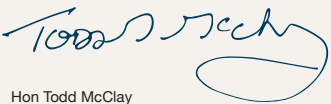


Access Charter for Recreational Hunting and Fishing on Public Conservation Land and Waters

Purpose

This charter outlines the principles and commitments to ensure that recreational hunting and fishing on public conservation land and waters is recognised and safeguarded for current and future generations. It balances the rights and responsibilities of recreational users with the imperative to conserve New Zealand's natural heritage.



Hon Todd McClay
Minister for Hunting and Fishing

1. Guiding principles

- **Public right of access:**
The public has a right to access public conservation land and waters, including for recreational hunting and fishing. We will guarantee this access, and where there needs to be restrictions that limit access, we will clearly explain why. Recreational hunting and fishing access will be underpinned by a fair system that ensures equitable opportunities for all New Zealanders.
- **Uniform standards and procedures:**
A common and consistent approach to access for hunting and fishing should occur across all regions. This will ensure fairness, transparency and predictability, facilitating compliance and fostering trust among users.
- **Safety and responsibility:**
Safety must always come first. You must understand and follow all rules and regulations, including firearm and fishing rules, and general safety guidelines.
- **Cultural respect:**
Public conservation land often holds cultural and historical significance for all New Zealanders. The charter respects and encourages you to honour the values and customs of local iwi and hapū.
- **Balancing recreation with conservation:**
We will allow hunting and fishing activities in areas that support or do not adversely affect conservation efforts.

2. Our commitments

- **Clear access information:**
The Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fish & Game New Zealand will provide clear, up-to-date information on where recreational hunting and fishing is allowed, including maps, seasonal restrictions and closures through relevant websites and DOC visitor centres, and will mark access routes and maintain signage at access sites.
- **Permitting and balloting system:**
Hunting and fishing require appropriate permits and licences. We will ensure that the permit system is user-friendly and consistent across New Zealand. The system will include clear and accessible conditions for access, including provisions for 4x4 vehicles, horses and the use of dogs. This approach aims to streamline the process, making it easier for users to comply.
- **Safety support:**
We will offer resources and real-time alerts about conditions affecting safety, such as asset closures and weather. When informed that recreational hunting and fishing activities are not occurring safely, we will investigate.
- **User-focused approach:**
You will receive effective, uniform and supportive assistance in accessing recreational hunting and fishing opportunities.
- **Maintaining access:**
DOC and Fish & Game New Zealand will work with Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa/the Outdoor Access Commission to maintain access routes to public conservation land for recreational hunting and fishing activities while respecting private property rights.

3. Your responsibilities

- **Permits and licensing:**
If you wish to hunt or fish on public conservation land, you must hold the appropriate permits and licences. This ensures that the activities are regulated and supports conservation efforts.
 - **Hunting permits:** Required for all hunting activities; available through the DOC website.
 - **Fishing licences:** Fishing for trout, salmon and other species requires a licence from Fish & Game New Zealand.
- **Compliance with regulations:**
You must follow all rules, including seasonal closures, size and bag limits, species protection, and firearm use. Only drive in areas where it is explicitly allowed. Always keep your dog under control as you are legally responsible if your dog causes harm or disturbance to wildlife.
- **Environmental protection:**
You must minimise environmental impact by:
 - respecting catch limits and size restrictions
 - disposing of waste properly
 - avoiding disturbance to wildlife and protected areas
 - prohibiting lead shot in designated areas to protect bird species.
- **Reporting concerns:**
You are encouraged to tell us about sightings of endangered species, illegal activities or environmental hazards to help us with conservation efforts.
- **Respect for others:**
Respect the safety and rights of other users, such as trampers and campers, while you are undertaking hunting and fishing activities.
- **Outdoor Access Code:**
You must follow the Outdoor Access Code, which promotes responsible and respectful access while considering the environment and others' safety.

Contact information

For permits, maps, regulations, and further details on hunting and fishing on public conservation land, contact:

- **Department of Conservation**
Phone: 0800 362 468
Visit: www.doc.govt.nz
- **Fish & Game New Zealand**
Phone: 0800 434 732
Visit: www.fishandgame.org.nz