

We can all do our part

Worsening oxygen conditions, algal blooms and fish kills demonstrate the Swan and Canning rivers are showing the same signs of stress as other waterways around the world.

Reducing high levels of nutrients from fertilisers and other sources is a priority to keep our rivers healthy. Other environmental problems include erosion, sedimentation, decreased river flows and loss of foreshore vegetation.

Less rainfall and a growing population increases pressure on the rivers and foreshores, and the risk of algal blooms. We all need to do our part to help.

Contact the Swan River Trust to find out more about how you can keep our rivers healthy.

Below: A dead mulloway collected during the 2005 Swan River algal bloom



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Caring for the Swan and Canning rivers



Fishing to keep our rivers healthy

The Swan and Canning rivers are showing signs of stress. Read inside to make sure you are doing your bit to improve the health of fish in the rivers.



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Fishing to keep our rivers healthy



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1 Fish need healthy foreshore vegetation to breed. Find a spot where you don't have to trample vegetation to get there, or fish from jetties or platforms.



Photo courtesy Pam Osborn

2 Take your rubbish home with you. Old fishing tackle and line is unsightly and can choke wildlife.

3 Launch boats, tenders or dinghies from designated sites and keep your speed down. Boatwash can damage and erode the shoreline.

4 Report activities which may be harmful to the rivers and foreshores by calling the Swan River Trust on (08) 9278 0900 or after hours 0419 192 845. Report illegal fishing activities to FishWatch on 1800 815 507.



5 When fishing from the foreshore, make sure you are on public land. There are harsh penalties for trespassing which are not worth any type or size of fish.

6 Check where you can and can't dig for bait worms. You can receive an on-the-spot fine if you are in a protected area. Never remove reeds or riverbank material.

7 Fish for the future by knowing the fishing regulations, including bag and size limits. For more information visit the Department of Fisheries website at www.fish.wa.gov.au.



8 Remember to throw any unwanted or undersized fish back in the water. Even blowfish are part of the river ecosystem. They can poison dogs if eaten.

9 Four-wheel drives can chew up foreshore vegetation. Leave your vehicle on the road and protect habitat for fish and other wildlife.

10 Contact the Swan River Trust for a free Boating Guide. It includes maps of the Swan and Canning rivers, boat launching sites and other useful information for river-users.

