



Department of
Primary Industries

NSW Recreational **Saltwater** Fishing Guide

2021-2022



www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
Report illegal fishing 1800 043 536

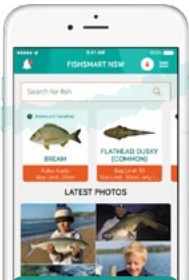


Check out the app: FishSmart



Did you know DPI has a free app that provides recreational fishers with 24/7 access to essential information they need to know to fish in NSW, such as:

- a pictorial guide of common recreational species, bag & size limits, closed seasons and fishing gear rules
- record and keep your own catch log and opt to have your best fish pictures selected to feature in our in-app gallery
- real-time maps to locate nearest FADs (Fish Aggregation Devices), artificial reefs, Recreational Fishing Havens and Marine Park Zones
- local weather, tide, moon phase and barometric pressure to help choose best time to fish
- guides on spearfishing, fishing safely, trout fishing, regional fishing
- DPI contact for reporting illegal fishing, fish kills, pest species etc. and local Fisheries Offices
- DPI Facebook news.



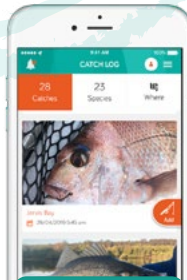
Welcome to FishSmart! See featured fishing photos



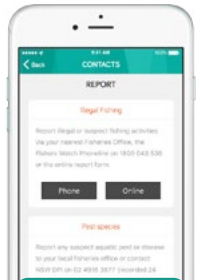
See your location in relation to FADs, Marine Park Zones, RFHs & more



Check the bag and size limits for popular species



Store all your catches in your very own Catch Log



Contact Fisheries – Report illegal fishing & more

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A freshwater recreational fishing guide is also available.

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Sign up for Newscast – an information bulletin for NSW recreational fishers at <http://eepurl.com/pKIHT>

Cover Image – Yellowtail Kingfish, Al McGlashan



A HEALTHY FISHING FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Help us build a positive future for recreational fishing in NSW.

By fishing responsibly, you can safeguard fish stocks and protect the places we love to fish. When you hold a current recreational fishing licence, your fee contribution is used for improving local facilities like fishing platforms and enhancing fishing experiences with artificial reefs and FADs.



Live for Fishing. Fish for Life. Learn more at
WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/FISHFORLIFE



NSW Recreational Fishing Fee



When do I need to pay?

When you are fishing in NSW waters, both fresh and saltwater, you are required by law to carry a receipt showing the payment of the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee. This applies when line fishing (rod or hand line); spear fishing; bait collecting or when collecting invertebrates using methods such as hand gathering, digging, pumping, trapping and prawn netting. This also applies when in possession of fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters.

If you go fishing aboard a charter vessel or with a fishing guide, you may find that your skipper or guide holds an exemption certificate which covers you as well. Always check whether you need to have paid the fee before going fishing.

A fifty per cent concession applies to people who only fish in the tidal waters of the Tweed River and prescribed adjacent beach areas.

Where do I pay the fee?

You can pay at many outlets throughout NSW, such as most fishing tackle shops, selected caravan parks, local shops, service stations, NSW DPI FishSmart app and via Service NSW website www.onegov.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 369 365**.



How much is the fee?

How much is the fee?

\$7 for 3 days

\$14 for 1 month

\$35 for 1 year

\$85 for 3 years

Digital fee receipt on your phone

If you own a smartphone you can now link your NSW Fishing Fee Receipt with the Service NSW smartphone app which will enable you to hold a digital fishing fee receipt on your smartphone.

www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/get-started-digital-licences



How do I obtain a plastic receipt?

If you pay for a one year or three year period online, over the phone or if you renew your licence using your renewal letter, you will receive a plastic receipt in the post. For all other payment methods you will receive a paper receipt.

Interstate and overseas visitors

Recreational fishing licences issued by other states, territories or countries are not valid for fishing in NSW waters. All visitors must pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee.

The general NSW Recreational Fishing Fee means those who receive direct benefits from the resource are being asked to make a small contribution to its future.

Exemptions:

- Persons under the age of 18.
- An adult assisting persons under the age of 18 to take fish using a single rod per child or to take prawns using a single dip or scoop net per child.
- A person fishing in a private dam with a surface area of two hectares or less.
- An Aboriginal Person.

The holder of:

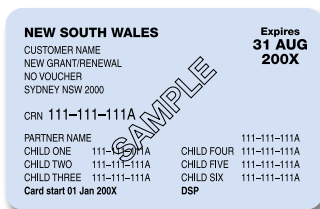
- A current Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink.
- A current Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- A Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Treatment Card endorsed "Totally and Permanently Incapacitated".
- A Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Treatment Card endorsed "Extreme Disablement Adjustment".
- A letter from the Department of Veterans' Affairs stating that you receive a disability pension of 70 per cent or higher, or an intermediate pension.

These exemptions only apply to the primary card holder. Recreational fishers must have these cards in their possession to be exempt.

Please note that seniors cards, health care cards and repatriation health cards do not exempt you from paying the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee.

This information is current at time of printing but fisheries regulations may change. It is the responsibility of fishers to ensure they are acting within the law at all times.

If unsure whether you need to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee, check our website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries



Replacement fee receipt

Cost for a replacement fee receipt is \$8.00. Call **02 4424 7499** to obtain a replacement or download a form from our website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

For digital fee replacement, no fee applies for this option. Use the on-line form and select the digital option if you don't know your fee receipt number.

Where do my fishing fees go?

Recreational fishing trusts

All funds raised from the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee are placed into recreational fishing trusts – one for saltwater and one for freshwater – and can only be spent on improving recreational fishing. Expert anglers provide advice on how funds in the trusts should be spent.

There is a lot more information on the website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries. Anyone can apply for funding from the trusts to improve recreational fishing. Details can be found at the above website. Examples of some trust funded projects are provided as follows.

Recreational fishing reefs

Estuarine and offshore artificial reefs have been installed in a number of locations to enhance recreational fishing. Eight offshore artificial reefs have now been installed off the NSW coast located off Sydney, Shoalhaven Heads, Port Macquarie, Port Hacking, Merimbula, Newcastle, Wollongong and Tweed Heads. Monitoring and angler reports have shown excellent catches around the reefs. Planning is underway for future reefs.

Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

More than 30 fish aggregating devices (FADs) are placed in coastal waters each year to attract pelagic fish for recreational fishing. Anglers can now receive email alerts for all FAD related news. Sign up on our website.

Locations of the reefs and FADs can be found on our website or on the FishSmart app.



Marine Fish Stocking

Fish stocking aims to boost fish stocks and enhances recreational fishing opportunities for fishers in NSW. Species recently stocked to into selected estuarine waters along the NSW coast to date include Mulloway, Kingfish and Dusky Flathead.

This program builds on the well-established freshwater fish stocking program which supports some of our most important inland fisheries.



Game Fish Tagging Program

The program provides valuable scientific information on the movement and growth of Billfish, Tuna, Sharks and other selected sportfish. To date, more than 495,000 fish have been tagged under the program. If you are lucky enough to catch a tagged fish please use the online recapture form or send an email to gamefish.tagging@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Research Angler Program

Donate your frames and help ensure there's fish for the future. The NSW Research Angler Program aims to improve our understanding of important recreational fish populations by encouraging recreational fishers to donate the frames of fish they catch to research. The program includes:

- Mulloway
- Snapper
- Yellowtail Kingfish
- Dusky Flathead
- Bluespotted Flathead (Sand Flathead)
- Pearl Perch
- Spanish Mackerel
- Spotted Mackerel

Frame donations from these species can be made at any one over 30 drop-off points along the length of the NSW coast.

From each frame we can measure the length of the fish and by removing the otoliths (also known as earbones or jewels) from the skull and analysing them, we can estimate the age of the fish and use this to help assess the health of fish stocks.

Please visit the program web page (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/researchangler) or contact the program coordinator at research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au to learn more.



Essential recreational research

Activities include:

- Recreational fishing surveys.
- Biology and behaviour of popular recreational species.
- Angler catch programs.

NSW Department of Primary Industries Recreational Fishing Centre

NSW Research Angler Program

Fisher name: BARRY MUNDI

Date of capture: 12 June 2013

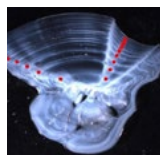
Location: CLUDE RIVER
Please tick one of the following

Estuary-river Beach-rocks-breakwall Offshore

Fish length (if donating head or otolith only): 101 cm

Contact details (name, phone or postal address):
Barry.mundi@hotmail.com.au

For a drop-off station, please visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational/researchangler



Habitat Action Program

A range of activities are being funded to enhance fisheries through the protection and rehabilitation of important habitats. Activities include removing barriers to fish migration, revegetating and protecting riverbanks, undertaking weed control and restoring tidal regimes. "More habitat... more fish".

