

# SUPPORTING THE SPORT OF SAILING

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AJ Presto	0411 237 042	RMDL / PWC	Gold Coast, Broadwater
Glenn Batchelor	0425 112 657	RMDL / PWC	Nerang
Mike Halpin	0405 354 107	RMDL	Southport



Phone: 07 3393 6788  
 Fax: 07 3393 6799  
 Email: [btp@qldyachting.org.au](mailto:btp@qldyachting.org.au)  
[www.qld.yachting.org.au](http://www.qld.yachting.org.au)



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## Safety equipment

Safety equipment for offshore boating is the same as that required to be carried for smooth and partially smooth water operations. In addition a 406 MHz EPIRB must be carried if operating more than two nautical miles from the coast when outside partially smooth waters. PFD type 1 life jackets must be carried.



### Bilge pump

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.

### Batteries

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.

A normal car battery is not a suitable battery for a boat. Remember, large HP modern outboard motors cannot be pull started. Battery power is often sapped by the multiple electronics boats now carry such as GPS, sounders or bait tank aerators.

### Marine radio

A marine radio is not compulsory equipment but it is strongly recommended that all boats operating in partially smooth and offshore waters carry one, preferably a VHF radio. Use the marine radio to:

- advise rescue groups of your location and estimated arrival time at the ramp
- receive updated weather reports
- maintain a listening watch for vessels in need of assistance – do not rely on a mobile phone.

For more information on marine radio see [page 57](#).

### 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 and be aware that you may travel further than planned. If rough weather is experienced for the return trip, more fuel will be used than on the outward trip. Always ensure you have a reserve supply.

### Accessing offshore waters

In many locations in south-east Queensland, a coastal bar will need to be crossed to access fishing grounds. Bar crossings are not for the inexperienced so learn from others before you attempt a bar crossing or use other access points. (See bar crossings on [page 62](#)).

## 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. Freshwater boating requires a new set of skills and knowledge.

Most freshwater boating is conducted on dams or impoundments which are water storage facilities for either agricultural irrigation or town water supply. Other freshwater boating is conducted on the various rivers throughout western Queensland or the upper reaches of coastal rivers. These rivers are predominantly waterholes except when in flood.

Boat registration and licensing requirements are no different to any other boating requirements throughout Queensland. Some freshwater impoundments do have restrictions imposed by the authority which manages the dam. These restrictions range from what activities can take place, access to the water and whether outboard motors are permitted.

While there is no tidal flow in freshwater, the height and depth of water can vary dramatically depending on the season and rainfall received. These variations do not change overnight but as the dam capacity becomes lower and waterholes dry up, hazards such as old trees and fences become exposed, as do rock bars and sand banks.

## Freshwater boating tips

As a skipper, what are the differences and skills you should be aware of?

- Freshwater does not necessarily mean calm water. Some freshwater dams are located in mountainous areas which funnel winds through valleys, increasing speed. Large dams like the Fairbairn Dam at Emerald measure miles across, and strong winds can create conditions not unlike open ocean waters.
- Some of Queensland's dams are exposed areas of water which offer no shelter until you reach the shore. In some dams the shore could be several miles away, not like saltwater estuaries which are dotted with mangrove islands and shallow channels. Be aware of this when preparing for a day out on the water.
- Take extra care to look out for and be aware of submerged objects.
- Freshwater is less buoyant than salt water so if you fall overboard, it is harder to stay afloat. Also freshwater is often extremely cold only a few feet below the surface. Falling into cold water can be a shock to the body and reduce the ability to function.
- Freshwater dams and rivers are often littered with underwater hazards originating from trees and submerged fences. The water level in these dams fluctuates with the seasons and as water levels drop, unknown hazards can appear in areas previously used by water skiers. Unlike salt water estuaries, freshwater is usually discoloured and water clarity can hide many of these hazards.
- Wearing a life jacket, especially in the early morning or late afternoon, might mean the difference between survival and drowning if you fall overboard into very cold water.
- Don't underestimate the weather — take heed of forecasts and be aware that encountering bad weather on a freshwater dam is dangerous.
- Slow down when boating close to shore to avoid hitting underwater hazards. Never ski close to the shoreline.
- Keep at least 100 metres clear of dam walls and spillways at all times.

## Essential safety equipment

Boats operating in fresh water are required to carry the same safety equipment as specified for smooth water.

# 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 (part of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation) manages the state's fishing resources through reforms that protect valuable fish stocks, surveillance of Queensland's fishing waters, the enforcement of fishing and boating safety laws, and by educating and informing Queenslanders about responsible fishing.

This guide provides recreational fishers with important information about responsible fishing. It covers size and bag (take and possession) limits; explains how to measure catch; describes appropriate fishing gear and bait; outlines seasonal fishing requirements and closed waters (regulated waters); and provides information on noxious, non-indigenous and no-take fish species.

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

For marine park boundaries, contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Environment and Resource Management) or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. For more details visit **[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)** or **[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)** before you go fishing.

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.

To report illegal selling of fish or illegal fishing, call the Fishwatch hotline on **1800 017 116**.

