

JUNIOR FISHERIES

North Canterbury has some great fishing waters for young people wanting to get into the sport. This brochure describes some of these spots, but there are many more out there where generations of kiwis have learned to fish.

Included in this guide are fishing methods that are easy and effective for those starting out. More detailed information on fishing methods can be found in the Fish & Game booklet "Getting started in Trout Fishing," or from your local fishing shop. We also recommend joining a fishing club where juniors are welcome. The best way to get started is to get out there and do it.

Fishing methods that work for kids:

Spin Fishing/Soft Baiting

Spin fishing/Soft Baiting involves using a lure that imitates a small fish and retrieved at a speed that makes it look as lifelike as possible. Always retrieve at a speed that keeps the spinner off the bottom.

Choosing a lure:



The following tips can help you choose the most effective lure:

- The lower and clearer the water, the smaller the lure
- In high and discolored water use a bigger, darker lure
- In fast, clear water, tiny lures are effective
- Dull day, dull lure. Bright day, bright lure

Bubble and fly

Fishing with an artificial fly and bubble (float) allows the beginner angler to enjoy the fun of fly fishing using spinning/soft baiting gear.



Hot tip: Floats

A film canister half filled with water acts as an ideal float and casting aid. Simply clamp the line between the lid and the body of the canister.

Bubble & Dry Fly

This involves casting out an artificial fly attached to a float on the water and leaving it there in the hope that a fish will see it on the surface and rise to take it. The fly itself must be able to float on the surface so you need to purchase a floatant (a liquid that makes the fly float) from your local sports shop. The fly should be no less than 1m from the float.



Bubble & Wet Fly

This involves casting out an artificial fly attached to a float. The fly sinks and resembles a small fish. Very slowly reel it in and wait for the fish to bite.



Bubble & Nymph

This involves casting out an artificial fly attached to a float. These are designed to imitate a nymph (the larval form of insects). They can either be cast out and left or very slowly retrieved. Generally the nymph should sit just above the bottom of the lake.



Bubble and bait

This involves casting out bait, such as worms or shrimp attached to your hook. Place a bubble (float) above the bait so that the bait is suspended at a depth where you are most likely to intercept a fish (typically just above plant growth). If there is a bit of a current use a small piece of split shot just above your bait to ensure the bait sinks.



A shovel full of dirt from under the compost heap usually provides plenty of worms for an afternoons fishing.



Heave and leave

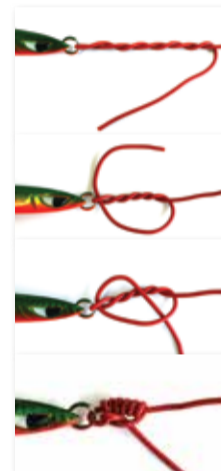
This involves casting out an artificial fly with a built in polystyrene ball such as a 'Glo Bug' so that the fly will float off the bottom. Normal practice with this method is to have a lead weight (e.g. 1/2 oz) approximately between one or two meters from the fly. The lead sits on the bottom and the fly hovers about it; a productive method in lakes that hold rainbow trout.



Improved Clinch knot

Great for tying on flies and spinning/soft baiting lures.

1. Put the end of the line through the eye and wrap the end around the standing end about five times (or twist the hook/lure about five times).
2. Pass the end back through the loop next to the eye.
3. Pass the end through the big loop you've just made.
4. Lubricate with saliva and pull tight. Trim the end.



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Groynes Lakes
Only those under the age of 17 may fish at these lakes which are periodically stocked by Fish & Game. The lakes are located off Groynes Drive, Belfast. These lakes are closed to the public overnight so check with the Christchurch City Council for open times.

The best time to fish these lakes is early season (October – December) after they have been stocked.

Methods: Bubble and bait, spin fishing with small spinners, heave and leave.

Lower Selwyn
The best fishing is from Coes Ford down to the lower huts; accessed from The Lake Road, Springsston South.

Methods: Spin fishing, bubble and bait, heave and leave

Lake Lyndon
This lake can be accessed from Lake Coleridge via the Lyndon Road (in dry weather), or directly off SH73 just over Porters Pass. Good populations of rainbow and brown trout are present.

Method: Spin fishing, bubble and dry fly in the summer months. Heave and leave with a 'Glo Bug' is productive in the deeper water.

Lake Georgia
Georgia is a nice little lake which anglers can walk right around during a fishing session. To get to Lake Georgia turn off the Coleridge Road onto Homestead Road, and then turn into Harper Road. The lake is the first on your right.

Methods: Similar methods to lakes Pearson and Lyndon.

Lake Katrine
There is a settlement of huts at Loch Katrine and limited camping is available. The lake produces a good number of land locked salmon for the spin fisherman.

Method: Spin fishing, bubble and dry fly in the summer months.

Lake Pearson
A number of small tracks lead off SH73 down to parking areas at the edge of the lake. This lake contains mostly brown trout but there are some rainbows. Better results are to be had when there is a ripply surface.

Methods: Spin fishing (this is the best method when the lake is rough) bubble and dry fly (in the summer months use a Black Gnat or green beetle imitation), bubble and wet fly, bubble and nymph, heave and leave.

