

Mataura River Anglers Access



Magic of the Mataura

The Mataura is one of New Zealand's most famous fishing rivers. Some claim it is the best fly fishing river in the world, others would beg to differ.

The most famous feature of the Mataura is its hatches of mayfly. Whilst other New Zealand rivers tend to have sporadic hatches in the evenings the Mataura often produces consistent hatches that can start at 10am and last through until nightfall!

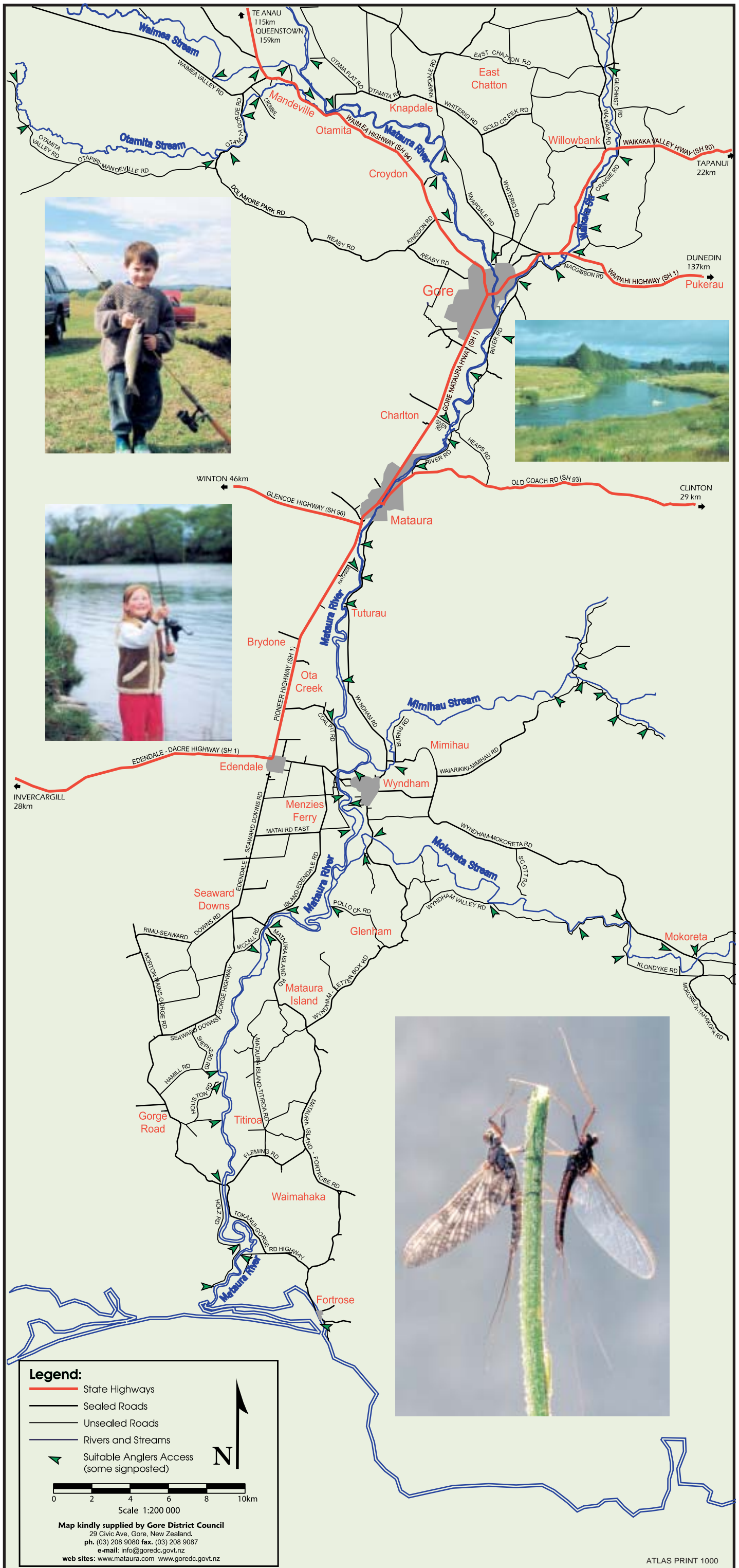
Fly fishing patterns & techniques

Most who come to fish the Mataura do so for the dry fly fishing that it offers. Whilst some will tell you Mataura trout are incredibly selective, others will tell you that it's presentation that's the key. The most successful anglers on the Mataura are those that can drop their fly repeatedly only a foot or so in front of a trout's nose.

Watch the trout carefully and ensure that they are taking hatched duns and not 'emergers' in the surface film. Try using standard patterns such as Dad's Favourite, Blue Dun or Adams'. Adams' tied in parachute style are particularly popular. Whilst there are many patterns that will work, if in doubt try the 'old faithfuls' and then experiment if not successful. Use sizes 16 or 18.

If the trout appear to be targeting 'emergers' try using CDC patterns. 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. 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 gaining popularity. Don't be scared to fish shallow, as many Mataura browns will lie in water that hardly covers their backs.





Willow grubs are a popular summer food source for the browns in both the Mataura and the Waikaia. Whilst trout feeding on willow grubs can be frustrating to catch, with a very small imitation fished in the surface film they can be successfully outwitted.

Threadline patterns & techniques

Whilst most famous as a fly fishing river the Mataura also offers exciting opportunities for the threadline angler. As with most threadlining, lighter tackle tends to be best, and best fishing times are following a fresh in the river as the clarity improves and at dawn or dusk. The lower river provides a chance to target 'sea-run' browns. Lures that simulate smelt are most productive, such as the various Toby patterns. Fishing natural bait, particularly smelt, is also popular and productive in the lower river.

