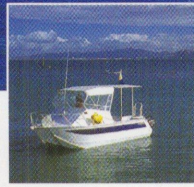
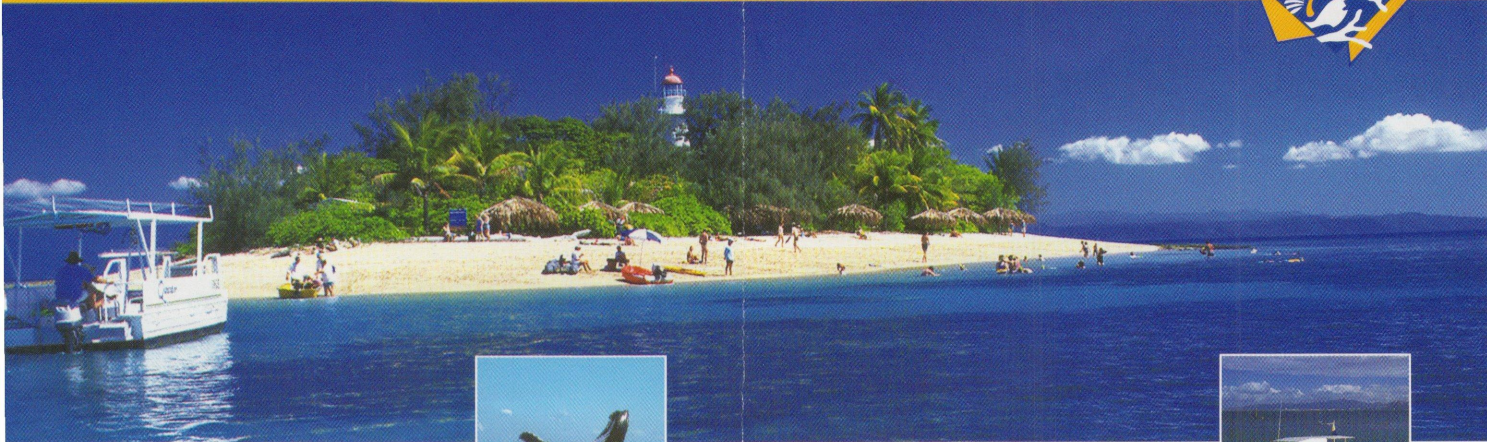


Activities on the Great Barrier Reef



Tourism

Tourism generates \$4.3 billion* in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment each year and is the largest commercial activity on the Reef. About 1.8 million people visit the Great Barrier Reef every year, making it one of Australia's biggest tourist attractions. The tourism industry is also a major contributor to the local and Australian economy and employs some 47,000 people.

*Data sourced: Productivity Commission, 2003

Recreational Fishing

About 200,000 recreational fishers fish in the Reef's waters every year. Fishing occurs throughout the Marine Park from inshore reefs and coastal strips to offshore, deepwater areas. Recreational fishing generates about \$240 million* in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment every year.

*Data sourced: Productivity Commission, 2003



Doing your bit to look after it

When snorkelling or diving do not rest or stand on coral as this can cause it to break.

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is an important industry for the Australian economy generating \$119 million* each year. Trawl fishing is the largest commercial fishery in the Marine Park. Trawlers fish in inter-reefal areas and between coral reefs and the mainland coast. Other commercial fisheries in the Marine Park include line fisheries, net fisheries, trap (crab) fisheries and dive-based fisheries.

*Data sourced: Productivity Commission, 2003

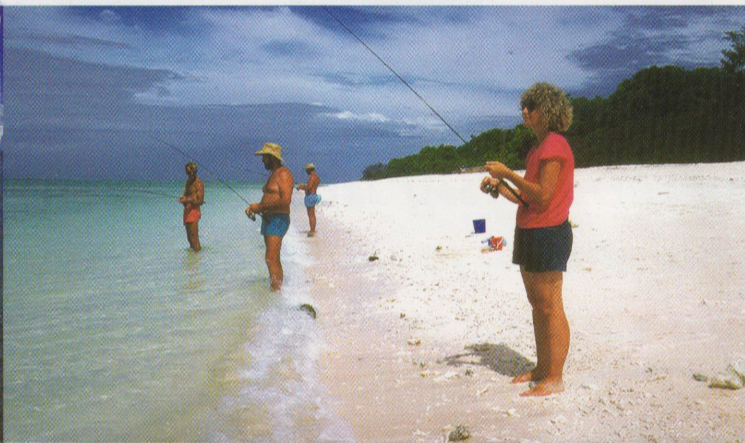


Shipping

There are several important shipping routes in the Marine Park and about 2000 ships transit these routes each year. Shipping in the Marine Park is managed under local, national and international laws to help reduce the risk of accidents resulting in groundings, collisions and oil spills.

Indigenous Activities

Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people are the Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef Region and hold a vast knowledge of the marine environment, marine animals, their habitats and their lifestyles. Traditions like hunting and fishing on the Reef are of high cultural importance and resources from the sea are used for different purposes.



The Great Barrier Reef and its Catchment Community



The Great Barrier Reef Catchment is the land area defined by the rivers that drain into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and covers an area that extends from the tip of Cape York to just south of Bundaberg making it larger than the Marine Park. Over 790,000 people live in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment and a diverse range of land uses and industry operate in the area which totals 31% of the state's area.



Doing your bit to look after it

When boating on the Great Barrier Reef stay alert for dugong, whales, dolphins and marine turtles. If in an area where they have been sighted please slow down for their safety and yours.

Looking after the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority works in partnership with other government agencies, industry, community groups and individuals to help preserve the social, economic and environmental values of the Great Barrier Reef with the goal that people can continue to use and enjoy this natural wonder of the world for generations to come.

As the Marine Park is a multiple use area, many activities occur throughout its waters and zoning is an important tool to help manage the Marine Park and protect the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef. Zones separate activities that may conflict with each other.

Zoning in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park changed on 1 July 2004. Before visiting the Marine Park, it is important that you study the zoning map for the area you are visiting to be sure of where you can go and what you can do. Zoning information and maps are available from over 200 Community Access Points such as bait and tackle shops, marine centres, ship chandlers, visitor information centres and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service offices along the Great Barrier Reef coast. **Maps are also available at www.gbrmpa.gov.au or by phoning the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on 07 4750 0700.**

Let's keep it great

Everything we do on the Reef, along the shore, and in the adjacent catchment, affects this diverse and fragile ecosystem. General overuse, fishing, farming, coastal development and pollution are impacting on the health of the Great Barrier Reef. Protecting our Reef is very important to ensure the continued existence of this amazing ecosystem. Whether you are at home, work, school or on the farm there are a number of things you can do every day to do your bit to help keep it great.



Doing your bit to look after it

Take only what fish you need and abide by possession and size limits. Return all undersized or unwanted fish to the water as carefully and quickly as possible.



Doing your bit to look after it

If out on the water or visiting an island ensure you take all rubbish home with you as rubbish and discarded fishing line can injure or kill marine animals.

Visit www.gbrmpa.gov.au to find out ways you can help protect the Reef by following some simple best environmental practices.