Did you know that over 300 projects have been funded through licence fees for fish habitat restoration so far?

To get involved see www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/rehabilitating/ahr-grants-program

More facilities for fishers

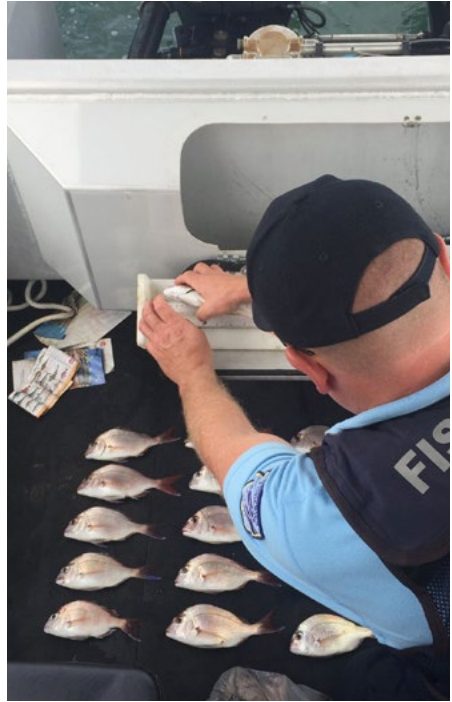
Funding grants are available for fishing clubs, local councils and community groups to improve recreational fishing facilities including fish cleaning tables, fishing platforms and other infrastructure.

Ensure your local group gets involved!



Fisheries Officers

Additional fisheries officers throughout NSW continue to be supported using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts to maximise compliance with fishing rules and provide advisory services to recreational fishers.



Fishing Education

Ever thought of becoming a Fishcare Volunteer?

If you have a passion for fishing and you'd like to get involved, why not think about becoming a Fishcare Volunteer?

The Fishcare program has over 250 motivated volunteers and six dedicated education officers across NSW who teach the community all about fish and sustainable fishing in NSW.

Volunteers provide face to face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground through fishing workshops and assisting with our schools program 'Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish', as well as providing advisory on the water, at boat ramps, field days and events!



Who can become a volunteer?

If you are over 18 years of age, have a passion for fish or fishing and can assist around one day per month, you can apply to become a volunteer!

Our volunteers range in age from students to retirees, and come from a great range of backgrounds.

You'll be involved in helping create better awareness among anglers and the wider community about fishing issues, but you won't have enforcement powers.

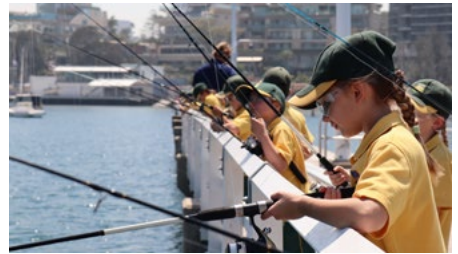
For more information, please visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or if you think this sounds like you and you would like to apply, send us an email at fish.care@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Get Hooked: It's Fun to Fish schools program

A FREE school education program is teaching students in both primary and high schools across NSW about safe, responsible and sustainable fishing. This includes visiting schools and conducting in class lessons as well as running fun fishing workshops which enable students to put into practice skills learned during their Get Hooked class lessons.

Is your local school involved in this free program? More information can be found on our website or by emailing gethooked.fisheries@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Recreational Fishing Havens

Thirty Recreational Fishing Havens, areas largely free of commercial fishing, were created along the NSW coast to provide better angling opportunities for recreational fishers. Money raised from the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee enabled a \$20 million buyout to create the havens. The havens also promote tourism and create employment in the local areas.

Locations and areas	
<p>Tweed River Downstream from Boyds Bay Bridge and from south of Rocky Point east to Fingal Road. Wommin Lake, Wommin Lagoon and six canal estates beyond that area are also recreational fishing only (i.e. Seagulls Canal, Tweed West Canals, Blue Water Canals, Crystal Waters Canal, Endless Summer Canal Estate, Oxley Cove).</p>	<p>Bellinger River (including Kalang River)</p>
	Deep Creek
	Hastings River
	Manning River
	Lake Macquarie
	St Georges Basin
	Burrill Lake
	Lake Conjola
	Narrawallee Inlet
	Meroo Lake
	Lake Tabourie
	Tomaga River
	Lake Brunderee
	Tuross Lake (including Tuross River and Borang Lake)
	Little Lake (also known as Little Tilba Lake and Hoyers Lake)
	Dalmeny Lake (also known as Mummaga Lake)
	Bermagui River
	Nelson Lake (Nelson Lagoon)
	Bega River
	Pambula River
	Back Lake (Back Lagoon)
	Towamba River (also known as Kiah River)
	Yowaka River
	Nullica River
	Wonboyn Lake, River and Beach (to 500m from mean high water level)
<p>Richmond River Downstream from a line drawn east across the Richmond River from the south eastern corner of portion 21 which is the river end of Emigrant Point Lane beside the flood gate. Commercial trapping and eel trapping is permitted in the river and Emigrant Creek upstream from the Burns Point Ferry. Commercial Sea Mullet hauling is allowed within the Recreational Fishing Haven – adjacent to Shaws Bay below the Missingham Bridge – from 1 April to 31 July each year. Commercial netting is not permitted from Tatham Bridge upstream to ‘Norco Weir’ at Casino.</p>	
<p>Clarence River</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Middle Wall – a 2km stretch at the Clarence River mouth near Yamba (commercial hauling during the mullet travelling season – April to August – will still be permitted in this area). 2. Romiaka Bridge – waters adjacent to the Romiaka Channel Road Bridge, just outside Yamba. 3. Oyster Channel Bridge – waters adjacent to Oyster Channel Road Bridge, near Yamba. 4. Entrance of Saltwater Inlet – a 300m stretch of river on the eastern side of North Arm, between Arris Island and Saltwater Inlet, near Iluka. 	
<p>Camden Haven River Downstream from Dunbogan Bridge and North Haven Bridge (including Gogleys Lagoon).</p>	
<p>Botany Bay</p>	

Recreational Fishing Havens in NSW

Refer to the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries for local area maps.

North Coast

Plenty of good fishing. Richmond River around Ballina for Whiting and Luderick; the lower parts of the Tweed River for Mulloway, Trevally and Tailor; and the Hastings River at Port Macquarie for Bream.

Central Coast or Newcastle

Check out Lake Macquarie for Flathead, Bream and Whiting.

Tweed River

4sq km from the mouth of the Tweed River to Boyds Bay bridge and from Rocky Point east to Fingal Road, including canal estates.

Richmond River

8sq km from the mouth of the Richmond River to Emigrant Creek.

Clarence River

Four locations within the river – a 2km stretch at middle wall, around Romiaka bridge and Oyster Channel bridge, and a spot at the entrance of Saltwater Inlet.

Bellinger/Kalang Rivers Deep Creek

Hastings River

Camden Haven River

Down from Dunbogan and North Haven bridges including Gogleys Lagoon.

Manning River

Downstream from Ghinni Ghinni and Berady Creek, including Scotts Creek.

Lake Macquarie

Sydney

Botany Bay

Sydney

Try Botany Bay. It's a top spot for Bream, Luderick, Kingfish and Tailor.

St Georges Basin, Lake Conjola

Narrawallee Inlet, Burrill Lake

Lake Tabourie, Meroo Lake

Tomoga River

Tuross Lake/Tuross River,
Lake Brunderee

Dalmeny (or Mummaga Lake)

Little Lake (or Little Tilba Lake and
Hoyers Lake), Bermagui River

Nelson Lake, Bega River

Back Lake, Pambula River

Yowaka River, Nullica River

Towamba River (or Kiah River)

Wonboyn Lake, River and Beach

South Coast

Wide choice of lakes and estuaries. St Georges Basin for Flathead, Whiting and Blue swimmer crabs; Tuross Lake for Flathead, Tailor and Mulloway; Bermagui and Bega Rivers are renowned for Bass, Bream and Tailor.

Go Charter Fishing

The NSW Charter Fishing Boat Industry is recognised as one of the State's most dynamic and successful fishing sectors catering for tens of thousands of recreational fishers annually, and providing significant contributions to many regional economies.

Whether you're an experienced angler or new to fishing, accessing local knowledge and using the right bait and tackle can make all the difference. The best way to do this is to book a charter fishing trip. Charter fishing businesses authorised by NSW DPI operate out of most NSW coastal ports.

