



**FREE
NSW
GUIDE**

Go Fishing



FEATURED LOCATIONS:

**SYDNEY HARBOUR'S
WHARVES PIERS
& PARKS
BIG CITY HOTSPOT!**

dpird.nsw.gov.au

Foreword from DPIRD



Contents

Overview	3
Sydney Harbour land-based locations (Map 1)	4
Sydney Harbour land-based locations (Map 2)	6
Fish responsibly!	8
Key target species	9
Dioxins in Sydney Harbour	11

COVER IMAGE: Ahmed Mahmood. All other images: Ahmed Mahmood, Chris Cleaver.
Fish illustrations: Pat Tully.

16439 7/24

This fishing location guide is produced by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) LMB 3020 Nowra NSW 2541, for and on the behalf of the state of New South Wales. This guide is produced using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trust as part of our commitment to providing recreational fishers with comprehensive, user-friendly information.

© State of New South Wales through NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development [2024].

Disclaimers

This publication may provide assistance or information but DPIRD and its employees do not guarantee the publication is without flaw or is wholly appropriate for any particular purpose and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from relying on any information in this publication. This publication is a guide only, it does not replace the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* or other acts and statutory rules applying to or affecting recreational fishing. It is a summary of laws and regulations at the time of publication and cannot be used as a defence in a court of law.

Recreational fishing regulations may change during the lifetime of this publication. It is the responsibility of fishers to ensure they are acting within the law at all times. Check regulations with your local DPIRD fisheries office or www.dpiird.nsw.gov.au/fisheries.

The product trade names in this publication are supplied on the understanding that no preference between equivalent products is intended and that the inclusion of a product name does not imply endorsement by the department over any equivalent product from another manufacturer.

No material matter in this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by electronic or mechanical means, photocopying or recording without the written permission of 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 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.

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.

The **FishSmart NSW app** provides recreational fishers 24/7 access to essential information on fishing in NSW.

Download the FishSmart NSW app to your mobile device.



**FishSmart
NSW**



A stylized map of Sydney Harbour and the surrounding coastline. The land is shown in orange and the water in blue. A white circle with a black outline marks a location in the harbour. The text 'Sydney Harbour' is written in a black, cursive font over the map.

Overview



Sydney Harbour is best known for its premier tourist attractions like the Opera House, Luna Park, Taronga Zoo and of course the iconic Harbour Bridge. However it is also highly regarded in recreational fishing circles as an outstanding shore-based fishing destination offering a variety of productive options including rock platforms, wharves, piers and numerous parks and reserves.

Popular with serious anglers, family fishos and visiting tourists, the Harbour offers quality fishing for a range of common species such as dusky flathead, mullet, mulloway, bream, luderick, silver trevally, a couple of different squid species and leatherjacket. In the warmer months, the Harbour is invaded by pelagic species including Australian salmon, bonito, frigate mackerel and the mighty kingfish, providing keen sportfishermen with exciting action from the many wharves, piers, reserves and rocky outcrops.

Fishing access in the Harbour is generally pretty good. More than 120 known land-based locations, some in sight of the city's most iconic landmarks, provide for truly unique fishing experiences. Take the opportunity to explore the array of land-based fishing options available around the Harbour.

Before you plan a trip to Sydney Harbour, make sure you do your homework as a number of fishing closures are in place. These closures exist for a variety of reasons, from public health and safety to preserving unique aquatic

environments. The majority of these closures are signposted. Penalties apply for not complying with the relevant rules and regulations.

Sydney Harbour and all its tributaries is listed as an Intertidal Protected Area, which means take of any shellfish, molluscs and crustaceans (for example crabs, cunjevoi, cockles, mussels, snails, whelks, oysters and abalone) is prohibited

As anyone who has ever spent time on its foreshores or out on the water will know, Sydney Harbour is an extremely busy working port with huge amounts of boat traffic, industry, tourism and recreational/commercial use. The key to enjoying this shared resource is for recreational fishers to fish responsibly and make sure we present a positive image by cleaning up any fishing related mess (even if it's not yours!), keeping the noise down (especially at night) and to show respect and courtesy to other users such as commuters, residents and workers.

