

## Victoria seeks assurances on southern bluefin tuna

The Victorian Government is seeking assurance that the valuable southwest Victorian southern bluefin tuna angling sector will be guaranteed long term access to the fishery.

Agriculture and Food Security Minister, Peter Walsh said southern bluefin tuna was an important fishery for recreational anglers in Victoria who were entitled to an ongoing share along with the commercial sector.

"The southern bluefin tuna fishery is a significant resource for recreational fishers, charter operators and tourism operators in southwest Victoria while also supporting an important commercial fishery based in Port Lincoln in South Australia. We are seeking assurances from the Commonwealth Government that fair consideration will be given to both the recreational and commercial sectors in future decision making about access to the southern bluefin tuna resource" Mr Walsh said.

Mr Walsh said the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) was in discussions with the Commonwealth over future resource sharing arrangements for southern bluefin tuna which the Victorian Coalition Government expected to result in guaranteed long term access for the recreational sector.

According to the Minister

,tourism charter boat operators have invested significantly in building the recreational angling experience and that financial commitment needs to be respected and given security.

tuna by anglers fishing from trailer boats off the southwest Victorian coast to be around 19,700 fish, equivalent to 240 tonnes, with a further 6,900 fish caught and released.

Fisheries Victoria Executive Director, Anthony Hurst said the 240 tonne harvest was equivalent to 6 per cent of Australia's commercial catch allocation in 2011.

Additional survey work has shows that the total recreational catch of southern bluefin tuna is likely to be considerably higher, with at least another 594 tuna caught by anglers operating from boats that return to moorings in Portland Harbour.

survey was funded by recreational fishing licence fees and is the first study of its kind to quantify the recreational southern bluefin tuna catch. It involved interviewing more than 1,900 anglers at Apollo Bay, Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Portland boat ramps.

It found recreational anglers undertook more than 6,200 trailer boat trips in Victorian waters in pursuit of southern bluefin tuna, with 83 per cent of those from Portland.

Mr Hurst said the study provided vital information for state and federal fisheries agencies involved in the management of southern bluefin tuna stocks throughout Australia and internationally.



If you work in the seafood industry you don't need to be grumpy, bad tempered and foul mouthed. All you need is a friendly smile, even if cracking one is not so easy on a cold Melbourne morning. The three gentlemen (above) from Sea Merchants, not only have great smiles but also the same barber.

## Yacht restored to its former glory



The Terra Linna at its relaunch by the Tasmanian Premier Lara Giddings.

Tasmania's Premier, Lara Giddings, helped relaunch the former racing yacht, Terra Linna which in its former glory days graced the River Derwent since 1880.

Terra Linna started life as a racing yacht at the Derwent Sailing Club but was reduced to a neglected hulk on the Battery Point foreshore until it was rescued by the Wooden Boat Guild in 2003. Since 2007 has been restored at Noel and Noe-

lene Hall's home in Bellerive.

The restoration has been a labour of love for all of those involved including the sponsors who have helped make it a reality.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to people like Noel and Noelene Hall, and the Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania, who have brought the Terra Linna back to life after nine years and countless hours of fundraising and

restoration. Without their passion and hard work we would lose an important part of our heritage to the ravages of time" said Ms. Giddings.

The Terra Linna was built to a local design using Huon Pine and its probably due to the unique qualities of this wonderful Tasmanian timber that the Terra Linna has survived as well as she has.



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# SEAFOOD NEWS

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MELBOURNE WHOLESALE FISH MARKET

# DEMOLISHED



Photo: AGI ©



## Cross-border patrol nets illegal fishers

A joint agency operation between NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) from Fisheries Queensland has resulted in more than \$10,000 in fines for a group of anglers caught disregarding fishing rules on both sides of the Border Rivers at Bridgewater.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Director of Fisheries Compliance, Glenn Tritton, said the cross-border patrol checked a large camp of more than 40 fishers on the Dumaresq River upstream of Boggabilla.

NSW fisheries officers issued 13 fines totalling almost \$4500 to seven men between the ages of 20 and 72 years.

"Offences included using more than two hand-held lines, possessing prohibited fishing gear, leaving lines unattended, failing to carry fishing licences

and using live fin fish as bait said Mr. Tritton.

"A collection of illegal fishing gear was also seized, including 48 set lines (15 with double hooks attached), two cast nets, and one 21 metre hand-hauled yabby net."

