

Be a responsible fisher - know the rules!

Match the descriptions to the correct part of the image

Some areas are closed to fishing to protect our fish populations - make sure you know where these areas are

Measure your catch from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

Only keep fish that you want to eat. Release all others carefully back to the water.

Be careful not to damage seagrass - it's an important part of the marine eco-system!



Everyone has a role in protecting fisheries in NSW. Fishing rules are in place to make sure we fish sustainably and responsibly so everyone can enjoy fishing!

Check the bag and size limits of your catch - only take what you need!

Download the FishSmart app for all the essential information you need to go fishing in NSW.

Litter can be harmful to fish and their environment. Make sure you leave no litter behind.

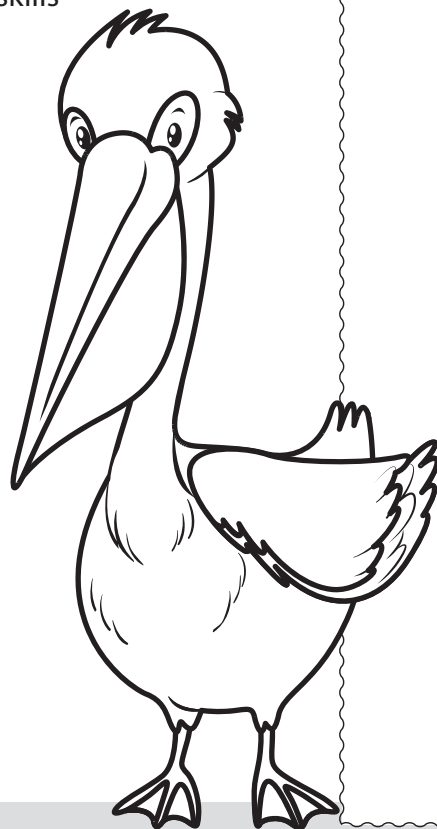
Fish and learn with NSW DPI

Gone Fishing NSW day

Once a year join our statewide Gone Fishing NSW day, fish and learn with your community and visitors to the local area. The day caters for new fishers and experienced anglers, with activities for everyone. You can also enjoy fishing at a local waterway at our Junior Fishing Workshops which cater for students 8-14 years of age. If your school is keen to learn as a group you can also join the Get Hooked Schools Program.

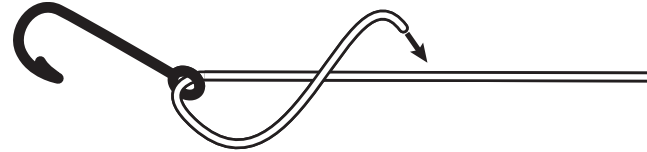
All our fishing activities teach you the basic skills needed to fish for the future, such as rules and regulations, knot tying and casting target practice followed by a practical fishing session.

Try your hand at knot tying - follow these simple instructions

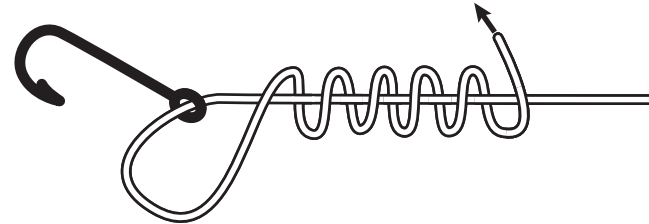


Learn to tie a blood knot Also called a half blood knot or clinch knot

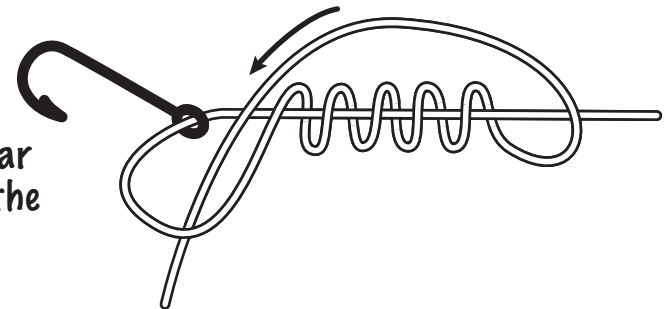
1. Thread the line through the eye of the hook



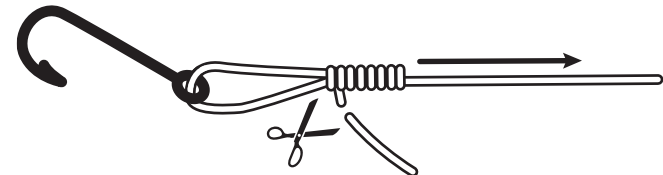
2. Twist the line around the leader 5-7 times



3. Thread the line back through the loop near the eye of the hook



4. Pull the leader line tight and clip the excess to finish the knot *Remember to wet the line with some saliva before pulling tight. This enables the line to slide and tighten, otherwise friction is created and the line may snap.*

