


Recreational Sea Fishing **GUIDE • 2025-26**

1 November 2025 - 31 October 2026

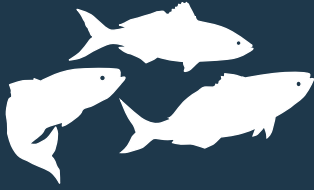




In recognition of the deep history and culture of this Island, we would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the past and present Custodians of Land and Sea Country.

For information about Aboriginal fishing rules, please see page 6.

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Fishcare
T A S M A N I A

Promoting Responsible Recreational Fishing

Fishing Clinics

Community Events and Shows

Schools Programs

**Volunteer
with us!**

See page 94 for Fishcare contact details.



What type of fishing needs a licence?

You need a licence for the following types of recreational sea fishing:

- abalone;
- rock lobster dive;*
- rock lobster pot;*
- rock lobster ring;*
- scallop;
- graball net;
- mullet net;
- beach seine net; and
- set line (includes longline and dropline).

** It is a requirement of this licence that you report your fishing details and your catch.*

You don't need a licence for rod and line fishing in marine waters, but an Inland Fisheries Licence is required for any fishing in inland waters, including some river mouths and estuaries. See page 89.

Licence Fees

From 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2026, the following costs apply:

Standard Licence:

\$66.85 – first licence (base fee of \$57.30 plus \$9.55 for first licence). Each additional licence type - **\$9.55**.

Concession Licence: Commonwealth Pension, DVA Concession, Government Seniors cardholders and persons under 16. Health Care cardholders are not eligible.

\$38.20 – first licence (base fee of \$28.65 plus \$9.55 for first licence). Each additional licence type - **\$9.55**.

Additional Licence:

\$9.55 – add a licence type plus the cost of the new licence.

Where do I buy or renew a licence?

Fishing licences are available from Service Tasmania or online at: **fishing.tas.gov.au/licence**.

When will my licence expire?

The recreational licensing year begins on 1 November each year. Licences are valid from the date of issue to 31 October.

Age Restrictions

You must be at least 10 years old to hold a rock lobster, abalone, scallop, graball net, mullet net or set line licence.

Check your licence online

To check your existing licences or your licence number go to: **fishing.tas.gov.au/licence**.

Aboriginal Fishers

Recreational fishing rules apply to both recreational and Aboriginal fishers. If you are an Aboriginal person engaged in an Aboriginal fishing activity, you do not have to hold a fishing licence, but you must follow all other fisheries rules, except:

- you are not required to report rock lobster catch (pg. 54),
- you are not required to use specific abalone tools (pg. 43), and
- you may take and possess limpets and elephant snails.

If you wish to engage in an Aboriginal fishing activity which is not permitted under fisheries rules, you may apply for a permit.

Unique Identifying Code (UIC)

If using pots, caufs, unattended rings, gillnets or set lines, you must mark and display a unique identifying code (UIC) on your gear. Further details about Aboriginal fishing and how to apply for a UIC are available at fishing.tas.gov.au/community/aboriginal-fishing.

Gear marking

Marker Buoys

Marker buoys must be:

- at least 195 mm in diameter;
- marked in figures not less than 70mm high and 12 mm wide; and
- specifically designed as a buoy and float on the surface of the water.

Additional buoys may be used for visibility.









A marker buoy with licence number

Marking Your Gear

You will be issued with a unique licence number that you can use in future years. Mark a gear code and this number on your buoy for:

- rock lobster pots, caufs and unattended rings (see pages 57 and 58);
- graball and mullet nets (page 35); and
- set lines (page 32).

Species	Season
<p>Rock lobster and giant crab (see map on page 50)</p> 	<p>Waters outside the East Coast Stock Rebuilding Zone (ECSRZ) Open from 1 November 2025.</p> <p>East Coast Stock Rebuilding Zone Open from 6 December 2025.</p> <p>Eastern Region (including ECSRZ) Closed from 1 May 2026.</p> <p>Western Region (Females) Closed from 1 May 2026.</p> <p>Western Region (Males) Closed from 1 September 2026.</p>
<p>Scallops</p> 	<p>2026: Open from 28 March to 31 July inclusive. The D'Entrecasteaux Channel remains closed.</p>
<p>Squid / Calamari (see maps on page 28)</p> 	<p>South-East South of Lemon Rock to Whale Head (including Coles Bay and Great Oyster Bay). Closed from 15 October to 14 November inclusive in 2025 and 2026.</p> <p>North Coast North of Cape Grim and Cape Naturaliste. Closed from 1 September to 31 October inclusive in 2025 and 2026.</p>
<p>Striped trumpeter</p> 	<p>Closed from 1 September to 31 October inclusive each year.</p>
<p>Banded morwong</p> 	<p>Closed from 1 March to 30 April inclusive each year.</p>
<p>Garfish</p> 	<p>Northern Waters North of Cape Grim and Cape Naturaliste. 2026: Closed from 15 January to 14 February.</p> <p>Southern Waters (all other waters) 2025: Closed from 15 November to 14 December.</p>

For changes to published fishing seasons see fishing.tas.gov.au or the *Fishing Tas* app.

Get the **NEW** *Fishing Tas* app

- Fish ID guide to 150+ species
- Maps for wherever you fish
- Quick access to the latest rules

Use the app to
**report your
rock lobster
catch**



Download today!



Catch Limits Explained

Bag limit

The maximum number of a particular type of fish you can take in any one day.



Possession limit

The maximum number of a particular type of fish as an individual fisher can have at any one time in Tasmania. Some possession limits apply to a specified area (e.g. on-water possession limits, which apply when on State waters and some islands where specified).



