

## Inland Fishing Regulations Apply

Inland angling regulations and licensing requirements apply upstream from a straight line running from Dowsings Point on the western shore to Store Point on the eastern shore.

### Angling Regulations

To fish for all species upstream of the Bridgewater Bridge or to fish for trout or Atlantic salmon downstream of the Bridgewater Bridge to a line between Dowsings Point and Store Point, you must hold a current Inland Angling Licence unless you are under 14 years of age. A summary of the regulations are contained within the *Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code*.

Method	Season
 Fly fishing  Artificial lures  Bait fishing	<b>Upstream of the New Norfolk Bridge:</b> From the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest the 30th April. <b>Downstream of the New Norfolk Bridge:</b> Open all year round.

#### Bag and Size Limits:

Species	Minimum size	Bag limit
Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon	220 mm	5*
River blackfish	220 mm	12
Bream**	250 mm	10

\* Total daily bag limit for trout and Atlantic salmon is 5 fish

\*\* Inland Angling Licence not required to fish for bream downstream of the Bridgewater Bridge

## Protect our Waters

Recreational anglers have a responsibility to look after fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

- Do not bring live or dead fish, fish products, animals or aquatic plants into Tasmania.
- Do not bring used fishing gear or any other freshwater recreational equipment that may be damp, wet or contain water into Tasmania. **Check, clean and dry** your fishing equipment before entering Tasmania.
- Do not transfer any freshwater fish, frogs, tadpoles, invertebrates or plants between inland waters.
- Check your boat, trailer, waders and fishing gear for weed and other pests that should not be transferred before moving between waters.
- Do not use willow (which is a plant pest) as a rod support as it has the ability to propagate from a cutting.

Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings immediately to the Inland Fisheries Service.

Report illegal activities to:  
Bushwatch 1800 333 000



# River Derwent Anglers Access

REGION: SOUTH



#### CONTACT DETAILS

17 Back River Road,  
New Norfolk, 7140  
Ph: 1 300 IN FISH  
[www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)

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Inland Fisheries Service



## Getting There

The River Derwent rises at Lake St Clair and flows south to Hobart. This brochure refers to a 75 km section of the river from Gretna to just downstream of the Bowen Bridge in Hobart's northern suburbs.

## Access Rules

Foot access for anglers has been provided by the goodwill of public and private landowners and is a privilege not a right. If access is not specifically identified then you must ask for permission or you may be trespassing which is a criminal offence. Please respect private property and abide by the access rules and code of conduct to ensure the continued use of these areas.

- 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.
- Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings to the Inland Fisheries Service.
- Report illegal activities to Crime stoppers 1800 333 000.

## Code of Conduct

- 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.

## Background

The first brown trout introduced to the southern hemisphere were hatched at the Salmon Ponds on the

Plenty River, a tributary of the River Derwent, in 1864 and released into the wild the following year. A wild population of brown trout is maintained in the River Derwent and its tributaries through natural recruitment. Sea-run trout are a feature with small numbers of rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon present. The estuarine section of the River Derwent is described as the best black bream fishery in Australia.

## Recreational Fishery Management

The River Derwent is managed as a wild fishery sustained through natural recruitment. The River Derwent is also managed as a recreational whitebait fishery. Separate rules and regulations apply to whitebait. Check the IFS website for details.

## Angling Notes

The River Derwent is best described in three sections.

### 1. From Gretna to New Norfolk.


Generally deep, fast, difficult to wade and with overgrown banks this section of the river is challenging for shore based angling. River flows can be critical to angling opportunities in this section and can affect both wading and canoeing. Flow data is available from Bureau of Meteorology website at [www.bom.gov.au/tas/flood/rain\\_river.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/tas/flood/rain_river.shtml)

Flows at 'Derwent Rv at Macquarie Plains' below 0.9 m are good with flows at 0.7 m or 0.5 m ideal. Flow at 'Derwent Rv blw Meadowbank Dam' can also assist in predicting flow further downstream.

When wading it is recommended that anglers wear a lifejacket and use a wading staff at all times as river flows can fluctuate due to power station operations at Meadowbank Lake. In any event most fish are taken close to the bank under overhanging vegetation.

### Canoeing, drift boats and inflatables

This section provides excellent opportunities for drift fishing for experienced anglers from suitable craft – inflatables, kayaks and canoes. Entry and exit points

marked on the map  include Gretna, Bushy Park, Rayners Corner, Hayes, Railway Bridge, Windsor Corner, Bryn Estyn and New Norfolk. Canoe Tasmania grades these sections of the river as 2 (Medium) to 1 (Easy). Specific advice can be found at [www.paddletasmania.canoe.org.au](http://www.paddletasmania.canoe.org.au)

From a dry fly fishing point of view, evenings are terrific when you get caddis hatches (November to the end of February) and first light until sunrise from November to the end of the season is brilliant to fish on. Caenids Grasshoppers often bring the big fish out in late January through to March and mayflies are present from November to the end of the season. Black spinner feeders can be found on calm days on the inside of big bends in the river. Wet fly fishing with nymphs, fur flies, yetis and woolly buggers can be effective throughout the season.

Bait fishing in the slower pools and backwaters and lure casting with spoons, bibbed minnows, blade spinners and soft plastics in the broken water and at the mouths of tributaries is productive. Best colours are as always, green and gold and black and red.

### 2. From New Norfolk to the Bridgewater Bridge.

Renowned as a spring fishery the most productive months are from August until November when resident and sea run trout chase migratory whitebait. Late afternoons, evenings and first light are the best times. Opportunities for shore based angling are shown on the map and good boat launching facilities are located at New Norfolk and Bridgewater. Anglers should focus on the edges of rips and currents, flooded margins and weedbeds and the mouths of gutters that connect the marshy flats to the river channel. Fly, lure, bait fishing and trolling are all productive. Trout – resident and sea run, Atlantic salmon and bream may all be encountered. Live bait may be used in tidal waters and is a popular method of fishing in this section. The capture of live bait other than whitebait in tidal waters is allowed at certain times. Check the details in the *Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code*.

### 3. Downstream from the Bridgewater Bridge.

Methods and target areas including shore and boat based angling are similar to the section upstream of the Bridgewater Bridge, however marine species and many more bream will be encountered in this area. Sea fisheries regulations apply to marine species. Excellent access for shore based angling is available throughout the residential area of Hobart's northern suburbs. Boat ramps are available at Bridgewater, Old Beach, Austins Ferry, Montrose Bay and Prince of Wales Bay.

## Health Warning

### DO NOT EAT ANY BREEM FROM THE RIVER DERWENT

All fish contain a small amount of mercury - even those from the open ocean. This influences how much you can safely eat. If you eat fish caught in the River Derwent downstream from New Norfolk it is best to avoid eating fish from other sources in the same week. Fish, including trout, should not be eaten more than TWICE a week\*.

- \* Some people should further limit their consumption to ONCE a week.
- Pregnant and breastfeeding women and women planning to become pregnant
- Children aged six years and younger

## Native Fish Management

Australian grayling are present in the River Derwent and are wholly protected species. River blackfish are also present upstream of New Norfolk.

## Pest Fish Management

The pest fish, redfin perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and tench (*Tinca tinca*) inhabit the Derwent catchment. If either of these species are caught, anglers are asked to humanely kill the captured fish and dispose of appropriately.

