



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of  
**Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**

# Research Angler Program



Help ensure there will be fish  
for the future.

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# Become a research angler and help important fisheries research

If you enjoy fishing, why not become a Research Angler? You'll be contributing directly to research and helping to ensure there will be plenty of fish for your kids and grandkids to catch.

You don't need to be a scientist to take part – just an enthusiastic angler. There are many ways to participate in the Research Angler Program (RAP) and they all involve one of your favourite pastimes – fishing!

## Why your help is so important research

Western Australia has a vast coastline and inland waterway system. Studying fish over such a huge area is challenging. We need your help to collect enough data to ensure fish and their habitats are being well managed.

## Projects you can help with

There are many opportunities, including:

### e Fish tagging

**You can report recaptured tagged fish.** Scientists tag and release fish and invertebrates (e.g. squid and crabs) to better understand their population structure, movement, growth and mortality. If you capture a tagged fish or invertebrate, take note of the information on the tag then contact us.

**You can tag your own fish.** Check our website for current research projects needing volunteer taggers.

### e The Send Us Your Skeletons program



**You can donate skeletons, also called 'frames', after you've filleted your fish.**

A fish frame gives researchers clues about its age and other information. This can be used to build a picture of the population of each species and help better manage our fisheries.

We need frames, fresh or frozen, with the head and guts intact, for many marine and freshwater species. For the list of species we need, pick up a *Send Us Your Skeletons* brochure at Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) offices or see our website.



Bag and label them with your name and address plus the date, time and location of capture. There are drop-off locations from Albany to Geraldton, including DPIRD offices.

**W:** [fish.wa.gov.au/frames](http://fish.wa.gov.au/frames)

### e Anglers' log book program

**You can record catch details in a log book.** This helps us monitor fish and invertebrate abundance and diversity, and other indicators of changes in environmental conditions. Data collected is used by researchers working on a number of projects. Your log book (which we provide) can be used to record catch details for ocean, estuary or freshwater fishing.

### e Fishing club historic records survey

**Your club can lend us its records.** Catch records can help researchers document the history of local fish populations. We enter these records into our database then return the original data to the club, with electronic and hard copy summaries of the data.

### e Catch cards

Your club can distribute RAP catch cards at its next tournament. Completed cards provide a 'snapshot' survey of local fish stocks. Contact us at least eight weeks before your tournament to request cards.

Catch rates of finfish and invertebrates recorded on catch cards indicate local fish abundance and diversity. Scientists use this information to monitor changes in the health of fish stocks. Completed cards go into a draw to win a prize.

### e Tailor survey

**You can take part in a catch-and-release project.** From February to April each year, you can help monitor the abundance of juvenile tailor in the Swan River. The data helps researchers forecast the population of adult tailor in future years.



## Who can be a Research Angler?

Anyone with a love of fishing can take part. We also welcome charter operators and commercial fishers, community groups and students. We need ResearchAnglers from all over the State.

## Next time you land a fish – you could be gathering valuable data

If you're out there enjoying fishing, for very little extra effort you could be helping to gather the information our scientists need to ensure there will be fish for the future.

By sharing your fishing experience, you'll be making a direct contribution to the sustainable management of fish stocks.

## Like to know more?

Visit the 'Volunteers' page under 'About us':

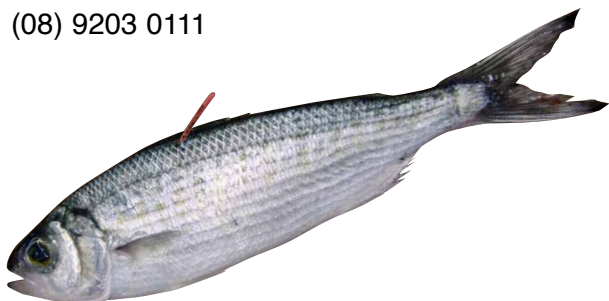
**W:** [fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Pages/Volunteers.aspx](http://fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Pages/Volunteers.aspx)

## Like to take part?

To donate fish frames, see **[fish.wa.gov.au/frames](http://fish.wa.gov.au/frames)** for drop-off locations. To report the tagged fish you catch, call the telephone number on the tag as soon as possible. If you'd like to help with other projects, email or telephone to let us know which project/s you'd like to participate in.

**E:** [researchvolunteers@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:researchvolunteers@dpird.wa.gov.au)

**T:** (08) 9203 0111



# Anglers' log book program

## Do you fish regularly?

By keeping a log book, you can help monitor the health of the environment

to keep our fisheries sustainable and productive.

Email us your name and address to

**researchvolunteers@dpird.wa.gov.au** and a log book will be sent to you.

The personal details you provide will remain confidential. Thank you for your support.

Happy fishing!



## 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.

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## Contact us

1300 374 731 (1300 DPIRD1)

enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au

For an up-to-date list of office locations visit  
[fish.wa.gov.au/locations](http://fish.wa.gov.au/locations)

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