

ALISTAIR DREW

G'day all, I'm Alistair Drew currently a contributor to Modern Fishing Magazine and a local



who has fished this area my whole life- So hopefully I can give you a few pointers to catch some fish if you're e visiting Bermagui! My specialty is Estuary fishing and the Bermagui area has plenty of great spots on offer to pin some quality fish.

The Bermagui inlet itself is home to many of the estuary species found on the far south coast. Flathead, Bream and trevally are your most likely and popular encounters within this system and all can be easily targeted by foot- no boat needed! Walking along sandbars casting into the channel gives you a great chance of finding any of the three species of interest + many more such as mullet, flounder, luderick, tailor, salmon and the occasional estuary perch. In fact, targeting the channel anywhere you can in the system will often be your best bet. The wharfs provide a great structure for bream and trevally and are an easy, convenient place to take the kids for a bit of fun, Flathead on the other hand are more likely to be found in sandy areas especially with some steep drop-offs and surrounding weed beds- Polarized sunglasses dramatically help spot these features! If you're lucky you may find yourself attached to a fish of a lifetime as flathead up to the magical metre mark are known to inhabit Bermagui inlet.

There are many small rivers and lakes a short drive south of Bermagui, all of which are productive systems- they also make for a good day out to see the local landscape and wilderness! The closest system just 5-10 minutes south is Murrah river- a personal favourite. You can walk east towards the ocean where you will find man-made wooden structures that provide good cover for plenty of solid bream. Cast close to these for a shot of some of the biggest bream the south coast has to offer! Walk a little further and the river will open up into a deeper hole with a rock wall running along it. Me and my mate have had days in this hole where we have caught 50+ flathead, some of which were thumpers! Alternatively, you can walk west where the water turns brackish (slightly fresh). About 1km in this direction you will find a large hole where bass, estuary perch and bream are commonly caught.

Techniques: - Soft Plastic lures are becoming increasingly popular and with good reason, they're a very effective and fun way to catch your target species. If you're a beginner I would recommend targeting flathead first. Target areas previously mentioned and you're in for a great chance. Make sure you're lure is on the bottom- you can determine this by watching your line and waiting for it to go slack, this is when your lure has hit the bottom. Give your rod a few sharp flicks then repeat the process. For bream on the other hand you will need to find more structured areas, pylons, oyster racks, rock walls and timber are great places to start. Make sure you cast your lure as close as possible to these features for the best chance of enticing a strike. This method will often see you attached to the other species I have mentioned.

Good luck and be sure to know your size and quantity restrictions.