

*Get outside,*  
**GO FISHING**

**FAMILY FISHING LAKES**



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## DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than **30,000** known species of fish. And over **5,000** of those are in Australia.



# GO FISHING

**Fishing is a fun and healthy activity available to everyone.**

This beginners booklet will help people find safe fishing spots at freshwater lakes. It will explain:

- the basic fisheries rules
- the role of Fisheries Officers
- tips for fishing safely
- how to rig your fishing rod
- how to handle fish
- what to do with unwanted fish
- how to keep your catch fresh and safe to eat
- the best places, times and bait to catch a variety of fish.

# WHY GO FISHING?

Fishing can be fun in so many ways.

It is a good way to:

- spend time with family and friends
- have some time away from your electronic devices
- enjoy the natural world. You never know what you will see
- help keep your mind and body healthy
- experience the thrill of catching your own dinner
- learn patience while you wait to catch a fish.

Fishing also helps children to learn respect for:

- our environment by taking your rubbish home
- our fisheries by knowing and following the rules
- other people fishing by not crowding them
- our fish by treating them carefully and not hurting them
- our fish populations by reporting illegal fishing to 13 FISH (13 3474).



# PLANNING YOUR FISHING TRIP

**Like most activities, a little planning can help make your day special. The basic gear you will need to take with you to go fishing is:**

## **Up-to-date fishing information**

- Your fishing licence or proof of exemption (see pg 22 for more information).
- Your free Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide or the free Vic Fishing App.
- Your free fish measuring ruler.

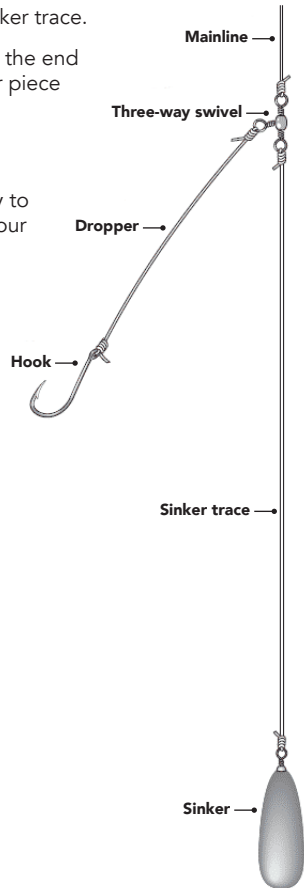
## **Your fishing gear (a fishing tackle shop will be able to help you with this equipment)**

- A fishing rod and reel or a hand line.  
Talk to your local tackle shop to get the best equipment for the fish you would like to catch.
- Biodegradable fishing line.  
Talk to your local tackle shop to get the best weight for the fish you would like to catch.
- Circle hooks.
- Non-lead sinkers.
- Three way swivel to tie a paternoster rig (see pg 6).
- Towel or gloves.  
A wet towel or gloves protects both you and the fish when you are holding it.
- A bucket or esky with a rope attached.  
This is used to keep your catch cool and safe to eat (and it can also be a float to throw to a person if they fall in the water).
- A knotless landing net.  
This allows you to bring the fish to land without hurting it.
- A hook remover or long nosed pliers.
- A fishing priest.  
This is a wooden or metal tool with a heavy blunt end that is used to kill fish very quickly and painlessly. To kill a fish, strike the top of the head just behind the eyes with a sharp heavy blow.
- Sharp knife (to cut up bait, gut fish and cut the fishing line).
- Bait and ice.



## Paternoster rig

- Cut a length of fishing line off the end of your fishing line that is attached to the rod, this is called the Mainline.
- Tie a snap swivel to the end of the mainline.
- Take the length of fishing line and fold it so there is a longer length and a shorter length.
- Wrap the folded end over your finger, then around the doubled line and poke it back through the loop made by your finger. Grab each end of the line and pull tight.
- Tie a sinker to the end of the longer piece of line. This is called the sinker trace.
- Tie a hook to the end of the shorter piece of line. This is called the Dropper.
- You are ready to put bait on your line and start fishing.



# SAFETY AROUND WATER

**Our waterways are beautiful and must be treated with respect.  
For a fun filled, safe fishing adventure use the following checklist.**

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

The BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) has all the information on weather across Victoria.

If the weather looks bad at the place where you would like to go fishing then it is best to find another place to fish or fish another day.

**Tell someone, who is not fishing with you, your fishing plans**

Always:

- tell someone where you are going fishing
- who you are going with
- the mobile phone of all the people you are going fishing with
- what time you will get home

Should the worst happen, this person will be able to get you help.

