



Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025

This notice is made by the Minister of Conservation under section 48A(2A) of the Conservation Act 1987.

Contents

	Page
1 Title	2
2 Commencement	2
3 Interpretation	2
<i>Eligibility for sports fish licences, classes of licences, and fees</i>	
4 Licences issued by Fish and Game Councils	8
5 Standard whole-season licence	9
6 Family whole-season licence	9
7 Loyal senior whole-season licence	9
8 Local area whole-season licence	10
9 Standard day licence	10
10 Short-break licence	10
11 Long-break licence	10
12 Winter licence	10
13 Designated waters season licence	10
14 Designated waters day licence	11
15 Controlled-period licence	11
16 Sea-run salmon licence	12
17 Fees exclusive of GST	12
<i>Forms</i>	
18 Forms of licences	12
<i>Revocation</i>	
19 Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2024 revoked	14
Schedule	
15	
Fees payable for sports fish licences	

Notice

1 Title

This notice is the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2025.

2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on 1 October 2025.

3 Interpretation

In this notice, unless the context otherwise requires,—

adult means a person aged 18 years or over on 1 October 2025

child means a person aged under 12 years on 1 October 2025

Clinton River controlled fishery means the Clinton River catchment upstream from Lake Te Anau to Prairie Flat at NZTopo50/CB08 9045 2047

controlled fishery means any of the following:

- (a) the Clinton River controlled fishery:
- (b) the Ettrick Burn controlled fishery:
- (c) the Greenstone River controlled fishery:
- (d) the Hurunui River North Branch controlled fishery:
- (e) the Hurunui River South Branch controlled fishery:
- (f) the Ōhau River controlled fishery:
- (g) the Worsley River controlled fishery

controlled period means,—

- (a) in relation to the Greenstone River controlled fishery, the period beginning on 1 February 2026 and ending on 31 March 2026:
- (b) in relation to the Hurunui River North Branch controlled fishery and the Hurunui River South Branch controlled fishery, the period beginning on 1 October 2025 and ending on 30 April 2026:
- (c) in relation to the Ōhau River controlled fishery, the period beginning on 1 October 2025 and ending on 31 October 2025 and the period beginning on the first Saturday in September 2026 and ending on 30 September 2026:
- (d) in relation to the Clinton River controlled fishery, the Ettrick Burn controlled fishery, and the Worsley River controlled fishery, the period beginning on 1 November 2025 and ending on 31 May 2026

controlled-period licence means a licence that entitles the holder and any person named in the licence under clause 18(6) to fish for sports fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period, but only during the period, and on the reach, specified in the licence

designated waters day licence means a licence that entitles the holder to fish for sports fish during the day specified in the licence in all designated waters fisheries situated in the region of the Fish and Game Council that issued the licence, except in a controlled fishery during a controlled period

designated waters fishery means any of the following:

- (a) the Dingle Burn fishery:
- (b) the Greenstone River fishery:
- (c) the Hunter River fishery:
- (d) the Hurunui River North Branch controlled fishery:
- (e) the Hurunui River South Branch controlled fishery:
- (f) the Karamea River fishery:
- (g) the Lewis Pass fishery:
- (h) the Lochy River fishery:
- (i) the Mātakitaki River fishery:
- (j) the Mokihinui River fishery:
- (k) the Nevis River fishery:
- (l) the Ōreti River fishery:
- (m) the Pomahaka River fishery:
- (n) the Rangitīkei River fishery:
- (o) the Travers River fishery:
- (p) the Waiau Uwha River fishery:
- (q) the Wairau River fishery:
- (r) the Wilkin River fishery:
- (s) the Young River fishery

designated waters season licence means a licence that entitles the holder or joint holders, and eligible family members named in the licence under clause 18(5), to fish for sports fish in the period beginning on 1 October 2025 and ending on 30 September 2026 in all designated waters fisheries situated in the region of the Fish and Game Council that issued the licence, except in a controlled fishery during a controlled period

