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Recreational fishing identification guide

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Recreational fishing identification guide



Cover: Mahi mahi *Coryphaena* spp

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About this guide

Throughout this guide you will see all or some of the marine bioregion symbols with each fish illustration, indicating where the species is most likely to occur.

NC North Coast

GC Gascoyne Coast

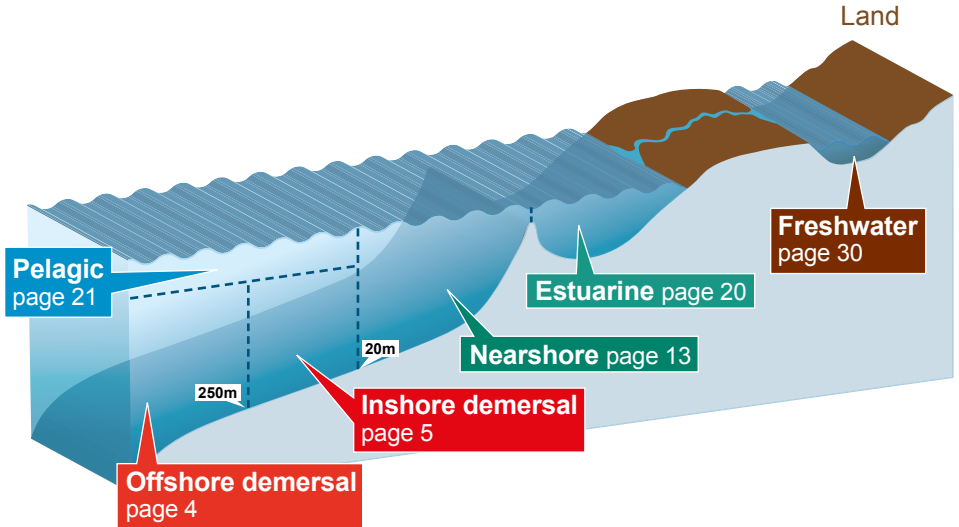
WC West Coast

SC South Coast

Freshwater species inhabit the inland bioregions, which are shown on the map on page 30.



Six broad ecological depth-based habitats are recognised within each bioregion. Finfish species are listed in the habitat where they most commonly occur. Sharks and crustaceans are presented separately as they may occupy many habitats.



This guide has been developed to help you identify the more common species in Western Australia that you may encounter. The purpose of this guide is to enhance consistent and accurate species identification.

If you are unsure about a particular species (or if it is not in this guide), please discuss it with a representative of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia. You can access additional information from dpird.wa.gov.au

Offshore demersal



NC GC WC SC

Greybanded grouper

Hyporthodus griseofasciatus



GC WC SC

Blue-eye trevalla

Hyperoglyphe antarctica



WC SC

Hapuku

Polyprion oxygeneios



NC GC WC

Ruby snapper

Etelis boweni



GC WC SC

Bass groper

Polyprion americanus

Juvenile



NC GC WC

Flame snapper

Etelis coruscans

Inshore demersal



GC WC SC

Juvenile

Pink snapper
(Snapper, pinkie)
Chrysophrys auratus



GC WC SC

Juvenile

West Australian dhufish
(Dhuie)
Glaucosoma hebraicum



WC SC

Bight redfish
(Red snapper, nannygai)
Centroberyx gerrardi



NC GC

Northern pearl perch
Glaucosoma buergeri



GC WC SC

Yelloweye redfish
Centroberyx australis



WC SC

Foxfish
(Western foxfish)
Bodianus frenchii



WC SC

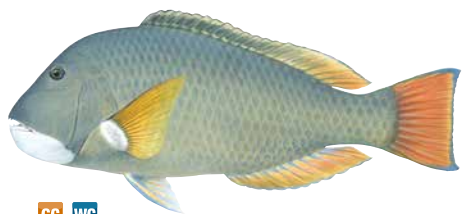
Swallowtail
Centroberyx lineatus



NC GC

Sunburnt pigfish
Bodianus solatus

Inshore demersal (continued)