Remember if you change your plans, let this person know.

**Never fish alone**

Always fish with another person. You can keep each other safe.

**Take your safety gear and keep it close to you**

Basic safety gear includes a first aid kit, esky/bucket and rope, phone, water, sunscreen, hat and non-slip shoes.

**Fish from a jetty or fishing platform**

These areas are the safest places to fish from.

If there is not a jetty or fishing platform at the fishing spot you go to, choose a flat, safe place to fish from instead.

Make sure this area is easy to come and go from, has no rocks, holes or steep banks or overhangs.

**Don't drink alcohol**

**Keep your eye on the water**

Water conditions can change quickly and be unpredictable.

**If someone falls into the water:**

1. Tell the person to **stay calm** and roll onto their back
2. Throw them something that floats like a bucket or esky lid with a rope tied to it so you can pull them to safety
3. Call or Phone 000 if the person needs medical help
4. **DO NOT** enter the water yourself unless you are a trained lifesaver.

# FISHING LOCATIONS

20 Police Paddocks Dam

15 Kennings

4 Cato Lake

13 Jubilee Lake

6 Dunkeld Arboretum Dam

23 Victoria Parks Lake

Albert Park Lake

22 Tea Tree Lake

St Augustine's Water hole

21

16 Lake Pertobe

5 Cobden Lake





**2** Allan's Flat Dredge Hole

**9** Glenrowan Recreational Reserve Lake

gton Reservoir

**7** Eildon Pondage Weir

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e

**17** Lillydale Lake

**8** Emerald Park Lake

**11** Heyfield Racecourse Lake

**14** Karkarook Lake

**10** Gutheridge Lake

**19** Pakenham Lake

**3** Casey Fields Lake

**18** Morwell Lake

**12** Hyland Lake

# FISHING LOCATIONS

## 1 ALBERT PARK LAKE

Albert Park Lake is a well-stocked water situated in a brilliant, 560 hectare inner city park. The roads surrounding this park are home to the Melbourne Grand Prix in March and it is also home to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, large ovals, restaurants and so much more.

**Likely to catch:** Carp, Golden Perch and Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Aquarium, St Kilda, Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne Arts Centre, Luna Park, Melbourne city.



## 2 ALLAN'S FLAT DREDGE HOLE

Located 8 kilometres from the Yackandandah township, the dredge hole began life as part of a creek mined for gold during the late 1800's. It has magnificent shady trees surrounding it and a grading of gentle to steep sloping banks. It is popular spot for swimmers, canoeists, picnics as well as fishing.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Yackandandah, Vienna Patisserie Chalet, Lavender Farm, Strawberry farm.



## 3 CASEY FIELDS LAKE

Casey Fields is a 76 hectare site in Cranbourne East developed by the City of Casey as the premier outdoor sports facility in Melbourne's south east, including fishing.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, Mayuna Farm, old cheese factory on Springfield Estate.



## 4 CATO LAKE

Cato Park is situated in the heart of Stawell and provides visitors and the community with a beautiful recreational area. The park surrounds idyllic Cato Lake with walking trails which weave in and around the park, it is the place to go for a relaxing time, all year round. The beautiful grass surrounds provide the perfect location for families to unwind.

**Likely to catch:** Eel and Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Stawell gold mine, Grampians National Park, Aboriginal art site (Bunjils Shelter), Lake Fyans.



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## COBDEN LAKE

Cobden established in the late 1860s, is a small town developed because of the prosperous soils which are ideal for dairy farming. Like many of the neighboring towns, Cobden is rich in natural and colonial history. The Cobden Lake is a lovely shady lake in the middle of town and is surrounded by a walking track. There is plenty of birdlife to watch while you try your hand at fishing.

**Likely to catch:** Eel and Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Miniature Railway, Great Ocean Road, Warrnambool, Whale watching, Camperdown the it's crater Lakes, Port Campbell, Timboon.



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## DUNKELD ARBORETUM DAM

The Dunkeld Arboretum is a popular attraction within the Grampians region. It boasts a stunning views of wild flowers and an abundance of natural wildlife. Within the Arboretum, you will see thorn bills, water fowls, kookaburras and much more while waiting for that fish. So if a quiet day out in nature is what you are looking for, then the Dunkeld Arboretum is the place for you.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** Grampians National Park.



