



Recreational fishing rules and regulations for Queensland

A brief guide

March 2009

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) seeks to maximise the economic potential of Queensland's primary industries on a sustainable basis.

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General information

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.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) 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.

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 (Environmental Protection Agency) or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. For more details visit www.epa.qld.gov.au or 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, 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.

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.

Bag limit?

In this guide, a 'bag limit' refers to the total number of fish an individual has 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.

The size and bag limits in this guide are correct at time of printing. For the most up-to-date information and changes to regulations, visit the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au

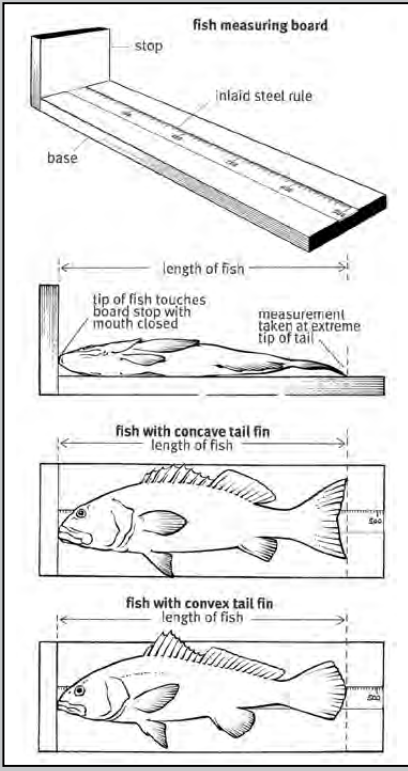
DPI&F recommends that anglers carry a good fish identification guide when fishing. Guides can be purchased from most bait and tackle stores. Remember, fish that look similar may in fact be different species with different size and bag limits.

Measuring

Handy hint

Measuring device

DPI&F recommends using a sturdy ruler with an end stop to measure the length of catch.



Measuring fin fish

Fin fish are measured from the tip of their snout to the end of their tail (see the illustration above). If you unintentionally take a fish (including fin fish or crustaceans) that is not legal size or is unwanted, 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 31.

Compliance

DPI&F's 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 'More information' section at the back of this guide.

Fishing ethics

Code of practice

DPI&F 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.recfish.com.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

Get involved

Volunteer monitoring programs

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

Take only what you need

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

Visit the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au to learn more about the following programs:

- the Keen Angler Program—donate your fish frames to science
- the diary program—record your recreational fishing activities over 12 months
- boat ramp surveys—let our scientific staff measure your fish
- Fishcare volunteers—work to raise community awareness about preserving fisheries resources (call **1800 659 861** toll free or email fishcare@dpi.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

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
Tagging 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.

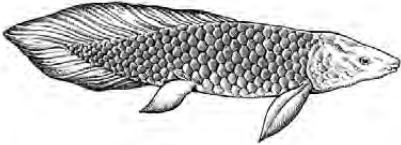
If the tag has 'Keep Frame' on it, fisheries officers may wish to examine the fish. If you keep the fish (rather than releasing it), please freeze the fish frame and contact the tagging coordinator on the toll-free number or your local QBFP office (see the 'More information' section at the back of this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

Boat safety

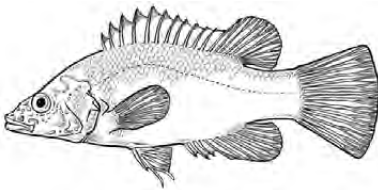
Fishing and boating usually go hand in hand. DPI&F recommends that boaters brush up on the rules and regulations for safe boating enforced by Maritime Safety Queensland (Queensland Transport). For more information call Queensland Transport on **13 23 80** or visit www.msq.qld.gov.au

Fresh waters

No-take species



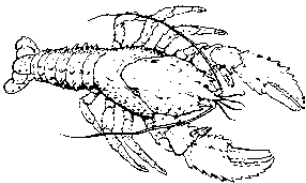
Australian lungfish



Bloomfield River cod



River blackfish



Spiny crayfish

Freshwater sawfish are also a no-take species.