The NSW charter fishing sector provides all types of fishing opportunities. So whether you want to troll, jig or spin offshore for pelagic fish like Kingfish, Tuna or Marlin, throw lures for Bream, Flathead or Whiting in the estuaries, or simply drop a bait for species like Snapper, Mulloway and Trevally on one of the many natural and artificial reefs along the coast, there is a fishing charter for you.

Licensed Charter Fishing Businesses in NSW are geared up to help you make your fishing dreams a reality.

Only licenced Charter fishing boats can take paying passengers in NSW and must display the letters CFB. The CFB number is a sure way to know that your Charter boat skipper is qualified and the vessel is authorised to take paying passengers fishing. Don't risk breaking the law and compromising your safety on an illegal unlicensed fishing charter.

For more information or to book your next fishing charter, head to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/charter/go-charter-fishing-in-nsw



Photo: Justin Duggan Photography



Department of
Primary Industries

Go Charter Fishing



The NSW charter fishing sector provides a range of fishing opportunities for anglers and their families looking to expand their fishing horizons and have a fun day on the water.

The NSW coastline offers a diverse array of fishing options, from calm water estuaries and rivers targeting bream, flathead, whiting and mulloway to offshore sport, reef and game fishing in search of snapper, kingfish, tuna and marlin.

Operating out of most ports and in many estuaries along the entire coast, NSW's licenced charter fishing operators provide a great opportunity to fast track your fishing skills plus access local fishing knowledge and explore new waters and fisheries.

Only licenced charter fishing vessels can take paying passengers on recreational fishing trips in NSW.

Whatever type of fishing you enjoy, or would like to learn more about, there's a fishing charter for you. For more info, visit the "Go Charter Fishing" webpage under www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or search for 'Go Charter Fishing in NSW' in your internet browser.



dpi.nsw.gov.au/gocharterfishing

Responsible fishing

NSW DPI promotes responsible fishing practices and awareness that we share the coast, rivers and ocean with everyone. The following guidelines can be applied whether you take fish for the table or release your fish.

- Only catch sufficient fish for your immediate needs. Release all others using best practice catch and release techniques. Remember all fish, including scavengers, are important to the ecosystem.
- If you retain your catch, dispatch all fish and invertebrates swiftly and humanely. To avoid wastage and the risk of food poisoning always chill your catch immediately with ice.
- Dispose of all litter and fish waste responsibly. This may mean taking your litter home with you.
- Be respectful of other water users and

people in the local area. We all share these areas so try not to obstruct others, interfere with their equipment or cause excessive noise.

- Be particularly careful not to put anyone's safety at risk by your actions. Give swimmers or divers a wide berth.
- Use environmentally friendly fishing tackle such as lead-alternative sinkers, biodegradable lures and non-stainless hooks where possible.
- Act responsibly when you have reached your bag limit and you remain at the fishing grounds. Ensure any additional fish caught have the best chance of survival once released. If you are fishing deep water, consider moving to a different location to reduce potential discard mortality.
- Protect fish habitat so there is more fish for the future – see page 70.















Maximising fish survival

To maximise fish survival when catching and releasing fish, it is important to follow a few simple rules:

- Use methods and rigs that reduce deep hooking.
 - Target fish using artificial lures.
 - Choose non-offset circle hooks when using bait.
- Minimise the length of time the fish is out of the water and swiftly unhook.
 - Try to remove hooks and release fish as quickly as possible. The use of needle-nosed pliers or hook retrieving devices can greatly reduce time spent unhooking.

- Remove hooks from mouth-hooked fish.
- Ideally unhook fish while they are still in the water.
- If the fish is hooked deeply, cut the line as close as possible to the fish's mouth rather than removing the hook.
 - Compared to removing swallowed hooks from Bream and Mulloway, simply cutting the line increases short-term survival from 12 per cent to more than 85 per cent.
 - Up to 76 per cent of released line-cut, deep-hooked Bream shed hooks within around three weeks.
- Use fish-friendly landing nets with knotless mesh.
 - Avoid knotted landing nets which may damage the fish's scales, skin, eyes and fins.
- If live wells are used, ensure they are of sufficient size and maintain good water quality by using a flow through, aerated system. This is especially important during the summer months when water temperatures are high.
 - Poorly designed live wells reduce fish survival – particularly species such as Silver Trevally where survival dropped from 98 per cent to 63 per cent.



Catch and release fish survival results		
Species	Per cent survival	Main factors for reduced survival
Australian Bass 	92-100	Deep hooking
Dusky Flathead 	91-96	Poor handling and sub-optimal live well water quality
Luderick 	99	Poor handling
Mulloway 	73-81	Deep hooking and poor handling
Pearl Perch 	91	Deep hooking
Sand Whiting 	93	Deep hooking
Silver Trevally 	68-98	Excessive time in poorly designed live wells
Snapper 	67-92	Deep hooking and poor handling
Tailor 	92	Deep hooking
Yellowfin Bream 	72-97	Deep hooking
Yellowtail Kingfish 	85	Deep hooking



Other practices to help increase survival

- Use suitable tackle for the species that you are targeting and minimise the time spent to land the fish.
- Handle fish firmly and carefully. Avoid dropping fish on to the bottom of boats and other hard surfaces. Remember many surfaces, especially metal, can become very hot in the sun.
 - Use wet hands or wet gloves when handling a fish to minimise damage to its skin.
- A smooth, wet surface such as vinyl covered foam is best to lay fish on if they are removed from the water.
- Use barbless hooks or hooks with reduced barbs to make hook removal easier and minimise hook damage.
 - This can be achieved by squeezing barbs down with pliers, or filing down larger barbs.
- Carefully return fish to the water. Do not throw them. Take care to revive any fish upon release if they appear exhausted (struggling to hold themselves upright and/or unable to swim away).
 - Gently hold or push the fish through the water so that it obtains a good flow of water over its gills. If there is any water current, hold the fish upright facing towards the current until it starts to show signs of recovery.



How to use circle hooks

Circle hooks have been shown to increase the survival of angler released fish. With their success already proven for many game fish species, the hooks are now used increasingly for many other common recreational species including Bream, Flathead and Mulloway. Circle hooks bring about many benefits for anglers, but they do require a few minor changes to your normal fishing techniques.

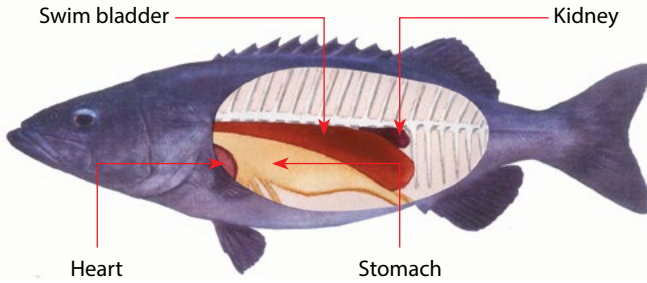
- Do not bury your hook (particularly with tough baits), lightly hook the bait so that the point and barb are exposed or “bridle” the bait.
- When using soft baits like peeled prawn or bread it is not so important to expose the hook as fish will crush the bait during the bite and become hooked.



- Do not strike at the fish, allow the fish time to take the bait into its mouth and then apply slow and steady pressure to set the hook in the mouth area. The fish often hook themselves.



- Non-offset circle hooks are recommended for the best mouth-hooking results.
- Use a de-hooker or needle-nosed pliers to help with unhooking.



Barotrauma

When many fish species are caught from water deeper than 10 metres, they can display a range of injuries due to the changes in pressure, known as barotrauma. Barotrauma occurs as a result of the expansion of gases in the swim bladder and other organs as the fish are not able to adjust to the rapid decrease in water pressure when they are pulled towards the surface.

The effects and severity of barotrauma injuries increase with depth of capture and susceptibility varies between fish species. Physical symptoms of fish suffering from barotrauma can include:

- An inflated abdomen.
- Bulging eyes.
- The stomach protruding from the mouth.
- Intestines protruding from the anus.

Returning the fish to capture depth is crucial in maximising the post-release survival of barotrauma-affected fish.

- Release your fish quickly with minimal time out of water. This provides the fish with a good chance to return to depth without any treatment. (Research shows that holding fish in live wells can increase the effects of barotrauma - this is why fish should be released as quickly as possible).
- If the fish is displaying significant barotrauma symptoms or is found to be excessively buoyant and unable to submerge by itself, a release weight should be used to re-pressurise the fish back to depth. Due to the inherent risk of further (stabbing) injury caused by a venting tool, venting is not recommended as a response to barotrauma symptoms in fish.

