

*Get outside,*  
**GO FISHING**

**EAST GIPPSLAND**



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## DID YOU KNOW?

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



# GO FISHING

*Fishing is a fun and healthy activity available to everyone, regardless of your gender, culture, ability or age.*

This beginner's guide will assist new anglers to locate good fishing spots around East Gippsland.

It will also help you plan a stress free, safe fishing experience by explaining:

- 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.

*Share your first fishing memories on social media using #familyfirstbite*

# WHY GO FISHING?

Fishing can be fun in so many ways. It is a good way to:

- spend quality time with family and friends, creating lifelong memories
- unplug from the electronic world, de-stress and relax
- tune into and enjoy the natural world; you never know what you will see
- get you moving by walking, bending and stretching
- top up your vitamin D levels
- experience the thrill of catching your own dinner.

Fishing also introduces children to social responsibilities and ethics. For example, to respect:

- our environment by taking your rubbish home
- our fisheries by knowing and obeying the rules
- fellow anglers by not crowding them
- our fish by treating them carefully and not needlessly harming them
- our fish populations by reporting illegal fishing to 13 FISH (13 3474).

Part of the appeal of fishing is waiting for the fish to bite and trying to catch one – so it also teaches us patience.



# PLANNING YOUR FISHING TRIP

*Like most activities, a little planning can help make the day go smoother. 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
- ☐ 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)**

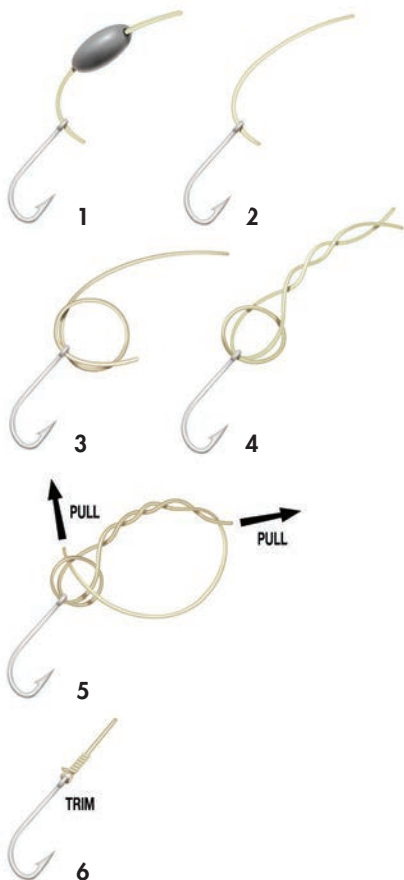
- ☐ A fishing rod and reel or a hand line (2-4 kg rating)
- ☐ Fishing line (3 kg capacity)
- ☐ Hooks and a squid jig
- ☐ Sinkers
- ☐ Towel or gloves  
A wet towel or gloves protects both you and the fish when you are handling it.
- ☐ A bucket or esky with a rope attached  
This is used to keep your catch cool and safe to eat (and also serves as a floatation/rescue device).
- ☐ A knotless landing net  
This allows you to bring the fish to land without causing it harm.
- ☐ 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  
Once you have decided where you are going and which fish you are targeting, buy bait and ice, which will keep your water, food and hopefully your freshly caught fish cool.

*Ask for environmentally friendly fishing gear where you can*



## Rigging your line

- Thread fishing line through the sinker (1) and move up towards the tip of the rod, out of the way (2).
- Thread fishing line through the eye of the hook twice making a circle (3). Take end of line and twist it back around the main line (4).
- Take the end of the line and thread it through the circle made previously (5).
- Pull both the main line and the end of the fishing line at the same time to form a knot (6). Trim excess line (6).



# 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 accurate information on weather and water conditions across Victoria. If the forecasts are not favourable then find a place that has safer conditions or postpone your trip.

## ☐ **Make sure someone knows your plans**

Always tell someone where you are going fishing, who you are going with, including their mobile phone numbers and what time you will be back. Should the worst happen, this person will have the right information to help find you. Remember if you change your plans, let this person know.

## ☐ **Always fish with a friend – never fish alone**

Take a mate who can watch your back. Conditions on or near water (everywhere) can change very quickly. Trust your mate to help keep you safe.

## ☐ **Take your safety gear and keep it close-by**

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 places are safer than beaches, river banks, or rocks. There are usually other people around to help you.

