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experienced skippers should try to cross a coastal bar and, even then, you should be very careful. You can learn about each bar by asking local boaters, volunteer marine rescue organisations or local marine authorities who cross it regularly.

It's a good idea to radio the local marine rescue group for an update on bar conditions and advise them of your intended crossing and safe passing.

## Boating on freshwater

Queensland has many inland waterways ideal for fishing, boating and water sports. Operating on freshwater lakes and dams, however, can be quite different to estuary boating.

Boat registration and licensing requirements are the same for freshwater, inland waterways and coastal waters.

Some freshwater impoundments and dams do not allow some types of activities while other have specific restrictions or permit requirements. Petrol motors are not always permitted on some dams for environmental reasons. Always check the local waterway rules before you go.

### Freshwater boating tips

- Freshwater does not necessarily mean calm water – have your safety equipment on board and be prepared for any conditions. Always check the weather.
- Freshwater is less buoyant than salt water and the water temperature is usually colder. This increases the risk of cold water shock to the body and reduces the ability to function – so wear a lifejacket.
- If you are using an electric motor on your boat, make sure the battery is fully charged before every trip and have a back-up.
- If you are canoeing and kayaking, travel close to the banks to avoid high traffic area and be aware of wash from larger boats.
- If you are boating, riding your PWC or water-skiing, remember to consider other waterway users and be aware of your speed, wash and freshwater hazards.
- Keep a proper lookout at all times.
- Heavy rain can cause strong currents and bring debris and flotsam to the waterway.

Drought can cause a big drop in the water

level and expose submerged objects like old fences, sticks, trees, rocks and sandbanks. Slow down when boating close to shore and avoid hitting underwater hazards.

- Rivers can have blind spots at river bends or caused by land, tree and overhanging branch obstructions.
- Don't go alone and tell someone where you are. Freshwater areas can be remote and miles wide with no quick access to shelter or assistance if you run into trouble.

## Carbon monoxide hazard

Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas made by incomplete ignition or burning of carbon-based fuels like petrol, propane, charcoal, wood and oil. You can't smell it, see it or taste it, but it can pose a real threat to the personal safety of those on board your boat.

Carbon monoxide can accumulate anywhere in and around your boat and in all weather conditions. Sources of carbon monoxide on your boat include engines, gas cooking ranges and gas and water heaters. Boats with partially – enclosed cabins, wheelhouses or passenger accommodation are at higher risk. It can also collect in area near the exhaust outlets at the stern of the boat.

Fitting and maintain carbon monoxide detectors and alarms is a good way to minimise the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning. High concentrations of carbon monoxide can be fatal in minutes. If poisoning is suspected move to fresh air and seek medical advice immediately.

If you have enclosed spaces whether temporary or permanent on board your boat ensure you understand the risks and have safety procedures in place. More information on carbon monoxide and boats is available at [msq.qld.gov.au](http://msq.qld.gov.au).

## Pollution

Whether your boat is large or small, it is an offence to deliberately discharge pollutants into Queensland coastal waters.

### Garbage requirements

Garbage is hazardous to marine life and all users of our waterways. All skippers and PWC riders need to manage the use and disposal of all garbage generated on board correctly. Play

your part:

- don't throw anything overboard
- have secure bins or garbage bags to store garbage on board until you return to shore
- use crockery or re-useable plates and cutlery
- make the effort to retrieve lost or damaged fishing gear
- if garbage does end up in the water, take the time to pick it up
- don't abandon crab pots, as floats and lines can entangle wildlife and foul boat propellers
- paint scrapings and residues that enter the water from hull maintenance activities are classed as garbage pollution.

### Vessels 12 metres and over

All vessels measuring 12 metres or more are required by law to display a placard with the following information.

#### Garbage management plans

Garbage management plans are required for vessels of 100 gross tons and above (generally vessels of 12 metres or more) or with the capacity to carry 15 or more persons.

This is an international requirement arising from the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, which is given effect in commonwealth and state/territory legislation.

For more information visit [msq.qld.gov.au](http://msq.qld.gov.au).



## Fuels, oils and chemicals

Most oil and chemical pollution results from activities such as refuelling, boat maintenance and bilge discharges. Reduce oil and chemicals entering our waterways:

- do not overfill your tank

- watch the breathers for signs of blow-back or overflow
- ensure your bilges are clean before discharging them
- use phosphate free biodegradable detergents
- carry absorbent material on board to clean up any accidental spills
- repair oil and fuel leaks when first noticed.

If you accidentally spill oil or chemicals into the water, or see a spill, do your bit for the marine environment and contact your local harbour master, marina manager or port authority, so it can be contained and cleaned up as soon as possible.

## Sewage

The discharge of sewage into the marine environment poses serious health and environmental issues. To reduce the impacts associated with vessel sourced sewage prohibitions and restrictions are in place for the discharge of sewage.

### Untreated sewage

Untreated sewage is sewage that has not passed through an on-board sewage treatment system. In areas where the discharge of untreated sewage is allowed, the effluent must pass through a macerator before being discharged, in order to assist with dispersion and improve visual amenity for all waterways users.

Note: Macerated sewage is not classed as treated sewage. Macerated sewage is untreated sewage.

Untreated sewage is prohibited from being discharged in the following areas:

- Prohibited discharge waters — these are canals, marinas, boat harbours, the Noosa River and designated areas of state marine parks.
- Smooth waters – these are the designated smooth water limits. See page 25 for more information on smooth waters.
- Hervey Bay and Northern Moreton Bay waters within 1852 m (1 nM) of reefs, for example oyster lease or fish farm, the mean low water mark of the mainland, or if the ship is a declared ship, all Hervey Bay and Northern Moreton Bay waters.

**Note:** (A declared ship has a fixed toilet and is: a domestic commercial vessels with a certificate of operation issued, or

taken to be issued, under the Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012 stating it is a class 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 4C, 4D or 4E ship or another Queensland regulated ships regulated under the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 and Regulation 2016 designed to carry more than 12 passengers.)

- Open waters –
- (a) within 926 m ( $\frac{1}{2}$  NM) of a wharf or jetty other than a jetty that is a marina (b) within 1852 m (1 NM) of
  - Aquaculture fisheries resources
  - If a vessel has 7–15 people on board: a reef, or the mean low water mark of an island or the mainland.

**Note:** If you have 16 or more persons on board, the discharge of untreated sewage is not permitted anywhere in Queensland coastal waters.

#### Treated sewage

Treated sewage is sewage that has passed through an on board sewage treatment system and is categorised as either grade A, B or C depending on the level of treatment it has received.

All treated sewage is prohibited from being discharged in 'prohibited discharge waters' such as canals, marinas, boat harbours, the Noosa River and designated areas of state marine parks.

Additionally, the following types of treated sewage have the following restrictions on discharge:

- Grade A treated sewage (highest level of treatment) — No further restrictions.
- Grade B treated sewage (moderate level of treatment)
  - Nil discharge in Hervey Bay waters, Northern Moreton Bay waters, open waters and smooth waters within 700 m of a person in the water, an aquaculture fisheries resource and a reef.
- Grade C treated sewage (lowest treatment)
  - Nil discharge in Hervey Bay waters, Northern Moreton Bay waters, open waters and smooth waters within 926 m ( $\frac{1}{2}$  nM) of a person in the water, an aquaculture fisheries resource and a reef.

For more information visit [msq.qld.gov.au](http://msq.qld.gov.au).

## BOAT AND JETSKI LICENCE



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# Marine Parks in Queensland

## Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

### Respect green zones and help to protect the reef

Recreational fishing in no-take green zones continues to be the most commonly detected offence in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

While many recreational fishers understand and follow the zoning rules, there are still some who believe occasionally fishing in a green zone has no impact. However, the effects of green zone poaching are cumulative. Every fisher who takes fish from a green zone has an impact on the health of the reef and the fish stocks of the future.

Illegal fishing activity increases the pressure on the reef at a time when it is already under considerable pressure from the combined impacts of mass coral bleaching events, more frequent and intense cyclones, and an ongoing outbreak of coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is working with the community to protect the reef and make sure the benefits of green zones are understood by everyone.

### How do green zones work?

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a multiple-use area. Zoning is in place across the 344 400 km<sup>2</sup> Marine Park, an area bigger in size than Italy, and it defines what activities can occur in each location. Zoning helps to manage and protect the values of the marine parks that users enjoy.

No-take green zones make up about a third of the marine parks and are designed to help protect and conserve ecosystem biodiversity. Research indicates current zoning arrangements, which came into effect in 2004, are having a range of positive effects, including helping to sustain fish stocks in areas open to fishing.

A DNA study in the Keppel Islands found almost 60 per cent of the juvenile coral trout collected from areas open to fishing were the offspring of parents living in green zones. This highlights the value of green zones. It also shows that poachers who are taking these important breeding fish from green zones are impacting the catches of honest fishers in areas open to fishing.

Research indicates reefs in green zones are more resilient to the impacts of coral disease, crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks, and weather events and are able to recover from impacts much faster compared to reefs open to fishing.

### The consequences of non-compliance

If you fish in a no-take green zone, you will get caught, and risk a \$2100 fine.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority coordinates day and night vessel patrols with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Boating and Fisheries, and the Queensland Water Police which target illegal recreational and commercial fishing.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Maritime Border Command conduct aerial surveillance of the marine park, and drones are now being used in compliance operations.

Free zoning maps are available at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au) or at bait and tackle shops, visitor information centres, ship chandlers, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol offices.

### How can fishers help to protect the reef?

- Anonymously report suspected illegal fishing activity to 24-hour hotline: 1800 380 048.
- Know the marine parks' zoning rules.
- Use a GPS and cross-check it with a free zoning map.
- Understand how no-take zones work to safeguard the Reef and fish stocks.
- Don't anchor on coral — try to find sand or use a public mooring.
- Avoid taking herbivorous fish like parrotfish, which remove seaweed and provide space for new corals to grow.
- If in doubt about the identity and size of your catch, release immediately with care.
- Take all rubbish with you and put into rubbish bins on the shore.



## Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning



# GOING FISHING?

*Know the marine parks' zoning rules*

[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)

Coral Sea

Cooktown

Cairns

Hinchinbrook Island

Townsville

Whitsunday Group

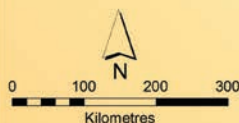
Mackay

QUEENSLAND

Rockhampton

Curtis Island

Bundaberg



SDC140514 May 2014

GBRMP Zoning

(see relevant Zoning Plans and Regulations for details)

	General Use Zone	Habitat Protection Zone	Conservation Park Zone	Buffer Zone	Scientific Research Zone	Marine National Park Zone	Preservation Zone
Aquaculture	Permit	Permit	Permit	X	X	X	X
Bait netting	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Boating, diving, photography	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Crabbing (trapping)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Harvest fishing for aquarium fish, coral and beachworm	Permit	Permit	Permit	X	X	X	X
Harvest fishing for sea cucumber, trochus, tropical rock lobster	Permit	Permit	X	X	X	X	X
Limited collecting	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Limited spearfishing (snorkel only)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Line fishing	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Netting (other than bait netting)	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Research (other than limited impact research)	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit
Shipping (other than in a designated shipping area)	✓	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	X
Tourism programme	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	X
Traditional use of marine resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Trawling	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X
Trolling	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X

PLEASE NOTE:

This guide provides an introduction to Zoning in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Relevant Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plans should be consulted for confirmation of use or entry requirements.

★

Additional restrictions / conditions apply.

ACCESS TO ALL ZONES IS PERMITTED IN AN EMERGENCY.

Australian Government

Queensland Government

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Fish in a green zone and you will get caught . . .

Penalty: \$2100

Do your bit to help #LoveTheReef:

• Anonymously report suspected illegal fishing activity: 1800 380 048

• Know the marine parks' zoning rules

• Use a GPS and cross-check it with a free zoning map

• Understand how no-take zones work to safeguard the Reef and fish stocks

Find all this information and more at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)

It's everyone's responsibility to protect our Great Barrier Reef

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## Know your zones in Moreton Bay Marine Park

Moreton Bay Marine Park, managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, supports more than 1000 species of marine wildlife including fish, marine turtles, humpback whales, dolphins and several threatened species such as grey nurse sharks and dugong. Covering 3400 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>)—stretching 125 km from Caloundra to the Gold Coast—the park is a hot spot for fishers and boaties in South East Queensland.

To effectively manage various activities in the marine park, and protect the park's unique biodiversity, it has been divided into zones, which restrict some activities.

The main areas of interest for anglers are national park (green) zones, which prohibit all extractive uses including fishing and collecting.

Conservation park (yellow) zones do not allow for netting and trawling and have some restrictions for fishing lines and crab pots per person as do habitat protection (dark blue) and general use (light blue) zones.

In go slow areas, vessels must operate off-the-plane to help protect turtles and dugong from boat strike and to avoid damaging vulnerable habitats.

Penalties apply so familiarise yourself with zone restrictions.

### Marine national park (green) zone

Like a national park in the water, these areas are 'no take areas' of high conservation value. Anyone can enter and undertake activities such as boating, snorkelling and sailing. Green zones provide the greatest level of protection in the marine park. All forms of take (fishing, collecting or extracting) are prohibited.	Boating	✓
	Diving	✓
	Line fishing	✗ <sup>1</sup>
	Trolling	✗ <sup>1</sup>
	Crabbing	✗ <sup>1</sup>
	Bait gathering	✗ <sup>1</sup>
	Bait netting	✗ <sup>1</sup>
	Netting (other than bait netting)	✗ <sup>1</sup>
	Limited spearfishing	✗ <sup>1</sup>
	Limited collecting	✗ <sup>1</sup>
	Trawling	✗ <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All equipment to conduct this activity must be stowed or secured in board the vessel and completely out of the water.

