



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Queensland
Government

ANCHORING AND MOORING

Whitsundays

The Great Barrier Reef is a nautical paradise. As you navigate the waters of the Whitsundays, please keep your ripple effect small by practising careful anchoring and mooring.

Doing so helps ensure the region remains enjoyable for everyone while protecting its delicate marine habitats, like coral reefs.

This guide provides vital information on anchoring and public moorings, along with key practices to safeguard this remarkable natural wonder for future generations.

Responsible practices

- **Use suitable moorings** whenever possible. Approach moorings carefully and avoid damaged moorings.
- **Anchor in sand or mud**, away from coral, when moorings aren't available. Use only the necessary chain and line.
- **Avoid feeding fish** at moorings to help ensure a safe and sustainable environment for all.



Yachts using public moorings. © Queensland Government



Public moorings

Public moorings are available at popular locations throughout the region. These blue cone-shaped buoys have a colour-coded band indicating class (vessel length), time limits and wind strength limits.

	Colour code	Class	Max. vessel length		Max. wind speed
	Brown	T	6m tender only		24 knots
	Yellow	A			24 knots
	Green	B	10m	9m	34 knots
	Blue	C	20m	18m	34 knots
	Red	D	25m	22m	34 knots
	Red	D	35m	30m	34 knots

Using moorings

- Moorings are first-come, first-served.
- Use the right mooring suited to your vessel and weather conditions.
- Only one vessel per public mooring; attach at front.
- Observe time limits (usually two hours, four hours or 24 hours).
- Vacate when your time is up; overnight stays are from 3 pm to 9 am.

Private moorings are also in the area and can be identified by colours such as white, fluorescent pink, orange or yellow. These require the owner's permission before use.

No-anchoring areas

No-anchoring areas protect coral reefs from anchor damage and are indicated by reef protection markers—white pyramid-shaped buoys with a blue label. There are twenty-eight no-anchoring areas in this region, located at:

- Bait Reef (unmarked, see map on the following page)
- Blue Pearl Bay, Hayman Island
- Langford Island
- Black Island
- Black Island East
- Baird Point, Hook Island



- Caves Cove, Hook Island
- Cockatoo Point, Hook Island
- Crayfish Beach, Hook Island
- East Butterfly Bay, Hook Island
- False Nara Inlet, Hook Island
- Luncheon Bay, Hook Island
- Mackerel Bay, Hook Island
- Manta Ray Bay, Hook Island (unmarked, see map on the following page)
- Maureens Cove, Hook Island
- North Stonehaven Bay, Hook Island
- Pinnacle Bay, Hook Island
- Saba Bay, Hook Island
- South Stonehaven Bay, Hook Island
- West Butterfly Bay, Hook Island
- Cateran Bay, Border Island
- Dumbell Island
- Cairn Beach, Whitsunday Island
- Peter Bay, Whitsunday Island
- Sandy Bay, South Molle Island
- Sunlovers Bay, Daydream Island
- Planton Island
- Chalkies Beach, Haslewood Island

Anchoring with care

- You may enter these areas; however, never anchor inside of markers.
- Anchoring is allowed on beaches if no tidal restrictions.
- Do not attach your vessel to reef protection markers; they are not designed for that purpose.

It is an offence to damage coral in the marine parks.

