

Size and bag limits

Tidal 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.

These size and bag limits are part of the Queensland recreational boating and fishing guide. To get your copy, call 13 25 23 or ask at your local bait and tackle shop. The rules and regulations are accurate as at 1 August 2011. Fishers should consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 or www.fisheries.qld.gov.au for updates.

Coral reef fin fish*		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag 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	
All emperors	25 min	5 per species
Emperor exceptions		
Redthroat emperor (sweetlip emperor)	38 min	8
Long nose emperor	38 min	5
Spangled emperor	45 min	5
All fusiliers	No limit	No limit

* Coral reef fin fish closures apply. Please refer to page 80 for more information.

Coral reef fin fish*		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
All parrotfishes	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 <i>exceptions</i>		
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 emperor	55 min	5
Ruby snapper	38 min	5
Smalltooth jobfish	38 min	5
Miscellaneous jobfish	38 min	5 per species
All wrasse	25 min	5 per species
<i>Wrasse exceptions</i>		
Humphead Maori		No take
Tuskfish (all species)	30 min	Combined limit of 6 in total of all tuskfish species

* Coral reef fin fish closures apply. Please refer to the Queensland recreational boating and fishing guide for more information.

In addition to individual bag limits for each coral reef fin fish species listed, they all have a combined bag limit of 20. Please refer to the Queensland recreational boating and fishing guide for more information. For a complete list of coral reef species, download the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Amberjack	50 min	Combined limit of 2 in total of amberjack and samsonfish
Australian bass [†]	30 min	2
Barramundi[†]		
East coast	58 min 120 max	5
Gulf of Carpentaria**	60 min 120 max	5
Bêche de mer (sea cucumber)	No limit	5
Bêche de mer <i>exception</i>		
Black teatfish		No take
Bream		
Pikey	25 min	Combined limit of 30 in total of pikey and yellowfin bream, and tarwhine
Yellowfin		
Blacklip pearl oyster	9 min	No limit
Cobia (black kingfish)	75 min	2
Cod and grouper		
Blackspotted rockcod (estuary cod)	38 min 120 max	Combined limit of 5 in total of all cod and grouper species
Goldspotted rockcod (estuary cod)	38 min 120 max	
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)	30 min	
Southern shortfin	30 min	
Flathead		
All flathead (except dusky flathead)	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of all species (except dusky flathead)
Dusky flathead (mud flathead)	40 min 75 max	5
Garfish	No limit	50
Giant queenfish		
East coast	50 min	5
Gulf of Carpentaria**	50 min	No limit

[†] A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to the *Queensland recreational boating and fishing guide* for more information.

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Golden snapper (fingermark)		
East coast	35 min	5
Gulf of Carpentaria**	35 min	10
Goldlip pearl oyster	13 min 23 max	No limit
Grass emperor (sweetlip)	30 min	10
Javelin		
Barred (spotted grunter) East coast	40 min	10
Barred (spotted grunter) Gulf of Carpentaria**	40 min	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 120 max	5 with no more than 2 over 100 cm
Scaly jewfish (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	30 min	20
Bivalve molluscs and gastropods (including pipis, mud whelks and cockles)—excluding oysters	No limit	50
Mulloway	75 min	2
Pearl perch	35 min	5
Prawns	No limit	10 litres [†]
Samsonfish	50 min	Combined limit of 2 in total of amberjack and samsonfish
Sharks and rays	1.5 m max	1

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Sharks and rays <i>exceptions</i>		
Great white sharks Grey nurse sharks Sawfish Spoutooth sharks		No take
Snapper[^]	35 min	4 with no more than 1 over 70 cm
Swallowtail dart	30 min	30
Tailor	35 min	20
Tarwhine	25 min	Combined limit of 30 in total of pikey and yellowfin bream, and tarwhine
Teraglin	38 min	5
Threadfin (salmon)		
King	60 min	5
Blue (east coast)	40 min	10
Blue (Gulf of Carpentaria)	40 min	20
Trevally	No limit	20
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 <i>exceptions</i>		
Painted crayfish ^{†#} (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>)	11.5 tail min 9 carapace min	As above

‡ 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.

† A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to the *Queensland recreational boating and fishing guide* for more information.

Recreational fishers must not possess live tropical rocklobsters.

^ Until 1 September 2011 the minimum legal size of snapper is 35 cm and the bag limit is 5. From 1 September 2011 the minimum legal size of snapper is 35 cm and the bag limit is 4 with 1 of those fish allowed to be in excess of 70 cm and the other 3 snapper must be under 70 cm.

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Wahoo	75 min	2
Whiting		
Summer/sand, goldline and northern whiting	23 min	Combined limit of 30 in total of these whiting species
Trumpeter (winter whiting)	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
Yellowtail kingfish	60 min	2

No-take species

Barramundi cod	Chinaman fish	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 and tropical rocklobsters
Tropical rocklobsters with tar spots attached (tar spots are sperm packets)	All sawfish
Great white sharks, grey nurse sharks and speartooth sharks	Clams in the family Tridacnidae, helmet shells and trumpet shells
Black teatfish	

Note: Whales, porpoises, dugongs, turtles and dolphins are all protected under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

**Fishers should note that a regulatory impact statement was recently released in which it was proposed that the size and/or bag limit for this species be changed. Fishers should consult the Fisheries Regulations 2008 or visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au for updates.

