

2015-2016 Edition

QUEENSLAND Recreational Boating & Fishing GUIDE





Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Queensland
Government

GREAT BARRIER REEF

Fishing checklist for success



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Key contacts

Fisheries Queensland

Customer Service Centre.....13 25 23

Email: callweb@daf.qld.gov.au

Website: www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol

Report suspected illegal fishing to the
Fishwatch Hotline: 1800 017 116
Shark Safety Hotline: 1800 806 891
Whale Hotline: 1800 806 891

Airlie Beach

Combined Marine Operations Base,
Shingley Drive, Airlie Beach
(07) 4946 7003

Brisbane (Pinkenba)

Marine Operations Base, MacArthur Avenue East,
Pinkenba
(07) 3330 4210

Bundaberg

Enterprise Street, Bundaberg
(07) 4131 5800

Cairns

38-40 Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns
(07) 4035 0700

Gold Coast

40-44 Sea World Drive, Main Beach
(07) 5583 5500

Hervey Bay (services Gladstone)

Buccaneer Avenue, Urangan
(07) 4125 3989

Ingham

7 Haig Street, Ingham
(07) 4776 1611

Karumba

8 Palmer Street, The Point, Karumba
(07) 4745 9142

Kingaroy (services Longreach)

214 Goodger Road, Kingaroy
(07) 4160 0700

Mackay

30 Tennyson Street, Mackay
(07) 4967 0724

Mooloolaba

18-20 Parkyn Parade, Mooloolaba
(07) 5444 4599

Noosa

2 Russell Street, Noosaville
(07) 5449 7555

Port Douglas

9 Ashford Avenue, Port Douglas
(07) 4099 5160

Redland Bay

26-40 Delancey Street, Cleveland
(07) 3824 9545

Townsville

9–15 Langton Street, Garbutt
(07) 3330 4536

Warwick

604 Yangan Road, Warwick
(07) 4660 3666

Weipa

Kerr Point Road, Evans Landing, Weipa
(07) 4069 8114

Yeppoon

John Howes Drive, Rosslyn Bay
(07) 4933 6404

Maritime Safety Queensland**Gold Coast**

40–44 Sea World Drive, Main Beach 4217
(07) 5585 1810 A/H (07) 5539 7373

Brisbane

MacArthur Avenue East, Pinkenba 4008
(07) 3652 7500 A/H (07) 3305 1700

Sunshine Coast*

Parkyn Parade (Old Pilot Station),
Mooloolaba 4557
(07) 5452 1825 A/H (07) 3305 1700

Gladstone

Level 7, 21 Yarroon Street, Gladstone 4680
(07) 4971 5200 A/H (07) 4971 5200

Bundaberg

Floor 2, 46 Quay Street, Bundaberg 4670
(07) 4132 6600 A/H (07) 4971 5200

Hervey Bay

Buccaneer Avenue, Hervey Bay 4655
(07) 4194 9600 A/H (07) 4971 5200

Mackay

Floor 3, 44 Nelson Street, Mackay 4740
(07) 4944 3700 A/H (07) 4956 3489

Airlie Beach

384 Shute Harbour Road, Airlie Beach 4802
(07) 4841 4500 A/H (07) 4956 3489

Townsville

60 Ross Street, South Townsville 4810
(07) 4421 8100 A/H 1300 721 263

Cairns

100–106 Tingira Street, Portsmith 4870
(07) 4052 7400 A/H 1300 551 899

Weipa*

1 Iraci Avenue, Weipa 4874
(07) 4069 7165 A/H 1300 551 899

Karumba*

Lot 75, Yappar Street, Karumba 4891
(07) 4745 9281 A/H 1300 551 899

Thursday Island*

Hastings Street, Thursday Island 4875
(07) 4069 1351 A/H 1300 551 899

Office is closed on Mondays

* Telephone enquiries only.

Queensland Water Police

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Gold Coast..... | (07) 5509 5700 |
| Brisbane..... | (07) 3895 0333 |
| Redland Bay..... | (07) 3829 4129 |
| Sunshine Coast..... | (07) 5457 6711 |
| Hervey Bay..... | (07) 4125 3900 |
| Gladstone..... | (07) 4971 3222 |
| Yeppoon..... | (07) 4933 7990 |
| Whitsunday..... | (07) 4967 7222 |
| Townsville..... | (07) 4760 7812 |
| Cairns..... | (07) 4057 3577 |
| Thursday Island..... | (07) 4069 1520 |

The Water Police are responsible for crime prevention on the water and facilitate search and rescue activities in conjunction with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Please note: All noise complaints must be directed to your local government.

For marine emergencies including search and rescue telephone 000.

National parks, marine parks, fish habitat areas and wildlife

Ph. 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

www.npsr.qld.gov.au

Report marine strandings on
1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625).

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Townsville head office

2–68 Flinders Street, Townsville 4810
(07) 4750 0700

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Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Redland, Scenic Rim enquiries: **Ph 3287 6262**

Rockhampton and Central Queensland enquiries: **Ph 0447 330 007**

Bowen and Whitsundays enquiries: **Ph 0429 991 590**



All About Boat & Jetski Licenses

Phone: 3287 6262

Mob: 0418 159 162

80 Ferry Road, Carbrook

Email: gamcconnell@optusnet.com.au or info@boatlicence.net.au

Website: www.boatlicence.net.au

Boating in Queensland

General rules and requirements

General safety obligation

The Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 imposes a safety obligation on all vessel owners and operators (skippers and PWC riders) to operate vessels safely at all times.

You're responsible for making sure the vessel is safe, properly equipped and maintained and operated in a safe manner.

This includes loading within the vessel limits, people, cargo and stores, and making sure the vessel is adequate for the waters you intend to use it.

You're the skipper, you're responsible!

Be a responsible skipper, before you head out on the water follow these simple tips:

- ✓ Check that your boat is in good condition
- ✓ Have the required safety equipment on board, in good condition and easily accessible

- ✓ Tell someone know where you are going and when you intend to return
- ✓ Have the right marine licence and know how to handle the boat
- ✓ Know how to use your marine radio
- ✓ Check the weather before you go out
- ✓ Know the rules of the sea-road and follow them
- ✓ Lifejacket – wear it! If it's not on it can't save you.

Australian Builders Plate

The Australian Builders Plate (ABP) is required for new and imported recreational boats built from 1 July 2006.

It provides essential safety information about a vessels operational capability in a standard format.

It provides information on the maximum number



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Boating in Queensland

of people and weight load of a boat, as well as the maximum engine weight and power.

Vessel owners who are upsizing motors on recreational boats and/or altering the performance by design may not be meeting their general safety obligation if the engine power is greater than the manufacturer's recommendation on the ABP.

Capacity labels

All registrable boats, except yachts with auxiliary motors, are required to have capacity label(s).

Note: If the vessel has an Australian Builders Plate fitted where it can be seen clearly from the steering position, a capacity label is not required.



Capacity labels must be placed so they can be clearly seen from each steering position. This will show skippers how many people they can have on board.

Capacity labels can be purchased through a number of suppliers such as marine chandleries.

Penalties apply for not having a capacity label or ABP in the correct location.

Don't go overboard!

Overloading your boat is one of the easiest ways to capsize it and compromises the safety of everyone on board. By allowing more people on board a boat than its maximum capacity, the risk of capsizing significantly increases.

Placing an ABP or capacity label adjacent to a boat's steering position means skippers are constantly reminded of their boat's recommended loading capacity in good

conditions (fair weather conditions in smooth waters).

The onus of safety rests with the skipper at all times. When using the boat in exposed waters or in rough conditions, the skipper should consider reducing the number of persons taken on the trip.

All skippers must comply with the ABP or capacity label.

Responsible skippers check the maximum number of people and weight load of a boat, as well as the maximum engine weight and power. Know how to safely load your boat by:

- storing heavy items low and central in a place where they cannot move around
- distributing the weight, including passengers, evenly around the boat
- compensating for the weight of extra fuel.

You and your boat

A new boat

All new boats should have an Australian Builders Plate affixed. If not check with the dealer before purchasing.

If safety equipment has been supplied, double check the safety equipment table (page 18) to ensure you have all the required equipment. Lifejackets are important items – consider upgrading to better quality or inflatable lifejackets which can be worn with comfort most of the time.

If the boat is fitted with an under floor fuel tank, ensure a water trap fuel filter has been fitted. It will help ensure that fuel does not become contaminated resulting in engine problems while out boating.



A second hand boat

If the boat was built before the Australian Builders Plate was required (2006), then you must have a capacity label.

Because the boat is older and may have been modified by previous owners, be sure to check:

- Lifejackets meet the current standard

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Buy with confidence. Consider getting a person with marine experience like a boat surveyor or builder to inspect the boat and give you a non-biased report. For more information about choosing the safe boat (old or new) visit www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating.

Boat owner responsibility

Boat owners are responsible for their boat from purchase to disposal. As a boat owner you are responsible for ensuring your vessel remains seaworthy, is not a hazard to navigation, and is not a marine pollution risk. Don't allow your vessel to become derelict.

Insurance for vessels over 15 m

Legislation requires all ships over 15 metres (for example 15.01 metres) in length to have insurance sufficient to pay for potential pollution clean up, salvage and wreck removal.

Registering a boat

All boats fitted with a motor or auxiliary of 3kW or more require registration when on the water in Queensland.

Registration forms must be lodged with a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre. Fees are calculated according to the boat length (exemptions and concessions do apply in some cases).



The registration label must be attached to the exterior of the boat in a conspicuous place above the waterline on the port (left) side.

Boating in Queensland

Your boat will be allocated registration symbols. These must be clearly visible in plain characters in a contrasting colour to the hull of the boat. The size of the symbols depends on the type of boat and must be able to be read from a distance of 30 metres.

- Vessels capable of planing must have symbols a minimum of 200mm high on both sides.
- Personal watercraft (PWC) registration symbols must be displayed on both sides at least 100mm high, easily seen while the craft is underway.
- Vessels not capable of planing, (for example canoes with motors, yachts) must have symbols a minimum of 75mm high on both sides or on the stern.

When a registered boat is sold it is the responsibility of the new owner to lodge an application for transfer of the registration within 14 days. Registration may be cancelled if the boat is no longer used in Queensland, is withdrawn from service or no longer meets registration requirements.

Third party insurance is not included in the cost of registering your vessel. Independent advice should be sought about insurance as required.

For more information about boat registrations visit www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating

Tenders

Tenders are exempt from registration provided they are used within two nautical miles of the primary boat. The tender must be marked with the word 'tender' as well as the primary boat's registration symbols (at least 75mm high) on the exterior of the tender. If this is not possible, they must be marked on the inside of the boat in the largest characters possible. The tender may be marked with the owner's name, if it is used for more than one of the owner's boats.

See page 20-21 for safety equipment requirements for tenders.

Marine driver licence

A valid licence is required to operate all recreational boats powered by a motor of more than 4.5kW in Queensland.

Unlicensed drivers may drive a boat (where a licence is needed) provided a licensed driver is on board and is able to take immediate control. Unlicensed drivers are not allowed to tow a person (such as a water skier).

To obtain a recreational marine driver licence you must be aged 16 years or older and pass an approved BoatSafe course or have a recognised

and valid interstate or overseas marine licence.

Marine licence forms must be lodged with a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre. You will receive a printed receipt showing you have a marine licence. If you have a valid Queensland Driver's licence, a new licence will be sent to you in the mail with your marine licence/s printed on the back. If not, you will be sent a marine licence indicator card.



BoatSafe is a competency-based scheme for to ensure marine licence applicants meet the minimum level of skills and knowledge before obtaining a licence. When you enrol in a BoatSafe course, you must complete a Medical Fitness Disclosure Statement and give it to the BoatSafe trainer.

For a list of BoatSafe training providers in your local area visit www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating.

Queensland recognises other states' marine licences. If your home state does not have any licensing requirements, you should obtain a marine licence before boating in Queensland.

Are your boating skills up to date?

The average marine licence holder has their licence for 10 years before they register a boat. Inexperienced or out-of-practice skippers are a major cause of marine incidents. Practice makes perfect – And you can refresh your boating skills at any time by re-doing your BoatSafe course.

For more information about boat registrations visit www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating

Alcohol & Drugs

The skipper of a recreational boat must have a blood alcohol limit of .05 or less. Skippers should be aware that the limit is still .05 when your boat is at anchor, unless the boat is securely moored in a marina, to a jetty or wharf or on a swing mooring.

Police can also ask you to provide a saliva sample to detect the presence of drugs. There is a zero tolerance for boating under the influence of drugs.

The skipper is also responsible for the safety of passengers and their alcohol consumption. People on board need to take care because

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Boating in Queensland

studies have shown that boat passengers are just as likely as skippers to be involved in incidents such as capsizing the vessel or falling overboard as a result of drinking alcohol.

Remember that the effects of alcohol are exacerbated while on the water due to the sun, wind, and constant motion. Reflexes and response times to emergencies are slowed and swimming ability deteriorates considerably.

Alcohol and drugs affect your coordination, judgement, vision, balance and reaction time – increasing your risk of having a marine incident.

Don't multiply the risks – think before you drink

Marine incidents

All marine incidents must be reported to a shipping inspector on the approved form within 48 hours. Shipping inspectors and forms are available at Maritime Safety Queensland, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and Queensland Water Police offices.

Reportable incidents include:

- the loss of a person from a boat
- the death of, grievous bodily harm to, and injuries to a person caused by a boat's operations
- the loss or abandonment of a boat
- a collision with a boat
- the stranding of a boat
- material damage to a boat
- material damage caused by a boat's operations
- danger to a person caused by a boat's operations
- danger of serious damage to a boat
- danger of serious damage to a structure caused by a boat's operations.

If in doubt about whether an incident is reportable – report it.

Why reporting is important

The reporting of marine incidents is vital to the development of safety standards, education and

on-water compliance programs that will benefit all waterways users.

Reporting a marine incident may also help you if you decide to make insurance claims on any damage. Some insurance companies may require a marine incident report to validate claims.

Speed limits

Maximum speed limits apply in boating areas. For safety reasons, it may be necessary to adjust your speed, stay below these limits and operate for the conditions. See page 29 for information on safe speed.

A 6 knot speed limit applies to all boat harbours, marinas and canals in Queensland.



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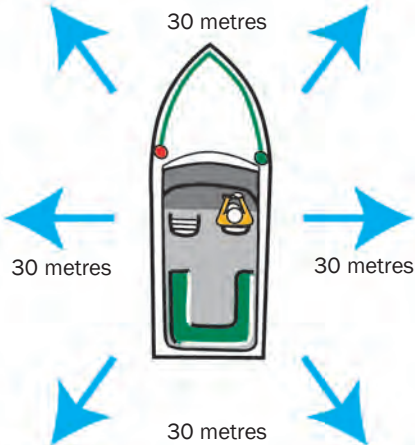
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Distance off

A speed limit of 6 knots within 30 metres of:

- boats anchored, moored to the shore or aground
- jetty, wharf, pontoon or boat ramp
- people in the water.



Except PWC's which must not operate at more than 6 knots within 60 meters of people in the water. See page 41 – 42 for all PWC rules.

Wash

Wash can create serious safety hazards for other boats, especially in marinas and anchorages where there is an expectation of calm conditions.


Wash can also create damage to:

- pontoons
- jetties
- vessels moored to these structures
- vessels in shallow water or anchored on a foreshore
- shorelines and river banks.

Even at slow speeds your boat will create wash. Responsible skippers look behind and ensure your wash is kept to a minimum. Be aware of the impact wash can have on other waterway users.

Unlawful operations

A person who is the owner or master of a ship must not operate the ship within 30 metres of a diver in the water if a code. A flag is displayed in the vicinity of the diver.




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Safety equipment

Having the right safety equipment on board and knowing how to use it is essential – it will save your life in an emergency.

What you are required to carry depends on the size of your boat, whether it needs to be registered and where you're operating.

Page 18 provides a list of the minimum safety equipment to be carried on all recreational boats and PWCs.

Be prepared for the unexpected!

Recommended safety equipment is optional but should be carried for safety – particularly by unregistered boats.

Safety equipment includes parts that can deteriorate over time. This lowers their usefulness or makes them unusable. You must check your safety equipment regularly to ensure it's in good condition. And some items will need to be replaced or serviced by the expiry date or according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Lifejackets

Lifejackets are a vital piece of safety equipment. Think of them like your seatbelt on the water.

All lifejackets are designed for different purposes, wearer ages, sizes and weights. So choosing the right life jacket is important.

Lifejackets must display information about which Australian Standard (AS) applies. The current standard is AS 4758 (AS 4758), which has replaced AS 1512–1996, AS 1499–1996 and AS 2260–1996. Lifejackets that meet these previous standards are still acceptable for use if they are in good condition.

AS 4758 has a different rating system than the previous standards. Here is how they compare:

| AS 4758 | Previous Australian lifejacket standards |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Level 50 special purpose | PFD Type 3 |
| Level 50 | PFD Type 2 |
| Level 100, Level 150 & Level 275 | PFD type 3 |

Level 100 - open waters

- AS 4758 compliant lifejackets will be marked 'Level 100', 'Level 150' or 'Level 275'
- AS 1512–1996 compliant lifejackets will be marked 'PFD type 1'
- will keep you face up in a floating position in calm water

- can be used in smooth, partially smooth and open waters
- not for use by personal watercraft (PWC) riders, skiers or people being towed.



Level 50 - partially smooth waters

- AS 4758 compliant lifejackets will be marked 'Level 50'
- AS 1499-1996 compliant lifejackets will be marked with 'PFD type 2'
- may not rotate you to float face up, but will return you to the surface
- can be used in smooth or partially smooth waters
- can be used by PWC riders beyond smooth and partially smooth waters.



