



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

Protect  
Grow  
Innovate

# Marron

Recreational fishing guide  
2024



**A current licence is required to fish for marron**

## **Please note:**

- The recreational marron fishing open season is from 12 noon, 8 January 2024 to 12 noon, 5 February 2024.
- Fishing for and transporting marron is prohibited at all other times.
- Setting marron fishing gear before 12 noon on 8 January or after 12 noon on 5 February is prohibited.

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## Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

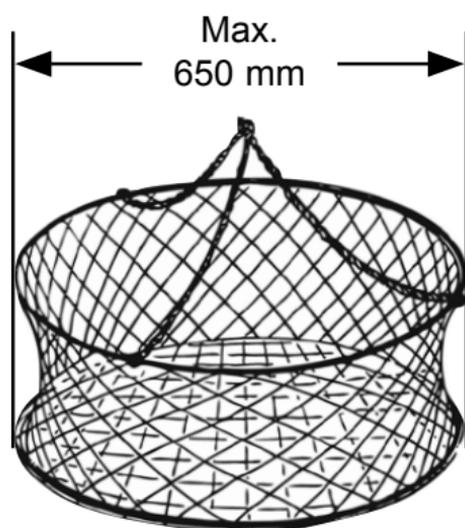
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# Legal fishing gear

You may use only one of these methods at one time.

## Drop nets

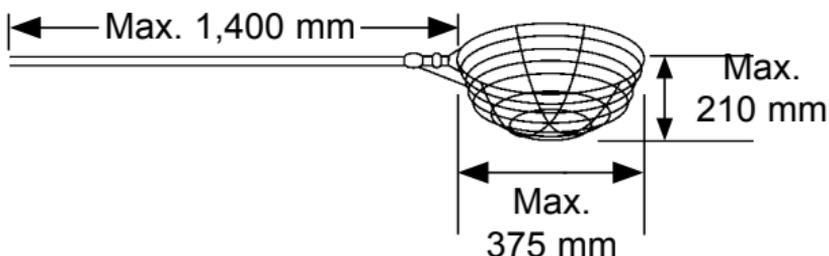
Up to 6 drop nets per licensed fisher may be used. Nets must have a rigid marron mesh base (mesh dimension must be 32 mm by 80 mm or greater).



Marron mesh base

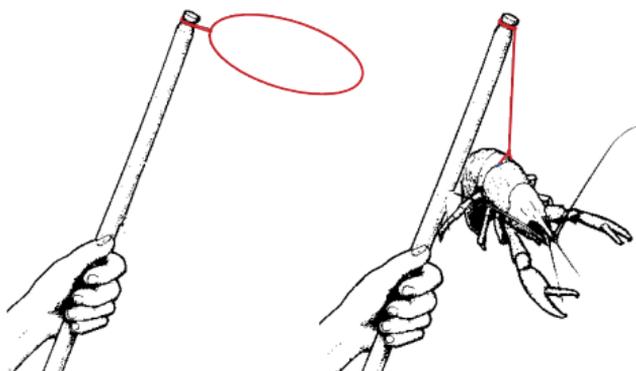
## Scoop net

One wire basket crab scoop may be used per licensed fisher. Wire baskets must have a maximum of 6 vertical wires and a maximum of 75 individual rectangles. Fine mesh nets are illegal.

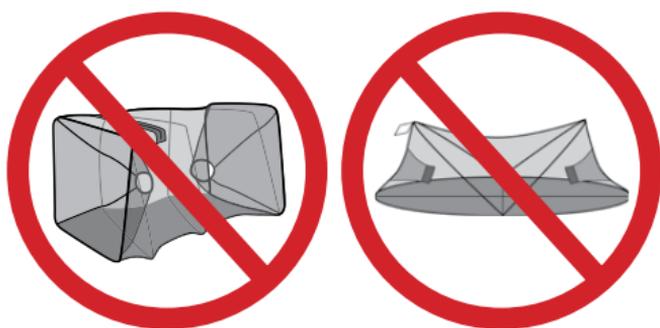


## Snare

One bushman's pole snare may be used per licensed fisher. Snares must be self-tightening only, this means there must be nothing attached to the pole to enable a person to open or close the noose.



All other fishing gear, including any type of trap, is illegal. Examples of 2 such illegal traps, including an 'opera house' trap, are shown below.



## Licences

You must have a licence to fish for marron and be able to produce it if required. Buy or renew your licence online at [fish.wa.gov.au](http://fish.wa.gov.au) – click on the 'Fishing licence' button, follow the instructions and you will be redirected to DoTDirect, or pick up an application form from one of our select DPIRD offices.

