

Go Freshwater Fishing

Featured Location:

**Snowies
Trout
Waters**

**Fly, Lure & Bait Fishing
In Alpine Lakes & Rivers**



Foreword from NSW DPI



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Throwing a line in at a new spot always makes for a great fishing adventure, whether it's on a family holiday or just somewhere new close to home. No matter your fishing expertise, NSW boasts a wide range of fish species and great places to catch them, including in our many inland rivers, impoundments and streams to the productive estuaries, lakes, beaches and rocky headlands on the NSW coast. There are also many inshore and offshore fishing opportunities from your boat or if using one of the many experienced charter fishing services available.

There are many reasons to go fishing, including to unwind and relax, spend time with family and friends, enjoy nature and of course to catch a tasty meal of fresh fish. Over a million people in NSW enjoy this fantastic lifestyle and the great news is that you are never too old or young to take up fishing so get out there and give it a go! Getting into fishing is easy. If you don't know where to start, just head into your local tackle store where the friendly staff can provide tips on tackle, bait and techniques plus point you to a safe, convenient spot to throw a line in.

NSW DPI has developed these *Go Fishing* guides as a snapshot of popular NSW fishing locations in both fresh and saltwater to help improve your recreational fishing experiences. For more information on other locations, fish species, size and bag limits and permitted gear not listed in these guides, visit the NSW DPI website or download the **FishSmart App** from the App store on your Android or iPhone.

Overview

The Snowy Mountains region is located in South-East NSW, about two hours' south of Canberra via the Monaro Highway. The region was immortalised in Australian folklore with the poem *The Man from Snowy River*, written in 1890 by Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson. Today, the "high country" remains an iconic destination for anglers due to the fact that it boasts arguably the best trout fishing in mainland Australia.

The alpine climate and cool mountain waterways support ideal habitats for salmonids. Most of the waterways in the Snowies originate in and around Australia's highest peaks, draining throughout the south-eastern facing slopes of the alpine region.

The fishery, most of which is encompassed within the Kosciuszko National Park, comprises of 16 hydro dams built between 1949 and 1974 as part of the Snowy Hydro Scheme plus an abundance of creeks, streams and rivers. Although not native to Australia, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout and Atlantic salmon have all taken to these waterways since their release in the late 1800s.

A vast array of fishing options caters for all anglers. The region's largest lakes of Eucumbene and Jindabyne are perfectly suited to soaking a bait, land-based sight fly fishing and lure casting and trolling. Smaller reservoirs like Tantangara also provide similar offerings but are a little more "off the grid".

A multitude of river systems can be explored by the adventurous angler. These range from small mountain creeks through to freestone waterways like the Thredbo and Eucumbene rivers. These rivers have been long regarded as the region's premier fly and lure fishing destinations, offering anglers the chance at trophy brown and rainbow trout.

A number of picturesque towns and villages including Cooma, Adaminaby, Jindabyne and Thredbo offer a range of accommodation and dining options. Anglers can also enjoy one of the many wonderful camping and accommodation alternatives within Kosciuszko National Park.



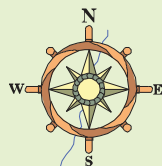
Sydney



*Snowy Mountains
Region*



Lake Jindabyne Map



Canberra 190 km

NOTE: This fishing map is only to be used as a general reference overview. See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au for details on fishing regulations.

Not for navigation.

See www.rms.nsw.gov.au for info on boating safety and regulations.

Caution: The high altitude and open nature of this location can lead to sudden changes in weather conditions. Telephone 13 12 56 for information.

Caution: Boating on inland waters demands special care. Information on boating in these areas can be found at www.rms.nsw.gov.au.

Warning: Beware of submerged rocks, trees and shallow areas, particularly at lower water levels.

