

# FISHING GUIDE



There many excellent fishing opportunities available in the Apollo Bay and Colac Otway region. Both the ocean and rivers around Apollo Bay are abounding with various fish for both recreational and commercial fishing. The commercial fleet moors in the breakwater-protected bay and includes a permanent crayfish fleet. The crayfish season opens in mid November and continues until 31 August. Fresh fish and crayfish are available from the Fisherman's Co-op overlooking the harbour...

## **Please note: Fishing regulations can change.**

For general enquiries phone the DSE DPI information number **13 61 86** or check out The Dept of Primary Industries website [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing)

To report Fisheries offences Phone **13 FISH, 1334 74** Colac has recreational river and lake fishing only.

The Victorian Government has created a system of 13 marine National Parks and 11 smaller Marine Sanctuaries. These parks and sanctuaries will protect 5.3% of Victoria's coastal waters, safeguarding important marine habitats and species, significant natural features, cultural heritage and aesthetic values. Please phone Parks Victoria for further information on **13 19 63** or check out their website on: [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1park\\_marine.cfm](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1park_marine.cfm)

Bait is available from many outlets in the region. Fishing equipment is available from the Sports Store and Surf 'n' Fish in Apollo Bay.

## **Warning:**

If rock fishing along the coast, remember that it can be particularly dangerous. If there is a good swell running, be on the alert for the occasional large wave, which will sweep over an area, which has appeared to be safe for some hours previously. It is wise to seek advice from someone who is familiar with the local conditions.

A licence is required for all recreational fishing in Victorian waters. A Victorian Recreational Fishing Regulations Guide will be provided with your licence. Please take particular note of size limits and closed seasons on particular species of fish. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in a fine being imposed by Fisheries Victoria.

**Fishing Licences are available from the following outlets, or over the Internet at**

[www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing)

**Apollo Bay Sports Store** – Ph: (03) 5237 6434  
**Apollo Bay Surf and Fish** – Ph: (03) 5237 6424  
**Apollo Bay Surf & Kayak** –Ph: (03)5237 1189  
**Sport Scene**, Colac – Ph: (03) 5231

## **COST**

3 years \$66; 1 year \$24.50; 28 days \$12.00;  
2 days \$6. GST Free

## **YOU WILL NOT NEED A LICENCE TO FISH IF YOU ARE:**

- Under 18 years of age
- 70 years of age or over
- The holder of a Victorian Seniors Card
- Veterans Affairs Pension Card
- Veterans Affairs Health Card coded (TPI)
- Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card coded either (DSP), (DSP Blind), AGE.

## **WYE RIVER**

Popular fishing area within 400m south side of the Wye River Store. King George Whiting, Salmon and Snapper. Falling tide period ideal for Whiting and Snapper. Garfishing on rising tide. Mullet and Bream fishing in estuary section of Wye River. An ideal bait for Mullet and Garfish is peeled prawns – use small portions of flesh on number 10-8 hooks.

## **KENNETT RIVER AND GREY RIVER**

Estuaries section for Mullet and Bream as with Wye River. Grey River rock fishing to sand bottom areas. Silver Trevally, Snapper, Salmon and Whiting. Best fishing periods: evening and night fishing advisable to fish moderate or calm seas. Popular baits – squid, white bait, blue bait and pippies.

## **CAPE PATTON TO SMYTHES CREEK**

Reasonably deep water from rock areas to sand bottom areas. Fishing details as per Wye and Kennett River.

## **PETTICOAT CREEK**

Off beach area for King George Whiting. Southern side of beach ideal just prior to low tide. For Snapper, fish only with calm seas on low tide. Pippies popular bait.

## **SKENES CREEK**

Popular fishing spot for King George Whiting. Fishing details as per Petticoat Creek.

## **WILD DOG BEACH**

100 Great Ocean Road, Apollo Bay VIC 3233  
Email: [gorvic@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:gorvic@colacotway.vic.gov.au)

Ph: 1300 689 297 Fax: (03) 5237 6194  
Web: [www.visitapollobay.com](http://www.visitapollobay.com) , [www.visitotways.com](http://www.visitotways.com)

Generally excellent Salmon fishing with Silver Trevally late evening. Artificial blue bait and squid used with Number 1 to 1/0 hook with bait on second rig, suggested baits: - white bait or small blue bait.

