

*Get outside,*  
**GO FISHING**

**FAMILY FISHING LAKES**



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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, regardless of your gender, culture, ability or age.*

This beginner's guide will assist new anglers to locate good fishing spots at freshwater lakes.

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.

# 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

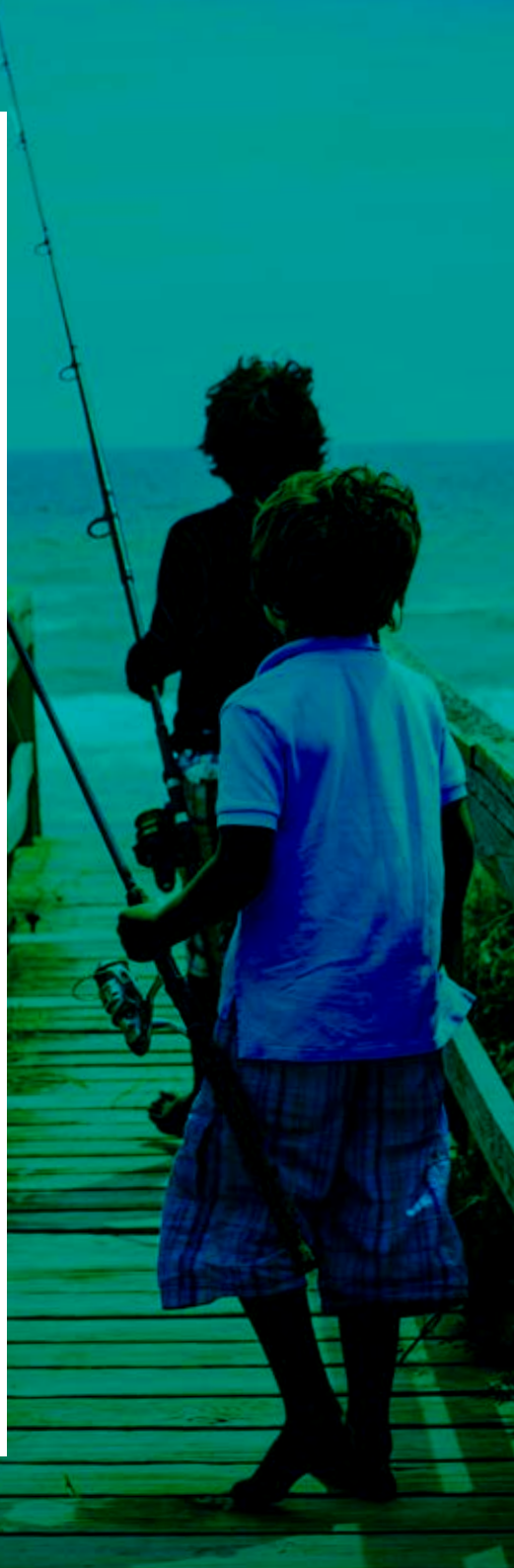
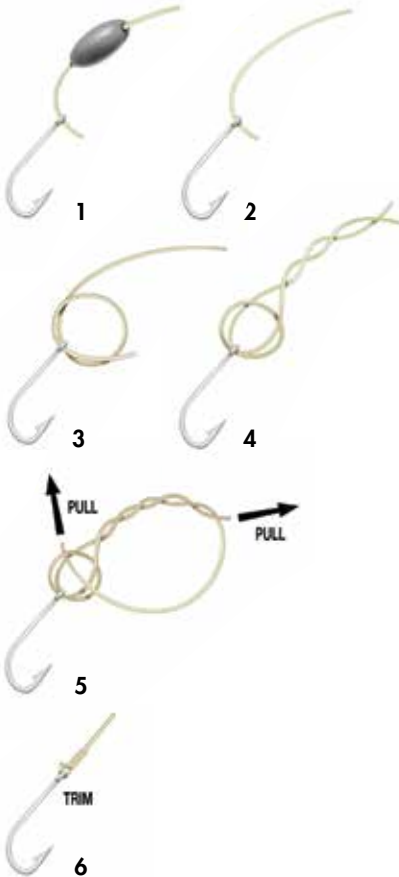
## **Your fishing gear (a fishing tackle shop will be able to help you with this equipment)**

- A fishing rod and reel or a hand line (2-4 kg rating)
- Biodegradable fishing line (3 kg capacity)
- Circle hooks and a squid jig
- Non-lead 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.

