

*Get outside,*  
**GO FISHING**

**SOUTH WEST**



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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 throughout the South West 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**

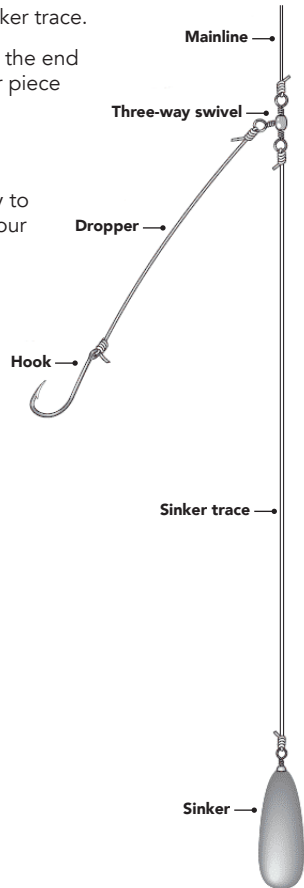
- Your fishing licence or proof of exemption (see pg 26 for more information).
- Your free Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide or the free Vic Fishing App.
- Your free fish measuring ruler.

## **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

Lake Hamilton

7

12

Nelson

Bridgewater Bay

2

13

Portland

Hopkins River

11

4

Martins Point





**5** Lake Bolac

**9** Lake Wendouree

**6** Lake Bullen Merri

**8** Lake Purrumbeet

**3** Curdies River

Anglesea River **1**

Lorne Pier **10**

# FISHING LOCATIONS

## 1 ANGLESEA RIVER

This beautiful seaside town with its towering cliffs, sprawling white beaches, abundant flora and wildlife and a meandering river, is a celebration of life by the water. A pleasant afternoon can be had sitting and fishing on one of the river jetties just north of the Great Ocean Road.

**Likely to catch:** Australian Salmon and Bream.

**Attractions close by:** Chocolaterie and ice creamery, Point Addis Marine Park, shops, swimming, surfing at Bells Beach, canoeing, skate park, golf club.



## 2 BRIDGEWATER BAY

The beautiful and secluded Cape Bridgewater was once a volcanic island. The windswept bay has 4 kms of wide sandy beach and is the hub of the town and a great fishing spot. This town is still one of the most secluded places in Victoria and is rich with natural beauty.

**Likely to catch:** Australian Salmon and Yellow-eye Mullet.

**Attractions close by:** Mt Eccles, Hamilton town, Grampians, Nelson, Margret Rose Caves, seal colonies, Ewan and Picinnini ponds, Petrified forests walks, Mount Richmond, windfarms.



## 3 BOGGY CREEK, CURDIEVALE

The sleepy hollow of Curdievale is nestled beside the meandering Curdies river. There is a fishing platform which provides plenty of room for families keen to learn how to fish.

**Likely to catch:** Bream and Eel.

**Attractions close by:** Peterborough, 12 Apostles, secluded beaches, golf course.



## 4 HOPKINS RIVER, WARRNAMBOOL

The Hopkins river, in the town of Warrnambool, offers a range of fishing options from the historic bridge, to several platforms located upstream of this structure. Warrnambool is a beautiful coastal town with all the conveniences of a city.

**Likely to catch:** Australian Salmon, Bream, Eel, Estuary Perch, Mulloway, Yellow-eye Mullet.

**Attractions close by:** Logan's beach and its whales which visit from May to October, galleries, maritime museum, spa's, Lake Pertobe Adventure Playgrounds, Middle Island and its little penguins and their maramma guard dogs, Tower Hill, Hopkins Falls, Grampians.



## 5 LAKE BOLAC

This freshwater lake is 27 kilometres around the foreshore and covers 1,460 hectares. When full, Lake Bolac is about 6 to 7 feet deep and is a popular boating, fishing and sailing area. It also has a rich and significant connection with the aboriginal culture and was the meeting point for many tribes.

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

**Attractions close by:** Grampians, silo art trail, Halls Gap Zoo, Narrapumelap Historic Homestead and Gardens, Lake Bolac Eel Festival, Pyrenees Wineries, Ararat.