Penalties apply:

**On-the-spot fines can be issued**

**Fishing or crabbing in a marine national park zone**

**Fishing equipment not stowed or secured when in a marine national park zone**

### Conservation park (yellow) zone

These zones are areas of high conservation value for habitat and wildlife that also allow for limited recreational and commercial uses such as fishing and crabbing.	Boating	✓
	Diving	✓
	Line fishing	✓ <sup>2</sup>
	Trolling	✓ <sup>2</sup>
	Crabbing	✓ <sup>3</sup>
	Bait gathering	✓
	Bait netting	✓
	Netting (other than bait netting)	✗ <sup>1</sup>
	Limited spearfishing	✓
	Limited collecting	✓ <sup>4</sup>
	Trawling	✗ <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All equipment to conduct this activity must be stowed or secured in board the vessel and completely out of the water.

<sup>2</sup> A maximum of two lines and a total of two hooks per angler.

<sup>3</sup> Maximum of four crab pots per person.

<sup>4</sup> No coral or protected species (except under a permit). Limits apply to species and equipment used.



Habitat protection (dark blue) zone		
Protect sensitive habitats by keeping them generally free from potentially damaging activities. No trawling is allowed in these zones.	Boating	✓
	Diving	✓
	Line fishing	✓
	Trolling	✓
	Crabbing	✓
	Bait gathering	✓
	Bait netting	✓
	Netting (other than bait netting)	✓
	Limited spearfishing	✓
	Limited collecting	✓ <sup>4</sup>
	Trawling	✗ <sup>1</sup>

1 All equipment to conduct this activity must be stowed or secured in board the vessel and completely out of the water.

4 No coral or protected species (except under a permit). Limits apply to species and equipment used.

General use (light blue) zone	
Boating	✓
Diving	✓
Line fishing	✓
Trolling	✓
Crabbing	✓
Bait gathering	✓
Bait netting	✓
Netting (other than bait netting)	✓
Limited spearfishing	✓
Limited collecting	✓ <sup>4</sup>
Trawling	✓

4 No coral or protected species (except under a permit). Limits apply to species and equipment used.

Visit [qld.gov.au/marineparks](http://qld.gov.au/marineparks) for detailed zoning maps and other useful information.

Artificial reefs

There are seven artificial reefs in Moreton Bay Marine Park that sustain a diversity of fish species and have been designed to benefit a range of fishing techniques, including spearfishing, bottom fishing and game fishing for pelagic species. These areas make for some exciting fishing:

- Harry Atkinson Artificial Reef—7 km east-south-east of St Helena Island
- West Peel Artificial Reef—west of Peel Island and north-east of Cleveland Point
- East Coochie Artificial Reef—east of Coochiemudlo Island
- Wild Banks Artificial Reef—east of the Wild Banks, which are east of Bribie Island
- North Moreton Artificial Reef—north of Moreton Island
- South Stradbroke Artificial Reef—east of South Stradbroke Island, approximately 3 km north of the Gold Coast seaway.
- Turner Artificial Reef—1 nm east of Scarborough

Visit [qld.gov.au/marineparks](http://qld.gov.au/marineparks) for detailed location maps and activities permitted at each reef.

Fish habitat areas

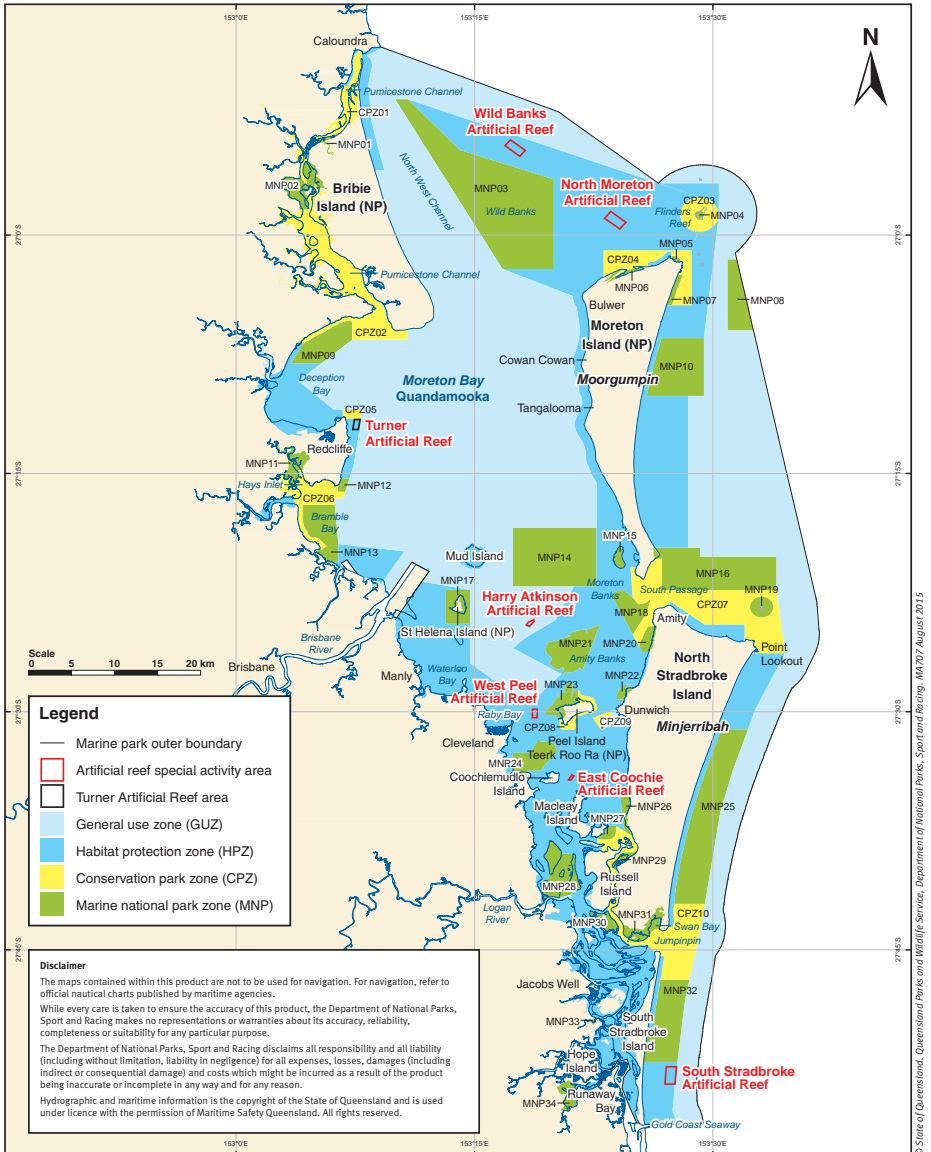
Declared fish habitat areas (FHAs) protect key areas of inshore and estuarine fish habitats (e.g. vegetation, sand bars and rocky headlands) along the Queensland coast from development impacts. Habitat protection is critical to ensure fishing for the future.

FHAs are open to:

- fishing (legal recreational, commercial and traditional)
  - boating, swimming, walking and other recreational activities
  - collecting bait (except with a digging implement).
- Approvals may be required for specific types of works within a declared FHA. Check with Fisheries Queensland before you:
- undertake any construction, digging or maintenance works
  - undertake any sampling or surveying
  - remove weeds using a pesticide or engage in biological control of a pest.

For more information about FHAs visit [npsr.qld.gov.au](http://npsr.qld.gov.au).

# Artificial Reefs Locality Map Moreton Bay Marine Park



Queensland  
Government

## Great Sandy Marine Park

The Great Sandy Marine Park, managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, offers a wide range of recreational, research and commercial opportunities. Its tidal lands and marine waters form a transition zone between tropical and temperate waters, where changing water temperatures drive unique and dynamic life cycles and influence marine habitats, communities and wildlife.

Conservation, along with the reasonable use of significant marine natural resources, is achieved through a zoning plan consisting of five zones, eight designated areas, and a system of regulations and permits. The zones range from no-take marine national park zones (green zones) to general use zones (light blue zones).

For more information about zoning and other useful information visit [qld.gov.au/marineparks](http://qld.gov.au/marineparks).

## Artificial reefs

There are two artificial reefs in Great Sandy Marine Park that sustain a diversity of fish species and have been designed to benefit a range of fishing techniques, including spearfishing, bottom fishing and game fishing for pelagic species. These areas make for some exciting fishing:

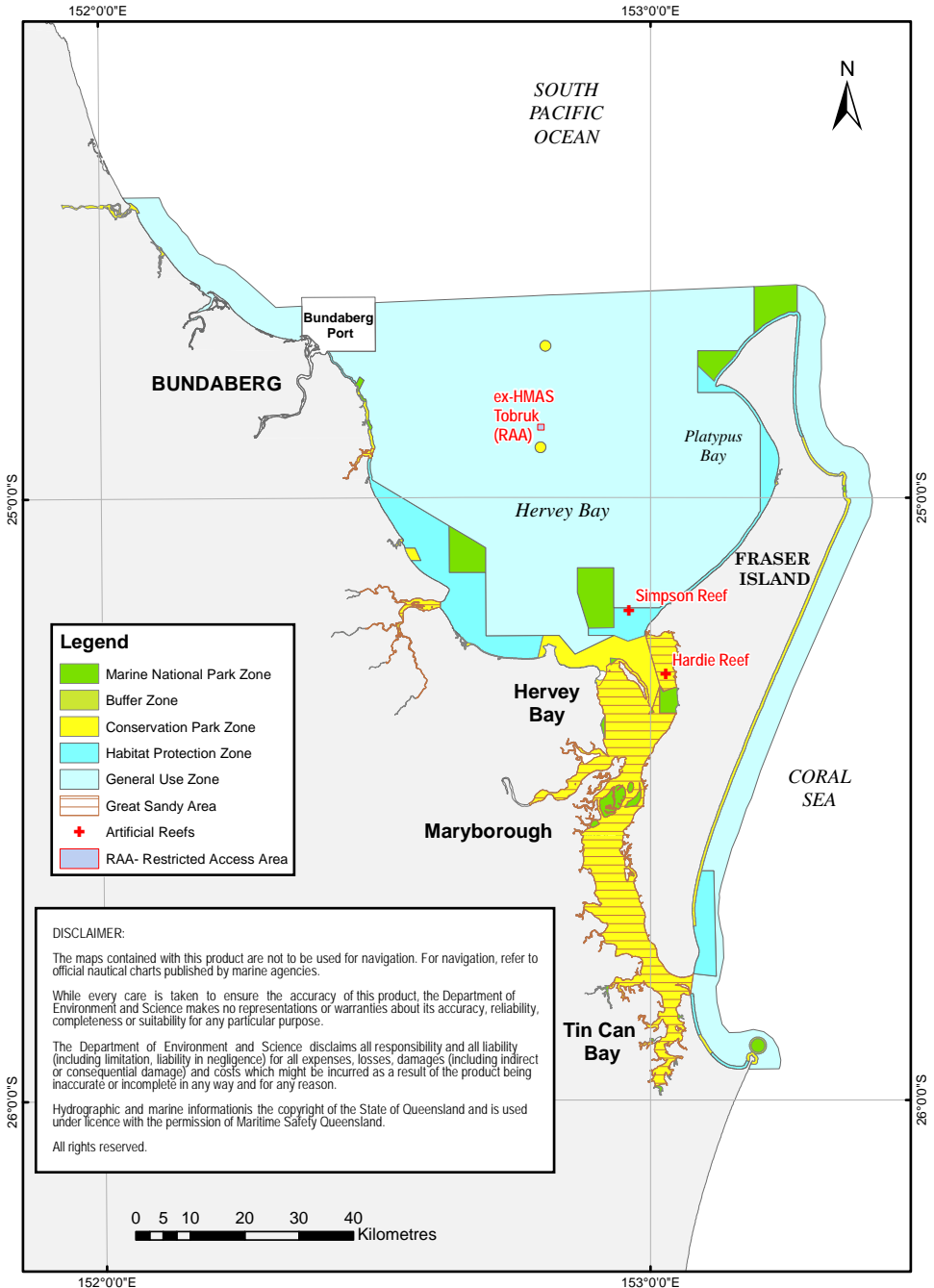
- Simpson Artificial Reef—13 km from Urangan Marina in Hervey Bay.
- Hardie Artificial Reef—4 km north-east of Little Woody Island.

Ex-HMAS Tobruk has recently been scuttled in Great Sandy Marine Park as a unique reef that will allow for recreational scuba divers and snorkelers to explore the ex-navy ship. For the safety and enjoyment of divers, fishing is not permitted at this site.

- Ex-HMAS Tobruk is located 40 km from Bundaberg and 46 km from Hervey Bay

Visit [qld.gov.au/marineparks](http://qld.gov.au/marineparks) for detailed location maps and activities permitted at each reef.


