

FISHING

RICH MARINE AND FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEM SUPPORTS A RANGE OF RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

In the year ended March 2006, the fishing industry employed 97 fulltime employees with regional sales of \$48 million and exporting produce worth \$17.5 million.

- Three main fishing ports: Greymouth is home port for 35 vessels and lands 8,000 tonnes per year. Westport is home to 10 vessels and lands 2,500 tonnes per year. Jackson Bay has a smaller home fleet, focusing on rock lobster.
- Up to 100 inshore fishing boats come to catch migrating species (tuna) for export from January to April
- Commercial species include flatfish (sole, turbot, flounder), red gurnard, red cod, tarakihi, blue warehou, giant stargazer, ling, orange roughy, barracouta, blue fin tuna and albacore tuna
- Since 1986 a Quota Management System has controlled catches
- Scientific surveys by NIWA have shown that Tasman and Golden Bays act as juvenile or nursery grounds for many species while the Hokitika Canyon is a spawning ground for hoki
- Whitebait season 1 September – 14 November, administered by Department of Conservation.
- Growing charter game fishing fleet operates from Greymouth in Tuna season
- Many fishing guides centred around trout fisheries

Greymouth is home to a fishing fleet that expands considerably in season to catch migrating species such as hoki, orange roughy and tuna, the majority of which is exported.

Talley's Fisheries Ltd in Westport employs 50 permanent staff which increases to about 200 during peak periods. **Westfleet Seafoods** fish processing plant in Greymouth employs up to 25 permanent staff. Ocean Harvest International operates a fish meal plant in Haupiri.

The **Westport Deep Sea Fishing School** was established in 1993 to provide industry training and qualifications. The National Certificate in Sea Processing was developed in 2006.



There has been a recent increase in the number of companies offering fishing combined with an element of adventure and a guarantee of spectacular scenery, attracting considerable international attention. Fishing enthusiasts can helicopter to their stream, stalk, spin or fly fish on lakes and rivers, be taken to a quiet alpine pool or go off shore.

www.doc.govt
(>activities>fishing>whitebait regulations)

West Coast Fish and Game Council
Airport Drive, Hokitika, PO Box 179
Ph +64 3 755 8546
fish&game@minidata.co.nz

Westport Deep Sea Fishing School
www.deepsea.co.nz

Development West Coast is working with the fishing industry to explore opportunities that will arise following the redevelopment of the Port of Greymouth.