## Size and bag 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.

### Handy hint

If you require someone to translate this information for you please visit [www.qld.gov.au/languages](http://www.qld.gov.au/languages)

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 bag limits?

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 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

#### Bag limit?

In this section, a 'bag limit' refers to the total number of fish an individual can legally take and have in their possession at any one time—it does not apply on a per day basis. This includes the fish you have caught previously that are in your freezer at home.

### Check your limits

For a complete list of size and bag limits, see the tear-out section in the middle 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](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

Fisheries Queensland recommends that anglers 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 bag limits.

## Measuring

### Measuring fin fish

Fin fish are measured from the tip of their snout to the end of their tail (see the following illustration).

### 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.

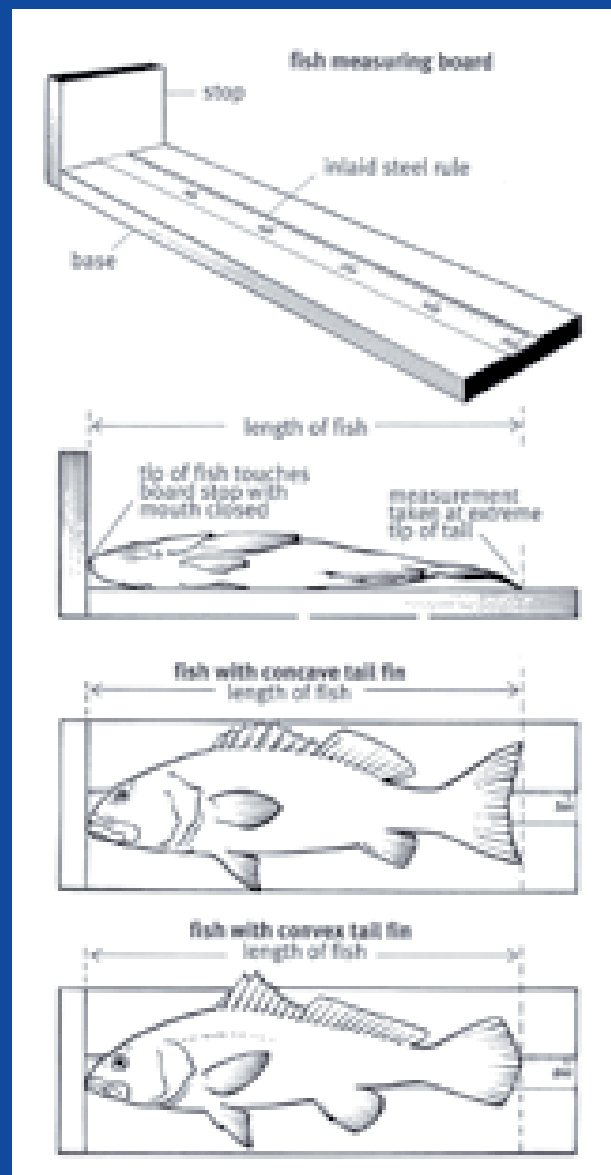
### Measuring crabs

For guidelines on how to measure crabs see page 83.

### Handy hint

#### Measuring device

Fisheries Queensland recommends using a sturdy ruler with an end stop to measure the length of catch.



## Compliance

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

To report illegal fishing activities in Queensland call the Fishwatch hotline on **1800 017 116**.

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

## Fishing ethics

### Code of practice

Fisheries Queensland supports fishing responsibly, sustainably and in a way that respects the environment and the rights of others. Around 750 000 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.daff.gov.au](http://www.daff.gov.au)

### Gently does it

When a fish is hooked, avoid playing it on the line for too long. The stressed fish will become exhausted quickly and have less chance of surviving when released. Releasing undersized or no-take species should be done carefully to ensure the fish has the best chance of survival. For more information on the 'Gently does it' program, and handling and releasing fish, visit [www.info-fish.net](http://www.info-fish.net)

## Get involved

### Volunteer monitoring programs

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.

### Handy hint

#### Take only what you need

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

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

about the following programs:

- the Keen Angler Program—donate your fish frames to science
- the online diary program—record your recreational fishing activities using the Fisheries Queensland online diary
- boat ramp surveys—let our scientific staff measure your fish email: [fisheriesmonitoring@deedi.qld.gov.au](mailto:fisheriesmonitoring@deedi.qld.gov.au)
- Fishcare volunteers—work to raise community awareness about preserving fisheries resources (call 1800 659 861 toll free or email [fishcare@deedi.qld.gov.au](mailto:fishcare@deedi.qld.gov.au)).

### Fishing clubs

Fishing clubs are a great way to get to know other people who are passionate about fishing. Those involved in clubs and associations contribute a tremendous amount to our community by volunteering for events and educating the public about responsible fishing. For referral to a club in your region, visit the Sunfish Queensland website at [www.sunfishqld.com.au](http://www.sunfishqld.com.au)

### Tagged fish

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

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

Bill Sawynok  
Suntag coordinator  
PO Box 9793  
Frenchville Qld 4707  
Tel: 1800 077 001 (toll-free)

You can keep a tagged fish if it is within the size and bag 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.

