



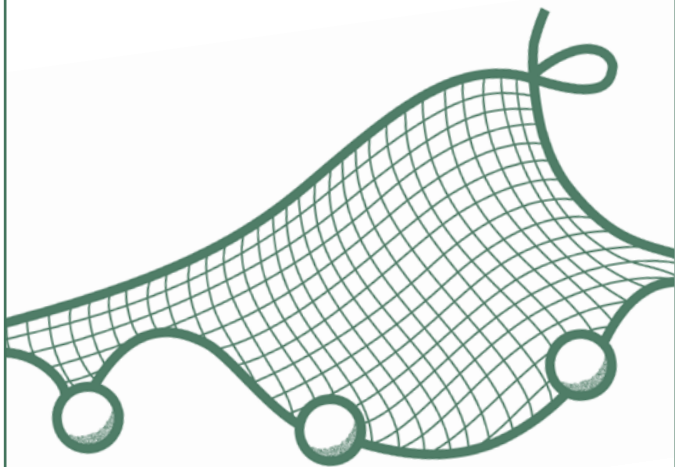
Recreational net fishing guide 2016/17

Licence required

**A licence is required to use a haul,
set or throw net**

Please note:

- Prawns may now be caught by throw net, in areas where throw netting is permitted.
- Onslow Creeks have been reopened to throw netting.
- Onslow waters (Beacon Point to Third Street) have been reopened to throw netting.



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**BETTER
FISHERIES**

YOUR LICENCE FEES AT WORK

Illegal fish sales

It is illegal for recreational fishers to sell their catch. Illegal fish-selling operations pose a major threat to inshore fish stocks. Severe penalties (a fine plus up to 10 times the value of the species) apply and all gear used in the operations may be confiscated.

FISHWATCH



1800-815-507

If you are aware of illegal fishing or fish sales, please note details such as car/boat registration numbers and a description of offender(s), and call FISHWATCH or contact your local Department of Fisheries office.

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1.0 Introduction

Recreational netting is considered by some fishers as a relaxing way to enjoy the outdoors while fishing.

Net fishing is the only way to catch certain species, such as mullet and baitfish, but if used inappropriately, nets can take high catches of non-target species and undersized fish.

For this reason their use has been managed to minimise excessive catches so that fish stocks are protected. However, net fishing has recently come under scrutiny, through regional recreational fishing reviews, due to concerns about bycatch levels and conflicts with other user groups.

As a result of these reviews, recreational haul and set netting is now **prohibited** in most waters of the North Coast Bioregion and set netting is **prohibited** in all ocean waters of WA with the **exception** of the Gascoyne Coast Bioregion.

Also, to simplify the rules for set netting in inland waters of the South Coast Bioregion, the **permitted netting times** have now been standardised.

Recreational net fishing is **only permitted** in WA's ocean and estuarine waters (ie those waters under the influence of tides) – not in fresh water. And most of WA's estuarine waters are closed to protect juvenile fish stocks. Details of waters open to net fishing are given in Section 3 of this guide.

Netters, in general, must lift and clean their nets of the fish at least once an hour.

Remember – how you fish now will determine the future of recreational fishing in WA. All fishers need to take responsibility for helping to conserve fish stocks.

1.1 Types of netting allowed

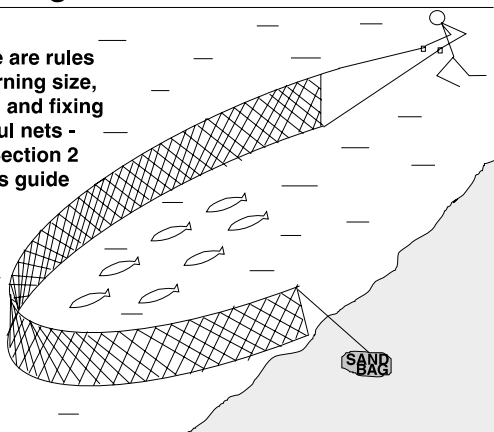
In WA, it's illegal for recreational fishers to use commercial netting methods, such as purse seine and trawling.

You can only use these recreational net fishing methods:

- set (gill) netting
- haul netting
- throw (cast) netting.

Haul netting

There are rules governing size, mesh and fixing of haul nets - see Section 2 of this guide

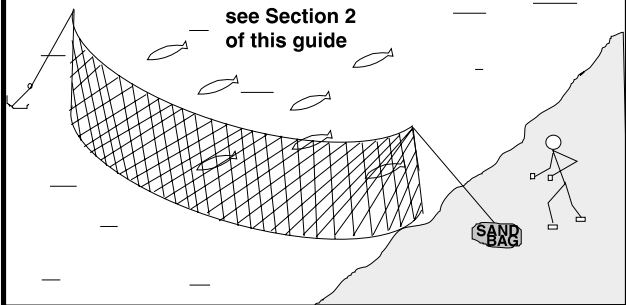


Haul netting is done only in ocean waters from a beach or a boat. A net of up to 60 m in length is 'shot' into the water to surround a group of fish then hauled in.

One end of the haul net may be fixed to the beach and a rope attached to the other end. Once in the water, the net is kept constantly moving towards the beach.

Set netting

There are rules governing size, mesh, fixing and attendance of set nets - see Section 2 of this guide



Set netting, where permitted, is done in estuaries or from beaches, where a net of up to 60 m in length is firmly anchored at both ends in the outgoing/incoming tide. Set nets (also called 'gill' nets) are fixed in position and catch fish by 'gilling' them (the fish are held behind the gill plate as the head passes through).

Throw netting, also called cast netting, is the throwing and slow retrieval of a small circular net with a radius of up to three metres. Protected and undersized fish must not be retained for use as bait.

1.2 Licensing

A recreational net fishing licence is required for haul, set (gill) and throw (cast) netting.

A licence is not needed for crab drop/scoop netting or prawn netting, unless you're fishing from a powered boat, or with the use of one, in which case a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL) is required.

Apply for a new licence or renew an existing licence online at the Department of Fisheries website.

Alternatively, application forms are available from Department of Fisheries offices and the website at www.fish.wa.gov.au

1.3 Open/closed areas

There are general rules that apply to all three forms of recreational net fishing – set, haul and throw netting – such as daily bag limits and the use of only one net at a time. However, due to the differing gear and techniques used, there are also rules specific to each type of recreational netting.

Most of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets, creeks, lakes and their entrances) are **closed** to netting. So the **inland waters listed** in Section 3 of this guide are only those wholly or partially **open** to netting.

Inland waters **not listed** in this guide are **totally closed** to netting.

However, **most of WA's coastal waters** are **open** to netting. So **coastal waters listed** in Section 3 of this guide are only those wholly or partially **closed** to netting.

The maps in the guide are to help recreational net fishers with some of the boundaries of open/closed areas of water. They should not be used for navigational or legal purposes.

To find exact locations of boundary localities it is suggested you obtain the appropriate map or chart from **Landgate** (www.landgate.wa.gov.au) or the **Department of Planning** (www.planning.wa.gov.au).

2.0 The rules

2.1 General rules for recreational set, haul and throw netting

There are some general rules for net fishing regarding gear restrictions, bag, size and possession limits and protected species. These rules are covered below.

2.1.1 Gear identification

When you buy your recreational net fishing licence, you receive a gear identification number. This number is composed of the initials of your first given name and surname, your month of birth and the last two numbers of your year of birth. You can continue to use the same number each year, provided your licence has been renewed.

So if your name is John Smith and you were born in August 1957, your gear ID number would be JS0857.

If you are an Aboriginal Australian, you are not required to hold a recreational netting licence. However, your gear ID should consist of your full date of birth, prefixed with the letter 'A', eg A29/3/59.

Set (gill) and haul nets must have end floats of at least 15 cm in diameter, stamped or branded with the user's gear ID number. This must be displayed with letters and numbers at least 6 cm high and 1 cm wide. Gear ID numbers are not required on throw (cast) nets.

2.1.2 Bag, size and possession limits

Where netting is permitted, the daily bag, size and possession limits of fish caught are the same as for recreational angling. Full details are in the latest Statewide recreational fishing guide.

Only people who actually assist with a net and individually hold recreational netting licences may take fish (up to their daily bag limit) from the net.

Once all the netters who possess licences have each caught their daily bag limit, the net or nets must be removed from the water.

Bag limits for net fishers apply between midday and midday the following day.

Any fish caught that are undersized or in excess of daily bag limits should be returned gently to the water immediately.

2.1.3 Prohibited and protected species

It is illegal for recreational net fishers to catch, or attempt to catch:

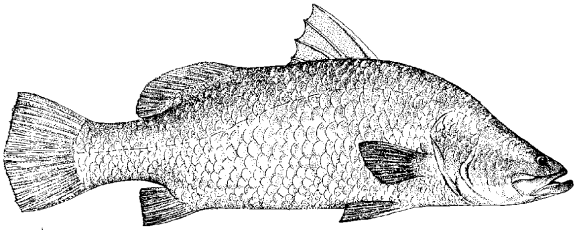
- Barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*)
- Blue swimmer crab (*Portunus armatus*, formerly *Portunus pelagicus*)
- Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)
- Freshwater cobbler (*Tandanus bostocki*)
- Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Blue swimmer crabs may only be taken by hand, non-piercing wire hooks, wire scoop nets or drop nets.

