



Bulletin



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SPEARFISHING IN THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

Where am I allowed to spearfish?

You may spearfish in all general use zones in the Marine Park, and in all non-zoned sections of the Marine Park. You should note that some Queensland waters are closed to spearfishing — there are details of those areas in the Queensland Harbours and Marine Tide Tables.

Where am I NOT allowed to spearfish?

You may not spearfish in Marine National Park 'A', Marine National Park Buffer and Marine National Park 'B' Zones, nor in Scientific Research or Preservation Zones. You also may not spearfish in areas where periodic restrictions are in operation. These areas may be Replenishment Areas, Reef Appreciation Areas, Reef Research Areas or Seasonal Closure Areas.

Replenishment Areas

A Replenishment Area is an area closed for a specified period to all activities, including spearfishing, that take living resources from the Marine Park. The only activity allowed in a closed Replenishment Area is trolling for pelagic mackerel species during specific periods.

Reef Appreciation Areas

Reef Appreciation Areas are small areas of reefs where all extractive activities are prohibited to protect the areas in their natural state. These areas are widely advertised and usually marked.

Reef Research Areas

Reef Research Areas are small areas closed to extractive activities to protect research projects. These areas are usually marked.

Seasonal Closure Areas

Seasonal Closure Areas are areas closed to all access during the breeding or nesting periods of birds or other marine life. The closure of these areas is advertised.

What equipment can I use?

You may only spearfish using a snorkel and a hand spear or speargun. You may not use any other underwater breathing equipment (such as scuba or hookah) and you may only use a powerhead for protection against a shark attack.

Can I sell fish I spear?

Spearfishing for the purpose of sale or trade is **not allowed** in the Marine Park, with one exception, in the Far Northern Section of the Marine Park it is permitted to spear crayfish for purposes of sale or trade (you can also use scuba or hookah in this circumstance — but only for crayfish). To spear crayfish for sale or trade in the Far Northern Section you must have a commercial fishing licence.

Where can I find out more?

1. For information on the zones in the Marine Park refer to a zoning plan or activity guide for the area to be visited — copies can be obtained from offices of the GBRMPA or Regional offices of the Q.NPWS.
2. There are penalties of up to \$5000 for offences relating to spearfishing in the Marine Park. Offenders have already been fined up to \$1000 plus court costs.



Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

P.O. Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Phone (077) 818811



QUEENSLAND NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Maritime Estate Management Branch
P.O. Box 190
NORTH QUAY QLD 4000
Phone (07) 227 4860

Regional Offices of Q.NPWS

12A Abbott Street
CAIRNS QLD 4870
Phone (070) 519811

Marlow Street
Pallarenda
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Phone (077) 741411

194 Quay Street
ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4700
Phone (079) 276511

Roseberry Street
GLADSTONE QLD 4680
Phone (079) 761620