# Artificial Reefs Locality Map Great Sandy Marine Park



# Great Sandy Marine Park—Zones

June 2018

## Provisions Table

Entry and use provisions	General use zone	Habitat protection zone	Conservation park zone	Buffer zone	Marine national park zone
<b>FISHERIES, FISHING AND COLLECTING ACTIVITIES</b>					
Bait netting	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes <sup>9</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Aquaculture	Permit	Permit	Permit	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Crabbing	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes <sup>2,9</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Bait gathering	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes <sup>9</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Line fishing	Yes <sup>4,9</sup>	Yes <sup>4,9</sup>	Yes <sup>5,9</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Limited collecting	Yes <sup>3,9</sup>	Yes <sup>3,9</sup>	Yes <sup>3,9</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Limited spearfishing (snorkel only)	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes <sup>9</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Traditional use of marine resources	Yes <sup>6</sup>	Yes <sup>6</sup>	Yes <sup>6</sup>	Yes <sup>6</sup>	Yes <sup>6</sup>
Trolling	Yes <sup>4,9</sup>	Yes <sup>4,9</sup>	Yes <sup>4,9</sup>	Yes <sup>4,7,9</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Commercial netting (other than bait netting)	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes <sup>9</sup>	No <sup>8,9</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Harvest fishing for aquarium fish, coral and beachworm	Permit <sup>1</sup>	Permit <sup>1</sup>	Permit	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Harvest fishing for sea cucumber, trochus, tropical rock lobster	Permit <sup>1</sup>	Permit <sup>1</sup>	No	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
Trawling	Yes <sup>9</sup>	No	No	No <sup>A</sup>	No <sup>A</sup>
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>					
Boating, diving, photography	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Research (other than limited impact)	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit
Shipping (other than in a designated shipping area)	Yes	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit
Tourism program	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit
<b>NOTES ON ENTRY AND USE PROVISIONS</b>					
<p><b>A.</b> All fishing equipment must be stowed and secured prior to entering a buffer or green zone.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Other than an accredited harvest fishery.</li><li>Limited to 4 catch devices (e.g. crab pots or dillies) per person.</li><li>By hand or hand-held implement.</li><li>Maximum of 3 lines/rods per person with a combined total of 6 hooks.</li><li>Limited to 1 line/rod per person and 1 hook/lure per line (except the Great Sandy Area which is as per note 4).</li><li>Activities that are not “as of right” in the zone, or that involve the take of protected species require either a permit or a Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement.</li><li>Pelagic species only.</li><li>Commercial fishers holding Department of Agriculture and Fisheries endorsements can continue commercial fishing activities within the Great Sandy Designated Area.</li><li>All fishing activities must comply with restrictions or conditions placed upon them by the Fisheries Act and Regulation.</li></ol>					
<p><b>Note:</b> Permits are required for most other activities not listed above. Designated Areas may provide additional restrictions at some locations. The zoning plan does not affect the operation of s.2.11 of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i>.</p>					
<b>DESIGNATED AREAS—One of eight designated areas shown.</b>					
 The <b>Great Sandy Area</b> recognises the importance of recreational fishing by allowing for recreational fishing using 3 lines/rods per person with a combination of 6 hooks. (See Note 9)					

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# Recreational fishing rules for Queensland

## A brief guide

### Recreational fishing in Queensland waters

Recreational fishing is a favourite pastime for many Queenslanders. However, we all have a part to play in ensuring current and future generations are able to enjoy the pleasures of recreational fishing and abundant seafood that are hallmarks of the Queensland lifestyle.

Fisheries Queensland manages the state's fishing resources through management arrangements that protect valuable fish stocks, surveillance of Queensland's fishing waters, the enforcement of fishing and boating safety laws, and by educating and informing Queenslanders about responsible fishing.

Fishers should consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 for the latest recreational fishing rules or visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

Recreational fishers should also be aware that other local, state and federal regulations may apply—you will need to check with the relevant authorities.

### Size and possession limits

#### Why do we have size limits?

In Queensland, there are limits on the size (length) of fish that can be legally taken for many species. There are minimum size limits and also some maximum size limits.

Size limits are typically, though not always, based on biological research into each species' reproductive cycles. Minimum size limits generally allow fish to spawn at least once and contribute to the population before they are taken.

However, in some species larger individuals contribute more to the population, which is why some maximum size limits apply. For example, most barramundi begin their lives as males and later, as they grow larger, become females. A maximum size limit is applied to protect large females and to allow them to spawn.

#### Why do we have possession limits?

A possession limit is the total number of fish that one person can legally take and keep at any one time – it does not apply on a per day basis. It includes the fish you have caught

previously, for example, previous catches in your freezer at home.

These limits aim to:

- conserve heavily exploited species
- conserve species that are susceptible to capture
- share the catch more equitably among anglers
- reduce illegal marketing of fish
- promote ethical and responsible behaviour when using a limited natural resource.

### Handy hint: Fish ID

You should carry a good fish identification guide when fishing. Guides can be purchased from most bait and tackle stores. Remember, fish that look similar may in fact be different species with different size and possession limits.

### Check your limits

For a complete list of size and possession limits, see the back section of this guide. All information in this guide is correct at time of printing. For the most up-to-date information and changes to regulations, visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

### Measuring

#### Measuring fin fish

Fin fish are measured from the tip of their snout to the end of their tail (see handy hint below).

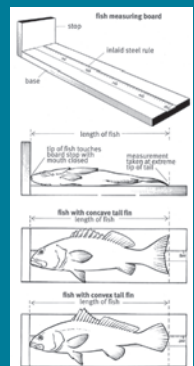
#### What if you catch an undersized fish?

If you unintentionally take a fish (including fin fish or crustaceans) that is not legal size, return it to the water immediately, taking as much care as possible to avoid causing any injury to the fish.

### Handy hint

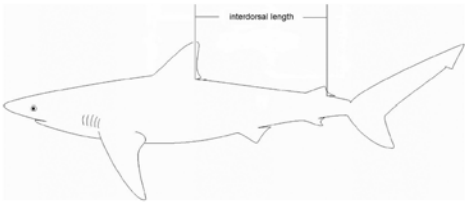
#### Measuring device

Use a sturdy ruler with an end stop to measure the length of catch. Adhesive or stick-on devices can be unreliable and shrink when exposed to the weather.



Fishing in Queensland

Sharks and rays are also measured from the posterior edge of the first dorsal to the posterior edge of the second dorsal. This length is known as the interdorsal length. See the diagram below.



Measuring crabs

For guidelines on how to measure crabs see page 85.

Catch and release

You should always be prepared to release part of your catch to comply with Queensland's size and possession limits and fishing closure rules, and to ensure the sustainability of our fish species.

Releasing undersized or no take species should be done carefully to ensure the fish has the best chance of survival. The survival of fish depends on factors such as the length of the fight, where the fish is hooked, and how the fish is handled and released. Stressed fish become exhausted quickly and have less chance of surviving when released.

You can give your released fish the best chance of survival by following the Helpful hints for released fish survival (Page 67).

For an instructional video on fish handling methods, check out Fisheries Queensland on YouTube.



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# Helpful hints for released fish survival

## Selecting gear

### Catch and release tips



Use barbless hooks or circle hooks to limit injury to the fish



Use degradable hooks and suitable line strength when catching and releasing fish

## Landing



Land the fish as quickly as possible



Wet any materials that may come in contact with the fish, including your hands



Use a knotless landing net to minimise the impact

## Handling and unhooking



Minimise handling and keep the fish in water as much as possible



Remove hooks quickly but gently—long-nose pliers and wire cutters can help



If you can't remove the hook without harming the fish, cut the line close to the hook



Do not hold up large fish by the line, jaw or gills  
Cradle the fish near the head and tail or gently hold the fish near the midsection



If you are taking photos before release, try to take them with the fish still in the water. Otherwise, support the fish properly and take the photos quickly

## Releasing



Return protected species to the water unharmed immediately



Check for predators before releasing for both the fish's and your safety



Hold the fish underwater with its head facing into the current  
If there is no current, 'swim' the fish around until it swims off on its own

## Sustaining our fisheries

### Fisheries monitoring and research

The future of our fisheries relies on our resources being used in a sustainable way. This requires keeping a close eye on fish stocks and the performance of management arrangements for each fishery.

### Stock status

Fisheries Queensland is committed to the National Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks (SAFS) process. SAFS aims to bring together biological, catch and effort data to determine the status of key fish stock against a nationally agreed reporting framework. This process provides advice to policy makers, industry and the general public on the sustainability of the fish stocks assessed.

The status of fish stocks across Australia are compiled and can be found at [fish.gov.au](http://fish.gov.au).

### Get involved in fisheries monitoring

If you enjoy recreational fishing, you can get involved in a Fisheries Queensland volunteer monitoring program. You can help ensure a sustainable future for our fisheries by providing valuable monitoring information.

Visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) to learn more about:

- Statewide boat ramp and shore-based surveys, including at net-free fishing zones - let our scientific staff measure your catch
- The Keen Angler Program - donate your fish frames to science
- Fishing surveys – if you get a phone call, let us know your fishing habits.



### Handy hint

#### Take only what you need

While possession limits must not be exceeded, Fisheries Queensland recommends taking only what you need to help ensure the sustainability of Queensland's fisheries.

### Tagged fish

Research projects involving the tagging of fish are often conducted throughout Queensland by scientists at universities, state and federal agencies, and community groups to improve our understanding of fish movement, growth and survival rates.

If you want to be involved in a fish tagging project contact:

### Suntag: 1800 077 001 (toll-free)

You can keep a tagged fish if it is within the size and possession limits. If you catch a tagged fish and decide to release it, please phone the number on the tag or the toll-free number above with the following information:

- tag number (if the fish has two tags, record both tag details)
- date and place of capture
- fork and/or total length
- details of where the fish was released

Alternatively, if you keep the fish you can phone the number on the tag with the information or post the tag and the information to the tagging coordinator.

If the tag has 'Keep Frame' on it, fisheries officers may wish to examine the fish. If you



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keep the fish (rather than releasing it), please freeze the fish frame and contact the tagging coordinator on the toll-free number or your local Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol office to arrange for collection.

## Compliance

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) is responsible for enforcing fishing and boating safety laws, surveillance and providing educational resources.

A list of QBFP offices is provided in the front of this guide.



## Illegal sales

Recreational fishing is for personal enjoyment and consumption. Taking fish to sell is illegal without an appropriate licence. Illegal marketing of fish poses a threat to the legitimate seafood market and can pose a threat to food safety.

## Reporting illegal fishing activities

To report suspected illegal fishing activities in Queensland call the 24-hour Fishwatch hotline on 1800 017 116 (free call within Queensland).

If you see, or have any information on fishing activities you suspect are unlawful:

- record the date, time and area where the activity occurs
- record any vehicle registration numbers and a description of any vehicles involved
- record any boat registration numbers and a description of any vessels involved
- if you know the person or persons involved, give their details as well
- give an accurate description of the activity involved, e.g. settling large numbers of crab pots, netting the local creek at low tides
- ring the Fishwatch hotline as soon as possible to pass on this information.

It is important you do not engage with the person/s, as this can compromise an investigation.

A Fishwatch form is also available from the Fisheries Queensland facebook page. Reports lodged via the form are processed during business hours only. For immediate action, call the Fishwatch hotline on 1800 017 116.

## Reporting lost and found gear

Interfering with fishing equipment that isn't yours is illegal. If you find commercial fishing or shark control equipment on local beaches, report it so it can be returned to its owner. To report found shark control equipment, call the Shark Control Program hotline on 1800 806 891, and to report commercial fishing gear, call the Fishwatch hotline on 1800 017 116.

## Handy hint

### Shark Control Program hotline

If you notice that an animal has been entangled in shark control equipment, contact the 24-hour Shark Control Program hotline on 1800 806 891 (free call within Queensland).

## Miscellaneous prohibitions

The following activities are illegal throughout Queensland:

- jaggig or foul-hooking fish
- using explosives, poisons or electrical devices to take fish (divers may use a powerhead on a spear gun only in defence against sharks)
- interfering with authorised aquaculture activities
- obstructing lawful netting operations, damaging or interfering with fishing apparatus (including removing fish from the apparatus)
- possessing or carrying prohibited apparatus in closed waters unless the apparatus is dismantled, stowed and secured
- removing, damaging or interfering with markers or signs erected under the authority of fisheries legislation
- using underwater breathing apparatus (other than a snorkel) to take fish
- using fishing apparatus, including nets, across a waterway or navigation channel in a way that makes more than half of its width impassable to a boat or fish.





## Fishing ethics

### Code of practice

Fisheries Queensland supports fishing responsibly, sustainably and in a way that respects the environment and the rights of others. Approximately 642 000 Queenslanders go fishing each year and it is vitally important that we look after our fisheries for future generations. This is why a national code of practice for recreational fishers was developed

by the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation and funded by the Australian Government.

The objective of the code is to empower recreational fishers to make responsible decisions in the pursuit of their passion. The code has four main themes:

- fishing
- interaction
- stewardship
- habitat

For more information visit [recreationalfishing.com.au](http://recreationalfishing.com.au)

### Responsible disposal of rubbish

Everyday items such as cigarette butts, plastic bags, bottles, cans and discarded fishing gear are common causes of marine pollution and impact marine ecosystems. Always ensure you dispose of litter responsibly.

## Freshwaters



### Prohibited (no-take) species in freshwaters



Australian lungfish



Bloomfield River cod



River blackfish



Freshwater sawfish



Spiny crayfish

Cling goby, Myross hardyhead (Thomson River) and Edgbaston hardyhead (Thomson River) are also no take species.

## Freshwater fishing gear

### Why are there restrictions on fishing gear?

A number of restrictions apply to fishing gear in Queensland to protect fish stocks from overfishing.

### General conditions

While fishing in fresh water, a person must not use at one time more than four freshwater traps in any combination.

No age limit applies to people using freshwater fishing gear.

