Bait Fishing

- Bait fishing is restricted to one bait assembly, which is one hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks.
- Upstream from the marker poles, located 1km upstream from the mouth, anglers must cast from and retrieve by winding onto the reel.
- Bait fishing is not permitted upstream from Turn Again Point.

SAFETY

Your personal safety is your responsibility. The Rangitata is a big river. Fishing at the mouth, particularly from the beach, is not without risk from waves washing onto shore; keep an eagle eye out when angling within the wash zone.

Upstream the river channels can be deceptive when crossing braids choose your crossing site carefully, usually the wide part of the riffle just upstream from a chute offers the safest crossing point.

Don't take unnecessary risks; if you feel unsafe back off - your partners and friends will always forgive you if you come back without a fish.

FLOW INFORMATION

Environment Canterbury operate an automated flow recorder at the Gorge. Flow information can be obtained from this site by telephoning 0900 748 37 (charges apply) or on the ECan website: www.ecan.govt.nz. The website also provides headwater rainfall useful for predicting flow changes.

ABOUT THE RANGITATA

Sourced in the Southern Alps, the Rangitata River has an average flow of 101 cumecs.

The Rangitata offers some of the best salmon fishing in New Zealand. Fish average around 6.5 8kg with a maximum of 16kg.

The salmon season sets in about mid November although some returning adults have been caught as early as late October. Fishing at the mouth and river downstream from the State Highway 1 Bridge predominates the early to mid season (Nov - mid Feb) while above State Highway 1 angling is better from February onward.

Water clarity influences angling success. Northwest winds during November, December and early January often bring heavy rainstorms to the Southern Alps with the result that the river may be rendered dirty and unfishable for a few days. To provide some guidance this occurs when the flow in the river at the Gorge exceeds about 125 cumecs. Best fishing often occurs when the water is slightly coloured and the flow is in the range 80 - 110 cumecs. Due to abstraction by the Rangitata Diversion Race this flow equates to 50-80 cumecs at State Highway 1.

ACCESS ETIQUETTE

- No dogs
- No guns
- 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
- Do not park vehicles in gateways
- Be courteous to local landowners and others

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, Facsimile (03) 615 8401

Corporate Print, Timaru

ANGLERS HINTS

The following recommendations are provided to assist first time anglers to the Rangitata River. **SALMON**

- Lure Fishing
 - 9-11 kg line; feathered lure plus added weight (see Regulations: Angling Methods)
- Spin Fishing 7-9 kg line; Z spinner (silver white or yellow) with 14-28gm weight
- 7-9 kg line; Colorado spoon and lead
- **TROUT**
- Wet fly/lure fishing 1-4 kg line; smelt type lure (e.g. Grey Ghost, Parsons Glory, Mrs Simpson) with up to 28gm lead
- Dry fly fishing (mainly upstream from Rangitata Gorge) 1-4 kg line; nymphs and flies (e.g. Yellow Dorothy)

Rangitata River





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USE OF BOATS

- Jet boats may travel in excess of 5 knots on all sections of the river except in the estuary where boating in excess of 5 knots is only permitted within the marked lanes linking marked launching sites on the north and south sides of the estuary.
- Seaward from the mouth fishing from boats is permitted but only between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, when fishing boats must be anchored and at a distance greater than 200 metres from the nearest shore at low tide.
- No powered craft are permitted upstream of Turn Again Point between 1 March and 31 July in any year.
- Boating is not permitted in Deep Stream or Deep Creek.

ANGLING METHODS

The Rangitata also supports good stocks of rainbow and brown trout. Sea run browns occur in the Rangitata estuarine area during October -December. Both species are available in numbers above the Gorge and the rainbow trout fishery is very under-rated.

Spin fishing 2-4 kg line; Tasmanian Devil, Toby



Spin Fishing No restriction as to practice.

Fly Fishing (no added weight) No restriction as to practice.

Fishing with an artificial fly and added weight

- Seaward of the marker poles located approx 1 km upstream from the mouth:
 - a) The total weight of the cast assemblage including trace, weight, and fly shall not exceed 28 grams.
 - b) Anglers may cast other than from the reel or retrieve other than winding onto the reel.
 - Upstream from the marker poles: a) There is no weight limitation. b) Anglers must cast from and retrieve by winding onto the reel.

ACCESS MAP FOR RANGITATA RIVER

Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia

(68km from Arundel Bridge) The road reaches the Mesopotamia Airstrip 14km from Turn Again Point. Follow the signposted access just past the airstrip to "Doctor Sinclairs Grave" and on to some large pine trees. From here the track turns right and heads out to the main river. It is marked with orange poles. Please respect this access easement as it travels through private land.

TURN AGAIN POINT

(44.5km from Arundel Bridge) The river is close to the road at this point.

Fishermans Lane

(40km from Arundel Bridge) About 1.5km past Stew Point homestead and on the boundary with Rata Peaks station is Fishermans Lane. Park beside the lane; a 100m walk to the river. No access October to November due to lambing.

