

LET'S GO CATCH A

Murray Cod



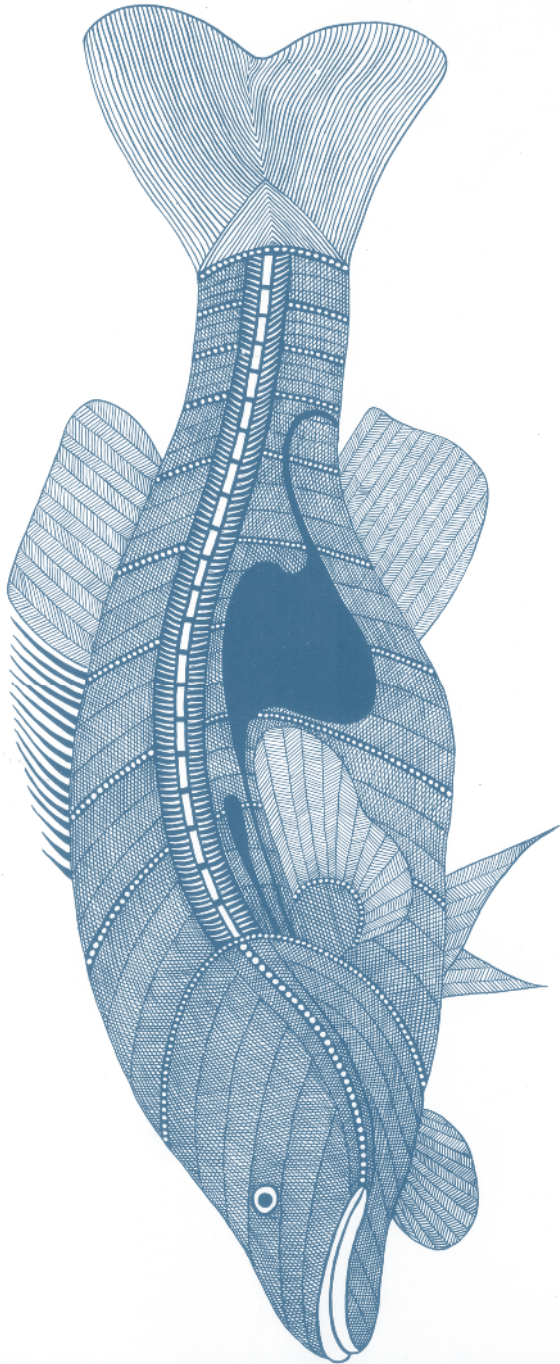
IN VICTORIAN WATERS

ACTIVITY BOOKLET



Burnanga

Yorta yorta name for Murray cod



Fill in the gaps

M _____ C _____ are native to _____.

They are Australia's _____ freshwater fish.

They are an _____ species in the Murray Darling Basin.

They are _____.

Nowadays the oldest known cod is around _____ years old.

They can grow to _____ meters in length.

They prefer deep holes and _____ that have a lot of cover such as rocks, snags, fallen trees or undercut banks.

They are _____ predators, waiting quietly for their food to come close to them before they rush out and catch it.

They feed on _____ and _____ and have been known to swallow whole soft drink cans and ducks.

They breed in spring when water _____ range from 16°C to 21°C, often migrating long distances _____.

Large females can lay up to _____, _____ eggs on hard surfaces such as logs, rock or clay banks. Males _____ the eggs till they hatch (5 -13 days later days).

Murray cod bred in the S _____ C _____ and A _____ H _____ are released into lakes to create recreational fisheries.

GAP WORDS: Australia; 1.8; largest; iconic; ambush; habitats; fish, frogs and crayfish; long-lived; temperatures; guard; 100,000; 48; Murray cod; Snobs Creek and Arcadia Hatcheries; upstream

Responsible Fishing

Code of Conduct

Put your broken gear in a Seal the Loop bin or take it home.

It hurts our native wildlife.



Fish with family and friends.

It is fun and safe!



Bin it or take it home!

Don't make our fish live in it.



Know and follow the rules.

Obey size and bag limits.



Return unwanted fish to the water unharmed.

Except for carp, which must not be returned alive.