Size and bag 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.

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Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Australian bass*	30 min	2
Australian lungfish		No take
Barramundi*		
East coast	58 min 120 max (1 greater than 120 cm from some dams)	5 (1 during closed season for some dams)
Gulf of Carpentaria [^]	60 min 120 max (1 greater than 120 cm from some dams)	5 (1 during 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 110 max	2

*A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to the Queensland recreational boating and fishing guide for more information.

** Murray cod cannot be taken from the Barwon, Macintyre or Dumaresq Rivers from 1 September to 30 November.

[^] Fishers should note that a regulatory impact statement was recently released in which it was proposed that the size and/or bag limit for this species be changed. Fishers should consult the Fisheries Regulations 2008 or visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au for updates.

Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Eels		
Longfin	30 min	Combined limit of 10 in total of all species
Pacific shortfin (south Pacific)	30 min	
Southern shortfin	30 min	
Freshwater catfish (eel-tailed catfish) (<i>Tandanus tandanus</i>)	35 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of fish in the genera <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
Mangrove jack	35 min	5
Molluscs any—excluding oysters	No limit	50
Perch and grunter		
Golden perch (yellowbelly)	30 min	10
Jungle perch	35 max	Combined limit of 1 in total of jungle perch and spotted flagtail
Spotted flagtail (northern jungle perch)	35 max	Combined limit of 1 in total of jungle perch and spotted flagtail
Silver perch	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of silver perch, Welch's grunter and Barcoo grunter Silver perch in Paroo and Warrego River basins are catch and release only
Barcoo grunter	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of silver perch, Welch's grunter and Barcoo grunter
Welch's grunter	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of silver perch, Welch's grunter and Barcoo grunter

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Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Perch and grunter (cont.)		
Sooty grunter	28 min	Combined limit of 10 in total for sooty grunter and khaki grunter
Khaki grunter (khaki bream)	No limit	Combined limit of 10 in total for sooty grunter and khaki grunter
Rainbowfish (<i>Melanotaenia</i> sp.)	No limit	Combined limit of 50 (banded, blackbanded, chequered, crimsonspotted, desert, eastern, Lake Eacham, McCulloch's and Murray River rainbowfish)
Redclaw (redclaw crayfish) in its natural range		
Gulf of Carpentaria Drainage Division and from the Jacky Jacky River basin south to the Normanby River basin on the east coast of Queensland	No limit	40 (females carrying eggs or young must be returned to the water within their natural range)
River blackfish		No take
Saratoga		
Northern	50 min	Combined limit of 1 in total of northern and southern saratoga
Southern	50 min	Combined limit of 1 in total of northern and southern saratoga
Sea mullet	30 min	20
Spiny crayfish		No take
Yabby (freshwater blueclaw crayfish)	No limit	100 (females carrying eggs or young must be returned to the water within their natural range)

The following freshwater species have a bag limit of 20:

Aggassiz's glassfish (perchlet)	Aru gudgeon	Australian smelt
Banded grunter (barred grunter)	Blackmast (strawman)	Blue catfish (lesser salmon catfish)
Bony bream	Boofhead catfish (triangular shield catfish)	Cairns rainbowfish
Celebes flathead goby	Coal grunter	Concave flathead goby
Delicate blue eye	Desert goby	Elongate glassfish (yellowfin perchlet)
Empire gudgeon	Fimbriate gudgeon	Firetail gudgeon
Flagtail glassfish (flagtail perchlet)	Flathead gudgeon (bigheaded gudgeon)	Flyspecked hardyhead
Freshwater longtom	Gilbert's grunter	Golden flathead goby
Golden goby (dwarf goby)	Highfin catfish (Berney's catfish)	Lake's carp gudgeon
Leathery grunter	Lorentz's grunter	Macleay's glassfish (reticulated perchlet)
Marjorie's hardyhead	Midgley's carp gudgeon	Mueller's glassfish
Mulgrave goby	Northern purplespotted gudgeon (trout gudgeon)	Obbes' catfish
Ornate rainbowfish	Pacific blue eye	Penny fish
Poreless gudgeon	Rendahl's catfish	Roman nose goby
Sailfin glassfish (sailfin perchlet)	Scaleless goby	Sevenspot archer fish (common archer fish)
Silver catfish (silver tandan)	Silver cobbler (shovel nosed catfish)	Sleepy cod
Small headed grunter	Snakehead gudgeon	Southern purplespotted gudgeon
Spangled perch	Speckled goby	Spotted blue eye
Square blotch goby	Striped gudgeon	Tank goby (flathead goby)
Threadfin rainbowfish	Western carp gudgeon	

No-take species

Australian lungfish	Bloomfield River cod	Freshwater sawfish
Mary River cod [†]	River blackfish	Spiny crayfish

[†] Except upstream of some dams—see 'Cod' section



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To learn more about the program or to become a volunteer, visit **www.fisheries.qld.gov.au** or call **1800 659 861**



Queensland Government