

**A STRATEGY FOR MANAGING
THE RECREATIONAL CATCH OF
DEMERSAL SCALEFISH IN THE
WEST COAST BIOREGION
DECISIONS BY THE MINISTER FOR FISHERIES**

The Honourable Jon Ford, JP MLC
Minister for Employment Protection; Regional Development; Fisheries;
the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PAPER NO. 231

Published by
Department of Fisheries
168 St. Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

June 2008
ISSN 0819-4327



Department of
Fisheries

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A complete list of Fisheries Management Papers is
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FOREWORD

Recently completed research has revealed that both dhufish and pink snapper are being overfished throughout their geographic range on the west coast and that baldchin groper are being overfished at the Abrolhos Islands.

Furthermore, if breeding stocks continue to decline, these fish stocks may be reduced to the extent that there are not enough mature fish available to take advantage of favourable environmental conditions for spawning and successful recruitment when they occur. We must take corrective action now or risk seeing the collapse of these iconic fish stocks in the near future.

It is important to note that the current status of dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper stocks is likely to be indicative of the status of stocks of other commonly encountered demersal or “bottom dwelling” species such as breaksea cod and red snapper (bight redfish).

The underlying message from this research is that the total catch by all sectors of these iconic demersal fish in the West Coast Bioregion (north of Kalbarri to east of Augusta – Appendix A) must be reduced by at least 50 per cent as soon as possible.

The following recreational fisheries management package is a result of an extensive public consultation process. The package has been carefully developed to deliver the required reduction in catches. It is important to understand that each management measure contributes to the reduction in catches necessary to give these stocks a chance to rebuild and that no measure on its own will deliver the required reduction in catch.

To ensure the ongoing recovery of stocks, an adaptive approach to management has been adopted. This approach will involve an ongoing review of the effectiveness of these management arrangements, and take into account the latest research information.

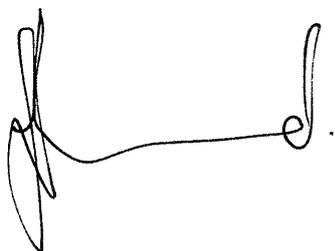
The WA Government has committed \$5.3 million in additional research funds over the next four years to continue to monitor stocks and evaluate the effectiveness of this recreational fishing management package in conjunction with the new commercial fishing arrangements. An additional \$7.8 million has also been committed to education and compliance for marine finfish fisheries in the West Coast Bioregion over the same period.

In dealing with the current sustainability issues facing this fishery it is important to manage the impacts of all sectors. In addition to the recreational management arrangements outlined in this paper, significant management measures have already been introduced for the commercial sector. This has involved bringing the commercial wetline fishery within a management plan and establishing a closure to commercial line and net fishing in the Metropolitan area (from Lancelin in the north to Mandurah in the south).

A review of the management arrangements for the charter fishing industry will also commence later this year with a view to bringing the sector under a formal management plan in 2009. In the interim, while the majority of the decisions outlined in this package will apply to the charter sector I am currently considering a case for separate management measures aimed at delivering the necessary reductions in catch while maintaining a viable charter industry.

It is important to note the changes to recreational fishing outlined in this package will not apply to people fishing for the common fish species caught from beaches, jetties or groynes. Nor will any changes apply to people fishing from boats for species such as squid, whiting, skippy or significantly impact on people fishing for “pelagic” fish such as Spanish mackerel and tuna.

I believe the package of changes detailed in this document, which will only apply to the West Coast Bioregion and come into effect on 15 October 2008, will be the best way to achieve sustainability of our vulnerable iconic fish species while also allowing an enjoyable fishing experience to continue for Western Australians.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke ending in a small circle.

**The Honourable Jon Ford, JP MLC
Minister for Employment Protection; Regional Development;
Fisheries; the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne**

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Community consultation on future management of the recreational sector's share of the catch of key demersal species on the west coast commenced in September 2007 with the release of Fisheries Management Paper 225 (FMP225) "*Managing the Recreational Catch of Demersal Scalefish on the West Coast; Future Management Scenarios for Community Consideration*" for an eight week public comment period.

