

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, ITS FUTURE AND YOU

The diversity of life throughout the Great Barrier Reef is internationally-recognised as being of outstanding universal value, and has helped earn the area World Heritage status.

This natural wonder houses the largest coral reef ecosystem on Earth with a stunning array of habitats including coral cays, continental islands, mangrove forests, estuaries, seagrass meadows, sponge gardens and deep oceanic waters.

Almost the entire Great Barrier Reef ecosystem is included within two marine parks. The Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends over 2300 kilometres and covers 344,400km². This Marine Park is complemented by the Queensland Government's Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park in adjacent Queensland waters.

Both provide the balance between protecting the Reef's ecosystems while supporting a wide range of ecologically-sustainable uses.

The Australian and Queensland governments are committed to the long-term health of the Reef and know its future depends on the actions we take now. Pressures such as the

MARINE PARK ZONING EXPLAINED

Marine Park zoning is an important component in managing marine areas. It is a key strategy for improving the Great Barrier Reef's health and resilience and has been developed in a way widely considered to be best practice. A healthy and productive Reef provides substantial benefits to local communities and the wider economy.

Zoning Plans are key pieces of legislation Reef users need to adhere to. The Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003 and the Queensland Government's Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004 define what activities can occur in which locations. The zoning plans provide for a range of ecologically sustainable recreational, commercial and research opportunities and for the continuation of traditional activities.

Each zone has different rules for what activities are allowed, what's prohibited and what requires a permit. Zones may also place restrictions on how some activities are conducted. Make sure you also check Special Management Areas on each map (see below), as they can change what's allowed in each zone. To safeguard the future health of the Reef, non-compliance with zoning rules is taken seriously and penalties apply.

Rules for commercial fishing can differ to recreational fishing. Commercial fishers should consult the zoning plans for more information.

Here is an overview of the zones:

GENERAL USE (LIGHT BLUE) ZONE

The Light Blue Zone provides opportunities for reasonable use, while still allowing for the conservation of these areas.

HABITAT PROTECTION (DARK BLUE) ZONE

Dark Blue Zones protect sensitive habitats by ensuring they are generally free from potentially damaging activities. Trawling is not permitted in Dark Blue Zones.

CONSERVATION PARK (YELLOW) ZONE

Yellow Zones allow for increased protection and conservation of areas while allowing for limited extractive use. Fishing is limited to one line and one hook per person, and trolling with a maximum of three lines per person and a total of six hooks is permitted (see fishing definitions).

BUFFER (OLIVE GREEN) ZONE

In Olive Green Zones, trolling for pelagic fish species is the only form of extractive activity allowed. Examples of pelagic species are marlin, trevally, mackerel, tuna, wahoo and cobia.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (ORANGE) ZONE

Orange Zones allow for scientific research in areas undisturbed by extractive activities. One type of Orange Zone is shown on the maps as green with an orange outline. While public access is allowed, a permit or accreditation is required to conduct research in this type of Orange Zone. The second type of Orange Zone, shown as solid orange on the maps, is a Restricted Access Area and public access is not allowed. There are presently two of these Orange Zones, one adjacent to the Australian Institute of Marine Science near Townsville (Map 7) and the other at One Tree Island Research Station in the Capricorn Bunker Group (Map 18).

EXTRA PROTECTION: SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Special Management Areas manage access or use of a specific area and are an additional layer of protection on top of zoning. There are different types of Special Management Areas across the marine parks and these are shown on the relevant zoning maps. Detailed boundary descriptions for the Special Management Areas are found in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019. You are strongly encouraged to get to know any Special Management Area requirements that apply to the area you are visiting. These Special Management Areas apply to this map:

Public Appreciation Area: Spearfishing is prohibited in the Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones that lie within the Whitsunday Public Appreciation Area. Limited spearfishing is permitted in the Light Blue and Dark Blue Zones that lie within the Public Appreciation Area (provided they are not part of a Queensland Fisheries spearfishing closure area). Harvest fisheries, such as commercial aquarium fish collecting, coral harvesting, beachworm harvesting and aquaculture operations, are also prohibited in the Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones within the Whitsunday Public Appreciation Area. Find a map that combines all the rules to clearly show where you can and can't spearfish in the Whitsundays at www.gbrrmpa.gov.au.

