



Four Seasons of **Boating & Fishing** on Kangaroo Island

It's hard not to boast about the fishing around Kangaroo Island. Some say it has the finest eating and game fishing in southern waters.

Fishing is a daily ritual of many Kangaroo Islanders, and if anyone knows, a local does. So, dangle a line from a jetty, cast off from a beach or charter a deep-sea boat – and enjoy.

Kangaroo Island fish, and their habitat and breeding grounds, are protected by Marine Parks and Marine Park Sanctuary Zones. See www.marineparks.sa.gov.au and download the app with offline maps, or check the signs at launch points across the island. Recreational fishing is allowed everywhere except Sanctuary Zones and Restricted Access Areas. That leaves most jetties, bays, beaches, rocks and waters around Kangaroo Island free for your fishing pleasure.

The most popular fish by far is King George Whiting, sought by three-quarters of all recreational fishers. And the good news is it's available year round, and right round the island.

Discover more

Launch your boat from Kangaroo Island Council ramps at American River, Bay of Shoals (Kingscote), Christmas Cove (Penneshaw) for a fee, or from Baudin Beach or Emu Bay for free. See www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/boating for more information and beach launching locations.

Kangaroo Island's mostly moderate weather allows recreational fishing all year round.

Check limits on size, size, bag, bag, boat and possession for all fish and shellfish, shellfish, and season closures, for example for Rock Lobster and Snapper, on the fishing regulations app (www.pir.sa.gov.au). Kangaroo Island Escapes at www.kangarooislandescapes.com.au can also point you towards the best fishing spots and hire of boats and fishing gear, or can book you a fishing charter.



Autumn

The mild, calm weather of autumn makes fishing all the more relaxed and comfortable.

King George Whiting are biting, Squid are widespread, particularly over seagrass meadows, Tommy Ruff and Snapper are waiting in sheltered waters off the North Coast and Flathead lie mainly in sheltered shallow sandy beaches. Gummy Shark can be found off sandy beaches around the island, and in sheltered North Coast bays. Trevally are also widespread along the North Coast and on the South Coast Red Mullet schools arrive at Wreckers Beach. Yellowtail Kingfish can be found at a few locations – try Cape Willoughby and around artificial structures in Nepean Bay. Tuna are active off the North Coast, west of Snellings Beach, off the South Coast, and around the Pages Islands. Take your family along to the annual American River Fishing Spectacular competition on the Easter weekend, and compare your fishing prowess with the locals.

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Winter

Winter waters can be pounding on Kangaroo Island, but that just adds to the fishing excitement – and the rewards are plenty.

Eastern Cove, Smith Bay and Boxing Bay are brimming with King George Whiting. School Mulloway are pouring into Snellings Beach. It's Snapper time at Smith Bay and other North Coast locations. The broken bottom areas near American River in particular make for good Snapper yields.

The prospects are good for large Salmon Trout off exposed South Coast beaches like Hanson Bay. In D'Estrees Bay, large Snook are plentiful.

Sweep are widespread around rocky reefs and other artificial structures, and Nannygai are offshore of North and South Coast rocky reefs.

Try D'Estrees Bay, Cape Dutton and Stokes Bay for large Snook. And there's always Squid over seagrass meadows, Tommy Ruff in sheltered parts of the North Coast and Flathead at sheltered shallow sandy beaches

Spring

In the changeable spring weather, try fishing inshore at American River and Nepean Bay for Snook, King George Whiting, Trevally, Southern Calamari, Australian Herring and Salmon Trout.

Or cast a line from jetties at Kingscote, Penneshaw, Vivonne Bay for Southern Calamari, Snook, Australian Herring, Trevally and some King George Whiting.

If you're keen to go out in a boat you might expect Southern Bluefin Tuna, Bight Redfish, Snapper, Blue Morwong, Gummy Shark, Silver Trevally and King George Whiting.

Spring is the most productive time for Black Bream which is abundant in brackish estuaries of rivers such as Chapman, Cygnet, Middle, South West and Harriet.

The Snapper season is closed midday 1 November to midday 15 December.

Summer

When the waters warm in summer, the garfish come alive in sheltered bays. Try your hand at dab-net fishing for these tasty streaks.

Squid, Snook, Red Mullet and crabs are also more abundant and widespread in the warmth. And Tommy Ruff numbers expand in the sheltered parts of the North Coast.

Trevally and Snapper (after 15 December) are plentiful on the North Coast. Silver Drummer is also widespread in rocky inshore coasts but is difficult to catch. Sand crabs are common in warmer months around American River.

