Licence: No licence required for rod and line fishing in marine waters. A licence is needed to use a gillnet, a beach seine net or a setline. You must be 10 years or older to hold a gillnet or set line licence.
Size limit: see pages 14-21
Catch limits: see pages 14-21
Season: Seasons apply for striped trumpeter, banded morwong, squid and calamari (See page 10)
Eating Scalefish safely: see page 50

Measuring Scalefish
Most scalefish are measured from the nose to the end of the tail. Get a free scalefish measuring ruler or sticker at any Service Tasmania, local tackle shop or from Fishcare Tasmania exhibits.

The exceptions are:
Banded Morwong: Nose to caudal fork
Garfish: Upper jaw to end of tail

Catch Limits Explained

Bag Limit
The maximum number or weight of a particular type of fish you as an individual fisher can take in any one day.

Possession Limit
The maximum number or weight of a particular type of fish you as an individual fisher can possess in a specified area in Tasmania. If no area is specified, it applies anywhere in Tasmania including your home. A receipt is required if you have fish in excess of the possession limit.

Boat Limit
The maximum number or weight 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
Sand and tiger flathead

Filleting Fish at Sea
• You can clean scalefish at sea although special rules apply for striped trumpeter and shark.
• For fish that have been filleted, two fillets are deemed to be the equivalent of one fish.

Highgrading your catch is not allowed – see page 30

1 November 2019 - 31 October 2020
Fish Group

FLATHEAD

Flathead - Sand and Tiger

![Sand flathead](image1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>32cm</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(sand & tiger flathead combined).

Identifying features: Sandy brownish colour covered in spots that vary from white to black with occasional reddish brown spots along the sides. May also have dark bands across the body and a distinctive large black blotch on the tail fin. There are two prominent spines on the gill cover, the lower spine being longer than the upper spine.

![Tiger flathead](image2)

Identifying features: A light brown or pinkish grey colour on the body with orange-brown spots. Dark bands of colour may also be present on the body and the lower rear part of the tail has no markings. Has a rounder body shape and larger canine teeth than the sand flathead. The lower spine on the gill cover is longer than the upper spine.

Flathead - Southern Bluespotted and Rock

![Southern Bluespotted flathead](image3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40cm</th>
<th>5 (only 1 over 60cm)</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(bluespotted and rock flathead combined).

Identifying features: Lighter sandy brown body with scattered small blue to white spots intermingled with dark blotches. The lower tail fin has dark spots surrounded by white. The two spines on the gill cover are of a similar length.

![Rock flathead](image4)

Identifying features: Has a dark mottled appearance including a greenish to pale brown rounded body and several rows of dark spots on the rays of the yellowish tail. Two prominent spines on the gill cover with the lower spine shorter than the upper spine.
Fish Group

**Anglerfish, Prowfish and Red Velvetfish** (ornamental species)

No minimum size.

- Bag limit: 2
- Possession limit: 4

**Barracouta**

No minimum size.

- Bag limit: 15
- Possession limit: 30

**Boarfish**

\[45\text{cm}\] (longsnout boarfish only).

- Bag limit: 2
- Possession limit: 4

**Bream** (marine waters)

\[25\text{cm}\]

- Bag limit: 5
- Possession limit: 10

**Cod**

No minimum size.

- Bag limit: 15
- Possession limit: 30

**Flounder**

\[25\text{cm}\]

- Bag limit: 15
- Possession limit: 30

---

**GUIDE TO SYMBOLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20cm</th>
<th>Minimum size</th>
<th>Bag limit</th>
<th>Possession limit</th>
<th>Boat limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

**Garfish**

\[ \text{25cm} \quad \text{15} \quad \text{30} \]

**Groper, Blue**

\[ \text{0} \quad \text{0} \]

*Zero catch limits to protect this predator of long-spined sea urchins.*

**Gurnard and Ocean Perch**

No minimum size.

\[ \text{15} \quad \text{30} \]

Be careful of venomous spines.

