



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate

Net fishing

Recreational fishing guide 2024



A licence is required to use a haul, set or throw net in Western Australia.

Published August 2024

Illegal fish sales

It is illegal for recreational fishers to sell their catch. Illegal fish-selling operations pose a major threat to inshore fish stocks. Severe penalties (a fine, plus up to 10 times the value of the species) apply and all gear used in the operations may be confiscated.

If you are aware of illegal fishing or fish sales, please note details such as car/boat registration numbers and a description of offender(s), and call FISHWATCH or contact



the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

Important disclaimer

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Contents

1. Introduction	1
Types of netting allowed	2
Licensing.....	4
Open/closed areas.....	5
2. The rules	6
General rules for recreational set, haul and throw netting	6
Gear identification.....	6
Bag, size and possession limits	6
Prohibited and protected species	7
Use/carrying of nets.....	9
Specific rules for set netting	9
Setting nets in navigation channels/ near service jetties is banned.....	10
Setting nets.....	10
Attending/cleaning set nets	10
Specifications for set nets.....	10
General description of waters open/closed to set netting.....	12
Specific rules for haul netting	13
Use of haul nets.....	13
Securing haul nets.....	13
Specifications for haul nets.....	13
General description of waters open/closed to haul netting.....	14
Specific throw netting rules.....	14
Specifications for throw nets.....	15

General description of waters open/closed to throw netting.....	15
3. Waters open/closed to netting.....	16
Overview	16
North Coast Bioregion	18
Gascoyne Coast Bioregion	22
West Coast Bioregion	28
South Coast Bioregion.....	47
Information and penalties.....	60

1. Introduction

Recreational netting is considered by some fishers as a relaxing way to enjoy the outdoors while fishing.

Net fishing is the only way to catch certain species, such as mullet and baitfish, but if used inappropriately, nets can take high catches of non-target species and undersized fish.

For this reason, their use has been managed to minimise excessive catches and to ensure that fish stocks are protected. Net fishing has previously come under scrutiny, through regional recreational fishing reviews, due to concerns about bycatch levels and conflicts with other user groups.

As a result of these reviews, recreational haul and set netting is now **prohibited** in most waters of the North Coast Bioregion, and set netting is **prohibited** in all ocean waters of WA with the **exception** of the Gascoyne Coast Bioregion.

Also, to simplify the rules for set netting in inland waters of the South Coast Bioregion, the **permitted netting times** have been standardised.

Recreational net fishing is **only permitted** in WA's ocean and estuarine waters (those waters under the influence of tides) – not in fresh water. And most of WA's estuarine waters are closed to protect juvenile fish stocks. Details of those waters open to net fishing are given in Section 3 of this guide.

Netters, in general, must lift and clean their nets at least once an hour.

With growing fishing and environmental pressures, we need to manage our highly valued aquatic resources sustainably, to ensure there are fish for the future. You can play your part by sticking to the rules, which are based on extensive research and monitoring.

Types of netting allowed

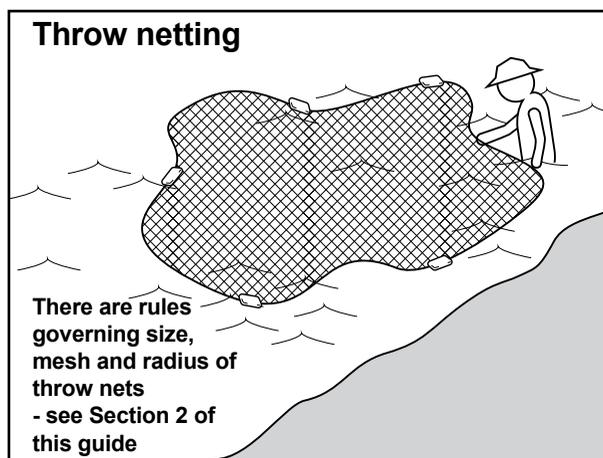
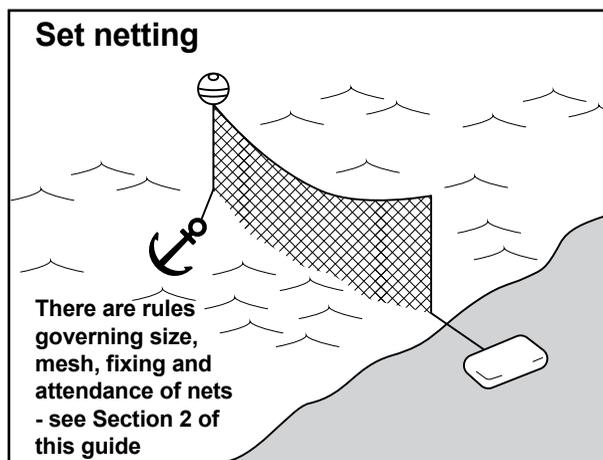
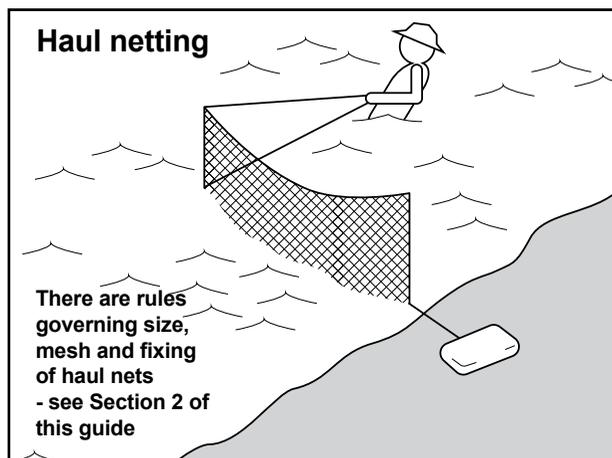
In WA, it's illegal for recreational fishers to use commercial netting methods, such as purse seine and trawling.

It is also illegal to use fishing traps of any kind in WA state waters.



You can only use these recreational net fishing methods:

- haul (drag) netting
- set (gill) netting
- throw (cast) netting.



Haul netting also referred to as 'drag' netting, is done only in ocean waters from a beach or a boat. A net of up to 60 m in length is 'shot' into the water to surround a group of fish then hauled in.

One end of the haul net may be fixed to the beach and a rope attached to the other end. Once in the water, the net is kept constantly moving towards the beach.

Set netting, where permitted, is done in estuaries or from beaches, where a net of up

to 60 m in length is firmly anchored at both ends in the outgoing/incoming tide. Set nets (also called 'gill' nets) are fixed in position and catch fish by 'gilling' them (the fish are held behind the gill plate as the head passes through).

Throw netting, also called 'cast' netting, is the throwing and slow retrieval of a small circular net with a radius of up to three metres. Protected and undersized fish must not be retained for use as bait.

Licensing

A recreational net fishing licence is required for haul (drag), set (gill) and throw (cast) netting.

A licence is not needed for crab drop/scoop netting or prawn netting (unless using a throw net). Refer to the Recreational fishing guide for further information on legal crab and prawn gear.

A Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL) is required if fishing from a powered boat or using one to transport your catch or fishing gear to or from a land-based fishing location.

Apply for a new licence or renew an existing licence online through the DPIRD website. Alternatively, application forms are available from select DPIRD offices and dpird.wa.gov.au website.

Note: Fishing licences issued in other states are not valid in WA.

Open/closed areas

There are general rules that apply to all three forms of recreational net fishing – set, haul and throw netting – such as daily bag limits and the restriction to use only one net at a time. However, due to the differing gear and techniques used, there are also rules specific to each individual type of recreational netting.

Most of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets, creeks, lakes and their entrances) are **closed** to netting. **Inland waters listed** in Section 3 of this guide are only those wholly or partially **open** to netting. Inland waters **not listed** in this guide are **totally closed** to netting.

Conversely, most of WA's coastal waters are open to netting. Coastal waters listed in Section 3 of this guide are only those wholly or partially closed to netting.

The maps in the guide are to help recreational net fishers with some of the boundaries of open/closed areas of water. They should not be used for navigational or legal purposes.

To find exact locations of boundary localities, it is suggested you obtain the appropriate map or chart from **Landgate** (landgate.wa.gov.au) or the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (dplh.wa.gov.au).

2. The rules

General rules for recreational set, haul and throw netting

There are some general rules for net fishing regarding gear restrictions, bag, size and possession limits and protected species. These rules are covered below.

Gear identification

Set (gill) and haul nets must have end floats of at least 15 cm in diameter, stamped or branded with the user's gear ID number. This must be displayed with letters and numbers at least 6 cm high and 1 cm wide. Gear ID numbers are not required on throw (cast) nets.

When you apply for a recreational net fishing licence you will be issued a gear identification number. Gear identification numbers are based on the first initial of both your given name and surname, and the month and year of your date of birth. For example, if Jenny Saltwater was born in November 1959, her gear identification number would be JS1159. If you are Aboriginal, you are not required to hold a recreational net fishing licence. To identify gear you should use the letter 'A' followed by your date of birth (i.e. if a person was born on 29 March 1959, then the gear identification number would be A290359).

Bag, size and possession limits

Where netting is permitted, the daily bag, size and possession limits of fish caught are the

same as for recreational angling. Full details are in the latest Statewide recreational fishing guide or on our website at fish.wa.gov.au/guide

Only those individuals who hold recreational netting licences may take fish (up to their daily bag limit) from the net.

Once all the netters who possess licences have each caught their daily bag limit, the net or nets must be removed from the water.

The daily bag limits for haul and throw (cast) net fishers apply for a 24-hour period from midnight to midnight.

The daily bag limit for set (gill) net fishers applies for a 24-hour period from midday to midday.

Any fish caught that are undersized or in excess of daily bag limits should be returned gently to the water immediately.

Prohibited and protected species

It is illegal for recreational net fishers to catch, or attempt to catch:

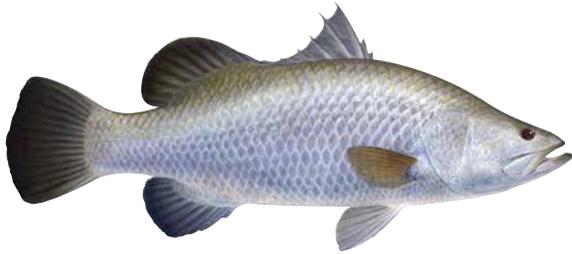
- Barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*)
- Blue swimmer crab (*Portunus armatus*, formerly *Portunus pelagicus*)
- Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)
- Freshwater cobbler (*Tandanus bostocki*)
- Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

Blue swimmer crabs may only be taken by hand, non-piercing wire hooks, wire scoop nets or drop nets.

All other species above may only be taken by using a single rod, reel and line, or hand line.

Any protected or prohibited species accidentally caught by net must be returned gently to the water immediately.

Barramundi. Net fishers may not catch, or attempt to catch, barramundi (below).