## ☐ **Don't drink alcohol**

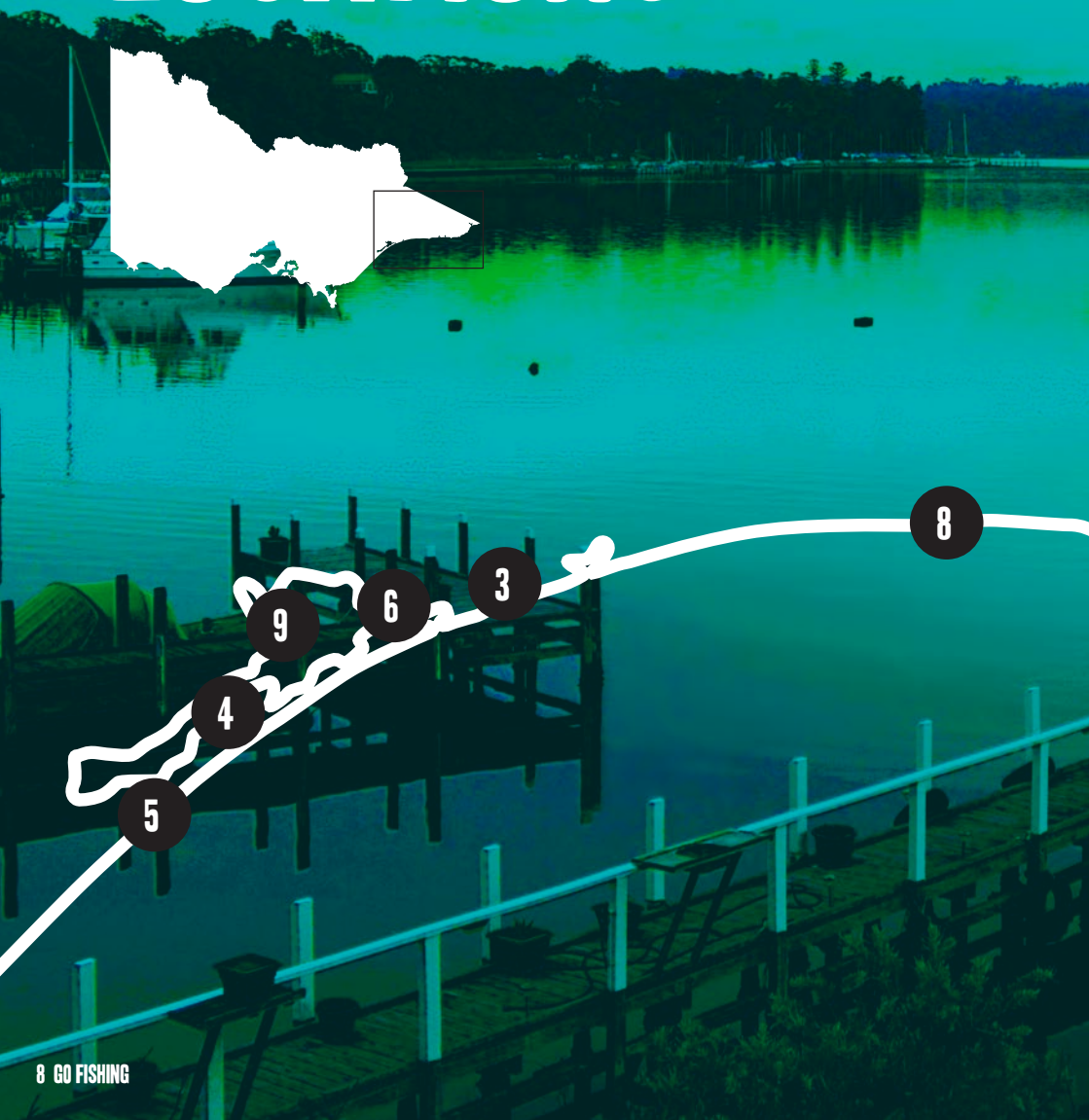
## ☐ **Keep your eye on the water**

Wave heights are unpredictable and can change quickly.

### **If someone falls into the water:**

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

# FISHING LOCATIONS







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# FISHING LOCATIONS

1

## BEMM RIVER

### DOLLY'S GARDEN

Situated before the small township of Bemm River, Dolly's Garden offers easy access to the Bemm River. It provides an excellent location for fishers of all ages with a purpose built fishing platform.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead and Estuary Perch.

**Attractions close by:** Sydenham Inlet, sandy beaches, Cape Conran National/Coastal Park.



### MAIN RAMP

Bemm River is a small tranquil town situated on the north western side of Sydenham inlet. Positioned in the heart of the township of Bemm River, the main boat ramp area provides excellent access to those wanting to fish.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead, Estuary Perch, Luderick and Silver Trevally.