In freshwater areas, fish may only be caught using:

- a fishing line that consists of a handheld line with or without a pole, reel or rod
- a trap that can be a canister trap, collapsible trap, dilly net, funnel trap or round trap
- a scoop or dip net (cast nets and bait nets cannot be used).

### Marking traps

All freshwater traps must have a tag on the trap showing the owner's surname and address. If a trap is not fixed to something stationary (i.e. a branch or boat) above the surface of the water, it must have a solid light-coloured float attached that is at least 15cm in all its dimensions and marked with the owner's surname.

### Interfering with gear

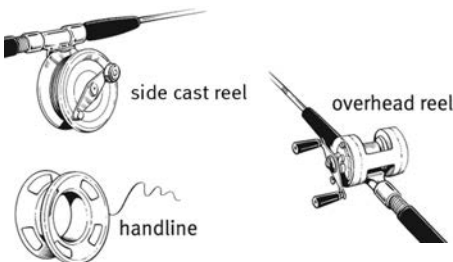
Interfering with freshwater gear that you didn't set is a serious offence which carries heavy penalties.

### Fishing lines

A person must not use a set line as a cross-line or use more than six fishing lines.

Only one hook or an artificial fly or lure can be attached to a fishing line.

Fishers must be no more than 50 m from any of their fishing lines.



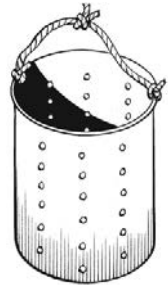
### Scoop or dip nets

A scoop or dip net must not exceed 1 m in any dimension, with a handle no longer than 2.5 m and a mesh size of no more than 25 mm.



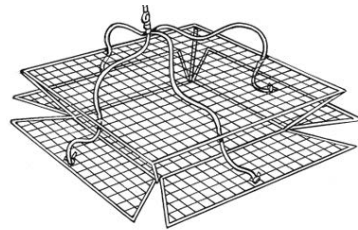
### Canister traps

A canister trap must be no longer than 60 cm and no more than 50 cm in width, height or diameter. The trap must be open at one end. The width, height or diameter of the trap—measured anywhere along its length—must not be more than the width, height or diameter of the trap's open end. If the trap does not have a mesh made of rigid material, the size of the mesh must be no more than 25 mm.



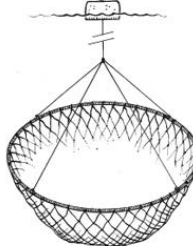
### Collapsible traps

A collapsible trap must be made of rigid material with one or more collapsible sides.

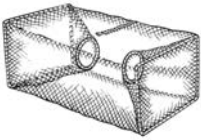


### Dilly nets

A dilly net must have a diameter of no more than 125 cm and a mesh size of no more than 25 mm.



funnel trap



funnel (opera house) trap



### Funnel traps and round traps

Funnel traps must be no longer than 70 cm and no higher or wider than 50 cm. Round traps must have a diameter no more than 70 cm and no higher than 50 cm. Funnel and round traps must have mesh no greater than 25 mm with up to a maximum of 4 entrances made of rigid material. Entrances must have openings no greater than 10 cm. The following restrictions apply based on the opening size:

- Funnel traps and round traps with a rigid opening size of up to 5 cm maximum in all its dimensions can be used in all Queensland non-tidal waters
- Funnel traps and round traps within a rigid opening size between 5 cm and 10 cm can only be used in non-tidal waters west of a line following the Great Dividing Range and west of the Gore Highway (A39) or in the listed impoundments:

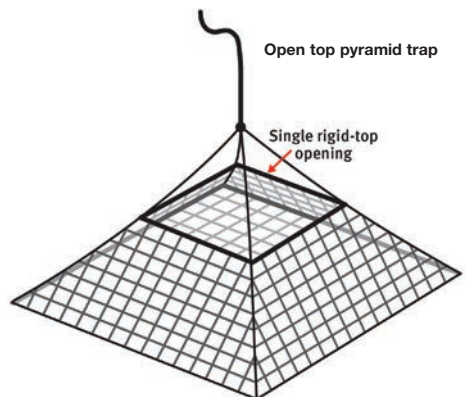
- Atkinsons Dam
- Baroon Pocket Dam
- Beehive Dam
- Bill Gunn Dam (Lake Dyer)
- Bjelke-Petersen Dam
- Boondooma Dam
- Borumba Dam
- Burdekin Dam (Lake Dalrymple)
- Callide Dam
- Cania Dam
- Connolly Dam
- Cooby Dam
- Coolmunda Dam
- Cressbrook Dam
- Eungella Dam
- Ewen Maddock Dam
- Fairbairn Dam
- Fred Haigh Dam (Lake Monduran)
- Glenlyon Dam
- Gordonbrook Dam
- Hinze Dam
- Kinchant Dam
- Koombooloomba Dam
- Lake Awonga

- Lake Gregory
- Lake MacDonald
- Lenthalls Dam (Lake Lenthall)
- Leslie Dam
- Maroon Dam
- Middle Creek Dam
- Moogerah Dam
- Mount Morgan Big Dam
- North Pine Dam
- Peter Faust Dam
- Ross River Dam
- Sideling Creek Dam (Lake Kurwongbah)
- Somerset Dam
- Storm King Dam
- Teemburra Dam
- Theresa Creek Dam
- Tinaroo Dam
- Wivenhoe Dam
- Wuruma Dam
- Wyaralong Dam

### Open top pyramid traps

Open top pyramid traps can be used in all Queensland freshwater areas provided they have:

- a single, rigid top opening, with a minimum size of 15 cm in all its dimensions, parallel to the base of the trap
- a mesh size of no more than 25 mm
- a maximum base size of 60 cm in length and width
- a minimum of 15 cm in height.



## Handy hint

### Check your traps

Traps should be checked regularly to improve the quality of your catch and ensure any non-target species (such as freshwater turtles) that are accidentally caught can be released safely.

## Bait

Any fish caught to be used as bait must comply with all recreational fishing regulations (such as size and possession limits, and closed seasons). No take species cannot be used as bait. Any fish that are not native to the area (non-indigenous and noxious - see pages 77 and 78 of this guide) must not be put back in the water even as bait.

Also see page 100 for current bait restrictions due to white spot disease.

## Handy hint

### Catch local bait

The easiest way to prevent movement of fish species is to catch your bait at the location where you are fishing. But remember, any noxious or non-indigenous fish are not to be put back into the water or used as bait, even if caught at that location.

## Using marine baits in freshwaters

The use of baits from the marine (saltwater) environment is prohibited unless the bait has been frozen, cooked or preserved. This is to prevent the spread of disease and parasites in Queensland's freshwater systems, and to protect native fish populations and the future viability of freshwater fish stocking programs.

## Freshwater bait

The use of fish and crustaceans such as spangled perch, redclaw, yabbies (blueclaw) as bait (dead or alive) is prohibited outside their natural environment or range. This is to prevent species from becoming established in foreign habitats and causing environmental damage.

Natural ranges for some commonly used 'live' bait species are listed below:

- **Redclaw** (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) are native to the Gulf of Carpentaria Drainage Division and some river basins in the far northern portion of the East Coast Drainage Division. Redclaw can be used as bait only in these areas.
- **Freshwater prawn or shrimp** (*Macrobrachium australiensis*) are found throughout Queensland and can be used as bait in all areas of the state.
- **Yabby or blueclaw crayfish** (*Cherax destructor*) are found naturally in the Murray–Darling, Lake Eyre and Bulloo–Bancannia drainage divisions, and some river basins in the East Coast Drainage Division. Yabbies can be used as bait only in these areas.



## Prohibited fishing gear in fresh waters

All other forms of fishing apparatus other than those mentioned in the table directly above are prohibited, including:

- setlines
- floatlines
- all forms of nets (except landing nets, scoop or dip nets, and dilly nets)
- fish traps
- drum nets
- cross lines
- spears and spear guns (spearfishing is prohibited in all freshwaters). A spear gun includes a bow for propelling a spear.
- cast nets.

## Freshwater closed seasons

### Why do we have closed seasons?

Closed seasons (regulated periods) prevent people from taking particular species at certain times of the year. This protects these species at vulnerable times in their life cycle, such as during spawning seasons.

#### Barramundi

Throughout the Queensland east coast, a closed season applies to barramundi from midday 1 November to midday 1 February, except in and from waterways upstream of Aplins Weir (also includes Black Weir and Gleeson Weir), Awoonga, Ben Anderson Barrage (also includes Paradise Dam, Claude Wharton Weir and Jones Weir), Burdekin Falls, Callide, Eungella, Fairbairn, Fred Haigh (Lake Monduran), Kinchant, Koombooloomba, Lake Gregory (Isis Balancing Storage), Copperlode Falls (Lake Morris), Lenthalls, Peter Faust, Teemburra, Tinaroo and Wuruma Dams.

The dates for the Gulf of Carpentaria closed season for barramundi are midday 7 October to midday 1 February (but possession on boats allowed to midday 17 October).

These closures do not apply in East Leichhart Dam and Belmore, Corella, Fred Tritton, Julius and Moondarra Lakes, and waterways upstream of these impoundments.

A possession limit of one barramundi applies during the closed season in all of the exempted waterways mentioned above. The barramundi may be greater than 120 cm. Recreational fishers may continue to fish in the exempted waterways once they have reached their limit of one barramundi.

Outside of the closed season, in the exempted waterways mentioned previously, a possession limit of five applies to barramundi (can include one greater than 120 cm).

It is prohibited to deliberately target barramundi outside of the dams listed above for catch and release during these closed seasons, as the stress of capture may prevent a fish from spawning. Barramundi caught accidentally during the closed season must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

#### Mary River cod

A spawning season closure from 1 September to 30 November applies to all non-tidal waters, including stocked impoundments.

At all other times, Mary River cod is a no take species in all waters except the impounded waters of Cressbrook, Hinze, Maroon, Moogerah, North Pine, Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams, and lakes Dyer (Bill Gunn dam) and Clarendon.

#### Murray cod

A spawning season closure applies to all Queensland waters contained in the Murray Darling Drainage Division from 1 September to 30 November. An exception to this closed season applies to Beardmore Dam, Beehive Dam, Connolly Dam, Cooby Dam, Coolmunda Dam, Glenlyon Dam, Leslie Dam and Storm King Dam.

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## Freshwater closed waters

### Why do we have closed waters?

Closed waters (regulated waters) prevent people from fishing in certain areas and these may be:

- where a population of endangered or threatened species lives
- where fish congregate during or before spawning
- where fish may aggregate or get trapped near artificial barriers and be susceptible to overfishing
- to separate incompatible uses (e.g. fishing from a bathing area)
- to enable successful migration of fish through fishways.

### Waters closed to line fishing

A person must not possess or use a fishing line in the following area:

**Obi Obi Creek:** No fish can be taken from Obi Obi Creek all year round between the Baroon Pocket Dam wall and the shortest line across the creek at the downstream side of Obi Obi Creek crossing 4 (Manuel Hornibrook Bridge).

### Waters closed to all forms of fishing

Fishing, which includes collecting, is not allowed in the following areas:

**Albert River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Luscombe Weir.

**Balonne River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Surat Weir; Beadmore Dam wall and Jack Taylor Weir.

**Barwon River:** from Mungindi Weir to 100 m downstream of Mungindi Weir.

**Boyne River (in the auburn river basin):** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Boondooma Dam wall.

**Brisbane River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Old Mount Crosby Weir; from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Mount Crosby Weir; and from 100 m upstream to 600 m downstream of the Wivenhoe Dam wall.

**Burdekin River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Clare Weir.

**Burnett Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Maroon Dam wall.

**Burnett River:** from 400 m upstream to 400 m downstream of Burnett Barrage; from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Kirar Weir; Ned Churchward (Walla) Weir, Claude Wharton Weir and the Paradise Dam wall.

**Condamine River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Chinchilla Weir; Loudon Weir, Lemon Tree Weir, Yarramalong Weir, Cecil Plains Weir and from 27°02'24" S 149°57'12" E (approximately 14 km upstream of Reilly's Weir) to 200 m downstream of Reilly's Weir.

**Dawson River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Glebe Weir; Gyranda Weir, Orange Creek Weir, Theodore Weir, Moura Weir and Neville Hewitt Weir

**Dogwood Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Gil Weir.

**Dumaresq River:** from Bonshaw Weir to 100 m downstream of Bonshaw Weir.

**Fitzroy River:** from 400 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Fitzroy River Barrage; and from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Eden Bann Weir; and Wattlebank Control Weir.

**Kolan River:** from 400 m upstream to 400 m downstream of Kolan Barrage.

**Logan River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Cedar Grove Weir; and South Maclean Weir.

**Macintyre Brook:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Coolmunda Dam spillway wall, Whetstone Weir and Ben Dor Weir.

**Macintyre River:** from 150 m upstream to 150 m downstream of Goondiwindi Weir.

**Mary River:** from 400 m upstream to 400 m downstream of Mary River Barrage.

**Nerang River:** from 100 m upstream to 600 m downstream of the Hinze Dam wall.

**Nogo River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Wuruma Dam wall.

**Nogoa River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Fairbairn Dam wall.

**North Pine River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the North Pine Dam wall.

**Pike Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Glenlyon Dam wall.

**Pioneer River:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Marian Weir; 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Mirani Weir; and 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Dumbleton Weir.

