

BLACK MARLIN

FACT FILE

Scientific name

Istiompax indica

Feeds on

Pelagic fish and squid

Habitat

Open oceanic and nearshore waters

Identifying features

Black marlin have ridged pectoral fins and a relatively short bill with a blue-black and silver belly.

High abundances of black marlin close to shore create some of the best marlin fishing experiences in the world right here in Western Australia.



Grows to

4.65m

Can weigh up to

750kg

Speed

130km/h

Did you know?

Black marlin are the only marlin to have ridged pectoral fins.

Egg counts from female black marlin can exceed 100 million per fish.

Juvenile black marlin can grow up to 49 mm and 740 grams a week, can reach over a metre in length in as few as 100 days and 15 kg within their first year.

Black marlin can migrate enormous distances, WA tagged fish have been recaptured over 8000km away off the coast of Sri Lanka.

RECORDS

World record

Cabo Blanco, Peru

707.61 kg

Australian record

Cairns, QLD

654.08 kg

Western Australian record

Exmouth

296.9 kg

HOW TO FISH

Best technique

Trolling skirted lures or rigged baits.

Best WA location/s

Exmouth, Dampier & Broome.

Best time

July – September

RFW top tip

Look for bait schools on your echo sounder, as marlin will often be close by.

Photo by Ben Knaggs

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



Supporting
Dampier
and Karratha