QBFP District Officer Coby Walker said that the centre of the Border Rivers (Dumaresq, Macintyre and Barwon) formed the border between NSW and Queensland and, although the fishers had set up camp on the NSW side, they were committing offences on both sides of the river.

"On the QLD side, QBFP apprehended nine people and issued fines for 20 offences, totalling \$6000," he said.

"These offences included failure to mark set lines and failure to be in attendance of lines.

Fishing rules and regulations can be different across state

borders, but individuals are responsible for knowing the rules for the area they intend to fish and sticking to them, ignorance is no excuse.

Queensland and NSW Fisheries officers work collaboratively throughout the border regions to ensure effective monitoring of the area.

It can be a difficult area to patrol and teamwork from both agencies certainly makes the job easier. Officers who are stationed near the border are authorised under both Queensland and NSW legislation.

Authorities on both sides of the river rely on the support of the public to help protect our fishing resources for future generations.

Report illegal fishing in NSW to the Fisher's Watch Phone Line on 1800 043 536 and in Queensland to the Fishwatch hotline on 1800 017 116

## New marine safety laws for Victoria Boaters encouraged to be aware



Victorian boaters are encouraged to be aware of the new marine safety legislation that came into effect on 1 July

Transport Safety Victoria (TSV) has been encouraging Victoria's 300,000 recreational boaters and 1,500 commercial maritime operators to be ready for the new marine safety legislation which took effect on 1 July 2012.

The Marine Safety Act 2010 (Vic) and associated Regulations introduce a number of changes that aim to improve safety for both commercial operations and recreational boating across the State. TSV is responsible for administering this new legislation, which has been developed to meet the safety needs of today's boating community. Key changes include:

- ▼ the introduction of an 'owner onus' system to ensure those responsible for marine safety offences are held accountable for their actions
- ▼ safety duties for those who participate in boating activities to take reasonable care to protect themselves and others
- ▼ the requirement for commercial vessels to operate under a safety management system and have a safe operation certificate and a safe construction certificate

▼ additional enforcement tools to address non-compliance with marine safety legislation and waterway rules

▼ a recreational boat operator licence will be known as a marine licence and a person who is the master of a vessel must hold a marine licence.

TSV's Director of Maritime Safety, Peter Corcoran said, "Safety on Victoria's waters is paramount.

"The new Marine Safety Act will help to ensure everyone involved in recreational and commercial boating activities shares a common safety focus and is held accountable for their actions."

The current Marine Act 1988 (Vic) has been in place for over 20 years and was reviewed as part of an extensive transport legislation overhaul in Victoria.

"We are working hard to ensure a smooth transition to the new Marine Safety Act for everyone involved, including increasing awareness of boater's safety responsibilities when on the water," said Mr Corcoran.

In Victoria there are currently 359,736 boat licences and 169,597 registered vessels. TSV incident data reveals that as these numbers increase each year, so too does the number of incidents. Since 2008, there have been 3,210 marine incidents including 18 marine fatalities and 89 serious injuries.

"With more people on the water, it is imperative that Victoria's marine community works together to improve safety behaviours and outcomes for those who work and play on Victorian waters," emphasised Mr Corcoran.

TSV is helping boaters to understand how the new marine safety legislation will affect them.



## \$2 million upgrade for Hornibrook Wharf

The Northern Territory Government will upgrade the Hornibrook's Wharf to improve access and facilities for its \$130 million commercial fishing industry, Fisheries Minister Kon Vatskalis announced.

The Hornibrook's Wharf is located next to Fisherman's Wharf and is used by local commercial operators to off-load catch, undertake maintenance on boats and to load and unload vessels. Some local fishers also sell their catch to the public straight from the boat.

The Northern Territory's world class seafood is highly sought after by some of our top restaurants and chefs.

"Our seafood industry production is estimated at around \$130 million a year and employs hundreds of people directly and indirectly in the Territory," Mr Vatskalis said.

"This \$2 million upgrade will make things easier for commercial fishermen to off-load product or lift their boats from the water to conduct scheduled maintenance.

The upgrade includes a new stormwater management system that will allow the water to be treated before being discharged into the harbour. It will also include a new berthing face, improved paving and electricity systems, reticulated potable water and better lighting.

Mr Vatskalis said the tender to upgrade the Hornibrook's Wharf has been awarded to Ribshire Pty Ltd (trading as Goodline) with the work to create around 10 jobs with construction due to be finished by mid-November.

