

MODIFIED RECREATIONAL FISHING RULES AT A GLANCE



Stocks of some of Western Australia's most prized demersal (bottom-dwelling) scalefish like dhufish and pink snapper are known to be at critically low levels in the West Coast Bioregion (Kalbarri to Augusta).

To help demersal scalefish stocks recover and be sustainable for the future, a **total ban on the take of 'high risk' demersal fish by recreational fishers** in the West Coast Bioregion applies from **15 October to 15 December**, inclusive.

A list of the high risk demersal species to which the two-month ban applies in the West Coast Bioregion is contained in the table overleaf. For further information, visit **fishforthefuture.com.au** or contact the Department of Fisheries on **1800 726 586**.

(Note: Commercial fishers are under separate arrangements to reduce their catch of these species)

Please act responsibly and do your bit to ensure we all have fish for the future.

Key dates for the West Coast Bioregion fishery

15 October

- Start of the two-month seasonal closure (for boat and shore fishing) on the take of 'high risk' demersal species such as dhufish and pink snapper by recreational fishers;
- Change to the combined bag limit for 'medium risk' fish – including tailor, silver trevally (skippy) and King George whiting – from 16 to **12**; and
- Change to the combined bag limit for 'lowest risk' species – including herring, sand whiting and garfish – from 40 to **30**.



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Fish for the future

16 December

From 16 December, new bag and boat limits will come into place for 'high risk' species. These measures include:

- The high risk category split into *demersal scalefish* and *pelagic* species;
- A mixed bag limit of 2 high risk demersal scalefish, of which only **1 (one)** may be a dhufish (see table for details);
- A mixed bag limit of 2 pelagic species;
- A boat limit of 2 dhufish (6 dhufish on charter vessels);
- Removal of the existing boat limits for high risk species;
- A requirement to carry a *release weight* when fishing from a boat for demersal scalefish in the West Coast Bioregion;
- Removal of the maximum size for grey banded rock cod;
- New pink snapper size limit of 50 cm applies south of Lancelin; and
- Some high risk species moved to the medium risk category.

The seasonal closure (15 October to 15 December) will apply to the species in the table below. When the fishery reopens on **16 December** the new bag limits listed below will apply:

WEST COAST BIOREGION

HIGH RISK DEMERSAL SPECIES – Combined bag limit of 2	
Coral Trout and coronation trout (combined)	1
Cod species combined including harlequin fish and breaksea cod	2
Cod (<i>Epinephelus</i> spp) over 30 kg or 1000 mm in length Note: Max size does not apply to grey banded rock cod	0
Dhufish, West Australian	1
Emperor – combined (nor'west snapper)	2
Emperor, red	2
Foxfish and pigfish (combined)	2
Groper, blue	1
Hapuku, blue-eye trevalla, bass groper and grey banded rock cod (combined)	2
Parrotfish (combined)	2
Snappers, tropical – other species combined, including mangrove jack and job fish	2
Snapper, pink	2
Morwong, blue (queen snapper)	2
Redfish (bight redfish, yelloweye redfish, swallowtail (combined)	2
Tuskfish and baldchin groper (combined)	2

Visit fishforthefuture.com.au for the latest information.