



WEST COAST BACKCOUNTRY FISHERY REPORT 2017

A Summary of Angler Survey & Drift Diving Results for the West Coast Backcountry Fisheries, Conducted by Fish & Game West Coast for the 2016/2017 Sports Fishing Season.

Lee Crosswell, Fish & Game Field Officer, July 2017



Karamea River Upstream of Crow River Confluence, March 2017.



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Summary

The Karamea and Mokihinui Rivers have for many years provided excellent angling opportunities for resident and visiting non-resident anglers. Following feedback of an apparent decline in the fishery status, West Coast Fish and Game designated both catchments as a Backcountry Fishery in 2016/17. This requires anglers to obtain a free Backcountry Endorsement, in doing so providing their details for an online survey following the angling season. In conjunction with the angler's survey, drift dives were undertaken through historic dive sites in both catchments. The anglers survey has focused on evaluating fishery usage, commercial guided fishing, access methods, angler expectations vs success and angler satisfaction, while offering anglers currently using the fishery the opportunity to comment on these topics and offer future management suggestions. This report summarises the backcountry survey and drift diving results. While drift dives suggest trout abundance is relatively healthy in both catchments and angler satisfaction is positive for most anglers, there was some dissatisfaction shown by anglers, notably those fishing the Mokihinui River. Staff recommendations are to repeat the angler survey and drift diving for the West Coast Backcountry Fishery in the 2017/18 season before making any management decisions and that the West Coast Fish and Game Council receives this report.

Introduction

The rivers of Kahurangi National Park have for decades now been well recognised for providing premium opportunities for anglers within a remote scenic environment. Two of the most notable catchments with the park, are the Karamea and Mokihinui Rivers. During recent seasons feedback has been received by Fish and Game West Coast from several anglers and fishing guides, concerned that these fisheries are not of the quality they were previously. As a result, The West Coast Fish and Game Council has designated the Karamea River catchment upstream from Kakapo River, and Mokihinui River catchment upstream of Rough and Tumble Creek confluence, as Backcountry Fisheries. The Purpose of the designation was to gain details of all anglers entering the area to fish and gather data of angler usage and the fishing experiences of those anglers currently using these fisheries. Concurrently, drift diving surveys were carried out through two historic drift diving sections within each catchment to examine trout abundance in the 2016/17 season.

Method

A survey was designed to look at information about of fishery status in each of the catchments, and was sent to all anglers that held a backcountry endorsement that provided an email address. These were sent out together with Nelson/Marlborough Regions backcountry surveys after the fishing season closure dates. A copy of the survey is included as Appendix 1. Surveys were structured to distinguish between resident and non-resident anglers, to identify view points from each group, local kiwi anglers and visiting anglers on holiday.

Drift dives were made during early March 2017 when conditions allowed, coinciding with the same time of the year as historic dives. The Karamea River was dived adjacent to the Crow River confluence and upstream of the Karamea Bend using seven divers. The Mokihinui River was dived downstream of Goat Creek confluence and upstream of the Mokihinui Forks on the North Branch using six divers. Where Karamea and Mokihinui Rivers are referred to in this report, unless otherwise stated, this refers to the upper reaches within the designated Backcountry Area.

Results

Backcountry Survey Participation & Angler Demographics

Throughout the 2016/17 season, a total of 1526 Anglers held West Coast Region Backcountry Fishery Endorsements, of these 1264 could be invited to participate in the Backcountry Angler Survey. The surveys were sent together with the Nelson Marlborough Region Backcountry Surveys, resulting in survey responses from 460 anglers, 312 of which held West Coast Backcountry Endorsements. Of these 312, 93 had fished within the West Coast Backcountry Area during the 2016/17 season, consisting of 45 non-resident anglers and 48 resident anglers. Regional details from resident anglers was gathered by Kim McPherson (West Coast Staff), these are summarised in Table 1 below. A large portion of resident anglers fishing the West Coast Backcountry Area were from Nelson and North Canterbury.

Table 1: Location of Origin for Resident Anglers.

Region of Origin	Number of Anglers
West Coast (2)	5.5%
Nelson	52.7%
North Canterbury	25%
Hawkes Bay	5.5%
Otago	2.7%
Central South Island	2.7%
Coromandel	2.7%
Auckland	2.7%

Angler Usage During the 2016/17 Season

Total days fishing by an estimated 455 anglers were distributed at 60/40 percent between the Karamea and Mokihinui catchments, as shown in Figure 1 below.

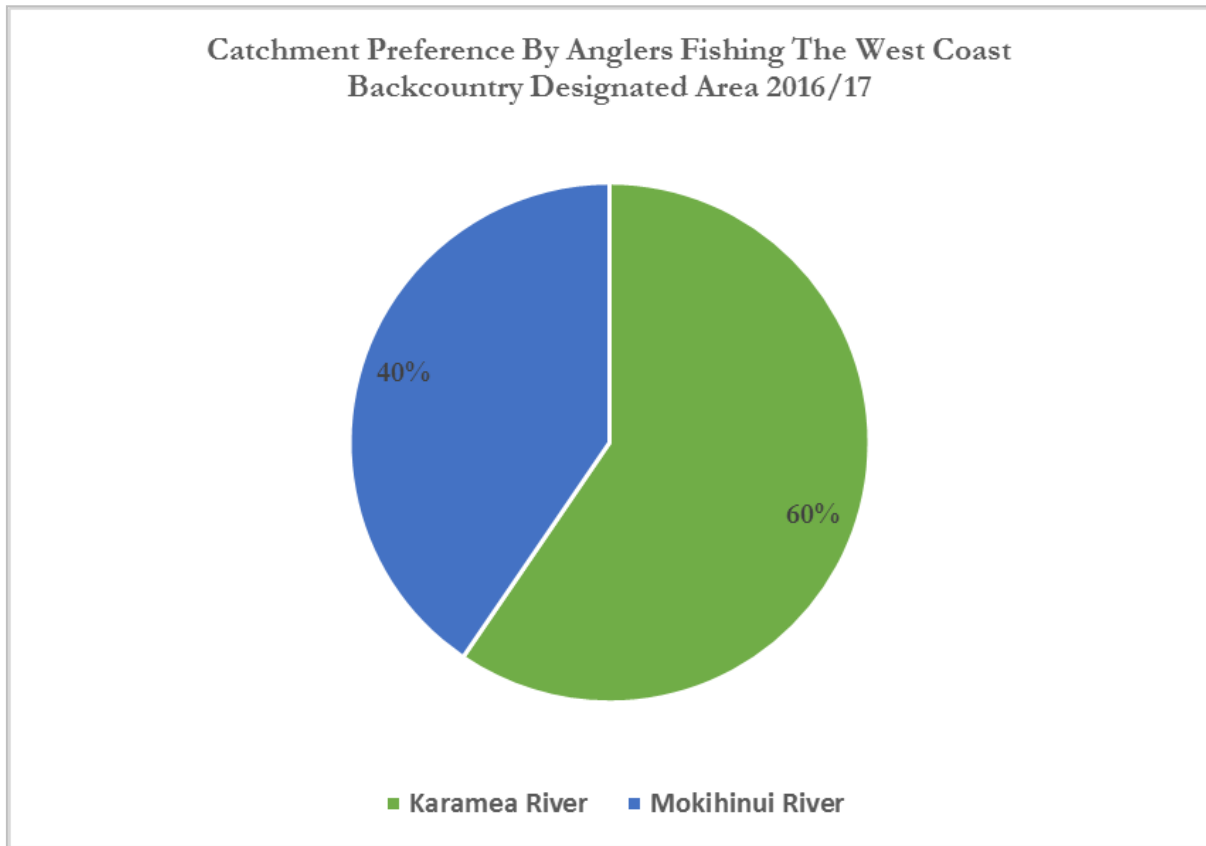


Figure 1: Catchment Preference Shown Between the Karamea and Mokihinui Rivers by Anglers 2016/17 Season.

Considering we have had a response rate of approximately 25% from those surveyed, we have effectively surveyed 20.44% of West Coast Backcountry Endorsement Holders for 2016/17. From this we can make some inferences about estimations of total angling days by all West Coast Region Backcountry Endorsement holders. We estimate total angling days for the Karamea catchment in the 2016/17 season to be in the vicinity of 1,007 days. This is in line with last year's NIWA angler survey which estimated a total of 890 ± 500 angler days for the Karamea catchment during the 2014/15 season, and 950 ± 290 in 2007/2008. From the same estimation, the Mokihinui River would be in the range of 684 angler days. The 2016 NIWA anglers survey estimated a total of 310 ± 130 anglers in the 2014/15 season, and 950 ± 290 in 2007/2008 for the Mokihinui River. Estimates from the recent Fish and Game backcountry angler surveys, and the 2016 NIWA angler surveys suggest both catchments are receiving considerable levels of angler usage. Figure 2 below provides a breakdown of estimated total days spent by non-resident and resident anglers within each catchment.

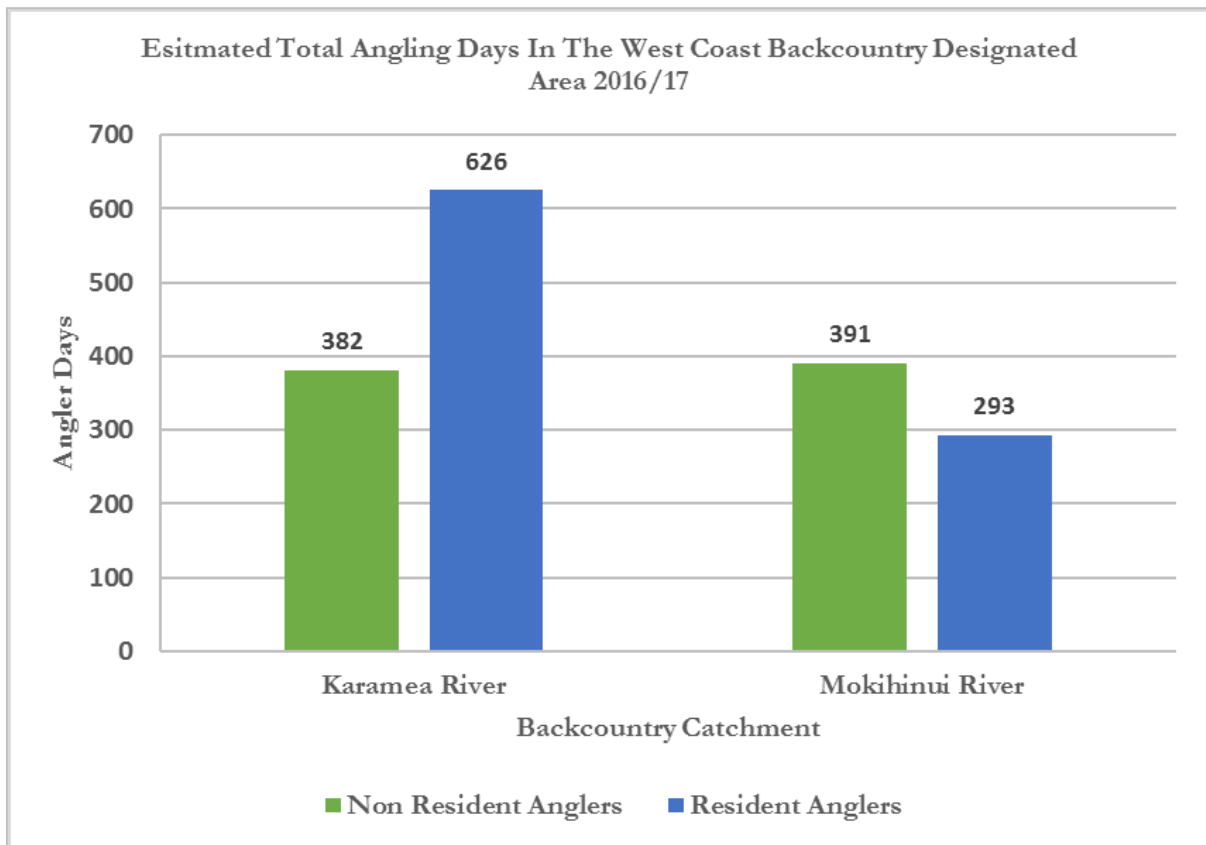


Figure 2: Estimated Total Angling Days by Non-Resident and Resident Anglers Within Each Catchment.

Commercial Guided Angling Within the West Coast Backcountry Catchments

The Karamea and Mokihinui Rivers are utilised by fishing guides for commercial guiding purposes. Anglers fishing within the area were asked if they had used the services of fishing guides while in the survey area. Table 2 below provides estimates of total days guided in the West Coast Backcountry Area during the 2016/17 season. From the survey, the Karamea River catchment received the most commercial use, with approximately 48% of non-resident angler days fishing the Karamea being guided, and 18% of the total angler days for the Karamea River catchment. Of the resident anglers surveyed that fished the Karamea River, none opted for fishing guides.

In the Mokihinui River catchment 16% of non-resident angler days were guided, while only 2% of resident angler days were guided.

Table 2: Estimated Total Number of Days Guided in The West Coast Backcountry Area, 2016/17 Season.

	Non-Resident Anglers	Resident Anglers
Karamea River	186	0
Mokihinui River	64	15

Backcountry Access Methods

Given the remote nature of both the Upper Karamea and Mokihinui Rivers, many anglers chose to fly into the backcountry. Anglers surveyed were asked if they used helicopters as a means of access to determine the level of helicopter services. This is shown in Table 3 below. In accessing the Karamea River, 67.8% of non-resident anglers and 70% of resident anglers utilised helicopter

services for access. Within the Mokihinui River catchment, helicopter use was notably lower, with 33.3% of non-residents and 43.5% of residents using helicopters for access.

Table 3: Percentage of Anglers Accessing the Backcountry via Helicopter 2016/17 Season.

	Non-Resident Anglers	Resident Anglers
Karamea River	67%	70%
Mokihinui River	33%	43%

Fishery Expectation vs Trout Caught

When looking at the number of fish anglers expect to catch for what they would consider a good backcountry fishing experience, non-resident anglers have slightly higher expectations, on average hoping for 4.03 fish per day, while resident anglers expect 3.44 fish per day. Non-resident anglers expected to encounter on average 1.04 anglers/day while in the backcountry, residents expected to encounter 2.08 anglers.

In terms of trout seen, anglers were asked if they had seen as many fish as expected in each of the catchments. Answers from those that answered the question for either of the Karamea or Mokihinui River catchments are shown in Figures 3 and 4 below.

