

LAKE Macquarie

NEW SOUTH WALES



the
Lake

FISHING GUIDE

YOU WILL LOVE DISCOVERING ALL THE FANTASTIC FISHING SPOTS IN LAKE MACQUARIE

As the lucky locals know, Lake Macquarie's abundance of water truly makes the area an angler's paradise. Boasting 16 kilometres of pristine coastline and a saltwater lake four times the size of Sydney Harbour, fishing enthusiasts will no doubt delight in being spoiled for choice when choosing the place to drop a line.

Lake Macquarie is classed as a recreational fishing haven, fish commonly found in the area include Flathead, Bream, Tailor and Whiting. Other species appear seasonally, such as Jewfish, Snapper, Kingfish, Squid, Prawns and Blue Swimmer Crabs.

So whether you are a novice or a seasoned fishing veteran, read on and take your pick from the unique and numerous fishing experiences all to be found here in beautiful Lake Macquarie.

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Lake Macquarie Visitor Information Centre

Swansea Centre, 228-234 Pacific Highway,
Swansea NSW 2281

P: (02) 4921 0740 **F:** (02) 4972 1487

Freecall: 1800 802 044

W: www.visitlakemac.com.au

E: tourism@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Book accommodation online at

www.visitlakemac.com.au

or call **1800 802 044**



DISCLAIMER

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FISHING LOCATIONS



LOCATIONS

1. Shingle Splitters Point – Balcolyn
2. Lucy's Wall – Swansea Heads
3. The Drop Over – Marks Point
4. Pulbah Island – Lake Macquarie
5. Swansea Channel – Swansea
6. Blacksmiths Beach – Blacksmiths
7. Redhead Beach – Redhead
8. Pelican Foreshore – Pelican
9. Speers Point Jetty – Speers Point

KEY

Access:

How to reach the location

Hazards:

Features of the location that may present annoyance or danger

Facilities:

Public toilets, play equipment, jetty and boat ramp

Accommodation & Meals:

Tourist Park and self-contained accommodation is available nearby. Takeaway food can be found at Blacksmiths shopping area, fine dining is located at Pelican marina

Attractions:

Nearby attractions

Good for:

Fish commonly caught in the area



FISHING CHECKLIST

WHAT TO BRING

- ✓ Tackle
- ✓ Bait
- ✓ Fishing Licence
- ✓ Storage for captured fish
- ✓ Sun protection – sunscreen, hat and sunglasses
- ✓ Weather-appropriate clothing
- ✓ Shoes that can get wet
- ✓ Food & Water
- ✓ If boating, a PFD – Personal Floatation Device
- ✓ Insect Repellent
- ✓ Mobile Phone

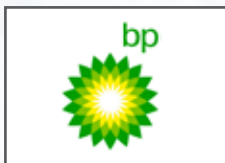
SAFETY TIPS

- ✓ Consult the most recent weather forecast and a tide chart as conditions may impact upon your plans.
- ✓ Ensure all equipment is well maintained and in good condition.
- ✓ Inform a relative or friend where you are going and when you expect to be back.
- ✓ Fish in pairs or groups.
- ✓ Avoid fishing in electrical storms.

EQUIPMENT

Stop in and stock up!

BP Fishing & Tackle Shop
335 Pacific Highway, Lake Munmorah
P: 02 4358 1606
M: 0415 777 537



BOAT HIRE

Aus Kayaks
M: 0417 143 268
E: auskayaks@bigpond.com
W: www.auskayaks.com.au



FISHING CHARTERS

Fancy a fishing experience a bit out of the ordinary? Book a deep sea fishing charter and try your luck out in the open ocean!

