



recfish west

**- Position Statement -
Fish Welfare**

The ethical treatment of fish is an important aspect of recreational fishing and Recfishwest supports recreational fishing practices that have been proven to provide for fish welfare.

To support this position, Recfishwest has developed the “Fish Welfare Code of Conduct for Recreational Fishing in Western Australia”. This code of conduct will guide recreational fishers in best practice for the ethical treatment of fish.

Background

Recfishwest acknowledges the significant stewardship role that falls to recreational fishers as users of aquatic resources. Recfishwest believes that as stewards of these aquatic resources, recreational fishers must respect and care for the welfare of each individual fish, whether it is destined to be kept or released.

Recfishwest is dedicated to promoting an up-to-date scientifically-validated, unambiguous and practical state-wide fish welfare code of conduct that will balance the need to maintain fish welfare with the needs of recreational fishers.

This code of conduct provides practical means of handling, holding and humanely dispatching of fish. Following the code will also result in improving the eating quality of kept fish.