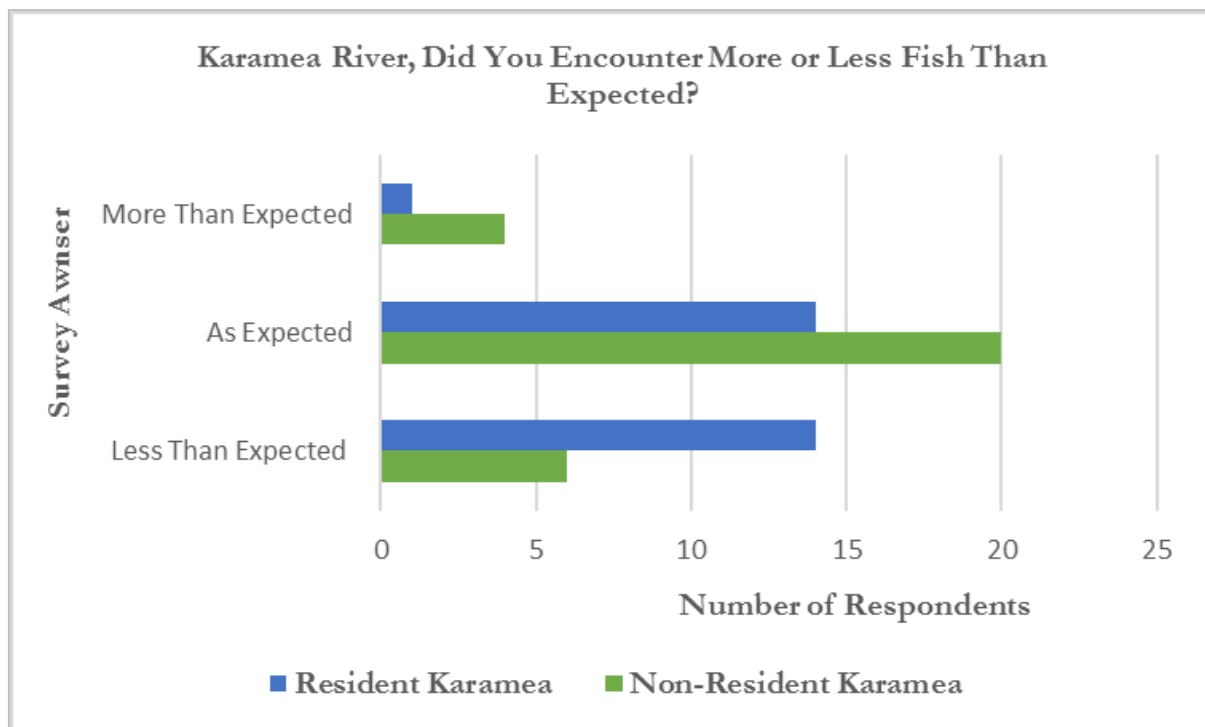


Figure 3: Rating of Fish Numbers Seen by Anglers in the Karamea River from Survey Respondents.

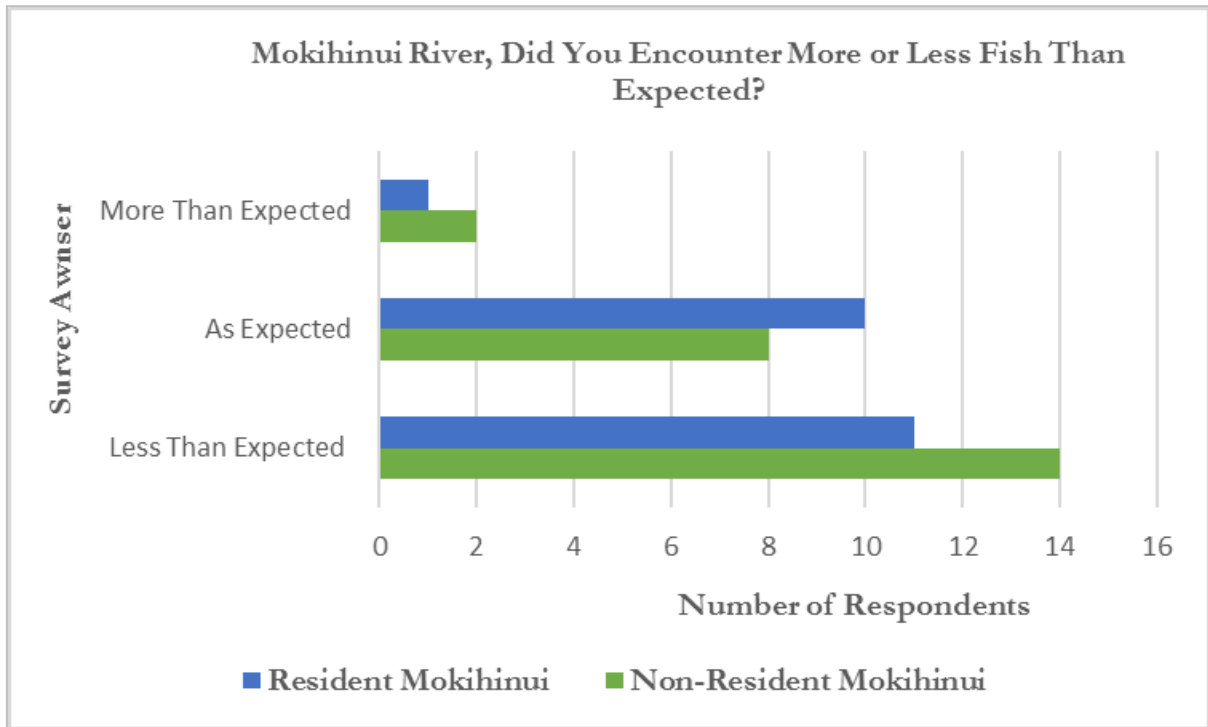


Figure 4: Rating of Fish Numbers Seen by Anglers in the Mokihinui River from Survey Respondents.

Most anglers encountered numbers as expected or less than expected in the Karamea catchment, while anglers fishing the Mokihinui tended towards encountering less fish than expected.

Table 4 below provides the average number of trout caught per day by non-resident and resident anglers within each catchment. All averages for trout caught are below the average expectations identified, however non-resident anglers come close to expectations fishing the Karamea River.

Table 4: Average Trout Caught/Day in Each of The West Coast Backcountry Catchments

Angler Classification/Catchment	Average Trout Caught/Day
Non-Resident Anglers Karamea	3.56
Resident Anglers Karamea	1.10
Non-Resident Anglers Mokihinui	1.68
Resident Anglers Mokihinui	2.48

Figure 5 below gives the estimated total number of trout caught by anglers from each catchment.

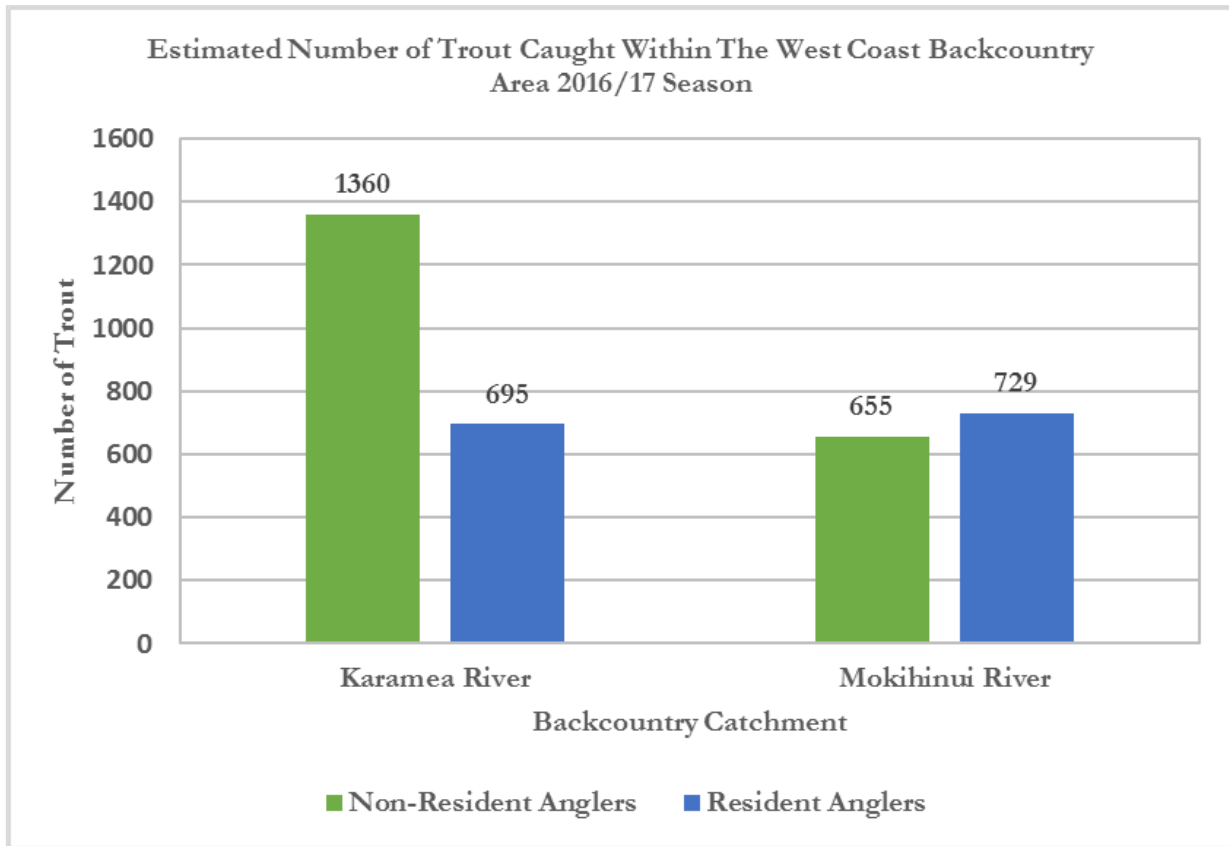


Figure 5: Estimated Total Number of Trout Caught by Anglers fishing The West Coast Backcountry Area 2016/17 Season.

From the survey participants catch rate, we estimate the total trout caught by West Coast Endorsement Holders to be as high as 2,055 trout in the Karamea Catchment, and 1,384 trout in the Mokihinui River catchment.

Angler Satisfaction

Previous backcountry angler surveys have found that angler satisfaction is not simply a derivative of the number of trout caught, but a combination of the fishing experience, scenic environment, sense of remoteness, pristine environment, large trout seen and positive angler interactions. As part of the survey anglers were asked to rate their backcountry fishing experience on a scale of 1-5, with options for very satisfied, satisfied, neutral, dissatisfied and very dissatisfied. Figures 6-9 below represent how non-resident and resident anglers viewed their experience in each catchment during the 2016/17 season. Reviewing the level of angler satisfaction, anglers fishing the Karamea, particularly non-resident anglers are largely satisfied with their fishing experience, with 79% indicating they were either satisfied or very satisfied. Likewise, 64% of resident anglers fall within these categories, and a high number remain neutral. Looking at Figures 8 and 9 for the Mokihinui River, there is a notable increase in the number of dissatisfied and very dissatisfied anglers, with 22% of non-resident anglers and 21% of resident anglers selecting these categories. Of the resident anglers fishing the Mokihinui River, 17% were very dissatisfied with their experience. Comments from individual anglers are included as Appendix 3.

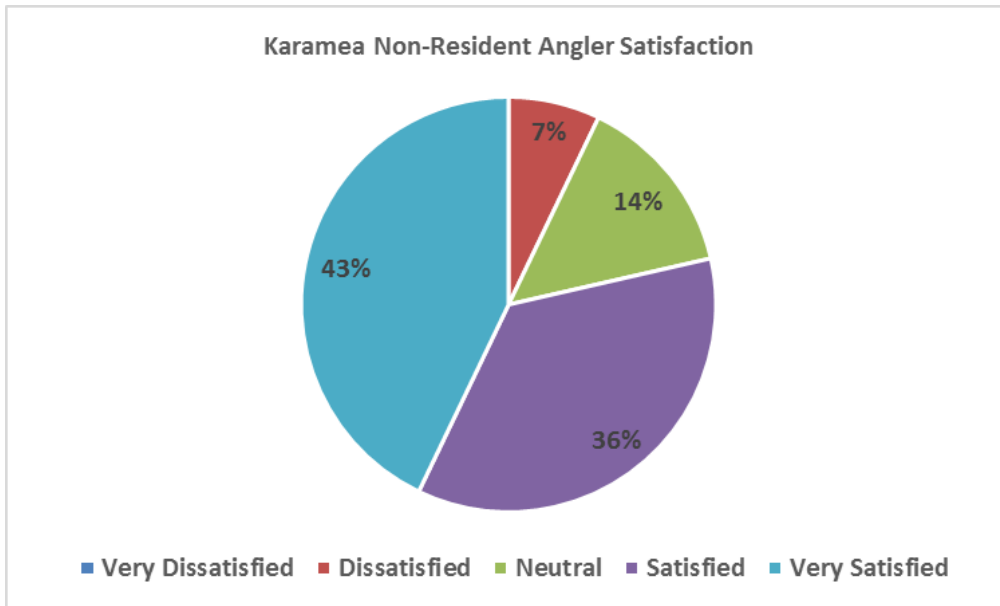


Figure 6: Non-Resident Angler Satisfaction Karamea River Catchment.

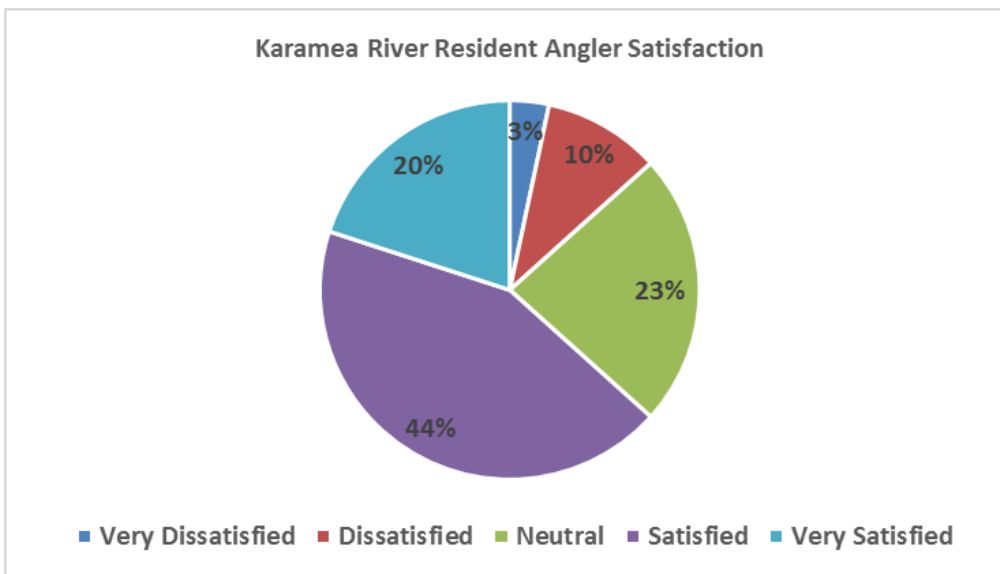


Figure 7: Resident Angler Satisfaction Karamea River Catchment.

