

NiE

Leslie yellowbelly providing anglers with hefty catches



Wordy news

Angler
– a person who fishes with a rod and line



Did you know?

There are more than 4400 species of fish in Australia most of which are marine.



The fish are biting

WITH thousands of kilometres of coastline and countless lakes, rivers, harbours and bays to fish from all year round, it's not surprising that fishing is a national pastime in Australia.

It is one of the most popular recreational and sporting activities with an estimated 3.4 million people of all ages and from all walks of life enjoying the activity.

What is a fish?

Fishes are the largest and most diverse group of vertebrate animals.

Most fishes, but there are many exceptions, live in water, breathe primarily with gills rather than lungs, have paired limbs in the form of fins, are unable to regulate

their own internal body temperatures and are covered with scales that protect their bodies.

Australian waters are filled with different fish species in an array of shapes, colours and sizes, with nearly a quarter of our native species found nowhere else in the world.

To help ensure fish stocks are not depleted and are accessible to anglers, State and Territory governments use rules and controls on fish size, bag limits, gear restrictions and seasonal and area closures to regulate catches.

It is important to follow these rules, restrictions and licencing requirements to preserve and maintain healthy and sustainable fisheries for future generations.

Where to fish

Great fishing is on offer throughout Australia in our bays and estuaries, from the beach, lakes and rivers, and offshore reef systems with a wide variety of fish species to be caught.

Regardless of your fishing ability or your experience, a productive day of fishing depends on picking the right spot. There is more than just luck involved.

- Decide whether you want to use a boat or fish from shore.
- Know what kind of fish you want to catch and where they are biting.

- The local fishing associations and fishing and bait stores post some great information about where to fish.

Literacy tip

Fish v fishes

A group of fish of the same species are called 'fish'. Two or more different species of fish are called 'fishes'.

For example if there were 20 barramundi you refer to them collectively as 20 fish. If there was a barramundi, a cod and a tuna you would refer to them as three fishes.

Fishy facts

- Ichthyology is the study of fishes.
- The oldest fish hook ever found dates back to about 42,000 years ago.
- Fishing is the biggest participant sport in the world.

IN THE NEWS

Tunarama

FISH really do fly especially in the town of Port Lincoln, South Australia where every January they celebrate all things fishy at the Tunarama Festival. This year the 56th festival ran from January 25 to 28.

The highlight is the tuna toss. It's a bit like the Olympic hammer throw but with a large fish rather than a metal ball and chain and it's open to anyone who fancies taking part. The rules of the competition dictate that the tuna must weigh between eight and 10 kilograms. Most competitors use a hammer throw style to hurl the fish as far as they can.

The Festival began in 1962 to help promote the Tuna Industry in Port Lincoln and the tuna toss was added to the program in 1979 to highlight the arduous task of unloading the fish from the decks of the boats to the trucks on shore.

The tuna toss is now an annual attempt renowned around the world and includes competition for males and females.

CHECK IT OUT

Fishing safety

THERE are plenty of hazards in all types of fishing so it is important to follow some simple tips to stay safe.

- Know the tide and weather.
- Never fish alone and tell someone where you are.
- Fish only in places that you know are safe. Ask local people for advice.
- Wear the right gear: a life jacket, shoes, light/ sun smart clothing.
- Carry a mobile phone with you.

NEXT WEEK: Surfing the waves



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