Further information

Learn more at reefauthority.gov.au/moorings-and-no-anchoring-areas

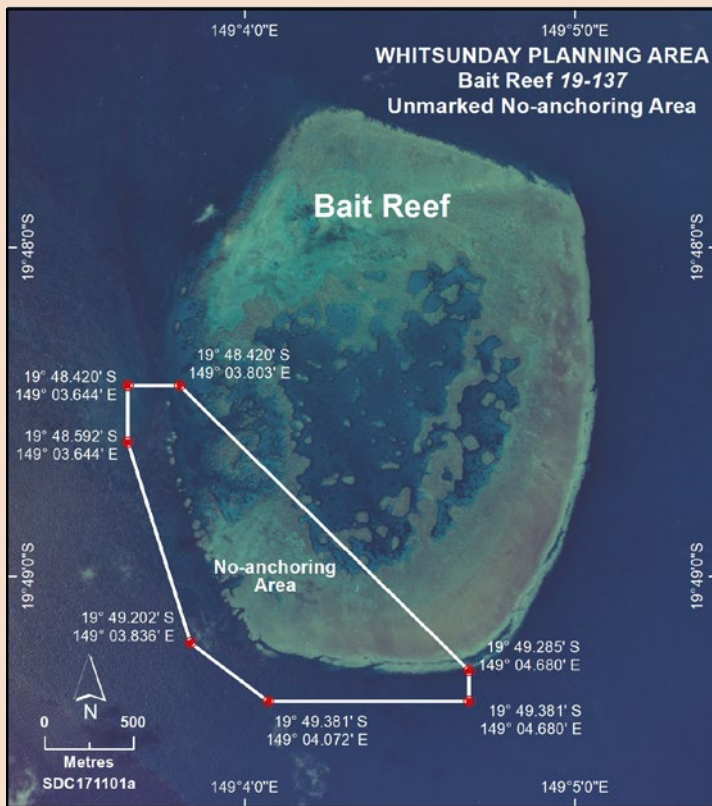
Please report any misused or damaged public moorings on 13 QGOV (13 74 68).



Scan for more info and digital maps

Unmarked no-anchoring areas

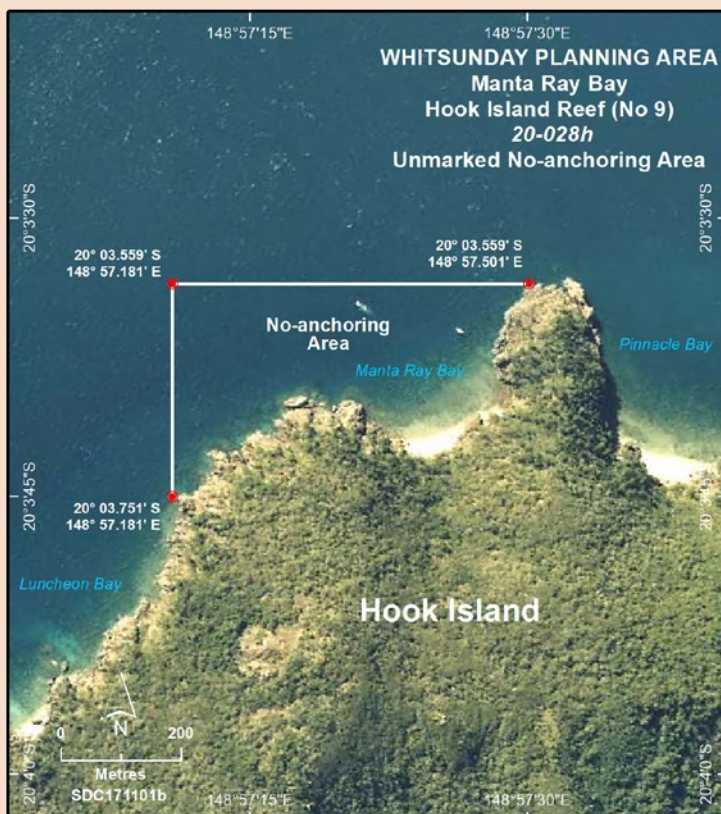
The no-anchoring areas at Bait Reef and Manta Ray Bay (Hook Island) are unmarked.
The boundaries of these two no-anchoring areas are indicated on the maps below.



Bait Reef unmarked no-anchoring area

Boundary description

1. The point 19°48.420'S, 149°03.644'E.
2. East along the parallel 19°48.420'S to longitude 149°03.803'E.
3. South-easterly along the geodesic to 19°49.285'S, 149°04.680'E.
4. South along the meridian 149°04.680'E to latitude 19°49.381'S.
5. West along the parallel 19°49.381'S to longitude 149°04.072'E.
6. North-westerly along the geodesic to 19°49.202'S, 149°03.836'E.
7. Northerly along the geodesic to 19°48.592'S, 149°03.644'E.
8. North along the meridian 149°03.644'E to the starting point.



