

## THE PART REPORT ON NEW ZEALAND

(The report below is written by John Part. For the past 15 years, John has been a twice-a-year visitor to New Zealand. He is an outstanding trout angler who has a passion for stalking brown trout in NZ. John has achieved a degree of notoriety by releasing over 60 browns that weighed in excess of ten pounds from his NZ adventures)

This was probably one of my more successful trips to fish the Northern part of New Zealand's South Island. Eleven days' fishing for 91 brown trout. The biggest was just over 10 pounds, but in truth rather a ratty specimen that would have gone easily 14 or 15 pounds in his pomp. There were another 7 over 8 pounds.

But what sets this fishery and my guide apart among even the best brown trout fishing is the consistency of opportunity in the face of poor weather and water conditions. This October the weather see-sawed. There were day after day of grey skies and cold southerly winds, and one night of torrential rain that turned most rivers unfishable, but curiously left untouched others in neighbouring valleys. Only one day of bright warm sun when we had our best day's sport, on a local river with 20 fish, two over 6 pounds, and three over five.

In this part of New Zealand a good guide is the key to great sport. I reckon that at least half of my fishing fun is due to Scott's work before we even leave his lodge. There are early morning calls to other guides, consideration of water flow information and wind direction. These are the obvious components to the alchemy of deciding where to go each day. Luckily I learned years ago to cast a fly into a stiffish breeze. Scott has over the years improved my technique, though I still cause him moments of near despair. This gives us free rein over otherwise promising water that other guides avoid. I leave the lodge each day confident of his choice of river and beat.

On the water, Scott sets me to searching the most promising parts of likely runs. Often he'll spot a fish as he takes the opportunity to study the water. At my age I have no taste for walking miles to fish only for the trout that can readily be spotted - 'sprint spotters' as he calls those guides who cover long stretches of river. By all accounts Scott and I take more fish. Some days nearly all we catch are fish he spots first. On other days, most of our tally are fish he sees only after they are hooked. But he constantly points me to the likeliest lies.

We even had great dry fly fishing, a rarity in October. Fun, but for me not important as I love nymph fishing. After all, most fish, and particularly the bigger boys, get their bellies filled with nymphs. One day of dour light Scott had me wading up a hundred yard stretch under some overhanging trees. He found seven nice fish lying near the bank, feeding well. We got six of them and I stuffed up the seventh. My only job was to stop them running upstream to alert the others. That stretch looked much like a dozen others, but it was special. Scotty used to find fish there when he was a kid!

So I'm already looking forward to my return. Simple advice to anyone fishing those parts of New Zealand. Get the best guide, and put you trust in him - or her.

Note: the particular NZ guide referenced in the Part Report was the subject of a newsletter article about fishing in "blown out" conditions in our special [New Zealand - Ningaloo Reef Report](#) earlier this year. While the top guides in NZ can find water to fish in almost any conditions, the article in this report details a dramatic example of this guide having productive days under terrible conditions.