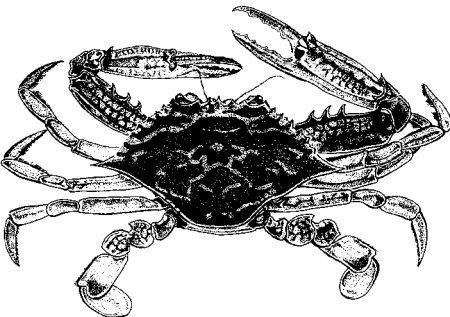
All other species above may only be taken by using a single rod, reel and line, or hand line.

Any protected or prohibited species accidentally caught by net must be returned gently to the water immediately.

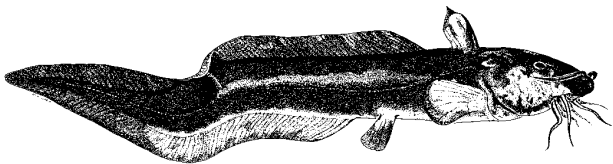
Barramundi. Net fishers may not catch, or attempt to catch, barramundi (below).



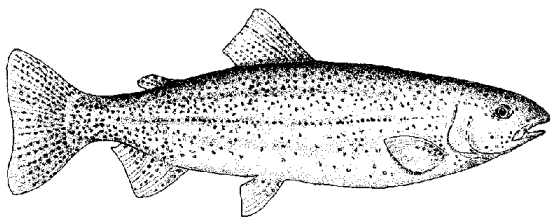
A blue swimmer crab (below).



Cobbler. No recreational netting is allowed for the freshwater cobbler (below) in WA's southern estuaries.



Rainbow trout (below) and brown trout are stocked in some dams and inland waters in WA's south-west. Net fishing for trout is prohibited.



2.1.4 Use/carrying of nets

A person holding a recreational netting licence may only use one net at a time.

While a boat may be used to assist in positioning a recreational set net or haul net, it must not be used to trawl these nets. Fishers on foot (ie walking on the beach/seabed) may drag a haul net.

Where permitted, set netting is only allowed up to 800 m seaward from the low water mark. Nets must be drawn carefully from the water, so as not to kill fish caught in them.

Take care if you are travelling on or near waters closed to netting – carrying a fishing net on closed waters, or on land adjacent to them, is prohibited except where specific permission has been granted by the Department of Fisheries.

2.2 Specific rules for set netting

In addition to the general rules for recreational net fishing, there are extra rules for set netting.

2.2.1 Setting nets in navigation channels/near service jetties is banned

Under Department of Transport rules, setting fishing nets across channels used by boats is banned. You are also prohibited from setting nets that could prevent access to service jetties by boats (that is, setting nets from service jetties).

2.2.2 Setting nets

Using metal stakes, such as star pickets, for holding set nets in place is prohibited. Sandbags or anchors are recommended instead and must be immediately removed from the ocean/estuary floor when the net is taken from the water.

At all times, a set net must have one edge floating on the surface of the water (ie its float line/top edge). Sunken nets are extremely dangerous and are prohibited.

Setting a net within 50 m of another set net is not allowed.

2.2.3 Attending/cleaning set nets

When using a set net in most WA waters open to recreational netting, you are required to attend and remain within 100 m of your net.

Where you are required to attend your net, you must lift and clean your net every hour. Check regional rules for further details.

2.2.4 Specifications for set nets

All set nets must be made of material that is not less than 0.35 mm in diameter. This is equivalent to 6 kg monofilament line and prevents the use of overly efficient 'mist nets'.

The length of recreational set nets must not exceed 60 m in length, while the depth, or 'drop', of the nets must not exceed 25 meshes (ie 25 mesh 'cells' from top to bottom of the net). There must be no bags or pockets in the net.

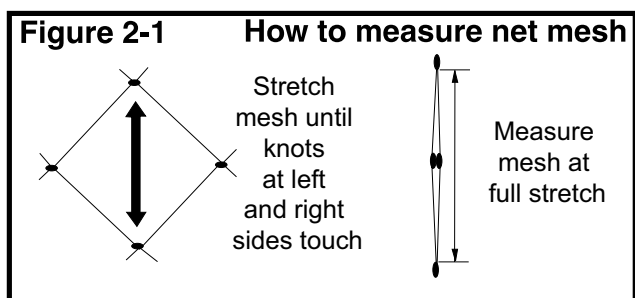
You can roll up and securely tie off older-style nets, with deeper drops, at the 25-mesh mark, provided the extra meshes cannot capture fish.

If you are using a set net in inland waters, its mesh size must not measure less than 63 mm or more than 87 mm.

Similarly, when a set net is to be used in ocean waters, its mesh size must not measure less than 75 mm or more than 114 mm.

A net mesh is measured by stretching it so that the two knots on the left-hand and right-hand sides of the mesh meet. The size of the mesh is then the distance between the inside of the knots at the top and bottom of the mesh (see Figure 2-1).

Fine mesh mist nets which use very fine monofilament material are strictly prohibited for net fishing.



2.2.5 General description of waters open/closed to set netting

Most of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets, creeks, lakes and their entrances) **are closed to set netting all year.**

Inland waters open to set netting for all or part of the year are covered in Section 3 of this guide – if an inland water is not listed, it is closed.

All of WA's ocean waters in the North Coast, West Coast and South Coast bioregions are closed to set netting all year.

Set netting in ocean waters is only permitted in certain areas of the Gascoyne Coast Bioregion.

Where permitted, set netting in ocean waters is only allowed within 800 m of the shore low water mark (Figure 2-2), to help protect tailor and shark stocks.

Ocean waters closed to set netting for all or part of the year are covered in Section 3 of this guide.

Figure 2-2

Haul and
set net
fishing
prohibited

800m

800m

Where permitted, haul and set netting in ocean waters is only allowed within 800 m of the shore low water mark.

2.3 Specific rules for haul netting

In addition to the general rules for recreational net fishing, there are extra rules for haul netting.

2.3.1 Use of haul nets

Haul nets may only be hauled by hand, ie not by boats or mechanical devices. They may be shot/retrieved from a boat as long they are not trawled.

2.3.2 Securing haul nets

The ropes used on a haul net should be a maximum of 25 m in length. This is to limit the capture area of a haul net.

2.3.3 Specifications for haul nets

All haul nets must be made of material that is not less than 0.35 mm in diameter. This specification is equivalent to 6 kg monofilament line and prevents the use of overly efficient 'mist nets'.

The length of recreational haul nets must not exceed 60 m in length, while the depth, or 'drop', of the nets must not exceed 25 meshes (ie 25 mesh 'cells' from top to bottom of the net). There must be no bags or pockets in the net.

You can roll up and securely tie off older-style nets with deeper drops at the 25-mesh mark, provided the extra meshes cannot capture fish.

The mesh size of a haul net must not measure less than 51 mm or more than 114 mm.

A net mesh is measured by stretching it so that the two knots on the left-hand and right-hand sides of the mesh meet. The size of the mesh is then the distance between the inside of the knots at the top and bottom of the mesh (see Figure 2-1 on page 8).

Fine mesh mist nets and commercial trawling/dredging gear are strictly prohibited for haul net fishing. A smaller mesh size is permitted for haul nets than set nets because the techniques used allow the quick release of undersized or excess fish.

2.3.4 General description of waters open/closed to haul netting

All of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets, creeks, lakes and their entrances) **are closed to haul netting all year.**

In contrast, **most of WA's ocean waters are open to haul netting** with the exception of the North Coast Bioregion, where conditional haul netting is only permitted in Dampier Archipelago waters. Where permitted, haul netting in ocean waters is only allowed within 800 m of the shore low water mark (Figure 2-2 on page 9). Those ocean waters closed to haul netting for all or part of the year are described in Section 3 of this guide.

2.4 Specific throw netting rules

In addition to the general rules for recreational net fishing, there are extra rules for throw netting.

2.4.1 Specifications for throw nets

The radius of a throw net (from its central retrieval point to the lead line) must not exceed 3 m.

The mesh size of a throw net must not exceed 25 mm. A net mesh is measured by stretching it so that the two knots on the left-hand and right-hand sides of the mesh meet.

The size of the mesh is then the distance between the inside of the knots at the top and bottom of the mesh (see Figure 2-1 on page 8).

2.4.2 General description of waters open/closed to throw netting

Most of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets, creeks, lakes and their entrances) **are closed to throw netting all year.**

Inland waters open to throw netting for all or part of the year are covered in Section 3 of this guide – **if an inland water is not listed, it is closed.**

All of WA's ocean waters are open to throw netting, excluding:

- sanctuary zones in marine parks/reserves;
- total fishing exclusion zones; and
- any other area which is closed to all types of netting at all times.

Areas where restrictions apply to the use of throw nets – including restrictions on the take of certain species – are covered in Section 3 of this guide.

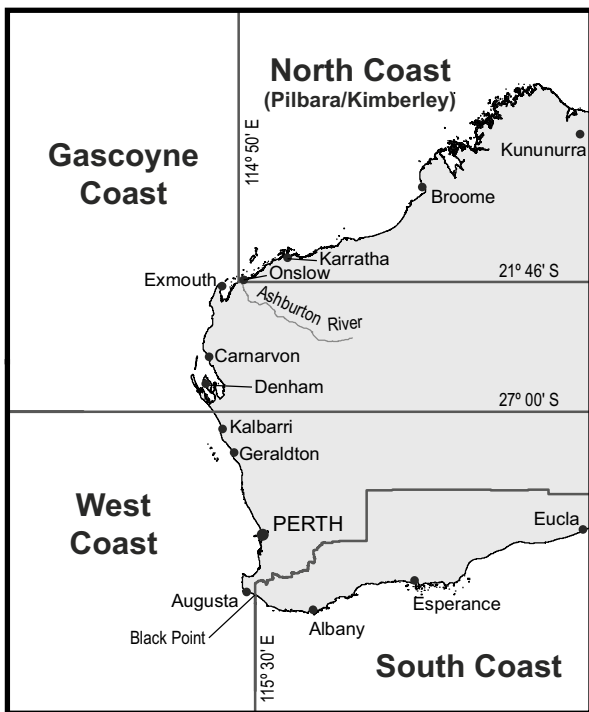
Prawns may be taken by throw net in areas where throw netting is permitted.

