



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

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Fishing for blue swimmer crabs in Cockburn Sound

The Cockburn Sound recreational crab fishery will re-open on 1 December 2024.

Cockburn Sound and waters to the north will operate under the same rules as the Swan and Canning rivers.



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Daily bag limit

5 per fisher, per day.



Boat possession limit

20 crabs when there are 4 or more Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence holders on board.

Seasonal closure

1 September to 30 November (inclusive) each year to protect breeding stocks. It is illegal to fish for blue swimmer crabs in closed areas during closed seasons.

Visit fish.wa.gov.au/recfishing for more information.

Why is it re-opening?

Cockburn Sound has historically supported a commercial crab fishery and a popular recreational crab fishery however due to low stock levels the fishery has been closed since 2014.

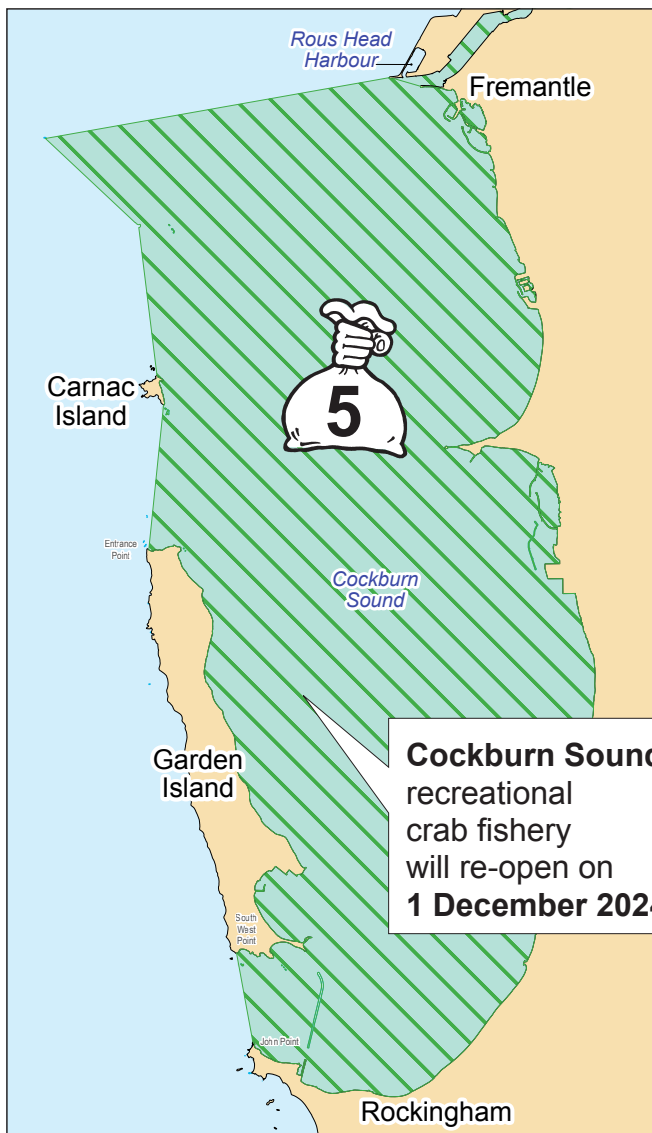
A recent assessment of blue swimmer crabs indicated that the Cockburn Sound stock can support a low level of recreational catch.

While a low level of fishing is now sustainable, crab numbers have not returned to levels seen in the 2000s. This is because the productivity within the Sound decreased after measures to improve water quality were implemented.

Because of this lower abundance, the fishery is reopening to recreational fishers only, with a reduced daily bag limit of 5 crabs to ensure the available catch is shared amongst fishers and supports a quality fishing experience.

The next stock assessment is scheduled for 2029.

Fishing for blue swimmer crabs will be permitted in these areas



Note: Fishing in Rous Head is not permitted.

Contact us

1300 374 731 (1300 DPIRD1)

enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au

For the most up-to-date information, including rules and licences, visit fish.wa.gov.au/recfishing or contact your local DPIRD office before going fishing.

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08 9432 8000

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