



Frankston Pier

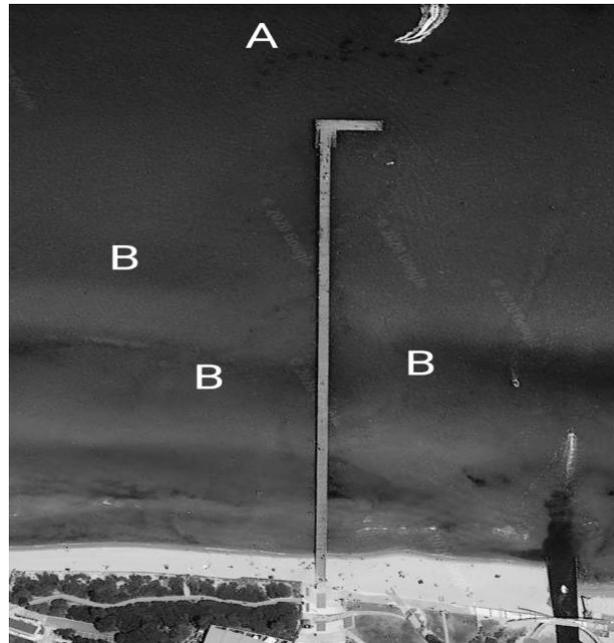
Located just 25 minutes from Dandenong off the Nepean Highway on Pier Promenade, Frankston pier is a popular one, mainly due to ease of access and proximity. It sees more attention than nearby Seaford Pier, and has much the same in terms of fish species on offer, with the addition of yellow eye mullet and slightly better chances of a land-based snapper.

In terms of terrain Frankston is similar to Seaford pier, with the exception of slightly deeper water overall. Most of the surrounding water is open sand with shoreline flats that are affected somewhat more by the tides than surrounding areas. The water surrounding the pier is mostly sand, with deeper ledges and gutters clearly visible with polarized sunglasses.

Nearby Kananook Creek also serves as viable terrain, with species like mullet moving in and out on the tides. Heavy rain flows exiting the creek also bring nutrient and patrolling fish into the shallower water nearby.

The main point of difference here which is of interest to anglers is the artificial reef complex which lies straight off the end of the pier, well within casting distance.

The reef runs in a horseshoe formation North-South and gives anglers a reasonable piece of structure to target, with growth on this reef attracting flathead and other smaller structure-orientated species like pinkies, leatherjacket and bait species.



Aerial shot of Frankston pier with Kananook creek clearly shown bottom right. A) shows small patch of artificial reef off end of pier. B) shoreline gutters and ledges deeper than surrounding water.

Garfish

Over the years Frankston pier has built a reputation as one of, if not the most productive garfish piers on Port Phillip – at least on the Eastern side of the bay. The open water around the pier can hold a plethora of garfish at times, with both day and night producing. The daytime garfish tend to be more productive however.

Rigging for gars here entails the use of light AAA coarse style float from size 4g to 12g. These are ideal as these floats also have a slot to hold your chemical light stick, aiding bite visibility if fishing gars through the night. Having the correct amount of weight under your float is paramount and will aid in your ability to feel even the smaller garfish move your float around. A longer ‘cushioning’ action rod between 8 and 10ft will assist in casting action, in keeping small baits on the hook and also in hooking the fish themselves.

Fishing small ‘mid’ shank hooks in sizes 10-14 is the go for the garfish, as they have small mouths, and the baits are best when small. One or two maggots or small pieces of silverfish or shrimp are excellent on the gars once they are active.

Berley is an absolute must for garfish here. As the terrain is fairly open and exposed the fish won’t hang around unless they are coaxed in and excited by a fine mist of berley.

The key is fine mist. The berley mix must be fine enough grit so that it attracts the garfish but doesn't feed them.

Salmon

Australian Salmon are very commonly caught from the pier. When a strong Sou'Westerly or West wind is blowing on to the pier and shoreline here the salmon are your best bet. This on-shore wind creates stirred up whitewater and also 'blows' a lot of vulnerable bait fish to the shoreline gutters which in turn brings the hunting salmon.

Bait fishing with half or whole whitebait, bluebait, glassies or pilchard on a paternoster rig and light 'surf' outfit is the best option. Matching these baits to a suicide style hook between size 4 and 2/0 will work well.

Lure fishing can also be very productive from the pier when the salmon are around. Again, windy conditions make for better salmon luring, so metal 'slug' style lures between 10 - 35g are the best choices for the windiest conditions. With any salmon lure, retrieval speed is key. A slow wind and flick will generally go uninterested, but a flat out 'burn' will often induce an aggressive strike as the fish races to catch an escaping baitfish.

Mullet

Yellow Eye Mullet are caught as a bycatch on Frankston pier especially when fishing for garfish. The same rigging method described

for garfish is employed for the mullet, with hook sizes from 8-10 being optimal. While they are not always caught, fishing around the shoreline gutters after a flooding from Kananook Creek can be excellent. Optimal baits for mullet include small pieces of pilchard fillet, peeled prawn and maggots.

Berley is as critical for mullet as it is for garfish, with the same consistency mix preferred. The addition of some smashed up pilchard will help disperse scent in the area.

Flathead

Flathead can be caught along the shallow sandy flats which surrounds the pier. Small baitfish imitation soft plastics around 3 inch in length, with in-built action are deadly when slowly cast out and bounced back along the bottom. Fishing aggressive colour tones can be much more effective on the flatties compared to the salmon also.

Snapper

Frankston pier is relatively well known as a spot to try for a land-based snapper at night, during rough Sou'West conditions from late Winter well into Spring. Snapper move from nearby reef onto the shallows along here during rough conditions to dig up disorientated food.

A surf style outfit from 9-13ft in length is the most valuable tool for targeting land-based snapper. Coupled with a long cast threadline

reel you can expect to be able to reach the fish. The standard paternoster or running rig will suffice, with leader of 60lb or so. The standard land-based snapper rig and baits are applicable, with hook sizes of 5/0 and 6/0 the most popular choices.

Baits of pilchard and squid would be the most popular, however freshly supplied yakka, salmon, couta, pike or even octopus are very good options for singling out a quality fish.

Casting straight out from the end of the pier towards the artificial reef margin is an excellent starting point when searching for a snapper.

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.