

# Going Boating

Enjoy the waterways but do so safely and with consideration to others and the general environment. Chat to local boaters; often they're a great source of information for good locations and special conditions.

Some quick tips on safe boating:

- Ensure your vessel is seaworthy
- Check the weather before you leave and get regular updates
- Make sure you have sufficient water and fuel
- Always wear your life jacket. It can't save your life if you don't have it on
- Alcohol and water don't mix – stay under 0.05%

You should remember to sign into your local Marine Rescue Association. Visit <http://marinerescue.nsw.gov.au/find-a-unit> for more information safe boating and to find your nearest location.

Rob Faxevanos, Fishing Journalist and television host.

"The more I travel around the country the more I realise that one of the best places to fish is right here in Eurobodalla and it's getting better every year."

not you'll have the whole place to yourself.

Just off the beaches there are easy catches to be had drifting along sandy or gravelly areas in your tinie, while further out on the Continental Shelf you'll find the big game fish. Take your larger boat or join a charter tour to these waters where it's very common to catch fish well in excess of 50 kilos.

If it's serenity you prefer, our pristine estuaries lend themselves beautifully to the very peaceful pursuit of fishing from kayaks. You'll also have the company of kangaroos, wallabies, all sorts of lizards and amazing birds. For the more experienced ocean kayaker, you'll always find a sheltered beach or bay to launch from, and apart from the occasional passing whale or cheeky seal, more often than

Our jetties are perfect for learning to fish and for fun times with the kids, or for a bit more action on foot, pick a beach and take your surf rod down.

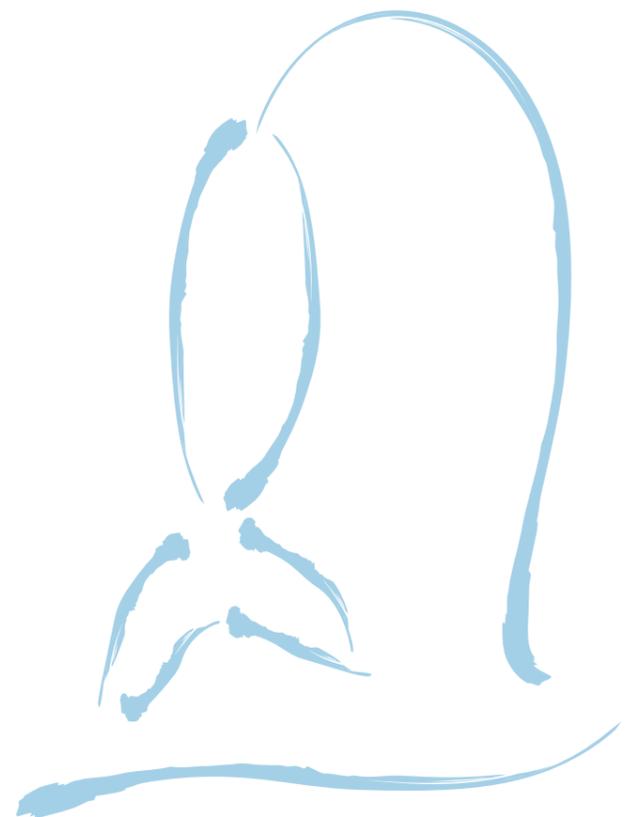
either on foot, in your own tinie or out with a professional.

there's a good chance you'll be able to catch it around here. And best of all they're easy to get to, fishing in the country. Think of a fish you'd like to eat, or one that'll give you a really good fight, and Eurobodalla is famous for providing anglers with some of the most varied and abundant

# Wet a Line

eurobodalla south coast nsw

# Fishing



batemans bay | moruya  
narooma | surrounding districts

**eurobodalla**  
Land of many waters  
south coast nsw

**Batemans Bay Visitor Centre**  
Princes Highway,  
Batemans Bay 2536  
Phone: 02 4472 6900

**Information Service at Moruya Library**  
Vulcan Street,  
Moruya 2537

**Narooma Visitor Centre**  
Princes Highway,  
Narooma 2546  
Phone: 02 4476 2881

For more ideas on holidaying in Eurobodalla or to book your accommodation and tours

**FREECALL**  
**1800 802 528**  
[www.eurobodalla.com.au](http://www.eurobodalla.com.au)

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## Fishing rules to remember

When you're fishing in NSW waters - both freshwater and saltwater - you are required by law to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee and carry a receipt showing the payment of the fee. This applies when spear fishing, hand lining, hand gathering, trapping, bait collecting and prawn netting or when in possession of fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters.