Blue swimmer crab (below).



Freshwater cobbler. No recreational netting is allowed for the freshwater cobbler (below) in WA's southern estuaries.



Rainbow trout (below) and brown trout are stocked in some dams and inland waters in WA's south-west. Net fishing for trout is prohibited.



Use/carrying of nets

A person holding a recreational netting licence may only use one net at a time.

While a boat may be used to assist in positioning a recreational set net or haul net, it must not be used to trawl these nets. Fishers on foot (walking on the beach/seabed) may drag a haul net.

Where permitted, set netting is only allowed up to 800 m seaward from the low water mark. Nets must be drawn carefully from the water, so as not to kill fish caught in them.

Take care if you are travelling on or near waters closed to netting – carrying a fishing net on closed waters, or on land adjacent to them, is prohibited except where specific permission has been granted by DPIRD.

Specific rules for set netting

In addition to the general rules for recreational net fishing, there are extra rules for set netting.

Setting nets in navigation channels/ near service jetties is banned

Under Department of Transport rules, setting fishing nets across channels used by boats is banned. You are also prohibited from setting nets that could prevent access to service jetties by boats (that is, setting nets from service jetties).

Setting nets

Using metal stakes, such as star pickets, for holding set nets in place is prohibited. Sandbags or anchors are recommended instead and must be immediately removed from the ocean/estuary floor when the net is taken from the water.

At all times, a set net must have one edge floating on the surface of the water (its float line/top edge). Sunken nets are extremely dangerous and are prohibited.

Setting a net within 50 m of another set net is not allowed.

Attending/cleaning set nets

When using a set net in most WA waters open to recreational netting, you are required to attend and remain within 100 m of your net.

Where you are required to attend your net, you must lift and clean your net every hour. For more information, check specific regional rules contained below for further details.

Specifications for set nets

All set nets must be made of material that is not less than 0.35 mm in diameter. This is equivalent to 6 kg monofilament line and

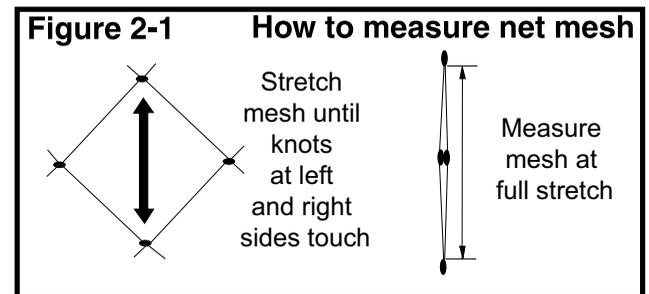
prevents the use of overly efficient 'mist nets'. The length of recreational set nets must not exceed 60 m in length, while the depth, or 'drop', of the nets must not exceed 25 meshes (25 mesh 'cells' from top to bottom of the net). There must be no bags or pockets in the net. You can roll up and securely tie off older-style nets, with deeper drops, at the 25-mesh mark, provided the extra meshes cannot capture fish. If you are using a set net in inland waters, its mesh size must not measure less than 63 mm or more than 87 mm.

Note: A minimum mesh size of 76 mm applies in the Beaufort Inlet and Pallinup River (refer to Section 3 page 47 of the guide).

Similarly, when a set net is to be used in ocean waters, its mesh size must not measure less than 75 mm or more than 114 mm.

A net mesh is measured by stretching it so that the two knots on the left-hand and right-hand sides of the mesh meet. The size of the mesh is then the distance between the inside of the knots at the top and bottom of the mesh (see Figure 2-1).

Fine mesh mist nets which use very fine monofilament material are strictly prohibited for net fishing.



General description of waters open/closed to set netting

Most of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets, creeks, lakes and their entrances) **are closed to set netting all year.**

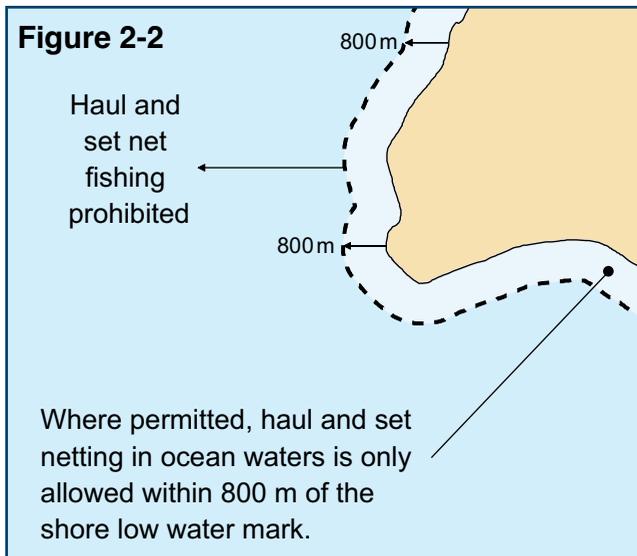
Inland waters open to set netting for all or part of the year are covered in Section 3 of this guide – if an inland water is not listed, it is closed.

All of WA's ocean waters in the North Coast, West Coast and South Coast bioregions are closed to set netting all year.

Set netting in ocean waters is only permitted in certain areas of the Gascoyne Coast Bioregion.

Where permitted, set netting in ocean waters is only allowed within 800 m of the shore low water mark (Figure 2-2). This is to help protect tailor and shark stocks.

Ocean waters closed to set netting for all or part of the year are covered in Section 3 of this guide.



Specific rules for haul netting

In addition to the general rules for recreational net fishing, there are extra rules for haul netting.

Use of haul nets

Haul nets may only be hauled by hand, not by boats or mechanical devices. They may be shot/retrieved from a boat as long they are not trawled.

Securing haul nets

The ropes used on a haul net should be a maximum of 25 m in length. This is to limit the capture area of a haul net.

Specifications for haul nets

All haul nets must be made of material that is not less than 0.35 mm in diameter. This specification is equivalent to 6 kg monofilament line and prevents the use of overly efficient 'mist nets'.

The length of recreational haul nets must not exceed 60 m in length, while the depth, or 'drop', of the nets must not exceed 25 meshes (i.e. 25 mesh 'cells' from top to bottom of the net). There must be no bags or pockets in the net.

You can roll up and securely tie off older-style nets with deeper drops at the 25 mesh mark, provided the extra meshes cannot capture fish.

The mesh size of a haul net must not measure less than 51 mm or more than 114 mm.

A net mesh is measured by stretching it so that the two knots on the left-hand and right-hand sides of the mesh meet. The size of the

mesh is then the distance between the inside of the knots at the top and bottom of the mesh (see Figure 2-1 on page 9).

Fine mesh mist nets and commercial trawling/dredging gear are strictly prohibited for haul net fishing. A smaller mesh size is permitted for haul nets than set nets because the techniques used allow the quick release of undersized or excess fish.

General description of waters open/closed to haul netting

All of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets, creeks, lakes and their entrances) **are closed to haul netting all year.**

In contrast, **most of WA's ocean waters are open to haul netting** with the exception of the North Coast Bioregion, where conditional haul netting is only permitted in Dampier Archipelago waters. Where permitted, haul netting in ocean waters is only allowed within 800 m of the shore low water mark (Figure 2-2 on page 12). Those ocean waters closed to haul netting for all or part of the year are described in Section 3 of this guide.

Specific throw netting rules

In addition to the general rules for recreational net fishing, there are extra rules for throw netting.

Specifications for throw nets

The radius of a throw net (from its central retrieval point to the lead line) must not exceed 3 m.

The mesh size of a throw net must not exceed 25 mm. A net mesh is measured by stretching it so that the two knots on the left-hand and right-hand sides of the mesh meet.

The size of the mesh is then the distance between the inside of the knots at the top and bottom of the mesh (see Figure 2-1 on page 11).

General description of waters open/closed to throw netting

Most of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets, creeks, lakes and their entrances) **are closed to throw netting all year.**

Inland waters open to throw netting for all or part of the year are covered in Section 3 of this guide – **if an inland water is not listed, it is closed.**

All of WA's ocean waters are open to throw netting, excluding:

- sanctuary zones in marine parks/reserves;
- total fishing exclusion zones
- any other area which is closed to all types of netting at all times.

Areas where restrictions apply to the use of throw nets – including restrictions on the take of certain species – are covered in Section 3 of this guide.

Prawns may be taken by throw net in areas where throw netting is permitted.

3. Waters open/ closed to netting

Overview

Recreational fishing is managed within four broad 'bioregions' (biological regions):

• North Coast

- ◆ Rowley Shoals
- ◆ Eighty Mile Beach
- ◆ Montebello/Barrow Islands
- ◆ Onslow

• Gascoyne Coast

- ◆ Exmouth
- ◆ Muiron
- ◆ Ningaloo
- ◆ Point Quobba
- ◆ Carnarvon
- ◆ Shark Bay

• West Coast

- ◆ Kalbarri
- ◆ Geraldton
- ◆ Abrolhos Islands
- ◆ Port Denison
- ◆ Jurien Bay
- ◆ Cervantes
- ◆ Lancelin
- ◆ Yanchep
- ◆ Marmion
- ◆ Scarborough
- ◆ City Beach
- ◆ Swanbourne to Fremantle (Cottesloe, North Mole, Rottnest Island, South Beach)
- ◆ Coogee Beach
- ◆ Garden Island
- ◆ Kwinana to Rockingham
- ◆ Cape Peron to Safety Bay
- ◆ Shoalwater
- ◆ Peel Harvey
- ◆ Mandurah - rivers
- ◆ Preston Beach
- ◆ Myalup Beach
- ◆ Binninup Beach
- ◆ Leschednault Estuary System
- ◆ Hungry Hollow
- ◆ Peppermint Grove
- ◆ Ngari Capes Marine Park
- ◆ Busselton Jetty
- ◆ Geographe Bay
- ◆ Dolphin Road to Siesta Park
- ◆ Dunsborough
- ◆ Yallingup
- ◆ Canal Rocks
- ◆ Cowaramup Bay
- ◆ Hardy Inlet

• South Coast

- ◆ Windy Harbour
- ◆ Broke Inlet
- ◆ Walpole and Nornalup
- ◆ Peaceful Bay
- ◆ Irwin Inlet
- ◆ Greens Pool
- ◆ Wilson Inlet
- ◆ Princess Royal Harbour
- ◆ Beaufort Inlet
- ◆ Wellstead Estuary
- ◆ Gordon Inlet
- ◆ Gairdner River
- ◆ Hamersley Inlet
- ◆ Mary Ann Point
- ◆ Stokes Inlet
- ◆ Esperance
- ◆ Thomas River
- ◆ Sanko Harvest Wreck



The regional boundaries are shown on the map (above). There are chapters devoted to each bioregion, covering both inland and coastal waters.

'Recreational netting', refers to haul, set and throw netting.

Most of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets and lakes) are closed to recreational netting.