PARK ENTRY FEES APPLY

GADEN TROUT HATCHERY

CREEL BAY/WASTE POINT

KALKITE

HATCHERY BAY

CURIOSITY ROCKS

LION/CUB/CHURCH ISLANDS

EAST JINDABYNE

JINDABYNE TOWNSHIP

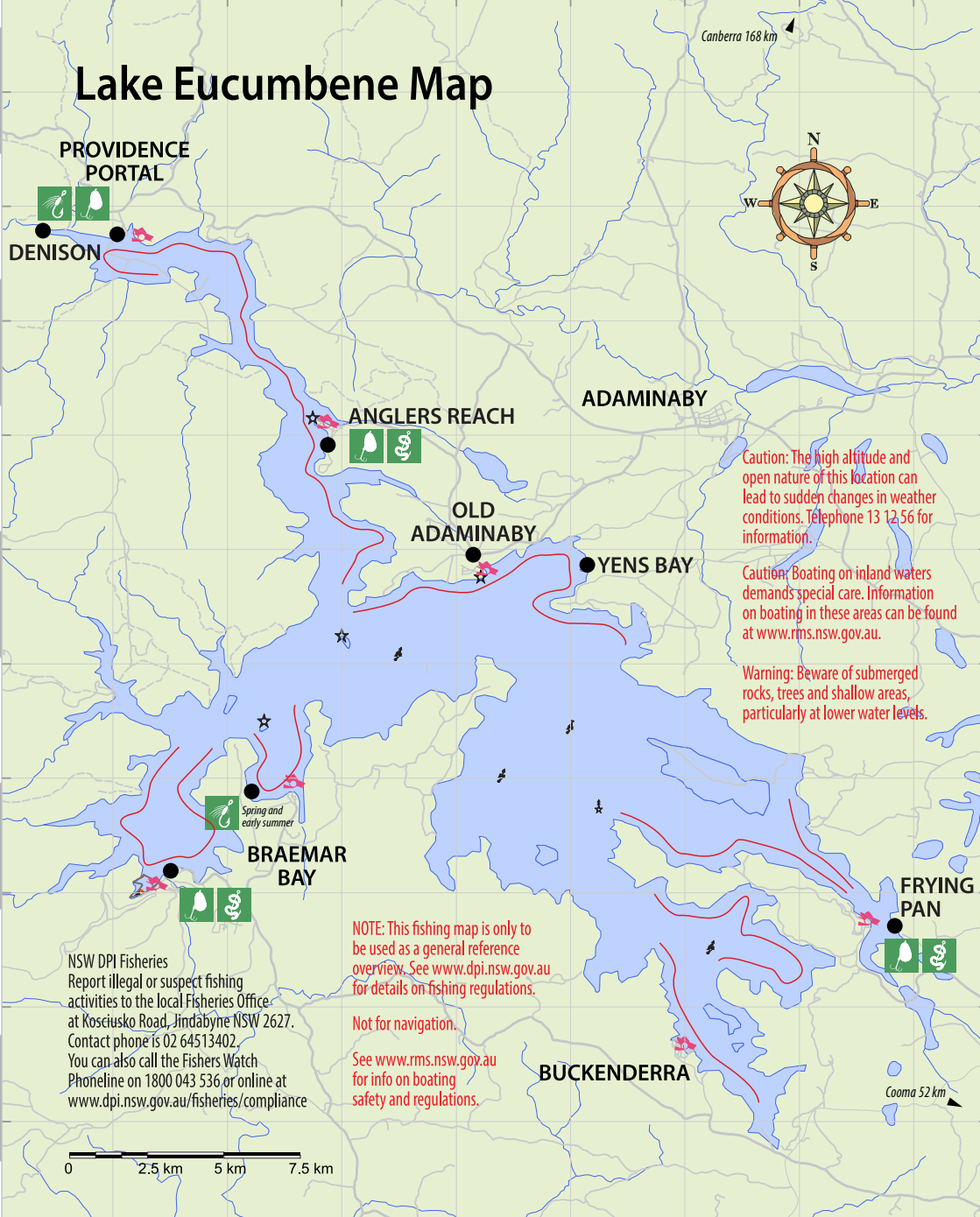
NSW DPI Fisheries
Report illegal or suspect fishing activities to the local Fisheries Office at Kosciusko Road, Jindabyne NSW 2627.
Contact phone is 02 64513402.
You can also call the Fishers Watch Phoneline on 1800 043 536 or online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance