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## EILDON PONDAGE WEIR

The Pondage in Eildon is one of Victoria's most popular family fishing locations. It's an easy drive from Melbourne and can produce some trophy trout especially during the release of ex-breeding stock (fish up to 2kg in weight) from Snobs Creek hatchery. This happens once a year around the first week of spring and makes for some exciting fun.

**Likely to catch:** Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Lake Eildon National Park.



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## EMERALD PARK LAKE

A premier park and tourist attraction Emerald Lake Park is in the heart of Emerald in the Dandenong Ranges. As one of the destination points for the iconic Puffing Billy, the park offers a range of activities including picnics, walking trails, paddleboats and most importantly, fishing.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Puffing Billy, Nobelius Heritage Park and Emerald Museum.



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## GLENROWAN RECREATIONAL RESERVE LAKE

The township of Glenrowan is the site of the final siege and capture of Ned Kelly and his gang in 1880. Fosters Lake is located just north of the Glenrowan town centre. It was named after the stationmaster at Glenrowan, who had the lake built to water the transported cattle. The Lake is home to plenty of bird life and the shady surrounds are perfect for a picnic or barbeque.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Ned Kelly museum, Cycling tracks, birdwatching, Glenrowan siege site, The Ned Kelly Statue.



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## GUTHRIDGE LAKE

Lake Guthridge Parklands offers the visitor over 35 hectares of botanic gardens, walking trails, indigenous artworks and a contemporary fauna park. Combined with sensory gardens, abundant seating, a significant children's playground, under cover bbq facilities and free tennis courts, the Lake Guthridge Parkland precinct provides a delightful setting for enjoying a leisurely few hours.

**Likely to catch:** Carp, Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** 90 Mile Beach, Macalister River Regional Park, Maffra, Bataluk Cultural Trail, Freestone Creek and Bluepool.



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## HEYFIELD RACECOURSE LAKE

Once the site of the Heyfield racecourse, the Heyfield Racecourse Lake and Wetlands are now the home to a number of different species of bird and animal life. The Wetlands Information Centre at the southern end of the lake is the home of the Neville-Smith Timber Industries display. An all-access fishing platform was built using Recreational Fishing Licence revenue.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** Lake Glen Maggie.



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## HYLAND LAKE

Hyland Lake is a small lake surrounded by farm land at the base of the Strzelecki Ranges. Churchill has quite a unique landmark, that being a huge replica of Winston Churchill's cigar. Near the base of the cigar is a commemorative brick wall. It gives the names of the first families to move into town in the 1960's.

**Likely to catch:** Eel, Carp, Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** Strzelecki Ranges.



## 13 JUBILEE LAKE, DAYLESFORD

From the Dja Dja Wurrung people, who first inhabited the land thousands of years ago, to the Swiss Italian migrants of the gold rush and Melbourne's turn-of-the-century holidaymakers, Daylesford has long been considered a special place. Jubilee Lake is the hidden gem.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Daylesford township and lake, Hepburn Springs, walking tracks, Castlemaine, Hanging Rock, Convent Gallery.



## 14 KARKAROOK LAKE

Karkarook Park is all about the unexpected. A recreational and environmental oasis within situated between the hustle and bustle of suburbia. This 40 hectare man made park is a peaceful location comprised of green grass, rolling hills and a lake all revegetated with indigenous plants.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** Braeside Park, DFO shopping centre, golf courses.



## 15 KENNINGTON RESERVOIR

Between 1850 – 1900 Bendigo became the richest city in the world thanks to the gold rush. Now it is a cosmopolitan city and home to many waterways including Kennington Reservoir. This lake a peaceful park surrounded by bushland.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** heritage tours, gold mining tours, cafés and restaurants, arts centre, city trams.



## 16 LAKE PERTOBE

Warrnambool's fantastic Lake Pertobe Adventure Playground is a year-round family attraction. This 8ha adventure playground is paradise for kids with giant slides, flying foxes, a maze and boat rides as well as an enjoyable, family friendly place to fish.

**Likely to catch:** Eel, Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** small paddle and motor boat rides, patrolled beach, middle island and Maremma (home of Oddball, the penguin protecting dog), Flagstaff maritime museum and light show, mini golf, skateboard Park, cafes.





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## LILLYDALE LAKE

Lillydale Lake is an artificial lake and wetlands area. The park is over 100 hectares, the lake covers 28 hectares with a 440 meter long dam wall. The ruins of the 1850s Cashin's flour mill stand at the northern end of the dam wall.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Healesville Sanctuary, Rail Trail, Museum, Dandenong Ranges.