**Quart Pot Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Storm King Dam wall.

**Reynolds Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Moogerah Dam wall.

## Fishing in Queensland

**Sandy Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Leslie Dam wall.

**Severn River:** the part of the Severn River commonly known as Queen Mine waterhole, about 6km west of Ballandean.

**Sideling Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Sideling Creek dam (Lake Kurwongbah).

**Six Mile Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Lake MacDonald Dam wall.

**Stuart River:** from 750 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Gordonbrook Dam wall.

**Teviot Brook:** from 100 m upstream to 200m downstream of Wyaralong Dam wall.

**Three Moon Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200m downstream of Cania Dam wall.

**Thomson River:** from 100 m upstream to 200m downstream of Fairmount Weir.

**Tinana Creek:** from 400 m upstream to 400 m downstream of Tinana Creek Barrage.

**Yabba Creek:** from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream from Borumba Dam wall.

## Stocked Impoundment Permit scheme (SIPS)

### What is SIPS?

SIPS impoundments are 'put, grow and take' fisheries where most stocked species will not reproduce. This means the impoundments need to be stocked regularly. Funds raised from the sale of fishing permits go towards management of the SIPS and to community stocking groups for purchasing native fish fingerlings.

### What impoundments are on the scheme?

#### South east Queensland

Baroon Pocket Dam, Borumba Dam, Caboolture River Weir, Cressbrook Dam, Ewen Maddock Dam, Hinze Dam, Lake Dyer (Bill Gunn Dam), Lake Kurwongbah, Lake MacDonald, Maroon Dam, Moogerah Dam, North Pine Dam, Somerset Dam, Wivenhoe Dam, Woodford Weir, Wyaralong Dam

#### Northern and Central Queensland

Aplins Weir, Black Weir, Burdekin Dam (Lake Dalrymple), Eungella Dam, Gleeson Weir, Kinchant Dam, Koombooloomba Dam, Lake Belmore, Peter Faust Dam, Teemurra Dam, Tinaroo Dam

#### Fitzroy

Callide Dam, Fairbairn Dam, Theresa Creek Dam

### Burnett

Ben Anderson Barrage, Bjelke Peterson Dam, Boondooma Dam, Cania Dam, Claude Wharton Weir, Fred Haigh Dam (Lake Monduran), Gordonbrook Dam, Jones Weir, Lake Gregory, Lenthalls Dam (Lake Lenthall), Wuruma Dam

### Murray-darling

Beehive Dam, Ben Dor Weir, Bonshaw Weir, Cecil Plains Weir, Chinchilla Weir, Connolly Dam, Cooby Dam, Coolmunda Dam, Cunningham (Beebo) Weir, Gil Weir, Glenarvon Weir, Glenlyon Dam, Goondiwindi (Hilton) Weir, Inglewood Town Weir, Lemon Tree Weir, Leslie Dam, Miles Weir, Storm King Dam, Surat Weir, Talgai Weir, Whetstone Weir, Yarralong Weir

For a current list of impoundments, visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

### What fish are stocked in SIPS impoundments?

Species stocked include Australian bass, barramundi, golden perch, Mary River cod, Murray River cod, saratoga, silver perch and sooty grunter.



### Who needs a permit?

Any person aged 18 or over needs a permit to fish by line at a SIPS impoundment. People under 18 do not need a permit.

### How much does a permit cost?

\$10 per week

\$50 per year

\$36 per year if you have a Queensland Government Seniors Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or a Repatriation Health Care Card (Gold Card).

### Where can i apply for a permit?

Permits are available online at [qld.gov.au/freshwaterfishing](http://qld.gov.au/freshwaterfishing) or over the

phone during business hours by calling 1300 575 359. Permits are also available in person at over 500 Australia Post outlets in Queensland and some Northern New South Wales outlets.

For details of the locations, visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

#### Do I need to carry my permit with me?

Yes. The permit must be carried with you at all times when fishing. Failure to produce a permit may result in an on-the-spot fine. The permit may be a digital email, digital sms, paper receipt or any copy of these permits displayed on paper or an electronic device.

If you require a replacement permit please phone 13 25 23 during business hours.

### Handy hint

#### When is a permit needed?

You only need a permit when using a fishing line at a SIPS dam. Permits are not required if you are only using permitted traps (e.g. for redclaw).

#### Fish stocking

Several native fish species are available for stocking farm dams and other artificial water bodies on private land. It is important to stock these waters with fish that occur naturally in

the area. It is an offence to stock them with fish that do not occur naturally in the area.

For more information about stocking fish, visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au).

### Noxious fish

Noxious fish are invasive and compete with native species and could greatly reduce native fish numbers and affect their habitat.

All Queenslanders have a 'general biosecurity obligation' – meaning that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that they know about, and/or are under their control.

People who catch noxious fish must not keep, feed, move or sell the fish.

Noxious fish must not be released into Queensland waters alive, dead or used as bait.

After they are caught, all noxious fish must immediately be killed and must not be returned to the water. The fish should be buried well away from the water or disposed of in a rubbish bin.

For a complete listing of declared prohibited or restricted noxious fish in Queensland, or to report a pest fish sighting, visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Some of the declared species of noxious fish include those in the table below:

## Noxious fish



Mozambique tilapia



Spotted tilapia

Female



Gambusia

Male



Carp

## Other invasive fish

Fish that are deliberately released from home aquariums can have a devastating impact on Australian native waterways. Never dump your aquarium fish into waterways or flush down the toilet – give unwanted aquarium fish to friends or a pet shop instead of letting them go in the wild.

If you catch a non-native ornamental fish, you must dispose of it in the same manner prescribed above for noxious fish – kill them and dispose of in a rubbish bin, or bury them above the high water mark.

Report all captures to Biosecurity Queensland at [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).



Pearl cichlid



Jaguar cichlid

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## Non-indigenous fish

Non-indigenous fish must not be released into Queensland waters or be used as bait either alive or dead. Non-indigenous fish are any species that are not native to a particular area.

Non-indigenous fish include:

- species that are not native to Queensland, such as goldfish
- species that are native to certain parts (or catchments) of Queensland but have been introduced to areas outside of their natural range. For example, redclaw are only native to North Queensland and the Gulf of Carpentaria but are now found in waters in central, western and South East Queensland. Redclaw are therefore considered non-indigenous in these catchments as they are outside of their original natural distribution.



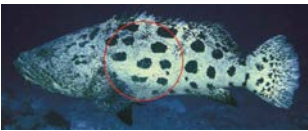
# Tidal waters



## Prohibited (no-take) species in tidal waters



**Barramundi cod**



**Potato rockcod**



**Queensland groper**



**Chinaman fish (adult)**



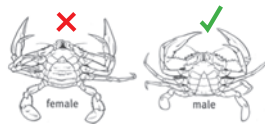
**Chinaman fish (juvenile)**



**Paddletail**



**Red bass**



**Female mud and blue swimmer crabs**



Egg-bearing (berried) spanner crabs, three-spot crabs, slipper lobsters, tropical rocklobsters (tropical spiny rock lobsters), red champagne lobsters, shovel nose lobsters and smooth bugs

NO IMAGE AVAILABLE

**Tropical rocklobsters with tar spots (sperm packets) attached**



**All sawfish e.g. narrow sawfish**

White sharks, sand tiger sharks, speartooth sharks and manta rays



**e.g. Great White Shark**



**e.g. Grey nurse shark**





## Prohibited (no-take) species in tidal waters



**Humphead Maori Wrasse**



**Black teatfish (species of sea cucumber)**



Clams in the family Tridacnidae, helmet shells and trumpet shells

**e.g. Giant clam**

**Note:** Grey nurse sharks, whales, porpoises, dugongs, turtles and dolphins are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

## Tidal fishing gear

### Why are there restrictions on fishing and crabbing gear?

A number of restrictions apply to fishing gear in Queensland to protect fish stocks from overfishing.

### Fishing lines

In tidal waters, up to three fishing lines with up to six hooks in total (in any configuration) are permitted. An artificial fly or lure, or gang hook is deemed to be equal to one hook. Fishers should be in attendance at all times when using this equipment.

A fishing line is an apparatus that is hand-held or attached to a rod or reel, but does not include the following:

- cross line
- drum line
- free-floating line
- set line

### Scoop or dip nets

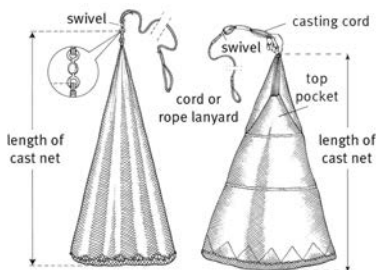
A scoop or dip net must not exceed 2 m in any dimension, with a handle not longer than 2.5 m and a mesh size of at least 25 mm.

A gaff or landing net may be used to secure line-caught fish.

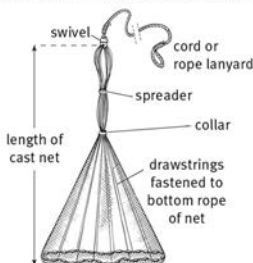


## Cast nets

Cast nets can be no more than 3.7m when measured from the point of attachment of the cord or rope to the rest of the net, to the net leadline or bottom of the lowest pocket of the net, whichever is greater (see the illustration below). Mesh size must be no greater than 28mm.



measure from uppermost point of net to:  
a) the net's leadline  
b) the bottom of the net's lowest pocket.



### Seine nets

Seine nets (commonly known as bait nets or drag nets) can be used in tidal waters but must not exceed 16 m in length, 3 m in drop and must have a mesh size no greater than 28 mm. The net must not contain a bag, pocket or similar device. The use of the net is subject to the following conditions:

- it must not be anchored, staked or fixed
- no part of the net containing fish must be out of the water other than to immediately remove fish from the net for release
- any fish (except coral reef fin fish) caught in a seine net can be kept provided they meet size and possession limits
- any fish not being kept, must be released into water deep enough to allow the fish to escape.

### Hand pumps

A hand pump may be used on foreshores in tidal waters to take yabbies only.



### Worm digging forks

A worm digging fork may be used on foreshores in tidal waters to take worms. The use of digging implements is prohibited in Fish Habitat Areas (FHA).

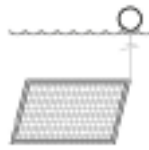
### Crab pots and dillies

In tidal waters, when fishing for blue swimmer, mud and spanner crabs, no more than four crab pots, hoops/dillies or spanner crab dillies (or a combination of these) may be used per person. Also, a person must not possess more than four crab apparatus per person, on a boat on the water.

Crab pots, hoops/dillies and spanner crab dillies must be marked by an identifying tag bearing the surname and address of the owner. In addition, the pot or hoop/dilly or spanner crab dilly must be attached by a rope to either:

- a light coloured float that is at least 15 cm in all its dimensions and marked with the owner's surname, or
- a fixed object above high water (e.g. a jetty or tree). The rope must have a tag attached to it above the high water mark with the owner's surname on it. Sunken and unmarked pots are illegal.

The use of inverted dilly apparatus (witches hats) is prohibited.



Spanner  
crab dilly



Hoop/dilly



Crab pot

## Handy hints

### Know your limits

Cast nets can be used to catch prawns for bait or to eat. Remember that a take and possession limit of 10 L per person applies to all species of prawns.

### Aquarium fishing

Remember, if you are fishing for live fish for an aquarium, the fish taken must comply with size and possession limits, and your net must also comply with the regulations.

## Spearfishing

### Gear

Spear guns and spears must not be used to take fish while using or wearing underwater breathing apparatus other than a snorkel. The use of underwater breathing apparatus other than a snorkel is not permitted when taking fish, whether by spear, spear gun, hand or any other means. A powerhead is not permitted other than for defence against sharks.

### Spearfishing for barramundi

Spearfishing for barramundi is prohibited between 6pm and 6am.

### Spearfishing areas

Spearfishing is prohibited in all non-tidal waters.

Spearfishing and spear guns are permitted in some tidal waters; however certain tidal areas are closed to spearfishing to maintain safety and avoid potentially conflicting uses of an area.

In tidal waters, some areas are marked by an SFB sign. For precise boundaries consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au).

## Fishing in Queensland

For details of spearfishing areas managed by the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority visit [gbrmpa.gov.au](http://gbrmpa.gov.au).

Other local, state and federal regulations may also apply—check with the relevant authority.

### Closed waters to spearfishing

Spearfishing is prohibited in the following tidal areas:

**South East Queensland:** within 100 m of all public jetties in and south of the Noosa River.

**Tallebudgera Creek:** upstream of a straight line between the eastern extremity of Burleigh Heads and the seaward end of the rock groyne near its southern bank of the creek end.

**Southern Moreton Bay:** Jumpinpin and the Southport Broadwater (including the seaway) Moreton Bay south of 27°42' S (Logan River).

**Moreton Island:** waters between Bulwer and Tangalooma Point out to the shipping beacons.

**Pumicestone strait:** between a line from Elimbah Creek to Gallagher Point, Bribie Island, and a line from Ningi Creek to Dux Creek, Bribie Island.

**Pumicestone strait:** north of a line from Bells Creek to the northern tip of the most northern island of a group of islands east of Bells Creek, to the western side of Bribie Island.

**Mooloolah River:** downstream of the Nicklin Way Bridge and Brisbane Road.

**Maroochy River:** waterways joining it downstream of, and including, the Cod Hole. Lake Weyba (Noosa River) and waterway adjoining the lake and river downstream of Parkyns Jetty at Tewantin and the western tip of Goat Island.

**Woodgate:** in the vicinity of the artificial reef, Hervey Bay.

**Woody Island:** waters adjacent to the eastern side of Big Woody Island including the artificial reef, Hervey Bay.

**Bargara Beach (Bundaberg):** the Basin.

**Great Keppel island:** western foreshore waters and waters within 400m out to sea from the island's shore at low water, between Little Peninsula on the island's north-western foreshore and Monkey Point at the island's south-western tip.