During the public comment period, the Department of Fisheries held six public meetings at regional centres including; Geraldton, Hillarys, Fremantle, Mandurah, Bunbury and Busselton, to promote community awareness of the review process and the sustainability issues facing the fishery. Public comment was sought on a range of fisheries management tools that could be used to deliver the required reduction in catches of key indicator species in the West Coast Bioregion. Following community requests, further meetings were also held in Collie and Margaret River early in 2008. The meetings were attended by approximately 620 people in total.

Valuable feedback and comments were received at these public meetings, and through 138 written submission received by the Department. Submissions clearly indicated that people agreed there is a sustainability problem with key demersal finfish on the West Coast and a new approach is required to manage the recreational catch.

On 28 March 2008, following consideration of feedback received on FMP225, the Minister for Fisheries released Fisheries Management Paper 228 (FMP228) "*A Strategy for Managing the Recreational Catch of Demersal Scalefish in the West Coast Bioregion*", which provided an overview of the public response to date and presented options for management.

A ministerial position paper - "*Recommended changes to recreational fishing of vulnerable iconic fish in the West Coast Bioregion*" – which recommended 11 changes to fisheries regulations and policy to achieve the required management outcomes and reduce the recreational catch of demersal species was released at the same time for public comment.

The public comment period concluded on 7 May 2008.

Over 1350 submissions were received from individuals, representative groups and associations in response to the ministerial position paper. The Minister also met with representatives from key stakeholder groups to provide them with further opportunity for comment and discussion.

Following consideration of the concerns and constructive comments received, the Minister for Fisheries has now made a series of decisions on changes to management of the recreational sector's share of the catch of demersal scalefish in the West Coast Bioregion.

To aid in the understanding and awareness of the new management arrangements, an extensive community education program will be undertaken in the months leading up and following the implementation date of 15 October 2008.

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

These management changes will apply to recreational fishing the West Coast Bioregion only, and are planned to take effect in October 2008. Refer to Appendix B for the current bag and size limits for the west coast.

Bag limits

The proposal to reduce the mixed daily bag limit of Category 1 “high risk” fish from seven to four received a high level of support in public submissions (71 per cent). Many submissions received (including a number of those not supporting the recommendation) suggested splitting Category 1 “high risk” fish so that the reduced mixed daily bag limit of four fish only apply to the “vulnerable five” species (dhufish, pink snapper, baldchin groper, breaksea cod and red snapper/bight redfish).

Due to the multi-species nature of the fishery, to avoid confusion, and keep the regulations as simple as possible, the Minister did not support the “splitting” of the mixed daily bag limit for Category 1 Fish into the “vulnerable five” and other species.

The new daily bag limit of four Category 1 “high risk” fish species still represents a good day’s catch that should meet the expectations of the majority of recreational fishers. This change will also be consistent with the daily bag limit of four Category 1 fish which was recently introduced for the clients of licensed fishing tour operators operating throughout WA.

The proposed reduction in the daily bag limit for pink snapper from four to two also received a high level of support in submissions (90 per cent). Considering the capacity for this proposal to help reduce the catch of pink snapper and the strong community support, this proposal was endorsed by the Minister.

Decision 1: Reduced mixed bag limit for category 1 fish – 4 per person per day

The individual mixed daily bag limit for Category 1 “high risk” fish is reduced from seven to four fish in the West Coast Bioregion.

Decision 2: Reduced species bag limit for pink snapper – 2 per person per day

The daily bag limit for pink snapper is reduced from four to two in the West Coast Bioregion.

Size limits

The proposed increase in the minimum legal size for pink snapper for both recreational and commercial fishers received strong support in submissions (78 per cent).

Closer examination of the nature of the commercial fishery in the Midwest and Kalbarri zones indicates that an increase in the legal minimum size could result in a significant level of mortality for released fish. Most of the commercial catches occur in water greater than 90m depth where mortality issues associated with barotrauma exist for released fish that have been caught on commercial gear. This could negate any benefits of the increased size limit within this region.

Significant reductions have already been achieved in the commercial catch of pink snapper, and further commercial management changes will be implemented early next year. Protection is already in place for spawning aggregations of pink snapper in Cockburn Sound.

Consequently the Minister has approved an increase in the minimum legal size for pink snapper south of Lancelin only. This change will only apply in the southern area of West Coast Bioregion.

Further consideration may be given to increasing the minimum legal size for pink snapper north of Lancelin in the future, depending on further assessment of the impacts of the commercial sector.