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## MORWELL LAKE

Head to the heart of the Latrobe Valley and discover Victoria's energy centre at Morwell. Visit renowned regional art galleries and cultural centres, walk through the famous rose garden and explore the surrounding natural attractions including Morwell Lake.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Centenary Rose Garden, Tara Bulga National Park, Immigration Park and Wall of Recognition, Fosters Gully Nature Walk, golf course, cafés and restaurants.



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## PAKENHAM LAKE

Pakenham is a satellite suburb of Melbourne and the gateway to the Gippsland region. While primarily a commercial and residential hub, Pakenham Lake is a very pretty public space popular with the locals – especially on a sunny day.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** BBQ's, walking track, playground, cafés.



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## POLICE PADDOCKS DAM

The Horsham Police Paddock Reserve is a popular recreational spot that boasts a unique combination beautiful parklands and bush camping. The reserve is an island whose natural formation led to its use as a place where police horses were rested back in the 19th century.

**Likely to catch:** Carp, Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** Horsham city, Grampians National Park, cafés and restaurants, playgrounds, Little Dessert National Park, Lake Fyans.



## 21 ST AUGUSTINE'S WATER HOLE

St Augustine's water hole is a picturesque, generously sized ornamental lake just off South Valley Rd in Highton, Geelong. It is great lake for some trout fishing, a pleasant walk or to just sit, relax and watch some great bird life.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** cafés, Adventure Park, Geelong city, wineries, golf course.



## 22 TEA TREE LAKE

Sitting at the bottom of one of Victoria's most recently active volcanoes, Mortlake is rich in both natural and early settler history. Mortlake also has one of the region's most extensive Heritage Trails. The trail leads walkers around 20 of the predominately bluestone buildings dating back to 1857.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** playground, BBQ, Warrnambool city, cafés, swimming pool (only open in summer), Lake Bolac.



## 23 VICTORIA PARKS LAKES

Victoria's largest inland city, Ballarat, is a thriving hub of contemporary arts, events and food and wine, with a fascinating heritage backdrop. Victoria Park, home to Victoria Lakes, consists of 130 hectares of open active and passive recreation parkland on the western side of Ballarat City.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** Lake Wendouree, playgrounds, Sovereign Hill, wildlife parks, cafés and restaurants, Eureka Stockade, art galleries.



# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: NATIVE



## Eel

**Peak season:** All year round.

**Minimum legal size:** None.

**Bag limit:** 10 per person per day.

**Baits:** Bread, worms.

**Time:** Early morning / late afternoon is best but can be caught at any time.

### Locations:



## Golden Perch (Yellow Belly)

**Peak season:** October - November.

**Minimum legal size:** 30cm  
(must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled – see pg 18).

**Bag limit:** 5 per person per day.

**Baits:** Scrub worms, yabbies, shrimp.

**Time and tides:** Late afternoon.

### Location:



 Measure fish from the tip of the nose with the mouth closed to the end of the tail.



# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: INTRODUCED



## Brown Trout

**NOTE:** The rules for Brown Trout outlined below are for the locations listed in this guide ONLY. If you fish for Brown Trout elsewhere, for example a river, stream or a lake not specified in this book, please refer to the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide as other restrictions may apply.

**Peak season:** Trout season dates change annually. Please refer to the Recreational Victorian Fishing guide for the most current information.

**Minimum legal size:** None.

**Bag limit:** 5 salmonids per day (either Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout or a combination of both). Only 2 of the 5 fish you catch can be bigger than 35cm.

**Baits:** Power bait, worms, corn and lures.

**Times:** Early morning and evening.

### Locations:

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## Rainbow Trout

**NOTE:** The rules for Rainbow Trout outlined below are for the waters listed in this guide ONLY. If you fish for Rainbow Trout elsewhere, for example a river, stream or a lake not specified in this book, please refer to the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide as other restrictions may apply.

**Peak season:** Trout season dates change annually. Please refer to the Recreational Victorian Fishing guide for the most current information.

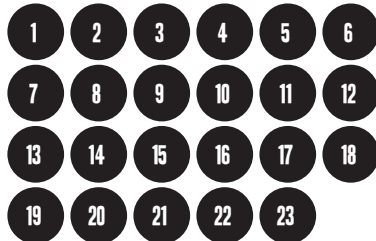
**Minimum legal size:** None.

**Bag limit:** 5 salmonids per day (either Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout or a combination of both). Only 2 of the 5 fish you catch can be bigger than 35cm.