**North Keppel Island:** the western and southern sides.

**Brampton and Carlisle islands:** waters between the islands.

### Seaforth Island.

**Lindeman Island:** the western and southern sides.

**Long island:** the western side.

**South Molle Island:** the northern side. West Molle Island (Daydream Island): surrounding waters.

**Hook island:** the eastern, south-eastern and southern sides.

**Hayman Island:** the southern and western sides.

**Port dennisson:** waters under, or within 100 m of, the main wharf at Port Dennison, Bowen, and a structure attached to the wharf.

**Cape edgumbe:** the foreshores and waters seaward 50m from low water mark from the boat ramp in Greys Bay around Cape Edgumbe to the eastern headland of Horseshoe Bay.

**Dungeness and Lucinda Point:** within 100m of the public jetties.

**Richards island (Bedarra island):** the northwestern and northern sides.

**Dunk island:** the north-western and western sides.

**Cooktown:** within 100m of the main wharf and pontoons.

## Worm digging

Recreational worm digging is banned on the foreshores between **Lota Creek** and the rock groyne near the northern end of **Wynnum North Esplanade** for a distance of 100m from the foreshore rock wall. Between Cedar Street and **Charlotte Street** the closure extends from the foreshore rock wall to the low water mark.

## Skin and fillet removal

In relation to coral reef fin fish, a recreational fisher:

- must not possess on board a boat a fish other than in any of the following forms—whole, gilled, gutted or filleted.
- may possess on board a boat a fillet of a fish other than a blue spotted coral trout (Chinese footballer) as long as the length of the fillet is at least 40cm, and the skin and scales of the fillet are attached to the fillet.
- must not return fish to a boat that have been taken ashore from a boat and filleted, unless the length of the fillet is at least

40cm and the skin and scales of the fillet is attached to the fillet.

- must not possess a live coral reef fin fish unless the person or fisher intends to immediately return the fish to the sea.

In relation to fin fish (other than coral reef fin fish) a recreational fisher must not:

- remove the skin from a fish on a boat until the fish is brought to shore
- bring a fish ashore and remove its skin and return the fish to the boat
- divide a fish into portions other than in a way that allows an inspector to easily count the number of fish possessed by the fisher.

In addition to the above, a recreational fisher may fillet or process barred javelin (spotted grunter) as long as:

- the fillet is at least 26 cm in length and has the skin left on, or
- a whole fish or one that has been processed into a form other than fillets is at least 40 cm in length.

**Note:** For information applying to recreational fishers on commercial fishing tours, consult the fisheries legislation at [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

## Tidal waters closed seasons

Why do we have closed seasons? Closed seasons (regulated periods) prevent people from taking particular species at certain times of the year. This protects these species at vulnerable times in their life cycle, such as during spawning seasons.

### Australian bass

A closed season applies to Australian bass throughout Queensland tidal waters from 1 June to 31 August.

### Barramundi

Throughout the Queensland east coast, a closed season applies to barramundi from midday 1 November to midday 1 February.

Throughout the Gulf of Carpentaria and adjoining waterways west and south of longitude 142°31'49" E and the intersection of the mainland, a closed season applies to barramundi.

The dates for the Gulf of Carpentaria closed season for barramundi are midday 7 October to midday 1 February (but possession on boats allowed to midday 17 October).

It is also prohibited to deliberately target barramundi for catch and release during these closed seasons, as the stress of capture may

prevent a fish from spawning.

See the freshwater 'Closed seasons' section on page 74 for information on taking barramundi from some fresh waters during the closure.

### Coral reef fin fish

Two five-day periods have been implemented as closed seasons to the taking of coral reef fin fish in October and November.

The closure dates for 2018-19 are as follows:

- 6 to 10 October 2018, 5 to 9 November 2018.
- 25 to 29 October 2019, 24 to 28 November 2019.

**Note:** For information on closed seasons for spanner crabs and tropical rocklobsters see page 86.

## Tidal waters closed waters

### Why do we have closed waters?

Closed waters (regulated waters) prevent people from fishing in certain areas, and these may be:

- where a population of endangered or threatened species lives
- where fish congregate during or before spawning
- where fish may aggregate or get trapped near artificial barriers and be susceptible to overfishing
- to separate incompatible uses (e.g. spearfishing in a bathing area).

## Handy hint

Check closure information online

Visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) for all the latest closure information, including boundaries.

## Waters closed to all forms of fishing

**Note:** For precise boundaries consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) or contact your local QBFP office. For marine park boundaries contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

**Also see page 100 for closed waters due to white spot disease.**

Fishing is totally prohibited in the following areas:

### **Certain areas within state and Commonwealth marine parks.**

**Coombah Lake** and tidal waters of Coombabah Creek upstream from the lake.

**Swan Bay** and tidal waters of the unnamed creek joining the bay's northern end.

**Mary River:** from 400 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Mary River Barrage.

**Tinana Creek:** from 400 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Tinana Creek Barrage.

**Fraser Island:** eastern foreshore waters and waters within 400 m out to sea from the eastern shore at low water, between 400 m north of Waddy Point and 400m south of Indian Head. Closed from midday 1 August to midday 30 September every year (fin fish only).

**Burnett River:** from 400m upstream to 400m downstream of the Burnett River Barrage.

**Kolan river:** from 400m upstream to 400m downstream of the Kolan Barrage.

**Fitzroy river:** from 400m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Fitzroy River Barrage.

**Keppel Bay:** within a 150m radius of the Middle Island Underwater Observatory.

**Hook island observatory:** waters within a 100m radius of the observatory.

**Orpheus island:** waters under or within 100m of Yanks Jetty.

**Centenary Lakes:** Saltwater Creek, Lily Creek and lakes joining the creeks, between Greenslopes Street and Collins Avenue, Cairns.

**Barron River:** at the place commonly known as Barron Waters, between F↑B signs on opposite sides of the river near its junction with Stony Creek and its junction with Camp Oven Creek.

**Mission Bay:** south of a line between Cape Grafton and False Cape and waters flowing into that part of the bay.

**South Mitchell River (and waterways joining it):** between F↑B signs near the mouth of the river and F↑B signs where it joins Surprise Creek.

**Bizant River and German Bar Lagoon:** from the road crossing commonly known as German Bar downstream for 2 km.

**Torres Strait:** waters within the following boundary—from Turtle Head, Hammond

Island, to Hammond Rock; to 1 nautical mile east of Menmuir Point, Hammond Island; to the northern tip of Kapuda Island; to Bruce Point, Hammond Island; along the eastern shore of Hammond Island to Turtle Head.

### **Waters closed to taking fish**

In Queensland there are a number of areas closed to taking some fish or all fish, or the use of certain fishing apparatus. For more information refer to fisheries legislation at [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

### **Grey nurse shark protection areas**

The grey nurse shark is now listed under Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as an endangered animal. There are four grey nurse shark protection areas in Queensland: Wolf Rock, Flat Rock, Henderson Rock and Cherubs' Cave. For more information visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.

### **Closed areas to taking gastropods or bivalve molluscs (e.g. pipis and cockles)**

**Note:** Foreshores are defined as the area between the high and low water mark.

**Deception Bay:** Foreshores between the public ramp at Emerald Avenue, Deception Bay, and the seaward end of Reef Point Esplanade, Castlereagh Point, Scarborough, but not including a waterway flowing into the area upstream of a line between its banks.

**Nudgee Beach:** Bramble Bay foreshores at Nudgee Beach between the eastern bank of the main channel of Nudgee Creek and western bank of the main channel of the Kedron Brook floodway, but not including the foreshores of Nudgee Creek upstream of a straight line between its banks or Kedron Brook floodway upstream of a straight line between its banks.

**Wynnum:** Foreshores of Moreton Bay and the boat passage, between the south-eastern tip of Fisherman Island and the northern breakwater of the Manly Boat Harbour, but not including foreshores west of the road bridge over the boat passage or upstream of a line between the banks of a waterway.

**Bramble Bay:** Waters within the following boundary—from the seaward end of the Sandgate Pier to the mainland shore at high water mark; along the foreshore at high water mark to Haughton Highway Bridge; in a straight line to seaward end of Sandgate Pier.

### **Waters closed to netting**

**Burnett River:** Closed to all methods of recreational netting including cast-netting, within the town-reach waters of the Burnett

River at Bundaberg. This area includes all waters of the Burnett River upstream from its junction with Bundaberg Creek (but excluding Bundaberg Creek itself) to a boundary line near the intersection of the most western point of Harriet Island and the banks of the Burnett River.

**Water Park Creek:** Water Park Creek flowing into Corio Bay and waterways joining it, upstream of the shortest line across the creek at the place known as Kelly's Landing (approx. 2.6 km from the creek's banks).

**Rodds Harbour:** Waters within the boundary from the eastern tip of Blackney Point to the eastern tip of Bird Island, to the western bank of Mort Creek, Rodds Peninsula and along the shore to Blackney Point. For a map of this closure visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

**Hervey Bay:** From the eastern tip of Point Vernon to the seaward end of the Scarness Jetty to the seaward end of the Urangan Pier to the seaward end of the rock wall of the Urangan Boat Harbour then west to the mainland shore. For a map of this closure visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

#### **Closed areas to taking Sea cucumber (Bêche de mer)**

Waters south of latitude 20° south (near Bowen) and waters west of longitude 142°31'49" East (Gulf waters).

#### **Closed waters to taking mud crabs Eurimbula Creek**

### **Crabbing**

#### **Crabbing gear**

See page 81 for the restrictions that apply for fishing and crabbing gear in Queensland.

It is important to make sure your pot is a sufficient weight and has enough rope attached to the float so that it is not lost in strong tidal currents. Lost pots can harm marine animals.

**Note:** The age limit for the recreational use of crab apparatus has been removed.

#### **Crab hooking**

The hooking of crabs is prohibited.

#### **Positioning your gear**

You must make sure that your crab pots are in sufficient depth of water at all stages of the tide so that marine animals are not exposed to the sun and unwanted crabs can be released alive.

#### **Interfering with gear you didn't set**

Interfering with crabbing gear that you didn't

set is a serious offence which carries heavy penalties. Stealing crabs or crab pots is a criminal offence, so those caught will be referred to the police.

### **Handy hint**

#### **Sorting your crabs**

Sort your crabs on a pot-by-pot basis to remove any illegal crabs before moving on. If you don't, they are deemed to be in your possession.

It's also important to check your pots regularly to ensure any by-catch or regulated crabs can be released unharmed.

#### **Gender identification**

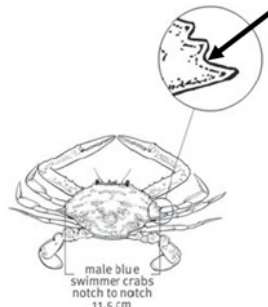
Determine crab gender from the underside of the crab.

Female mud crabs and blue swimmer crabs, and egg-bearing spanner crabs and three-spotted crabs are protected throughout Queensland. This means you cannot possess them at any time without a permit.



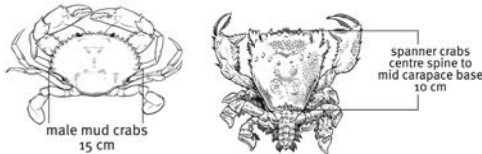
#### **Measurement**

The size of a blue swimmer crab is determined by measuring the distance between the notch immediately forward of the base of the large lateral spine of the crab on one side of the crab and the notch immediately forward of the base of the large lateral spine of the crab on the other side of the crab. Blue swimmer crabs must be a minimum of 11.5 cm from notch to notch.





The size of a mud crab and three-spotted crab is determined by measuring the widest part of its carapace. Mud crabs must be a minimum size of 15 cm across the widest point of its carapace. Three-spot crabs must measure a minimum of 10 cm across the widest point of its carapace.



The size of a spanner crab is determined by measuring the shortest distance between the tip of the spike at the middle of the front edge of its carapace and the mid-point of the rear edge of its carapace. This distance must be a minimum of 10 cm. If the carapace is damaged or separated from the crab's body, the size must be decided by measuring its sternite at the widest part of the front of its breastplate, located directly in front of the bases of the main claws. This measurement must be a minimum of 3.7 cm.

**Note:** The size limit applies regardless of the condition of the carapace.

#### Possessing crabs and crabmeat

A person must not possess:

- mud or blue swimmer crabs with the carapace (shell) missing (this includes possessing claws without the rest of the crab).
- crabmeat - unless the crab with a missing shell or the crab meat is for immediate consumption.

#### Closed seasons

A closed season applies to spanner crabs from midnight at the beginning of 20 November and ends immediately before midnight at the end of 20 December in Queensland tidal waters.

### Other crustaceans and shellfish

#### Prawns

A person must not possess prawns with the heads or any other part removed, unless the removal was to process the prawns for immediate consumption.

### Tropical rocklobster

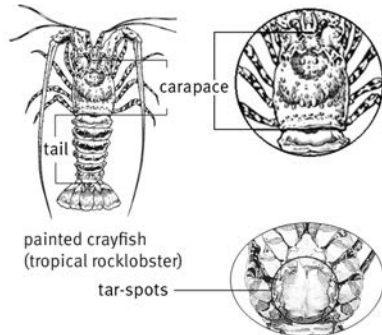
A recreational fisher:

- Must not possess live tropical rocklobsters.
- Must not possess egg-bearing tropical rocklobsters.
- Must not possess tropical rocklobsters with tar spots (sperm packets) attached.