Most of WA's ocean waters (waters directly off the coast) are open to netting, with the exception of the North West (Pilbara/Kimberley) region.

So for practical reasons:

- The **inland** waters listed in this section are those **open** to netting.
- The **ocean** waters listed are those **closed** to netting.

The open/closed waters listed in the following pages are **only** a guide and circumstances can change.

Note: Where permitted, recreational haul and set netting are only allowed within 800 m of the shore low tide mark – see page 12.

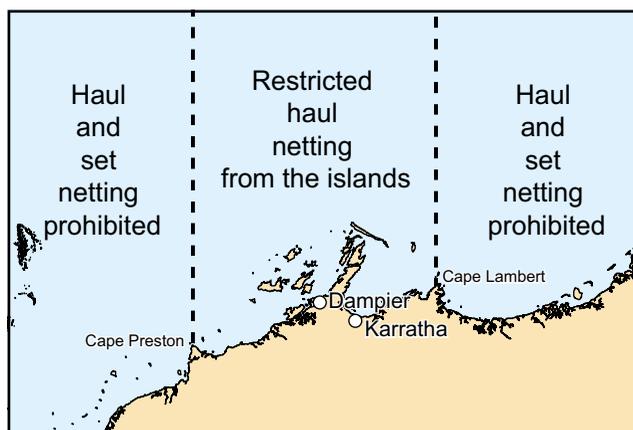
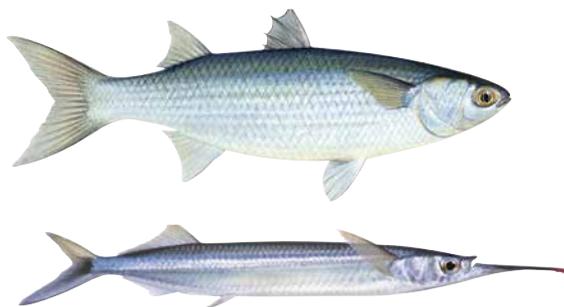
For the most up-to-date information, or if in doubt about any of the rules, contact your nearest DPIRD office or visit our website at dpiird.wa.gov.au

North Coast Bioregion

The North Coast Bioregion (Pilbara/Kimberley) includes all waters between the Northern Territory border and the Ashburton River, south of Onslow. (All WA waters north of 21°46' S and east of 114°50' E).

The following section lists all ocean and inland waters closed/open, respectively, to recreational netting, along with specific conditions and dates.

- **All North Coast Bioregion waters are closed to haul and set netting at all times**, with the exception of haul netting **from the islands** in waters of the Dampier Archipelago, with the following conditions:
 1. Nets must not exceed 30 m in length.
 2. Mullet and garfish are the only species that can be kept. All other species must be returned to the water.
 3. Does not include any tidal inlet, pool, creek, river or tributary.



- Throw netting is permitted in ocean waters in the North Coast bioregion, except for sanctuary zones in Marine Parks. All waters

of Sanctuary Zones in Marine Parks are closed to all fishing at all times. There may be additional restrictions in Marine Parks as outlined below.

- Throw netting is permitted in all inland waters in the North Coast Bioregion for taking:
 - cherabin
 - mullet (family Mugilidae)
 - garfish (family Hemiramphidae, including halfbeak but not longtom or needleskin queenfish)
 - baitfish of the families Clupeidae (bony bream, bony herring and sardine), Atherinidae (mostly hardyhead) and Engraulidae (anchovy).
- **Prawns** may be caught in a throw net.

◆ **Rowley Shoals Marine Park**

All waters of the Rowley Shoals Marine Park are open to recreational throw netting with the exception of the following areas:

- **Sanctuary Zones:** All sanctuary zone waters are closed to all fishing at all times.
- **Recreation Zone:** All waters of the recreational zone are closed to all recreational netting at all times.

Throw nets may be used only in the General Use Zone.

For specific details on the Rowley Shoals Marine Park, see the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Rowley Shoals and Mermaid Reef Marine

Park brochure.

parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/rowley-shoals

◆ **Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park**

All waters of the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park are open to recreational throw netting with the exception of the following areas:

- **Sanctuary Zones:** All sanctuary zone waters are **closed** to all fishing at all times.
- **Special Purpose Zone (Mangrove Protection):** All waters of the Malamalajungunya Special Purpose Zone are **closed** to all shore-based fishing at all times.
- **Special Purpose Zones (Shore based activities):** All waters of the Pananykarra and Banningarra Creek Special Purpose Zones are **closed** to all fishing from a boat at all times.

For specific details on the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, see the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park brochure. parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/eighty-mile-beach

◆ **Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserve**

All waters of the Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserve are open to recreational throw netting with the exception of the following areas:

- **Sanctuary Zones:** All sanctuary zone waters are **closed** to all fishing at all times.

- **Special Purpose Zones (Benthic Protection):** All waters of the Northern Montebello Special Purpose Zone are **closed** to recreational throw netting at all times.

For specific details on the Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserve, see the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Montebello Islands Marine Park and Barrow Island Marine Park brochures. parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/montebello-islands
parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/barrow-island

- ◆ **Onslow (Beadon Point to Third Street)**
All waters within 450 m of the low water mark between Beadon Point and Third Street have **been reopened** to recreational throw netting.
Onslow Creeks All creeks with mouths within a 9 km radius of Beadon Bay groyne have been **reopened** to recreational throw netting.

Gascoyne Coast Bioregion

The Gascoyne Coast Bioregion includes all waters between the Zuytdorp Cliffs (north of Kalbarri) and the Ashburton River, south of Onslow. (All WA waters north of 27° S and west of 114°50' E).

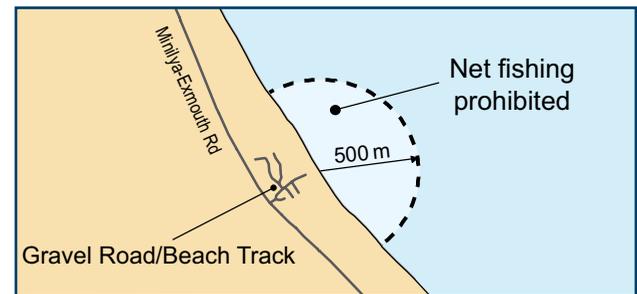
The following section lists all ocean and inland waters closed/open, respectively, to recreational netting during the year, along with specific conditions and dates.

◆ Exmouth

Town Beach All waters within 400 m of the town beach high water mark (between 1000 m north and south of Friedman Way) are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

Exmouth Gulf (30 km south of Exmouth)

All waters within a radius of 500 metres of a point on the foreshore formed by the extension of the southern side of road 15393 (a gravel road) where it meets the high water mark are **closed** until further notice, to recreational netting from 1 April to 30 September.



- ◆ **Muiron Islands Marine Management Area** Conservation areas within this Area are **closed** to recreational netting (all fishing) at all times.

◆ **Ningaloo Marine Park** All waters of the Ningaloo Marine Park are **closed** to recreational **set and haul netting**, with the exception of specific locations within the following areas:

- Neds Camp-Mesa
- Winderabandi Point
- Bruboodjoo
- 14 Mile Beach (Warroora Station).

Only shore based netting is allowed in these areas.

Where permitted in Ningaloo Marine Park, recreational set and haul netting is only allowed between 5:30 am and 8:30 am or between 4 pm and 7 pm. The mesh size of nets must not exceed 90 mm.

All waters of the Ningaloo Marine Park are **open** to recreational throw netting for taking:

- mullet (family Mugilidae)
- garfish (family Hemiramphidae, including halfbeak but not longtom or needleskin queenfish)
- baitfish of the families Clupeidae (bony bream, bony herring and sardine), Atherinidae (mostly hardyhead) and Engraulidae (anchovy).

Except in the following areas:

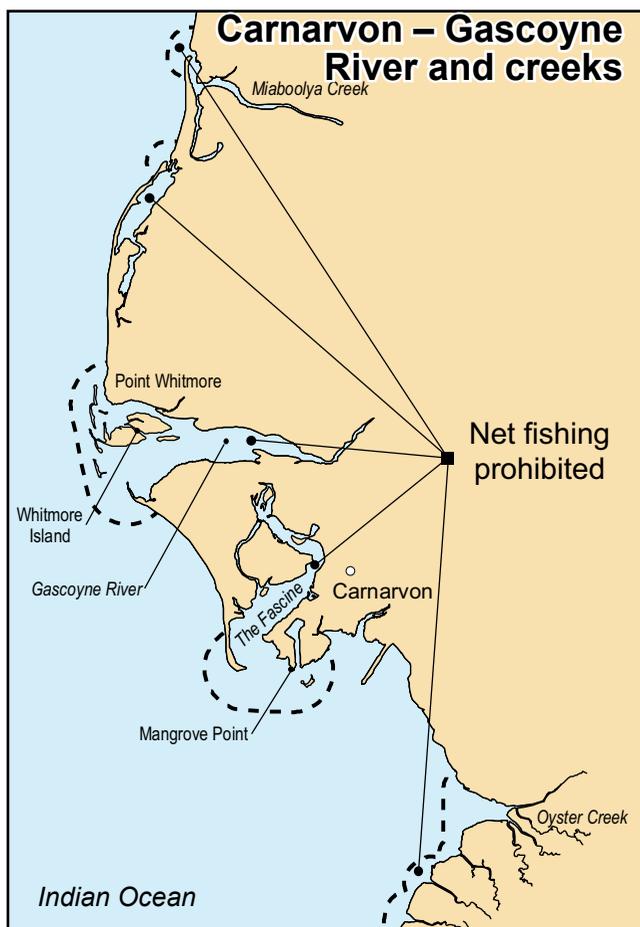
- **Sanctuary Zones:** All sanctuary zone waters are closed to all fishing at all times.
- **Special Purpose Zone (Benthic Protection):** All waters of the Mandu Special Purpose Zone are closed to all recreational netting at all times.

- **Special Purpose Zone (Shore Based Activities):** All waters of the Murat South, Murat North, Lighthouse Bay, Jurabi, Osprey north, Osprey south, Winderbandi, Maud, Pelican North and Pelican South Special Purpose Zones are **closed** to recreational throw netting from a boat. These waters are **open** to throw netting from shore.

