

## Pollution

Discharges of oil, noxious liquid substances, sewage and garbage (MARPOL annexes I, II, IV and V) from ships are prohibited in Queensland coastal waters and pilotage areas. Under the *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995* severe penalties apply. MSQ has the authority to detain any ship suspected of causing marine pollution and to intervene where there is imminent danger to the coastline.

### Ship-sourced sewage

Sewage is the drainage and other wastes from any form of toilet, urinal or any other waste water when mixed with such drainages. Incorporated within this description, the term sewage includes human faecal wastes. Sewage does not include grey-water (waste water from showers and sinks) unless it is mixed with any of the above. Any sewage discharged from a ship will be either one of the following two categories: treated sewage and untreated sewage.

### Ship sewage discharge restriction maps

Under the provisions of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995](#) it is an offence to discharge untreated or treated sewage in certain areas throughout the Southport Pilotage Area. Contact the Gold Coast office of MSQ or visit the [MSQ website](#) for more information or view the following maps for guidance:

- [Southport to Couran – treated sewage, ships other than declared ships](#)
- [Couran to Russell Island – treated sewage, ships other than declared ships](#)
- [Southport to Couran – untreated sewage, ships other than declared ships](#)
- [Couran to Russell Island – untreated sewage, ships other than declared ships](#)

### Pump-out facilities

Locations of possible/suitable sewage pump-out facilities, as at December 2010, on the Gold Coast are provided in Table 1. Superyacht masters are advised to contact the marina's to ensure suitability based on specific ship requirements.

Location	Contact details
Mariners Cove Marina Max length of finger/berth: 120m Max draft: 3.5 – 4 m Max holding capacity: N/A	07 5591 2800 <a href="http://www.marinerscovemarina.com.au/pages/about-us.php">http://www.marinerscovemarina.com.au/pages/about-us.php</a>
Meridien Marinas – Horizon Shores Max length of finger/berth: 60m Max draft: 0.9m Max holding capacity: mobile unit for untreated sewage only	07 5546 2300 <a href="http://www.horizonshoresmarina.com.au/marina-services.php">http://www.horizonshoresmarina.com.au/marina-services.php</a>
Southport Yacht Club Max length of finger/berth: 60m Max draft: 5.2m Max holding capacity: N/A	07 5591 3500 <a href="http://www.southportyachtclub.com.au/welcome/page41.php">http://www.southportyachtclub.com.au/welcome/page41.php</a>

Table 1 Pump-out facilities as at December 2010

## Garbage

Garbage is hazardous to marine life and all users of the waterways. All boat operators need to manage the use and disposal of all garbage generated onboard correctly. Types of waste that need to be disposed of appropriately include:

- food waste
- paper products
- rags
- glass and bottles
- metal
- crockery
- wire residues
- fishing gear, bait boxes and nets
- wood products
- packaging material
- deck sweepings
- paint scrapings and residues
- all plastics.

If shore facilities are not adequate for the disposal of your garbage, let the marina operator or port authority know. If enough people express concern the facilities may be upgraded.

## Oil and chemical pollution

The [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995](#) is designed to protect Queensland's marine and coastal environment by minimising deliberate and negligent discharges of ship-sourced pollution. Most of the oil and chemicals in our waterways come from refuelling, boat maintenance and bilge discharges. All boat operators need to use and dispose of onboard oil and chemicals correctly and safely.

Clean bilges help reduce pollution. Use absorbents to mop up excess oil or fuel, wash your bilge with biodegradable degreasers or detergents and dispose of any cleaning residue ashore.

If oil does spill into the water, use absorbents to mop it up and let the Harbour Master, marina manager or port authority know so that it can be cleaned up as soon as possible. Do not use dispersants or other cleaning chemicals because they can increase the toxic effects of oil spills.

## Reporting

Section 67 of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995](#) requires the master of a ship to report a discharge, or probable discharge, without delay.

Marine pollution incidents are to be reported by submitting a completed [POLREP \(Pollution Report\)](#) form to MSQ. This form ensures the authorities receive appropriate information to enable an effective response. Even minor instances of marine pollution should be reported.

All pollution incidents occurring in the Southport Pilotage Area or waters immediately adjacent are to be reported to the MSQ Gold Coast office by phone on +61 7 5539 7300 or after hours on +61 4 0775 2884 (0407 752 884 using Australian telephone networks).

Ships without telephone communications can contact the Gold Coast Seaway Tower on VHF channels 16 or 73 and ask that a report be passed on to MSQ.

## Marine incidents

Under the [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Act 1994](#) a marine incident is classified as an event causing or involving:

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

The *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* requires the ship's masters to assist if a marine incident involves two or more ships. The master of each ship involved in the marine incident must, to the extent that he can do so without danger to his ship or persons on board his ship:

- give the other ship involved in the incident, its master and persons on board the ship the help necessary to save them from danger caused by the marine incident
- stay by the other ship until no further assistance is required
- give the master of the other ship reasonable particulars adequate to identify the ship and its owner.