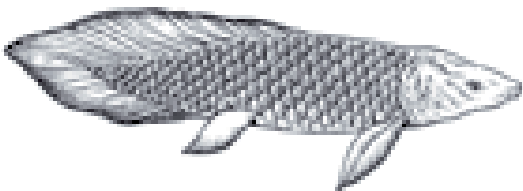
If the tag has 'Keep Frame' on it, fisheries officers may wish to examine the fish. If you keep the fish (rather than releasing it), please freeze the fish frame and contact the tagging coordinator on the toll-free number or your local QBFP office (see the 'contact information' section at the front of this guide) to arrange for collection.

### Boat safety

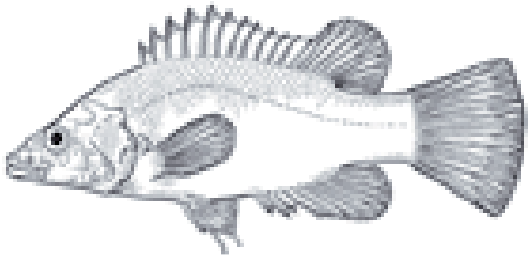
Fishing and boating usually go hand in hand. Fisheries Queensland recommends that boaters brush up on the rules and regulations for safe boating enforced by Maritime Safety Queensland (Department of Transport and Main Roads). For more information visit [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au)

## Fresh waters

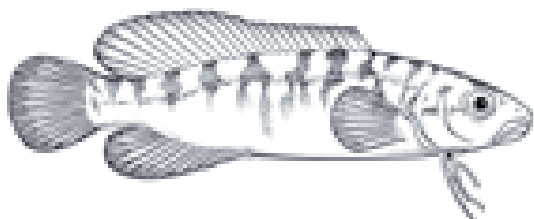
### No-take species



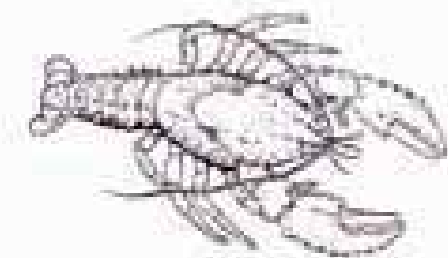
Australian lungfish



Bloomfield River cod



River blackfish



Spiny crayfish

Freshwater sawfish are also a no-take species. A complete list of size and bag limits can be found in this guide.

## 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

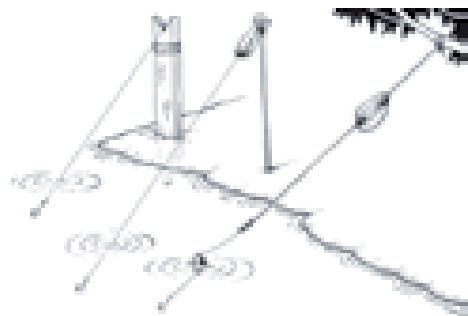
While fishing in fresh water, a person must not possess or use at one time more than four canister traps, four collapsible traps, four dillies, four funnel traps or four round traps; or more than four of these traps in any combination. No age limit applies to people using freshwater fishing gear.

In freshwater areas, fish may only be caught using:

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

### Marking traps and set lines

Anyone who uses a trap or set line for freshwater fishing must have a tag on the trap or set line showing the owner's surname and address. If the trap is not fixed to something stationary (i.e. a branch or boat) above the water level while being used, it must have a lightcoloured float attached that is clearly visible on the surface of the water. The float must feature the owner's first name and surname, and be at least 15 cm in each of its dimensions.



## Handy hint

### Set lines

Set lines should be checked regularly and not left unattended, to allow any undersized or non-target species to be released safely.

### Fishing lines

A person must not set a fishing line as a cross-line, or use more than six fishing lines or set lines alone or in combination. Only one hook or an artificial fly or lure can be attached to a fishing line. Anyone using a set line must be no more than 200 m from the line.



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.



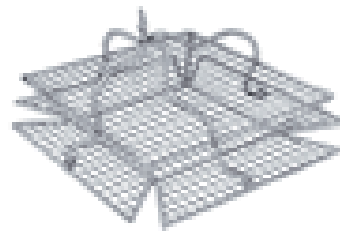
### Canister traps

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.



hoop/dilly

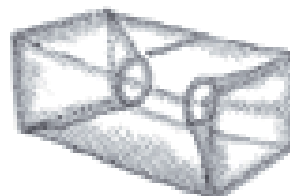
### Funnel traps

A funnel trap must be no longer than 70 cm or no more than 50 cm in width or height. It must have no more than four entrances, with each hole measuring no more than 10 cm in any dimension.

The trap entrance must be made of rigid material. If the trap does not have a mesh made of rigid material, the size of the mesh must be no more than 25 mm.

### Round traps

funnel trap



funnel (opera house) trap



In fresh waters, round traps must be no longer than 70 cm in diameter or no more than 50 cm in height. Traps must have no more than four entrances and each hole must not have a diameter, height or width measuring more than 10 cm. If the trap does not have a mesh made of rigid material, the size of the mesh must be no more than 25 mm.

