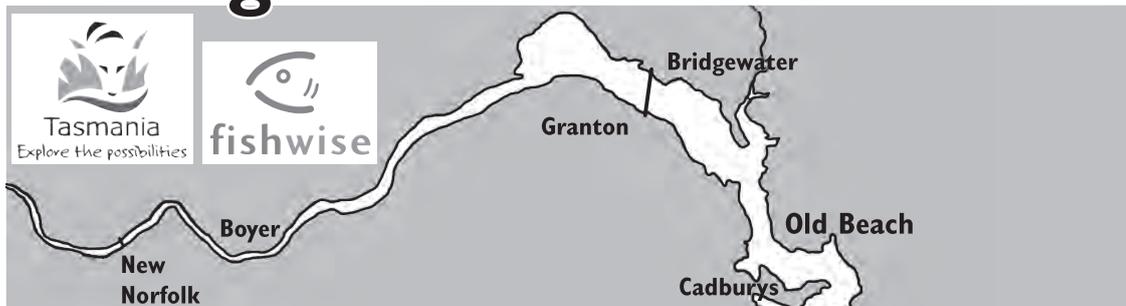


Fishing the Derwent River



The Derwent River is right on the doorstep of Hobart. It offers some great fishing all year round, has good shore access and presents opportunities for all angling methods.

It is a magnificent fishery that dissects the capital with shoreside roads on either side. Fishing for saltwater species is the most popular pursuit, but there is a strong core of anglers that pursue sea-run trout over the winter-spring period.

Species that can be found include Australian salmon, flathead, cod, garfish, mullet, whiting, bream, morwong and mackerel, while couta (barracouta), gemfish, blue grenadier, trumpeter, warehou and others appear from time to time.

An Inland Fishing Licence is required for taking trout above a line between Store Point and Dowsing Point. The regulations can be complex and a copy of the Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code should be consulted, or contact the Inland Fisheries Service.

Access is excellent in most areas and the locals are very helpful. There are many small jetties, but shore access is extensive along most of the Derwent's length. Boating anglers have access to most of the estuary and it is dotted with many quality boat ramps. No matter what the weather conditions there is always a protected bay or corner.

Derwent Hot Spots

Piersons Point - Iron Pot

These points mark the lower limit of the Derwent Estuary and the transition to Storm Bay and the

Tasman Sea. A good boat ramp at Tinderbox services this area and you should be aware of the Tinderbox Marine Nature Reserve. This occupies 144.1 hectares in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel between Tinderbox Bay in the south and approximately 1.3 km north of Lucas Point in the north and runs about 500 metres from the shore. Outside this there is excellent fishing for sand and tiger flathead, Australian salmon, couta (barracouta), plus longfin pike and occasionally good runs of squid. Warehou usually appear in the summer - autumn period and are known locally as snotties, or snotty trevally. The western shore from Piersons Point back to Tarroona is fished for most of the mentioned species plus whiting and trevally.

Ralphs Bay

Ralphs Bay is a large enclosed bay on the eastern side of the estuary noted for large flathead. Whiting, flounder, mullet and Australian salmon are also caught. Atlantic salmon are sometimes caught near the mouth.

Tranmere - Tasman Bridge

Punchs Reef - just off Tranmere is a popular spot for cod, morwong, trevally, garfish and Australian Salmon. Large trevally are targeted from the shore and boat in this area. Try Kangaroo Bluff at Bellerive and also the Howrah area.

Sandy Bay

Easily fished from both shore and boat, Sandy Bay can be very productive. The target is generally flathead but catches of garfish, morwong, mullet and Australian salmon are common.

Tasman Bridge - Bowen Bridge

A great bream area. Lindisfarne, Geilston, Cornelian, New Town, Prince of Wales and Risdon bays are all accessible from the shore and are probably the best places to target bream.

Add to this Bedlam Walls and Dowsing Point and you can spend plenty of time just in this area. Just north of the Tasman Bridge cod, flathead, Australian salmon and trevally are also caught as are sea run trout from August through to October.

Barracouta are often targeted beneath both sides of the bridge - as are Australian salmon and sea trout.