**Attractions close by:** Cape Conran National Park.



2

## GIPSY POINT

### MAIN WHARF

Located on the upper reaches of the Mallacoota Lake system, Gipsy Point offers the perfect stop for those wanting a peaceful location to fish, have an enjoyable picnic and observe wildlife.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead and Estuary Perch.

**Attractions close by:** Mallacoota Lake system, Croajingolong National Park, sandy beaches.



3

## LAKES ENTRANCE

### CUNNINGHAM QUAY

Boasting Australia's largest inland network of waterways, Lakes Entrance has long been a popular Gippsland holiday spot, especially for young families. Lakes Entrance is situated on the edge of Ninety Mile Beach where the Gippsland Lakes meets the Southern Ocean. Enjoy a great view of Cunningham Arm and the Esplanade and watch the commercial fishing boats returning from Bass Strait.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead, Luderick, Silver Trevally and Tailor.

**Attractions close by:** Cross the footbridge to the ocean beach, patrolled by Life Saving Victoria during peak summer periods. Minigolf, golf course, boat hire. Bullock Island. Lake cruises. Buchan caves. Griffiths sea shell Museum, Gippsland Lakes discovery cycling trail.



## 4

## LAKE TYERS

**FISHERMAN'S LANDING**

Tall eucalypt forests surround the northern shores of Lake Tyers, and a thin sand spit divides the lake from the ocean. Lake Tyers State Park offers a number of areas for picnics, beautiful bushwalks, forest drives and basic bush camping. After exploring the village of Lake Tyers Beach, turn at the Toorloo Arm Primary school and continue to Fisherman's Landing to try out your fishing skills.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead, Luderick and Yellow-eye Mullet.

**Attractions close by:** Lake Tyers Beach lake and ocean foreshore, Mill Point foreshore and boat ramp, Marlo Coastal Reserve, Cape Conran Coastal Park.



## 5

## LOCH SPORT

**MOORING JETTY**

Positioned on the foreshores of Lake Victoria between the Gippsland Coastal Park and Lakes National Park, Loch Sport is a natural mecca for water sports including water skiing, sailing, kayaking, swimming, fishing and boating. Turning left onto Charles St as you drive into Loch Sport from Sale will bring you to the Mooring Jetty, sandy beach and boat ramp. An excellent place to start your fishing adventure.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead, Garfish, Tailor and Yellow-eye Mullet.

**Attractions close by:** Drive across the Causeway to access the Ninety Mile Beach for good surf fishing. Keep watch for the many kangaroos that often visit the township area. Travel to Sale, visit the Swing Bridge, take the Heritage Cruise, visit the Botanic Gardens, Lake Guyatt, Lake Guthridge and Sale Common Ramsar wetlands.



## 6

## METUNG

## SHAVING POINT

Metung Village is a well-kept secret, in a peaceful corner of the Gippsland Lakes. Its history is steeped in boats, fishing and gentle lifestyle. The sandy beaches at the end of the Metung peninsula, are always worth a try to catch a fish.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead, King George Whiting, Silver Trevally and Tailor.

**Attractions close by:** Walk the boardwalk along Bancroft Bay towards Chinaman's Creek, Nyerimilang heritage park, Jemmy's point lookout.



## 7

## MALLACOOTA

## FISHERIES JETTY

Bush and wildlife, extensive waterways, walking trails, Gabo Island historic lighthouse, a relaxed feel are on offer in Mallacoota. At the centre of the township; the Fisheries Jetty, as it's locally known as a fishing platform specifically designed for recreational fishers of all ages and abilities.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead and Silver Trevally.

**Attractions close by:** Mallacoota lakeside walking track, the township of Mallacoota, the Croajingolong National Park.



## MAIN WHARF

The Main Wharf of Mallacoota is the hub for fishing activities within the town. Duel boat ramps, cleaning tables, information signage and large areas from which to cast a line are all provided. This location is also within easy walking distance from shops, cafes and local accommodation. Toilets and parking are available at this site.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead and Silver Trevally.

**Attractions close by:** The Mallacoota Lake, the township of Mallacoota, the Croajingolong National Park, art galleries.



## THE NARROWS

Located between the Lower Lake and Top Lake of Mallacoota, and only a short drive from the Mallacoota township; The Narrows offers excellent access for fishing. A well maintained walkway follows the length of The Narrows with multiple locations for casting a line from the water's edge.

**Likely to catch:** Bream and Dusky Flathead.

**Attractions close by:** Mallacoota Township, Croajingolong National Park, coastal beaches, restaurants, boat launching facilities and supermarkets.