### 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 above are prohibited, including:

- 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 (spear fishing is prohibited in all fresh waters)
- cast nets.

## Bait

The use of fish and crustaceans such as spangled perch, redclaw (redclaw crayfish), freshwater prawn (shrimp) and yabbies (blueclaw crayfish) 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.

## 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.

Any fish caught to be used as bait must comply with all recreational fishing regulations (such as size and bag 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 77 of this guide) must not be put back in the water even as bait.

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

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

Drainage Division. Yabbies can be used as bait only in these areas.

Contact Fisheries Queensland for more detailed information about the river basins in which particular species can be used as bait.

## 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.

### Australian bass

A closed season applies to Australian bass throughout Queensland from 1 June to 31 August except in and from waterways upstream of:

- Baroon Pocket, Bjelke-Petersen, Boondooma, Borumba, Cania, Cressbrook, Fred Haigh (Lake Monduran), Gordonbrook, Hinze, Lenthalls, Maroon, Moogerah, North Pine, Somerset, Wuruma and Wivenhoe Dams
- Claude Wharton and Jones Weirs
- Isis Balancing Storage (Lake Gregory), Lake Clarendon, Lake Dyer (Bill Gunn Dam) and Lake MacDonald.

### 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), Kinchant, Koombooloomba, Lenthalls, Peter Faust, Teemburra, Tinaroo and Wuruma Dams.

## Handy hint

### To fish or not to fish?

You can't fish for Australian bass from 1 June to 31 August, but you can fish for other species that don't have a closed season at that time.

The dates for the Gulf of Carpentaria closed season for barramundi\* in 2011–2013 are as follows:

- midday 4 October 2011 to midday 30 January 2012
- midday 7 October 2012 to midday 3 February 2013.

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

\*A regulatory impact statement was recently

released in which it was proposed to change the dates of the barramundi closed season in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Fishers should consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 or the Fisheries Queensland website at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) for updates.

Contact your local QBFP office for more details on the timing of the closed seasons.

A **bag limit of one barramundi** applies during the closed season in all of the 18 lakes and dams mentioned previously.

The barramundi may be greater than 120 cm. Recreational fishers may continue to fish in the 18 dams and lakes once they have reached their limit of one barramundi.

Outside of the closed season, in the 18 dams and lakes mentioned previously, a bag 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.

#### **Murray cod**

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

### **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:** between the Baroon Pocket Dam wall and the shortest line across the creek at the southern bank of Skenes Creek.

#### **Waters closed to all forms of fishing**

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

**Albert River:** from Luscombe Weir to 120 m downstream of the weir.

**Balonne River:** 100 m upstream to 75 m downstream of Surat Weir; 100 m upstream to 200 m downstream of the Beardmore Dam wall; and 100 m upstream to 115 m downstream of Jack Taylor Weir.

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

**Boyne River** (in the Auburn River basin): from 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Boondooma Dam wall.

**Boyne River** (Boyne River basin): 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Awoonga Dam wall.

**Brisbane River:** Old Mount Crosby Weir to 50 m downstream of the weir; 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of Mount Crosby Weir; and Wivenhoe Dam wall to 600 m downstream of the dam wall.

**Burdekin River:** from 400 m upstream to 400 m downstream of Clare Weir.

**Burnett Creek:** from 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Maroon Dam wall.

**Burnett River:** 400 m upstream to 400 m downstream of Burnett Barrage; 100 m upstream to 100 m downstream of the Kirar Weir; 50 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Ned Churchward (Walla) Weir; 200 m upstream to 150 m downstream of Claude Wharton Weir; and 500 m upstream to 500 m downstream of the Paradise Dam wall.

**Condamine River:** 200 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Chinchilla Weir; 400 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Loudon Weir; 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of Lemon Tree Weir; Yarramalong Weir to 200 m downstream of the weir; 150 m upstream to 150 m downstream of Cecil Plains Weir; and from 27°02'24" S 149°57'12" E (approximately 14 km upstream of Reilly's Weir) to 150 m downstream of Reilly's Weir.

**Dawson River:** 100 m upstream to 150 m downstream of the Glebe Weir; Gylanda Weir to 200 m downstream of the weir; Orange Creek Weir to 150 m downstream of the weir; 100 m upstream of the Theodore Weir to the downstream side of the Leichhardt Highway (from Taroom to Theodore) bridge on the river; 100 m upstream to 100 m downstream of the Moura Weir; and 400 m upstream of Neville Hewitt Weir to the downstream side of the bridge across the river on the road from Baralaba to Woorabinda.

**Dogwood Creek:** from 90 m upstream to 100 m downstream of Gil Weir (formerly Miles Weir).

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

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

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

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

**Macintyre Brook:** 100 m upstream to 100 m downstream of the Coolmunda Dam spillway wall; 100 m upstream to 50 m downstream of Whetstone Weir; and 100 m upstream to 50 m downstream of Bendor 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 Hinze Dam wall to 400 m downstream of the dam wall.

