

## Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

This publication is to provide assistance or information. It is only a guide and does not replace the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* or the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*. It cannot be used as a defence in a court of law. The information provided is current at the date of printing but may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on fishing and full details of legislation contact select DPIRD offices or visit [dpiird.wa.gov.au](http://dpiird.wa.gov.au)

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), 2021

## Recfishwest

Love your fishing? So do we!

As the peak body for rec fishing, our purpose is to ensure great fishing experiences for all in the WA community forever.

Visit our website to find out about some great fishing initiatives.



[recfishwest.org.au](http://recfishwest.org.au)



## Contact us

(08) 6551 4444  
[enquiries@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@dpiird.wa.gov.au)

### Albany Office (and Southern Regional Office)

444 Albany Highway,  
Albany WA 6330  
(08) 9845 7400

### Bunbury Office

96 Stirling Street,  
Bunbury WA 6230  
(08) 9780 6150

### Busselton Office

48A Bussell Highway,  
Busselton WA 6280  
(08) 9752 2152

### Mandurah Office

107 Breakwater Parade,  
Mandurah Ocean Marina  
Mandurah WA 6210  
(08) 9583 7800



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

# South-west freshwater angling

## Recreational fishing guide 2021



A current licence is required to fish for freshwater fish south of Greenough

### Please note:

**NEW** South-west freshwater angling season is now open all-year round.

Report shark sightings  
to Water Police on  
**9442 8600**  
Download the  
SharkSmart WA app

SWITCH  
ON YOUR  
SEA SENSE

[SHARKSMART.COM.AU](http://SHARKSMART.COM.AU)

[dpiird.wa.gov.au](http://dpiird.wa.gov.au)



ABN: 18 951 343 745

411/21

*We're working for  
Western Australia.*

Published April 2021

## Fishing licences

A Freshwater Angling Licence is required to fish for freshwater fish in waters south of Greenough (29°S) and above the tidal influence, including all lakes, dams, rivers and their tributaries.

The licence fee covers a 12-month period from the date of issue. Anglers under the age of 16 do not require a Freshwater Angling Licence.

Fishers wishing to fish for marron need a marron licence.

Apply for a new licence, or renew an existing licence online through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) website. Alternatively, application forms are available from select DPIRD offices and the website.

## Closed waters

No fishing is permitted in the Shannon River at any time.

All drinking water supply dams managed by the Water Corporation are closed to fishing. Please contact the Water Corporation for details or visit [watercorporation.com.au](http://watercorporation.com.au)

## Fishing methods

Anglers fishing for freshwater fish (including brown and rainbow trout, freshwater cobbler and redfin perch) may only use a **single** fishing rod and line or a **single** hand-held line.

The use of both lures and bait is permitted.

Landing net restrictions apply. Anglers may possess only a short-handled (maximum 500mm) net within 50m of the waterline of most dams and rivers all year round. This is to

protect marron, which may only be taken from 8 January to 5 February annually using specific gear. Refer to the marron recreational fishing guide for permitted fishing methods.

## Bag and size limits

### Daily mixed species bag limit, per angler



You may take four fish (combined) of the following species:

- rainbow trout;
- brown trout; and
- freshwater cobbler.

‘Daily’ means from midnight to midnight.

### Minimum size

- Rainbow and brown trout: 300mm

Fish smaller than the minimum size must be gently returned to the water immediately.

There are no bag or size limits for other freshwater fish.

To help keep WA waters pest free, please thoroughly clean and dry all fishing and wading gear before fishing in another waterway. Pest species such as carp, goldfish, tilapia and other cichlids and redfin perch destroy habitat and prey on juvenile marron and native freshwater fish. It is recommended that they are not returned to the water and are humanely euthanised, with dead fish NOT left on the shore.

For more information visit the DPIRD website or download our recreational fishing guide at [fish.wa.gov.au/guide](http://fish.wa.gov.au/guide)

## Follow the rules

All fishing may be subject to surveillance by Fisheries and Marine Officers. If you break recreational fishing rules you may be given an infringement notice or have legal action taken against you. Fines may be as high as \$5,000 plus up to 10 times the prescribed value of the species.

## FishWatch – 1800 815 507

The FishWatch phone line provides a quick and easy way to report sightings or evidence of:

- illegal fishing;
- aquatic pests; and
- aquatic diseases (including fish kills).

## Get involved!

You can give something back and help ensure there will be fish for the future by assisting some of our research programs. For more information on these opportunities visit the website and search under ‘volunteers’.

## Send us your skeletons

You can help with vital long-term monitoring of our valuable fish stocks by sending us your fish frames (skeletons with the heads and guts intact). [fish.wa.gov.au/frames](http://fish.wa.gov.au/frames)

## Anglers log books

Use the log book we provide to record your ocean, estuary or freshwater fishing activities. Your information will assist scientists with a number of projects. Fish tagging scientists tag and release fish to better understand population structure, movement, growth and mortality. We need people to report recaptures.