

Foreword from NSW DPI



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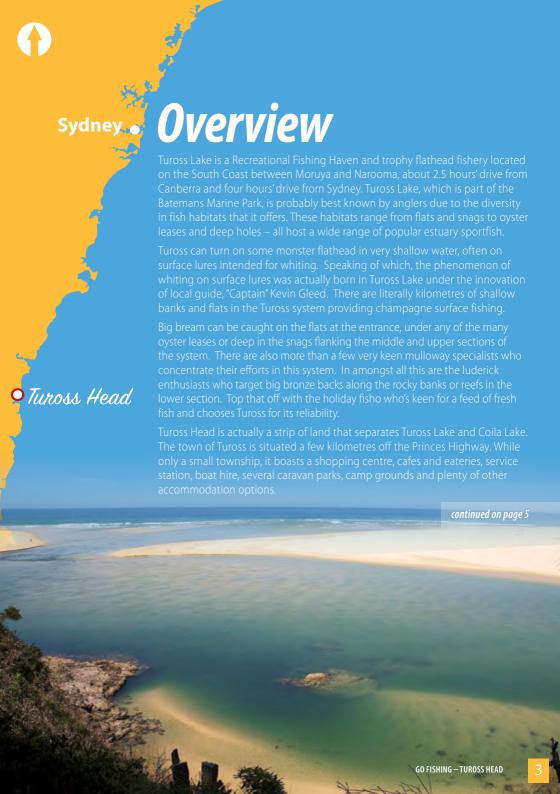
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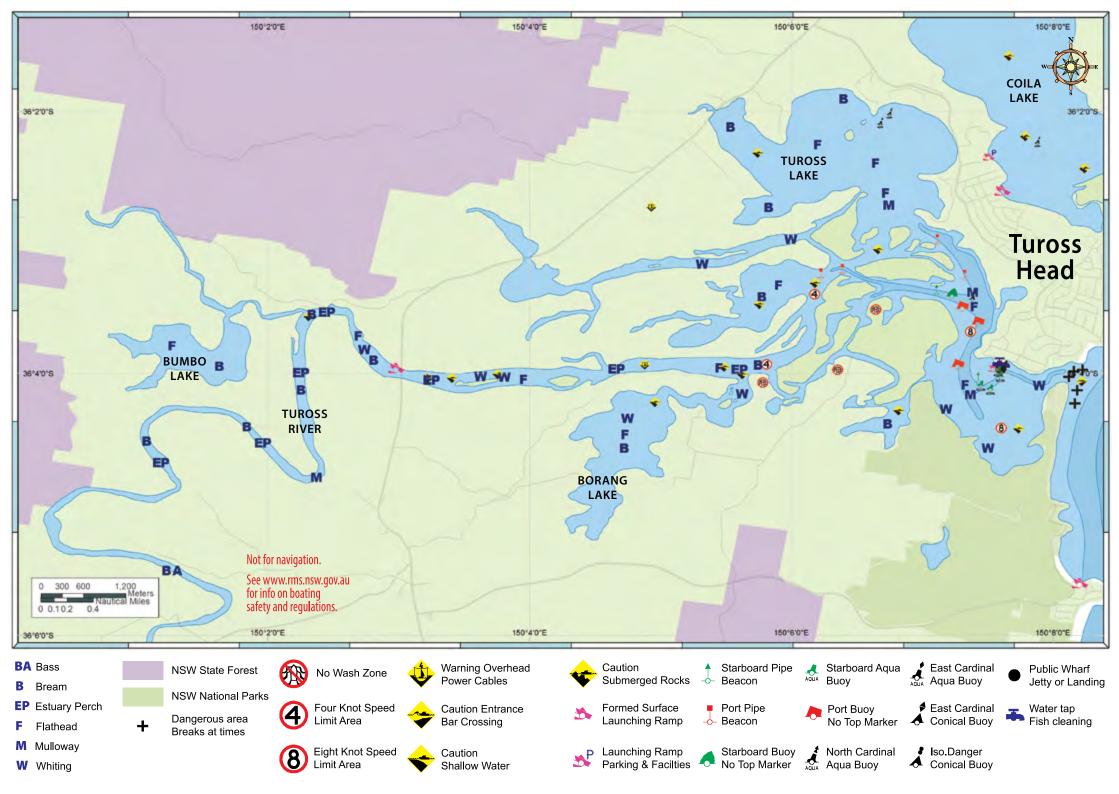
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Throwing a line in at a new spot always makes for a great fishing adventure, whether it's on a family holiday or just somewhere new close to home. No matter your fishing expertise, NSW boasts a wide range of fish species and great places to catch them, including in our many inland rivers, impoundments and streams to 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.