Level 50 Special purpose (50S) - smooth waters

- AS 4758 compliant lifejackets will be marked 'Level 50 special purpose'
- AS 2260-1996 compliant lifejackets will be marked with 'PFD type 3'
- may be a wet suit with built in buoyancy
- may not rotate you to float face up, but will return you to the surface
- not suitable for use beyond smooth waters.



Inflatable lifejackets

- not recommended for use when waterskiing, tubing or riding a PWC
- must be gas inflated (must not rely solely on oral inflation)
- must follow the manufacturer's serving periods and instructions
- can be used in the waters allowed by its buoyancy level.



Coastal and SOLAS

- not recommended for use when waterskiing, tubing or riding a PWC
- designed to keep the body afloat for long periods

- these lifejackets have more flotation than a Level 100 lifejacket and have reflective tape and a whistle to attract attention
- can be used in all waters.



Compulsory wearing of life jackets

It is compulsory to wear a life jacket:

- when crossing a designated coastal bar* in an open boat that is less than 4.8 m in length
- if you are under the age of 12 (from 12 months and up to, but not including, 12 years of age) in an open boat that is less than 4.8 m in length and under way
- when riding a PWC, waterskiing or tubing.

*The designated coastal bars are listed on page 48.



If you're not wearing it, it can't save you – Wear it!

Life jacket checklist

- ✓ Do you have the right lifejackets for your whole trip?
- ✓ Are your lifejackets suited to your activity?
- ✓ Do you have enough lifejackets for everyone that will be on board and are they the right size?
- ✓ Are your lifejackets in good condition?
- ✓ If you will be boating at night, do your lifejackets have reflective tape to help other see you better at night?
- ✓ Do you have a 'LIFEJACKET' sticker on your boat to show others where the lifejackets are stored?

Distress signals, flares & EPIRBs

If you are in an emergency on the water and need help you can use distress signals, flares and EPIRBs to show you are in distress and need assistance.

Signalling devices are compulsory for all boats operating between sunset and sunrise. A torch, fluorescent light, lantern or cyalume stick are all suitable as long as they generate enough light to be seen by other boats and prevent a collision and attract attention.

Other distress signals include marine radio, flares, V sheet or a mobile phone.

Flares

Flares are a way for a boat in trouble to attract the attention of other boats or aircraft in the area.

All vessels and PWCs (excluding tenders not requiring registration) operating beyond smooth water limits must carry orange smoke and red hand flares as part of their safety equipment.



Always read the instructions and familiarise yourself with them before storing your flares on board. Store flares in a dry place where they will be readily accessible in an emergency.



Flares have a lifespan of three years and must be replaced prior to the expiry date.

Boaties are reminded to dispose of old flares correctly. Visit www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating for flare disposal locations in Queensland.

EPIRBs

An EPIRB is a small electronic device that, when activated, can help search and rescue authorities pinpoint your position. Once activated, EPIRBs continuously send out a signal for at least 48 hours.

All boats, including tenders **must** carry a 406MHz Emergency Positioning Radio Beacon (EPIRB) when operating more than 2 nautical miles from land.

EPIRBs must:

- comply with the Australian Standard 4280.1:2003
- be registered with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority – registration is free and must be renewed every 2 years
- have proof of current registration on board



For more information on EPIRBs visit www.beacons.amsa.gov.au.

Boaties should be aware that personal locator beacons are not acceptable substitutes for EPIRBs.

Search and rescue authorities respond to all activations – you must only activate the EPIRB in an emergency. If you accidentally activate an EPIRB or no longer require help you must tell them immediately by radioing your local volunteer marine rescue organisation or calling Rescue Co-ordination Centre's 24-hour emergency number on 1800 641 792. To avoid accidental activations store EPIRBs in an accessible place away from gear and passengers.

An EPIRB must be serviced or replaced according to the manufacturer's recommendations before it expires.

Boaties are reminded to dispose of old EPIRBs correctly. Battery World stores around Australia will accept and dispose of expired EPIRBs for a small fee. Do not dispose of your beacon in general waste as it will end up in landfill and could be activated inadvertently.

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| rescueME PLB1 Personal Locator Beacon | rescueME EPIRB1 Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon | rescueME MOB1 Man Overboard Device | rescueME EDF1 Electronic Distress Flare |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
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| GPS | GPS | GPS | 6 HOURS |
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Firefighting equipment

All registered recreational boats over 5 metres in length must carry firefighting equipment that can extinguish a fire quickly and effectively.

Ensure you buy your firefighting equipment from an authorised dealer who can work out the best type for your needs.

Fire extinguishers must be serviced at specified intervals or replaced according to the manufacturer's advice before it expires.



Navigation equipment

All boats operating in partially smooth waters and beyond should carry some form of navigation equipment for example, charts, compass or GPS.

GPS verification marks are installed at selected boat ramps for boaters to check the accuracy of on board GPS navigation equipment. Visit www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating for GPS verification mark locations in Queensland.

Check out Maritime Safety Queensland's free Beacon to Beacon Guides for selective waterways at www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating.

Other important equipment

It is recommended that all boats carry suitable:

- **Pumping and bailing equipment.** For boats under 5 metres, buckets are considered suitable bailing equipment. Boats 5 metres and over require a bilge pump.
- **Anchoring equipment.** All boats should carry a suitable anchor with a minimum of 2 metres of chain and a length of line suitable for the depth of water.

Danforth Anchor

Most commonly used by small craft as it has excellent holding power in mud and sand.



CQR or Plough Anchor

Used by larger, heavier boats.



Reef Anchor

Designed for coral or rock by using prongs that can straighten out, creating less environmental impact.



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Sea Anchor

A small drogue acting like a parachute, dramatically slows the rate of drift

- **Manual propulsion** equipment. Boats under 6 metres in length should carry oars or paddles in case of an emergency. If the boat has fittings for rowlocks, carry the correct length oars with rowlocks securely attached. If not, the paddles should be long and of sufficient strength to do the job.
- **Drinking water.** All boats should carry sufficient drinking water for everyone on board for the duration of the trip.

Marine radio

Marine radios are essential safety equipment and can be the only way to communicate with other boats or marine rescue groups and receive navigation warnings and weather updates.

Responsible skippers should know how to operate a marine radio, the distress and safety frequencies and how to properly format and transmit distress and safety messages.

Licences and certificates

Under federal regulations, operators of VHF and MF/HF radios are required to hold an operating certificate. Many Coast Guard and Volunteer Marine Rescue stations provide these courses or may advise where a local course is available.

Visit www.acma.gov.au and navigate to the 'marine, amateur and CB radio' pages for more information.

Mobile phones

Although commonly carried on boats, mobile phones are not be seen as a substitute for marine radio or emergency radio communications.

Coastal distress marine radio network

Maritime Safety Queensland has a 24 hours listening watch service to cover most coastal waters between Cooktown and the New South Wales border on VHF channels 16 and 67 for distress and urgency calls.

Volunteer marine rescue organisations play an important role in delivering the coastal distress marine radio network service. They maintain a listening watch during their operating hours. For more information on volunteer rescue stations and frequencies monitored in your area contact your local Australian Volunteer Coast Guard or Marine Rescue Queensland flotilla or the Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club Radio Room.



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Safety equipment for recreational boats and personal watercraft

- All equipment must be in good working order and not past the expiry date for replacement or service.
- “Boats not requiring registration” means recreational boats with an engine or auxiliary under 3 kW.
- “Boats requiring registration” means recreational boats with an engine or auxiliary of 3 kW or more.
- Safety equipment requirements also apply to international or interstate boats operating in Queensland.
- PWC means personal watercraft. For example a jet ski.
- “Required” means equipment that must be carried.
- “Recommended” means equipment that is suggested to be carried to meet the General Safety Obligation.

| Item | Smooth water | | | Partially smooth waters | | | Beyond smooth and partially smooth waters | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| | Not requiring registration | Registered* | PWC | Not requiring registration | Registered* | PWC | Not requiring registration | Registered* | PWC |
| EPIRB* (406 MHz) Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon. When operating more than 2nm from land. Must be registered with AMSA. Registration must be renewed every two years. | | | | | | | required | required | required |
| EPIRBs must have a printed expiry date and be replaced or serviced by the manufacturer (or authorised service agent) by this date; must comply with Australian Standard AS/NZ 4280.1:2003; and must be registered in the name of the owner/master with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. The registration sticker must be affixed to the beacon. | | | | | | | | | |
| Signalling device For example a torch, or fluorescent light, or lantern or cyalume stick. | required | required | required | required | required | required | required | required | required |
| Required when operating between sunset and sunrise. | | | | | | | | | |
| Personal flotation devices (PFDs)/life jackets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the appropriate size for each person (12 months and over) on board, except if a person is wearing an inflatable diver jacket and the vessel is engaged in diving activities. • Children under 12 must wear the PFD when underway in an open boat under 4.8 m. • Skiers or people being towed + PFD type 2, 3 or level 50 or level 50 special purpose, or wetsuit with inbuilt flotation approved as PFD type 3 in smooth waters. + PFD type 2 or level 50 in partially smooth waters. | PFD type 1, 2 or 3 or level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose recommended | PFD type 1, 2 or 3 or level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose required | PFD type 2 or 3 or level 50 or level 50 special purpose required | PFD type 1 or 2 or level 275, 150, 100 or level 50 recommended | PFD type 1 or 2 or level 275, 150, 100, or level 50 required | PFD type 2 or level 50 required | PFD type 1 or level 275, 150, or 100 recommended | PFD type 1 or level 275, 150 or 100 required | PFD type 2 or level 50 required |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the boat has positive flotation**, and grab handles, lines or a secure hold for each person onboard, a lifejacket is not required in a river, creek or stream, or waters contained within breakwaters or revetments • PFD not required for a registered* tender to a recreational boat if used within 1km of the primary boat and tender has a positive flotation statement** in the approved form. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFDs must be worn when crossing designated bars in open boats under 4.8m. • PFD not required for a registered* tender to a recreational boat if used within 1 km of the primary boat and tender has a positive flotation statement** in the approved form. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFDs must be worn when crossing designated bars in open boats under 4.8m. • PFD not required for a registered* tender to a recreational boat if used within 500 m of the primary boat and tender has a positive flotation statement** in the approved form. | | |
| V sheet | | | | recommended | required | required^ | recommended | required | required^ |
| Flares Two red hand flares and two hand held orange smoke signals. | | | | recommended | required | required^ | recommended | required | required^ |
| Fire fighting equipment All boats over 5m. Must be capable of extinguishing a fire quickly and effectively. | recommended | required | | recommended | required | | recommended | required | recommended |
| RideSmart sticker The sticker must be visible from steering position. | | | required | | | | required | | required |
| Capacity label Must be visible from all steering positions (except sailing ships). | | required | required | | required | required | | required | required |
| Capacity label can be either an Australian Builders Plate or a label issued by Maritime Safety Queensland. Not required for international or interstate boats operating in Queensland. | | | | | | | | | |

| Item | Smooth water | | | Partially smooth waters | | | Beyond smooth and partially smooth waters | | |
|--|---|-------------|-----|---|-------------|--------------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------|
| | Not requiring registration | Registered* | PWC | Not requiring registration | Registered* | PWC | Not requiring registration | Registered* | PWC |
| Navigation A chart and a liquid damped compass appropriate to the operational area, or other directional finding or positioning equipment. For a PWC without a chart or compass, an electronic navigation device appropriate to the operational area. | | | | recommended | recommended | recommended [^] | recommended | recommended | recommended [^] |
| Anchoring For boats less than 5m, the cable can be chain or rope. For boats over 5m, the cable can be chain of at least 2m attached to anchor and rope. Length of chain/rope should be appropriate for the depth of water you are anchoring in. For a PWC, an anchor and cable appropriate to area of operation. | recommended | recommended | | recommended | recommended | recommended [^] | recommended | recommended | recommended [^] |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> less than 5m, one anchor with 18m cable 5-8m, one anchor with 27m cable over 8m, two anchors with 37m cable each | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> less than 5m, one anchor with 27m cable 5-8m, one anchor with 27m cable over 8m, two anchors with 37m cable each | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> less than 5m, one anchor with 27m cable 5-8m, one anchor with 27m cable over 8m, two anchors with 37m cable each | | |
| Pumping/bailing equipment | recommended | recommended | | recommended | recommended | recommended [^] | recommended | recommended | recommended [^] |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> under 5m: suitable bailing equipment 5-8m: bilge pump 45L/minute capacity over 8m: bilge pump 70L/minute capacity | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> under 5m: suitable bailing equipment 5-8m: bilge pump 45L/minute capacity over 8m: bilge pump 70L/minute capacity | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> under 5m: suitable bailing equipment 5-8m: bilge pump 45L/minute capacity over 8m: bilge pump 70L/minute capacity | | |
| Manual propulsion Oars or paddles (boats under 6m). | recommended | recommended | | recommended | recommended | | recommended | recommended | |
| Drinking water Enough for everyone on board for the trip. | recommended | recommended | | recommended | recommended | recommended [^] | recommended | recommended | recommended [^] |

* Also includes boats/tenders that are required to be registered but are not.

** A positive flotation statement is a certificate, in the approved form, from a manufacturer or an accredited marine surveyor. It is not required to be carried on board, but an enforcement agency may ask the owner to provide proof of its existence.

[^] Does not apply to a PWC operating in an approved aquatic event or beyond partially smooth waters and within 0.5 nautical miles from land.

Owners/masters must give each person on board information about where the safety equipment is kept. PFDs (or life jackets) must be clearly visible to passengers or readily accessible and indicated by a clearly visible sign with a white background marked with the word 'life jackets' in red letters or vice versa.



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Safety equipment for tenders

- Tenders do not require registration if operated within 2 nautical miles (nm) of the primary boat.
- Tenders that do not require registration are not required to carry safety equipment other than a light for signalling.
- Skippers should equip a tender with safety equipment appropriate to the location of operation and recommended safety equipment under their general safety obligation.

TABLE 1 – Registration requirements for 6 metre or less recreational tenders

| Engine Power | Operating radius from parent ship | Must be registered |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| less than 3kW | Any distance | No |
| 3kW or more | Less than 2nm* (3.7km) | No |
| | 2nm (3.7km) or more | Yes |

*A tender to a registered recreational boat must be appropriately marked. The tender must be marked with the word 'tender' as well as the primary boat's registration numbers (at least 75mm high) on the exterior of the tender. If this is not possible, marked on the inside of the tender in the largest characters possible. The tender may be marked with the owner's name or business, if it is used for more than one of the owner's boats.

TABLE 2 – Safety and miscellaneous equipment for tenders to registered recreational ships

| Item | Smooth waters | | Partially smooth waters | | Beyond partially smooth waters | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| | Registered* | Not requiring registration | Registered* | Not requiring registration | Registered* | Not requiring registration |
| Personal flotation device (PFD)/life jacket for each person on board | Required | Recommended | Required | Recommended | Required | Recommended |
| | PFD type 1, 2 or 3 or level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose | PFD type 1, 2 or 3 or level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose ** | PFD type 1 or 2 or level 275, 150, 100, or level 50 | PFD type 1 or 2 or level 275, 150, 100, or level 50 ** | PFD type 1 or level 275, 150, 100 | PFD type 1 or level 275, 150, 100 ** |
| PFD/life jacket not required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operating within 1 kilometre of the primary ship and there is a positive flotation statement in the approved form for the tender • operates in a river, creek, stream, or the waters contained within breakwaters or revetments and is equipped with grab lines, grab rails or other permanent means of giving each person onboard a way of keeping a secure hold to the tender and there is a positive flotation statement in the approved form for the tender. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operating within 1 kilometre of the primary ship and there is a positive flotation statement in the approved form for the tender. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operating within 500 metres of the primary ship and there is a positive flotation statement in the approved form for the tender. | |
| Note: A positive flotation statement is a certificate, in the approved form, from a manufacturer or an accredited marine surveyor. It is not required to be carried on board, but an enforcement agency may ask the owner to provide proof of its existence. | | | | | | |
| Signalling device Operating between sunset and sunrise | Required | Required | Required | Required | Required | Required |
| | Lighting device for signalling to attract attention at night (for example, a torch, or lantern or fluorescent light or cyalume stick). Tenders operating between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with navigation lights. | | | | | |
| V sheet | | | Required | Recommended | Required | Recommended |

| Item | Smooth waters | | Partially smooth waters | | Beyond partially smooth waters | |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | Registered* | Not requiring registration | Registered* | Not requiring registration | Registered* | Not requiring registration |
| Flares two red hand flares and two orange smoke signals | | | Required | Recommended | Required | Recommended |
| Fire fighting equipment | Required | Recommended | Required | Recommended | Required | Recommended |
| | A registered* tender, more than 5 metres in length must be equipped with firefighting equipment capable of extinguishing a fire quickly and effectively. It is recommended that non-registrable tenders, more than 5 metres in length should also be equipped with firefighting equipment. | | | | | |
| EPIRB (406 MHz) | | | | | Required | Required |
| | Required when operating beyond partially smooth waters and more than 2nm (3.7 km) from land (that is, a part of the earth's surface other than a reef) above the ordinary high-water mark at spring tides). AMSA registration sticker must be affixed to the beacon. | | | | | |
| Navigation | | | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended |
| | A liquid damped compass and a navigation chart appropriate to the operational area. | | | | | |
| Anchoring | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 5m – one anchor with at least 18m of cable • 5m to 6m – an anchor with at least 27m of cable | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 5m – one anchor with at least 27m of cable • 5m to 6m – an anchor with at least 27m of cable | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 5m – one anchor with at least 27m of cable • 5m to 6m – an anchor with at least 27m of cable | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a tender less than 5m, the cable can be a chain or rope • For a tender 5m or more, the cable can be a chain or a chain of at least 2m attached to the anchor and a rope The type and weight of anchor and length and thickness of the cable should be appropriate for the type and weight of ship, the weather and sea conditions and the nature of the seabed. | | | | | |
| Pumping/bailing equipment | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 5m – bailing equipment appropriate for the type of ship • 5m to 6m – a pump or other bailing equipment with a minimum capacity of 45L per minute is recommended | | | | | |
| Manual propulsion | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended |
| | A tender less than 6m should be equipped with a way of manually propelling the ship, for example oars or paddles. | | | | | |
| Drinking water | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended |
| | Enough drinking water for everyone on board for the duration of the intended voyage. | | | | | |
| Capacity label | Required | | Required | | Required | |
| | A capacity label must be permanently attached to the registrable tender in a place that is adjacent to each steering position in the tender and allows the capacity label to be seen clearly from the steering position. (Does not apply to a recreational ship that is not required to be registered.) | | | | | |

Note: *Also includes tenders that are required to be registered but are not.

