

# Dunedin Fishing Spots



Otago Region

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## Introduction

Within ten minutes drive from the centre of Dunedin a variety of stillwater trout fishing can be found. Fish & Game Otago have been stocking two of the Dunedin City water supply reservoirs plus one of the natural lagoons at Tomahawk with trout. The emphasis is on providing good fishing, particularly for younger anglers, without having to travel too far from home. All three waters are open for fishing throughout the year. Access to fish the reservoirs is kindly by permission of the DCC. Therefore, it is up to us, as anglers, to respect their wishes by staying out of the water and taking any rubbish with us when we leave. Dogs may be taken to the reservoirs, but must be kept under control and out of the water. At Tomahawk lagoon, dogs must not enter the surrounding private farmland.

## Sullivan's Dam

This water is set in native bush with some pine forest, near the top of the northern motorway. At the southern end of the dam there is relatively deep water, with some shallow weedy areas near the inflow. Being set in a narrow valley and surrounded by bush has the advantage that you can usually find a spot which is sheltered from the wind. It is stocked with both brown and rainbow trout, and carries a limit of one fish per day.



### *Access*

There are two access points with a small amount of car parking at each. Driving north up the Leith Valley Road, you will come across a gate on your right about 200m after crossing the bridge over SH1. There is a stile over the fence next to the gate which allows foot access to the water. If you carry on for another 200m there is a second access point which includes a short walk through the forest to the top end of the reservoir. Please make sure you keep the gateways clear when you park your vehicle.

## Southern Reservoir

This is an almost square pond with mostly deep-water habitat. There are some shallow areas around the western bank, where trout can be spotted cruising. Regularly mowed grass around the entire reservoir provides a great spot for picnicking, walking or taking the kids fishing. There is a bag limit of one fish per day and it is stocked with rainbow trout, but also contains a population of brown trout that arrive through a pipe which feeds the reservoir from the Silverstream.

### *Access*

Drive south along Kaikorai Valley Rd to the end of the road island. Turn right up Townleys Rd and carry on up the hill until you come to a 'T' intersection. Turn left onto Reservoir

Rd, the gate to the reservoir is about 150m along on your right. There is plenty of parking available, just make sure you leave the gateway clear.

## Tomahawk Lagoon

There are two lagoons at Tomahawk but only the top lagoon is stocked with fish (refer to map). The lagoons used to be tidal but now the top lagoon is permanently closed off from the sea. The entire lagoon is shallow with a maximum depth of around 1.5m in some places. Food is prolific and fish grow at a tremendous rate feeding on perch fry, bullies and numerous aquatic insects. The lack of deep water does however cause problems during warm summers and fishing tends to be best during winter, spring and early summer. Tomahawk lagoon is stocked with rainbow, brown trout and also perch. The bag limit is one trout per day, there is no bag limit on Perch.

### *Access*

Tahuna Rd runs into Tomahawk Rd at the top of the hill adjacent to the Anderson's Bay cemetery. There are two main access points. One is directly off Tomahawk Rd through the car park of the Domain Hall. The other is found by turning left onto Oregon St for about 30m then left again down a gravel road which leads to a playground and car park next to the water.