**Herring Cale**

No minimum size.

\[ \text{5} \quad \text{10} \]

**Kingfish, Yellowtail**

\[ \text{45cm} \quad \text{5} \quad \text{10} \]

**Leatherjacket**

\[ \text{20cm} \quad \text{10} \quad \text{20} \]

**Mackerel and Redbait**

No minimum size.

\[ \text{30} \quad \text{60} \]

**Morwong, Banded**

Legal size between \[36 - 46\text{cm}\]

\[ \text{2} \quad \text{4} \quad \text{Season applies.} \]
Fish Group

**Morwong, Jackass and Other**
- 25cm
- 10
- 20

**Mullet**
- 25cm
- 15
- 30

**Pike, Longfin**
No minimum size.
- 15
- 30

**Salmon, Atlantic**
No minimum size.
- 12
- 24 (marine waters).

**Salmon, Australian**
- 20cm
- 15
- 30

**Snook**
No minimum size.
- 5
- 10

**Snapper**
- 30cm
- 5
- 10

**Tailor**
No minimum size.
- 5
- 10

**Trevalla, Blue-eye**
No minimum size.
- 5
- 10
- 25

1 November 2019 - 31 October 2020
Fish Group

**Trevally, Silver**
- Minimum size: 20cm
- Bag limit: 10
- Possession limit: 20

**Tuna, Bluefin, Yellowfin and Bigeye**
- No minimum size.
- Bag limit: 2
- Possession limit: 2
- Boat limit: 4
- (only 2 over 1.5m in a boat)

**Tuna - Albacore**
- No minimum size.
- Bag limit: 5
- Possession limit: 10

**Tuna - Skipjack**
- No minimum size.
- Bag limit: 10
- Possession limit: 20

**Swordfish**
- No minimum size.
- Bag limit: 1
- Possession limit: 1
- Boat limit: 2

**Marlin**
- No minimum size.
- Bag limit: 1
- Possession limit: 1
- Boat limit: 2

**Trout**
- Bag limit: 12
- Possession limit: 24
- (marine waters).
- Specific bag limits apply in inland waters.
- Refer to Inland Fisheries Code.

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**GUIDE TO SYMBOLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20cm</td>
<td>Minimum size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!</td>
<td>Bag limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Possession limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>←</td>
<td>Boat limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Trumpeter, Bastard**

38cm  ⎮  ⎮  5  10

**Trumpeter, Striped**

55cm  ⎮  4  8  20

Must be landed whole with head and tail attached, or as fillets with the frames. Season applies.

**Warehou**

25cm  ⎮  10  20

**Whiting, King George**

35cm  ⎮  5  10

Has dark spots, often in rows.

**Whiting, Other**

No minimum size.

15  30

**Wrasse**

30cm  ⎮  5  10

**Other Scalefish Species**

For species not listed above:

5  10
Size Limits
School and gummy shark are the only shark species that have a size limit. Sharks should be kept as trunks or whole until landed.

Measuring Shark
You can measure shark species either from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail or for headed and tailed shark, measure from the back gill slit to the start of the tail.

Sharks and Rays Boat Limit
5 (all species combined).
There is an overall boat limit of 5 shark, skates and rays combined, excluding elephantfish. This includes mako and blue sharks that also have their own combined boat limit of 2 (which is counted in the overall shark boat limit of 5). For example, a boat can have two makos and three gummy shark.

Shark Refuge Areas
No shark and ray fishing is allowed in Shark Refuge Areas (except elephantfish) - see page 59.

School and Gummy Shark (combined)
75cm or 45cm if headed and tailed.

Mako and Blue Shark (combined)
No minimum size.

Elephantfish
No minimum size.

GUIDE TO SYMBOLS

Recreational Sea Fishing Guide
**Other Sharks, Skates and Rays**

No minimum size.

Shark Fins

The dorsal and pectoral fins must remain attached to all shark until they are brought above the high water mark. Refer to the diagram for details of which fins you can remove to bleed the shark.

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

**Shark Fins**

The dorsal and pectoral fins must remain attached to all shark until they are brought above the high water mark. Refer to the diagram for details of which fins you can remove to bleed the shark.

**Shark Fin Removal**

- **Dorsal fins** (must not be removed)
- **Caudal fin** (may be removed)
- **Sub-terminal notch**
- **Pelvic fins** (may be removed)
- **Pectoral fin** (must not be removed)
What can I use as Bait?