**In circumstances where Queensland marine safety legislation does not prescribe the safety equipment for a vessel, owners and operators of these vessels are reminded of their general safety obligation under legislation to operate their vessels safely. The *Transport Operations (Marine Safety-Recreational Ships Miscellaneous Equipment) Standard 2006* provides vessel owners and operators with guidance to assist them with the discharge of this obligation.

Water limits

Because Queensland's waterways are so diverse there are designated water limits affecting the types of safety equipment required.

There are three types of limits:

- smooth waters include rivers, creeks, streams and lakes, waters within breakwaters or revetments and within half a nautical mile from land within partially smooth limits and other waters specified in legislation
- partially smooth waters are determined by Maritime Safety Queensland and are specified in legislation
- open waters are areas beyond these limits.

A complete list of maps showing these designated water limits on page 23 – 28.

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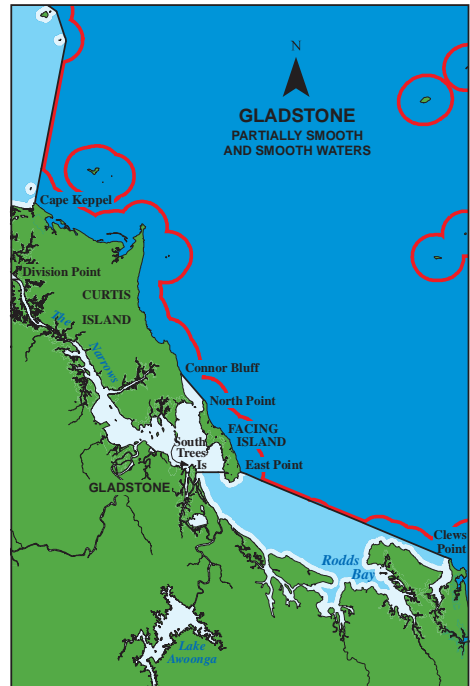
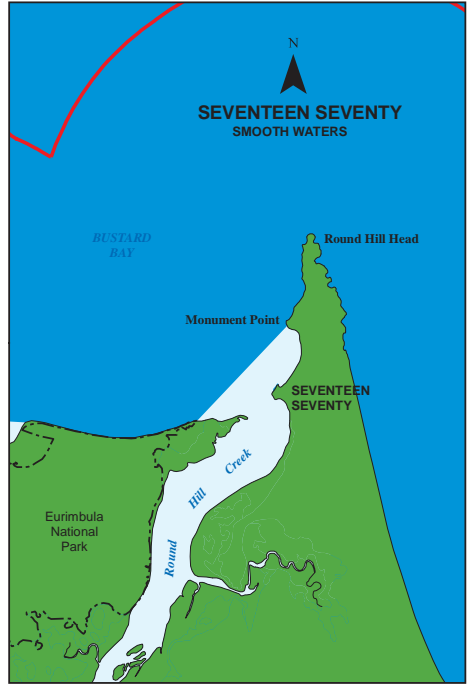
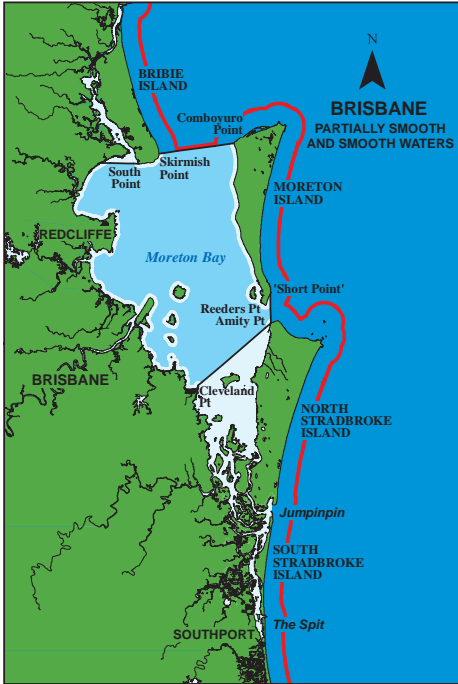
Legend

 smooth waters

 partially smooth waters

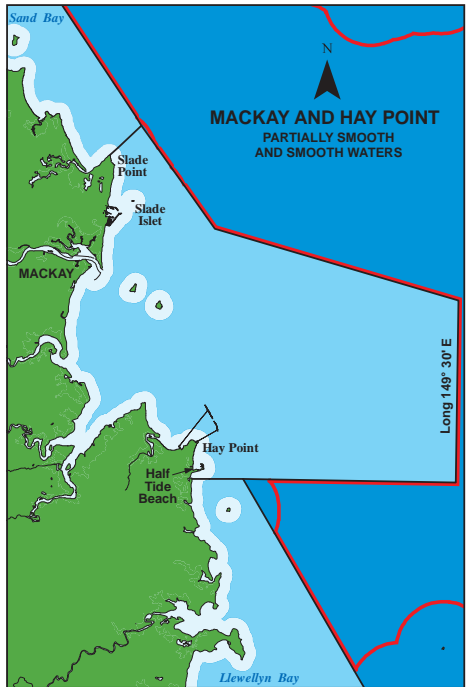
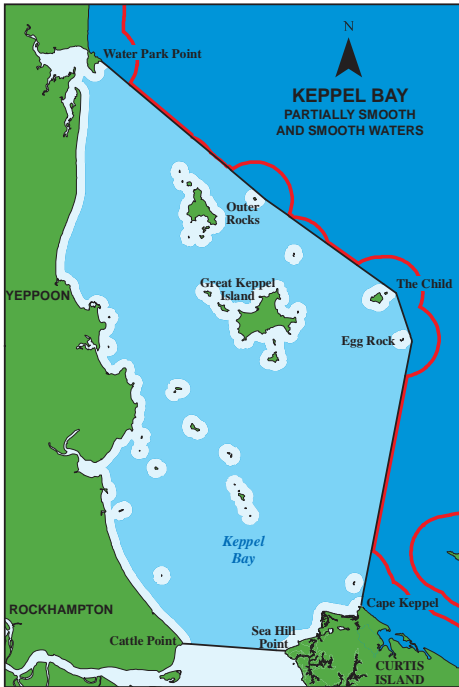
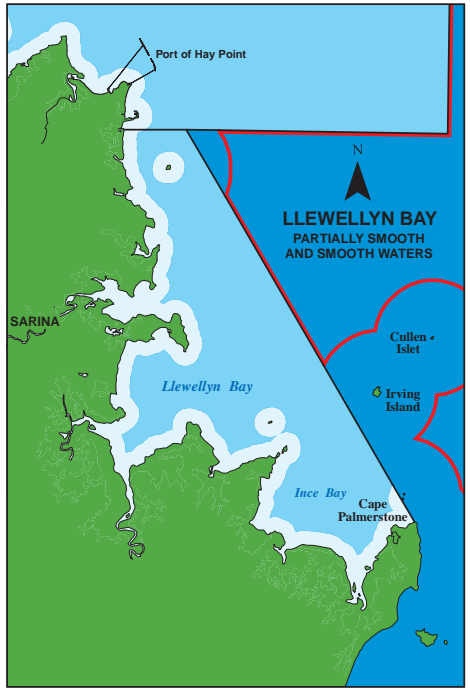
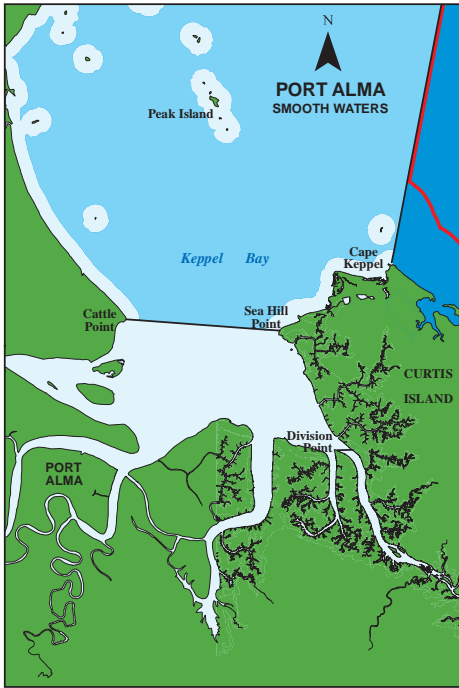
 open waters

 the red line designates limits beyond which EPIRBs must be carried.



Legend

- smooth waters
- partially smooth waters
- open waters
- the red line designates limits beyond which EPIRBs must be carried.



Legend



smooth waters



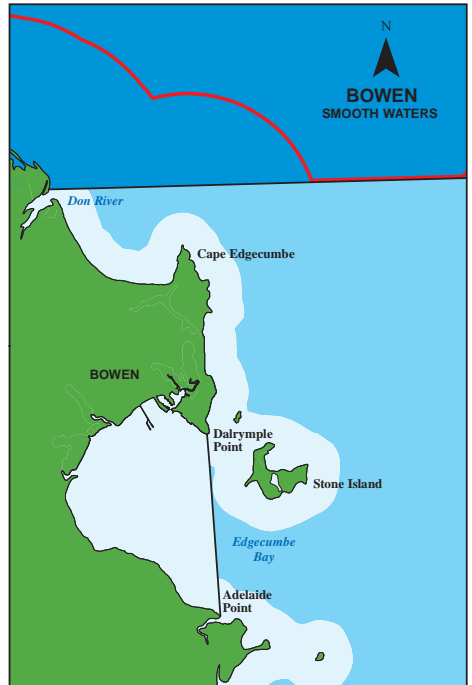
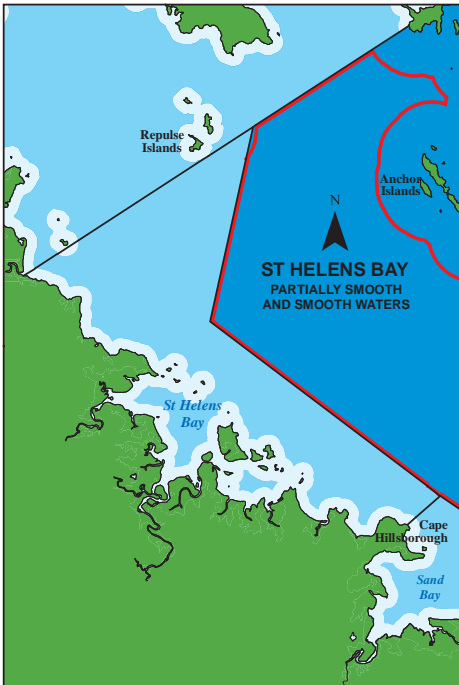
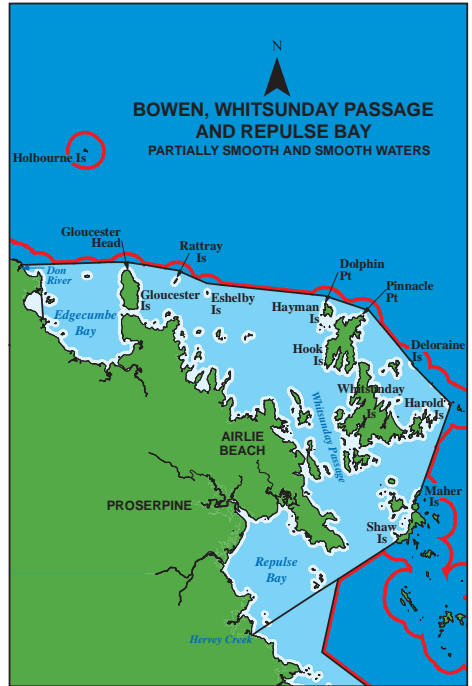
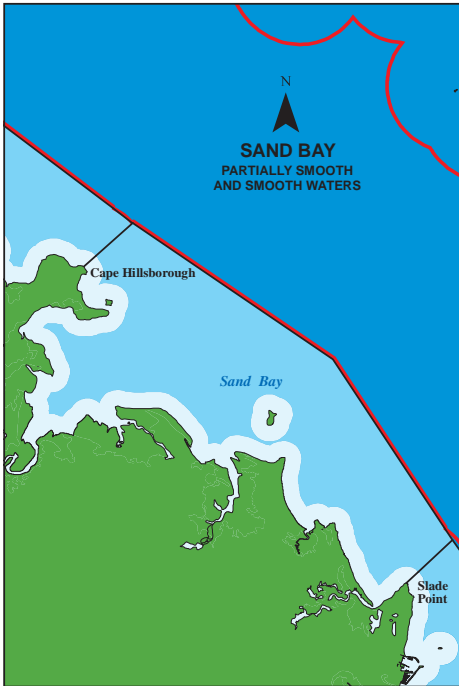
partially smooth waters




open waters




the red line designates limits beyond which EPIRBs must be carried.




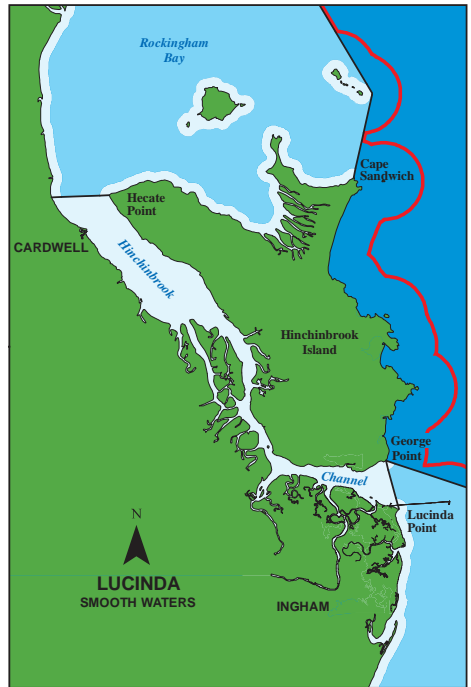
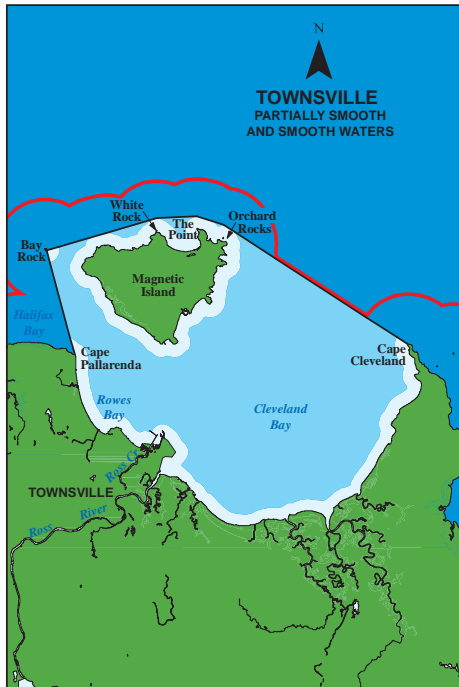
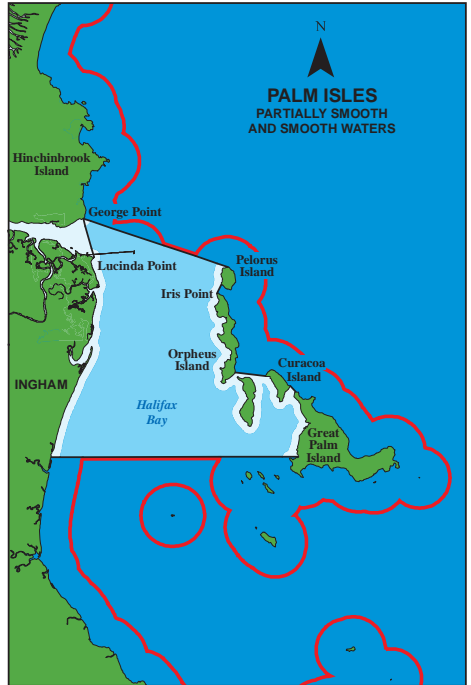
Legend

 smooth waters

 partially smooth waters

 open waters

 the red line designates limits beyond which EPIRBs must be carried.



