

GET HOOKED ON FISHING



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A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO
RESPONSIBLE FISHING IN VICTORIA

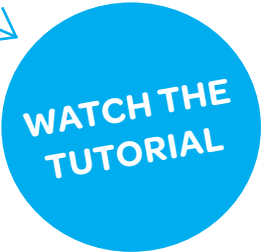


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GET HOOKED ON FISHING APP

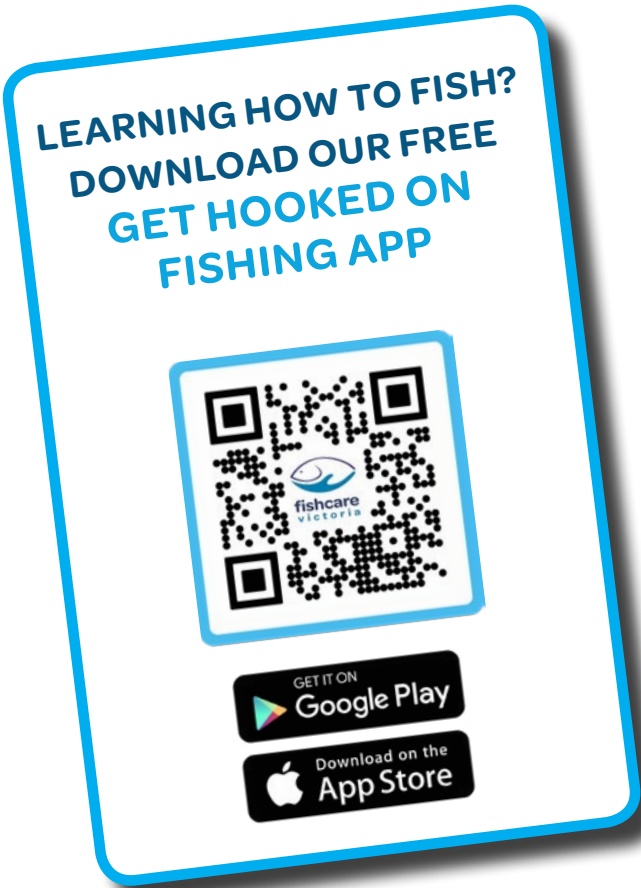
You will see icons like this throughout this guide. They indicate that there is a tutorial or quiz available on the app to support your learning.



Fishcares ‘Get Hooked On Fishing App’ is available for free through App Store and Google Play. This book has been designed to use in conjunction with the app.

The app includes video tutorials about how to get involved with fishing as well as quizzes where you can earn achievement badges and even keep a catch log of the fish you catch.

Fishcare Victoria encourages you to engage with the app which will assist in learning the topics found in this book as well as provide a handy resource and a way to challenge yourself to keep learning about recreational fishing.





ABOUT FISHCARE

Shaping the sustainable future of recreational fishing in Victoria through education, hands-on experiences, communication and community participation.

Fishcare has been operating in Victoria since 1995 and has since grown to cover the South West, Geelong & Bellarine, Melbourne, Central Highlands & East Gippsland Regions.

We are a community operated not-for-profit charity with the motto 'We Fish, We Care'. Our work promotes responsible fishing practices and increased stewardship of Victoria's aquatic environments and is funded through the Recreational Fishing Licence trust fund.

Fishcare partners with local communities to conduct family-friendly educational experiences and activities. These are just some of the fun and educational activities Fishcare groups are involved in:

- Learn-to-fish clinics and festivals
- School holiday programs
- Primary school programs
- Secondary school programs
- 'Catch-a-Carp' events
- Catch and release competitions
- Community forums and workshops
- Volunteer training and field trips
- Work with other 'care' groups on local environmental projects

For more information about upcoming events, news and resources, visit our website

www.fishcare.org.au



WHY TAKE UP FISHING AS A HOBBY?

Fishing is a form of recreation that is enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people in Victoria on a year round basis. It’s an activity that some people take part in every now again, whilst serious anglers fish at every opportunity that they get. Fishing is enjoyed by all age groups ranging from young children to elderly people, and by people of many different social and ethnic backgrounds, and physical abilities.

What are the benefits and pleasures associated with fishing?

- Fishing can be as simple or complicated as a person wishes to make it. Most people are introduced to simple forms of fishing and gradually progress to more complicated forms.
- Fishing provides an opportunity for people to explore and interact with the natural environment. This can range from rugged coastlines and long sandy beaches, to forest and mountain streams and rivers and inland lakes, to quiet backwater estuaries, bays, and the vast open ocean.
- Special moments can be had during fishing trips when mammals, birds, and other creatures are observed in their natural habitat
- Fishing can offer the pleasure of providing food for the table. Much satisfaction is obtained from catching a fish and cooking up a beautiful meal. No fish from a shop or a market can compare with the taste of a freshly caught fish

OVERALL ANYONE CAN LEARN TO FISH, AND EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE MANY BENEFITS AND PLEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH FISHING.

FILL IN THE SURVEY!



- Fishing offers a lifelong challenge to people who become seriously involved in this hobby. There is endless variation associated with fishing. Firstly there is the wide range of locations and environments where fishing can take place. Secondly there are dozens of different types of fish that can be caught in Victoria, with each species requiring different baits and tactics. Thirdly there are many different forms of fishing ranging from general bait fishing, surf fishing, fly fishing, lure fishing, float fishing, sport and game fishing etc.
- Fishing has a quality of the unknown and uncertainty. No matter how good an angler might be, he or she still relies on the fish to cooperate and be in the area where they may be expected to be. In essence every fishing trip is a game of chance. You can never be sure if you are going to be successful.
- You don’t even have to catch a fish to have an enjoyable fishing trip. Just going fishing is half the fun. Preparing for the trip can be enjoyable, and reflecting on the success or failure of the trip afterwards can also be rewarding.
- Lastly you often don’t even have to go fishing to enjoy the hobby. Many anglers gain satisfaction from activities related to fishing, such as building their own fishing rods, tying artificial flies, maintaining equipment, reading magazines and books on fishing, or simply talking about fishing with other people.

ROD & REEL BASICS



Get off to a good start by choosing the right rod and reel combo!

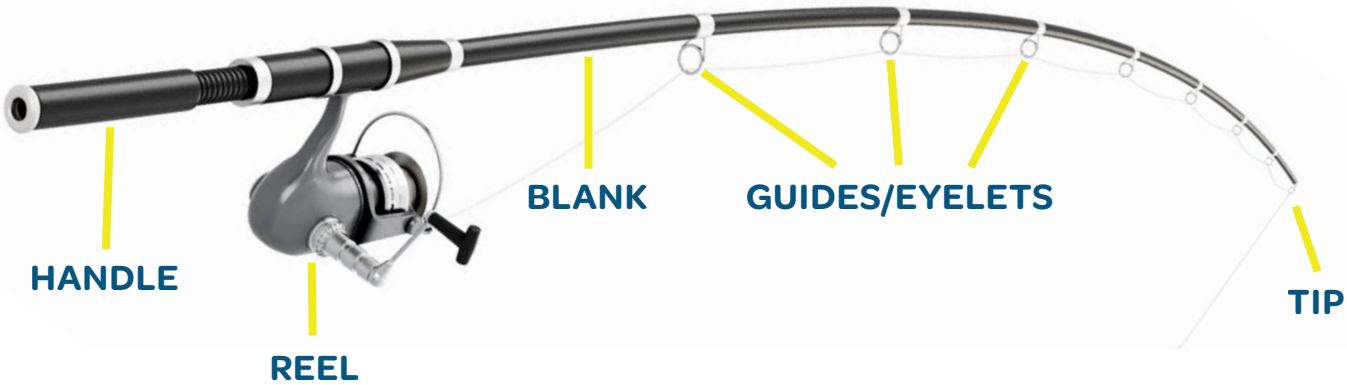
FISHING RODS

The rod lets you cast, and its flexibility acts as a shock absorber. The right rod will bend enough to absorb tension from the line and stop it from breaking, but still be rigid enough for you to fight and land the fish. A good choice for beginners is a light rod about 1.2 to two metres long (four to six feet). This is ideal for trout and other small fish, lightweight, and can handle smaller tackle very well.

