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Fishing Information

- A valid fishing licence is required and must be carried at all times. Refer to your South Island regulation booklet for angling regulations and bag limits.
- A polite approach enquiring about fishing plans should avoid problems. This will result in more productive angling, sharing of information and has begun many angling friendships.
- Do not fish ahead of them.
- Respect other anglers already on the water.

Fishing Etiquette

- Report any missing or damaged signs to Fish & Game.
- Remember these simple rules and ensure ongoing access for all.
- Park vehicles away from tracks and gates.
- Do not litter.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Cross fences without damaging them.
- Stay within river margins.
- Do not stray into paddocks with stock.
- Avoid disturbing stock or trampling crops. Walk along fence lines where possible.
- Respect private land. If in doubt, ask permission.
- When fishing adjacent to farmland, leave your dog at home unless you have the express permission of the property owner.

Access Rules

Rules below to ensure the continued use of these areas. Please respect private property and abide by the Access permission first (check the description details on the map).

permission, however in some locations you need to ask the river without having to ask these locations you are free to access and many tributaries. In most of at various locations along the river associated signs have been provided Fish and Game Access Points and

FISH & GAME NZ



Golden Bay River Access



Golden Bay is less than a 2-hour drive from Nelson. Drive over the Takaka Hill from Motueka to an area rich in history and nature. The main township is Takaka, Collingwood grew from the gold rush of 1857. These venues make ideal bases from which to fish the rivers in the area.



Photo: Zane Mirfin
www.strikeadventure.com

General Information Golden Bay

PROTECT OUR WATERS

Help stop the spread of didymo, an aquatic alga pest.

CHECK Remove all obvious clumps from all items that have been in contact with the water and look for hidden clumps when leaving waterways. Leave the clumps at the waterway.

CLEAN Soak or scrub all items for at least one minute with any of the following:

- Hot (60°C) water
- 2% solution of household bleach
- 5% solution of salt
- 5% solution of nappy cleaner
- 5% solution of antiseptic hand cleaner
- 5% solution of dish washing detergent
- 2% solution is 200ml, a 5% solution is 500ml (two large cups) with water to make 10 litres.
- Freeze overnight

DRY If cleaning is not practical (eg: animals) dry the item to the touch and then leave for at least another 48 hours before using in another waterway.

This river is approximately 46km long and flows from the Arthur and Peel range of mountains north to the southern part of Golden Bay. Major fishing tributaries include the Cobb, Waingaro, Anatoki and Waikoropupu Rivers. During the summer months the river in its middle reaches, from Lindsays Bridge to Paynes Ford, can naturally dry or become very low but is influenced by the Cobb Hydro Scheme and irrigation. Anglers should be aware that public access along the river is limited. If in doubt obtain permission from landowners.

TAKAKA RIVER FISHING INFORMATION

This pamphlet provides an overview of trout fishing opportunities in Golden Bay, Nelson Region. The information is limited to more popular and accessible waters. The two main rivers in Golden Bay, the Takaka and Aorere, and their respective tributaries, are good trout fishing rivers. The fish are predominantly brown trout and large specimens can be taken. The Cobb Reservoir is also a popular fishing spot for targeting rainbow trout. Rivers in the Golden Bay area are generally clear in normal flows and dark brown in freshes from tannic acid leaching out of the native bush catchments in the upper reaches.



Photo: Zane Mirfin
www.strikeadventure.com

TAKAKA RIVER UPPER REACHES

The Cobb Valley Road from the Upper Takaka plains to Cobb Powerhouse is narrow and sealed. Time and considerable care should be taken when driving this most scenic road. Three access sites are identified on the map that provide for safe parking though challenging fishing can be obtained from numerous access points along the road. This upper reach offers a diversity of habitats to fish including deep pools, fast rapids and calm glides. Don't forget your sandfly repellent!

COBB RESERVOIR

The Cobb dam was built between 1949-54 and was filled during 1955. The reservoir is about 400m wide and 6.5km long. A small narrow unsealed vehicle track runs parallel along the length of the eastern shoreline. Located within Kahurangi National Park the Cobb structures and reservoir are privately owned. The reservoir contains both rainbow and brown trout and while some large fish are present many are considered small. This is a result of low productivity in the reservoir caused by high altitude, poor water clarity and water level fluctuations. Most fishing occurs near the head of the reservoir and all legal methods can be successful depending on weather conditions (often windy) and time of year. A small dingy or kayak that fits the roof rack would be advantageous. It is not safe to tow a boat trailer up the steep and narrow track.