NSW DPI 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 and permitted gear not listed in these guides, visit the NSW DPI website or download the **FishSmart App** from the App store on your Android or iPhone.





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Tuross Lake itself is quite unique for a southern estuary. Its main inflow comes from the Tuross River, which starts well up in the Kybean Range. The river's upper reaches provide good bass fishing for those prepared to put in the effort to make the journey. There are expansive stretches of shallow sand bars interspersed with deep pools which hold the bass.

As the river reaches the lower coastal reaches, numerous estuarine lakes, such as Bumbo and Borang, join the system. Around this section, the river splits several times, making navigation a challenge. If you're interested in exploring the upper or middle sections of the Tuross system, get a map and study it. There are lots of dead ends...

As the river gets closer to the coast, it opens into a series of basins with several large bays full of oyster leases – a favourite bream habitat – linked by channels. The town of Tuross sits on the northern shore of the main basin of Tuross Lake. The main basin used to flow straight out to the ocean and was quite deep. The effects of drought over the past 20 years have seen the front section of the lake become very shallow, making boat navigation tricky. At times, the entrance has completely closed up. It is generally regarded as an unsafe bar from which to head out to sea.

Aside from the main waterway, the numerous bays, creeks, channels and mini lakes in the system mean that there's always a quiet, protected and productive location for shore, boat or kayak-based anglers.







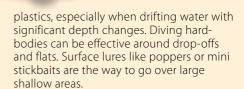
Key target species

Dusky Flathead

PEAK SEASON - October to April.

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

TACKLE - 2-4kg spin outfits, 2-3kg braid or mono line and 4-6kg leader. For bait fishing, use 1/0 to 4/0 non-offset circle hooks on a running sinker rig. Tuross isn't a particularly deep system so when fishing soft plastics try light jig heads of 3 to 9 grams on 1/0 or 2/0 hooks. Stick with tails in the 6-12cm size. Curl or paddle tails work well, as do shads. Start with natural colours like grey, silver, "black & gold" or greens but don't be afraid of using something bright if things are guiet. 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



HOT SPOTS – Drop-offs, flats systems, creek mouths and oyster leases.

BAG & SIZE LIMITS – 5 per day 36cm to 70cm. All Dusky Flathead outside of this size range will be required to be released back into the water.

See **www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries** for more info on handling and releasing trophysized flathead, including best practice catch & release techniques.

Bream

PEAK SEASON - Year round

TECHNIQUE - Bait fishing with fresh prawns, fish strips, live marine worms and prawns: lure fishing with soft plastics, vibes and small hard-bodied divers.



TACKLE – 2-3kg 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. 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 "wriggler" style tails when targeting bream on plastics. Use a slow "lift and drop" technique. Vibes are effective in deeper water and surface poppers are deadly around snags or oyster leases, especially during summer. Hard-bodies come into their own around oyster leases and snags in the middle to upper reaches.

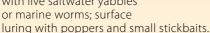
HOT SPOTS – Oyster leases, snags and flats.

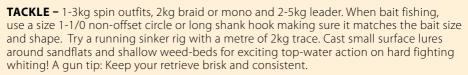
SIZE & BAG LIMITS - 10 per day 25cm and over.