To assist all fishers in adjusting to the change, the new minimum legal size will be phased in over the next two years, with an initial increase from 41cm to 45cm in October 2008 and then from 45cm to 50cm in 2010.

Decision 3: Increased minimum legal size for pink snapper south of Lancelin

South of Lancelin, the minimum legal size for pink snapper will be increased from 41cm to 45cm in October 2008 and then from 45cm to 50cm in 2010.

Boat limits

The proposal to have a boat limit of eight Category 1 fish on recreational boats and a bag limit of two Category 1 fish for the clients of boat-based licensed fishing tour operators received good support in submissions (63 per cent).

A significant number of submissions supported changes to licensed fishing tour boat bag limits, but did not support the “fixed” recreational boat limit.

Under the original proposal in the Ministerial Position Paper, 12 fishers on a “club” or private recreational vessel would only be able to take eight Category 1 fish, but if the same 12 fishers go on a licensed fishing tour they could take 24 Category 1 fish.

In recognition of the desire for equity between fishers fishing from licensed fishing tours, private and club boats, the Minister has approved a “sliding scale” boat limit that applies the same rules equally to all sectors.

Decision 4: Boat limit of 8 for Category 1 “high risk” fish

A boat limit of two daily bag limits for Category 1 “high risk” fish will be introduced (i.e. eight Category 1 fish) for the West Coast Bioregion. Where five or more fishers are on board a recreational boat or licensed fishing tour, an additional two Category 1 “high risk” fish per person (over and above the boat limit) is permitted for the fifth and additional fishers.

Seasonal fishing restrictions

The proposal to prohibit the catch of the five “vulnerable” species (dhufish, pink snapper, baldchin groper, breaksea cod and red snapper/bight redfish) from 15 October – 25 December and then from 1 February – 31 March in the West Coast Bioregion each year received a low level of support in submissions (25 per cent).

However, of those responses that disagreed with the proposal, 27 per cent provided alternative suggestions on the timing and duration of the closure. The principal suggestions were for a three-month closure only and for a closure period from 1 November to 31 January.

The Minister considers that a seasonal restriction for these key species is the most appropriate primary tool to deliver the required reductions in catches and give stocks a chance to rebuild.

In order to achieve the necessary reduction in catches he has approved a staged implementation of a seasonal fishing restriction for the five key species over three years.

The restriction will apply as follows:

- In 2008 - 15 October to 25 December.
- In 2009/10 - expanded from 15 October to 31 January.
- In 2010/11 - expanded from 1 October to 31 January, ultimately coinciding with the pink snapper seasonal restriction in Cockburn Sound.

While the initial seasonal restriction coupled with the additional measures outlined in this package will begin to deliver immediate catch savings, the expanded seasonal restriction (1 October to 31 January) is necessary to reduce catches by at least 50 per cent. The Minister has approved this staged approach in recognition that people may have already booked fishing holidays during the upcoming October and January school holiday periods.

Concerns were also raised in public submissions regarding the impact of only protecting the “vulnerable 5” species during the seasonal restriction due to the multi-species nature of the fishery and concerns regarding the impact of barotrauma. While the seasonal restriction will only apply to the “vulnerable 5” species at this stage, the effectiveness of this restriction will be closely monitored during the initial seasonal restriction period and consideration will be given to adjusting this list of species in subsequent years.

It is important to note that the seasonal restriction will not affect beach fishing or boat fishing for species such as squid, whiting, herring, skippy, salmon, tailor or significantly impact on fishing for “pelagic” species such as Spanish mackerel and tuna. This will allow recreational fishers to still go fishing and still catch a wide range of species.

In order to deliver the necessary catch reductions from licensed fishing tour operators while providing a flexible framework to maintain a viable industry, the Minister is considering a “days fished” management regime for operators in the West Coast Bioregion.

Under this scenario, catches from fishing tours could be managed by limiting the number of days that operators could fish each year rather than reducing catches through a seasonal restriction. An announcement of the Minister’s final decision on these matters will be made in the near future following further consultation with representatives from the fishing tour industry.

Decision 5: Seasonal Restriction for ‘vulnerable 5’ demersal scalefish

A seasonal restriction will apply from;

- 15 October – 25 December in 2008/09,
- 15 October – 31 January in 2009/10, and
- 1 October – 31 January from 2010/11 onwards.