WAINGARO RIVER

The lower reaches of the Waingaro that bisect the plains offers challenging fishing in clear water, fast rapids and deep pools. The upper gorge is steep and rugged and fishing is recommended to only those most experienced and physically fit anglers.

ANATOKI RIVER

This small tributary of the Takaka River is clear and the gradient gentle through the farmed valley floor. This river is more suitable for experienced fly fishers. There is limited public access.

WAIKOROPUPU RIVER

The surface water in this river is part of the largest spring system in New Zealand. The water from the main spring is a constant cold of 11.7° Celsius though flows can vary between 7-21 cu m/sec. The river is recognised as an important spawning habitat for brown trout. Public access is limited and heavy willow growth in some reaches can make fishing difficult. This river has been known to produce large fish.



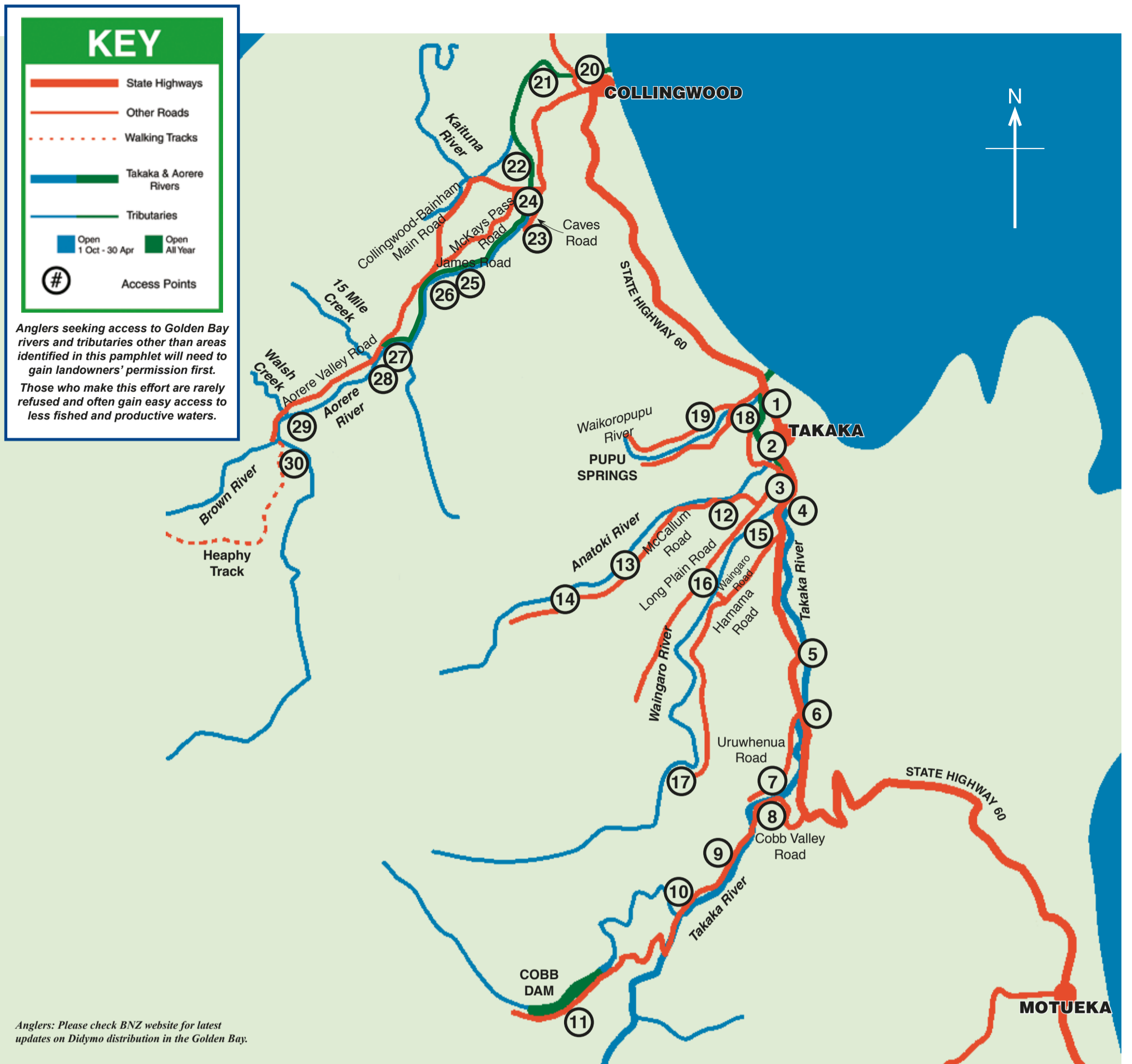
Photo: Zane Mirfin
www.strikeadventure.com

