successful.

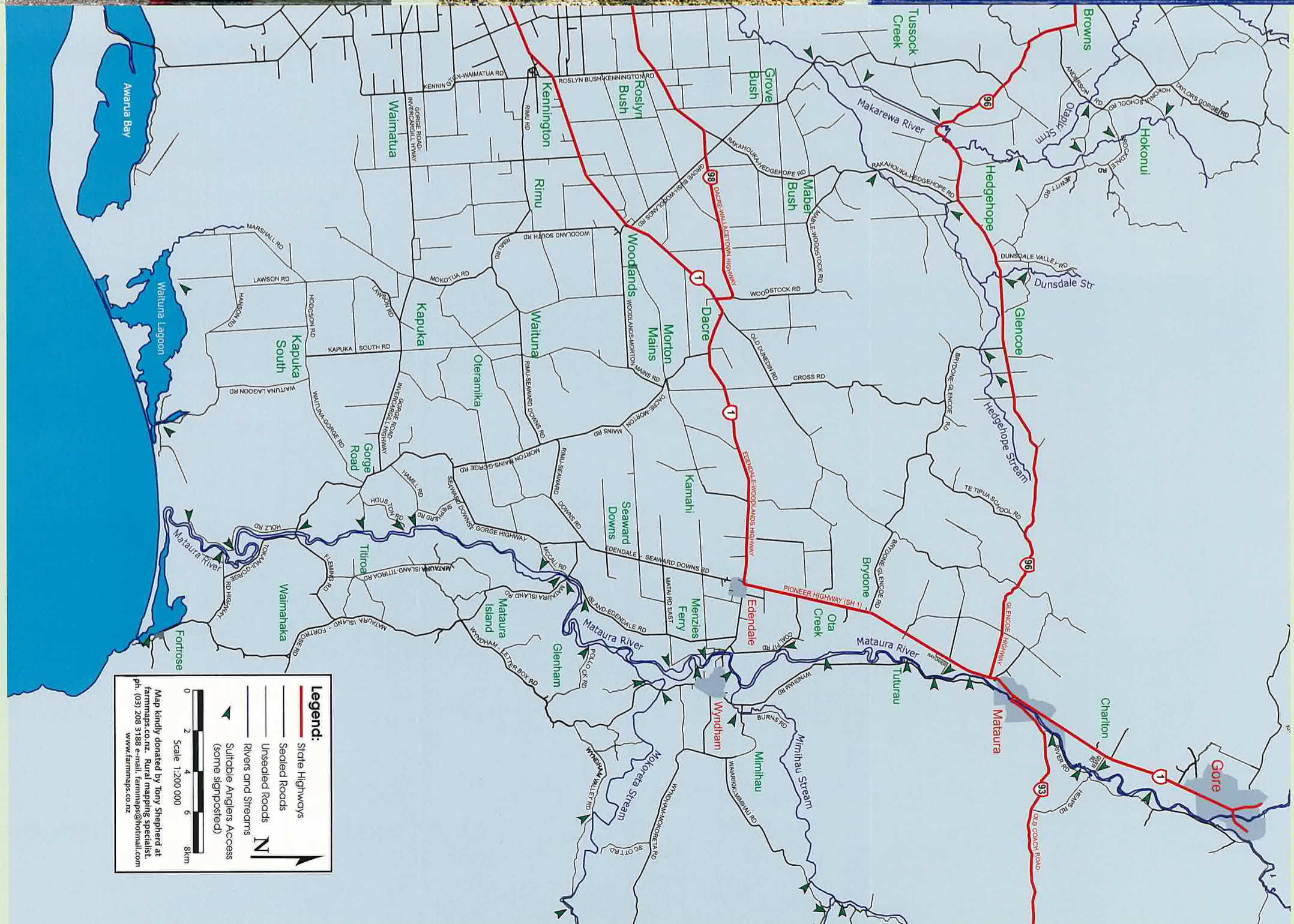


Fishing Surrounds Invercargill



Fish & Game
NEW ZEALAND

Southland Region



If you live in Invercargill great trout fishing opportunities surround you. This brochure is designed to highlight some of those opportunities available within approximately forty minutes of leaving your door.

Aparima River

To the West of Invercargill, the Aparima flows from the Takitimu mountains to the sea through the town of Riverton. A small-sized easy flowing river, it caters for all types of fishing and contains good numbers of fat brown trout. The Aparima clears quickly after rain, and at normal flows is easily waded. When low and clear a careful approach with light gear is necessary.

Oreti River

The Oreti enters the sea on Invercargill's doorstep, and provides some great fishing close to town. The most popular

area is above West Plains' bridge, where the river meanders lazily, and trout can be found slashing at smelt & whitebait in the riffles during our long summer evenings. Throughout the lower river natural bait is popular, particularly smelt, although feathered lures or threadline smelt-type imitations are also successful.

Makarewa River & tributaries

The Makarewa River rises in the Hokonui Hills as a number of good fishing streams, which combine to meander across the Southland plain to eventually join the Oreti River just above the West Plains road bridge. Techniques for the lower 'Mak' are the same as the lower Oreti, namely natural bait, threadline or feathered lure. Further inland anglers should fish with lighter gear.

The Otapiri, Lora, Dunsdale, Hedgehope and Te Tipua tributaries all provide interesting fishing opportunities. As relatively small streams they are immediately affected by rain, but also clear quite quickly and are usually worth visiting within 24 hours of the weather improving. A stealthy approach with light gear is most likely to provide success.

Mataura River

There is plenty of access to the Mataura within 40 minutes of Invercargill, and it is a favourite spot for many anglers. This area is particularly popular with people who can sneak away from home after work and fish the late afternoon and evening rise during our long summer evenings.

More detailed information on access and techniques for the Mataura is available in the Mataura access brochure.

Waituna Lagoon

Waituna Lagoon, or 'Lake Waituna' as some know it, is tidal when open to the sea. Generally fishing is considered best when the lagoon is

tidal, with fish and fishing pressure concentrated around the 'break-out'. 'Sea-run' browns are frequent visitors and target smelt and other bait-fish where the brackish lagoon waters enter the sea.

Waituna produces some large trout, but does not give up these specimens easily. Catch rate per hour is one of the lowest in the region and the majority of the trout harvested are caught by experienced locals. However, Waituna has its own attraction. As the wind-swept vegetation will attest, 'The Lake' is seldom calm and it offers a 'remote wilderness fishing experience' close to town!

Most anglers use threadline gear with smelt-type imitations or natural bait, although feathered lures are also successful.

