

SAILFISH

FACT FILE

Scientific name

Istiophorus platypterus



Feeds on

Pelagic fish, crustaceans and squid.

Habitat

Nearshore and oceanic



CATCH CARE

Removing sailfish from the water for photos can cause damage to their organs and skeletal structure, use a 'selfie stick' for great photos, while keeping the fish in the water and minimizing the stress on the fish.

Grows to

3.5m

Can weigh up to

100kg

Life expectancy

13 years

Speed

110km/h

Sail functions and uses:

Sailfish will work together and create barriers around their prey.

Sailfish control their body temp by extending their sail out of the water to cool themselves down.

A female will attract a male partner by extending her sail above the surface of the water.

Sailfish control their speed by extending and protracting their sail.

Sailfish reduce their bill oscillation and increase their accuracy and precision by extending their sails.

HOW TO FISH

Best technique

Trolling baits and lures.

Best WA location/s

Exmouth, Dampier and Broome.

Season

Late winter

RFW top tip

Focusing effort around the week either side of new and full moons, look for diving birds on bait balls and trolling skipping teasers are highly effective ways of increasing your chances of finding the fish.



RECORDS

World record

Santa Cruz Island, Ecuador

100.24kg

Australian record

Lord Howe Island, NSW

88.75kg

Western Australian record

Exmouth

78kg



Interesting info:

Sailfish are renowned as being one of the fastest fish in the ocean with speeds of up to 110 km/h recorded.

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



Supporting
Dampier
and Karratha