FISHING REELS

Fishing reels store line on a spool. Some have an adjustable friction device known as a “drag,” which maintains tension on the line as it’s pulled off the spool. Proper adjustment of the drag serves two important functions when a fish runs: first, it prevents the spool from over-spinning, releasing line in a controlled, orderly fashion without tangling into a mess (or “bird’s nest”); second, it provides a braking force that slowly tires the fish without breaking the line.

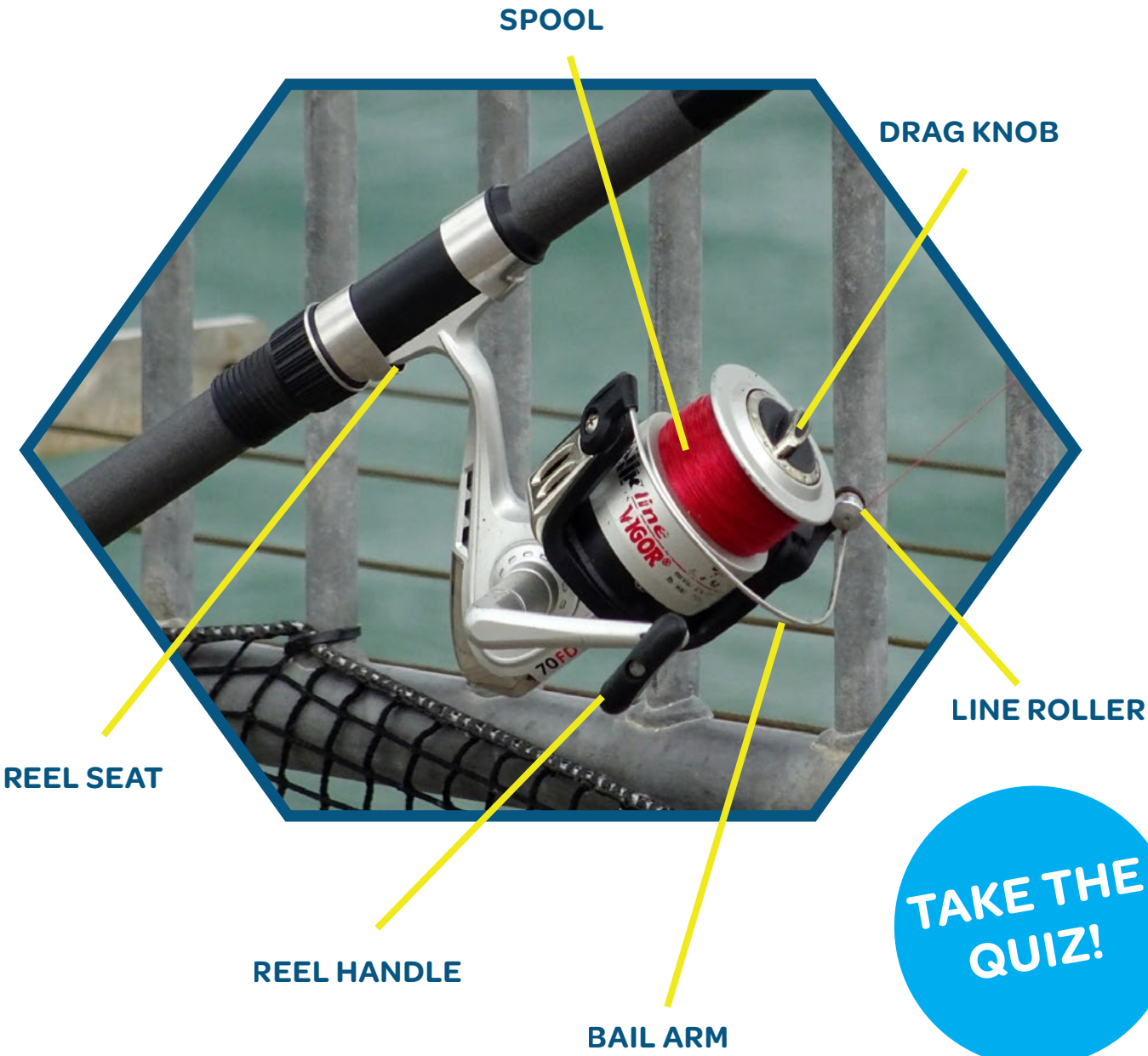
PARTS OF A FISHING ROD



SPINNING REEL

A spinning rod holds the reel underneath the rod, with the line guides pointing directly toward the ground. The line guides start larger than on a spincasting rod, and become smaller closer to the tip. Spinning reels use a metal bar (called a bail) to hold the line on the reel. As the reel handle is turned, the bail also turns, winding line neatly onto the spool.

PARTS OF A SPINNING REEL



GREEN TACKLE BOX



There is a more sustainable way to pack your tackle box than you may realise. Plus it won't affect your catch rate!

Have these items at the ready on your next fishing trip, not only will you find it easier to catch and release fish more safely for the whole family but the fish will have a much higher chance of survival.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Fishing Licence** - Unless exempt, everyone requires a current Victorian Fishing Licence to fish in Victorian waters. All revenue raised goes directly to improving Recreational Fishing opportunities in Victoria.
- ☐ **Circle Hooks** are curved back in a circular shape rather than the common J-hook, a design aimed at lip hooking fish. Circle hooks set themselves when the fish picks up the bait and make to turn away, there is no need to strike when using circle hooks. Mortality rates are decreased by approximately 50% when using circle hooks compared with the tradiional J-hooks due to minimal instances of internal damage via gut hooking. Suitable for most species of fish both fresh and salt water.



CIRCLE HOOK

- ☐ **Knotless/Fish Friendly Nets** are made out of a smooth PVC mesh. The risk of damage to fish, scales and mucus layer are significantly reduced through using a knotless net. The fine mesh evenly supports a fishes weight reducing internal injury to organs.
- ☐ **Non-Lead Sinkers** - Non lead sinkers prevent lead building up in our waterways where it has devastaing impacts that will significantly reduce fish populaions in the future.
- ☐ **Wet Towel/Gloves** - A fish's body has a slimy protective coating, which can be damaged by excessive handling. Incorrect handling damages fish and reduces their chances of survival after release.
- ☐ **Long Nosed Pliers** - If the fish is hooked in the jaw or mouth, remove the hook using long-nosed pliers. If the fish is gut hooked leave it there and cut the line as close as possible to the mouth.
- ☐ **Fish Ruler or Tape Measure** - to measure your catch and determine whether it is of legal size
- ☐ **A Recreational Fishing Guide** or the Vic Fishing App on Smartphone – So you know all the up to date rules and regulations.