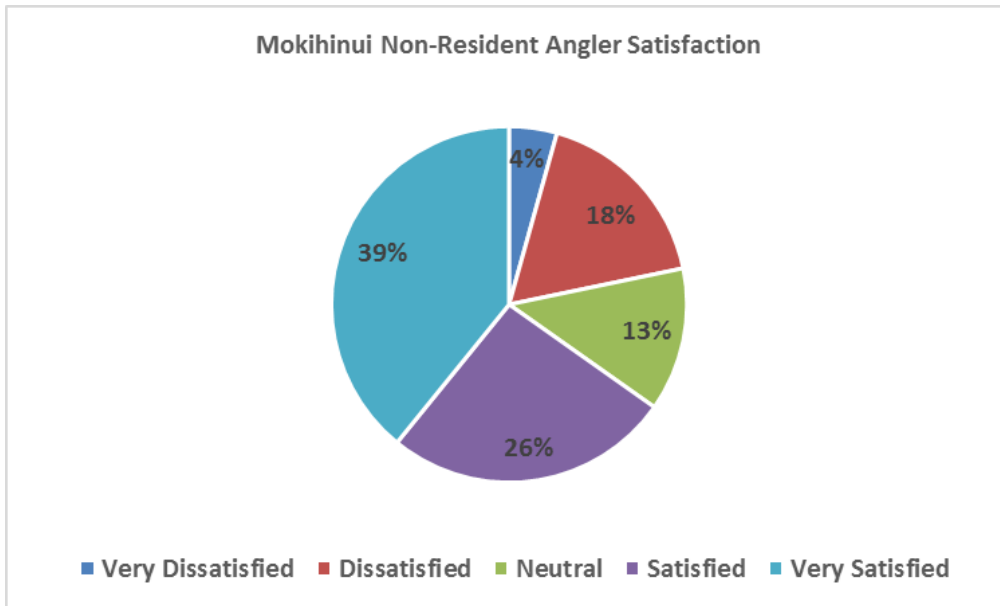


Figure 8: Non-Resident Angler Satisfaction Mokihinui River Catchment.

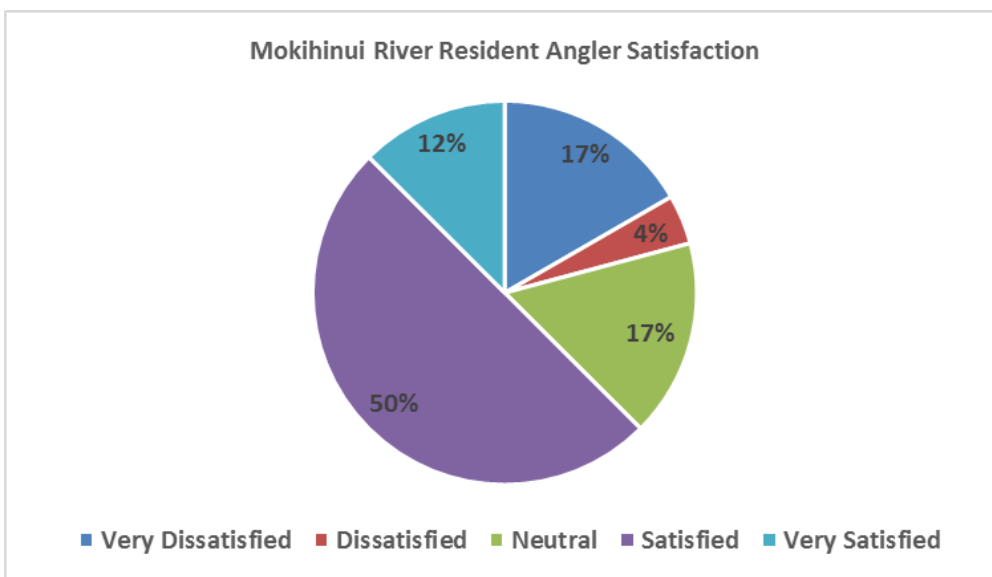


Figure 9: Resident Angler Satisfaction Mokihinui River Catchment.

Backcountry vs Lowland Fishery Usage

Survey participants were asked to estimate the percentage of their angling time they spent in backcountry fishery waters vs other waters, this is summarised in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Percentage of Angling Carried Out in Backcountry Fisheries by Those That Fished the West Coast Backcountry In 2016/17.

	Non-Resident Anglers	Resident Anglers
% Angling Effort in Backcountry Fisheries	≤38.49%	≤27.43%

Non-resident anglers showed a greater preference for backcountry waters than resident anglers, spending on average $\leq 38.49\%$ of their time fishing the backcountry, vs resident anglers spending on average $\leq 27.43\%$ of their angling effort in the backcountry.

Voluntary Daily Catch and Release Limit

In the 2016/17 season, The West Coast Fish and Game Council implemented a voluntary catch and release limit of six trout as a guideline for anglers to prevent large numbers of trout being caught and potentially injured. This ethical limit also leaves more undisturbed water for other anglers. During the angler survey, anglers that held backcountry endorsements for Nelson/Marlborough or West Coast Regions were asked if they supported the implementation of this voluntary limit. Figure 10 below summarises their responses.

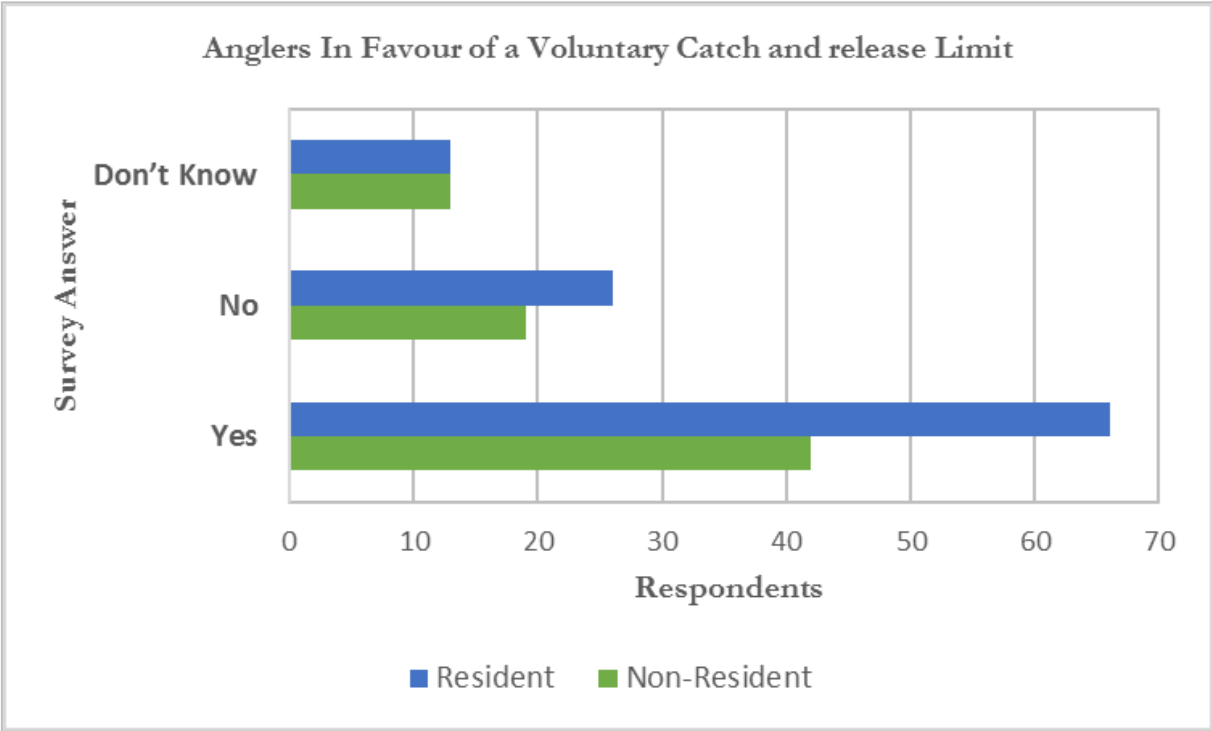


Figure 10: Answers to Question Asking If Anglers Supported a Voluntary Catch and Release Limit, Responses from Both Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast Region Backcountry Survey Replies.

From the 179 anglers that answered the question, 60.33% were in favour of a voluntary catch and release limit. Angler comments regarding this are included as Appendix 6.

Backcountry Drift Diving Results 2017

Karamea River: (Upstream of the Crow site)

The Karamea River upstream of the Crow River confluence provided higher trout numbers than the previous dive conducted in 1986. Notable was an increase in the presence of small size classed trout. 61 large trout/km, 29 medium trout/km, 35 small trout/km.

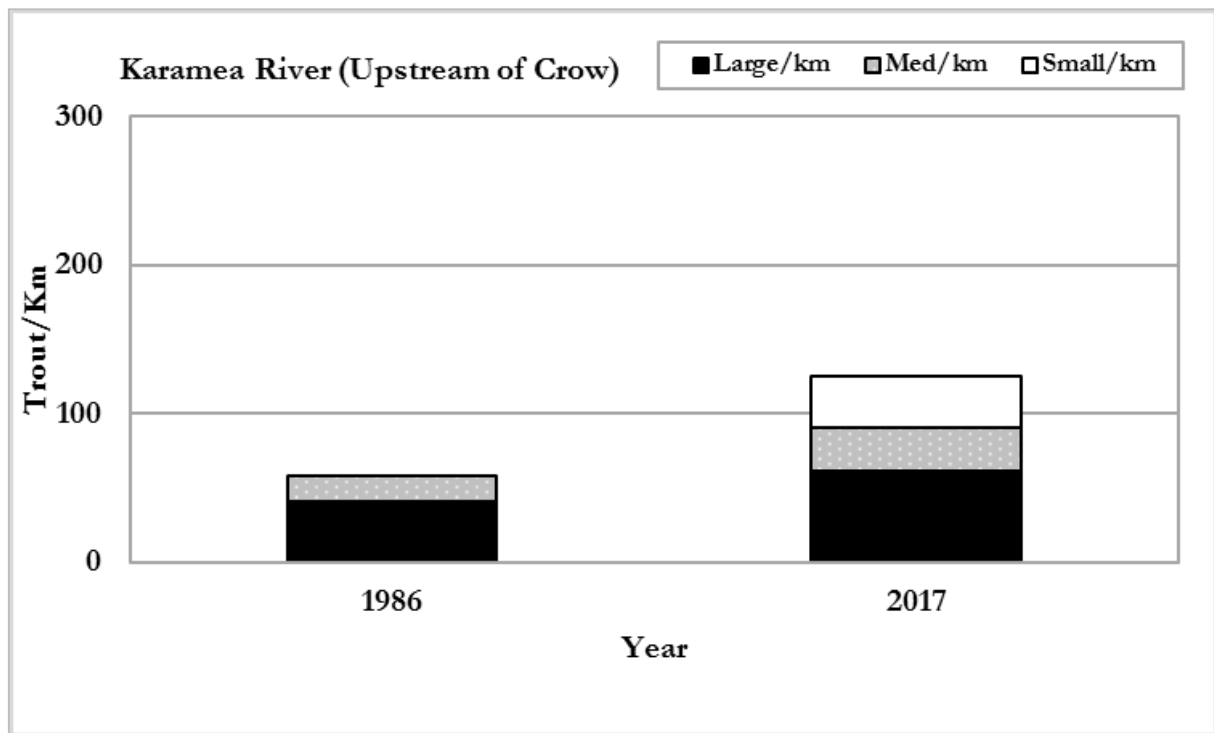


Figure 11: Karamea River Drift Diving Results Upstream of Crow Confluence.

Karamea River: (Downstream of the Crow site)

Consistent with upstream of the Crow River confluence, the section downstream of the Crow River confluence showed a positive increase in the number of trout present when compared with the only other dive in this section carried out in 1986. Again, there were many more small trout present per/km than in 1986. 32.5 large trout/km, 25 medium trout/km, 60 small trout/km.

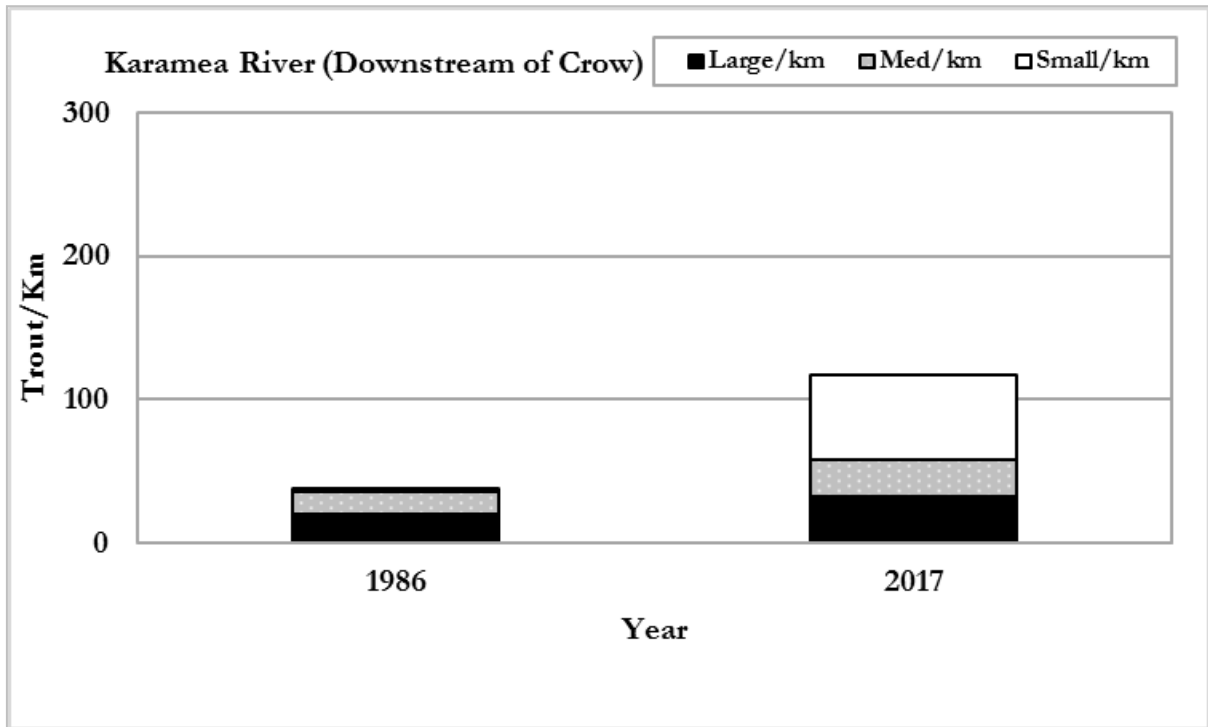


Figure 12: Karamea River Drift Diving Results Downstream of Crow Confluence.

