

# Fishcare



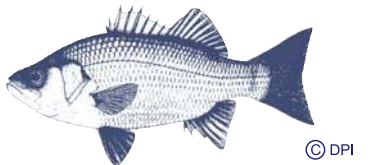
## Estuary perch

### CATCH AND RELEASE YOUR CATCH

- Simply measure your fish from head to the tip of the tail and read the corresponding average weight and age.
- Estuary perch are one of the longest living native perches in Australia and can reach minimum legal length at 3 years of age.

Estuary perch are a native fish species commonly found in estuaries and the lower freshwater reaches of coastal streams from northern NSW to the Murray River in SA and also in isolated areas of Northern Tasmania. They are carnivorous feeders and eat small

crustaceans, fish, molluscs and worms. They are commonly caught between 300g-2kg in weight, although they have been reported to grow larger. Their aggressive feeding behaviour makes them attractive to anglers and they can be caught on fly, bait and lure.



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### Estuary perch - *Macquaria colonorum*

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

our fish are **too precious to catch just once!**

### WHAT do we know?

- Estuary perch are very sensitive to handling, so minimise handling where possible.
- Breeding occurs in the lower sections of estuaries during late winter and spring in Victorian waters.
- Large Estuary perch captured over 40cm are often females that can produce hundreds of thousands of eggs. **Think twice before keeping your catch!**
- **VIC TAG Fact:** A 42cm Estuary perch tagged in Merrimans Creek at Seaspray in East Gippsland was recaptured at Corner Inlet, 50kms down the coast, just 57 days later.

Minimum size limits and bag limits apply - check your current **Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide**.

[www.fishcare.org.au](http://www.fishcare.org.au)

### WHEN releasing your catch...

- Do not play a fish out to exhaustion before landing.
- Rest the fish on a wet towel.
- Wet your hands before handling the fish & avoid touching the gills.
- Use barbless hooks or crimp your hook barbs with pliers.
- Use long nosed pliers to carefully remove the hook.
- Cut the line if the hook is in deep.

This ruler is a guide only. Produced December, 2004. Weight data from fish collected in the Hopkins River in 1999 by Tim Howell, courtesy of Deakin University, Warrnambool.

Report tag recaptures  
1800 677 620