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

## 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. 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**

Water levels can change quickly and be unpredictable

### **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

21 Police Paddocks Dam

16 Kenning

4 Cato Lake

14 Jubilee Lake

7 Dunkeld Arboretum Dam

24 Victoria Parks Lake

Albert Park Lake

23 Tea Tree Lake

ST Augustine's Water hole

22

17 Lake Petobe

5 Cobden Lake

Devilbend Res





2 *Allan's Flat Dredge Hole*

10 *Fosters Dam*

ton Reservoir

8 *Eildon Pondage Weir*

18 *Lillydale Lake*

1 *Emerald Park Lake*

12 *Heyfield Racecourse Lake*

15 *Karkarook Lake*

11 *Guthrie Lake*

20 *Pakenham Lake*

6 *Casey Fields Lake*

19 *Monwell Lake*

3 *reservoir*

13 *Hyland Lake*

# FISHING LOCATIONS

## 1 ALBERT PARK LAKE

Albert Park Lake is a well-stocked water situated in a brilliant, 560 hectare inner city park. The roads surrounding this park are home to the Melbourne Grand Prix in March and it is also home to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, large ovals, restaurants and so much more.

**Likely to catch:** Carp, Golden Perch and Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Aquarium, St Kilda, Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne Arts Centre, Luna Park, Melbourne city.



## 2 ALLAN'S FLAT DREDGE HOLE

Located 8 kilometres from the Yackandandah township, the dredge hole began life as part of a creek mined for gold during the late 1800's. It has magnificent shady trees surrounding it and a grading of gentle to steep sloping banks. It is popular spot for swimmers, canoeists, picnics as well as fishing.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Yackandandah, Vienna Patisserie Chalet, Lavender Farm, Strawberry farm.



## 3 CASEY FIELDS LAKE

Casey Fields is a 76 hectare site in Cranbourne East developed by the City of Casey as the premier outdoor sports facility in Melbourne's south east, including fishing.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, Mayuna Farm, old cheese factory on Springfield Estate.



## 4 CATO LAKE

Cato Park is situated in the heart of Stawell and provides visitors and the community with a beautiful recreational area. The park surrounds idyllic Cato Lake with walking trails which weave in and around the park, it is the place to go for a relaxing time, all year round. The beautiful grass surrounds provide the perfect location for families to unwind.

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

**Attractions close by:** Stawell gold mine, Grampians National Park, Aboriginal art site (Bunjils Shelter), Lake Fyans.



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## COBDEN LAKE

Cobden established in the late 1860s, is a small town developed because of the prosperous soils ideal for dairy farming. Like many of the neighboring towns, Cobden is rich in natural and colonial history. The Cobden Lake is a lovely shady lake in the middle of town and is surrounded by a walking track. There is plenty of birdlife to watch while you try your hand at fishing.

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

**Attractions close by:** Miniature Railway, Great Ocean Road, Warrnambool, Whale watching, Camperdown the it's crater Lakes, Port Campbell, Timboon.



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## DEVILBEND RESERVOIR

Devilbend Reservoir is the largest inland water body on the Mornington Peninsula and provides valuable habitat for birds as well as plenty of fishing opportunities. Fisheries has invested a lot into this water with a jetty upgrade and intensive fish stocking program, however fishing can only be undertaken in certain areas.

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

**Attractions close by:** Phillip Island Nature Reserve, Koala Sanctuary, Mini Golf, Moto Grand Prix Circuit, Churchill Island.



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## DUNKELD ARBORETUM DAM

The Dunkeld Arboretum is a popular attraction within the Grampians region. It boasts a stunning views of wild flowers and an abundance of natural wildlife. Within the Arboretum, you will see thorn bills, water fowls, kookaburras and much more while waiting for that fish. So if a quiet day out in nature is what you are looking for, then the Dunkeld Arboretum is the place for you.

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

**Attractions close by:** Grampians National Park.



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## EILDON PONDAGE WEIR

The Pondage in Eildon is one of Victoria's most popular family fishing locations. It's an easy drive from Melbourne and can produce some trophy trout especially during the release of breeding stock (fish up to 2kg in weight) from Snobs Creek hatchery. This happens once a year around the first week of spring and makes for some exciting fun.

**Likely to catch:** Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Lake Eildon National Park.



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## EMERALD PARK LAKE

A premier park and tourist attraction Emerald Lake Park is in the heart of Emerald in the Dandenong Ranges. As one of the destination points for the iconic Puffing Billy, the park offers a range of activities including picnics, walking trails, paddleboats and most importantly, fishing.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Puffing Billy, Nobelius Heritage Park and Emerald Museum.