Species Conservation (Dugong Protection) Area: Designated over significant dugong habitat, these areas complement Queensland Fisheries legislation. In these areas commercial netting is restricted or prohibited. Contact Fisheries Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au for more detail. Some coastal headland areas have further restrictions on set mesh nets. See www.gbrrmpa.gov.au.

Maritime Cultural Heritage Protection Area: A nationally-significant RAAF WWII aircraft wreck is protected in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park offshore from Bowen.

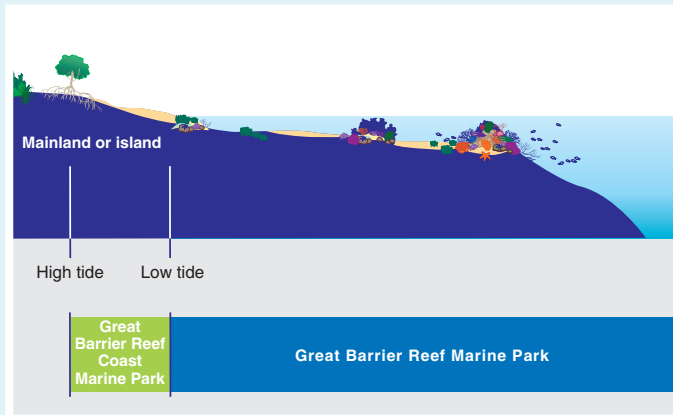
A one-kilometre-square special management area covering the main Catalina wreck and outlying artefacts is located 24 kilometres from Bowen in a General Use (Light Blue) Zone. The coordinates are noted on the map (right).

Boaters can transit through the special management area, but generally cannot stop unless in an emergency and cannot conduct any fishing activity or anchor. Apply for a permit from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to conduct further activities, including mooring.

THE WHITSUNDAYS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

The Whitsundays Plan of Management covers some areas of this map. The Whitsunday Planning Area is marked by a thick unbroken purple line on the zoning map. Rules relating to motorised water sports, anchoring, mooring and vessel/aircraft restrictions are in place to protect locations and species vulnerable to high levels of use. Motorised water sports are prohibited around most islands and reefs. Visit www.gbrrmpa.gov.au for more information.

MARINE PARK BOUNDARIES



The Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends seaward from the low water mark. The Queensland Government's Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park lies adjacent and generally extends landward to the high water mark or extent of the tide. Most rivers, creeks, intertidal areas and estuaries are considered to be Queensland waters, as are internal waters like Hinchinbrook Channel. For a description of where this Marine Park boundary is located, particularly in areas such as river and creek crossings, see Schedule 2 of the Marine Parks (Declaration) Regulation 2006 available from www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

The two marine parks generally have complementary zoning. This means activities that can occur in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Commonwealth) are also allowed in the adjacent Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park (Queensland). Some Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park zones extend into estuaries or mangrove forests — these are shown on the zoning maps. Find detailed zoning rules for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

