

Googong Foreshores

Fishing Information



2016



ACT
Government



Introduction

Welcome to Googong Foreshores.

Googong Foreshores is comprised of Googong Dam and 4,500 hectares of the surrounding catchment. The Foreshores is located in NSW and managed by ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

Googong Dam is a terminal storage that supplies Canberra, Queanbeyan and now Googong Township with drinking water. The dam has also been developed for recreation, particularly fishing. However the most important management objective at Googong Foreshores is the maintenance of a high standard of water quality and all recreational activities are managed in this context.

The first part of this booklet answers many of the common queries about fishing at Googong Foreshores. The second part gives you information on the species of fish that are present at the Foreshores and fishing regulations about each species. This booklet is best read in conjunction with the Googong Foreshores 'Map and Guide' available from the Ranger station (241 Googong Dam Road) or from <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/parks-conservation/parks-and-reserves/find-a-park/rural/googong-foreshores>

If you require further information please phone the Googong Ranger Station on 6207 2779. Please also be aware that ACT Park rangers do not provide a rescue service so in emergencies contact NSW Police or Fire and Rescue on 000.

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Part 1: Common queries about fishing at Googong Foreshores

Which fishing rules apply to Googong Foreshores?

New South Wales fishing rules apply to Googong. The dam is classified as a **trout dam** and the streams flowing in and out of the dam are classified as **general trout streams**.

You should be aware that there are large fines for breaches of the fishing rules, and the NSW Fisheries Officers patrol the waters and Foreshores regularly to enforce them. If you have any further questions ask the Rangers.

Do I need a fishing licence?

Yes, you require a NSW fishing licence (NSW Fishing Fee Receipt or FFR) to fish at Googong, unless you are an 'Exempt' person – i.e. a person who is under the age of 18, holds a current Pensioner Concession Card (issued by Centerlink or Veterans Affairs) or is an Indigenous Australian. A fishing licence (FFR) can be purchased at most tackle stores or online at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee>. A Fishing Licence (FFR) is required prior to going fishing.

What fish are found at Googong?

Googong is stocked with, Rainbow Trout, Golden Perch, Silver Perch and Murray Cod. There is also a chance that Googong has a small remaining population of endangered Macquarie Perch. If you catch a Macquarie Perch it must be returned to the water. Redfin and Goldfish are also caught in the dam, although these two species were not intentionally introduced and are pest species. There has been no European Carp reported.

If you catch a fish you cannot identify please inform the Rangers.

Where can I fish?

Please refer to the map on the Googong Foreshores 'Map and Guide'.

Fishing from the dam wall is prohibited and there is a Water Quality Control Area around the dam wall, intake tower and spillway to ensure the safety of all visitors. This area is fenced off and has signs at regular intervals warning that trespass is prohibited.

If you are fishing in the dam, park in the Drumstick Point car park. The bank of the north of the car park is part of the Water Quality Control Area and is off limits to anglers. If you are fishing from the bank you should do so only to the south of Drumstick Point. Please note that fishing from or around the boat ramp is not permitted.

If you are fishing from a boat, you may go north of the boat ramp. However, you are not permitted to land the boat and fish from the bank, as this is all part of the Water Quality Control Area. You are also not permitted near the dam wall; this area is marked by buoys and by signs on either bank. South of the boat ramp you are permitted to land your boat anywhere except the islands. Boat landing restrictions also apply to non-anglers (i.e. those people kayaking). No camping is permitted anywhere within the Foreshores.

Fishing is permitted in the Queanbeyan River below the dam wall. The two most popular spots are the Cascades and the Downstream picnic area. Exercise care as currents in these locations are strong and changeable.

At the southern end of Googong Foreshores you may fish the waters of the dam as well as those of the Queanbeyan River and Burra Creek. Please note that launching a boat at the south end is difficult as there is no constructed boat ramp and you will have to carry your boat the 300 metres from the Tin Hut car park to the water.

When can I fish?

Googong Foreshores is a day use area only. The daily opening times vary with the season and are notified on the signs at the entrances to the reserve:

Opening times

Southern end: 8 am – 5 pm EST; Daylight savings 8 am – 7 pm

Northern end: 8 am – 6 pm EST; Daylight savings 8 am – 8 pm

The Foreshores is open every day of the year except Christmas Day and when a Total Fire Ban is declared for either the ACT or NSW Southern Ranges fire district.