You can pay for your fishing license at Batemans Bay Visitor Centre, all good tackle shops, or buy online at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries) or by calling 1300 369 365.

## Catch and release with care

To allow easy release of unwanted fish, please de-barb your hooks by squashing the barb with pliers. When bait fishing for table species use circle hooks to achieve mouth hook-ups and hence easy release. If you do hook a fish deep, cut the line close to the fish's mouth.

If you plan to release a fish, wet your hands before handling it, minimise the time it is out of the water, use knotless landing nets, and support a big fish under the belly rather than lifting it by the jaw alone. Numerous studies have shown that most fish are very tough and handle catch and release very well but looking after them as described above will help avoid unnecessary fish casualties.

Last but not least follow this rule: If in doubt don't handle the fish - cut the line as close as is safely possible and let it back out.

Pack a copy of the NSW Recreational Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing Guides in your tackle box or backpack. They have information about legal lengths and bag limits and lots of other useful information. Copies are available at Batemans Bay or Narooma Visitor Centres and tackle stores and online at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries).

## Batemans Marine Park:

The only thing we don't provide is luck, because around here you don't need any.

Whether you're after some serious big game or just a bucketful for the BBQ, Eurobodalla Tourism can help you with advice, accommodation, hiring a dinghy, or booking a fishing experience with one of our professional fishing charters and guides.

## Booking your next catch

a good day's fishing and plenty for tomorrow

To be confident of our future catch, we need to ensure the marine ecosystems that produce it stay healthy and productive. Marine Parks are a big part of that insurance.

So with the Batemans Marine Park there are now more fish than ever for you to catch today, and at the same time we're making sure there'll be plenty for your grandchildren to catch in the future.

The Batemans Marine Park User Guide tells you where you can fish and what you may catch. Grab a copy at our Visitor Information Centres or tackle shops, and keep an eye out for the signage around our waterways.

More information is available at [www.mpa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au).

## Jetties

Many of the Eurobodalla's estuaries have jetties that are safe and friendly places to have fun learning how to fish.

Berley will attract smaller fish and bigger ones are often close behind. Bread scraps, unused old bait, fish scraps, prawn or fish pellets will all work.

The best way to get results for the kids or to catch fresh bait for yourself is to target the smaller fish. Use a small bait and a small hook around size 4 on the end of some 3 kilo line.

No sinker is needed unless the current is strong, and even then only use just enough to get your bait a couple of metres down. A float will help you avoid snags if the kids are dropping the baits too deep. Good baits include bread, prawn, squid, pilchard and other good quality bait.

This is a visually exciting technique because you watch what is coming up the berley trail. Keep your eye on your bait, and strike when you see a fish nibble.

Typical catches include table species like bream, leatherjacket, garfish, luderick, yellow-eye mullet, trevally, tailor, bream and more. You will also catch fresh baitfish species like yellow-tail mackerel (yakkas), slimy mackerel (slimys), pike and frogmouth pilchards to name a few.

For bigger fish, a larger, tougher bait that can withstand the nibbles of the smaller fish will serve you well. A running sinker with 3 kilo main line and 50cm of 6 kilo trace and 2/0 hook is the best bet. A fish finger sized strip of tougher bait like squid, slimy mackerel, trevally, mullet, tailor, pike or tuna will catch many

## Off shore: reef and pelagic

If you have a boat capable of going into the ocean you can't go past a feed of fresh sand flathead, which are very easy to catch.

A 6 to 12 kilo main line is best, braid is much better than monofilament line due to its ability to detect bites. A paternoster rig made of approximately 10 kilo line with 4/0 hooks is ideal.

Good baits are tuna or mackerel strips, pilchard and squid. Flatties love a moving bait so keep your bait jiggling up and down as you 'feel' the bottom. Drifting in sandy and gravelly areas in 25 to 35 meters of water is best. Tackle shops can easily point out which flathead grounds are firing best.

Closer to the reef areas keep your bait moving more steadily and you'll get snapper, morwong, pigfish, leatherjacket, trevally and many more.

Trolling a mix of skirted and deep diving lures near headlands and reefs will locate kingfish, salmon and tuna species. Further offshore you might be lucky enough to hook a yellowfin tuna, mako shark, mahi mahi, or even a marlin.

### Our Tip

- Book a fishing charter for the best reef and pelagic action.
- For learners or experienced anglers, getting a group of friends or family together will make for an unforgettable day out.

species like big bream, big flathead, tailor, pan-size snapper, salmon, trevally, and even the occasional jewfish.