For a complete list of size and bag limits, see the tear-out section in the middle of 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.

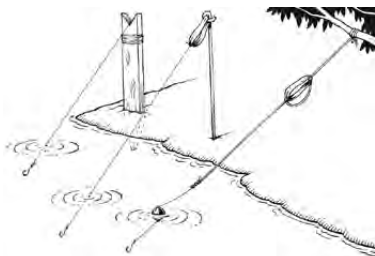
In freshwater areas, fish may only be caught using:

- a fishing line that consists of a hand-held 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 light-coloured 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



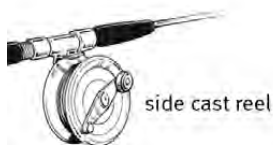
Fishing lines

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.

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.



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.



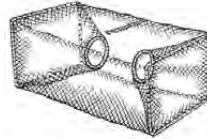
The trap entrance must be made of rigid material. If the trap does not have a mesh made of rigid material, the size of the mesh must be no more than 25 mm.

Collapsible traps

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



funnel trap



funnel (opera house) trap



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.



Round traps

In freshwater, 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.

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.

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.

Handy hint

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 18 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 australiensis*) are found throughout Queensland and can be used as bait in all areas of the state.
- **Yabby** or blueclaw crayfish (*Cherax destructor*) are found naturally in the Murray–Darling, Lake Eyre and Bulloo–Bancannia drainage divisions, and some river basins in the East Coast Drainage Division. Yabbies can be used as bait only in these areas.

Contact DPI&F for more detailed information about the river basins in which particular species can be used as bait.

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,

You can still fish during a closed season

For example, 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.

Handy hint

Koombooloomba, Lenthalls, Peter Faust, Teemurra, Tinaroo and Wuruma dams.

The dates for the Gulf of Carpentaria closed season for barramundi in 2009–2013 are as follows:

- midday 25 September 2009 to midday 22 January 2010
- midday 30 September 2010 to midday 26 January 2011
- 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.

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.

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; Gyration 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.

*These dams join SIPS on 2 April 2009.

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 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 \$35, 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 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.qld.gov.au/fishing or by calling **13 13 04**. 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, contact DPI&F on **13 25 23**.

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 the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au

Noxious fish

People must not possess noxious fish or keep, hatch, rear, sell, consign or place them in any container. 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.

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 the DPI&F website at www.dpi.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. Non-indigenous fish are any species that are not native to a particular area. Non-indigenous fish include:

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

Miscellaneous prohibitions

The following activities are illegal throughout Queensland:

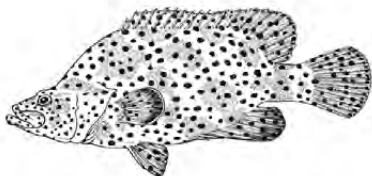
- jugging or foul hooking fish
- using explosives, poisons or electrical devices to take fish
- interfering with authorised aquaculture activities
- obstructing lawful netting operations, damaging or interfering with fishing apparatus (including removing fish from the apparatus)
- possessing or carrying 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

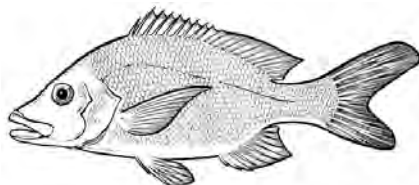
The taking of fish for sale, other than by licensed fishers, is prohibited in Queensland.

