

## **CLAIMING A WEST AUSTRALIAN SPEARFISHING RECORD**

An application for a State Spearfishing Record will be considered by the West Australian Spearfishing Commission (WASC) for any fish caught in accordance with its rules and regulations, providing it conforms with the following requirements.

- 1). The application must be forwarded to the State Records Officer through the state branch.
- 2). The application must be made on the WA State Spearfishing Record Application Form. These forms may be obtained from the State Records Officer or [online](#)
- 3). The record application fee of \$10.00 must accompany the application. Cheques should be made payable to the West Australian Spearfishing Commission and marked Not Negotiable.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**Eligible species shall be of the class Osteichthyes.**

### **1) Class Osteichthyes (Bony Fishes)**

All species of the class Osteichthyes are eligible except for those occurring in the order Syngnathiformes (Pipefish and allies), excluding the Families Aulostomidae (Trumpetfishes) and Fistulariidae (Flutemouths) and those occurring in the Order Tetraodontiformes (Toadfish, Boxfish, Sunfish and allies) excluding the Families Monacanthidae (Leatherjackets) and Balistidae (Triggerfishes).

## **INELIGIBLE SPECIES**

Fish that have been speared while restricted by nets, traps or lines are not eligible for an WA State Spearfishing Record. Fish that are protected under State or Federal Government regulations are not eligible for a WA State Spearfishing Record.

## **TIME LIMIT ON CLAIMS**

A claim for a WA State Spearfishing Record must be made within twelve months of the date of the capture. Any claim received by the WASC after twelve months from the date of capture will only be considered if the WASC is satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.

## **INCOMPLETE RECORD CLAIMS**

If a record claim is not complete when submitted it must be accompanied by an explanation of why certain portions are incomplete. An incomplete record claim will only be considered if the following conditions are met:

- 1) All missing data supplied within a reasonable period considering the prevailing circumstances.
- 2) The missing data must be due to circumstances beyond the control of the person making the record claim.
- 3) If unable to supply the missing data a statutory declaration is submitted attesting to the validity of the claim and the circumstances relating to the missing data.

### **MINIMUM WEIGHT**

To be eligible for an WA State Spearfishing Record a fish must have a minimum weight of 500 grams. Prior to metrification the minimum weight for AUF Spearfishing Records was 1lb (454grams). Those records weighing between 200 grams and 500grams have been retained for the sake of completeness.

### **WEIGHTS NEEDED TO EXCEED EXISTING RECORDS**

To be recognised as a new WA State Spearfishing Record a fish between 500 grams and 2 kilograms in weight must exceed the existing record by at least 50 grams. A fish exceeding the existing record by less than the amount will be considered an equal record, the be recognised as a new WA State Spearfishing Record a fish exceeding 2 kilograms in weight must exceed the existing record by at least 100grams. A fish exceeding the existing record by less than this amount will be considered an equal record.

### **WEIGHING OF FISH**

Fish shall be weighed whole ie. gut and gills intact. Mutilated fish (due to predator attack) will be accepted on a case by case basis.

All record fish must be weighed on government tested scales. Government tested scales are scales that have been checked and certified for accuracy by Government Departments or other accredited organizations. All scales must be regularly checked for accuracy and regularly checked in accordance with the applicable Government Regulations and Limitations Certifications more than one year old are not acceptable.

The weigh master should be the Club Sports Secretary or Weight Recorder, a Club Committee Member or some other person familiar with the scales ie. Shop Owner. It should not be the record applicant.

The weight of the record fish must be witnessed by a person who is independent of the record applicant ie not related.

## **MEASURING OF FISH**

Length and Girth measurements must be taken of all record fish. To measure the length of a fish it should be layed flat and measured horizontally from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. To measure the girth of a fish run a tape around the largest circumference of the body. This is the girth measurement.

## **PHOTOGRAPH OF FISH**

All record applications must be accompanied by a clear photograph, preferably in colour, showing the full length and depth of the fish. As the species identification must be confirmed from the photograph, care should be taken to ensure the best possible photographs.

When photographing the fish it is advisable to lay it on a flat smooth surface with all fins extended. If possible choose a background colour that makes the fish stand out.

A ruler, tape measure or standard size object should be placed alongside the fish if possible. Avoid any shadows or objects that might obscure the fish. Photographs should be taken from directly above the fish. Photographs should be taken as soon as possible after capture. Do not gut and gill the fish before photographing. If the fish is rare it is advisable to take additional close-up photos of the head and any identifying features.

## **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES WILL DISQUALIFY THE CATCH.**

- 1) All fish must be taken by spear by the applicants, without any assistance.
- 2) No breathing aid other than a snorkel is permitted.
- 3) The use of explosives, poisons or electricity is forbidden.
- 4) Weapons fired by the discharge of explosives or compressed gases are forbidden.
- 5) The applicant must be immersed in water at the time of spearing the fish.