

Be safe when rock fishing





ROCK FISHING IN VICTORIA

WHAT IS ROCK FISHING?

Fishing from rock ledges, submerged rocks, rock faces and rocks that go into the water.

ROCK FISHING IS POPULAR BECAUSE IT:

- brings people back to nature (beautiful coastlines; glorious summer weather)
- offers exciting fishing opportunities
- gives people an excuse to get away and enjoy life
- is relaxing and can sometimes provide food
- spend quality times with your friends.



**ROCK FISHING DOES HAVE RISKS.
THE SEA IS UNPREDICTABLE!
DON'T PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE – ROCK FISH SAFELY.**

Be prepared



CHECK THE WEATHER

Check the tides and weather conditions.



TELL SOMEONE YOUR PLANS

Tell someone who is not fishing with you where you are going and when you will be back.



FISH WITH FRIENDS

Arrange to fish with at least 2 mates.



WATCH THE WATER

Watch the water for 30 mins and plan a way to get out of the area if the weather changes.



WEAR A LIFE JACKET

Wear a life jacket or buoyancy vest.



WEAR SHOES WITH NON-SLIP SOLES

Cleats, sandals and sandals with non-slip soles suit different surfaces. Use the appropriate shoes for the conditions.



WEAR LIGHT CLOTHING

Light clothing such as shorts and a spray jacket will let you swim easily if you are washed in. Jumpers may be heavy and difficult to take off.



CARRY A MOBILE PHONE

A mobile phone will ensure someone can call for help.



CARRY A ROPE AND FLOAT WITH YOU

Bring something buoyant that can be easily thrown and held onto, to help you stay afloat. Carry ropes, a float and torches (if you are fishing at night).



CHOOSE A SAFE PLACE TO FISH

Choose a safe place to fish or move to a better site.

Safe rock fishing tips

BE SAFE – KNOW THE CONDITIONS

RESEARCH THE CONDITIONS

Make sure you are aware of local weather, swell and tidal conditions **before** going fishing.

- Check the time of the rising tide and high tide.
- Keep listening to weather update on your way to go fishing and if possible while you are fishing – weather and sea conditions may change dramatically in a short period of time.

TELL SOMEONE WHERE YOU ARE

- Give a family member or friend who is NOT going fishing with you the following information:
 - where you are going fishing.
 - the time you expect to get home after fishing.
 - your mobile number.
 - the names and mobile numbers of the other people you are fishing with.
- This way someone can get help if you don't return home in time.

ASK LOCAL PEOPLE FOR ADVICE

- They will always tell you when an area is dangerous.

SPEND TIME WATCHING THE WATER

Spend 30 minutes watching your fishing spot. Sea and weather conditions can make a fishing spot very dangerous, very quickly. If swell is threatening the area you wanted to fish in, leave and find a safer fishing spot.

NEVER FISH ALONE


- Fish in a group of at least three people.
- Stay in sight of each other.
- If someone is washed in, one person can stay and help while the other alerts emergency services (dial 000).
- Mobile phone users can also dial 112 to access emergency services.

PLAN AN ESCAPE ROUTE

Think about what you would do if you were washed in;

- swim away from the rocks
- look for a safe place to come ashore, or
- stay afloat and wait for help to arrive.

STAY ALERT

- Don't ever turn your back on the sea. If the waves, weather or swell threaten your fishing spot, leave immediately. Find a calmer, more sheltered spot or go home.
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SURVIVE

- DO NOT jump in if someone is washed into the water
- DIAL 000 or 112 on your mobile phone to get help
- Use a rope or something that floats to throw to the person in the water
- DO NOT PANIC if your are swept in STAY CALM and swim away from the rocks

For more information about fishing safely from rocks, checkout the following:

- SafeFishing.com.au
- Lifejacketwearit.com.au

Or search online for:

Q Life saving Victoria rock fishing

Q Bureau of meteorology rock fishing weather



Fishing Licence

Most people aged between 18 and 69 (inclusive) need to buy to a Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence to go fishing in Victoria.

Some people do not need a fishing licence if they have the following cards:

- Victorian Government Seniors Card or interstate equivalent
- Pensioner Concession Card, with the letters DSP, AGE, CAR
- Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Health Card, Gold with the letters TPI.

Recreational Fishing Licences can be bought:

- online - search '**Recreational Fishing Licence Victoria**'
- from fishing bait and tackle store.



YOUR RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE IS FOR YOU ONLY

- Your fishing licence is just for you (it has your name on it).
- Your licence cannot be loaned or given to another person.
- You cannot collect or catch fish for another person, even if they have a licence.

Fish species

The following fish are just some of the fish people like to catch off rocks. Different fish have different rules in Victoria.

To find out about all the fishing rules go to **www.vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-guide**. Large penalties apply for people caught breaking a fishing rule. If you are unsure put the fish immediately back into the water.

Australian Salmon

Minimum legal size: 21cm

Bag Limit: 20 (combined total for Australian Salmon and Australian Herring)



Australian Herring

Minimum legal size: No minimum

Bag Limit: 20 (combined total for Australian Salmon and Australian Herring)



King George Whiting

Minimum legal size: 27cm

Bag Limit: 20



Snapper

Minimum legal size: 28cm

Bag Limit: 10 (of which no more than 3 fish may be equal to or greater than 40cm in length)



Sweep (all species)

Minimum legal size: 23cm

Bag Limit: 10



Whiting (other than King George Whiting)

Minimum legal size: No minimum

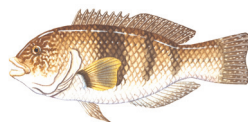
Bag Limit: 20



Wrasse (all species except Blue Groper)

Minimum legal size: 27cm

Bag Limit: 5 (combined total for one or more species of Wrasse)



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 look like
- The fishing gear being used
- The registration of cars or boats being used
- When and where it is happening.

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

vfa.vic.gov.au