Manta Ray Bay (Hook Island) unmarked no-anchoring area

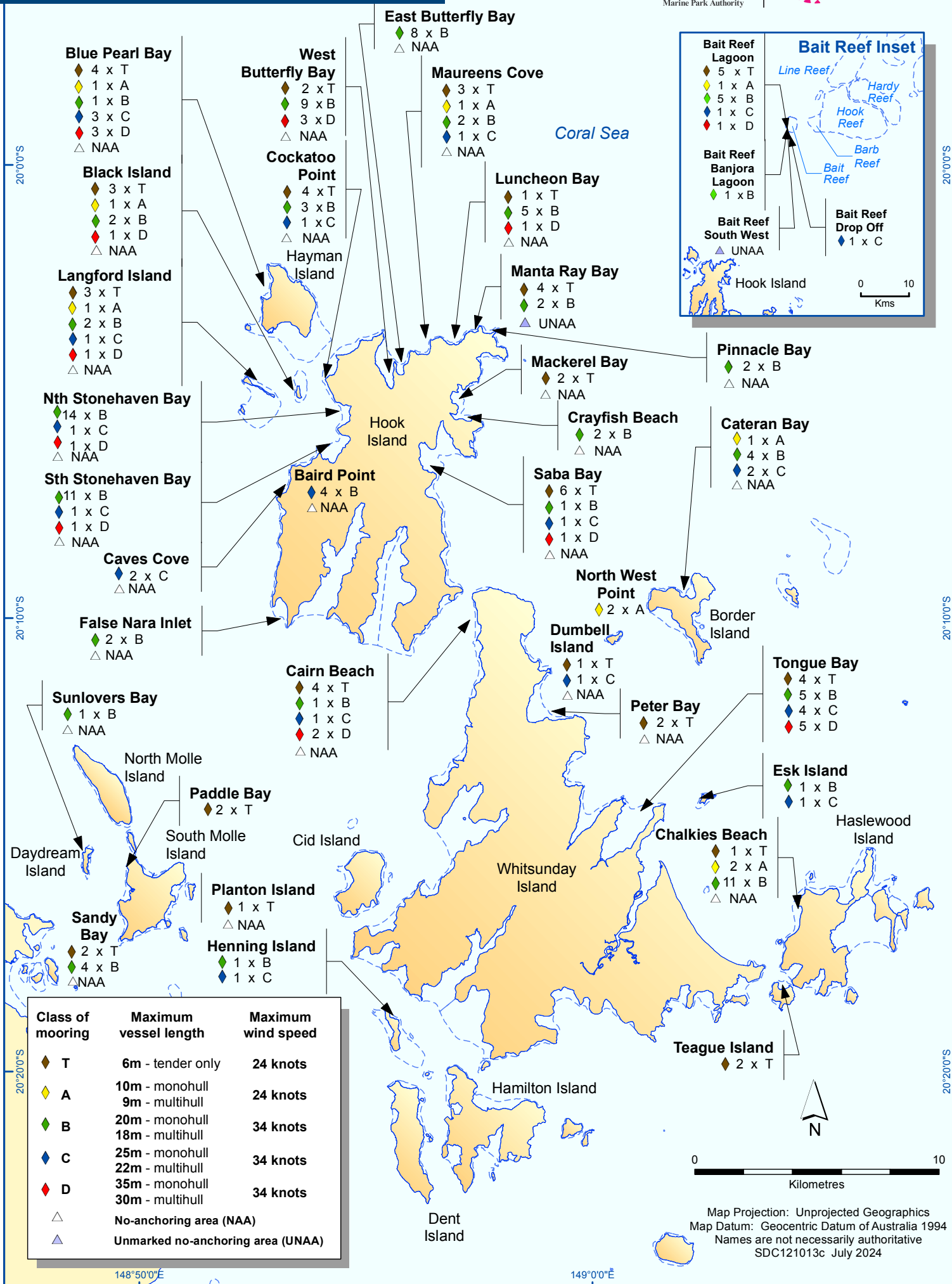
Boundary description

1. The point 20°03.559'S, 148°57.181'E.
2. East along the parallel 20°03.559'S to the intersection of the Hook Island (20-028) coastline at mean low water and the meridian 148°57.501'E (at the point closest to 20°03.559'S, 148°57.501'E).
3. Generally southerly then westerly then south-westerly along the Hook Island (20-028) coastline at mean low water to the intersection of the Hook Island (20-028) coastline at mean low water and the parallel 20°03.751'S (at the point closest to 20°03.751'S, 148°57.181'E).
4. North along the meridian 148°57.181'E to the starting point.

148°50'0"E

149°0'0"E

LOCATIONS OF PUBLIC MOORINGS AND NO-ANCHORING AREAS: WHITSUNDAYS



148°50'0"E

149°0'0"E

Location	Mooring class	Max. vessel length	Installed latitude GDA94 ddm	Installed longitude GDA94 ddm
Baird Point	B	20m	20° 06.547' S	148° 53.648' E
	B	20m	20° 06.505' S	148° 53.731' E
	B	20m	20° 06.444' S	148° 53.801' E
	B	20m	20° 06.386' S	148° 53.869' E
Bait Reef - Banjora Lagoon	B	20m	19° 48.739' S	149° 03.937' E
Bait Reef - Drop Off	C	25m	19° 49.264' S	149° 04.155' E
Bait Reef - Lagoon	A	10m	19° 48.581' S	149° 03.811' E
	B	20m	19° 48.707' S	149° 03.867' E
	B	20m	19° 48.665' S	149° 03.837' E
	B	20m	19° 48.559' S	149° 03.846' E
	B	20m	19° 48.551' S	149° 03.910' E
	B	20m	19° 48.535' S	149° 03.944' E
	C	25m	19° 48.614' S	149° 03.832' E
	D	35m	19° 48.508' S	149° 03.817' E
	T	6m	19° 48.685' S	149° 03.797' E
	T	6m	19° 48.755' S	149° 03.811' E
