

# Lake St. Clair, St. Clair Lagoon and Lake King William

## Anglers Access

REGION: CENTRAL



### Lake St Clair & St Clair Lagoon Angling Regulations

To fish in any open public inland water in Tasmania you must hold a current Inland Angling Licence unless you are under 14 years of age. A summary of the regulations are contained within the Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishing Code.

Species	Minimum size	Bag limit
Brown trout, Rainbow trout	220 mm	12*

\* Total daily bag limit: 12 fish for all species combined.

Method	Season
Fly fishing Artificial lures	From the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest the 30th April.

### Lake King William Angling Regulations

Species	Minimum size	Bag limit
Brown trout, Rainbow trout	220 mm	20*

\* Total daily bag limit: 20 fish for all species combined.

**Please note:** The Western Shore of Lake King William from Long Bay to Guelph River is within the Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. To protect the unique native fauna and flora these areas are restricted to the use of artificial lures and fly-fishing only. This applies only to shore based anglers.

Method	Season
Fly fishing Artificial lures Bait fishing	Open all year round.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

17 Back River Road,  
New Norfolk, 7140  
Ph: 1300 INFISH  
[www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)



Phil Ellerton



Inland Fisheries Service

### Getting There

Lake St. Clair can be reached from Hobart on the Lyell Hwy A10 via Derwent Bridge in around 2.5 hours. Lake King William at Butlers Gorge can be reached from Hobart on the A10 in approximately 2 hours.

### Background

#### Lake St Clair and St. Clair Lagoon

Lake St. Clair is a long narrow natural lake and is the deepest glacial lake in Australia with a maximum depth of 174m. The lake is situated within the Cradle Mountain, Lake St. Clair National Park, part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and is noted for its crystal clear water and unparalleled scenic beauty. St Clair Lagoon is situated at the southeastern end of the main lake and is separated by a small weir. The lagoon is a shallow weedy storage that has a dam and control gate to regulate its outflow.

Lake St. Clair is the source of the River Derwent that flows into the sea at Hobart. Whilst it is well known for being the finishing point for the Overland Track, The lake and lagoon are popular recreational fisheries.

Sheer dolerite cliffs rise up steeply from the 200 metre deep waters and the lake is surrounded by forest, providing stunning scenery. Fishing and boating are allowed on the lake and a Visitors Centre nearby at Cynthia Bay provides information on the lake's geology, history and wildlife. The visitor centre also houses a restaurant, shop, fishing and Visitor Information Centre. The restaurant looks over the lake - dining with a world heritage view. There are alpine lodges, a backpacker lodge, camping facilities and powered sites - the full range of accommodation options.

Be warned that the weather can change from clear blue skies to rain and cold conditions very quickly. It is best to wear layers of clothing and bring wet-weather protection.

Lake St Clair and St. Clair Lagoon are within the Cradle Mountain, Lake St. Clair National Park. To protect the unique flora and fauna these waters are reserved for artificial lures and flies only, bait fishing is not permitted within National Parks.

Park fees apply and a National Park Pass is to be displayed on vehicles and boats. Park Passes are available from the visitor's centre at Cynthia Bay.

#### Lake King William

Hydro Tasmania created Lake King William in 1950 with the construction of the 70m high Clark Dam across the Derwent River. In the late 1960's a further 6 metres was added to the dam wall, increasing the storage capacity of the lake. The lake is heavily drawn upon for electricity generation and undergoes large fluctuations in water level throughout the year. Brown trout were present in the system before completion of the dam but 100,000 yearling rainbow trout were introduced upon filling of the lake. Subsequent stockings of rainbow trout continued through the early 1950's but despite these stockings it is brown trout that dominate angler's catches. The many creeks and rivers that flow into Lake King William provide limitless spawning opportunities which has resulted in a large population of small trout.

The Western Shore of Lake King William from Long Bay to Guelph River is within the Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. To protect the unique native fauna and flora these areas are restricted to the use of artificial lures and fly-fishing only. This applies only to shore based anglers.

### Recreational Fishery Management

Lake St Clair, St. Clair Lagoon and Lake King William are managed as Premium Wild Trout Fisheries. Angling regulations and seasons are specific for each water. Anglers should ensure that they are familiar with and observe these regulations which can be found in the Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishing Code.

### Angling Notes

#### Lake St Clair and St Clair Lagoon

Fishing for both brown and rainbow trout is popular in the southern end of Lake St Clair. Spinning and trolling account for reasonable catches particularly during rough or overcast days. The clear water gives fly fishers the opportunity to polaroid fish around the lake margins. Good hatches of mayfly occur in the summer months providing good dry fly fishing. The best fly-fishing however, occurs at St Clair Lagoon with all facets of the sport available at different times, depending on the time in the season and water levels.

#### Lake King William

Trolling is a reliable way to catch large bags of predominantly brown trout at Lake King William, with spinning and baitfishing also very productive at times. The best areas for fishing are in the northern end of the lake and the Guelph basin. Fly-fishing can also be very productive with dry fly activity, particularly on evening in the north west corner of the lake and the Guelph basin. The water is clear enough to polaroid, which can be productive on some of the steeper shores. Loch style fly fishing with two or three wet or dry flies is a successful method.

### Code of Conduct

- Be aware of and comply with fishing regulations.
- Respect the rights of other anglers and users.
- Protect the environment.
- Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water.
- Fish species and other organisms must not be relocated or transferred into other water bodies.