Following these common sense suggestions will help ensure we all enjoy continued access to the Harbour's fantastic land-based fishing locations, now and into the long-term.

This guide to *Sydney Harbour's Wharves, Piers & Parks* is the first of a planned three-part series of Sydney-based DPIRD *Go Fishing* handbooks.

Sydney Harbour land-based locations

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.
See www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime/using-waterways/public-ferry-wharves/clean-safe-wharf.html on ferry wharf fishing regulations.
Not for navigation.



FishSmart
NSW



Site No. & name

1. Watsons Bay
2. Watsons Bay Ferry Wharf
3. Vaucluse – Nielsen Park
4. Cobblers/Inner Middle Head
5. Obelisk/Middle Head
6. Balmoral Beach/Baths
7. Clifton Gardens Wharf
8. Taylors Bay Point
9. Rose Bay Ferry Wharf
10. Lyne Park
11. Bradleys Head
12. Double Bay Ferry Wharf

Site No. & name

13. Whiting Beach
14. Little Sirius Pt
15. McKell Park
16. Darling Point Ferry Wharf
17. Yarranabbe Park
18. Rushcutters Bay Park
19. South Mosman Ferry Wharf
20. Mosman Bay Ferry Wharf
21. Old Cremorne Ferry Wharf
22. Cremorne Point Ferry Wharf
23. Cremorne Point Reserve
24. Garden Island Ferry Wharf



Park/
Reserve



Wharf/
Pier



Ferry
Wharf

Council, leased and private land is subject to its own regulations and management and it is advisable to always check if fishing is permissible at that location.

FISH RESPONSIBLY!



Leave no litter



Minimise noise
(especially at night)



Be respectful



Promote safe and responsible fishing

0 250m 500m 1km



Sydney Harbour land-based locations



NOTE: This fishing map is only to be used as a general reference overview.
See www.dpiird.nsw.gov.au for details on fishing regulations.
See www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime/using-waterways/public-ferry-wharves/clean-safe-wharf.html on ferry wharf fishing regulations.
Not for navigation.



Site No. & name

1. Kurraba Point Reserve
2. Kurraba Point Ferry Wharf
3. Neutral Bay Ferry Wharf
4. Kesterton Park
5. North Sydney Ferry Wharf
6. Wrixton Park
7. Kirribilli Ferry Wharf
8. Lady Gowrie Lookout
9. Beulah Street Wharf
10. Jeffrey Street Wharf
11. Milsons Point Ferry Wharf
12. Lavender Bay
13. McMahon's Point Public Wharf
14. McMahon's Point Ferry Wharf
15. Walsh Bay Pier 2 and 3
16. Walsh Bay Pier 4 and 5
17. Walsh Bay pier 7 and 8
18. Blues Point Reserve
19. Henry Lawson Avenue Park
20. Sawmillers Reserve
21. Pyrmont Bay Ferry Wharf
22. Metcalfe Park
23. Ballarat Park

Site No. & name

24. Jones Bay Wharf
25. Illoura Reserve
26. Balmain East Ferry Wharf
27. Lookes Avenue Reserve
28. Simmons Point Reserve
29. Pirrama Park
30. Waterfront Park
31. Bicentennial Park
32. Balmain Ferry Wharf
33. Ballast Point Park
34. Balls Head Reserve
35. Berry's Island Reserve
36. Greenwich Sailing Club
37. Birchgrove Ferry Wharf
38. Yurulbin Park
39. Ellington Park
40. White Horse Point
41. Greenwich Point Ferry Wharf
42. Shell Park
43. Bayview Park (Greenwich)
44. Northwood Wharf
45. Woolwich Ferry Wharf
46. Clarks Point Reserve



Park /
Reserve



Wharf /
Pier



Ferry
Wharf

Council, leased and private land is subject to its own regulations and management and it is advisable to always check if fishing is permissible at that location.

