



Image courtesy:
Department of Fisheries, Western Australia.

FACTSHEET

Australian Herring



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Common Name: Australian Herring

Scientific Name: *Arripis georgianus*

Conservation Status: The waters around Rottnest Island are a designated Marine Reserve. Some parts of Rottnest' coral reefs, sandy floors and seagrass meadows are also included the Marine Sanctuary Zones shown in the Rottnest Island Marine Management Strategy (2007).

The WA daily bag limit for catching Australian Herring is 12. These limits may change, so please contact Department of Fisheries for current fish catch limits.

Habitat: Coral reefs, Sandy floors, Seagrass meadows

Body length: 20-41 cm

Description:

Australian Herring are silver with vertical rows of golden spots on upper side of its body. Its tail fin has black tips. These fish have large eyes and a rounded head.

Diet:

Small fish, crustaceans, invertebrates, insects

In the Wild:

Australian Herring are quite an acrobatic fish. They move in schools and feed inshore. Juvenile herring feed and grow in sheltered bays and inshore waters along the lower west WA coast and Southern Australian coast. They are carried there by the Leeuwin Current.

As they grow bigger, they move out to more exposed costal habitats. Australian Herring reach maturity at 2-3 years old and migrate to the spawning ground on the lower west WA coast. These migrating fish join the adults which are live on this coastline and around Rottnest permanently.

Australian herring are popular among recreational and commercial fishers.



Threats:

- Habitat destruction
- Over-fishing
- Pollution

DID YOU KNOW?

Australian Herring were given that name because they look a bit like the herring found in the northern hemisphere.

Australian Herring are actually a member of the Perch family.