



Introducing one of the best trailerboat family fishing holiday destinations in Australia. Eden has white sandy beaches, deep blue water, incredibly beautiful scenery and one of the safest harbours in the world. It also has a fishing heritage that predates federation, and a variety of species 'on tap' to satisfy the most ardent fisho.



There is so much to see and do around Eden, it makes many other famous fishing centres seem very one dimensional. Here, the offshore fishing is spectacular, and the trip down to Green Cape Lighthouse (left) one of the holiday highlights. So too is visiting the museum of Tom the Killer Whale, the fishing wharves, Twofold Bay, and pretty Bitangabee Bay. For trailerboat owners, it's hard to imagine a safer or more rewarding trailerboat region.

The south coast of NSW is well known as a top game fishing area. Since the early part of last century when Zane Grey put Bermagui on the map with tales of massive fish, this area has been a favourite with fishermen. Bermagui is particularly well known for game fishing, but the lesser known community of Eden has lots to offer as well.

The township of Eden is situated on

Twofold Bay on the Sapphire Coast of NSW, an area renowned for its balmy weather and natural beauty. Twofold Bay is a beautiful deep water port. In fact, it is the third deepest natural harbour in the world. Surrounded by native trees and rolling hills, it has 886 metre high Mount Imlay and the foothills of the Snowy Mountains as a backdrop.

This deep water port is so good that it was on the short list by our fore

fathers as a possible site for the capital of Australia.

The coast in this area offers striking scenery with sandy surf beaches, rocky bays, ocean platforms, sheltered inlets and rugged cliffs.

Boat Ramp The boat ramp is situated just off the Princess Highway about 2 kms south-west of Eden. It is a terrific set up for fishermen. The ramp is a large concrete structure that can take

up to 4 boats at a time. It is tucked into Quarantine Bay, a corner of Twofold Bay that is particularly well protected from wind and has a large rock breakwater to provide additional protection should it be needed. It is hard to imagine a more sheltered boat ramp.

Car parking is ample and there is a modern floating jetty

next to the ramp that can take up to 2 boats at a time. Like other ports in this area, the drill is to launch your boat and then motor a short distance away from the ramp and wait until your crew has parked the car and trailer, before approaching the jetty and picking up your passengers.

Upon returning, skippers should drop their crew at the jetty before again motoring away a short distance whilst waiting for the trailer to be backed into the ramp. This procedure works very well and a large number of boats can be launched in a very short period of time.

Nearby there are 4 concrete cleaning tables complete with fresh running water. These tables have been provided by the Eden Fishing Club as a service to fishermen that use this port and all they ask in return is that you put your rubbish into the nearby rubbish bin and leave the area tidy.

Access to the offshore fishing grounds would have to be as safe as any port in the world.

Once you leave the boat ramp, motoring for 6 kms across Twofold Bay is all it takes to be offshore. Twofold Bay is protected from most winds with the exception of a strong easterly, but when the easterly wind blows on the south coast, it's unlikely



NSW

A Special NSW Coast report For F&B by Trevor Stow



Trevor Stow with a small yellowfin caught on the 70 fathom line

anyone will be fishing. .

Twofold Bay has a water depth between 15 and 25 metres, and is a commercial port regularly visited by large container ships so there are few problems for the average trailerboat.

Skippers should however look out for unlit steel moorings near the wharf area and large unlit buoys near the chip mill on the southern side of the bay if navigating during the hours of darkness.

Offshore Fishing There is a great variety of game fish available along this part of the coast line. Marlin

(black, blue and stripe), yellowfin tuna, albacore, mako sharks and the occasional shortbill spearfish are all present for the fisherman. Also in this area is a good number of the relatively little known broadbill marlin.

Broadbills are usually targeted out over the second drop (the true Continental Shelf) and fished for after dark. These are great game fish. Anglers usually berley these fish up from the depths, with squid being a favourite bait. Local fishermen often fish for broadbill and a number of competitions are conducted each year.

A good tip is to fish the same area as the broadbill fishermen did the previous night, the following day. As well as berlying up the broadbills the anglers also attract other fish such as tuna into the area, and fishing can be very good the following morning.

Like other game fishing ports, the Continental Shelf is a popular area for marlin and tuna. The Shelf is situated about 40 kms offshore so it is reachable by any properly set up game fishing boat in favourable weather conditions. However at Eden it is not always necessary to go so far offshore. Over the years there have been many reports of marlin and tuna being caught between the North and South Heads and even inside Twofold Bay.

The famous LBG spot, Green Cape, is a relatively short run down the coast and has accounted for many game fish 'off the stones' over the years, so obviously the fish move close into the coast at times. It

really depends on the water currents and thinking anglers should look out for the usual signs of birds, structure and currents before deciding where to fish.

