



**FREE
NSW
GUIDE**

Go Fishing



FEATURED LOCATION:

**BATEMANS
BAY**

**NSW SOUTH COAST
HOTSPOT!**

dpird.nsw.gov.au



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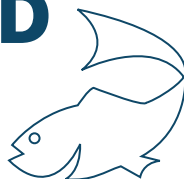
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FOREWORD

FROM DPIRD



Throwing a line in at a new spot always makes for a great fishing adventure, whether it's on a family holiday or just somewhere new close to home. No matter your fishing expertise, NSW boasts a wide range of fish species and great places to catch them, including in our many inland rivers, impoundments and streams as well as the productive estuaries, lakes, beaches and rocky headlands on the NSW coast. There are also many inshore and offshore fishing opportunities from your boat or if using one of the many experienced charter fishing services available.

There are many reasons to go fishing, including to unwind and relax, spend time with family and friends, enjoy nature and of course to catch a tasty meal of fresh fish. Over a million people in NSW enjoy this fantastic lifestyle and the great news is that you are never too old or young to take up fishing so get out there and give it a go! Getting into fishing is easy. If you don't know where to start, just head into your local tackle store where the friendly staff can provide tips on tackle, bait and techniques plus point you to a safe, convenient spot to throw a line in.

DPIRD has developed these *Go Fishing* guides as a snapshot of popular NSW fishing locations in both fresh and saltwater to help improve your recreational fishing experiences.

For more information on other locations, fish species, size and bag limits, permitted gear and other information not listed in these guides, visit the **DPIRD website** or download the **FishSmart app** to your mobile device.

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OVERVIEW

Located in the Eurobodalla region on the NSW South Coast, Batemans Bay is an outstanding fishing destination offering an incredible range of angling opportunities and target species. Just under four hours' drive from Sydney, the area boasts rugged natural beauty, pristine beaches, picturesque bays and estuaries, and a wealth of activities for all ages — making it a favourite getaway for locals and tourists alike.

The region is also home to the Batemans Marine Park (BMP), established in 2006 and covering more than 85,000 hectares. The park extends three nautical miles offshore and includes Montague and Tollgate Islands. It stretches from Murramarang Beach near Bawley Point in the north to the southern side of Wallaga Lake entrance at Murunna Point.

Like all NSW marine parks, BMP is divided into zones with specific rules and regulations. Before heading out for a fishing trip with family or friends, it's essential to familiarise yourself with these restrictions — penalties apply for fishing in the wrong areas.

You can easily stay informed by downloading DPIRD's free "FishSmart" app on your smartphone or tablet. The app provides interactive NSW marine park maps that show your real-time location, along with local weather and tide information, bag and size limits, and more. You can also access a downloadable BMP guide and map at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/marine-protected-areas/marine-parks/batemans-marine-park>

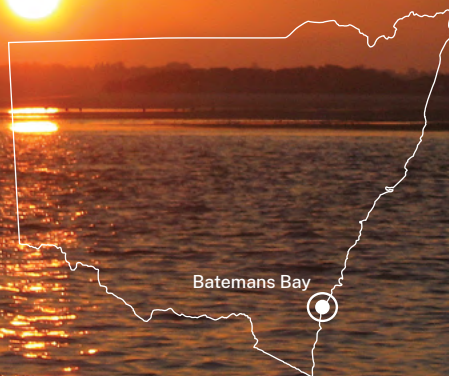
Batemans Bay offers exceptional fishing and spearfishing opportunities for both locals and visitors. The Clyde River system provides a diverse mix of species — from Australian bass and estuary perch in its upper reaches, to mullet, flathead, bream, and luderick in the lower, more saline waters.

From the rocks and beaches, anglers often target mullet and snapper, while salmon and tailor are common and provide plenty of action. The nearby inshore reefs have earned Batemans Bay a reputation as prime snapper territory, and even if the snapper aren't biting, blue spot and tiger flathead, along with other reef species, are usually available to fill the esky.