The seasonal restriction will prohibit the take, landing and possession of the “vulnerable 5” species; dhufish, pink snapper, baldchin groper, breaksea cod and red snapper/bight redfish. The effectiveness of this restriction will be closely monitored and consideration will be given to adjusting this list of species in subsequent years.

Gear Restrictions

Spearfishing on compressed air

The proposal to prohibit spearfishing of Category 1 “high risk” fish on compressed air in the West Coast Bioregion received 51 per cent support in submissions. Comments received were “polarised” and either strongly in favour, or strongly opposed to the proposal.

The Minister remains concerned that some demersal species are highly vulnerable to spearfishing. However in consideration of the comments put forward in submissions and further discussions with diving representatives he has decided to allow spearfishing on compressed air to continue in a reduced capacity. To provide increased protection for vulnerable species a reduced daily bag limit of one Category 1 fish for divers spearfishing on compressed air will apply.

Decision 6A: Daily bag limit of one Category 1 fish for spearfishing on compressed air

A daily bag limit of one Category 1 fish will apply to spearfishing on compressed air in the West Coast Bioregion.

Power-assisted fishing reels

To provide additional protection for deep-water species it was recommended that the use of power-assisted fishing reels (e.g. electric fishing reels etc) by recreational fishers be prohibited in the West Coast Bioregion, with exemptions provided for fishers with disabilities. A significant number of submissions supported this recommendation (74 per cent). Due to the strong community support and the need to protect deep-water species such as grey-banded cod and hapuku (which are slow growing and low in abundance) the Minister has approved this proposal.

Decision 6B: Use of power-assisted fishing reels

The use of power-assisted fishing reels (e.g. electric fishing reels etc) by recreational fishers be prohibited in the West Coast Bioregion (exemptions will be provided for fishers with disabilities).

Fishing competitions

The proposal to initiate discussion with fishing clubs to discourage public fishing competitions in the West Coast Bioregion from including high risk demersal species such as dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper in prize categories received a good level of support in submissions (64 per cent). Of those that disagreed a significant number called for the prohibition of any fishing competition that targets at risk demersal fish. In the interests of limiting the impact of public competitions on vulnerable demersal species, the Minister has decided to proceed with the original proposal.

Decision 7: Discourage fishing competitions from targeting Category 1 fish

Initiate discussion with fishing clubs to discourage public fishing competitions in the West Coast Bioregion from including high risk species such as dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper in prize categories.

Abrolhos Islands

The proposal that the finfish possession limit within the Abrolhos Islands Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Area be reduced to 10kg of fillets or 1 day's bag limit of whole fish per person received a high level of support in submissions (81 per cent).

The Abrolhos Islands is recognised for its high conservation value. In the longer term the Minister has endorsed a proposal to start discussions with stakeholders to evaluate the appropriateness of managing the Abrolhos Islands as a “no takeaway” or “Wilderness Fishing Area”.

Decision 8: Reduced possession limit at Abrolhos Islands

The finfish possession limit within the Abrolhos Islands Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Area is reduced to 10kg of fillets or 1 day's bag limit of whole fish per person – this possession limit can be transported back to the mainland. The possession limit to remain in place for at least two years while a review to assess the option of managing the Abrolhos Islands as a wilderness “no take away” fishing area is undertaken.

Note: Under this decision the current interim prohibition to the take of baldchin groper at the Abrolhos Islands will be lifted. However, the annual spawning closure (1 November to 31 January) will remain.

Voluntary Logbooks

The proposal to establish a voluntary catch recording/logbook program received strong support in submissions (86 per cent). Feedback from submissions and stakeholders indicated a strong desire from recreational fishers to be involved in fisheries research programs.

To assist in providing more accurate and cost effective information on recreational catch and effort, the Minister has decided in the first instance to establish a voluntary logbook program for recreational fishers who wish to target Category 1 “demersal” fish. The voluntary logbook program will provide valuable information from anglers targeting vulnerable species, particularly dhufish, pink snapper, baldchin groper, breaksea cod and red snapper.

If participation in the voluntary logbook program is found to be insufficient to meet research requirements, consideration will be given to introducing a compulsory logbook program in the future.