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## FOSTERS DAM

The township of Glenrowan is the site of the final siege and capture of Ned Kelly and his gang in 1880. Fosters Lake is located just north of the Glenrowan town centre. It was named after the stationmaster at Glenrowan, who had the lake built to water the transported cattle. The Lake is home to plenty of bird life and the shady surrounds are perfect for a picnic or barbecue.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Ned Kelly museum, Cycling tracks, birdwatching, Glenrowan siege site, The Ned Kelly Statue.



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## GUTHERIDGE LAKE

Lake Guthridge Parklands offers the visitor over 35 hectares of botanic gardens, walking trails, indigenous artworks and a contemporary fauna park. Combined with sensory gardens, abundant seating, a significant children's playground, under cover bbq facilities and free tennis courts, the Lake Guthridge Parkland precinct provides a delightful setting for enjoying a leisurely few hours.

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

**Attractions close by:** 90 Mile Beach, Macalister River Regional Park, Maffra, Bataluk Cultural Trail, Freestone Creek and Bluepool.



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## HEYFIELD RACECOURSE LAKE

Once the site of the Heyfield racecourse, the Heyfield Racecourse Lake and Wetlands are now the home to a number of different species of bird and animal life. The Wetlands Information Centre at the southern end of the lake is the home of the Neville-Smith Timber Industries display. An all-access fishing platform was built using Recreational Fishing Licence revenue.

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

**Attractions close by:** Lake Glen Maggie.



## 13 HYLAND LAKE

Hyland Lake is a small lake surrounded by farm land at the base of the Strzelecki Ranges. Churchill has quite a unique landmark, that being a huge replica of Winston Churchill's cigar. Near the base of the cigar is a commemorative brick wall. It gives the names of the first families to move into town in the 1960's.

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

**Attractions close by:** Strzelecki Ranges.



## 14 JUBILEE LAKE, DAYLESFORD

From the Dja Dja Wurrung people, who first inhabited the land thousands of years ago, to the Swiss Italian migrants of the gold rush and Melbourne's turn-of-the-century holidaymakers, Daylesford has long been considered a special place. Jubilee Lake is the hidden gem.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Daylesford township and lake, Hepburn Springs, walking tracks, Castlemaine, Hanging Rock, Convent Gallery.



## 15 KARKAROOK LAKE

Karkarook Park is all about the unexpected. A recreational and environmental oasis within situated between the hustle and bustle of suburbia. This 40 hectare man made park is a peaceful location comprised of green grass, rolling hills and a lake all revegetated with indigenous plants.

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

**Attractions close by:** Braeside Park, DFO shopping centre, golf courses.



## 16 KENNINGTON RESERVOIR

Before European settlement, this region was known as Jaara Jaara country by its traditional land owners. Between 1850 – 1900 Bendigo became the richest city in the world thanks to the gold rush. Now it is a cosmopolitan city and home to many waterways including Kennington Reservoir. This lake a peaceful park surrounded by bushland.

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

**Attractions close by:** heritage tours, gold mining tours, cafés and restaurants, arts centre, city trams.



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## LAKE PETOBE

Warrnambool's fantastic Lake Pertobe Adventure Playground is a year-round family attraction. This 8ha adventure playground is paradise for kids with giant slides, flying foxes, a maze and boat rides as well as an enjoyable, family friendly place to fish.

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

**Attractions close by:** small paddle and motor boat rides, patrolled beach, middle island and Meriam's (home of odd ball), Flagstaff maritime museum and light show, mini golf, skateboard Park, cafes.



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## LILLYDALE LAKE

Lillydale Lake is an artificial lake and wetlands area. The park is over 100 hectares, the lake covers 28 hectares with a 440 meter long dam wall. The ruins of the 1850s Cashin's flour mill stand at the northern end of the dam wall. This is a family friendly lake which means Fisheries stock it specifically with larger fish to encourage new anglers.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Healesville Sanctuary, Rail Trail, Museum, Dandenong Ranges.



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## MORWELL LAKE

Head to the heart of the Latrobe Valley and discover Victoria's energy centre at Morwell. Visit renowned regional art galleries and cultural centres, walk through the famous rose garden and explore the surrounding natural attractions including Morwell Lake.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** Centenary Rose Garden, Tara Bulga National Park, Immigration Park and Wall of Recognition, Fosters Gully Nature Walk, golf course, cafes and restaurants.