	T	6m	19° 48.806' S	149° 03.859' E
	T	6m	19° 49.638' S	149° 03.798' E
	T	6m	19° 48.599' S	149° 03.789' E
Black Island	T	6m	20° 04.697' S	148° 53.689' E
	T	6m	20° 04.874' S	148° 53.705' E
	T	6m	20° 05.107' S	148° 53.680' E
	A	10m	20° 04.847' S	148° 53.433' E
	B	20m	20° 04.843' S	148° 53.377' E
	B	20m	20° 04.961' S	148° 53.410' E
	D	35m	20° 05.027' S	148° 53.405' E
Blue Pearl Bay	A	10m	20° 02.797' S	148° 52.813' E
	B	20m	20° 02.462' S	148° 52.846' E
	C	25m	20° 02.439' S	148° 52.824' E
	C	25m	20° 02.522' S	148° 52.845' E
	C	25m	20° 02.578' S	148° 52.841' E
	D	35m	20° 02.819' S	148° 52.730' E
	D	35m	20° 02.744' S	148° 52.797' E
	D	35m	20° 02.658' S	148° 52.825' E
	T	6m	20° 02.809' S	148° 52.802' E
	T	6m	20° 02.498' S	148° 52.880' E
	T	6m	20° 02.521' S	148° 52.888' E
	T	6m	20° 02.554' S	148° 52.876' E
Border Island - NW point	A	10m	20° 09.322' S	149° 01.492' E
	A	10m	20° 09.316' S	149° 01.552' E
Cairn Beach	T	6m	20° 09.635' S	148° 57.365' E
	T	6m	20° 09.610' S	148° 57.352' E
	T	6m	20° 10.318' S	148° 57.400' E
	T	6m	20° 10.345' S	148° 57.406' E
	B	20m	20° 09.673' S	148° 57.362' E
	C	25m	20° 09.800' S	148° 57.373' E
	D	35m	20° 09.877' S	148° 57.368' E
	D	35m	20° 09.944' S	148° 57.373' E
Cateran Bay	A	10m	20° 09.365' S	149° 01.923' E
	B	20m	20° 09.343' S	149° 02.092' E
	B	20m	20° 09.395' S	149° 01.989' E
	B	20m	20° 09.420' S	149° 02.030' E
	B	20m	20° 09.242' S	149° 02.131' E
	C	25m	20° 09.370' S	149° 02.034' E
	C	25m	20° 09.286' S	149° 02.104' E
Caves Cove	C	25m	20° 07.012' S	148° 53.262' E
	C	25m	20° 07.087' S	148° 53.234' E