Whiting

PEAK SEASON -November to April.

TECHNIQUE - Bait fishing with live saltwater vabbies or marine worms; surface





HOT SPOTS – Flats, shallow weed beds.

BAG & SIZE LIMITS - 20 per day 27cm and over.

Try using poppers or stickbaits for exciting surface action on whiting.





Mulloway

PEAK SEASON – October to April.

TECHNIQUE – Bait fishing with live mullet or large

strips of fresh fish or squid; lure fishing with medium to large soft plastics or soft

vibes.

TACKLE – 4-8kg spin outfits. 8-10kg braid or mono and 10-20kg leader. When bait fishing, use 6/0-8/0 non-offset circle hooks on a running sinker rig. Use 10-20 gram jig heads on size 3/0-5/0 extra strong hooks teamed with 10-20cm paddle or shad tail. "Black & gold" is a consistent tail colour. For soft vibes, use models that are 10cm or longer.

HOT SPOTS – Drop-offs, reefs and bait schools.

BAG & SIZE LIMITS – 1 per day 70cm and over. Boat limit of 2 per boat per day (if 2 or more fishers onboard). Charter boat limit of 3 per boat per day.





Luderick

PEAK SEASON -

Year round.

TECHNIQUE – Bait fishing with green weed using chopped up weed and sand as berley.

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 flies" in place of weed.

HOT SPOTS – Edges of weed beds, channels, reefy areas.

BAG & SIZE LIMITS – 10 per day 27cm and over.



Other Species



A number of other common species including garfish, mullet, tailor, flounder and silver trevally can also be caught in Tuross's productive waters. Tailor can be prolific in the system and smaller specimens can sometimes play havoc with anglers using soft plastics as they snip the tails in half. If this starts happening, switch to a hard-body or metal blade

As mentioned earlier, native bass are available in the upper reaches with some spectacular kayak/canoe waters below the range. Trout exist in the uppermost reaches above Tuross Falls and occasionally turn up amongst the bass below the falls. As the fresh starts to run to salt, enigmatic estuary perch can be targeted around sunken trees.

HANDY KNOTS

UNI KNOT – This is an excellent knot for connecting hooks and swivels to the end of fishing lines. A very dependable knot. Use more wraps with lighter line, less with heavier line. It can also be used to attach your fishing line to your reel by passing the line around the back of the spool rather than through the eye of the hook.



1. Thread line through eye.



2. Make this configuration.



3. Begin wrapping loop C with tag A.



Continue wrapping four to six times.



5. Moisten the line and form a knot by pulling tag A against loop C.



6. As you continue to pull on the tag all of the spirals in the tag are transferred to the loop D.



7. This forms a slipping knot and loop.



8. The loop C disappears as the knot slides down on to the eye.

DOUBLE UNI KNOT – This is a useful knot for joining two lines.



1. Overlap the lines to be joined then encircle one line with the tag of the other.



2. Wrap the double strand inside the formed loop.



3. Make four wraps in all.



 Do the same with the other line so the knot in each line is tied around the other.



5. Moisten the line and tighten each knot in turn.



6. Draw the knots together, tighten once more, then trim the tags.

CATCH & RELEASE INFO

Catch & release fishing is becoming increasingly popular, with many anglers now electing to release key species such as flathead, bream, tailor and mulloway. Recent research by NSW DPI has shown that most fish survive using current C&R techniques.

Key ways to release fish successfully include:

 Using non-offset circle hooks and artificial lures.

- Using suitable tackle to minimise fight times.
- Using knotless landing nets.
- If deeply hooked, cutting the line close to the mouth.
- Minimising the fish's time out of the water.
- Using wet hands or gloves to handle fish.
- Reviving the fish upon release.

See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries for more info on best practice C&R techniques.







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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.



Live for Fishing. Fish for Life. Learn more at WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/FISHFORLIFE

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