FISH RESPONSIBLY!



Leave no litter



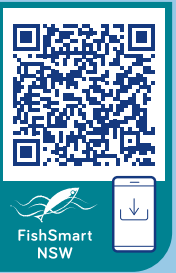
Be respectful



Minimise noise
(especially at night)



Promote safe and
responsible fishing



FishSmart
NSW

Fish responsibly!

Do the right thing on Sydney's ferry wharves



While most anglers fishing the wharves do so responsibly, a minority continue to do the wrong thing. It is vital all fishers do the right thing as these wharves are simply too good to lose!

If you enjoy fishing from Sydney's ferry wharves, make sure you:

- ✓ Be considerate of nearby residents and keep the noise to a minimum, especially after 10pm.
- ✓ Be considerate of nearby businesses.
- ✓ Remember vessels and passengers have priority, clear your lines and tackle when they approach and move aside.
- ✓ Do not block access or leave tackle on commuter seating and be respectful to passengers.
- ✓ Always dispose of all rubbish, bait and unwanted tackle responsibly even if it is not yours.
- ✓ Always clean up any fishing mess like scales, blood, ink or bait with a bucket of water before you leave.
- ✓ Follow recreational fishing rules.

Report suspicious fishing activity to the Fishers Watch Phonenumber on 1800 043 536 and contact NSW Police to report any anti-social behaviour.



DPIRD has produced an educational video providing more info and handy tips about safely and responsibly fishing the ferry wharf network.

Check it out on the **DPIRD YouTube channel!**

Help maintain your access to the Sydney ferry wharves network by always doing the right thing. **Encourage your fishing mates to behave responsibly.**



Key target species



Yellowtail Kingfish

PEAK SEASON: Year round.

TECHNIQUE: The Harbour has established a reputation for producing good numbers of quality kingies in the metre-plus size. The most productive techniques for these “hoodlums” involve using live squid and yellowtail fished off the deep water piers and wharves in the lower Harbour.

Smaller kingfish can be targeted with soft plastics cast from the same locations; fresh squid strips and pilchards also account for plenty of “rat” kings when they are about.

TACKLE: Spinning reels in the 8000-20000 size loaded with 50-80lb braid matched to a popping style rod teamed with 60-120lb fluorocarbon leader is the required tackle for chasing metre-plus kings when live baiting.

For casting poppers and soft plastics or floating some squid and pilchards around the deeper wharves and piers, a 4-8kg 2.1-2.7m spin stick and a 4000-6000 size spinning reel loaded with 15-30lb braid and 20-40lb fluorocarbon leader will be well suited to chasing the school sized fish.

HOT SPOTS: Walsh Bay/Clifton Gardens/McMahons Point/Balls Head Reserve/Clarkes Point Reserve.



Australian Salmon

PEAK SEASON: October – April.

TECHNIQUE: Small soft plastics, metal lures, flies and hard-bodied lures cast around the deeper accessible spots from Balls Head down to the mouth of the Harbour all work extremely well for the ever-popular sambo. Keep a close eye out for birds diving and wheeling near the surface – this is a prime indication that a school of hungry salmon is in the area.

Whole pilchards, whitebait and strips of fished unweighted or under a bobby cork in the same areas mentioned for casting lures.

TACKLE: Medium spinning outfits of 3-6kg involving a 2.1m rod and 4000-5000 size spin reel loaded with 15-30lb braid and 20-30lb fluorocarbon leader is perfect when chasing salmon.

HOT SPOTS: Walsh Bay/Clifton Gardens/McMahons Point/Balls Head Reserve/Clarkes Point.



FishSmart
NSW





Bream



PEAK SEASON: Year round.

TECHNIQUE: Bait fishing with fresh prawns, fish strips (i.e. mullet, striped tuna), 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: Clarkes Point Reserve/Sawmillers Reserve/Bayview Park/Watsons Bay.