Lynn Creek

(15.5km from Arundel Bridge) Continue along Rangitata Gorge Rd to Lynn Creek bridge; park on the east side. Walk down the true right bank to the Rangitata; about 400m.

Kowhais

Potts River

(11.5km from Arundel Bridge) Just past the Camping Ground, a group of kowhai trees mark a gate. From the gate it is about 100m to the river.

Peel Forest Camping Ground

(11.5km from Arundel Bridge) At the entrance to the Camping Ground, a track branches to the right. Continue for 0.5km over a cattle stop to a Public Reserve area. Walking access u/strm and d/strm from this point.

Ferry Road

Peel

Arundel

Forest

Baxters

Rangitata

Rangitata

Rd

Five Cross

Roads Cnr

Ealing

(3.5km from Arundel Bridge)

Opposite Arundel settlement continue along Ferry Rd to the rivers edge; 4km from Arundel Bridge. Just before the river, Ferry Rd branches to the left through a gate, up the terrace to another gate and continues to Peel Forest.

Arundel Bridge

Best parking at Arundel Bridge Reserve on the southern approach to the bridge; walking access u/strm and d/strm.

Lewis Road

(6km from SH1, 4km from SH72) From Arundel - Rangitata Rd follow fenceline on right for 0.5km to parking area and sign; 3 gates. From sign it is walking access across private land to the river; about 0.4km.

> Main Road Bridge (SH1 South Side) At Rangitata Island Rd turn toward railway and enter gate on right. Drive 1km parallel to SH1 to edge of bermland.

Old Main South Rd

(2.5km from Junction of SH1 and Rangitata Island Rd) From Rangitata Island Rd and Main South Rd Junction follow fenceline on right for 1km to berm edge and willows; 4 gates.

Brodies Rd

(3.5km from Junction of SH1 and Rangitata Island Rd) From Rangitata Island Rd

Forest Creek

those with serious 4x4 experience.

(51km from Arundel Bridge)

The Hakatere-Potts Rd crosses the Potts River about 10km inland from

the Lake Clearwater Huts. Access to the river is down the true right of the

Potts River and the rough 4x4 track terminates just before it reaches Deep

Creek. Access to the Rangitata River from here is via foot or vehicle for

The road reaches the Forest Creek Bridge 6.5km from Turn Again Point. Gates on both sides provide access to the creek bed. Follow the creek bed for approximately 1.5km to the main river. Note that a 4x4 vehicle is required.

Klondyke Terrace Rd

(20.5km from Arundel Bridge)

This is a Public Road only as far as the RDR bridge (2km). Beyond there the road is owned and maintained by RDR Management Ltd who allow vehicle access at your own risk. The road ends at the RDR intake on the rivers edge. From there the landowners of Klondyke and Tenehaun stations permit walking access only to enable anglers to fish the gorge area. This is all private land; usual rules - no guns, dogs or camping and leave the gates shut.

Shepherds Bush Road

(16.5km from Arundel Bridge) From Arundel Bridge drive along SH72 for 6km to Five Crossroads Cnr. Take the Ealing-Montalto Rd and a further 10.5km brings you to Shepherds Bush Rd. Continue along this road toward the river past Taradale homesteads driveway onto a rough grass track. Continue over the RDR race bridges and to gateway on top of terrace, 2km from junction. A steep walking track down to the river - for the very fit.

Rangitata Terrace Road

Continue down the terrace from Baxters Rd corner about 1.5km to the stock water intake. Walk to the river about 50m.

Main Road Bridge (SH1 North Side)

Parking is not permitted on the bridge or approaches; however a shingle track on the d/strm side of the northern approach leads to good parking. Walking access u/strm and d/strm to river.

State Highway 1

Old Main South Road

(2.3km from Main Bridge) From Ealing-Coldstream Rd the Old Main South Rd continues 0.7km to the river bed.

/ Irrigation Wasterace

and Brodies Junction follow fenceline on right for 1km to berm edge; 3 gates; 4WD access through berm willows u/strm and d/strm from 1st gate.

Dip Road

(7km from Main Road Bridge) From Rangitata Island Rd follow fenceline on left past a derelict bridge for 1km to berm edge; 4 gates; 4WD access u/strm and d/strm from last gate.

Badham Road (Wades)

(10km from Main Road Bridge) At end of Rangitata Island Rd turn left onto Badham Rd. 4WD access through berm willows u/strm and d/strm from roads end at the river.

> Rangitata Huts (South Side) (22km from Main Road Bridge) Fishing Huts Settlement and Camping Ground. Access to river, and along the shingle beach to lagoon and mouth.

(10.5km from Main Road Bridge) From Ealing-Coldstream Rd enter the gate of the west side of the water race and follow the race. After 0.3km the track descends the terrace and a further 0.7km brings you to the river fairway.

Rangitata Huts (North Side) (19km from Main Road Bridge) Fishing Huts Settlement. Access to river and along shingle beach to lagoon and mouth.