### Top Spots

- Pick a jetty, any jetty!
- Narooma Town Wharf

## Estuary, Bank & Boat

Everything you can do from a jetty you can do from a boat, generally with better results.

If using lures it's much better to be mobile and wading the banks, or using a finnie or kayak is the go. Casting or trolling for tailor and salmon is a good option. Fish near bird or baitfish activity. Small metal lures are best for casting and deep diving slash baits are unbeatable on the troll.

For the more experienced angler, casting soft plastics, small hard bodied lures and poppers will yield species like flathead, bream, salmon, trevally, whiting, even jewfish. Fish light for best results: a 2 kilo braid main line and 4 kilo fluoro carbon leader is ample. Anglers who know how to avoid snags will also do well on bibless minnows. Fly anglers will do well on any size 1/0 baitfish patterns, but small crazy charlies are even better, often accounting for up to eight species while wading and casting over the drop offs.

### Top Spots

- Hire a finnie and fish Tuross Lake
- Hire a kayak or walk the banks of Durras Lake
- Chinamen's Point in the Clyde River
- Wagonga Inlet at Narooma
- Walk the shoreline or wade the shallows of the Tomaga River estuary at Mossy Point

## Kayaking

Eurobodalla lends itself to fishing from kayaks thanks to the hundreds of pristine places you can explore in peace and harmony.

Estuarine anglers will find sneaking along the shallow flats and back waters quietly casting soft plastics will yield much larger than usual flathead, bream, whiting and jewfish. Further upstream, freshwater rivers hold trophy bass, a superb catch and release sportfish.

The experienced ocean kayaker will find a sheltered bay to launch and catch big snapper, morwong, grouper, kingfish, salmon, tailor and more. A 3 kilo spin stick used to cast soft plastics or troll deep diving slash baits is all you need to take along to ensure a catch.

### Top Spots

- The flathead grounds in Batemans Bay between Snapper Island and the Tollgates are accessible by kayak on a calm day
- North side of Batemans Bay: Square Head to the west side of Three Islet Point (east is a Marine Park sanctuary zone)
- Any of the Eurobodalla's inlets, rivers or lakes provide great fishing for bream, flathead, tailor and more.

## Surf Beaches

Look for deep gutters where fish 'hole up'. These can often be spotted from lookouts along the scenic coastal routes. Look for darker colour or slow moving water and smaller waves amongst the breakers.

Dawn, dusk and night are prime times, but the rising tide will bring resident fish on the chew, even when it happens during the day.

A traditional surf rod with 6 to 12 kilo line and a 4 ounce star sinker with two droppers above it can be used to anchor a bait in a hole. This will catch you species like salmon, tailor, flathead and the occasional jewfish. Best baits are tuna or slimy mackerel strips, any other oily tough fish strip, pilchard and squid.

When the surf isn't up you can walk the beaches with a 3 kilo spin stick casting 20 gram metal lures for salmon, tailor and flathead. This is a very mobile and enjoyable way to fish.

Fishing on the sand next to rocks or a headland will yield additional species. A running sinker rig on 3kg line is best for bream but will also catch flathead, drummer and maybe even the prized snapper. For the tasty yellow-eye mullet, use the techniques detailed under 'Jetties'.

Live beach worms and fresh pippies are outstanding baits for all species including yellowfin whiting when fished on a small size 4 long shank hook.

### Top Spots

- Blackfellows Beach at Potato Point
- North Head Moruya, northern breakwall
- Any beach that has a channel casting distance from the shore

## Fishing is fun.....

but remember to take care and exercise caution

For information on general fishing safety, rock, freshwater and boating safety and the angel ring program or to view video on rock fishing safety, visit [www.safefishing.com.au](http://www.safefishing.com.au).

Wear a lifejacket or buoyancy vest: when boat fishing or when fishing in hazardous locations such as rock platforms or those located near areas of fast moving water always wear a lifejacket. It may also be appropriate to wear non-slip shoes.

Observe first, fish later: always check weather and water conditions before you start fishing. View the coastal waters forecast for New South Wales at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

Inform others of your fishing plans: always let friends or family know where you are going and when you will be back.

## Local knowledge

Local tackle shops are invaluable when it comes to pointing out where and when the fish are biting and on what technique. If you are not sure about something drop in and say hello before heading out for a fish.

Regular weekly fishing reports can be found online at [www.eurobodalla.com.au](http://www.eurobodalla.com.au).