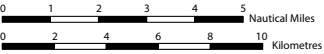
Offshore, the area is renowned among game fishers for its productive striped marlin fishery during summer, with dolphinfish (mahi-mahi) around the FADs and excellent tuna fishing for various species in the cooler months. Altogether, Batemans Bay truly offers something for every angler.

As a popular tourist hub, Batemans Bay has a wide range of accommodation options to suit all budgets and group sizes. When you're not on the water, there's plenty to see and do — from coastal walks and wildlife encounters to local dining and family-friendly attractions.

With year-round access and a diverse range of fishing environments — from rivers and estuaries to offshore reefs — Batemans Bay is an ideal destination for fishers of all experience levels. Hopefully, this Batemans Bay "Go Fishing" guide helps you plan your next trip to this incredible part of the NSW South Coast!



Batemans Marine Park Zoning Map



Map Projection: Unprojected Geographic, Horizontal Datum: Geoidetic Datum of Australia (GDA94) 1:125,000 A1, Updated August 2024.

- Sanctuary Zone
- Habitat Protection Zone
- Habitat Protection Zone (Restricted)
- General Use Zone
- Special Purpose Zone
- Sanctuary Zone Marker
- Boat Ramp
- Angel Ring

Activity	Sanctuary Zone	Habitat Protection Zone	Habitat Protection Zone (Restricted)	General Use Zone	Special Purpose Zone	Special Purpose Zone (Restricted)	Special Purpose Zone (General Use)
Recreational fishing							
Line, spear, trap & net	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Hand haul prawn net	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Commercial fishing							
Trawl, dredge, long line	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Purse seine net, lift net	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Haul net	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Edutary prawn & haul net	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Edutary mesh net	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Garfish net	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Abalone	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Turbot & urchin	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Trapping	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Set line	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Drift line	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Fishing and collecting							
Collection of bait weed and sea lettuce by hand	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Collection of cunjevoi	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Collection of invertebrates	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Collecting beachcast seaweeds ²	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Aquarium collection	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Shells and rays (except school and gummy)	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	X
Other activities							
Swimming	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Competition and organised events	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Anchoring	X ³	X ³	X ³	X ³	X ³	X ³	X ³
Commercial operations	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Infrastructure development	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

This map provides a summary of activities permitted and restrictions that apply to the Marine Estate Management (Management Rules) Regulation 1999 for full details.

Note: All other relevant legislation continues to apply in addition to the management rules.

✓ Activity is permitted in the zone.

X Activity is not permitted in the zone.

P Marine parks permit required.

1 Additional fishing restrictions and/or bait collecting restrictions apply in some zones (see below).

2 Recreational hand haul prawn nets are allowed in recreational fishing havens but not in other habitat protection zones.

3 Haul netting is permitted on specific beaches only - see (e) above.

4 Not in estuaries.

5 Collecting invertebrates prohibited in some habitat protection zones by hand picking and includes commercial abalone collection.

6 Limited to less than 10 kg per person per day.

7 Limited to less than 20 litres per person per day.

8 Not over roques.

9 No trapping allowed in Wagonga Inlet (except bait trap). No spearfishing east of bridge in Wagonga Inlet.

* Bait collection is allowed in general use zones and most habitat protection zones in accordance with the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

Only species listed in Table 1 of the Batemans Marine Park user guide may be taken in habitat protection zones.

Handpicking of plants and invertebrates (e.g. shellfish, urchins, abalone, lobsters etc) is not permitted in the following habitat protection zones: North Head, Bro Beach, Bullengella Beach - Loader Beach, Congo South Beach, Bingle, Meringo-Mullumburra Point, Black Swamp Point, Clarks Bay, Freshwater Bay, Wagonga Head.

Unoccupied shells and shell gear may be collected from habitat protection and general use zones that are not within national parks, nature reserves and Aboriginal areas for non-commercial purposes. Collection of more than 10 kg requires a permit.

Collection of more than 20 litres (person/day) of beachcast seaweed from beaches requires a permit.

