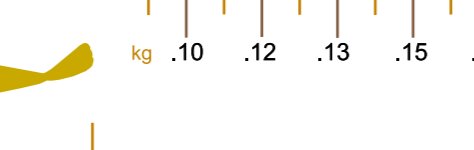


Dusky flathead

- **Simply measure your fish from its head to the tip of the tail and read the corresponding average weight.**



Dusky flathead are found in estuaries and coastal bays from southern Queensland to Gippsland in eastern Victoria. They **commonly inhabit tidal estuarine waters over sand, mud, gravel and seagrass habitats**. They are aggressive and opportunistic predators, are **well camouflaged and often ambush their prey**. Their diet consists mainly of a variety of fish, crustaceans and worms.

They have a **distinctive black spot on their caudal fin**, which helps to identify them from other flathead species. The **spines** located on each side of the head are very sharp and should be avoided if handling the fish. They have been reported to reach sizes of up to 15kg in weight and 1.5m in length, however they are commonly caught by recreational anglers at sizes between 200g-2kg.

‘Weigh your catch’

FISHCARE promotes responsible attitudes and practices amongst recreational anglers and the wider community

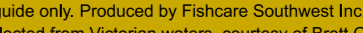


WHAT do we know?

- Male and female dusky flathead have been found to exhibit **different growth rates**. Larger fish greater than 50cm in length are likely to be breeding females.
- Spawning is thought to occur from **January to March** in Victorian waters.
- Dusky flathead can reach over **12 years** of age.
- **VICTAG FISH FACT:** A 31cm dusky flathead tagged and released at Lake Tyers in eastern Victoria was recaptured 192 days later. During its time at liberty it had grown 8cm and had travelled approximately 14km upstream.

WHEN releasing your catch...

- Do not play a fish out to exhaustion before landing, use a knotless landing net.
- Wet your hands before handling the fish and avoid touching the gills.
- Use a wet towel on which to rest the fish.
- Support or cradle large fish after landing - avoid holding it vertically.
- Use barbless hooks or crimp your hook barbs with pliers.
- Use long-nosed pliers to quickly and carefully remove the hook.
- Cut the line if the hook is deep.



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This ruler is a guide only. Produced by Fishcare Southwest Inc. October 2007. Length and weight data collected from Victorian waters, courtesy of Brett Geddes, Scott Gray and Peter Sphers.

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