

# Fact Sheet: Western Blue Groper

## Region

West Coast, South Coast

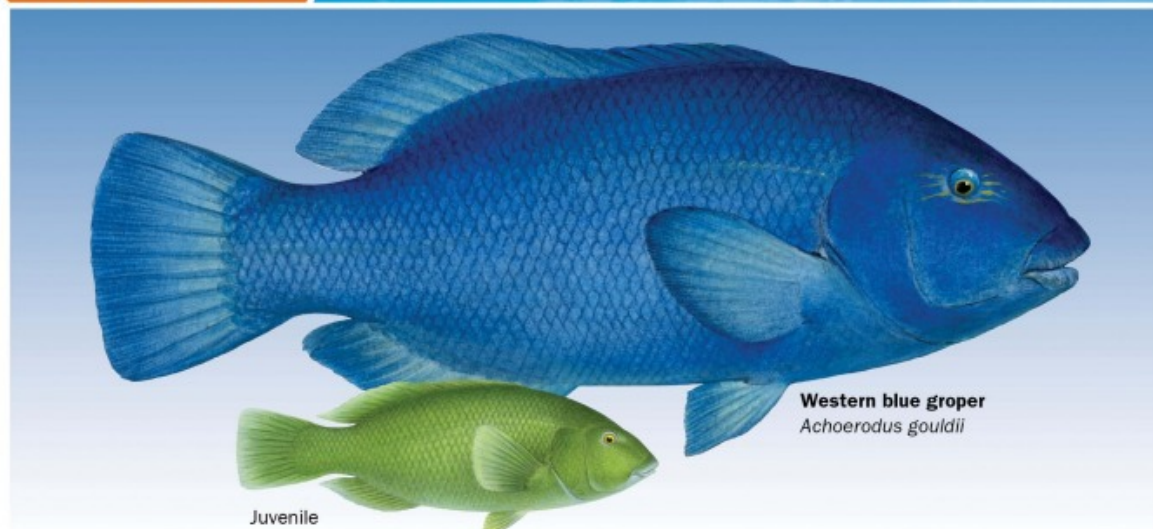
## Summary

In southern Australia, the western blue groper is actually the largest carnivorous bony fish species found living on reefs, reaching a length of up to 1.7m and a weight of up to 40kg. Learn more about the biology of this fish in this fact sheet.



# FISHERIES FACT SHEET

# WESTERN BLUE GROPER



**Western blue groper**  
*Achoerodus gouldii*

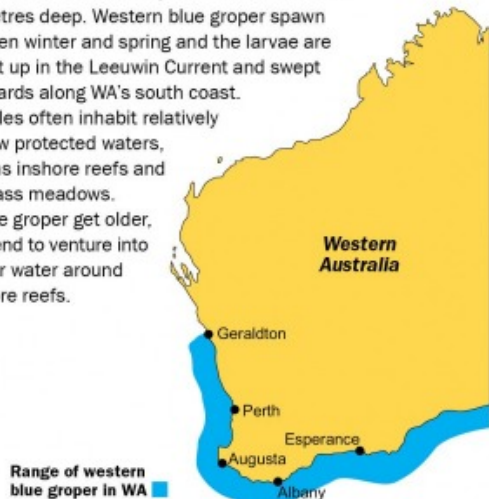
Juvenile

## A wrasse in groper's clothing

In southern Australia, the western blue groper is actually the largest carnivorous bony fish species found living on reefs, reaching a length of up to 1.7 metres and a weight of up to 40 kilograms.

### Not just westerners

The western blue groper is found all the way from Geraldton down the west coast and almost as far east as Melbourne, in waters from five to 65 metres deep. Western blue groper spawn between winter and spring and the larvae are caught up in the Leeuwin Current and swept eastwards along WA's south coast. Juveniles often inhabit relatively shallow protected waters, such as inshore reefs and seagrass meadows. As blue groper get older, they tend to venture into deeper water around offshore reefs.



Range of western blue groper in WA



Juvenile western blue groper are actually green in colour – which can lead to misidentification by fishers.



Photo: Peter Coulson

### Not what it seems

The western blue groper is not actually a groper (Family Serranidae) at all, but a member of the wrasse family (Labridae). Wrasse are generally much smaller than gopers and it is thought the large size of the western blue is the reason behind its 'groper' name.

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