GC WC

**Baldchin groper
(Baldie)**

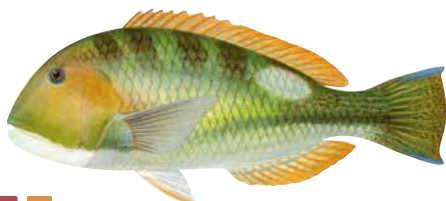
Choerodon rubescens



NC GC

**Blackspot tuskfish
(Bluebone)**

Choerodon schoenleinii



NC GC

**Blue tuskfish
(Bluebone)**

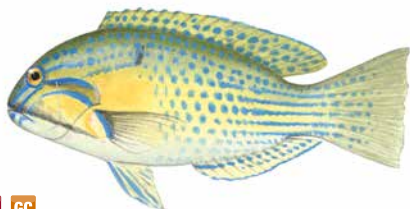
Choerodon cyanodus



NC GC WC

Bluebarred parrotfish

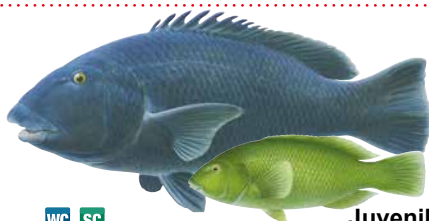
Scarus ghobban



NC GC

Bluespotted tuskfish

Choerodon cauteroma

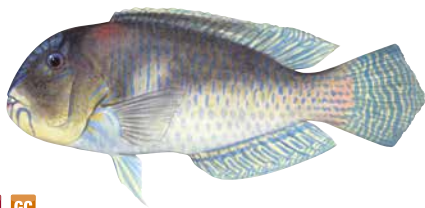


WC SC

Juvenile

Western blue groper

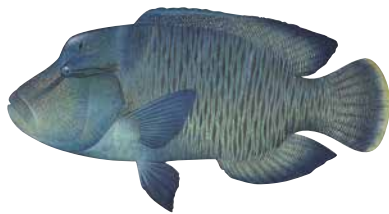
Achoerodus gouldii



NC GC

**Purple tuskfish
(Grass tuskfish, bluebone)**

Choerodon cephalotes



NC

Humphead maori wrasse

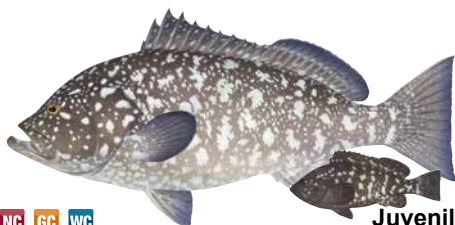
PROTECTED SPECIES

Cheilinus undulatus



GC WC SC

Breaksea cod
(Black arse snapper)
Epinephelus armatus



NC GC WC

Juvenile

Rankin cod
(Whitespotted rockcod)
Epinephelus rankini



NC GC WC

Blackspotted rockcod
(Malabar cod, estuary cod, slimy cod)
Epinephelus malabaricus



NC GC WC

Goldspotted rockcod
(Estuary cod, slimy cod, greasy grouper)
Epinephelus coioides



NC GC

Duskytail grouper
(Spotted trout, trout cod)
Epinephelus bleekeri



NC GC

Yellowspotted rockcod
(Spotted cod, honeycomb cod)
Epinephelus areolatus



NC GC

Frostback rockcod
(Spotted cod, honeycomb cod, frostback cod)
Epinephelus bilobatus



NC GC WC

Tomato rockcod
Cephalopholis sonnerati

Inshore demersal (continued)



WC SC

Harlequin fish

Othos dentex

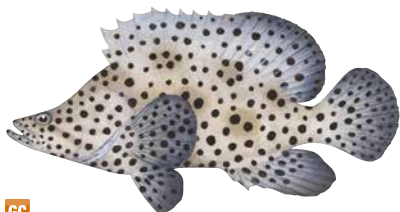


NC GC

Barcheek coral trout

(Inshore coral trout)

Plectropomus maculatus



NC GC

Barramundi cod

Cromileptes altivelis

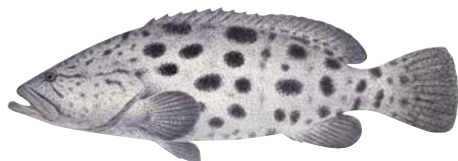


NC GC WC

Common coral trout

(Leopard coral trout)

Plectropomus leopardus



NC GC

Potato rockcod

PROTECTED SPECIES

(Potato cod)

Epinephelus tukula



NC GC WC

Yellowedge coronation trout

(Coronation trout, lunartail trout)