**Baits:** Power bait, worms, corn.

**Times:** Early morning/ evening.

### Locations:



# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: INTRODUCED



## Redfin

**NOTE:** Fishers are encouraged not to return Redfin to the water as they can impact other recreational species.

**Peak season:** All year round.

**Minimum legal size:** None.

**Bag limit:** None.

**Baits:** Worms, small yabbies.

**Time:** Early morning / late afternoon is best but can be caught at any time.

### Locations:



 **Keep your fish whole as this enables Fisheries Officers to measure the fish to make sure they are the legal size.**



# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: NOXIOUS SPECIES

Noxious species are animals we don't want in Victoria. They are very bad for our environment and the animals, fish and birds that live there.

Carp are a declared noxious species for many reasons.

- They churn up mud in search of food making the water dirty and taking out the oxygen fish need to breath.
- They are very good at breeding and many of the babies survive to be adults.
- They can live in many different environments.
- They eat the eggs of our native fish and frogs.

## What do I do if I catch a Carp?

Kill Carp immediately with a strong blow to the back of the head with a fishing priest (see page 5).

Don't leave Carp on the river bank to rot. It is littering and makes the area unpleasant.

## REMEMBER IT IS ILLEGAL TO RETURN LIVE CARP BACK TO THE WATER.

Another noxious species you may see is Gambusia (mosquito fish) which are often caught in bait nets.

These are also very good at breeding and out compete with our smaller native fish species like minnows and pygmy perch.

Gambusia are also a noxious species and are NOT to be used for bait or moved and put into another area.



## Carp

**NOTE:** Carp are a noxious species.

**Peak season:** All year round.

**Minimum legal size:** None.

**Bag limit:** None.

**Baits:** Corn, bread, worms.

**Times:** Early morning and late afternoon is best but can be caught at any time.

## Locations:



# RESPONSIBLE FISHING BEHAVIOUR

**Responsible fishing is not only about fishing within the rules but also about respecting and caring for the fish, native animals, the environment, other water users and fishers.**

Responsible fishers care for:

- **the fish they catch by:**

- never leaving their fishing rod unattended
- using a net without knotted mesh to bring the fish in
- handling the fish carefully using a wet glove or towel
- supporting the fish in a flat position, not dangling it from a line
- removing the hook from the mouth quickly with a hook remover or long nosed pliers
- cutting the line as close as possible to the fish's mouth if it has swallowed the hook
- identifying the fish quickly
- measuring the fish quickly on a cool, wet surface
- quickly deciding if you can and want to keep the fish if they are the correct size.

- **the fish they release by:**

- gently and quickly lowering them into the water. If you are close to the water, you can do this with your hands. If you are higher above the water put the fish into a bucket of water and lower it down
- putting back unwanted fish immediately and carefully into the water. **DO NOT** release **NOXIOUS** species.

- **the fish they are allowed to keep by:**

- killing them quickly with a fishing priest, using the method described on pg 5
- storing them on ice to keep them safe to eat.

- **our fish populations by:**

- ALWAYS following the rules
- reporting illegal fishing to 13 FISH (13 3474)
- respecting Fisheries Officers who help people understand and enforce the rules.

- **their fishing spots by:**

- leaving the area clean. Take all your rubbish home including leftover bait and any fish waste
- using environmentally friendly fishing tackle
- sharing the space respectfully with other people including other anglers, swimmers and snorkelers
- Place tangled fishing line into a 'Seal-the-Loop' rubbish bin so that it cannot hurt or kill our native wildlife. If there is not a 'Seal-the-Loop' bin at the fishing spot, take it home with you and put it in your rubbish bin.



# UNDERSTANDING THE FISHING RULES

There are many rules to remember when you go fishing in Victoria. Not all are covered in this beginners guide. For information on all the fishing rules search online for 'Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide' or download the free 'Vic Fishing' App.

## Why do we have fishing rules?

Fishing rules make sure that we have fish now and in the future by:

- not allowing people to take too many (called a bag limit)
- putting small fish back into the water so they can grow and breed (called a minimum size)
- returning the larger, best breeding fish to the water (called a maximum size)
- stopping people from fishing in certain areas and at certain times to protect fish (called a closed season)
- only using the equipment we are allowed to.

Fishing rules protect fish. If you don't know what the rules for a fish you catch, put it straight back in the water.

Never put it in a bucket or bag. If you do this and it is not the right size or you shouldn't have it at all, you can get in trouble with a Fisheries Officer.

## Do I need a fishing licence?

If you are between the age of 18 and 70 and fishing in Victoria then yes, you need a licence, even if you are just helping your children.