3.0 Waters open/closed to netting

3.1 Overview

Recreational fishing is managed within four broad 'bioregions' (biological regions):

- North Coast
- Gascoyne Coast
- West Coast
- South Coast



The regional boundaries are shown on the map (above). There are chapters devoted to each bioregion, covering both inland and coastal waters.

Most of WA's inland waters (rivers, estuaries, inlets and lakes) are **closed** to recreational netting.

However, with the exception of the North West (Pilbara/Kimberley) region, **most of WA's ocean waters** (ie waters directly off the coast) are **open** to netting.

So for practical reasons:

- The inland waters listed in this section are those **open** to netting.
- The ocean waters listed are those **closed** to netting.

The open/closed waters listed below are **only** a guide and circumstances can change.

For the most up-to-date information, or if in doubt about any of the rules, contact your nearest Department of Fisheries office or visit the Department's website at **www.fish.wa.gov.au**

Note: Where permitted, recreational haul and set netting are only allowed within 800 m of the shore low tide mark – see section 2.2.5.

3.2 North Coast Bioregion

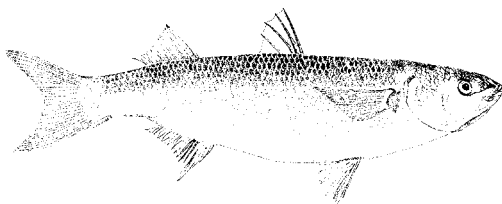
The North Coast Bioregion (Pilbara/Kimberley) includes all waters between the Northern Territory border and the Ashburton River, south of Onslow. (All WA waters north of 21°46' S and east of 114°50' E).

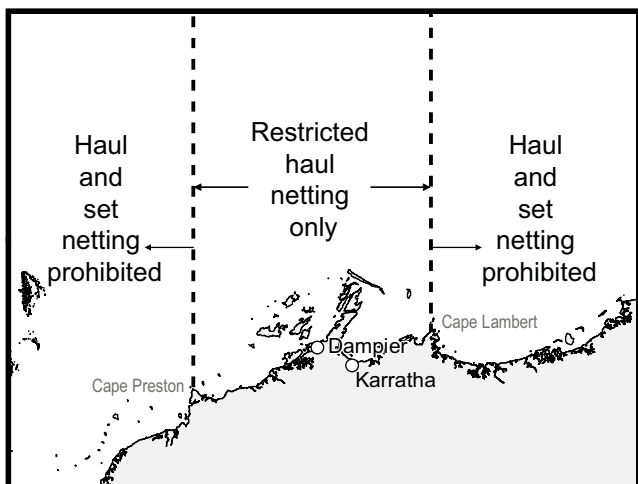
The following section lists all ocean and inland waters closed/open, respectively, to recreational netting, along with specific conditions and dates.

'Recreational netting', refers to haul, set and throw netting.

- All North Coast Bioregion waters are closed to haul and set netting at all times with the exception of haul netting in the waters of Dampier Archipelago with the following conditions:
 1. Nets must not exceed 30 m in length.
 2. **Mullet** is the only species that can be kept. All other species must be returned to the water.

Mullet (illustrated below), a species not commonly caught by angling, is a popular target for haul net fishers.





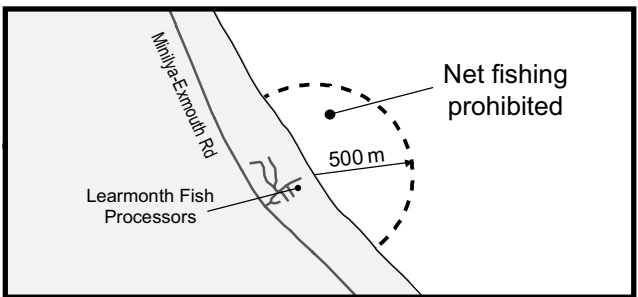
- Throw netting is **permitted** in all **ocean waters** in the North Coast Bioregion, except for sanctuary zones in marine parks.
- Throw netting is permitted in all inland waters in the North Coast Bioregion for taking:
 - cherabin
 - mullet (family Mugilidae);
 - garfish (family Hemiramphidae, including halfbeak but not longtom or needleskin queenfish); and
 - baitfish of the families Clupeidae (bony bream, bony herring and sardine), Atherinidae (mostly hardyhead) and Engraulidae (anchovy).
- **Prawns** may now be caught in a throw net.
- **Onslow Creeks** All creeks with mouths within a 9 km radius of Beadon Bay groyne have been **reopened** to recreational throw netting.
- **Onslow (Beadon Point to Third Street)** All waters within 450 m of the low water mark between Beadon Point and Third Street have **been reopened** to recreational throw netting.

3.3 Gascoyne Coast Bioregion

The Gascoyne Coast Bioregion includes all waters between the Zuytdorp Cliffs (north of Kalbarri) and the Ashburton River (south of Onslow). (All WA waters north of 27° S and west of 114°50' E)

The following section lists all ocean and inland waters closed/open, respectively, to recreational netting during the year, along with specific conditions and dates.

- **Exmouth Town Beach** All waters within 400 m of the town beach high water mark (between 1000 m north and south of Friedman Way) are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Learmonth Fish Processors (30 km south of Exmouth)** All waters within a radius of 500 metres of a point on the foreshore formed by the extension of the southern side of road 15393 (a gravel road) where it meets the high water mark are **closed** to recreational netting from 1 April to 30 September, annually.



- **Muiron Islands Marine Management Area** Conservation areas within this Area are **closed** to recreational netting (all fishing) at all times.
- **Ningaloo Marine Park** All waters of the Ningaloo Marine Park are **closed** to recreational **set and haul netting**, with the exception of specific locations within the following areas:
 - Neds Camp-Mesa
 - Winderabandi Point
 - Bruboodjoo
 - 14 Mile Beach (Warroora Station)

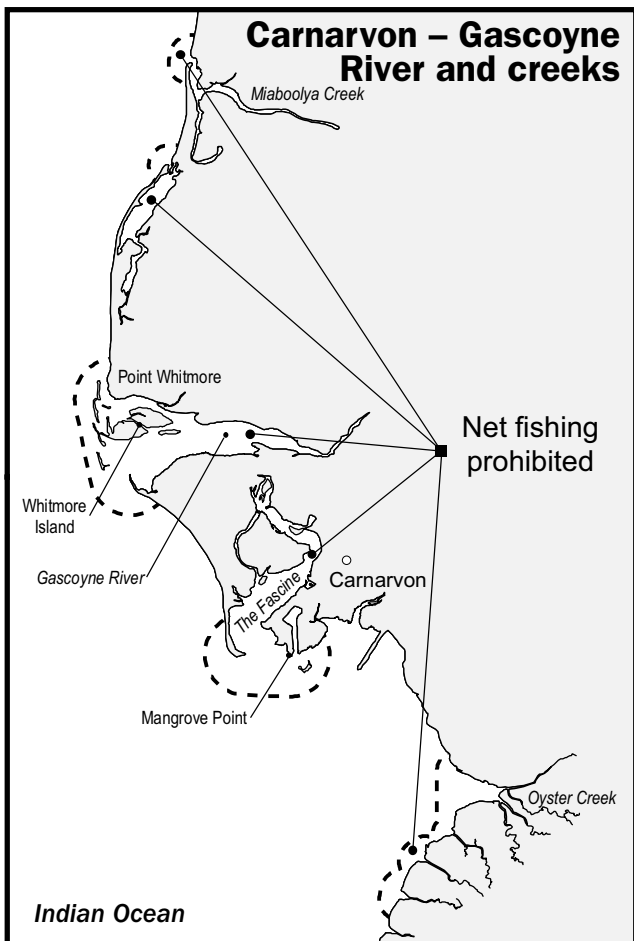
Where permitted in Ningaloo Marine Park, recreational set and haul netting is only allowed between 5.30 am and 8.30 am or between 4 pm and 7 pm. The mesh size of nets must not exceed 90 mm.

Recreational **throw netting** is **permitted** in all ocean waters of the Ningaloo Marine Park, except sanctuary zones, for taking:

- mullet (family Mugilidae);
- garfish (family Hemiramphidae, including halfbeak but not longtom or needleskin queenfish); and
- baitfish of the families Clupeidae (bony bream, bony herring and sardine), Atherinidae (mostly hardyhead) and Engraulidae (anchovy).

For specific details of net fishing areas and sanctuary zones, see the Department of Parks and Wildlife *Ningaloo Marine Park* brochure.