**Nogo River:** from 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Wuruma Dam wall.

**Nogoa River:** from 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Fairbairn Dam wall.

**Pike Creek:** from 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Glenlyon Dam wall.

**Pioneer River:** 200 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Marian Weir; 200 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Mirani Weir; and 400 m upstream to 250 m downstream of Dumbleton Weir.

**Quart Pot Creek:** from 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of the Storm King Dam wall.

**Reynolds Creek:** from 200 m upstream to 300 m downstream of the Moogerah Dam wall.

**Sandy Creek:** from 200 m upstream to 400 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.

**Six Mile Creek:** from the dam wall at Lake MacDonald to 100 m downstream of the dam wall.

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

**Three Moon Creek:** from 200 m upstream to 400 m downstream of Cania Dam wall.

**Thomson River:** from 50 m upstream to 200 m downstream of Fairmount Weir.

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

## Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme (SIPS)

### What is SIPS?

SIPS raises funds for stocking groups throughout Queensland to purchase native fish fingerlings and for other activities aimed at enhancing the fishery. There are 33 dams involved in the scheme.

These are: Bill Gunn Dam (Lake Dyer), Bjelke-Petersen Dam, Boondooma Dam, Borumba Dam, Burdekin Falls Dam, Callide Dam, Cania Dam, Lake Clarendon, 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, Teemurra Dam, Theresa Creek Dam, Tinaroo Falls Dam, Wivenhoe Dam and Wuruma Dam.

### Who needs a permit?

Any person aged 18 or over needs a permit to fish in any of the 33 dams listed above. People under 18 do not need a permit.

The permit only applies to the use of a fishing line or set line. Permits are not required if you are only using permitted traps (e.g. for redclaw).

Permits are issued to an individual but also cover the person's spouse (married or de facto) if the spouse is nominated on the permit.

### How much does a permit cost?

A yearly permit costs \$36.05, which allows the holder to fish in any of the dams involved in the scheme. There is a 10% discount for holders of particular concession cards. A weekly permit costs \$7.20 and again covers all SIPS dams. Paying for a permit means you are contributing to the cost of restocking the state's dams and helping to sustain fish stocks.

### Where can I apply for a permit?

Permits are available online from the Queensland Government Gateway at [www.smartservice.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartservice.qld.gov.au) or by calling **13 25 23**. Payment can be made with a credit card. Permits purchased by telephone need at least five working days to be issued.

Permits are also available from small business outlets near the dams. For details of the locations, call 13 25 23 or visit [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://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.

## Handy hint

### Keep it dry

Why not keep your stocked impoundment permit and rules and regulations guide dry by keeping them in a zip-locked bag? Some fishers also laminate the size and bag limits flyer.

### 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](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

### Noxious fish

People must not possess noxious fish or keep, hatch, rear, sell or consign them. Tilapia, carp and gambusia are some of the declared species of noxious fish. Along with other noxious and non-indigenous fish, they must not be released into Queensland waters or be used as bait, either live or dead. After they are caught, all noxious fish must immediately be killed and must not be returned to the water.

The recommended method for killing a noxious fish involves stunning the fish via a sharp blow to the back of the head just above the eyes. When applied correctly, this causes brain destruction—the fish's gill covers should stop moving and its eyes should remain still. The fish should be buried well away from the water or disposed of in a rubbish bin.

Noxious fish compete with native species and could greatly reduce native fish numbers and affect their habitat. For a complete listing of declared noxious fish in Queensland, visit [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

### Non-indigenous fish

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

## Miscellaneous prohibitions

The following activities are illegal throughout Queensland:

- jaggng or foul-hooking fish
- using explosives, poisons or electrical devices to take fish
- 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.

## Sale of fish

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

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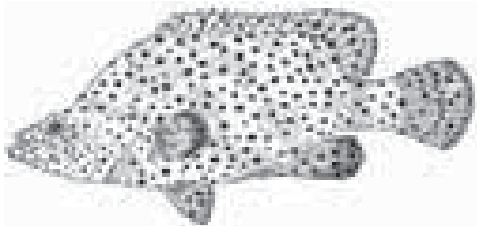
**W.** [www.runawaybaymarina.com.au](http://www.runawaybaymarina.com.au)

**E.** [info@runawaybaymarina.com.au](mailto:info@runawaybaymarina.com.au)

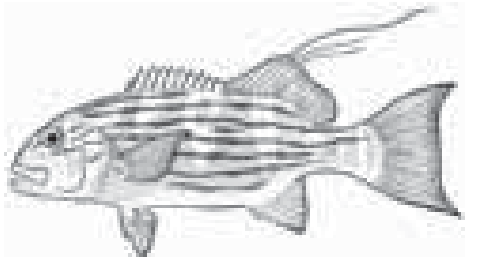
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# Tidal waters

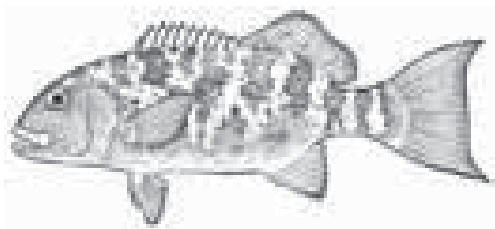
## No-take species



Barramundi cod



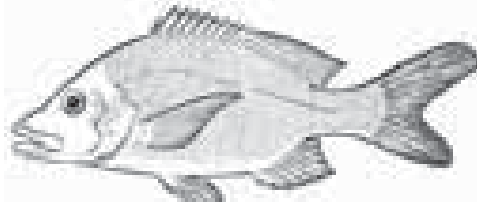
Chinaman fish (juvenile)