# DUNEDIN TROUT FISHING SPOTS

• *Sullivans Dam* • *Southern Reservoir* • *Tomahawk Top Lagoon*

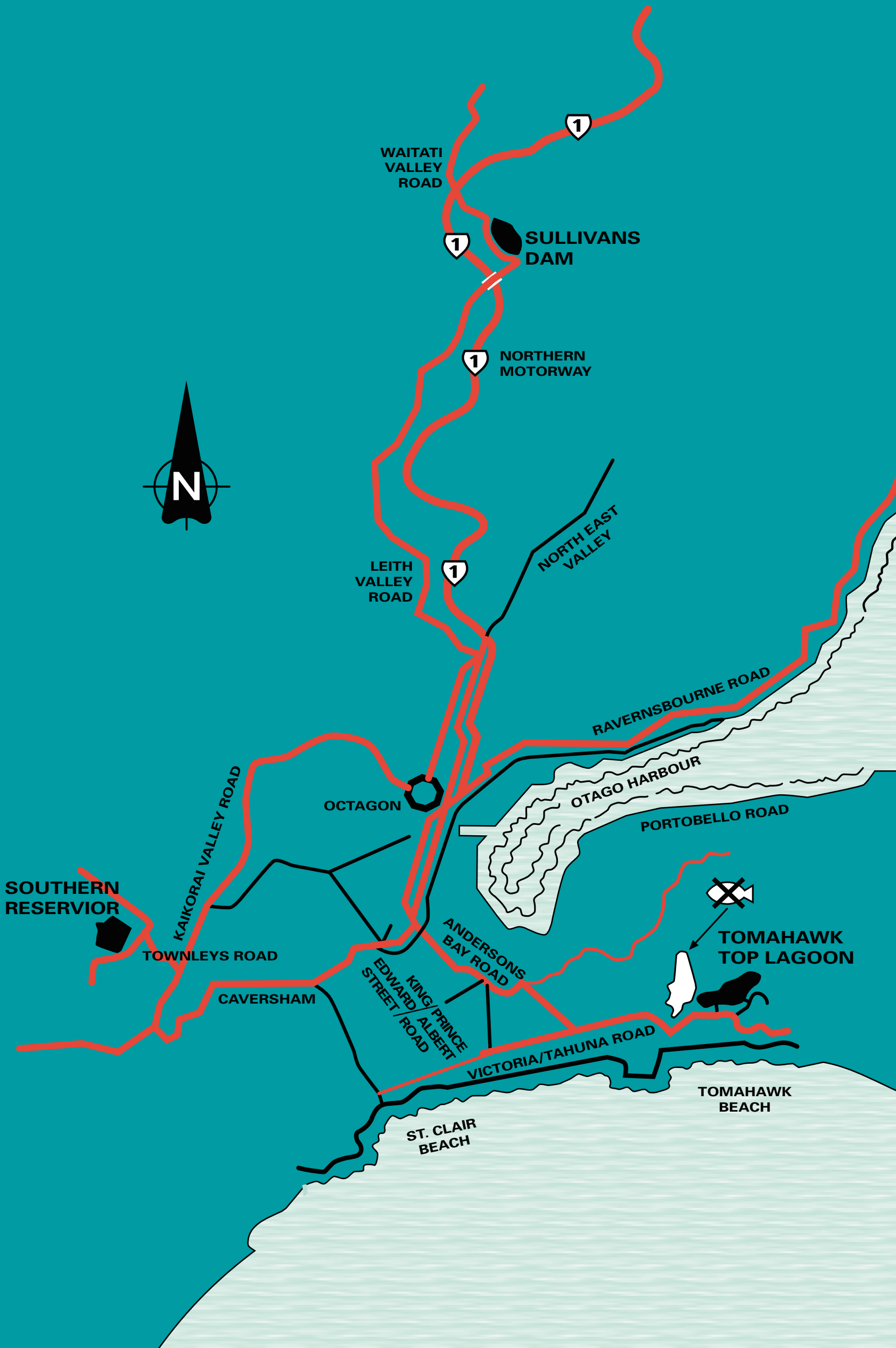


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*Fish & Game Otago acknowledge the support of the DCC in making these waterways available. We urge all anglers to respect the water, surrounding land and access ways, but above all enjoy your fishing.*





## Methods

**Fly Fishing** Midges, snails, corixa (water boatmen) and, particularly in Sullivan's Dam, bullies make up the bulk of the trout's diet, although from November until mid March terrestrial insects such as cicadas, blowflies and a range of green, brown and black beetles feature. Successful nymphs are Black & Pea, Hare's Ear, Midge Pupa and Gold Bead Hare's Ear, sizes 12 - 16. Dry flies to try are small Adams, all year, and during the warmer months Cochbondhu, Royal Wulff and Cicada patterns are worth a try.

For Tomahawk Lagoon, you could add to that list with Hamill's Killer and Mrs Simpson to imitate perch fry, also Woolly Buggers and Damselfly nymphs, as there are a lot of larger insects present.

**Spinning** Spin Anglers should try small Black and Gold Hexagon and Zed Spinners to attract brown trout, or brightly coloured Tasmanian Devils to interest the rainbows. When fishing the deeper parts of Sullivan's Dam or Southern Reservoir, make sure to let the lure sink for a while and vary the rate of retrieve. Tomahawk Lagoon is very shallow, so a fast retrieve is needed to keep out of the weed.

**Bait Fishing** Bait fishing is allowed at Tomahawk Lagoon and can be very successful. Because the lagoon is very shallow and often weedy, worms or bullies are most effective when suspended beneath a float or bubble. This is a very good way to get young children into fishing. Bait fishing is not permitted at Sullivan's Dam or Southern Reservoir due to public health concerns.





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