- **Carnarvon – Gascoyne River and creeks** All waters of the Gascoyne River, its tributaries, and those within a radius of 800 m of each of its entrances into the ocean are **closed** to recreational netting at all times. All creeks from 10 km north of Point Whitmore to 5 km south of Mangrove Point, including all waters within 400 m radius of their mouths, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

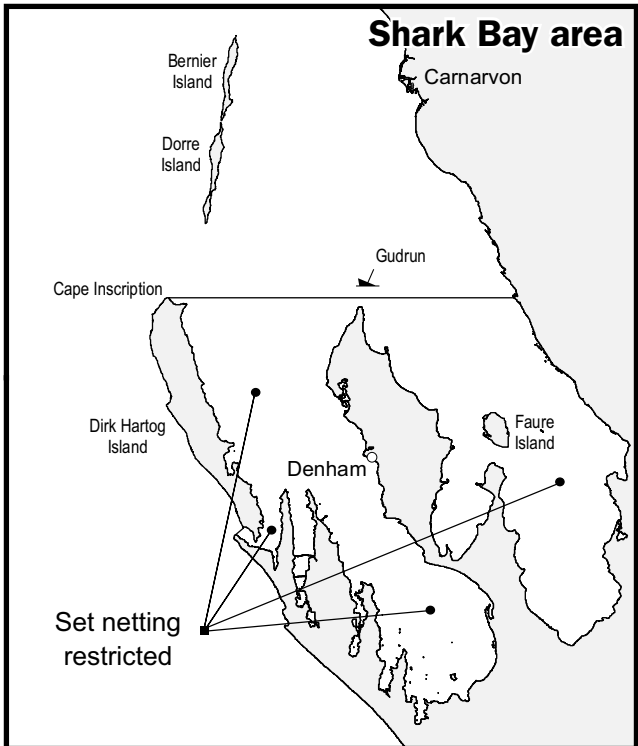


- **Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area** The coral reef and lagoon area within Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area (50 km north of Carnarvon) is **closed** to recreational netting at all times. For further details, see the Department of Fisheries *Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area* guide.
- **Shark Bay Marine Park** All waters of the Shark Bay Marine Park are **open** to recreational netting with the exception of the following areas:
 - **Sanctuary zones** All sanctuary zone waters are **closed** to all fishing at all times.
 - **Monkey Mia Recreation Area** All waters within 800 m of the Monkey Mia Jetty are **closed** to recreational net fishing.

- **Little Lagoon Recreation Area** All waters of Little Lagoon and all waters within 275 m of the channel entrance are **closed** to recreational net fishing.
- **Dubaut Inlet Recreation Area** All waters of Dubaut Inlet are **closed** to recreational net fishing.
- **Special purpose areas** All waters of the Cape Peron, Big Lagoon and Boorabuggatta special purpose areas are **closed** to recreational set netting.

For special details of sanctuary zones, recreation areas and special purpose areas, see the Department of Parks and Wildlife *Shark Bay Marine Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve* brochure.

In the waters off Shark Bay, south of a line from Cape Inscription (on Dirk Hartog Island) due east to the mainland, **no recreational set netting is permitted** between one and a half hours after sunrise and one and a half hours before sunset.



3.4 West Coast Bioregion

The West Coast Bioregion includes all waters between Black Point, east of Augusta, and the Zuytdorp Cliffs (north of Kalbarri).

The following section lists all of the ocean and inland waters that are closed/open, respectively, to recreational netting during the year, with specific conditions and dates.

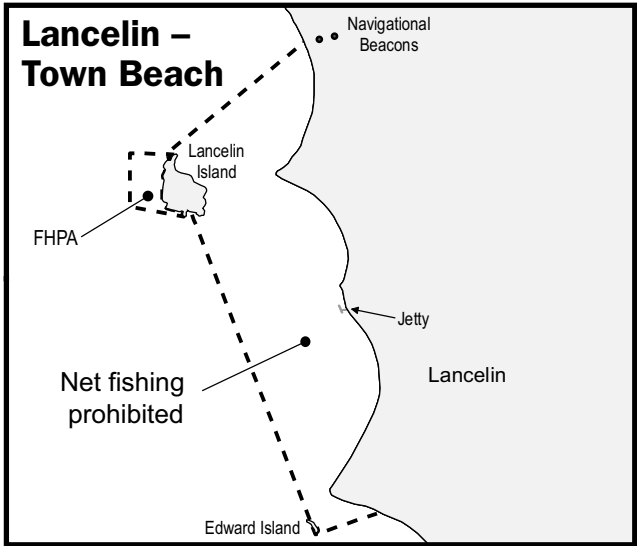
- **All waters** All West Coast Bioregion waters are **closed** to recreational set netting at all times except the waters of Peel-Harvey, Leschenault and Hardy inlets (see relevant sections).
- **Geraldton harbour** All waters within the harbour are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Abrolhos Islands** All waters within reef observation areas on the islands are **closed** to recreational netting at all times. For further details, see the Department of Fisheries brochure *The Abrolhos Islands Information Guide*.
- **Port Denison** All waters within the fishing boat harbour inshore of a line joining its two groynes are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Jurien Bay Marine Park** All waters of the Park are **open** to recreational haul and throw netting with the exception of:
 1. **All sanctuary zone waters**, which are **closed** to fishing at all times.
 2. **Special purpose puerulus monitoring area** waters, which are **closed** to recreational net fishing at all times.
 3. **All waters within 400 m of the high water mark** between 400 m north of the Jurien boat harbour and Shingle Avenue, including all waters inside the harbour, which are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

For specific details of sanctuary zones and special purpose areas, see the Department of Parks and Wildlife *Jurien Bay Marine Park* brochure.

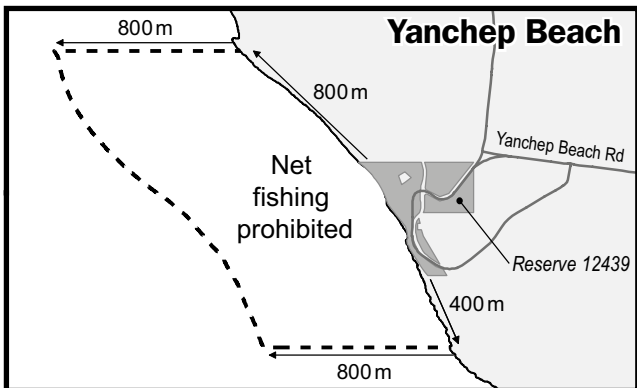
- **Cervantes** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between Green Street and Talavera Road are **closed** to recreational netting between 1 December and 31 May the following year.

- **Lancelin Fish Habitat Protection Area** All waters within the Area are closed to all recreational netting (and all other types of fishing) at all times.
- **Lancelin** All waters adjacent to the Lancelin townsite between Edward Island and Lancelin Island are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

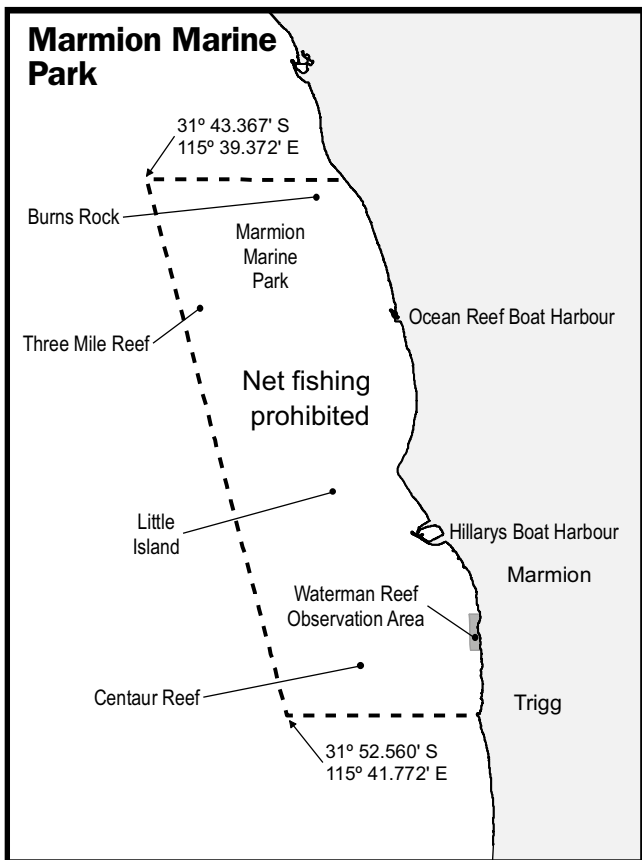
Note: All waters of the Moore River are **closed** to recreational netting (including throw netting) at all times.