0 1 km 2 km 3 km

Cooma 74 km

	Shore based lure casting		Port Buoy No Top Mark		West Cardinal Conical Buoy		West Cardinal Can Buoy		Lit Nth. Cardinal Can Buoy		Lit Special Mark Can Buoy		Eight knot speed limit area
	Shore based fly casting		Boat ramp		Nth. Cardinal Can Buoy		Iso. Danger Can Buoy		Lit Sth. Cardinal Can Buoy		Post monument or feature		Productive trolling area
	Shore based bait fishing		Nth. Cardinal Conical Buoy		East Cardinal Can Buoy		Special Mark Aqua Buoy		Lit West. Cardinal Can Buoy		Four knot speed limit area		

Lake Eucumbene Map



Shore based lure casting

Shore based fly casting

Shore based bait fishing

Boat ramp

White light beacon

Lit Nth.Cardinal beacon

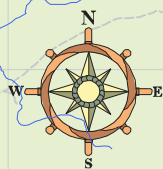
Lit East.Cardinal Can Buoy

Lit West.Cardinal Can Buoy

Lit Nth.Cardinal Can Buoy

Productive trolling area

Tantangara Reservoir Map



**BATHURST
ROCKS**

CURRANGO

**MURRUMBIDGEE
DAM**



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rocks, trees and shallow areas,
particularly at lower water levels.

0 1.5 km 3 km 4.5 km



Shore based
lure casting



Shore based
fly casting



Shore based
bait fishing



Boat ramp



Productive
trolling area

FACT BOX

TROUT AND SALMON STOCKING



Trout fry and fingerlings are produced at the NSW DPI Fisheries Dutton Trout Hatchery at Ebor and the Gaden Trout Hatchery in Jindabyne. These fish are stocked into public waterways to enhance recreational freshwater fishing opportunities and boost regional economies.

Trout fishing is a major recreational fishing and inland tourism industry in NSW, with renowned premier trout waters in the Snowy and New England regions. A Trout Strategy has been developed to provide a range of key recommendations and initiatives that will help improve and enhance the recreational trout fishery in NSW. In addition to research and management actions, the strategy includes improving hatchery facilities and increasing the size of fish stocked where beneficial.

Trout are stocked under the salmonid stocking policy by DPI staff and by members of trout acclimatisation societies. All trout stocking sites are selected based on extensive consultation with acclimatisation societies, fishing groups and community groups which take into account conditions of streams and impoundments. An Environmental Impact Statement for freshwater fish stocking ensures best stocking practices.

Key target species

Rainbow Trout

SPECIES INFO – Rainbow trout are highly regarded for their acrobatic fighting qualities. They favour colder temperatures and thrive in highly oxygenated water. Rainbows are opportunist feeders, readily taking lures, flies and baits.



TECHNIQUES – Fly fishing in streams, lakes and rivers, lure casting with baitfish profile divers, Celta-type spinners and small soft plastics, trolling with flat lines, lead lines and downriggers using Tassie Devil style lures and deep diving minnows and bait fishing with scrub worms, live mudies and Powerbait style artificial baits.

TACKLE – Four to six weight fly outfits, 2-4kg spinning outfits. When bait fishing, use size 4 to size 1 non-offset circle hooks on a running sinker rig. Fluorocarbon trace in the 2-4kg range can result in more bites when lure or bait fishing in the clear water favoured by rainbows.

HOT SPOTS – Shallow runs and riffles in streams and rivers; rocky points and drop-offs in the big lakes.

BAG & SIZE LIMITS – See page 11.

Brown Trout

SPECIES INFO – Brown trout are a cunning and wary fish which generally frequent slower waterways.

They become territorial as they mature. Brown trout are a rugged fish and will often outlive and outgrow other salmonids. The annual spawn run up rivers and streams running into the big lakes provides anglers an opportunity to catch true trophy browns in the 5-6 kilo class drifting glo-bug style patterns over gravel beds with fly and light spin gear.