Dingle Burn fishery means the Dingle Burn upstream of the bridge on the Dingle Burn Station access road

eligible family member, in relation to a licence, means a child or junior who is—

- (a) a dependant of a licence holder named in the licence, who ordinarily or periodically resides with the licence holder; or
- (b) a grandchild of a licence holder named in the licence

Ettrick Burn controlled fishery means the Ettrick Burn from Lake Te Anau to the upstream limit of Log Cabin Slip at NZTopo50/CC07 796753

family whole-season licence means a licence that entitles the holder or joint holders, and any eligible family members named in the licence under clause 18(4) to fish for sports fish in all regions in the period beginning on 1 October 2025 and ending on 30 September 2026, except in—

- (a) the Taupō District:
- (b) designated waters fisheries:
- (c) controlled fisheries during a controlled period:
- (d) sea-run salmon waters if fishing for salmon

Fish and Game Council has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Conservation Act 1987

Greenstone River controlled fishery means the Greenstone river catchment upstream of the confluence with Sly Burn

Greenstone River fishery means the Greenstone River catchment, namely—

- (a) the Greenstone River upstream of the swing bridge at the carpark at the end of Greenstone Station Road; and
- (b) all tributary streams flowing into the Greenstone River, including the Caples River

Hunter River fishery means the Hunter River catchment upstream from the river's mouth where the river enters Lake Hāwea

Hurunui River North Branch controlled fishery means the Hurunui River North Branch catchment upstream of the signposts at NZTopo50/BU22 3088 7229

Hurunui River South Branch controlled fishery means the Hurunui River South Branch catchment upstream of the confluence with the North Esk River

junior means a person aged 12 years or older, but under 18 years, on 1 October 2025

Karamea fishery means the Karamea catchment upstream of the confluence with the Kākāpō River

Lewis Pass fishery means the Hope River catchment upstream of the State Highway 7 bridge across the Hope River

local area whole-season licence means a licence that entitles the holder to fish for sports fish in the region of the Fish and Game Council that issued the licence in the period beginning on 1 October 2025 and ending on 30 September 2026, except in—

- (a) the Taupō District:
- (b) designated waters fisheries:
- (c) controlled fisheries during a controlled period:

- (d) sea-run salmon waters if fishing for salmon

Lochy River fishery means the Lochy River catchment upstream of the confluence with Disputed Creek

long-break licence means a licence that entitles the holder to fish for sports fish in all regions for a continuous 9-day period specified in the licence, except in—

- (a) the Taupō District;
- (b) designated waters fisheries;
- (c) controlled fisheries during a controlled period;
- (d) sea-run salmon waters if fishing for salmon

loyal senior means a person who, on 1 October 2025,—

- (a) is aged 65 years or older; and
- (b) has for the last 5 years held a standard whole-season licence, a family whole-season licence, or a loyal senior whole-season licence

loyal senior whole-season licence means a licence that entitles the holder to fish in all regions for sports fish in the period beginning on 1 October 2025 and ending on 30 September 2026, except in—

- (a) the Taupō District;
- (b) designated waters fisheries;
- (c) controlled fisheries during a controlled period;
- (d) sea-run salmon waters if fishing for salmon

Mātakitaki fishery means the upper Mātakitaki River and its tributaries upstream from the Horse Terrace bridge

Mokihinui fishery means the Mokihinui catchment upstream of the confluence with Rough and Tumble Creek

Nevis River fishery means the Nevis River catchment upstream of the confluence with the Kawarau River

non-resident means an individual who, on 1 October 2025, is not a resident

Ōhau River controlled fishery means the Ōhau River from Lake Ruataniwha to Lake Ōhau

Ōreti River fishery means the Ōreti River and its tributaries upstream of the State Highway 97 bridge

partner means a spouse, civil union partner, or de facto partner

Pomahaka River fishery means the Pomahaka River catchment upstream of the Hukarere Station bridge on Hukarere Station Road

