



10544 W. Pico Boulevard, West Los Angeles, CA 90064-2320

Tel: (800) 528-6129 / (310) 202-3900; Fax (310) 202-3907; E-mail: info@bestofnz.net

Website: <http://www.bestofnzflyfishing.com>

TACKLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Fly Rods

New Zealand's rivers, streams and spring creeks are best fished with 8 1/2 or 9 foot graphite fly rods designed to cast a 5 or 6 weight forward fly line. Travel rods that can be packed in your duffel bag are highly recommended. 7 weight rods are often a help in windy conditions and when larger, weighted flies are required, as well as on larger rivers (where longer casts are necessary to cover the water effectively). NOTE: All of the lodges and most of the fishing guides are equipped with good quality rods and reels available for their guests' use.

Fly Reels

New Zealand's fish are large, on average, and a top quality, single action fly reel with a reliable drag system and capacity for a full line and minimum 75 yards of backing will help ensure success.

Fly Lines

Most experienced New Zealand anglers feel that the only line necessary is a floating line for all river situations, though a sinking tip line may be occasionally useful. The contemporary floating fly line preferred by anglers in New Zealand is the Scientific Anglers Mastery fly line in Slate Gray or Camo.



Scientific Anglers GPX WF Fly Line – Camo

The ultimate all-purpose line – with Dry Tip Technology for the ultimate floating fly line experience. Made half-size heavier to better load fast-action graphite rods and deliver terrestrials, nymphs and other bigger, heavier trout flies. Welded Streamlined Loop – slick and strong – for easy connections and seamless fishing.

Hat

Take a broad brimmed, dull colored hat- preferably one of ours! If you do catch a fish with a BNZFF hat on, be sure to take a photo and send our way – you might be our next 'Hat of the Week' on Facebook.

Polarized Sun Glasses

New Zealand fly fishing is a very visual experience. Spotting the fish is part of the excitement and part of the challenge. It is also a critical element in the formula for success, in most situations, and good polarized lenses are essential. If you wear prescription glasses, order a pair from your optometrist, Action Optics or Specialized Sunglasses. If you don't wear sunglasses, invest in a top quality pair of sunglasses; they will increase your pleasure and improve your results



Sun Gloves

A lightweight pair of sun gloves (Simms, Glacier Glove, Wind River, Cabelas, etc.) is recommended as protection from both the sun and sand flies. They also grip the fish for that special "catch & release" photo.

Simms solarfex sun gloves are perfect for protecting your hands from the sun, wind and insects. Light and dry very easy.

Clothing

New Zealand trout are big and smart. There are no natural predators, other than a few fish ducks, so their only predators are human. Anglers that wear olive and camouflage spectrum colors will be far less likely to be seen than those with bright or light colored garments. This includes rain gear!

Rainwear

Much of New Zealand is a veritable rain forest. It doesn't get particularly cold, but it can, and does, get wet. A top quality, lightweight, hooded rain jacket is mandatory.

Indicators

New Zealand guides are well versed in the use of indicator nymphing. The two most common and popular indicators are white or bright colored. We suggest the highly visible "Striker" material or a red shade of Glo Bug Yarn; either should be trimmed quite small and occasionally dressed.



Ultimate New Zealand Wool

- Wool yarn floats high
- Wool yarn lands gently
- Wool yarn casts like a dry fly
- Wool yarn shows strikes – Most sensitive!
- Stealthy White, Black, Super Bright Florescent Green, Very Hi-Vis Orange, & Mixed
- Trim to desired length

Floatant

A good floatant is a must. Effective dry flies and nymph indicators must float high and visible.



Umpqua Shimazake Dry Shake (Powder)

Leaders and Tippet

Long leaders are the standard in New Zealand fly fishing. Dry fly leaders are usually 12, 14 and even 16 feet long, tapering to 4x or 5x. Nymph leaders are equally long and often as light. The Umpqua Spring Creek Tapers in 13 foot lengths, tapered to 4x, 5x and 6x, are preferred by many experienced New Zealand fly fishermen with matching tippet spools in 3x, 4x, 5x and 6x.

Day Pack

A small backpack or tackle bag is handy to have along in the helicopter, boat or guide vehicle each day to carry such items as extra glasses, medication, aspirin, snacks, camera equipment and film, rain jacket and dry socks.

Insect Repellent

Be sure to take a good insect Repellent.



Features of the 3M Ultrathon Insect Repellent – Lotion:

- Time Release Protection means DEET is slower to evaporate and provides protection after others have dissipated.
- Ultrathon's unique technology gives the user a balanced mix between concentration of DEET and long lasting protection.

Size: 2 oz (59 ml) tube

Felt Soled Wading Boots Banned in New Zealand



To slow the spread of the invasive alga didymo and other aquatic pests in New Zealand waterways, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand requires all used freshwater fishing equipment brought into New Zealand to be clean and dry.

As of October 01, 2008, felt-soled waders and boots are banned from use by anglers in New Zealand.

Recent research has revealed these items pose a particularly high risk of spreading didymo as they are likely to come into direct physical contact with didymo cells (e.g., stepping on or brushing against algal mats). The thick, absorbent and slow-drying nature of the material also encourages cell survival, increasing the risk of didymo spread between waterways.