Karamea River: (Karamea Bend site)

The Karamea River upstream from the Karamea Bend again showed greater numbers of small fish present, however there were less large and medium trout observed. Substrate through this section was notably different to the sites upstream, with longer slow-moving pools containing increased amounts of small shingle and silt on the riverbed. 32.97 large trout/km, 5.95 medium trout/km, 38.4 small trout/km.

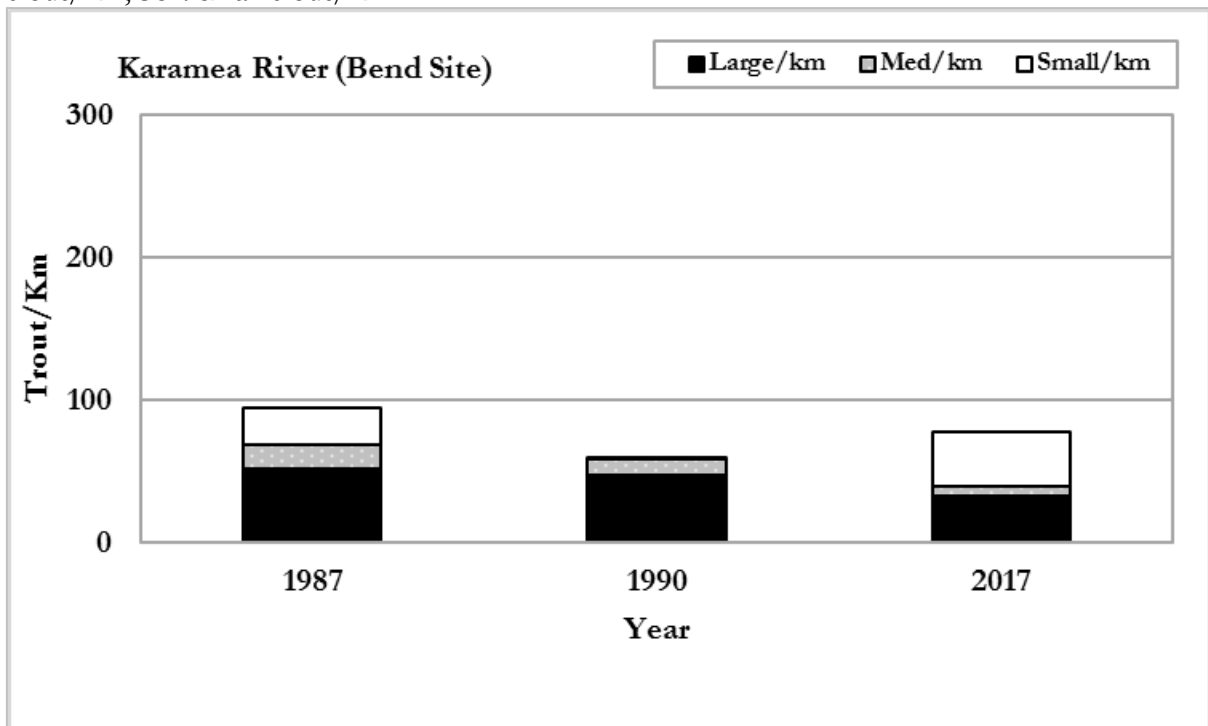


Figure 13: Karamea River Drift Diving Results Bend Site

Mokihinui River: (South Branch site)

The Mokihinui South Branch was a noticeably more productive fishery compared with the early dives from 1987 and 1990, with far more small and medium size classed fish. Of the fish observed, many were holding within the larger deep pools rather than the boulder strewn runs where you would expect more fish to be holding. 36.41 large trout/km, 103.59 medium trout/km, 116.41 small trout/km.

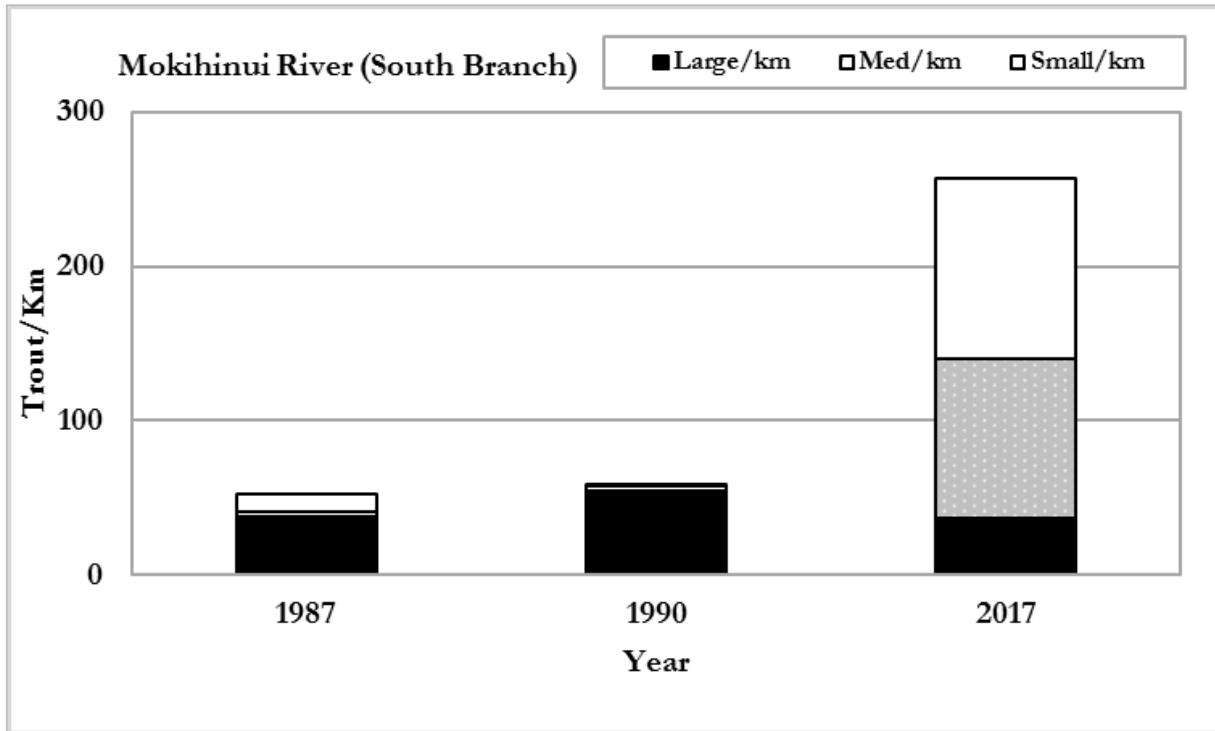


Figure 14: Mokihinui River Drift Diving Results South Branch Site.

Mokihinui River: (North Branch site)

The other site dived in the Mokihinui River catchment was the North Branch upstream of the Mokihinui Forks. The site was obviously far more prone to flood disturbance than the site dived on the South Branch, this section did not contain particularly good holding water for trout. Approximately one third, to half of the way through this section a slip along the southern bank reduced the visibility to a level that deemed the second half of the dive ineffective. As expected the reduced visibility resulted in a low overall count compared with earlier dives. Despite this, consistent with the other backcountry dives, there was still a higher presence of small and medium classed fish than during the late 1980's, early 1990's. See Figure 15 below. 8.78 large trout/km, 7.80 medium trout/km, 7.32 small trout/km.

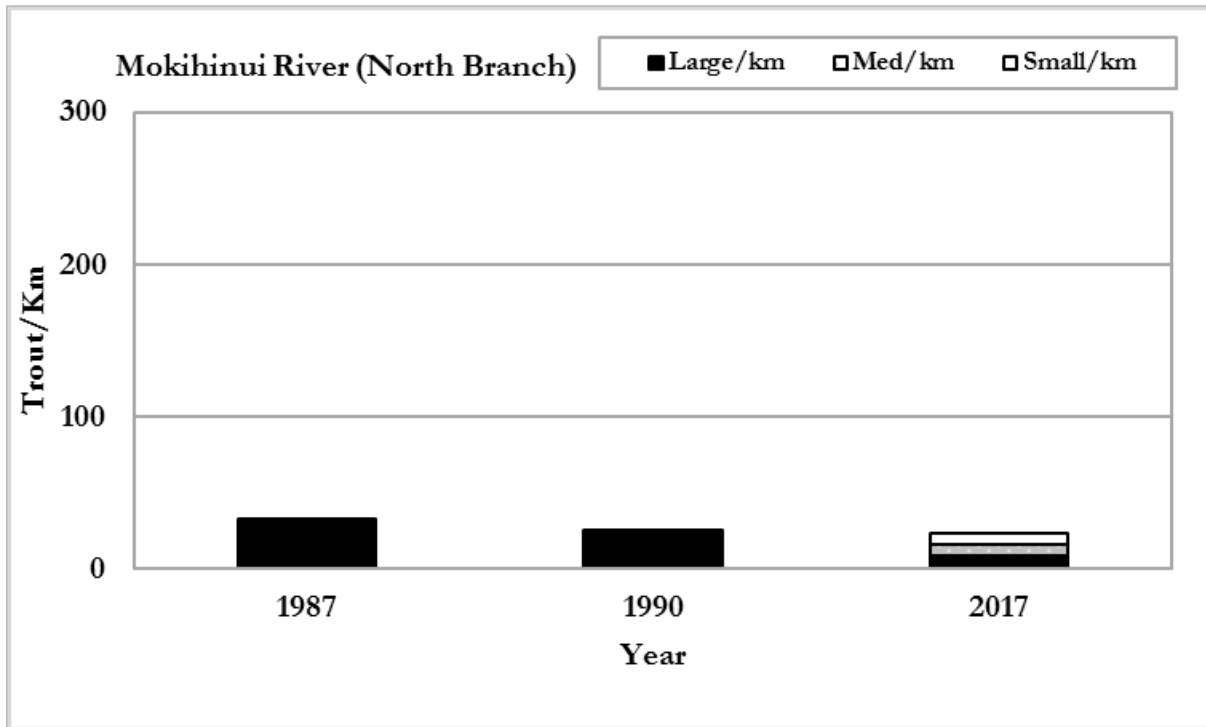


Figure 15: Mokihinui River Drift Diving Results North Branch Site.

Looking at the Karamea and Mokihinui backcountry dives, in terms of trout numbers, the fishery could be considered healthy compared with trout abundance observed in the dives from the late 1980's and 1990. Additionally, many of the trout seen within the sections dived, visually appeared to be in excellent condition. It would appear that if our current backcountry surveys reveal an extensive increase in angling pressure, that this increased pressure has not had a negative impact on the physical trout population itself. It may however have altered the fishing experience, as fish did appear to have preference for the large deep pools and may be difficult to catch with traditional fly fishing tactics when holding deep in such water. 'A recent experiment that we conducted on brown trout behaviour in a remote river in Kahurangi National Park showed that trout responded to fishing pressure by hiding more and becoming more difficult to catch' (Young, 1999).

Another consideration this season is the long periods of high flows in these catchments through spring and summer. Increased flood flows resulting from the wet spring and summer conditions may also have resulted in trout being more prevalent in the larger more stable pools. Either way, you would generally expect more fish through the shallower runs and glides.

Discussion

Survey results overall suggests angler usage in the Karamea and Mokihinui during the 2016/17 season was high, despite poor weather conditions and regularly high flows. While angler satisfaction tended to be relatively positive for the most part, several anglers signalled they are dissatisfied with fishing in the Mokihinui River. The majority of anglers fishing this catchment also reported seeing less fish than expected.

When firstly looking at fishery health, the most obvious consideration is the trout population itself, and their relative abundance in the backcountry waters. Drift dives during late summer of 2017 have found the abundance of trout to be comparative to the 1980's/early 1990's when the Karamea and Mokihinui Rivers were considered exceptional fisheries. Additionally, many of the fish counted during the dives showed excellent condition. Given this, where angler satisfaction is low, we can assume that this is largely because of either natural events, i.e. weather/temperature/flow conditions making trout particularly hard to catch, or a direct result of angling pressure. Increased angling pressure is likely to result in behavioural changes to the daily feeding patterns or the areas trout hold in. During the drift diving it was noted through some stretches, in particular the Mokihinui River South Branch, that the trout were concentrated in some of the deeper pools, rather than up in the shallower runs and glides. This may be a result of high angling pressure or the high flows experienced during the season, with trout holding in the larger more stable pools following flood events.

Between both catchments, satisfaction was noticeably higher in the Karamea catchment when compared with the Mokihinui River. This is likely to have been helped by the higher use of guides in the Karamea catchment by non-resident anglers which is likely to have improved their catch rate. While some had concerns, by in large Karamea anglers were satisfied with their fishing experiences and we can expect some degree of low satisfaction due to naturally occurring factors. However, in the case of the Mokihinui River, to think that almost a quarter of all anglers are unsatisfied with their experience is of concern. Particularly when 17% of resident anglers selected that they were very dissatisfied. Looking at the comments there are several cases where tramper/mountain biking anglers, encounter fly in anglers. Those walking or biking into the backcountry feel disappointed after making the effort to access remote areas to find fly in anglers already there. Fly in anglers are disappointed to find camping anglers staying for extended periods of time. The Mokihinui River is likely to be more susceptible to over fishing given its smaller fishable catchment size when compared with the Karamea catchment, where many of the tributaries themselves are highly regarded fisheries. This, in addition to the fact that the Karamea is less flight time from many heli operators could explain the higher number of guides. Perhaps with the larger catchment size of the Karamea, heli anglers can generally find somewhere to fish alone, where the catchment size of the Mokihinui is able to accommodate fewer anglers. Once anglers have been through fishing, the water available is generally going to be less productive.

The Otago Fish and Game Region have addressed over fishing by creating controlled fisheries, however we should not seek to implement these if not necessary. At present, if we did see the need to consider any such management options, it would make sense to implement these in the Mokihinui catchment firstly given the lower angler satisfaction. Perhaps some system could be investigated to reduce any potential conflict around increased access via the Old Ghost Road Trail and fly in anglers within the same area. Controlling extended term anglers would also be an obvious step in reducing overall angling pressure. While commercial guides are not who Fish and Game represent foremost, looking at the lower levels of guiding in the Mokihinui

catchment vs the Karamea, any regulation of the Mokihinui may improve angler satisfaction, while not at large expense to guiding operators.

Comments from anglers, particularly resident anglers, suggest that many are concerned with the amount of guiding in backcountry waters, the amount of helicopter activity and unethical issues of anglers staying a long time in the backcountry and hogging the water using various fishing methods. From the survey responses this year, few anglers had stayed for extended periods and helicopter access by residents was higher than may be perceived. If any attempt was made to limit helicopter access, it should be considered that there are a lot of resident anglers accessing the backcountry via helicopter, and many may be older anglers with health problems that would otherwise not be able to access and enjoy the backcountry fishery. There are however a relatively high number of anglers that have walked in and say they had anglers dropped in ahead of them by helicopter.