For specific details on the Ningaloo Marine Park, see the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions *Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area* brochure.

parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/ningaloo

- ◆ **Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area** The coral reef and lagoon area within Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area (50 km north of Carnarvon) is **closed** to recreational netting at all times. For further details, see the DPIRD *Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area* guide.
fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/recreational_fishing/fhpa/fpha_point_quobba.pdf
- ◆ **Carnarvon – Gascoyne River and creeks** All waters of the Gascoyne River, its tributaries, and those within a radius of 800 m of each of its entrances into the ocean are **closed** to recreational netting at all times. All creeks from 10 km north of Point Whitmore to 5 km south of Mangrove Point, including all waters within 400 m radius of their mouths, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



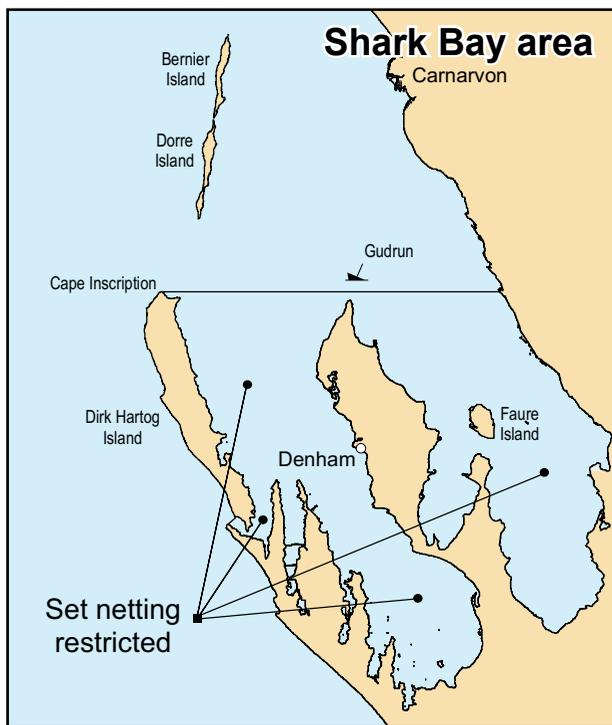
♦ **Shark Bay Marine Park** All waters of the Shark Bay Marine Park are **open** to recreational netting with the exception of the following areas:

- **Sanctuary zones:** All sanctuary zone waters are **closed** to all fishing at all times.
- **Marine Nature Reserves:** All waters of the Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve are **closed** to all fishing at all times.

- **Monkey Mia Recreation Zone:** All waters within 800 m of the Monkey Mia Jetty are **closed** to recreational net fishing.
- **Little Lagoon Recreation Zone:** All waters of Little Lagoon and all waters within 275 m of the channel entrance are **closed** to recreational net fishing at all times.
- **Dubaut Inlet Recreation Zone:** All waters of Dubaut Inlet are **closed** to recreational net fishing at all times.
- **Special purpose Zones:** Set netting is not permitted in the waters of the Big Lagoon, Boorabuggatta or Cape Peron special purpose zones at any time. Set netting and haul netting is not permitted in specified waters of the Gladstone special purpose zone at any time when those specified waters are seasonally **closed** to boating for the purposes of Dugong Protection.
- **Recreation Zones:** All recreational zone waters are **closed** to net fishing at all times.
- **Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve** is located in the inner Shark Bay Gulf, adjacent to the Shark Bay Marine Park. All waters of the Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve are **closed** to fishing at all times.

For specific details on the *Shark Bay Marine Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve*, see the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions *Shark Bay Marine Reserves* brochure.
parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/shark-bay

- ◆ **Shark Bay** In the waters off Shark Bay, south of a line from Cape Inscription (on Dirk Hartog Island) due east to the mainland, **no recreational set netting is permitted** between one and a half hours after sunrise and one and a half hours before sunset.



West Coast Bioregion

The West Coast Bioregion includes all waters between Black Point, east of Augusta, and the Zuytdorp Cliffs (north of Kalbarri).

The following section lists all of the ocean and inland waters that are closed/open, respectively, to recreational netting during the year, with specific conditions and dates.

All West Coast Bioregion waters are closed to recreational set netting at all times except the waters of Peel-Harvey, Leschenault and Hardy inlets (see relevant sections).

- ◆ **Kalbarri Blue Holes** All waters within the Fish Habitat Protection Area are **closed** to all recreational fishing.
- ◆ **Geraldton harbour** All waters within the harbour are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **Abrolhos Islands** All waters within reef observation areas on the islands are **closed** to recreational netting at all times. For further details, see the DPIRD brochure *The Abrolhos Islands Information Guide*.
- ◆ **Port Denison** All waters within the fishing boat harbour inshore of a line joining its two groynes are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **Jurien Bay Marine Park** All waters of the Park are **open** to recreational haul and throw netting with the exception of:
 - **Sanctuary Zones:** All sanctuary zone waters are **closed** to all fishing at all times.
 - **Special Purpose Zone (Puerulus Monitoring):** All waters of the Special Purpose Zone (Puerulus Monitoring) are **closed** to recreational net fishing at all times.
 - **Special Purpose Zone (Shore-based Activities):** All waters of the North Head Area 1, North Head Area 2, Boulanger

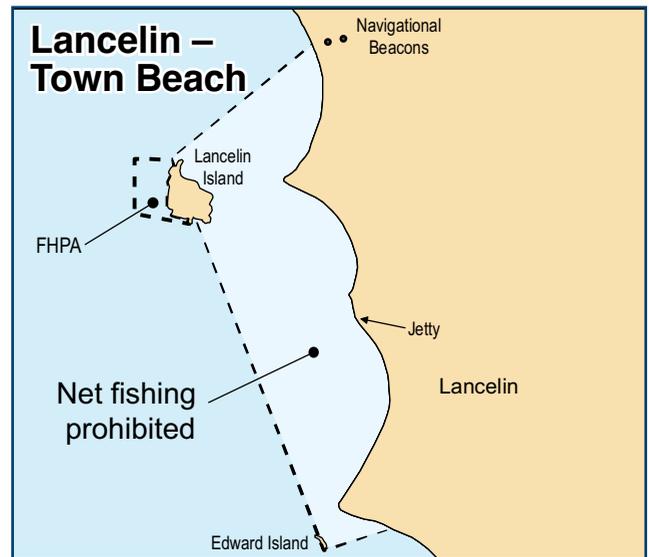
Island and Nambung Bay Special Purpose Zones are **closed** to all fishing from a boat at all times.

- **Special Purpose Zone (Scientific Reference):** All waters of the Fisherman Islands, Green Islands and Hill River Special Purpose Zones are **closed** to recreational net fishing from a boat at all times.
- **All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between 400 m north of the Jurien Boat Harbour and Shingle Avenue, including all waters inside the harbour, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.**

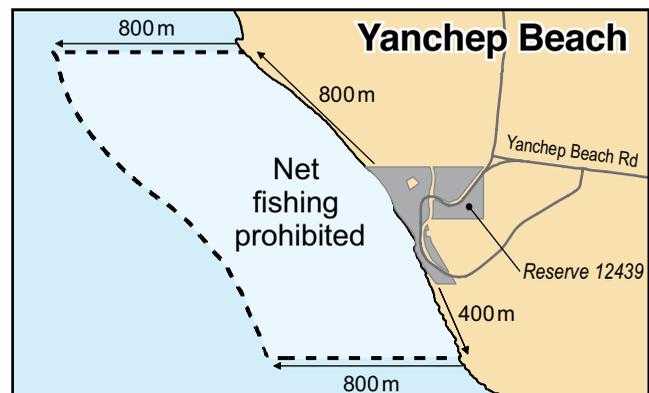
For specific details on the Jurien Bay Marine Park, see the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions *Jurien Bay Marine Park* brochure.

parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/jurien-bay

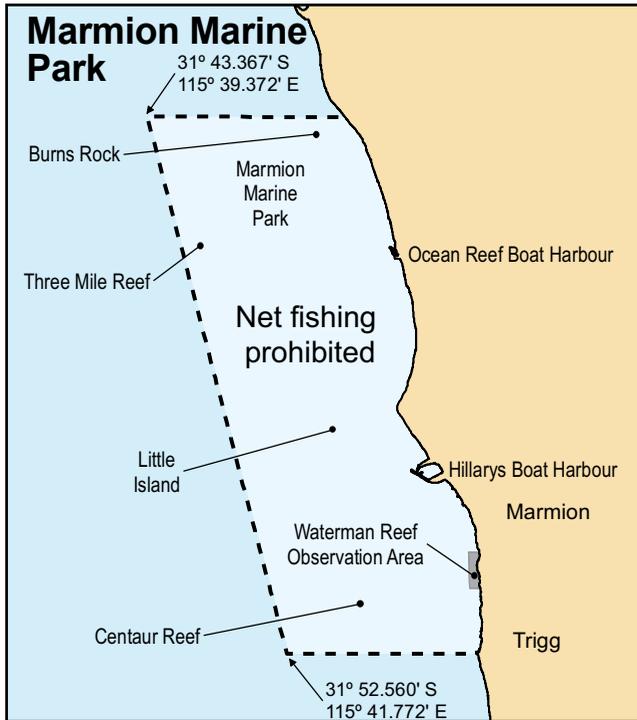
- ◆ **Cervantes** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between Green Street and Talavera Road are **closed** to recreational netting between 1 December and 31 May the following year.
- ◆ **Lancelin** All waters adjacent to the Lancelin townsite between Edward Island and Lancelin Island are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
Lancelin Fish Habitat Protection Area
All waters within the Area are **closed** to all recreational netting (and all other types of fishing) at all times.



- ◆ **Moore River** All waters of the Moore River are **closed** to recreational netting (including throw netting) at all times.
- ◆ **Yanchep Beach** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark that lie within boundaries running 400 m SE of the SW corner of Reserve 12439, and 800 m NW of the NW corner of the said reserve are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

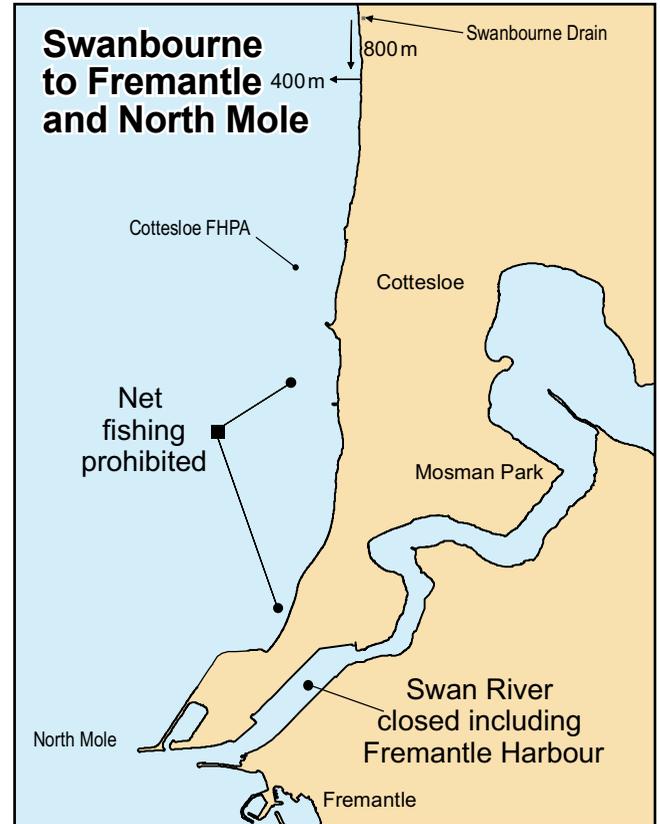


- ◆ **Marmion Marine Park (Burns Rock to Trigg Island)** All waters in the Park, with the exception of the harbours at Hillarys and Ocean Reef, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