KNOTLESS NET

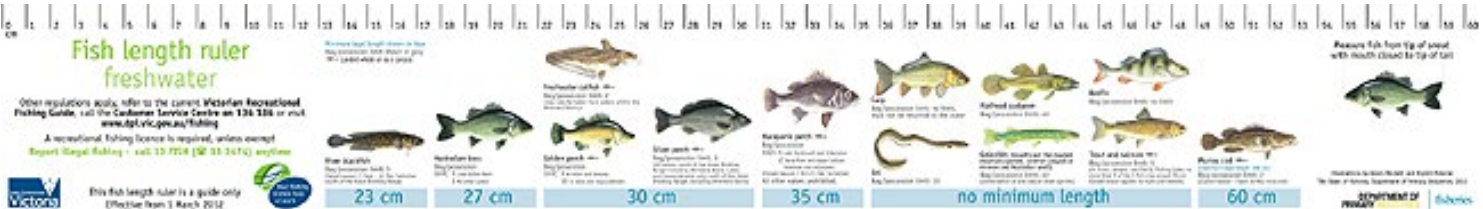


NON-LEAD SINKERS



LONG NOSED PLIERS

- ☐ **An Esky filled with an ice slurry** (if planning to keep fish)



FISH RULER

BAIT

SALT WATER



PILCHARDS

Use For: Snapper, Flathead, Salmon

Hooks: Size 1/0 - 4/0

Method: Can be used as a whole bait, cut in half, or in pieces.



WHITEBAIT

Use For: Snapper, Flathead, Salmon

Hooks: Size 2 - 2/0

Method: Can be used whole or cut into pieces.



PIPI

Use For: Whiting, Mullet, Salmon

Hooks: Size 2 - 8

Method: Use whole & thread onto the hook Cut very small pieces for garfish.



MUSSEL

Use For: Whiting, Flathead, Bream

Hooks: Size 8 - 1/0

Method: Use whole and thread onto the hook.



BASS YABBIES

Use For: Bream, Flathead

Hooks: Size 4 - 6

Method: Use live and hook through the tail and body.



SANDWORMS

Use For: Bream, Mullet, Whiting

Hooks: Size 6 - 10

Method: Thread onto the hook lengthways.

BAIT

FRESHWATER



SCRUB WORMS

Use For: Trout, Redfin, Golden Perch

Hooks: Size 2 - 6

Method: Use live and whole. Best fished on the bottom.



MUDEYES

Use For: Trout

Hooks: Size 8 - 10 small fine hooks

Method: Use live. Hook through the wings. Fish under a bubble float.



YABBIES

Use For: Redfin, Golden Perch, Murray Cod

Hooks: Size 4 - 2/0

Method: Use live, hook through the tail, and fish on the bottom.



MAGGOTS

Use For: Trout, Mullet, Bream, Carp

Hooks: Size 8 - 14

Method: Use live. Hook one or more through the tail, and fish under a float, or on the bottom.




MINNOWS

Use For: Trout, Redfin

Hooks: Size 6 - 10

Method: Use live and whole. Fish under a float or on the bottom.



SHRIMPS

Use For: Trout, Redfin, Bream

Hooks: Size 4 - 8

Method: Thread one or more onto the hook. Bottom or float fishing.

KNOTS & RIGS



The overall success of any fishing experience will eventually be determined by the strength of a knot. A securely tied knot is often the difference between catching a fish or losing it. There are many different types of knots, however you can get by in most fishing situations by knowing the following knots. Practise them until you can tie them without referring to the instructions!

LOCKED HALF BLOOD KNOT

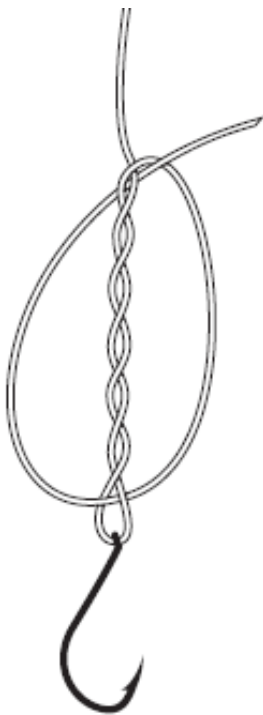
FOR ATTACHING HOOKS & SWIVELS



STEP 1.
Pass the line through the eye of the hook and wind the tag end of the line around the main line four or five times or more.

STEP 2.
Next pass the tag end through the loop that has formed at the hook.

STEP 2.
Now bring the tag end up and pass it through the large loop that has been formed.



STEP 2.
Tighten the knot by pulling slowly and firmly on the main line



CLINCH KNOT

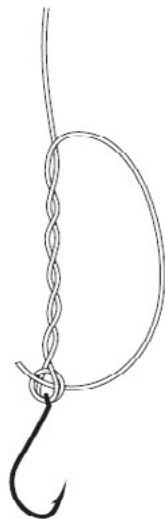
FOR ATTACHING HOOKS & SWIVELS



STEP 1.
Pass the line through the eye of the hook twice so that a loop is formed.



STEP 2.
Holding the loop in one hand wrap the tag end of the line around the main line four or five times.



STEP 3.
Now pass the end of the tag through the double loop that has formed at the hook.

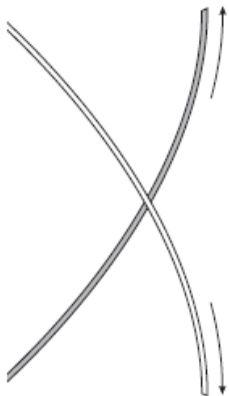


STEP 4.
Tighten the knot by pulling on both the mainline and the tag at the same time.

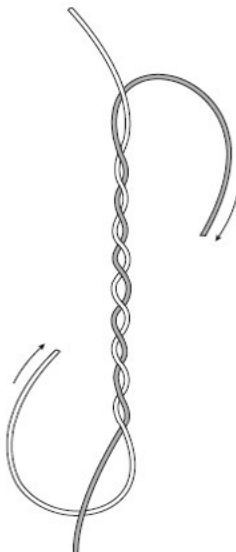


DOUBLE BLOOD KNOT

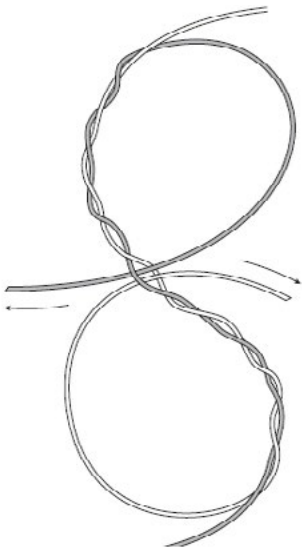
FOR JOINING LINES



STEP 1.
Cross one line over the other.



STEP 2.
Wrap the two lines over each other nine times.



STEP 3.
Next pass the ends of the two lines through the middle twist, making sure that the two lines are passed through in opposite directions.



