



MAFRI Research & Education

Announcing the King George whiting "Search for a spawner" fishing competitions.

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The Recreational Fishing Grant Program, Fisheries Victoria, the Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute (MAFRI) and five Victorian angling clubs have banded together to set up the search for spawning King George whiting in Victoria's open coastal waters.

To provide an incentive to get anglers out of their cosy lounge rooms and into the chilly autumn and winter weather hunting down spawning whiting, a six week coastal whiting fishing competition is being held from the 3rd May till 15 June 2003.

This competition has two categories. One category is open to club and non-club anglers. The second category is open only to members of the following angling clubs: Portland Angling Club, Portland Sport and Game Fishing Club, Warrnambool Angling Club, Torquay Angling Club, Walkerville Boat and Angling Club and the Port Albert Light Game and Sport Fishing Club. Both the Torquay and Port Albert clubs are encouraging and accepting entries into their whiting competitions from members of the general public fishing coastal waters near both towns.

Entry to these whiting fishing competitions is simple: if you are a member of one of the six angling clubs listed above, then contact your participating angling club; all other club or non-club anglers should contact the Torquay Angling Club (if intending to fish for whiting in the Torquay area), the Port Albert Light Game and Sport Fishing Club (if intending to fish for whiting in the Port Albert area) or MAFRI (see contact details below).

Prizes are available to anglers participating in both categories of the whiting competition. To be eligible all anglers must donate their filleted King George whiting frames (with all the guts and reproductive organs attached) for scientific analysis.

MAFRI, with funding support from Fisheries Victoria and revenue raised from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Fund, are trying to determine whether spawning of King George whiting occurs in Victorian waters, and if so, where it happens.

Keen anglers have been donating King George whiting frames for this research since November last year (see MAFRI Research and Education Notes No. 533 & 540).

Now is a critical time for this research, as King George whiting are most likely to be in spawning condition in May/June.

Paul Hamer, MAFRI's Project Scientist explains. "To date we have only seen two Victorian whiting specimens that have been anywhere near peak spawning condition. To determine if spawning is occurring in Victorian waters, and if so in what areas, we need to sample whiting from as wide an area as possible during the next two months."

Anglers who register to fish in the whiting competition and who agree to donate the frames to this research will be in the running for a Statewide prize. Frames can be donated through the participating angling clubs or to MAFRI directly.

Each participating angling club will also be offering a range of prizes to whiting anglers who register to participate in their club competition, including a high quality rod and reel and assorted tackle. The participating angling clubs are each running their own competition and are responsible for recording the details of fish weight and/or length, so the rules of each club will apply for the allocation of these prizes.



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Club members who would like to participate in these competitions, should contact their angling club representative listed below.

Mr Colin Donehue, Portland Angling Club, Phone number 5523 2953.

Mr Shane Saunders, Portland Sport and Game Fishing Club, Phone number 5523 4531.

Mr Gary Warren, Warrnambool Angling Club. Phone number 0417121614

Mr Steve Burton, Torquay Angling Club, Phone Number 0408034154.

Mr Laurie Pincini, Walkerville Boat and Angling Club, Phone Number 0427311876.

Mr Peter Phillips, Port Albert Light Game and Sport Fishing Club, 5182 6440.

The Torquay Angling Club is also accepting general public entries in their region of the coast. If you fish this area, please contact Mr Burton for further information.

If you fish in coastal waters around Port Albert, please contact Mr Phillips for further information as the Port Albert Light Game and Sport Fishing Club is also accepting general public entries.

Anyone else fishing for whiting in coastal waters and who is interested in participating in the competition please contact MAFRI's Paul Hamer on 0409334395 or Andrew Kidd on 0419529026.

For general information about the research behind this competition please contact Paul Hamer at MAFRI on 5258 0288.

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