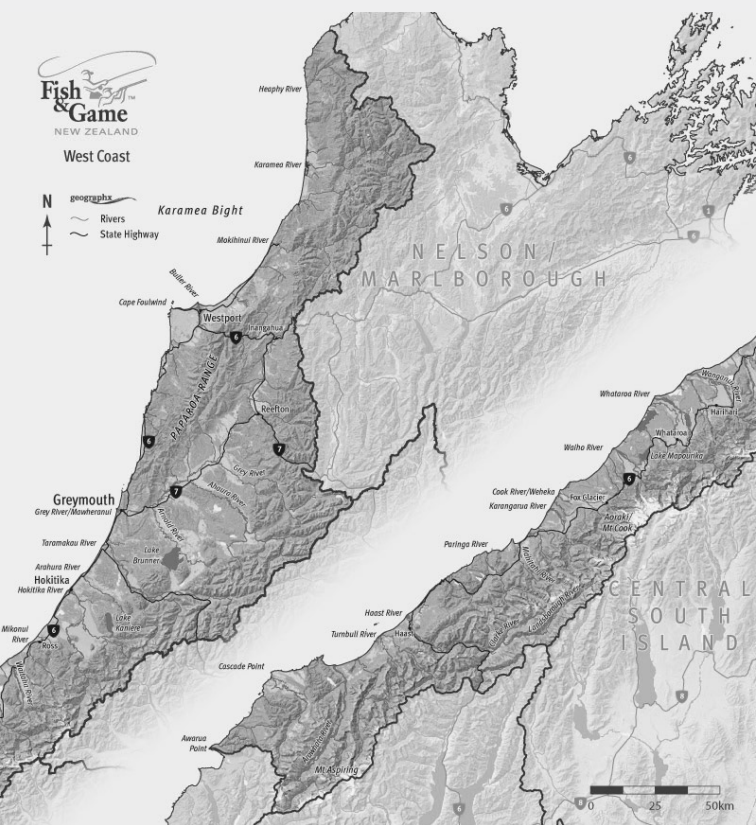


WEST COAST - Fish & Game Region⁹

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⁹ West Coast Fish and Game Region means the area so described in the NZ Gazette 24 May 1990, No.83 at page 1861

1 Game That May Be Hunted or Killed - Duration of 2024/2025 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck and any hybrid of those species	4 May to 28 Jul 2024	Aggregate bag 15	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	4 May to 28 Jul 2024	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	4 May to 28 Jul 2024	15	
	22 Feb to 16 Mar 2025	15	Locations 200 metres or more from open water
Pūkeko	4 May to 28 Jul 2024	20	All areas
	1 Jan to 16 Mar 2025	20	All areas
Black swan	4 May to 28 Jul 2024	4	All areas
	22 Feb to 16 Mar 2025	4	All areas
Cock Pheasant	4 May to 28 Jul 2024	2	All areas

2 Shooting Hours

6.30am to 6.30pm (May to July inclusive).

5.00am to 10.00pm (January to March inclusive).

3 Decoy Limit

No limit.

4 Special conditions

No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the West Coast region with any magazine shotgun of a bore smaller than 10 gauge unless the shotgun:

- (a) has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
- (b) the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Act;

so that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than 4 shells in the magazine, with no more than 5 shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.

HUNTING ON THE WEST COAST

The primary attractions for game bird hunters on the Coast are the diversity of habitat, providing for a range of species, but mainly grey and mallard ducks or hybrids. Shoveler, paradise shelduck and pukeko are also widespread throughout the region.

In general, developed valleys with improved pasture and open drains offer the best waterfowl hunting – particularly for mallards, pūkeko and shelduck – however riverbeds, bush ponds and coastal wetlands – most of which are on Department of Conservation (DOC) administered land – also provide excellent opportunities.

Some relatively unexploited hunting opportunities remain in South Westland river valleys south of Harihari.

Anyone planning a trip to hunt the West Coast can contact the Fish and Game Council for advice on key landowners to contact.

Currently, there are few problems with access to hunting on land administered by DOC; however, if in doubt about land tenure, contact the nearest DOC office (refer below) for a permit.

Department of Conservation contacts

Greymouth	03 768 0427
Hokitika	03 756 9100
Buller	03 788 8008
South Westland	03 751 0807

Game bird hunting is permitted in six scenic reserves; Hunters wishing to shoot at Lakes Rotokino, Ianthe, Arthur, Swan and Lady, or Saltwater Lagoon must request a permit from DOC before the end of March. In the event of any problems, contact The Fish and Game Council.

If hunting in riverbeds or along bermlands, we recommend contacting adjacent landowners. Their advice could well add value to your hunting.