STEP 4.
Tighten the knot slowly by pulling on the two lines. When the knot is formed trim off the excess ends.

RUNNING SINKER

This rig has many uses in both freshwater and marine fishing. It can be used to catch snapper, whiting, flathead and bream in saltwater, and trout, redfin, carp, golden perch and Murray cod in freshwater.

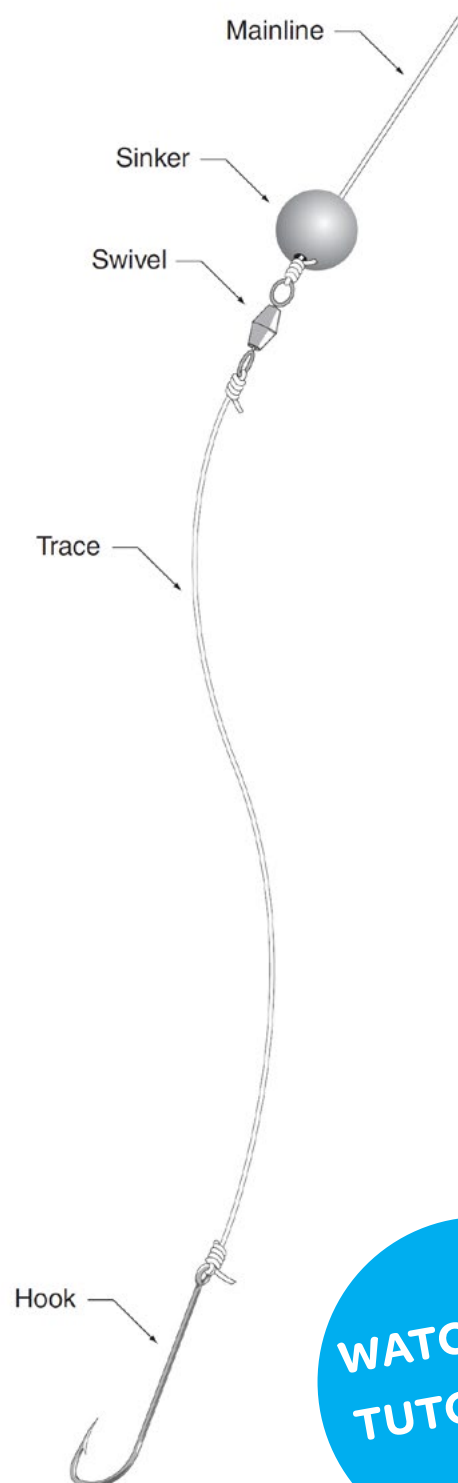
The rig consists of a sinker threaded onto the mainline above a swivel, with a length of trace line then leading down to a hook.

One type of knot, such as a locked half blood, or a clinch knot, can be used to tie the entire rig. This is perhaps the most commonly used rig in fishing.

As a general rule the sinker should be kept as small as possible, as long as it enables the angler to make a suitable cast. The swivel should also be kept small. The trace line is usually about 40 to 50 centimetres long.

The size of the hook is governed by the type and size of bait that will be used, as well as the type of fish that the angler expects to catch. The most commonly used sinker in this rig is a ball sinker.

Swivels should always be used when fishing. They provide a way of joining the trace to the mainline, stop the sinker from sliding down to the hook, and also prevent your line from twisting.



WATCH THE TUTORIALS

PATERNOSTER

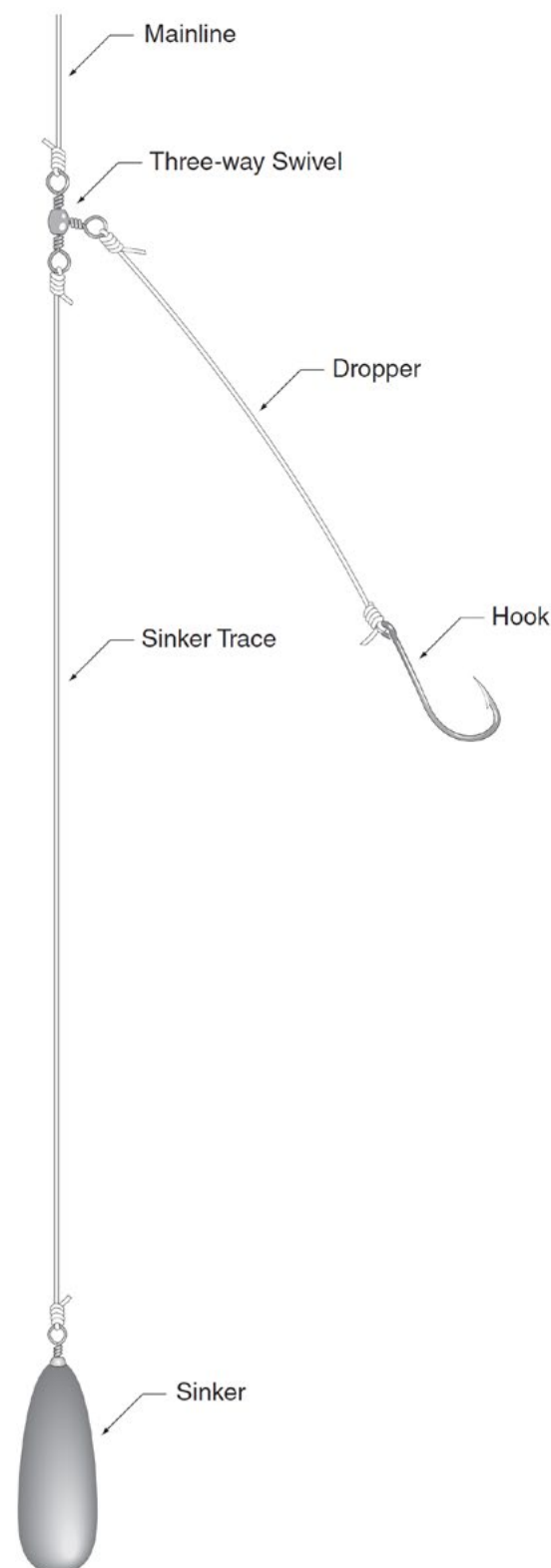
This rig is mainly used in saltwater fishing. The easiest way to tie this rig is using a three-way swivel as shown in the diagram. The paternoster rig allows the bait to be presented above the sinker, so that the bait is lifted a short distance above the bottom. The rig can be tied as a single paternoster as shown in the diagram, or as a double paternoster, which requires the use of two swivels and two hooks.

The advantage of a double paternoster rig is that two different baits can be presented at the same time. A single knot such as the locked half blood or clinch knot, can be used to tie the entire rig.

The type of sinker to be used with this rig is normally a bomb or star sinker, both of which have a swivel embedded at their top end.