## 6 LAKE BULLEN MERRI, CAMPERDOWN

Lake Bullen Merri, just west of Camperdown, has deep, clear saline water and is stocked with many species. Lake Bullen Merri's clover like shape is a legacy of its volcanic past; the lake was formed from the remains of three adjoining craters. Dark volcanic sands frame the beautiful waterway providing a wonderful venue for picnicking, walking, boating, water skiing, swimming and most importantly – fishing.

**Likely to catch:** Australian Bass, Chinook Salmon, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and Redfin.

**Attractions close by:** Camperdown, Lake Purrumbet, Warrnambool, Port Campbell, Timboon, 12 Apostles, Ballarat.



## 7 LAKE HAMILTON

A stylish provincial city located at the centre of Victoria's south west, Hamilton offers a variety of experiences for visitors. Lake Hamilton is located at the eastern end of the town and is surrounded by 25 hectares of parkland. The lake provides two sandy beaches, a walking and cycling track that circles the entire lake and many other family activities including fishing.

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

**Attractions close by:** Grampians, silo art trail, Halls Gap Zoo, Wannon and Nigretta Falls, William Guilfoyle Botanic Gardens, Ararat, Pyrenees Wineries.



## 8 LAKE PURRUMBETE, CAMPERDOWN

Lake Purrumbete is an attractive, spring fed volcanic lake with an average depth of 45m. Visitors can enjoy views across the lake to the volcanic peaks of nearby Mt Porndon and Mt Elephant. There is also a family friendly fishing jetty available to the west of the caravan park.

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

**Attractions close by:** Camperdown, Purrumbet homestead, Warrnambool, Port Campbell, Timboon, Lake Bullen Merri, 12 Apostles, Ballarat



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## LAKE WENDOUREE, BALLARAT

Situated in the middle of the historic town of Ballarat, Lake Wendouree is a shallow, welcoming man-made lake teeming with birdlife, activities and fish. You can walk around the circumference of the lake and fish almost anywhere or run it and test yourself against famous local Steve Moneghetti.

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

**Attractions close by:** Sovereign Hill, Ballarat Wildlife Park, Botanical Gardens, Eureka Stockade, Grampians, Melbourne, Kyal Castle, Daylesford, Pyrenees Wineries.



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## LORNE PIER

Set on the Great Ocean Road, Lorne is the quintessential seaside town. Reconnect with the outdoors by exploring the area's waterfalls, beaches and nature walks or drop your line in at the pier and watch the sunset over Louttit Bay.

**Likely to catch:** Australian Salmon, Flathead, King George Whiting and Silver Trevally.

**Attractions close by:** Playgrounds, shops and café's, bushwalks, golf course, boat launching, 12 Apostles, Cape Otway Lighthouse, Erskin Falls.



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## MARTINS POINT, PORT FAIRY

Port Fairy, nestled on the edge of the Southern Ocean, is the perfect fishing village. This heritage town is steeped in beauty, history and fishing spots, none more family friendly than Martins point near the mouth of the Moyne River.

**Likely to catch:** Australian Salmon, Bream, Silver Trevally and Yellow-eye Mullet.

**Attractions close by:** Island shearwaters, surf and swimming beaches, café's, galleries, charter boats, Towerhill, festivals, Grampians.



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## NELSON

The beautiful, sleepy little township of Nelson is situated on the pristine Glenelg River. The area offers access to wild ocean beaches, a beautiful estuary and river providing many fishing spots for families while being surrounded by the Lower Glenelg National Park.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Estuary Perch, Mulloway and Yellow-eye Mullet.

**Attractions close by:** Mt Eccles, Hamilton, Margret Rose Caves, Ewan and Picinnini ponds, Petrified forests walks, Mount Richmond, windfarms, Portland, South Australia.



Portland offers a great range of activities. Fantastic beaches, whale watching, tours of aboriginal sites, shopping, history, botanical gardens and plenty of fishing opportunities. For good on shore fishing you don't need to go further than the Lee Breakwater very close to the towns center.