Weather during the 2016/17 season was particularly poor for much of the spring and summer months and as a result the fishing pressure experienced during the season is likely to have been lower than it would have been, had conditions been more settled. This along with lack of time are reflected by comments from anglers in Appendix 2, explaining why they didn't fish the backcountry designated rivers this season. Many also just didn't make it to the West Coast Backcountry Area as they concentrated their fishing elsewhere.

It would be well worth conducting the survey again next year to evaluate responses over what will hopefully be a more settled summer for anglers. If we do get better weather and it results in higher angler usage, it will be interesting to evaluate angler satisfaction compared with this season gone. For example, will the Karamea catchment show lower satisfaction comparable to the Mokihinui, or is there currently enough water available in the Karamea catchment to accommodate further angling before angler satisfaction drops.

Other comments included in from anglers were made regarding 1080 operations in the area. Some information put together for anglers, particularly non-residents could be useful for them to better understand the toxin and how signage is installed etc, so they can make more informed decisions about being in the backcountry when aerial 1080 operations are planned. Perhaps we could include information within the regulation guide so anglers have a better understanding of this.

From the point of future management, there are a number of suggestions included as Appendix 8. With a number of angler's keen to see restricted use and non-residents needing to be guided, along with a limitation of anglers entering the area by helicopter. Perhaps certain areas or time periods could be looked at for walk in access only. A number of comments came in suggesting making the fishery catch and release only. Perhaps the daily limit could initially be dropped to 1 trout to reduce excessive taking of fish but still allow anglers to keep a trout while camping.

It should be acknowledged that in attempting to get a completed survey of all anglers entering the West Coast Backcountry Area, where not all anglers respond, the survey is not complete nor completely randomised which may give some bias to the data. For example, those that have had a particularly bad, or particularly good fishing experience may be weighted more heavily in the results. Also, the likes of non-residents that are not considering coming back to New Zealand may be less likely to participate in the survey, compared with anglers that live nearby and regularly fish the survey area. Despite this, the survey has provided valuable estimates of information relating to the fishery and therefore gives some understanding of the angler usage and their satisfaction from those currently utilising the fishery.

Staff Recommendations

- Repeat the Angler Survey and Drift Diving for the West Coast Backcountry Fishery in the 2017/18 Season before making any management decisions.
- That council receives this report.

References

Unwin, M.J. (2016). Angler usage of New Zealand lake and river fisheries: results from the 2014/15 National Angling Survey.

Young, R (1999). Cawthron Institute report. Catch and Release: a review of overseas research and implications for New Zealand Prepared for Fish & Game New Zealand

Appendices

Appendix 1: Copy of Online Backcountry Angler Survey



www.fishandgame.org.nz

Nelson/Marlborough & West Coast Backcountry Fisheries Satisfaction Survey 2016/17

1. Participation

1. Please select the option which applies to you.

During the 2016-2017 fishing season...

- I did not fish any designated backcountry fishery in Nelson/Marlborough or the West Coast region
- I fished at least one of these designated backcountry fisheries in the Nelson/Marlborough, West Coast region: Travers, Goulter, Karamea or Mokihinui

2. Residency Status

2. Are you a New Zealand resident?

That is: you hold a NZ birth certificate or passport or citizenship; or you hold a permanent resident visa

- Yes No

3. Non-participation

3. Please provide us with the main reason you did not fish the Nelson/Marlborough or West Coast designated backcountry fisheries in the 2016/17 season.

4. Angling Effort

4. Please enter the number of days you fished in each designated backcountry fishery during the 2016- 2017 season?

If you did not fish a particular river *please leave that box blank*

Number of angling days

Travers River	<input type="text"/>
Goulter River	<input type="text"/>
Karamea River	<input type="text"/>
Mokihinui River	<input type="text"/>

5. Use of Guides

5. Were you guided on any of your fishing trips into the designated backcountry fisheries in the Nelson/Marlborough or West Coast region?

Yes No

6. Use of Guides

6. Please enter the number of days you were guided on each of the following designated backcountry fisheries during the 2016/17 season.

If you were not guided on a particular river *please leave that box blank*

Travers River	<input type="text"/>
Goulter River	<input type="text"/>
Karamea River	<input type="text"/>
Mokihinui River	<input type="text"/>

Number of guided days

7. Access

7. Did you use a helicopter to access any of the following designated backcountry fisheries?

Travers River	<input type="text"/>
Goulter River	<input type="text"/>
Karamea River	<input type="text"/>
Mokihinui River	<input type="text"/>

8. Satisfaction

8. Were you satisfied with your overall Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast designated backcountry fishing experience this season?

Please provide a rating for each river you fished

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Travers River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goulter River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Karamea River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mokihinui River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Satisfaction

9. If you were not satisfied with your Nelson/Marlborough and/or West Coast backcountry fishing experience what was the main reason for this? Please specify for each river where applicable.

10. Catch

10. In total for the season, approximately how many fish did you land from each designated backcountry fishery you fished?

Travers River	<input type="text"/>
Goulter River	<input type="text"/>
Karamea River	<input type="text"/>
Mokihinui River	<input type="text"/>

Number of fish

11. Encounter Levels

11. Did you encounter the number of fish you expected in each of the designated backcountry fisheries?

Please answer for each river you fished.

	Less than expected	As expected	More than expected
Travers River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goulter River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Karamea River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mokihinui River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Comments (optional)

13. How many people would you expect to encounter while you are in the designated backcountry fishery?

14. If the number of anglers you encountered impacted on your backcountry fishing experience in the Nelson/Marlborough or West Coast region, please explain how? Please mention specific rivers where applicable.

12. Time spent fishing

15. Thinking about your total time spent fishing in the Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast regions during the 2016/17 season, can you estimate the proportion of time spent fishing in designated backcountry waters.

13. Future Management

16. Catch and release fishing is widely promoted as a conservation minded approach to angling, however the playing and handling of fish can still lead to negative sub-lethal effects or even death of fish at a later stage. Regulations currently allow unlimited angling, as long as any fish landed above the bag limit are released.

Do you support the promotion of a voluntary daily limit for catch and release fishing in a designated backcountry?

(i.e. a recommendation that anglers land up to 'x' number of fish, rather than trying to catch as many as possible)

Yes No

I don't know Comments (optional)

17. How many fish do you like to land to feel satisfied with a day while fishing in a designated backcountry fishery?

Comments (optional)

Feedback

18. Do you have any suggestions or comments relating to the future management of Nelson/Marlborough or West Coast backcountry fisheries?

14. Thank you for completing this survey

Appendix 2: Angler Comments: Please provide us with the main reason you did not fish the Nelson/Marlborough or West Coast designated backcountry fisheries in the 2016/17 season.

Non-Resident Angler Comments

I didn't travel that far up the West coast to fish this year
I fished in other regions in NZ
not sufficient time
did not spend any time there at all
Access
I did not visit those areas this year.
fished other rivers in the regions
The guide chose different rivers
continuous rain & blown out rivers when I was there in January
Not in that area
The weather was wet and cold when I wanted to do the trip in. This left the rivers too high as well.
I ended up going to other regions to fish.
Very poor water visibility during my April trip. The water was milky throughout the month almost everywhere we went. Disappointing.
Just didn't get to that area during our trip
Limited time, fished other areas
Nordea time
Too much by way of alternative river systems
The weather bomb that hit early February, and flushed the rivers.
High water
Fished Fiordland and Otago Backcountry only!
Very wet weather during my stay.
The weather turned awful and altered our travel plans
too many people on the river
fished different region
Didn't quite fit in with my itinerary this time but I wanted to have the correct licence if I was able to get out to the areas
Fished the southern areas
Weather. I headquarter out of Te Anau. I kept looking for a promising weather outlook before heading up the coast, and it never came - first time I've not seen the Coast or Nelson in 33 years! (I had to return to the US mid-February to mid-March because my mum died. I'm sure that's when the weather fined up.)
Bad, cold weather!
I was in NZ for one month and the backcountry fisheries were too far away
Weather
Fished near Makarora and Nokomai Station, is this considered the west coast?
"Not enough time this year and the spring weather and flow put me off the drive!
"
Weather and time restrictions
Not sure whether or not I fished in these particular watersheds. We visited from the US and fished Opihi (?) and a couple rivers based from [REDACTED].
Fished in the Otago region.
No car
Could not schedule the time
I just never made it over to the west coast last season as I mainly fished central otago and southland regions
I was only travelling for 10 days and fished mainly the Otago region.
Planned trip fell through
Fished other regions
Was on holiday touring NZ from Canada and did not have time to visit backcountry
Went to other rivers
Decided to fish the Central Otago back country rivers instead
"I fished other rivers on the West Coast. Moeraki, Thomas, Nevis. (Nevis is not West Coast, but close.) There was some lingering weather in certain areas of West Coast and we wanted to miss it. So, we went to these areas near Haast where sun was the order of the day."

"Didn't suit my travel plans and fishing itinerary
"
Weather was not suitable at the time.
So many nice rivers to fish, chose other rivers
Weather made us tog change plans.
as a visitor to NZ did not get the chance
Did not go to any backcountry rivers
I'm an international angler and didn't make it there.
Didn't get the time to go to the West Coast while visiting NZ
did not make it there
Fished other areas further east and south.
I am a tourist and did not have time & opportunity
My journey did not bring me to any of the rivers listed ...
All the fishing I did was on main rivers
Not in the country enough
Bad weather.
Guide suggested we fish elsewhere
fished other waters
other route
It was a family holiday and I couldn't find the time to get into the backcountry. A case of wishful/hopeful thinking when doing the application.
The guides I fished with, headed other good rivers
I was visiting from North America. Fishing conditions were very poor (too much water) on the days when my schedule would allow me to fish in back country streams.
too difficult to get to
time constraints - we fished middle and upper reaches of the Wairau instead.
10-day holiday in NZ only and didn't get chance
yeeeaahh went fishin for chicks instead.
No time
Overseas angler with limited time (4 days) so chose other places with a guide.
I was in NZ for a limited time and unfortunately didn't have the time to venture that far.
Rivers affected by a too high fishing pressure
Accessibility and associated cost of transport (such as helicopter access Mokihinui + Karamea region, water-taxi for the Travers and 4WD for the Goulter.) Also as I fish mostly on my own it was not viable for safety reasons to walk into the Karamea and Mokihinui regions for a week alone.
Time limitation
To little time
Getting to back country proved too difficult for our short stay.
Bad weather changed my plans
Fished the DŪrville - For some reason thought that was a Backcountry endorsed river?
Our group pretty much confined ourselves to the Motueka, Pearse, Baton and Wangapeka Rivers and Lake Rotoiti.
I fished further down South this year e.g. The Nevis and Mataura.
Fished more Southland areas
We chose other rivers instead
Ran out of time.
Time restraints, so many good fishing streams only so many streams one can fish.
expertise and equipment were lacking
I was an overseas angler on holiday. Didn't had the opportunity
Location
Chose other rivers.
Fished the Crowe with a chopper and guide instead
Rain and lots of it!
Our guide did not take us to any of the rivers mentioned.

Resident Angler Comments

The lack of available rivers and streams in Canterbury mean anglers are overcrowding back country rivers. I met a [REDACTED] in South Westland who told me guides and their clients were thrashing the Westland back country. Almost everywhere they were hunting, they met guides and clients.

Feedback

Didn't have time
No time to travel
Lack of time
family and work commitments prevented me from getting out to the backcountry areas
no interest
Bad weather
Not near enough to me
Rivers were dirty or Nor West prevailing when I was free to fish
Ran out of time on family holiday...
injured leg requiring surgery
Didn't travel
All the unsettled weather limited the times I could get up to fish the area
I Did not make enough time!
Based in Otago
Weather, many rivers too busy
I concentrated my visit around the Reefton area only and fished the Waitahu only.
Limited time available on my trip and was enjoying other rivers
Didn't make it to the Coast or Nelson/Marlborough this year
Didn't have a chance to get there
Time.
not enough time during visit to the region
No time
Did not manage this year to get to the backcountry fisheries (ran out of time!)
Health not good enough to get there. Aiming to get there next season.
Slack
Did not visit the area/
Time
Work commitments & weather
I did not travel to that area I went to Southland
bad weather when I was there
Lack of time
Move to Taupo
Insufficient commitment on the part of the angler
Weather conditions and time available
"Family illness delayed the trip
"
Unexpectedly ended up in Europe for a few months.
Didn't get around to it
I am based in Otago and only fished backcountry rivers locally this season.
Weather
I did not find the time on my short trip to the South Island , I hope to return next year for a much longer period .
Lack of time and bad weather
never planned a trip there
"Just didn't get a chance to go up and fish.
Next year!"
Too many people around during holiday period, including foreign anglers camping for weeks.
didn't get there as expected
No time to get over there
Time and weather conspired against me
Time constraints
Went to other areas
very wet season
I did not travel to the region
Work commitments restrained my travel and leisure time
My friend was suffering from sciatica so we made a low land area trip this year. Hope to make it to Nelson in the coming season.
Lack of time
No opportunity

Feedback

Too much pressure or perceived pressure from foreigners
"Planned opening day weather was poor. Went to Otago/Southland instead.
"
not enough time
Was not able to find time to do so
The planed fishing trip was cancelled at the last minute
Time
Unfortunately did not have the time and when I did the weather was not good
Trip cancelation due to bad weather
Distance from home base
Chose to fish in other rivers despite my intention to fish one of the designated waters
Poor weather early in the season prevented me
Other options closer to home were pursued
Cancelled trip due to poor weather.
just didn't get there
I live in hawkes bay and did not travel south to fish this season so far
Didn't get there!!
No time
Time constraints, weather and other commitments. I did plan to fish the Travers
Didn't make it to the area.
Too crook
Plans changed by the Kaikoura earthquake
Did not have the time and fished local Otago waters
didn't get the opportunity to go fishing in these backcountry fisheries
Bad weather every time I thought of organising a trip.
Work commitments
Got too busy fishing in Otago and Southland
Family circumstance meant I struggled to get the time
No helicopter rides no wslk access. Personal choice willbe back.
North island based with the hope of South Island fishing at some stage
I didn't manage to get to the Coast during the season and while I did spend time in Nelson/Marlborough I was there on business or with family.
Not in the area
Did not get into this location this year unfortunately
Did not get across to Nelson/Marlbrough
time havent done much fishing this season
Didn't have time
I took out the licence but never got to fish due to the weather when I was available
poor weather season
Work commitments over the summer season made it difficult to find the time to visit the backcountry
To busy working
My fishing partner died.
Cafe too busy- few days off and all raining and bloody windy. So many tourists driving badly on the Takaka Hill it wasn't worth going over on a crap day.
Earthquakes and poor weather main reason never got chance this year . cheers
no time to
Ran out time due to unexpected work
I was unable to juggle my fishing time with my mates fishing time and the weather to make it happen.
poor weather
Lack of time.
"I fished the Travers regularly for many years until two years ago. It is just too crowded now to make it worthwhile, a victim of the crowding we hear so much about.
"
no licence
Was busy traveling overseas
Have not got anyone to go fishing with.
I only fished Lake Rotoiti
Just didn't
Too busy