- **Yanchep Beach** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark that lie within boundaries running 400 m SE of the SW corner of Reserve 12439, and 800 m NW of the NW corner of the said reserve are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

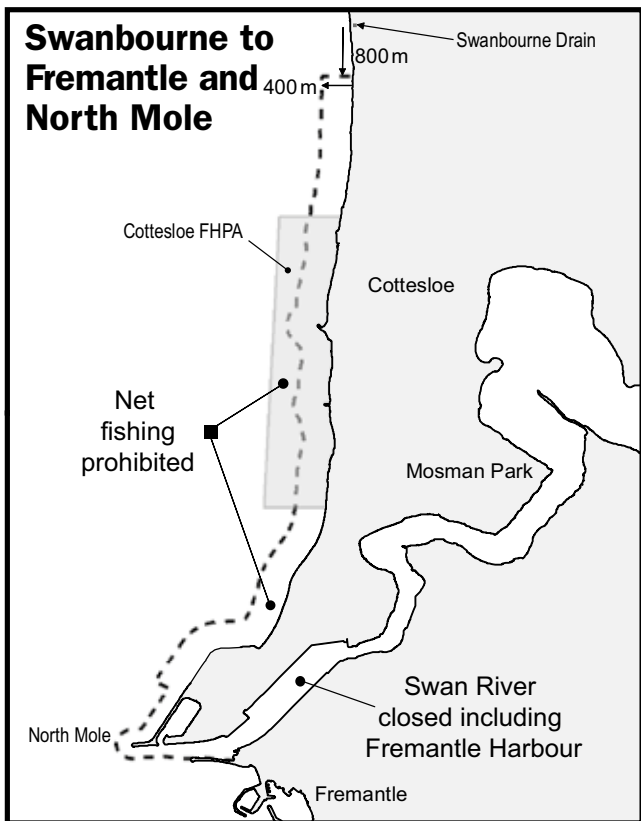


- **Marmion Marine Park (Burns Rock to Trigg Island)** All waters in the Park, including the boat harbours at Hillarys and Ocean Reef, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



- **Scarborough Beach** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark between Reserve Street and 400 m south of Brighton Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **City Beach** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark between a point 800 m north of the northern groyne to a point 800 m south of the southern groyne are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

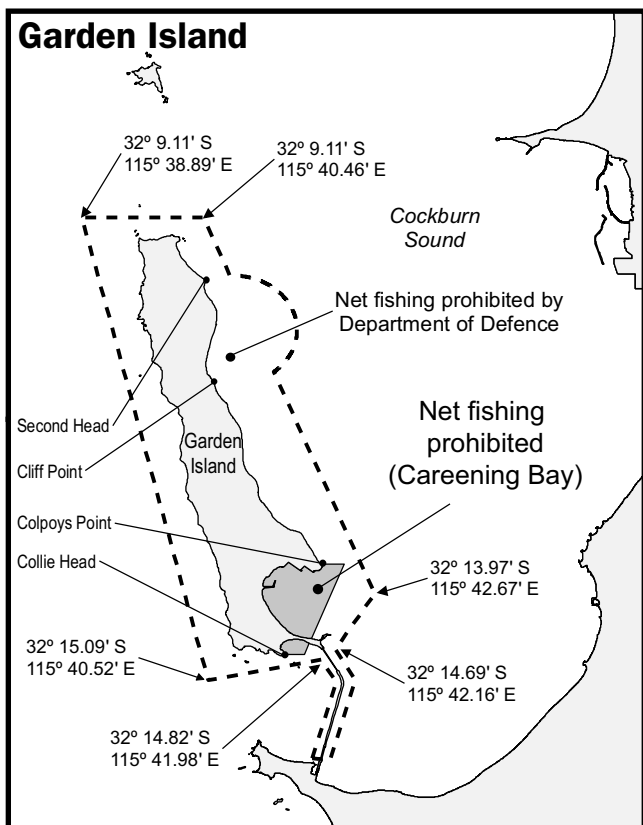
- **Swanbourne Beach to Fremantle (Rous Head)** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark from a point 800 m south of Swanbourne Drain to Rous Head harbour wall (North Mole) are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



Note: All waters of the Swan and Canning rivers are **closed** to recreational netting (including throw netting) at all times.

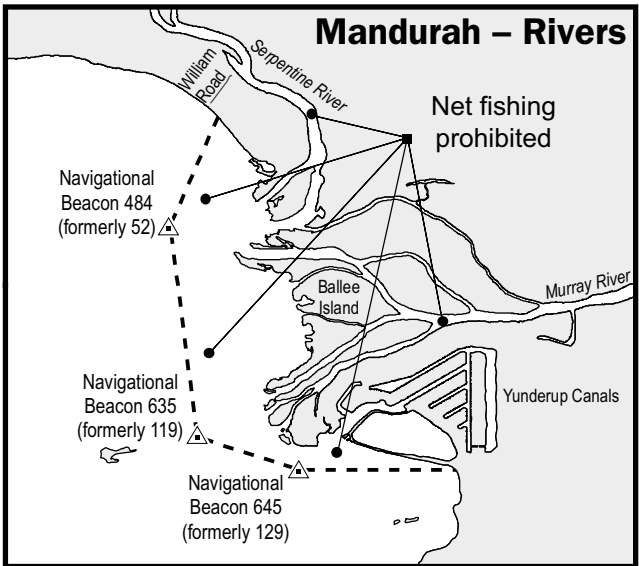
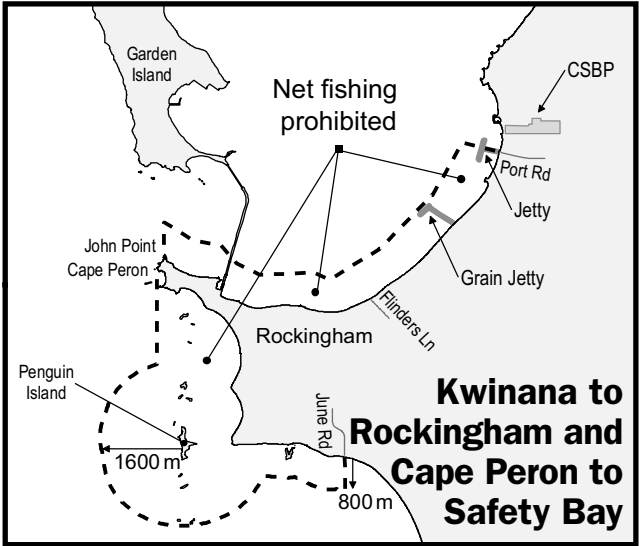
- **Cottesloe Fish Habitat Protection Area (FHPA)** All waters within the FHPA are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **North Mole Boat Harbour** All waters inside the harbour and within 200 m of the harbour wall are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Rottneet Island** All waters within 800 m of the island are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

- **South Beach (Fremantle)** All waters within 150 m of the high water mark from the prolongation of Douro Road to the prolongation of Island Street, including all waters surrounding Douro Road groyne, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Coogee Beach** All waters 460 m north and south of the Beach Road prolongation are **closed** 400 m seaward of the high water mark to recreational netting at all times.
- **Garden Island (Fremantle)** All waters inside and 400 m seaward of a line drawn from Colpoys Point to Collie Head, including Careening Bay, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

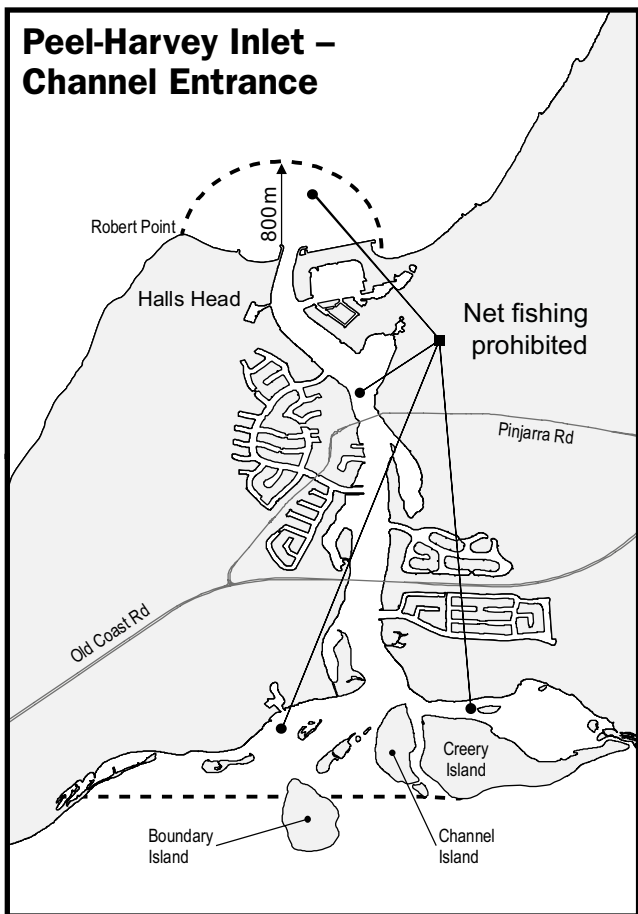


There is a Department of Defence ban on recreational netting all year within the Controlled Naval Waters of Garden Island – see map above for co-ordinates.

- Kwinana to Rockingham** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark from the T-shaped CSBP jetty due west of the CSBP factory (prolongation of the east-west section of Kwinana Beach Road) to a line due north of John Point (Cape Peron) are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



- **Cape Peron to Safety Bay** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark from a line due south of John Point (Cape Peron) to June Road (Safety Bay), including all waters within a 1600 m radius of Penguin Island, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Peel-Harvey Inlet (Mandurah)** All waters of the Peel Inlet and the Harvey River estuary system are conditionally **open** to recreational set and throw netting **excluding** the channel entrance to Peel Inlet, the Yunderup Canals, and the Harvey, Serpentine and Murray rivers.



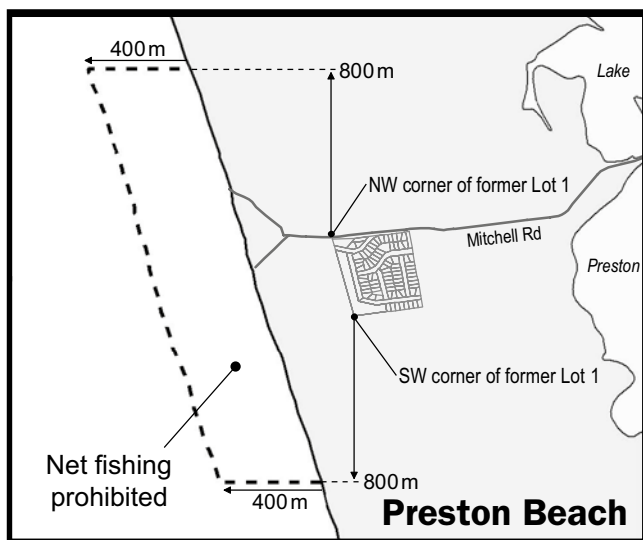
Recreational set netting is **permitted** in the Peel-Harvey Inlet (minus exclusions) on Wednesday nights from 1 November until the following 31 July, from 4.30 pm to midnight. During this period, netters must attend their nets, clean their nets hourly, and ensure all nets are removed from the water by midnight.

