

## Size and bag limits

### Fresh waters

The legal limits in this brochure apply to fish taken in Queensland waters. A bag limit (take and possession limit) is the total number of fish that one person can legally take and keep at any one time.

These size and bag limits are part of the *Recreational fishing rules and regulations for Queensland: A brief guide*. To get your copy, call the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) on 13 25 23 or ask at your local bait and tackle shop. The rules and regulations are also available on the DPI&F website at [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

**Note:** A number of fish names have changed to reflect the Australian standard fish names.

#### The following freshwater species have a bag limit of 20:

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

#### No-take species

Australian lungfish	Bloomfield River cod
Freshwater sawfish	Mary River cod*
River blackfish	Spiny crayfish

\* Except upstream of some dams—see 'Cod' section

## Size and bag limits

### Tidal waters

The legal limits in this brochure apply to fish taken in Queensland waters. A bag limit (take and possession limit) is the total number of fish that one person can legally take and keep at any one time.

See overleaf for a list of tidal waters size and bag limits.

These size and bag limits are part of the *Recreational fishing rules and regulations for Queensland: A brief guide*. To get your copy, call the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) on 13 25 23 or ask at your local bait and tackle shop. The rules and regulations are also available on the DPI&F website at [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

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#### No-take species

Barramundi cod	Chinaman fish
Humphead Maori wrasse	Paddletail
Potato rockcod	Queensland grouper
Red bass	

#### Other no-take species include:

Female mud and blue swimmer crabs
Egg-bearing spanner crabs, 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 spartooth 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*.

**DPI&F**

Call: 13 25 23

Visit: [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

## Recreational fishing size and bag limits for Queensland

March 2009



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### Fresh waters

Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Australian bass*	30 min	2
Australian lungfish		No take
Barramundi*		
East coast	58 min 120 max (1 greater than 120 cm from some dams)	5 (1 during closed season for some dams)
Gulf of Carpentaria	60 min 120 max (1 greater than 120 cm from some dams)	5 (1 during closed season for some dams)
Cherabins	No limit	Combined limit of 10 in total of both species: <i>Macrobrachium lar</i> and <i>M. rosenbergii</i>
Cod		
Bloomfield River cod		No take
Mary River cod—upstream of the walls of Cressbrook, Hinze, Maroon, Moogerah, North Pine, Somerset and Wivenhoe dams, and lakes Dyer (Bill Gunn Dam) and Clarendon	50 min	1
Mary River cod—elsewhere in Queensland		No take
Murray cod* (Queensland part of Murray–Darling Drainage Division)	60 min 110 max	2
Eels		
Longfin	30 min	Combined limit of 10 in total of all species
Pacific shortfin (south Pacific)	30 min	
Southern shortfin	30 min	
Freshwater catfish (eel-tailed catfish) ( <i>Tandanus tandanus</i> )	35 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of fish in the genera <i>Neosilurus</i> , <i>Tandanus</i> and <i>Neosiluroides</i> (e.g. black, Cooper Creek, eel-tailed, false spine, short-finned catfish and Hyrtl's tandan)

\*A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to the *Recreational fishing rules and regulations for Queensland: A brief guide* for more information.

Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Freshwater sawfish		No take
Garfish	No limit	50
Mangrove jack	35 min	5
Molluscs any—excluding oysters	No limit	50
Perch and grunter		
Golden perch (yellowbelly)	30 min	10
Jungle perch	35 max	Combined limit of 1 in total of jungle perch and spotted flagtail
Spotted flagtail (northern jungle perch)	35 max	Combined limit of 1 in total of jungle perch and spotted flagtail
Silver perch	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of silver perch, Welch's grunter and Barcoo grunter Silver perch in Paroo and Warrego River basins are catch and release only
Barcoo grunter	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of silver perch, Welch's grunter and Barcoo grunter
Welch's grunter	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of silver perch, Welch's grunter and Barcoo grunter
Sooty grunter	28 min	Combined limit of 10 in total for sooty grunter and khaki grunter
Khaki grunter (khaki bream)	No limit	Combined limit of 10 in total for sooty grunter and khaki grunter

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

# Size and bag limits

## Tidal waters

**Note:** Fish with new size and/or limits are marked 'NEW'.

The changes are effective from 1 March 2009 (except limits that apply to sharks and rays that are effective from 1 July 2009, and size limits for pikey and yellowfin bream, tailor and tarwhine that come into effect on 1 March 2010).