Variola louti



NC GC WC

Queensland grouper

PROTECTED SPECIES

(Giant grouper, Queensland grouper)

Epinephelus lanceolatus

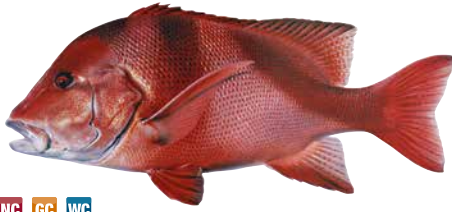


NC GC

Chinamanfish

(Chinaman)

Symphorus nematophorus



NC GC WC

**Red emperor
(Reds)**
Lutjanus sebae



NC GC WC

**Mangrove Jack
(Jacks)**
Lutjanus argentimaculatus



NC GC

**Crimson snapper
(Crimson seaperch, red snapper)**
Lutjanus erythropterus



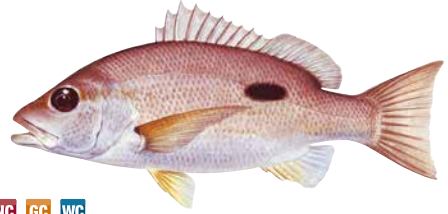
NC GC WC

**Darktail snapper
(Maroon seaperch, dark tailed seaperch)**
Lutjanus lemniscatus Juvenile



NC GC

**Saddletail snapper
(Scarlet seaperch)**
Lutjanus malabaricus



NC GC WC

**Moses' snapper
(Moses' perch, fingermark bream)**
Lutjanus russellii



NC

**Golden snapper
(Fingermark seaperch, fingermark bream)**
Lutjanus johnii

Inshore demersal (continued)



NC GC WC

Stripey snapper
(Spanish flag, stripey seaperch)
Lutjanus carponotatus



NC GC WC

Goldband snapper
Pristipomoides multidens



NC GC WC

Brownstripe snapper
(Flagfish)
Lutjanus vitta



NC GC WC

Rosy snapper
(Rosy jobfish, crimson jobfish)
Pristipomoides filamentosus



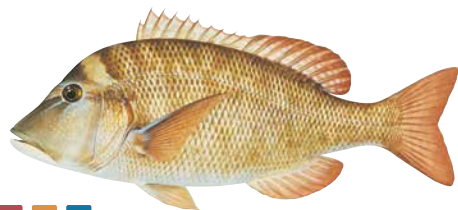
NC GC

Maori snapper
(Maori seaperch)
Lutjanus rivulatus



NC GC WC

Sharptooth snapper
(Sharptooth jobfish)
Pristipomoides typus



NC GC WC

Grass emperor
(Black snapper, blue-lined emperor,
grass snapper, tricky snapper)
Lethrinus laticaudis



NC GC WC

Spangled emperor
Lethrinus nebulosus



NC GC WC

Bluespotted emperor
(Lesser spangled emperor)
Lethrinus punctulatus



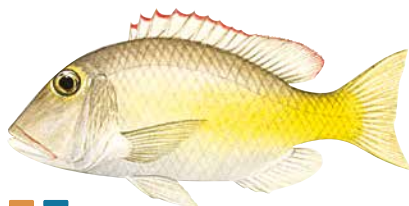
NC GC WC

Redthroat emperor
(Sweetlip emperor)
Lethrinus miniatus



NC GC

Longnose emperor
(Long-nosed emperor)
Lethrinus olivaceus



NC GC WC

Yellowtail emperor
Lethrinus atkinsoni



NC GC

Redspot emperor
(Pink-eared emperor)
Lethrinus lentjan



NC GC WC

Robinson's seabream
(Robinson's bream, Robinson's perch)
Gymnocranius grandoculis

Inshore demersal (continued)



WC SC

**Blue morwong
(Queen snapper)**

Nemadactylus valenciennesi



NC GC WC

**Painted sweetlips
(Slatey bream, sweetlip)**

Diagramma labiosum



GC WC SC

Sergeant baker

Aulopus purpurissatus



NC GC

Rosy threadfin bream

Nemipterus furcosus



GC WC SC

Sea sweep

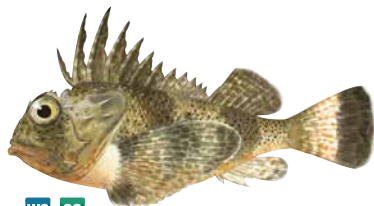
Scorpius aequipinnis



NC GC WC

Frypan bream

Argyrops notialis



WC SC

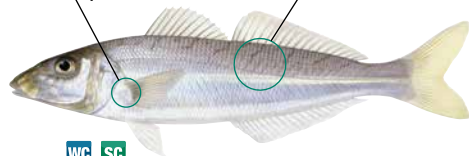
**Bighead gurnard perch
(Gurnard perch)**