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## MARLO

## GOVERNMENT WHARF

Marlo is a tranquil seaside resort and fishing town. Situated at the mouth of the Snowy River, the estuary at Marlo offers an uncrowded jetty or foreshore fishing.

**Likely to catch:** Australian Salmon, Bream, Dusky Flathead, Luderick, Tailor and Yellow-eye Mullet.

**Attractions close by:** Take a 20 minute drive out to picturesque Cape Conran, with it's sandy ocean beaches and rocky shores. Explore Frenches Narrows via the boardwalk.



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## PAYNESVILLE

## SUNSET COVE

Paynesville is a magnificent location surrounded on three sides by lakes that stretch over 350 square kilometres. This area encompasses Paynesville, Raymond Island, Eagle Point and Newlands giving you plenty of space to explore. Travel along The Esplanade at Paynesville, turn onto Sunset Drive, and there's plenty of fishing spots right next to the road.

**Likely to catch:** Bream, Dusky Flathead, Tailor, Luderick and Yellow-eye Mullet.

**Attractions close by:** Take a trip on the Raymond Island Ferry and look for koalas on the island.



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## SANDY POINT

## CROAJINGOLONG NATIONAL PARK

Located within the pristine Croajingolong National Park, Sandy Point provides an excellent location for a daytrip. Those who visit can fish the Mallacoota Lake system, relax beside the water, have a BBQ picnic and observe local wildlife.

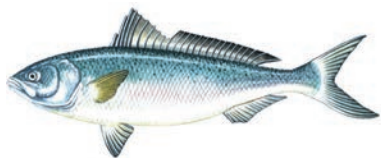
**Likely to catch:** Bream and Dusky Flathead.

**Attractions close by:** Mallacoota township and Croajingolong National Park.





# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH



## *Australian Salmon*

**Peak season:** March – September

**Minimum legal size:** 21cm

**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:**

8



## *Bream*

**Peak season:** June – November

**Minimum legal size:** 28cm

**Bag limit:** 10 per person per day  
(must be retained in whole or carcass form – see fish fact on page 16)

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

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

**Locations:**

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





## Dusky Flathead

**Peak season:** November – March

**Minimum legal size:** 30cm

**Maximum legal size:** 55cm  
(see fish fact on page 17)

**Bag limit:** 5 per person per day  
(must be retained in whole or carcass form – see fish fact on page 16)

**Baits:** Prawn, salted baitfish, fresh cut fish bait, live bait, and lures.

**Time and tides:** Dawn and dusk.  
Either side of high tide in shallower waters.

**Other locations:**



## Estuary Perch

**Peak season:** December – February

**Minimum legal size:** 27cm

**Bag limit:** 5 per person per day  
(of which no more than 2 can be Australian Bass, see distinguishing features/differences below – if you are still unsure, please return the fish to the water as quickly as possible)

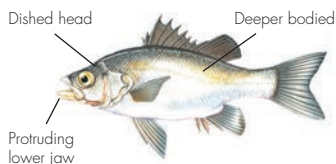
**Baits:** Lures, live shrimp and prawn, sandworm, live baitfish, dead shrimp and prawn.

**Time and tides:** Dawn and dusk – they hold in different areas depending on tide.

**Other locations:**



### ESTUARY PERCH



### AUSTRALIAN BASS



# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH



## *Garfish*

**Peak season:** November – July

**Minimum legal size:** no minimum

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

**Baits:** Pipsis, prawns or any fish flesh.

**Time and tides:** Can be caught throughout the day. Run-in tide.

**Other locations:**

5



## *King George Whiting*

**Peak season:** November – April

**Minimum legal size:** 27cm

**Bag limit:** 20 per person per day  
(must be retained in whole or carcass form – see fish fact below)

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

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

**Other locations:**

6

*Keep your fish whole as this enables Fisheries Officers  
to measure the fish to ensure they are legal length.*



### *Luderick*

**Peak season:** December – February

**Minimum legal size:** 23cm

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

**Baits:** Cabbage weed, luderick grass fished under a float, peeled prawn, sandworm.

**Time and tides:** Dawn and dusk.  
Flood tide in lower reaches.

**Other 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.

**Other locations:**



*Maximum size limits give extra protection to a fish species.*

*It ensures that bigger fish, who are good at breeding, remain in the water and produce fish for future generations.*

# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH



## *Tailor*

**Peak season:** December – May

**Minimum legal size:** 23cm

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

**Baits:** Prawn, salted baitfish, fresh cut fish bait, live bait, and lures.

**Time and tides:** Dawn and dusk.

**Other locations:**

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## *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. Rising or run-out tide.