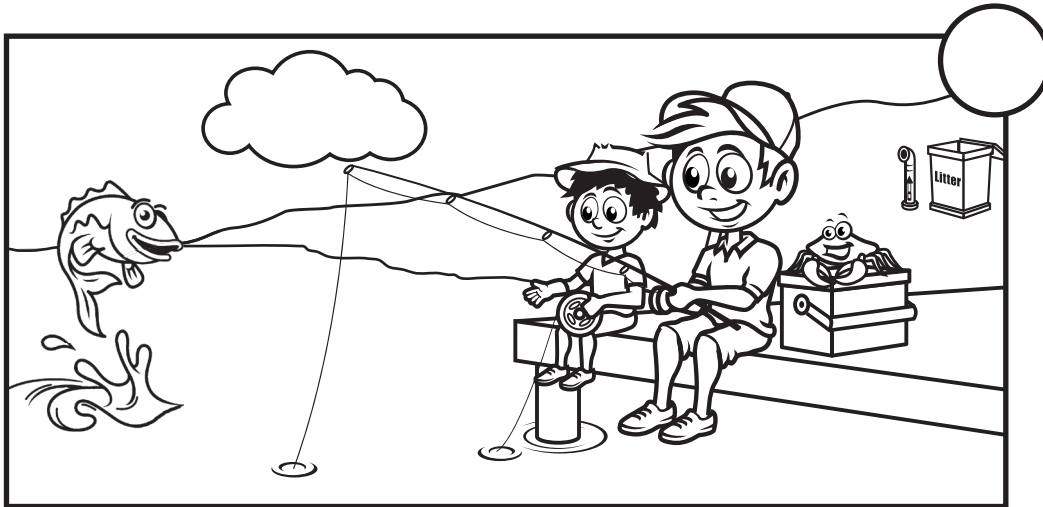
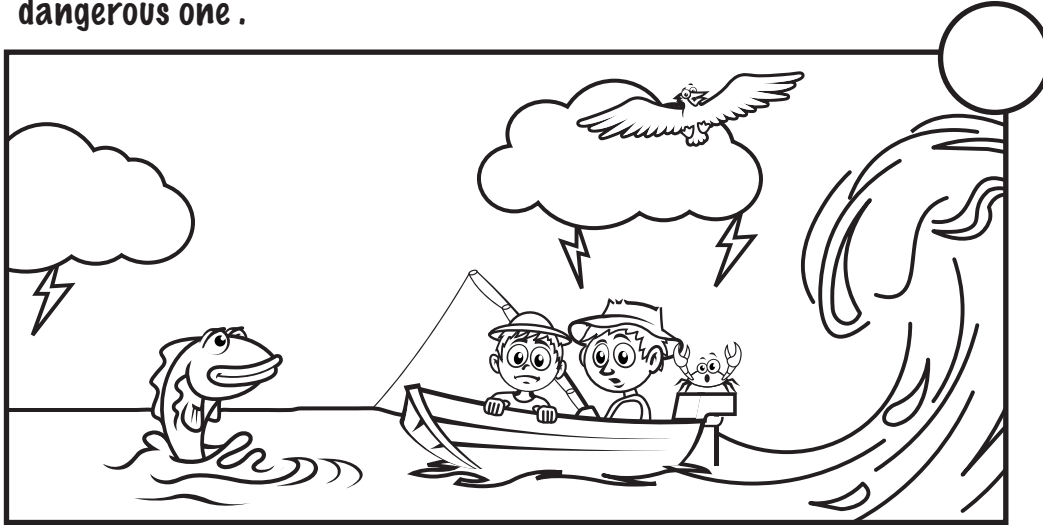


Fish with friends!

Never fish alone. Always fish with a responsible friend known to your parents/guardian and be aware of rules and regulations.

To fish or not to fish?

Put a tick next to the safe fishing scene and a cross next to the dangerous one.



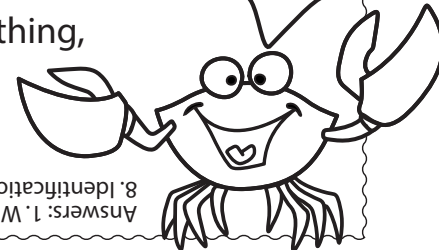
Safety checklist:

Fill in the blanks from the choices below:


- Identification • Water • First Aid • Who • Weather • Tackle
- Where • Footwear • When • Lifejacket • Food • Rock • Sharp

1. Tell your parents or guardian _____ you are fishing with, _____ you will be and _____ you will get home.
2. Check the _____ before you go fishing.
3. Wear appropriate _____ to protect against slippery rocks and _____ edges.
4. Take a _____ kit.
5. Stick _____ and emergency details on the inside lid of your _____ box.
6. Wear a _____ if you are going to be fishing from a boat or _____ platform.
7. Make sure you have the right clothing, _____ and _____ for variable weather conditions.

You have more fun when you fish with friends!



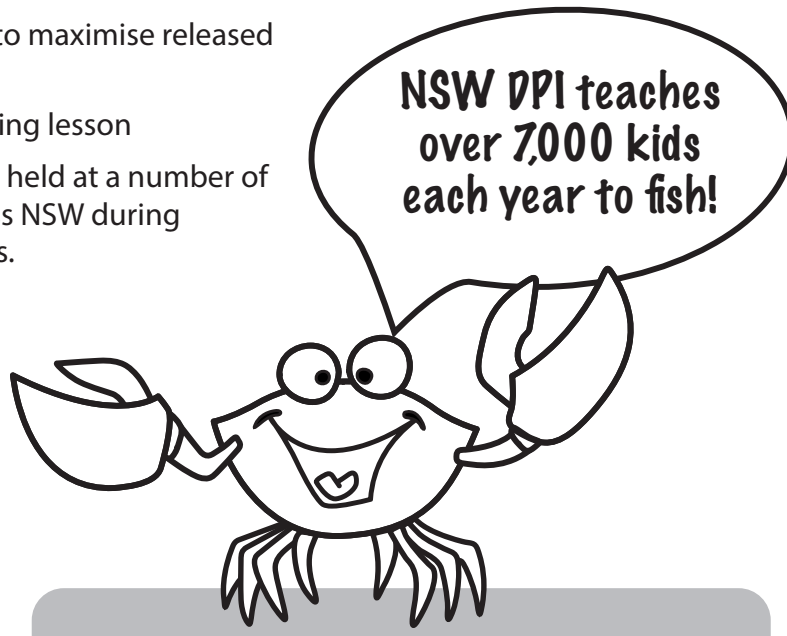
Answers: 1. Who 2. Where 3. When 4. Weather 5. Footwear 6. Sharp 7. First Aid 8. Identification 9. Tackle 10. Lifejacket 11. Rock 12. Food 13. Water