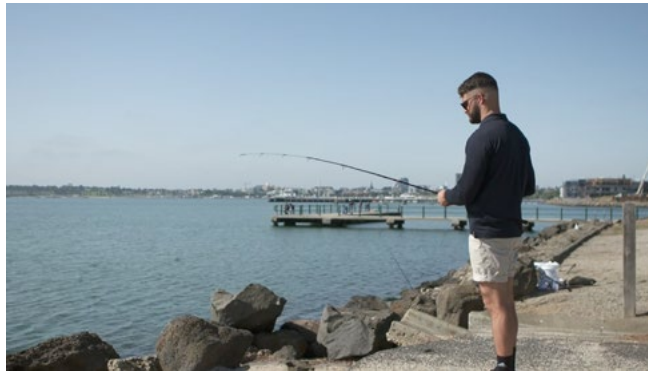
This rig is used mostly when fishing off a beach, but can be used in many other saltwater situations. For example it can be very effective when fishing for mullet and flathead in bays and estuaries. At times this rig can also be effective in freshwater fishing.

Sinkers can either be running (with a hole) or fixed (with a swivel). They help your baited line to sink down to the bottom and heavy sinkers also allow you to cast further. They come in many different shapes and sizes.

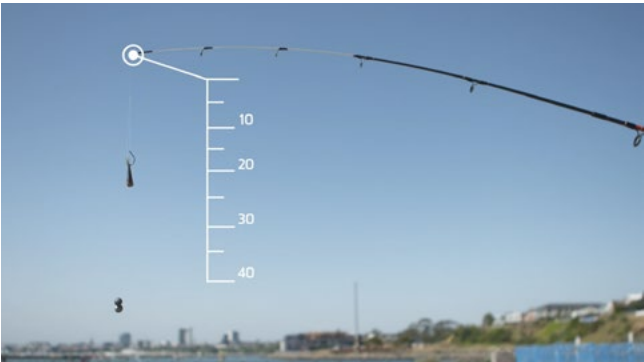


HOW TO CAST SAFELY

When casting a fishing rod give yourself plenty of space from anyone around you. Always check behind you when you make your back cast to prevent snagging people, trees, jetty railings etc. Look around, be aware of other people near you and always be careful when casting.



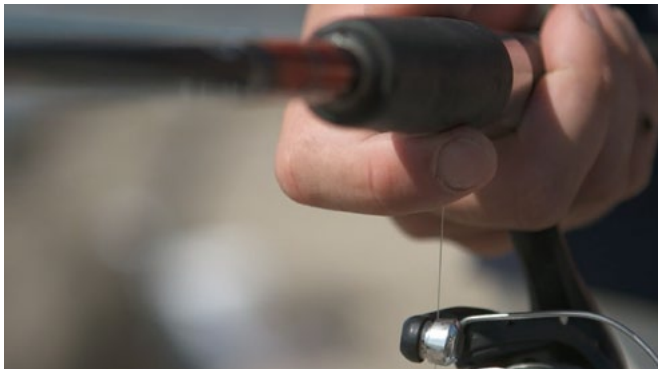
STEP 1. Hold your rod at waist level and parallel to the ground, and let out or wind in your line until you have about 30-40 cm of line out from the rod tip.



STEP 2. Hold the rod in your casting hand with two fingers either side of the reel foot.



STEP 3. Bring the line roller around into a position directly under the rod.



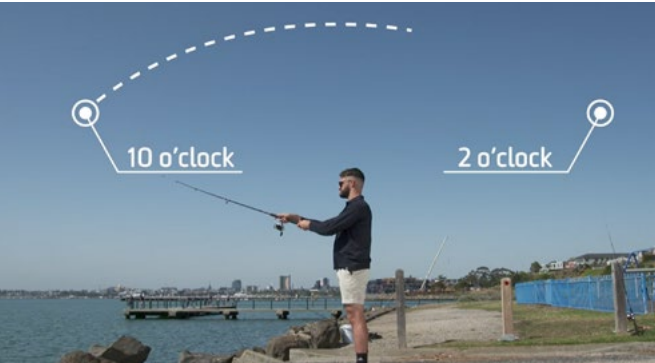
STEP 4. Next hold the line against the rod with your index finger, slightly down from the spool.



STEP 5. Keep holding the line and open the bail arm with your free hand.



STEP 6. Look behind you to make sure that the area is clear and bring the rod back to a 2 o'clock position. Make sure the line isn't tangled around the rod tip.



STEP 7. Looking forward at the area that you wish to cast to, bring the rod forward in a smooth movement, releasing the line from your index finger at a 10 o'clock position.



STEP 8. Release the line from your index finger at a 10 o'clock position.



STEP 9. Close the bail arm and wait for the fish to bite!



WHERE & HOW TO FISH SAFELY

AVOIDING INJURY FROM FISH & OTHER CREATURES

- Some species of fish such as gurnard and cobblers have venomous spines, which can cause severe pain.
- Never handle a fish if you are unsure that it is safe to do so. Even the spines on common fish such as flathead and bream can cause wounds, so handle all fish carefully. Perhaps an experienced angler can show you the safest way to handle different species of fish.
- Be careful with creatures such as crabs and yabbies, which can inflict painful wounds with their claws.
- If you are around rock pools by the sea be wary of the blue-ringed octopus, as its bite can result in death. As a rule do not handle any small live octopus.



BOATS

- Try to stay seated at all times, if possible, when fishing from a boat.
- Never wear waders in a boat.
- Children should wear an approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD-1) or lifejacket when moving around a boat or where there is any possibility of them falling overboard.



BEACHES

- Keep an eye on the tide and make sure that your tackle box and other equipment are well clear of the highest point that incoming waves may reach.
- Don't wade out on beaches that have large waves or strong rips.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- Always fish with a partner, preferably an adult.
- There is safety in numbers and one person can always come to the other person's aid if a dangerous situation develops.
- Always let someone at home know where you are going fishing and approximately what time you will be back. Then if something goes wrong there is a much better chance that help will arrive in the right place and at the right time.
- Be careful with sharp knives and hooks.



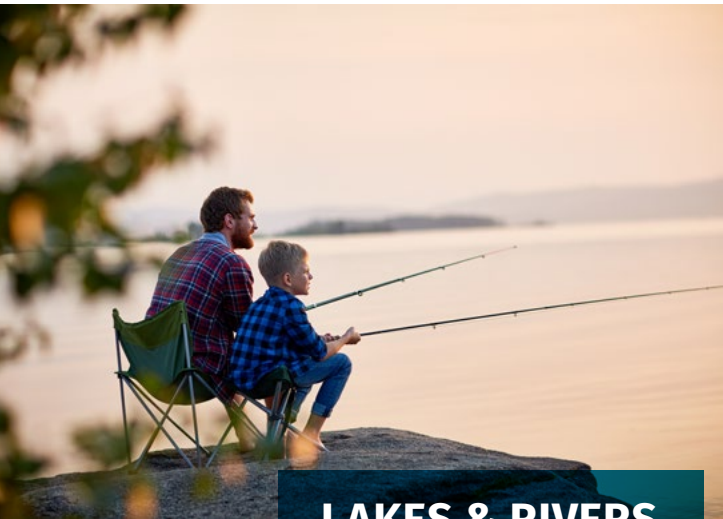
ROCKY COASTLINES

- Fish in these areas only in the company of experienced anglers, and on days when the sea is calm.
- Keep an eye on the sea at all times and never turn your back to it.
- Pick out a safe retreat spot where you can move to if an unexpectedly big wave comes rolling in.

TAKE THE QUIZ!

- Learn to swim. Seeing that fishing involves being on or near the water, it makes very good sense to be able to swim.
- Be careful and sensible at all times. No fish is worth putting your wellbeing in danger.