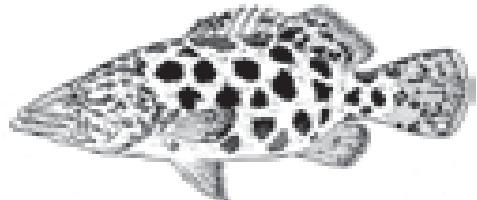
Chinaman fish (adult)



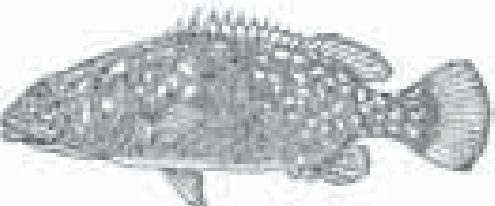
Humphead Maori wrasse



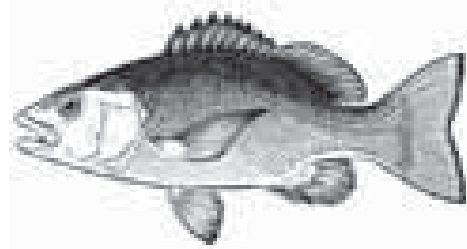
Paddletail



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 and tropical rocklobsters (tropical spiny rock lobsters)
- 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 (species of sea cucumber).

Note: Whales, porpoises, dugongs, turtles and dolphins are all 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.

A fishing line does not include the following:

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

Fishers should be in attendance at all times when using this equipment.

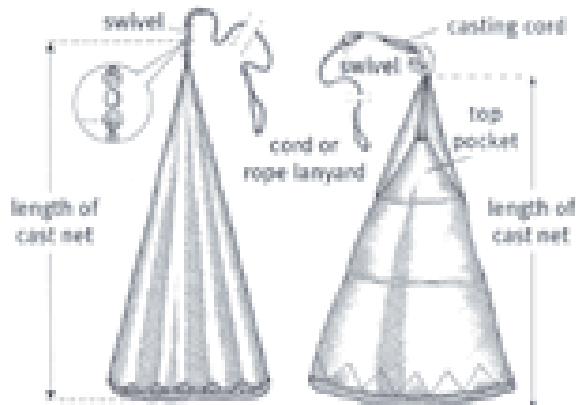
### Scoop or dip nets

A scoop or dip net must not exceed 2 m in any dimension, with a handle not longer than 2.5 m and a mesh size of at least 25 mm. A gaff or landing net may be used to secure line-caught fish.

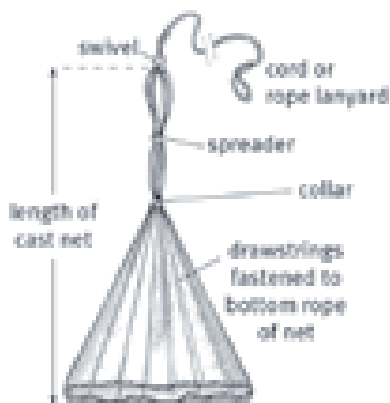


## Cast nets

Cast nets can be no more than 3.7 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.



## Handy hint

### Know your limits

Cast nets are 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.

### 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.
- All regulated fish, and fish not intended to be taken, must be released into water deep

enough to allow the fish to escape.

## Handy hint

### Aquarium fishing

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

### 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. Check the details in the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

### Hand pumps

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

### Worm digging forks



A worm digging fork may be used on foreshores in tidal waters to take worms.

### Crab pots and dillies

See the 'Crabbing gear' section on page 83.

## Spearfishing, spear guns and underwater breathing apparatus

Spearfishing and spear guns are permitted in some tidal waters (for waters closed to spearfishing see page 82). A powerhead is not permitted other than for defence against sharks.

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.

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

### Collecting bait

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**. Between **Cedar Street and Charlotte Street** the closure extends from the foreshore rock wall to the low water mark.

## Skin, fillet and pectoral fin 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 of the fillet is attached to the fillet
- must not possess a live coral reef fin fish unless the person or fisher intends to immediately return the fish to the sea or to display the fish in an aquarium
- must not possess a dead coral reef fin fish unless a pectoral fin has been removed from the fish.\*

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

- remove the skin from a fish on a boat until the fish is brought to shore
- bring a fish ashore and remove its skin and return the fish to the boat
- divide a fish into portions other than in a way that allows an inspector to easily count the number of fish possessed by the fisher
- possess a dead Spanish mackerel unless a pectoral fin has been removed from the fish.\*

\*There has recently been a proposal to change these requirements. Fishers are advised to consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 or [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) for the latest updates.