Neosebastes pandus

Nearshore

No dot markings on
base of pectoral fin

Faint or no bars



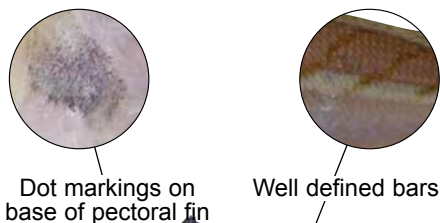
WC SC

Southern school whiting
(Sand whiting, school whiting)
Sillago bassensis



WC SC

King George whiting
Sillaginodes punctatus



GC WC

Western school whiting
(Sand whiting, school whiting)
Sillago vittata



NC GC WC

Western trumpeter whiting
Sillago burrus



NC GC

Goldenline whiting
(Golden-lined whiting)
Sillago analis



GC WC SC

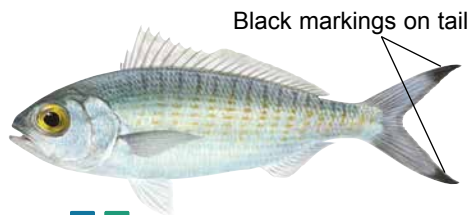
Yellowfin whiting
(Sand whiting, silver whiting)
Sillago schomburgkii



GC WC SC

Yellowtail scad
(Yellowtail, yellowtail horse mackerel)
Trachurus novaezelandiae

Nearshore (continued)



WC SC

Australian herring
(Herring, tommy ruff)
Arripis georgianus



GC WC SC

Tailor
(Chopper – small tailor)
Pomatomus saltatrix



WC SC

Western Australian salmon
(Salmon)
Arripis truttaceus



WC SC

Snook
Sphyaena novaeollandiae



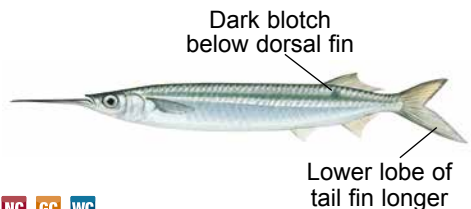
WC SC

Southern garfish
(Gardie, southern sea garfish)
Hyporhamphus melanochir



NC GC WC SC

Yellowtail barracuda
(Pike, striped seapike)
Sphyaena obtusata



NC GC WC

Three-by-two garfish
(Robust garfish, storm garfish)
Hemiramphus robustus



NC GC WC

Longtom
Family Belonidae

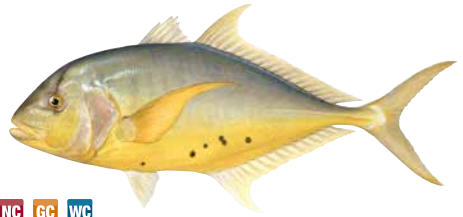


GC WC SC

Silver trevally (Skipjack, skippy)

Pseudocaranx spp

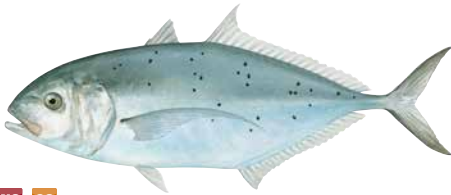
This includes the smaller sand trevally (*P. wrighti*)



NC GC WC

Golden trevally (Banded trevally)

Gnathanodon speciosus



NC GC

Bludger trevally

Carangoides gymnostethus



NC GC WC

Giant trevally (GT)

Caranx ignobilis



NC GC WC

Turrum (Goldspotted trevally)

Carangoides fulvoguttatus



NC GC

Queenfish (Queenie)

Scomberoides spp



GC WC

Common dart

Trachinotus botla



NC GC WC

Chinaman rockcod (Charlie court)

Epinephelus rivulatus

Nearshore (continued)



