

# Huon River Anglers Access

REGION: SOUTH



## 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



ANGLING  
REGULATIONS  
APPLY



DEEP  
WATER



STRONG  
CURRENTS



ELECTRIC  
FENCE



STEEP BANKS



CATTLE

## CONTACT DETAILS

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

BL10972



Inland Fisheries Service

## Getting There

The Huon River can be accessed at Huonville, approximately 40 km south of Hobart via the A6.

## Background

Flowing 100 kilometres from Lake Pedder to the D'Entrecasteaux Channel in south-east Tasmania, the Huon River threads through country ranging from wilderness to cultivated orchards and pasture. In 1887 Governor Sir Robert Hamilton landed a brown trout in the Huon River that weighed 13 kg and measured over 900 mm in length. This is still the largest brown trout landed in Tasmania.

## Recreational Fishery Management

The Huon River is managed as a wild trout fishery. The Huon River is also recognised as a recreational whitebait fishery. Separate rules and regulations apply to whitebait - check the IFS website for details.

## Seaward Limit

Inland angling regulations and licensing requirements apply upstream from the seaward limit on the Huon River (A straight line drawn between white posts on the southern side of Castle Forbes Bay and the eastern bank of the river).

## Boat Ramps

Boat ramps are located at the Huonville Esplanade, Ferry Rd (Approx 8 km from Huonville via the B68), Franklin and Shipwrights Point, Port Huon.

## 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.

## 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 Recreational Fishing Code.

Method	Season
Fly fishing	Downstream from the Huonville Bridge to the seaward limit: Open all year round.
Artificial lures	Upstream from the Huonville Bridge:
Bait fishing	From the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest the 30th April.

**Note:** Bait fishing is not permitted in National Parks. The use of fish and fish products as bait is prohibited in all inland waters other than sections of rivers subject to tidal movement. Refer to the Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishing Code for details on the capture of live bait.

### Bag and Size Limits:

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

\*Total daily bag limit of 12 fish is for all species combined.

## 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 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 strike.

## Responsible Boating

Practice minimal impact boating by accelerating gently in shallow water to avoid the underwater wash from the propeller jet stirring up silt and mud. This sediment clouds the water, disturbs sensitive weed beds, smothers aquatic plants and degrades fish habitat.

## Remember

- Check your wash - 'if it's white it's all right - if it's brown slow down'.
- 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.



## Angling Notes

The Huon River is best described in three general sections. The **tidal reaches** of the Huon River below the Huonville Bridge are wide, deep and slow moving and harbour plenty of resident and sea-run brown trout, some of which grow to trophy size, escapee Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout. There is good shore access at many locations between Huonville and Port Huon on both sides of the river although a boat is useful in this section.

Trophy fish tend to lurk deep during the day and for best results you need to get your lure right down amongst the drowned roots and logs - snags and break-offs have to be accepted as a part of the challenge. The edges of rips and currents are also good holding places for trout.

Fishing is at its best in spring when sea-run trout and resident brown trout are chasing whitebait that tend to swim up along the edge of the main current. These whitebait 'runs' comprise of juvenile galaxias species, Tasmanian smelt (*Retropinna tasmanica*) and the Tasmanian whitebait (*Lovettia sealii*).

- Anglers Access
- No access beyond this point without prior permission
- Boat ramp
- Foot access only
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road

Trout also like to ambush whitebait from cavities in the bank or from the calm water down current of small points and bars.

The Tasmanian whitebait often spawns on shallow reefs, while other species (galaxias and smelt) frequent the same places. Consequently you will find that some rapids and riffles are renowned springtime hot spots, just below the Huonville bridge being a classic example.

**Best time of year:**  
September to December

The **mid-reaches** between Huonville and Judbury are characterised by steep, forest lined banks with deep drop-offs and the occasional rapid. We have identified the best spots to access the river which can be productive for whitebait feeders early in the season and also for lure casting and fly fishing during the summer months when the river is low.