Location	Mooring class	Max. vessel length	Installed latitude GDA94 ddm	Installed longitude GDA94 ddm
Chalkies Beach	T	6m	20° 16.958' S	149° 04.360' E
	A	10m	20° 16.916' S	149° 04.411' E
	A	10m	20° 16.936' S	149° 04.381' E
	B	20m	20° 16.382' S	149° 04.367' E
	B	20m	20° 16.429' S	149° 04.370' E
	B	20m	20° 16.330' S	149° 04.361' E
	B	20m	20° 16.717' S	149° 04.467' E
	B	20m	20° 16.766' S	149° 04.473' E
	B	20m	20° 16.827' S	149° 04.457' E
	B	20m	20° 16.573' S	149° 04.413' E
	B	20m	20° 16.620' S	149° 04.426' E
	B	20m	20° 16.667' S	149° 04.456' E
	B	20m	20° 16.529' S	149° 04.421' E
	B	20m	20° 16.466' S	149° 04.417' E
Cockatoo Point	T	6m	20° 04.682' S	148° 54.041' E
	T	6m	20° 04.636' S	148° 54.046' E
	T	6m	20° 04.967' S	148° 54.128' E
	T	6m	20° 05.009' S	148° 54.157' E
	B	20m	20° 04.772' S	148° 54.027' E
	B	20m	20° 04.806' S	148° 54.047' E
	B	20m	20° 05.048' S	148° 54.129' E
	C	25m	20° 04.879' S	148° 54.085' E
Crayfish Beach	B	20m	20° 05.510' S	148° 57.199' E
	B	20m	20° 05.512' S	148° 57.246' E
Dumbell Island	T	6m	20° 10.337' S	149° 00.471' E
	C	25m	20° 10.323' S	149° 00.436' E
East Butterfly Bay	B	20m	20° 04.301' S	148° 55.789' E
	B	20m	20° 04.271' S	148° 55.822' E
	B	20m	20° 04.322' S	148° 55.858' E
	B	20m	20° 04.268' S	148° 55.888' E
	B	20m	20° 04.213' S	148° 55.910' E
	B	20m	20° 04.394' S	148° 55.766' E
	B	20m	20° 04.344' S	148° 55.716' E
	B	20m	20° 04.351' S	148° 55.822' E
Esk Island	B	20m	20° 13.982' S	149° 02.354' E
	C	25m	20° 14.043' S	149° 02.329' E
False Nara Inlet	B	20m	20° 10.017' S	148° 53.193' E
	B	20m	20° 09.978' S	148° 53.137' E
Henning Island	B	20m	20° 18.675' S	148° 55.567' E
	C	25m	20° 18.733' S	148° 55.616' E
Langford Island	T	6m	20° 04.997' S	148° 52.899' E
	T	6m	20° 05.014' S	148° 52.916' E
	T	6m	20° 04.794' S	148° 52.609' E
	A	10m	20° 04.860' S	148° 52.739' E
	B	20m	20° 04.817' S	148° 52.701' E
	B	20m	20° 04.893' S	148° 52.782' E
	C	25m	20° 04.781' S	148° 52.654' E
	D	35m	20° 04.749' S	148° 52.613' E
Luncheon Bay	T	6m	20° 03.889' S	148° 56.993' E
	B	20m	20° 03.875' S	148° 57.013' E
	B	20m	20° 03.873' S	148° 56.964' E
	B	20m	20° 03.871' S	148° 56.898' E
	B	20m	20° 03.884' S	148° 56.873' E
	B	20m	20° 03.863' S	148° 56.808' E
	D	35m	20° 03.832' S	148° 57.067' E
Mackerel Bay	T	6m	20° 05.061' S	148° 57.044' E
	T	6m	20° 05.269' S	148° 57.056' E