#### **APOLLO BAY HARBOUR**

Safe, convenient dual boat ramp. Inside harbour free line fishing for Silver Trevally and Mackerel. At times shoals of Trevally. Observations or contact with local fisher folks is helpful regarding many various rigs. Deep water fishing off outside wall. Open boat fishing extremely popular. Seek advice locally regarding sea conditions, reef areas and safety considerations.

#### **BARHAM RIVER**

Trout fishing throughout, wet fly and bait fishing. Recommended baits – shrimp, crickets and worms. Tidal Reaches, Bream and estuary Perch and Mullet. Ideal baits: - sand worms, peeled prawns, and sea and river shrimp.

#### **MARENGO AND CAPE OTWAY**

Marengo off beach fishing only (due to new Marine Sanctuary see Parks Notes "Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary"). Same fishing as per Wild Dog Beach. Rock fishing for Garfish, Sweep, Snapper and King George Whiting.

#### **AIRE RIVER AND HORDERN VALE**

Excellent Brown Trout fishing, Bream and Mullet. Bait as per Barham River. Good beach fishing for Salmon and Gummy sharks.

#### **JOHANNA BEACH**

Ideal for Salmon and Gummy Shark, access off Blue Johanna road and Red Johanna road.

#### **PRINCETOWN**

Fishing off beach only, due to new Marine National Parks and Sanctuary laws) please see Parks Notes "Twelve Apostles Marine National Parks & The Arches Marine Sanctuary") River Bream, Perch, Mullet and Brown Trout. Best method is to use shrimp, worms or small yabbies as bait.

#### **PETERBOROUGH**

Salmon, Whiting, Trevally, Mullet in surf. Curdies River – Bream, Salmon, Mullet & Perch. Use bait of shrimp, yabbies and local minnows.

#### **BARWON RIVER**

Brown Trout, Black fish, Redfin, Eels. Can be accessed from Birregurra or Winchelsea or beside bridges crossing the river. Permission must be sought to use private property. Drifting unweighted baits such as crickets, mud-eye or worms is the best method for trout as well as casting lures like cleats, Jensen insects or small minnow patterns. Other species can be taken using a small running sinker rig and bait such as worms, woodgrubs or mud-eye. Blackfish and Eels are most active at night so the best time to fish is from late afternoon until well after dark.

#### **CARLISLE RIVER AREA**

Brown Trout, Black fish and Eels. Limited access to Carlisle and Gellibrand Rivers from the bridges above and in the Carlisle River township. Best access to rivers is through private property; permission must be sought before entering these areas. Method for catching is the same as for the Barwon River.

#### **GELLIBRAND RIVER**

Brown Trout, Blackfish, and Eels. Limited access to river around Gellibrand township. Permission must be sought before entering private property. Method for catching same as Barwon River.

#### **LAKE PURRUMBETE & LAKE BULLEN MERRI**

Rainbow & Brown Trout, Chinook Salmon, Redfin and Eels. Bank access restricted to Hoses Rocks on the southern most eastern shore and is on private property, but is usually open to fisherman. Access to the eastern shore "black sand" area is through a shire quarry. A good concrete boat ramp is located at the caravan park. Method is the same for Lake Bullen Merri although bubble float fishing with mud-eye is much more productive here for large Rainbow Trout. Redfin are active in the warmer months and can be caught using bait such as worms, minnow or mud-eye. Many fish can be landed using lures such as mister twisters or boltic bobbers.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CLEAN UP PLASTIC BAGS, HOOKS, AND LINES ETC, WHICH CAN BE DEADLY TO MARINE AND BIRD LIFE.**

#### **FISHING TRIPS & TOURS:**

**Apollo bay Fishing & Adventure Tours – Assorted Tour**  
Options Ph: 03 5237 7888

**Port Campbell boat Charters – Scenic Tours, diving & snorkelling, fishing.** Ph: 03 5598 6411

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