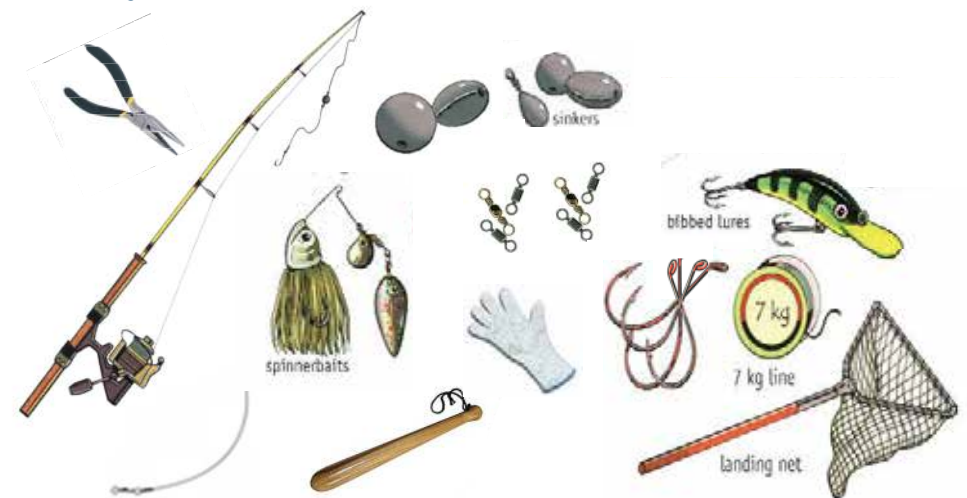


Illustrations by: Paul Lennon

The Basic Gear

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5...

1. fishing rod & reel & biodegradable fishing line (at least 7 kg capacity)
2. circle hooks, non-lead sinkers, swivels, a trace and maybe a lure of two.
3. knotless landing net, towel or gloves
4. hook remover or long nose pliers, a knife and a fishing priest (a fishing priest is a wooden or metal tool with a heavy blunt end that is used to hit the fish on the head to kill it quickly rather than letting it die slowly).
5. grab an esky/bucket, bait, ice and take some mates!



What Else?

6, 7, 8, 9, 10...

6. Get the Victorian
Recreational Fishing Guide or
App and fish rulers.



7. Read the rules about the fish you
could catch.



8. Do you or your mate need to buy a
fishing licence?



9. Be safe! Fish in good weather.



10. Have fun! Fish responsibly!



Preparing to go fishing

From a fishing platform or bank



Check the weather and water forecast *BEFORE* you go fishing



Make sure someone knows your plans—
where you are going and when you will be back



Always fish with a friend—never fish alone



Take your safety gear and keep it close by —
phone, first-aid kit, rope, esky/bucket



Always wear covered non-slip shoes and **SLIP, SLOP, SLAP & SLIDE** (shirt, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses)



Always **WATCH** the water

Fallen into the water?



THEN FLIP,

Flip over onto your back and float.

FLOAT,

Float to:

- Keep head above water.
- Calm yourself down from fear and panic; don't panic.
- Conserve your energy.

AND FOLLOW!

Follow the safest course to safety:

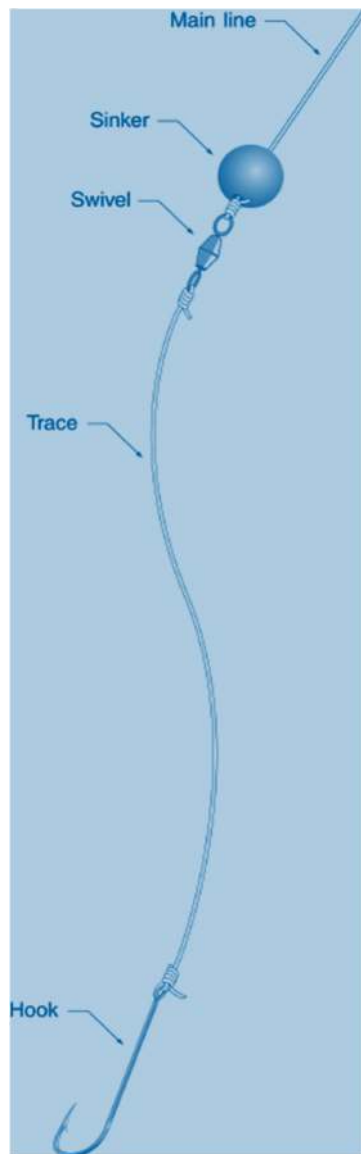
- 1 Do not fight the current.
- 2 Follow the current to assess which way it's flowing. Swim perpendicular to the flow.
- 3 Too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.

Rigging your gear

Hook, line and sinker

1. Thread a small sinker onto the main fishing line.
2. Tie a small swivel underneath the sinker.
3. Tie one end of the trace to the swivel.
4. Tie the other end of the trace to the hook.
5. Put some bait on the hook.