Set netting is banned in the Peel-Harvey Inlet during August, September and October, which is the main cobbler breeding season.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in the Peel-Harvey Inlet at all times.

For further details of closures, see the maps above.

- **Preston Beach** All waters within 400 m of the low water mark between points 800 m north and approximately 1,200 m south of the prolongation of Mitchell Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

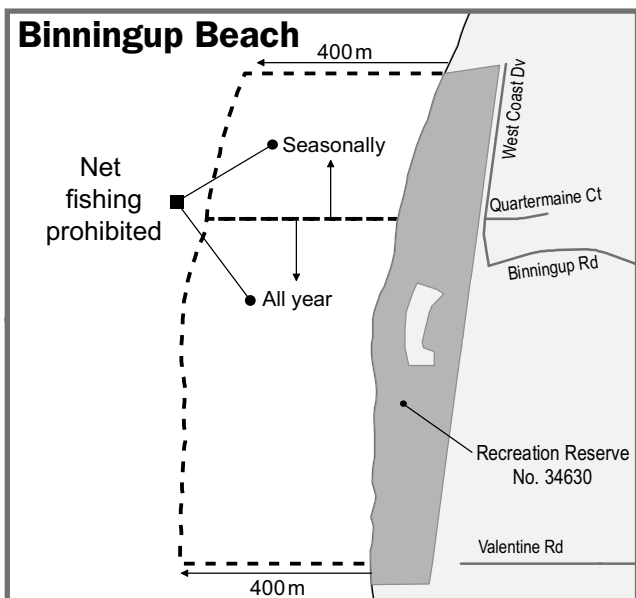


- **Myalup Beach** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between points 200 m north and 200 m south of the prolongation of Myalup Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

- **Binningup Beach** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between Quartermaine Court and Valentine Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

Waters within 400 m of the high water mark from Quartermaine Court north to a point 30 m south from the end of West Coast Drive are **closed** to recreational netting for **two seasonal periods**.

The waters are closed from 15 December to the following 15 February, and on weekends and public holidays from 16 February – 25 April.



- **Leschenault Estuary system** All waters of the system are conditionally **open** to recreational set and throw netting **excluding**:
 - All waters of the Collie River and waters of the Leschenault Estuary lying within a 400 m radius of the northern-most extremity of Bar Island.
 - All waters of the channel connecting Leschenault Estuary to the sea known as 'The Cut', including those within a 400 m radius of the western end of the northern-most groyne at its entrance into Koombana Bay.

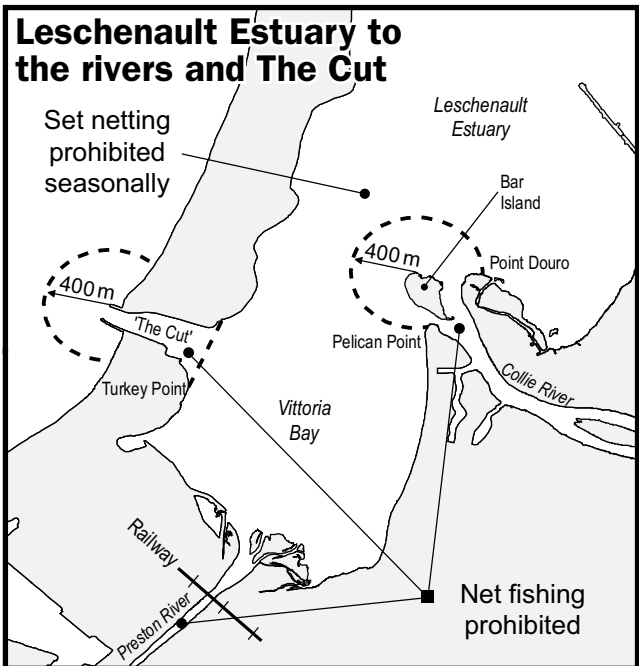
- All waters of the Preston River upstream from the northern-most railway bridge near its mouth.
- All waters of the Leschenault Inlet (known as 'The Deadwater'), including the Koombana Channel.
- All waters of the Bunbury Inner Harbour Basin.

Recreational set netting is **permitted** in the Leschenault Estuary (minus exclusions) on Wednesday and Friday nights from 1 November until the following 31 July, from one and a half hours before sunset to one and a half hours after the following sunrise, providing the net is attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

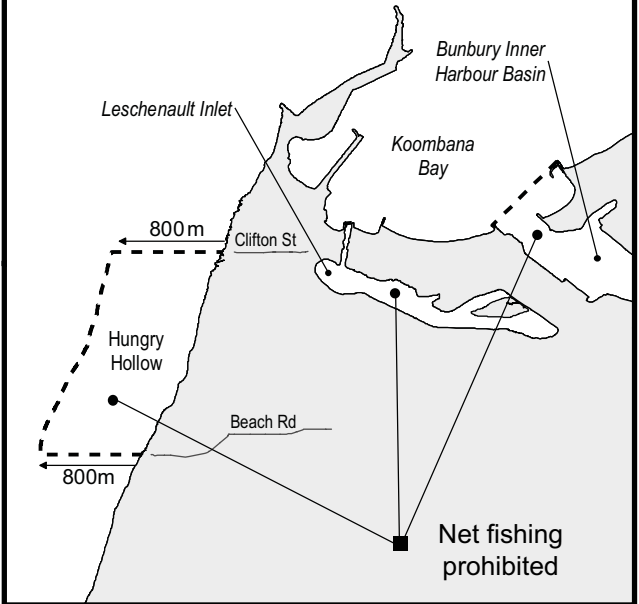
Set netting is banned in the Leschenault Estuary system during August, September and October, which is the main cobbler breeding season.

Throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in the Leschenault Estuary at all times.

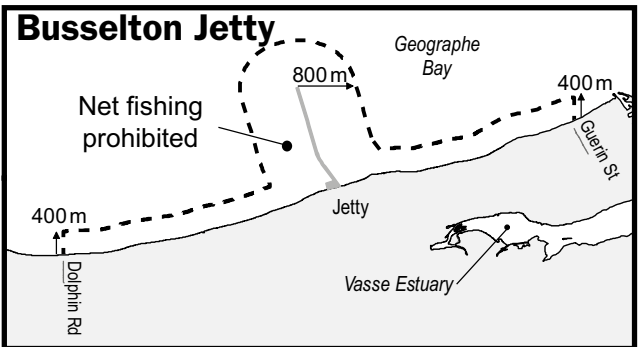
- **Hungry Hollow** All waters within 800 m of the high water mark between Clifton Street and Beach Road are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



Leschenault Estuary and Hungry Hollow



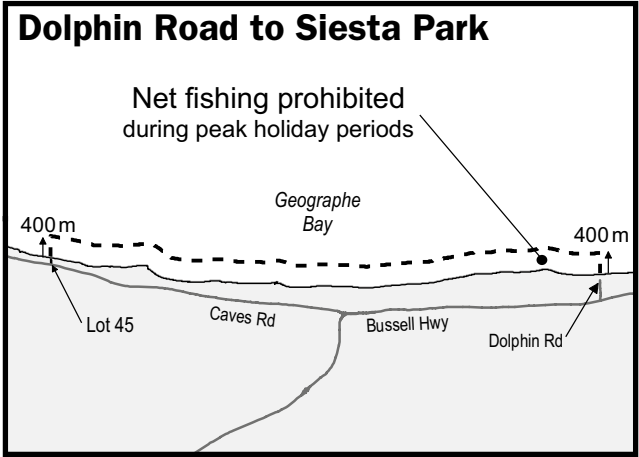
- **Peppermint Grove** All ocean waters within 400 m of the high water mark between Cowrie Court and McCourt Place are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Busselton Jetty** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between Guerin Street and Dolphin Road, and within 800 m of the jetty, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



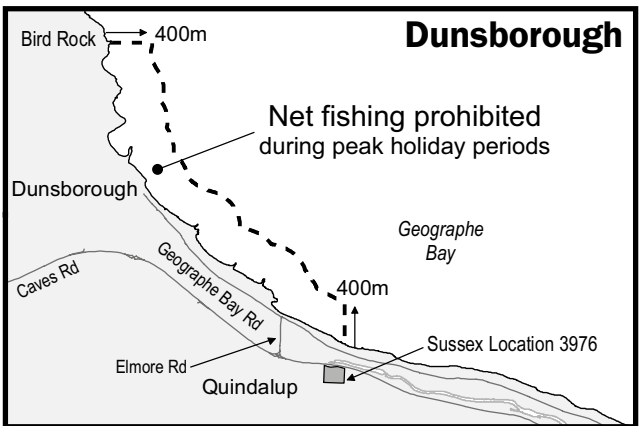
Some areas of water in Geographe Bay are closed to all recreational netting at peak holiday periods.

These areas are closed from 15 December to 15 February, but also at weekends and public holidays from 16 February to 25 April. The **closed areas** are:

- **Dolphin Road to Siesta Park** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark from Dolphin Road to approximately 1 km west of Siesta Park groyne.