Beach haul netting is allowed in general use zones and only at the following beaches within habitat protection zones: Maloney Beach; Long Beach; Wimbie Beach; Roseale Beach; Barlings Beach; Shark Bay Beach; beaches between Meringo Lake and Mullumburra Point; Tunes Beach.

No fishing in the Shallow Crossing Habitat Protection Zone (Upper Clyde River) between 1 May and 30 November each year.

The Montague Island Inner Habitat Protection Zone is restricted between 1 November and 30 April each year to protect grey nurse sharks. No fishing with bait. No fishing at anchor. No fishing with wire trace line. No nets (landing nets are allowed).

The Meringo-Mullumburra Point Habitat Protection Zone and Wagonga Head Habitat Protection Zone prohibit the recreational and commercial collection of invertebrates by hand (including lobster and abalone). Recreational line fishing, spearfishing and trapping is permitted in these zones.

Only recreational line fishing from the shore is allowed in the North Head, Bro Beach, Bullengella Beach - Loader Beach, Congo South Beach, and Bingle Habitat Protection Zones, no other harvest methods are permitted.

Domestic animals are not permitted on beaches and rock platforms adjacent to National Parks.

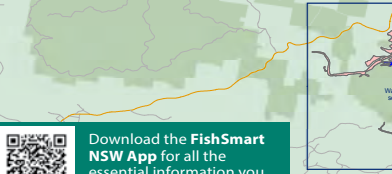
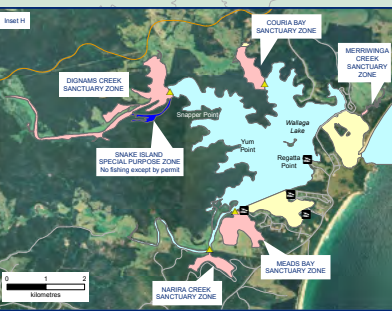
Vehicles are only permitted in the marine park for the purpose of launching and retrieving vessels from designated boat launching facilities or beaches, subject to local government or NPWS requirements.

Commercial set fishing is restricted to a maximum of 6 hooks and 10 lines.