Boat limit

The maximum number of a particular type of fish that can be possessed in one boat on any one day. Personal daily bag and possession limits still apply.



For example

Australian salmon



15



30






No boat limit

Don't Highgrade Your Catch




- High grading your catch is not allowed. You can't bring **more than your daily bag limit** to the boat or shore to sort your catch and choose what you want to keep.
- Fish are regarded as **taken** and in your possession as soon as collected or caught.
- Count and measure your catch as you go to keep within catch limits.

Catch limits are a combined total for all species in a fish group.




Bag, Possession and Size Limits




Fish Group - Scalefish					Minimum Size
Baitfish (anchovy, sprat, sardine, hardyhead)		50	100	-	-
Barracouta		15	30	-	-
Boarfish, Longsnout		2	4	-	45 cm
Bream (marine waters)		5	10	-	25 cm
Cod		15	30	-	-
Elephantfish		2	4	-	-
Flathead, Sand*	D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Derwent River, Frederick Henry and Norfolk Bays	2	2 ^	-	Legal size between 35-40 cm
	Eastern Zone	5	5 ^	-	
	Northern/Western Zone	10	10	-	
	King and Flinders Islands	10	10	-	35 cm
^ a possession limit of 10 applies when on land, regardless of the zone you fished in (see page 16)					
Flathead, Tiger*		20	30	-	32 cm
*Combined limits apply for Sand and Tiger Flathead		20	30		
Flathead, Bluespotted and Rock		5 (Only 1 over 60 cm)	10	-	40 cm
Flounder		15	30	-	25 cm
Garfish		15	30	-	25 cm
Gurnard and Ocean Perch		15	30	-	-
Kingfish, Yellowtail		5	10	-	45 cm
Leatherjacket		10	20	-	20 cm
Mackerel and Redbait		30	60	-	-
Morwong, Banded		2	4	-	Legal size between 36-46 cm

Bag, Possession and Size Limits

Fish Group - Scalefish				Minimum Size
Morwong, Jackass and Other	10	20	30 (jackass only)	25 cm
Mullet	15	30	-	25 cm
Pike, Longfin	15	30	-	-
Salmon, Atlantic (marine waters)	12	24	-	-
Salmon, Australian	15	30	-	20 cm
Snapper	5	10	-	30 cm
Snook	5	10	-	-
Squid - Southern Calamari	10	20	-	-
Squid - Goulds	15	30	-	-
Swordfish or Marlin	1	1	2	-
Tailor	5	10	-	-
Trevalla, Blue-eye	5	10	25	-
Trevally, Silver	10	20	-	20 cm
Trout (marine waters)	12	24	-	-
Trumpeter, Bastard	Eastern region	2	10	42 cm
	Western region	5	10	
Trumpeter, Striped	Eastern region	2	8	55 cm
	Western region	4	8	
Tuna, Bluefin, Yellowfin, Bigeye	2	2	4 (only 2 over 1.5m)	-
Tuna, Albacore	5	10	-	-
Tuna, Skipjack	10	20	-	-
Warehou, Blue and Silver	10	20	30 (blue only)	25 cm
Whiting, King George	5	10	-	35 cm
Whiting, Other	15	30	-	-
Wrasse	5	10	-	30 cm
Other fish not listed, except ornamental and protected species	5	10	-	-

Bag, Possession and Size Limits

Fish Group - Shark				Minimum Size
Shark, Mako and Blue	1	2	2	-
Shark, School and Gummy	2	2	see below*	75 cm or 45 cm headed & tailed
Sharks and Rays, Other, except elephantfish	2	4	see below*	-
* Shark boat limit (all species combined except elephantfish)			5	

Fish Group - Other				Minimum Size
Abalone	10	20	-	Blacklip: Arthur River east to Musselroe Point: 120mm Other waters: 138mm Greenlip: Montagu east to Bridport: 132mm Other waters: 145mm
Octopus	5	10	-	-
Rock lobster	Eastern Region	2	4 ^	10
	Western Region	5	10	25
	Northern Bass Strait	2	4 ^	10
^ A possession limit of 10 applies when on mainland Tasmania, Flinders, Cape Barren or Bruny Islands (see page 53)				Northern Zone male: 110 mm female: 120 mm Southern Zone male: 110 mm female: 105 mm
Scallops	50	50 (on water) 100 (on land)	250	Queen and Commercial: 100mm, Doughboy: 80mm
Giant Crab	1	1	-	male: 140 mm female: 150 mm
Inshore Crabs	15	30	-	-
Prawns	50	100	-	-
Bait Invertebrates (soldier crabs, burrowing shrimp, marine worms)	50	100	-	-

How to Report Illegal Fishing

Fishwatch is a hotline to Tasmania Police for reporting illegal fishing activities. Only call Fishwatch if you're reporting illegal fishing.

For all other enquiries or reports, refer to page 95 of this guide.

If in doubt, you can email **fishing.enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au** or call Recreational Sea Fishing Enquiries on **1300 720 647** during business hours.

What details should you report?

To report illegal fishing call Fishwatch on **0427 655 557**.

Helpful details include:

- The time and location of the offence;
- Fishing gear used, including licence or buoy numbers;
- Car/boat registration numbers or descriptions; and
- Names or descriptions of person/s involved.

Information can be given anonymously.

Buying or Selling Recreational Fish is Illegal

You are not allowed to sell, buy, barter or raffle recreationally caught fish. Both the seller and purchaser are liable for prosecution and heavy fines may apply. Offenders may face confiscation of boats and fishing gear and be prevented from holding a fishing licence in the future.

Can I Give Fish Away?

You are allowed to give away fish that you have caught, but make sure the receiver understands the possession limits for that species. Proof of purchase is required if you have fish in excess of the possession limit.

