



Seaford Pier

Seaford Pier is a generally quiet fishing destination on the eastern side of Port Phillip Bay, approximately 20 minutes from Dandenong. Though it is located on the Nepean Highway, it is easy to miss for anglers who haven't been there before. The pier is accessible via a small car park on the corner of Station Street and Nepean Highway in Seaford.

The pier itself is a reasonable length, although the water surrounding it is shallow with depths between 0.8m and about 3.5m within casting range. This pier is comparatively quiet when compared to the close-by Frankston Pier which is just up the road and similar species can be expected.

In terms of terrain, Seaford pier is mainly surrounded by sand flats. Although this may sound barren in terms of 'structure' there are lots of gutters, ledges and potholes amongst this open sand. These provide underwater cloaks for ambush predators like flathead and give salmon ideal hunting 'lanes' to herd baitfish. There are isolated patches of

weed and rubble around the pier, and the pylons of the pier provide some structure as well. A quick walk down the pier during a bright sunny day will give you a very good visual representation of what's under the water here.

Anglers adorned with the correct gear and techniques can successfully species such as garfish, salmon and flathead - with the occasional snapper making itself a worthwhile pursuit during the right stages of the year.

Garfish

Seaford Pier is best known for its garfish. Big garfish feel safer up on the flats during the cover of darkness and will happily feed in very shallow waters. Float fishing for the gars here during the afternoon and evening can be very effective.

Rigging up with a light AAA coarse style float from size 4g to 12g is ideal as these floats also have a slot to hold your chemical light stick, aiding bite visibility whilst fishing 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 gar fishing at Seaford Pier. 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. Bread dough is a no-no for berley here.

Salmon

Australian Salmon are frequently caught at Seaford Pier. Once the weather roughs up and the garfish disappear, the salmon will start to show up. The rougher weather generally presents more successful conditions for the salmon here. 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. The use of a paternoster rig during windy conditions will definitely aid casting distance and combat the strong wind.

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.

If conditions allow, soft plastics can be deadly on the salmon here. Keeping your offering small and natural and imitating the baitfish is the key. Plastics from 1.5-3.5 inches long will get the best results, especially if they are natural tones and have large, prominent eyes. Jighead weights from unweighted to 3/8oz will all work, so selecting the weight to suit weather conditions is key.

With all salmon lures, 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.

Flathead

Flathead can be caught along the shallow sandy flats which surrounds the pier. Most of the flathead in the area are sand flathead in the 35cm size bracket, but these shallow flats do also produce some exception fish

over 50cm. Bait fishing with the same setup as for salmon will see flatties caught, with slowly winding the bait back helping to attract the fish.

Small baitfish imitation soft plastics with in-built action are very effective when slowly cast out and bounced back along the bottom.

Picking a soft plastic style with in-built action lets the flathead 'tune in' to the plastic much quicker, singling it out as a panicked prey item. Boot and paddle tail styles are the pick of the bunch, but grub styles will also catch fish when conditions dictate.

Fishing aggressive colour tones can be much more effective on the flatties compared to the salmon also.

Snapper

In days gone by Seaford Pier was well known as a highlight spot to catch a land-based snapper at night. While not the highest chance capture, keen anglers fishing rough Sou'West conditions from late Winter well into Spring have a shot at a nice fish. Snapper move into 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.

A 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.

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

Good Luck & Happy Fishing!

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