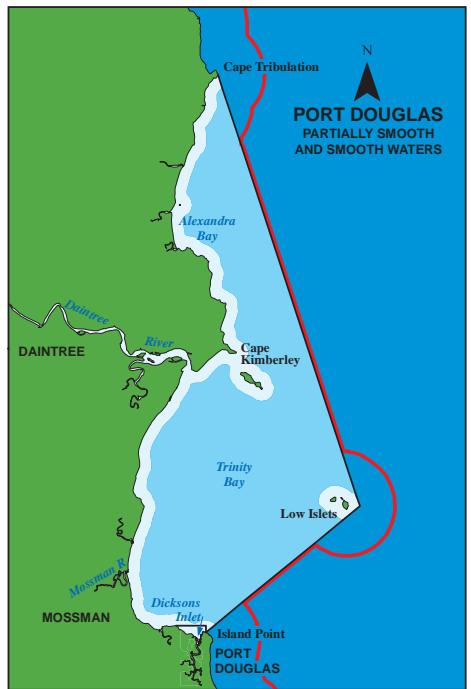
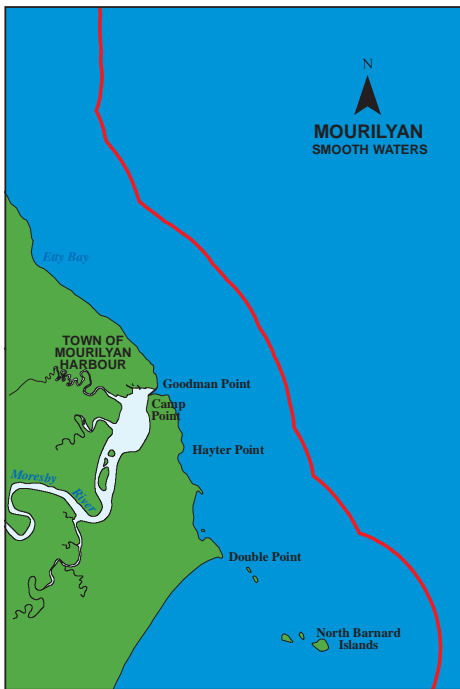
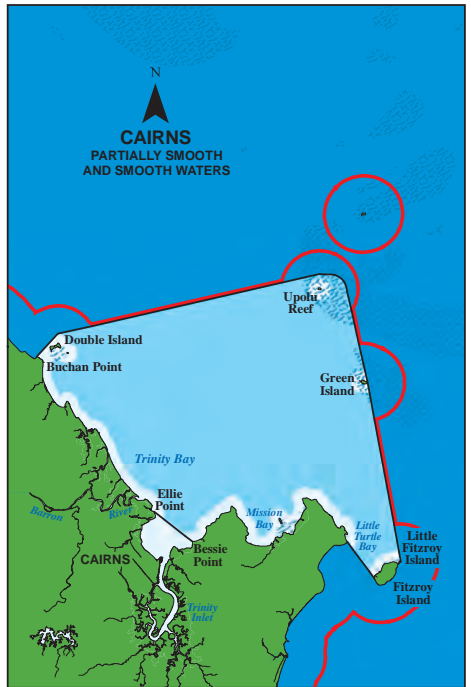
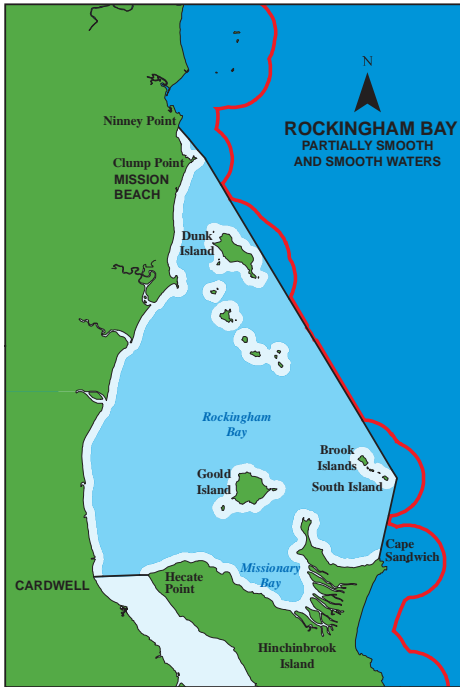
Legend

smooth waters

partially smooth waters

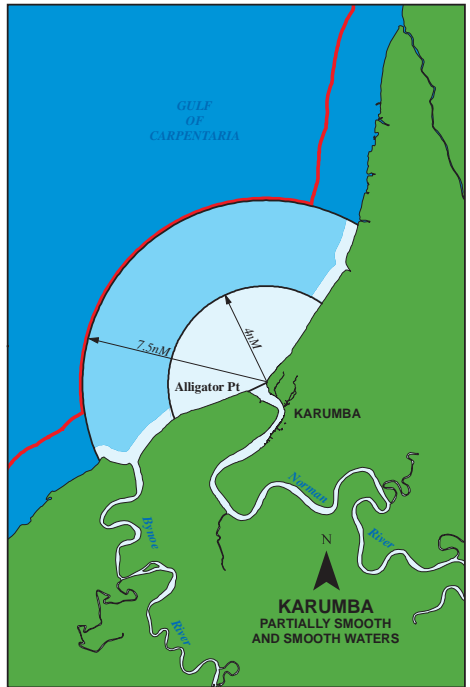
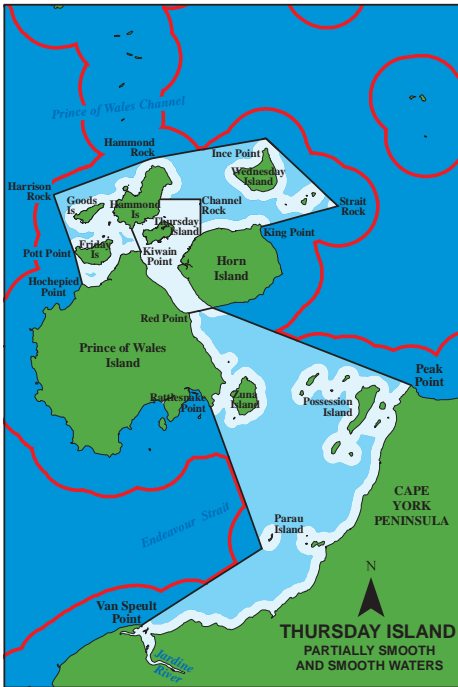
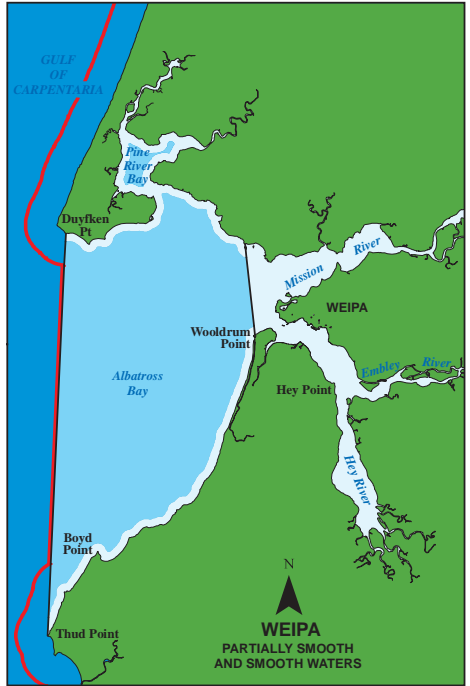
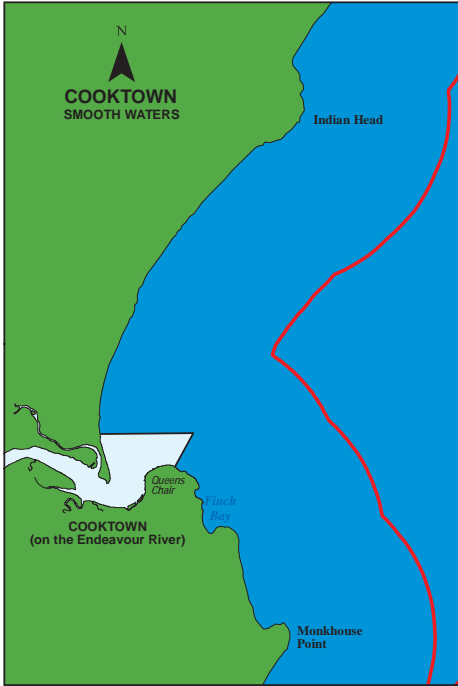
open waters

the red line designates limits beyond which EPIRBs must be carried.



Legend

- smooth waters
- partially smooth waters
- open waters
- the red line designates limits beyond which EPIRBs must be carried.



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Safe operation

It is the responsibility of every boat owner and skipper to operate the boat under their control in a safe manner.

Operating safely combines the following:

- the boat is in good condition and safe to operate
- crew and passengers are safe
- the right equipment is on board and ready to be used
- crew and passengers know what to do in an emergency
- the skipper is competent in operating the boat
- rules are followed so that other waterway users are not injured by unsafe operations.

Driving a boat is very different to driving a car. There are a range of rules that you must know as a boat owner or skipper.

Do not be complacent because of the perception of open water. Often narrow channels restrict boats to passing close to one another, and between beacons and shallow banks. There is plenty to hit when driving a boat.

Navigating checklist

- ✓ **Visibility:** Operate slowly in rain, fog, mist, smoke and glare. Take special care when travelling at night as potential hazards are harder to see.
- ✓ **Other boats:** Slow down in busy areas and when near moored or anchored boats, and remember – working boats and larger ships may have difficulty manoeuvring.
- ✓ **Navigation hazards:** Slow down in shallow areas and when boating in unfamiliar water. Water depth can vary and change quickly, particularly in freshwater.
- ✓ **Wind, waves and currents:** These may affect the boat's stopping and turning ability. The type of motor, hull and design will all impact on the boat's manoeuvrability.

Skipper safety

Most boats have a fixed throttle system. This means the skipper can set the throttle for a specific speed and the engine will maintain revolutions until the throttle is altered unlike a motor vehicle which has a spring operated foot accelerator.



With a fixed throttle system, if the skipper leaves or is thrown from the helm position, the vessel will maintain speed until the throttle is altered to reduce speed. It is strongly recommended that the skippers of all boats, but especially tiller steered boats, have a throttle lanyard attached to their wrist which will stop the motor instantly if the skipper loses control of the boat.

Ensure you wear a safety lanyard at all times that will stop the motor in emergencies.

How to avoid marine incidents

Most marine incidents are avoidable and are often caused through inattention, lack of knowledge and experience, or complacency of the skipper.

Collisions

Make your intentions clear - Actions must be clear and deliberate so other skippers can see your intentions. Never assume the skipper of another boat will observe the rules; always be prepared to take action to avoid a collision.

Keep a proper lookout - A proper lookout, through sight and sound, must be kept at all times. Slow down and take extra precautions in bad weather, restricted visibility and the hours of darkness to assist with the early detection of other boats in the area.

Assess risk of collision and take action - Use all means available to assess whether other boats pose a risk of collision. If a risk of collision exists take early positive action (changing course and/or speed) to eliminate the risk. Never assume the other boat will automatically 'give way'.

Groundings

Know the waterway - plan your trip and use navigational aids such as charts, GPS and beacons.

Pay attention - many groundings occur because the skipper misreads a beacon through inattention.

Tides - the height of the tide may mean some waterways are unnavigable at certain times. Check out Maritime Safety Queensland's free Tide Tables for official tidal predictions for Queensland ports www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating.

Capsizes

Boats capsize or swamp mostly because of poor stability or rough conditions. Poor stability is caused by excess weight on board, whether it is people or cargo, and where the weight is positioned. It is essential to position weight as low as possible and ensure the bow or stern is not lower than the other. If the boat appears to be slow to respond to a roll or pitch then the boat is overloaded.

In rough conditions the boat relies on the bow to provide lift into the prevailing sea condition whether it is wind chop or ocean swell. When a boat breaks down or is drifting, the wind will turn the bow away from the wave direction and the stern will face into the waves. This is a dangerous situation as the stern or transom usually has the lowest freeboard and is subject to taking water.

If you break down or are adrift in rough conditions, anchor immediately if practical or deploy a drogue (a bucket can act as a drogue) to keep the bow into the sea. Never anchor your boat by the stern. Even the passing wake of a boat can come over the transom and cause a swamping.

Speeding

All boats must travel at a safe speed so you can act to avoid a collision and stop the boat in time to avoid any danger that arises suddenly. Wash created by speed must not cause any damage to the shoreline.

The skipper of a boat must operate the boat at less than six knots (about the same as a brisk walking pace) or the speed necessary to safely control and manoeuvre the boat if it is causing excessive wash.

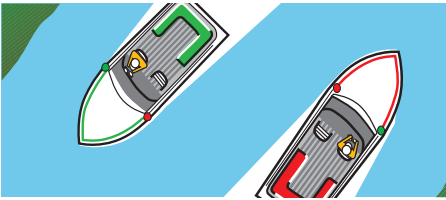
Collision rules

The 'International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea' (Colregs) are the traffic laws of the sea. They give clear indication about passing, approaching, giving way and overtaking to avoid collisions with other boats.

All boat skippers must thoroughly understand and apply the rules in all situations.

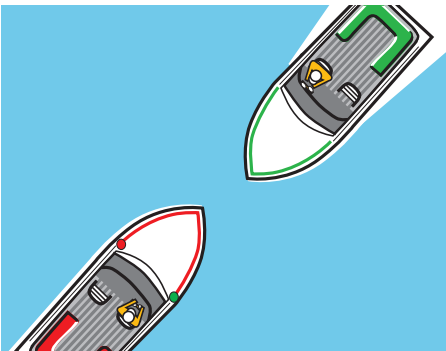
Channels

When navigating in narrow channels, all boats should travel on the starboard side or right hand side of the channel and pass oncoming boats on the port side.



If plenty of distance separates two passing boats, there's no need to deliberately alter course to pass to the right of the other boat. The rule is simply there to remove doubt in the event of a close situation.

Small boats (including sailing boats) should keep clear of large boats that have limited room to manoeuvre in channels.



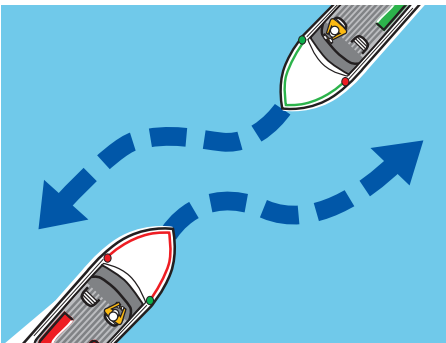
Giving way

Power boats

Golden rule: 'look all around, give way to the right, turn to the right and stay to the right'.

Head on

When meeting head on, both boats are required to alter course to starboard (right), never to port (left). Any turn should be large enough to be obvious to the other boat.



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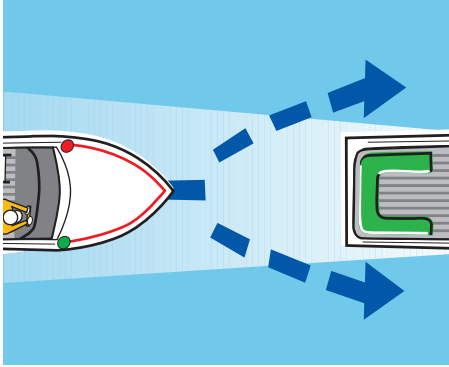
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Overtaking

If you are overtaking a boat, you can do so to either side of the boat you wish to pass. However, you must keep well clear of the boat you are overtaking. This applies to both sail and powerboats. In narrow channels you must be particularly careful when overtaking. In all instances, make sure you do not cut in front of the boat you have overtaken.

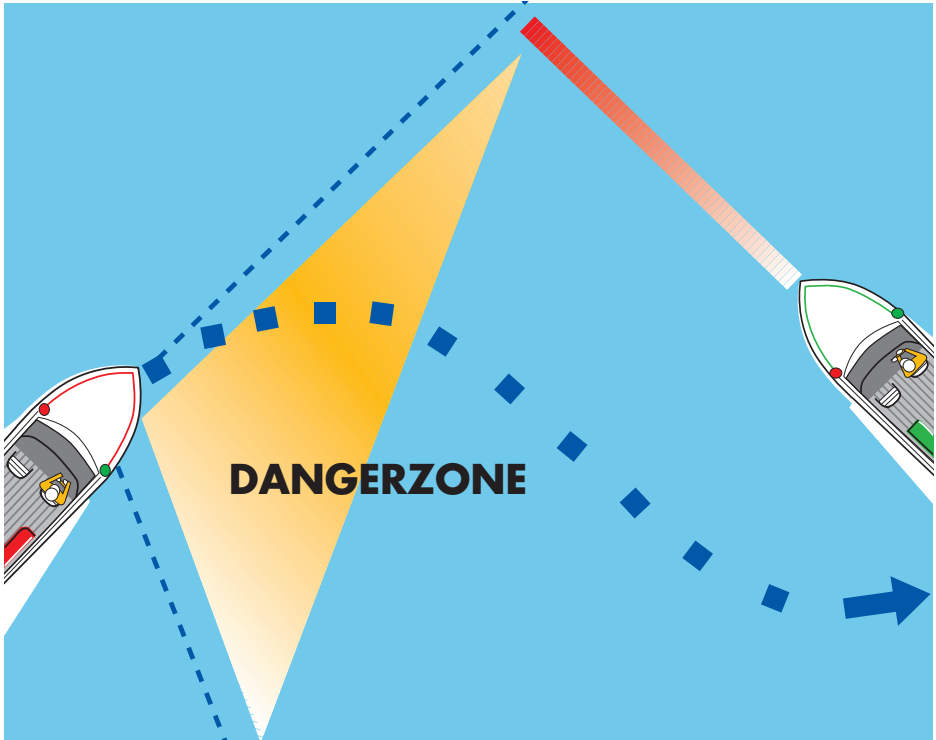


Sailing boats

Wind on different side

When each sailing boat has the wind on a different side, the boat with wind on the port side shall keep out of the way of the other.