Rangitīkei River fishery means the upper Rangitīkei River and its tributaries upstream of the confluence with the Ohinewaione Stream

region means the region of a Fish and Game Council

resident means an individual who, on 1 October 2025,—

- (a) is a New Zealand citizen; or
- (b) ordinarily resides in New Zealand

sea-run salmon licence means a licence that entitles the holder or joint holders, and eligible family members named in the licence under clause 18(5) to fish for salmon in sea-run salmon waters during the period beginning on 1 October 2025 and ending on 30 September 2026

sea-run salmon waters means the following waters:

- (a) in the Central South Island Fish and Game Region,—
 - (i) the Ashburton River/Hakatere:
 - (ii) the Awakino River (a tributary of the Waitaki River):
 - (iii) Bells Pond (the Waitaki River irrigation pond at Ross Road):
 - (iv) Bortons Pond (the Waitaki River irrigation pond at Black Point, State Highway 83):
 - (v) Deep Creek (a tributary of the upper Rangitata River):
 - (vi) Deep Stream (a tributary of the upper Rangitata River):
 - (vii) the Hakataramea River:
 - (viii) the Hinds River:
 - (ix) the Kakanui River:
 - (x) the Maerewhenua River:
 - (xi) Ohapi Creek:
 - (xii) the Ōpihi River:
 - (xiii) the Opuha River and tributaries:
 - (xiv) the Orari River and tributaries:
 - (xv) the Pareora River:
 - (xvi) the Rangitata Diversion Race upstream of the Rakaia River Road bridge:
 - (xvii) the Rangitata River and tributaries:
 - (xviii) Te Ana-a-Wai (Tengawai) River and tributaries:
 - (xix) the Temuka River and tributaries:
 - (xx) the Waihao River:
 - (xxi) the Waihi River and tributaries:
 - (xxii) the Waitaki River:
- (b) in the North Canterbury Fish and Game Region,—
 - (i) the Ashley River downstream of Ashley Gorge Road:
 - (ii) the Avon River downstream of the Barbadoes Street bridge:

- (iii) the Cam River/Ruataniwha from the Kaiapoi River confluence to the Smith Street bridge:
- (iv) the Heathcote River downstream of the Colombo Street bridge:
- (v) the Hurunui River below the South Branch confluence:
- (vi) the Kaiapoi River downstream of the confluence of the Cust Main Drain:
- (vii) Lee Stream:
- (viii) the Rakaia River downstream of the Coleridge Tailrace confluence:
- (ix) Saltwater Creek:
- (x) Tentburn Outfall:
- (xi) the Waiau Uwha River downstream of the Hope River confluence:
- (xii) the Waimakariri River downstream of the Staircase Stream confluence

short-break licence means a licence that entitles the holder to fish in all regions for sports fish for a continuous 3-day period specified in the licence, except in—

- (a) the Taupō District:
- (b) designated waters fisheries:
- (c) controlled fisheries during a controlled period:
- (d) sea-run salmon waters if fishing for salmon

standard day licence means a licence that entitles the holder to fish in all regions for sports fish during the 24-hour period specified in the licence, except in—

- (a) the Taupō District:
- (b) designated waters fisheries:
- (c) controlled fisheries during a controlled period:
- (d) sea-run salmon waters if fishing for salmon

standard whole-season licence means a licence that entitles the holder to fish for sports fish in all regions in the period beginning on 1 October 2025 and ending on 30 September 2026, except in—

- (a) the Taupō District:
- (b) designated waters fisheries:
- (c) controlled fisheries during a controlled period:
- (d) sea-run salmon waters if fishing for salmon

Taupō District means the district described in the Schedule of the Taupo District Order 1983

Travers River fishery means the Travers River catchment upstream of Lake Rotoiti

Waiau Uwha River fishery means the Waiau Uwha River catchment upstream of the confluence with the Hope River