Making a release weight

Release weights may be purchased from good tackle shops or you may make your own using a large Snapper sinker and a barbless hook.

You will need:

- 1 large Snapper sinker – minimum of 16oz (450g) up to 30oz (850g) for larger fish.
- 1 long shank 7/0 Stainless hook.
- 1 small stainless screw (must fit through the eye of the hook).
- 2 cable ties.

Step 1. Remove the barb from the stainless hook using a metal file.

Step 2. Lay the hook on the sinker, with the hook shank finishing at the top of the sinker.

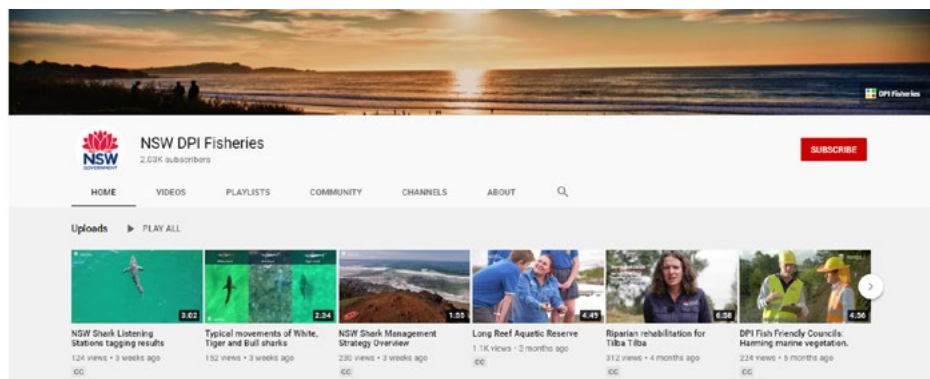
Step 3. Use a small screw and secure the hook to the sinker (You may have to drill a small pilot hole).

Step 4. Use two cable ties to secure and strengthen the hook position to the top of the sinker.



DIY release weight. Note barbless hook, cable ties and small screw to secure hook to sinker.

Attach heavy mono (~80-100lb), Venetian cord or similar to the bend of the hook. Approx 25–30 metres of line should suffice. A hand spool will help keep the line tidy and tangle free.



Online resources

To find out more about catch and release fishing, tackle tips, and how to protect our marine environment be sure to visit the NSW DPI Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/user/NSWFisheries/videos to find more informative resources.

Catch and release mats for recreational fishers

A catch and release measuring mat has been designed to help fishers accurately record their catch. The mat includes full colour illustrations of the most popular species of fish and conversion tables so approximate weight can be estimated from length measurement.

The catch and release mats are available for purchase online by visiting our website.

Converting fish lengths to weights

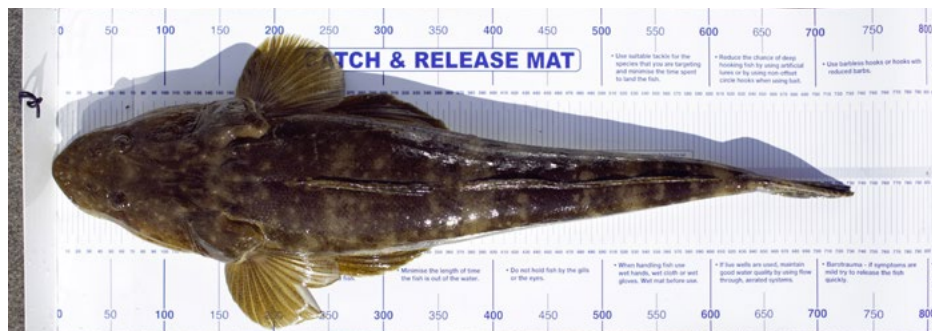
Fish biologists have calculated length and weight relationships for some popular fish

species which can be used to estimate the weight of a fish by measuring its length. Please note that these figures are estimates only and individual fish weight can vary depending on age, sex, season and recent feeding activity.

Measuring length

Fork length measurements have been used for Yellowfin Bream, Yellowtail Kingfish, Snapper, Sand Whiting, Tailor and Australian Salmon in the conversion tables and total length used for Australian Bass, Dusky Flathead and Mulloway. Fork length is measured from the snout to the fork of the tail. Total length is measured from the snout to the tip of the tail.

Remember: Legal length is the total length measurement of the fish. If you retain your catch, dispatch all fish and invertebrates swiftly and humanely



Australian Bass



Total length used for both legal length measurement and weight calculation.

Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
25	0.3	30	0.5
26	0.3	31	0.6
27	0.4	32	0.6
28	0.4	33	0.7
29	0.4	34	0.8

Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
35	0.8	48	2.2
36	0.9	49	2.4
37	1.0	50	2.5
38	1.1	51	2.7
39	1.1	52	2.9
40	1.2	53	2.9
41	1.3	54	3.0
42	1.4	55	3.2
43	1.5	56	3.4
44	1.6	57	3.7
45	1.8	58	3.9
46	1.9	59	4.1
47	2.1	60	4.3

Dusky Flathead



Total length used for both legal length measurement and weight calculation.

Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
36	0.3	41	0.5
37	0.3	42	0.6
38	0.4	43	0.6
39	0.4	44	0.7
40	0.4	45	0.8

Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
46	0.8	68	2.2
47	0.9	70	2.5
48	1.0	72	2.7
49	1.1	74	2.9
50	1.1	76	3.2
52	1.2	78	3.5
54	1.3	80	3.8
56	1.4	85	4.6
58	1.4	90	5.5
60	1.5	95	6.6
62	1.7	100	7.8
64	1.8	105	9.1
66	2.0	110	10.6

Snapper

Juvenile Snapper ▶



Total length for legal length calculation



Adult Snapper

Fork length for weight calculation

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
30	0.6	35	0.9
31	0.7	36	1.0
32	0.7	37	1.1
33	0.8	38	1.2
34	0.9	39	1.3

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
40	1.3	72	6.9
42	1.5	74	7.4
44	1.7	76	8.0
46	2.0	78	8.6
48	2.2	80	9.2
50	2.5	82	9.8
52	2.8	84	10.5
54	3.1	86	11.2
56	3.4	88	12.0
58	3.8	90	12.7
60	4.1	92	13.5
62	4.5	94	14.4
64	4.9	96	15.2
66	5.4	98	16.1
68	5.8	100	17.1
70	6.3		

Sand Whiting

Total length for legal length measurement



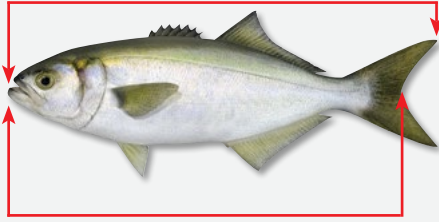
Fork length for weight calculation

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
25	0.1	28	0.2
26	0.1	29	0.2
27	0.2	30	0.2

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
31	0.2	41	0.5
32	0.3	42	0.6
33	0.3	43	0.6
34	0.3	44	0.7
35	0.3	45	0.7
36	0.4	46	0.8
37	0.4	47	0.8
38	0.4	48	0.9
39	0.5	49	0.9
40	0.5	50	1.0

Tailor

Total length for legal length measurement



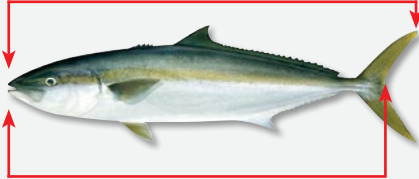
Fork length for weight calculation

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
30	0.3	34	0.5
32	0.4	36	0.6

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
38	0.7	60	3.0
40	0.7	62	3.4
42	1.0	64	3.8
44	1.2	66	4.2
46	1.3	68	4.6
48	1.5	70	5.0
50	1.7	72	5.5
52	1.9	74	6.0
54	2.2	76	6.5
56	2.5	78	7.1
58	2.8	80	7.7

Yellowtail Kingfish

Total length for legal length measurement



Fork length for weight calculation

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
60	2.8	67	3.8
61	2.9	68	4.0
62	3.0	69	4.2
63	3.2	70	4.4
64	3.4	71	4.6
65	3.5	72	4.8
66	3.7	73	5.0

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
74	5.2	100	12.8
76	5.6	105	14.8
78	6.1	110	17.0
80	6.5	115	19.4
82	7.0	120	22.0
84	7.6	125	24.9
86	8.1	130	28.0
88	8.7	135	31.4
90	9.3	140	35.0
92	9.9	145	38.9
94	10.6	150	43.0
96	11.3	155	47.5
98	12.0	160	52.0

Yellowfin Bream

Total length for legal length measurement



Fork length for weight calculation

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
25	0.4	29	0.6
26	0.4	30	0.7
27	0.5	31	0.7
28	0.5	32	0.8

