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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
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South-west freshwater angling

Recreational fishing guide 2023



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.

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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 licence online at fish.wa.gov.au - click on the 'Fishing licence' button, follow the instructions and you will be redirected to DoTDirect. Or, application forms are available from select DPIRD offices and the 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 500mm) within 50m 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 300mm

Fish smaller than the minimum size must be gently returned to the water immediately. Use a clean wet rag to avoid injury, loss of scales and protective slime. If possible keep the fish in the water while removing hooks.

* 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.



Rainbow trout
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)



Brown trout
(*Salmo trutta*)

Through our Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre we annually stock south-west waterways with trout. You can find more information on the stocked waterways by going to 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 euthanased and disposed of. Report catches or sightings of aquatic pests, diseases and fish kills to **FishWatch**, through WA PestWatch via the free app, or our Biosecurity Branch on 1300 374 741 or email Aquatic.Biosecurity@dpiird.wa.gov.au

For more information about aquatic pests visit fish.wa.gov.au/freshwaterpestID

FishWatch

The FishWatch phone line, 1800 815 507 provides a quick and easy way of reporting sightings or evidence of:

- illegal fishing;
- aquatic pests and diseases; and
- fish kills.

You can also submit a report online to crimestopperswa.com.au/organization-report/fishwatch/