Location	Mooring class	Max. vessel length	Installed latitude GDA94 ddm	Installed longitude GDA94 ddm
Manta Ray Bay	T	6m	20° 03.604' S	148° 57.425' E
	T	6m	20° 03.641' S	148° 57.406' E
	T	6m	20° 03.648' S	148° 57.397' E
	T	6m	20° 03.645' S	148° 57.381' E
	B	20m	20° 03.586' S	148° 57.437' E
	B	20m	20° 03.619' S	148° 57.397' E
Maureens Cove	T	6m	20° 04.129' S	148° 56.284' E
	T	6m	20° 04.100' S	148° 56.353' E
	T	6m	20° 04.142' S	148° 56.333' E
	A	10m	20° 04.125' S	148° 56.320' E
	B	20m	20° 04.108' S	148° 56.247' E
	B	20m	20° 04.056' S	148° 56.366' E
North Stonehaven Bay	C	25m	20° 04.055' S	148° 56.309' E
	B	20m	20° 05.178' S	148° 54.228' E
	B	20m	20° 05.246' S	148° 54.277' E
	B	20m	20° 05.336' S	148° 54.299' E
	B	20m	20° 05.373' S	148° 54.304' E
	B	20m	20° 05.291' S	148° 54.323' E
	B	20m	20° 05.488' S	148° 54.325' E
	B	20m	20° 05.540' S	148° 54.318' E
	B	20m	20° 05.564' S	148° 54.367' E
	B	20m	20° 05.587' S	148° 54.419' E
	B	20m	20° 05.537' S	148° 54.413' E
	B	20m	20° 05.421' S	148° 54.403' E
	B	20m	20° 05.390' S	148° 54.394' E
	B	20m	20° 05.363' S	148° 54.400' E
	B	20m	20° 05.324' S	148° 54.377' E
Paddle Bay	C	25m	20° 05.474' S	148° 54.376' E
	D	35m	20° 05.651' S	148° 54.380' E
Peter Bay	T	6m	20° 15.285' S	148° 49.821' E
	T	6m	20° 15.313' S	148° 49.800' E
Pinnacle Bay	T	6m	20° 11.888' S	148° 58.689' E
	T	6m	20° 11.926' S	148° 58.705' E
Pinnacle Bay	B	20m	20° 03.625' S	148° 57.624' E
	B	20m	20° 03.658' S	148° 57.682' E
Planton Island	T	6m	20° 16.022' S	148° 51.010' E
Saba Bay	T	6m	20° 06.468' S	148° 56.487' E
	T	6m	20° 06.453' S	148° 56.453' E
	T	6m	20° 06.417' S	148° 56.412' E
	T	6m	20° 06.669' S	148° 56.542' E
	T	6m	20° 06.665' S	148° 56.489' E
	T	6m	20° 06.389' S	148° 56.399' E
	B	20m	20° 06.411' S	148° 56.449' E
	C	25m	20° 06.429' S	148° 56.494' E
Sandy Bay	D	35m	20° 06.448' S	148° 56.552' E
	T	6m	20° 16.685' S	148° 49.667' E
	T	6m	20° 16.713' S	148° 49.684' E
	B	20m	20° 16.898' S	148° 49.622' E
	B	20m	20° 16.751' S	148° 49.661' E
	B	20m	20° 16.799' S	148° 49.653' E
	B	20m	20° 16.847' S	148° 49.647' E