The *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* requires the master of a ship to promptly report dangers to navigation including, an abandoned ship, a damaged aid to navigation, severe weather conditions and so on.

### Marine incident reporting

A marine incident must be reported to a Shipping Inspector within 48 hours of the incident occurring, unless there is a reasonable excuse. Shipping Inspectors are MSQ Marine Officers, and officers of Queensland Water Police and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. If you are unable to access one of these offices, [contact a Shipping Inspector by phone](#). They will advise you what to do next.

The report must be made on the approved [marine incident report form](#) and may be completed with the assistance of a Shipping Inspector to ensure the information is accurate, unbiased and as reliable as possible. These forms are also available from [Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centres](#), the [MSQ Gold Coast office](#), Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and Water Police offices. This form is used to report all incidents, no matter the type of ship involved.

If the initial report is not made on the approved [marine incident report form](#), the owner or master must make a further report to a Shipping Inspector on the approved form as soon as possible. The master would normally report a marine incident but the owner would report if the master, for some justifiable reason, was not able to make the report. Each marine incident reported will be investigated by a Shipping Inspector.

## Communications

### Notices to Mariners

MSQ publishes Queensland [Notices to Mariners](#) on an as needed basis to warn ship operators of navigation hazards, faulty aids to navigation and or changes to aids to navigation, flare demonstrations, change of channel depths and any other relevant information.

### Emergency contacts list

Agency or service	Location	Business hours contact numbers	After hours or emergency contact numbers
Gold Coast Water Police	Main Beach	+61 7 5509 5700	000
Police Command	Broadbeach	+61 7 5581 2800	000
Queensland Fire and Rescue	Southport	+61 7 5583 7513	000
Queensland Ambulance Service	Southport	000	000
MSQ	Main Beach	+61 7 5539 7300	+61 4 0775 2884
Gold Coast Seaway Tower	The Spit	+61 7 5591 2948	+61 7 5591 2900
Australian Customs	Brisbane	+61 7 3835 3412	+61 7 3835 3135
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	Brisbane	1800 803 006	
Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AusSAR)	Canberra	1800 641 792	
Gold Coast City Council	Bundall	+61 7 5581 6000	
Volunteer Marine Rescue	The Spit	+61 7 5532 3417	+61 7 5591 1300

### VHF channels

Local volunteer marine rescue (VMR) groups provide 24 hour radio coverage on VHF channel 16, channel 67 and channel 73.

Channel 16	Distress and calling
Channel 67	Secondary distress, weather forecasts and marine safety information
Channel 73	General working

Superyachts operating within the Southport Pilotage Area, must at all times maintain a listening watch on VHF Ch 16.

Call sign	Hours	27 MHz	VHF	HF
VMR Point Danger	24/7	88, 90	16, 22, 67, 73	2182, 2201, 2524, 4125
VMR Currumbin	0530–1200 Mon– Fri 0430–1230 w/e– p/h	88, 91	16, 67, 73	
VMR Southport	24/7	86, 88, 91	16, 22, 67, 73, 82	2182, 2524, 4125, 4483
Coast Guard Southport	24/7	86, 88, 91	16, 21, 22, 67, 73, 81, 82	2182, 2524, 4125, 6215, 8291
Seaway Tower	0500–2200 7 days	86, 88, 91	16, 22, 67, 73, 82	
VMR Jacobs Well	24/7	88, 91	16, 67, 73, 82	2112, 2182, 2201, 2524, 4125, 6215
VMR North Stradbroke	0730–1630 w/e– p/h	88, 90	12, 13, 16, 67, 80, 81, 82	

### Useful websites

[Airservices Australia](#)

[Australian Bureau of Meteorology](#)

[Australian Customs](#)

[Australian Department of Immigration](#)

[Australian Maritime Safety Authority](#)

[Australian Quarantine Inspection Service \(AQIS\)](#)

[Civil Aviation Safety Authority](#)

[Conservation and management of whales and dolphins in Queensland 1997–2001](#)

[Department of Environment and Resource Management](#)

[Department of Transport and Main Roads](#)

[Gold Coast Superyacht](#)

[Great Southern Route Directory](#)

[Maritime Safety Queensland](#)

[Moreton Bay Marine Park user guide](#)

[National Marine Safety Committee](#)

[NMSC Superyacht policy](#)

[Notices to Mariners](#)

[QLD Maritime Acts and Regulations](#)

[Southport Port Procedures](#)

[Superyacht Base Australia](#)

[Superyacht Services Queensland](#)

[Tourism Australia](#)

[Tourism QLD](#)

[Transport Infrastructure \(Gold Coast Waterways\) Management Plan 2000](#)

## Protected animals and habitat

The [Moreton Bay Marine Park](#) is situated to the north of the Gold Coast Seaway. The habitats found in the marine park support a diversity of marine fauna and flora including more than 1000 species of fish, that share the waters with six of the world's seven species of marine turtles and several threatened species such as grey nurse sharks and dugong. The marine park is also important for other marine mammals such as humpback whales and dolphins.

