

CRABBING

FOR BLUE SWIMMER CRABS IN THE WEST COAST REGION

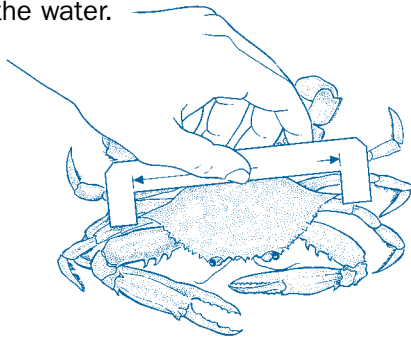
NEW Recreational Fishing From Boat Licence (RFBL)

If you are going to fish for crabs using a powered boat, at least one person on the boat will need a RFBL. You will also need a RFBL for any activity where fish, crabs or shellfish are taken where a powered boat is used to reach the fishing location. A RFBL can be obtained from the Department of Fisheries' website and offices and Australia Post outlets



Minimum Size

127 mm across the widest part of the shell. Return all undersize and berried (egg-carrying) crabs to the water.



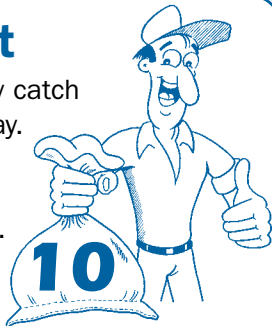
Boat Limit

A boat possession limit of 20 crabs applies to all vessels in general and there is a limit of 10 drop nets per boat. The boat limit applies regardless of the method of capture. However, if you are using a powered boat and only have one Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL) holder on-board you can only take up to 10 crabs (i.e. the daily bag limit for one person), whereas if you have two or more RFBL holders on-board the boat possession limit of 20 crabs applies.



Bag Limit

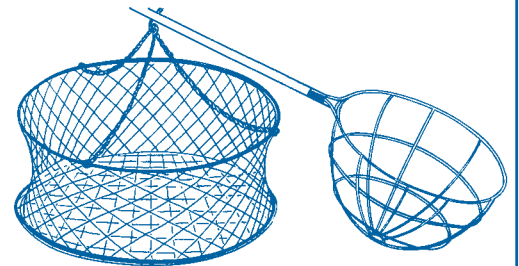
Each fisher may catch 10 crabs per day. You must not catch crabs for anyone else.



Gear

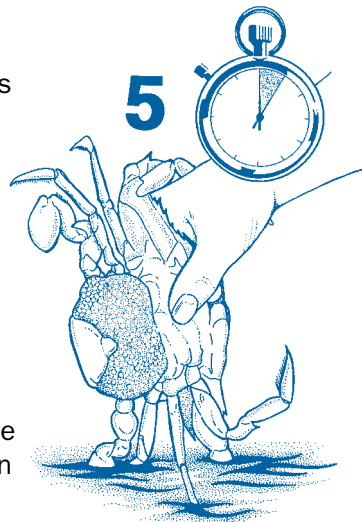
Only wire or plastic scoop nets, drop nets or hand-held blunt wire hooks may be used to catch crabs.

It is illegal to take crabs using fishing or prawning nets. Any crab caught accidentally this way must be released.



Quick Release

You must return unwanted crabs to the water within five minutes of catching them. Crabbers are required to release any undersize or spawning crabs caught in a drop net before pulling another. Remember that any mutilation of sea creatures is an offence (carrying a maximum fine of \$5,000 for an individual) so only take legal-size crabs and treat those you return to the water gently.



Closed Areas

Peel-Harvey Estuary – Closed season, 1 September to 31 October. The Peel-Harvey Estuary near Mandurah is closed to all crab fishing during this period.

Cockburn Sound – Closed season, 1 May to 14 December. Cockburn Sound is closed to all crab fishing during this period.

Department of Fisheries

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