Are you between 8-14 years of age and keen to learn more about how you can be a responsible fisher?

Join in one of DPI's Kids Fishing Workshops for a fun, educational, safe school holiday activity.

- ☺ Fun lessons on fishing techniques
- ☺ Information on NSW fishing rules
- ☺ Best methods to maximise released fish survival
- ☺ A practical fishing lesson
- ☺ Workshops are held at a number of locations across NSW during school holidays.



NSW DPI teaches over 7,000 kids each year to fish!

Get Hooked Schools Program

If your school is keen to learn as a group you can also join the Get Hooked Schools Program.

In our Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish educational program you will follow the adventures of our mascots Snappy and Squirt to learn the basic skills necessary for recreational fishing and learn about looking after our aquatic habitats by practicing safe and responsible fishing.

More information about all these great activities can be found by searching 'kids fishing workshops' on our website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au



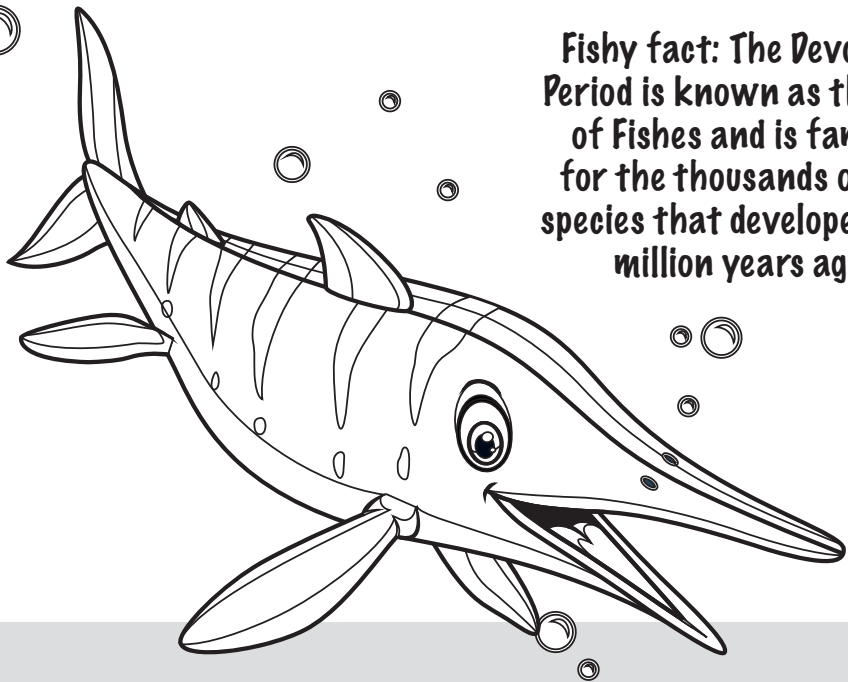
Getting to know our local fish

DPI researches are always working on ways to get to know our local fish; how and where they live, for how long, what they eat and how fast they grow! Getting to know our fish means we can understand how to fish sustainably and responsibly.

We also use research to:

- 😊 Improve fish stocks
- 😊 Improve the habitats of fish
- 😊 Reduce the risk of fish disease
- 😊 Identify and get rid of pests
- 😊 Make sure everyone fishes fairly and sustainably!

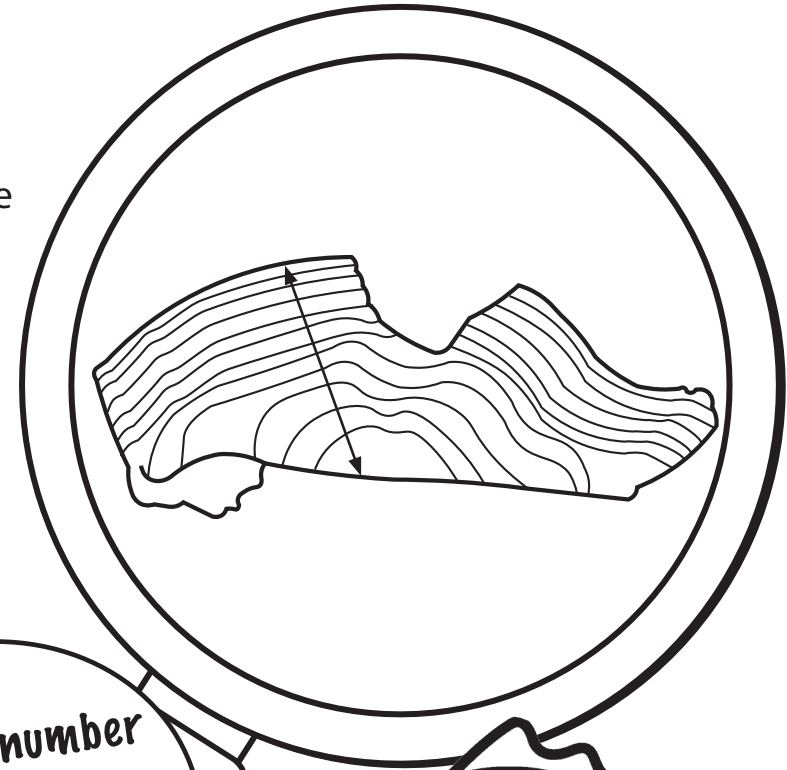
Fishy fact: The Devonian Period is known as the Age of Fishes and is famous for the thousands of fish species that developed 417 million years ago!