#### Measurement

The size of a painted crayfish is determined by measuring the distance from the front of the carapace between the two spikes on the painted crayfish's head, to the rear edge of the carapace where the tail begins.

If the carapace is damaged or separated from the painted crayfish body, the size must be decided by measuring the tail. To do this, measure the dorsal surface of the tail laid flat on a horizontal surface, from the front edge of the somite (shell) where the painted crayfish's tail begins to the rear edge of the somite where the tail fins begin.



#### Closed seasons

A closed season applies to all species of

#### Tropical rocklobster

tropical rocklobster (family Panuliridae) from immediately after midnight at the beginning of 1 October and ends immediately before midnight at the end of 31 December in

Northern rocklobster regulated waters:

- (i) north of latitude 14° S and east of longitude 142°31'49" E
- (ii) in the Gulf of Carpentaria, shoreward of the 25 nautical mile line and south of latitude 10°48' S.

#### Oysters

All licensed oyster grounds are required to display signage indicating the grounds are a licensed oyster bed. Taking oysters from or interfering with aquaculture infrastructure and

licensed oyster grounds is illegal and carries heavy penalties.

All oyster beds outside of marked licensed areas are classed as public. Oysters from public reserves cannot be collected and taken from the grounds. They must be consumed on-the-spot.

#### **Pipis, mud whelks and cockles**

Possession limits apply to pipis, mud whelks and cockles in Queensland. Some areas are closed to the taking of gastropods and bivalve molluscs. Check [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) for specific area details.

For more information, visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.

### **Marine plants**

In Queensland, mangroves and all other marine plants are completely protected under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

The protection extends to seagrasses, saltcouch and plants such as melaleuca that grow adjacent to tidal lands. Any disturbance (such as trimming, mowing or removal) of

marine plants requires an approval from Fisheries Queensland.

## **More information**

For more information about fisheries regulations and other fisheries issues or programs, call 13 25 23 or visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

To access complete copies of the *Fisheries Act 1994* and other fisheries legislation, visit [legislation.qld.gov.au](http://legislation.qld.gov.au)

Information on other relevant legislation may be found at [afma.gov.au](http://afma.gov.au) (national), [gbrmpa.gov.au](http://gbrmpa.gov.au) (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park) and [nprsr.qld.gov.au](http://nprsr.qld.gov.au) (Queensland marine parks).

You can protect Queensland's fisheries resources by reporting any suspected illegal fishing activities to the 24-hour, toll-free Fishwatch hotline on 1800 017 116. (This number is not to be used for general enquiries.)

#### **Handy hint:** Room with a view could cost you a fine

Protection of marine plants, including mangroves, applies over all tenures, including privately owned land, leasehold and state lands. Fines apply for hedging, trimming, lopping or spraying with herbicide; removing marine plants for river

views or other aesthetic reasons; removing mangroves or saltcouch from a beach or foreshore; running machinery over marine plants; filling of tidal lands; or dumping garden waste (e.g. grass clippings and pruning) onto tidal areas.

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# Size and possession limits

## Tidal waters

The following legal limits apply to fish taken in Queensland waters. A possession limit is the total number of fish that one person can legally take and keep at any one time.

The rules and regulations are accurate as at 1 July 2017. Fishers should consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 or [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) for updates.



### Prohibited (no-take) species in tidal waters

Barramundi cod	Black teatfish (species of sea cucumber)	Tropical rocklobsters with tar spots (sperm packets) attached
Potato rockcod	Female mud and blue swimmer crabs	All sawfish
Queensland groper	Egg-bearing (berried) spanner crabs,	White sharks, sand tiger sharks, speartooth sharks and manta rays
Chinaman fish	three-spot crabs, slipper lobsters, tropical rocklobsters (tropical spiny rock lobsters),	Clams in the family <i>Tridacnidae</i> , helmet shells and trumpet shells
Paddletail	red champagne lobsters, shovel nose lobsters and smooth bugs	
Red Bass		
Humphead Maori Wrasse		

**Note:** Grey nurse sharks, whales, porpoises, dugongs, turtles and dolphins are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Coral reef fin fish*		
In addition to individual possession limits for each coral reef fin fish species listed, a combined possession limit of 20 in total for all coral reef fin fish applies. For a complete list of coral reef species, visit <a href="http://fisheries.qld.gov.au">fisheries.qld.gov.au</a>		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Possession limit
All cods and groupers	38 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of all cod and grouper species
Cod and grouper exceptions (see also estuary cod under other species)		
Camouflage grouper	50 min 70 max	
Flowery rockcod	50 min 70 max	
Greasy rockcod	38 min 100 max	
Maori rockcod	45 min	
Barramundi cod		No take
Potato rockcod		No take
Queensland grouper		No take
All coral trout	38 min	Combined limit of 7 in total of all trout species
Coral trout exceptions		
Blue spotted coral trout (Chinese footballer)	50 min 80 max	
All emperors	25 min	5 per species
Emperor exceptions (see also Grass emperor (sweetlip) in Other tidal species)		
Redthroat emperor (sweetlip emperor)	38 min	8
Long nose emperor	38 min	5
Spangled emperor	45 min	5
All fusiliers	No limit	No individual limit but must comply with combined coral reef fin fish limit

\* Coral reef fin fish closures apply. Please refer to page 83 for more information.

**Coral reef fin fish\***

In addition to individual possession limits for each coral reef fin fish species listed, a combined possession limit of **20** in total for all coral reef fin fish applies. For a complete list of coral reef species, visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au)

Species	Size limit (cm)	Possession limit
<b>All parrotfishes (see also Wrasse)</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>All surgeonfishes</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>All sweetlips</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>All tropical snappers and sea perches including Moses perch (snapper)</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>Tropical snappers and sea perch exceptions</b>		
Rosy snapper (jobfish) and lavender snapper (jobfish)	38 min	Combined limit of 8 in total of both species
Chinaman fish		<b>No take</b>
Crimson snapper (small mouth nannygai) and saddletail snapper (large mouth nannygai)	40 min	Combined limit of 9 in total of both species
Flame snapper	38 min	5
Goldband snapper	38 min	5
Hussar	25 min	10
Paddletail		<b>No take</b>
Red bass		<b>No take</b>
Red emperor	55 min	5
Prescribed jobfish (Green, Smalltooth and Ruby snapper)	38 min	5 per species
<b>All wrasse</b>	30 min	5 per species
<b>Wrasse exceptions</b>		
Humphead Maori		<b>No take</b>
Tuskfish (anchor, blackspot, blue, purple and venus tuskfish)	30 min	Combined limit of 6 in total of all tuskfish species
Triple tail Maori wrasse	25 min	5 per species
Red breast Maori wrasse		
Pig fish		

\* Coral reef fin fish closures apply. Please refer to page 83 for more information.



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Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Possession limit
Australian bass <sup>†</sup>	30 min	2
Barramundi <sup>†</sup>	58 min 120 max	5
Sea cucumber (Bêche de mer) <sup>†</sup>	No limit	5 for waters north of latitude 20° south (near Bowen) and waters east of longitude 142°31'49" East (Gulf waters)
sea cucumber <i>exception</i>		
Black teatfish		No take
Bream		
Pikey Bream	25 min	Combined limit of 30 in total of pikey and yellowfin bream, and tarwhine
Tarwhine		
Yellowfin Bream		
Bugs		
Moreton Bay (bay lobster)	7.5 min (across widest part of carapace)	No limit
Smooth (Balmain)	10.5 min (across widest part of carapace)	No limit
Cobia (black kingfish)	75 min	2
Estuary Cod		
Blackspotted rockcod (estuary cod)	38 min 120 max	Combined limit of 5 in total of all cod and grouper species
Goldspotted rockcod		
Crab		
Blue swimmer crab	11.5 min	No limit
Mud crab	15 min	10
Spanner crab <sup>†</sup>	10 min	20
Three-spot crab	10 min	No limit
Eels		
Longfin eel	30 min	Combined limit of 10 in total of all species
Pacific shortfin eel (south Pacific)		
Southern shortfin eel		
Flathead	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of all species (except dusky flathead)
Flathead <i>exception</i>		
Dusky flathead (mud flathead)	40 min 75 max	5
Garfish	No limit	50
Golden snapper (fingermark)	35 min	5
Grass emperor (sweetlip)	30 min	10
Green Snail	280 g min	No limit

† A closed season or closed waters applies to these species. Please refer to page 83 and 85 for more information.

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Possession limit
<b>Javelin</b>		
Barred Javelin (spotted grunter)	40 min (whole or with head or tail removed) or 26 min fillet length (whilst on a boat)	10 (East Coast) 10 whole fish or 20 fillets (Gulf of Carpentaria)
Silver Javelin (small spotted grunter)	30 min	10
<b>Jewfish</b> (see also mulletway)		
Black Jewfish (East Coast)	75 min	2
Black Jewfish (Gulf of Carpentaria)	60 min	2
Scaly jewfish (Jewel Fish)	45 min	No limit
<b>Luderick</b>	30 min	10
<b>Mackerel</b>		
Grey	60 min	5
Spanish	75 min	3
School	50 min	10
Shark	50 min	10
Spotted	60 min	5
<b>Mahi Mahi (dolphin fish)</b>	50 min	5
<b>Mangrove jack</b>	35 min	5
<b>Mullet</b>		
Diamondscale mullet	30 min	20
Sea mullet		
<b>Bivalve molluscs and gastropods</b> (including pipis, mud whelks and cockles, and excluding all oysters)	No limit	50 The following regions have closed areas: Deception Bay, Nudgee Beach, Wynnum, Bramble Bay. Visit <a href="http://fisheries.qld.gov.au">fisheries.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Oysters *</b>	No limit	No limit
<b>Oyster exceptions</b>		
Blacklip pearl oyster	9 min	No limit
Goldlip pearl oyster	13 min 23 max	No limit
<b>Mulletway</b>	75 min	2
<b>Pearl perch</b>	35 min	5
<b>Prawns †</b>	No limit	10 litres

\* It is illegal to take oysters from any oyster ground; however you may consume oysters on the spot where taken in any public oyster reserve or unlicensed oyster grounds.

† A person must not possess prawns with the heads or any other part removed, unless the removal is to process the prawns for immediate consumption.



Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Possession limit
<b>Sharks and rays</b>	150max or interdorsal length 60max	1 of each
<b>Sharks and rays exceptions</b>		
<b>Grey reef shark</b>	150max or interdorsal length 60max	1
<b>Guitarfish</b>	150max or interdorsal length 60max	1
<b>Shovelnose ray</b>	150max or interdorsal length 60max	1
<b>Whitetip reef shark</b>	150max or interdorsal length 60max	1
White sharks Sand tiger sharks Sawfish Speartooth sharks Manta ray		<b>No take</b>
<b>Snapper</b>	35 min	4 with no more than 1 over 70 cm
<b>Tailor</b>	35 min	20
<b>Teraglin</b>	38 min	5
<b>Threadfin (salmon)</b>		
King threadfin	60 min	5
Blue threadfin (East coast)	40 min	10 (East coast) 20 (Gulf of Carpentaria)
<b>Trevally</b> (family <i>Carangidae</i> , which includes but is not limited to trevally, queenfish, dart and scad/yakka)	No limit	Combined limit of 20 for all fish in total applies to all members of this family
<b>Trevally exceptions</b>		
Amberjack	50 min	Combined limit of 2 in total of amberjack and samsonfish
Samsonfish		
Swallowtail dart	30 min	30
Giant queenfish	50 min	5
Yellowtail kingfish	60 min	2
<b>Trochus</b>	8 min 12.5 max	50
<b>Tropical rocklobster <sup>†‡</sup></b>	No limit	Above 14° south latitude and in Gulf waters: combined limit of 3 per person / 6 per boat in total of all species  Below 14° south latitude: combined limit of 5 per person / 10 per boat in total of all species
<b>Tropical rocklobster exceptions</b>		
Painted crayfish <sup>†‡</sup> ( <i>Panulirus ornatus</i> )	11.5 tail min 9 carapace min	As above
Red champagne lobster	7.5 min	As above

<sup>†</sup> A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to page 86 for more information.

<sup>‡</sup> Recreational fishers must not possess live tropical rocklobsters.

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Possession limit
<b>Wahoo</b>	75 min	2
<b>Whiting</b>		
Sand (summer)	23 min	Combined limit of 30 in total of these whiting species
Goldenline		
Northern		
Trumpeter (winter)	No limit	50
<b>Dorab Wolf herring</b>	No limit	10
<b>Worms</b> (including part thereof)		
Beach	No limit	30
Blood ( all worms of the family <i>Eunicidae</i> )	No limit	50

# Help protect Queensland's marine environment



✓ Clean your boat regularly

✓ Check for marine pests

✓ Report any suspected marine pests

## Look. Report. Protect.

Marine biosecurity – everyone plays a part

# Size and possession limits

## Freshwaters

The following legal limits apply to fish taken in Queensland waters. A bag limit (take and possession limit) is the total number of fish that one person can legally take and keep at any one time.

The rules and regulations are accurate as at 1 July 2017. Fishers should consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 or [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) for updates.