Boating is largely unrestricted in the marine park, however boat operators must:

- adhere to rules in go slow and no anchoring areas (see designated areas)
- ensure they do not unreasonably disturb shorebirds anywhere in the marine park
- not discharge any waste, including treated or untreated sewage in marine national park (green) zones.

Time limits apply on anchoring in the marine park - anchoring more than 14 consecutive days, or more than 30 days in any period of 60 days, in one area requires a [permit](#). A two hour time limit applies to public moorings in the marine park. Where there are no approved moorings anchoring limits apply to prevent damage to seagrass, coral and bottom-dwelling animals and to manage pollution and ship numbers.

- A permit is required to anchor for more than 14 consecutive days in one area, or for more than 30 days in any period of 60 days.
- A time limit does not apply if a ship is moved during the period and anchored at least one nautical mile from the area.
- A ship cannot navigate in the marine park for more than 120 days in any one period of 12 months unless it is a ship that is transferring passengers or vehicles in the marine park, moored in a designated mooring area, or navigating under a permit.

### Approach distances and directions for marine mammals

The following are only some of the regulations which protect and conserve whales from disturbance and harm. The [Conservation and management of whales and dolphins in Queensland 1997–2001](#) explains in detail the obligations of whale watchers.

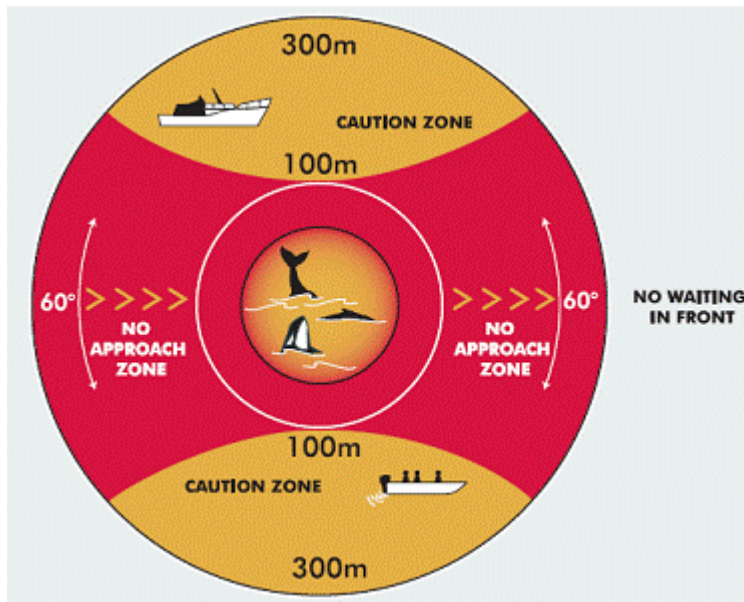
A person in control of a boat must not:

- bring the boat any closer than 100m of a whale
- bring the boat any closer than 300m of a whale if:
  - three or more boats are already closer than 300m to a whale
  - the boat is moving in a similar direction to or behind a whale
  - the boat is moving at more than four knots
- bring the boat to a position that would cause a whale to come closer than 100m to the boat if the whale continued in its direction of travel
- if a whale surfaces closer than 100m to the boat—move the boat at more than 4 knots until the whale has moved at least 300m away from the boat
- move or operate the boat in a way that causes the whale to alter its direction or speed of travel or its behaviour
- bring the boat between members of a pod of whales.

A person on a personal watercraft must not bring it any closer than 300m to a whale.

A person in water must not move any closer than 300m to a whale.

A person must not enter water closer than 300m to a whale.



Department of the Environment and Heritage, 2006.

A person in control of a helicopter must not bring it any closer to a whale than 1km or an altitude of 2000ft.

A person must not do any of the following to a whale in the wild.

- deposit rubbish near a whale
- make a noise that is likely to disturb a whale
- make a noise that is likely to attract a whale
- intentionally feed a whale
- touch a whale.

### **Action if a marine mammal approaches**

Whales and dolphins sometimes approach ships. In this situation, a master should not suddenly change speed or direction, and should slow down, engage neutral and wait until the animal has moved beyond the approach distance. The ship should then be navigated at a constant slow speed until out of the Caution Zone.

**Thank you for visiting the Gold Coast. We hope you enjoy the experience and return soon.**