GC WC SC

Blue mackerel
(Slimey mackerel, common mackerel)
Scomber australasicus



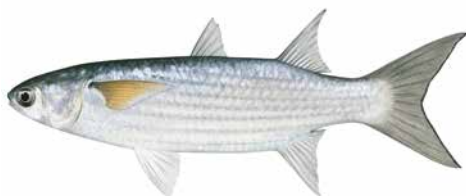
NC GC WC SC

Sea mullet
(Mullet)
Mugil cephalus



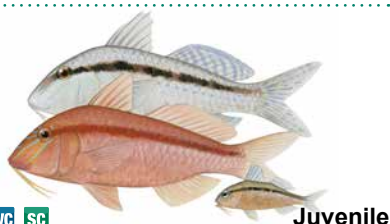
GC WC SC

Oriental bonito
Sarda orientalis



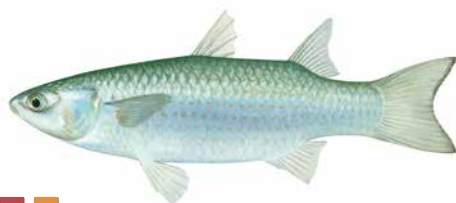
NC GC

Bluetail mullet
Valamugil bichanani



WC SC

Bluespotted goatfish
(Red mullet)
Upeneichthys vlamingii



NC GC

Greenback mullet
Liza subviridis



WC SC

Yelloweye mullet
(Pilch, yellow-eyed mullet)
Aldrichetta forsteri



NC GC

Diamondscale mullet
Liza vaigiensis



Male

Female

GC WC SC

Western King wrasse

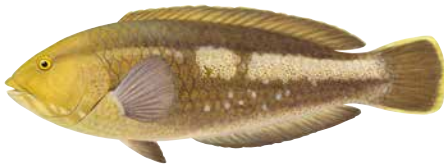
Coris auricularis



WC SC

Banded sweep

Scorpiis georgiana



GC WC SC

Brownspotted wrasse

Notolabrus parilus

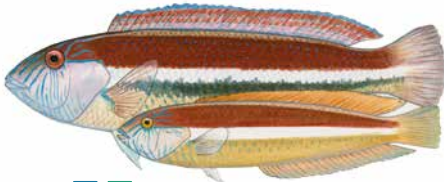


NC GC WC

Western butterflyfish

(Butterfish, buttery)

Pentapodus vitta



WC SC

Southern maori wrasse

Ophthalmolepis lineolatus



NC GC WC SC

Western striped grunter

(Trumpeter, striped trumpeter)

Pelates octolineatus



NC GC WC

Tripletail

Lobotes surinamensis



WC SC

Sea trumpeter

Pelsartia humeralis

Nearshore (continued)



GC WC SC

Mulloway
(River kingfish)
Argyrosomus japonicus



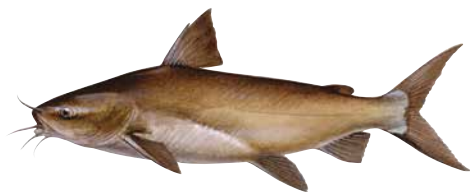
NC

Black jewfish
(Northern mullet)
Protonibea diacanthus



NC GC

Barramundi
Lates calcarifer



NC GC WC

Giant sea catfish
(Giant salmon catfish)
Arius thalassinus



4 pectoral
filaments

NC

Blue threadfin
(Bluenose threadfin salmon, blue salmon)
Eleutheronema tetradactylum