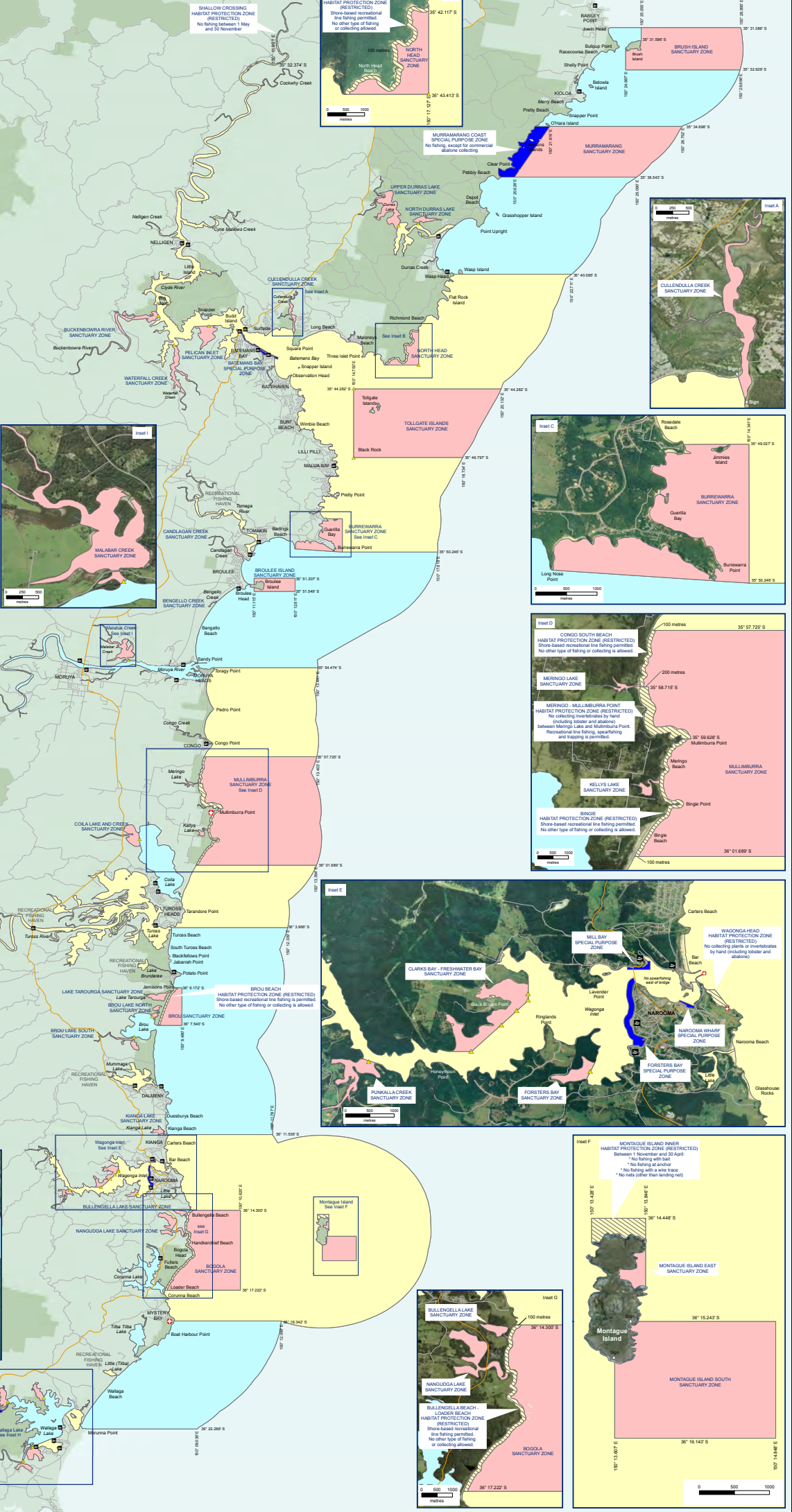
All vessels may enter sanctuary zones, but fishing gear must be stowed. Moored or anchored vessels in sanctuary zones must have all fishing lines unrigged. Fish/fishing gear cannot be cleaned in sanctuary zones.

Contact the local DPIRD Fisheries office for any questions regarding commercial fishing activities.

THIS MAP MUST NOT BE USED FOR NAVIGATION



Download the FishSmart NSW App for all the essential information you need to fish in NSW.



KEY TARGET SPECIES



Snapper

PEAK SEASON: Year-round, April to October are key months on the NSW South Coast.

TECHNIQUE: Bait fishing with pilchards and strips of fresh tuna or similar; lure fishing with soft plastics, jigs and vibes.



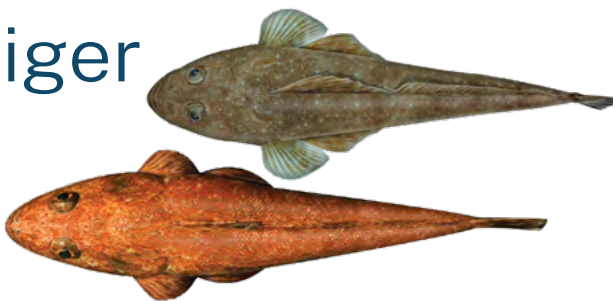
TACKLE: 4-6kg spin outfits, 4-8kg braid or equivalent mono and a leader of 8-15kg. When bait fishing, use 2/0 – 7/0 non offset circle hook with a running ball sinker. Allow the bait to drift naturally in the current. The use of berley is advised when targeting snapper around reefs. Snapper can be targeted on deeper reefs and gravel beds using a traditional paternoster rig baited with squid, fresh tuna or pilchards. Try a soft plastic in place of bait on the hook as it can work well if bait is not producing the goods. Lure fishing is very successful for South Coast snapper. Try "octopus" and slow jigs in the 60-200gram size or jigheads in the 7-27 gram size with 4-7-inch plastics. These lure recommendations will work from the shallows out to 70m depth range.

HOT SPOTS: Reddie run / charter boat run / broken reef areas.

