

Circular

Title:	<u>Prohibition on Fishing (Wire Trace)</u>
Date:	16 November 2023
Document ID:	36, 2023/2024
Department:	Lifesaving
From:	Domenic Cowdell - Lifesaving and Education Officer Ph: 08 9207 6666 (SLSWA Office Hours Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm) dcowdell@slnwa.com.au
Audience:	Directors of Lifesaving, Patrol Captains, Patrol Members
Summary:	Wire trace fishing has been banned on metropolitan beaches. Attached is detail of the prohibition order for the visibility and awareness of your members.
Action:	Members that observe noncompliance to the order by recreational fishers is to be reported the activity to FishWatch 1800 815 507 or through an online form on Crimestoppers.
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAQs – Prohibition on Fishing (Wire Trace) Order 2022 Prohibition on Fishing (Wire Trace) Order 2022 – Area Map

The Minister for Fisheries has amended recreational fishing orders relative to the use of wire traces when fishing from metropolitan beaches. From 3 November 2023, recreational fishing with wire trace is prohibited at all Perth metropolitan beaches from Tim's Thicket Beach to Two Rocks north including the Swan and Canning Estuary. The Minister has taken action to mitigate the attraction of sharks closer to shore and improve the safety of recreational ocean users close to shore.

The information disseminated by the Department of Fisheries to explain the changes in the orders is attached. The information also provides direction as the actions your members should take if they observe non-compliance to these orders at your beach. SLSWA requests that your members follow the directions of the Department of Fisheries and do not become engaged in any direct confrontation with a recreational fisher.

If you have any questions, please contact Domenic Cowdell on 08 9207 6666 or email dcowdell@slnwa.com.au.



James O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer

FAQs – *Prohibition on Fishing (Wire Trace) Order 2022*

What is wire trace?

A wire trace is a length of steel, metal wire or chain that is attached to, or is part of, a fishing line. This does not include hooks, swivels, or sinkers.

What is wire trace used for?

Wire trace is used in a range of fishing practises. Fishers often use wire trace when targeting fish with teeth that would otherwise damage or break fishing line. Although not essential for targeting and landing species such as mackerel and tailor, wire trace can be efficient at preventing line breaks compared to regular fishing line and/or leader.

What is the *Prohibition on Fishing (Wire Trace) Order 2022* (the Order)?

The *Prohibition on Fishing (Wire Trace) Order 2022* is State-based legislation that prohibits the use of wire trace for all fishing within 800 metres of shore, from Tim's Thicket Beach to 5 kilometres north of Two Rocks, and within all waters of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Who does the Order apply to?

All recreational fishers (including those fishing from a charter boat).

Where does the Order apply?

All waters within 800 metres of the shoreline, at all Perth metropolitan beaches, from Tim's Thicket Beach (south of Mandurah) to 5 kilometres north of Two Rocks. The Order includes all waters of the Swan and Canning rivers, waters in the Dawesville Channel up to the Port Bouvard Bridge, and waters in the Mandurah Estuary up to the Mandurah Estuary Bridge.

Where does the Order not apply?

The Peel Harvey Estuary is not included in the Order. Rottnest Island and all other islands located in the Perth metropolitan area, are not included in the Order (where they are located beyond 800 metres from the mainland coast). A map for the Order can be found [here](#).

Why was the Order introduced?

In 2022, the State Government banned the use of wire traces when recreational fishing within 800 metres of the shore at Port and Leighton beaches through to South Cottesloe, following a suspected shark attack and amid concerns that beach fishing was attracting large sharks close to popular swimming beaches in the area.

The *Prohibition on Fishing (Wire Trace) Order 2022* has now been extended to include all Perth metropolitan beaches and the Swan Canning Estuary, following ongoing concerns around recreational shark fishing from the community and local councils.

Who was consulted?

Recfishwest and Local Governments along the entire metropolitan coastline and Swan River were consulted on the wire trace ban extension.

Is the Order permanent?

Yes.

What are the fines for recreational fishers not abiding by restrictions on the use of wire traces in metropolitan waters?

Infringement ranging from \$50 to \$400 can be issued for failing to comply with the new restrictions. If a case proceeds to prosecution, a fisher could face a maximum penalty of \$5,000 plus an additional mandatory penalty.

Can you still use wire trace for other species such as tailor or mackerel?

No, all fishing with wire trace is prohibited.

Can you still use heavy weight monofilament to fish for Spanish mackerel and Tailor?

Yes, monofilament leader and nylon line can be used when fishing for species such as mackerel and tailor. Fishers can improve the chances of avoiding a bite-off without wire trace, by using monofilament leader with a greater diameter and breaking strain.

Can you fish with a drone from shore?

Fishing with a drone from shore is permitted without the use of a wire trace. All use of a wire trace (including from a drone) is prohibited in waters within 800 metres from shore.

Can you fish from a boat with wire trace?

Recreational fishers more than 800 m from shore can still fish with a wire trace, whilst adhering to the current recreational fishing rules. Boat-based fishers (including fishers on unpowered vessels) within 800 metres from shore are not permitted to use a wire trace.

Can you use berley?

You can use berley however fishers are reminded that there are existing prohibitions on the use of mammal or bird products, such as blood and offal, as burley. Mammal or bird products means blood, flesh, offal or skin from a mammal or a bird.