Lake Macquarie Fishing Charters
P: 02 4959 7578
M: 0419 264 798
E: info@lakemacquariefishingcharters.com.au
W: www.lakemacquariefishingcharters.com.au



Boab Boat Hire
P: 1 300 00 2622
W: www.boabboathire.com.au



Jet Buzz Jet Boat
P: 02 4972 1777
E: info@jetbuzz.com.au
W: www.jetbuzz.com.au



B&L Fishing and Cruises
P: 02 4971 3323
M: 0427 713 323
W: www.blfishingcruises.com
W: www.lakemacquariefishingcharters.com.au



FURTHER INFORMATION

For information on bag limits, restrictions and environmental conservation, please consult the NSW Recreational Saltwater Fishing Guide, available from: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/guide> or NSW Fisheries Offices (see Hunter location below).

The 2009 Hunter/Lake Macquarie Recreational Fishing Guide, available at: http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/329112/Lake-Macquarie-Hunter-Recreational-Fishing-Guide.pdf may also be helpful.

Hunter Fisheries Office 55 Lambton Parade, Swansea 2281
Phone: (02) 4980 9202 Fax: (02) 4971 2986

SHORE-BASED LAKE FISHING



Cast a line from one of the many jetties, parks or reserves located on the lake's shores. Here are a couple of spots to try:

1. SHINGLE SPLITTERS POINT- BALCOLYN

Access:	Shingle Splitters Point Park, Queen St, Balcolyn
Hazards:	Lookout for Razorfish on the water's edge
Facilities:	Public Toilets
Accommodation & Meals:	B&B, Self-Contained and Hotel style accommodation is available nearby. Clubs and pubs can be found in Morisset, takeaways and cafés are located locally.
Attractions:	Weekend markets at Morisset
Good For:	Flathead, Whiting

2. LUCY'S WALL - SWANSEA HEADS

Access:	Reids Reserve, Lambton Pde, Swansea Heads
Hazards:	Slippery rocks
Facilities:	Public toilets and picnic tables
Accommodation and meals:	Tourist Park, B&B, Self-Contained, Motel and Resort style accommodation is available nearby. Clubs, pubs and takeaways are located in the Swansea town centre.
Attractions:	Wollarah National Park, sea caves at Caves Beach
Good For:	Flathead, Bream, Whiting

LAKE FISHING BY BOAT

BYO or hire a boat for a day or two and cruise the lake's calm waters at your own pace. Try these popular locations:



3. THE DROP OVER - MARKS POINT

Access:	Village Bay Close or Naru Rd (unsealed), Marks Point
Facilities:	Public toilets and play equipment in Kindaimanna Reserve, Findon St
Accommodation & Meals:	Tourist Park, Self-Contained and Motel style accommodation is available nearby. Belmont offers clubs, pubs, restaurants and takeaways.
Attractions:	Walking trails at Green Pt Foreshore Reserve
Good For:	Flathead, Bream, Whiting, Jewfish, Tailor, Kingfish, Prawns

4. PULBAH ISLAND - LAKE MACQUARIE

Access:	Dobell Park, Dobell Drive, Wangi Wangi
Facilities:	Public toilets, picnic facilities and play equipment in Dobell Park
Accommodation & Meals:	Tourist Park style accommodation, clubs and restaurants are available in Wangi Wangi.
Attractions:	Historic Dobell House
Good For:	Bream, Tailor



BEACH FISHING

It won't be hard finding a spot to fish on one of the many uncrowded beaches in the Lake Macquarie. We recommend the following:



5. SWANSEA CHANNEL - SWANSEA

Access:	Thomas Humphries Reserve, Dobinson Drive, Swansea or Bali St, Blacksmiths
Hazards:	Fast moving currents, Swansea Bar - sand banks and waves
Facilities:	Public toilets & picnic tables in Thomas Humphries Reserve
Accommodation & Meals:	Tourist Park, BnB, Self-Contained and Motel style accommodation is available nearby. Clubs, pubs and takeaways are located in Swansea town centre.
Attractions:	Wollarah National Park, sea caves at Caves Beach
Good For:	Flathead, Bream, Whiting, Jewfish, Tailor, Kingfish

