

Be safe when rock fishing

From 1 March 2022, rock fishers will be required to wear a lifejacket at 10 high-risk sites across Victoria.

Lifejackets save lives. To help prevent further rock fishing drownings in Victoria, a two-year trial that requires rock fishers to wear a lifejacket at high-risk areas is starting.

However, no matter where you are, always wear a lifejacket when rock fishing.

Which lifejacket is best for rock fishing?

A wide range of affordable and comfortable lifejackets are available at retail stores.

This includes several styles that are ideal for rock fishing that won't hinder fishing or your ability to swim.

Under the new laws, adult rock fishers must wear a Level 50S or greater lifejacket at high-risk sites.

However, it is recommended that you wear a Level 100 or greater lifejacket if you are not a confident swimmer.

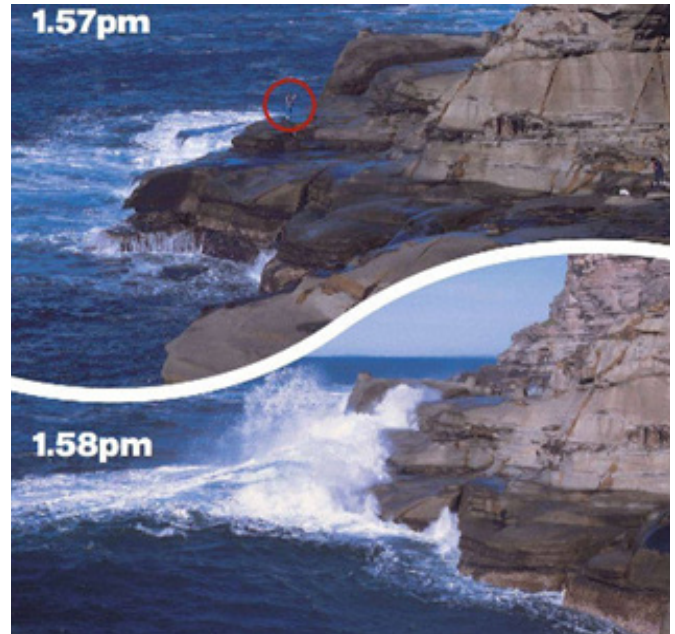
Children under 12 must wear a Level 100 lifejacket or greater at high-risk sites.

Inflatable (yoke) style lifejackets are comfortable and won't restrict your movement. They are generally not expensive and operate using a gas cylinder and an inflatable bladder. They do, however, require regular maintenance and most must be inflated manually, although automatic inflation systems are available (these can be more expensive).

Vest style jackets have built in buoyancy. They help you float immediately if you fall in the water. They are affordable, easy to maintain and there are several styles that are specifically designed for rock fishing.

Hybrid jackets which have both closed foam cells plus additional floatation from gas inflation are also available.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) recommends you talk to your local tackle shop to discuss which lifejacket best suits your needs and budget and to try before you buy.



Whatever style you choose, it must be compliant with Australian Standard AS4758.

Your lifejacket must also be your correct size, be in good working order and be worn correctly (all zippers, buckles and tapes must be correctly secured).

Lifejackets that solely rely on oral inflation are not permitted.

A quality lifejacket can keep you afloat until help arrives

We want fishers to enjoy rock-fishing, but we also want fishers to get home safely.

A lifejacket that is correctly fitted and looked after will help you stay afloat and greatly reduces the chance of drowning.

No matter your swimming ability, extra flotation may be the difference between life and death, especially if you're in the water for a long period.

Examples of suitable lifejackets

<p>Level 100 (Type 1)</p> <p>For adult rock fishers, unconfident swimmers and children under supervision</p>				
<p>Level 50 (Type 2)</p> <p>For adult rock fishers only</p>				
<p>Level 50S (Type 3)</p> <p>For adult rock fishers only</p>				

More information

For more information about staying safe while rock fishing, including booklets in several languages, please visit the VFA website at: vfa.vic.gov.au/rockfishing or scan the QR code opposite.