# Marron waters

Within 50 m of the waterline of marron waters:

- You may have only legal marron fishing gear in your possession.
- Net restrictions apply. Licensed freshwater anglers using a single rod and line may possess only a short-handled (50 cm) trout landing net. Using a trout landing net to fish for marron is prohibited.

Marron waters include:

- **Collie River** (upstream of the Australind Bypass Road and downstream of the Wellington Dam wall, and upstream of the Mungalup Road Bridge);
- **Deep, Gardner, Warren, Donnelly, Blackwood, Capel and Preston rivers** and their tributaries;
- **Moore and Hutt rivers** and their tributaries; and
- **Murray River** (upstream from the Pinjarra weir).

## Snare-only waters

In these waters, you may only use a pole snare to take marron, and you may not be in possession of any marron fishing gear except a pole snare within 50 m of the waterline.

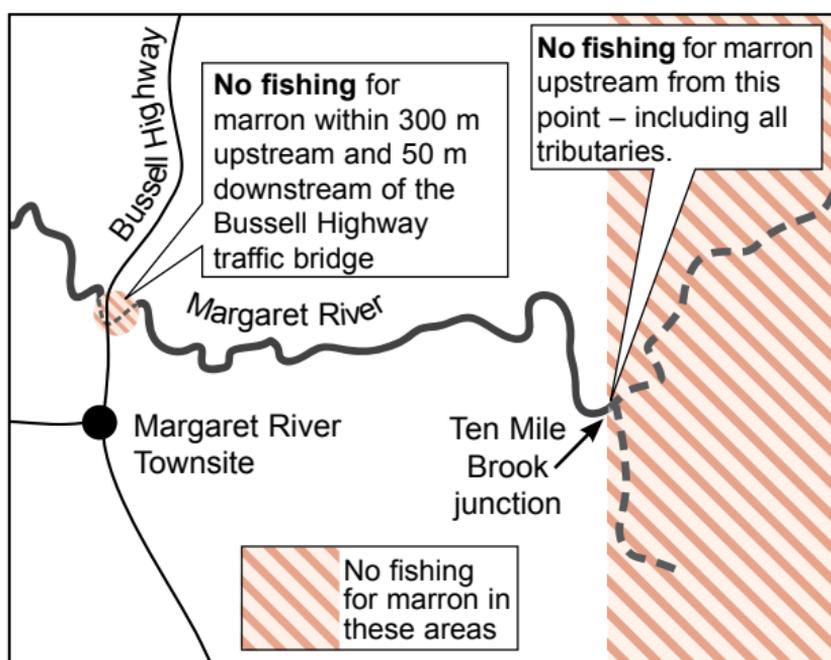
All other methods are illegal, to ensure the protection of native species.

Snare-only waters include:

- **Margaret River** (outside of closures – see closed waters section);
- **Big Brook Dam, Drakes Brook Dam, Glen Mervyn Dam and Logue Brook Dam;**

- **Harvey Dam** and the **Harvey River** upstream of the South Western Highway including the tributaries flowing into those waters;
- **Waroona Dam** (Lake Navarino) and its tributaries; and
- **Wellington Dam** (all waters and tributaries upstream of the Wellington Dam wall, excluding the Collie River upstream of Mungalup Road Bridge).

## Closed waters



**Public water supply dams** – these are managed by the Water Corporation. Any listed in this guide are generally closed to fishing. For details, visit the Water Corporation's website at [watercorporation.com.au](http://watercorporation.com.au)

**Shannon River** – for marron research purposes, the Shannon River and its tributaries are closed to all fishing.

**Margaret River** – you must not fish for marron in the Margaret River and its tributaries

upstream of the Ten Mile Brook junction (to protect a species known as 'hairy marron'), or in waters within 300 m upstream and 50 m downstream of the Bussell Highway traffic bridge.

## Catch and size limits

### Trophy waters

'Trophy waters' are within 500 m of the high water mark of Harvey Dam, Waroona Dam and the Hutt River.



- Minimum legal size to keep – 90 mm carapace length.
- Daily bag limit per licensed fisher – 5 marron.
- Possession limit – a person must not possess more than 5 marron at any time on or adjacent to trophy waters.

### All other marron waters



- Minimum legal size to keep – 80 mm carapace length.
- Daily bag limit per licensed fisher – 8 marron.
- Possession limit – 16 marron.

**Please note:** The daily bag limit applies from noon on any given day until noon the next day. 'Possession limit' means you may only accumulate your daily bag limits up to this number. A possession limit applies everywhere except in your principal place of residence.

# Protecting marron

The marron fishery is unique because it is purely for recreational fishers. However, over time, the total catch has declined greatly due to a combination of environmental factors and fishing pressure. The fishing rules are in place to help protect vulnerable breeding populations so that the WA community will have marron in the future.