It is an offence to use any part of the following species for bait or berley, including baited hooks, bait traps and rock lobster pots and rings:

- rock lobster;
- abalone; and
- any species listed as protected, including limpets (see page 49).

Only the heads and frames of the following highly valued fish species may be used for berley or baiting rock lobster pots and rings, unless you have a receipt for purchasing the fish:

- bastard or striped trumpeter;
- banded morwong;
- boarfish;
- tuna other than skipjack;
- trout;
- school, gummy, blue and mako shark;
- yellowtail kingfish.

It is illegal to use undersized fish for bait.

Baitfish Species

No minimum size.

$$50 \ 100$$ (species combined).

Bait Invertebrates

No minimum size.

$$50 \ 100$$ (species combined).

Includes soldier crabs, marine worms and burrowing shrimp.

Whitebait

For information on the whitebait fishery contact the Inland Fisheries Service on (03) 6165 3808.

Using Biosecure Bait

Only buy bait from locally supplied sources. Bringing dead or live bait to Tasmania is prohibited in most instances. Bait originating from other states or countries may contain pests and diseases that do not occur in Tasmania. Call Biosecurity Tasmania on 1300 368 550 for more information.

If you catch your own bait, try to source it from the same area where you fish. Moving fish including frames, offal and shells, between locations can spread diseases and pests.

Animal Bait and Berley

Mammal flesh, blood or offal other than pellets cannot be used as berley.

Only native animals that have been lawfully taken (eg. by licensed shooters) can be used for bait. Road kill may not be used. Phone the Nature Conservation Branch Game Management Officer on (03) 6777 2084 for more information.

Bait Nets & Pumps

See page 25 for bait net specifications. Sort your catch quickly and release unwanted fish in good condition.
Unless gear is specified in this section, it may not be used. The licence holder must personally set and retrieve any scalefish fishing gear. Another person may assist them if needed eg. to haul the net. Aboriginal fishers should use an unique identifying code to mark their gear as specified on page 9.

Hook and Line Fishing
No licence is needed to fish with a hook and line in marine waters, including rod and line, and squid jigs.

Rod and Line: You must attend the lines that you are using. You can use any number of lines with up to 5 hooks, as long as you are within 20 metres of the gear, or the lines are attached to the boat from which you are fishing.

Electric reels: Electric reels can be used with no more than 5 hooks. You must remain within 20 metres of your gear.

Kites and Shore Based Longline Gear
Auxiliary fishing gear:
• Can be used to deploy or retrieve not more than 200 metres of fishing line with 5 hooks or less.
• Is not permitted in rivers or shark refuge areas.
• Cannot be used within 100 metres of swimmers or any vessel, or within 400 metres of a boat ramp, jetty or mooring.
• On land you must remain within 20 metres of your gear and not use it more than 20 metres from the high water mark.
• Does not include electric reels, capstans or haulers for set lines.

Squid Jigs: You can use up to 3 squid jigs per line.

Set Lines
A set line is an unattended line, either a dropline or a longline, with up to 15 hooks.
A licence is required to use this gear and area restrictions apply.
• A person may only use one set line at a time.
• In waters shallower than 150 metres, set lines can be joined to one other line on your boat, provided no person uses more than 15 hooks and not more than a total of 30 hooks are used.
• In waters deeper than 150 metres, set lines can be joined to up to 3 other lines on your boat, provided no person
uses more than 15 hooks and not more than a total of 60 hooks are used.

- Not more than 4 set lines are permitted on a boat.
- Set lines cannot be set at night. Night is defined as from one hour before sunset to one hour before sunrise.

A **dropline** is set vertically with one end weighted and a marker buoy attached to the other. When droplines are joined together, each fisher must have a separate marker buoy attached.

A **longline** is set horizontally, weighted at both ends and with a marker buoy attached at each end. When longlines are joined together, each fisher must have a separate marker buoy on each end of the line.

**Set Line Buoys**

Set line marker buoys must be marked with your licence number and either the letters “LL” for longline or “DL” for dropline. See page 9 for marker buoy specifications.

