

Get outside,
GO FISHING

NORTH EAST



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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 and rivers throughout the North East of Victoria. 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

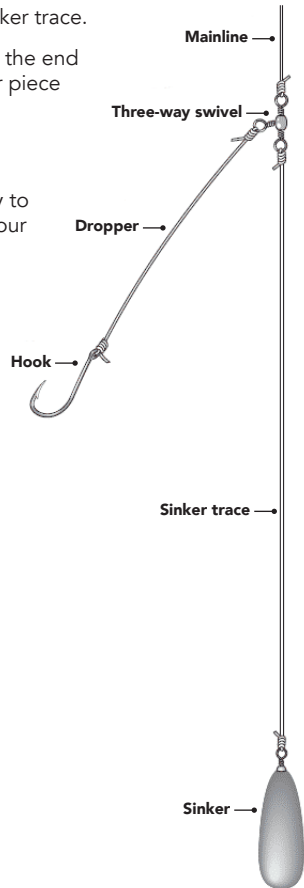
- Your fishing licence or proof of exemption (see pg 22 for more information).
- Your free Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide or the free Vic Fishing App.
- Your free fish measuring ruler.

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

Greens Lake

4

3

5

Kialla Lakes

Goulburn River

1

Benalla L

13

Waranga Basin

Lake Nagambie

7

Nillahcootie Lake

10



FISHING LOCATIONS

1 BENALLA LAKE

Along Lake Benalla's tranquil 4.25 kilometre track you will find inspiration in diverse and picturesque landscapes from the serene lake to meandering rivers.

The Lake and surrounding waterways are inhabited by many native fish and other animals including platypus, native water rat, 3 species of native turtles and plenty of bird life.

Throw a line in at dusk and watch the lake come alive.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Carp, Golden Perch, Murray Cod and Redfin.

Attractions close by: Warby State Park, Winton Wetlands, Mt Samaria State Park.



2 DARTMOUTH LAKE

Lake Dartmouth is a large irrigation and hydroelectricity water storage. The incredibly scenic lake is a popular trout fishery with bank fishing and boating permitted. If the fishing is slow, there are many early gold and tin mining sites to explore in the surrounding area.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Carp, Macquarie Perch and Rainbow Trout.

Attractions close by: Hiking, 4WD, camping, hunting, birdwatching.



3 GOULBURN RIVER, SHEPPARTON

The Goulburn River is one of four Heritage Rivers in Victoria. The Broken River flows into the Goulburn in the heart of Shepparton. The floodplains and swamps around this area have great cultural significance and are integral to maintaining the rivers' health and supporting the community.

There are a couple of all access points along the river which provide for a pleasant afternoons fishing:

Shepparton Weir/Fishway was built to provide a reliable river height for urban water extraction and has become a popular fishing and picnic spot. While you are there have a look at the Fishway. This construction enables fish to move up and down stream, essentially using the Fishway as a ladder.

Victoria Park Lake Precinct is an attractive public open space used for a wide range of recreational activities. It is close to the local swimming pool, cafés, playgrounds and skate park.

Jorden's Bend is a good section of remnant vegetation in the heart of Shepparton which is home to the endangered Squirrel Glider.

Stuarts Reserve is on a sealed loop track just off 'The Boulevard' near the playground gives you great access and views to the Goulburn River and it's fish.

Likely to catch: Carp, Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Redfin.

Attractions close by: Shepparton township, food and wine, playgrounds, shopping, riverconnect guided walks, skate parks, Kidstown, Australian Botanic Gardens.



4

GREENS LAKE, COROP

Greens Lake, and the surrounding recreational reserve, is extremely popular for all sorts of water sports including swimming, boating, bird watching and most importantly fishing. It's easy slopes provide for great camping and it is pet friendly so the whole family can enjoy your time there.

Likely to catch: Carp, Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Redfin and Tench.

Attractions close by: The townships of Bendigo, Echuca, Shepparton, Warranga Basin, Greater Bendigo National Park, local wildlife reserves.



5

KIALLA LAKES, SHEPPARTON

These lakes are surrounded by residential homes with lawns and trees around the shoreline. The lakes are perfect for bank fishing and walking while only minutes away from Shepparton township. The lakes are now regularly stocked with golden perch.

Likely to catch: Golden Perch, Redfin and Silver Perch.

Attractions close by: Shepparton township, food and wine, playgrounds, shopping, riverconnect guided walks, skate parks, Kidstown, Australian Botanic Gardens.