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## PAKENHAM LAKE

Pakenham is a satellite suburb of Melbourne and the gateway to the Gippsland region. While primarily a commercial and residential hub, Pakenham Lake is a very pretty public space popular with the locals – especially on a sunny day.

**Likely to catch:** Rainbow Trout.

**Attractions close by:** BBQ's, walking track, playground, cafes.



## 21 POLICE PADDOCKS DAM

The Horsham Police Paddock Reserve is a popular recreational spot that boasts a unique combination beautiful parklands and bush camping. The reserve is an island whose natural formation led to its use as a place where police horses were rested back in the 19th century.

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

**Attractions close by:** Horsham city, Grampians National Park, cafés and restaurants, playgrounds, Little Dessert National Park, Lake Fyans.



## 22 ST AUGUSTINE'S WATER HOLE

St Augustine's water hole is a picturesque, generously sized ornamental lake just off South Valley Rd in Highton, Geelong. It is great lake for some trout fishing, a pleasant walk or to just sit, relax and watch some great bird life.

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

**Attractions close by:** cafés, Adventure Park, Geelong city, wineries, golf course.



## 23 TEA TREE LAKE

Sitting at the bottom of one of Victoria's most recently active volcanoes, Mortlake is rich in both natural and early settler history. Mortlake also has one of the region's most extensive Heritage Trails. The trail leads walkers around 20 of the predominately bluestone buildings dating back to 1857.

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

**Attractions close by:** playground, BBQ, Warrnambool city, cafés, swimming pool (only open in summer), Lake Bolac.



## 24 VICTORIA PARKS LAKES

Victoria's largest inland city, Ballarat, is a thriving hub of contemporary arts, events and food and wine, with a fascinating heritage backdrop. Victoria Park, home to Victoria Lakes, consists of 130 hectares of open active and passive recreation parkland on the western side of Ballarat City.

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

**Attractions close by:** Lake Wendouree, playgrounds, Sovereign Hill, wildlife parks, cafés and restaurants, Eureka Stockade, art galleries.



# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH



## Brown Trout

**NOTE:** The rules for Brown Trout outlined below are for the waters listed in this guide ONLY. If you fish for Brown Trout elsewhere, for example a river or stream, please refer to the fishing guide as other restrictions may apply.

**Peak season:** June - September

**Minimum legal size:** None

**Bag limit:** 5 salmonids (either Brown or Rainbow Trout or a combination of both) per person per day of which no more than 2 can exceed 35cm.

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

**Time:** Early morning / evening.

**Locations:**



## Carp

**NOTE:** Carp are a noxious species (see fish fact below)

**Peak season:** All year round

**Minimum legal size:** None

**Bag limit:** None

**Baits:** Corn, bread.

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

**Locations:**



Noxious species **MUST NOT** be returned to the water.

If caught, please kill them immediately and dispose of them appropriately. Don't leave on the bank of the water way.





## 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.

**Other locations:**

4

5

13

17



## Estuary Perch

**Peak season:** November – February

**Minimum legal size:** 27cm

**Bag limit:** 5

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

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

**Locations:**

6

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

# WHAT YOU'LL CATCH



## Rainbow Trout

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

**Peak season:** June to September

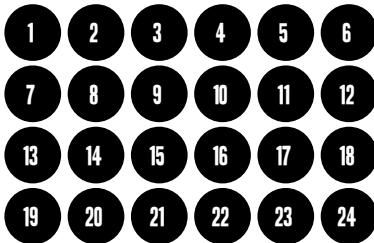
**Minimum legal size:** None

**Bag limit:** 5 salmonids (either Brown or Rainbow Trout or a combination of both) per person per day of which no more than 2 can exceed 35cm.

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

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

**Other locations:**



## Redfin

**Peak season:** All year round

**Minimum legal size:** None

**Bag limit:** None

**Baits:** Worms, small yabbies.

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

**Locations:**





## *Golden Perch (Yellow Belly)*

**Peak season:** October - November

**Minimum legal size:** 30cm

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

**Baits:** Scrub worms, yabbies, shrimp.

**Time and tides:** Late afternoon.

**Locations:**

1

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



# 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 mouth if the fish 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. DO NOT release NOXIOUS species like carp. (see page 16)

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

- killing them quickly with a fishing priest, using the method described on pg 12
- 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. 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 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.

# 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, except for noxious species like carp. These must NOT be returned to the water alive (see page 16).

### 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** in freshwater prohibited areas such as sevens creek, Goulburn River, Ryan's creek and domestic water supplies
- **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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