TECHNIQUES – Fly fishing in streams, lakes and rivers, lure casting with baitfish profile divers and small soft plastics, trolling with flat lines, lead lines and downriggers using Tassie Devil style lures and deep diving minnows and bait fishing with scrub worms, live mud eyes, small yabbies and bardi grubs.

TACKLE – Four to six weight fly outfits, 2-4kg spinning outfits. When bait fishing, use size 4 to size 1 non-offset circle hooks on a running sinker rig.

HOT SPOTS – Deeper pools and rocky runs in rivers and streams; yabby beds, rocky points and weed beds in the big lakes.

BAG & SIZE LIMITS – See page 11.

Brook Trout

SPECIES INFO – Brook trout favour very cold water and are generally only found in a handful of the region's higher streams and lakes. They are typically smaller than other salmonoids but are a wonderful sportfish, often taking a fly or a lure with aggression.



TECHNIQUE – Rarely a specific target for anglers fishing the Snowies region, brook trout are generally a bycatch when targeting brown and rainbow trout on fly, spin or baitfishing tackle.

TACKLE – Four to six weight fly outfits, 2-4kg spinning outfits.

HOT SPOTS – Pools and riffles in high country streams; rocky points, flats, weed beds and drop-offs in the big lakes.

BAG & SIZE LIMITS – See page 11.

Atlantic Salmon

SPECIES INFO – Atlantic salmon are stocked by NSW DPI's Gaden Trout Hatchery into Lake Jindabyne and Khancoban Pondage. Like brook trout, they struggle with warmer water temperatures during the summer months. Most of the salmon caught by anglers are about a kilo in weight but brood stock in excess of 10kg are sometimes released by the hatchery, providing lucky anglers with spectacular sport on standard trout gear!



TECHNIQUES – An opportunistic target for anglers fishing the Snowies region, Atlantic salmon are generally a bycatch when targeting brown and rainbow trout on fly, spin or baitfishing tackle.

TACKLE – Four to six weight fly outfits, 2-4kg spinning outfits.

HOT SPOTS – Rocky points and drop-offs in the big lakes.

BAG & SIZE LIMITS – See page 11.

FACT BOX

DETAILED FISHING TECHNIQUES



LAKES

TARGET SPECIES – Brown, rainbow and brook trout, Atlantic salmon.

SEASON – All year.

TECHNIQUES – Artificial lure, fly and bait.

TACKLE – **Spin:** 2-4kg spin outfits, 2-3kg braid or mono. When, bait fishing use size 4 to 1 non-offset circle hooks. Live mudeyes, scrub worms and artificial baits are all very effective fished under a bubble float rig, or with a running sinker rig. Hard-body lures ranging from 20mm to 60mm in size, soft plastics in wriggler and fish profiles on 1-2 gram jigheads and bladed style lures are all very effective when cast and retrieved, or trolled behind a boat or kayak.

Fly: Five to seven weight outfits, running 4X-5X tippet off 9-12 foot leaders during daylight hours. In the cooler months, select size 16-12 nymph patterns cast and slowly retrieved. Size 12-8 Wooly Bugger and other “attractor style” streamer patterns like the Mrs Simpson work very well in low light conditions and can be fished off floating, intermediate and sinking lines. In warmer months, late afternoon hatches of midges, damsel fly and mayflies are a regular occurrence; size 16-14 midge ball and Parachute Adams patterns are very effective during a “hatch”. Another very effective method is to drift a nymph pattern under a dry fly as a dry-dropper rig.

RIVERS

Thredbo, Eucumbene, Murrumbidgee, Gungarlin, Snowy and Swampy Plain Rivers plus many other smaller waterways.

TARGET SPECIES – Brown and rainbow trout.

SEASON – October long weekend to June long weekend with the Thredbo and Eucumbene rivers having special rules from 1 May to the June long weekend.

TECHNIQUES – Artificial lure and fly only for the Thredbo and Eucumbene rivers; bait fishing in others as well.