6

LAKE HUME, TALLANGATTA

Lake Hume is undoubtedly one of the Victorian and New South Wales' borders most defining features. The Lake holds around six times the amount of water as Sydney Harbour and is a popular tourist destination. There are things to do in the area all year round.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Carp, Golden Perch, Murray Cod and Redfin.

Attractions close by: Albury, Wodonga, wineries, Lake Hume Dam wall, trout farm, playgrounds, art centres, walking and cycling tracks, skiing, skate parks, golf, markets.



7 LAKE NAGAMBIE

The township of Nagambie offers a huge range of outdoor activities on and around the lake. You can hire a canoe and travel along the majestic Goulburn River, with its abundant bird life, native plants & animals. Take a trip in a river boat between Mitchelton Wines and the historic Tahbilk Winery or watch the sun set beside the lake as you try your hand at fishing.

Likely to catch: Golden Perch, Murray Cod and Silver Perch.

Attractions close by: Farmers markets, skydiving, historic township, Nagambie Brewery and Distillery, Black Caviar Statue and history, river cruise boat, Strathbogie National Park.



8 KIEWA RIVER, MOUNT BEAUTY

The township of Mt Beauty is hidden away in Victoria's high country where the natural beauty of this area will take your breath away. Mount Beauty is a popular base for outdoor activities from mountain bike riding to enjoying a fish in the tranquil clear mountain streams of the Kiewa River or try your luck in the Mt Beauty pondage (location number 9).

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and Murray Cod.

Attractions close by: Alpine National Park, Falls Creek, Mt Beauty township, walks, swimming holes, brewery, wineries, Sweet Valley Sounds Music Festival, cycling tracks, snow skiing.



9 MOUNT BEAUTY PONDAGE

A 30km scenic drive from Bright, Mt Beauty Pondage is the hub of the beautiful Kiewa Valley. It is surrounded by the Alpine National Park and is the gateway to the State's highest peaks. With plenty of family friendly facilities, fishing in the pondage is an ideal way to spend the afternoon. Best bank fishing is along the wall.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

Attractions close by: Alpine National Park, Falls Creek, Mt Beauty township, walks, horse riding, Mt Beauty music festival, community markets.



10 NILLAHCOOTIE LAKE, SWANPOOL

A scenic lake sandwiched between the Strathbogie Ranges and Mount Samaria. The mountains provide a stunning backdrop for family picnics, bank fishing, boating and canoeing.

Likely to catch: Carp, Golden Perch, Murray Cod and Redfin.

Attractions close by: Mount Samaria State Park, Strathbogie Ranges State Forest.



11 OVENS RIVER, BRIGHT

Bright and the surrounding villages are defined by the rivers and creeks that run through them. The Ovens and Buckland Rivers carve a path amidst the valleys providing tranquil spaces to embrace the alpine environment and immerse yourself in some pristine water.

Lake Buffalo provides great fishing opportunities with picturesque surroundings. With toilet facilities, barbeques and park facilities it's a great spot to take the whole family.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout.

Attractions close by: Mt Alpine National park, Harrietville trout and salmon farm, waterfalls, swimming holes, walks, Mt Buffalo National Park.



12 OVENS RIVER, WANGARATTA

The Ovens River's journey begins in the Victorian Alps and finishes in Wangaratta. The wetlands provide perfect conditions for native fish and animals to thrive. It is also home to threatened and endangered wildlife including the Powerful Owl and Squirrel Glider. With shady banks, the Northern and Sydney beaches, are popular for family picnics, swimming and of course fishing.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Golden Perch, Murray Cod and Rainbow Trout.

Attractions close by: Wangaratta, kayaking, walks, birdwatching, camping, shops and cafe's, breweries and wineries, Glenrowan and Ned Kelly, gold mining and fossicking, Wangaratta Memorial Gardens, Wangaratta Nature Reserve, Milawa, Eldorado and historical woolsheds, cycling, horseriding.



13 WARANGA BASIN, RUSHWORTH

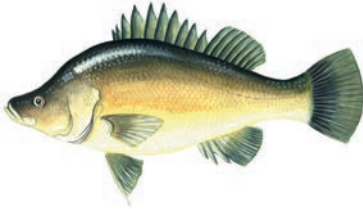
A very popular expanse of water in flat open country filled via channel. Great for family activities such as fishing, swimming, boating and water skiing.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout (occasionally), Carp, Golden Perch and Redfin.

Attractions close by: Gold mining history, Shepparton, Goulburn River, wineries.



WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: NATIVE



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.

Times: Late afternoon.

Locations:



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



Murray Cod

NOTE: *The rules for Murray Cod outlined below are for the locations listed in this guide ONLY. If you fish for Murray Cod elsewhere, for example a river, creek or stream, please refer to the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide as other restrictions may apply.*

Peak season: December – February.