DID YOU KNOW?

You can tell the age of a fish by its earbone!

We do this by cutting a very thin slice through the core of the earbone (or otolith) and viewing it under a microscope. We then count the number of rings which estimates the age of the fish.



Count the number of lines between the arrows to work out the age of this fish

years old



Keep our fish and waterways healthy

Make 'Clean' part of your routine

Check and clean your shoes, fishing equipment, boats and trailers when moving between NSW waterways to help reduce the risk of transporting aquatic pests and diseases to where they don't belong.

Checklist when fishing:

- Always check, clean and dry your fishing rod and gear between waterways
- Don't transfer fish between waterways or collect bait from one area and use it in another
- Don't return pest fish to the water – if you catch a pest fish please dispose of it appropriately away from the water

Choose the right bait, mate!

Help keep unwanted diseases out of NSW waters by using bait that has been locally caught or locally bought - don't use seafood from the supermarket - that's for you to eat only!

Unwanted in NSW, White Spot Disease, caused by a virus that affects crustaceans, like prawns, crabs, lobsters and yabbies. It poses no threat to human health or food safety but can infect prawn farms and impact on our natural waterways.

Be a Biosecurity Warrior and learn what you can do to help stop the spread of aquatic disease and pests



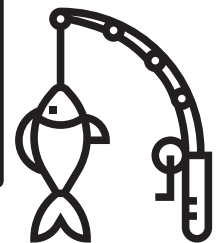
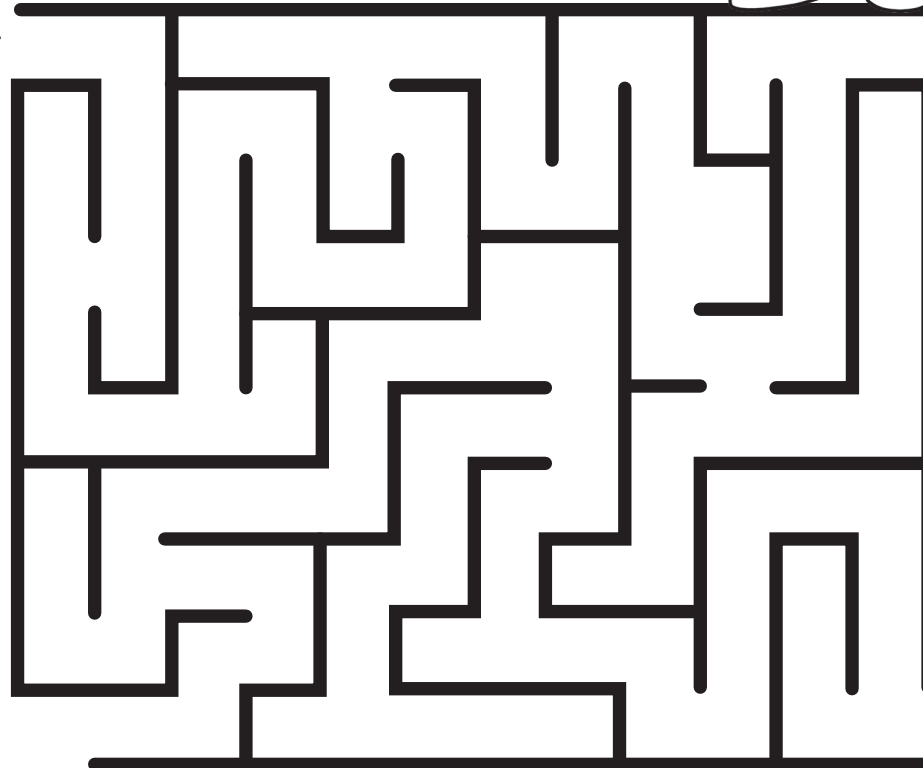
Plate or Bait? Solve the maze



Supermarket prawns



Bait prawns



Let it go...Watch it grow!