Decision 9: Voluntary logbook program for Category 1 fish

A voluntary logbook program is established for Category 1 demersal fish in the West Coast Bioregion to provide additional catch and effort information. Consideration will be given to introducing a compulsory logbook program in the future if participation in the voluntary program is found to be insufficient to meet research requirements.

Recreational Fishing Trust Fund

The proposal to establish a recreational fishing trust fund received strong support in submissions (82 per cent). The Minister has endorsed this proposal based on the strong community support. The Fund is to be overseen by a committee consisting of key stakeholders from the recreational fishing sector, with the function of providing advice on recreational fishing funding priorities.

Decision 10: Establishment of a Recreational Fishing Trust Fund

A Recreational Fishing Trust Fund will be established with business rules to enable the recreational sector to have meaningful input into determining recreational fishing expenditure priorities. The Trust is to be overseen by a committee consisting of key stakeholders from the recreational fishing sector.

Fish Reserves

The proposal to undertake further research to investigate the appropriateness of establishing large scale fish reserves received 57 per cent support in submissions. Comments raised in submissions included concerns over the justification, location and size of any spatial closure.

There are several research projects currently underway which will provide additional information and help determine the appropriateness of introducing large-scale fish reserves in the West Coast Bioregion as an additional strategy to reduce fishing effort and protect the spawning stock.

These projects include the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funded project *“Managing and Monitoring of Fish Spawning Aggregations within the West Coast Bioregion of Western Australia”* and the Western Australian Marine Science Institute (WAMSI) funded project *“Implications of Mobility and Stock Structure of Species for Management Approaches”*.

These research projects are funded separately from the \$5.3 million research project funded by the WA Government that will provide catch monitoring (creel survey) and biological sampling to gauge the effectiveness of the management arrangements and the stock recovery of key demersal fish in the West Coast Bioregion.

The data gathered from this research coupled with the FRDC and WAMSI studies will provide information on the stock structure and egg/larval distribution for species such as dhufish and pink snapper. This information is vital in determining if and where spatial closures could be used, and will help to guide further consultation regarding this issue.

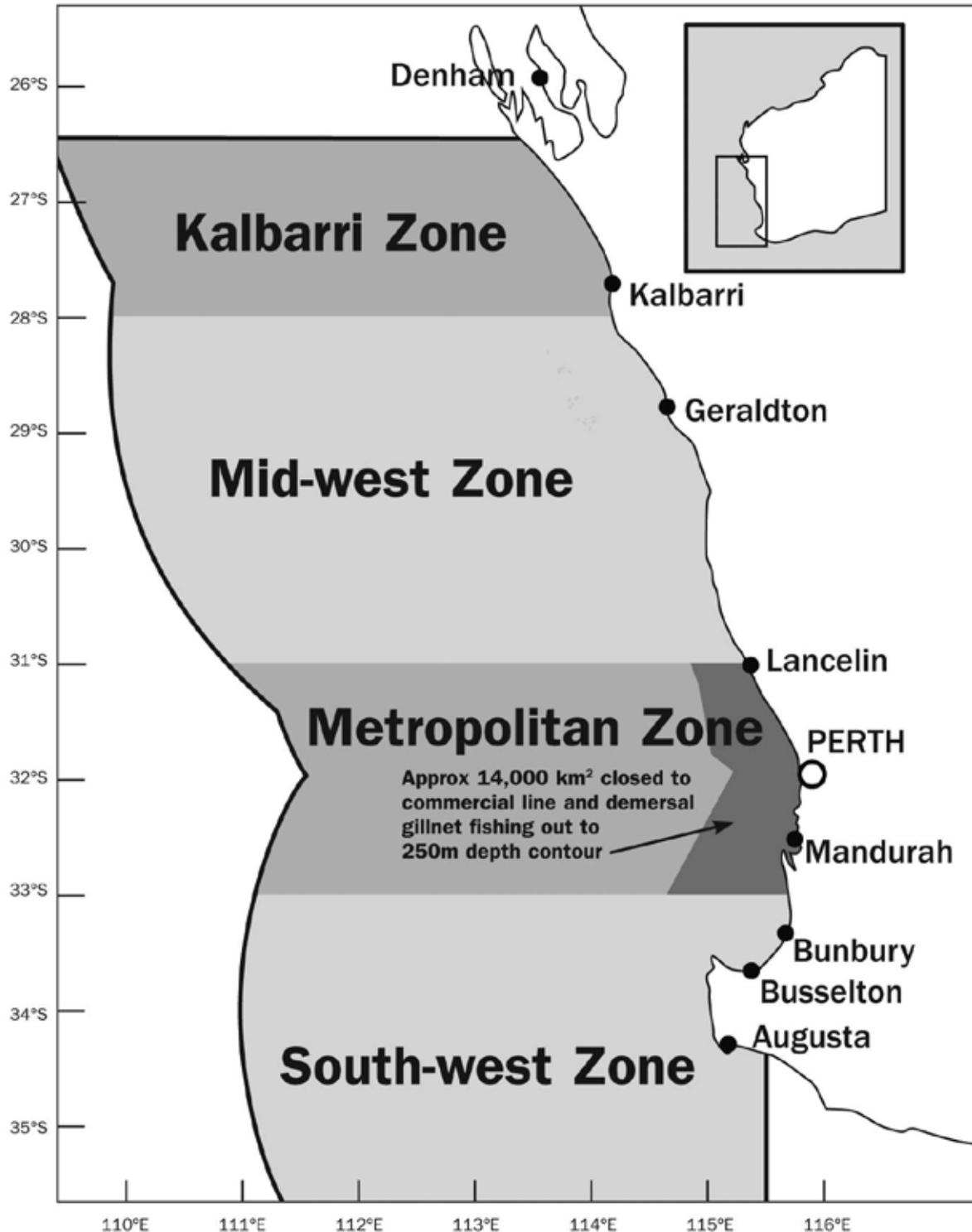
Decision 11: Further research the appropriateness of large scale fish reserves

