



Devilbend Reservoir

Devilbend Reservoir is a large water storage facility located on the Mornington Peninsula between Mornington and Hastings and around 35 minutes from Dandenong.

Devilbend itself was constructed in 1956 and was originally designed as a back up water supply catchment for the Mornington Peninsula. The reservoir is a newly established fishing location and is over 250 hectares in size, but due to waterbird breeding sites the bulk of the park is off limits for fishing. While its entirety isn't open for fishing it does excellent fishing within zones set up for fishing and kayaking.

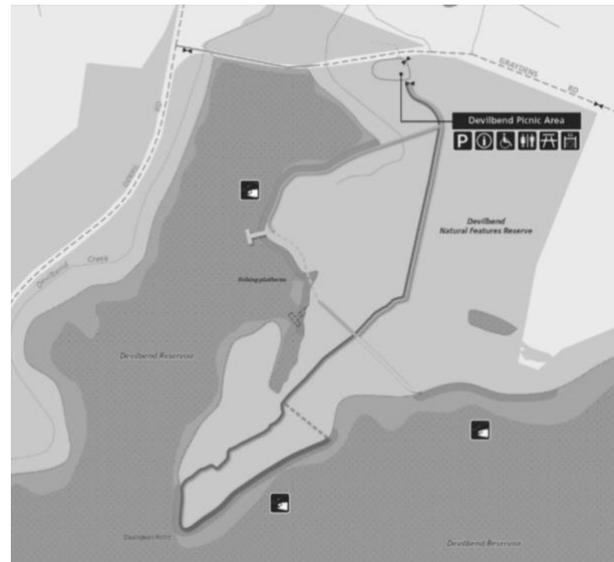
These zones are all at the north-Western end of the reservoir. Within these zones there are two well set up fishing platforms which cater well for family anglers.

Since 2010 more than 40,000 trout, both Brown and Rainbow have been stocked by

Victorian Fisheries, with some of these up to 1.8kg in weight.

From 2014 Victorian Fisheries have also stocked Devilbend with more than 122,000 Estuary Perch fingerlings. The perch have well and truly established themselves in the lake and can be caught on the correct techniques.

Redfin are also prevalent in the lake and caught be caught using both bait and lure techniques. While most of the redfin are generally on the smaller side, there have been some 1.5kg+ specimens pulled out.



Parks Victoria provided map of the allocated fishing areas and shoreline at Devilbend Reservoir.

Plenty of structure

The composition of the reservoir is mainly clay and silt bottom with some small patches of rock. The whole north-western corner is made up of a man-made retaining wall rock structure which slopes down into the lake. One feature that many will notice upon arrival is the extensive weed in the lake, extended from the water line out 50m or so in some areas.

This weed can make your fishing at Devilbend productive or very frustrating, depending on how you tackle it. The weed here provides both shelter and ambush points for the fish, and also plenty of prey items. The lake has a huge population of small galaxia and forage fish, along with shrimp, yabbies, frogs and a plethora of aquatic insect species, all of which are fair game for the target fish species.

While a blind cast outward will be quickly met with a mat of fouled weed, there are plenty of fishable 'pockets'. While some of these pockets may only be the size of a kitchen table, if you can position your lure or bait in it your chances of a bite skyrocket.

There can also be 'ledges' of weed, where it extends near the surface then drops away into deeper or clearer water. Casting along these ledges and drops should also see some activity from patrolling fish.

Lure casting

Not to be put off by the amount of weed and vegetation that surrounds the edge of the lake, lure fishing can be excellent. Lots of lure styles are effective here, with each one suited to subtle differences in the vegetation thickness.

In open sections, a long cast with a heavy spoon style lure is an excellent method for picking up cruising trout. The same areas can be effectively fished with a vibe-style lure or heavier weighted soft plastic. Generally these options are better suited to larger baitfish profiles, as this zone is where they can found.

Approaching the sparse weed ledges or drops requires a bit more thought. The above-mentioned styles of lure will only foul up here, so a different approach is needed. Smaller, suspending or slow sinking har-bodied lures work very well in these zones, as do soft plastics presented on lighter jigheads. Both these styles of lure can 'flicked' slowly and let rest near the weed to entice a bite from a stalking fish.

The adoption of a high-quality graphite rod will help greatly in 'feeling' your way around this weed.

For the tightest of 'pockets' soft plastics are an excellent option, as they can be rigged 'weedless'. These options are best presented small in the motif of aquatic insects or small

galaxia. Again being able to 'feel' these through the weed will greatly increase your success rate.

Another form of lure fishing that is productive here are topwater techniques. A floating surface lure makes sense in many scenarios, as it's surface-riding action keeps it well and truly out of the weed for the most part.

Small surface pencils are excellent for the perch and trout when the galaxia are about, while a 'cicada' style surface paddler or crawler can be dynamite when there is increased insect activity.

These styles of lure are best presented around the smallest of weed pockets and fished with a slow 'shake-shake-shake' of the tip followed by pause. Most of the bites will come as the lure pauses or just starts moving again.

Bait Fishing

Bait fishing can be a productive way to fish here, especially if you're in search of the lake's trout. The trout here respond very well to dough style baits like Powerbait or Specialized Trout Dough, of which both are a playdoh-like consistency bait that is moulded onto your hook. Hook sizes of size 10-14 in a 'chinu' style are best for these baits. The scent in these baits is similar to the pellets that the trout are fed at the hatcheries, which is why they are so effective.

Because of the extensive weed in the lake, fishing a bottom-type rig will end up fouled up in most scenarios. Suspending your baits under a correctly 'ballasted' float rig of 6lb or so will present them in the feeding zone and keep them from snagging in the weed. Modifying the depth at which your bait is set is an on-the-fly adjustment, some areas will need the bait shallower or vice versa.

For targeting the perch or redfin, live baits are more productive. Small freshwater yabbies fished unweighted around the weed columns and with rod in hand will bring some aggressive bites from both species.

For any additional information or specifics talk to us in-store.

Compleat Angler Dandenong

241 – 243 Princes Highway
Dandenong VIC 3175

03 9794 9397

0418 252 385

dandenong@compleatangler.com.au

www.fishingcamping.com.au



This handout is for use as information only, and the suggestions are based on our experiences for fishing this particular location and or species.