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
33	0.9	47	2.5
34	1.0	48	2.7
35	1.0	49	2.9
36	1.1	50	3.1
37	1.2	51	3.2
38	1.3	52	3.4
39	1.5	53	3.6
40	1.6	54	3.8
41	1.7	55	4.1
42	1.8	56	4.3
43	1.9	57	4.5
44	2.1	58	4.8
45	2.2	59	5.1
46	2.4	60	5.3

Australian Salmon

Total Length for legal length measurement



Fork length for weight calculation

Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
30	0.4	54	2.5
33	0.6	57	3.0
36	0.7	60	3.5
40	0.9	63	4.1
42	1.2	66	4.7
45	1.5	69	5.4
48	1.8	72	6.1
51	2.1	75	6.9

Mulloway

Total length used for both legal length measurements and weight calculation

Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
45	1.0	84	6.2
48	1.2	88	7.1
49	1.3	92	8.1
52	1.5	100	10.3
56	1.9	108	12.9
60	2.3	112	14.4
64	2.8	120	17.6
68	3.3	130	22.3
72	3.9	140	27.7
76	4.6	150	34.0
80	5.4	160	41.1

Responsible fishing to minimise impact and reduce wildlife injuries

- Birds, turtles, platypus and other aquatic animals can be accidentally injured by discarded fishing tackle and unattended fishing gear such as crab traps and nets.
- Always attend your lines and check your crab traps and nets regularly. Reducing set time for any fishing gear reduces the chances of harm to accidentally caught aquatic animals.
- Using crab traps and nets when fishing towards an estuary's headwaters has a higher risk of interacting with platypus. Please be extra vigilant, check traps and nets regularly and consider moving gear further downstream.
- Use environmentally friendly crab traps and nets to reduce your bycatch or adapt your current gear (see images below – or go to the DPI website for more info):
 - If using a crab trap with a flexible opening (such as a rectangular crab trap), install a barrier to help exclude turtles from entering the trap. This can be as simple as using a cable tie to reduce the opening size at the front of the trap.
 - To reduce the probability of entangling non-target animals; witches hats can be easily converted to a lift net by removing the float from above the mesh and re-attaching the float line with several lengths of lines directly to the ring.
- Rays play a valuable role in cleaning up fish scraps at many boat ramp and cleaning table areas. DPI discourages fishers from deliberately targeting them in these areas due to their local significance.
- Avoid using stainless steel hooks which can take years to break down in the environment.
- Avoid using break-away fishing floats that are non-biodegradable, or persist as marine debris, such as balloons and polystyrene blocks.

- Collect and dispose of any discarded fishing line, other gear or rubbish.
- Cut discarded fishing line into small pieces to avoid entanglement in case birds and other animals scavenge rubbish bins.
- Don't leave anything behind.



A cable tie being used to reduce the size of the entrance of a crab trap.



An entrance of a crab trap which has been reduced in size. The entrance is still big enough for all size crabs to enter.



A 'witches hat' – the float keeps the netting material off the bottom and the inverted mesh operates as an entanglement net.



An example of a hoop or lift net – the ring and net lay on the bottom when set and crabs feeding on the bait are caught when the net is lifted.

Reducing seabird interactions

Be cautious of bird activity when discarding fish waste or when berleying in areas where you are fishing. Be extra vigilant when fishing around diving birds, which may attempt to take a bait when lines are cast or may become tangled in your line. Using lures or heavily weighted baits may reduce the risk of interactions. Where possible, avoid or be particularly alert of seabird attention, when fishing near fish-cleaning tables or nesting areas. Keep your distance so as not to disturb birds that are present.

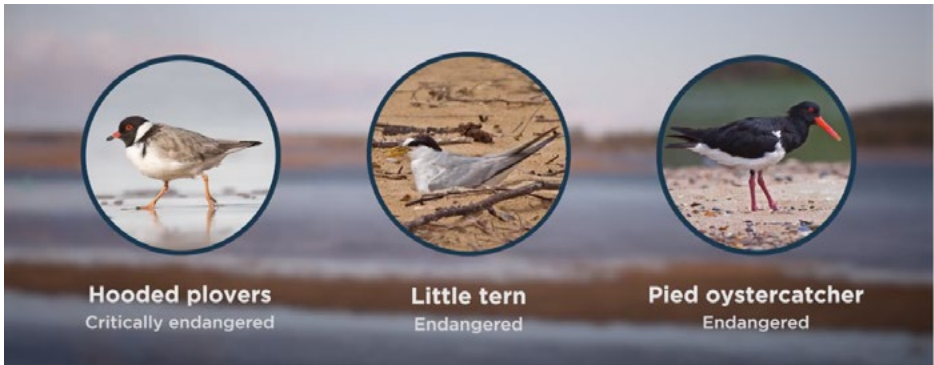


Help save our shorebirds!

Threatened shorebirds line the beaches and estuaries of NSW during their nesting period which runs from August to March. These birds are at risk, and collectively the presence of people and what people do on the beach can impact them during this sensitive period. It helps if you stay on the wet sand as birds nest up in the dry dunes, also pay attention to any specific shorebird signs in the area.

Responsible fishing around oyster leases

The NSW Oyster industry supports valuable regional employment and investment. Please ensure that your vessel, your vessel's wash and your fishing tackle does not interfere with any part of an oyster lease, including the Oysters. Hooks and lures abandoned on Oyster sticks, baskets and trays may cause serious injury to oyster industry workers so please fish responsibly around oyster leases. Boat wash may wash over Oyster crops from lease infrastructure and may pose significant risk of injury to industry workers on the lease. Do not tie up to lease marker posts. For more information please watch the video on responsible fishing around oyster leases on the DPI Fisheries YouTube channel.



Hooded plovers

Critically endangered

Little tern

Endangered

Pied oystercatcher

Endangered

Fishing safely

Going rock fishing

The Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016 (NSW) requires people who are rock fishing in the Ballina Shire, Richmond Valley, Port Stephens, Lake Macquarie, Central Coast, Northern Beaches, Randwick and Sutherland Shire local government areas to wear an appropriate AS4758 approved lifejacket.

Check www.watersafety.nsw.gov.au/Pages/Rock-fishing/lifejacket-law for updates on lifejacket regulations in other areas of NSW before you go rock fishing.

Fishing, especially rock fishing, can be dangerous. Follow these basic safety tips at all times when rock fishing:

- **Never fish by yourself.** Fish in a group of at least three people and within sight of each other. If someone is washed in, one person can stay and help while the other alerts emergency services (dial 000).
- **Inform others of your plans.** Always let friends or family know where you are going and when you will be back.
- **Wear light clothing.** Light clothing such as shorts and a spray jacket will let you swim easily if you are washed in. Jumpers may be heavy and difficult to take off.
- **Wear appropriate footwear.** Cleats, sandals and sandshoes with non slip soles suit different surfaces. Use the appropriate shoes for the conditions.
- **Wear a life lifejacket.** Carry safety gear. Also bring something buoyant that can be easily thrown and held to help you stay afloat. Carry ropes, a float and torches.
- **Fish only in places you know are safe and never fish in exposed areas during rough or large seas.** Make sure you are aware of local weather, swell and tidal conditions before going fishing. Be aware that conditions may change dramatically in a short period of time.
- **Observe first, fish later.** Spend some time (at least 30 minutes) watching your intended spot before fishing to get an idea of the conditions over a full swell/wave

cycle. Wave conditions can get worse as the tide changes - you should know whether the tides are high or low and coming in or going out.

- **Plan an escape route in case you are washed in.** Stay calm, if you are washed in, swim away from the rocks and look for a safe place to come ashore or stay afloat and wait for help to arrive.
- **Stay alert.** Never ever turn your back on the sea, if the waves, weather or swell threaten your fishing spot then leave immediately.
- **Ask for advice from locals who know the area.** They will always tell you when an area is dangerous.
- **Do not jump in if someone is washed into the water.** Use your rope or something that floats to rescue the person. If there is an angel ring nearby know how to use it. Dial **000** to alert emergency services to get help.

A rock fishing safety video is available at www.safefishing.com.au

These two images were taken eight minutes apart on a rock platform at Coogee.