TACKLE – **Spin:** 2-3kg outfits, 2-3kg braid or mono. Small hard-body lures from 20mm-40mm in natural trout-like profiles, No.1 and No. 2 spinning blade lures and small wriggler and fish profile soft plastics are all very effective. Late season from May to close of season, weighted glo-bug and small black nymphs are very effective when drifted over gravel beds.

Fly: Four to six weight outfits, running 4X-5X tippet off 9-12 foot leaders. In the warmer months, size 14-12 Elk Hair caddis, Stimulators, Royal Wulffs and Klinkhammers are very effective flies. In the cooler months, size 14-12 weighted nymph patterns teamed with glo-bugs are very effective when Czech style or indicator fishing.

CREEKS & STREAMS

Mowambah (Moonbah), Perisher, Spencers, Diggers, Tantangara and Ogilvie Creeks.

TARGET SPECIES – Brown, rainbow and brook trout.

SEASON – October long weekend to June long weekend.

TECHNIQUES – Artificial lure and fly only for many alpine streams, however bait fishing is allowed in some. See Rules & Regs on page 11.

TACKLE: **Spin:** 1-3kg outfits, 1-2kg mono or fluorocarbon. Small floating hard-body lures in natural trout-like profiles and No.1 spinning blade lures are very effective in the larger pools.

Fly: 2-4 weight outfits, running 5X tippet off 9 foot leaders. Early in the season size 16-14 Parachute Adams dry flies and weighted nymph patterns in size 16-14 work very well. As the season warms up, larger dry flies like grasshopper patterns sizes in 12-10 and Royal Humpies in sizes 14-12 are excellent off the surface.



RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND ANGLERS

The NSW Snowy Mountains is one of Australia's most pristine environments. As recreational fishers it is our duty to be stewards of the waterways and the environments they encompass. Always carry out ALL rubbish taken into these beautiful environments. And always utilise designated fire pits in the National Park when camping.

Respecting other anglers is everyone's responsibility. Unlike some other sportfish, trout are very wary creatures and require anglers to approach their habitat with care and stealth. If you see an angler already fishing a stretch of water provide him or her with plenty of room to enjoy the fishery.

RULES & REGS

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A GUIDE WHEN TROUT FISHING IN THE SNOWIES REGION

When you are fishing in NSW waters, you are required by law to carry a receipt showing the payment of the NSW Recreational Fishing fee. See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 369 365** for information.

LAKES AND IMPOUNDMENTS – Lakes and water storage impoundments are open to fishing year round. Anglers can use bait, fly and lure methods, with a maximum of 2 rods permitted per person. A daily bag limit of 5 fish (including 1 or more species of trout/salmon) applies; possession limit is 10. A legal minimum length of 25cm applies.

RIVERS AND STREAMS – A fishing season applies to all rivers and streams in the Snowy region. Anglers can fish flowing waters from the October long weekend until the June long weekend (fishing is prohibited from the June long weekend until the October long weekend to allow trout to spawn). Trout streams are divided into three classifications: general, fly and lure, and trout spawning streams. Bait, fly and lure methods are permitted in general trout streams, with a daily bag limit of 5 fish and 10 in possession. Bait is prohibited in fly and lure only waters and trout spawning streams where a bag limit of 2 (4 in possession) applies.

The minimum legal size of 25cm applies to all trout waters except trout spawning streams between 1 May until the June long weekend where a minimum size of 50cm (bag limit 1; 2 in possession) applies.

Trout releasing and stocking



Trout fry and fingerlings produced by NSW DPI-Fisheries are stocked into public waterways with the help of angling club members and acclimatisation societies. This stocking enhances recreational freshwater fishing opportunities and boosts regional economies.

Trout fishing is a major recreational fishing and inland tourism industry in NSW. The New England and Snowy regions are renowned for premier freshwater sport fishing.

THEN AND NOW ...

In the 1940s angling clubs took responsibility for releasing fry, collecting the tiny fish in milk cans from country railway stations. Access to water was often difficult and usually by packhorse or on foot.

Today, oxygenated containers, four-wheel drives and specially equipped transport trucks make the transport of young fish to release sites somewhat easier.