Sand & Tiger Flathead

PEAK SEASON: Year-round.

TECHNIQUE: Drifting deep water areas adjacent to reef using Paternoster rigs.



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TACKLE: 10-15kg spin or overhead outfits, 10-15kg braid or mono line and 15kg leader. Use 3/0-5/0 non-offset circle hooks on droppers above a suitable "snapper" style sinker (size and weight depending on water depth, current and drift rate). Good baits include strips of fresh squid, yellowtail fillets and salted slimy mackerel fillets.

HOT SPOTS: For sand and tiger flathead, drift areas of sandy seabed adjacent to reefy areas

Striped Marlin

PEAK SEASON:

January to April.

TECHNIQUE: Trolling skirted lures or drifting/slow trolling bridle-rigged slimy mackerel around bait congregations close to the continental shelf line.



Keep a look out for birds and seals as they will signal where bait schools have been pushed to the surface. If you see bait, a “stripey” usually won’t be far away!

Tide changes can result in increased marlin activity. If a tide change is coming up, make sure your lures are running well, your baits are fresh and healthy and you’re in a good-looking area!

TACKLE: 15-24kg lever drag overhead game outfits with 15-24kg monofilament with a plaited double then a 50-100kg wind on leader to a heavy-duty game snap swivel to attach a lure for trolling or an 8/0-10/0 circle hook leader for using bait.

HOTSPOTS: Canyon / canyon south / continental shelf edge.

Southern Bluefin Tuna

PEAK SEASON:

May to August

TECHNIQUE: Trolling skirted, bibless or minnow lures and cubing with fresh pilchards, yellowtail and slimy mackerel around temperature breaks over the continental shelf line.



Keep a look out for muttonbirds and especially gannets and albatross they will signal where the bait schools are. The fish will follow the bait.

As with marlin, tide changes can be a peak of tuna activity on an otherwise quiet day. When coming up to a tide change, ensure your lures are running well or you are cubing near a good temp break with signs of life.

TACKLE: 15-24kg lever drag overhead game outfits with 15-24kg monofilament with a plaited double knot then a 50-100kg wind on leader to a heavy-duty game snap swivel to attach a lure for trolling or an 8/0-10/0 circle hook leader for using bait.

HOTSPOTS: Temperature breaks over the continental shelf in 500-2000 fathoms.

Dusky Flathead

PEAK SEASON:

October to April.

TECHNIQUE: Bait fishing with whitebait, fresh prawns, live prawns or live poddy mullet; lurecasting with soft plastics, vibes and deep diving hard-bodies.



TACKLE: 2-5kg spin outfits, 3-6kg braid or mono line and 5-8kg leader. For bait fishing, use 1/0 to 4/0 non-offset circle hooks on a running sinker rig. Depending on the depth you're fishing jig heads of 7-21grams on 2/0 or 5/0 hooks. Stick with tails in the 6-12cm size. Curl or paddle tails work well, as do shads. Natural colours are the preferred options in the typically clear waters of South Coast systems. An effective retrieve technique is to let your plastic hit the bottom then "rip" the rod firmly and allow the lure to swim back to the bottom. Be prepared for the bite as it sinks. Vibes can be substituted for soft plastics, especially when drifting water with significant depth changes. Diving hard-bodies can be effective around drop-offs and flats.

HOT SPOTS: Sandflats / weeded edges / creek mouths.

Bream

PEAK SEASON: Year round.

TECHNIQUE: Bait fishing with fresh prawns, fish strips (i.e., mullet, striped tuna) and marine worms; lure fishing with soft plastics, vibes and small hard-bodied divers.



TACKLE: 2-4kg spin outfits, 2kg braid or mono and 2-5kg leader. For bait fishing, use size 2-1/0 non-offset circle hooks unweighted or with a small running "00" ball sinker. Circle hooks are preferred for catch & release. The use of berley is effective when targeting bream on bait. Use 1-2 gram jig heads on size 1-2 hooks teamed with 3-8cm "wiggler" style tails when targeting bream on plastics. Use a slow "lift and drop" retrieve.