**Likely to catch:** Gummy Shark, King George Whiting, Snapper and Yellowtail Kingfish.

**Attractions close by:** Bridgewater Bay, Mt Eccles, Hamilton town, Grampians, Trelore Rose Farm, Nelson, Margret Rose Caves, Gannett Colonies.



There are many marine protected areas along the Victorian coast line that you are not allowed to fish in.

If you choose to fish in a location not covered in this book make sure it is not in a one of these areas. For a full list of these sites visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/find-a-park/marine-protected-areas](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/find-a-park/marine-protected-areas)

# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: NATIVE



## Australian Bass

**NOTE:** The rules for Australian Bass outlined below are for Lake Bullen Merri ONLY. If you fish for Australian Bass elsewhere please refer to the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide as other restrictions may apply.

**Peak season:** September – May.

**Minimum legal size:** 27cm.

**Bag limit:** 5 per person per day (in Bullen Merri only). For other waters please refer to the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide.

**Baits:** Fish fillets, prawns.

**Time and tides:** Can be caught throughout the day but early morning and evening into dark are prime times.

**Location:**

6



## Australian Salmon

**NOTE:** Young Australian Salmon can be mistaken for Australian Herring (Tommy rough). Please see the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide to learn how to identify the difference.

**Peak season:** March – September.

**Minimum legal size:** 21cm.

**Bag limit:** 20 per person per day (a total limit of 20 Australian salmon and/or Australian Herring).

**Baits:** Pilchards, whitebait, pipis, squid.

**Time and tides:** Morning or late afternoon. A few hours either side of high tide.

**Locations:**

1

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10

11

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





## Bream

**Peak season:** June – November.

**Minimum legal size:** 28cm  
(must be kept whole until you get home  
– can be gutted and scaled – see pg 16).

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

**Baits:** Bass yabbies, sandworms, prawns,  
mussels.

**Time and tides:** Morning or late afternoon.  
A few hours either side of high tide.

### Locations:



## Eel

**Peak season:** All year round.

**Minimum legal size:** None.

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

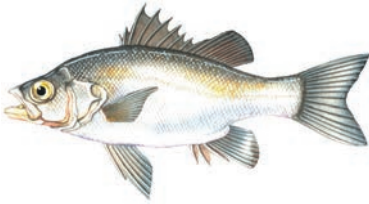
**Baits:** Bread, worms.

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

### Locations:



# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: NATIVE



## Estuary Perch

**NOTE:** *Estuary Perch can be mistaken for Australian Bass. Please see the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide for more details.*

**Peak season:** November – February.

**Minimum legal size:** 27cm.

**Bag limit:** 5 per person per day (of which no more than 2 can be Australian Bass).

**Baits:** Sandworm, yabbies, shrimp, crabs.

**Time:** From dusk and throughout the night.

### Locations:



## Flathead

**Peak season:** October – March.

**Minimum legal size:** 27cm.

**Bag limit:** 20 per person per day.

**Baits:** Pilchards, whitebait, prawns, squid.

**Time and tides:** Can be caught throughout the day. A few hours either side of high tide.

### Location:



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





## Gummy Shark

**Peak season:** October – March

**Minimum legal size:** 45cm  
(see fish fact below on how to measure shark, must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled).

**Bag limit:** 2 gummy or only 1 when combined with a school shark

**Baits:** Pilchards, squid, salmon fillets, mullet, trevally, eel.

**Time and tides:** Best results at night time.

**Location:**

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## King George Whiting

**Peak season:** November – April

**Minimum legal size:** 27cm  
(must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled – see pg 16).

**Bag limit:** 20 per person per day

**Baits:** Pipis, mussels, bass yabbies, squid.

**Time and tides:** Morning or late afternoon.  
A few hours either side of high tide.

**Locations:**

10

13

 You measure shark differently to fin fish. You must measure them from the rear-most gill slit to the base of the tail fin.



# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: NATIVE



## Mulloway

**Peak season:** March – October

**Minimum legal size:** 60cm

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

**Baits:** Mullet fillets, fresh squid, salmon fillets.

**Time and tides:** Morning and evenings and into the dark. Often caught near tide changes.

### Locations:



## Silver Trevally

**Peak season:** October – May.

**Minimum legal size:** 20cm.

**Bag limit:** 20 per person per day.

**Baits:** Pilchards, whitebait, pipis, squid.

**Time and tides:** Morning or late afternoon. A few hours either side of high tide.

### Locations:





## Snapper

**Peak season:** October – May.

**Minimum legal size:** 28cm  
(must be kept whole until you get home  
– can be gutted and scaled – see pg 16).

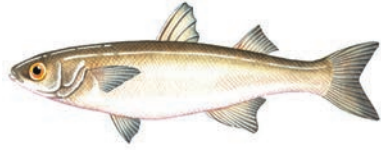
**Bag limit:** 10 per person per day  
(of which no more than 3 can exceed 40cm).

**Baits:** Pilchards, silver whiting, whitebait, squid.

**Time and tides:** Morning or late afternoon.  
A few hours either side of high tide.

**Location:**

13



## Yellow-eye Mullet

**Peak season:** March – September.

**Minimum legal size:** no minimum.

**Bag limit:** 40 per person per day.

**Baits:** Sandworms, small pieces of pipi,  
whitebait or chicken, bread crust or raw  
dough.

**Time and tides:** Can be caught throughout  
the day.

**Locations:**

2

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12



**Maximum size limits give extra protection to a fish species.  
Bigger fish, who are good at breeding, stay in the water and have  
lots of babies which make sure we have lots of fish for the future.**

# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: NATIVE



## Yellowtail Kingfish

**Peak season:** December – January.

**Minimum legal size:** 60cm.

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

**Baits:** Lures, squid, pilchards.

**Time and tides:** Morning and afternoon fishing best but can be caught all day.

**Location:**

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# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: INTRODUCED



## Brown Trout

**NOTE:** The rules for Brown Trout outlined here are for the location listed in this guide ONLY. If you fish for Brown Trout elsewhere, for example a river, stream or other lakes, 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  
(must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled – see pg 16).

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

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

**Time:** Early morning and evening.

### Locations:

6

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8

9



## Chinook Salmon

**NOTE:** The rules for Chinook Salmon outlined below are for the location listed in this guide ONLY. If you fish for Chinook Salmon elsewhere, for example a river, stream or lakes, please refer to the Victorian Recreational fishing guide as other restrictions may apply.

**Peak season:** June to September

**Minimum legal size:** None  
(must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled – see pg 16).

**Bag limit:** 5 per person per day  
(which includes a combination of Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and Chinook Salmon)

**Baits:** Worms, yabbies.

**Time and tides:** Early morning and evening.

### Location:

6

# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH: INTRODUCED



## 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 else where, for example a river, stream or other lakes, 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  
(must be kept whole until you get home – can be gutted and scaled – see pg 16).

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

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

**Time and tides:** Early morning and evening.

### Locations:



## 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 and late afternoon is best but can be caught at any time.

### Locations:

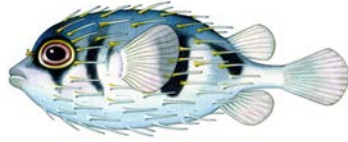


# UNWANTED AND UNREQUIRED FISH

Unwanted fish (e.g. puffers, toadies) are fish that you don't want or are not allowed to keep. They must be returned to the water immediately and without hurting them.



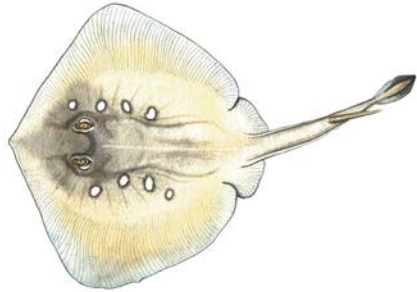
**Toadfish**



**Puffer**



**Eleven Armed Seastar**



**Ray**



There are new restrictions around taking rays.

For further information download the free Vic Fishing App on page 27.

# 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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