**Spear Guns and Hand Spears (includes Gaffs)**

Hand spears, spear guns and gaffs can be used to take squid, shark, octopus and any scalefish except bream and boarfish.

Taking rock lobster or abalone with spears or gaffs is prohibited. Spears cannot be used in the Mersey, Leven and Inglis Rivers other than to spear flounder.

**Fish spearing tip:**

Size up a fish before you spear it to be confident that it is legal size.
**Bait Traps**

The only trap allowed is one bait trap per person. These are used to take baitfish, crabs and prawns. The trap must comply with the following dimensions:
- no larger than 500 mm x 350 mm x 250 mm;
- not more than two entrances no larger than 65 mm; and
- mesh between 10 mm and 40 mm.

Unattended bait traps must have a buoy or tag attached marked with ‘BT’ and the user’s surname, initials, year of birth and postcode.

**Opera house traps** are not legal gear in Tasmania. Traps that are modified to meet the specifications of a bait trap can be used.

**Bait Pump**

A hand-operated bait pump with a barrel of less than 85 mm may be used.

**Nets**

No licence is required to use landing nets, dip nets, bait nets and cast nets. You can only use one of each of these net types.

A licence is required to use a graball net, mullet net or beach seine net.

**Landing Net:** A landing net is a hand held net that:
- can only be used to land fish;
- is attached to a frame no larger than 600mm across; and
- has mesh of any size.

**Dip Net:** A dip net is a hand held net that:
- can be used to take fish including prawns;
- is attached to a frame no larger than one metre across; and
- has a mesh larger than 20mm.

**Bait Net:** A bait net is an encircling net:
- no longer than 6 metres and no deeper than 2 metres; and
- with mesh 20 mm or smaller.

**Cast Net:** A cast net must:
- be a circular or oval net with a leaded footline around the outside; and
- not exceed 6 metres in diameter.
How to Measure Net Mesh
Stretch mesh until upper and lower knots touch. Measure mesh at full stretch.

Beach Seine Net
A beach seine net licence allows you to possess and use one beach seine net in state waters. A beach seine net must:
- be an encircling net that does not exceed 50 metres in length;
- have a bag or bunt or a panel that forms a bunt and a mesh size at least 30 mm;
- not be pursed or drawn through rings into the shape of a bag; and
- be emptied while in the water.

Gillnets
- Graball nets and mullet nets are types of gillnet.
- No more than 3 gillnets may be carried on, or used from a single boat.
- A gillnet cannot be used as an encircling net eg. as a beach seine net.

**Graball Net:** One graball net (includes flounder nets) may be used and a licence is required. A graball net is a single mesh net:
- mesh must be between 105 mm and 140 mm; and
- must not be deeper than 33 meshes or longer than 50 metres.

**Mullet Net:** One mullet net may be used and a licence is required. A mullet net is a single mesh net:
- mesh must be between 60 mm and 70 mm;
- must not be longer than 25 metres; and
- must not be set over a rocky bottom or reef.
**Gillnet Buoys:** Gillnets, including mullet and graball nets, must be marked with two white buoys, one at each end of the net, both that are marked with only the licence number and ‘G’ for graball or ‘M’ for mullet net. See page 9 for marker buoy specifications.

**Macquarie Harbour**
- Night nets may be set in Macquarie Harbour from one hour before sunset and must be removed from the water by one hour after sunrise.
- A red buoy not less than 90 mm in diameter must be attached to each end of all night nets in addition to 2 white marker buoys.
- Day nets may be set from sunrise and must be removed from the water by one hour before sunset. They may be set for up to 6 hours and no red buoy can be attached.

Help protect threatened Maugean skates in Macquarie Harbour. See page 49.

Netting area restrictions for Macquarie Harbour, see page 73.

**Soak Times**
- Gillnets cannot be set at night (between one hour before sunset to sunrise), other than graball nets set in Macquarie Harbour.
- Gillnets may be set for up to 6 hours, except in **Shark Refuge Areas** where they may only be set for up to 2 hours.