Tidal waters

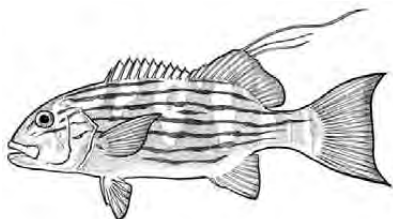
No-take species



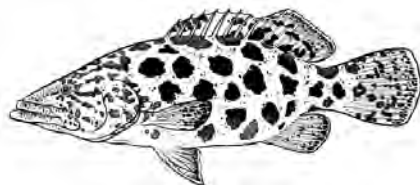
Barramundi cod



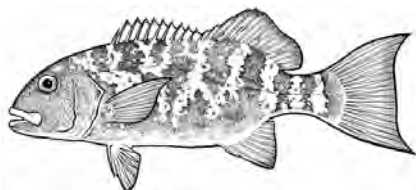
Paddletail



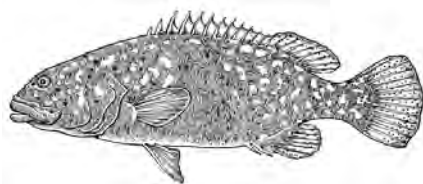
Chinaman fish (juvenile)



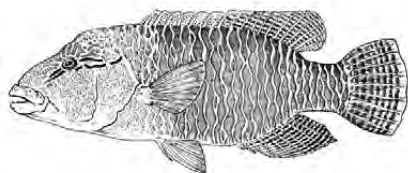
Potato rockcod



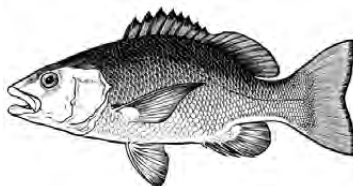
Chinaman fish (adult)



Queensland grouper



Humphead Maori wrasse



Red bass

Other no-take species include:

- female mud and blue swimmer crabs
- egg-bearing spanner crabs, slipper lobsters and tropical rocklobsters (tropical spiny rock lobsters)
- tar-spot tropical rocklobsters (tar-spot tropical spiny rock lobsters)
- 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.

For a complete list of size and bag limits see the tear-out section in the middle of this guide.

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 bottom set line
- a drop line
- a drum line
- a free floating line
- a set line.

Scoop or dip nets

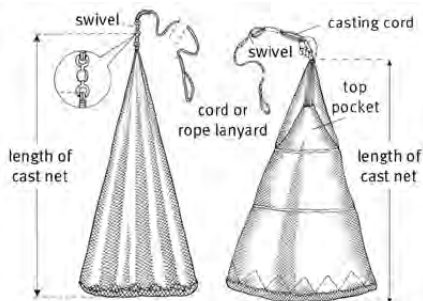
A scoop or dip net must not exceed 2 m in any dimension, with a handle not longer than 2.5 m and a mesh size of at least 25 mm. A gaff or landing net may be used to secure line-caught fish.



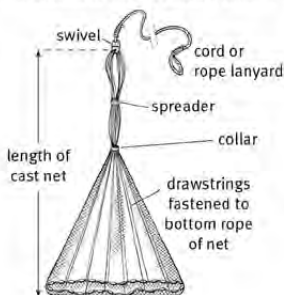
Cast nets

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 overleaf). 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

Aquarium fishing

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

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.

Shell dredges

For amateur shell collecting, conditions apply. Check the details in the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at www.legislation.qld.gov.au

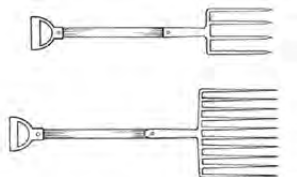
Hand pumps

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 30.

Spearfishing, spear guns and underwater breathing apparatus

Spearfishing and spear guns are permitted in some tidal waters (for waters closed to spearfishing see page 27). 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 dead coral reef fin fish unless a pectoral fin has been removed from the fish

or

- 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.

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.

Note: For information applying to recreational fishers on commercial fishing tours, consult the fisheries legislation at www.legislation.qld.gov.au

Handy hint

You can still fish during a closed season

For example, 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 13 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 2009–2013 are as follows:

- midday 25 September 2009 to midday 22 January 2010
- midday 30 September 2010 to midday 26 January 2011
- 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 13 for information on taking barramundi from some fresh waters during the closure.

