



Stony Point Pier

Stony Point lies on the western side of the Mornington Peninsula on Western Port and is approximately 40 minutes from Dandenong. Located at the end of Stony Point road, the pier has a boat ramp facility and nearby parking areas available, with public toilets.

One side of the pier is for access to the ferry terminal service from Stony Point to French and Phillip Island, which is restricted to anglers. The right-hand side of the pier is and is accessible for fishing and does have a lot to offer. Due to the swift tidal flow Stony Point can be a challenging fishing location but the challenge will make your catch all more rewarding. As with all areas of Western Port understanding these tides will make you a more successful angler.

It is best to head down with a particular species in mind to target but having alternate outfits at the ready will give you many more options should they arise. Like many areas in Western Port there is a lot of different habitat available for anglers, and fish species that they can target.

Species on offer here range from squid and whiting to snapper, gummies, flathead, silver trevally, pike, yakkas and slimey mackerel.

The habitat surrounding the pier ranges from rocky beds and mud flats with eel grass, through to heavier weed and sandy ledges. The pylons of the pier itself also provide refuge and hunting grounds for plenty of species. The water depth from the start of the pier slopes away slowly, only really picking up substantial depth almost under the shore-side of the platform. Fishing from the North-west facing edge provides a main channel for the ferry and other marine services, so there is enough depth to fish for virtually any specie here that the port offers.

Squid

Squid can be targeted at Stony Point with good success year-round. Some large squid lurk amongst the scattered weed and sand areas, fishing with either silver or grass whiting under a float can provide some success on these larger models. One key here is to keep adjusting your float depth until you find exactly what depth the squid are holding in.

Casting artificial squid jigs is also very effective as you are generally covering more water with an active searching method. Letting the jig sink as close to the weed as possible without dragging through it will give

you the best rewards. All manner of 'whip' or 'jerk' techniques used for squid will work here for you.

If you are fishing for squid at the end of the pier towards the deeper channel, time your efforts around slack water where it will be easier to stay in touch with your line and jig.

Silver Trevally

The best areas to effectively target quality trevally on the pier is around the structure of the pier itself. Fishing your baits around the vertical pylons will give you the best chance of hooking up to these hard-fighting fish.

Using a paternoster rig with just enough sinker weight to hold on the bottom is the preferred method, with a wide gape style hook in size 6 or 4 the best. Small baits of pipi, pilchard fillet and a squid are preferred by the trevally.

Berleying up is also very effective at keeping the trevally schools close by, with a fine 'whiting' style pellet a good base. If you can use a prawn scented pellet even better. Mashing up a handful of pilchards into this mix is dynamite for trevally, with oil in the pilchards helping bring the fish in. Just pay attention to which direction the current is running in and try and fish your baits on the down-current side of your berley.

King George Whiting

Any time from mid-September through to April King George whiting offer a realistic target option from the pier. These prized fish are regarded as possibly the best eating in the Port and can be caught in reasonable numbers from the pier if you are specifically targeting them.

The key to catching more KGW here is to fish 'actively' for them. Pinpointing prime areas like sand holes adjacent to weed is the best technique. As with this technique anywhere else, it is imperative to be able to 'feel' whether your rig is on the sand or in the weed – so a quality outfit will most definitely help you land more whiting!

King George Whiting are a demersal feeder which means they actively sweep the bottom substrate, so make sure you are fishing just enough sinker weight to hold the bottom especially when the tide is flowing quickly.

The best rig to fish is an extended paternoster, with fine gauge 'worm' and wide gap hook patterns. Hook sizes will vary between size 4 and 8 depending what size baits you are fishing.

The baits to make sure you have if KGW are the target are pipi, mussel, softened squid and bass yabbies. Having pre-cut and at-the-ready baits can help capitalize on a school of KGW when they move into the area also.

Gummies and Snapper

Stony Point Pier offers both gummy shark and snapper to the angler geared up to fish for them. The preferred outfit comprises of a surf rod between 10ft and 13ft, which will help tremendously in achieving the longest possible cast.

Fishing towards the main channel of the north arm that is directly off the very North-eastern corner of the pier is the go. Gummies and snapper will often be found cruising along the ledges and bumps that lie along this channel and its edges.

The rig for both gummies and snapper is best made up of 'tough' style leader material between 40 and 60lb, in either a paternoster or running sinker rig with hook leader from 1-1.3m. Having a lengthened hook leader will minimize your bait spinning in the strong current.

Because of this fast flow in the main channel your casting weight will vary from 2oz up to 8 oz, depending on which stage of the tide you are fishing. If you have to increase sinker weight to the point of straining your rod during the cast, look at employing a 'grapnel' style sinker. The advantage of these is that they hold like an anchor, better than other styles of sinker yet free themselves from mud, weed and rock with their folding legs.

Hook choices for both these fish vary from 4/0 through to 7/0, dependant on the size of the bait you are rigging up with. The most effective for bait presentation and point exposure is generally an 'octopus' or octopus circle pattern.

Remember to take a large extendable net or gaff if you are chasing gummies or snapper from the pier, as managing a large fish in the strong current can be a tricky and heart-breaking job at times.

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

Good Luck & Happy Fishing!

Compleat Angler Dandenong

241 – 243 Princes Highway
Dandenong VIC 3175

03 9794 9397

0418 252 385

dandenong@compleatangler.com.au

www.fishingcamping.com.au



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