Coral reef fin fish*		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
<b>All cods and groupers</b>	38 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of all cod and grouper species
<b>Cod and grouper exceptions</b>		
Blackspotted rockcod (estuary cod) <b>NEW</b>	38 min 120 max	
Camouflage grouper <b>NEW</b>	50 min 70 max	
Flowery rockcod <b>NEW</b>	50 min 70 max	
Goldspotted rockcod (estuary cod) <b>NEW</b>	38 min 120 max	
Greasy rockcod	38 min 100 max	
Maori rockcod	45 min	
Barramundi cod		<b>No take</b>
Potato rockcod		<b>No take</b>
Queensland grouper		<b>No take</b>
<b>All coral trout</b>	38 min	Combined limit of 7 in total of all trout species
<b>Coral trout exceptions</b>		
Blue spotted coral trout (Chinese footballer)	50 min 80 max	
<b>All emperors</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>Emperor exceptions</b>		
Redthroat emperor (sweetlip emperor)	38 min	8
Long nose emperor	38 min	5
Spangled emperor	45 min	5
<b>All fusiliers</b>	No limit	No limit
<b>All parrotfishes</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>All surgeonfishes</b>	25 min	5 per species

\* The 2009 coral reef fin fish closures are under review. Visit the DPI&F website at [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au) to find out if seasonal closures apply.

Coral reef fin fish*		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
<b>All sweetlips</b> —excluding redthroat emperor (sweetlip emperor)	25 min	5 per species
<b>All tropical snappers and sea perches</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>Tropical snappers and sea perch exceptions</b>		
Rosy snapper (jobfish) and lavender snapper (jobfish)	38 min	Combined limit of 8 in total of both species
Chinaman fish		<b>No take</b>
Crimson snapper (small mouth nannygai) and saddletail snapper (large mouth nannygai)	40 min	Combined limit of 9 in total of both species
Flame snapper	38 min	5
Goldband snapper	38 min	5
Hussar	25 min	10
Green jobfish	38 min	5
Paddletail		<b>No take</b>
Red bass		<b>No take</b>
Red emperor	55 min	5
Ruby snapper	38 min	5
Smalltooth jobfish	38 min	5
Miscellaneous jobfish	38 min	5 per species
<b>All wrasse</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>Wrasse exceptions</b>		
Humphead Maori		<b>No take</b>
Tuskfish (all species)	30 min	Combined limit of 6 in total of all tuskfish species

\* The 2009 coral reef fin fish closures are under review. Visit the DPI&F website at [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au) to find out if seasonal closures apply.

In addition to individual bag limits for each coral reef fin fish species listed, they all have a combined bag limit of 20. Please refer to the *Recreational fishing rules and regulations for Queensland: A brief guide* for more information. For a complete list of coral reef species access the Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Management Plan 2003 at [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au)

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
<b>Amberjack NEW</b>	75 min	Combined limit of 2 in total of amberjack and samsonfish
<b>Australian bass</b> <sup>†</sup>	30 min	2
<b>Barramundi</b> <sup>†</sup>		
East coast	58 min 120 max	5
Gulf of Carpentaria	60 min 120 max	5
<b>Bêche de mer (sea cucumber)</b>	No limit	5
<b>Bêche de mer exception</b>		
Black teatfish		No take
<b>Bream (pikey and yellowfin) NEW</b>	23 min (25 cm from 1 March 2010)	Combined limit of 30 in total of pikey and yellowfin bream, and tarwhine
<b>Blacklip pearl oyster</b>	9 min	No limit
<b>Cobia (black kingfish) NEW</b>	75 min	2
<b>Crab</b>		
Blue swimmer	11.5 min	No limit
Mud	15 min	10
Spanner <sup>†</sup>	10 min	20
<b>Eels</b>		
Longfin	30 min	
Pacific shortfin (south Pacific)	30 min	Combined limit of 10 in total of all species
Southern shortfin	30 min	
<b>Flathead</b>		
All flathead (except dusky flathead) <b>NEW</b>	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of all species (except dusky flathead)
Dusky flathead (mud flathead) <b>NEW</b>	40 min 75 max	5
<b>Garfish NEW</b>	No limit	50

<sup>†</sup> A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to the *Recreational fishing rules and regulations for Queensland: A brief guide* for more information.