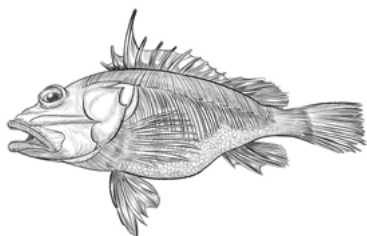
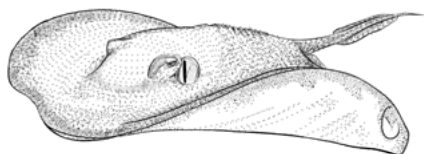


Marine animals that can cause injury

There are a wide range of animals that recreational fishers may come into contact with that are capable of causing injury. Always exercise extreme caution when interacting with marine organisms, particularly if you are unsure what the organism is. When wading, it is a good idea to wear shoes or similar protective footwear. These safety tips will help to reduce pain/injury:

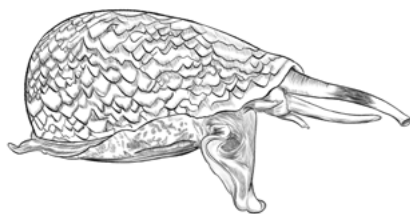
Stings

- Example organisms; Blue-bottle Jellyfish, Bullrout, Catfish, Stingray, Old Wife, Scat, Eastern Red Scorpionfish and non-tropical minor Jellyfish.
- Place the sting area in hot water (as hot as can be tolerated on unaffected skin).
- Contact emergency services 000 (or 112 mobile).



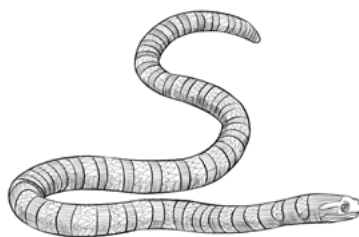
Coneshells

- Apply pressure bandage and immobilise.
- Contact emergency services 000 (or 112 mobile).



Venomous bites

- Example organisms; Blue-ringed Octopus, Sea Snakes.
- Apply pressure bandage and immobilise.
- Contact emergency services 000 (or 112 mobile).



For more information see:

www.stjohn.org.au



Safe spearfishing

Spearfishing can be a particularly dangerous form of recreational fishing. A few key safety tips include:

- Never hyperventilate. Shallow water blackout is a real danger.
- Never spearfish alone and always inform others of your fishing plans.
- Always dive with a buddy in sight of you at all times and practice the “one diver up, one diver down” rule.
- Never point your speargun at anyone (including yourself) for any reason.
- Avoid carrying spearguns through crowded areas.
- Always handle your speargun as if it is loaded.
- Never load your speargun while out of the water. Always load and unload your speargun while in the water.
- Avoid propeller strike. To alert other vessels in the vicinity that there are divers on the surface ensure your safety vessel clearly displays the international diver-down flag “A” and that all divers in the water are towing a highly visible float with a safety flag attached.
- Be considerate of other water users.
- Avoid spearfishing in popular swimming locations.
- A person who is under the age of 14 must not acquire, use or possess a spear gun.
- It is an offence to supply a speargun to a person under the age of 14.

Divers in the water-keep a proper lookout

Spearfishing, snorkelling and SCUBA diving are popular activities on the state’s coastal waterways. However, participants in these activities can be at risk of being hit by a boat whilst on or near the surface. Both skippers and divers must maintain personal responsibilities and keep a proper lookout at all times.

Boat or buoy/float flag

As required by maritime regulations, when spearfishers, snorkelers or SCUBA divers are diving from a vessel, the blue and white ‘Alpha Diver in the Water’ flag should always be displayed from your vessel or from a buoy nearby the boat. It is also strongly recommended that an additional high visibility yellow/green flag is flown under the Alpha flag if divers, such as spearfishers, are at risk, on or near the surface whilst separated from their vessel for extended periods of time.

Alpha flag



The Alpha Diver in the Water flag on the boat (or buoy) must be at least 40cm by 40cm. It is recommended the flags are flown as high as possible. Boat flags must be at least 1m vertically above the boat's superstructure or if flown from a buoy, at least 2m above the water surface.

Personal float and flags

When spearfishers and snorkelers are diving away from their vessel, boat buoy or the shore, it is strongly advised as a minimum, that the Alpha flag be flown from a brightly coloured personal float and towed no more than 40m away from the diver. Additionally it is also recommended that by adding a high visibility yellow/green second flag & upgrading to a similar high visibility coloured float you will maximise the chance of being seen by passing or approaching boats.

Make sure the Alpha flag is in good condition and of right size and height to comply with regulations.

It is recommended that flags on personal floats be at least 15cm high and 25cm wide and that they be flown above the float. It is also recommended your personal float has a minimum volume of 5 litres.

Know where divers go

- Consider areas where divers may be present – headlands, rocky reefs, bomboaras and sheltered coves.
- Check your local boating maps for likely areas before going out.
- Spearfishing and snorkelling vessels are not always at anchor and often move about picking up and dropping off divers.

Watch out, slow down and keep clear

- Always keep an eye out for divers' floats and flags whenever in areas where diving activity is likely.
- Keep well clear from any flags and floats and watch out for divers in the water. Remember, all vessels must slow down to less than 10 knots whenever within 60m of a person in the water.
- Remember, spearfishers may be up to 40m or more from their float and flag.

- Maintain a slow safe speed of less than 10 knots until well clear of any divers, their vessels or their floats and flags.
- Navigate with caution at all times within 200m of the shore where divers may be present. Be particularly careful when visibility is poor, such as in fog, glare, low light and surface chop.
- Avoid passing between a diving vessel and the shore. Pass well clear on the seaward side.

Take Care – Be Prop Aware

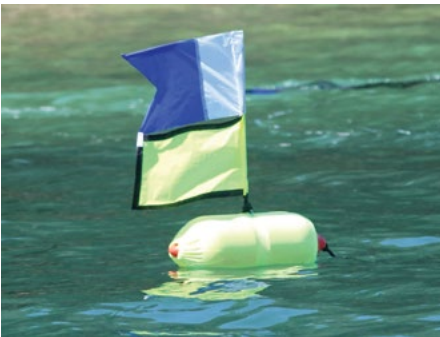
- When picking up divers, or when within 60m of a float/flag, locate all divers first and then progress slowly. Select neutral if in doubt or before allowing anyone alongside or to board. Consider switching off the engine; particularly if people are boarding over the stern.
- Avoid pick-ups that might place your boat in danger from a sudden wave. A person in the water could easily be hurt if you suddenly have to move your vessel. It is better to have all the divers swim out to deeper water so the pick-up doesn't have to be rushed. Be careful of float ropes fouling your propeller.
- Always keep an eye on the prop area and make sure it is clear while the engine is running. Neutral is good, engine off is best when people are in the water near the stern. Never reverse without looking.



- Make sure you tow a float and flag whenever you are operating away from your vessel. You should also tow a float and flag when diving from the shore.
- Use a large brightly coloured float for maximum visibility.
- Maintain awareness of boat traffic around you. Listen and look as you ascend. If concerned, raise your speargun vertically above you to be more visible to others.

- Consider carefully where you dive – don't rely solely on your float and flag to protect you – use common sense and avoid busy channels and other areas of high boating traffic. Raise your head often and look about.
- Shorten up your float cord to suit shallower depths and thereby keep your float/flag closer to you.
- Move the flag when you move.

Alpha flag with additional high visibility flags



Safe boating

Any person who drives a recreational powered vessel on NSW waterways at a speed of 10 knots or more must hold a current Roads and Maritime Services Boat Drivers Licence. It is important to stay safe when out on the water. Detailed advice on safe boating is available at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime

Key safe boating tips include:

- If you are the skipper, you are responsible under law for the safety of your vessel and all on board.
- Don't go overboard with alcohol. The blood alcohol limit on the water is the same as on the roads – 0.05% but be careful. The wind, waves and the sun combine to multiply the effects of alcohol. Your chances of disorientation and drowning are increased.
- Ensure the vessel is seaworthy and fuel tanks full. Check batteries beforehand and run the auxiliary motor periodically.
- Ensure the vessel is fully equipped for emergencies.
- Know how the safety gear works. Make sure everyone knows where it is stowed and how to use it.
- Let someone know your expected time of return. If going out to sea, advise the local coastal patrol as you leave port.
- Take plenty of food and water.
- Wear non-slip shoes and take waterproof jackets and warm clothing.
- Make it a habit of wearing a lifejacket. Know when you and your passengers are required by law to wear a lifejacket including:
 - When crossing a bar.
 - When on a vessel less than 4.8m in open water, at night or when alone.
 - At other times of heightened risk.
 - Children under 12 must wear a lifejacket at most times.
- If possible, fish with another vessel. In an emergency the other can help or radio for help.
- If a front approaches or the weather changes suddenly head back to shore.
- Avoid navigating close to commercial oyster leases which are marked by vertical white posts and signs. The location of oyster lease areas can be found on

Transport for NSW Boating Maps and on Australian Navigation Charts. For personal safety, recreational boaters, fishers and spearfishers are advised to remain outside oyster lease areas.