Whenever you go fishing your personal safety should be your main consideration. The following tips should help make sure that each of your fishing trips is a safe one.



LAKES & RIVERS

- Avoid steep and unstable banks
- Keep well back from the edge of fast flowing rivers.
- Avoid wading in and crossing rivers and streams.
- Keep an eye out for snakes when you are near inland waterways.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A BITE?

Central Highlands INC



There are many ways in which an angler can become aware of a fish that is interested in, or is taking, a bait that has been presented for it. Here are a few!

- If you are fishing with a float, watch it carefully for any movement. The float may move sideways across the water, it may jiggle about, or it may be pulled down under the water. Try to set the hook when there is a definite movement of the float.
- When fishing on the bottom you need to decide whether you will keep the line loose or tight when your rod is at rest and you are waiting for a bite.
- If you decide to have the line loose, an obvious indication of a fish is when it moves off with the bait and pulls the line taught. This is the time to strike and try to set the hook.
- If you decide to keep the line tight when you are fishing, keep an eye on the tip of the rod. If you see the rod tip bending down, this is a sign that the fish is taking off with the bait and it is time to try and set the hook.
- After you have an indication that a fish is interested in your bait, you may choose to hold the rod in one hand and the line in the other hand. You can feel if the fish is moving away with the bait, and set the hook at the appropriate time.
- Some anglers like to loosen the drag on the reel so that when a fish takes off with the bait the noise from the reel alerts the angler to the bite. It is then necessary to hold the line and set the hook, and then tighten the drag to a suitable setting.

Note: At times fish will hook themselves, or swallow the bait completely, and in effect 'catch' themselves. However on most occasions it is necessary to see a bite, and then respond to it by striking and setting the hook. This means that you need to lift the rod tip swiftly at the very moment that you think the fish has the bait securely in its mouth. Working out when to strike is crucial, and this can only come with experience.

FISH HANDLING CATCH & RELEASE



USE A GLOVE OR WET TOWEL TO HANDLE FISH, IN THE VERY LEAST ENSURE BARE HANDS ARE WET. DAMAGE TO FISHES SCALES AND SLIME LAYER RESULTS IN INFECTIONS AND POSSIBLE DEATH.

You may not want to keep many of the fish that you catch for several reasons. The fish may be too small and under the legal size limit. They may be of a species that is not good to eat. Or you may catch more fish than you need. If you need to release a fish back into the water, follow these rules.

- Fish are very delicate, especially when out of water, if you are planning to catch and release or the fish is undersize they need to be returned in the best condition possible to ensure survival.
- If possible do not take the fish from the water, simply remove the hook while the fish is still in the water and release.
- If a fish must be taken from the water keep them horizontal and either keep them in a fish friendly net or lay them on a cool, wet towel to remove the hook. Hot jetties and boat decks are extremely hazardous to fish
- Use a glove or wet towel to handle fish, in the very least ensure bare hands are wet. Damage to fishes scales and slime layer results in infections and possible death.
- Great photos can still be taken without lifting large fish from the water.
- Use pliers to remove hooks, not fingers!
- If the fish is gut hooked cut the line as close to the mouth as possible. Place fish back in the water rather than throwing/dropping them, fish will be extremely dazed if thrown into the water from height and will likely provide waiting birds/fish with a meal in open water. A bucket on a rope can be used from jetties to lower fish to water level

WATCH THE TUTORIAL

*every fish that you release
back into the water is a
contribution to the quality
of fishing in the future!*



WHEN RELEASING, HOLD IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION AND GENTLY MOVE BACK & FORWARD IN THE WATER SO WATER PASSES THROUGH THE GILLS

- Be decisive, if keeping a fish dispatch and cool immediately, if releasing remove hook and release. Time out of the water is critical for survival rates.
- If the fish is tired hold it by the tail in an upright position in the water, and gently move it back and forward for a short time so that water passes through the fish's gills. This will revive the fish and soon it will have the strength to swim away.

TAKE THE QUIZ!



IF THE FISH IS GUT HOOKED CUT THE LINE AS CLOSE TO THE MOUTH AS POSSIBLE.

FISH BIOLOGY

Fish are a group of vertebrates, which means that they are animals that have a backbone. The other four groups of vertebrates in the animal kingdom are mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Fish are cold-blooded, which means that unlike birds and mammals, they do not maintain a constant body temperature. This means that their body temperature varies with their surroundings. Over half of all the species of vertebrates are fish, and they come in many different shapes, sizes and colours.

Fish can be divided into two main groups. One group has a skeleton made of cartilage and are therefore called cartilaginous fish. This group includes all of the sharks and rays. All other fish have a skeleton made of bone and are therefore called bony fish.

Cartilaginous Fish

There are over 250 different species in this group and they include sharks, stingrays and skates. Almost all of the fish in this group live in marine waters.

Boney Fish

There are over 15,000 species in this group and they can be found all over the world, both in freshwater and in marine waters. The following information refers to bony fishes.

External Features of Fish

When you mention the word fish to someone, the things that immediately come to mind may be fins, scales and slime! This should not be surprising, as they are all very important adaptations to life in water.

Scales

Most fish have scales covering their body. These scales vary both in shape and size, and some fish do not have any at all. The scales add to the streamlining of a fish, allowing it to glide smoothly through the water. The slime that often coats a fish's body acts as a defence against infection by bacteria.

Lateral Line

Very often it is easy to identify a line running down the length of a fish on both its sides. This is the lateral line and it enables the fish to sense vibrations in the water. This is what enables a fish to 'hear' in water.

Fins

Fins can be compared to the wings of birds in that they are used for movement. Fins are also used for balance and steering. Fins can either be paired or unpaired.