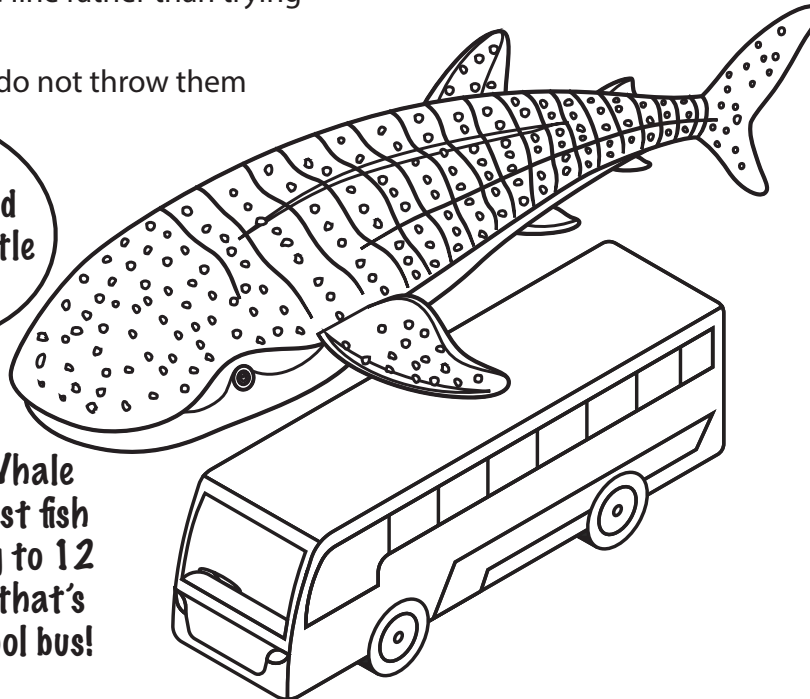
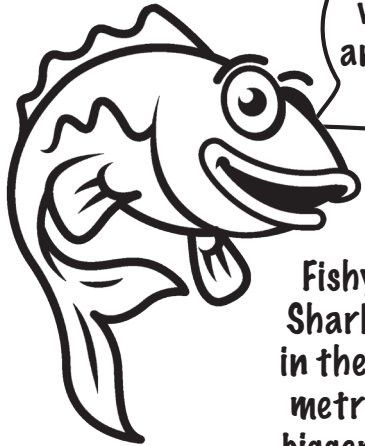
All undersize fish must be returned to the water safely to help fish survive and grow.

To help fish survive when practicing catch and release, it is important to follow a few simple rules:

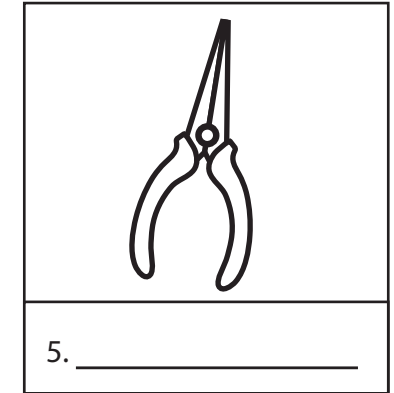
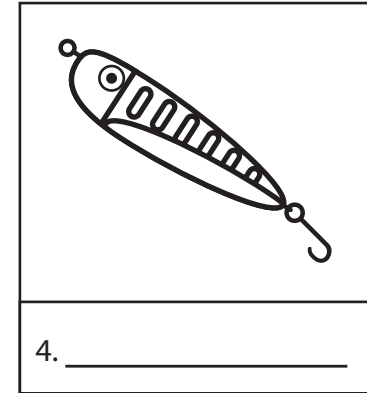
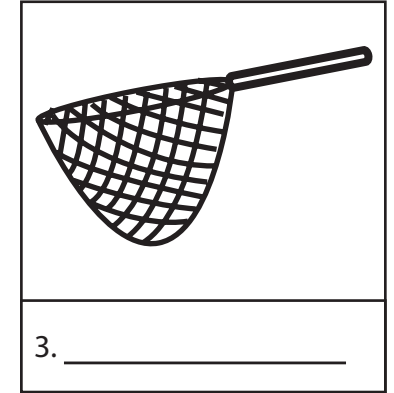
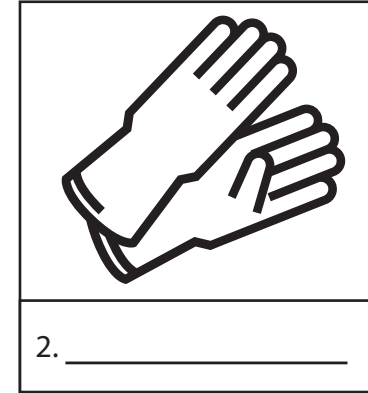
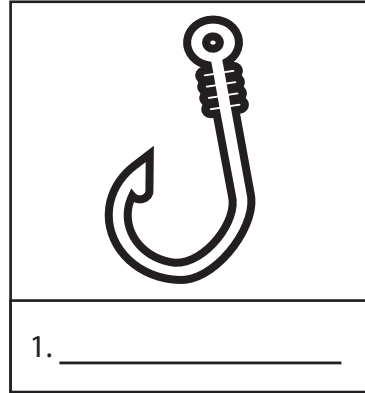
- ☺ Use circle hooks on your line
- ☺ Only use knotless mesh landing nets
- ☺ Wet your hands or use wet gloves or a wet soft cloth when handling fish
- ☺ Put it on a smooth wet surface to measure
- ☺ Use pliers to help remove the hook
- ☺ If the fish is hooked deeply, cut the line rather than trying to remove the hook
- ☺ Carefully return the fish to water - do not throw them

Only keep what you need and put the little ones back!

Fishy Fact: The Whale Shark is the biggest fish in the sea growing to 12 metres or more - that's bigger than a school bus!



