



AUSTRALIAN TROUT FOUNDATION

Trout Fishing in the Harvey Waroona Region

The Harvey Waroona Region is located between 100-150km south of Perth and is easily reached by car in an hour and a half. Irrigated agriculture (dairy, beef and horticulture) is a key component of the regional economy. Irrigation water is supplied from four major dams via networks of canals and pipes to rural properties lying on the plains around the SW highway. All four dams are stocked with trout in most years by Fisheries. Some of the brooks in the region are also stocked frequently. All of the dams have significant drawdown of water during the summer so water levels can vary greatly. In this brochure you will find some information on each of the irrigation reservoirs including:

- A map showing access points and facilities
- The features of each dam
- What species are stocked and type of stocking
- Some tips on techniques for trout fishing in dams

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Logue Brook Dam (Lake Brockman)

The dam has an area of 197 Ha and is more than 40 metres deep near the dam wall when full. The dam is mostly surrounded by forest with some pasture on the north side of the dam. Access is good to the entire shoreline via vehicle tracks off Brockman Rd and from Scarp Rd. Care should be taken as these tracks are subject to heavy use from 4WD vehicles when the shoreline is exposed and can be deeply rutted and boggy after rain. The lake is popular with water skiers and at times can be very crowded. Water skiing is prohibited in the northern and eastern arms and these areas are better suited for fishing from a kayak, canoe or boat. Shoreline fishing is good with easy access and there are shallows suitable for wading. Creek mouths often have flooded vegetation but watch out for pockets of fine clays and silt near creek mouths which can be quite boggy. The lake is stocked in most years with rainbow trout ex-broodstock, yearlings and fry (half the fry go into the Logue Brook stream).

Harvey Dam

Harvey Dam is the largest of the four dams covering an area of 580 Ha when full. The dam is surrounded by a mixture of native and plantation forests and farmland. There is easy access from many vehicle tracks on the southern and eastern sides off the Harvey-Quindanning, Murray, Sharp and Stansfield Rds. Note the eastern arm where Falls Brook enters the reservoir is now pedestrian access only. The vehicle tracks are generally good but can become very boggy in places after rain. There are access tracks on the north western side of the lake through plantation forests but these tracks are very steep and can be deeply rutted and boggy - high clearance 4WDs with winches are recommended for access to this area especially during the winter months. Power boats are only permitted to use electric motors and kayak and canoe fishing and shoreline fishing is very popular throughout the lake but especially in the eastern arms where there are many flooded and fallen dead trees.

The lake is stocked each year with rain-bow trout ex-broodstock and yearlings. In most years there are also brown trout ex-brood-stock and sometimes yearling brown trout are stocked.



Drakesbrook Dam (Lake Moyanup)

Drakesbrook Dam is the smallest of the irrigation dams covering an area of 44Ha when full. It lies downstream of Waroona Dam and is a popular picnic spot for locals and tourists. It is stocked each year with ex-broodstock (brown and rainbow trout) and rainbow trout yearlings and fry. Kayaks and canoes are permit-ted but power boats can only use an electric motor. With a boat you can access the entire lake. Fishing from the shore is limited to the western shores because of private property that borders the lake to the north and east. Take care when wading on the western shore because there are pockets of clay where you can get stuck.

On a spring weekend each year RecFishWest, Fisheries and the Shire of Waroona host Troutfest, an event where the public are

invited to participate in trout stocking. The event is very popular with families. Of course after helping with the stocking everyone is welcome to try and catch a fish.



Waroona Dam (Lake Navarino)

Waroona Dam covers an area of 144Ha and is surrounded by forest. Access to the entire shoreline is possible via tracks off Scarp Road, however some of the tracks are very heavily eroded and can be very boggy after rain. You can drive around the lake margin but be careful of boggy areas. The lake is very popular with water skiers and can be crowded at times with power boats. There are areas in the northern and eastern arms where water skiing is prohibited and these areas are favoured by kayakers and canoeists.

Waroona Dam is stocked in most years with yearling rainbow trout and in some years ex-brood-stock rainbow trout have also been available. Brown trout were stocked in the past. Some of the tributaries that run into the dam have suitable spawning substrate for trout so it's possible there is some local recruitment of trout.



