

# HOW TO IDENTIFY SALMON AND HERRING



Fishers along the lower West Coast and South Coast regularly catch juvenile Western Australian salmon in estuaries and coastal embayments whilst fishing for other species.

Unfortunately, many fishers misidentify juvenile Western Australian salmon and believe they have caught large Australian herring. Frequent misidentification of the two species can be attributed to their family resemblance – the two fish are both members of the Family Arripidae.

Some also believe these juveniles are a salmon trout, but there is no such fish – only juvenile West Australian salmon.

Accidentally or deliberately, keeping juvenile salmon will only put pressure on future catches. Fishers will also leave themselves open to fines and infringements due to the significant difference in the bag limits and size limits between Western Australian salmon and Australian herring.

For the most up-to-date information on fishing rules, refer to the current Recreational Fishing Guide in your region, contact the Department of Fisheries before going fishing or check the Department's web site at [www.fish.wa.gov.au](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au)

## Western Australian salmon

### *Arripis truttaceus*

Salmon have an elongated body that is more rounded than the herring. The side pectoral fins of salmon are yellow. Juveniles are silvery white, smoothed scaled, and have several rows of golden or brown spots on their back and sides. They reach sexual maturity at about 54 cm and can grow to around 96 cm.

Adult



Juvenile



## Australian herring

### *Arripis georgianus*

Herring are very similar to juvenile salmon. Both species have rows of golden or brown spots on their sides and back, however herring has several features that assists with identification. Herring have a much larger eye than the salmon and the head is more rounded. The tail has black tips and the scales of the fish are rough to touch. Herring reach sexual maturity between about 19 and 21 cm and can grow to around 41 cm.

Adult



### CATCH CARE

Adult Western Australian Salmon are a highly prized by fishers. It is vital for the future of this species that all undersize fish are returned immediately to the water alive.

- Handle undersize fish gently.
- Always handle fish with a wet rag.
- Use barbless hooks on your rigs.
- If you have trouble de-hooking the fish, cut the line 20-30 cm from the hook to reduce the possibility of the line impeding the fish's ability to feed, and return the fish to the water.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

#### DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

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168 St George's Terrace, Perth 6000  
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e-mail: [headoffice@fish.wa.gov.au](mailto:headoffice@fish.wa.gov.au)  
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#### METROPOLITAN REGIONAL OFFICE (FREMANTLE)

14 Capo D'Orlando Drive, South Fremantle 6162  
Ph: (08) 9432 8000, Fax: (08) 9432 8060

#### SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE (ALBANY)

Suite 7, Frederick House, 70-74 Frederick St 6330  
Ph: (08) 9841 7766, Fax: (08) 9842 1112



Department of Fisheries  
Government of Western Australia



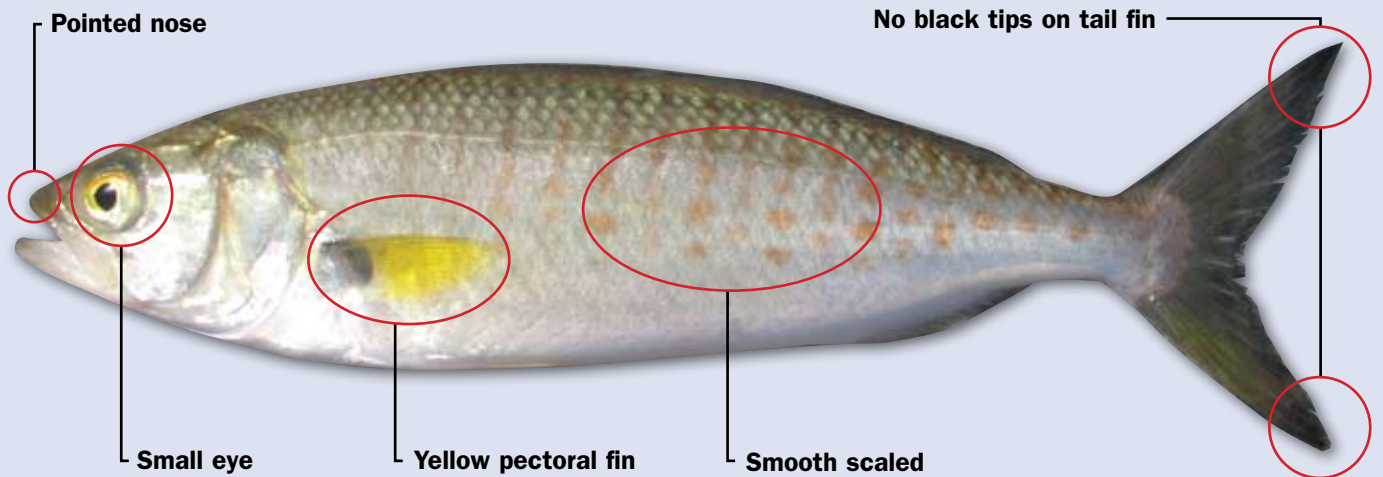
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# SALMON AND HERRING

## IDENTIFICATION TIPS

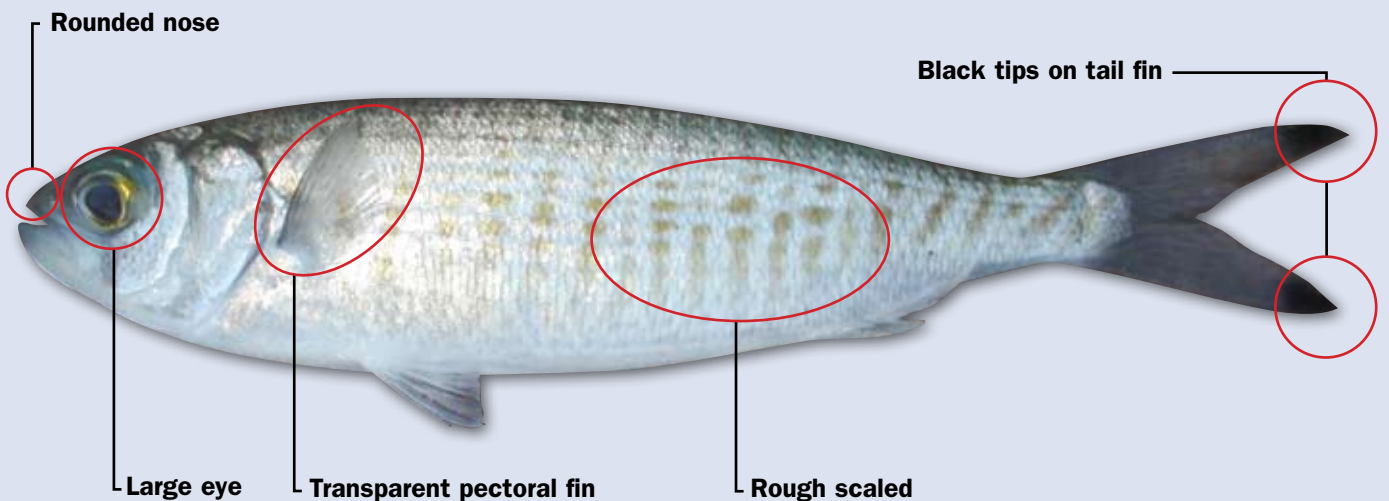
### Western Australian salmon – juvenile

*Arripis truttacea*



### Australian herring

*Arripis georgianus*



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Government of Western Australia



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