

# River Access Responsibilities and Rights



## Anglers Access in Tasmania

In recent years the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) has been working with landowners to develop access to angling waters across the state.

Much of this work has focussed on improving foot access to major river fisheries.

Access points are clearly marked with signs at the access locations displaying this distinctive 'Anglers Access' symbol and in Anglers Access brochures.



Where you see this symbol, the IFS has already obtained permission on your behalf, for access.

To support this ongoing work it is important that you are aware of your responsibilities and rights in addition to the angling regulations when accessing river fisheries in Tasmania.

All anglers have an important role in maintaining good relations between landowners and angling community.

## Know your access responsibilities and rights

There is no 'right of access' to rivers in Tasmania. The general principle is 'access is a privilege not a right'.

In Tasmania most private land titles extend to the bank of the river and some titles extend to the middle of the river (ad melium filum rule) which can mean that you may be trespassing (trespass is a criminal offence) even if you are wading in the river.

Rivers may flow through public land such as River Reserves, State Forest, National Parks, Hydro Land and Conservation Areas. Whilst public access is generally permitted, all have different entry conditions which anglers should be aware of and comply with.

## If in doubt, obtain permission

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have permission of the landowner unless access is clearly defined with Anglers Access signs. When in doubt, you should always ask first.

Access is at the discretion of the landowner and when refused it is for legitimate reasons that may not be obvious such as farming operations, stock or crop control, quarantine, safety, security or previous negative experience. It may be as simple as maintaining privacy. Ask yourself if you would like strangers walking through your backyard without permission?

Whilst most requests for access will be granted, you must accept the land owner's decision with good grace.



## River Access rules

Please follow the simple 'access rules', developed in consultation with landowners, to minimise the impact on private property and ensure ongoing access into the future.

- Do not light fires
- No shooting
- No camping
- No dogs
- Do not litter

- Do not stray into paddocks or trample crops
- Avoid disturbing stock
- Do not climb on fences
- Leave gates as you find them
- Do not cut down or deface trees for wattle grubs



## Contact Details

Inland Fisheries Service, 17 Back River Road, New Norfolk, 7140  
Ph: 1300 INFISH [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)



## Safety

You are responsible for your own safety. Please observe warning signs and take care. Make sure you are prepared for the conditions, tell someone where you are going and the expected time of your return.

## Code of conduct

Please observe the code of conduct to protect and preserve the angling resource and the environment

- Be aware of and comply with fishing regulations
- Respect the rights of other anglers and users
- Protect the environment
- Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water
- Fish species and other organisms must not be relocated or transferred into other water bodies
- Check, Clean and Dry fishing equipment before transferring between waters
- Do not use willow (which is a plant pest) as a rod support as it has the ability to propagate from a strike
- Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings to the Inland Fisheries Service
- Report illegal activities to Bushwatch 1800 333 000



## Poppy Crops

Poppy crops are strictly enforced licensed areas. Anglers may walk along the perimeter of crops but must not enter into or interfere with poppy crops.

## Motor vehicles

Anglers Access is primarily for foot access only. Vehicles should only be used on designated public roads.

## Toilet waste

If fishing in an area where a public toilet exists please use it! If there is no toilet, walk 100m away from any water, dig a 15 cm hole and bury your waste including the toilet paper.

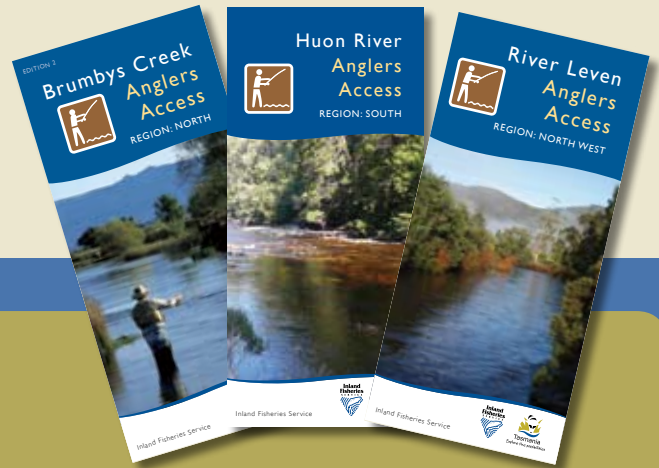
Anglers Access brochures for specific waters are available from most major tackle stores or from the Inland Fisheries Service at: [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)

## Other useful contacts:

[www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)

[www.forestrytas.com.au](http://www.forestrytas.com.au)

[www.hydro.com.au](http://www.hydro.com.au)



## Inland Angling Regulations in Tasmania

To fish in any open public inland water in Tasmania, including farm dams, you must hold a current Inland Angling Licence unless you are under 14 years of age.

Angling regulations including season, method, open and closed waters and bag and size limits vary from water to water. A summary of these regulations are contained within the Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code.

Make sure everyone in your party has a current licence and check the angling regulations before you go.

Angling licences and the Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code are available from Service Tasmania shops, major tackle stores and on line at [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)