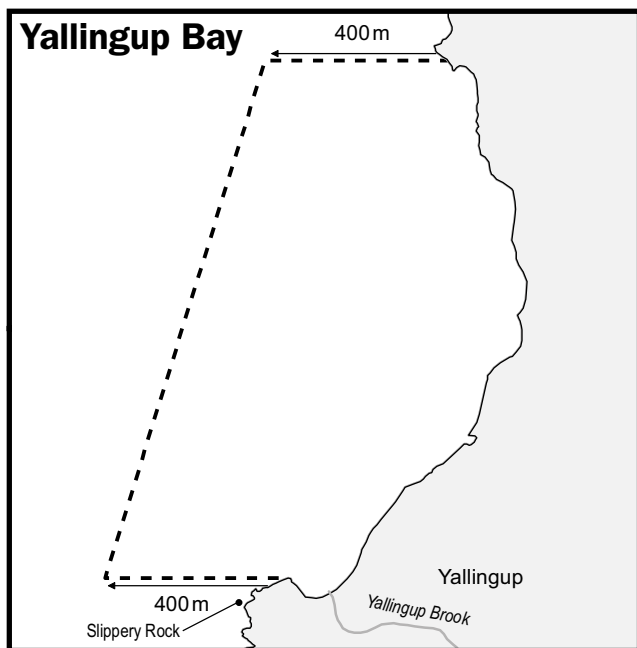


- **Dunsborough** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between the tall Norfolk Island pines approximately 450 m east of the intersection of Elmore Road and Geographe Bay Road to Bird Rock.



Areas closed to recreational netting at all times:

- **Yallingup Bay** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark between the northern edge of the Yallingup Bay beach and Yallingup Brook's entry into the ocean are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.



- **Canal Rocks (near Yallingup)** All waters within an 800 m radius of the centre of Canal Rocks are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Cowaramup Bay (Gracetown)** All waters within Cowaramup Bay are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Hardy Inlet and Blackwood Estuary (Augusta)** Waters of the Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet downstream of the Fisher Road boat ramp and north of a line drawn between Point Irwin and the Irwin Street boat ramp are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting (see above).

All waters south of a line from Point Irwin to the Hospital boat ramp (Irwin Street), including Swan Lake and The Deadwater, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

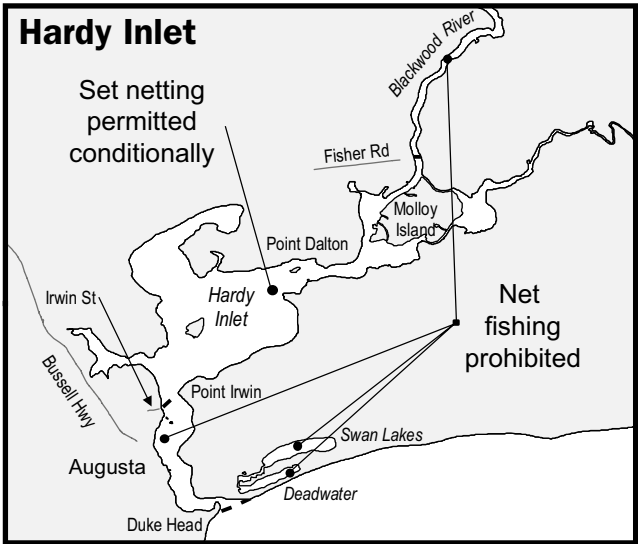
All waters of the Blackwood River and its tributaries upstream of the Fisher Road boat ramp, and all waters of the Scott River, are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.

Recreational set netting is **permitted** in the Hardy Inlet/Blackwood Estuary (minus exclusions) during the period commencing 1.5 hours before sunset on 1 September and concluding 1.5 hours after sunrise on 31 May the following year.

During this period (1 September – 31 May) set gill nets may be used on any given day from 1.5 hours before sunset until 1.5 hours after sunrise the following day. However, this is conditional on the net being attended and an hourly check and clean being carried out.

Set netting is banned in the Hardy Inlet-Blackwood Estuary during June, July and August, to protect black bream stocks.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in the Hardy Inlet-Blackwood Estuary at all times.



3.5 South Coast Bioregion

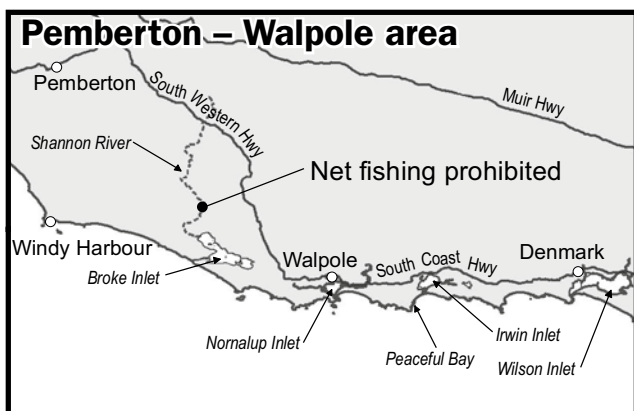
This bioregion includes all waters from Black Point, east of Augusta, to the South Australian border.

This section lists all ocean and inland waters that are closed/open, respectively, to recreational netting during the year, with specific conditions and dates.

In inland areas **open** to throw netting, as listed, any species may be taken except for the prohibited and protected species listed in Section 2.1.3.

- All **ocean** waters of the South Coast Bioregion are **closed** to recreational set netting at all times but the **inland waters** listed are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting.

Recreational throw nets are **not permitted** in any ocean waters of the South Coast Bioregion other than for the taking of bait fish. Bait fish means fish from the families Atherinidae, Clupeidae, Engraulidae, Hemiramphidae or Mugilidae.



- **Windy Harbour** All waters within 400 m of the high water mark of the Windy Harbour town beach are **closed** to recreational netting at all times.
- **Broke Inlet (20 km west of Walpole)** All waters of Broke Inlet and all rivers (excluding the Shannon River, which is closed to all fishing at all times), streams and creeks that flow into the inlet are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until

31 October. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

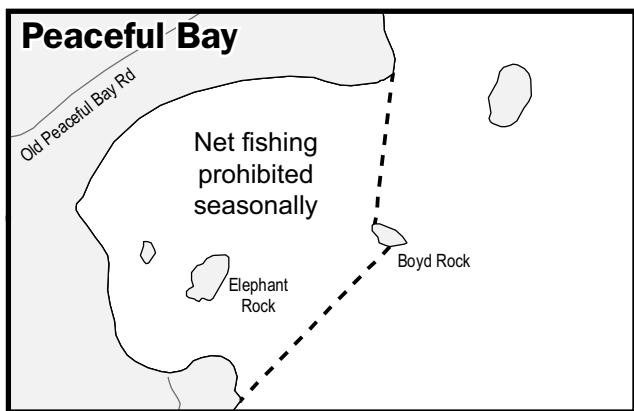
Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Broke Inlet at all times.

- **Irwin Inlet (20 km east of Walpole)** All waters of Irwin Inlet and the waters of all rivers, streams and creeks that flow into the inlet (excluding the Bow River) are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Irwin Inlet from 4 pm on 1 May to 12 noon on 31 October.

- **Peaceful Bay (near Walpole)** All waters from the high water mark to the rock in the centre of the mouth of Peaceful Bay are **closed** to recreational haul netting from midday 31 October until 4.00 pm the following 1 May.

This area is closed to recreational set netting and throw netting at all times.



- **Wilson Inlet (near Denmark)** All waters of Wilson Inlet are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting and throw netting **excluding**:
 - The waters of the inlet between the sand bar at the mouth of the inlet (low water mark of Ratcliffe Bay) and a line running approximately

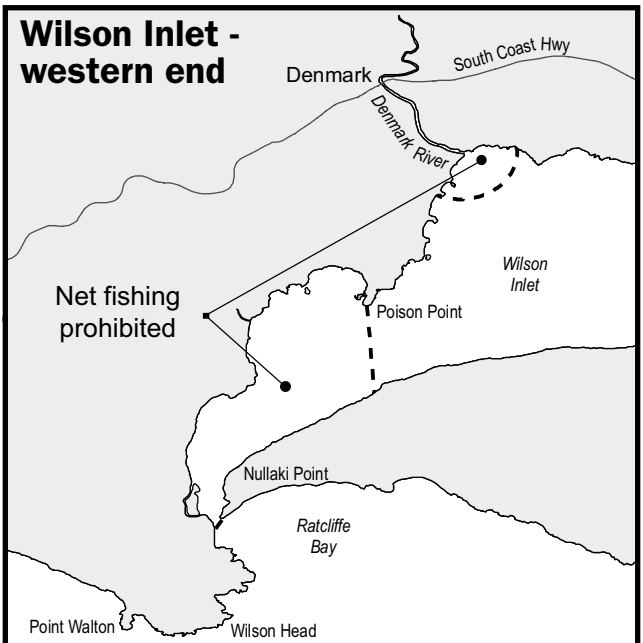
due south of Poison Point to the Nullaki shore.

- The waters of Hay River, its tributaries, and those within a radius of 400 m from the mouth of the Hay River.
- The waters of the Sleeman River, its tributaries, and those within a radius of 400 m of the mouth of the Sleeman River.
- The waters of the Denmark River, its tributaries, and those within a radius of 800 m from the mouth of the Denmark River.

Recreational set netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** during the **following periods**:

- (1) Between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5.00 pm and 10.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Wilson Inlet at all times.