Mulloway



PEAK SEASON: Year round.

TECHNIQUE: Bait fishing with fresh squid and live bait such as yellowtail around the many deeper edges throughout the harbour close to a tide change is a proven way to target mulloway. Low light periods – dawn, dusk and at night – can be especially productive. Using soft plastic lures and vibes is extremely popular and proven to be as effective as using fresh bait, especially along the Parramatta River from Gladesville Bridge up to the Ryde Bridge.

TACKLE: When bait fishing, go for an outfit involving a rod around 2.7m rated at 4-8kg matched to a 3000-6000 sized spinning or baitrunner-style reel loaded with 15-30lb braid or mono. Use a running sinker rig to a swivel and around 1 metre of 30-50lb fluorocarbon leader with a 5/0 to 8/0 circle hook.

For lure fishing, a 2.1m graphite rod rated to 3-5kg with a 2500 – 4000 size reel loaded with 8-15lb braid and at least a rod length of fluorocarbon leader in 12-20lb size should cover most bases.

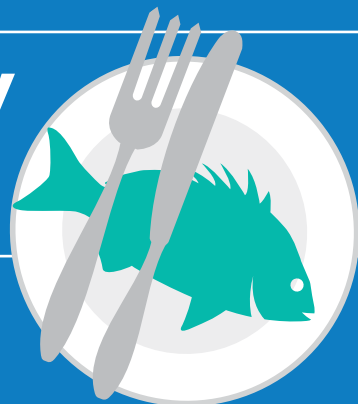
HOT SPOTS: Huntleys Point/Drummoyne/Ryde/Walsh Bay/Clarkes Point.



A number of other common species including **garfish, flathead, mullet, tarwhine, flounder, fan-tail leatherjackets, luderick, drummer** and **silver trevally** all can be found in good numbers depending on the time of year and location.

Sydney Harbour also offers a unique chance to target a lesser known species called the **surgeon fish or sawtail surgeon**. They can grow to 70cm and while not a hugely sought after species (they are mostly a by-catch for luderick anglers using green weed for bait), there are few fish that will pull harder.

Dioxins in Sydney Harbour



Previous test results have revealed elevated levels of dioxins in fish and crustaceans across Sydney Harbour, including Parramatta River and other connected tidal waterways. A ban was consequently placed on commercial fishing in 2006 as a precautionary measure.

Recreational fishing in the Harbour has not been banned, but fishers are urged to follow dietary advice on the consumption of seafood from the Sydney Harbour, Parramatta River and other connected tidal waterways. Fishers can also continue to practice catch and release.

Based on advice from an expert panel, the Government is recommending that:

- No fish or crustaceans caught west of the Sydney Harbour Bridge should be eaten. You should release your catch.
- For fish caught east of the Sydney Harbour Bridge generally no more than 150 grams per month should be consumed.

Recommended maximum intake based on eating a single species caught east of the Sydney Harbour Bridge

Species	No. of 150 gram serves per month	Amounts per month	Species	No. of 150 gram serves per month	Amounts per month
Fanbellied leatherjacket	24	3600 g	Crab	5	750 g
Dusky flathead	12	1800 g	Silver trevally	5	750 g
Flounder	12	1800 g	Prawns	4	600 g
Kingfish	12	1800 g	Squid	4	600 g
Luderick	12	1800 g	Bream	1	150 g
Trumpeter whiting	12	1800 g	Silver biddie	1	150 g
Sand whiting	8	1200 g	Tailor	1	150 g
Yellowtail	8	1200 g	Sea mullet	1 every 3 months	50 g

Testing of popular species has allowed for more accurate dietary advice.
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/fishing-skills/fishing-in-sydney-harbour>

Sydney's wharves, piers and parks are too good to lose!



- ✓ Leave no litter
- ✓ Minimise noise
- ✓ Be respectful
- ✓ Follow fisheries rules and regulations
- ✓ Promote safe and responsible fishing