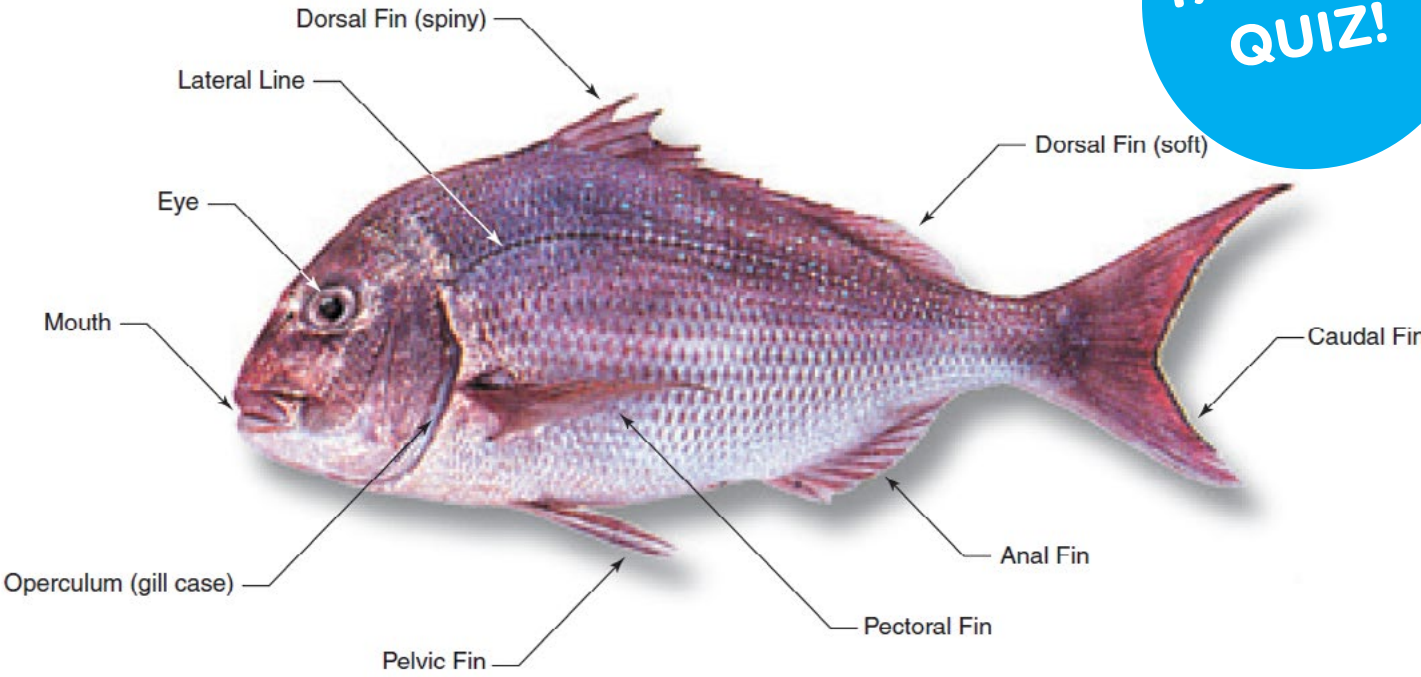
The caudal fin is what we normally call the tail. When used together with the muscles of the body, the caudal fin provides powerful forward movement. The other examples of unpaired fins on a fish are the anal fin (below), and the dorsal fin (top).

The dorsal fin, which is used for balance, can be soft, or it can be divided into a spiny front section and a soft section at the back.

The paired fins are the pectoral fins, which are directly behind the operculum (gill plate), and the pelvic (or ventral) fins, which are underneath. These paired fins are held tight against the body when the fish is moving quickly, but are then held out and used as brakes when the fish slows down. The paired fins are also used for balance, steering, and hovering in the water.

BASIC FISH BIOLOGY

TAKE THE QUIZ!



CODE OF CONDUCT

with thanks to



We all have a responsibility to look after our fisheries resources, both for the environment and future fishing generations. This Code of Conduct has been developed for recreational boat, shore, river, stream and jetty fishers in Victoria. The code aims to provide guidelines to minimise conflicts on the water, encourage local stewardship, demonstrate best practice for responsible fishing and result in a more enjoyable fishing experience for all. We would like to thank VR Fish the Peak Body for Recreational Fishing in Victoria for this Code of Conduct.

1

Awareness of and compliance with fishing **REGULATIONS.**

2

RESPECT the rights of other anglers and users.

3

PROTECT and restore the environment and fish habitat.

4

Carefully return **UNDERSIZED**, protected or unwanted catch back to the water.

5

Fish species and other organisms must not be **RELOCATED**/transferred into other water bodies.

6

Always seek **PERMISSION** when entering private property.

7

Use established **ACCESS** roads and tracks.

8

Attend to your fishing gear and **VALUE** your catch.

9

EDUCATION - pass on your knowledge.

10

Respect Aboriginal sites, **CULTURE** and values.



RULES & REGULATIONS

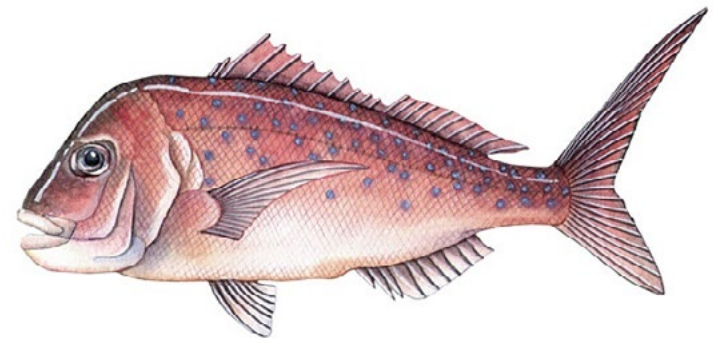
- **Catch Limits** is a general term used to describe any limits on catching or possessing fish. Bag and possession limits are types of catch limits.
- **Size Limits** is the smallest (minimum legal size) and the largest (maximum legal size) fish you can legally keep. Fish outside the legal size range 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.
- **Bag Limit** is the maximum number of a particular type of fish that a person may take on any one calendar day while in, on or next to Victorian waters and possess in, on or next to Victorian waters. Once you have taken your bag limit, you must not catch more of that species for other people to keep, or 'high grade' your catch (i.e. return smaller fish caught earlier to the water and keep the bigger fish)
- **Possession Limit** is the maximum number of a particular type of fish that a person can possess at any one time anywhere in Victoria (including your home). Applies to Southern bluefin tuna, Murray cod, abalone, yabbies, Murray spiny freshwater crayfish and rock lobster.
- A '**Closed Season**' for a particular species is a period during which you must not take, attempt to take or possess that species. Species for which there is a closed season may be fished only during their open season. Fish caught accidentally during the closed season must be released immediately with as little harm as possible.

Measuring your Catch

The size of fish must be checked at the first available opportunity. Undersize fish must be released immediately. Measure fish from tip of snout with mouth closed, to tip of tail.

FISH ID & CATCHING TIPS

SALT WATER



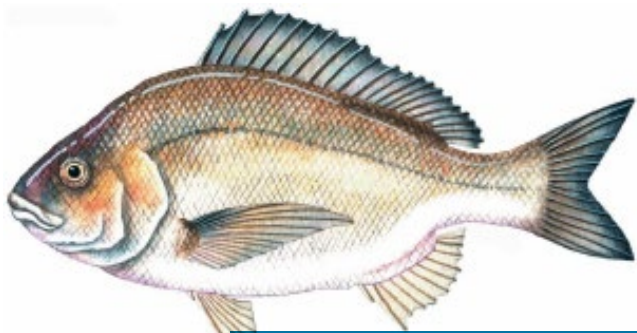
SNAPPER

A highly prized species of fish that is found in estuaries, bays and the open ocean. Small snapper are referred to as ‘pinkies’ in Victoria.

Tackle: Sizes 2-4/0 depending on the size of the fish. Lines of 3-7kg breaking strain.

Bait: Pilchards, Whitebait, Squid, Sauries, Silver Whiting.

Tips: Snapper are often found close to reefs. Best times to catch them would be early in the morning and in the evening and at night, but can be caught throughout the day in deep water.



BREAM

A common and popular species of fish that is found in estuaries (rivers and lakes that are under tidal influence) throughout Victoria.

Tackle: Baitholder or longshank hooks in sizes 4-6. Lines of 2-3kg breaking strain.

Bait: Sandworms, bass yabbies, shrimps, prawns

Tips: Live baits are best, & a tide that is running out is preferable. Bream can also be caught on lures and soft plastics.