You must measure each marron as soon as you catch it, then immediately and carefully return to the water:

- undersize marron; and
- female marron carrying eggs or young.

Also, please dispose of rubbish and old bait properly – don't leave waste on the bank of a river or dam. In addition, keep in mind that you share the marron fishery. Nobody owns the shoreline, so don't stake out big 'territories'.

## How to measure a marron

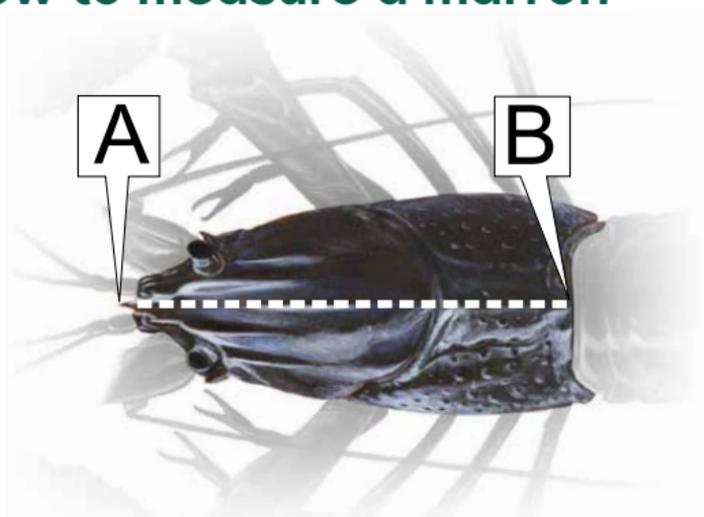


Illustration © R. Swainston/www.anima.net.au

Measure from the tip of the horn on the marron's forehead (A) to the back edge of the carapace (B). If the gauge fits over the back

of the carapace, and is even slightly loose, the marron is too small and must be returned to the water immediately. Measure accurately using an approved gauge, available from tackle shops. Measuring with anything else, such as a drink can or ruler, can lead to mistakes.

## Boats and diving

Snorkelling or using compressed air to catch marron is prohibited. Fishing for marron from a boat (including canoes) is also illegal. You may only transport marron by boat if you have fished an area not accessible by vehicle and caught the marron from the land using a pole snare.

Fishers may transport scoop nets or drop nets only on the Donnelly River downstream of the boat landing. This privilege will be revoked if abused. Fishing from a boat is still illegal.

## Transporting marron

Marron caught during open season must be taken to your residence by midnight on the last day of the season.

Transporting marron outside the season including marron grown in dams on private property is illegal. Marron purchased from a licenced commercial aquaculture facility must only be transported with receipt as proof of purchase. This helps to protect the marron aquaculture industry, which is licensed to grow and sell marron to restaurants and the public.

## Catch care

Keep your marron alive in a shaded, damp sack until you are ready to cook them. Don't use a bucket of water as it will quickly become polluted and suffocate them.

Place marron in the freezer for a few minutes to anaesthetise them before preparing for consumption.

To dispatch a marron, insert a sharp knife between the eyes and cut through the centreline of the head and thorax (splitting) in one quick movement.

## FishWatch

To help keep WA's waters pest and disease free, please thoroughly clean and dry all gear before moving to another area to fish. You can also help by reporting any illegal fishing, aquatic pests and diseases or fish kills to FishWatch on 1800 815 507 or online via [crimestopperswa.com.au/organisatin-report/fishwatch/](https://crimestopperswa.com.au/organisatin-report/fishwatch/)

## 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 for an individual plus up to 10 times the prescribed value of the species.

# Hook up to the rec fishing rules

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.

**Website** - go to [fish.wa.gov.au/rules](http://fish.wa.gov.au/rules) for rules covering more than 180 fish species. Use the interactive maps to discover information about marine protected areas and common species by region.



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



**Guide** - grab a copy or download from [fish.wa.gov.au/guide](http://fish.wa.gov.au/guide)



## Recfishwest

Love your fishing? So do we!

As the peak body for rec fishing, our purpose is to ensure great fishing experiences for all in the WA community forever.

Visit our website to find out about some great fishing initiatives.



[recfishwest.org.au](http://recfishwest.org.au)

Report shark sightings to  
Water Police on **9442 8600**  
Download the SharkSmart WA app

SWITCH  
ON YOUR  
SEA SENSE 

[SHARKSMART.COM.AU](http://SHARKSMART.COM.AU)

## About this guide

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 the website.



[rules.fish.wa.gov.au/Species/Index/29](https://rules.fish.wa.gov.au/Species/Index/29)

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