Can you name the fishing gear? Pack these in your tackle box to make sure you practice safe catch and release!







Answers: 1. Circle hook 2. Gloves 3. Knotless net 4. Lure 5. Pliers

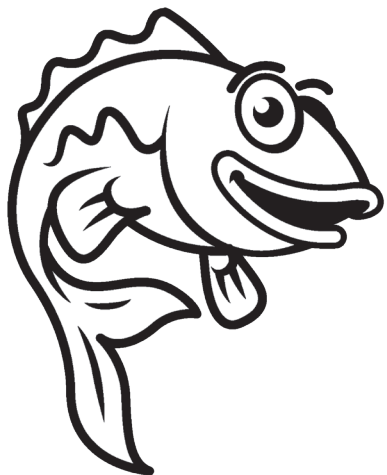
Looking after our native fish

Fish stocking is when baby fish are raised in hatcheries and released into NSW rivers, lakes and estuaries.

DPI manages stocking programs to:

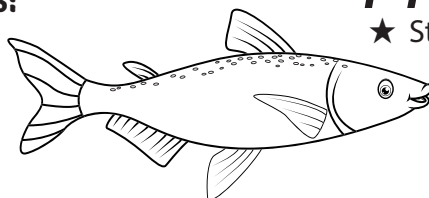
-  to boost our fish stocks
-  create new fishing locations
-  restore struggling fish populations
-  make it more fun for you to go fishing!

Golden Perch, Murray Cod and Australian Bass are just some of the fish bred at DPI Hatcheries as part of the Native Fish Stocking Plan.

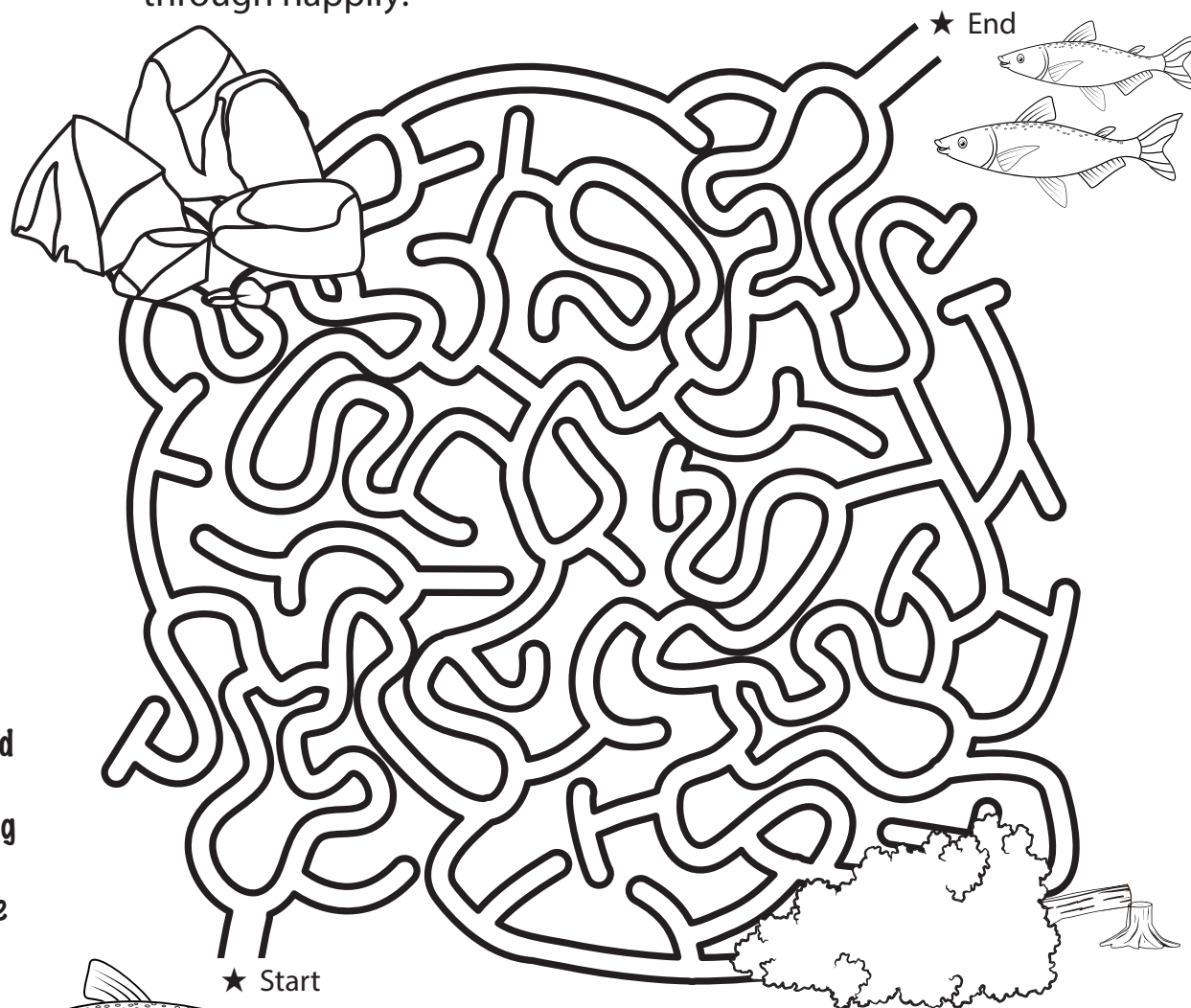


What are baby fish called?