**Locations:**

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# UNWANTED AND UNREQUIRED FISH

**Unwanted fish** (e.g. puffers, toadies) or **fish that are not required** (you don't want/not allowed to keep) **must be returned to the water immediately and without harm or injury.**



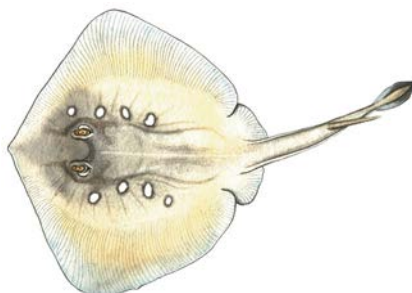
Toadfish



Puffer



Eleven Armed Seastar



Ray

*There are new restrictions around taking rays.*

*For further information visit  
[www.vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/ray-protection-fishing-rules](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/ray-protection-fishing-rules)*

# 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 horizontal 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 immediately
- measuring the fish quickly on a cool, wet surface, to ensure they are of a legal size
- quickly deciding if you can and want to keep the fish.

- **the fish they release by:**

- gently and quickly lowering them into the water, using a bucket of water on a rope, to reduce further damage
- releasing immediately and carefully unwanted fish, like toadfish, stingrays and seastars to the water.

- **the fish they are legally able to keep by:**

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

- **our fish resources 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 and taking rubbish home including leftover bait and any fish waste
- using environmentally friendly fishing tackle
- sharing the space respectfully with other users including other anglers, swimmers and snorkelers.



# UNDERSTANDING THE FISHING RULES

*There are many rules associated with recreational fishing in Victoria. Not all are covered in this beginners guide.*

## Why do we have fishing rules?

Fishing rules guarantee that we have fish now and in the future. Fishing rules ensure:

- we secure our fish populations by:
  - not taking too many
  - returning young, small fish to the water so they can breed
  - returning larger, best breeding fish to the water
  - stopping fishing in certain areas and at certain times to protect fish stocks.
- we share our fish by:
  - specifying the number of fish a person can catch each day
  - specifying the type and amount of fishing equipment a person can use.
- we grow our fisheries by:
  - licensing fishers and using this money to improve facilities, fish populations and fishing experiences.

Fishing rules protect fish populations so there are different rules, for different fish, in different locations.

## Do I need a fishing licence?

Generally, if you are over the age of 18 and under the age of 70 and fishing in Victoria then yes, you need a licence, even if you are just assisting your children.

Some people are exempt from having a fishing licence. 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 most fishing tackle shops.

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

The revenue raised from fishing licences is used to improve our recreational fisheries.

*For information on all the fishing rules search online for 'Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide' or download the free 'Vic Fishing' App.*

# WHAT ARE THE FISHING RULES?

## Basic fishing rules

If you go fishing at the places listed in this booklet these are rules you need to know:

### 1. Legal size

The smallest (minimum legal size) and the largest (maximum legal size) fish you can legally keep. Fish outside the legal size range must be returned to the water immediately and without harm.

The legal size of fish must be checked quickly. Measure fish from the tip of the snout with the mouth closed to the end of the tail. Fish that you wish to keep should be dispatched immediately and placed on ice.



### 2. Bag limit

The maximum number of legal sized fish of a given species you catch in one day.

### 3. Return unwanted fish

Return unwanted fish to water immediately and without any further harm.

### 4. 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 the ocean and bays (marine waters)
- you must stay with your rods while they are in the water.

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

You can however 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** fishing in a Marine National Park or Sanctuary
- **not** in Intertidal Protected Areas (where some types of fishing is prohibited)
- **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

Help protect our fisheries by always having the most up-to-date information:

- download the free Vic Fishing App or get a free paper copy of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide sent to you by calling 13 61 86
- copies of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide can also be found at any Fisheries office and most bait and tackle shops across Victoria.

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 approach you.

## What can I expect when a Fisheries Officer approaches me?

A Fisheries Officer can:

- give you educational material and information about fisheries
- ask you to produce 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 fish in your possession to check compliance with size and bag limits.

## What powers do Fisheries Officers have?

By law Fisheries Officers can:

- stop and inspect 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 (infringement notice)
- seize 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 committing a fisheries offence?

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

If found to be doing the wrong thing, or the Officers believe you have committed an offence, a Fisheries Officer will:

- explain the nature of the alleged offence
- request your full name and home address which you **MUST** provide
- ask you to participate in an interview
- 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 treated in strict confidence. Your information helps us to plan patrols and other enforcement operations.



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*More Victorians fishing, more often*