Throughout the river patterns such as the Mepps blade spinners are very good, fished in the smaller sizes upstream into the riffles. Rapalas are also effective, although somewhat pricey to throw into the willows! Natural bait is popular early in the season and when the river is discoloured.

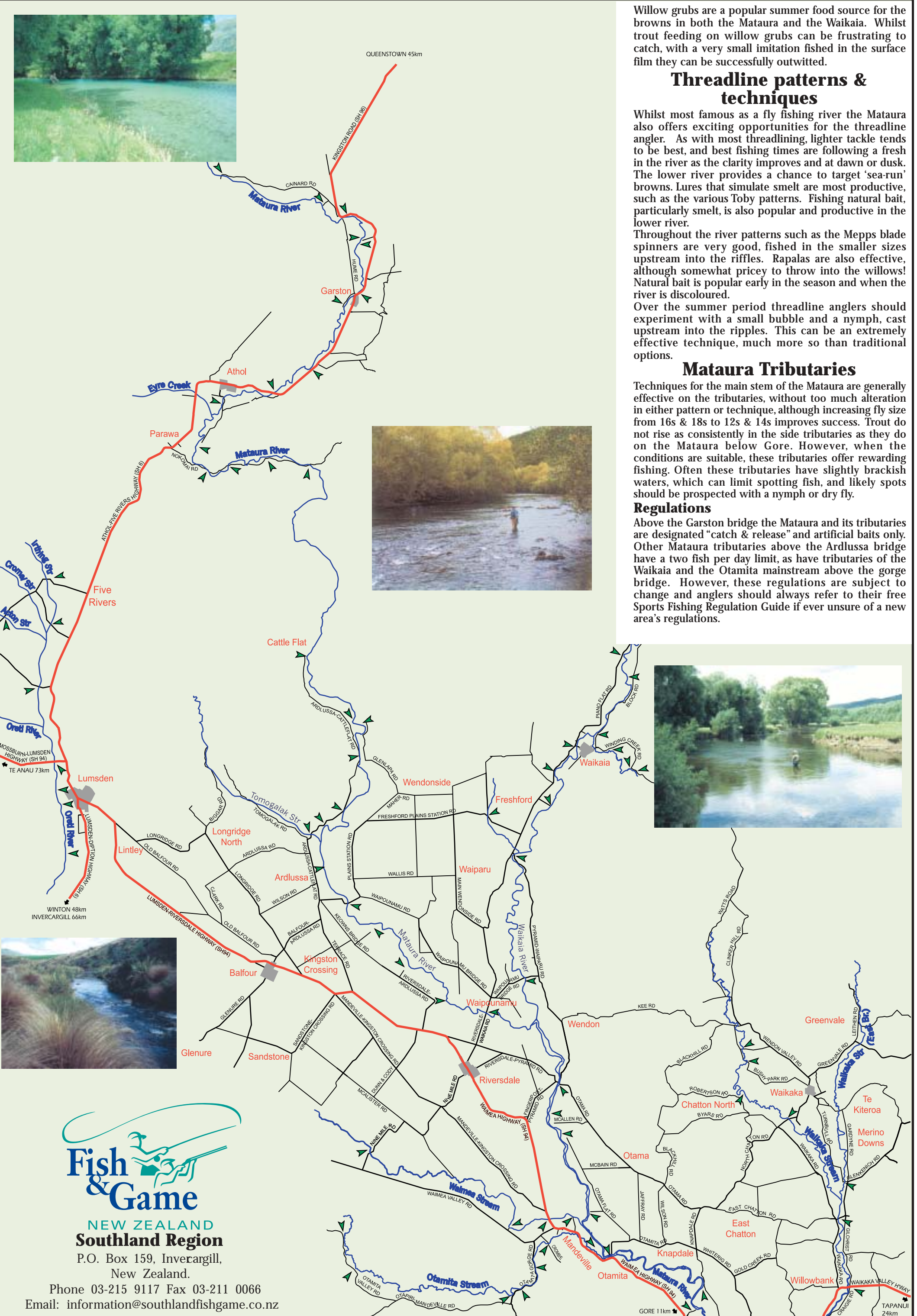
Over the summer period threadline anglers should experiment with a small bubble and a nymph, cast upstream into the ripples. This can be an extremely effective technique, much more so than traditional options.

Mataura Tributaries

Techniques for the main stem of the Mataura are generally effective on the tributaries, without too much alteration in either pattern or technique, although increasing fly size from 16s & 18s to 12s & 14s improves success. Trout do not rise as consistently in the side tributaries as they do on the Mataura below Gore. However, when the conditions are suitable, these tributaries offer rewarding fishing. Often these tributaries have slightly brackish waters, which can limit spotting fish, and likely spots should be prospected with a nymph or dry fly.

Regulations

Above the Garston bridge the Mataura and its tributaries are designated "catch & release" and artificial baits only. Other Mataura tributaries above the Ardlussa bridge have a two fish per day limit, as have tributaries of the Waikaia and the Otamita mainstream above the gorge bridge. However, these regulations are subject to change and anglers should always refer to their free Sports Fishing Regulation Guide if ever unsure of a new area's regulations.



Fish & Game
NEW ZEALAND
Southland Region

P.O. Box 159, Invercargill,
New Zealand.

Phone 03-215 9117 Fax 03-211 0066

Email: information@southlandfishgame.co.nz