RECREATIONAL FISHING GUIDE

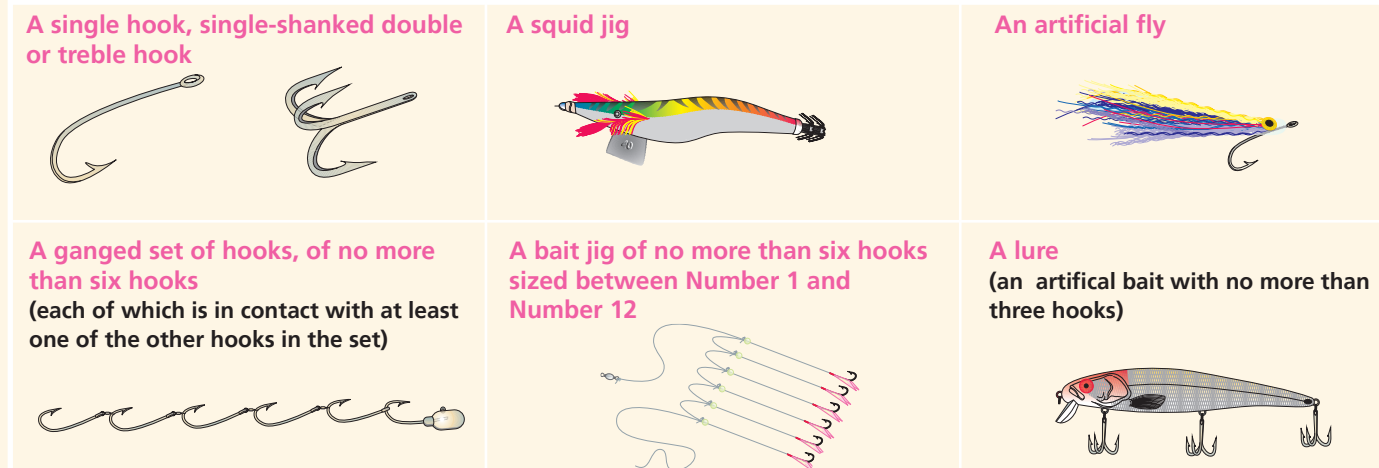
Note: Special Management Area (SMA) rules also apply to fishing. This guide must be read in conjunction with Special Management Area information provided on these maps, as SMA requirements can change what's allowed in each zone.

FISHING DEFINITIONS

Trolling Trolling is line fishing that occurs behind a vessel that is underway. A vessel is considered underway only if it is being propelled through the water in a forward direction (whether by engine, sail or human power) and the vessel is not adrift.

Line fishing A maximum of three hand-held rods or handlines and six hooks per person is allowed when line fishing in the General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue) and Estuarine Conservation Zones. In Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones, all fishing — other than trolling — is restricted to limited line fishing, which means using a maximum of one hand-held line or rod per person with a maximum of one hook.

One hook One hook can be:



Stowed or secured

Gear that is used for fishing must be stowed or secured while in a zone where the use of the equipment is not permitted. For example, you can travel through the Marine National Park (Green) Zone with fishing gear on board provided that all fishing lines are stowed or secured — that is — any line or hand-held rod is rendered inoperative and stowed or secured inboard the boat and completely out of the water.

If a vessel is navigating through a zone where the use of trawl equipment is prohibited, equipment must be stowed or secured in accordance with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019. Commercial fishers should consult the zoning plans or contact the Authority or QPWS for more information.

RECREATIONAL FISHING, SPEARFISHING, CRABBING, BAIT NETTING AND COLLECTING

Line fishing and trolling (Maximum three lines with a combined total of six hooks per person. Trolling must occur behind a vessel that is underway.)

- ✓ In General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue) and Estuarine Conservation Zones
- ✓ In Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones — **Limited line fishing** (one line, one hook — see diagrams above)
- ✓ In Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones — trolling with maximum three lines and combined total of six hooks
- ✓ In Buffer (Olive Green) Zone trolling for pelagic fish species is the **only form of fishing allowed**. Seasonal closures apply in the Ribbon Reef's Buffer Zone

✗ **Prohibited in all other zones**

Bait netting

- ✓ In General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue), Conservation Park (Yellow) and Estuarine Conservation Zones
- ✗ **Prohibited in all other zones**

Crabbing (trapping)

- ✓ In General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue), Conservation Park (Yellow) and Estuarine Conservation Zones
- ✗ **Prohibited in all other zones**

In all zones where fishing is allowed, Queensland Fisheries legislation (e.g. size and bag limits, gear restrictions, protected species, closed seasons) also applies. Contact Fisheries Queensland for more detail. See the contact section on this map or visit your local Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol office.