Feedback

Commitments in Otago & Wellington regions. Unable to fish Travers.
Conditions and opportunity did not coincide
Did not fish very much at all this summer
Health problems
back injuri
Injured leg, not mobile
Fished other rivers instead.
I only spin fish and keep what I catch. I'm not after trophy fish. I did fish up to the back country sign in the travers but never past it. So I guess I never fished the. Ack country area. Just the first kilometre of the travers.
Went back to N I.
Nah
weather & time
"Weather
"
No Opportunity
Got very distracted with Opouri and mid Wairau rivers. Had serious intentions of visiting the Goulter but....
Weather
The weather has been so dodgy this season that we have hardly been fishing at all. What with earthquakes, floods etc, we just haven't managed to get out.
unable to have time away
Didn't get around to it
"I had to travel abroad for work reasons
"
Personnel circumstance's changed.
too busy with work
Inclement weather over those weekends when I was intending to undertake a backcountry fishing trip.
Kids!!
didn't get there
"I 've had a few health issues
So didn't get out much"
weather and time
Couldn't get away.
Due to loosing my wife in January lots of things change and & have not had time, Plus the other times that planned trip weather & river flows were to high.
Was stuck down in otago!
Busy doing other things
Too busy to travel
Weather too unsettled to fly in.
I went on travels and didn't get time to get into the back country
LAZINESS
Didn't go there
Inclement weather and health problems
weather was main issue this season but also time constraints
Fished other water closer to home, just lack of time
Weather during planned holiday precluded
Lack of time
Work reasons kept me out of the area for most of the time
Only had time to go fishing a few times so didn't make it to these rivers
We were only in the area for a bit of December and the weather was windy and rainy, so we had to stay on the tar roads.
Lack of time for a backcountry trip into these areas this season.
Weather-poor summer
Physically not able too after health issues
Limited fishing opportunities throughout the 2016/17 season.
New to region, explored main river systems with low success rates, abysmal weather patterns, stuck to areas where I could reliably see trout instead of long costly exploration trips to backcountry this season. Hopefully very different next season.
Lack of time

Feedback

no time :(
The weather through the season was lousy on the days I had free to get into the back country
I had to go to Europe for a while for the funeral of my mum ...

Appendix 3: If you were not satisfied with your Nelson/Marlborough and/or West Coast backcountry fishing experience what was the main reason for this? Please specify for each river where applicable.

Non-Resident Angler Comments

While fishing the Mohikinui, we were rained on with poison pellets while standing in the river. This continued for most of the day with the helicopter overhead. Having read the literature, I think this is a terrible program. I have fished NZ for 25 years and the possums are always there.
Water levels were high, but fishing was enjoyable compared to 2015 the fishing was very poor
After helicoptering in, found that a European hiker/angler (using the new bike path and staying at the Goat Creek Hut) had just taken out the entire South Branch of the Mokihinui. Forced to fish the North Branch as a back-up at a much higher helicopter cost.
Too many helicopters some rivers need to be designated walk in only. Heli fishing has put these rivers int the hands of the rich and after all the guides are making a lot of money out of this !! Whilst walkers like myself help fund the quality of the fishing for the guides. Too many guides !!!!
"Only dissatisfaction was that helicopters flew over every morning spooking the fish.
Excellent angling experience South Fork seemed to hold more fish than North Fork or Hemphill.
Old ghost road excellent for access"
Lack of fish in goulter river this year even though it was in December. Fish already spooky, river too hammered. Access is too easy to be considered as a true backcountry
too much rain!
It was my first experience on Travers - I fish many South Island Rivers on my annual trip hone to NZ from the UK and found this to be one of the most breathtaking in scenery and quality. Speaking with the water taxi owner - the river receives a lot of angling pressure. - perhaps too much and to add to that I found foreign anglers spin fishing - also one angler using an electronic fish finding device that is cast on a spinning rod. Several spinning anglers were preparing to come across and fish the river. despite the clear signs of no spinning allowed above a certain point- its being ignored. I wont return to fish the Travers due to these factors
High Water
About the Travers. Conditions were not optimal as far as the weather was concerned, fishing pressure high and hidden fish. I had to say that I visited this river early on my five weeks trip and I encountered these types of conditions (expect maybe for the number of anglers) elsewhere and did much better, therefore does it have to do mostly with fishing pressure?
"Our fishing experience was terrible. There was no fish in New Zealand.
Fished in New Zealand rivers before and even the guide couldn't find fish. New Zealand needs to stock trout for future ."
"Travers: very low number of fish
Mohikinui: low number of big fish over 6 lbs"
Goulter River was a stunning river, but I was disappointed about quad tracks on the river bed meaning that people drive around on ATV's to fish the river. This is not what I associate with a backcountry fishery. Also, the fish were very spooky as a response to the angling pressure evident by the many quad tracks and foot prints.
1080 dropped and clearly visible within 1m of the waters edge on the Crow River. A little close I believe.
I had one day to fish the Karamea only, because rains made the river unfishable after that. Fishing was good that one day.

Resident Angler Comments

Mokihinui has too many people spending multiple nights and days fishing so over fished for limited number of fish. This seems to be done by foreigners .
floating 1080 pellets kinda ruined the experience
Got a surprise about the requirement for the endorsement on the licence for the back country fishery when heading for the river. There was no warning when buying the licence despite selecting Nelson Marlborough as my preferred region. I felt this to be a poor application of fish and game authority given that the endorsement is mandatory.
Beautiful valley but saw no trout at all to cast to - I don't need to catch them, I just need to see some to be satisfied
"on the travers river the recent floods have reduced the holding areas in the lower river.
karamea river found fewer fish and those found in poor condition "
Weather and river conditions (high flow) so great place to be but not much good for fishing
we came across overseas tourists who had been camping 12 days & eating fish. Trip was a wasted experience as water hammered.

Access to Travers too easy
Poor fishing
Lack of fish
Travers and goulter very busy doesn't matter what day you fish. Still good fishing to be had though
"Too many wasps, got stung 12 times just walking along the tracks.
Guided trips flying in and not really polite."
lack of fish
"Opening day a local chopper pilot, a guide and two clients landed in the upper part of the Goulter at around 6.30 am. Stuffing up my hunt so I proceeded down stream fishing and walking though every hole and throwing rocks in some to spoke all the fish. I met up with them, told them I was pissed off and what I'd done. They told me there was another fisherman down stream and they had left him a beat, didn't know there was a beat system in the Goulter. his self imposed one of coarse. So kept walking, not in the river any more. I met the other fisherman they had flown over, a Father and Son that were camped just above the Crozier. The father got out of his tent and waved a bag at them to make his presence known. He was also very pissed off. They've got no manners they should have landed and talked them. Met an English fisherman 7 weeks later he'd had similar issues with a different chopper and guides.
Your idea of back country license is to make tourists buy a full license, I can't see that working as its peanuts compared to the 2-3 k they're spending on the days fishing any way. I don't think I'll get a license next season our fishery belongs to the rest of the world now.
By the way the arrogant prick in chopper was [REDACTED] he was fishing as well so they may not have been clients just rich mates maybe!"
To many people fishing one river fit to long! and to many overseas anglers killing trout!
We were accosted by a guide who made unreasonable and untruthful demands on our use of the river- trying to protect his patch by excluding others
"Please make the whole Travers BC. Punters claim to not know where the boundary is.
Suggest doing the same for Wairau upstream of Wash Bridge."
The river was devoid of fish, after a walk in from the Lake Chalice road a helicopter flew a guided party out. Its a pity that people can fly into some back country rivers, doesn't seem to be a fair way to accessing the joys of fly fishing these beautiful places, assume they are tourist anyway... :(Anyway enough of the grumble, don't think I will waste my time going in there again, saw more deer than trout, better off hunting than fishing, lovely walk though...
The designated river is being significantly over fished by inexperienced overseas visitors that no nothing about the fragility of these rivers. Thread line fishing for example in the Travers should not be permitted especially by visitors using the fish as a food source.
We were on Karamea/Crow hut when the Kaikoura earthquake happened then the river flooded so very hard to find fishing access points. The Crow river dropped faster than the Karamea so some fishing happened.
"Travers: very poor fishing with few trout seen.
Goulter: very few fish seen
Karamea: A lot of evidence of anglers ([REDACTED]....) staying a long time in the huts, longer than allowed and fishing the water hard. Needed to go a long way to get some unpressured water. "
Heavy rain meant rivers were up and discoloured.
Too many guides and tourist have destroyed the experience.
The river has been over-fished and there are very few fish to be seen
3rd November 2016. A two hour drive from Nelson, leaving at 6.30am, a half hour walk to the first hut. Had just started fishing when two helicopters arrived within 2mins of each other. The first saw me and went upstream about 1.5km and dropped off a guide with a client. Saw them leaving in a helicopter, from about 200m (not to talk to) at the top hut. The second helicopter came over the ridge and saw me and probably the other helicopter and went downstream. Fishing behind a guide and a client looking at those fresh footprints did not do much for my backcountry experience. Found out later the guide that landed and proceeded to fish in front of me was [REDACTED].
LACK OF FISH SPOT'TED TO TIME SPENT, A LOT OF PRESSURE IS BEING PUT ON THESE RIVERS
Fishing pressure. Too many angling parties on the river, up to 5 parties on one occasion. Fish seen but are very wary
A long drive in two many anglers.
Lack of fish in upper reach. Spooky fish also. Goulter River.
"The goulter had guides up it both days I fished it, no signage or notes left on vehicles so assumed they were up it but went for a look anyway.
The Mokihinui I mountain biked in 20km from seddonville to the forks, once again find a guide and client there, They had fished the river hard for two days and were waiting for a chopper to fly them back out up to Nelson. "
It was my first experience on Travers - I fish many South Island Rivers on my annual trip hone to NZ from the UK and found this to be one of the most breathtaking in scenery and quality. Speaking with the water taxi owner - the river receives a lot of angling pressure. - perhaps too much and to add to that I found foreign anglers spin fishing - also one angler using an electronic fish finding device that is cast on a spinning rod. Several spinning anglers were preparing to come across and fish the river. despite the clear signs of no spinning allowed above a certain point- its

Feedback

being ignored. I wont return to fish the Travers due to these factors

Appendix 4: Number of Fish Expected? Comments

Non-Resident Anglers

beautiful but few fish but water levels were low late season
The fish on the Travers were small browns up to 2.5 lbs. Browns on the Mokihinui were 3 to 6 lbs.
Few fish north fork and Hemphill, South fork fished well average size 3kg
Less fish than expected on karamea but likely due to unstable and cold weather conditions during this particularly wet season
One of my best fishing days in NZ was late November on a very rainy day on the Travers. Water was a bit off colored, but had great success that day.
Excellent fishing just after the first big November spate had cleared. This was the only fishable river that has not been wrecked, of a months trip except for a nice little Creek at [REDACTED] (which is being gently decimated by intensive dairy along it's two mile or so reach). I will not use guides who use copters, so I self guide and am all the happier for it. Thanks for keeping the Travers protected - but please do something urgently to monitor fly life decimation in the majority of lowland rivers and do something with the evidence. i.e. volunteer / club monthly kick sampling as evidence to legislate for half acre bush buffer zones and cattle density limits in high runoff locations. Already spoken with [REDACTED] at Otago Uni about this - would be happy to help you guys organise. Tried to engage some in the guiding community to help on this - nearly as entitled and arrogant as the dairy industry! i am on UK [REDACTED].
This was because of high water resulting from recent heavy rains and runoff.
"I only had the opportunity to fish the Travers one day and change in plans meant other rivers could be reached
However the fish were quite prevalent in the Travers and in very nice condition. "
River was very low and I visited in January when the weather was awful so couldn't get out into the Back country as much as I wanted. In general, I would be highly supportive of any measures that are taken to preserve the resource. I do not think that foreigners should be allowed to come and 'pillage' rivers in the way that seems to have been the case of late!
In question 7, it was asked about dissatisfaction, I'd like to write down here how happy was I on the Karamea system. I fished the main river a bit from the bend to the crow with a reasonable success, I fished it sparsely (while walking down to the roaring lion) between the bend and the earthquake lakes with no success but I had a wonderful time [REDACTED] with both blind and spot fishing, with nymphs and terrestrials. I also fished the crow with very little success but did very well on the [REDACTED] mostly fishing blind the riffles. I am available for further comments if you wish to ask. I had the opportunity to discuss some of these matters with people from fish and game as well as guides. I believe that to be efficient these fisheries needs to be backed up with some other measures restricting the angling pressure by limiting the fishermen to those willing to access by tramping only. Choppers daily drop-off are a killer for those having walked in the hard way. I would advocate that at least whatever stretch of a river accounting for a whole fishing day from a hut or a well designated camping spot should be dedicated to the trampers.
"Did see quite a few fish but they were very spooky - lost one and landed another at 6-1/4lb.
The 2 days we fished were in late February, water was lowish"
Awesome! I really appreciate your work guys.

Resident Angler Comments

The river (Ugly) had changed since my last visit several years ago. Less pools and because of this fish were harder to spot.
I am a novice fly fisher, so getting 1 was great!
Please stop oversea anglers. Make the Jems kiwi only
also those fish spotted very spooky
as expected given conditions
as per prev comments
Easy access by boat meant high fishermen numbers even though i hiked in and stayed a few nights the boat boys still beat me to it!
Had visited Karamea twice before 8 years ago. Completely difference experience this time with evidence of significant fishing pressure. Made the effort and spent the money to avoid the more heavily fished rivers eg Travers but although a beautiful environment the fishing was disappointing.
Brief trip whilst in region and was low down and health Ilya frequented spot. Not representative of my ambitious s
Fish in the lower reaches very spooky probably due to fishing pressure.
We could see the occasional trout swimming in the river but have since been told there use to be a lot more.
last time 5 years ago there were less fish by far than I expected, this time there were reasonable numbers but not a patch on the glory days of the 80's!
very jumpy fish

Feedback

Lower section (non BC) over fished. Too many people who are not easy on the fishery. Trampers also fish as they hike. Anecdotally they do not have licences (I did not meet any) and boast about not paying any hut fees. I did meet an [REDACTED] couple at Coldwater Hut who boasted NO hut fees paid in NZ!
Didn't even spot a fish in the upper reaches (above Mid Goulter hut) I thought would not be fished that often.
Fish very spooky and only fair condition.
Having never been in the karamea system before could not believe the numbers of fish in our chosen tributary.
"the steyne river was running high but enjoyed the experience.
The south branch was in flood so fishing impracticable.
In the past this has been a wonderful place to fish 50 years ago"
The river is suffering from over fishing. Look at the track pattern along the river banks!!!
The river flooded so fishing was hard. Nice trip even so.
a perfect day after a week of floods so no-one had fished it. ha ha ha.
Some parts of the Karamea catchment need to be designated chopper free. A lot of pressure on the catchment as a whole. And getting worse. Sadly the recent years of heavy flooding seemed to have adversely affected the Travers. Also the Sabine and D'Urville
Fishing pressure from foreigners has wrecked the Travers.
A lot of hits but not so many caught
The fact I had to follow guides and clients probably had a meaning on numbers I saw.
"I only had the opportunity to fish the Travers one day and change in plans meant other rivers could be reached
However the fish were quite prevalent in the Travers and in very nice condition. "

Appendix 5: If the number of anglers you encountered impacted on your backcountry fishing experience in the Nelson/Marlborough or West Coast region, please explain how? Please mention specific rivers where applicable.