Some people don't need to have a fishing licence; this is called an exemption. For a list of exemptions search online.

## Where can I buy a fishing licence?

Fishing licences can be bought online (search Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence).

You can also buy them at shops where you can buy your fishing equipment.

A licence can be purchased for 3 days, 28 days, 1 year and 3 years.

**IMPORTANT information:** If you are fishing in the Murray River you will need to get a NSW fishing licence.

# WHAT ARE THE FISHING RULES?

## Basic fishing rules

If you want to go fishing, this information will help you understand the fishing rules.

### 1. Legal size

Legal size means the smallest (minimum legal size) and the largest (maximum legal size) fish you can legally keep.

If you catch a fish that is too small or too big, you must put it back into the water straight away.

The legal size of fish must be checked quickly.

Measure fish from the tip of the nose with the mouth closed to the end of the tail.



Fish that you wish to keep should be killed immediately and placed on ice.

### 2. Bag limit

Bag limits are the maximum number of the right sized fish you catch and keep in one day.

### 3. Return unwanted fish

You must return unwanted fish to water immediately and without hurting them, except for noxious species like carp. These must NOT be returned to the water alive.

### 4. Closed seasons

A time of the year when you cannot take some fish. This is to give them some extra protection while they breed and look after their babies.

### 5. Legal fishing equipment

Each person fishing can have:

- 2 fishing rods with 2 hooks attached in rivers and lakes (inland waters)
- 4 fishing rods with 2 hooks attached in marine waters
- you must stay close to your rods while they are in the water.

### 6. Don't fillet your fish while you are fishing

You can gut and scale your dead fish.

If you are fishing in areas not included in this beginners guide you will need to also check that you are:

- **not** in prohibited, restricted areas
- **not** fishing in a closed season.

All the fishing rules can be found in the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide and the Vic Fishing App.

### Where to get the correct information

- download the free Vic Fishing App
- get a free paper copy of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide sent to you by calling 13 61 86

Breaking the fishing rules can result in large fines and other serious consequences.

## STAY UP TO DATE

Download the free Vic Fishing App here





# FISHERIES OFFICERS

**A Fisheries Officer's main responsibility is to help people fish within the rules.**

## **How will I recognise a Fisheries Officer?**

Fisheries Officers usually wear a dark blue uniform that shows the Officer's name and title.

Sometimes a Fisheries Officer will not be in uniform. If not, they will always show you official identification when they come to talk to you.

## **What can I expect when a Fisheries Officer comes to talk to me?**

A Fisheries Officer can:

- give you information about fishing and the rules
- ask you to show them your current fishing licence or proof of your exemption and your driver's licence
- ask to look in your bag, fishing equipment, esky, container, vehicle and/or boat
- measure and count the fish you've kept to check they are the right size and the correct number.

## **What powers do Fisheries Officers have?**

By law Fisheries Officers can:

- stop and look in any boat or vehicle
- ask for your name and home address
- search any equipment such as baskets, eskies or other containers
- issue 'on the spot' fines called an infringement notice
- take any fish, fishing gear or other equipment, including vehicles and boats, that may have been used to commit an offence
- place alleged offenders under arrest.

Fisheries Officers are also authorised to enforce laws relating to:

- litter, maritime safety and protected areas.

## **What happens if I am caught not following the rules?**

Under the *Fisheries Act 1995*, Fisheries Officers have powers of arrest, search and seizure.

If you are caught doing the wrong thing, or the Officers believe you have not followed the rules, they will:

- explain what it is you have done wrong
- request your full name and home address which you **MUST** provide
- ask you questions
- issue a receipt if any fish, property or documents have been seized
- advise you of the likely outcome.



## REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING

If you see or think someone is breaking our fishing rules, move away and call

**13 FISH (13 3474).**

Provide as much detail as possible including:

- time and date
- location
- car or boat registration numbers
- the number of people involved
- what the people are doing.

Information you give is very valuable and is treated in strict confidence. Your information helps us to plan patrols and other enforcement operations.



# GET OUTSIDE GO FISHING

Why not include fishing in all your family's holidays or short trips around Victoria.

These guides will give you all the information you need to take your family fishing wherever you are in Victoria.

Get Outside Go Fishing:

- East Gippsland
- Family fishing lakes
- Lake Eildon
- Murray Cod in urban lakes
- North East
- North West
- Port Phillip Bay
- South West
- Western Port Bay

To get a copy of any or all of these booklets please ring 136 186 (our customer service centre) and ask to have it sent to you.

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