



Western Pygmy Perch

# Western Australian endemic fish guide

Thinking of importing a live fish into WA? This guide will help you determine if a fish is endemic or non-endemic to WA.

## What is an endemic fish?

In the context of the domestic importation of live fish, a fish species is endemic to WA (or an area of the state or WA waters) if it has a documented range of distribution because of natural processes in the state, that area of the state, or WA waters.

A fish available to buy from other Australian jurisdictions may not have a natural distribution in the wild in WA (therefore, it is non-endemic) and could become a harmful pest species if it were to establish a wild population. Some species pose a serious threat to our environment by preying upon our endemic fish, outcompeting them for space or food, altering their habitat and/or by introducing diseases.

## Before contemplating or applying to import a live fish into WA, consider the following:

### Is the fish species naturally found in the wild in WA?

To find out, check reputable sources of information such as WA fish field guides or the following online sites:

- [fishbase.org.au](http://fishbase.org.au)
- [ala.org.au](http://ala.org.au)
- [fishesofaustralia.net.au](http://fishesofaustralia.net.au)

Check the distribution and habitat section for information clearly stating that the fish has a documented, natural distribution in the wild in WA.

If there are only a handful of observations in WA, this is not a 'documented range of distribution' as these could have been errors or other species incorrectly identified as your species.

## Is the fish introduced or a pest?

If your research shows that the species has a distribution in the wild in WA, this does not always mean that its presence is 'natural'.

Double-check the species that you are researching is not actually an introduced or pest fish. For example, redfin perch can be found in the wild in WA, however, it was introduced to the state (so not endemic to WA) and it's also a pest species.

Check for any warning or information that the species is a known pest or has been introduced by reviewing relevant lists and policies published by the department, such as:

- The WA noxious fish list (see under 'Types of fish')
- High-risk non-endemic fish list (see under 'Types of fish')
- Western Australian prevention list for introduced marine pests

Examples of endemic species	Examples of non-endemic species
Balston's pygmy perch	Alligator gar
Black-stripe minnow	Brown trout
Common jollytail	Golden perch
Giglie	Murray cod
Marron	Rainbow trout
Nightfish	Redclaw
Pygmy perch	Redfin perch
Spangled perch	Silver perch
Trout minnow	Southern shortfin eel
Western minnow	Yabby

### Before you import...

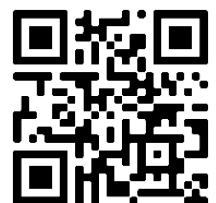
If there is any indication that the fish species is an introduced or pest fish (or you are unsure) you can either decide not to import, or check by contacting DPIRD's Translocation Officer.

If your research very clearly demonstrates that the fish has a documented natural distribution in WA due to natural processes, the fish is likely endemic to Western Australia.

**NB. This guide does not apply to the import of fish for aquaculture or live seafood purposes.**

## Further information

For more information, [visit our website](#) or scan the QR code. You can also contact our Translocation Officer on 1300 374 731 or email [translocation@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:translocation@dpiird.wa.gov.au)



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