Please note that it is unlawful to use or possess lead shot when hunting waterfowl within 200 metres of any open water wider than 3 metres.

PARADISE DUCK HUNTING

A phone call to one of the contacts listed below will be of great assistance for visitors seeking shelduck hunting opportunities.

Some recommended spots are the Ahaura/Lake Haupiri and Lake Poerua/Taramakau catchments and the Wanganui, Waiho, Waitaha and Whataroa valleys in South Westland. It is so important to do it right the first time, and to this end, the following advice is important;

- Phone a local contact below to locate birds. If possible, observe their movements for a day or two before hunting.
- Construct a hide with minimum disturbance and use natural vegetation where available. Paradise ducks will usually avoid a paddock that looks different from the previous visit.
- Use plenty of decoys – facing into the wind.
- Use camouflaged clothing and keep movement to a minimum.
- Often, it's best to let an incoming mob land, then flush and shoot.
- Although they look like they're moving slowly, paradise shelducks can fly at up to 80km/hr. If you are not hitting them, increase your lead by swinging through the target more quickly.

Most private landowners will react favourably to reasonable requests for access to hunt. The contacts listed below are recommended for hunters seeking new areas, particularly to hunt parries. It is essential to phone the landowner before visiting and respect any reasons they may have for limiting access.

Area Property Contact Phone number

<i>Area</i>	<i>Property Contact</i>	<i>Phone number</i>
Ahaura	M Bray	732 3576
Ahaura	R Becker	732 3879
Ahaura	G Paterson	732 3140
Arahura	P Clement	027 646 4677
Atarau	A Becker	732 3576
Atarau	C Brake	732 3080
Atarau	A Berry	732 3856
Atarau	C Van der Geest	732 3718
Atarau	G O'Connor	732 3859
Atarau	J Liddell	732 3747
Atarau	M Mills	732 3001
Atarau	P Berry	732 3856
Atarau	R Little	732 3034
Atarau	D Kennedy	027 632 7795
Barrytown	D Pinnie	021 0284 7168
Barrytown	George Coates	731 1805
Haupiri	C Egan	738 0188
Haupiri	H Temple (G.C.C)	(G.C.C) 738 0224
Ikamatua	G Prendergast	732 3518
Ikamatua	R Lemon	732 3525
Ikamatua	B McLennan	027 759 8825
Karamea	N Simpson	0272053365

Karamea	R Anderson	782 6762
Kokiri	D Bradley	762 5798
Kokiri	ANZCO	762 5055
Rotomanu	H Raymond	027 477 7247
Rotomanu	M Donehue	027 420 1283

TIPS FOR HUNTING ON THE WEST COAST

The key to success in all hunting is to be observant and recognise that game bird movements and feeding patterns change in response to the time of year and the food available. In the case of shelduck, feeding patterns are largely dictated by the location of preferred pasture. Prevailing weather patterns also have a significant influence on where birds congregate at certain times. For example, during wet periods in June/July, intensively grazed paddocks are favoured by mallards seeking high protein in the form of worms and grubs.

Seed from fed out hay and baleage is also a favoured food source. During frosty periods, drains and wet areas with willow (pig) weed infestations may be popular. Observant hunters will notice that birds alter their daily habits and flight patterns in response to the length of daylight hours, prevailing weather and the level of disturbance.

Waterfowl generally avoid large open water bodies during rough, windy weather, preferring sheltered swampy margins and farm drains. Similarly, during extended frosty periods, there is often good hunting in small running creeks and small ponds with a bush canopy.



Many hunters become frustrated by large congregations of ducks – predominantly mallards – loafing in open paddocks after the first week or two of the season when ducks become more wary. These birds are often difficult to hunt, but for those prepared to chance the odd unsuccessful outing, success is more likely to improve later in the season, especially on rough days and at first and last light.

Late in the season birds are preparing for breeding and require extra protein in the form of aquatic invertebrates and terrestrial insects. At this time small creeks, farm drains and wet paddocks often provide favoured feeding habitat. During this period, it is often possible to call in ducks that earlier in the season were simply not interested. In intensively farmed areas, the daily routine heavily influences hunting opportunities. Look for concentrations of birds near stock feed-out pads and, particularly in the case of shelducks, on saved pasture and green crops.



ORGANISED HUNTS

Complaints about concentrations of game birds such as pūkeko and paradise shelduck indicate problem areas that hunters can be directed to. Pūkeko and shelduck hunting success often depends on a team of hunters working together.

Organised hunts have become increasingly popular on the West Coast as access to good hunting becomes more difficult in other regions. Contact our West Coast Office to register your interest in organised hunting.

Enjoy your hunting on the 'Coast', comply with the few rules we have, and please show respect for landowners and your fellow hunters.