5 pectoral
filaments

NC

King threadfin
(Giant threadfin salmon, giant threadfin)
Polydactylus macrochir



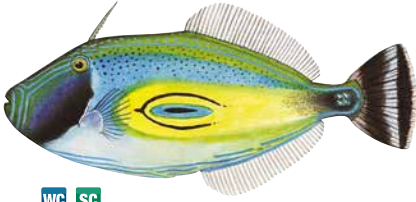
NC GC

Barred javelin
(Spotted javelinfinch)
Pomadasys kaakan



NC GC

Blotched javelin
(Blotched javelinfinch)
Pomadasys maculatus



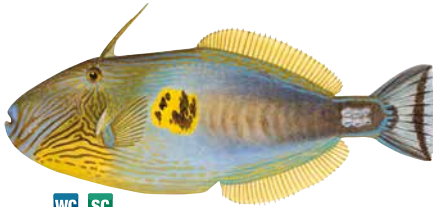
WC SC

Horseshoe leatherjacket
Meuschenia hippocrepis



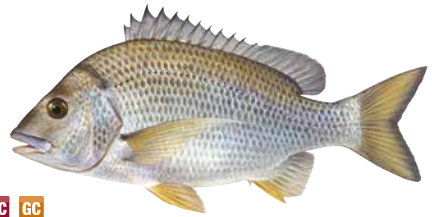
NC

Northwest black bream
(Pikey bream)
Acanthopagrus palmaris



WC SC

Sixspine leatherjacket
(Reef leatherjacket)
Meuschenia freycineti



NC GC

Western yellowfin bream
(Yellowfin bream)
Acanthopagrus morrisoni



NC GC WC SC

Silver toadfish
POISONOUS
(North-West blowfish)
Lagocephalus sceleratus



GC WC SC

Weeping toadfish
POISONOUS
(Blowie, pufferfish, common blowfish)
Torquigener pleurogramma

Estuarine



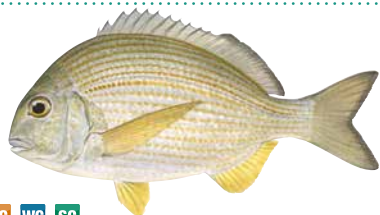
WC SC

Black bream
Acanthopagrus butcheri



NC GC WC

**Yellowtail flathead
(Bartailed flathead)**
Platycephalus westraliae



GC WC SC

**Tarwhine
(Silver bream)**
Rhabdosargus sarba



NC GC

**Northern sand flathead
(Sand flathead, flag tailed flathead)**
Platycephalus endrachtensis



NC GC WC SC

Smalltooth flounder
Pseudorhombus jenynsii



WC SC

**Southern bluespotted flathead
(Bluespotted flathead, southern flathead)**
Platycephalus speculator



NC GC

Largetooth flounder
Pseudorhombus arsius



WC SC

**Estuary cobbler
(Cobbler)**
Cnidoglanis macrocephalus

Pelagic



GC WC SC

Samsonfish

Seriola hippos

Juvenile



NC GC WC SC

Southern bluefin tuna

Thunnus maccoyii



NC GC WC

Amberjack

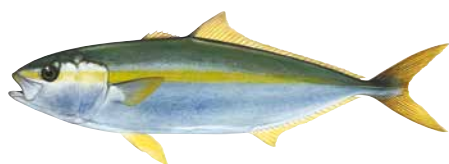
Seriola dumerili



NC GC WC

Longtail tuna

Thunnus tonggol



GC WC SC

Yellowtail kingfish

(Kingfish, kingie)

Seriola lalandi



NC GC WC

Yellowfin tuna

Thunnus albacares



NC

Dogtooth tuna

(Doggie)

Gymnosarda unicolor

Pelagic (continued)



NC GC WC

Mackerel tuna
(Jack mackerel, Kawa Kawa)
Euthynnus affinis



NC GC WC

Spanish mackerel
(Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel)
Scomberomorus commerson



NC GC WC SC

Skipjack tuna
Katsuwonus pelamis



NC GC WC

School mackerel
(Queensland school mackerel, doggie)
Scomberomorus queenslandicus



NC GC WC

Shark mackerel
(Scaly mackerel, salmon mackerel)
Grammatocygnus bicarinatus



NC GC WC

Spotted mackerel
(Australian spotted mackerel)
Scomberomorus munroi



NC GC WC

Wahoo
Acanthocybium solandri



NC GC WC

Grey mackerel
(Broad-barred Spanish mackerel,
broad-banded mackerel)
Scomberomorus semifasciatus