SPECIAL NOTE: SPEARFISHING IN THE WHITSUNDAYS

As mentioned in the Special Management Area section, spearfishing is permitted in the General Use (Light Blue) Zone and Habitat Protection (Dark Blue) Zone in the Whitsundays Public Appreciation Area, provided they're not part of a Fisheries Queensland spearfishing closure area. **Spearfishing is prohibited in the Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones that lie within the Whitsundays Public Appreciation Area.** Find a map that combines all the rules to clearly show where you can and can't spearfish in the Whitsundays at www.gbrrmpa.gov.au.

BE PEST FREE

Our precious Great Barrier Reef World Heritage islands are among the most pest-free islands in the world. They need your help to stay this way. Before you visit, please check that your boat, clothing, footwear and gear are free of soil, seeds, parts of plants, eggs, insects, spiders, lizards, toads, rats and mice.

Be sure to:

- Unpack your camping gear and equipment and check it carefully, as pests can hide here
- Clean soil from footwear and gear as invisible killers such as viruses, bacteria and fungi are carried in soil
- Check pockets, cuffs, and hook-and-loop fasteners (e.g. Velcro) for seeds.

While you're on the islands, remove soil, weeds, seeds and pests from your boat, gear and clothes before moving to a new site. Wrap seeds and plant material, and place them in your rubbish.

Everyone in Queensland has a general biosecurity obligation to minimise the risks posed by their activities. This includes the biosecurity risk of introducing and spreading weeds and pests to island national parks.

at www.gbrrmpa.gov.au, or the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park at www.des.qld.gov.au.

NAVIGATING ZONE BOUNDARIES

Zone boundaries are described with a coordinate-based system that uses points of latitude and longitude (referenced to the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994, known as GDA94). On the water, zone boundaries can be identified using navigational aids such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and plotters. Ensure your GPS is set to either GDA94 or WGS84 as these are functionally equivalent. Know how zoning is displayed on your GPS.

A number of products are available to help you determine zone boundaries. This map marks key coordinates for the Green and Pink Zones. You can download all zone boundary coordinates in a number of formats on the Authority's website.

Even without a GPS, you can still determine your position relative to most coastal zone boundaries. Green Zones close to the coast are mostly simple shapes and boundaries can usually be lined up with recognisable coastal features such as headlands. Zone boundaries have also been oriented north, south, east and west as much as possible for ease of navigation.

You need to be aware that the coast is a natural feature which may change due to climatic influences and other natural factors. The primary reference for zone boundaries is the legislation. Schedule 1 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003 describes zone boundaries for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Schedule 1 of the Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004 describes zone boundaries for the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. Please note that the coordinates do not change, even if coastal features near them — such as sand spits or river mouths — change or move over time.

ANCHORING AND MOORING



When anchoring or mooring, it's important to protect fragile habitats and avoid anchoring on coral — look for sand instead (see the Responsible Reef and Island Practices section on this map). In some high-use areas, public moorings are available.

These blue beehive-shaped buoys are used on a first-come first-served basis — no booking is needed, but time limits apply. Designed to suit different sized vessels, the colour-coded band and information on the buoy and the pick-up line helps you determine if it will be suitable for your vessel. Penalties and rules prevent misuse of public moorings. Visit www.gbrrmpa.gov.au. No-anchoring areas are in-place in some high-use locations to further protect fragile coral. Generally they are marked with reef