Minimum legal size: 55cm.

Maximum legal size: 75cm.
(must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled – see pg 18).

Bag limit: 2 per person per day.

State-wide possession limit: You can **NOT** have more than 30kg or 5 Murray Cod at any time in Victoria.

Baits: Bardi grubs, scrubworms, yabbies shrimp.

Times: Early morning and late afternoon.

Locations:





Macquarie Perch

NOTE: *The rules for Macquarie Perch outlined below are for Lake Dartmouth ONLY. You cannot take Macquarie Perch anywhere else in Victoria except for Lake Dartmouth and the Upper Coliban Reservoir.*

Peak season: January – March.

Closed season: 1st October – 31st December inclusive.

Minimum legal size (for Lake Dartmouth only): 35cm
(must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled – see pg 18).

Bag limit (for Lake Dartmouth only):
1 per person per day

Baits: Worms.

Times: Dawn and early evening.

Location:

2



Silver Perch

NOTE: *The rules for Silver Perch outlined below are for the locations listed in this guide ONLY. If you wish to fish for Silver Perch elsewhere, please refer to the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide as other restrictions may apply. Silver perch MUST NOT be kept from rivers north of the Great Dividing Range.*

Peak season: January – March.

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: Shrimp, worms, yabbies.

Times: Dawn and late afternoon.

Locations:

5

7

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 or stream, please refer to the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide as other restrictions may apply.

Peak season: June – September.

Closed seasons: Closed seasons apply to the following waters in this book:

- Ovens River - Bright (11)
- Ovens River - Wangaratta (12).

You cannot fish at all in Mt Beauty during the closed season for Brown Trout.

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

Minimum legal size: No minimum legal size limit applies to the following waters found in this guide:

- Benalla Lake (1)
- Dartmouth Lake (2)
- Lake Hume - Tallangatta (6)
- Kiewa River - Mt Beauty (8)
- Mt Beauty Pondage (9)
- Ovens River - Wangaratta (12)
- Waranga Basin - Rushworth (13).

A minimum size limit of 25cm applies to the following waters in this guide:

- Ovens River - Bright (11).

(must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled – see pg 18).

Bag limit: A bag limit of 5 salmonids per day applies to the following waters in this book:

- Benalla Lake (1)
- Dartmouth Lake (2)
- Lake Hume - Tallangatta (6)
- Mt Beauty Pondage (9)
- Waranga Basin - Rushworth (13).

A bag limit of 5 salmonids (either Brown or Rainbow Trout or a combination of both) per person per day. No more than 2 of those 5 fish can be bigger than 35cm in the following waters in this book:

- Kiewa River - Mt Beauty (8)
- Ovens River - Wangaratta (12).

A bag limit of 3 salmonids per day, of which only only 2 of the 3 you catch can be bigger than 35cm, applies to the following waters in this book:

- Ovens River - Bright (11).

Baits: Power bait, worms, corn.

Times: Early morning and evening.

Locations:



! Closed seasons protect fish when they are breeding ensuring fish for the future.



Rainbow Trout

NOTE: *The rules for Rainbow Trout outlined below are for the locations listed in this guide ONLY. If you fish for Rainbow Trout elsewhere, for example a river, lake or stream, please refer to the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide as other restrictions may apply.*

Peak season: June – September.

Closed seasons: Closed seasons apply to the following waters in this book:

- Kiewa River - Mt Beauty (8)
- Ovens River - Wangaratta (12).

You cannot fish at all in Mt Beauty during the closed season for Brown Trout.

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

Minimum legal size: No minimum legal size limit applies to the following waters found in this guide:

- Dartmouth Lake (2)
- Mt Beauty Pondage (9)
- Kiewa River - Mt Beauty (8)
- Ovens River - Wangaratta (12).

(must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled – see pg 18).

Bag limit: A bag of 5 salmonids per day applies to the following waters in this book:

- Dartmouth Lake (2)
- Mt Beauty Pondage (9).

A bag limit of 5 salmonids (either Brown or Rainbow Trout or a combination of both) per person per day. No more than 2 of those 5 fish can be bigger than 35cm in the following waters in this book:

- Kiewa River - Mt Beauty (8)
- Ovens River - Wangaratta (12).

Baits: Power bait, worms, corn.

Times: Early morning and early 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.

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

Locations:



Tench

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

Peak season: May – August.

Minimum legal size: None.


Bag limit: None.

Baits: Worms, corn kernels, bread.

Times: Anytime of the day.

Location:



 **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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