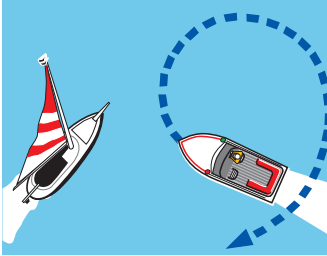
If sailing a boat with the wind on the port side and you see a sailing boat to windward and cannot determine with certainty whether the boat has the wind on the port or starboard side, take action to keep clear.



Wind on the same side

When both sailing boats have the wind on the same side, the boat to windward shall keep out of the way of the boat to leeward.

Note: The windward side is the side opposite to that on which the mainsail is carried or, in the case of a square-rigged boat, the side opposite to that on which the largest fore and aft sail is carried.



Power and sail

A power boat generally gives way to sail unless the sailing boat is in the process of overtaking it. However, don't expect large, less

manoeuvrable boats under power to give way. All small craft should give large boats a wide berth.

Sound signals

Most recreational boats do not use sound signals. However, they are used by ships and larger vessels. Boats over 12 metres should carry sound signals, a whistle and a bell. Vessels under 12 metres should have some means of making an efficient sound signal. You should be aware of signals and what action you should take when you hear a signal. Sound signals may be accompanied by light signals.

All boats should use sound signals in restricted visibility to alert others of their position. Use common sense and slow your boat or stop, and be ready to take immediate action. Be extremely cautious when operating in restricted visibility.

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One short blast means

'I am altering my course to starboard'.

Two short blasts mean

'I am altering my course to port'.

Three short blasts mean

'I am operating engines astern'
(the boat may be reversing or stopping).

Five (or more) short blasts mean

'I am unsure of your intentions'.

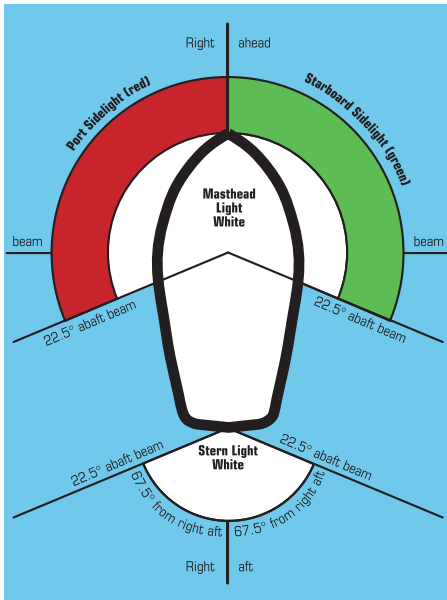
Navigation lights

Are your navigation lights fitted correctly?

It is important that lights are fitted according to the collision regulations so that other boats can determine what type of boat you are and the course you are on.

A common mistake is the fitting of the red and green sidelights on the same angle of the curve of the bow of the boat. This results in the angles of light crossing over each other when seen from head on. This also affects the side view.

Side lights must be kept parallel to the centreline of the boat.



- By law, boats operating from sunset to sunrise, whether at anchor or under way, must display the correct lighting. A boat is 'under way' when it is not at anchor, made fast to shore or aground (this includes drifting).

- Navigation lights must also be used in daylight hours during periods of restricted visibility or in other circumstances when it is deemed necessary.
- Lights must be placed and displayed appropriate to the size and class of your boat. These lights tell other boat skippers about the boat and what it is doing – whether it is at anchor, under sail or motoring.
- Navigation lights must be positioned so they are not obscured by the boat's superstructure or interfered with by the deck lights. They should be fitted by the manufacturer or an authorised person.
- The masthead and/or all-round white light must be fitted (if practical) on the centre line (bow to stern) of the boat and positioned a minimum of one metre above the side lights. When operating at night, carry replacement bulbs.

Incorrect installation



Correct installation



Minimum required lights

Boats under way

Power boats

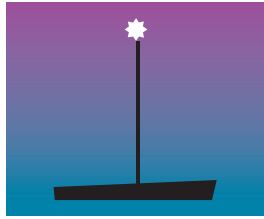
- Less than 7 metres in length with a maximum speed not exceeding 7 knots – a white light visible all round and, if possible, separate or combined sidelights.
- Less than 12 metres in length:
 - separate or combined sidelights, a masthead

- light and a stern light or
- separate or combined sidelights, an all-round white light.



Sailing boats

- Less than 7 metres in length – the lights required for sailing boats over 7 metres in length. If not, a torch or lantern showing a white light ready to display to avoid a collision.
- More than 7 metres in length and less than 20 metres in length:
 - a) combined lantern at or near the top of the mast that incorporates sidelights and stern light or
 - b) separate sidelights and stern light.



Boats moored or at anchor

The *International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea 1972* (COLREGS) require vessels at anchor to display an all round white light, where it may be best seen, between the hours of sunset and sunrise and during times of restricted visibility.

Under the COLREGS, the anchor light must be visible for 2 nautical miles for all vessels up to 50 metres in length.

There are many other combinations of lights used on boats. The lights shown will relate to the activity the boat or ship is engaged in (for example fishing, dredging, not under command).

A simple rule of thumb for a small powerboat is to stay clear of any boats exhibiting additional lights.

Navigation at night


The waterways are not like well-defined roads. It is unsafe to navigate a boat with lights illuminating the water directly ahead because it will deprive you and other boat skippers of night vision.

Spotlights can be used to identify specific hazards, but this should be done only when operating at very slow speed and without affecting other waterway users.

The most important rules to remember when driving a boat at night are to slow down and keep a good lookout.

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


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Night navigation tips

- ✓ Not all navigation hazards have lights indicating their position (examples are shallow banks, oyster leases, and many navigation markers).
- ✓ It is difficult to judge distances at night.
- ✓ Background lighting can cause confusion.
- ✓ All boats are required to show lights.
- ✓ A safe speed is a speed at which sufficient action can be taken in time to prevent a collision.
- ✓ Keep an extra good lookout.

Boats with limited manoeuvrability

Many work boats operate in Queensland waterways. The nature of the activities undertaken by these craft means that they are often stationary and not always noticed by passing vessel traffic. The effects of wash on a stationary workboat can pose a considerable risk, as crew are often moving between the vessel and a fixed structure, for example, a marine aid to navigation. To protect vessels and their crew, internationally recognised marine signals are displayed. When a vessel displaying any of these signals is sighted, other traffic should stay clear and preferably slow down, to minimise wash.

| Vessel situation | Day shapes | 'Signature lights' |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Restricted in ability to manoeuvre |  |  |
| Not under command |  |  |

A vessel displaying the combination of flags shown, either separately or in conjunction with one of the above signals, is requesting that passing boats slow down.



IALA buoyage system

A system of buoys, spars and lights, known as IALA Buoyage System 'A' is used to assist safe navigation.

These are the equivalent of road signs on highways.

Each type of mark has a unique combination of colour, shape, topmark and light. You must be able to recognise these and pass them safely on the correct side.

Lateral marks

Port and starboard marks are referred to as lateral marks. They indicate the port-hand and starboard-hand sides of navigable waters (channels).

When both a port and starboard mark are placed near to each other, travel directly between them.

Often lateral marks are not placed in pairs where the safe side to pass is generally determined by the direction of travel to or from the sea, or a predetermined local direction of buoyage.

When going upstream (away from the sea)

- Keep **red** (port-hand marks) on the **left-hand** side (to port)
- Keep **green** (starboard-hand marks) on the **right-hand** side (to starboard)

When going downstream (towards the sea)

- Keep **red** (port-hand marks) on your **right-hand** side (to starboard)
- Keep **green** (starboard-hand marks) on your **left-hand** side (to port)

Local direction of buoyage

Where there is doubt, the direction of buoyage is indicated on charts by the symbol:



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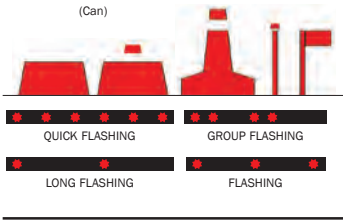
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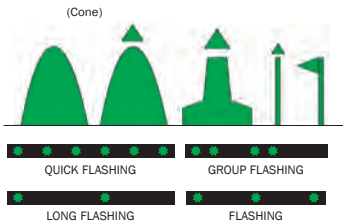
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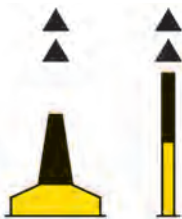
Cardinal marks

A cardinal mark indicates where the deepest and safest water can be found. That is, where the mariner has safe passage. It may also indicate the safe side on which to pass a danger and to draw attention to a feature in the channel such as a bend or junction.

NORTH

Safe water to the North of the cardinal

Top marks point 'up' toward the NORTH for safest water. At night the frequency of the flashes are an uninterrupted quick flash.



SOUTH

Safe water to the South of the cardinal

Topmarks both point 'down' towards the SOUTH for safe water. The frequency of flashes is 6 quick flashes in a group followed by a long flash.



EAST

Safe water to the East of the cardinal

The topmarks are in the shape of an egg, so remember the e of egg is for safe water to the EAST. The frequency of the flashes is 3 quick flashes in a group.



WEST

Safe water to the West of the cardinal

The topmarks make the shape of a wine glass so remember the w of wine glass is for safe water to the WEST. The frequency of the flashes is 9 quick flashes in a group.



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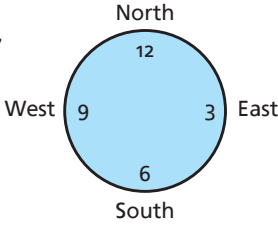
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Boating in Queensland

To remember the light flash rates for cardinal marks, the number of flashes for east, south and west agrees with a clock face.



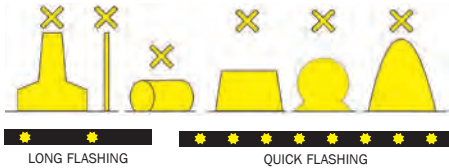
A north mark has a continuous flashing light.

Special marks

Special marks can be used to mark a specific structure or feature such as a cable or pipeline, or to indicate that a channel divides. The direction to navigate around a special mark is often obvious by using a chart.

At night the light is yellow and the rhythm may be any other than those used for the white lights of a cardinal, isolated danger and safe water marks.

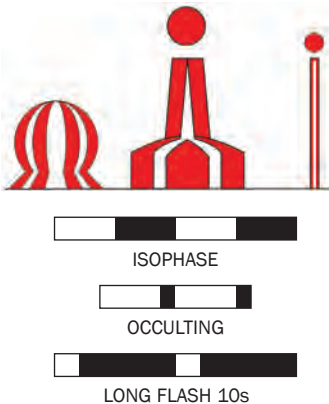
Variations in the design of buoys will exist in many areas. Illustrations indicate the approved shapes, colouring and topmarks.



Safe water marks

Indicates that there is navigable water all around the mark – for example, mid channel.

At night a white light shows a single long flash every 10 seconds. To remember this, associate a single sphere with a single flash.



Isolated danger marks

Indicates there is an isolated danger with navigable water all around it – for example, an isolated shoal, rock or wreck.

At night a white flashing light shows groups of two flashes. The best way to remember this is to associate two flashes with two spheres as the topmarks.



Emergency wreck marking buoy

The emergency wreck marking buoy is designed to provide high visual and radio aid to navigation recognition.



Boating in ship navigation areas

The chances of large ships and small boats interacting is high in shipping channels, pilot boarding grounds, anchorages, swing basins or port berths.

Ships can approach quickly and silently and do not have brakes. Large ships often travel at speeds over 20 knots and can have a stopping distance equal to 28 football fields (2.5 nautical miles).

A small boat rarely appears on ship's radar and can be unseen from the helm of the ship. This blind spot can extend several nautical mile because the bow of the ship and its cargo obscures the view.

When travelling in narrower channels, large ships can have very low under-keel clearance and cannot turn or slow down.

Skippers of smaller boats should avoid or keep clear of these areas.

Ship navigation area tips

- ✓ Maintain a constant lookout at all times, using all means available.
- ✓ Monitor the appropriate VHF channel for the area when near shipping traffic and keep up-to-date with local traffic movement information.
- ✓ Don't rely only on mobile phones for marine communications– the ship's captain or pilot won't know your number, and you don't know theirs!
- ✓ Always cross a shipping channel at 90 degrees behind a ship and only when it is clear and safe to travel.
- ✓ Never cross in front of a large ship. If a small boat breaks down or runs out of fuel this can end with disastrous results.
- ✓ Between sunset and sunrise and when visibility is restricted show the correct navigation lights.
- ✓ Don't anchor near, or fish in, channel or near navigation aids marking designated shipping channels.

Navigating with a Global Positioning System (GPS)

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are commonly found on recreational boats, and while a good navigation aid, they should not be relied upon (like any other electronic equipment dependent on battery power). A GPS is able to provide a latitude and longitude, updated almost continuously. This can then be plotted on a chart and should be verified with a compass.

There have been a number of navigational incidents, where boats have run aground and into obstructions, attributed to people using GPS data alone. Some positions given by GPS will need to be adjusted due to differing datum (see cautionary advice on charts). As with all fixes, the GPS position should be checked against something else.

A GPS is not a substitute for sound watch keeping and navigational practices and should be used only in conjunction with other aids to navigation.

Masters should still maintain a proper lookout while the vessel is underway to identify any approaching hazards.

When going to a waypoint in a straight line, check what is in between your boat's initial location and the waypoint.

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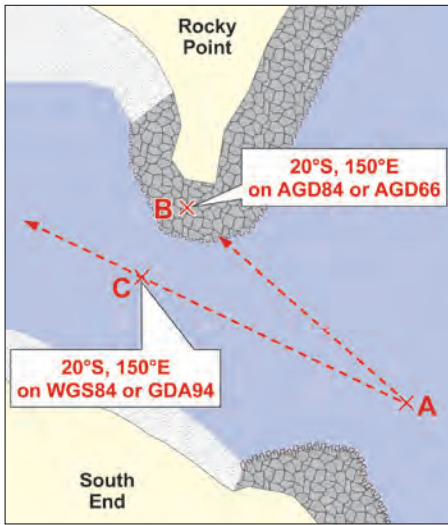
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Forecast information is available from the Bureau of Meteorology and is regularly broadcast on VHF radio channel 67 by volunteer marine rescue organisations.

Visit www.bom.gov.au for the latest weather forecasting. Check out the MetEye forecast maps which are adjusted by meteorologists to better represent expected weather. It also allows you to better select the weather information you want for your boating area.

Personal safety is the number one priority. At the first sign of bad or severe weather, make sure everyone on board is wearing a lifejacket. If you cannot get back to your mooring or boat ramp, look for shelter in rivers or creeks with a mangrove fringe to act as a buffer from the wind. If you are in a marina or hardstand area, ask the manager for instructions.

Boating weather

Be prepared!

Always check marine weather forecasts before you go boating. And keep checking them while you are on the water.

Extreme weather events and cyclones

Severe weather season in Queensland is from November to April. Boat skippers need to ensure that they make all possible preparations for extreme weather, cyclones and flooding.

Don't leave preparations to the last minute. All boat owners are responsible for ensuring that their boat is properly maintained, able to reasonably withstand the weather they may encounter and you are prepared.

Maritime Safety Queensland has plans in place for extreme weather events to reduce the damage caused by cyclones and tidal surges in most harbours throughout the state.

Extreme weather event contingency plans vary from region to region. Ensure you are familiar with the warning and/or alert levels used in your area, as they can differ. Copies of the extreme weather contingency plans are available at Maritime Safety Queensland offices or by visiting www.msq.qld.gov.au.

You must obey and follow all direction issues by the Regional Harbour Master during extreme weather events. And don't leave your cyclone mooring or shelter until the harbour master has given the all clear.

Prepare, plan and obey these simple rules and you could prevent damage to your boat and others.

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Personal watercraft

Whether you own or just borrow a PWC, it is important to RideSmart by understanding the safety rules and regulations for PWC's in Queensland.

It's easy to lose track of how close you are to the shore, fixed objects and other waterway users - keep a proper look out at all times. To gain the most enjoyment from your PWC ride where you can have fun but remain mindful of others - **RideSmart!**

Personal watercraft licensing

It is compulsory for all PWC riders to hold a personal watercraft licence (PWCL) in addition to a recreational marine driver licence (RMDL).

A supervised unlicensed driver is not allowed to carry passengers. A supervising PWCL holder must wear the kill switch safety lanyard when the PWC is being driven by an unlicensed driver.

To obtain a PWCL you must be aged 16 years or older and pass an approved BoatSafe course. A valid recreational marine driver licence is a prerequisite for the PWC licence.

Note:

- equivalent interstate PWCL are acceptable and transferable to Queensland's PWCL
- restricted PWC Licence issued to children in states such as New South Wales and Victoria are not accepted or transferable to Queensland's PWCL
- short-term visitors to Queensland can use their boat licence if that is all that is required to operate a PWC in their home state.

Personal watercraft registration

All PWCs must be registered and must display:

- registration symbols on both sides
- symbols which are at least 100mm high and in a contrasting colour to the hull
- symbols which are visible from 30 metres when the PWC is underway
- registration sticker on the port side adjacent to the registration symbols

- a capacity label and a RideSmart sticker in a location that is visible to the PWC rider at all times.

Safety equipment for personal watercraft

See page 18 for safety equipment requirements.

It is recommended that PWCs operating in partially smooth and open waters also carry navigation equipment, anchoring, pumping/bailing equipment and drinking water.

