

Long-finned eel

Anguilla reinhardtii



Reasonably common in coastal streams and swamps on the North and East coasts of Tasmania.

Description: An elongated cylindrical fish, with continuous dorsal-caudal-anal fins. The dorsal fin origin is clearly in front of the anal fin origin.

Colour: Adults are dark greenish-brown to black with a mottled or spotted appearance on the back and sides with a lighter belly.

Size: Commonly up to 1 m, but can reach 3 m and in excess of 20 kg.

Habitat: Occurs in a wide variety of wetland habitats including rivers, creeks and swamps. Not as common in lakes as the closely related short-finned eel. Generally prefers still water.

Diet: Feeds on a variety of aquatic animals including insects, crustaceans, molluscs and fish. Has been known to take juvenile waterfowl.

Life Cycle: Adult eels migrate downstream upon sexual maturity to breed in deep waters in or near the Coral Sea. Adults die after spawning. Larval eels are then swept back to the coast by ocean currents, where they transform into glass eels and move into the estuaries from February to April, where they become pigmented elvers. These elvers then move into the lower reaches of streams.

Distribution status: Native.

Original range: Found in Papua New Guinea, eastern Australia, including Tasmania, Lord Howe Island and New Caledonia.

Reasons for change to distribution: Large instream barriers, including hydro dams prevent upstream migration; Commercial over fishing may reduce stocks.

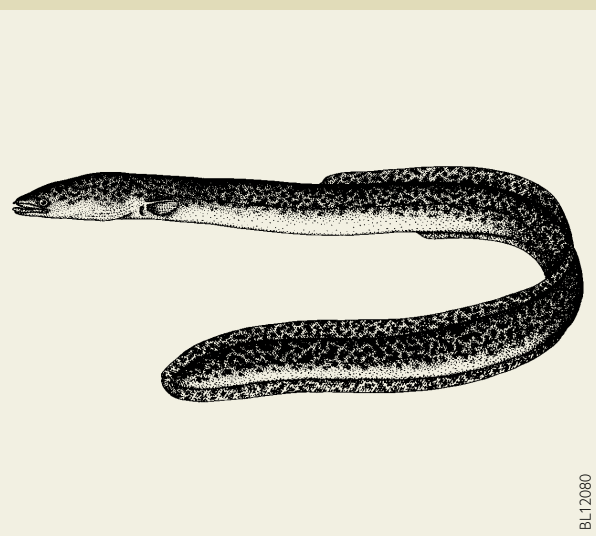
Legal status: **Angling/commercial.**

Can it be taken? An inland recreational Angling Licence is needed to take long finned eel. There is a daily bag limit of 12 fish and a possession limit of 24 fish with a minimum length of 300 mm.

Other names: Spotted eel.



Photo David Paul



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