Bowen Bridge - Bridgewater

Otago Bay is upstream of the Bowen Bridge on the eastern shore. Many species are caught in this vicinity including a few huge bream every year to 2 kg. Smaller specimens are quite common and it is often quoted the Derwent bream have the biggest average size of any in Australia—coming in at over one kilo average. Small bib lures, soft plastics are popular as is bait and fly. Anglers chase both sea-run and resident trout in this area all year round - often with great results and trout to 5 kg are sometimes caught. All methods can be used to take these

trout from trolling to bait, lure or fly fishing - both from boat or shore. Many other species are also taken in this area including flathead, pike, cod, mackerel, Australian salmon and the occasional escaped Atlantic salmon.

Above Bridgewater

Mostly a trout fishery, whilst many use boats to troll and drift spin for trout shore access can be had from many places.

After Christmas the bream fishing heats up in this section. Anywhere that there is access to the water, bream can be caught. The shore based angler enjoys some great fishing and there are plenty of access points. Lures, soft plastics, prawns, pretty fish and sand worms all work well.

Boating Weather

Think SAFETY

Phone BEFORE you go

Southern Tasmania 6233 9955
Northern Tasmania 6323 2555
North-west Tasmania 6498 7755
Eastern Tasmania 6376 0555

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Going Fishing?

Fish for the Future!

Fish Responsibly - keep informed with the **Recreational Sea Fishing Guide** and use a fish measuring ruler.

The Guides and fish measuring rulers are available from all Service Tasmania outlets and major tackle shops. Information can also be found by visiting: www.fishing.tas.gov.au



Fishing Restrictions in Tasmania

This pamphlet provides only basic fishing information. For more detailed information about marine fishing rules including area restrictions, size and possession limits, refer to the Recreational Sea Fishing Guide and for inland fishing, to the Tasmanian Inland Recreational Fishing Code. These are available from Service Tasmania outlets and most bait and tackle shops. They can also be downloaded at www.fishing.tas.gov.au or www.ifs.tas.gov.au respectively.

Rod and Line Fishing

You do not need a licence to fish with a hook and line in marine waters, including rod and line and squid jigs. You can use any number of lines with up to 5 hooks as long as you are within 20 metres of your gear or the lines are attached to the boat from which you are fishing. A set line licence is needed to use a set line which is a dropline or longline with up to 30 hooks.

Licences for Inland Waters

An Inland Fisheries licence is required for any fishing in inland waters which includes some river mouths and estuaries. Inland waters and seaward limits are described in the Recreational Sea Fishing Guide and the Inland Recreational Fishing Code.

Licences for Marine Waters

In marine waters a licence is not required for fishing with a rod and line, squid jigs, spears, bait traps, small nets (landing, dip, bait and cast nets), or collection of small shellfish such as periwinkles, oysters, clams, cockles and mussels. Sea fishing licences are required when fishing for abalone, rock lobster and scallop or fishing with a pot, ring, graball net, mullet net, beach seine net and set line (a longline or dropline with up to 30 hooks).

Recreational sea fishing licences are available from all Service Tasmania outlets and on the internet at www.fishing.tas.gov.au/licence Aborigines engaged in aboriginal fishing activities are exempt from holding a fishing licence but must comply with all other fisheries rules.

Bag and Possession Limits

Most bag and possession limits are personal limits, although boat and on water limits apply for some species. Possession limits apply everywhere, including in the boat, at sea and in your home.

Seasons and Area Restrictions

Season apply to most inland waters. In marine waters, closed seasons and area closure apply to taking various species and using particular fishing gear.

Fishcare Volunteers

Fishcare Volunteers are enthusiastic individuals who give up their time to educate members of the recreational fishing community. Volunteers are well versed in the rules relating to recreational marine fishing and are happy to answer queries that you may have.



If you are interested in finding out more about the Fishcare Tasmania program, please visit our website at www.fishing.tas.gov.au or call 6233 2033.

Useful Contacts

Recreational Sea Fishing (Wild Fisheries Management Branch) inc
Fishcare: 6233 7042

www.fishing.tas.gov.au

Inland Fisheries Service:
1300 463 474

www.ifs.tas.gov.au

Marine and Safety Tasmania:
6233 8801

www.mast.tas.gov.au

Marine Police and Fishwatch:
0427 655 557

Bureau of Meterology:
www.bom.gov.au



Fishwise – licence fees are used to benefit our fisheries

The Fishwise fund is supported by the sale of recreational sea fishing licences. It covers the administration of licences as well as funding programs that support recreational fishing. The majority of funding for this pamphlet is from the Fishwise Fund. Your sea fishing licence fees at work!