PWC riders and passengers must wear a lifejacket at all times. See page 12 for information on lifejackets.

Navigation lights

PWCs travelling at night or at times of reduced visibility must show navigation lights - sidelights and either an all-round white light or a stern and masthead light.



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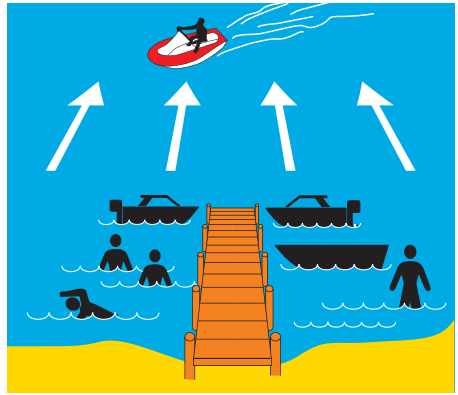
Boating in Queensland

- people in the water
- from anchored or moored boats, boat ramps, jetties or pontoons
- the shore
- boundary of bathing reserve.

Exceptions apply to '6 knots within 60 metres from the shore' rule under the following conditions:

- the waterway is less than 120 metres wide and the PWC is navigated in as close as practicable to a straight line to transit the area and the PWC stays as close as is practicable to the centre of the waterway or a marked channel
- the PWC is being used in waterskiing/towing.

PWCs must also remain under 10 knots within 30 metres of another moving vessel (unless the PWC is involved in an approved aquatic event or where doing so would endanger the driver or another person).



Remember to consider the density of waterway traffic in the area to determine a safe speed and adjust accordingly.

In coastal waters, freestyling or wave jumping is not permitted when:

- in any 6 knot zone including harbours, marinas and speed zones as signed
- within 200 metres of the shore if dwellings are within 100 metres of the shore line and those dwellings are visible to the PWC rider.

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Water sports

Queensland's waterways are shared by all types of boats used for water sports. Non-motorised craft such as sail boats, windsurfers, canoes, kayaks, surfskis and kitesurfs are classified as boats and must follow marine safety rules and regulations.

Water skiing

Water skiing involves towing people behind a boat on skis, bare feet, inflatable toys, boards and parasailing.

The skipper of the boat or PWC is responsible for the safety of others and must be appropriately licensed. They have a general safety obligation to:

- make sure the boat is capable of towing skiers
- have the correct safety equipment for skiers and passengers
- operate the boat as safely as possible and check the area is safe for skiing.

Observers

You must not drive a boat towing a skier unless there is another person, the observer, on board. The observer must be more than 12 years old and competent to watch the skier at all times. They must immediately tell the skipper if:

- there is a danger, or potential for danger, to the skier
- the skier signals the observer
- the skier has a fall or mishap
- a vessel is approaching from behind

Life jackets for skiers

When water skiing, the skier must wear a life jacket at all times:

- Level 50 or Level 50 special purpose or a wetsuit with inbuilt flotation approved as a Level 50S in smooth water limits
- Level 50 in partially smooth water limits.

It is compulsory for all children under 12 years, in open boats under 4.8 metres whilst underway, to wear an appropriately fitted life jacket at all times.

See page 12 for information on lifejackets.

Rules on the water

- Direction of travel - When skiing in lakes, rivers and creeks, boats should travel in an anticlockwise pattern (see below). In a few locations local customs and conditions may dictate the direction of travel. Always check before skiing.



- Skiing or towing on a personal watercraft - When towing a skier on a PWC you must obey personal watercraft rules. See page 41 for more information on PWC requirements.
- Prohibited areas - Water skiing is prohibited in all 6 knot zones including harbours and marinas, within 30 metres of people in the water, anchored boats, diver's flags, jetties, pontoons or boat ramps and within 60 metres of people in the water if operating a PWC.
- Restricted areas - Restricted areas are published on the Maritime Safety Queensland website at www.msq.qld.gov.au and Gold Coast Waterways Authority website at www.gcwa.qld.gov.au. Additionally, the Gold and Sunshine Coasts have some designated water ski areas and times for operation - these are usually marked by signs.

Water skiing is permitted in all other areas. However, it is the responsibility of the driver to ensure the area is safe and suitable for skiing.

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Water skiing safety tips

- ✓ Check the depth and width of the waterway (to make turns safely) and look for any hazards in the area to see if it is safe for skiing.
- ✓ The tip of the ski must always be showing before the boat starts.
- ✓ After a fall, a skier should always clasp hands over head if unhurt until seen by the observer and boat driver.
- ✓ No signal from a fallen skier calls for immediate action by the observer and skipper.
- ✓ A fallen skier getting into a boat should leave their skis in the water and swim towards the boat.
- ✓ The skipper should always stop the engine(s) before picking up the skiers in the water.
- ✓ The skipper should always stop the engine(s) before picking up the skiers in the water.

Recognised water ski signals

The following signals on page 46 are suggestions only. The observer and skiers should agree to the signals beforehand.

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Help protect Queensland's maritime heritage

Queensland's shipwrecks, aircraft wrecks, and associated relics that are more than 75 years old are protected by law. The following historic shipwrecks lie within protected zones that require a permit to enter, dive or fish:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| • HMS Pandora | • Llewellyn |
| • HMCS Mermaid | • Cato |
| • Foam | • HMS Porpoise |
| • Yongala | • Aarhus |
| • Gothenburg | • AHS Centaur |

To apply for a free permit visit www.environment.gov.au/heritage/historic-shipwrecks

Queensland's Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has developed the following information to assist divers:

- guidelines for diving on historic shipwrecks
- dive guides for key wrecks in Moreton Bay and the Great Barrier Reef.

Visit www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/

To report the remains, or relics, of a ship or aircraft, contact EHP by phone: 13 QGOV or email: archaeology@ehp.qld.gov.au



Australian Government
Department of the Environment



Queensland Government

Boating in Queensland



Start: Nod the head.



Faster: Open palm facing up – motion upwards or nod head if both hands in use.



Slower: Open palm facing down – motion downwards or shake head if both hands are in use.



Speed required: Use the number of fingers for km required. For example, 23 – first two fingers then three fingers.



Speed OK: Arm upraised with thumb and forefinger making an 'O' – OK signal.



Turns: Palm vertical, curving motion of hand in direction required.



Whip off: Point to direction and then give quick circular motions with hand.



Stop: Hand up with fingers outstretched.



Back to dock: Point with downward swing of the arm.



Cut motor: Finger drawn across throat in cutting motion.



OK after fall: Skier should clasp hands over head if unhurt, until seen by the boat driver.



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Sail boats and sail boards

Sail boats and boards are propelled by the wind, requiring special skills to control direction and speed. When learning to sail, choose a quiet area away from anchored boats and activity.

Like all other boat users, sailors have a responsibility to take all action to avoid a collision and follow the rules.

Rowing

Like canoes and kayaks, rowing boats are difficult to see and can be swamped easily.

As a general rule, keep the starboard side close to the shore of busy rivers. An all-round white flashing light is recommended between sunset and sunrise.

A code of conduct has been developed to promote safety on the Brisbane River. All rowing boats must be fitted with an all-round white flashing light if they are on the river before sunrise or after sunset. Download the code of conduct and the Brisbane RiverShare Pocket Guide from Maritime Safety Queensland's website www.msq.qld.gov.au.

Canoes, kayaks and surf skis

Canoes and kayaks create little or no noise and have a small profile on the water, often making them difficult to see, and they often appear stationary. It is essential to be seen all the time as speedboats and larger boats can create wash capable of capsizing the boat.

Travel close to banks to avoid high traffic areas. Where possible travel in a group, keep the group together and adopt a one/all stop attitude. Wear a lifejacket.

Divers' flags

Divers can surface at any time, sometimes a significant distance from where they enter the water. In the interest of diver safety, any

boat is excluded from operating within 30 metres of a diver in the water if a Code A flag is displayed. It is legal for the boat tending the diver to operate within the 30 metres.

Kitesurfing

Kitesurfing involves a surfboard with 30 metres of line attached to a kite. The kite acts as a sail and propels the rider through the water. Kitesurfs work best in windy conditions and reach speeds up to 30 knots.

Sailing rules apply to kitesurfers and other boats should give them a wide berth. If a kitesurfer drops the kite, other boats should travel upwind of the kitesurfer to avoid becoming tangled in the line.

Kitesurfers should stay at least 30 metres from swimmers and boats.

Tow-in surfing

A code of conduct has been developed to promote the safety of tow-in surfing on the Gold Coast. The code provides guidance on a number of important safety aspects, including:

- general rules relating to proceeding at a safe speed, keeping a proper lookout and avoiding collision
- specific rules of operation for personal watercraft (PWC) in relation to speed and distance off requirements
- rules governing the operation of vessels in and near Gold Coast City Council bathing reserves
- requirements to be met to qualify for the tow-in surfing observer exemption
- specific requirements for tow-in surfing operations within Currumbin Alley and Tallebudgera Creek mouth.

Download the code of conduct from Maritime Safety Queensland's website www.msq.qld.gov.au.

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Boating offshore

Boating in offshore waters brings with it a new range of safety risks which the skipper must be aware of. The most important thing is to have a boat that can handle offshore conditions and is capable of travelling extended distances in rough conditions. Dinghies are not suitable offshore craft.

While conditions in the morning might look ideal, these can change rapidly and become rough and dangerous. Offshore boats should have an enclosed foredeck to prevent water coming on board, or if the craft is an open boat with centre console configuration, a self-draining deck.

Flotation is a must and many new boats will have buoyancy built in and specified on the Australian Builders Plate. However, the aim is to prevent water coming on board, and if it does, to be able to escape as quickly as possible.

Consider installing a second high volume bilge pump which will offload water quickly. Always have at least two heavy-duty buckets ready for use, as a bucket is an extremely efficient method of bailing water.

Consider carrying two batteries, one for starting and one for running accessories. This way you will always be able to start the motor. Make sure they are marine batteries which can handle rough conditions, have a high-cranking power and are deep-cycle which means they can charge faster.

Safety tips when boating offshore

- ✓ Keep a weather watch — receive regular weather updates for changes.
- ✓ Keep a fuel watch — ensure the boat is fully fuelled before leaving the ramp or marina. Be aware that in rough weather more fuel will be used than on the outward trip. Always have a reserve supply.

Bar crossings

A bar is an accumulation of sand or silt at the entrance of a river, creek, lake or harbour. Never underestimate a coastal bar as conditions can change quickly and without warning.

Designated coastal bars in Queensland include Currumbin Bar, Tallebudgera Bar, Jumpinpin Bar, South Passage Bar, Caloundra Bar, Mooloolah River mouth, Noosa Bar, Gold Coast Seaway, Round Hill Creek, Wide Bay Bar.

Bar crossing rules (under 4.8m)

Everyone in open boats under 4.8 metres, while crossing a designated coastal bar, must be wearing a lifejacket.

If you cross the bar without a lifejacket on, you cross the line!

Bar crossings can be dangerous

Bar conditions can be steep and often breaking seas. Even small waves can capsize, swamp or sink a boat. For these reasons it is important to take a number of precautions and manoeuvre the boat with extreme caution.

All bars are different. Local knowledge, experience and the right kind of boat are critical when trying to cross a bar. Only 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.



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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 www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating.

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 Maritime Safety Queensland's website www.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 23 for more information on smooth waters.
- Hervey Bay and Northern Moreton Bay waters – within 1852m (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. (A declared ship is a Class 1 commercial passenger-carrying vessel with a fixed toilet).
- Open waters – (a) within 926m (½ nM) of a wharf or jetty other than a jetty that is a marina (b) within 1852m (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 700m 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 926m (½ nM) of a person in the water, an aquaculture fisheries resource and a reef.

For more information visit Maritime Safety Queensland's website www.msq.qld.gov.au.

Marine Parks in Queensland

Boating and fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park together make one of the world's most beautiful and richly diverse marine ecosystems lying right next to our coastline, stretching from the tip of Cape York south to Bundaberg.

The marine parks are multiple-use areas supporting a range of industries and activities such as fishing, boating, shipping, aquaculture, research and tourism.

And there is no shortage of areas to wet a line, with almost 70 per cent of the Marine Parks open to recreational fishing.

Marine parks zoning

Marine parks are divided into zones that help keep the Great Barrier Reef healthy, productive and flourishing. Seven colour-coded zones guide where and how different activities can occur (see GBRMP Zoning table on page 54).

There is no fishing allowed in Green Zones. In a Yellow Zone you can only fish with one line and one hook (except when trolling). All of this is outlined in free zoning maps available from bait and tackle shops and tourist information centres along the Great Barrier Reef coast.

Don't risk a fine, know your zones and where you are when out on the water.

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Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning

*Coral
Sea*

If you're planning a day out in the marine parks, there are simple things you can do to have a great time and help protect the area for the future.

- Pick up a free zoning map for the area you are visiting so you know where you can go and what you can do
- When out on the water, keep your eye on your GPS and use your zoning map to help you locate where you are so you fish in the right area
- Take all your rubbish home including line, tackle and bait bags
- Anchor in sand or mud away from corals.

Visit www.gbrmpa.gov.au to download zoning maps and find more tips on how you can help protect the Reef.

Cooktown

Cairns

Hinchinbrook
Island

Townsville

Whitsunday
Group

Mackay

QUEENSLAND

Rockhampton

Curtis
Island

Bundaberg



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 Aboriginal 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.



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Know your zones in Moreton Bay Marine Park

Moreton Bay Marine Park 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 (km²)—stretching 125km 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 concern 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 | ✗ ¹ |
| | Trolling | ✗ ¹ |
| | Crabbing | ✗ ¹ |
| | Bait gathering | ✗ ¹ |
| | Bait netting | ✗ ¹ |
| | Netting (other than bait netting) | ✗ ¹ |
| | Limited spearfishing | ✗ ¹ |
| | Limited collecting | |
| | Trawling | ✗ ¹ |

¹ 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 | ✓ ² |
| | Trolling | ✓ ² |
| | Crabbing | ✓ ³ |
| | Bait gathering | ✓ |
| | Bait netting | ✓ |
| | Netting (other than bait netting) | ✗ ¹ |
| | Limited spearfishing | ✓ |
| | Limited collecting | ✓ ⁴ |
| Trawling | ✗ ¹ | |

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

² A maximum of two lines and a total of two hooks per angler.

³ Maximum of four crab pots per person.

⁴ 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 | ✓ ⁴ |
| | Trawling | ✗ ¹ |

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 | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 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 | ✓ ⁴ |
| | Trawling | ✓ |

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

Visit www.npsr.qld.gov.au and search “Moreton Bay”, for detailed zoning maps and other useful information.

Artificial reefs

There are six 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—7km 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 3km north of the Gold Coast seaway.

Visit www.npsr.qld.gov.au for detailed location maps and activities on offer 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:

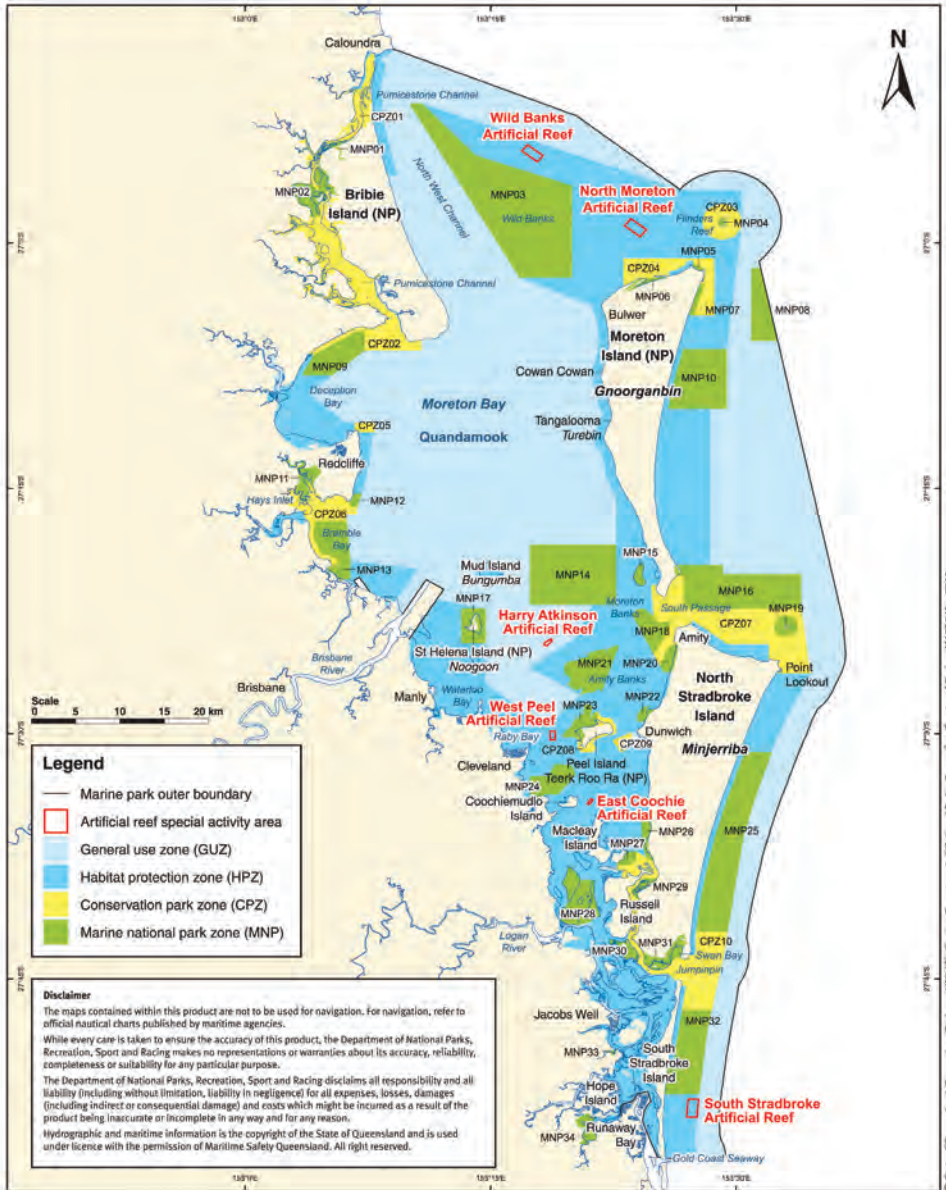
- fishing (legal recreational, commercial and traditional)
- boating, swimming, walking and other recreational activities
- collecting bait (except with a digging implement).

