



A beautiful brown trout caught on Opening Day



Summertime low flows require a stealthy approach

ACCESS ETIQUETTE

- Other than at the access points denoted on the map, the landowners consent should be obtained before venturing onto the river
- Do not park vehicles in gateways
- Be courteous to local landowners and others
- No Guns
- No Dogs
- No Camping
- Leave gates as you find them
- Stay within the river margins
- Do not Litter
- Respect Private property
- Avoid disturbing stock or damaging crops

Remember the reputation of ALL Anglers is reflected by your actions

FISHING ETIQUETTE

- Respect other anglers already on the water
- Enquire politely about their fishing plans
- Start your angling in the opposite direction
- Refer to your current sports fishing guide for fishing regulations and bag limits

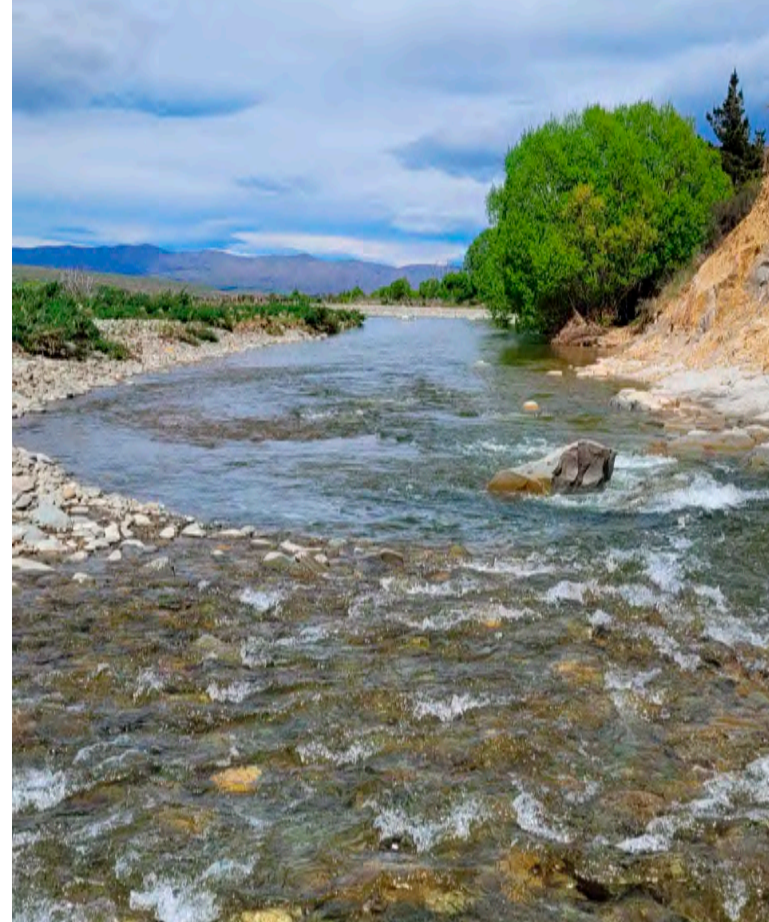


Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka, New Zealand
Telephone (03) 615 8400, Email csi@fishandgame.org.nz

Hakataramea River

ANGLER ACCESS



Central South Island Region

THE HAKATARAMEA RIVER FISHERY

The Hakataramea is the largest tributary of the Waitaki river. Brown and rainbow trout are found throughout the 50km of fishable river. The season opens along with other "High-Country" fisheries on the traditional day of the 'first Saturday of November'.

The river receives an annual run of spawning trout from the Waitaki and is regarded as the most important spawning habitat that supports the Lower Waitaki River trout fishery. Tagging programmes have revealed that after spawning in the Hakataramea River, trout will redistribute throughout the Hakataramea and the full length of the lower Waitaki River.

Trout up to 2.7 kilograms in weight are not uncommon, but the average is usually about 1.5 kilograms. A small river typically flowing at around 1-3 cumecs, during the dry summer months flows reduce and can disconnect around Wrights Crossing. During low flows the angler needs to employ some stealthy tactics to be successful.

The Hakataramea River is a fertile water producing a prolific and diverse population of aquatic invertebrates. Nymph, dry fly, and to a lesser extent wet fly fishing to match naturally occurring caddis and mayfly species will provide results. The river holds healthy bully populations and is a productive trout spawning water, meaning that prey fish are abundant. Spin or fly anglers can mimic bullies and juvenile trout with a range of lures.