HOT SPOTS: Oyster racks / rock bars / weeded edges.

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WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/FISH-FOR-LIFE



Mulloway

PEAK SEASON: Year round;
October–May is best.

TECHNIQUE: Bait fishing with fresh squid, live mullet or live yellowtail; lure casting with soft plastics or medium to large vibes.



TACKLE: 3-6kg spin outfits, 3-4kg braid or mono line and 5-15kg leader. When bait fishing, use size 3/0-7/0 (depending on bait size) non-offset circle hooks on a running sinker rig. When using soft plastics, try 9-14 gram jig heads in 3/0 to 5/0 with 80-130mm paddle tail softies worked with single or double flick lifts near the bottom. Alternatively, use a medium to large hard or soft vibe with single lifts near the bottom.

HOT SPOTS: Deep holes, bridges and river/creek mouths.

Luderick

PEAK SEASON: Year round.

TECHNIQUE: Bait fishing with green weed and occasionally as bycatch when targeting bream or whiting using marine worms as bait.



TACKLE: 3-4kg spin outfits generally using longer 3m slow action rods. Standard luderick rigs incorporate a stem float weighted by split shot terminating in a size 6-8 sneck hook baited with strands of green weed. Some anglers are having success using artificial “weed” **HOT SPOTS:** Edges of weed beds, channels, reefy areas.

HOT SPOTS: Bridges / rock walls / weeded edges

OTHER SPECIES



Batemans Bay offers a range of fishing options. For instance, the crystal-clear freshwater headwaters produce some amazing **Australian bass** fishing. As these headwaters join the main tributaries other estuary species like **estuary perch**, **mullet**, **garfish** and **yellowfin whiting** are on the cards. The ocean rocks and beaches can be very productive for **tailor**, **Australian salmon**, **rock blackfish** and even the odd **longtail tuna**. Inshore and offshore reefs have all the usual fair with **blue morwong**, **pigfish**, **kingfish** as well as warmer water visitors in summer such as **marlin** and **dolphinfish**. Batemans Bay really does have a lot to offer anglers of all skill levels and interests. Check it out for yourself!

BATEMANS BAY FISHING LOCATIONS

Boat ramps

- **Hanging Rock Boat Ramp**, Hanging Rock Place, suitable for most vessels
- **North Bridge Boat Ramp**, Old Punt Road, suitable for smaller vessels
- **South Bridge Boat Ramp**, Clyde Street, suitable for most vessels

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NOTE: This fishing map is only to be used as a general reference overview.

See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au for details on fishing regulations.

Not for navigation.

See www.rms.nsw.gov.au for info on boating safety and regulations.

Caution: Boating on inland waters demands special care. Information on boating in these areas can be found at www.rms.nsw.gov.au.

Warning: Beware of submerged rocks, trees and shallow areas, particularly at lower water levels.

Not for navigation.

Fishing hotspots

- **Reddie Run**
35.47.892 / 150.17.138
- **Charter Boat Reef**
35.51.600 / 150.23.150
- **Canyon**
35.53.000 / 150.56.015
- **Canyon South**
35.56.020 / 150.52.990
- For Batemans Bay FAD please visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fish-aggregating-devices or download the Fish Smart app for GPS location.

- Sanctuary Zone*
- Habitat Protection Zone*
- Boat ramp
- Luderick
- Mulloway
- Flathead
- Bream
- Estuary Perch
- Whiting
- Snapper

* SANCTUARY ZONES and HABITAT PROTECTION ZONES

For more detailed information on Batemans Bay Marine Park, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/marine-protected-areas/marine-parks/batemans-marine-park or download the **FishSmart App** to your smart device.

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A HEALTHY FISHING FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Help us build a positive future for recreational fishing in NSW.

By fishing responsibly, you can safeguard fish stocks and protect the places we love to fish. When you hold a current recreational fishing licence, your fee contribution is used for improving local facilities like fishing platforms and enhancing fishing experiences with artificial reefs and FADs.



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