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 www.npsr.qld.gov.au.

Moreton Bay Marine Park



Great Sandy Marine Park

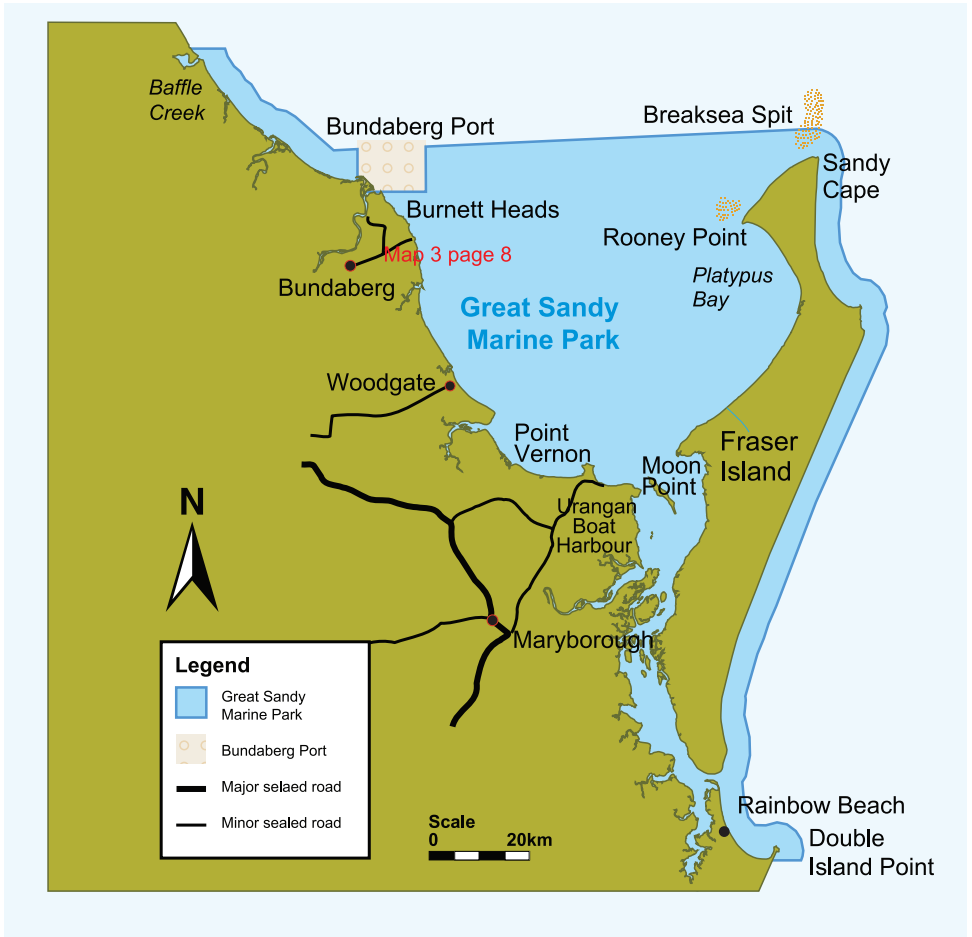
The Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing's (NPSR) Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) manages the Great Sandy Marine Park.

The marine park 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, nine 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 detailed information on the location of zones throughout the Great Sandy Marine Park visit the NPSR website at www.npsr.qld.gov.au.



Fishing in Queensland

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, the enforcement of fishing and boating safety laws, and educates Queenslanders about responsible fishing.

Fishers should consult the *Fisheries Regulation 2008* for the latest recreational fishing rules or visit www.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 www.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.

Measuring crabs

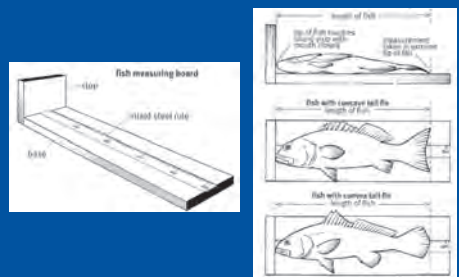
For guidelines on how to measure crabs see page 76.

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.

For an instructional video on measuring fish correctly, check out www.youtube.com/fisheriesqld



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.

To give the fish you release the best chance of survival:

- Use barbless hooks or circle hooks. - barbless hooks make the quick removal of the hook from the fish much easier and reduce the risk of hooking injuries to the angler. Pinching down the barb with needle-nose pliers works well. Circle hooks reduce the risk of hooking fish deeply and usually jaw hook fish.
- Play the fish quickly – try to catch your fish as quickly as possible and don't play the fish to exhaustion. Long, drawn out fights are likely to result in the fish dying when released, due to the stress and build-up of lactic acid in its body. If it takes a long time to land the fish, your drag may be set too loosely or your gear may be too light for the fish you're catching. Use appropriate gear for your target fish.
- Use a landing net – using a fine-mesh landing net may help in reducing the amount of time required to land a fish, and keep it from thrashing about in shallow water or on the shore.
- Keep the fish in the water – the longer a fish is held out of water the greater the chance of it being injured. It's best to remove the hook from a fish you intend to release without taking it out of the water, or at least reduce the amount of time a fish is held out of water. If you must remove the fish from the water, do it as gently as possible. Don't hold up large fish by the line, jaw or gills as this can cause fatal injuries. For small to medium sized fish, place your hand flat and lift the fish out of the water by its side.
- Handle with care – wet your hands, your net and other materials that may come in contact with the fish. This reduces the removal of mucus on the fish and lessens the possibility of bacterial infection.
- Remove hooks quickly – hooks should be removed from the fish as quickly as possible. Long-nose pliers are an essential tool for quickly removing hooks and wire cutters can also help with hook removal.
- Cut the line – when it's not possible to remove the hook without harming the fish, cut the line as close to the hook as possible. Only leave a small piece of line on the hook as this may progress through the fish's digestive system. Research has found that cutting the line greatly increases the survival of deeply hooked fish. It's a good idea to use degradable hooks and line when catching and releasing.
- Do not touch the gills – don't handle fish by placing your fingers in the gill slits. Fish gill filaments are very sensitive and can easily be injured. Fish should be handled by cradling the fish near the head and tail if possible, or by gently holding the fish near the mid-section.
- Releasing the fish – hold the fish upright underwater into the current or, if there is no current, by 'swimming' it around until it swims off on its own.
- Taking photos – if you're going to take photos with your fish before release, support the fish properly and do it as quickly as possible. Do not delay the return of the fish to the water. The longer the fish is out of the water, the greater stress and damage the fish can suffer. For no take species, fish must be returned to the water immediately unharmed.

For an instructional video on fish handling methods, check out www.youtube.com/fisheriesqld

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

In 2014 Fisheries Queensland 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 www.fish.gov.au

A summary of Queensland important species can be found at www.fisheries.qld.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 www.fisheries.qld.gov.au to learn more about:

- the Keen Angler Program – donate your fish frames to science
- local boat ramp and fishing surveys – let our scientific staff measure your catch
- fishing surveys – if you get a 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 get involved in a fish tagging project contact:

Suntag on 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:

- the tag number (if the fish has two tags, record both tag details)
- the date and place of capture
- the 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 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 QBFP 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 occurred
- 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. setting 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 online report form is also available at www.facebook.com/FisheriesQueensland. 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 Hotline on 1800 806 891, and to report commercial fishing gear, call the Fishwatch hotline on 1800 017 116.

Handy hint

Shark hotline

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

Miscellaneous prohibitions

The following activities are illegal throughout Queensland:

- jugging 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.





Seqwater is responsible for the management of recreation at major water storages in South East Queensland. Fishing and boating are permitted at the following sites:

| Lake | Fishing | Boating |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| Atkinson | Yes | All types |
| Baroon | Yes | Electric/non-powered and paddle craft |
| Borumba | Yes | All types |
| Clarendon | Yes | Paddle craft only |
| Cooloolabin | Yes | No boating (shore-based fishing only) |
| Dyer (Bill Gunn) | Yes | All types |
| Enoggera | Yes | Paddle craft only |
| Ewen Maddock | Yes | Paddle craft only |
| Hinze (Advancetown) | Yes | Electric/non-powered and paddle craft |
| Kurwongbah | Yes | Fuel-powered (club only), paddle craft |
| Macdonald | Yes | Electric/non-powered and paddle craft |
| Manchester | Yes | Paddle craft only |
| Maroon | Yes | All types |
| Moogerah | Yes | All types |
| Samsonvale (North Pine) | Yes | Club access only - electric/non-powered and paddle craft |
| Somerset | Yes | All types |
| Wivenhoe | Yes | Fuel-powered (low emission, 6 knot max speed), electric/non powered and paddle craft |
| Wyaralong | Yes | Electric/non-powered and paddle craft |

Phone 1800 SEQWATER
For more information visit our website
www.seqwater.com.au

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 641,000 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 Recfish Australia.

The code addresses four main areas:

- treating fish humanely
- looking after our fisheries
- protecting the environment
- respecting the rights of others.

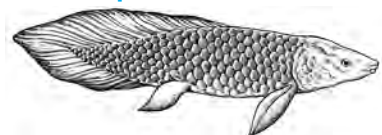
For more information, visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

Responsible disposal of rubbish

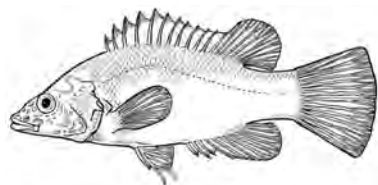
Everyday items such as cigarette butts, plastic bags, bottles, cans and discarded fishing gear are common causes of marine pollution and impact marine ecosystems. Always ensure you dispose of litter responsibly.

Fresh waters

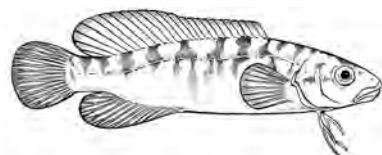
No-take species



Australian lungfish



Bloomfield River cod



River blackfish



Spiny crayfish

Freshwater sawfish, cling goby and Edgbaston hardyhead 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 freshwater trap that can be a canister trap, collapsible trap, dilly net, funnel trap, round trap or pyramid trap
- a scoop or dip net (cast nets and bait nets cannot be used).

Fishing lines

A person must not use a set line, set a fishing 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.



side cast reel



handline



overhead reel

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.



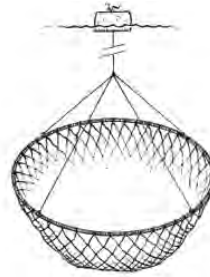
Collapsible traps

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



Dilly nets

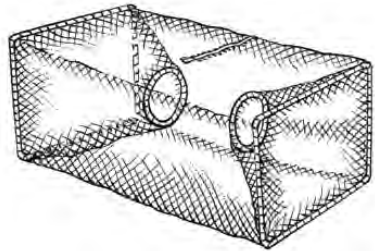
A dilly net must have a diameter of no more than 125 cm and a mesh size of no more than 25 mm.



Funnel traps and round traps

The use of certain funnel and round traps is prohibited outside of some listed impoundments (see www.fisheries.qld.gov.au for details). This means that:

- 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 listed impoundments east of a line following the Great Dividing Range and east of the Gore Highway (A39) or in non-tidal waters west of the aforementioned boundary.



Open top pyramid traps

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

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

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.

Prohibited fishing gear

All other forms of fishing apparatus other than those mentioned on page 64 and 65 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 fresh waters).

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 15 cm in all its dimensions and marked with the owner's surname.

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 page 69 of this guide) must not be put back in the water even as bait.

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.

Live 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
- yabby or blueclaw *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
- freshwater prawn or shrimp (*Macrobrachium australiense*) are found throughout Queensland and can be used as bait in all areas of the state.

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 Awoonga, Burdekin Falls, Callide, Eungella, Fairbairn, Fred Haigh (Lake Monduran), Fred Tritton, Kinchant, Koombooloomba, 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 Leichhardt Dam and Belmore, Corella, Julius and Moondarra Lakes, and to waterways upstream of these impoundments.

A possession limit of one barramundi applies during the closed season in all of the 19 lakes and dams mentioned previously. The barramundi may be greater than 120 cm. Recreational fishers may continue to fish in the 19 dams and lakes once they have reached their limit of one barramundi.

Outside of the closed season, in the 19 dams and lakes mentioned previously, a possession limit of five applies to barramundi (can include one greater than 120 cm).

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. 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 upstream of the walls 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.

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, Beardmore 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.

Boyne River (Boyne River basin): 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Awoonga Dam wall.

Brisbane River: from 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Old Mount Crosby Weir and 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 (formerly Miles Weir).

Fishing in Queensland

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 Bendora 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, Mirani Weir, and 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.

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 6 km 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 200 m downstream of Wyaralong Dam wall.

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

Thomson River: from 100 m upstream to 200 m 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 dams are on the scheme?

Bill Gunn Dam (Lake Dyer), Bjelke-Petersen Dam, Boondooma Dam, Borumba Dam, Burdekin Falls Dam, Callide Dam, Cania Dam, Connolly Dam, Cooby Dam, Coolmunda Dam, Cressbrook Dam, Eungella Dam, Fairbairn Dam, Glenlyon Dam, Gordonbrook Dam, Isis Balancing Storage (Lake Gregory), Kinchant Dam, Lenthalls Dam, Leslie Dam, Maroon Dam, Moogerah Dam, Lake MacDonald, Lake Monduran (Fred Haigh Dam), North Pine Dam, Peter Faust Dam, Somerset Dam, Storm King Dam, Teemburra Dam, Theresa Creek Dam, Tinaroo Falls Dam, Wivenhoe Dam and Wuruma Dam.

A consultation process is currently underway to expand the SIPS.

For a current list of impoundments, visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

What fish are stocked in SIPS dams?

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

Who needs a permit?

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

Interstate and overseas visitors

Recreational fishing licences issued by other states, territories or countries are not valid for fishing at the Queensland SIPS impoundments.

How much does a permit cost?

Yearly, weekly and concession permits are available for purchase and allow the holder to fish at any of the dams involved in the scheme. For current permit prices visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

Where can I apply for a permit?

Permits are available online at www.fisheries.qld.gov.au or by calling 13 25 23 during business hours. Online and telephone payment can be made with a credit card.

Permits are also available from outlets near the dams. For details of the locations, visit www.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.

Keep your stocked impoundment permit and rules guide dry by keeping them in a zip-locked bag or laminating them. If you buy your permit online, you can save an electronic permit to your phone. If inspected, you can show the copy on your phone.

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).

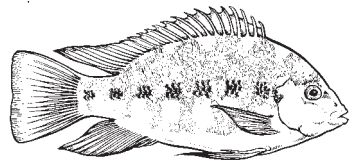
Fish stocking

Several 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 www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

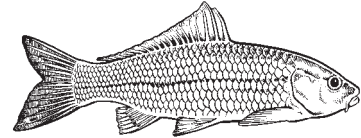
Pest fish**Noxious fish**

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

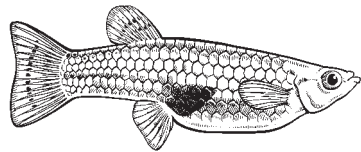
People must not possess, keep, hatch, rear, sell or consign noxious fish. Some of the declared species of noxious fish include:



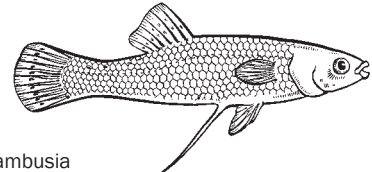
Tilapia



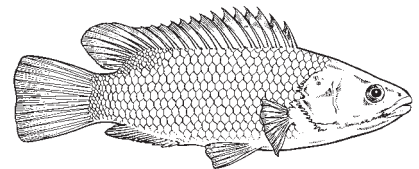
Carp



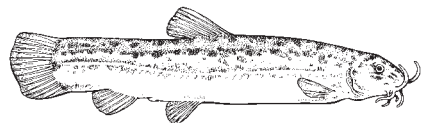
Gambusia



Climbing perch



Oriental weatherloach



For a complete listing of declared noxious fish in Queensland, visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

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.

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.

Handy hint

Help stop the spread of pest fish:

- Learn how to identify pest fish – check out www.fisheries.qld.gov.au
- Avoid spreading pest fish between waterways
- Report sightings of pest fish to 13 25 23
- Report any suspicious or unlawful activities relating to the releasing or breeding of pest fish to the Fishwatch hotline 1800 017 116.

Handy hint

Sale of fish

The taking of fish for sale, other than by licensed fishers, is prohibited in Queensland.

Tidal waters

No take species



Barramundi cod



Chinaman fish (juvenile)

BEACON REGISTRATION NO STICKERS FROM SEPTEMBER 2015

From September 2015, AMSA will no longer issue beacon registration stickers.