ACCESS RIGHTS

The Hakataramea River is one of several rivers in the region where many of the adjacent landowners have A.M.F rights (Ad Medium Filum Aque). This means the boundary of a property may be the centre line of the river and there is ownership to that centre line. Anglers either wading or walking along the riverbanks without permission may be trespassing. Anglers currently enjoy good access to the river, and this is a privilege.

KNOW THE FLOW

Knowing the flow before venturing to the river can be a great advantage for anglers. Small rain events causing minor but appreciable 'bumps' in flow or the tail end of a bigger flood event should be treated as an opportunity. Trout will often feed vigorously in elevated water levels as their feed is delivered to them at a faster rate in the drift. Flows under about 5 cumecs can offer suitable clarity for sight fishing.

The Environment Canterbury (ECan) River Flow website displays three flow recording sites located at the upper (McRaes Gorge - access point 1), middle (Mt Florence Bridge) and lower (SH82 Bridge) river.



SCAN ME TO VIEW THE ECAN RIVER FLOW WEBSITE

www.ecan.govt.nz/data/riverflow

THE 'BIRTHPLACE' OF OUR SALMON FISHERY

Between 1901 and 1907 1.5 million Chinook salmon ova imported from California were successfully hatched in a purpose-built hatchery on the Hakataramea River. The resultant fry, released throughout the Waitaki River Catchment initiated the first salmon runs in the Waitaki River in 1905, with salmon spawning reported in other east coast rivers in subsequent years. The governments' objective to establish a commercial salmon fishery did not evolve but an important recreational fishery remains.

The Hakataramea River remains a critical salmon spawning habitat within the Waitaki Catchment but as a fishery there is practically no opportunity to catch a Chinook Salmon in the Hakataramea River itself. Salmon enter the Hakataramea River in April, May and June during which time there is a closed season for salmon fishing.

In recent years spawning sockeye salmon have made an occasional appearance in the lower reach in February and March. Sockeye are usually confined to the Waitaki Lakes, however, infrequent large scale flood events that cause long term spilling over the Benmore, Aviemore and Waitaki

Dams allow sockeye to migrate downstream to the Lower Waitaki River and into the Hakataramea. A self-sustaining sea-run sockeye populations has never developed from this sporadic spawning.

FISHING TIPS

As in other small rivers in the region mayfly species are abundant in the waters of the "Haka". Several species of caddis are also numerous, and anglers should have patterns of both in different sizes in their fly boxes. Larger stonefly and dobsonfly as well as terrestrial patterns, blowfly and beetle will come in handy at times. The diminutive willow grub pattern is an essential late in the season when the natural drops from the overhanging willows.

Historically a fly-only fishery, spin fishing has been a permitted method since the 2017 sports fishing season. The introduction of spin fishing has had no appreciable effect on the sustainability of this productive fishery. Although the rivers small size calls for delicate and precise spin fishing techniques, it is now an option for anglers yet to learn to fly fish. Spin fishers are best to use small lures 5-10grams that resemble bullies and juvenile trout. Carrying a variety of bladed, toby and soft-plastic style lures will offer options to target the pools, runs and riffle water. Advanced spin fishing techniques like bubble and fly are worth a go if traditional spin techniques are unsuccessful.



A large rainbow trout caught on a spectacular day in the Hakataramea Valley

HAKATARAMEA RIVER ACCESS POINTS

- ① Short track to rain gauge
- ② Roadside access
- ③ Hakataramea Downs bridge
- ④ Grampian Stream confluence
- ⑤ Cattle Creek Bridge
- ⑥ Mt Florence Rd Bridge
- ⑦ Wrights Crossing
- ⑧ Hatcheries Rd
- ⑨ Picnic / car parking on river bank
- ⑩ Picnic / car parking on river bank
- ⑪ Roadside access
- ⑫ Two access points to picnic / car parking
- ⑬ SH82 bridge, car parking true left upstream of bridge and 4x4 riverbed track to Waitaki River confluence

GETTING THERE

The Town of Kurow located near the river's confluence with the Waitaki is the typical base for visiting anglers – day trips to any part of the river are easy from here. Anglers can access the upper part of the river from the Mackenzie Basin via Hakataramea Pass. The main river is serviced by well maintained sealed and unsealed roads generally suitable for all vehicles. Anglers accessing via Hakataramea Pass will encounter stream fords which may be only passable by 4x4 vehicles, caution is advised.