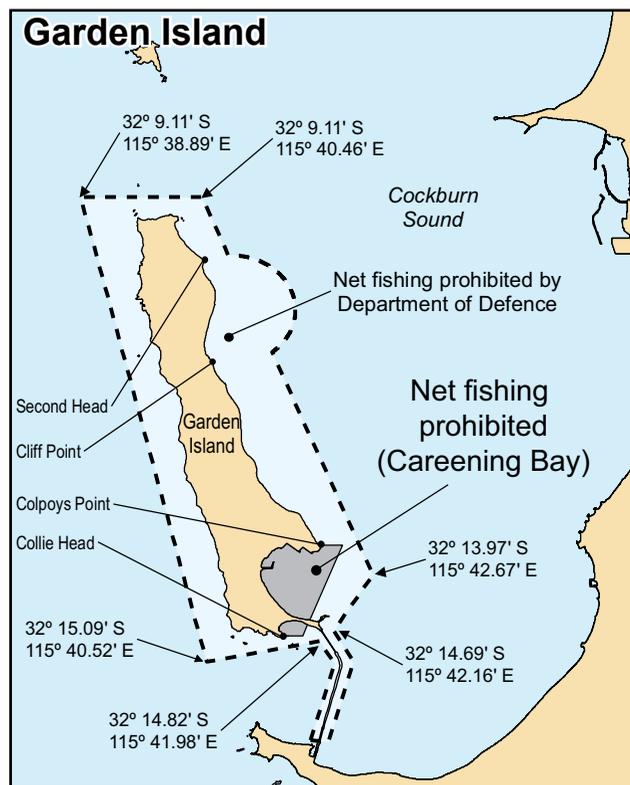
- ◆ **Scarborough Beach** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark between Reserve Street and 400 m south of Brighton Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **City Beach** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark between a point 800 m north of the northern groyne to a point 800 m south of the southern groyne are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

- ◆ **Swanbourne Beach to Fremantle (Rous Head)** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark from a point 800 m south of Swanbourne Drain to Rous Head harbour wall (North Mole) are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



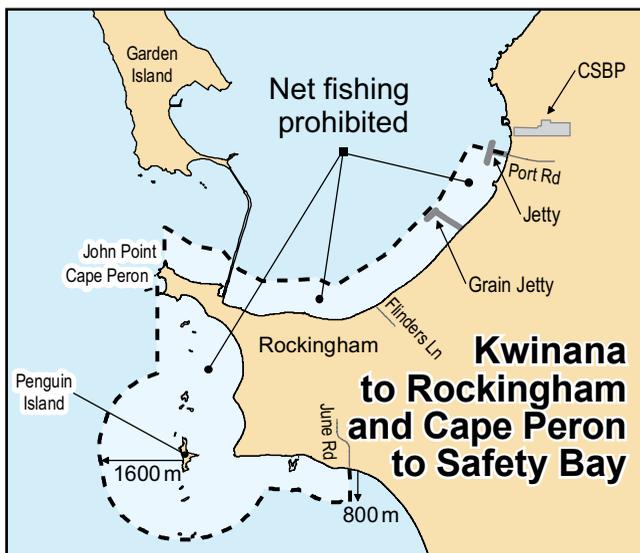
Note: All waters of the Swan and Canning rivers are **closed** to recreational netting (including throw netting) at all times.

- ◆ **Cottesloe Fish Habitat Protection Area (FHPA)** All waters within the FHPA are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **North Mole Boat Harbour** All waters inside the harbour and within 200 m of the harbour wall are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **Rottnest Island** All waters within 800 m of the island are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **South Beach (Fremantle)** All waters within 150 m of the high water mark from the prolongation of Douro Road to the prolongation of Island Street, including all waters surrounding Douro Road groyne, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **Coogee Beach** All waters 460 m north and south of the Beach Road prolongation, are **closed** 400 m seaward of the high water mark to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **Garden Island (Fremantle)** All waters inside and 400 m seaward of a line drawn from Colpoys Point to Collie Head, including Careening Bay, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



There is a Department of Defence ban on recreational netting all year within the Controlled Naval Waters of Garden Island – see map above for co-ordinates.

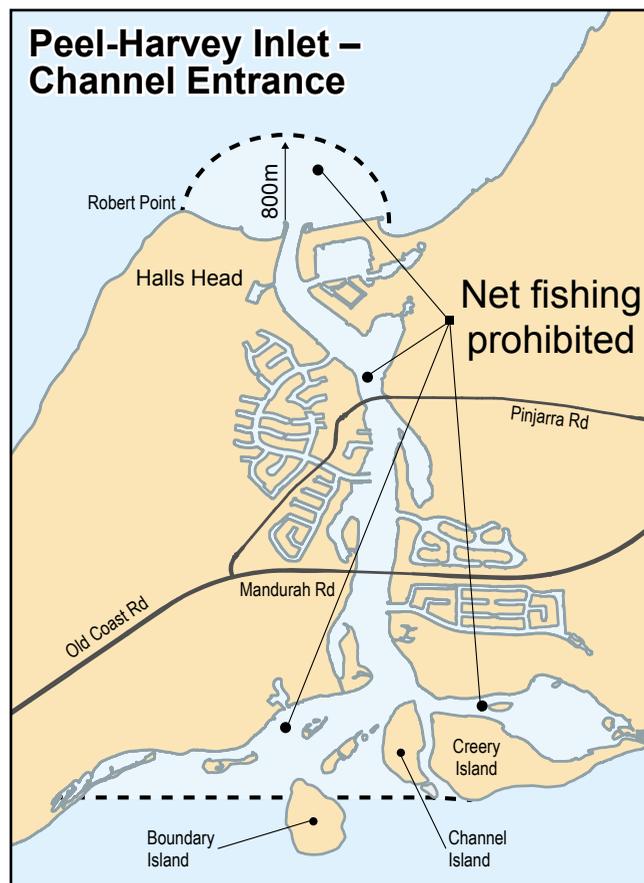
- ◆ **Kwinana to Rockingham** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark from the T-shaped CSBP jetty due west of the CSBP factory (prolongation of the east-west section of Kwinana Beach Road) to a line due north of John Point (Cape Peron) are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



- ◆ **Cape Peron to Safety Bay** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark from a line due south of John Point (Cape Peron) to June Road (Safety Bay), including all waters within a 1,600 m radius of Penguin Island, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **Shoalwater Islands** All waters of the Park are open to recreational haul and throw netting with the exception of:
 - **Sanctuary Zones:** All sanctuary zone waters are closed to all fishing at all times.
 - **Special Purpose (Shore-based activities) Zone:** All waters of the Special Purpose Zone (Wildlife Conservation) are closed to recreational net fishing at all times.
 - **Special Purpose (Scientific Reference):** All waters of the Special Purpose Zone (Scientific Reference) are closed to recreational net fishing at all times.

For specific details on the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, see the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions *Shoalwater Islands Marine Park* brochure. parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/shoalwater-islands

- ◆ **Peel-Harvey Inlet (Mandurah)** All waters of the Peel Inlet and the Harvey River estuary system are conditionally **open** to recreational set and throw netting **excluding** the channel entrance to Peel Inlet, the Yunderup Canals, and the Harvey, Serpentine and Murray rivers.



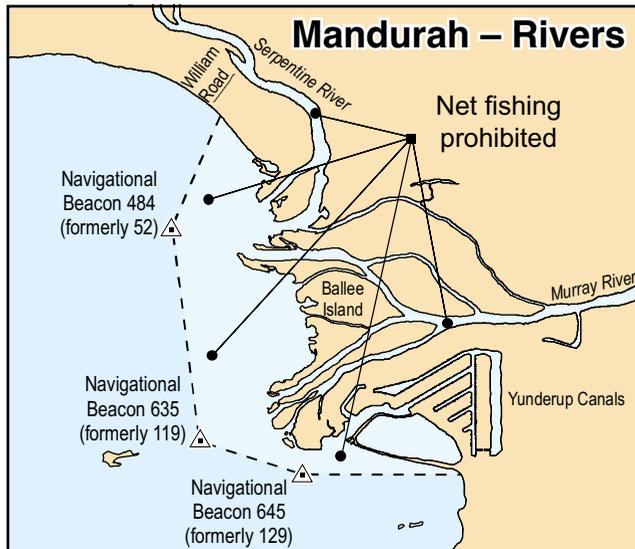
Recreational set netting is **permitted** in the Peel-Harvey Inlet (minus exclusions) on Wednesday nights from 1 November until the following 31 July, from 4.30 pm to midnight. During this period, netters must attend their nets, clean their nets hourly, and ensure all nets are removed from the water by midnight.

Set netting is banned in the Peel-Harvey Inlet during August, September and October, which is the main cobbler breeding season.

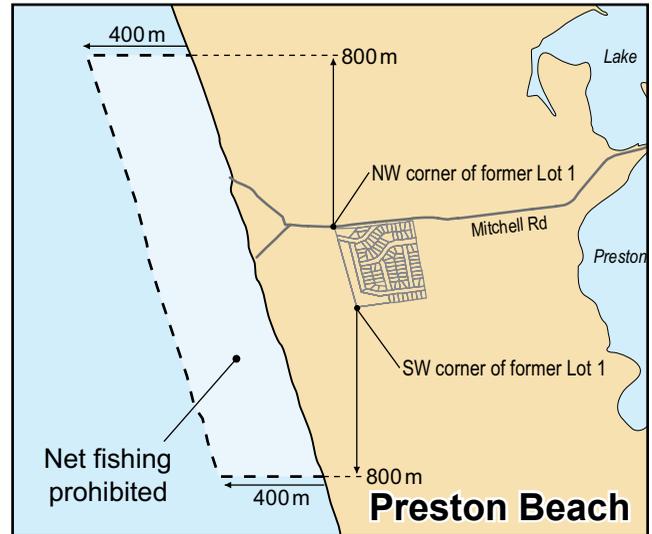
Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in the Peel-Harvey Inlet at all times.

For further details of closures, see the maps above.