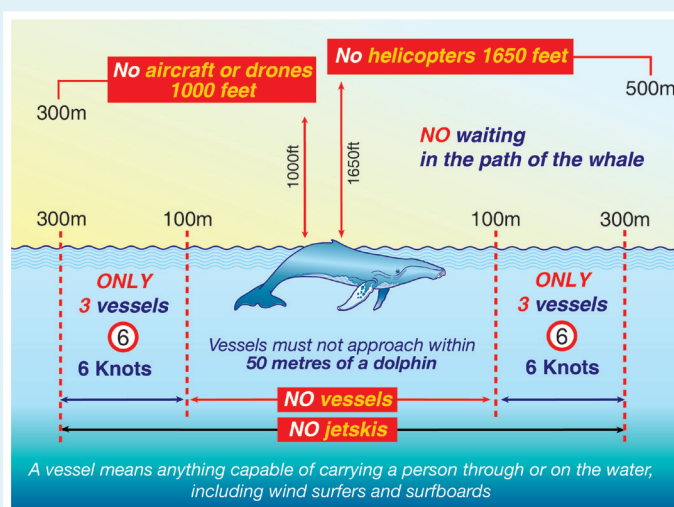


protection markers, which are white pyramid-shaped buoys with blue marine parks labels. Do not tie up, or use reef protection markers as a mooring. Penalties apply. While no-anchoring areas are generally permanent, temporary no-anchoring areas may be located where damage such as coral bleaching has occurred. Please observe no-anchoring areas wherever they are placed. On this map, no-anchoring areas are associated with Border, Daydream, Hayman, Hook, Black, Dumbell, Haslewood, South Molle, Whitsunday and Langford Islands, and Bait Reef. Note: the no-anchoring areas at Bait Reef and Manta Ray Bay, Hook Island are unmarked. Visit www.gbrrmpa.gov.au for mooring and no-anchoring area locations.

HOW TO BEHAVE AROUND MARINE ANIMALS

The Great Barrier Reef is a refuge for many marine animals of conservation concern. For a number of species, the Reef is vital for their survival and recovery. You can help protect these species by following these Responsible Reef and Island Practices. To report sick, injured or stranded marine animals phone DES Hotline 1300 130 372.

WHALES AND DOLPHINS



A vessel means anything capable of carrying a person through or on the water, including wind surfers and surfboards.

Watching whales and dolphins can be exciting but approach distances must be respected both for the animals' safety and your own. In the Whitsunday whale protection area, vessels must stay 300 metres away from a whale.

- Be alert and watch out for whales and dolphins at all times, particularly May to September
- Slow down to minimise the risk of collision and do not intentionally bring a boat between a pod of whales or dolphins, or restrict their path of travel
- Let the whale or dolphin control the encounter — never try to round up or herd, or try to get dolphins to bowride
- Avoid disturbing mothers and their calves and do not approach closer than 300 metres to a whale calf or 150 metres to a dolphin calf.

WHALES IN THE WHITSUNDAYS

The Whitsunday area is an important calving ground for humpback whales between May and September each year. Most of the water around the islands is part of the Whitsunday whale protection area designated under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019. Marked by a dark blue dashed line on the map, this area is designed to minimise disturbance to these vulnerable animals. Within the whale protection area, vessels must not approach within 300 metres of a whale. Commercial whale watching activities are also prohibited. Visit www.gbrrmpa.gov.au for more information. In addition to this, an Area of Special Interest for whales is declared in the same area under Queensland Government legislation. For more information visit www.qld.gov.au.

VISITING ISLANDS AND COASTS

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area includes around 1050 islands, ranging from high continental islands to sandy or coral cays. Some periodically change shape and size and many of these islands are national parks. These islands and their beaches, along with many mainland coastal areas, are places where birds roost and nest and where marine turtles lay their eggs. Many islands are available for you to explore responsibly, whether camping or walking. QPWS manages all national park islands, from highly-visited inshore islands to remote coral cays of the outer Reef. Contact QPWS for more information.

THE WHITSUNDAYS AREA

The greater Whitsundays area encompasses six national parks: Whitsunday Islands National Park: Comprising a series of hilly islands dotting aquamarine waters of the scenic Whitsunday passage, Whitehaven Beach — on Whitsunday Island — is renowned for its pure white silica sand and crystal-clear water. Walk from Tongue Bay, on Whitsunday Island, for spectacular views. See the Ngara people's precious rock art at Nara Inlet, on Hook Island. Camping is permitted on Whitsunday, Hook and Henning islands.