Can commercial and charter fishers continue to fish for sharks in metropolitan nearshore waters between Mandurah and Two Rocks?

Commercial fishing for sharks has been prohibited from all waters between Dawesville and Lancelin and out to 200 m depth since 2007. Charter fishers more than 800 m from shore can still fish for sharks whilst adhering to the current recreational fishing rules.

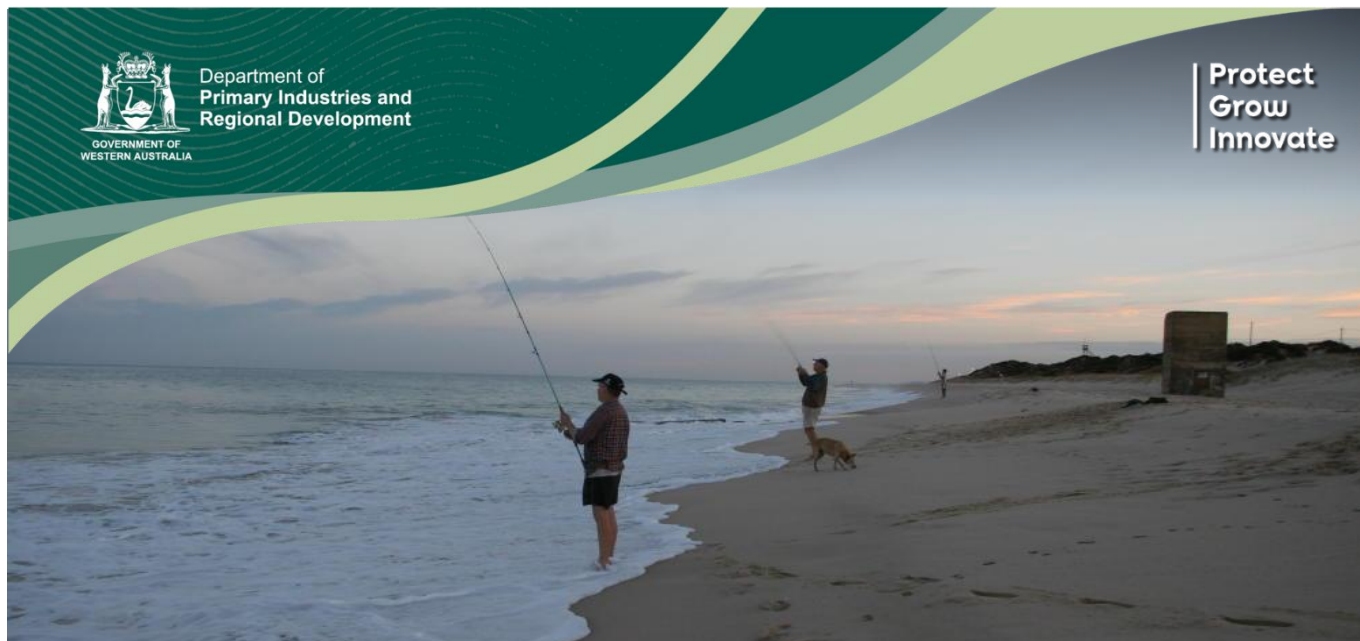
I saw someone fishing for sharks!

Anyone who observes suspicious fishing activity in Western Australian waters can report this to FishWatch 1800 815 507 or through an [online form on Crimestoppers](#).

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), 2023.



New recreational fishing rules prohibiting the use of wire trace in the Perth metropolitan area

From 3 November 2023, recreational fishing with wire trace is prohibited at all Perth metropolitan beaches from Tim's Thicket Beach to Two Rocks north including the Swan-Canning Estuary.

Restrictions to manage fishing for large sharks in nearshore waters from Tim's Thicket Beach to Two Rocks north, including the Swan-Canning Estuary, will take effect on 3 November 2023.

Under the revised legislation, recreational fishers are not permitted to use wire trace while fishing within 800 metres of the coastal shoreline, and within all waters of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Prohibition on Fishing (Wire Trace) Order 2022

In 2022, the state government banned the use of wire traces when recreational fishing within 800 metres of the shore at Port and Leighton beaches through to South Cottesloe.

The *Prohibition on Fishing (Wire Trace) Order 2022* will now be extended to include all Perth metropolitan beaches and the Swan-Canning Estuary, following ongoing concerns around recreational shark fishing from the community and local councils.

The prohibition applies from Tim's Thicket Beach to 5 kilometres north of Two Rocks, all waters of the Swan-Canning Estuary, and waters in the Dawesville Channel and Mandurah Estuary up to Port Bouvard Bridge and Mandurah Estuary Bridge. The Peel-Harvey Estuary is not included.

Recreational shark fishing

Recreational fishing for large sharks at popular beaches is incompatible with other recreational activities such as swimming and surfing.

Targeting and landing large sharks close to shore, poses a risk to other water users and the public, and can impact the wellbeing of released sharks, including protected shark species.

Fishers are encouraged to speak with their local tackle shops to switch out the use of wire trace with other rig types and fishing techniques, or to explore the range of fishing options available for targeting other nearshore species.



Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), 2023.