◆ **Mandurah - rivers**



- ◆ **Preston Beach** All waters within 400 m of the low water mark between points 800 m north and approximately 1,200 m south of the prolongation of Mitchell Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

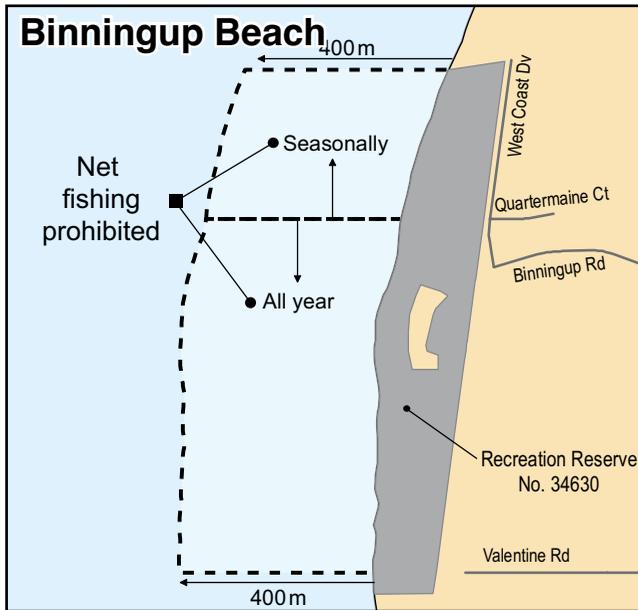


- ◆ **Myalup Beach** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between points 200 m north and 200 m south of the prolongation of Myalup Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

- ◆ **Binningup Beach** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between Quartermaine Court and Valentine Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

Waters within 400 m of the high water mark from Quartermaine Court north to a point 30 m south from the end of West Coast Drive are **closed** from 15 December to the

following 15 February, and on weekends and public holidays from 16 February to 25 April.



◆ **Leschenault Estuary system** All waters of the system are conditionally **open** to recreational set and throw netting, **excluding:**

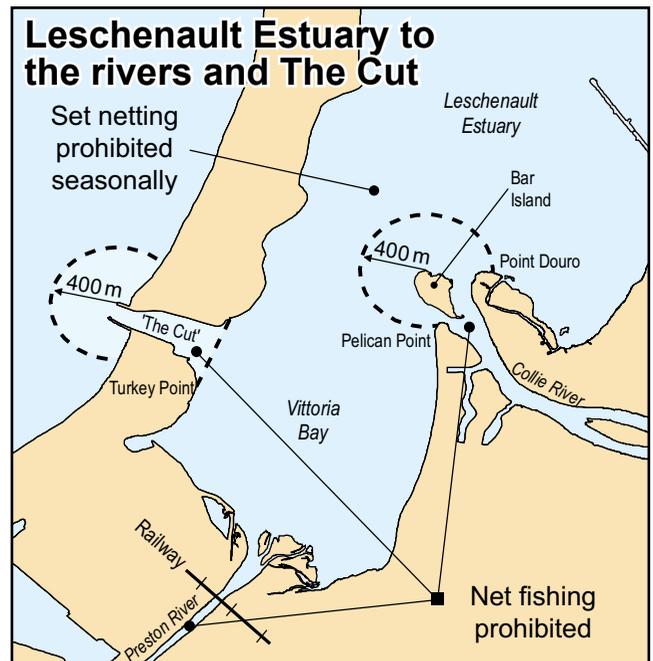
- All waters of the Collie River and waters of the Leschenault Estuary lying within a 400 m radius of the northern-most extremity of Bar Island.
- All waters of the channel connecting Leschenault Estuary to the sea known as 'The Cut', including those within a 400 m radius of the western end of the northern-most groyne at its entrance into Koombana Bay.
- All waters of the Preston River upstream from the northern-most railway bridge near its mouth.

- All waters of the Leschenault Inlet (known as 'The Deadwater'), including the Koombana Channel.
- All waters of the Bunbury Inner Harbour Basin.

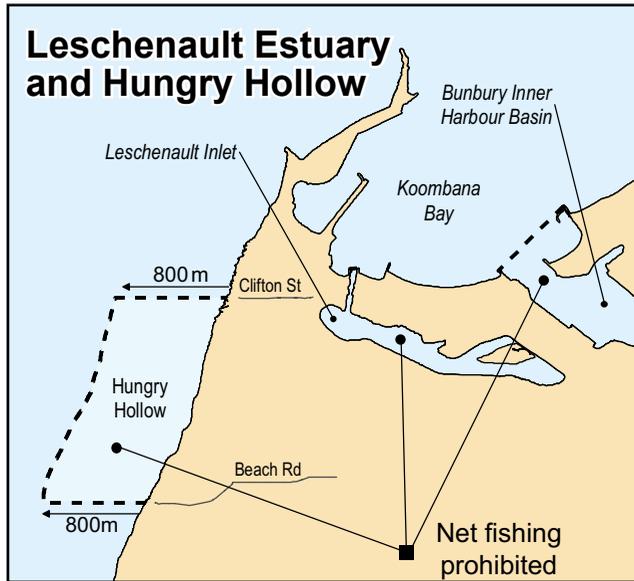
Recreational set netting is **permitted** in the Leschenault Estuary (minus exclusions) on Wednesday and Friday nights from 1 November until the following 31 July, from 1.5 hours before sunset to 1.5 hours after the following sunrise, providing the net is attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Set netting is banned in the Leschenault Estuary system during August, September and October, which is the main cobbler breeding season.

Throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in the Leschenault Estuary at all times.



- ◆ **Hungry Hollow** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark between Clifton Street and Beach Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



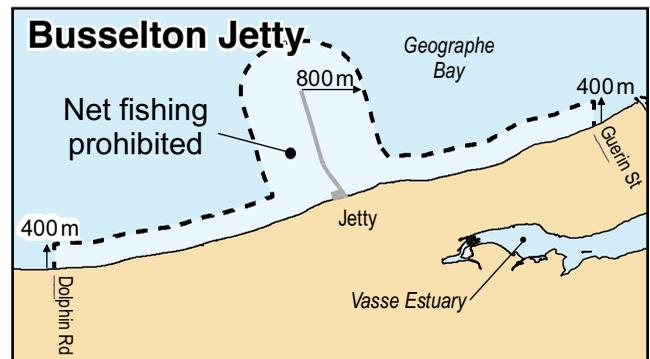
- ◆ **Ngari Capes Marine Park** All waters of the Ngari Capes Marine Park are open to recreational netting with the exception of the following areas:
 - **Sanctuary Zones:** All sanctuary zone waters are closed to all fishing at all times.
 - **Special Purpose (Shore-based activities) Zone:** All waters of the Eagle Bay and Cosy Corner Special Purpose Zones are closed to all fishing from a boat at all times.

Ngari Capes has prohibitions on specific species in some areas including for:

- Crabs, other than blue swimmer
- Specimen shell
- Octopus.

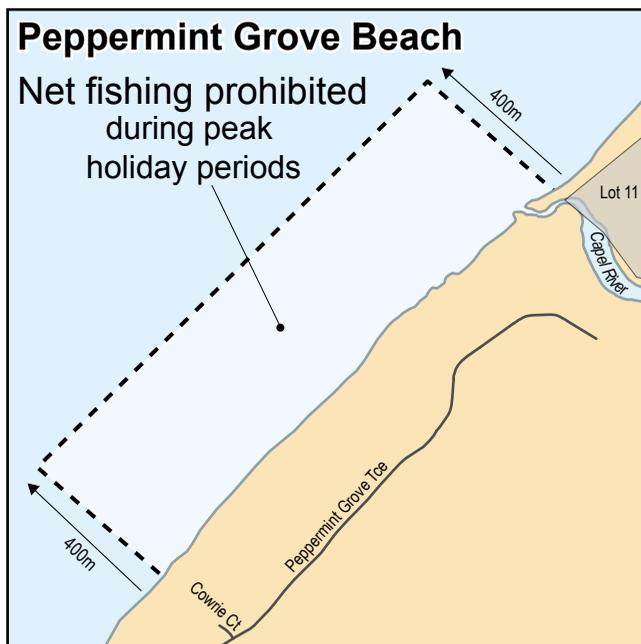
For specific details on the Ngari Capes Marine Park, see the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Ngari Capes Marine Park brochure. parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/ngari-capes

- ◆ **Busselton Jetty** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between Guerin Street and Dolphin Road, and within 800 m of the jetty, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

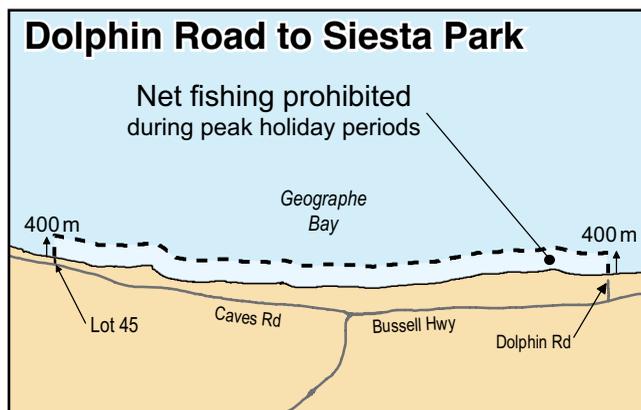


- ◆ **Geographe Bay** Some areas of water in Geographe Bay are closed to all recreational netting at peak holiday periods. These areas are closed from 15 December to 15 February, but also at weekends and public holidays from 16 February to 25 April. The **closed areas** are:

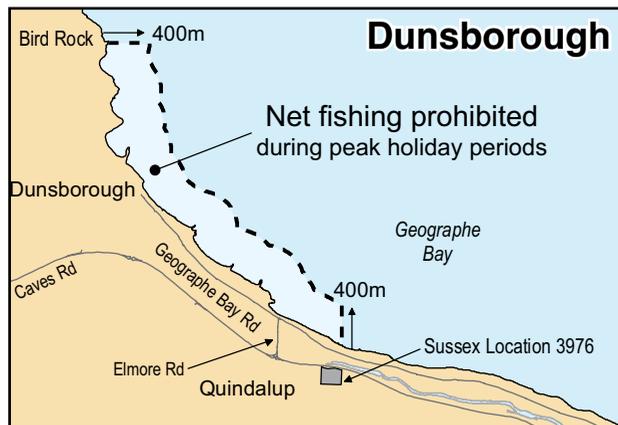
- ◆ **Peppermint Grove** All ocean waters within 400 m of the high water mark between Lot 11, Wellington Location 531 and Cowrie Court.



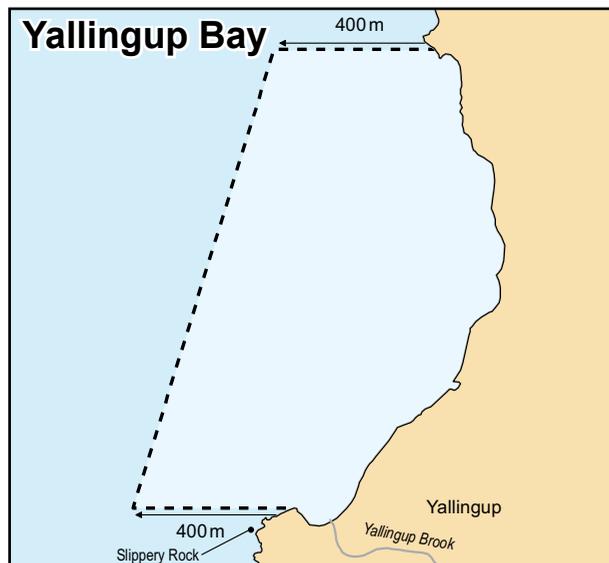
- ◆ **Dolphin Road to Siesta Park** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark from Dolphin Road to approximately 1 km west of Siesta Park groyne.