Coral reef fin fish

Historically, three nine-day periods have been implemented as closed seasons to the taking of coral reef fin fish in October, November and December. The 2009 coral reef fin fish closures are currently under review. At the time of printing, no decision on the future of closures had been made.

Before fishing for any coral reef fin fish species during these months, visit the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au to find out if the closures apply.

Note: For information on closed seasons for spanner crabs and tropical rocklobster (tropical spiny rock lobsters) see page 31–32.

Reef fish identification guide now online

Visit the species identification section on the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au and make sure you know your coral reef fin fish species. Print relevant species and keep them with your rules and regulations guides in a zip-locked bag.

Handy hint

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).

Waters closed to all forms of fishing

Note: For precise boundaries consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at www.legislation.qld.gov.au or contact your local QBFP office. For marine park boundaries contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (Environmental Protection Agency) or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Fishing is totally prohibited in the following areas:

Certain areas within state and Commonwealth marine parks.

Coomababah Lake and tidal waters of **Coomababah 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 n 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.legislation.qld.gov.au

Spearfishing

Note: For precise boundaries consult the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at www.legislation.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 spear fishing areas managed by the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority visit 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).

Artificial reef area **Moreton Island** near Cowan Cowan.

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: in the vicinity of the artificial reef at the northern end of the Great Sandy Strait.

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

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

Waters closed to netting

Burnett River: Closed to all methods recreational netting including cast-netting, within the town-reach waters of the Burnett River at Bundaberg. This area also includes the waters of Bundaberg Creek from its junction with the Burnett River, then upstream of the river 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. (A map of this closure will be available on the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au from 1 July 2009.)

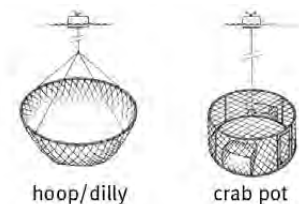
Hervey Bay: From the eastern tip of Point Vernon to the seaward end of the Scarness Jetty to the seaward end of the Urangan Pier to the seaward end of the rock wall of the Urangan Boat Harbour then west to the mainland shore. (A map of this closure will be available on the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au from 1 July 2009)

Crabs, prawns and lobsters

Crabbing gear

Crab pots and dillies

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



Crab pots and dillies must be marked by an identifying tag bearing the surname and address of the owner.

The use of inverted dilly apparatus (witches hats) is to be phased out. The use of this apparatus will be prohibited from 2 April 2010.

When fishing for spanner crabs, the frame of a dilly must be made of solid steel of a thickness of at least 6 mm and no more than 1 m in each of its dimensions. If a collapsible trap is used it must be made of rigid material and have one or more collapsible sides.

Female or undersized crabs must be removed from the trap and returned to the water immediately.

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

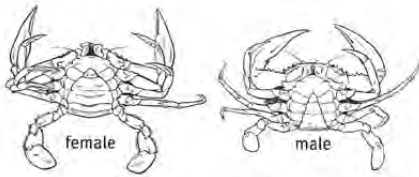
Collapsible trap

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

ID and measurement

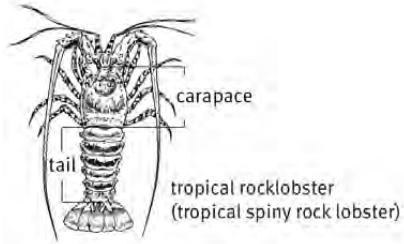
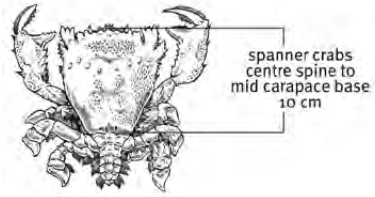
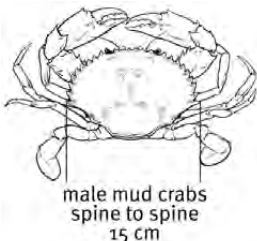
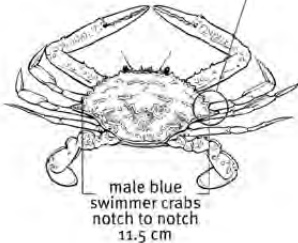
Crab gender identification and crustacean measurement

Determine crab gender from the underside of the crab.