NC GC WC

Cobia
(Black kingfish)
Rachycentron canadum



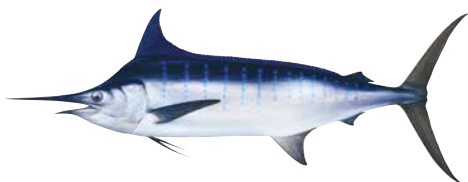
NC GC WC

Black marlin
Makaira indica



NC GC WC

Great barracuda
Sphyraena barracuda



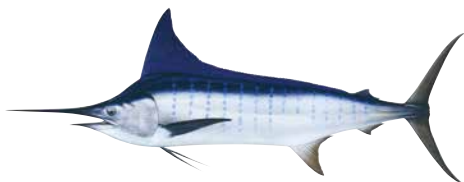
NC GC WC

Blue marlin
Makaira nigricans



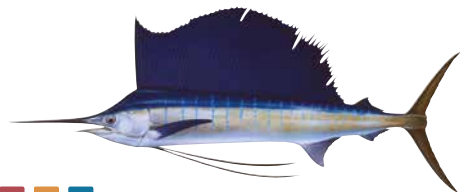
NC GC WC

Mahi mahi
(Dolphinfish)
Coryphaena spp



NC GC WC

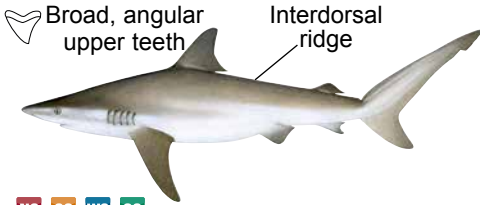
Striped marlin
Kajikia audax



NC GC WC

Sailfish
Istiophorus platypterus

Sharks



NC GC WC SC

Dusky whaler

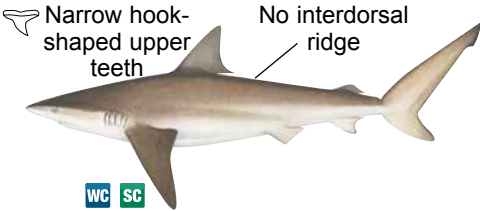
Carcharhinus obscurus



NC GC WC

Common blacktip shark

Carcharhinus limbatus



WC SC

Bronze whaler

Carcharhinus brachyurus



NC GC

Whitetip reef shark

Triaenodon obesus



NC GC WC SC

Sandbar shark

(Thickskin shark, northern whaler, sand shark)

Carcharhinus plumbeus



NC GC WC SC

Tiger shark

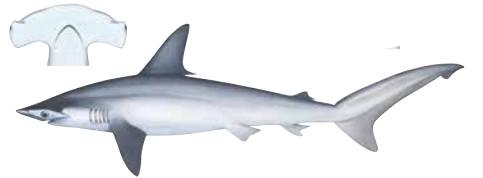
Galeocerdo cuvier



NC GC WC

Bull shark

Carcharhinus leucas



NC GC WC SC

Hammerhead sharks

Family Sphyrnidae



WC SC

Gummy shark
(Southern gummy shark)
Mustelus antarcticus



NC GC WC

Western spotted gummy shark
Mustelus stevensi



GC WC SC

Whiskery shark
Furgaleus macki



NC GC WC SC

Greynurse shark
PROTECTED SPECIES
Carcharias taurus



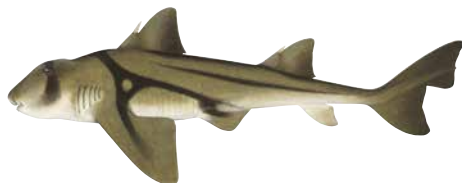
NC GC WC SC

Wobbegongs
Family Orectolobidae



NC GC WC SC

White shark
PROTECTED SPECIES
Carcharodon carcharias



WC SC

Port Jackson shark
Heterodontus portusjacksoni



WC SC

Sawsharks

Family Pristiophoridae



NC GC WC

Sawfishes

PROTECTED SPECIES

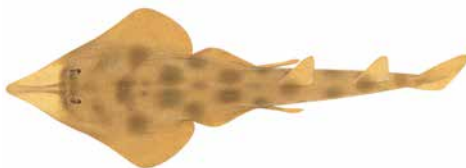
Family Pristidae



WC SC

Southern fiddler ray

Trygonorrhina dumerilii



NC GC WC SC

Western shovelnose ray

Aptychotrema vincentiana

Crustaceans

Forked antennular flagellum

GC WC SC



Antennae longer than tail

Western rock lobster

Panulirus cygnus

Non-forked antennular flagellum

WC SC



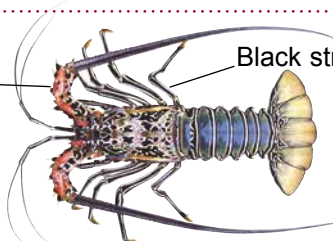
Antennae shorter than tail

Southern rock lobster

Jasus edwardsii

Pink/orange coloured base of antennae

NC GC



Black stripe on legs

Painted rock lobster
(Tropical rock lobster, green rock lobster)