A regulatory impact statement was recently released in which it was proposed to allow limited processing of barred javelin fish in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Fishers should consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 or visit the Fisheries Queensland website at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) to obtain the latest update.

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

### Handy hint

#### To fish or not to fish?

You can't fish for Australian bass from 1 June to 31 August, but you can fish for other species that don't have a closed season at that time.

## 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 from 1 June to 31 August. See the freshwater 'Closed seasons' section on page 74 for information on taking bass from some fresh waters during the closure.

### 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 the intersection of longitude 142°09' E with the shore at high tide, a closed season applies to barramundi. The timing of the closed season varies each year according to lunar and tide cycles coinciding with spawning peaks.

The dates for the Gulf of Carpentaria closed season for barramundi\* for 2011–2013 are as follows:

- midday 4 October 2011 to midday 30 January 2012
- midday 7 October 2012 to midday 3 February 2013.

It is also prohibited to deliberately target barramundi for catch and release during these closed seasons, as the stress of capture may prevent a fish from spawning.

See the freshwater 'Closed seasons' section on page 74–75 for information on taking barramundi from some fresh waters during the closure.

\*A regulatory impact statement was recently released in which it was proposed to change the dates of the barramundi closed season in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Fishers should consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 or the Fisheries Queensland website at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) to obtain updates.

### 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 2011–13 are as follows:

- 24 to 28 October 2011, and 22 to 26 November 2011
- 12 to 16 October 2012, and 11 to 15 November 2012
- 2 to 6 October 2013, and 31 October to 4 November 2013.

Note: For information on closed seasons for spanner crabs and tropical rocklobsters see page 84.

## Handy hint

### Reef fish identification guide now online

Visit the species identification section at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) and make sure you know your coral reef fin fish species. Print relevant species guides and keep them with your guides in a ziplocked bag.

## 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](http://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](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) or contact your local QBFP office. For marine park boundaries contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Environment and Resource Management) or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Fishing is totally prohibited in the following areas:

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

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

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

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

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

**Fraser Island:** eastern foreshore waters and waters within 400 m out to sea from the eastern shore at low water, between 400 m north of Waddy Point and 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](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

## Spearfishing

Note: For precise boundaries consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) — some areas are marked by an SFB sign. Other local, state and federal regulations may also apply—check with the relevant authority.

Spear guns and spears must not be used to take fish while using or wearing underwater breathing apparatus other than a snorkel.

Spearfishing for barramundi is prohibited between 6 pm and 6 am. Spearfishing is prohibited in all fresh waters.

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

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 Tewantin and the western tip of Goat Island.

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

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

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

**Great Keppel Island:** the north-western, western and southern sides.

**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 north-western and northern sides.

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

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

#### **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 southeastern 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 castnetting, 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](http://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](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

## Crabs, prawns and lobsters

### 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.

### Handy hint

#### Size matters

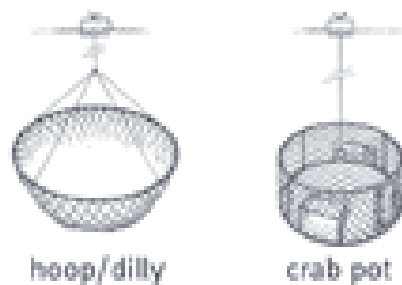
Consider the size of your crab pot openings and restrict them to a size that allows the entry of crabs, but prevents the entry of small or juvenile turtles that could otherwise become trapped in the pot.

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 owners surname, or
- a fixed object above high water (e.g. a jetty or tree). The rope must have a tag with the owner's surname on it at the point of attachment to the fixed object.

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



If a collapsible trap is used for taking spanner crabs it must be made of rigid material and have one or more collapsible sides.