### Prohibited (no-take) species in freshwaters

Australian lungfish	Freshwater sawfish
Bloomfield River cod	Edgbaston hardyhead (Thomson River)
River blackfish	Spiny crayfish
Cling goby	Myross hardyhead (Thomson River)

A possession limit of 20 per species applies to all freshwater fin fish not listed below

Species	Size limit (cm)	Possession limit
<b>Australian bass</b>	30 min	2
<b>Australian lungfish</b>		<b>No take</b>
<b>Barramundi*</b>	58 min 120 max (1 greater than 120 cm from some stocked waterways)	5 (1 during the closed season for some stocked waterways)
<b>Cherabins</b>	No limit	Combined limit of 10 in total of both species: <i>Macrobrachium lar</i> and <i>M. rosenbergii</i>
<b>Cod</b>		
Bloomfield River cod		<b>No take</b>
Mary River cod* (no take except upstream of the walls of Cressbrook, Hinze, Maroon, Moogerah, North Pine, Somerset and Wivenhoe dams, and lakes Dyer (Bill Gunn Dam) and Clarendon)	50 min	1
Mary River cod (elsewhere in Queensland)		<b>No take</b>
Murray Cod* (Queensland part of Murray-Darling Drainage Division)	60 min 110 max	2

\* A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to page 74 for more information.

Species	Size limit (cm)	Possession limit
Eels		
Longfin	30 min	Combined limit of 10 in total of all species
Pacific shortfin (south Pacific)		
Southern shortfin		
Freshwater catfish (eel-tailed catfish)		
Eel Tailed Catfish ( <i>Tandanus tandanus</i> )	35 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of fish in the genera <i>Anodontiglanis</i> , <i>Neosilurus</i> , <i>Tandanus</i> and <i>Neosiluroides</i> (e.g. black, Cooper Creek, eel-tailed, false spine, short-finned catfish and Hyrtl's tandan)
Eel Tailed Catfish (genera <i>Anodontiglanis</i> , <i>Neosilurus</i> and <i>Neosiluroides</i> )	No limit	
Freshwater sawfish		No take
Garfish	No limit	50
Goby		
Cling goby		No take
Edgbaston hardyhead, Myross hardyhead		No take (Thomson River)
Mangrove Jack	35 min	5
Molluscs (excluding oysters)	No limit	50
Mullet		
Freshwater mullet	30 min	20
Sea mullet		
Perch and grunter		
Golden perch (yellowbelly)	30 min	10
Jungle perch	35 max	Combined limit of 1 in total of jungle perch and spotted flagtail
Spotted flagtail (northern jungle perch)		
Silver perch	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of silver perch, Welch's grunter and Barcoo grunter (no more than 2 of these fish may be silver perch)  Silver perch in Paroo and Warrego River basins are a no take species
Barcoo grunter		
Welch's grunter		
Sooty grunter	28 min	Combined limit of 10 in total for sooty, khaki, Gulf and lake grunter species
Khaki grunter (khaki bream)	No limit	
Gulf grunter	28 min	
Lake grunter	No limit	



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Species	Size limit (cm)	Possession limit
<b>Rainbowfish</b> ( <i>Melanotaenia</i> sp.)	No limit	Combined limit of 20 for all rainbowfish species
<b>Redclaw</b> (in its natural range)		
Gulf of Carpentaria Drainage Division and from the Jacky Jacky River basin south to the Normanby River basin on the east coast of Queensland	No limit	40 (females carrying eggs or young must be returned to the water within their natural range)
<b>River blackfish</b>		<b>No take</b>
<b>Saratoga</b>		
Northern	50 min	Combined limit of 1 in total of northern and southern saratoga
Southern		
<b>Spiny crayfish</b>		<b>No take</b>
<b>Yabby</b> (blue claw crayfish) ( <i>Cherax destructor</i> )	No limit	100 (females carrying eggs or young must be returned to the water within their natural range)

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## White spot disease

### About white spot disease

White spot disease is a highly contagious viral infection that affects crustaceans such as prawns, crabs and yabbies. When found in high intensity production areas, such as prawn farms, white spot disease results in the rapid mortality of prawns.

White spot syndrome virus, the causative agent for white spot disease, was initially confirmed in the prawn farms on the Logan River, however positive detections have also been found in the northern part of Moreton Bay. This is the first known detection of this disease in Queensland. The most plausible pathway for this disease getting into Queensland would appear to be from someone using infected imported prawns as bait near the prawn farms or in Moreton Bay. A range of pathways are being investigated to better understand how the virus could have been introduced into South East Queensland.

The virus has also been found in a number of wild caught prawns and crabs taken from the Logan River region and Moreton Bay.

The white spot virus does not affect fish or other marine animals and is primarily spread by affected animals and contaminated water.

Prawns infected with white spot disease do not pose a risk to people's health and are completely safe to eat.

### Help stop white spot disease

To help contain white spot disease please follow these steps each time you go fishing.

1. Only use Australian wild-caught prawns as bait purchased from a bait supplier or catch your own.
2. Abide by the movement restrictions for prawns, yabbies and marine worms if fishing in South East Queensland.
3. Report prawns or yabbies you suspect may have white spot disease to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

### How to identify white spot disease in prawns

Prawns with white spot disease may have a loose shell with numerous white spots (0.5- 2.0 mm in diameter) on the inside surface of the shell and a pink to red discolouration.

### Reporting white spot disease

Suspected cases of white spot disease must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland immediately. Take note of the location and time and report this information to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.



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## Map of movement restriction area



### White spot disease movement restrictions

To reduce the likelihood of white spot disease spreading, movement restrictions are in place. This means that raw prawns, yabbies and marine worms cannot be removed from the restricted area unless cooked or treated first by an approved process such as gamma irradiation. This area extends from Caloundra to the New South Wales border, following a line 100 metres off the eastern coasts of Brisbane, Moreton and Stradbroke Islands.

The movement restrictions also apply to uncooked, frozen crustaceans as freezing does not destroy the virus.

The following items must not be removed from the restricted zone unless cooked first:

- Prawns
- Yabbies
- Marine worms

Penalties may apply to anyone who breaches these restrictions.

### Bait

Bait prawns (including freshly caught), worms and yabbies sourced from outside the restricted area can be used, however, once brought into the restricted area, they cannot be moved back out.

To ensure the ongoing health of our marine habitat, fishers should only use Australian wild-caught prawns as bait purchased from a local bait supplier. Imported, uncooked prawns may pose a risk for the introduction of exotic diseases such as white spot disease.

### Exemption for crabs, lobsters and bugs

Crabs, lobsters and bugs are exempt from the movement restrictions and can be taken out of the restricted area.

As these animals are caught and sold for the sole purpose of being eaten, the risk of them being returned to natural waterways and

spreading the white spot virus is assessed as negligible.

The exemption applies to spanner crabs, three spotted crabs, blue swimmer crabs, mud crabs, red champagne lobster, slipper lobster, tropical rocklobster, redclaw and bugs. Anyone planning to move these species interstate must check the destination state's import requirements before moving them outside of Queensland.

### Fishing restrictions in place along Logan River

Fishing restrictions are in place around all prawn farms in the Logan River region.

To manage the risk of introducing serious diseases, **line fishing** is prohibited within 100 metres of prawn farm water intake and outlet channels and all fishing is prohibited in drainage channels surrounding these prawn farms.

Crab pots, cast nets and yabby pumps can be used in waterways adjacent to prawn farms, unless signage states otherwise. Raw prawns, yabbies and marine worms cannot be moved out of the white spot disease movement restriction area.

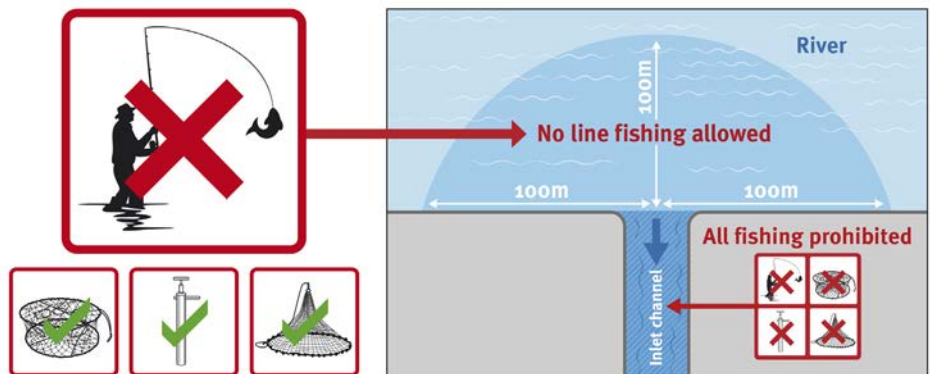


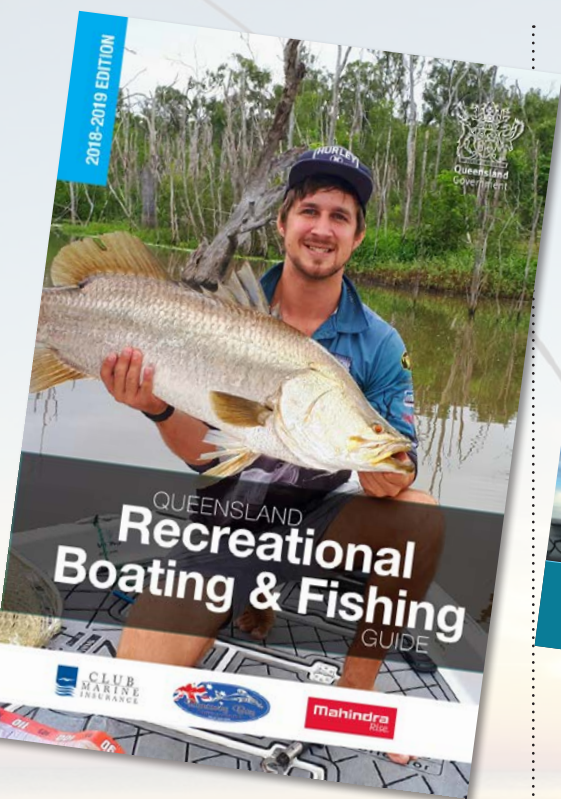
Diagram of no fishing zones at prawn farms





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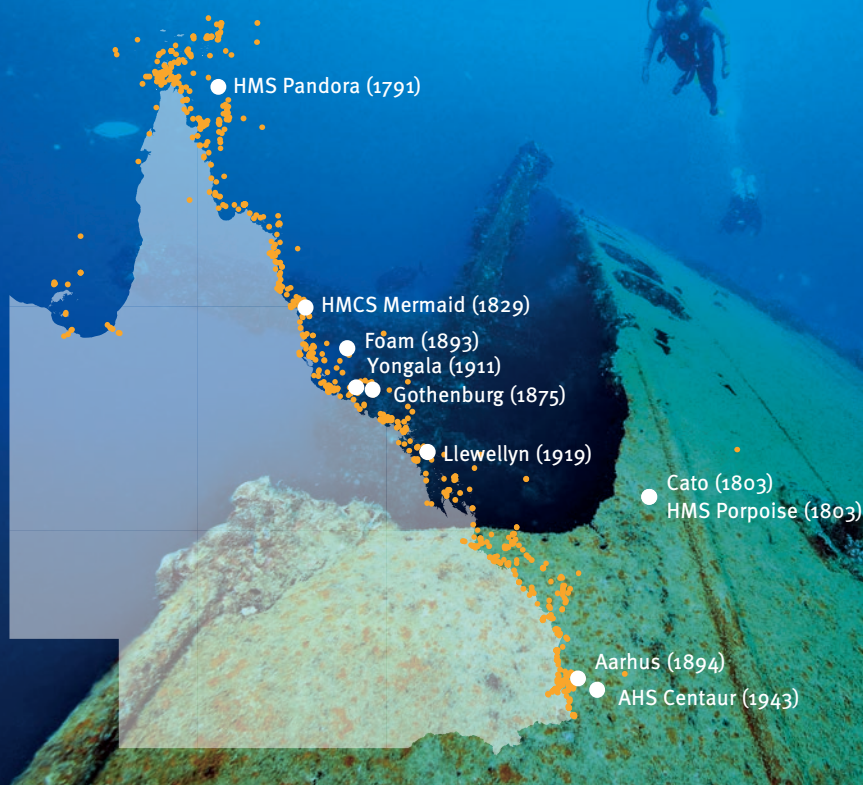
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The following historic shipwrecks are highly significant and lie within protected zones that require a free permit to enter, dive or fish:



## Legend

- Protected zone shipwrecks
- Queensland protected shipwrecks

To report fishing hook ups, the remains, or relics, of a ship or aircraft, please contact DES by email: [archaeology@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:archaeology@des.qld.gov.au) or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

To apply for a free permit visit [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)

Note: Shipwreck Protected Zones are marked on all navigational charts.



## Pre-trip item checklist

- ☐ Fuel
- ☐ Water
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Lifejackets
- ☐ Current charts/maps
- ☐ Ropes
- ☐ Tools
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Appropriate shoes
- ☐ Warm/weatherproof jacket
- ☐ Zip lock bag to keep wallet/phone dry
- ☐ Rule book
- ☐ Tape measure
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Sharp knife
- ☐ Suitable clothing/ spare set
- ☐ Check weather/tides/bars
- ☐ Check expiry dates on EPIRB/flares
- ☐ Radio
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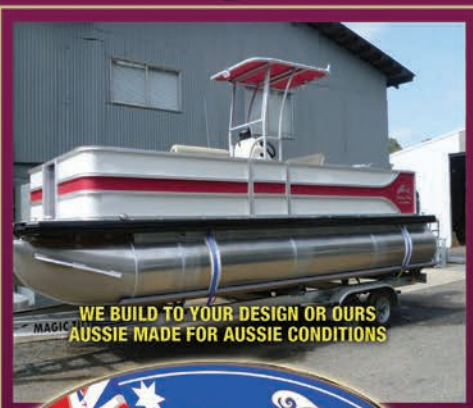
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