Further research be undertaken to investigate the appropriateness of introducing large scale fish reserves or closed areas to provide protection for large numbers of fish or over an area, which is particularly important to spawning.

APPENDIX A

Map of the West Coast Bioregion

The West Coast Bioregion is located between Zuytdorp Cliffs, north of Kalbarri, and Black Point, near Augusta. The changes to the management of recreational fishing of vulnerable iconic fish, as detailed in this document, only apply to this West Coast Bioregion.

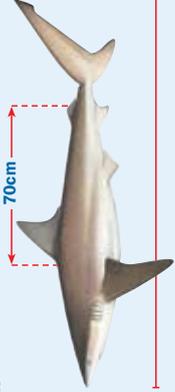


Current bag and size limits for fish on the west coast

WEST COAST BAG AND SIZE LIMITS			
MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS AND THE PROHIBITION ON THE TAKE OF PROTECTED SPECIES APPLIES TO BOTH COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHERS.			
CATEGORY ONE - HIGHEST RISK			
SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	MINIMUM LEGAL SIZE	BAG LIMIT
Barracuda	<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	N/A	2
Bilfish (salfish, swordfish, marlins)	Families Istiophoridae and Xiphiidae	N/A	1
Cobbler	<i>Cnidogobius macrocephalus</i>	430mm	4 (Swan-Canning closed to cobbler fishing.)
Cobia	<i>Rachycentron canadus</i>	750mm	2
Coral trout and coronation trout - combined	<i>Plectropomus</i> spp. and <i>Variola louti</i>	Coral - 450mm	1
Cods - combined. (inc. breaksea and harequin) Note: within this bag limit you may not take more than two estuary or Rankin cod combined.	Family Serranidae	<i>Ephiphelus</i> sp. over 1,000mm or 30kg are protected. Breaksea - 300mm Estuary - 400mm	4
Dhufish, Western Australian	<i>Glaucosoma hebraiacum</i>	500mm	2
Emperors - combined (Nor' west snapper)	Family Lethrinidae	Spangled - 410mm Blue-lined (black snapper) - 320mm Others - 280mm	4
Groper, baldchin and tuskfish - combined	<i>Choerodon</i> spp.	Baldchin, blackspot & blue tuskfish - 400mm	4
Groper, western blue	<i>Achoerodus gouldii</i>	500mm	1
Hapuku/bass groper/trevella and grey banded rock cod - combined	<i>Polyprion</i> spp., Family Centrolophidae and <i>Ephiphelus octofasciatus</i>	<i>Ephiphelus</i> sp. over 1,000mm or 30kg are protected	2
Mackerel - shark	<i>Grammatocynus bicarinatus</i>	500mm	2
Mackerel - Spanish, narrow-barred and broad-barred (grey) - combined	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i> and <i>S. semifasciatus</i>	Narrow-barred - 900mm Grey - 750mm	2
Mackerel - wahoo	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	900mm	2
Mahi mahi (dolphinfish)	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	500mm	2
Mulloway	<i>Argyrosomus hololepidotus</i>	500mm	2