# IN BRIEF

## EDITORIAL

Only time will erase the memories not the bureaucratic pen

As our readers can see from the photograph on our front page The Melbourne Wholesale Fish Market (MWFM) has been demolished. By the time this publication is distributed the site will probably be completely clean with all physical evidence of it gone to some unknown landfill. All physical evidence of a former time will no longer be visible to future generations of Melbourneans.

A similar fate befell its two previous sites. Who now remembers the original site at Flinders Street or its second site near Southern Cross Station (Spencer Street station)? Grainy old black and white photographs are the only reminders of a proud hard working and times tragic industry that fed so many people.

The Melbourne Wholesale Fish Market on Footscray Road was not only a place where seafood was sold. This was Melbourne's welcoming door to many post war migrants from Southern Europe, especially the Greeks who were then settling in this city. In its heyday the MWFM was an embryo of many cultures that later was officially baptised as multiculturalism.

Although the physical remnants of the MWFM may be gone, the memories, the friendships, the relationships, the business dealings, the arguments and laughs of its inhabitants will always be remembered by those who breathed life into it. Only time will erase these memories, and the Melbourne Wholesale Fish Market from peoples memories. They can not be demolished by a bureaucratic pen.

## SSA's Ted Loveday Resigns



After ten and a half years as Managing Director, Mr. Ted Loveday, has resigned his position with Seafood Services Australia.

"I am proud of our achievements

in taking SSA from a vision on a piece of paper to an effective and important service body for the seafood industry" said Ted.

His tenure at SSA has involved advocacy at international seafood trade fairs, access to domestic and international markets and the establishment of SSA's trade and market access database to help seafood stakeholders make informed trade and business decisions.

Despite limited funding projects outcomes were on time and within budget. Despite the achievements SSA has not

been able to secure ongoing funding to maintain its present structure.

Mr. Loveday attributes his organisations success to its clear charter to be proactive rather than reactive to the changing expectations and conditions of the seafood industry.

"I express my sincere appreciation to the many special people who have strongly supported me and shared the positive and proactive SSA vision. I look forward to working with you on other proactive initiatives in the future" said Mr. Loveday.

## Better Boating Program

The Better Boating Program (BBP) is a State Government grants program aimed at providing recreational boating infrastructure for the benefit of the boating community on New South Wales waterways. The BBP, which commenced in July 2009, consolidates the three grants programs previously run by Roads and Maritime Services.

Roads and Maritime Services utilises revenue raised from registration and licence fees to fund the grants program.

Since the inception of infrastructure grant funding in 1998, the State Government has provided over \$35 million for over 600 boating infrastructure improvements across NSW.

Applications for funding under the BBP - Regional Infrastructure and Sydney Harbour Boat Ramp grants are now being accepted and will close on 3 August, 2012.

Under the BBP, from 1 July 2009, \$5 million is available annually, across three categories:

## New recreational fishing reefs

Saltwater anglers will have better fishing in Victoria's Port Phillip Bay when three new reefs are deployed later this year. Fisheries Victoria Executive Director Anthony Hurst said the recreational fishing reefs would be within casting distance of Portarlington, Altona and Frankston piers. "The reefs are funded by fishing licence fees and will improve

opportunities for shore-based anglers chasing popular species such as snapper and flathead," Mr Hurst said.

The three piers were selected in consultation with local angling groups, councils and Victorian Government departments and build on the success of three other reefs deployed for boat-based anglers in 2009. Three information sessions

will inform anglers and the wider public about the new reefs:

- Altona - Hobsons Bay City Council Offices, meeting room 2, 115 Civic Parade, Wednesday, July 4, 6.30-7.30pm.
- Frankston - Visitor Information Centre, 7N Pier Promenade, Saturday, July 7, 1-4pm.
- Portarlington - Parks Hall, Bay View Room, Newcombe St, Tuesday, July 10, 4-7pm.

## Operation Maxima targets abalone crime

On July 1st the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) commenced Operation Maxima, a major three month compliance operation targeting abalone fisheries crime.

Director of Fisheries Compliance, Glenn Tritton, said NSW DPI was publicly flagging the start of a major abalone operation for the first time in an effort to deter those planning to undertake illegal fishing activity.

"I urge anybody considering illegally fishing for, or buying, abalone to rethink their plans. The chances are you will get caught, so don't take the risk," he said.

