

South-west freshwater angling

Recreational fishing guide 2024



**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.

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 one online through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) website or DoTDirect. Alternatively, application forms are available from select DPIRD offices and our website.

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 the Water Corporation are closed to fishing. Please contact the Water Corporation for information about fishing in dams 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) may use:

- a fishing rod and line or a hand-held line only
- only one line at a time
- baits and artificial lures
- one short-handled landing net (maximum 500 mm) within 50 m of the waterline. This is to protect marron from being taken. Refer to the marron recreational fishing guide for more information.

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, loss of scales and protective slime. If possible, keep the fish in the water while removing hooks.



Rainbow trout
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)



Brown trout
(*Salmo trutta*)

* 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.

Trout have been stocked in WA for over 100 years. Through our Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre we annually stock south-west waterways with trout.

Ongoing stocking is controlled by only stocking historically stocked waters. We no longer stock waters that contain vulnerable native fish, and we do not stock previously un-stocked waters. You can find more information on the stocked waterways by visiting fish.wa.gov.au/Species/Rainbow-Trout/Pages/Trout-stocking.aspx

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 as 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 **fish.wa.gov.au/freshwaterpestID**

Report shark sightings
to Water Police on

9442 8600

Download the
SharkSmart WA app

SWITCH
ON YOUR
SEA SENSE 

SHARKSMART.COM.AU

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/organization-report/fishwatch/

Reports made to Crimestoppers are not monitored outside normal working hours or on weekends.

Join Recfishwest's Cast of Thousands!



Recfishwest represents WA's 700,000 recfishers' rights and interests and champion sustainability, safety, research and the environment. Best of all we help keep the fun in fishing!



JOIN OUR CAST OF THOUSANDS TODAY AS A RECFISHWEST MEMBER AND HELP US MAKE FISHING BETTER!



Scan the QR code or visit [Recfishwest.org.au](https://www.Recfishwest.org.au) for more information!



www.Recfishwest.org.au

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

401 Port Drive,
Broome WA 6725
08 9193 8600

Busselton Office

48A Bussell Highway,
Busselton WA 6280
08 9752 2152

Carnarvon Office

262 South River Road,
Carnarvon WA 6701
08 9956 3333

Fremantle Office

14 Capo D'Orlando Drive,
South Fremantle WA 6162
08 9432 8000

Geraldton Office

69-75 Connell Road,
Geraldton WA 6530
08 9920 8400

Hillarys Office

39 Northside Drive,
Hillarys WA 6025
08 9203 0111

Mandurah Office

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

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ABN: 18 951 343 745



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illegal fishing