

## Releasing fish

### IMPROVING FISH SURVIVAL

- Attend your line.
- Use a dehooker.
- Quickly release unwanted fish.
- Cut the line if the hook is swallowed.
- Use circle or barbless hooks.
- Use a damp cloth or wet hands if you handle fish.
- Support the body of large fish.
- Use a knotless landing net for large fish.

Releasing fish helps keep our fisheries sustainable.

Make sure they survive.

### Hooked on circle hooks

Using circle hooks is known to:

- Increase shallow hooking rates and reduce deep hooking;
- Improve survival of released fish; and
- Decrease loss of fishing tackle.



#### Tassie's Most Released Recreational Scalefish

- Wrasse (80%)
- Gumard (78%)
- Banded Morwong (71%)
- Sharks & Rays (67%)
- Bream (66%)
- Flathead (56%)
- Barracouta (54%)
- Bastard Trumpeter (52%)
- Leatherjacket (49%)
- Silver Trevally (46%)

# How to dehook your catch



Help released fish survive

### Contact details

Recreational Fisheries Section  
Phone: 1300 720 647  
Web: [www.fishing.tas.gov.au](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au)



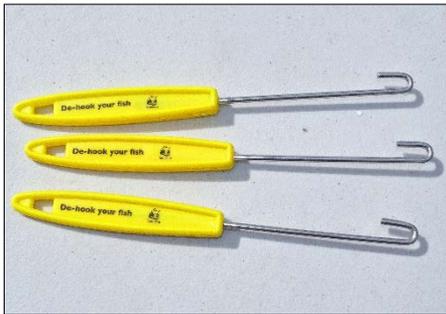
[www.fishing.tas.gov.au](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au)



## DEHOOKING BASICS

### What is a dehooker?

Dehookers remove a hook cleanly from a fish so fishers don't need to handle them.



They should be blunt with rounded edges and the right size for the hook you're removing.

### When do I use it?

A good rule of thumb is use a dehooker if you can see the hook outside the mouth. If you can't, cut the line as close to the hook as possible without removing the fish from the water.

Some dehookers are designed to remove swallowed hooks, so you may want to carry this type.

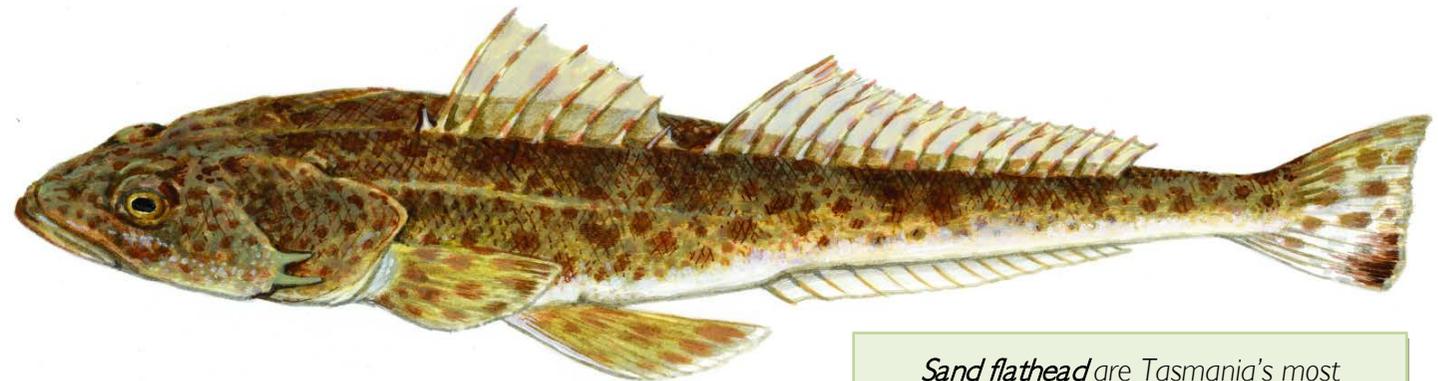
### Why dehook fish?

- Improves fish survival when they are returned to the water quickly.
- Less handling so it protects the fish's scales and mucous layer.
- Fewer injuries to fishers because they don't need to handle the fish.
- Easy hook removal.

## USING A DEHOOKER

### How to dehook a fish

- Run the dehooker down the line until it engages the hook.
- Keeping the line tight, lift the dehooker hand while lowering the line in the other hand, keeping the fish in the middle.
- You may have to shake the dehooker to get the hook to detach from the fish.



*Sand flathead* are Tasmania's most popular recreational fish. Approximately 948,000 are released each year.