Location	Mooring class	Max. vessel length	Installed latitude GDA94 ddm	Installed longitude GDA94 ddm
South Stonehaven Bay	B	20m	20° 06.110' S	148° 54.195' E
	B	20m	20° 06.148' S	148° 54.209' E
	B	20m	20° 06.087' S	148° 54.246' E
	B	20m	20° 06.056' S	148° 54.284' E
	B	20m	20° 06.025' S	148° 54.305' E
	B	20m	20° 06.004' S	148° 54.451' E
	B	20m	20° 06.183' S	148° 54.260' E
	B	20m	20° 06.270' S	148° 54.194' E
	B	20m	20° 06.279' S	148° 54.150' E
	B	20m	20° 06.103' S	148° 54.351' E
	B	20m	20° 06.062' S	148° 54.386' E
	C	25m	20° 06.130' S	148° 54.293' E
	D	35m	20° 06.005' S	148° 54.368' E
Sunlovers Bay	B	20m	20° 15.129' S	148° 48.752' E
Teague Island	T	6m	20° 17.977' S	149° 04.231' E
	T	6m	20° 18.005' S	149° 04.178' E
Tongue Bay	T	6m	20° 14.423' S	149° 01.054' E
	T	6m	20° 14.417' S	149° 01.095' E
	T	6m	20° 14.378' S	149° 01.109' E
	T	6m	20° 14.340' S	149° 01.126' E
	B	20m	20° 14.302' S	149° 01.120' E
	B	20m	20° 14.346' S	149° 01.087' E
	B	20m	20° 14.386' S	149° 01.070' E
	B	20m	20° 14.437' S	149° 00.970' E
	B	20m	20° 14.395' S	149° 00.961' E
	C	25m	20° 14.296' S	149° 01.011' E
	C	25m	20° 14.344' S	149° 01.040' E
	C	25m	20° 14.256' S	149° 01.100' E
	C	25m	20° 14.302' S	149° 01.070' E
	D	35m	20° 14.347' S	149° 00.976' E
	D	35m	20° 14.248' S	149° 01.042' E
	D	35m	20° 14.401' S	149° 01.014' E
	D	35m	20° 14.337' S	149° 00.912' E
	D	35m	20° 14.287' S	149° 00.954' E
West Butterfly	T	6m	20° 04.135' S	148° 55.310' E
	T	6m	20° 04.156' S	148° 55.295' E
	B	20m	20° 04.680' S	148° 55.513' E
	B	20m	20° 04.624' S	148° 55.510' E
	B	20m	20° 04.596' S	148° 55.514' E
	B	20m	20° 04.595' S	148° 55.473' E
	B	20m	20° 04.495' S	148° 55.530' E
	B	20m	20° 04.453' S	148° 55.479' E
	B	20m	20° 04.410' S	148° 55.514' E
	B	20m	20° 04.487' S	148° 55.457' E
	B	20m	20° 04.543' S	148° 55.428' E
	D	35m	20° 04.259' S	148° 55.501' E
	D	35m	20° 04.325' S	148° 55.484' E
	D	35m	20° 04.390' S	148° 55.451' E

Disclaimer: The published positions are correct to the best of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's knowledge at July 2024. No guarantee is given that the moorings are in the location shown in the table. Vessel skippers should verify the mooring positions with their own GPS equipment prior to attempting to access the moorings. Particular care should be taken in accessing the moorings in poor weather, reduced visibility or at night.

Instructions to vessel masters:

1. Vessel masters are solely responsible for the safety of their vessel while using the public moorings.
2. A watch must be kept at all times while the vessel is on the mooring.
3. Be aware of changing weather and sea conditions and your proximity to obstacles, including coral and other vessels, and how these may be affected by mooring swing.
4. Refer to instructions specified or included on the tag or buoy.