

Fish for the Future

What is it?

Fish for the future is a management strategy used in Western Australia to ensure our fisheries are ecologically sustainable. The management approach focuses on the impact of fishing by recreational, commercial and indigenous sectors as well as the impact from other human activities on the marine ecosystem. The states marine waters are divided into four broad biological regions for management including the North Coast, Gascoyne Coast, West Coast and South Coast.

Daily Bag Limits

This management strategy sets the standard for how much an individual fisher can catch per day. In particular this focuses on maintaining a stable ecosystem to avoid overfishing of marine life. This strategy can change throughout the year as well as the category of marine life that has a fishing limit applied.

Possession & Trip Limits

This is the total take of an individual fisher on a fishing trip. The strategy places a limit on how much one person can possess at any time in a defined area and can include the weight or number of fish according to an individual quota on a particular fish species.

Closed Seasons & Closed Areas

This management strategy equally limits recreational and commercial fishers with various areas closed for fishing as well as various species of marine life not able to be caught at certain times of the year. Within the South West marron, trout, rock lobster, abalone and blue swimmer crabs are protected and have closed seasons in order to protect the species at crucial stages of their life cycle.

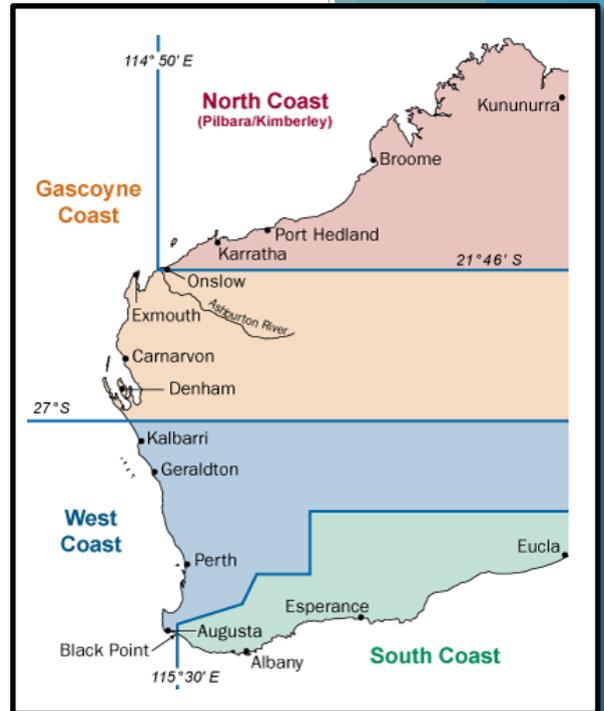


Photo: Department of Fisheries WA

Minimum size

This outlines the minimum and maximum size limits based on the breeding biology of a marine species. This strategy is in place to protect fish until they reach maturity and have had the opportunity to spawn. This fishing limit provides a better quality of average fish size available in a region as well as protecting large breeding fish or the amount of rare or large fish taken. Some species of marine life in Western Australia are totally protected which means they must not be caught at any time.



Gear & Method Restrictions

Limits are applied to the type of fishing gear that can be used and the area and time when that gear can be used. This is a crucial strategy to stop highly destructive fishing methods as well as reducing commercial type fishing for recreational fishers.

Licensing

Licensing is used world-wide in order to manage recreational fisheries. Within Western Australia there are six recreational fisheries that require a license. This management strategy provides a database of research and education as well as maintaining a sufficient amount of funds for management and growth of recreational fishing.

Fishing in Mandurah

From the time of settlement in 1830, the Peel region was renowned for huge quantities of fish and other sea life that flourished in the inlet, estuary and rivers. Fish processing was quickly established as an industry in the region. Most of the people in the town were involved with the fishing industry in some way, either fishing, canning or delivering fish. By the 1900's the fishing industry was struggling largely due to overfishing and transport costs and so the canneries ceased to be profitable and started to close. Since overfishing by the cannery operations in the early years, rules and regulations have been employed to ensure our fisheries and their habitats are sustainable, making sure there is fish for the future!