Fishing Tips and Techniques

Trout are opportunistic feeders that eat a range of insects, crustaceans, small fish, worms and amphibians. The fish will be where the food is. Concentrate on areas where the signs are right for feeding trout. The four main areas to spend time on are: grassy banks or headlands areas with lots of weed; wind affected bays or shorelines; steep banks, rocky areas and deep drop-offs; and where turbid water meets with clear water, particularly along the shore line. Fish sit high in the water column and will push up close to the banks during the early and late hours of the day. This is when you should fish the grassy flats or headlands. During the middle or on hot summer day's fish sit deeper and you need to make longer casts or fish the drop-offs. Fishing wind affected areas is more common in the afternoon once the wind picks up. Polarised sunglasses are good for spotting fish. Watch the surface in low light for trout taking insects on or just below the surface. For bait and lure fishing all you need is a good quality 1.8 – 2.1m, 2 - 4-kg spinning rod matched with a 1000 or 2500 sized reel. Use 2.7 – 3.6 kg braid line with a similar weight fluorocarbon leader. For bait fishing, a lightly weighted running sinker or float rig with a 40 - 50 cm leader coming off a small swivel and a size 6 or 8 hook works well. For lure fishing, a similar outfit can be used – just tie your lure straight to your leader or attach a small snap swivel between. Fly fishing requires fly rods, lines, casting methods, and flies. Most fly fishers use a medium action 2.7 m (9 ft.) carbon fibre or fibreglass 6 – 7 weight fly rod with a weight-forward floating, intermediate or sinking fly line. The flies are hooks tied with artificial and natural fibres made to look like the wild food trout prey on. Live baits such as earth worms, mud eyes and grasshoppers are an ideal bait when fished on a pattern and size of hook that suits the bait. Dough Baits (e.g. PowerBait) are a good option for people who don't want to handle live baits. Lures in the size range of 2 to 5cm are best, the easiest lures are small floating or slowly sinking hard bodies. When casting these lures it is recommended to vary the retrieve often; fast, slow, twitchy, steady and so on. Best approach is to move along banks and other structures casting and retrieving. Bladed spinners, spoons and winged lures with weight allow for longer casts. Use lures that are natural colours (ie. green, brown, olive and black). Trout respond well to jigging soft plastics fished on weighted jig

heads fished at varying depths. This is a great method when the sun is high on the water and the fish have moved deeper. Jig deep holes, steep banks and rocky drop-offs and remember to vary your retrieve according to depth. Trolling from boat, kayak or canoe can work well. Use the same rod and reels mentioned earlier and just tow various floating/ diving or metal lures behind. Vary vessel speed according to type of lure and twitch the rod regularly. Most lures will reach their maximum depth when trailed on 50 - 75m of line. Deep-bibbed, hard bodied lures and/or weights will send your lure deeper to the 'thermoclines' (patches of water of differing temperature) where the fish spend hot summer days. A downrigger may help for the deeper waters. When fly fishing your observation skills are the key to success. In August to October, the water warms and trout move into the newly flooded grassy margins. If sunny then move to an adjacent bank that shelves steeply into deep water. Windward shores are where surface food aggregates and wave action stirs nymphs off the substrate. During light rain try a nymph fished deep. On windy days the windward shores will show a mud-line in the water, caused by waves breaking on the bank. Fish will patrol here looking for food stirred-up or washed into the water. Over the hot summer months fish steep banks or rocky drop-offs using full-sink line with a short slow retrieve allowing the fly to sink 10 metres or more. In March to early June trout are in prime condition and actively feed for a number of hours on most days. Popular flies include Woolly Bugger, Mrs Simpson, Craigs Night-time, Fuzzy Wuzzy, Matuka, ant patterns and small bead head nymphs in olive or black colours.

Brown Trout

Rainbow Trout

Angling Regulations (Fisheries)

The regulations listed here relate specifically to the dams, rivers and brooks in the Harvey Waroona region. A valid Freshwater Angling Licence (available online from Fisheries) is required to fish for freshwater fish. The licence fee covers a 12-month period from the date of issue. Anglers under the age of 16 do not require a licence. There is no closed season in the region. Anglers may only use a single fishing rod and line or a single hand-held line. The use of both lures and bait is permitted. Landing net restrictions apply. Anglers may possess only a short-handled (maximum 500mm) net within 50 m of the waterline of most dams and rivers all year round. The landing net regulations are designed to protect the marron fishery for which you need a separate licence and there is a restricted open season. More information is available on the Fisheries website.

