

## Spotted something unusual in your catch?

### NEED SOME HELP?

Occasionally you may come across a fish with some unusual signs. In most cases, these will be disfigurements or just wear and tear. If you are concerned about these unusual signs, let the Department know and we can assess the fish and provide some advice. In unusual cases, we might arrange for the fish to be sent to the Department's Animal Health Laboratory for testing.

### WHAT TO DO

1. Assess the situation. Is it a one-off or more extensive?
2. Take photos of unusual features or marks on the fish which might be signs of disease, e.g. blackened fillets in flathead.
3. Is one species of fish affected or are others showing signs of disease?
4. Record a description of the area and note the weather conditions. Is the day hot/cool, sunny/overcast? Is the creek or river flowing unusually high or low? Are there any odours?
5. Keep the affected fish chilled and separate them from those you plan to eat. **Important:** do not freeze the fish.
6. Do not throw the affected fish back into the sea or river.
7. Do not eat fish with unusual signs.
8. If the situation does not look serious, such as unusual signs only found in one fish, call the **Rec Enquiries Line on 1300 720 647**
9. Alternatively, send an email to: [fishing.enquiries@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:fishing.enquiries@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au)
10. Provide your name and a contact number, preferably a mobile number, and any other details about the fish and local conditions. If

you have a photo of the fish, attach this to the email.

11. A DPIWWE officer will contact you as soon as possible to provide advice. They may ask you to send the fish to the Animal Health Laboratory for testing.
12. There is no requirement to report unusual findings in the odd fish.

### SUBMITTING SAMPLES

Submit samples to:

Animal Health Laboratory  
Mt Pleasant Laboratories  
Dept Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment  
165 Westbury Road  
Launceston TAS 7250  
[specimenreception@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:specimenreception@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au)

### FISH KILLS

If you come across a fish kill involving large numbers of fish, please contact the **EPA's Incident Response Hotline on 1800 005 171**



Barracouta on the Derwent River. Fish trapped in freshwater after the tide changed (photo courtesy Inland Fisheries Service; [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au))