

Waiau and Te Anau Basin Rivers

The following is intended as an overview of the readily accessible trout fishing opportunities that are in relatively close vicinity of Te Anau.

Anglers based in Te Anau or Manapouri will, with the aid of this brochure, be able to choose from a wide variety of waters, the majority of which are lightly fished.



Southland Region

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Fish & Game and Access

Fish & Game New Zealand, Southland Region has a long history of negotiating and sign posting access for anglers. This has only been achieved through the willingness of Southland landowners to allow anglers to cross their land to the river. Unfortunately a small section of the community through their anti-social behaviour have forced closure of some of these accesses. It is therefore imperative that all anglers do nothing to jeopardise the remaining accesses.

Access Rules

- Park vehicles off track and away from gates.
- Do not litter.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Cross fences without damaging them.
- Stay within river margins.
- Walk fences lines to avoid trampling crops and disturbing stock.
- Rescue or report trapped stock.
- Report any missing or damaged signs to Fish & Game.

Fishing Etiquette

- Respect other anglers already on the water and give them plenty of room.
- A friendly approach will reveal a fellow angler, not a competitor for fishing water.
- Refer to your South Island regulation booklet for current angling regulations.

Fishing Information

Upukerora River

Description	A small river flowing through an open valley, roughly grassed banks with occasional willowed margins in mid to lower reaches.
Fish	Brown and rainbow trout typically up to 1.5kg.
Best Lures	Fly – small to med mayfly and caddis dryflies and nymphs. Wet flies fished downstream when river is full and lightly discoloured. Spin – lightest weight of veltecs/mepps etc.
Best Times	Early to mid afternoon, sunny days.

Upukerora River Mouth

Description	Easily accessed (10 min from Te Anau) and very productive area where the "Upuk" enters Lake Te Anau. Vehicle access on left 3km on Highway 94 to the Milford Sound to within 400m of lakeshore. Very exposed to northerly weather.
Fish	Brown and rainbow trout throughout year.
Best Lures	Fly – medium mayfly, nymphs and bully imitation lures fished deep. Spin – Rapalas, Tasmanian Devils, Tobys etc fished deep.
Best Times	Early morning, late evening/night.

Whitestone River

Description	A small river closely bordered by farmland in its mid to lower reaches with rough grass and willowed margins. Good fishing where pools and deep runs exist. Generally above Te Anau-Mossburn Highway.
Fish	Brown trout from 1-3kg, rainbow trout up to 2kg.
Best Lures	Fly – small to medium mayfly and caddis dryflies and nymphs. Spin – lightest weight of Veltec/Mepps etc.

Upper Waiau River

Description	A very large river being the outflow of Lake Te Anau. Although controlled for hydroelectric generation purposes, this river maintains its natural qualities. It has a confined channel that
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loosely meanders to Lake Manapouri. The densely vegetated and often steep banks are generally unsuitable for walking great distances and the angler will rely on the numerous access points available. One boat launching ramp exists at Queens Reach.

Fish	Principally a rainbow trout fishery that produces large numbers of fish around 1-2kg, good numbers of less often caught browns also present.
Best Lures	Size 10-12 wet and dry flies and weighted nymphs fished across and down perform well especially late evening when there is a hatch of mayflies or caddis. Larger lures (bully imitations) fished deep in slow water after dark. Spin fishing can be productive in bouldered runs and in deep fast rapids.

Mararoa River

– The Key to Mararoa Weir

Description	The river bed down to about the Whitestone confluence is less coarse and is relatively mobile. The channel is open with slight meanders, shallow runs and pools. Best suited to light spinning gear and fly fishing. Downstream of the Whitestone the river moves into a more confined channel with some deeper pools against bluffs. Very confined in its lower reaches above Weir Rd. Can be accessed when very low from this end. Bait fishing permitted in Mararoa downstream of Key Bridge.
Fish	Brown and rainbow trout 1-3kg
Best Lures	Fly – Mayfly and caddis dry flies and weighted nymphs. Spin – Veltecs/Mepps, Rapalas.

Lower Waiau - Mararoa Weir to Jericho.

Description	The lower Waiau River flow is controlled by the Mararoa Weir. Flows can increase significantly with little if any warning. Always ensure that you can withdraw safely from the river. The lower Waiau is normally a medium sized river with extensive boulder runs and long, slow running
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pools. It is well suited to both spinning and fly fishing. Natural baits are also permitted. Chinook salmon occur in the late summer and autumn. (Note restrictions in the regulation booklet).

Fish	Rainbow trout, often around 0.5kg but up to 2kg. Brown trout 1kg to over 4kg. Chinook salmon 4-6kg.
Best Lures	Veltecs, Mepps, Rapalas. Mouse imitations at night. Dry flies - terrestrial imitations, green beetle and weighted nymphs that imitate caddis flies and mayflies.

Milford Road Options

Eglinton River

Description	A medium sized fly fishing only river within Fiordland National park for most of its length, readily waded under normal conditions. Access to mouth at lake is via 4km gravel road which starts at the Te Anau Downs boat ramp (30km from Te Anau). From the National Park boundary (a further 14km away) the river is readily accessed from roadside camping areas and numerous other informal access points.
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Lakes Gunn & Fergus

Description	Two smaller lakes (77km from Te Anau) adjacent to the road. Limited vehicle and foot access. Opportunist fishing for browns and rainbows with large dryflies and deeply fished wet lures and minnow imitations.
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Hollyford River

Description	A medium sized mountain fed river which can be accessed from the Lower Hollyford Road (85km from Te Anau). This is an area better suited to the more experienced angler and outdoors person.
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Upper Waiau / Mararoa / Whitestone