Molle Islands National Park: In the heart of the Whitsundays, South Molle is the largest in the group. This island group is renowned for white sandy beaches, extensive grassy knolls and pockets of rainforest. Enjoy stunning views along South Molle's numerous walking tracks. Camp in scenic settings on South Molle, North Molle, Planton, Denman, Tancred and Long Islands.

Lindeman Islands National Park: With well-maintained tracks traversing Lindeman and Seafarths Islands, the northern waters of these outer islands are usually clearer for snorkelling. Birdlife is prolific. The sunset over Neck Bay and views from Lindeman's Mount Giofiteda can be spectacular. Camping is permitted on Lindeman and Shaw Islands.

SIGNIFICANT BIRD SITES AND SEABIRDS

A number of islands and rocks in the Whitsundays are important for seabirds, shorebirds and several migratory species. Access to these areas may have seasonal or permanent restrictions (see table below).

LOCATION OF BIRD SITE	NO ACCESS	VESSEL SPEED LIMITS
Armit Island (southern beach only) Armit Islets (No 1) Double Cone Island (western island only) Grassy Island (southern beach only) Shaw Island (beach east of Burning Point) South Repulse Island (western beach only)		6 knots: 1 October–31 March
Bird Island East Rock Edwin Rock	1 October–31 March	6 knots: all year 6 knots: 1 April–30 September
Olden Rock (south of Olden Island)	1 October–31 March	

Please note: A Preservation (Pink) Zone surrounds Esheby and Little Esheby islands and entering this zone is not allowed without a permit.

Access

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning

on your phone outside of mobile range

Download the free Eye on the Reef app

www.gbrrmpa.gov.au

MARINE PARKS ZONING MAP

Whitsundays

Download your FREE zoning maps now

SCAN ME

MAP 10

HELP PROTECT THE REEF

The Great Barrier Reef ecosystem is at a crossroads and the actions we take now will determine its long-term future. There are significant challenges ahead for the Reef to remain one of the world's healthiest ecosystems. Pressures such as impacts from climate change and declining water quality will largely dominate the Reef's future health. How the Reef responds will depend on its ability to withstand and adapt to these pressures and the actions we each take.

Before heading out to the marine parks, or to an island, run through the following checklists and refer to the Responsible Reef and Island Practices section on this map for information that will help you protect these special places.

FISHING	BOATING	CAMPING OR WALKING
✓ Plan where you are going and know what's allowed	✓ Plan where you are going and know what's allowed	✓ Leave your domestic animals at home
✓ Have a zoning map or download the Eye on the Reef app	✓ Have a zoning map and cross check it with your GPS	✓ Have a camping permit if visiting a national park or Commonwealth island
✓ Know any additional Special Management Area or Plan of Management rules	✓ Know any additional Special Management Area or Plan of Management rules	✓ Observe best island practice guidelines
✓ Understand the definition of one hook	✓ Know any anchoring or mooring rules and responsible practices	✓ Know where seasonal closures are in place to protect species of conservation concern
✓ Know which species are protected and no-take	✓ Have a bin onboard and take your rubbish home	✓ Stay on marked tracks
✓ Know Fisheries Queensland bag and size limits and any additional regulations	✓ Ensure your motor is well maintained, safety gear packed, and all in good working order	✓ Bring gas or fuel stove for cooking
✓ Bring a sturdy bag or container to take rubbish home	✓ Slow down over seagrass meadows and near coral reefs	✓ Bring a sturdy bag or container to take rubbish home
		✓ Carry sufficient water

REPORTING MARINE PARK AND NATIONAL PARK OFFENCES

Breaches of marine parks and island national parks rules can have serious environmental impacts and can compromise Reef health and resilience. We take non-compliance seriously — patrols run day and night and significant penalties apply for breaking the rules.