Non-Resident Angler Comments

Flew into the South Branch of the Mokihinui to find that a lone European hiker/angler (using the new bike path and staying multiple nights at the Goat Creek Hut) had just fished and taken out almost the entire South Branch. Forced to fish the upper North Branch as a back up plan at a much higher helicopter cost. This was the 2nd consecutive time (2 seasons in a row) that we've been displaced on the South Branch by an unguided, unskilled European hiker/angler that took out the water we wanted to fish.
"Just encountered MTB and trampers in huts
No fishermen on foot - plenty of helicopters scoping "
Did not encounter any other than at the headwaters.
Doesn't matter if there is angler from a fishing perspective, only affect my happiness to be alone into the wild
Goulter was the first river to clear so heli fly ins from quite far away occurred during the day I fished it.
We chose not to land and fish the N Branch of the Mohikinui due to anglers already fishing it, and visible from the air.
Barely any impact from other fishers - though one guide tried to send me off scent of the Travers - he had one of his guiding in the vicinity it proved. I think they may have water taxied in the day I was walking round - not sure as I only encountered one set of fresh tracks - I left one day fallow / recce and the next two were stunningly good fishing including a ten fish day at which point I stopped - reckoning the valley owed me nothing and had delivered a lot. Met a load of good people one night in the huts - none of them anglers.
We encounter a group of people about 10 that were just hiking and doing a study for the government
I have stated in my previous answer that too many foreign anglers (mainly spin) had easy access to this river as its adjacent to a major tourist spot of St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti on the other side of lake. Who seem to be ignoring the rules - hence detracting from fly angling. In an entire month of annual fly fishing on a dozen or so different rivers and over 5 years coming back home to NZ - I have only seen 2 anglers (with guides) so my experience is usually of no other anglers.
Not this year but in prior years I've fished waters which have clearly been fished recently and had helicopters cut in above me on rivers which have pretty much ruined the experience.
"Whenever I Bumped onto another fisherman, I propose either a share of the river (a bank a piece if applicable) or a joint fishing party.
This is what I did with a couple of english people staying at the coldwater hut on the Travers (they had come by boat). As I was first, they asked me to choose and as they were two I proposed that each party will get a bank as the Travers in its lower part (below the swing bridge) allows for it. Would have been another single angler I would have proposed to fish together. On the Karamea, I was unable to fish the river above the Bend on my last day as there were a guide with two clients already scheduled for it, I had to go for the Leslie with no success while blind fishing the riffles neither when fishing for very spooky spotted. Honestly, I had to say that it was not so difficult to convince me as I had a long tramping day back to Flora hut, what would I have done otherwise?. "
Was repeatedly dropped in on by anglers doing the wrong thing. Spoiling all the fish in the above pools. Making fishing near impossible. Resulting in slightly agitated confrontations
"We didn't encounter any other anglers but the hut book did indicate others had been through .
The question above is somewhat subjective and difficult to answer because numbers of people encountered could depend on time of year, ie better angling months, holiday season, weather etc etc
Ideally the no.s encountered would be small enough to make sure all parties could have a decent stretch of river to fish without any aggro. "
We encountered no other anglers on the one day fishing the Karamea. We encountered no other anglers on the Travers, perhaps due to rain and high waters.
There was one guy spinnfishing and he messed up the hole river.

Resident Angler Comments

Karamea bend, people flying in and then all of a sudden you think you can just walk up the river as you stayed at the hut and find there are anglers all along the river that flew in and you walk thinking it will be remote and not many people.
Traverse River. Foreign anglers not respecting other anglers. Dropping in front anglers rather than planning there approach on the river with anglers that are on the river before them.
already said
Had numours inserdents with overseas anglers camped on rivers for weeks at a time! Fishing the same water everyday and killing and eating far to many trout
"as above
I avoid mid-season and weekends because of high use"
"Not a problem for me as I usually walk up well past the BC boundary.
I enjoy meeting other fishers in this BC area as they generally have the same values (Wilderness feeling) as me. Good to see a few family (Dad and Sons) fishing trips.
Please emphasize catch and release philosophy."
Travers.Encountering other anglers reduces the number of fish out feeding and the ones that are left can be difficult to catch .
As mentioned I experienced a guided party that flew out of the upper Goulter that was a section I was going to fish after walking in. Have herd that it is a 'guided' river, but was disappointed that they were up quite high on the river. Would love to see tighter regulation on how many 'guided days' could be used by operators in the back country. I believe it does impact the fishery, and being local would love to be able to walk into an area that does not have choppers flying people with more money than myself in and out. Does not seem to be a level playing field. Whats the use of calling it a 'Back Country' river??
Fished off peak season saw no one. Would not be so great mid season. Could see difference in fish behaviour up river and close to the hut
I had to walk further than I intended to avoid other anglers and was jumped by one group on the Travers. There are quite a few anglers around and not all know or respect the rules.
On two separate visits we encountered on the first visit seven people fishing and on the second visit five. All but two of these people were overseas visitors fishing with thread lines.
No Impact. It is a big river. They fished somewhere else.
Travers , a boat came up, it was [REDACTED],he was extremely courteous, and allowed us first choice,wish everybody would do that, good communication!
Travers
No-one encountered on the Goulter due to a week of floods and very ppor road access. We were very, very lucky.
Too many anglers getting easy access by chopper. Getting jumped by anglers and unscrupulous guides and clients. Chopper sees you fishing, hovers then flies up a km and drops off the party of three. Completely unacceptable and ruined our day on the upper Karamea. Which we spent three days walking to.
No impact
Very rude fishing guides trying to jump on waters and showing no courtesy. On one occasion tried to order me off when I was there first. Get rid of these parasites.
Too many Guides
I encountered half a dozen other fishermen/women but have been told by the property owner it is like that every day.
Answer copied from Question 6. 3rd November 2016. A two hour drive from Nelson, leaving at 6.30am, a half hour walk to the first hut. Had just started fishing when two helicopters arrived within 2mins of each other. The first saw me and went upstream about 1.5km and dropped off a guide with a client. Saw them leaving in a helicopter, from about 200m (not to talk to) at the top hut. The second helicopter came over the ridge and saw me and probably the other helicopter and went downstream. Fishing behind a guide and a client looking at those fresh footprints did not do much for my backcountry experience. Found out later the guide that landed and proceeded to fish in front of me was [REDACTED]
ON ONE OCCASION IN THE GOULTER THERE WERE 9 FISHERMAN SOME OF WHOM HAD BEEN FLOWN IN WITH GUIDES,OTHER RIVERS WERE LOW NUMBERS BUT ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE FROM OTHER USERS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN LARGE NUMBERS OF GUIDED FISHERMAN
no impact
It is rare to fish Travers any more without encountering other anglers. Publicising it as a backcountry fishery without any restriction on angler days has only compounded the problem.
Travers River. "Eurotrash" anglers camping by river and living off fish, guides and clients. To much fishing pressure on a limited resource
"Fished the Goulter more foot prints than fish.
Unhappy with what I pay as a kiwi only to find two many over seas angles.

Feedback

Fish number have dropped over seas anglers up.
I have traveled and walked hours only to have chopper land in front of me.
Did not see any other anglers.
Both the goulter and mokihinui rivers had Guides and clients on them the very few days I was able to fish them. This obviously made the fish hard to find and even harder to even get them to look at a fly. I think if these fisheries can be accessed on foot or by mountain bike that should be the only options. These guides and clients with the big dollars for choppers should only be allowed to access those rivers with no foot or bike access ie [REDACTED] river. I know this will never happen, maybe there could be a certain month when choppers can access the back country fisheries to help avoid us guys and girls who do the hard yards to access them. It took me 3 hrs to bike into the mokihinui forks, only to find a guide there, I was so disappointed.
I have stated in my previous answer that too many foreign anglers (mainly spin) had easy access to this river as its adjacent to a major tourist spot of St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti on the other side of lake. Who seem to be ignoring the rules - hence detracting from fly angling. In an entire month of annual fly fishing on a dozen or so different rivers and over 5 years coming back home to NZ - I have only seen 2 anglers (with guides) so my experience is usually of no other anglers.

Appendix 6: Catch and release fishing is widely promoted as a conservation minded approach to angling, however the playing and handling of fish can still lead to negative sub-lethal effects or even death of fish at a later stage. Regulations currently allow unlimited angling, as long as any fish landed above the bag limit are released. Do you support the promotion of a voluntary daily limit for catch and release fishing in a designated backcountry? (i.e. a recommendation that anglers land up to 'x' number of fish, rather than trying to catch as many as possible)

Non-Resident Angler Comments

Fishing in NZ is challenging and there are few fish. So to limit what might be a special day where they are on the feed would not be pleasant.
Flyfishing with barbless small hooks and proper release does not harm the fish. Limits are not needed.
If played and handled properly, the effect on the fish should be minimal. Prefer to see anglers accompanied by a licensed, professional guide.
"Guides are irresponsible and for them its all a numbers hard to managed
"Plus minimal leader strength (e.g. 6-8lb) to facilitate rapid playing
No weighing of fish unless net scales
Keep fish in water even for photos
Very difficult to police the above though"
"In most fisheries you would be struggling to land a limit anyway
Good idea but hard to control in remote area. However it could help to change mindset
Difficult question. There can be days when fish are "on", and others when they are not. Depends on the number, really, but if implemented, I would think people would leave smaller fish intentionally, and go for the bigger ones. Not sure if that is the intention. However, will support any initiative to sustain/improve the fisheries.
While I support this, I would have to assume due to the difficulty in enforcement, it would mostly be on an honor system
I think that the only way of keeping these waters attractive to fisherman is by catch and release. Many anglers fish them guided so fish handling before release should not be an issue.
Considering the high cost I pay to helicopter into these backcountry streams, I would not be happy having to end my day just because the fishing is good that day.
I tend to fish to ten - both here in England on the streams and abroad. When it's really on - I - like anyone else will fish on but ten NZ fish is enough for me in terms of stamina these days. Those who like to brag red letter days beyond this sort of number always strike me as both missing the point of fishing and somewhat unmannerly and crude. They're attitude is out of step with the conservation so desperately needed if NZ is to survive as a place to travel for sport fishing.
all fish are catch and release
I do not support worldwide big company or flyshop comercial exploration of fishing tourism or fishing trip. Live it to the fisherman.
Difficult to answer. Let's take an example. Early morning above the [REDACTED] I hooked a very large fish that I fight for a few minutes before being broken off. I had to entire rebuild my leader before resuming my fishing. I then caught three fish in a row in a matter of less than one hour then another three during the rest of the morning. I rushed back to the hut to avoid a strong shower. After a rather long break at the hut waiting for the weather to settle, I started my walk to the bend hut stopping opposite to the place [REDACTED] creek enters the Karamea for a couple of hours. I caught two fishes and missed a few others (whether missing the strike or spook them). How will that account for the previous day on the [REDACTED] where I was broken off a couple of times, deceived another couple and spooked a few other without landing any fish on that particular day?
Could be hard to manage
I really feel that these areas could and should be catch and release.
Negative effects of catch and release is very minor. For conservation catch and release at all is essential (especially in headwaters as a general rule) and could be complemented by the use of barbless hooks.
I would rather see spinnfishing banned in backcountry rivers and reduce bag limits to 1 trout and if you have taken one out you have to stop fishing for the day.
Appendix 2: Do you have any suggestions or comments relating to the future management of Nelson/Marlborough or West Coast backcountry fisheries?

Resident Angler Comments

This is a great idea. Too many fisherman and guides get greedy when the fishing is good. A four fish day is a great very satisfactory. I think on a good day leave some for the next person who may be having a tough day.
Good in theory but impossible to enforce so of limited value
"Great idea.
If you have a take limit and reach that limit your shouldn't be allowed to fish at all. You should only fish prior to taking the fish that is your limit.
Land as many as you want.reals all of them
I understand the reason behind it, but don't know enough about the systemic effects on a fish of being caught and therefore can't really say.
only if the number is low, i.e., perhaps 3
all back country should be catch and release & all overseas tourists should have limited 7 days licences
I don'the think ANY should be taken. If you can afford a fly rod and reel you ain' the starving.
Very much support this idea, about time it was implemented
I believe once you have caught your trout you then stop and not damage any more.
Evidence is not conclusive and depends on angler skill and experience. Other variables such as too small tipper size and length of time to bring fish in can be more harmful.
I have caught the same fish in rivers during the season many times. So if fish are handled properly it does not hurt them.
possible that issue can be dealt with by discouraging ultralight gear. I know my experience was based around fishing rather than catching fish ie the activity was the key
A good day in these rivers is not all that common now so when it does happen I would not want to cut my day short and have a reduced experience
"I need to see data for this to appreciate the pressure on the fish and risk of incidental mortality. Barbless and or single hooks could be an alternative to consider too with education on handling fish.....
In any case how would you enforce such a rule that set a limit on catch and release? "
y keep 1 fish then catch and release
But please tell me who is going to police any changes????
We only do catch and release.
"From 48 years experience, Catch and release ,no matter what you say is paramount , culling out shags is far more important, they consume far too many fish, which could go towards bag limits?Also, why have a bag limit say 2 fish, but allow spin fishermen to fish all waters, with a treble hook!!!!, doesn't that kindve rub against the whole idea, please ,just be sensible and introduce single hooks only in spin fishing ,etc, you will soon see who really cares about the fishery!!!
I believe that after 6 fish one should stop. That's a good day for anyone. On any river particularly the pressured ones. For a river like the Riwaka or rai thus should reduce to 3 or 4. Also like to see regs of barbless hooks only fly fishing or spinning
I would wAnt more scientific / quantified data on how much releasing fish was likely degrade the fishery.
I only took one from each river the others were to small.
Catch release does have a negative impact. Smaller fish, damaged fish and fish more difficult to catch
better for the fish,,in the end better for anglers.
"In most fisheries you would be struggling to land a limit anyway

Appendix 7: How many fish do you like to land to feel satisfied with a day while fishing in a designated backcountry fishery? Comments

Non-Resident Angler Comments

size is important
Much depends on the conditions and size of the fish.
Seeing and having them take is all I care about.
I do not to catch as many as I can but rather the biggest one. When sight fishing I do not cast if size of fish is not satisfying. I would rather land one and only fish but a real trophy (10lb + or 75cm +)
Would be happy with none in NZ
10 fish to the net is ample
Depend on the size, one trophy landed is better than 10 six pounder
Again a difficult question. For me, it is certainly not a numbers game.
Depends a lot on weather, fish behaviour etc
This is an arbitrary figure in a way. If I get 1 one day and then work out the river and hook 6 the next I am happy - I also love a water with all year groups present - I do not need a 'BIG FISH' to feel tall. A four pounder in fighting fit condition is a superb trout by any standards. Big fish are also superb brood stock and sometimes I avoid casting to them particularly if they are paired up and following each other (not chasing off) around a pool
it also depends on the way the fish is sighted and caught
Potentially up to 6 fish dependant on distance travelled upstream
It depends on the quality. Sometimes one fish is enough.
It completely depends on the circumstances as one trophy fish or memorable fish can make a trip!
I wrote down 2 as being along a river and being privilege enough to enjoy the area and had a chance to catch the first then the second to be sure that you know what you're doing is a must. This is particularly true when I've been walking for hours, after one or two days of approach to "base camp" without a chance to only fish.because of the river conditions or anything else
I say one fish is a good day and five or six is a great day.