- Watch out for divers in the water and their floats and flags, especially when near rocky shores and headlands. Slow down and keep well clear of any divers, snorkelers or spearfishers.

Bar crossings

Bar crossings can be dangerous and require utmost care.

- Use a tide chart and check the weather.
- Avoid crossing a bar on an ebb or a run-out tide when the most dangerous wave conditions usually occur.
- Wear a lifejacket each time crossing the bar.
- On approaching the bar, stop and watch the wave pattern. Look for a flat period and proceed when safe.
- Do not go if in doubt or if you lack experience. It is not worth your life and perhaps the lives of others just for a day of fishing.
- Try to take any waves as close to head on as possible.
- When coming back in over a bar, try to remain on the back of a larger wave and avoid surfing down any wave face.

Heading offshore

- If you're the skipper, you're responsible.
- Know how to use your marine radio and when to use it.
- Use the log on/off coastal service every time you go on open waters.
- Keep a close eye on the weather (both forecast and actual).
- Know your boat and its limits.

Food safety

Many people enjoy eating the fish and seafood they catch. If you intend to eat your catch, there are some important tips to follow to be able to enjoy your catch and avoid causing illness.

Like all fresh food from animals, seafood needs to be handled carefully to minimise the risk of food poisoning.

Tips for fishing

Important tips for catching or collecting seafood include:

- Keep fresh seafood cold and covered by putting in ice or a refrigerator straight away.
- Keep equipment clean.
- Don't let recreational seafood or bait drip on to other food.
- Only catch or collect seafood when water quality is good. Remember that water quality can change and not all harmful things can be seen with the naked eye.

Check the current waterway status for:

- Known algal 'red alerts' via
 - Local signs.
 - Local media.
 - DPI water website: www.water.nsw.gov.au
 - Telephone **1800 999 457**.
- Fishing closures related to food safety, issued by NSW DPI via website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries.
- Avoid collecting and eating shellfish recreationally. If you choose to collect and eat shellfish such as Mussels or Oysters do not collect after heavy rainfall. Runoff water following heavy rainfall carries pollution into waterways, sometimes including sewage.

Don't collect Pipis

Collecting Pipis by recreational fishers for human consumption is prohibited in NSW. A maximum of 50 Pipis is permitted to be collected for bait and within 50m of the high tide mark (see page 58 for additional restrictions). Pipis and Cockles may contain toxins due to natural algal blooms. The blooms are not always visible.

Tips for safe eating

- Always cook recreational seafood thoroughly. In particular, never eat raw shellfish which has been collected recreationally as they are not subject to the same strict food safety controls as commercially harvested shellfish.
- Do not eat fish which have washed up on beaches and shorelines. Mass fish kills can sometimes see numbers of dead or

dying fish appear along the coastline.

The cause of death is often unknown and consumption of these fish can be a health risk.

- Remember that cooking will not destroy or remove toxins which might be present in seafood from poor quality waters. Eating seafood contaminated with toxins can result in serious illness or death.

'Red alert' algal warnings and visible blooms

Some algae produce harmful toxins that can build up in marine shellfish such as mussels, oysters and crustacea such as crabs or prawns.

Algal blooms can appear as water discolouration including red, green, yellow, brownish or an oily or milky appearance. Scum may form on the water surface. The water may have a musty, earthy or pungent smell. Some other blooms are not visible but are highly toxic even at low levels.

- Do not collect shellfish, gastropods or crustacea such as Crabs or Prawns from waters affected by algal blooms.
- For further background on the risks of toxic algal blooms go to www.who.edu/redtide

Fishing closures

Do not take seafood listed in a NSW DPI food safety closure notice.

Some waterways have been contaminated by industrial pollution and are not suitable for catching or collecting seafood.

Sewage spills sometimes contaminate waters with harmful bacteria and viruses. Sewage spills are especially high risk for shellfish.

PFAS

PFAS are a group of chemicals that include perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). PFAS are an emerging contaminant, which means that their ecological and/or human health effects are unclear. NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is leading the NSW Government response and investigations into PFAS contamination at a range of sites. There are a number of waterways in NSW affected by PFAS. Check updated fishing and dietary advice available on the NSW DPI or NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) websites. www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/pfas-response

Fish ciguatera poisoning

Ciguatera poisoning is a form of food poisoning caused by eating warm water finfish that carry ciguatera poison (toxin). Small plant-eating fish eat toxic algae and in turn are eaten by larger, predatory fish, like Spanish Mackerel.

Symptoms usually start 1 to 24 hours after eating a toxic fish and can include:

- sensation of hot-cold temperature reversal.
- tingling and numbness in fingers, toes, around lips, tongue, mouth and throat
- burning sensation or skin pain on contact with cold water
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and/or abdominal cramps
- joint and muscle pains with muscular weakness
- headache, fatigue and fainting
- extreme itchiness, often worsened by drinking alcohol and more.

How can you minimise the risk of ciguatera fish poisoning?

We know that ciguatera toxin does not affect the appearance, odour or taste of fish and that processes like cooking or freezing will not destroy the toxin and there is no method for removing it from the fish.

There are some simple rules that can be followed to reduce the risk of exposure to ciguatera toxins:

- avoid eating large warm water fish such as Spanish Mackerel as poisoning occurs more when larger fish are eaten. Cases of poisoning from Spanish Mackerel caught in NSW waters have generally been linked to fish over 10kgs.
- avoid cooking and eating the head, roe, liver or other viscera of warm water ocean fish as toxins can be concentrated in these parts and may increase exposure.



In Australia, Spanish Mackerel has caused the highest number of cases of ciguatera poisoning

- if ciguatera-like symptoms develop when eating a warm water ocean fish, do not eat further portions of that fish and see your doctor
- do not catch fish from known or high-risk ciguatera areas.

For more information head to www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River

Due to elevated levels of dioxins detected in some fish and seafood in Sydney Harbour/Port Jackson and the Parramatta River:

- No fish or seafood caught recreationally **west** of Sydney Harbour Bridge should be eaten; catches should be released.
- Fish or seafood caught recreationally **east** of Sydney Harbour Bridge should be limited generally to no more than 150gms per month, or to the amounts in the dietary advice for each species. For further information go to www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbour
- It is prohibited to collect shellfish such as Mussels, Oysters, Pipis and Cockles from Sydney Harbour.

All commercial fishing in Sydney Harbour/Port Jackson has been halted.

Be mercury aware

Mercury in fish

Australian Dietary Guidelines advise eating one or two fish meals per week for good health. Most fish caught in Australia are low in mercury, but some fish have higher mercury levels so it's best to know the mercury levels of different types of fish and how often to eat each type.

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand has found it is safe for all population groups to eat 2–3 serves per week of most types of fish. However, consumption of billfish (Swordfish and Marlin), Shark (flake), Orange Roughy and Catfish should be limited to the amounts in the table below.

Pregnant women, women planning pregnancy and young children can continue to consume a variety of fish as part of a healthy diet. However they should limit their consumption of certain species which are higher in mercury because too much mercury can harm developing nervous systems. Check the table below to select fish safely.

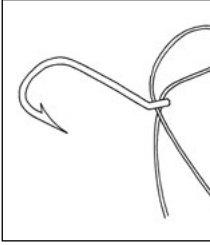
More information

For more information from the NSW Food Authority phone **1300 552 406** or check the websites at www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au or www.foodstandards.gov.au

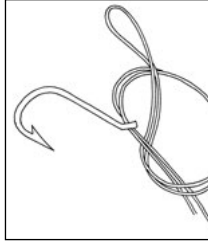
Pregnant women and women planning pregnancy 1 serve equals 150 grams	Children (up to 6 years) 1 serve equals 75 grams	Rest of the population 1 serve equals 150 grams
2 – 3 serves per week of any fish and seafood	not listed below	2 – 3 serves per week of any fish and seafood not listed in the column below
OR		OR
1 serve per week of Orange Roughy (Sea Perch) or Catfish and no other fish that week		1 serve per week of Shark (Flake) or Billfish (Swordfish / Broadbill and Marlin) and no other fish that week
OR		
1 serve per fortnight of Shark (Flake) or Billfish (Swordfish / Broadbill and Marlin) and no other fish that fortnight		

Knots and rigs

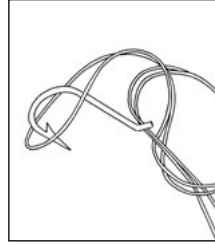
Palomar knot. The Palomar knot is quick to tie and forms a strong knot. It is a general-purpose connection used in joining fishing lines to swivels, snaps, hooks and artificial lures. The double wrap provides a protective cushion for added strength.