To replace the felt soled boots we recommend the following rubber-soled footwear wading boots:

- Simms L2 Aqua Stealth Wading Boot (both with and without studs)
- Patagonia Riverwalker Sticky (non-felt soles)
- Orvis Abyss Wading Shoe

New Zealand has some of the most pristine rivers and lakes in the world. To help keep it that way, freshwater users must **'Check, Clean, Dry'** aquatic equipment between use in different waterways - regardless of location and perceived didymo risk. Instead of wading wet we are finding clients opting for the SIMMS Gore-Tex lightweight breathable waders. **Take your own waders along but be aware that biosecurity staff will inspect them at the airport and may disinfect them on the spot, so it's best to pack these where they can be easily accessed from your luggage.**

Fishing in the Fiordland National Park

A Clean Gear Certificate is required for those travelling into the Fiordland Wilderness, on multi-day trips or by helicopter. The Department of Conservation and Outside Sports are authorized cleaning stations and will charge NZ\$5.00 for the cleaning of gear (waders, boots, rods, reels, etc.) and issuing of the Certificate.

NOTE: If you are fishing with Dean Bell/Blue Ribbon Wilderness Guides, Dean is also authorized to issue a Clean Gear Certificate.

NOTE: Fly fishing in New Zealand requires delicate and accurate casting with leaders up to 15, and sometimes 18, feet. The ability to cast a long line is rarely necessary, whereas the ability not to slap the water with false casts may make the difference in catching the large, easily spooked fish of New Zealand. The most important thing to do before leaving on your trip is to practice - practice - practice your casting.



NEW Non-Resident Fishing License

Overseas visitors planning more than a brief fishing trip must buy a Non-Resident License (NRL). A non-resident is defined as a person who is neither a New Zealand citizen nor a permanent resident.

Non-resident anglers are no longer eligible for standard Adult, Family Whole Season, or Winter Season Licenses. However, non-residents who want to experience a short fishing excursion, can still purchase a 24 Hour License.

A NRL entitles an Adult (18 years and over on 1 October) to fish anywhere in New Zealand (except the Taupo Fishery administered by the Department of Conservation). Junior and Child anglers are excluded from NRL requirements. The NRL is valid for a full fishing season. After an NRL has been purchased the holder can apply for a Backcountry License and Controlled Fishery License at no additional cost. Non-Resident Licenses can be purchased online (<http://www.fishandgame.org.nz/buy-your-licence-now>) or in person at a hunting or fishing store that sells licenses.

Any angler found fishing with the "wrong" licence is liable to be prosecuted as though they have no fishing licence. The maximum penalty for this offence is \$5,000.

Dry Fly Selection

Taking tied flies into New Zealand is not a problem. But taking non-synthetic fly tying materials, such as skins or necks, can cause an arrival delay as you sort it out with Biosecurity in Customs to determine if it should be fumigated or held for your departure.

With a few seasonal exceptions, like the larger cicadas (sizes 6 to 10), the green beetles of summer (size 12) or willow grubs (sizes 18-20), the most consistent summer hatches are mayflies and caddis in (sizes 10 to 16). So basic patterns like an Adams or CDC Caddis in different sizes are both excellent. Add some little black foam terrestrials with rubber legs and you will be pretty well covered for most situations and 4X and 5X tippet will serve you well.

New Zealand trout are much more concerned with surface fly presentation than with exact imitation. The guides will provide their favorite flies –but if you want to take a selection of a few dozen that will be adequate. The most popular and effective include:



The Cicada trout fly is a great summer-time dry. There are many versions of it but it is a most effective fly to use when the cicadas are around (often the bush is filled with the noise of the cicadas indicating this is the time to use these flies). Sizes 8 - 10 - 12.



A beetle trout fly is a heavily tied pattern that represents either the Green Beetle (Manuka beetle) or the Brown Beetle which represents the grass grub beetle. Both are very effective early in the summer months



The Royal Wulff trout fly is an excellent general pattern for New Zealand conditions. A highly visible fly which works well in all sizes. Sizes 12, 14, 16



The Humpy trout fly comes in a range of patterns and colours: green, peacock, red and yellow. It is a useful indicator fly in the larger sizes. Sizes 12, 14, 16



The Parachute Adams is very popular as it floats in the film and is representative of a mayfly either laying eggs or emerging as an adult. Sizes 14, 16

Nymph Selection

Nymphs in New Zealand are usually very heavily weighted and often fished with an indicator.



The Pheasant Tail trout fly is one of the most popular nymphs for New Zealand waters. It is an important representation of a mayfly nymph, one of the most important foods for trout. Sizes 12, 14, 16



The Hare and Copper trout fly is New Zealand's best-known nymph and probably the most popular. It is a very simple fly pattern but is arguably the most productive fly in New Zealand. It certainly deserves a place in any anglers box. Sizes vary from around a 10 and go down to an 18 though a 14 size is probably the most popular.



Caddis (yellow, brown, green)
Size 10



Willow Grub—Late summer/Autumn
A popular fly to fish on a dropper with a dry fly



The Olive and Copper Tungsten trout fly is basically a heavily weighted Hare and Copper. Sizes 10, 12, 14, 16