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
<b>Giant queenfish</b>		
East coast <b>NEW</b>	50 min	5
Gulf of Carpentaria <b>NEW</b>	50 min	No limit
<b>Golden snapper (fingermark)</b>		
East coast <b>NEW</b>	35 min	5
Gulf of Carpentaria	35 min	10
<b>Goldlip pearl oyster</b>	13 min 23 max	No limit
<b>Grass emperor (sweetlip) NEW</b>	30 min	10
<b>Javelin</b>		
Barred (spotted grunter) East coast <b>NEW</b>	40 min	10
Barred (spotted grunter) Gulf of Carpentaria <b>NEW</b>	40 min	10 whole fish or 20 fillets
Silver (small spotted grunter) <b>NEW</b>	30 min	10
<b>Jewfish</b>		
Black (east coast) <b>NEW</b>	75 min	2
Black (Gulf of Carpentaria)	60 min 120 max	5 with no more than 2 over 100 cm
Scaly jewfish (jewel fish) <b>NEW</b>	45 min	No limit
<b>Luderick NEW</b>	30 min	10
<b>Mackerel</b>		
Grey <b>NEW</b>	60 min	5
Spanish	75 min	3
School <b>NEW</b>	50 min	10
Shark <b>NEW</b>	50 min	10
Spotted <b>NEW</b>	60 min	5

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
<b>Mahi mahi (dolphin fish) NEW</b>	60 min	5
<b>Mangrove jack NEW</b>	35 min	5
<b>Mullet</b>		
Diamondscale <b>NEW</b>	30 min	20
Sea <b>NEW</b>	30 min	20
<b>Molluscs and gastropods</b> any—excluding oysters	No limit	50
<b>Mulloway NEW</b>	75 min	2
Pearl perch	35 min	5
<b>Prawns</b>	No limit	10 litres <sup>†</sup>
<b>Samsonfish NEW</b>	75 min	Combined limit of 2 in total of amberjack and samsonfish
<b>Sharks and rays</b> (effective from <b>1 July 2009</b> ) <b>NEW</b>	1.5 m max	1
<b>Sharks and rays exceptions NEW</b>		
Great white sharks Grey nurse sharks Sawfish Speartooth sharks		<b>No take</b>
<b>Snapper</b>	35 min	5
<b>Swallowtail dart NEW</b>	30 min	30
<b>Tailor NEW</b>	30 min (35 min from 1 March 2010)	20
<b>Tarwhine NEW</b>	23 min (25 cm from 1 March 2010)	Combined limit of 30 in total of pikey and yellowfin bream, and tarwhine

<sup>†</sup> No more than 10 prawns with their heads or any other part removed, unless the removal was to process the prawns for immediate consumption.

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
<b>Teraglin NEW</b>	38 min	5
<b>Threadfin (salmon)</b>		
King <b>NEW</b>	60 min	5
Blue (east coast) <b>NEW</b>	40 min	10
Blue (Gulf of Carpentaria)	40 min	20
<b>Trevally NEW</b>	No limit	20
<b>Trochus</b>	8 min 12.5 max	50
<b>Tropical rocklobster</b> <sup>†</sup> (tropical spiny rock lobster) ( <i>Panulirus ornatus</i> )	11.5 tail min 9 carapace min	Above 14° south latitude: 3 per person/ 6 per boat Below 14° south latitude: 5 per person/ 10 per boat
All other species from family Panuliridae	No limit	As above
<b>Wahoo NEW</b>	75 min	2
<b>Whiting</b>		
All whiting (except trumpeter whiting) <b>NEW</b>	23 min	Combined limit of 30 in total of all whiting species (except trumpeter whiting)
Trumpeter (winter whiting) <b>NEW</b>	No limit	50
<b>Wolf herring NEW</b>	No limit	10
<b>Worms</b> (including part thereof)		
Beach	No limit	30
Blood	No limit	50
<b>Yellowtail kingfish NEW</b>	60 min	2

<sup>†</sup> A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to the *Recreational fishing rules and regulations for Queensland: A brief guide* for more information.