

If you live in Invercargill great trout fishing opportunities surround you. This brochure is designed to highlight some of those opportunities available within approximately forty minutes of leaving your door.

Aparima River

To the West of Invercargill, the Aparima flows from the Takitimu mountains to the sea through the town of Riverton. A small-sized easy flowing river, it caters for all types of fishing and contains good numbers of fat brown trout. The Aparima clears quickly after rain, and at normal flows is easily waded. When low and clear a careful approach with light gear is necessary.

Oreti River

The Oreti enters the sea on Invercargill's doorstep, and provides some great fishing close to town. The most popular



area is above West Plains' bridge, where the river meanders lazily, and trout can be found slashing at smelt & whitebait in the riffles during our long summer evenings. Throughout the lower river natural bait is popular, particularly smelt, although feathered lures or threadline smelt-type imitations are also successful.

Makarewa River & tributaries

The Makarewa River rises in the Hokonui Hills as a number of good fishing streams, which combine to meander across the Southland plain to eventually join the Oreti River just above the West Plains road bridge. Techniques for the lower 'Mak' are the same as the lower Oreti, namely natural bait, threadline or feathered lure. Further inland anglers should fish with lighter gear.

The Otapiri, Lora, Dunsdale, Hedgehope and Te Tipua tributaries all provide interesting fishing opportunities. As relatively small streams they are immediately affected by rain, but also clear quite quickly and are usually worth visiting within 24 hours of the weather improving. A stealthy approach with light gear is most likely to provide success.

Mataura River

There is plenty of access to the Mataura within 40 minutes of Invercargill, and it is a favourite spot for many anglers. This area is particularly popular with people who can sneak away from home after work and fish the late afternoon and evening rise during our long summer evenings.

More detailed information on access and techniques for the Mataura is available in the Mataura access brochure.

Waituna Lagoon

Waituna Lagoon, or 'Lake Waituna' as some know it, is tidal when open to the sea. Generally fishing is considered best when the lagoon is

tidal, with fish and fishing pressure concentrated around the 'break-out'. 'Sea-run' browns are frequent visitors and target smelt and other bait-fish where the brackish lagoon waters enter the sea.

Waituna produces some large trout, but does not give up these specimens easily. Catch rate per hour is one of the lowest in the region and the majority of the trout harvested are caught by experienced locals. However, Waituna has it's own attraction. As the wind-swept vegetation will attest, 'The Lake' is seldom calm and it offers a 'remote wilderness fishing experience' close to town!

Most anglers use threadline gear with smelt-type imitations or natural bait, although feathered lures are also successful.