Throughout Operation Maxima, multiple teams of fisheries officers will target recreational and commercial fishers diving for abalone along the entire south coast, as well as the greater Sydney area where a lot of abalone is sold and consumed.

They will be supported by investigators from the Statewide Operations and Investigations Group and Marine Parks officers, with assistance from the NSW Police Marine Area Command and officers from the NSW Food Authority.

"We'll be looking at all aspects of the abalone fishery, from recreational fishing to commercial fishing and the post harvest sector, which includes all forms of sale of wild and cultured abalone" said Mr. Tritton.

NSW Police Marine Area Commander, Detective Superintendent Mark Hutchings, said Operation Maxima would build on the success of last year's Operation Fusion, a joint abalone blitz by NSW DPI and NSW Police.

Operation Fusion resulted in a number of apprehensions on the South Coast, including the dismantling of an alleged decade-long illegal abalone trafficking syndicate.

The NSW Police Marine Area Command regularly works in cooperation with fisheries officers and this will be another example of a successful joint operation.

NSW Food Authority Director of Compliance and Enforcement, Peter Day, said the Authority sees the joint operation as a great opportunity to focus on food safety issues while the partner groups focus on sustainability of the resource.

Mr Day also warned that black market abalone could pose a health risk to consumers.

The NSW Food Authority warns against buying abalone from unknown suppliers or roadside sellers. Abalone sold 'under the table' may not have been handled properly.

Anybody witnessing illegal activity can contact their nearest Fisheries NSW office or call the Fisher's Watch line on 1800 043 536.

## Plan to lift profits for Vic. rock lobster fishers

Victoria's Department of Primary Industries is taking action to rebuild lobster stocks along a large part of the state's coastline, in order to boost the long term profitability of the commercial rock lobster fishery.

Fisheries Victoria, Executive Director, Anthony Hurst said DPI was implementing a clear plan to strengthen the biological condition of the Eastern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery to increase its stocks for the long term benefit of the commercial sector.

The rebuilding plan for the Eastern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery aims to progressively increase the lobster stock, fishers' catch rates, business profitability and quota values.

"In order to help strengthen this valuable fishery in the long term, we need to reduce the total volumes that commercial rock lobster fishers are able to catch in the short term" Mr Hurst said.

As a result, the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) for the Eastern Zone will be reduced from 66 tonnes to 48 tonnes for the 2012-13 season, as part of the sector's 10 year plan to improve the profitability of the fishery by 2020-21.

In order to develop the plan, Fisheries Victoria had sought advice from several independent fisheries scientists, economists and an industry-based Lobster Resource Assessment Group.

The plan will follow a similar action that began in the Western Zone Rock Lobster Fishery three years ago, which will now see the total allowable commercial catch increase from 240 tonnes to 260 tonnes in 2012-13.

Mr Hurst concedes that some Eastern Zone lobster fishers may face financial and operational challenges in adjusting their businesses to a short term reduction in the total allowable commercial catch but are likely to face reduced catches in 12 months time if action to rebuild lobster stocks and catch rates is not taken now.

"DPI will also bolster the tight controls already in place for the recreational harvest of lobsters with a targeted fisheries compliance program focusing on recreational divers, as well as focusing on illegal trade in lobsters by unlicensed fishers.

"We will also conduct a recreational fishing census to identify how many people fish for lobsters and how many they

catch, which will be used to improve the annual scientific assessment of lobster stocks."

The Eastern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery extends from Apollo Bay east to the New South Wales border.

Eastern Zone commercial fishers had benefitted from an increase in lobster stocks above the legal minimum size limit over the past year due to an above average recruitment pulse of smaller lobsters from 2008-09.

Currently Fishers' catch rates, which are measured in kilograms per pot lift, have also temporarily improved from around 0.3-0.4 kilograms per pot lift to 0.5 kilograms per pot lift.

This spike in the lobster stock and catch rates is expected to continue in 2012-13 before dropping back to the long term average for the next three to four years.

He said DPI would also work with Eastern Zone lobster fishers over the coming months to identify ways to involve them more in the management of the lobster fishery, such as identifying research priorities and data collection.

Rebuilding lobster stocks was consistent with the world's best practice.

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# 3.1 MILLION SQUARE KILOMETRES

## LARGEST MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WORLD

“We have an incredible opportunity to turn the tide on protection of the oceans and Australia can lead the world in marine protection”.