### Handy hint

#### Best practice

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

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

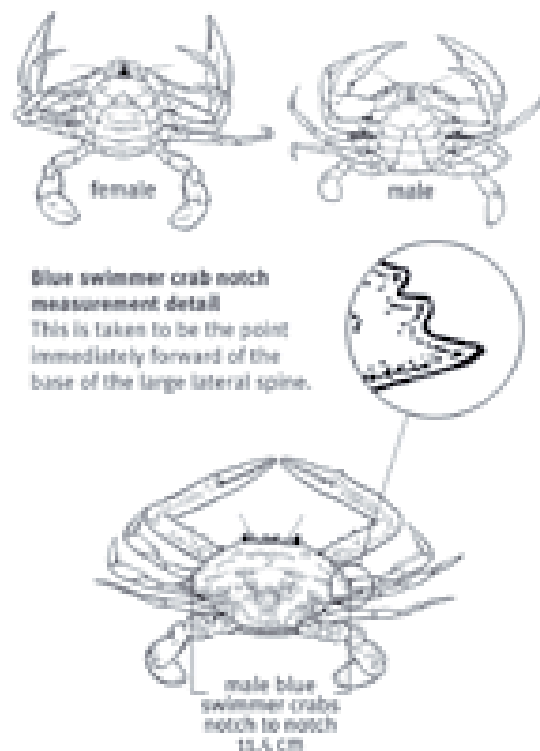
Collapsible traps

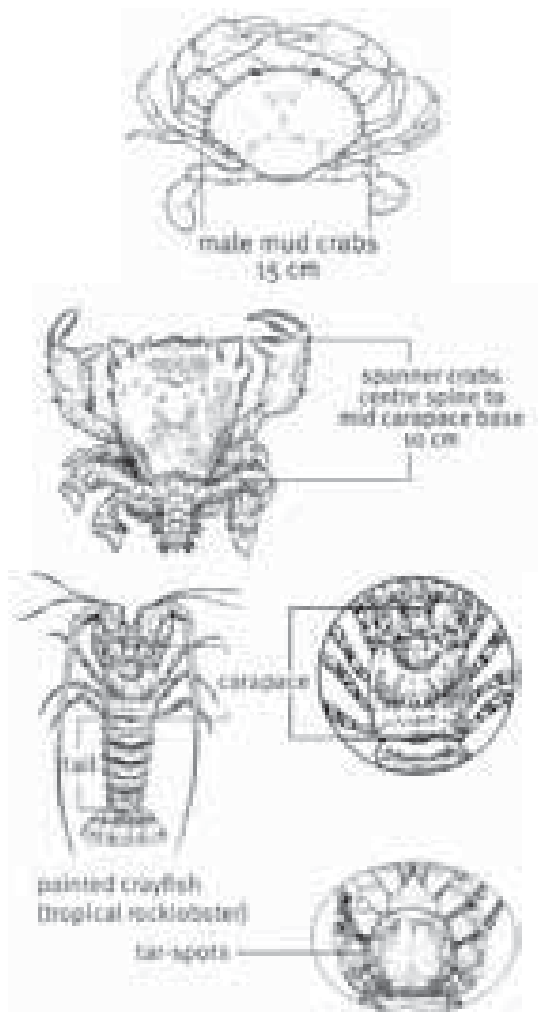
In tidal waters, a collapsible trap used for crabs must be made of rigid material with one or more collapsible sides.

#### ID and measurement

Crab gender identification and crustacean measurement

Determine crab gender from the underside of the crab.





### Possessing crabs and crabmeat

A person must not possess:

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

The size limit applies regardless of the condition of the carapace.

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

### Closed seasons

Spanner crabs

Throughout Queensland a closed season (regulated period) applies to spanner crabs from

midnight 20 November to midnight 20 December inclusive.

Tropical rocklobster

A closed season applies to all species of tropical rocklobster (family Panuliridae) from midnight 1 October to midnight 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.

### Size and bag limits

See the tear-out section at the end of this guide for a complete list of size and bag limits for crabs, prawns and lobsters.

### Grey nurse shark protection areas

The grey nurse shark is now listed under Queensland's Nature Conservation Act 1992 as an endangered animal. This is the highest threat category for animals surviving in the wild. The maximum fine for unlawfully taking, possessing or selling a grey nurse shark or its parts is \$300 000. The maximum fine for unlawfully fishing in a grey nurse shark protection area is \$100 000.

There are four grey nurse shark protection areas in Queensland:

- Wolf Rock
- Flat Rock
- Henderson Rock
- Cherubs' Cave.

For more information, visit

[www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) or call **13 25 23**.

### Noxious fish

People must not possess noxious fish or keep, hatch, rear, sell or consign them. Tilapia, carp and gambusia are some of the declared species of noxious fish. Along with other noxious and non-indigenous fish, they must not be released into Queensland waters or be used as bait, either live or dead. After they are caught, all noxious fish must immediately be killed and must not be returned to the water.

The recommended method for killing a noxious fish involves stunning the fish via a sharp blow to the back of the head just above the eyes. When applied correctly, this causes brain destruction—the fish's gill covers should stop moving and its eyes should remain still. The fish should be buried well away from the water or disposed of in a rubbish bin.

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

For a complete listing of declared noxious fish in Queensland, visit [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

## 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.

## 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
- taking oysters from any oyster ground; however, a person may consume oysters on the spot where taken in any public oyster reserve or on unlicensed oyster grounds
- 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
- interfering with marine life in a Fish Habitat Area—line fishing is allowed in certain areas of marine parks, and there is no specific prohibition on fishing in a Fish Habitat Area. The collecting of yabbies (with a hand pump only), or worms captured by hand, is also allowed in Fish Habitat Areas
- using fishing apparatus, including nets, across a waterway or navigation channel in a way that makes more than half of its width impassible to a boat or fish.

## 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.

## Sale of fish

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

## 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](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

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

Information on other relevant legislation may be found at [www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au) (federal), [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au) (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park) and [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.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.



# Get hooked up at a SIP dam

Stocked Impoundment Permit (SIP) scheme dams offer an enjoyable and sustainable fishing experience, with 75 per cent of funds raised used to stock native fish in 33 dams throughout Queensland.

Catch iconic Australian fish species including:

- Australian bass
- Barramundi
- Golden perch
- Mary River cod
- Murray cod
- Saratoga
- Silver perch
- Sooty grunter



If you are over 18 and line fishing in any SIP dam, you will need a permit.

To purchase a permit and find your nearest dam,  
call **13 25 23** or visit **[www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)**