Resident Angler Comments

as above
Depends on the side of the fish really, 4 solid trout and I'm happy anyway.
usually keep 1-2 release rest
sometimes one good one (size, difficulty, location) makes the day
Or more as 1 = lucky
Seeing them feeding is good enough for me, I dont like not seeing them when they should be there.
Depending on size. 2 smaller or 1 larger.
It should not be about numbers caught, it is overall experience
I don't have to land any to feel satisfied.
i thought my experience was priceless, i caught only a few fish but the experience of fishing in such a location on such a beautiful river was magnificent and a highlight of my whole year
Because angling satisfaction is a multifaceted issue the influence of (and expected) number of fish caught changes depending on time of year and fishery. However 2 fish represents a 'happy median'
Being out there enjoying the river/environment is plenty reward for me.
Depends on which river so one in the crow or 5 in the lion for instance
A couple of quality fish can make a day. Quality is more important than numbers to me.
Heaps but I am dreaming.
Really, it doesn't matter, fishing is what it is, fishing, the challenge!!!overseas anglers whom go into the backcountry, must have a guide,too many overseas anglers fishing wildly nily, even walking downstream towards oncoming anglers without a care in the world!!!as above.
Fishing has deteriorated with the number of guides fishing every day of the week with foreign fishermen,the fishery cannot sustain this pressure.
Depends on the river
Its also the overall fishing experience - solitude, vista etc
I ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING THERE AND THE SOLITUDE,THE CATCHING IS SECONDARY TO THE SATISFACTION OF BEING THERE
Catching fish is important but only one factor
The clean green environment is most important
if larger fish

Feedback

Or two each per angler
10 fish to the net is ample
Potentially up to 6 fish dependant on distance travelled upstream

Appendix 8: Do you have any suggestions or comments relating to the future management of Nelson/Marlborough or West Coast backcountry fisheries?

Non-Resident Angler Comments

I was surprised to discover that catch and kill fishing competitions for trout were common in the lower reaches of some backcountry systems.
Don't mess with the guide rules.
continue to promote healthy fish and rivers
Limit hut stays and require non-resident anglers to be accompanied by a licensed, professional guide on designated backcountry fisheries.
The fisheries also accommodate large numbers of hunters. I am not sure if this impacts on the quality of fishing or the experience, but perhaps there would be benefit in having separate areas for hunters and fishers.
Do not fish often enough to make a valid judgement
some rivers should be helicopter free ,walk in only
Introduce a "tag" system where back country days are allocated.
"Wonderful but obviously limited resource
Charge overseas anglers like me more!
Limit places to us for prime rivers (e.g. lottery), but I would personally object to being compulsory guided
Limit nights in huts to stop big groups residing and bothering
Great country.
Non residents need a guide or should pay a premium backcountry fishery licence of \$1500
Reduce helicopter access specially in karamea system, but on the other hand improve walking access. People need to understand that fish from the crow for example need to be deserved. It should not be a river that one could arrive the morning and leave the afternoon with a chopper. I use to walk, and use helicopters for the way back, but after 8 walking days. That's the way to live an true backcountry experience while helping local business
If you limit access by vehicle and helicopter I feel this would reduce pressure. Limiting amount of access permits per year per person.
Use of guides very important, as there is a section of international visitors who totally disrespect fishery
I think the pressure on the mentioned waters are still manageable, also as I believe there are many other options in the backcountry category in these areas. I believe pressure is still higher in Canterbury, Otago and Southland regions, but fishing in esp latter two are also more impacted from pressure. Should you wish to umplement restrictions to sustain your backcountry fisheries, I am all for it. Being an overseas angler, I also support a "Kiwi's first", when it comes to your waters. So limited access and/or no fishing on weekends for visiting anglers is fine.
No, excellent management
Stop the copters and the entitlement and naivety that goes with throwing money at a few 'exclusive' days in what should be genuinely unspoilt backcountry. The exception to this should be disabled anglers and they should be subsidised by the tourist dollar to make the experience genuinely affordable to all. If your physically fit - you should walk in. This way people will have to appreciate the state of the more accessible waterways that are being wrecked every day by China's addiction to milk powder and the current Kiwi propensity for stunned and impotent hand wringing. Where thus muck there's brass for sure - but see how many of the copter crowd stay for longer if they have to hoof it in - and then need to recuperate in the local economy before jetting back to their banks and businesses. It is a bit of a joke having 'backcountry' that is rendered 'backyard' by the guide and copter liaison which dissuades Real fishermen and women and corrupts access landowners to retain exclusivity.
As fishing pressure increases, you might consider stocking to maintain current levels.
i think that all backcountry fisheries should be guided
While we were there they also were dropping posin to reduce the rodent population. If we would have know we would have gone to another river
"I think it makes sense to protect such jewels in the crown, as we have in these rivers. They are simply stunning, and deserved to be respected and protected and also the prize fish that they can sometimes contain. I strongly believe also the amount of anglers on some of the rivers should be limited as well.
Make more rivers catch and release only!!!
You should control the comercial exploration of fishing trips by worldwide companies and flyshops. That's the best way to save the fisheries.
Strong limitation of visiting anglers, who must be accompanied by a registered guide, not a restriction in catches but catches should be monitored by guides and sent in so the angling pressure can be accurately gauged. Zero tolerance on anyone breaking the rules to send a signal!!! Please protect the resource, once its gone it won't come back!
I'm not in favor of a beat system as for someone like me being in the country for a limited period of time adding this kind of lottery to another already difficult way of making schedule considering the weather would be too much. However it seems indispensible to find a way to limit the amount of anglers whether would it be to restrict the entire

backcountry fisheries to walk in parties only or allow only some period for choppers.
less choppers
A sign to notify anglers whether another angler is on the water
"Stock rivers for future anglers.
Build back the rivers with fish. Limit the number of fish per person."
It's going to become harder to get it right - especially with more people than ever before coming in from overseas. I have read the concerns of guides etc in Fish and Game , regarding overcrowding, and selfish rude behaviour regarding the sharing of water etc etc. I have fished regularly in NZ for the last 10 years , albeit for only 8-10 days each season and personally I have never encountered any of these issues and haven't seen that many anglers on the rivers I have fished in both the N and S islands.
Would be nice to reduce the number of places helicopter anglers have access to.
Introduction of so called trophy rivers or sections. Have a close eye on irrigation and farming. Do not allow farmers to dig the rivers with their tractors and to destroy the natural habitat of the fish by straightening and bank consolidation. I was shocked to see what happened to e.g. the Motupiko, Motueka the last 2 years! Destruction of the rivers in NZ seems to speed up.
In general, I'm not a big fan of this idea, but it might be an option to adopt a controlled fishery model as used on the Greenstone River in Otago if the angling pressure remains this intense.
More research on 1080
A local guide should be required for non-NZ residents in prime back-country waters.

Resident Angler Comments

Limit or expel free loading foreigner anglers, they dont contribute enough and have the biggest impact. They are often young, fish a lot of water, dont understand nz fishing etiquette and willing to spend many days in these back country rivers camping.
International visitors should a premium to fish our backwater fisheries.
Monitor 1080 drops more, ensure doc are keeping well away from waterways.
like it as is
Only that new initiatives are publicised better, rather than having anglers encounter changes at the entry point to the river.
Kiwis pay lots of tax but can only fish on days off.its a bit shit when you go into the south island back country and get jumped by guides on quids or in helicopters or even if you do get rivers to yourself they have been flogged. Foreign anglers are laughing at our poor management.
Obviously pretty concerned at the state of rivers in general.. really hope this doesn't pervade the back country waters ever..
catch and release only
all back country should be catch and release & all overseas tourists should have limited 7 days licences
Catch and release only would be great in all backcountry rivers.
Perhaps more educated action about fly fishing as a sport rather than 'gathering'
Foreign anglers unguided created the most "problems"
Fishery in pretty good shape. Current system seems to be working ok
Do not let guided trips become the only way to fish. Nzer's should be able to tramp into the hills and find a place to fish. Not just rich foreigners, fishing in our back country rivers.
Licence guides and reduce impact on local fishery . Too many guides who provide no benefit to fishery.
make it fly fishing only and all catch and release except if one is intended for immediate consumption
Total catch and release.
An article recently written and published in the Fish and Game magazine by [REDACTED] outlined some interesting thoughts on how our fisheries could be managed. He outlined that New Zealanders should have first right to the rivers over guides and foreigners. I agree with this.
As a New Zealand hunting guide I would like to see all foreign hunters use local NZ guides by law as you do in many parts of the world.
This would ensure they followed local rules and etiquette. Fishing should be the same, especially backcountry rivers.
Ban overseas fisherman unless guided and limit that.
Opening up designated BCF's in NM region for fishing in May would help maintain historic levels of access for local anglers, and help offset increasing use by overseas tourists and fishing guides.
"limit the number of days a person can spend on a backcountry river.
Catch and release only, and overseas anglers should not be aloud to fishing the backcountry unless they are guided
With the licence do it so you can only hold it for a short length of time eg one week and only allow a certain amount of people to fish In a length of time.

some rivers need re-stocking after years of over fishing and severe flood damage
"Reclassify ALL Travers as BC to avoid confusion (in spite of signage)
Upstream from Wash Bridge on Wairau.
All overseas anglers should only fish these rivers with a guide and no helicopter access
Would love to see a level playing field for access, i.e. no chopper access. Would be great to know that those that make the effort to get there are rewarded with the serenity and opportunity to fish a remote area unadulterated buy guided 'fly in parties'. I understand that guides bring in tourist dollars, but if there is track access then that should restrict any fly ins (for anyone). All of the Back Country rivers have track access....
Overseas anglers should only be allowed to fish these rivers if accompanied by a guide. At present overseas anglers staying for multiple days (because they have the time and can.) they then post online and the rivers are then being over populated and over fished.
I felt that the beat system on the greenstone worked well. I would not be concerned with this system being implemented in the busiest part of the season. Stops ago. Also charge non locals more for the management of this system
Charge overseas anglers more and restrict the guides who monopolise the best rivers!
"I think it would be interesting to consider certain rivers or time periods would be for residence / citizen anglers only. On the Baton this year with three visits there were many visiting anglers who did not respect the etiquette rules and some who freedom camped and hogged reaches over several days.(possibly more). I was jumped here and had my day curtailed with all 'beats' taken. This was at a cost to me taking the time out and driving the distance to be denied fishing by tourists (who granted contibute to the economy), but us fishers see no gain.
I do wonder whether we should zone some rivers for tourists during peak times to allow New Zealanders to to enjoy our fishing."
Please release more rainbow trout and salmon
must be controlled though mostly overseas fisherman and guides
It is time that Fish and Game displayed some positive leadership to reduce the number of overseas visitors exploiting our fishing resources to the disadvantage of those of us who have bought licenses and endeavored to nurture our resource over countless years. Get off your arse and do something positive for a change!!!
Keep up the good work. The fishing huts are great and helicopter access means only the dedicated can go fishing in the back country.
Have close look at [REDACTED] proposal,New Zealanders fist.
Elevate them all to controlled fisheries, give Kiwis first option and overseas second. Have mandatory rest days between each fishing party. Limit guides who can use these rivers and impose beats on rivers as most can support such a system.
Specific regulations for specific waters. Eg, Rai and Riwaka and back country fisheries have barbless hooks only, no matter what method - fly or spin. Also encourage their use on all waters as part of a C and R philosophy. Also put together a video to demonstrate the proper way of releasing a fish. There are very poor practices out there probably through ignorance more than anything else. Animal Rights Activists will have a field day when they eventually turn their attention to fishing. (and they will). So anglers, and the F and G organisation as a whole should get in first
Unless you sort guides and foreigners out the fishery will be stuffed forever. Guides have commercialised fishing which is unlawful. In Canada Guides and Foreigners are banned from some rivers.'Time to do that here.
restriction on fishing guides
"1. Limit the number of guides and the number of days a river can be fished by overseas anglers.
2. ban helicopters from back country waters.
3.close rivers for a period of up to 3 years on a rotational basis to allow the fishery to recover.
4. increase the licence fees payable by overseas anglers to a level commensurate with other countries and auction off the days, using the money to re-stock the rivers.
5. Guides should be employed by or sub-contracted to Fish and Game or DOC. Guides must NOT be allowed to decide how much fishing a river can take, and should NOT be affiliated to an accommodation lodge. "
Non resident angler licence fee increase to double the residents cost!
"No helicopters in any of the backcountry rivers. No helicopters should be allowed in Kahurangi National Park. Helicopters with guides and clients are the reason I am not walking into these backcountry rivers."
As lowland rivers become increasingly congested and/or stuffed then inevitable pressure will come to bear on these head waters. Limits on numbers will be an inevitable consequence - a matter I support
GUIDED FISHERS SEEM TO HAVE THE MONEY TO THROW AT GOING TO PLACES THAT OVER THE YEARS I HAVE HELD A LICENCE(1965) I GUESS I'VE BEEN LUCKY TO EXPERIENCE THE BACK COUNTRY RIVERS OF THE SOUTH ISLAND WITHOUT BUMPING INTO THESE FISHERS
If rivers are to be designated backcountry they also need hands on management of angler days.
Increase the number of back country rivers, limit to NZ residents only or non-residents with a guide, and use the guides license (if it eventuates) to manage the number of guide days on the back country rivers
"more unpaid rangers volunteers,,I see a number of anglers

Feedback

do they have a licence ????"
There should be no bag limit for taking fish home in our back country rivers.
See previous comments, designated month per season for choppers to access back country fisheries.
Non residents need a guide or should pay a premium backcountry fishery licence of \$1500
"I think it makes sense to protect such jewels in the crown, as we have in these rivers. They are simply stunning, and deserved to be respected and protected and also the prize fish that they can sometimes contain. I strongly believe also the amount of anglers on some of the rivers should be limited as well.