

Upper Manorburn Dam



Otago Region

Upper Manorburn Dam

History

Set in the hills at the southern end of the Ida Valley is the Upper Manorburn Dam. This irrigation storage reservoir of 700 ha has a shoreline of 14 km, so there is room for a lot of anglers. It was completed in 1914 and is administered by the Ida Valley Irrigation Company. The first brown trout were released into the coffer dam behind the main structure in 1913. Today it has evolved as a rainbow fishery, the first of these being released in 1917. The last brown was caught in 1948 by Bill Leask and weighed 4 kg (9lb). This water opens on the 1 November each season and closes on the 31 May. There is a boat launching site at the dam wall. Also an area on a gravel beach half a kilometre up from the wall is often used in southerly winds. This dam is in two sections. The lower basin is deep water with some shallow areas in



McGoverns Bay. This continues through the Narrows to the Greenland reservoir that is quite shallow.

Getting There

There is only one access point to this water, at the end of the Moa Creek road that leaves the Ida Valley road at the Poolburn Hotel.

After leaving the tarseal you enter a gate that has the Upper Manorburn sign on the left.

This is a gravel road with several gates on it and it takes you to the dam wall.

Unfortunately the last section of road on the

left leading to the dam is not gravelled and is in very poor condition. The road to the right that takes you across the Manorburn Creek travels past most of the lake and this road is

on private land. Permission is required on this section of road. Please drive carefully from where you enter the first gate as stock will be on the road. Boating is the best method to reach the Greenland reservoir.

If boating, caution is necessary at the start of the Narrows as there are some rocks submerged on your left.





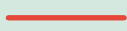

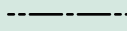

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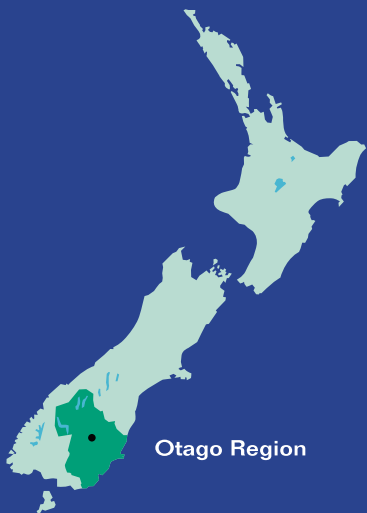
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KEY:

-  BOAT RAMP
-  HUT
-  MAIN ACCESS ROAD
-  PRIVATE ROAD
-  FENCELINE
-  CREEK



Methods

All methods can be used with the most successful being the worm early in the season. When worm fishing, fish close to the rocky areas. Rainbows do not go into the sharp shallow bays until summer. Trolling is good throughout the season and anglers should use copper zed spinners on a top line (nylon) and Blood Red Tillins on a lead line to start with. Anglers use about two colours out on the lead lines with a nylon trace of ten metres in the lower basin, but it is too shallow in the top basin for lead lines. Use about 80 metres of nylon on your top line. Other lures used are Tasmanian Devils patterned in Traffic Light, Luminous Pink and Red Nosed Silver.



Use Jensen Insects and Rapalas in most colours with red on them. Also Tobys in most colours, but with red tails. Spin anglers should use the same lures but include some red and gold Veltics and black Tylos. fly fishing is also very popular with feathered lures early in the season such as Mrs Simpson's Red or Yellow, Red Setter, Killwell No 1, Woolly Buggers in green, brown or black. Once the weed starts to grow use damsel fly nymphs and water-boatman. The best dry flies are Royal Wulff, Humpys and Black Gnat. In February every year there is also a good cicada hatch and midge is also common when the water heats UP in the summer .



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