

Handfish

Spotted Handfish

Scientific Name: *Brachionichthys hirsutus*

Distribution: South Eastern
Tasmanian waters

EPBC Act Status: Endangered

Length: Up to 120mm

Colour: Upper surface and
sides of body white or pale pink, numerous orange,
brown or black spots with orange borders.

Key Features: Pectoral fins hand-like. Short, rounded
body covered with tiny spines. Body tapers towards tail.

Preferred Habitat: Silt and sand at depths of 2-30m.
Shallow, shell-filled hollows near rocks.



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Ziebell's Handfish

Scientific Name: *Sympterichthys* sp.

Distribution: South Eastern
Tasmanian waters

EPBC Act Status: Vulnerable

Length: 56-150mm

Colour: Pinkish white, with
purple to brown randomly-placed blotches on upper
surface and sides. Fins generally bright yellow.

Key Features: Pectoral fins hand-like. Rounded body
that tapers towards tail. Loose, smooth skin.

Preferred Habitat: Soft-bottomed habitats, with
patches of rock that support sponge and algae at
depths of between 3-20m.



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Waterfall Bay Handfish

Scientific Name: *Sympterichthys* sp.

Distribution: South Eastern Tasmanian waters.

EPBC Act Status: Vulnerable.

The taxonomy of this species has not been resolved.
This species and the Ziebell's Handfish could represent
colour morphs within the one species.