



## BIG4 EASTS DOLPHIN BEACH HOLIDAY PARK

### CATCHING FISH AT MORUYA HEADS

Moruya Heads is the perfect place to fish due to our ideal location directly opposite the beach and Moruya River only minutes up the road. The Summer months have some terrific fishing around Dolphin Beach Holiday Park, the Winter is quite productive, too. The park has ample parking for boats and is only 2.3 km to the boat ramp at Preddys wharf. The Parks shop has a full range of bait, ice, and a small range of tackle. Our Camp Kitchen is great for fishing groups with outdoor and indoor BBQs. The Rec room is a great place to relax after that fantastic days fishing and share all your stories.

During Winter, offshore bottom-bashers have success on morwong, snapper, trevally, pigfish, ocean perch and leatherjackets in 45m-60m depths over broken reef. Over the gravel and sand, they encounter gummy sharks, flathead, and gurnard. Kingfish are more common in summer although albacore and yellowfin tuna show up around the continental shelf through the cooler months, with cubing the best option.

Care should be taken crossing the Moruya River bar, which can be dangerous on the run-out tide. The Winter westerly winds usually flatten the sea, making offshore access safer.

Winter beach fishing can be good, with tailor and salmon patrolling the sands on beaches north and south of Moruya Heads. Mulloway and gummy sharks are often taken from the Beach after dark using slab baits. Don't rule out snapper, bream and leatherjackets from the rocks, either.

Concentrate your efforts east of the Moruya River bridge, favouring the areas around the mouth, especially spinning or trolling for tailor and salmon around the channel edges and weed beds fringes. Slow-trolling hard lures across the tops of the weed at high tide will produce some cracking bream.

Bouncing plastics around the current breaks provided by wharves, oyster racks, rocky outcrops, drop-offs and river bends will account for bream, tailor, flathead and trevally. It's worth anchoring over a shallow sand flat around patches of seagrass and casting fresh pink nippers, bloodworms, prawns or squid for bread-and-butter species like mullet, garfish, bream, luderick, flathead and whiting. The whiting caught in Winter here are huge!

During the warmer months, the Moruya River hosts a fantastic Australian bass fishery right into the upper reaches of the sweet water, but these waters are desolate through winter. There's plethora of shore-based opportunities. Casting lures and flies along the edges and to snags throughout the river will produce yellowfin bream and black bream as well as some thumping estuary perch.

**Offshore:** Straight in front of Dolphin Beach Holiday park is good you don't have to go far from the river mouth. Try in 50m-60m off Pedro Point and Congo. If you find a patch of fish, it may pay to anchor. Flathead, snapper, mullet, kingfish, leatherjackets, tailor and salmon are all found here.

**Dolphin Beach:** Next to Dolphin beach Holiday park in a gutter is good and try Pedro Point, a short walk up the beach or you can drive. The salmon school up in the gutters and devour pilchards on ganged hooks or metal slugs retrieved at high speeds. Bream, whiting and Flathead are great but less common in the winter months. Use Beach worms, squid or prawns for bait and lure spinning is also productive.

**Moruya River:** From Preddys wharf or from the bank is great for bream, whiting, flathead, mullet, garfish, trevally and luderick. Shelly beach is also good, just up the beach at the break wall is the spot. If in a boat anchor anywhere along the flats on the north side or along the wall on the south side. Bouncing plastics around the rock walls and channels towards the mouth will produce bream, trevally and flathead. The Hole in the Wall, 200m down-river of Preddys Wharf, is a good spot on the last of the run-out tide. Slow rolling hardbodies over the weed beds adjacent to Brierley's ramp on the north side of the river will produce bream and tailor. Trolling the channel edges with metals will score tailor and salmon. Upstream near the Hospital is good for larger flathead and worth a try.

**Bait gathering:** The easiest way to get your bait is at The Dolphin Beach Holiday Parks shop, with and full range of bait to target the local fish. However, if you want to get live bait, pink nippers with a yabby pump at low tide along the sand flats in front of Garland Town on North Heads Drive. Prawns can be found over the shallow weedy sections of the river and squid will grab a jig worked slowly from the stones of Toragy Point. Cunje and crabs can be harvested from the North Break wall at low tide. Bloodworms can be dug from the mud on the edges of the seagrass beds at low tide but can be tricky to find. Pipis and beach worms can be found on Dolphin Beach. **Remember only to take what you need.**

## **Common Fish Species Around Moruya Heads**

### **Whiting November to March (most prolific) Slower in Winter**

Surface lures in the summer months.

Live beach worms, blood worms, squirties and nippers.

More active during the day on a rising tide. Fish the sand flats on the high tide - keep an eye out for good nipper hole spots. If using a surface lure be sure to keep it active for the fish to strike.

### **Bream All year round. Slower in Winter**

Surface lures in the summer months. Live nippers, beach and squirt worms. Fish as light as possible as they are pretty wary of what is going on. Hit the snags and oyster leases with a diving lure.

### **Flathead October to May**

All forms of soft plastics, surface and diving lures.

Live poddy mullet and freshly pumped nippers.

Fish the edges of the sand flats and weed beds during the dropping tide as they wait for the bait fish to come to them. Throw a popper up into the shallow water and slowly pop it back over the drop Off. In deeper water try soft Plastics and live poddies.

### **Australian Bass & Estuary Perch November to April**

Best bet for soft plastics or diving and slow sinking lures.

Early morning or late afternoons in the evening. Fish lures into snags or around weed edges. Keep an eye open for white ants flying in the build-up to an afternoon storm.

**Many local firms also conduct personalised fishing charters**

**Just see reception for more information**