Wairau fishery means the upper Wairau River and its tributaries (but excluding Fish Lake) upstream from Six Mile Creek (near end of tarseal road below Rainbow Skifield)

Wilkin River fishery means the Wilkin River catchment upstream from the confluence with the Makarora River

winter licence means a licence that entitles the holder to fish for sports fish in all regions in the period beginning on 1 April 2026 and ending on 30 September 2026, except in—

- (a) the Taupō District:
- (b) designated waters fisheries:
- (c) controlled fisheries during a controlled period:
- (d) sea-run salmon waters if fishing for salmon

Worsley River controlled fishery means the Worsley River catchment upstream from the confluence with Lake Te Anau

Young River fishery means the Young River catchment upstream from the confluence with the Makarora River.

Eligibility for sports fish licences, classes of licences, and fees

4 Licences issued by Fish and Game Councils

- (1) Every Fish and Game Council may issue the following licences in accordance with clauses 5 to 12:
 - (a) standard whole-season licences:
 - (b) family whole-season licences:
 - (c) loyal senior whole-season licences:
 - (d) local area whole-season licences:
 - (e) standard day licences:
 - (f) short-break licences:
 - (g) long-break licences:
 - (h) winter licences.
- (2) Each of the following Fish and Game Councils may issue designated waters season licences, and designated waters day licences, for its own region in accordance with clauses 13 and 14:
 - (a) the Central South Island Fish and Game Council:
 - (b) the Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council:

- (c) the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council:
 - (d) the Otago Fish and Game Council:
 - (e) the Southland Fish and Game Council:
 - (f) the Wellington Fish and Game Council:
 - (g) the West Coast Fish and Game Council.
- (3) Each of the following Fish and Game Councils may issue controlled-period licences for its own region in accordance with clause 15:
- (a) the Central South Island Fish and Game Council:
 - (b) the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council:
 - (c) the Otago Fish and Game Council:
 - (d) the Southland Fish and Game Council.
- (4) Each of the following Fish and Game Councils may issue sea-run salmon licences in accordance with clause 16:
- (a) the Central South Island Fish and Game Council:
 - (b) the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council.

5 Standard whole-season licence

- (1) A resident who is an adult or a junior may obtain a standard whole-season licence from a Fish and Game Council on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.
- (2) A resident who is a child may obtain a standard whole-season licence from a Fish and Game Council without payment, as indicated in the Schedule.
- (3) A non-resident may obtain a standard whole-season licence from a Fish and Game Council on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.

6 Family whole-season licence

The following people may obtain a family whole-season licence from a Fish and Game Council on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule:

- (a) an adult resident:
- (b) 2 adult residents, who would jointly hold the licence, if one adult is the partner of the other.

7 Loyal senior whole-season licence

A resident who is a loyal senior may obtain a loyal senior whole-season licence from a Fish and Game Council on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.

8 Local area whole-season licence

A resident who is an adult may obtain a local area whole-season licence from a Fish and Game Council for that Council's region on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.

9 Standard day licence

- (1) A resident who is an adult or a junior may obtain a standard day licence from a Fish and Game Council on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.
- (2) A resident who is a child may obtain a standard day licence from a Fish and Game Council without payment, as indicated in the Schedule.
- (3) A non-resident may obtain a standard day licence from a Fish and Game Council on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.

10 Short-break licence

A resident who is an adult may obtain a short-break licence from a Fish and Game Council on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.

11 Long-break licence

A resident who is an adult may obtain a long-break licence from a Fish and Game Council on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.

12 Winter licence

A resident who is an adult may obtain a winter licence from a Fish and Game Council on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.

