

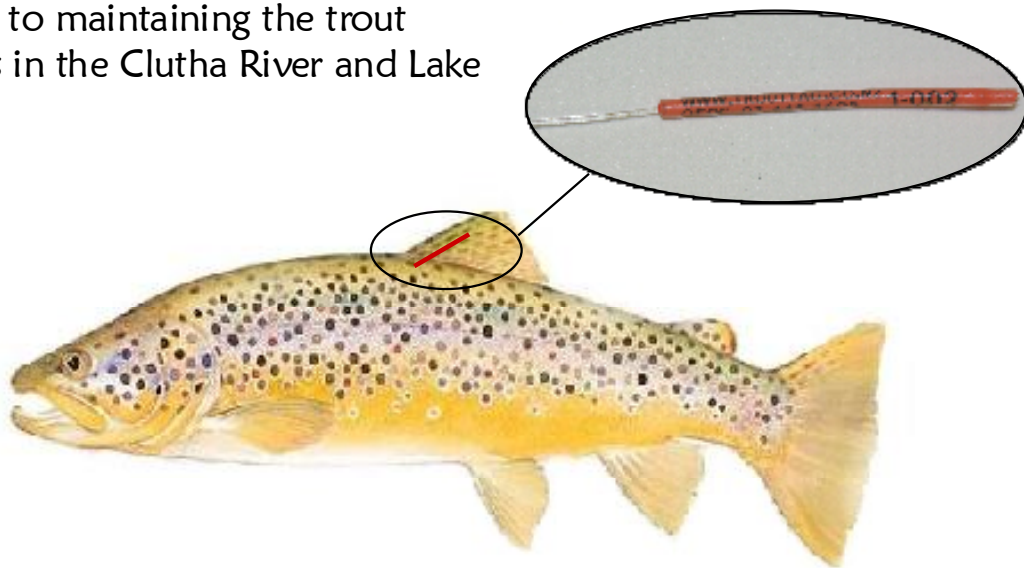


Attention Anglers



Tagged Trout in the upper Clutha system

Trout migrating up the Lindis River to spawn have been tagged with a T-Bar tag (see image) as part of an Otago Fish & Game/Clutha Fisheries Trust research programme to identify the importance of the Lindis River to maintaining the trout populations in the Clutha River and Lake Dunstan.



If you catch a tagged trout please record the following information:

1. The location and date of capture.
2. The tag number and colour.
3. If possible, please also record the length and weight of the fish

Note: Do not remove tag if releasing the fish.

To forward details please contact:

Otago Fish & Game

03 445 4418

or

r.gabrielsson@fish-game.org.nz

Play a part in the future management of your angling resource.

TRAPPING PROGRAMME – LINDIS RIVER 2011

Fish & Game, with the support of the Clutha Fisheries Trust, are investigating the importance of the Lindis River to maintaining the fish populations in the Clutha River and Lake Dunstan fisheries. During the 2011 winter a trap was operated on the lower Lindis River to monitor trout migration in and out of the Lindis River.