WEST COAST BAG AND SIZE LIMITS			
CATEGORY ONE - HIGHEST RISK (CONTINUED)			
SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	MINIMUM LEGAL SIZE	BAG LIMIT
Red snapper - bight redfish, rainygal and swallowtail - combined	<i>Centroberyx</i> spp.	300mm	4
Parrot fish - combined	Family Scaridae	N/A	4
Pink snapper	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	410mm	4 (Only 1 fish over 700mm from 'metropolitan waters' - Cape Bouvard to Two Rocks.)
Queen snapper (blue morwong)	<i>Nemadactylus valenciennesi</i>	410mm	4
Red emperor	<i>Lutjanus sebae</i>	410mm	2
Salmon, Australian	<i>Aripis truttaceus</i>	300mm	4
Samson fish/amberjack/yellowtail kingfish - combined	<i>Seriola</i> spp.	600mm	2
Sharks and rays - combined	Class Chondrichthyes	Whalers over 700mm interdorsal fin length are protected	2
Trevally, giant and golden - combined	<i>Caranx ignobilis</i> , <i>Gnathodon speciosus</i>	N/A	2
Tropical snappers and sea perch (mangrove jack, fingermark, job fish, stripie sea perch etc.) - combined	Family Lutjanidae	Fingermark, mangrove jack and stripie sea perch - 300mm	2
Trout, brown and rainbow* - combined	<i>Salmo trutta</i> and <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	300mm	4
Tuna - southern bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye - combined	<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i> , <i>T. albacares</i> and <i>T. obesus</i>	N/A	2

WHALER SHARKS UNDER THREAT
Maximum Size Limit For Whaler Sharks



The Minister for Fisheries has approved the introduction of a maximum size for whaler sharks. Whalers live for well over 30 years, mature at 16 years or older and have only a few pups every second year. The maximum size of 70cm will be measured from the front of the large dorsal fin to the back of the small (rear) dorsal fin. This equates to a shark about 1.8m total length, 10 years old and 30 kilograms in weight. Sharks older than this often also have high concentrations of mercury in their flesh.

Equates to approximately 1.8 metres in total length, 10 years old and 30 kilograms in weight.

* Licence required - see separate brochure for details of additional fishing rules.

* There are new changes to fishing rules for species shown in shaded areas of table.

WEST COAST BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

CATEGORY TWO - MEDIUM RISK

MIXED DAILY BAG LIMIT - 16 PER ANGLER

Species generally mature at two to three years, are of moderate abundance, are highly targeted and often use estuarine and inshore habitats extensively.

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	MINIMUM LEGAL SIZE	BAG LIMIT
Bonito – leaping and oriental, and other tunas – combined	Family Scombridae	N/A	8
Bream – black, north-west and yellowfin – combined	Acanthopagrus spp.	250mm Yellowfin – 350mm	4 (Only 2 black bream over 400mm in the Swan-Canning, No filleting in Swan-Canning rivers.)
Flathead and flounder - combined	Family Platycephalidae and Pseudorhombus spp.	Flathead – 300mm Flounder – 250mm	8
Goatfish	Family Mullidae	N/A	8
Leatherjacket	Family Monacanthidae	250mm	8
Snook and pike - combined	Sphyræna spp. & Dinolestes spp.	300mm	8
Tailor	Pomatomus saltatrix	300mm	8 (Only 2 fish over 600mm. No filleting at sea.)
Tarwhine	Rhabdosargus sarba	250mm	16
Trevallies – silver (skippy), diamond, etc. – combined	Family Carangidae	Skipjack – 250mm	8
Whiting, King George	Sillaginodes punctata	280mm	8
Whiting, yellowfin	Sillago schomburgkii	N/A	16



Limit your catch - don't catch your limit

WEST COAST BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

CATEGORY THREE - LOW RISK

MIXED DAILY BAG LIMIT - 40 PER ANGLER

Species generally mature at one to two years, are of high abundance, distributed widely and generally pelagic. Species not listed have little known about their biology or abundance and are generally not targeted by anglers.