Mr. Tony Burke, Federal Environment Minister



Mr. Tony Burke, Australia's Federal Environment Minister

The Federal Environment Minister Mr. Tony Burke has released the Gillard Government's final network of marine reserves which, once proclaimed under national environmental law, will increase the number of marine reserves from 27 to 60, expanding the national network to cover more than a third of Commonwealth waters.

The new marine reserves take the overall size of the Commonwealth marine reserves network to 3.1 million square kilometres, by far the largest representative network of marine protected areas in the world.

“We have an incredible opportunity to turn the tide on protection of the oceans and Australia can lead the world in marine protection. Our oceans contain unique marine life which needs protection too” said Mr Burke.

Queensland's National Sena-

tor, Ron Boswell however, says that the Government is denying Australians a major food source. “Australia currently imports 72 per cent of our seafood from other nations and we extract less than 30 kilograms of marine catch per square kilometre from our own oceans. We import most of our seafood from Thailand who extract more than 6,000 kilograms of marine catch per square kilometre from their waters”.

“Mr Burke has shown little regard for the amateur and commercial fishing industries and the many local communities that depend on fishing for their livelihoods” said Senator Boswell.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister, Senator Joe Ludwig, said the Government will build a tailored assistance package with the fishing industry. This will be aimed at providing adjustment assistance to those directly impacted.

There will be specialised assistance on a case by case basis for vertically integrated businesses that are especially impacted.

Those impacted who want to change where they fish, how they fish, and what they fish, will be helped to do so. Those who can change their business model, or who opt to leave the industry, will get the assistance they require,” Minister Ludwig said.

The package in the vicinity of \$100 million will begin to flow to the fishing industry before the marine reserves are activated.

In his statement Senator Boswell questions how the Government has calculated the \$100 million compensation figure that it has nominated, how many commercial boats will be impacted by the proposed marine parks, will the structural assistance cover the cost of fishermen's boats, licences, and nets, will the structural assistance compensate fishing, tackle shops, charter fishing operators, marine dealers, the outboard motor industry, other marine industries and land based infrastructure for the loss of business and a raft of other questions.

Senator Boswell has pointed out that Minister Burke has also provided no details on how the Government intends to manage and patrol 3.1 million square kilometres of marine reserves.

“There are so many questions that need to be answered, as fishermen have been left in the dark with very few details pro-

“Mr Burke seems to only be interested in boasting that Australia will lead the world with 70 percent of the world's marine reserves”.

Senator Ron Boswell, Nationals Senator for Queensland

vided. Their voices have not been heard in this debate and a Senate inquiry would have given them the opportunity to have their concerns raised on the record and would allow the Government's policy to be scrutinised” said Senator Boswell.

“I have met with stakeholders across the country and more than 1950 people have been involved in the full consultation process,” said Minister Burke.

“Our aim is to protect our unique marine environment, while supporting coastal communities and marine industries around the country.

“Over the coming months, the Government will consult the fishing industry and fisheries management agencies on the design and implementation of a fisheries adjustment assistance package.

Together the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Coral Sea Commonwealth marine reserve will become the largest adjoining marine protected area in the world, covering 1.3 million square kilometres, and are estimated to displace approximately 1-2% of the annual value of wild catch fisheries production in Australia.

The National Seafood Industry Alliance does not support the proposed marine reserve network due to significant outstanding concerns regarding the impacts on the fishing industry, the lack of clarity on the adjustment assistance, zoning arrangements and future management arrangements of the proposed reserve networks.

Ms Kathrine Sarnekis, chair of the National Seafood Industry Alliance said “The costs for implementing this

reserve system are unknown” and that her organisation will continue to work with Government to ensure industry impacts and the process from here is as transparent as possible.

It is expected that the final marine reserves will be declared before the end of the 2012.

At the Rio+20 summit the President of the Maldives, Mohamed Waheed, announced that the Maldives will become the first country to become a marine reserve.

“It will become the single largest marine reserve in the world. This policy will allow only sustainable and eco-friendly fishing. It will exclude deep-sea, purse-seining and other destructive (trawling) techniques,” he said.

