Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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South-west freshwater angling

Recreational fishing guide

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

Please note:

A south-west freshwater angling licence is required for all freshwater angling in waters south of Greenough (29°S) and above the tidal influence, including all lakes, dams, rivers and their tributaries.

A separate licence is required for marron fishing and specific rules apply.

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Important disclaimer

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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 dpird.wa.gov.au

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Department of **Primary Industries and Regional Development**

1300 374 731 (13 DPIRD1)
enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au
dpird.wa.gov.au

Fishing licences

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. You do not need a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL) if using a powered vessel to take part in freshwater angling, providing it is the only fishing activity that is taking place on the boat.

Apply for a new licence or renew an existing licence online on our website at **dpird.wa.gov.au/get-a-recreational-fishing-licence**

Alternatively, application forms are available from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) offices.

Freshwater fishing and closed waters

Some of the most popular trout waters in WA include Big Brook Dam, Blackwood River, Donnelly River, Glen Mervyn Dam, Logue Brook Dam, Murray River, Warren River, Wellington Dam, Waroona Dam, Harvey Dam and Drakesbrook Dam.

Fishing is not permitted in the Shannon River at any time.

All drinking water supply dams managed by Water Corporation are closed to fishing. Please contact the Water Corporation for information on 13 13 75 or visit **watercorporation.com.au**

Legal angling gear and methods

Anglers fishing for freshwater fish (including brown and rainbow trout, freshwater cobbler and redfin perch) from the shore may use:

- up to 2 fishing rods and lines or single hand-held lines only
- baits and artificial lures
- a landing net within 50 m of the waterline.

Bag and size limits

Daily mixed species bag limit* per licensed fisher is 4. ('Daily' means from midnight to midnight.)

This is the combined number of rainbow trout, brown trout and freshwater cobbler (freshwater catfish) each licensed angler may take.

Trout, rainbow and brown: minimum size 300 mm

Fish smaller than the minimum size must be gently returned to the water immediately. Use a clean wet cloth to avoid injury or loss of scales and protective slime. If possible, keep the fish in the water while removing hooks.

* Please note, most species of native freshwater fish including Balston's pygmy perch, black-stripe minnow, little pygmy perch, mud minnow, western trout minnow, pouched lamprey, and salamanderfish are totally protected and cannot be taken.

Rainbow trout
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Brown trout
(*Salmo trutta*)

Trout have been stocked in WA for over 100 years. Trout grown at our Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre are stocked annually in select south-west waterways with a history of receiving trout. We do not stock previously un-stocked waters. You can find more information on the stocked waterways by visiting **dpird.wa.gov.au/individuals/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-initiatives#trout-stocking**

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. Please make sure that you carry your licence when freshwater angling, and can provide it when requested by a Fisheries and Marine Officer.

Aquatic pests, diseases and fish kills

To help keep WA's waters pest and disease free, please thoroughly clean and dry all fishing and wading gear before fishing in another waterway or area.

Redfin perch
– pest species
(*Perca fluviatilis*)

Do not return pest species such as carp, redfin perch and goldfish to the water, it is recommended that they are humanely euthanised and disposed of.

Redfin perch are not stocked in WA waterways as they can have a negative environmental impact. They are a voracious predator and readily establish populations in the south-west, putting native species at risk.

Redfin are known to consume freshwater crustaceans such a marron. While trout consume some marron, redfin consume far more due to their higher population numbers and aggressive behaviour.

Report catches or sightings of aquatic pests, diseases and fish kills to **FishWatch**, or our Biosecurity Branch on 1300 374 741 or email **Aquatic.Biosecurity@dpird.wa.gov.au**

For more information about aquatic pests visit **dpird.wa.gov.au/businesses/pests-weeds-and-diseases/aquatic/**

FishWatch - 1800 815 507

The FishWatch phone line provides the quickest and most efficient way to report sightings or evidence of:

- illegal fishing
- aquatic pests and diseases
- fish kills.

You can also submit other reports online to **crimestopperswa.com.au/organisation-report/fishwatch/**
Reports made to Crimestoppers are not monitored outside normal working hours or on weekends.

Contact us

1300 374 731 (1300 DPIRD1)
enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au

Albany Office
444 Albany Highway,
Albany WA 6330
08 9845 7400

Broome Office
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Broome WA 6725
08 9193 8600

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08 9752 2152

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Carnarvon WA 6701
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14 Capo D'Orlando Drive,
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Geraldton Office
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Geraldton WA 6530
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FISHWATCH
REPORT ▸ Illegal fishing ▸ Pests and diseases ▸ Fish kills
1800-815-507
24 HOUR REPORTING

Scan to report illegal fishing

ABN: 18 951 343 745