Panulirus versicolor

Blue coloured base of antennae

NC GC

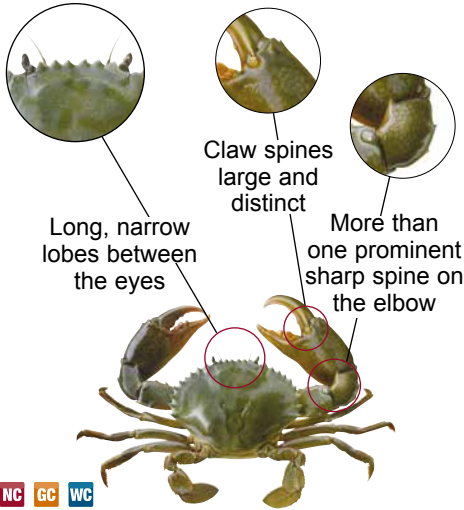


Black and white spots on legs

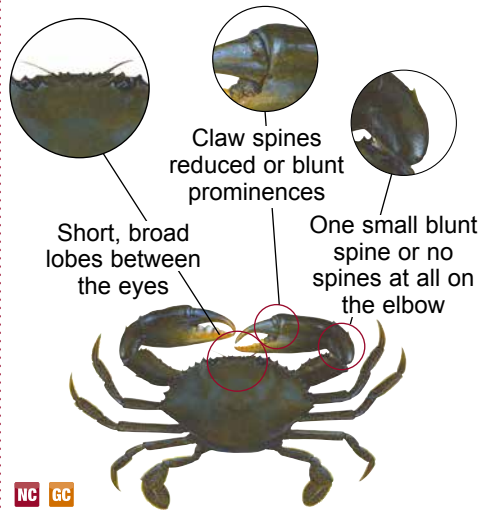
Ornate rock lobster
(Tropical rock lobster)

Panulirus ornatus

Crustaceans (continued)



Green mud crab
(Giant mud crab)
Scylla serrata



Brown mud crab
(Orange mud crab)
Scylla olivacea



Blue swimmer crab
(Blue manna, blue crab)
Portunus armatus (formerly *P. pelagicus*)

Molluscs



WC SC

Roe's abalone

Haliotis roei



NC GC WC SC

Squid

Order Teuthoidea



WC SC

Greenlip abalone

Haliotis laevis



NC GC WC SC

Octopus

Family Octopodidae



WC SC

Brownlip abalone

Haliotis conicopora



NC GC WC SC

Cuttlefish

Sepia spp



NC

Silverlip pearl oyster

PROTECTED SPECIES

Pinctada maxima

Freshwater

Two bioregions apply for freshwater species – Northern Inland and Southern Inland.



NI

Silver cobbler
(Lake Argyle catfish, Ord River catfish)
Neoarius midgleyi



NI

Western sooty grunter
(Sooty grunter)
Hephaestus jenkinsi



NI

Cherabin
(Freshwater prawns)
Macrobrachium rosenbergii



NI

Redclaw
PEST SPECIES
(Queensland red claw crayfish)
Cherax quadricarinatus



SI

Freshwater cobbler
(Freshwater catfish)
Tandanus bostocki



SI

Redfin
PEST SPECIES
Perca fluviatilis



SI

Rainbow trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss



SI

Brown trout
Salmo trutta



SI

Marron
Cherax cainii

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The information in this guide is current at the date of printing, but may change. For more information visit the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website or contact us.

Contact us

1300 374 731 (1300 DPIRD1)

enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au

Albany Office

444 Albany Highway,
Albany WA 6330
(08) 9845 7400

Broome Office

401 Port Drive,
Broome WA 6725
(08) 9193 8600

Busselton Office

48A Bussell Highway,
Busselton WA 6280
(08) 9752 2152

Carnarvon Office

262 South River Road,
Carnarvon WA 6701
(08) 9956 3333

Fremantle Office

14 Capo D'Orlando
Drive,
South Fremantle WA
6162
(08) 9432 8000

Geraldton Office

69-75 Connell Road,
Geraldton WA 6530
(08) 9956 8555

Hillarys Office

39 Northside Drive,
Hillarys WA 6025
(08) 9203 0111

Mandurah Office

107 Breakwater
Parade,
Mandurah Ocean
Marina,
Mandurah WA 6210
(08) 9583 7800

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