During wet weather, the southern end and parts of the northern end may be closed, including to boating for the safety of visitors. Visitors, including those on foot, are not permitted in the reserve when it is closed.

Closed seasons

The dam is open to fishing throughout the year. However, closed seasons are enforced for some species:

Murray Cod: no taking of Murray Cod in all inland waters from the 1st of September to the 30th of November inclusive each year.

Trout: open all year in the impounded waters of Googong Dam.

Queanbeyan River below the dam wall downstream to the Googong Foreshores boundary and tributaries above the dam waters are closed from the Tuesday after the June (Queen's Birthday) long weekend until midnight on the last Friday before the start of the October (Labour Day) long weekend (inclusive) in each year.

Yabby: It is illegal to keep yabbies with eggs or to remove those eggs. Yabbies with eggs must be returned to the water carefully

Silver Perch: Are stocked into Googong and can be taken all year.

What fishing gear may I use?

Only fishing rods may be used at Googong. If you are fishing in the dam you are only allowed two rods per person, regardless of whether they are rigged for fly fishing, bait fishing or lure fishing. If you fish in the streams that flow into or out of the dam you are allowed to use one rod per person.

Additional rods may be carried provided they are not rigged up. Please remember that when fishing, your rods must be within 50 meters of you and in your line of sight at all times.

The following fishing gear is not permitted at Googong: handlines, gill nets, set lines, opera house style traps, bait traps, fish traps, nets, spears and spear guns.

What bait may I use?

If you are bait fishing you are allowed a maximum of two hooks per line. Yabbies, mudeyes, wood grubs and worms may all be used, but are not permitted to be collected from the reserve because it is a Wildlife Refuge except yabbies as per DPI regulations.

The following are not permitted to be used as bait: frogs, live fin fish, the flesh of dead fish, trout and salmon roe.

How many fish may I keep and what are the size limits for the fish I keep?

The following restrictions may change periodically and should be checked before fishing, bag Limits are per person per day:

Golden Perch (Yellow Belly)

Legal length: 30 cm

Bag limit: 5

Murray Cod

Legal length: Min. 55 cm, Max. 75 cm

Bag limit: 2

Silver Perch

Legal length: 25 cm in listed stocked dams

Bag limit: 5 in listed stocked dams

Trout

Legal length: 25 cm

Bag limit: 5 (1 or more species of trout or salmon)

Yabby

Legal length: None

Bag limit: 200

Redfin

There are no size or bag limits for redfin. Redfin cannot be kept or transported live from Googong

Are there any protected species at Googong Foreshores?

Yes, Macquarie Perch. Macquarie Perch is an endangered native fish and it is totally protected. They are similar to Silver Perch, which is also found in Googong, although it can be distinguished by its darker colour (almost black), the white around its eye and the 'snapper' like shape of its head. If you catch a Macquarie Perch you must release it, preferably by cutting your line, as this causes the least stress and damage to the fish.

What boating rules are there on Googong Dam?

NSW regulations apply to the use of boats on the Dam and these are enforced by boating safety officers from NSW Roads and Maritime (RMS) who patrol regularly. Googong is designated as 'Alpine Waters' with additional requirements (e.g. wearing of life vests) strictly policed. These rules also apply to canoes and kayaks.

Only electric powered boats are permitted on Googong Dam and operators should carry oars and back up batteries to ensure they have sufficient power to return to shore before closing time. No fuels should be carried however an ACT permit can be obtained to leave a fuel motor attached to the boat. This permit can be arranged through Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

Who can I contact in an emergency?

For boating emergencies, contact NSW Police or Fire and Rescue on 000. Please be aware that ACT Parks rangers do not provide a rescue service.

For other non-boating emergencies, contact the Rangers on 6207 2779 or via Access Canberra 13 22 81. The after-hours Ranger contact is 0429 300 604.

More information

- ACT Environment and Planning Directorate about Foreshores management - website www.environment.act.gov.au or call 13 22 81
- NSW Department of Primary Industries about fishing - website <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing> or call 1300 550 474
- NSW Roads and Maritime Services about boating - <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime/> or call 13 12 36

Part 2: Information about common fish species found at Googong Dam

[all images courtesy of NSW DPI]

GOLDEN PERCH

Other common names: Yellow belly

Scientific name: *Macquaria ambigua*

Status: Native fish, common locally. Occasionally breeds at Googong and are stocked.