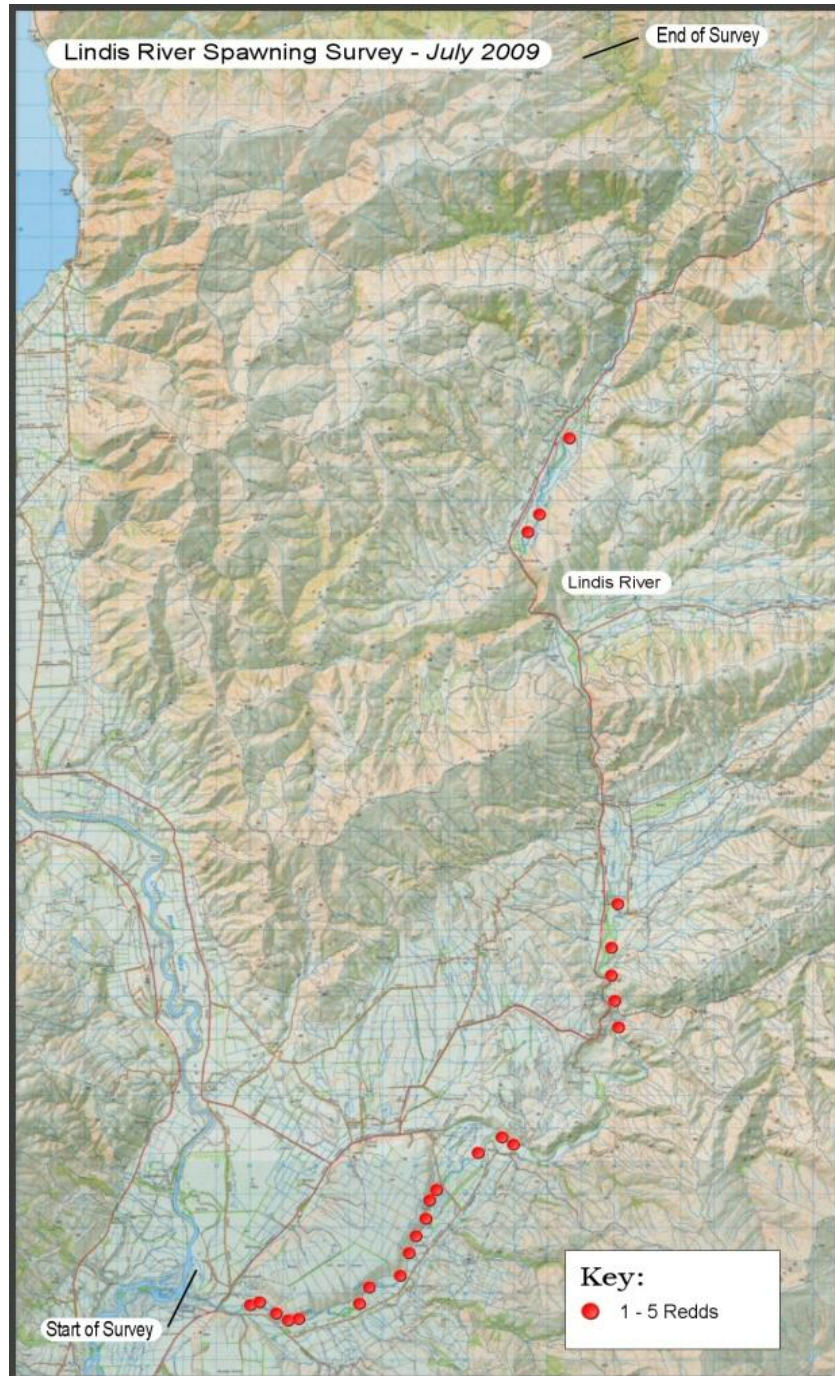


Trout passing the trap were measured and weighed before being tagged with an individual T-Bar tag, colour coded to the time they passed the trap. This enables fishery managers to track movement patterns over the next few seasons.



An important aspect of the project is angler returns. We are very keen to hear from anyone that has caught or observed a tagged fish in the Upper Clutha area.

To date fisheries monitoring has revealed that the Lindis River is an important spawning and nursery stream for the Clutha River and Lake Dunstan trout populations. It is estimated that on average as much as 30% of Lake Dunstan Brown trout use the Lindis River as their spawning grounds. Surveys have revealed that they spend 1-2 months in the river over winter and use the main stem and side tributaries along the first 50 km's up the river to spawn (see figure). Above this point the fishery is mainly made up of resident fish although some rainbow trout may push further upstream during their spawning run in late spring.



Compared to recruitment from the Clutha River mainstem, the Lindis offers protection from large scale flooding and regular flow changes resulting from hydroelectric generation. Hence Fish & Game are advocating for the importance of flow connectivity between the Lindis and Clutha River during late summer when irrigation takes often mean river flows are very low and sometimes nonexistent. Good flow connectivity is particularly important for young trout when they migrate downstream and if flows are to low mortality rates will climb.



Fish and Game is presently negotiating minimum flows that protect the ecology of the stream and recreational values, whilst recognising the economic values to the community and wider region.