- ◆ **Dunsborough** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between the tall Norfolk Island pines approximately 450 m east of the intersection of Elmore Road and Geographe Bay Road to Bird Rock.



- ◆ **Yallingup Bay** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between the northern edge of the Yallingup Bay beach and Yallingup Brook's entry into the ocean are closed to recreational netting at all times.



◆ **Canal Rocks (near Yallingup)** All waters within an 800 m radius of the centre of Canal Rocks are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

◆ **Cowaramup Bay (Gracetown)**
Cowaramup Bay is **closed** to all netting.

◆ **Hardy Inlet and Blackwood Estuary (Augusta)** The following waters of the Hardy Inlet and Blackwood Estuary are **closed** to recreational netting at all times:

- All waters south of a line from Point Irwin to the Hospital boat ramp (Irwin Street), including Swan Lake and The Deadwater.
- All waters of the Blackwood River and its tributaries upstream of the Fisher Road boat ramp, and all waters of the Scott River.

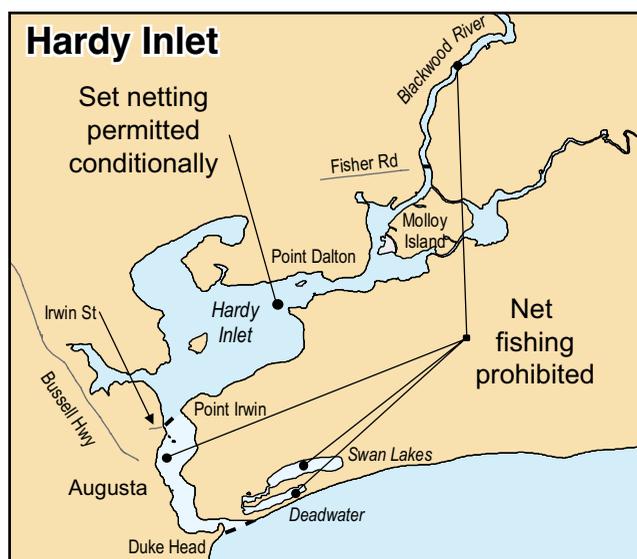
The inner waters of the Hardy Inlet and Blackwood Estuary downstream of the Fisher Road boat ramp and north of a line drawn between Point Irwin and the Irwin Street boat ramp are conditionally open to recreational set netting.

- Recreational set netting is **permitted** in the Hardy Inlet/Blackwood Estuary (minus exclusions) during the period commencing 1.5 hours before sunset on 1 September and concluding 1.5 hours after sunrise on 31 May the following year.
- During this period (1 September – 31 May) set nets may be used on any given day from 1.5 hours before sunset until 1.5 hours after sunrise the following day.

However, this is conditional on the net being attended and an hourly check and clean being carried out.

- **Set netting is banned in the Hardy Inlet/Blackwood Estuary during June, July and August, to protect black bream stocks.**

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in the Hardy Inlet/Blackwood Estuary at all times.



South Coast Bioregion

This bioregion includes all waters from Black Point, east of Augusta, to the South Australian border.

This section lists all ocean and inland waters that are closed/open, respectively, to recreational netting during the year, with specific conditions and dates.

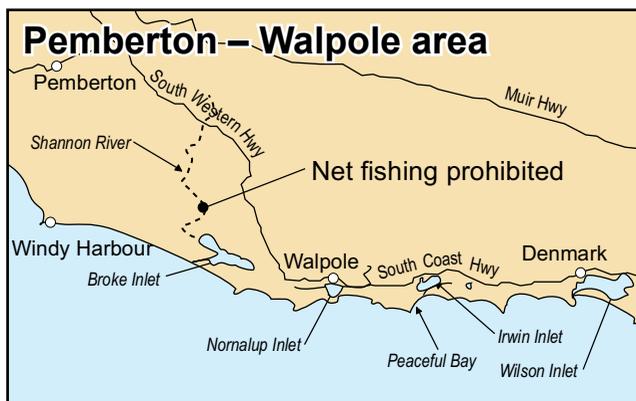
In inland areas **open** to throw netting, as listed, any species may be taken except for

the prohibited and protected species listed in Section 2 page 7.

- All **ocean** waters of the South Coast Bioregion are **closed** to recreational set netting at all times but the **inland waters** listed are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting.

Recreational throw nets are **not permitted** in any ocean waters of the South Coast Bioregion other than for the taking of bait fish. Bait fish means fish from the families Atherinidae, Clupeidae, Engraulidae, Hemiramphidae or Mugilidae.

◆ Pemberton - Walpole area



- ◆ **Windy Harbour** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark of the Windy Harbour town beach are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- ◆ **Broke Inlet (20 km west of Walpole)** All waters of Broke Inlet and all rivers (excluding the Shannon River, which is closed to all fishing at all times), streams and creeks that flow into the inlet are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm

on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly. Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Broke Inlet at all times.

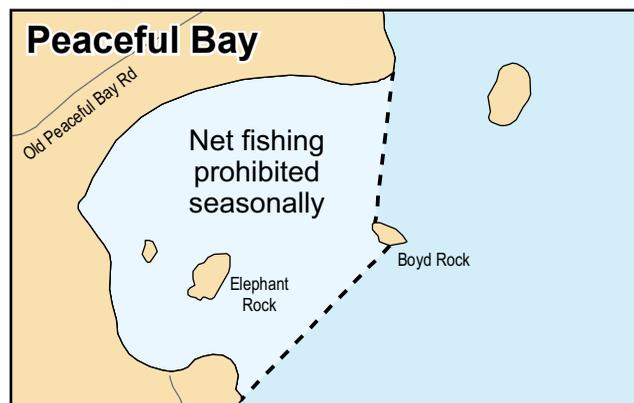
- ◆ **Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park** All waters of the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park are **closed** to all recreational netting at all times.

For specific details on the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park see the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park brochure.

parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/walpole-and-nornalup-inlets

- ◆ **Peaceful Bay (near Walpole)** All waters from the high water mark to the rock in the centre of the mouth of Peaceful Bay are **closed** to recreational haul netting from midday 31 October until 4:00 pm the following 1 May.

This area is closed to recreational set netting and throw netting at all times.

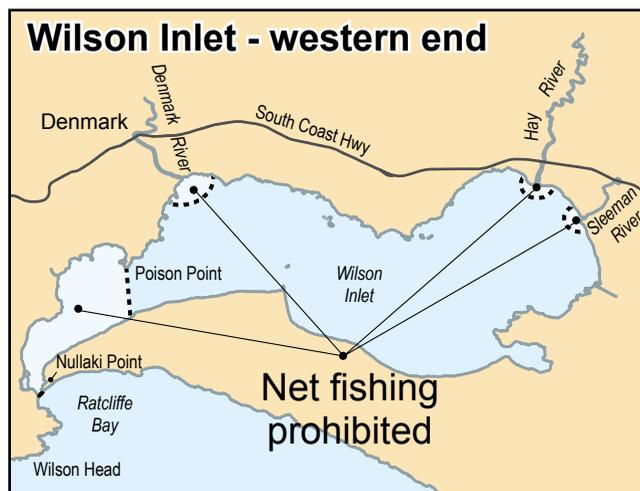


- ◆ **Irwin Inlet (20 km east of Walpole)** All waters of Irwin Inlet and the waters of all rivers, streams and creeks that flow into the inlet (excluding the Bow River) are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly. Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Irwin Inlet from 4 pm on 1 May to 12 noon on 31 October.
- ◆ **Greens Pool** All waters of Greens Pool are **closed** to all fishing at all times.
- ◆ **Wilson Inlet (near Denmark)** All waters of Wilson Inlet are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting and throw netting, **excluding**:
 - The waters of the inlet between the sand bar at the mouth of the inlet (low water mark of Ratcliffe Bay) and a line running approximately due south of Poison Point to the Nullaki shore.
 - The waters of Hay River, its tributaries, and those within a radius of 400 m from the mouth of the Hay River.
 - The waters of the Sleeman River, its tributaries, and those within a radius of 400 m of the mouth of the Sleeman River.
 - The waters of the Denmark River, its tributaries, and those within a radius of 800 m from the mouth of the Denmark River.

Recreational set netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** during the **following periods**:

- (1) Between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Wilson Inlet at all times.

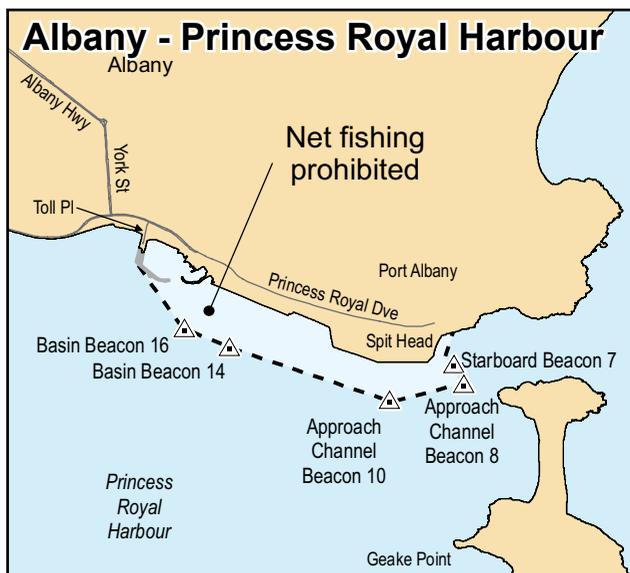


- ◆ **Princess Royal Harbour (Albany)** All waters of Princess Royal Harbour are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting, excluding those from the low water mark between Toll Place and Spit Head out to beacon 16, 14, 10, 8 and 7 being the waters around the Albany port. Recreational set netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** during the following periods:

- (1) Between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year.

Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Princess Royal Harbour at all times.