Need help with casting and knots?
Search online:
Victorian FAMILY fishing guide



Murray Cod Fishing Rules

Use the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide to find the answers :



A bag limit is : _____

A maximum legal size is : _____

A possession limit is : _____

A closed season is: _____



The bag limit for Murray cod is _____ in rivers
and _____ in urban lakes, specified lakes and
impoundments .

The possession limit for Murray cod is _____ or <_____kg.

The closed season for Murray cod is from _____
to _____ inclusive.

The closed season for Murray cod does not apply for water south of _____

Name 1 urban lake and 2 specified lakes and impoundments where you
can legally catch Murray Cod.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Retained whole or in Carcass form!

Means you can gut a fish (remove the gills and guts) on a bank, pier or in a boat,
but you CANNOT fillet a fish or have filleted fish on a bank, pier or in a boat.

Look at the pictures below. Circle which fish you can have on a bank, pier or boat.

Gutted fish



Whole fish



Filleted fish



Do Murray cod have to be retained in carcass form? _____

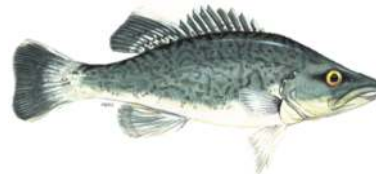
Trout cod A protected native species

Use the Victorian recreational fishing guide to find 3 differences
between Trout cod and Murray cod

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



MURRAY COD



Which Murray cod can you take home to eat? Tick the fish!



55 cm

Caught from the
Goulburn River in
September



55 cm

Caught from the
Goulburn River in
May



55 cm

Caught from
Lake Eildon in
September



55 cm

Caught from
Lake Eildon in
May



54 cm

Caught from the
Goulburn River in
May

Which Murray cod can you keep, if you have 3 fish at home in the freezer?
Circle the fish!



76 cm



54 cm



55 cm



55 cm



74 cm

RESPONSIBLE FISHERS

Respect unwanted fish

An unwanted fish is a fish that:

- **You are not allowed to keep**
(e.g. a protected species, an undersize or oversize fish, a fish that takes you over the bag limit, a fish caught in a closed season or in closed area)
- **You don't want to keep**

Responsible fishers:

- **Do not harm unwanted fish**
- **Return unwanted fish to the water immediately**

Which of the following are unwanted species? Circle the fish and give a reason!



Australian
Grayling



55 cm Murray cod
caught in the river in
November



29 cm
Golden perch



The 2nd Murray cod
55 cm caught in the
Goulburn River today

How do you treat fish you do not want to keep?

Look at the pictures. Circle the right way to release unwanted fish.



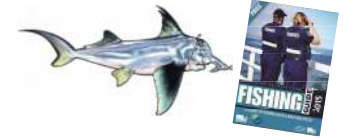
There is one exception to this rule!

Which fish are you never allowed to return to the water alive?



When I catch a fish.....

1. I use the recreational fishing guide to identify it



2.(a) If it is a carp, I kill it quickly

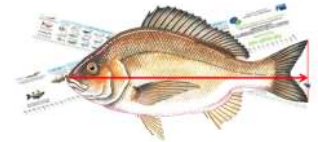
2.(b) If it is not a carp, I check
if I am allowed to keep it
If I'm not, I put it back quickly &
carefully.



3. I decide if I want it. If not I put it
back quickly & carefully.



4. I make sure it is a legal size
I handle it carefully and
measure it



5. If it is too big or too small
I put it back quickly &
carefully.



6. If I already have my bag limit
I put it back quickly & carefully.



7. If I am going to keep it
I kill it quickly with a fishing priest and put
it in ice.



My Murray Cod Fishing Record

Fishing Trip # ____.

Where I went fishing:

When I went fishing:

Who I went fishing with:

What I caught:

What I did with the Murray cod I caught:

Other fish I caught:

What gear and bait did I use:

Good things I learned fishing today:

Bad fishing behaviour I saw fishing today:

This behaviour was bad because:

Did I call 13FISH to report this behaviour?



My Fishing Memories

Murray cod

A large empty rectangular box with a double blue border, intended for drawing or writing fishing memories.

Report illegal fishing

Call 13 FISH (13 34 74)

If you suspect someone is breaking our fishing rules, move well away from them, then please phone and report:

- **What you see**
- **The number of people involved**
- **What the people are doing**
- **The fishing gear being used**
- **The registrations of cars or boats being used, if possible**
- **When and where it is happening.**

This information helps us to plan our response and protect our fish stocks

