

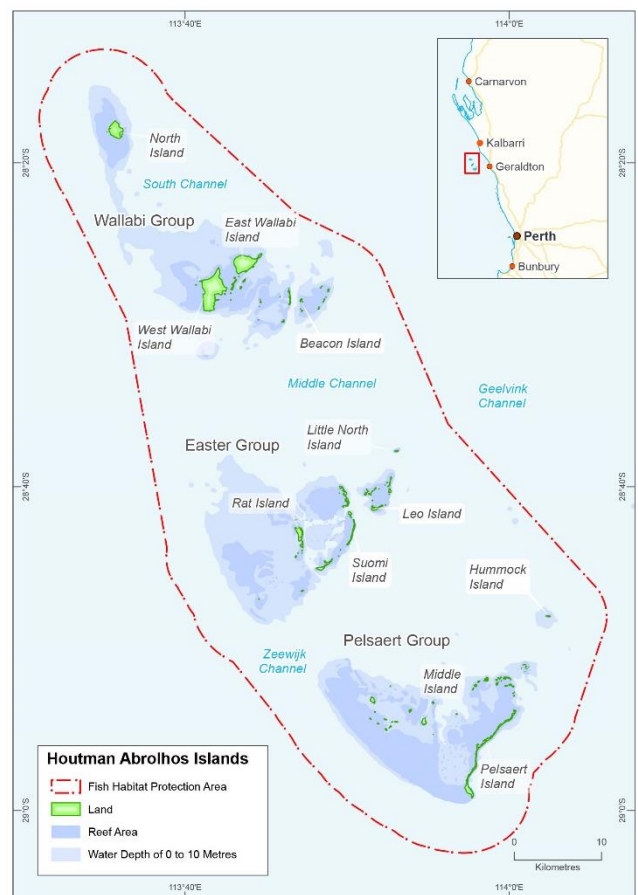
# Recreational finfish boat, bag and possession limits at the Abrolhos Islands explained.

New rules for recreational fishing for demersal scalefish at the Abrolhos Islands were introduced on 1 February 2023.

These rules are part of a package of new measures designed to provide greater protection of vulnerable demersal scalefish stocks in the West Coast Bioregion.

The following guide explains how the new boat, bag, and possession limit rules work in combination at the Abrolhos Islands and outlines the responsibilities of persons i) fishing for, or ii) in possession of, fish in all waters and land within the Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area (FHFA).

Please note that all visitors are required to [notify the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development](#) before entering the AIFHFA.



*Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area*

## Demersal Scalefish Boat Limit - 4

A boat limit of **four** demersal scalefish now applies throughout the entire West Coast Bioregion including the waters of the Abrolhos Islands FHFA. The boat limit is maximum quantity of demersal scalefish that may be on or attached to a boat at any one time regardless of when, or where the fish were caught, or who the fish belong to.

This means that no one on board the boat can catch and retain a demersal scalefish once the boat limit has been reached. If you're on a boat that's reached the demersal scalefish boat limit, it's time to 'switch you catch' to pelagic or near-shore species, or enjoy some of the other unique marine-based activities on offer at the Abrolhos Islands.

The master of a boat is responsible for ensuring that the total amount of demersal scalefish on the boat does not exceed the boat limit.

## Finfish Bag Limit

The daily bag limit is the maximum quantity of fish that a person may take in any 24-hour period commencing at midnight. You must hold a [Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence](#) (RFBL) to fish or to transport your catch or fishing gear to or from a land-based fishing location using a powered boat.

The following grouped species bag limit categories apply to all persons fishing for a recreational purpose in the Abrolhos Islands FHPA;

- one demersal scalefish (unless the boat limit has been reached); and
- three large pelagic finfish; and
- 16 nearshore/estuarine finfish; and
- 30 other species (e.g., herring and whiting); and
- 15 squid, cuttlefish and octopus (combined); and
- eight rock lobster ([recreational rock lobster licence](#) required).

Please note that individual species limits apply within each category. A full list of species within each bag limit category can be found in the [state-wide recreational fishing guide](#).

## Finfish Possession Limit

The finfish possession limit is the maximum quantity of finfish that a person may have in their control/ownership at any one time.

The following individual finfish possession limits apply to all persons onboard a boat or on an island within the Abrolhos Islands FHPA regardless of where or when the fish were caught;

- one day's bag limit of whole fish or fish trunks (see bag limits above); or
- five kilograms of fillets of any species (with skin attached), plus five kilograms of large pelagic finfish (with skin attached).

Heads, tails, wings, and backbones (frames) are not included as part of the fillet possession limit.

The general state-wide finfish possession limit applies once you have left the Abrolhos Islands FHPA and labelling requirements also apply in certain circumstances – refer to the [state-wide recreational fishing guide](#) for further details.

## Finfish in Filleted Form

For the purpose of determining the number of finfish subject to a bag or boat limit, when the fish are in filleted form, two fillets are considered to equal one whole fish. (i.e eight fillets = four finfish).

## Multiple Limits Apply

If multiple limits (bag, boat, or possession) apply to a fishing trip, a person(s) should only fish up to the lowest applicable limit. For example, if there are six licensed people on board a boat, the daily bag limit will allow for 6 demersal scalefish to be taken, however, the demersal boat limit is set a four demersal scalefish. The boat limit of four is taken to apply as it sets the lowest limit for demersal scalefish. See FAQs for further examples.

## FAQ's

**Q.** Four people on a boat catch their bag limit of one demersal scalefish each on the first day of their trip and fillet the fish. Can they catch their bag limit of demersal scalefish again the next day?

**A.** No, as the boat limit of four demersal scalefish has been reached, no more demersal scalefish can be on the boat.

Visitors are encouraged to enjoy a feed of fresh fish as part of their experience at the Abrolhos Islands, and if a demersal scalefish is consumed, another fish can be taken as long as no more than four demersal scalefish are on the boat at any time.

**Q.** What if I catch a large demersal scalefish that is likely to yield more than the individual finfish possession limit of five kilograms when filleted (i.e., a fish exceeding ~15 kilograms whole weight) while fishing in the Abrolhos Islands FHPA?

**A.** To stay within your individual finfish possession limit you can either;

- Keep the fish whole as part your possession limit of one day's bag limit; or
- Give a portion of fish (excess to the 5 kilograms) to another person to be counted as part of their possession limit.

**Q.** Can I catch fish outside the Abrolhos Islands and bring them into the Abrolhos Islands FHPA?

**A.** Yes, you can bring fish into the Abrolhos Islands FHPA. However, all fish in your physical possession count towards your possession limit for the Abrolhos Islands regardless of where or when they were caught.

### Important Disclaimer

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