

Northern Southland Anglers Access



This brochure covers the Oreti River catchment upstream of Benmore, the Aparima catchment upstream of Opio and the Mararoa catchment upstream of The Key. It also includes the popular holiday spot, the Mavora Lakes, which are in the Mararoa catchment.

Oreti and tributaries

Fly Fishing.

Nymphing with a tandem setup is the most popular and productive method in the Oreti. Common combinations have a size 12 bead head Hares Ear trailed by a size 14 or 16 Pheasant Tail or Flash Back or similar. In tributaries such as the Irthing, Acton and Cromel a single nymph is often better because a delicate presentation is required. The Oreti has healthy stonefly and mayfly populations so most patterns based around them will work. In the mid reaches around Lumsden small dry fly imitations work best and sometimes there is a good caddis hatch on dusk. Above Mossburn larger dry flies can be used especially during the cicada hatch or when the manuka and grass grub beetles are about.

Spin Fishing

Spin fishing is best at dawn and dusk or when the river is coloured after rain but is not very effective when the river is low and clear. There is a whole host of modern lures that can be effective but those that imitate young brown trout perform consistently well.

Bait Fishing

Is permitted downstream of Rocky Point near Mossburn and the common garden worm fished floating when the river is coloured is the most productive.

Aparima and tributaries

Fly Fishing

Patterns to use are similar to the Oreti except the mayfly is dominant with a regular early afternoon hatch both in the main river and the Hamilton Burn tributary. Small Adams, Parachute Adams or older flies like Dad's Favorite work well when the hatch

is on. Fish feed against the bank on the fast side of bends and, because of the large cobbles, in the shallow ripples.

Spin Fishing

Once again the best time is on overcast days when the river is coloured or at dawn and dusk. Shallow water lures allow the angler the fish a much greater area with ease.

Bait Fishing

Is permitted in the lower portion of the Hamilton Burn and in the Aparima downstream of the Aparima – Hamilton Burn confluence.

Mararoa and Mavora Lakes

Fly Fishing

The Mararoa has a relatively fast flow and fish are not easy to spot so it is preferable to fish the water with the tandem nymph setup or with buoyant bushy dry flies like Humpies, Hoppers or the standard favourite the Royal Wulff. Fishing the shorelines of both Mavora Lakes is highly productive especially when the Cicada or Manuka beetle is about. Fish in these lakes have a regular shoreline beat but stealth and good presentation is required to ambush them with a tasty morsel without spooking them.

Spin Fishing

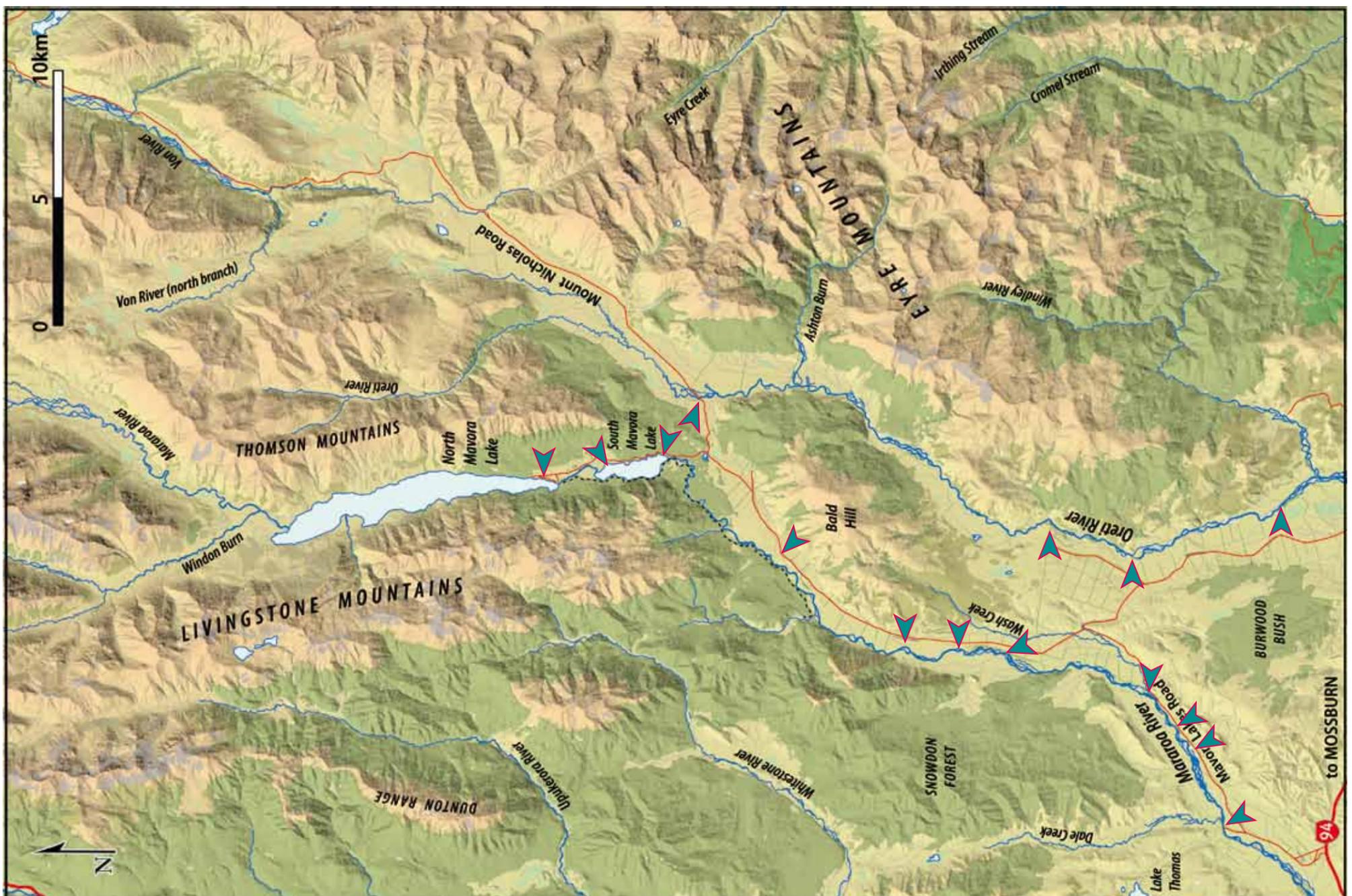
Fast water lures are best in the Mararoa. At the Mavora Lakes fishing the inlets and outlets of the lakes can be productive however most fish are caught trolling spinners from a boat. Motor boats are prohibited on the South Lake

Bait Fishing

Is not permitted in these waters.

Fish & Game New Zealand Southland Region

P.O. Box 159, Invercargill 9840,
Phone 03-215 9117 Fax 03-215 9118
www.fishandgame.org.nz



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