

## Rock flathead

*Platycephalus laevigatus*



### Distribution



Dense dark spots over yellow caudal fin, upper spine on gill cover longer than lower spine. Maximum length 810 mm.

## Western-Australian flathead

*Platycephalus orbitalis*



### Distribution



Caudal fin blackish, with a white rear margin and many blackish short bars continuous with middle blackish area. Maximum length 610 mm.

## Yellowtail flathead

*Platycephalus westraliae*



### Distribution



Caudal fin whitish, with bright yellow stripe on upper edge and 3 or 4 horizontal dark bars below. Maximum length 760 mm.

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# Commonly caught flatheads of southern Western Australia

## Identification guide

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Western Australian waters are home to many fishes of the order Platycephalidae, represented by 14 genera and 36 species. This guide highlights some key identifying features and provides species distribution maps (allowing for overlap) to better understand your catch. Often, differences in the tail fin (caudal fin) patterning are the best diagnostic evidence. Only those species which attain the current legal minimum size of 30 cm are detailed.

### Bartail flathead

*Platycephalus australis*



**Distribution** | Caudal fin with 2 or 3 horizontal blackish bars and a prominent yellow stripe in middle of fin, otherwise whitish; large dark blotch inside the gill cover. Maximum length 1,000 mm.



### Bigtooth flathead

*Platycephalus chauliodous*



**Distribution** | Reddish brown on upper body including caudal fin. Maximum length 470 mm.



### Fringe-eye flathead

*Cymbacephalus nematophthalmus*



**Distribution** | 7 to 8 dusky bands across back and sides, mottled fins, 'fringes' over eyes. Maximum length 580 mm.



### Longhead flathead

*Leviprora inops*



**Distribution** | Relatively long head, dark spots over caudal fin. Maximum length 655 mm.



### Longspine flathead

*Platycephalus grandispinis*



**Distribution** | Caudal fin upper half yellow, blackish lower half but without distinct dark blotches. Lower gill cover spine much longer than upper. Maximum length 380 mm.



### Northern sand flathead

*Platycephalus endrachtensis*



**Distribution** | Body with brown spots, 4 or more dark horizontal bars on caudal fin. Maximum length 620 mm.



### Southern bluespotted flathead

*Platycephalus speculator*



**Distribution** | Sparse blue spots on upper body, rear edge of caudal fin with 3 to 5 large, round, white-edged black spots, upper part of caudal fin with dusky brown blotches. Maximum length 900 mm.



### Southern sand flathead

*Platycephalus bassensis*



**Distribution** | Lower caudal fin has large, blackish blotches, upper with brownish blotches, lower spine on gill cover much larger than upper spine. Maximum length 550 mm.