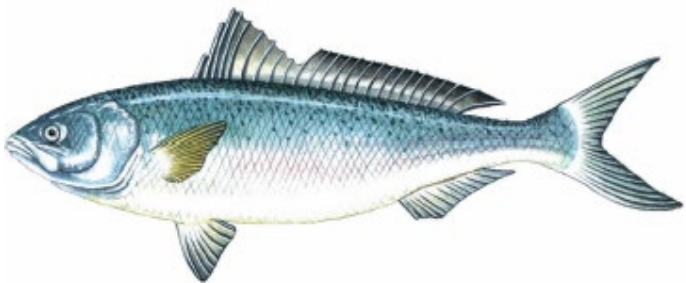
KING GEORGE WHITING

A very popular fish that is found in ocean waters, bays and larger estuaries. A bottom feeding fish that puts up a great fight for its size.

Tackle: Light to medium line. Running sinker rig with minimal weight. Longshank hook in sizes 4-8.

Bait: Pipi, mussel, sandworms, small pieces of squid.

Tips: Fish in areas with a sand bottom, especially if there are patches of weed nearby. Slowly retrieving a bait, and dragging it along the bottom can be successful



AUSTRALIAN SALMON

A very powerful fish that can be caught in bays and estuaries, and especially along beaches.

Tackle: Light to medium line depending on the fishing situation. Hooks sizes 2-4/0. Paternoster rigs are popular off beaches. Lures and flies can also be used successfully.

Bait: Pilchards, whitebait, pipi, squid.

Tips: Silver or blue coloured metal lures are very productive.



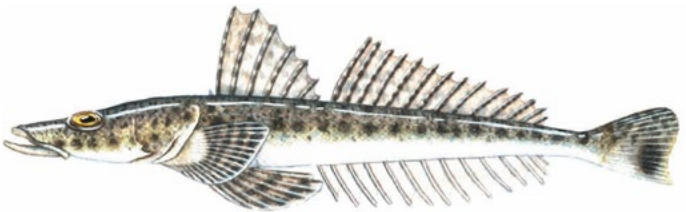
SILVER TREVALLY

A hard fighting fish that can be caught in bays and estuaries, and quite often off piers and rockwalls.

Tackle: Medium strength lines and small to medium hooks. Bottom or float fishing can be used.

Baits: Pipi, mussels, bass yabbies, sandworms, whitebait, and small pieces of pilchard.

Tips: Trevally have a soft mouth from which the hook can be torn if you do not play the fish carefully.



FLATHEAD

A very common and often easily caught fish, that is found in marine waters, bays and estuaries. Various different species can be found in both shallow and deep water.

Tackle: Medium hooks in sizes 2-2/0. Can be caught on running sinker or paternoster rigs.

Bait: Pilchards, whitebait, pipi, mussels, squid, bass yabbies.

Tips: Can be caught off piers, banks and beaches. Respond well to baits that are moved slowly along the bottom. Drifting in a boat can be very productive.

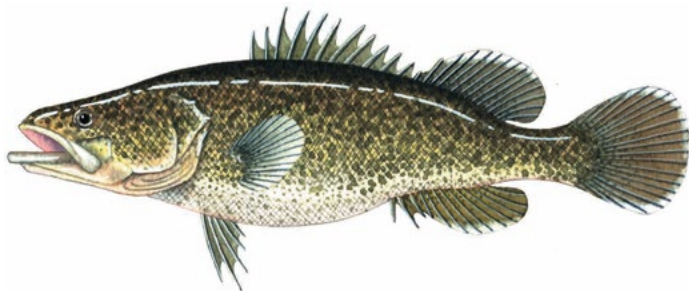
USING THE VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING GUIDE - WRITE DOWN EACH SPECIES LEGAL SIZE & BAG LIMIT BELOW

SPECIES	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
SNAPPER		
BREAM		
KING GEORGE WHITING		
AUSTRALIAN SALMON		
SILVER TREVALLY		
FLATHEAD		

FISH ID & CATCHING TIPS

FRESHWATER

your local tackle store and angling club are great places to get more tackle tips!



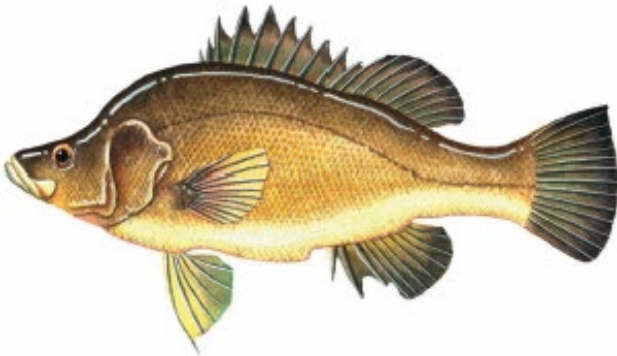
MURRAY COD

A powerful native fish, that is also the largest freshwater fish in Victorian waterways.

Tackle: Medium to heavy lines. Hooks size 2-4/0. Medium to large deep diving lures.

Bait: Yabbies, scrubworms, bardi grubs, shrimps.

Tips: When bait fishing cast towards snags in rivers. Casting lures can also be productive.



GOLDEN PERCH

A native freshwater fish, that is common throughout the rivers systems and lakes of northern Victoria. Responds very well to deep-diving lures, which can be cast from the bank, or trolled behind a boat.

Tackle: Medium strength lines of 4-6 kg. Hooks in sizes 6-1/0. Most small to medium lures.

Bait: Yabbies, shrimps, worms, bardi grubs.

Tips: It is best to fish around snaggy areas with structures like fallen logs or rocky outcrops.

USING THE VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING GUIDE - WRITE DOWN EACH SPECIES LEGAL SIZE & BAG LIMIT

SPECIES	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
MURRAY COD		
GOLDEN PERCH		
RAINBOW TROUT		
BROWN TROUT		
CARP		



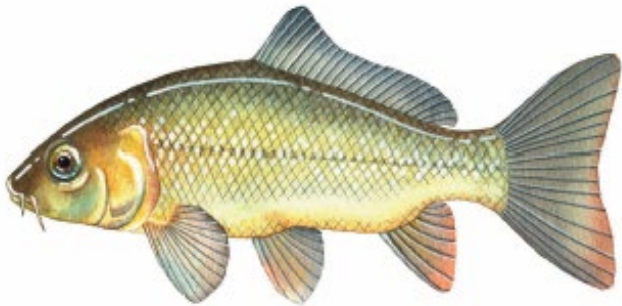
TROUT

Brown and rainbow trout are found in many freshwater lakes and rivers throughout Victoria. They can be caught by most methods including baits, lures and flies.

Tackle: Light lines of 2-3 kg are recommended. Use small hooks in sizes 8 – 12.

Bait: Mudeyes, worms, maggots, minnows, crickets, grasshoppers.

Tips: Fishing baits beneath a bubble float is very productive. If fishing on the bottom try to keep sinker weight to a minimum, or fish unweighted. Best times are early and late in the day.



CARP

An introduced fish that has been declared a noxious species. This means that they cannot be returned to the water alive if they have been caught. Widespread throughout many Victorian freshwater systems.

Tackle: Light to medium lines. Small hooks in sizes 8-4.

Bait: Corn kernels, maggots, worms, dough and bread baits.

Tips: A strong fighting fish that is great fun and practice for junior anglers. Can be caught with baits placed on the bottom or under floats.

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