Registration of your vessel's emergency beacon is still required by law, so before you head out, make sure you have your beacon and proof of its registration.

Registration with AMSA is still free.

For more information about proof of registration options please visit www.amsa.gov.au/beacons



Australian Government
Australian Maritime Safety Authority



Chinaman fish (adult)



Humphead Maori wrasse



Paddletail



Potato rockcod



Queensland grouper



Red bass

Other **no take** species include:

- female mud and blue swimmer crabs
- egg-bearing spanner crabs, three-spot crabs, slipper lobsters, tropical rocklobsters (tropical spiny rock lobsters), red champagne lobsters, shovel nose lobsters and smooth bugs
- tropical rocklobsters with tar spots (sperm packets) attached
- all sawfish
- white sharks, spartooth sharks and manta rays
- clams in the family *Tridacnidae*, helmet shells and trumpet shells
- black teatfish (species of sea cucumber).

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 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 is deemed to be equal to one hook. Fishers should be in attendance at all times when using this equipment.

A fishing line does not include the following:

- a cross line
- a drum line
- a free-floating line
- a 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.




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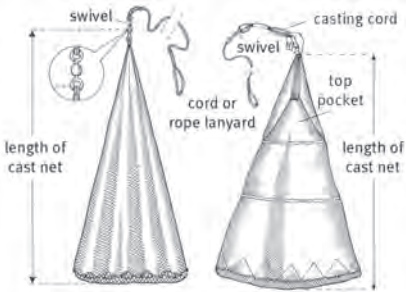
Handy hint

Know your limits

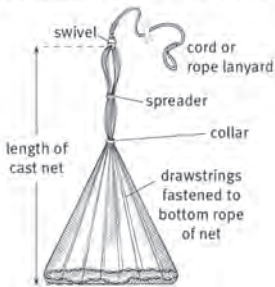
Cast nets can be used to catch prawns for bait or to eat. Remember that a take and possession limit of 10L per person applies to all species of prawns.

Cast nets

Cast nets can be no more than 3.7 m 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 28 mm.



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.

Shell dredges

For amateur shell collecting, conditions apply. The mouth of the dredge can be up to 60 cm across, with teeth no longer than 7.5 cm.

Hand pumps

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



Worm digging forks

A 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

See the 'Crabbing gear' section on page 76.

Handy hint

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 6 pm and 6 am.

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 www.fisheries.qld.gov.au.

For details of spearfishing areas managed by the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority visit www.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 Ninghi 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 Tewanin 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 Dennison: waters under, or within 100 m of, the main wharf at Port Dennison, Bowen, and a structure attached to the wharf.

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

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

Richards Island (Bedarra Island): the northwestern and northern sides.

Dunk Island: the north-western and western sides.

Cooktown: within 100 m 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 100 m from the foreshore rock wall, and also between **Cedar Street** and **Charlotte Street** extending 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 40 cm, 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 40 cm and the skin and scales of the fillet are 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

Fishing in Queensland

- 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 relation to barred javelin (spotted grunter) taken in the Gulf of Carpentaria, in addition to the above, a recreational fisher may fillet or process the fish as long as:

- the fillet is at least 26 cm in length and has the skin left on
- 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 charter fishing tours, consult the fisheries legislation at www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

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, 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 62 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 2015–18 are as follows:

- 10 to 14 October 2015, 9 to 13 November 2015

- 28 October to 1 November 2016, 26 to 30 November 2016
- 17 to 21 October 2017, 15 to 19 November 2017
- 6 to 10 October 2018, 5 to 9 November 2018.

Note: For information on closed seasons for spanner crabs and tropical rocklobsters see page 77.

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 www.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

www.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.

Fishing is totally prohibited in the following areas:

Certain areas within state and Commonwealth marine parks.

Coomabah Lake and tidal waters of **Coomabah 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 400 m south of Indian Head. Closed from midday 1 August to midday 30 September every year (fin fish only).

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

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

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

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

Hook Island Observatory: waters within a 100 m radius of the observatory.

Orpheus Island: waters under or within 100 m 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 opposite banks 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 www.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 www.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 www.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 www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

Crabbing

Crabbing gear

Crab pots and dillies

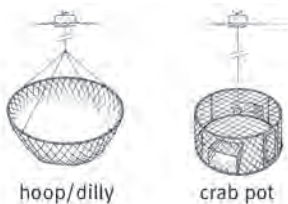
In tidal waters, when fishing for blue swimmer, mud and spanner crabs, no more than four crab pots or dillies (or a combination of pots and dillies) may be used per person. Also a person must not possess more than four crab apparatus per person, on a boat on the water.

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

- a 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.

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.

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



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

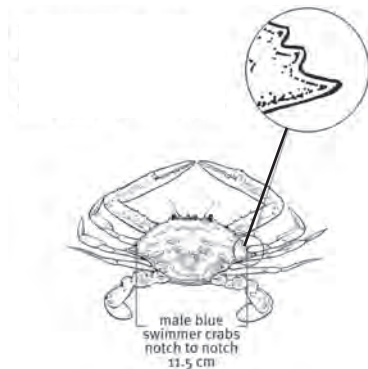
Determine crab gender from the underside of the crab.

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.

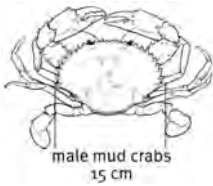


Measurement

The size of a blue swimmer crabs 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.

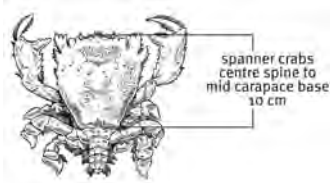


The size of a mud crab and three-spot crab is determined by measuring the widest part of its carapace. Mud crabs must be a minimum size of 15 cm across the widest point of its carapace. Three-spotted crabs must measure a minimum of 10 cm across the widest point of its carapace.



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) or crabmeat, unless it 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.

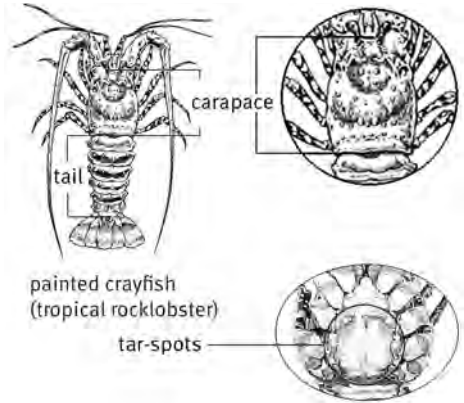
Tropical rocklobster

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

- must remove the central flap of the tail or puncture the flap with a hole of at least 10 mm in diameter.

Measurement



Closed seasons

A closed season applies to all species of tropical rocklobster (family *Panuliridae*) from immediately after midnight at the beginning of 1 October and ends immediately before midnight at the end of 31 January in Queensland tidal waters:

- north of latitude 14° S and east of longitude 142° 31' 49" E
- 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 www.fisheries.qld.gov.au for specific area details.

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.

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.



More information

For more information about fisheries regulations and other fisheries issues or programs, call 13 25 23 or visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

To access complete copies of the *Fisheries Act 1994* and other fisheries legislation, visit www.legislation.qld.gov.au

Information on other relevant legislation may be found at www.afma.gov.au (national), www.gbrmpa.gov.au (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park) and www.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

Love your fishing?

Stay up-to-date with all the latest fisheries news and developments as they happen. Follow us at:



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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 2015. Fishers should consult the *Fisheries Regulation 2008* or www.fisheries.qld.gov.au for updates.

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 www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

| 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 | | |
| 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 | Combined limit of 7 in total of all trout species |
| All emperors | 25 min | 5 per species |
| Emperor exceptions (see also Grass emperor (sweetlip) in Other tidal species and Red emperor in Tropical snappers and sea perch) | | |
| Redthroat emperor (sweetlip emperor) | 38 min | 8 |
| Long nose emperor | 45 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 74 for more information.

| Coral reef fin fish* | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| <i>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 www.fisheries.qld.gov.au</i> | | |
| Species | Size limit (cm) | Possession limit |
| All parrotfishes (see also Wrasse) | 25 min | 5 per species |
| All surgeonfishes | 25 min | 5 per species |
| All sweetlips | 25 min | 5 per species |
| All tropical snappers and sea perches | 25 min | 5 per species |
| Tropical snappers and sea perch exceptions | | |
| Rosy snapper (jobfish) and lavender snapper (jobfish) | 38 min | Combined limit of 8 in total of both species |
| Chinaman fish | | No take |
| 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 |
| Green jobfish | 38 min | 5 |
| Paddletail | | No take |
| Red bass | | No take |
| Red emperer | 55 min | 5 |
| Ruby snapper | 38 min | 5 |
| Smalltooth jobfish | 38 min | 5 |
| Miscellaneous jobfish | 38 min | 5 per species |
| All wrasse | 30 min | 5 per species |
| Wrasse exceptions | | |
| Humphead Maori | | No take |
| Tuskfish (anchor, blackspot, blue, purple and venus tuskfish) | 30 min | Combined limit of 6 in total of all tuskfish species |
| Triple tail Maori wrasse | | |
| Red breast Maori wrasse | 25 min | 5 per species |
| Pig fish | | |

* Coral reef fin fish closures apply. Please refer to page 74 for more information.

| Other tidal species | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Species | Size limit (cm) | Possession limit |
| Australian bass † | 30 min | 2 |
| Barramundi † | 58 min 120 max | 5 |
| Bêche de mer (sea cucumber) | No limit | 5 |
| Bêche de mer exception | | |
| Black teatfish | | No take |
| Bream | | |
| Pikey | 25 min | Combined limit of 30 in total of pikey and yellowfin bream, and tarwhine |
| Tarwhine | | |
| Yellowfin | | |
| Bugs | | |
| Moreton Bay (bay lobster) | 7.5 min | No limit |
| Deepwater bug | | |
| Shovel nose bug | | |
| Smooth (Balmain) | 10.5 min | 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 | 11.5 min | No limit |
| Mud | 15 min | 10 |
| Spanner † | 10 min | 20 |
| Three-spot | 10 min | No limit |
| Eels | | |
| Longfin | 30 min | Combined limit of 10 in total of all species |
| Pacific shortfin (south Pacific) | | |
| Southern shortfin | | |
| Flathead | 30 min | Combined limit of 10 in total of all species (except dusky flathead) |
| Flathead exception | | |
| 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 |

† A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to page 74 and 77 for more information.



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Fishing in Queensland

| Other tidal species | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Species | Size limit (cm) | Possession limit |
| Green snail | 280 g min | No limit |
| Javelin | | |
| Barred (spotted grunter) East Coast | 40 min | 10 |
| Barred (spotted grunter) Gulf of Carpentaria | 40 min (whole or partially processed length) or 26 min (fillet length) | 10 whole fish or 20 fillets |
| Silver (small spotted grunter) | 30 min | 10 |
| Jewfish | | |
| Black (East coast) | 75 min | 2 |
| Black (Gulf of Carpentaria) | 60 min | 2 |
| Scaly (jewel fish) | 45 min | No limit |
| Luderick | 30 min | 10 |
| Mackerel | | |
| Grey | 60 min | 5 |
| Spanish | 75 min | 3 |
| School | 50 min | 10 |
| Shark | 50 min | 10 |
| Spotted | 60 min | 5 |
| Mahi Mahi (dolphin fish) | 50 min | 5 |
| Mangrove jack | 35 min | 5 |
| Mullet | | |
| Diamondscale | 30 min | 20 |
| Sea | | |
| Bivalve molluscs and gastropods (including pipis, mud whelks and cockles, and excluding all oysters) | No limit | 50 |
| Oysters * | No limit | No limit |
| Oyster exceptions | | |
| Blacklip pearl oyster | 9 min | No limit |
| Goldlip pearl oyster | 13 min 23 max | No limit |
| Mulloway | 75 min | 2 |
| Pearl perch | 35 min | 5 |
| Prawns † | 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 |
| Sharks and rays | 1.5m max | 1 |
| Sharks and rays exceptions | | |
| White sharks Sand tiger sharks Sawfish Speartooth sharks Manta ray | | No take |
| Snapper | 35 min | 4 with no more than 1 over 70 cm |
| Tailor | 35 min | 20 |
| Teraglin | 38 min | 5 |
| Threadfin (salmon) | | |
| King | 60 min | 5 |
| Blue (East coast) | 40 min | 10 |
| Blue (Gulf of Carpentaria) | 40 min | 20 |
| Trevally (family <i>Carangidae</i> , which includes but it not limited to trevally and scad/yakka) | No limit | Combined limit of 20 for all fish in total applies to all members of this family |
| Trevally exceptions | | |
| 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 |
| Trochus | 8 min 12.5 max | 50 |
| Tropical rocklobster** | 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 |
| Tropical rocklobster exceptions | | |
| Painted crayfish †# (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>) | 11.5 tail min 9 carapace min | As above |
| Red champagne lobster | 7.5 min | As above |

† A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to page 77 for more information.

Recreational fishers must not possess live tropical rocklobsters.

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

| No take species |
|--|
| Barramundi cod |
| Chinaman fish |
| Humphead Maori wrasse |
| Paddletail |
| Potato rockcod |
| Queensland grouper |
| Red bass |
| Female mud and blue swimmer crabs |
| Egg-bearing spanner crabs, three-spot crabs, slipper lobsters, tropical rocklobsters, red champagne lobsters, shovel nose lobsters and smooth bugs |
| Tropical rocklobsters with tar spots attached (tar spots and sperm packets) |
| All sawfish |
| White sharks, sand tiger sharks, speartooth sharks and manta rays |
| Clams in the family <i>Tridacnidae</i> , helmet shells and trumpet shells |
| Black teatfish |

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



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Size and possession limits

Fresh waters

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 2015. Fishers should consult the *Fisheries Regulation 2008* or www.fisheries.qld.gov.au for updates.

| A possession limit of 20 per species applies to all freshwater fin fish not listed below | | |
|---|---|--|
| Species | Size limit (cm) | Possession limit |
| Australian bass | 30 min | 2 |
| Australian lungfish | | |
| Barramundi* | 58 min 120 max (1 greater than 120 cm from some dams) | 5 (1 during the closed season for some dams) |
| Cherabins | No limit | Combined limit of 10 in total of both species: <i>Macrobrachium lar</i> and <i>M. rosenbergii</i> |
| Cod | | |
| Bloomfield River cod | | No take |
| Mary River cod (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) | | No take |
| Murray Cod* (Queensland part of Murray-Darling Drainage Division) | 60 min 100 max | 2 |

* A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to page 66 & 67 for more information.

Fishing in Queensland

| 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) (<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) |
| Freshwater sawfish | | No take |
| Garfish | No limit | 50 |
| Goby | | |
| Cling goby | | No take |
| Edgbaston hardyhead | | No take |
| 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 min | 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 | |

| Species | Size limit (cm) | Possession limit |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Rainbowfish (<i>Melanotaenia</i> sp.) | No limit | Combined limit of 20 for all rainbowfish species |
| Redclaw (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 (young carrying eggs or young must be returned to the water within their natural range) |
| River blackfish | | No limit |
| Saratoga | | |
| Northern | 50 min | Combined limit of 1 in total of northern and southern saratoga |
| Southern | | |
| Spiny crayfish | | No limit |
| Yabby (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) |

† Except upstream of some dams. Please refer to page 67.

| No take species |
|----------------------|
| Australian lungfish |
| Bloomfield River cod |
| Cling goby |
| Freshwater sawfish |
| Mary River cod † |
| Edgbaston hardyhead |
| River blackfish |
| Spiny crayfish |





MUSTER STATION

LIFE JACKETS





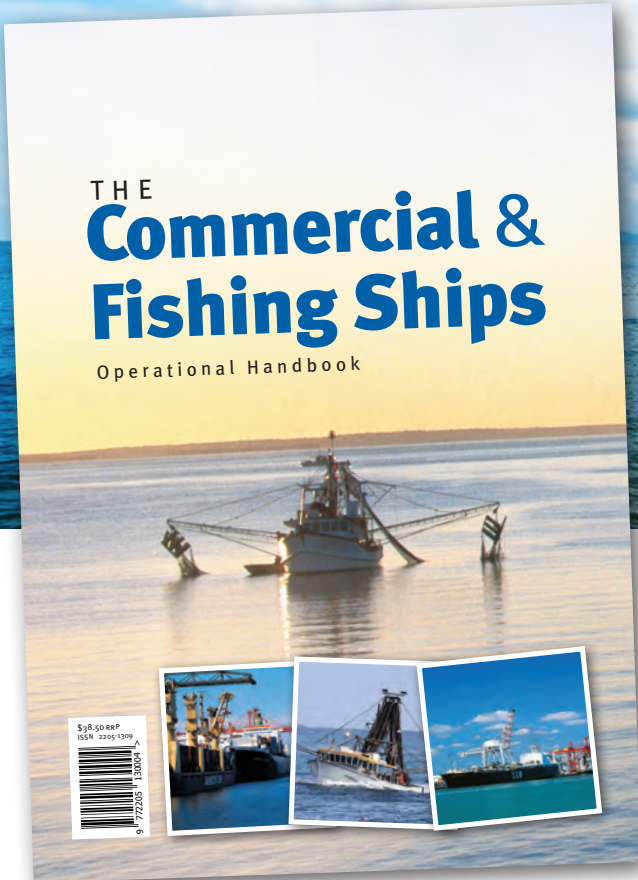


Pre-trip item checklist

- 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
- Fire extinguisher/fire blanket/fire bucket
- Bung
- Battery power
- Emergency plan
- Fishing rod/tackle



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