Kaipoi River
The Kaipoi River experiences good runs of salmon, and is one of the only places in New Zealand where salmon are regularly caught on bait; freshwater shrimps and whole plichards being the most popular. The best fishing is between SH1 and the confluence with the Waimakariri. Access is available at the Hall Street boat ramp, Smith Street and the town wharf, all located within the township of Kaipoi.

Method: All methods

Waimakariri River
Good fishing can be had below the SH1 Bridge down to the Stewarts Gully yacht club. Sea run brown trout can be caught between October and February. There is also a chance of catching a salmon.

Method: Most popular method is spin fishing using a "Tassie Devil" or "Veltic" casting out and letting it swing around with the current fishing it as deep as possible.

Some top spots for kids:
Lake Taylor is a popular brown trout fishery and camping spot and is one of four fishable lakes in the lake Summer area. It is recommended that you use a 4WD if accessing areas above Lake Taylor.

Method: Spin fishing, bubble and dry fly in the summer months (Green beetle and black gnat being the best flies). A float can successfully be floated out to greater distances with a tail wind.

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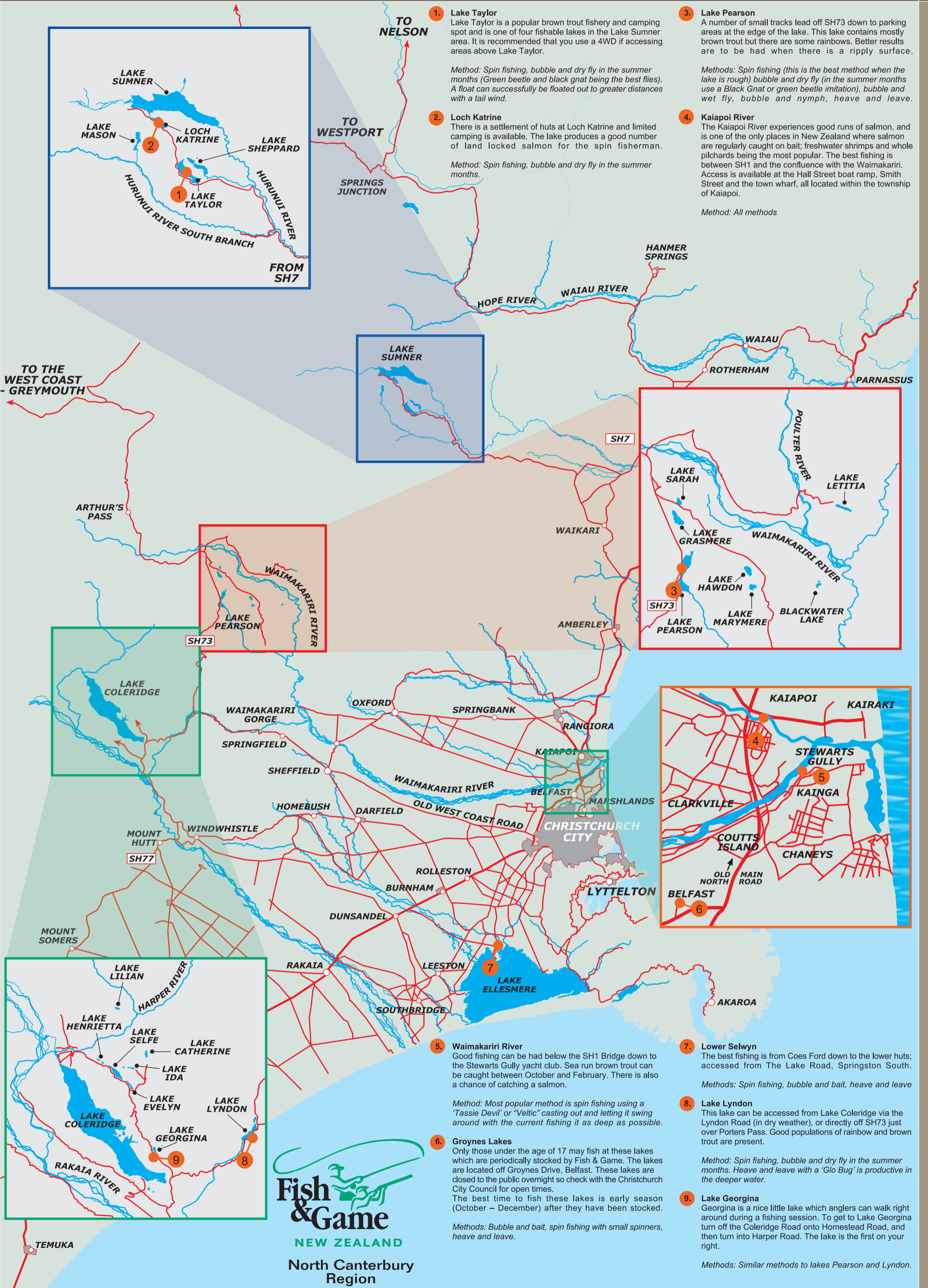
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