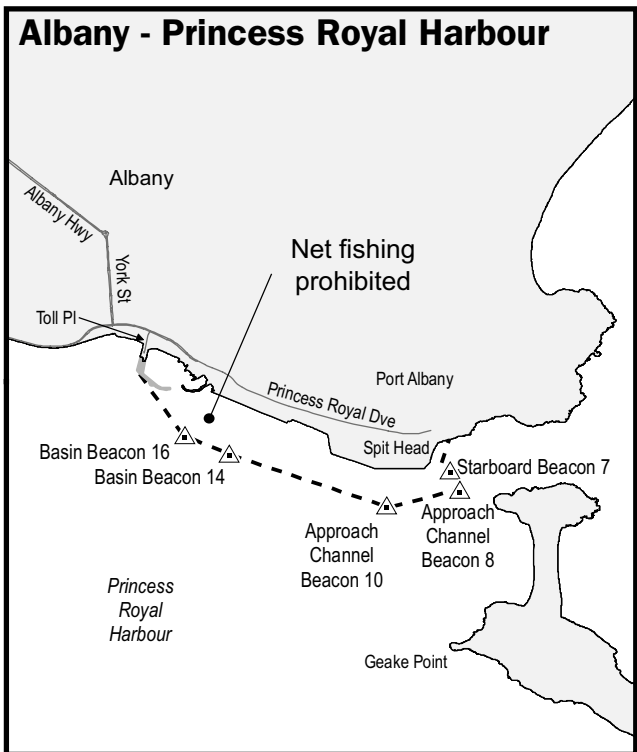


- **Princess Royal Harbour (Albany)** All waters of Princess Royal Harbour are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting, excluding those from the low water mark between Toll Place and Spit Head out to beacon 16, 14, 10, 8 and 7 being the waters around the Albany port. Recreational set netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** during the following periods:

- (1) Between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5.00 pm and 10.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year.

Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Princess Royal Harbour at all times.



- **Beaufort Inlet and Pallinup River (40 km west of Bremer Bay)** All waters of the Beaufort Estuary and Pallinup River are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting during the following periods:

- (1) Between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5.00 pm and 10.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year. Set nets must have a minimum mesh size of 76 mm. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

- **Wellstead Estuary (Bremer Bay)** All waters of the Wellstead Estuary/Bremer Bay downstream of 'The Narrows' are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting during the following periods:

- (1) Between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5.00 pm and 10.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year.

Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned at least once hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Wellstead Estuary at all times.

- **Gordon Inlet (15 km north-east of Bremer Bay)** All waters of the Gordon Inlet are conditionally open to recreational set netting during the following periods:

- (1) Between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) between 5.00 pm and 10.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year.

Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Gordon Inlet at all times.

- **Gairdner River** All waters of the Gairdner River downstream of a line joining Kent location 1301 and SE corner of Kent location 1295 (approximately 11.5 km upstream of the mouth of the river at Gordon Inlet) are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

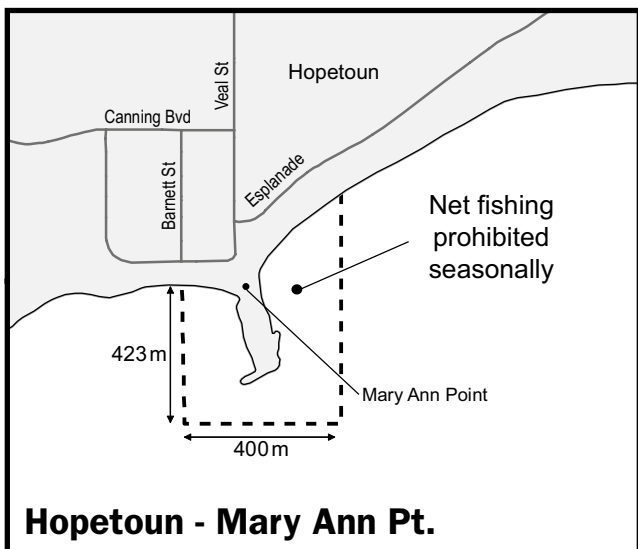
Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Gairdner River at all times.

- **Hamersley Inlet (20 km west of Hopetoun)** All waters of Hamersley Inlet and Hamersley River are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting during the following periods:

- (1) Between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
- (2) Between 5.00 pm and 10.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year. Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Hamersley Inlet at all times.

- **Mary Ann Point (Hopetoun)** All waters within the area defined in the Hopetoun – Mary Ann Point map below are **closed** to recreational netting from 1 December to the last day of the following February.

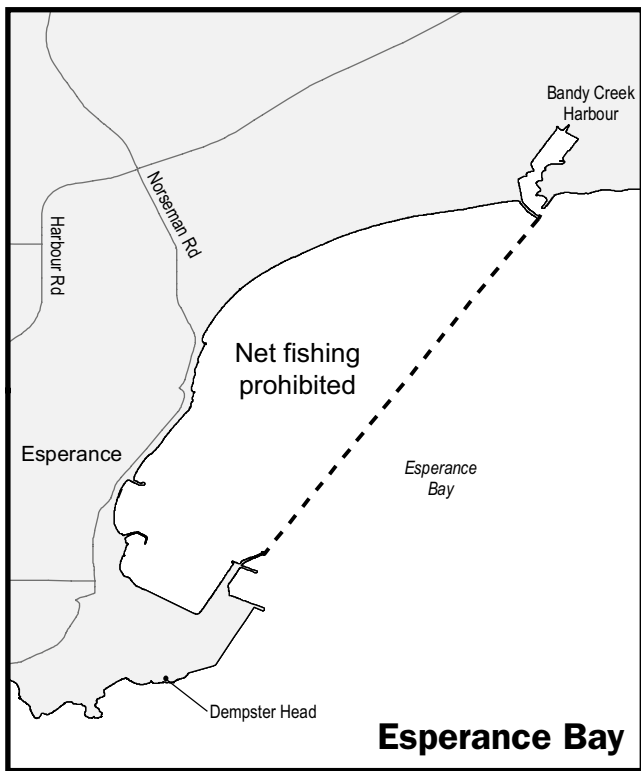


- **Stokes Inlet (70 km west of Esperance)** All waters of Stokes Inlet and all rivers, streams and creeks that flow into the inlet are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October.

Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned at least once hourly.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Stokes Inlet at all times.

- Esperance Bay** All waters from the high water mark north of a line between Dempster Head and the eastern groyne of Bandy Creek Harbour are closed to recreational netting from 1 December – 31 March. From 1 April – 30 November, recreational netting is only permitted between 7.00 pm and the following 7.00 am.



- Esperance Jetty** All waters contained within an area 20 m from the seaward end of the Esperance Tank Jetty and 50 m either side of a line drawn from the centre of jetty to the centre of the jetty extension known as the 'island', and extending seaward for 50 m from the navigational beacon at the 'island', are **closed** to all fishing, including recreational netting.

- **Thomas River (95 km east of Esperance)** All waters of the Thomas River, including those of its tributaries and affluents, are **conditionally open** to recreational set netting during the following periods:
 - (1) Between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 May until 31 October; and
 - (2) between 5.00 pm and 10.00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights only, from 1 November until 30 April the following year.

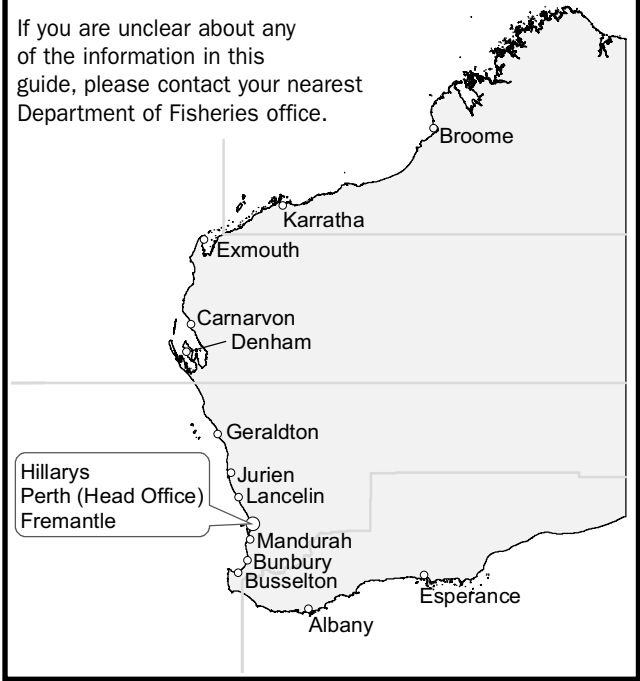
Nets must be attended and checked and cleaned hourly.

- **Sanko Harvest wreck** All waters within 500 m of the *Sanko Harvest* wreck are closed to all fishing, including recreational netting, at all times.

Recreational throw netting (minus exclusions) is **permitted** in Thomas River at all times.

Department of Fisheries District Offices

If you are unclear about any of the information in this guide, please contact your nearest Department of Fisheries office.



Information and penalties

This publication is to provide assistance or information. It is only a guide and does not replace the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* or the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*. It cannot be used as a defence in a court of law. The information provided is current at the date of printing but may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on fishing and full details of legislation contact your local Department of Fisheries office or visit www.fish.wa.gov.au

You should be aware that all fishing activities may be subject to surveillance by Fisheries and Marine Officers. If you break recreational fishing rules you may be given an infringement notice or legal action may be taken against you. Fines for recreational fishing offences may be as high as \$10,000 plus up to 10 times the prescribed value of the species.

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Broome WA 6725
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