When baby fish are old enough to feed themselves, they are known as fry. When fry develop scales and working fins, they're now juvenile fish called fingerlings. Fingerlings are about the size of your fingers!



Fish need to migrate to feed and breed. Barriers to fish passage like weirs, dams and debris stop fish from being able to migrate. DPI helps restore fish passage so fish can swim through happily!



Help the fish through the maze so he can join his friends and migrate to new waters!

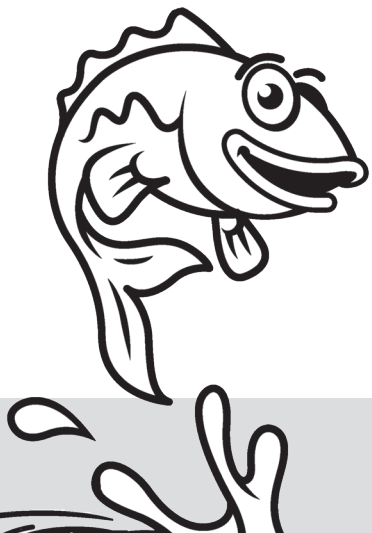
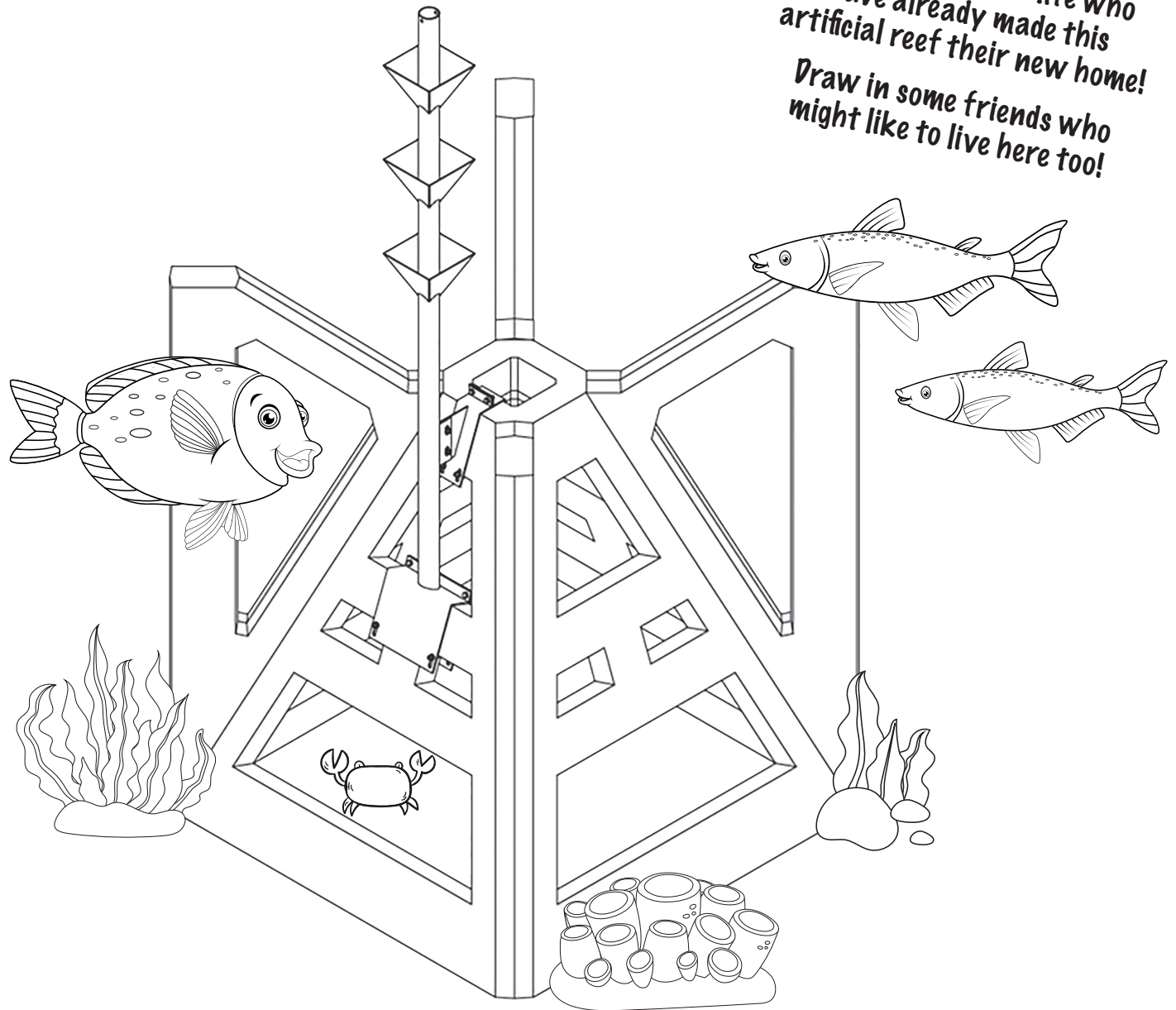
More places to find your favourite fish!

Fish love places to hide, feed and breed. Placing artificial reefs on the sea floor provides new places where many different fish species can be found.

Placing man-made fish homes (known as habitat or artificial reefs) on the ocean floor provides only the skeleton for new fish life. The ocean does the rest!