Bag and size limits

Daily mixed species bag limit, per angler
You may take four fish (combined) of the following species:

- rainbow trout;
- brown trout; and
- freshwater cobbler.

'Daily' means from midnight to midnight.
Minimum size:

- Trout, rainbow and brown: 300 mm
- Other species (redfin perch): no size limit

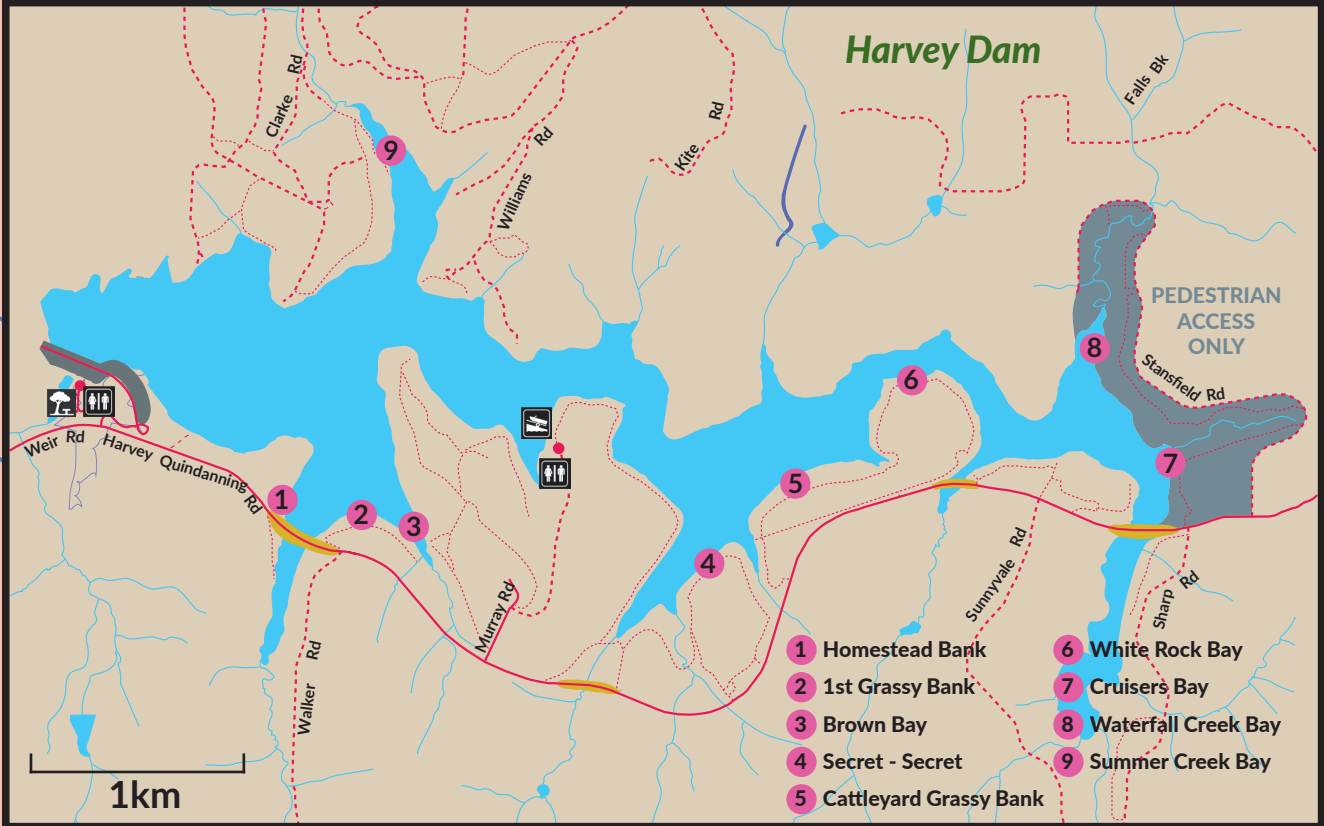
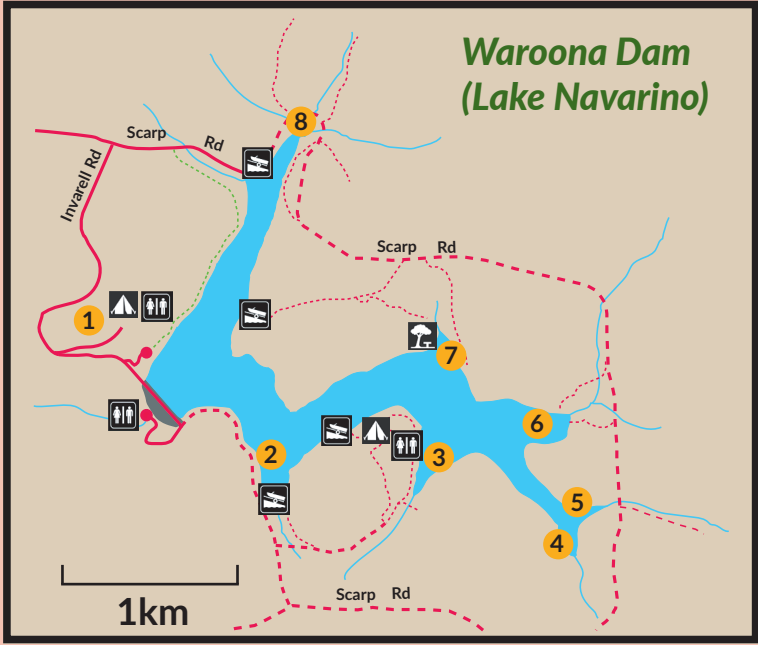
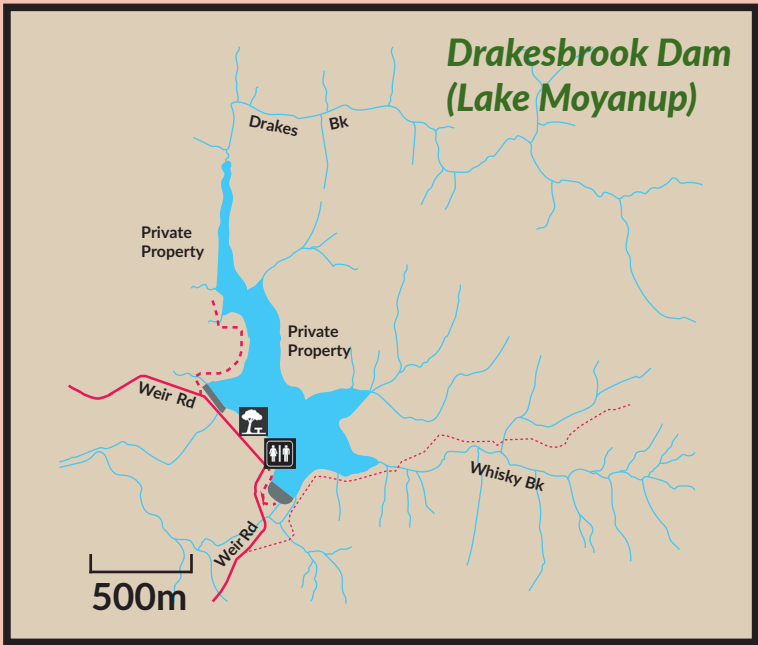
Fish smaller than the minimum size must be gently returned to the water immediately. There are no bag or size limits for other freshwater fish. To help keep WA waters pest free, please thoroughly clean and dry all fishing and wading gear before fishing in another waterway. Pest species such as carp, goldfish, tilapia and other cichlids and redfin perch destroy habitat and prey on juvenile marron and native freshwater fish. It is recommended that they are not returned to the water and are humanely euthanised, with dead fish NOT left on the shore. For more information visit the Fisheries website at: www.fish.wa.gov.au or download the recreational fishing guide at: www.fish.wa.gov.au/guide
Please note that this is only a guide - Angling regulations change from time to time.
It is important to check the Fisheries website to ensure you are familiar with the current regulations.

The ATF is developing a series of brochures on where to fish for trout in the SW. If you would like to see more of these brochures then consider joining the ATF:
<https://australiantroutfoundation.com.au/product/membership/>



Legend

Sealed Road		Day Use	
Gravel Road		Camp Ground	
Vehicle Track		Toilets	
Bike/Walk Trail		Boat Launching	



Place names on dams supplied by Terry Piggott