



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fisheries**

Go fishing for science!

Take part in the

Research Angler Program

and help ensure there will be fish for the future



Fish for the future

Become a research angler and help important fisheries research

If you enjoy fishing, why not become a Research Angler? You'll be contributing directly to research and helping to ensure there will be plenty of fish for your kids and grandkids to catch.

You don't need to be a scientist to take part – just an enthusiastic angler. There are many ways to participate in the Research Angler Program (RAP) and they all involve one of your favourite pastimes – fishing!

Why your help is so important

Western Australia has a vast coastline and inland waterway system. Studying fish over such a huge area is challenging. We need your help to collect enough data to ensure fish and their habitats are being well managed.



Projects you can help with

There are many opportunities, including:

e Fish tagging

You can report recaptured tagged fish.

Scientists tag and release fish and invertebrates (e.g. squid and crabs) to better understand their population structure, movement, growth and mortality. If you capture a tagged fish or invertebrate, take note of the information on the tag then contact us.

You can tag your own fish. Check our website for current research projects needing volunteer taggers.

e The *Send Us Your Skeletons* program

SEND US YOUR SKELETONS

HELP ENSURE THERE'S FISH FOR THE FUTURE



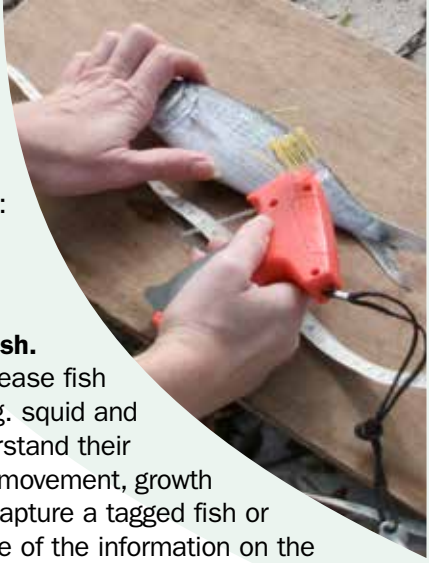
You can donate skeletons, also called 'frames', after you've filleted your fish.

A fish frame gives researchers clues about its age and other information. This can be used to build a picture of the population of each species and help better manage our fisheries.

We need frames, fresh or frozen, with the head and guts intact, for many marine and freshwater species. For the list of species we need, pick up a *Send Us Your Skeletons* brochure at Department of Fisheries offices or see our website.

Bag and label them with your name and address plus the date, time and location of capture. There are drop-off locations from Albany to Geraldton, including Department of Fisheries offices.

W: www.fish.wa.gov.au



e Anglers' log book program

You can record catch details in a log book.

This helps us monitor fish abundance and diversity, and other indicators of changes in environmental conditions. Data collected is used by researchers working on a number of projects.

Your log book (which we provide) can be used to record catch details for ocean, estuary or freshwater fishing. We will keep you up to date with our research through a regular newsletter.

e Tailor survey

You can take part in a catch-and-release project.

From February to April each year, you can help monitor the abundance of juvenile tailor in the Swan River. The data helps researchers forecast the population of adult tailor in future years.

e Fishing club historic records survey

Your club can lend us its records. Catch records can help researchers document the history of local fish populations. We enter these records into our database then return the original data to the club, with electronic and hard copy summaries of the data.

e Catch card programs

You can submit catch cards. Catch rates of finfish and invertebrates recorded on catch cards indicate local fish abundance and diversity. Scientists use this information to monitor changes in the health of fish stocks. Completed cards go into a draw to win a prize.

Angling tournaments: Your club can distribute RAP catch cards at its next tournament. Completed cards provide a 'snapshot' survey of local fish stocks. Contact us at least eight weeks before your tournament to request cards.

Busselton Jetty: Free catch cards are available from the Busselton Jetty Interpretative Centre or from our Busselton office. Return your completed card to the Interpretative Centre.

Who can be a Research Angler?

Anyone with a love of fishing can take part. We also welcome charter operators and commercial fishers, community groups and students. We need Research Anglers from all over the State.



Next time you land a fish – you could be gathering valuable data

If you're out there enjoying fishing, for very little extra effort you could be helping to gather the information our scientists need to ensure there will be fish for the future.

By sharing your fishing experience, you'll be making a direct contribution to the sustainable management of fish stocks.

As a Research Angler, you'll receive a regular newsletter including research results, information about fish species, news of new projects and special events. Some projects also offer rewards and prizes.

Like to know more?

Visit the 'Volunteers' page under 'About us':

W: www.fish.wa.gov.au

Like to take part?

To donate fish frames, see www.fish.wa.gov.au for drop-off locations. To report the tagged fish you catch, call the telephone number on the tag as soon as possible. If you'd like to help with other projects, email or telephone to let us know which project/s you'd like to participate in. For the anglers' log book program, you may prefer to complete the tear-off form attached and mail it to the address on the form.

E: researchvolunteers@fish.wa.gov.au.

T: (08) 9203 0111

Anglers' log book program

Do you fish regularly?

By keeping a log book, you can help monitor the health of the environment to keep our fisheries sustainable and productive. Send us your details and a log book will be mailed to you.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

Do you belong to an angling club? **YES / NO**

Please send me information on current bag and size limits

Mail to: Anglers' Log Book Program
PO Box 20, North Beach, WA 6920

*The personal details you provide
will remain confidential.*

Thank you for your support.

Happy fishing!