

Have these types of reefs been trialled before?

Fisheries Victoria has recently completed a trial of recreational fishing reefs for boat based anglers in eastern Port Phillip Bay. For information and to view video footage, go to: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-reefs.

This trial involved similar reef modules to those being used to build the new near-shore reefs. A variety of reef structures were deployed in Port Phillip Bay in the 1960s and 70s, including concrete pipes, tyres and old barges. These structures were never monitored and their current status, benefits to anglers or impacts on the local marine environment remain unknown.

DPI does not condone the dumping of any material to create illegal reefs in Port Phillip Bay or any other Victorian waters. Please contact the EPA if you spot illegal dumping.

Are there likely to be more reefs in the future?

The State Government and Fisheries Victoria is committed to establishing a further 8 similar recreational fishing reefs in Victorian bays and estuaries over the coming year. Site selection for these reefs is underway. To suggest a potential site for a new reef submit your suggestion by email to: improving.fishing@dpi.vic.gov.au

What scientific assessment will be conducted during the three year trial?

Fisheries Victoria will be studying how these new reefs influence the local abundance of fish and another marine life and will evaluate their benefits to anglers by surveying anglers on each of the three piers.

Monitoring will involve the use of baited underwater video cameras to monitor fish populations. This video footage and other information from monitoring activities will be displayed and updated periodically on the DPI-Fisheries Victoria website. To view this footage, go to: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-reefs>

Are all fishers permitted to fish on the three reefs?

The main objective of these reefs is to provide enhanced fishing for shore-based anglers. It is not expected that these reefs will provide an attractive option to boat based anglers who can access other productive fishing areas. However, given the proximity of these reefs to shore, some use by anglers fishing from kayaks is to be expected. Commercial fishing is not permitted within 30 m of a pier or jetty in Port Phillip Bay.

Fisheries Victoria will monitor interactions between pier and vessel based anglers using the new reefs. Feedback from anglers on the performance of these new reefs, related issues or conflicts between users is welcome at: improving.fishing@dpi.vic.gov.au

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on: 136 186, TTY: 1800 122 969, or email: customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au

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Port Phillip Bay near-shore recreational fishing reefs

Building on the success of the three recreational fishing reefs recently established for boat-based anglers in Port Phillip Bay, Fisheries Victoria is creating three new reefs that will improve fishing opportunities for shore-based anglers.

The creation of the three new reefs is being funded from recreational fishing licence fees.

The new reefs will be installed within casting distance of Portarlington Pier, Altona Pier and Frankston Pier. These already popular shore-based fishing locations were selected after considering a range of criteria and consulting with representatives of the angling community, relevant Government agencies and local councils.

By positioning clusters of reef modules a short distance from these popular shore-based fishing locations, fish species targeted by shore-based anglers will become more available while providing habitat for a range of marine plant and animal species.

Where are the new reefs?

The three new reefs will be in a water depth of between 3-4.5 m approximately 50 m seaward of the rock wall section of Portarlington Pier, and the end sections of Altona and Frankston Piers.

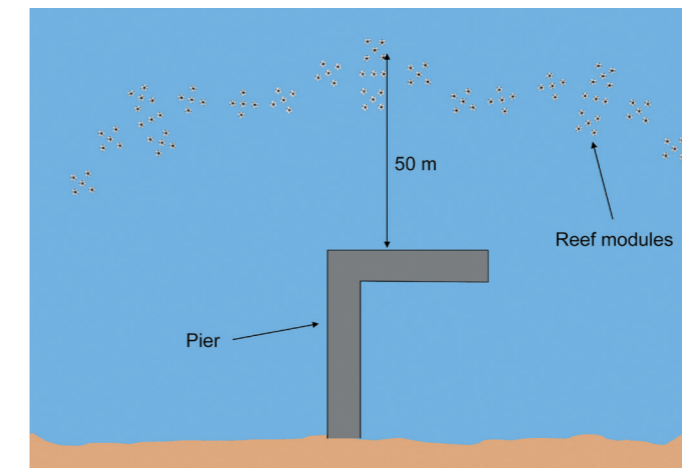


What do the reefs look like?

Each reef consists of 99 dome shaped reef modules of different sizes arranged in three reef complexes of 33 reef modules each. The reef modules range between 170 and 340 kg in weight and 50 to 60 cm in height.

The reef modules are dome-shaped concrete structures with a rough surface and a number of holes and cavities in them to allow water flow and provide refuges for marine life. The concrete mix is environmentally-friendly so there is no leaching of toxins.

While reef modules are highly stable on the seabed they are not permanently fixed to the seabed allowing them to be repositioned or removed if necessary.



How can anglers help?

Do not interfere with monitoring equipment which is identified by a red buoy

Fisheries Victoria will monitor fish populations with underwater equipment and diving surveys, which will be identified by a red buoy marked 'Fisheries Victoria'. Do not interfere with monitoring equipment and avoid casting lines towards the red buoys or diving operations.

Participate in angler surveys

Fisheries Victoria will assess the performance of the new reefs by conducting periodic surveys on each pier. These surveys will allow anglers to provide feedback on their fishing experience and identify any issues related to the new reefs. Your participation in these surveys will be highly valued.

Become a research diary angler

Anglers who wish to become actively involved in fisheries research and assessment of the new reefs can fill out special fishing diaries supplied by Fisheries Victoria and their data will be used to assess to what extent recreational fishing is improved by creating these new reef habitats.



What fish species are the reefs likely to attract?

The reefs are expected to be rapidly colonised by marine life, but are likely to take several years to reach their full angling potential.

Snapper are likely to be one of the main species attracted to the reefs, particularly during the spring, summer and autumn snapper seasons.

Other species likely to occur on the reefs periodically include leatherjackets, pike, flathead, King George whiting, yellowtail scad, salmon, squid and silver trevally.