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歌華展覽  
Gehua Expo

## Yeosu Expo, South Korea

A letter to Roy Palmer



Left to Right: Prathap Shetty, Executive Director of Emirates Star Fisheries, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Mr. Roy Palmer, Director Seafood Experience Australia at the Yeosu Expo, South Korea

Sixty representatives from the Australian and Korean seafood and fishing industries gathered at the Australian Seafood and Fishing Industry Seminar co-hosted by the Australian Pavilion and Austrade in June at the Yeosu Expo. The seminar aimed to build links and facili-

tate trade between the two industries, as well as give Australia the opportunity to showcase the technology, systems and protocols that enable us to produce, maintain and protect clean and safe seafood products.

At the Seafood Seminar, presentations were made by

Seafood Experience Australia CEO, Roy Palmer and Professor Charles Bai, Pukyong National University.

Mr Palmer's involvement in the Monaco Blue Initiative at Yeosu was appreciated as is expressed in the letter of appreciation below.

Dear Roy,

On behalf of Robert Calcagno, CEO of the Oceanographic Institute, Foundation Albert I, Prince of Monaco and H.E.M. Bernard Fautrier, Plenipotentiary Minister and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, we wish to thank you warmly for your participation and involvement at our side in the third edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative at the International Exposition of Yeosu. Your knowledge and experience brought a rich and undeniable contribution to the sessions, both as a keynote speaker in the session moderated by Pierre Erves and a panelist in the first session, giving the business perspective to the overview of MPAs.

This edition of the MBI enabled us to create a common space for thought as well as

gather together the political, scientific, environmental and economic players to share their ideas and opinions on the potential synergies between ocean protection and economic development.

As you have seen, the conclusions of the 2012 Monaco Blue Initiative are available on [www.monacoblueinitiative.org/en/news/a-new-vision-for-marine-protected-areas/](http://www.monacoblueinitiative.org/en/news/a-new-vision-for-marine-protected-areas/). The message of the third edition will also be available soon. We have updated this website with the summaries, photos and other information from the event and will continue providing valuable information for our network members and the public.

With a growing network of collaborators and experts around this Monaco Blue Initiative, we can truly move forward with discussions. To this effect,

the MBI Secretariat at the Oceanographic Institute and the Foundation Prince Albert II of Monaco will maintain a regular contact with the members of the MBI to promote exchange and establish concrete collaborations.

In the spirit of collaboration and the development of the MBI network, we are happy to accept any comments or papers that you wish to share within the theme of the Initiative. Any suggestions you may have on the main theme of coming editions are also welcome. The fourth edition of the MBI is planned in the spring of 2013, and will pursue the theme of Marine Protected Areas into the high seas for a global network of ocean protection. We are pleased to invite you to the fourth edition and will be contacting you shortly with the selected date for your agenda.



Cartoon: Con Aslanis



## Fish on Fennel Caponata

There are very few fish that can match the delicate, sweet taste of King George Whiting; I have angler friends who live at Ardrossan (a small town on the east coast of the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia) and they target this fish exclusively.

I buy mine at The Queen Victoria Market and get a pretty good deal. I prefer to buy my fish whole, however, if I want fillets my fish vendor is happy to fillet the fish for me while I wait. On this occasion I cooked the fish very simply and presented it with a fennel caponata (a Sicilian sweet and sour method for preparing certain vegetables).

### Ingredients

King George Whiting, I used one fish for 2 people  
1 medium sized fennel  
½ cup extra virgin olive oil  
1 small onion, finely chopped  
1 tender celery stalk and some pale green leaves, finely chopped  
¼ cup green olives, pitted and chopped  
¼ cup capers (if salted, rinsed and soaked)  
1 ripe tomato, peeled and chopped (or canned)  
1 tbsp sugar  
1 tbs wine vinegar, white  
salt and pepper to taste



### Preparation

Prepare the fennel. Remove any outer layers of the fennel that look damaged, trim the base and discard. Keep any young, soft fennel fronds to add to the caponata. Slice the fennel bulbs in half vertically and then continue to cut the fennels into thin slices keeping them attached at the bottom. Place extra virgin olive oil in the pan and when it is hot add the onion, fennel and celery and sauté until they begin to colour. Add the olives, capers, tomato, sugar, salt, vinegar. Cover and simmer gently until tender, 10-15 mins.

Prepare the fish. Stuff the cavity of the fish with a little rosemary and a slice of lemon, rub into the flesh a little salt. Wrap it in metal foil lined with baking paper that has been smeared with some extra virgin olive oil. Bake at 180- 200 for 10 -15mins.  
Present it on top of the fennel caponata.



For more seafood recipes look for Marisa's book of Sicilian Seafood Cooking

