

Best Baits?

Local experts suggest the best bait to use all year round are pipis and squid, or whitebait if the whiting are not biting. Whiting (which are very fussy eaters) seem to prefer pipis or squid if it has been bashed to make it soft, presented very neatly on a hook with no loose ends. To catch flathead, any bait can be used as they will eat just about anything.

To specifically fish for snapper, you will get best results by using WA pilchards, squid, octopus, bonito, tuna or pipis. Salmon are also a very common fish throughout the year and can be caught on blue bait, pilchards and pipis. When surf fishing, the best baits are sand worms or pipis

Safety and weather reports

Marine radios are maintained by Western Port Safety Council and Coastguard Western Port. Channel 88 is the general listening and emergency frequency and call station with regular weather updates. Mobile phones are great but they don't give necessary weather updates on a regular basis. Western Port Safety Council and Coastguard Western Port also provide a sea rescue service

It is a good idea for prospective fishers to consult the current Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide booklet available from Parks Victoria in San Remo or the Fisheries Office in Cowes as well as all good fishing and tackle shops in the area. This will ensure that catches comply with appropriate local guidelines. Please note that a licence is required for recreational fishing in all of Victoria's marine, estuarine and fresh waters. Details on licence costs and exemptions are on page 8 of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide



For further information

Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre

895 Phillip Island Tourist Road, Newhaven

Phone: 1300 366 422

Email: piinfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Cowes Visitor Information Centre

Cnr Thompson Avenue & Church Street

Email: cowesinfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Wonthaggi Visitor Information Centre

Watt Street, Wonthaggi

Phone: 1300 854 334

Email: woninfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Inverloch Visitor Information Centre

16 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch

Phone: 1300 762 433

Email: invyinfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au



attractive by nature

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Fishing

Phillip Island & Bass Coast



www.visitbasscoast.com

Western Port and Phillip Island

Western Port has large numbers of fish, particularly if you have a boat. On Phillip Island, boat ramps can be found at Newhaven, Rhyll and Cowes and, on the mainland, there are ramps at Corinella and Coronet Bay. The most common fish caught in the bay are flathead, whiting, snapper, silver bay trout, Trevally, gummy sharks and mullet. Local “hot spots” can be found by anchoring your boat wherever there are a few people, or look for the gutters or channels of shallow sandy bottoms. If you don't have a boat, try a pier or jetty that would allow you to cast right into the middle of the channel or gutter – sand bars are very good for this as a channel will usually run beside it.

Western Port has three Marine National Parks and one Marine Sanctuary, Mushroom Reef. The three Marine National Parks are Churchill Island Marine Park (675 ha), French Island Marine National Park (2,800 ha) and Yaringa Marine National Park (980 ha). These three Marine National Parks are all part of the internationally listed Western Port Ramsar Wetlands, containing important foraging and roosting areas for a number of waterbird species and migratory waders. The area is also an important drought refuge for inland waterbirds during the summer months as the marine environment provides habitat all year round. Fishing and other extractive activities are prohibited in these areas.

Coast from Wonthaggi to San Remo

Harmers' Haven and Wreck Beach are good for surf and rock fishing – these areas are accessed from Wonthaggi. The fishing here also follows

the same pattern as the other beaches along the coast. No reef fish are to be taken.

About two kilometres south of Kilcunda is the very popular Powlett River, known throughout Victoria for its' high quality bream. Perch can also be caught in this tidal river – at the mouth mullet and salmon are caught in good numbers. At night gummy sharks and school sharks can be taken from the surf. A popular surf fishing beach along this stretch of coast is Kilcunda. Great for salmon, trout and yellow-eyed mullet during the day, and gummy and school shark in the early morning and night.

Coast from Inverloch to Wonthaggi

Moving along the coast road towards Wonthaggi is a place known to most locals as Flat Rocks – this is a favourite fishing spot for locals. Fishing from a boat in this area can be dangerous on days with large swells so experience in boating is very strongly advised. There are quite a few hidden rocks, so take great care. Fishing off the rocks here can also be productive with rock platforms stretching out past the many whiting channels. It is in these channels that whiting can be caught and most of the nuisance fish can be avoided. If you have a “tinnie”, it can be launched from the beach to avoid going over the bar at Inverloch.

The Bunurong Marine National Park extends along 5 km of coastline between the most southern headland west of The Oaks Beach and the headland at the eastern end of Eagles Nest Beach, and offshore for approximately three nautical miles to the limit of the Victorian waters. Fishing is NOT permitted in this area.

Please note that there are strong penalties under the National Parks Act for fishing in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

At Cape Paterson there are quite a few good fishing spots, such as Undertow Bay for mullet and salmon. The rocks around the main swimming bay and Browns' Bay produce large whiting and pinky snapper. Do not attempt to launch a boat without contacting some of the local anglers – you are not allowed to take reef fish such as parrot fish, bluenose wrasse and leather jackets in this area.

Around to the second surf at Cape Paterson, great scores of mullet can be caught, but, for safety, avoid the surfing area. No reef fish are to be taken.

Anderson Inlet/ Inverloch

If you have access to a boat, then chances of catching a feed are doubled. There are quite a few places where a boat can be launched, including two places in the inlet on the Inverloch side (Mahers' Landing and the Inverloch boat ramp). Maher's Landing can be found about five kilometres east of the turn-off into Inverloch from the Bass Highway. Anderson Inlet can be fished from anywhere and a good catch is usually found. On occasions good catches are to be had on the shore, however the tide must be right to fish the shore

Local advice

San Remo Pier – squid over summer, Newhaven Pier – pinkies and Trevally with luderick before sunrise. When launching your boat, Newhaven and Rhyll are the only all-tide ramps. Larger boats, in excess of 20 feet are best launched from Rhyll.