AORERE RIVER

The Aorere is 43km long and flows north to Golden Bay at Collingwood. The lower reaches are deep and slow moving. Fishing is rewarding but can be difficult as a result of steep banks, lack of roads and public access. The river is clear at low flow and the bed is made up of round granite stone and large outcrops of solid rock. The brown trout caught in this river are generally the largest fish in Golden Bay. Anglers willing to walk can find some of the most under-utilised fishing in the region at low flows.



Supported by:



GOLDEN BAY RIVER ACCESS POINTS

s = swimming spot ♀ = toilet P = picnic area

TAKAKA RIVER

1. Waitapu Road Bridge s ♀ P

Take SH 60 through Takaka towards Collingwood. Ample parking available on Takaka side of bridge (true right). Foot access track up and downstream. Good spin fishing opportunity in large pool. "Sea run" or estuary dwelling brown trout throughout whitebait season October-November. Occasional chinook salmon late spring and summer months.

2. Takaka Township

Vehicle access to river (true right) via Riellys Road past Citizens Band Rooms. Fly and spin fishing opportunities.

3. Kotinga Bridge

Turn off SH 60 approximately 2km south of Takaka onto Long Plain Road. Cross bridge and take first right turn on a narrow gravel track for approximately 500m and park. Good upstream access particularly for fly anglers.

4. Paynes Ford Bridge s ♀ P

This Reserve off SH 60 is located on the true left (Takaka side) of the Takaka River with excellent parking complete with picnic tables and toilets. A walking track follows the old railway line upstream from the far end of the Reserve. Downstream access best by crossing the river to the Waingaro River confluence entering on the true left.

5. Stoney Creek

Park on the Takaka side of Stoney Creek bridge SH60. Track immediately north of bridge 150m walk to river. Expect dry river conditions throughout summer months.

6. Lindsays Bridge/Urewhenua Reserve ♀ P

This beautiful bush setting is located approximately 5.5km from the SH60 turnoff. Follow the gravel track into the grassed reserve where there is ample room for parking. Excellent fishing upstream to bridge.

7. Uruwhenua Road

From SH60 turn onto Uruwhenua Road (approximately 100m north of #6) and follow road 4km to sign. Good fly-fishing up and downstream.

UPPER REACHES

8. Blue Hole Picnic Area s P

This beautiful bush setting is located approximately 5.5km from the SH60 turnoff. Follow the gravel track into the grassed reserve where there is ample room for parking. Excellent fishing upstream to bridge.

9. Appletree Flat s

You will have passed some good reaches of fishing water (eg. below Sams Creek Bridge) before arriving at this small grassy flat located approximately 13.8km from the SH60 turnoff. Secluded swimming beach if you can handle the sandflies!

10. Drummonds Flat

The last picnic area before the powerhouse is approximately 15.8km from the SH60 turnoff. Here the riverbed is steeper and the flow more turbulent.

COBB RESERVOIR s ♀ P

11. The Cobb hydroelectric scheme is located on the Cobb River about 40km (via Cobb Dam Road) from Takaka. Picnic areas and a DOC hut/toilet exist at the top end of the lake.

ANATOKI RIVER

12. One Spec Road

Take Long Plain Road (see #3) from SH 60 south of Takaka. Cross the Takaka River and take the first right turn onto One Spec Road. Follow approximately 2km and cross the Anatoki Bridge turning immediately left onto gravel track for 200m before turning left again to car park and river.

