

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 any 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 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.

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.

Remember

- Fishing from a boat within 100 metres of an angler fishing from the shore is prohibited unless the boat is securely moored.
- Do not park on or obstruct boat ramps.
- A 5 knot speed limit applies within 60 metres of any shoreline, marine facility, buoy or boat that is underway, moored or engaged in fishing or rowing or within 120 metres of a person swimming or wading.

Getting There

The South Esk River rises near Upper Esk in the north east and joins the kanamaluka/River Tamar at Launceston, a distance of some 200 km, making it the longest river in Tasmania.

Many areas of the river are accessible in particular from Upper Esk to Mathinna, Fingal to Conara and between Clarendon and Hadspen.

Background

The South Esk River is a renowned trout fishery with a variety of angling opportunities for all methods throughout its length. These include the fast headwaters at Upper Esk, the long glides and broadwaters from Fingal to Conara and shore based angling and water ideal for fishing from a canoe or kayak between Clarendon and Hadspen. The fishery is dominated by brown trout although the occasional rainbow trout will be encountered particularly in the upper reaches.

Recreational Fishery Management

The South Esk is managed as a wild fishery sustained through natural recruitment.

Angling Notes

The South Esk River is best described in three sections.

1. Upper Esk to Evercreech Road.

The headwater section from Upper Esk to Evercreech Road is generally wadeable riffles and shallow pools flowing through a mixture of native forest, private forest plantation and pasture and is ideal for wade fly fishing, lure and bait fishing. Easy access is available at Mathinna Plains Rd. bridge and Griffin Park with more challenging sections both up and downstream of these points. Heavy rainfall in the upper catchment can affect the fishing therefore it is advisable to check flows before leaving home. Generally small, fit brown trout and the occasional rainbow trout are encountered with the odd larger fish a pleasant surprise.

Access Rules

- Foot Access for anglers has been provided by the goodwill of 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
 - Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings to the Inland Fisheries Service
 - Report illegal activities to Bushwatch 1800 333 000

Warning



Please Observe



CONTACT DETAILS

17 Back River Road, New Norfolk, 7140
Ph: 1300 INFISH
www.ifs.tas.gov.au

South Esk River
Anglers
Access



REGION: NORTH

photo: lomas - naturescope



Inland Fisheries Service

River flow data at Mathinna is available from the Bureau of Meteorology website at:
www.bom.gov.au/tas/flood/rain_river.shtml

2. Fingal to Conara

The section from Fingal to Conara flows through predominantly open pasture and contains both wadeable sections and broadwaters. Access is available from many of the bridge crossings including Heffords Road, Leona Road, Storys Creek Road and Bonneys Plains Road and has been assisted through the generosity of private landowners.

The river slows through this section with both shore based angling in the broadwaters and wading the flowing sections productive. Mayfly hatches and grasshopper falls are more reliable and can provide good sport for fly anglers during the warmer months. Lure and bait fishing can be productive at any time of the year.

River flow data at Fingal and Llewellyn is available from the Bureau of Meteorology website.

3. Clarendon to Hadspen

Feature fishing includes bait fishing with worms, wet fly and lure fishing early in the season, red spinner; mayfly and caenid hatches in spring and summer and grasshopper and black spinner hatches in autumn.

Upstream of Evandale Bridge, off Perth Mill Road, up and downstream of Perth Bridge, Mill Dam at Longford and at Lions Park, Hadspen the river offers opportunities for shore based and wade angling.

Canoes and kayaks can be launched at Clarendon (Paddle upstream.), Perth Riverbank Reserve, Longford (Union St. boat ramp) and Hadspen (Paddle upstream.) providing access to water not generally available to shore based anglers.

River flow data at Perth and Longford is available from the Bureau of Meteorology website.

Canoeing, drift boats and inflatables

Some sections of the river may be navigated in canoes, drift boats and inflatables. Extreme caution should be exercised. Recommended for experienced paddlers only. Observe all MAST safety requirements.

Paddling notes are available from:
www.paddletasmania.canoe.org.au

Angling Regulations

To fish in any open public inland water in Tasmania 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 | From the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest the 30th April. |
| Artificial lures | |
| Bait fishing | |

Bag and Size Limits:

| Species | Minimum size | Bag limit |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Brown trout, Rainbow trout | 220 mm | 5* |
| River blackfish | 220 mm | 12 |

*Total daily bag limit of 5 fish is for both species combined.

Pest Fish Management

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