13 Designated waters season licence

- (1) The following people may obtain a designated waters season licence from a Fish and Game Council referred to in clause 4(2) for that Council's region on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule:
 - (a) a resident who holds a local area whole-season licence for that region:
 - (b) a resident who holds a standard whole-season licence or a loyal senior whole-season licence:
 - (c) a resident who holds a family whole-season licence, if they are the only licence holder named on the licence:
 - (d) 2 residents who are joint holders of a family whole-season licence, who would also jointly hold the designated waters season licence.
- (2) A person entitled to fish in a designated waters fishery under a designated waters season licence must, when requested by the Fish and Game Council that issued the licence, provide to the Council information on the use of any part of the designated waters fishery by that person and any angler accompanying that person.

14 Designated waters day licence

- (1) A non-resident who holds a standard whole-season licence may obtain a designated waters day licence from a Fish and Game Council referred to in clause 4(2) for that Council's region on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.
- (2) However, a Fish and Game Council must not issue more than 5 designated waters day licences for its region to the same person.
- (3) A person entitled to fish in a designated waters fishery under a designated waters day licence must, when requested by the Fish and Game Council that issued the licence, provide to the Council information on the use of any part of the designated waters fishery by that person and any angler accompanying that person.

15 Controlled-period licence

- (1) The following people may, on application, obtain a controlled-period licence from a Fish and Game Council referred to in clause 4(3) for a controlled fishery situated in that Council's region:
 - (a) the holder of a local area whole-season licence for that region:
 - (b) the holder of a standard whole-season licence, a family whole-season licence, or a loyal senior whole-season licence.
- (2) However, the Fish and Game Councils must not issue more than—
 - (a) 184 controlled-period licences for the Clinton River controlled fishery:
 - (b) 70 controlled-period licences for the Ettrick Burn controlled fishery:
 - (c) 180 controlled-period licences for the Greenstone River controlled fishery:
 - (d) 90 controlled-period licences for the Hurunui River North Branch controlled fishery:
 - (e) 90 controlled-period licences for the Hurunui River South Branch controlled fishery:
 - (f) 254 controlled-period licences for the Ōhau River controlled fishery:
 - (g) 92 controlled-period licences for the Worsley River controlled fishery.
- (3) The available controlled-period licences for the following controlled fisheries must be allocated according to the order in which applications are received:
 - (a) the Ettrick Burn controlled fishery:
 - (b) the Greenstone River controlled fishery:
 - (c) the Hurunui River North Branch controlled fishery:
 - (d) the Hurunui River South Branch controlled fishery.
- (4) The available controlled-period licences for any other controlled fishery must be allocated to applicants by ballot.

- (5) If a controlled fishery, or part of a controlled fishery, is also a designated waters fishery, a controlled-period licence is not valid for that controlled fishery or part during any period unless its holder also holds a designated waters season licence, or a designated waters day licence, for the designated waters fishery for that period.
- (6) A person entitled to fish in a controlled fishery under a controlled-period licence must, when requested by the Fish and Game Council that issued the licence, provide to the Council information on the use of any part of the controlled fishery by that person and any angler accompanying that person.
- (7) No fee is payable for a controlled-period licence, as indicated in the Schedule.

16 Sea-run salmon licence

- (1) The following people may obtain a sea-run salmon licence from a Fish and Game Council referred to in clause 4(4) on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule:
 - (a) the holder of a standard whole-season licence or a loyal senior whole-season licence:
 - (b) the holder of a family whole-season licence, if they are the only licence holder named on the licence:
 - (c) joint holders of a family whole-season licence, who would also jointly hold the sea-run salmon licence.
- (2) The holder of a local area whole-season licence for the region of a Fish and Game Council referred to in clause 4(4) may obtain a sea-run salmon licence for sea-run salmon waters in that Council's region on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the Schedule.
- (3) A person entitled to fish in sea-run salmon waters under a sea-run salmon licence must, when requested by the Fish and Game Council that issued the licence, provide to the Council information on the use of any part of the sea-run salmon waters by that person and any angler accompanying that person.

17 Fees exclusive of GST

The fees specified in the Schedule are exclusive of goods and services tax.