13. McCallum Road

Follow Long Plain Road and take a right turn onto McCallum Road. Limited parking 1.3km past Bencarri Farm Park at Culvert #27. Foot track to river 10m downstream of culvert 27 – sign often missing.

14. McCallum Road

Parking 3.3km past Bencarri Farm Park at culvert #51. Limited parking – sign often missing.

WAINGARO RIVER

15. Paynes Ford Bridge

Use #4 to access the Waingaro confluence by walking down the Takaka River and crossing over approximately 200m below the bridge.

16. Waingaro Road

Turn onto Hamama Road from SH 60 south of Paynes Ford and take first right onto Waingaro Road. Park at sign keeping clear of the track. Foot access only along raceway approximately 600m to river. Leave gates as found.

17. End of Hamama Road

Ring landowner Larry Petterson (03) 525 9902 for access permission and directions. The upper reaches are in a steep, isolated gorge and the current is swift.

WAIKOROPUPU RIVER

18. Balck Road

Follow SH 60 through Takaka and cross Takaka River Bridge. Take first left on Pupu Valley Road. Turn left on Pupu Springs Road cross Waikoropupu Bridge, and take an immediate left and travel 1.5 km down Balck Road to Takaka River. From this point access to the lower Waikoropupu River can be gained 700 m downstream. No sign.

19. Pupu Valley Road

Follow Pupu Valley Road in direction of salmon farm and park off road 400 m past the Pupu Springs Road turnoff between road markers 21 and 22.

AORERE RIVER (anglers: wading this large swift river can be very hazardous)

20. Collingwood-Puponga Main Road Bridge

Past Collingwood on Collingwood – Puponga Road to Aorere Bridge. Park on left hand (Collingwood) side of bridge. "Sea run" browns and kahawai in this reach during whitebait run.

21. Swamp Road

Ring Lindsay and Carla Nalder for access (03) 524 8309, or 027 5248309. Right turn from SH 60 onto Collingwood-Bainham main Road. Turn right down Swamp Road and drive 1.5km, turning right near road end and park by gate where indicated. Walk down raceway 1 km to river. This is a negotiated access way across private land, so please respect these requests.

22. Pah Road South (new access point)

Ring R & L Swafford for access (03) 524 8498. Right turn onto Pah Road after crossing Rockville Bridge on Collingwood-Bainham main road. Travel 1.5km down Pah Road past Solly Road intersection to gate and parking area. Following orange markers straight ahead 200m to river, turning left just before river to gain good foot access to bottom of large Island.

23. Devils Boots

Turn off Collingwood-Bainham Road onto Devils Boots Road and drive 1km past Devils Boots to car park by gate. Walk 100m further on road through gate past sheep yards and woolshed and take stile on right. Walk towards river following orange markers and take stile over last fence.

24. Gillies Road s

Follow Collingwood-Bainham Road and cross Aorere River at Rockville Bridge. Take first left past Aorere Hall on McKay Pass Road. Travel approximately 300 m then left turn on Gillies Road 1.1km and park at sign.

25. James Road

Continue over Rockville Bridge and take first left on McKay Pass Road. Take left on James Road. Follow 1km and park at sign. Foot access to river upstream of this point.

26. James Road Swing Bridge s

Vehicle bridge washed away in December 2010 flood, foot access only across river via new swing bridge at present. Good pool for spin fishing.

27. Aorere Valley Road Bridge s ♀

Follow McKay Pass Road past James Road. At T intersection take left turn onto Aorere Valley road then left on Quartz Range Road. Cross Aorere River over Salisbury Bridge and park on left opposite sign. Take stile and track to river. Good spin fishing venue off rocks at Salisbury Creek confluence.

28. 15 Mile Bridge

Follow Aorere Valley Road and cross bridge over 15 Mile Creek. Park on right hand side, and follow creek down to river or walk up road approximately 60 m and follow track left off road to riverbed.

29. Walsh Creek

Follow Aorere Valley Road and park on left-hand side of small wooden bridge over Walsh Creek at Fish and Game access sign. Typical open rock beach best fishing upstream.

30. Road End and Start of Heaphy Track

Follow DOC Brown River Walk to gold fossicking beach and river access.