There are many types of artificial reefs all around us. Man made stuff we see everyday like bridges, jetties and rock walls in estuaries (rivers) all provide great habitat for fish!

*Check out the sea life who have already made this artificial reef their new home!
Draw in some friends who might like to live here too!*



Stop the spread

Prevent unwanted hitchhikers

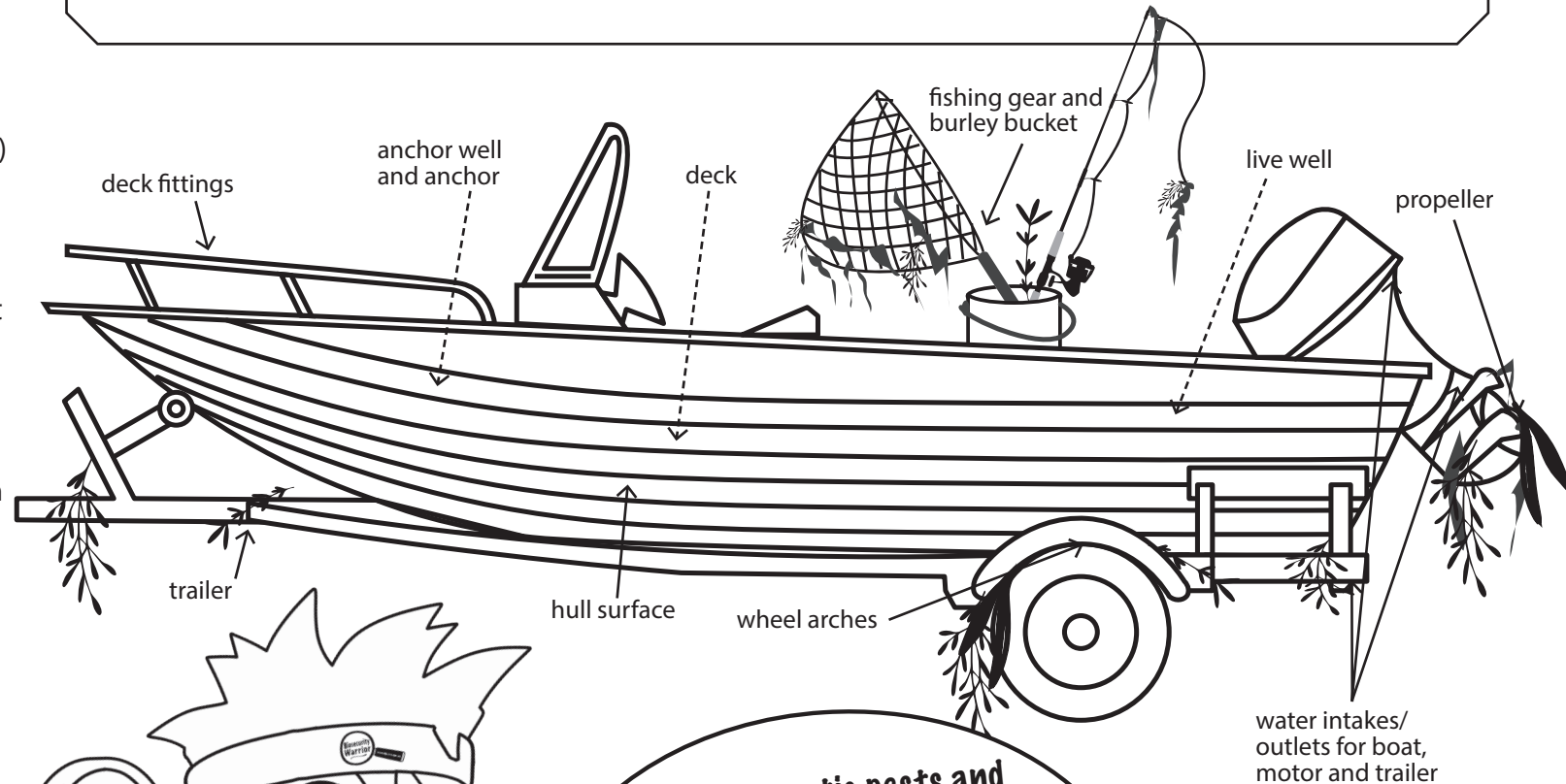
Boats have many nooks and crannies where weeds can latch on and aquatic pests and diseases can accumulate (including in water, weeds, sand or mud) - hitching a ride to places where they don't belong!

You can help ensure weeds, pests and diseases are not transported to different waterways by always cleaning your fishing gear - including your fishing rod, tackle box, boots and life jacket - and helping to clean your boat, including the trailer, between use. Maybe you can even ask the adults if you can inspect their cleaning job to make they've done a good job too!

- Check your fishing gear and boat is clean before entering the water
- Use fresh, clean water to remove anything that's latched on to your boat or fishing gear after you leave the water.
- Be sure to dispose of any waste that comes of when you clean so it doesn't find a new taker to latch on to!

Help ensure weeds and pests are not transported to different waterways by always cleaning your fishing gear and boat.

- ▶ Draw a circle around the weeds to clean off the boat.
- ▶ Now that you have found the weeds to be disposed of, where else could pests and diseases be hiding on the boat?



Many aquatic pests and diseases can survive for long periods of time away from water so always wash and dry your fishing gear, boat and trailer well between uses and check your boat for and dispose of unwanted hitchhikers!