- ◆ **Beaufort Inlet and Pallinup River (40 km west of Bremer Bay)** All waters of the Beaufort Estuary and Pallinup River are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting during the following periods:

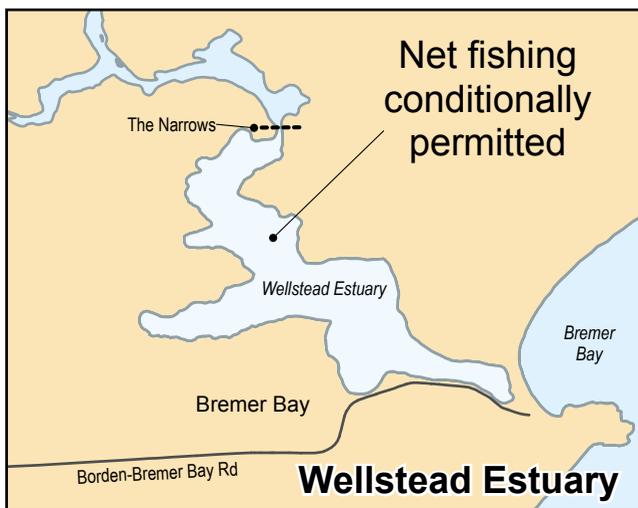
- (1) Between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year. Set nets must have a minimum mesh size of 76 mm. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

- ◆ **Wellstead Estuary (Bremer Bay)** All waters of the Wellstead Estuary downstream of 'The Narrows' are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting during the following periods:

- (1) Between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year.

Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned at least once hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Wellstead Estuary at all times.



◆ **Gordon Inlet (15 km north-east of Bremer Bay)** All waters of the Gordon Inlet are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting during the following periods:

- (1) Between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year.

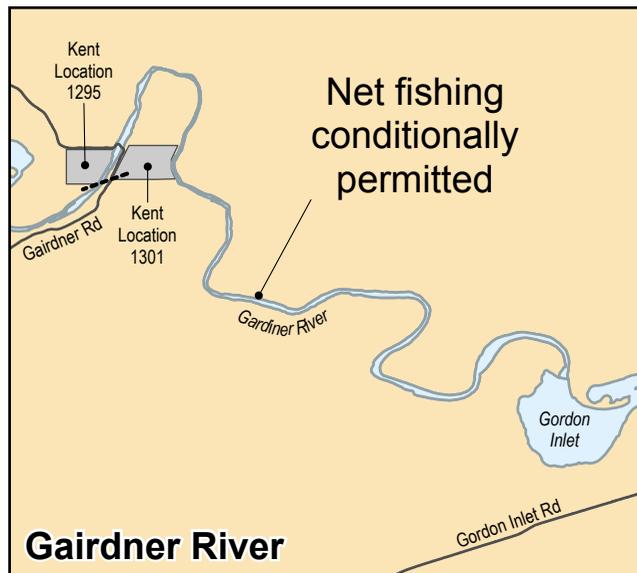
Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Gordon Inlet at all times.

◆ **Gairdner River** All waters of the Gairdner River downstream of a line joining Kent location 1301 and SE corner of Kent location 1295 (approximately 11.5 km upstream of the mouth of the river at

Gordon Inlet) are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Gairdner River at all times.



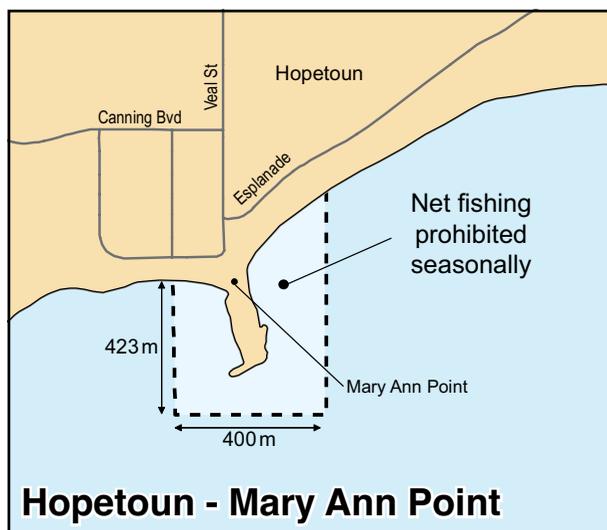
◆ **Hamersley Inlet (20 km west of Hopetoun)** All waters of Hamersley Inlet and Hamersley River are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting during the following periods:

- (1) Between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) Between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from

1 November until 30 April the following year. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Hamersley Inlet at all times.

- ◆ **Mary Ann Point (Hopetoun)** All waters within the area defined in the Hopetoun – Mary Ann Point map below are **closed** to recreational netting from 1 December to the last day of the following February.



- ◆ **Stokes Inlet (70 km west of Esperance)** All waters of Stokes Inlet and all rivers, streams and creeks that flow into the inlet are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned at least once hourly.

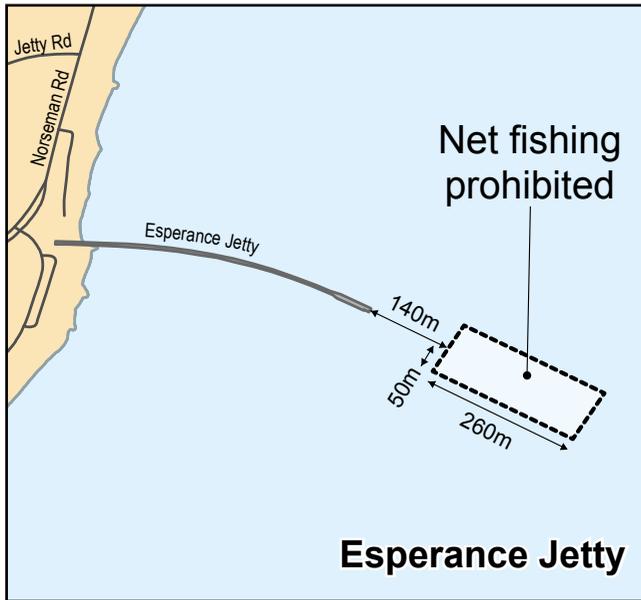
Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Stokes Inlet at all times.

- ◆ **Esperance Bay** All waters from the high water mark north of a line between Dempster Head and the eastern groyne of Bandy Creek Harbour are **closed** to recreational netting from 1 December – 31 March.

From 1 April – 30 November, recreational netting is only permitted between 7:00 pm and 7:00 am of the following day.



- ◆ **Esperance Jetty** All waters contained within an area that starts 140 m from the seaward end of the jetty and 50 m either side of a line drawn from the centre of the jetty, and following a direct line seaward from this point along a continuing course for 260 m, are **closed** to all fishing, including recreational netting. This follows the original footprint of the Esperance Tank Jetty, and is currently under review.



- ◆ **Thomas River (95 km east of Esperance)**
All waters of the Thomas River, including those of its tributaries and affluents, are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting during the following periods:
 - (1) Between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
 - (2) between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm on

Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year.

Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

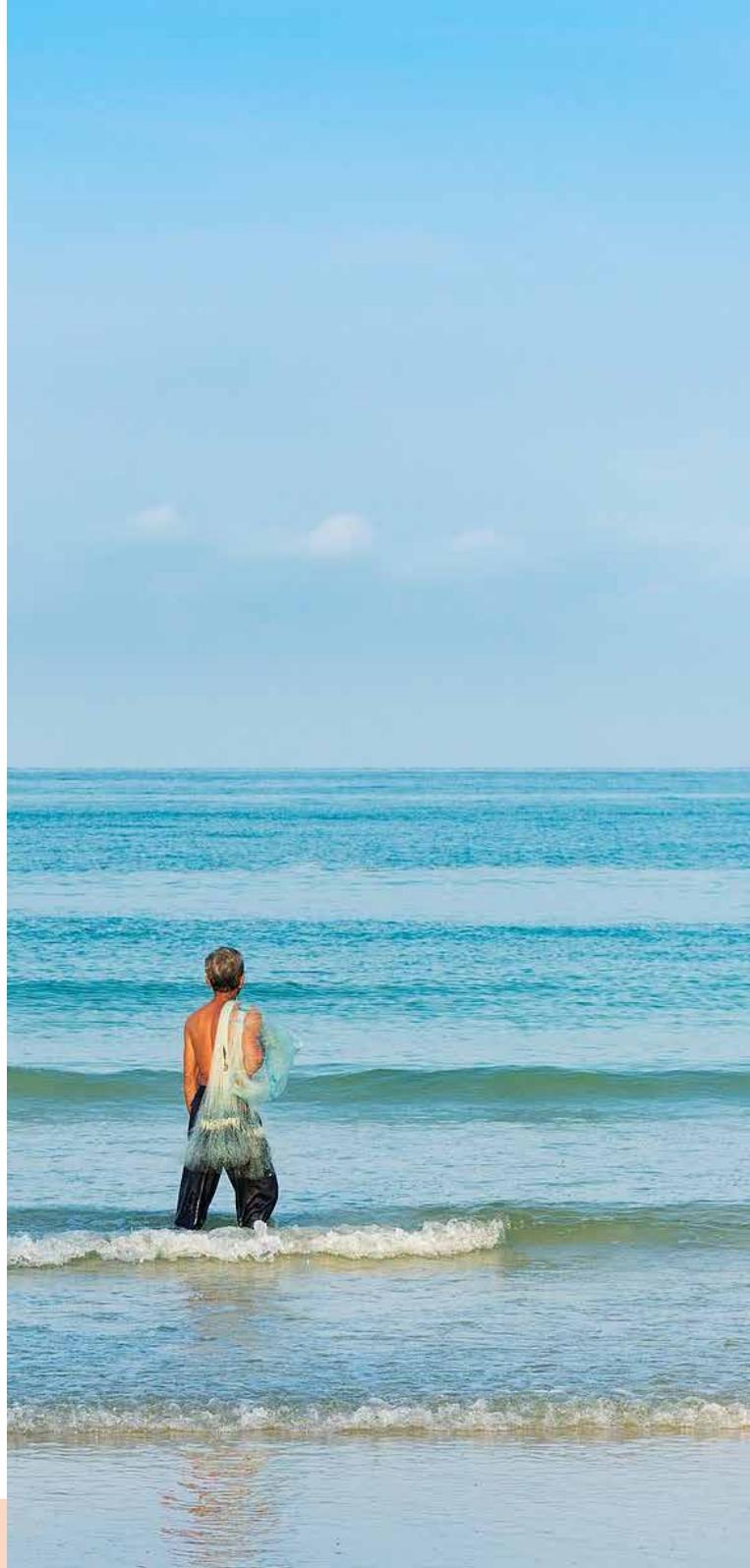
Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Thomas River at all times.

- ◆ **Sanko Harvest wreck** All waters within 500 m of the *Sanko Harvest* wreck are **closed** to all fishing, including recreational netting, at all times.

Information and penalties

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 your local DPIRD office or visit **dpird.wa.gov.au**

You should be aware that all fishing activities may be subject to surveillance by Fisheries and Marine Officers. If you break recreational fishing rules you may be given an infringement notice or legal action may be taken against you. Fines for recreational fishing offences may be as high as \$5,000 plus up to 10 times the prescribed value of the species.



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It's easy to keep up to date with Western Australia's recreational fishing rules. Whether it's for bag and size limits, seasonal closures or licences, all the rules are at your fingertips.



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The free Recfishwest app provides access to the rules even if you're out of phone range and has an easy fish identification feature.



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download from
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