6. BLACKSMITHS BEACH - BLACKSMITHS

Access:	Ungala Rd, Blacksmiths
Facilities:	Public toilets and undercover picnic tables at the Swansea Belmont Surf Lifesaving Club
Accommodation & Meals:	Tourist Park, Hostel and Self-Contained accommodation is available nearby. Pubs and takeaways are at the Blacksmiths shopping area.
Attractions:	Blacksmiths Breakwall, Patrolled Beach
Good For:	Jewfish



7. REDHEAD BEACH - REDHEAD

<i>Access:</i>	Beach Rd, Redhead
<i>Facilities:</i>	Public toilets at the Redhead Surf Lifesaving Club
<i>Accommodation & Meals:</i>	Tourist Park accommodation is available nearby. Takeaway food can be found at the local shopping area
<i>Attractions:</i>	Walking trails in the Awabakal Nature Reserve
<i>Good for:</i>	Kingfish, Tailor, Salmon

ROCK FISHING

Lake Macquarie offers a host of fantastic rock fishing locations, however, extra precautions do need to be taken. The Australian Royal Life Saving Society states:



'Rock fishing is an extremely popular activity in Australia, however it can also be extremely dangerous and claims a number of lives every year. People who go rock fishing need to undertake a number of safety precautions to ensure they remain safe.'

SafeWaters NSW & Lifesaving Victoria recommend the following actions when rock fishing:

'Never fish by yourself. Fish in a group of at least three people and within sight of each other. If someone is washed in, one person can stay and help while the other alerts emergency services (dial 000). Mobile phone users can also dial 112 to access emergency services.

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

Wear light clothing. Light clothing such as shorts and a spray jacket will let you swim easily if you are washed in. Jumpers may be heavy and difficult to take off.

Wear appropriate footwear. Cleats, sandals and sandshoes with non-slip soles suit different surfaces. Use the appropriate shoes for the conditions.

Carry safety gear. Wear a life jacket or buoyancy vest. Also, bring something buoyant that can be easily thrown and held onto, to help you stay afloat. Carry ropes and torches.

Never fish in exposed areas during rough or large seas. Make sure you are aware of local weather, swell and tidal conditions before going fishing. Listen to weather forecasts or call the weather information line on 1900 937 107. Be aware that conditions may change dramatically in a short period of time.

Observe first, fish later. Spend some time (at least 30 minutes) watching your intended spot before fishing to get an idea of the conditions over a full swell/wave cycle. Wave conditions can get worse as the tide changes - you should know whether the tides are high or low and coming in or going out.

Plan an escape route in case you are washed in. Stay calm - if you are washed in, swim away from the rocks and look for a safe place to come ashore or stay afloat and wait for help to arrive.

Stay alert. Don't ever turn your back on the sea - if the waves, weather or swell threaten your fishing spot then leave immediately.

Ask for advice from locals who know the area. They will always tell you when an area is dangerous.'

Caves Beach and Catherine Hill Bay are both home to countless rock platforms and points.

FISHING WITH KIDS

Take some time out and go fishing with the kids. It promotes a healthy outdoor lifestyle and the chance to teach our younger generations about environmental stewardship. Fishing is fun, free, and best of all is the chance to spend some quality family time together.



8. PELICAN FORESHORE - PELICAN

Access:	Lakeview Pde, Pelican
Facilities:	Public toilets, play equipment, jetty and boat ramp
Accommodation & Meals:	Tourist Park and self-contained accommodation is available nearby. Takeaway food can be found at Blacksmiths shopping area, fine dining is located at Pelican marina
Attractions:	Jet boat thrill rides, boat and kayak hire at Pelican Marina

9. SPEERS POINT JETTY - SPEERS POINT

Access:	Speers Point Park, Park Rd, Speers Point
Facilities:	Public toilets, picnic facilities, play equipment, jetty and boat ramp, shelter
Accommodation & Meals:	Tourist Park and motel style accommodation is available nearby. Warners Bay is home to numerous eateries
Attractions:	Lake Macquarie Art Gallery, Warners Bay Foreshore shared path