During a recent trip to Eden in June this year, we were chasing yellowfin tuna and hoping that a marlin might show its head.

June is normally about the end of the game fishing season on the south coast, but this year had been different. The weekend before we arrived quite a lot of marlin had been caught. Bruce Libbis aboard "Ratlin 2" had caught 8 marlin in 2 days. You would not expect marlin in this area the last weekend in May. They would normally be well gone. However a patch of warm currents that had been hanging around this area for the previous month or so, together with a good concentration of bait fish, had kept the billfish in the area.

First Day On the first day we headed north east and trolled plastic over the Shelf to the second drop off. There was little bird life and we could not find any water above 17.4 degrees despite covering a lot of miles. We were later to find out that the water temperature had dropped considerably over the previous week. Bait schools were conspicuous by their absence.

The next day we decided to try south, and headed off in a south easterly direction to directly off Salt Water Creek. We were quite concerned when we were motoring out in 50 fathoms of water and it was still only 16.9 degrees.

Once we reached the 70 fathom line though, our spirits rose with the temperature, which increased to 17.8 degrees, and we finally spotted birds working.

In this area we caught 3 school yellowfin and a very nice 90 kg mako which took a marlin lure fished in the shotgun position. We were lucky that he did not bite through the nylon. We trolled north a couple of kilometres and watched the water temperature drop to 17.5. The birds were missing, the water looked cold and there was no sign of fish. It is amazing what a difference a fraction of a degree or two makes.

Offshore Bottom Bouncing Both north and south of Twofold Bay, a striking coastline provides anglers with a large variety of fish. Mowarry Point,

Haycock Point, Saltwater Creek are just some of the favoured spots to pick up morwong, snapper, nannygai, sweep, leatherjacket and yellowtail kingfish.

There are many offshore reefs and shaly bottoms that have very good populations of snapper and nannygai. Snapper in this area range from pinkies up to thumpers of 10 kg. Good baits include small live slimy mackerel, WA pilchards and squid.

A good trick here is to drift over the reef and rubble until you catch flathead. Once you have caught a flathead you have drifted too far and you are on sand. I must say that it is not too much of a hardship catching flathead, as they are a great table fish.

Drummer are regularly caught off the rocks at Haycock Point and Leonard's Island.

Inside Twofold Bay The bay itself produces a large variety of fish. Pinkie snapper are fairly common with reasonable numbers of bigger fish present at times. Excellent catches of salmon are taken trolling lures and it is not uncommon to pick up bonito whilst trolling for salmon.

Favoured spots for salmon include

Nullica Bay, Kiah Inlet and Honeysuckle Point.

Flathead are present in good numbers. Around the mouth of the Kiah River is a hot spot for flathead. If you cannot catch a flattie here you are not trying. Other good spots include Nullica Bay and Calle Calle Bay and just about everywhere else in Twofold Bay.

Kingfish move into Twofold Bay and along the coast.

One of the best spots to catch kingfish is near the big buoy at the chipmill. North Head is also worth a try. They are caught jigging and using strip baits but probably the most effective method is to use live slimies. When the kingies are here the action can be fast and furious for this great game fish. After years of being almost wiped out by the professionals using cages, the mighty kingfish is making a comeback and are now around in good numbers again.

Other species regularly caught in Twofold Bay include tailor, jewfish and morwong.

Twofold Bay also has some pretty fair rock fishing. Eagle Claw rocks are at the edge of the township of Eden and is a good spot to try at first light and evening

for drummer, sweep and wrasse.

The commercial fishing wharf provides a reliable supply of bait fish including slimy mackerel, yellowtail and garfish. The wharf anglers often attract the fish with berley and bait. This makes it a good spot for the boat angler to drift close to the jetties and pick up some useful bait for a day's fishing in the bay or offshore.

Trevally, bream, barracouta, leatherjacket and tailor can also be caught from this structure. This is a great spot for kids to catch a fish. There are 3 wharves which provide plenty of room for anglers.

Eden is just a great spot for boat anglers and there are plenty of spots for the shore anglers to try as well.

***Footnote:** Eden has plenty of inexpensive accommodation for trailerboating families, and an excellent beach front van/tent park. For accommodation and booking information, please call the local tourism centre (in Bega) 1800-633-012 during working hours for a terrific (free) info pack on Eden. Club bookings and enquiries welcome.*

F&B



Top: Trevor Stow's Signature 630 being launched at Eden's boat ramp on Quarantine Bay. Centre: The happy crew-L-R Trevor Stow, Don Neville and the lucky angler Geoff Johnstone. Left: Local fishing guide leaving Quarantine Bay with a client. This beautifully set up rig specialises in saltwater fly fishing both inshore and offshore. For booking info, call 'On a Fly' Guided Fishing, (02) 6495 9017