Blue swimmer crab notch measurement detail

This is taken to be the point immediately forward of the base of the large lateral spine.



Possessing crabs and crabmeat

A person must not possess:

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

Closed seasons

Spanner crabs

Throughout Queensland a closed season (regulated period) applies to spanner crabs from midnight 20 November to midnight 20 December inclusive.

Tropical rocklobster (tropical spiny rock lobster)

A closed season applies to all species of tropical rocklobster (family Panuliridae) from midnight 1 October to midnight 31 January in Queensland tidal waters:

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

No-take species

The following species are no take throughout Queensland:

- female mud and blue swimmer crabs
- egg-bearing spanner crabs, slipper lobsters and tropical rocklobsters (tropical spiny rock lobsters)
- tar-spot tropical rocklobsters (tar-spot tropical spiny rock lobsters)

Size and bag limits

See the tear-out section in the middle 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 \$225 000. The maximum fine for unlawfully fishing in a grey nurse shark protection area is \$75 000.

There are four grey nurse shark protection areas in Queensland:

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

For more information, visit the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au or call DPI&F on **13 25 23**.

Noxious fish

People must not possess noxious fish or keep, hatch, rear, sell, consign or place them in any container. 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.

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 the DPI&F website at www.dpi.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 DPI&F.

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.

Handy hint

Miscellaneous prohibitions

The following activities are illegal throughout Queensland:

- jaggng 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.

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 DPI&F on **13 25 23** or visit the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au

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

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

QBFP offices

Airlie Beach

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

Bowen

6 Herbert Street, Bowen
(07) 4786 3444

Brisbane (Pinkenba)

Marine Operations Base,
MacArthur Avenue East, Pinkenba
(07) 3860 3502

Bundaberg

Enterprise Street, Bundaberg
(07) 4131 5817

Cairns

64–66 Tingira Street,
Portsmith, Cairns
(07) 4035 0700

Gladstone

Alf O'Rourke Drive,
Gladstone Marina
(07) 4972 0699

Gold Coast

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

Hervey Bay

Buccaneer Avenue, Urangan
(07) 4125 3989

Ingham

7 Haigh Street, Ingham
(07) 4776 1611

Karumba

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

Longreach

Landsborough Highway, Longreach
(07) 4658 4400

Mackay

DPI Building, Tennyson Street,
Mackay
(07) 4967 0724

Mooloolaba

Parkyn Parade, Mooloolaba
(07) 5444 4599

Noosa

Russell Street, Noosaville
(07) 5449 7555

Port Douglas

Ashford Avenue, Port Douglas
(07) 4099 5160

Redland Bay

Redlands Research Station,
26–40 Delancey Street, Cleveland
(07) 3824 9546

**Regional Office North and
Community Relations**

180–202 River Boulevard,
Townsville
(07) 4760 1590

Roma

Roma Research Station
290 Raglan Street, Roma
(07) 4622 9999

Thursday Island

38 Victoria Parade, Thursday Island
(07) 4069 1772

Townsville

60 Ross Street, South Townsville
(07) 4772 7311

Weipa

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

Wondai

32 Bramston Street, Wondai
(07) 4168 5990

Yeppoon

John Howes Drive, Rosslyn Bay
(07) 4933 6404

DPI&F

Call: 13 25 23

Visit: www.dpi.qld.gov.au

