

Standardising Fish Names Across Australian Jurisdictions

Publication and Development of the Australian Standard for Fish Names

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Recreational fishing in Australia is one of the most popular outdoor leisure activities. It provides economic and social benefits to the Australian community. Several hundred of Australia's 5,000 native finfish species are important to recreational fishers, and support fishing and diving activities.

Confusion over fish names has been caused by the large diversity of species, many species being known by multiple names, and the same name being used for more than one species. Therefore, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), which is a Standards Development Organisation under the auspices of Standards Australia, established the Fish Names Committee to manage an Australian Standard for fish names (AS 5300).

The voluntary Standard is underpinned by rigorous policies and procedures, and is a best-practice guide for use throughout the recreational fishing sector.

The Fish Names Committee comprises representatives from the following industry sectors: harvesting, production, retail and hospitality; representatives from academia; a representative from the recreational fishing sector; and an independent Chair.

Search and/or apply to amend the Standard at: www.fishnames.com.au

1. Fish Names Committee, FRDC ACT, Australia
2. Chair, Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation

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Outcomes From Use of Names

Adoption of the Standard for Fish Names assists with consistent legislation and policy across Australia, as well as informed marketing and consumer choice, specifically:

Public Health and Safety

- * Increased recreational fisher confidence in species identification
- * Information to help fishers avoid potential allergens and/or toxins

Social and Community Impact

- * Strengthened recreational fisher confidence in what they are targeting
- * Agreed set of standard names for the recreational fishing sector
- * Widespread stakeholder trust and support

Environmental Impact

- * Improved management of fish resources
- * Accurate links to stock/resource assessment data

Competition

- * International alignment of names, particularly where similar fish species are caught in multiple local and/or international jurisdictions (i.e., the same name applies regardless of origin)

Economic Impact

- * Truth in species naming reduces marketplace confusion
- * Recreational fishers can develop strategies based on agreed and accepted names

One Name Per Species – The snapper Story

There are many species known as snapper in Australia; this table lists commercially and recreationally important species. The Fish Names Standard specifies one Standard Fish Name for an individual species or a group of species irrespective of cross-jurisdictional boundaries.

The Fish Standard delivers a common language understood by all. For example, Crimson Snapper is the Standard Name for *Lutjanus erythropterus*, which was previously also known as crimson seaperch; small-mouth nannygai; high-brow sea-perch; red snapper; saddletail seaperch; saddle-tailed sea-perch; scarlet snapper; and seaperch! To avoid confusion, these previous names for Crimson Snapper are obsolete names, i.e., these names are no longer current.

Examples of Standard Names

- * Crimson Snapper (*Lutjanus erythropterus*)
- * TROPICAL SNAPPERS (*Lutjanus* spp.)
- * Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*)