**Weighting your net**
All gillnets must be weighted in one of the following ways in order to prevent drift:
- a weight of at least 2 kg tied to the bottom line at each end of the net; or
- a weight of at least 4 kg tied to the bottom line at one end of the net; or
- the net has a minimum weight, when dry, of at least 13 kg for a 50 metre net.

**Lost, Stolen and Irretrievable Gear**
If you leave your net in the water for longer than allowed due to bad weather, illness or theft, ring 1300 720 647 and provide them with your licence number.
Be a responsible fisher.

1. Know the fishing rules.
2. Only take what you need for a feed.
3. Put the little ones back
4. Respect other fishers.
**Increasing Fish Survival**

- Minimise the time spent landing the fish.
- Don’t leave rods unattended.
- Use barbless or circle hooks.
- Release fish while still in the water or minimise the time they are out of the water.
- Avoid barotrauma (when the swim bladder expands if brought up from deep water) by bringing the fish slowly to the surface. Use a release weight to return it to the sea floor if you are not keeping it.

**Handling Fish**

- Return the fish to the water quickly and gently - don’t throw it - in the area it was caught.
- Use a dehooker to quickly release fish. Dehooking protects the fish’s scales so it is more likely to survive.
- Use landing nets with soft knot-free mesh to reduce harm to a fish’s scales, eyes and fins.
- Handle fish with wet hands or a wet cloth. Don’t place them on hot surfaces as it damages their protective slime.
- Hold large fish horizontally, not by the jaw or gills.

*Using circle or barbless hooks increase the survival rates of released fish*

*You can buy a fish dehooker from your local tackle shop*

*Handle fish using a wet cloth*
Don’t highgrade your catch

- Count and measure as you go to keep within catch limits.
- Highgrading your catch is not allowed. You can’t bring more than your daily bag limit back to the boat or shore and sort them there.
- Fish are regarded as taken and in your possession as soon as collected or caught.

Retaining Fish

All fish that are to be kept should be killed quickly and humanely. The best method is by spiking the fish in the centre of the head immediately behind the eyes with a sharp instrument.

See www.ikijime.com

Fish Waste

Take your whole catch home and dispose of the waste and shells with your household rubbish. If you clean fish at sea, dispose of fish waste away from shore in the same area you caught it.

Gently put the little ones back

Responsible Netting Practices

If you use a gillnet, be responsible for your actions. Know and follow the netting rules—see page 25 and 61.

Netting Preparation

- Check the length of the buoy lines. Too much line is a hazard to wildlife and other boats.
- The weight bridle should be the weakest line in the net, so if it becomes snagged, the net can still be recovered.
- Don’t set your net near fast flowing waters, divers or across boating channels.
- Be aware of other net users and leave at least 50 metres between nets.
- Identify a landmark or use a GPS when setting your net so you don’t forget where it is.

Setting and Pulling the Net

- Check the weather and tides so you can safely retrieve the net.
- Check your net regularly to increase the survival of unwanted bycatch.
- Ensure the propeller is clear of any slack net or ropes.
Avoid Wildlife When Netting
• Avoid setting nets near seabird rookeries or where mammals are active.
• Whale and dolphin viewing guidelines are available from www.parks.tas.gov.au.
• Visible panels on nets are seen by seabirds so mark your net in as many places as practical.
• Don’t set your net in rough weather conditions. Lost gillnets can entangle marine wildlife.

Seals are curious and may approach and potentially swamp vessels, so be alert and observe marine safety rules.

• Do not discard fish waste at jetties or boat ramps. If you clean fish at sea, dispose of fish waste away from shore in the same area you caught it while there are no seals present. Avoid inadvertently feeding seals.

Reducing Seal Interactions
NEVER FEED SEALS!

• There is no such thing as a rogue seal. Seals learn through actions and response such as intended or accidental food rewards. Never use fish for a decoy or throw fish waste to seals. This is training them to associate boats with an easy feed, and leads to negative behaviours and interactions.
• Try to avoid areas where seals are known to interact with fishers and if a seal takes your fish move away.
• Keep noise to a minimum because seals have good hearing. Use matting on your boat and set gear quietly.

Contact the Marine Conservation Program on 0427 942 537 with enquiries about seal interactions.