Size: Max. 23 kg, commonly 1-4 kg at Googong

Food: Mainly yabbies and shrimp.

Local habitat: Googong Dam and Queanbeyan River Downstream, Lake Burley Griffin, Lake Ginninderra, Murrumbidgee River, Molonglo River.

Legal length: 30 cm

Bag limit: 5; **Possession limit:** 10

Closure: None

Fishing method: Lure, bait (yabbies, scrub worms), fly.



SILVER PERCH

Other common names: Grunter

Scientific name: *Bidyanus bidyanus*

Status: Native fish, has become extremely rare in rivers where it was once common and is now classified as vulnerable. Googong is one of a number of dams where silver perch are stocked.

Size: Max. 8 kg, commonly 0.8-4.5 kg at Googong

Food: Aquatic insects, earthworms, weed and water snails.

Local habitat: Queanbeyan River and the southern part of Googong Dam, where there are sufficient mud flats.

Legal length: 25 cm

Bag limit: 5; **Possession limit:** 10

Closure: None in Googong. Cannot be taken from all rivers and their tributaries and unlisted dams.

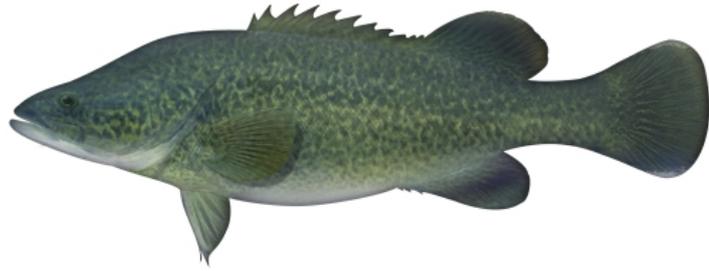
Fishing method: Fly, small lures and bait (mudeyes, scrub worms, small shrimp and yabbies).



MURRAY COD

Scientific name: *Maccullochella peelii*

Status: The largest native freshwater fish, reasonably common locally. This species has been introduced to Googong and is stocked.



Size: Max. 113 kg, commonly 3 - 23 kg at Googong

Food: Yabbies, wood grubs and fish.

Local habitat: Googong Dam, which satisfies its preference for sluggish waters with cover such as logs. It also occurs in the Queanbeyan River downstream of Googong, Murrumbidgee River, , Lake Ginninderra and the Molonglo River.

Legal length: Min. 55 cm, Max. 75 cm

Bag limit: 2; **Possession limit:** 4

Closure: No taking of Murray Cod in all inland waters from September to November inclusive.

Fishing method: Lures and bait (yabbies and wood grubs).

MACQUARIE PERCH

Scientific name: *Macquaria australiasica*

Status: Native fish, nationally listed as endangered. If you catch one of these you must release it, preferably by cutting your line to minimise injury and stress to the fish. Let the rangers know if you catch one.



Size: 1 - 3.5 kg

Food: Insects and their larvae, worms and water snails.

Local habitat: Historically, Googong Dam and Queanbeyan River upstream of Googong. It is unknown if these populations still persist.

Spawning season: October to December. Breeds in rivers when temperatures reach about 16°C.

TROUT

Legal length: 25 cm

Bag limit: 5 (1 or more species of trout or salmon)

Possession limit: 10 (1 or more species of trout or salmon)

Closure: See table below.



Trout waters: Summary of permitted lines and hooks

	Fishing season	Permitted gear
Googong Dam - General trout dams	All year	2 attended rods each with a line and no more than 2 hooks attached or no more than 3 hooks attached where those hooks are artificial flies or lures. Bait fishing allowed.
Queanbeyan River - General trout streams *	Saturday morning October long weekend to Monday night June long weekend	1 attended rod and line with no more than 2 hooks attached. Bait fishing allowed.

*Queanbeyan River

The whole of the waters of the Queanbeyan River, its creeks and tributaries upstream of the fence boundary of the Googong Dam Reservoir (about 1 kilometre downstream of the wall of Googong Dam).

YABBY

Legal length: None

Bag limit: 200

Possession limit: 200

Closure: It is illegal to keep yabbies with eggs or to remove those eggs. Yabbies with eggs must be returned to the water carefully.



REDFIN

Redfin are an introduced species and therefore there is no legal length or bag limit.

It is illegal to use live fin fish like Redfin as bait in NSW. It is also illegal to keep or transport live Redfin from Googong.

