

BARCHEEK CORAL TROUT

FACT FILE

Scientific name

Plectropomus maculatus

Feeds on

Small reef fish, squid and crustaceans. Feeding during daylight – mostly at dusk and dawn.

Habitat

Coral reefs



Identifying features

Elongated blue marks on their head and solid color pectoral fin.



Grows to in WA

85cm

Can weigh up to in WA

10kg

Life expectancy

20 years

Did you know?

Coral trout colours vary based on water quality and the depth they inhabit; shallow fish are darker brown while deeper fish are bright red.

Coral trout on the east coast of Australia belong to a different genetic stock and can grow to be much larger in size reaching 100cm and 25kg.

All coral trout are born female, sexually mature at around two years old, reproduce and then permanently transition into males around three to seven years old.

CATCH CARE

Coral trout are considered by many to be a delicacy. To preserve their fantastic eating qualities, fish caught should be bled immediately and stored on ice.

HOW TO FISH

Best technique

Trolling deep diving lures around shallow reefs.

Best time

All year

Best WA location/s

Exmouth, Onslow, Dampier and Broome

RFW top tip

Use heavy leader and drag as they will cut you off on reef if given a chance!

More info: recfishwest.org.au/fishing-for-science



Supporting
Dampier
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