Rainbow trout



Brown trout



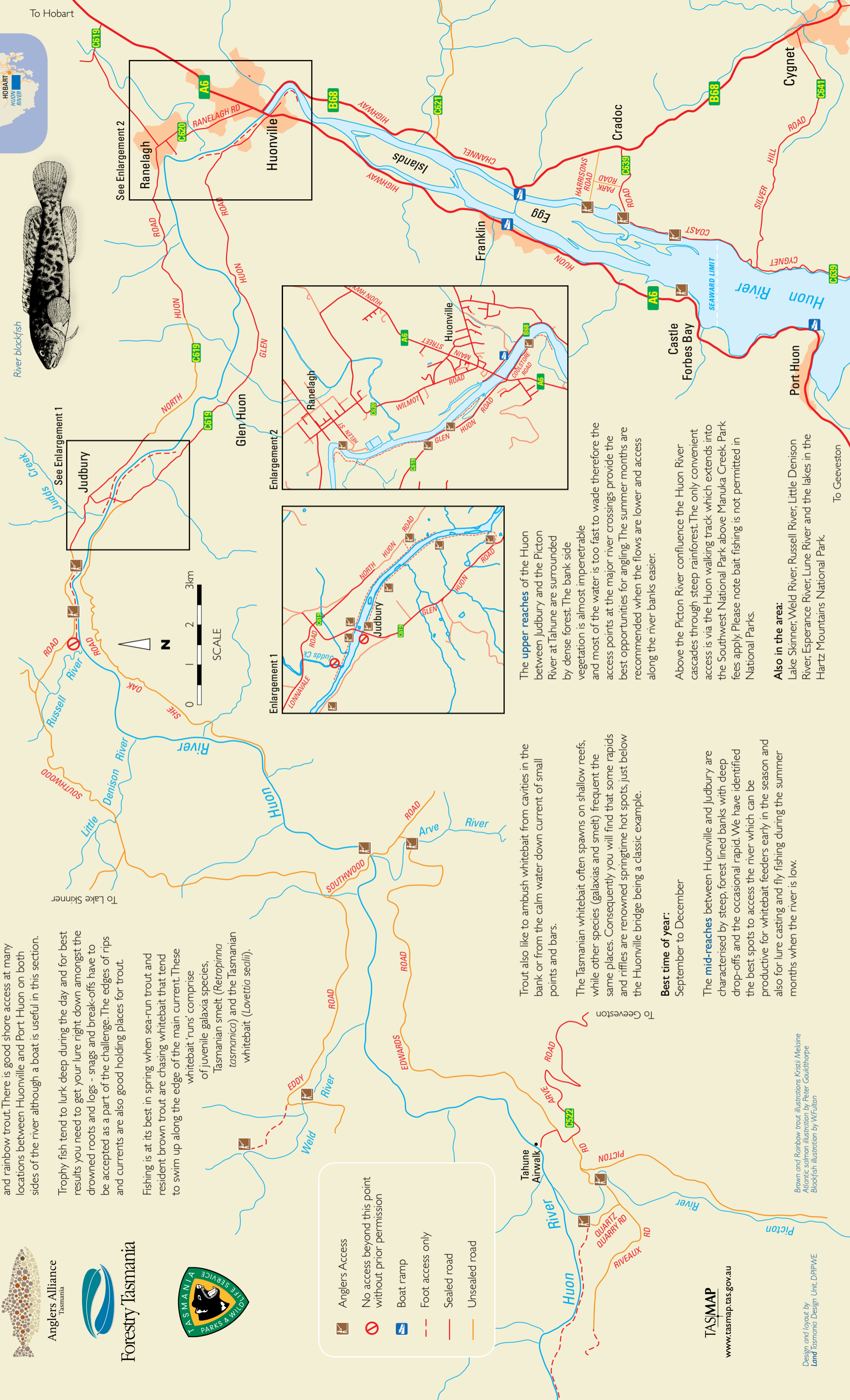
Atlantic salmon



River blackfish



To Hobart



To Lake Skinner

To Geeveston

See Enlargement 1

See Enlargement 2

Enlargement 1

Enlargement 2

The **upper reaches** of the Huon River at Tahune and the Picton River are surrounded by dense forest. The bank side vegetation is almost impenetrable and most of the water is too fast to wade therefore the access points at the major river crossings provide the best opportunities for angling. The summer months are recommended when the flows are lower and access along the river banks easier.

Above the Picton River confluence the Huon River cascades through steep rainforest. The only convenient access is via the Huon walking track which extends into the Southwest National Park above Manuka Creek. Park fees apply. Please note bait fishing is not permitted in National Parks.

**Also in the area:**  
Lake Skinner, Weld River, Russell River, Little Denison River, Esperance River, Lune River and the lakes in the Hartz Mountains National Park.

To Geeveston