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	BAG LIMIT
Australian herring	Aripis georgianus	
Dart	Trachinotus spp.	
Garfish	Family Hemiramphidae	
Longtom	Family Belontiidae	
Mackerel, blue (common)	Scomber australasicus	
Milkfish	Chanos chanos	
Mullet, sea and yelloweye – combined	Family Mugilidae	
Whiting, sand and school	Sillago spp.	
All other unlisted species of fish		

YOU CAN ONLY TAKE A COMBINED MAXIMUM OF 40 CATEGORY THREE FISH. NO SIZE LIMITS APPLY.

Species with no bag limit: Baitfish (Families Atherinidae, Clupeidae and Engraulidae - pilchards, scaly mackerel, whitebait, anchovies and hardyheads) and feral freshwater species including carp, tilapia, goldfish and redbin perch have no bag limit.



Recreational Fishing in the West Coast

WEST COAST BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

CRUSTACEANS AND SHELLFISH

Species are often sedentary or resident in nature, but may have pelagic or migratory phases in their life cycle, with larvae or eggs widely distributed by ocean currents. Specific regulations apply to each species, based on biological characteristics. Low catch limits apply to shellfish due to the high risk of localised depletion.

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	MINIMUM LEGAL SIZE	BAG LIMIT	BOAT LIMIT#
CRUSTACEANS				
Crab, blue swimmer (mamma)	<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>	12.7mm (carapace)	10	20
Crab, mud – all species combined	<i>Squilla</i> spp.	Green – 150mm Brown – 120mm (carapace)	5	10
Freshwater crayfish other than marron	<i>Cherax</i> spp. other than <i>C. tenuimanus</i>	N/A	40	N/A
Prawns, school and king	Family Penaeidae	N/A	9 litres	N/A
Rock lobster* – all species combined	<i>Paralurus</i> and <i>Jasus</i> spp.	*	8	16
Marron*	<i>Cherax tenuimanus</i>	*	*	N/A

MOLLUSCS AND OTHER REEF ANIMALS

Abalone, Roe's*	<i>Haliotis roei</i>	60mm	20	N/A
Abalone, greenlip and brownlip* – combined	<i>H. laevigata</i> and <i>H. conicopora</i>	140mm	5	10
Ark shells, cockles, pipis, venus clams and all other species of edible molluscs not specifically mentioned – combined	Families Arcidae, Cardidae, Donacidae and Veneridae	Trochus – 65mm	2 litres	N/A
Mussels	Family Mytilidae	N/A	9 litres	N/A
Oysters	Family Ostreidae	N/A	20	N/A
Razorfish	Family Pinnidae	N/A	20	N/A
Scallops	Family Pectinidae	N/A	20	N/A
Sea urchins (closed season)	Class Echinoidea	N/A	20	N/A
Squid, cuttlefish and octopus – all species combined	Class Cephalopoda	N/A	15	30

There are new changes to fishing rules for species shown in shaded areas of table.

* Licence required – see separate brochure for details of additional fishing rules.

Only applies when two or more fishers aboard.

N/A – Not applicable.

WEST COAST BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

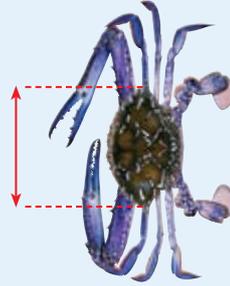
PROTECTED SPECIES

These species are totally protected and may not be taken

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Cobbler – Swan and Canning rivers only	<i>Cnidogobius macrocephalus</i>
Coral	Order Scleractinia
Sawfish – all species	Family Pristidae
Great white shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>
Grey nurse shark	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>
Humphead maori wrasse	<i>Cheilinus undulatus</i>
Leafy seadragon	<i>Phycodurus eques</i>
Potato cod	<i>Epinephelus tukula</i>
Queensland Groper	<i>Epinephelus lanceolatus</i>
Speartooth shark	<i>Glyphis</i> spp.
Whale shark	<i>Rhinocodon typus</i>

There are new changes to fishing rules for species shown in shaded areas of table.

MEASURE TIP TO TIP



MEASURE FISH FROM NOSE TO TIP OF TAIL



Fish should be measured in a 'natural' position, i.e. tail not distorted.