Forms

18 Forms of licences

- (1) A licence must be in writing and must specify—
 - (a) the effect of the licence:
 - (b) the time and date of issue:
 - (c) the period during which the licence is valid:
 - (d) the following information about the licence holder:

- (i) their full name, postal address, phone number (if any), and date of birth:
 - (ii) whether they are an adult, a junior, or a child:
 - (iii) whether they are a resident or non-resident.
- (2) If the licence is jointly held by 2 people under clause 6(b), 13(1)(d), or 16(1)(c), the licence must specify the details of both licence holders under sub-clause (1)(d).
- (3) If the applicant applies to receive their licence in electronic form, the licence must also state that, by applying for the licence in electronic form, the applicant consented to its provision in that form in accordance with Part 4 of the Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017.
- (4) A family whole-season licence must also specify the full names of at least 1 and up to 4 eligible family members.
- (5) A designated waters season licence or sea-run salmon licence issued to, or in the name of, the holder or joint holders of a family whole-season licence must also specify the full names of eligible family members that are specified in the family whole-season licence.
- (6) A controlled-period licence for—
 - (a) the Greenstone River controlled fishery may also specify the full names of any person who—
 - (i) holds a standard whole-season licence, a family whole-season licence, a loyal senior whole-season licence, or a local area whole-season licence for the region that includes the controlled fishery for which the controlled-period licence is issued; or
 - (ii) if the controlled-period licence is issued in the name of a holder of a family whole-season licence, is named as an eligible family member or joint holder specified in the family whole-season licence:
 - (b) any of the other 6 controlled fisheries may also specify the full names of up to 3 additional people who—
 - (i) hold a standard whole-season licence, a family whole-season licence, a loyal senior whole-season licence, or a local area whole-season licence for the region that includes the controlled fishery for which the controlled-period licence is issued; or
 - (ii) if the controlled-period licence is issued in the name of a holder of a family whole-season licence, are named as an eligible family member or joint holder specified in the family whole-season licence.
- (7) Each of the following licences must also specify the name of the region to which it applies:

- (a) a local area whole-season licence:
- (b) a designated waters season licence:
- (c) a designated waters day licence:
- (d) a sea-run salmon licence obtained under clause 16(2).

Revocation

19 Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2024 revoked

The Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2024 (SL 2024/167) is revoked.

Schedule

Fees payable for sports fish licences

cls 5–17

Class of licence	Class of applicant	Fee (exclusive of GST) (\$)
Standard whole-season licence (resident)	Adult	135.65
	Junior	26.96
	Child	No fee
Standard whole-season licence (non-resident)	Adult	234.78
	Junior	44.35
	Child	44.35
Family whole-season licence	Adult	176.52
Loyal senior whole-season licence	Loyal senior	115.65
Local area whole-season licence	Adult	108.70
Standard day licence (resident)	Adult	21.74
	Junior	5.22
	Child	No fee
Standard day licence (non-resident)	Adult	33.04
	Junior	20.00
	Child	20.00
Short-break licence	Adult	48.70
Long-break licence	Adult	94.78
Winter licence	Adult	81.74
Designated waters season licence	All classes	4.35
Designated waters day licence	All classes	34.78
Controlled-period licence	All classes	No fee
Sea-run salmon licence	All classes	4.35

Dated at Wellington this 21st day of August 2025.

Hon James Meager,
Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the notice but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This notice, which comes into force on 1 October 2025, revokes and replaces the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2024. This notice—

- fixes the forms and classes of licences to fish for sports fish, including a change from the 2024 to 2025 season, to provide for some licences to be held jointly between 2 adult partners:

- fixes the scope and effect of those classes of licence:
- provides for licences issued by the Fish and Game Council of 1 region to also be valid in other regions (with some exceptions):
- fixes the fees payable for the licences. Those fees have been set to recover the anticipated costs of management of the freshwater sports fish resource by Fish and Game New Zealand for the 2025 to 2026 season. These fees are the same as those for the 2024 to 2025 season.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 27 August 2025.

This notice is administered by the Department of Conservation.