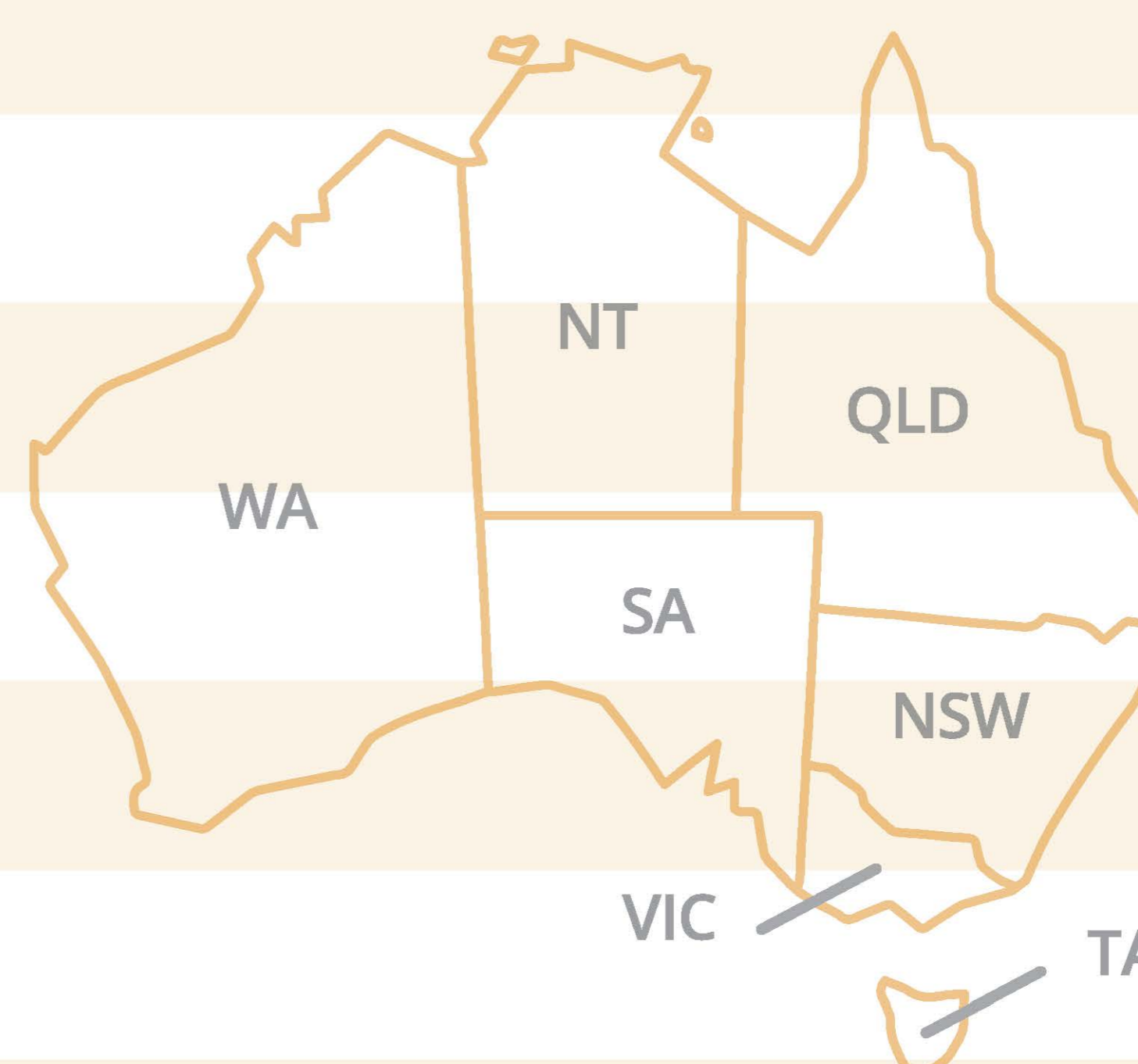


Crimson Snapper *Lutjanus erythropterus* (fish.gov.au)



TABLE: State/Territory Overlap of Commercially Important Fish Species with Snapper in Their Standard Name

Standard Name	Western Australia (WA)	Northern Territory (NT)	Queensland (QLD)	New South Wales (NSW)	Victoria (Vic)	Tasmania (Tas)	South Australia (SA)	Commonwealth
Snapper <i>Chrysophrys auratus</i>						*		
Brownstripe Snapper <i>Lutjanus vitta</i>								
Crimson Snapper <i>Lutjanus erythropterus</i>								
Goldband Snapper <i>Pristipomoides multidentis</i>								
Golden Snapper <i>Lutjanus johnii</i>								
Saddletail Snapper <i>Lutjanus malabaricus</i>								
RUBY SNAPPERS <i>Etelis</i> spp.								
Stripey Snapper <i>Lutjanus carponotatus</i>								



Information in this table is based on commercial catch and, where available, recreational catch data from the Status of Australian Fish Stock Reports 2020 (<https://fish.gov.au>) * Minor catch may occur elsewhere, e.g., The range of Snapper is extending south into Tasmanian waters due to climate change with minor catch now occurring on the north and east coasts of Tasmania.