REPORT SUSPECTED ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

Ph: 1800 380 048 (24-hour)
Web: www.gbrrmpa.gov.au/report-an-incident
All reports are taken seriously and investigated.

OTHER IMPORTANT 24-HOUR REPORTING CONTACTS

Search and rescue:
1800 641 792 (Australian Maritime Safety Authority)

Oil spills:
1800 641 792 (Australian Maritime Safety Authority)

Vessel collisions or groundings:
1800 641 792 (Australian Maritime Safety Authority)

Marine animal strandings:
DES Hotline 1300 130 372

Fisheries offences (size/bag limits, gear offences):
1800 017 116 (Fisheries Queensland)

CONTACTS

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

Ph: (07) 4750 0700
Email: info@gbrrmpa.gov.au
Web: www.gbrrmpa.gov.au

GREAT BARRIER REEF COAST MARINE PARK AND ISLAND NATIONAL PARKS

Department of Environment and Science
Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Email: info@des.qld.gov.au
Web: www.des.qld.gov.au

OTHER CONTACTS

Fisheries Queensland
Ph: 13 25 23 Web: www.daf.qld.gov.au
Australian Maritime Safety Authority
Ph: (02) 6279 5000 Web: www.amsa.gov.au
Report tagged fish: 1800 077 001

RESPONSIBLE REEF AND ISLAND PRACTICES ACROSS THE WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Observing zoning rules is one way you can help to look after the Reef. By following Responsible Reef and Island Practices you will also help to maintain the World Heritage Area in good shape into the future. They are common sense and apply regardless of where you visit. To learn about more ways to help the Reef and islands go to www.gbrrmpa.gov.au or www.des.qld.gov.au.

ANCHORING AND MOORING

Dropping an anchor on coral takes seconds to damage or destroy and many years for it to rebuild.

- Use public moorings where available and observe no-anchoring areas - they are there to protect coral
- Where possible, anchor in sand or mud away from corals and other fragile marine environments. Suitable areas often show up as flat and smooth on your sounder
- Use your sand anchor and reef pick appropriately to minimise damage

- Use only as much chain as you need to hold the vessel without compromising safety
- Keep watch to make sure the anchor is not dragging.

FISHING

- Take only the fish you need
- Return all undersized or unwanted fish to the water carefully and quickly to minimise injury
- Do not use pest or non-native fish for bait. Choose locally caught bait products as imported bait can increase the risk of introducing disease or pest species.

BOATING

- Always ensure your boat is well maintained. Carry all necessary safety equipment and make sure everyone on board knows where it is stowed
- Slow down around shallow coral reefs, seagrass beds and beaches
- If you need to dispose of sewage at sea, do so well away from reefs and islands. For information on vessel sewage regulations visit www.gbrrmpa.gov.au and www.msq.qld.gov.au
- Refuel on shore wherever possible. Use the correct gear and have spill response equipment readily available.

DIVING OR SNORKELLING

- Avoid standing on, leaning on, holding onto, or touching any part of coral — in particular watch your fins
- Before approaching a reef, practise buoyancy control over sand patches and check your gear is secure
- Be mindful of all marine life. Do not touch, prod or chase them and avoid making loud noises.

LITTER

- Rubbish such as discarded fishing line or other gear, plastic bags and bottles and polystyrene foam are having an increasingly devastating impact on our marine wildlife.
- Stow your rubbish onboard and collect any you find
- Take all rubbish back to the mainland with you — there are no bins on national park islands
- When at home, recycle what you can and ensure all other rubbish ends up in the bin.

RESPECT OTHERS

- Try to match your activities to the environment around you and be particularly conscious of the amount of noise you are making
- Learn about and respect Traditional Owner culture and their connections to sea country.

For more tips on how to be croc wise in croc country visit www.des.qld.gov.au.



BE REEF SMART

When enjoying the many different activities and experiences in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, it is important to enjoy them in a responsible and 'reef smart' way.