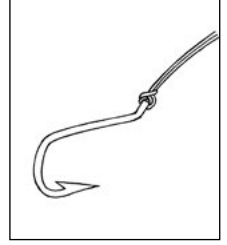
1. Double the line and form a loop about 10cms long. Pass it through the eye of the hook.



2. Form an overhand knot on the eye of the hook.

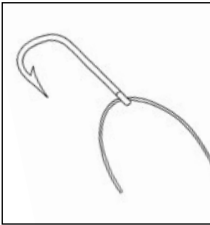


3. Extend the loop and pass it over the hook.

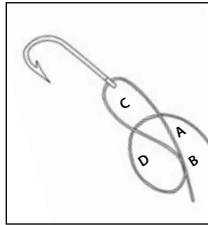


4. Moisten the knot before pulling tight. Trim the tag when complete.

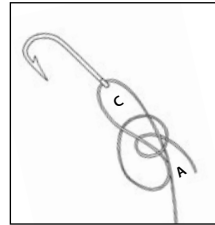
Uni knot or Grinner knot. This is an excellent knot for connecting hooks and swivels to the end of fishing lines. A very dependable knot even for deep sea fishing. Use more wraps with lighter line, less with heavier line. It can also be used to attach your fishing line to your reel by passing the line around the back of the spool rather than through the eye of the hook.



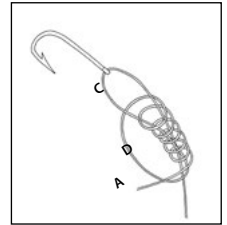
1. Thread line through eye.



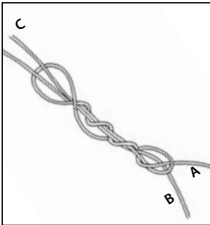
2. Make this configuration.



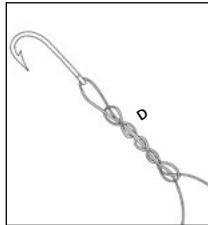
3. Begin wrapping loop C with tag A.



4. Continue wrapping four to six times.



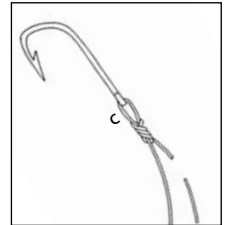
5. Moisten the line and form a knot by pulling tag A against loop C.



6. As you continue to pull on the tag all of the spirals in the tag are transferred to the loop D.

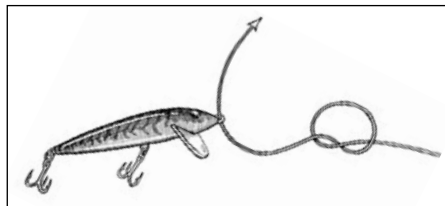


7. This forms a slipping knot and loop.

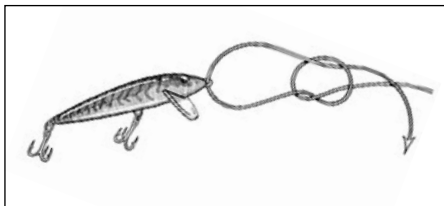


8. The loop C disappears as the knot slides down on to the eye.

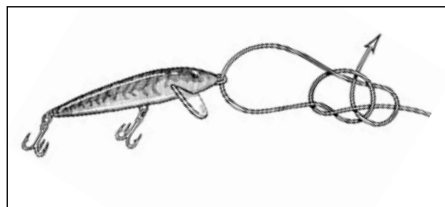
Perfection loop. Of many loops used to attach flies and lures, the Perfection loop is favoured because it lays relatively straight and does not point out to the side. It is tricky to tie so follow the instructions carefully.



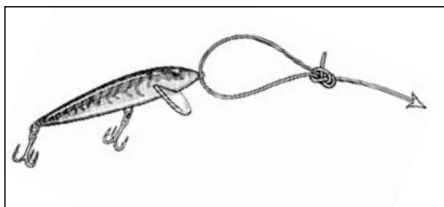
1. Make a simple overhand knot in the leader and thread the tag through the eye of the lure or fly.



2. Pass the tag back through the overhand knot alongside the other strand.

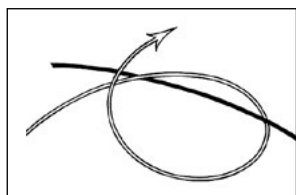


3. Now bend the tag back so it goes back up through the knot as shown. The sequence is over, over, under, over, under.

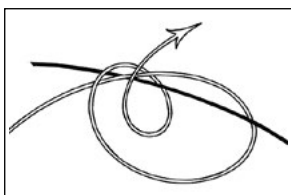


4. Moisten the knot before pulling tight. Trim the tag.

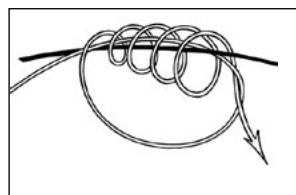
Double uni knot. This is a useful knot for joining two lines.



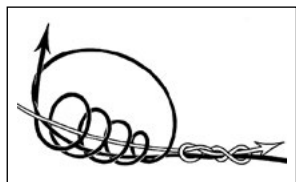
1. Overlap the lines to be joined then encircle one line with the tag of the other.



2. Wrap the double strand inside the formed loop.



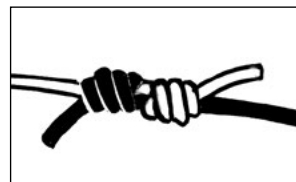
3. Make four wraps in all.



4. Do the same with the other line so the knot in each line is tied around the other.



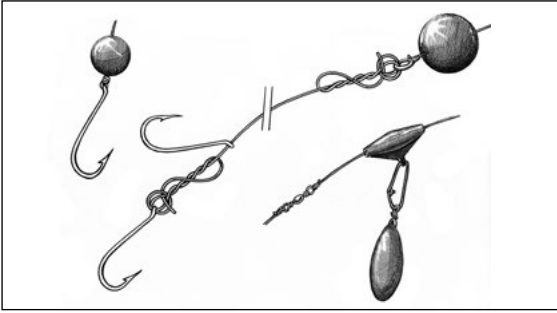
5. Moisten the line and tighten each knot in turn.



6. Draw the knots together, tighten once more, then trim the tags.

Running sinker rigs. A running sinker is not fixed but slides along the line until it reaches a stop or the hook. They are used where it is an advantage to let fish pick up bait without feeling the weight of a sinker.

1. The simplest rig features a small ball sinker running to the hook but there is no provision for a heavier leader.
2. A conventional running sinker features a swivel or ring as a sinker stop above the hook and allows a leader to be tied on below the swivel or ring.
3. The EzyRig illustrated is threaded on to line just like a sinker but the clip allows light sinkers to be swapped for heavier and vice versa.

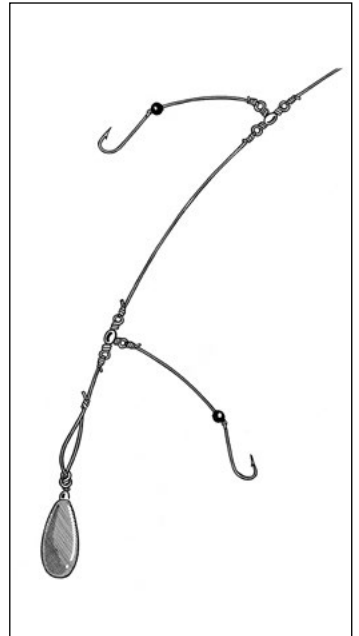
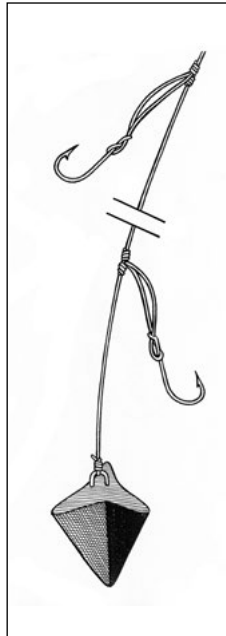


Fixed sinker rigs.

A simple bottom fishing rig is the basic fixed Paternoster rig. It consists of a sinker tied or looped on to the very end of the line with one or more hooks attached above the sinker at various intervals using twisted dropper loops so they stand away from the main line and don't tangle.

The use of a dropper loop to attach hooks is an easy rig to prepare and strong enough for most fishing situations.

Using a swivel or ring as a tie off point results in the strongest possible rig of this type and is preferred by many fishers.



Running floats – bobby cork rig.

Running floats such as a bobby cork rig have a hole through their centres just like a running sinker. In effect, they are used to present bait at a deeper depth than the length of drop which can be cast using a fixed float.

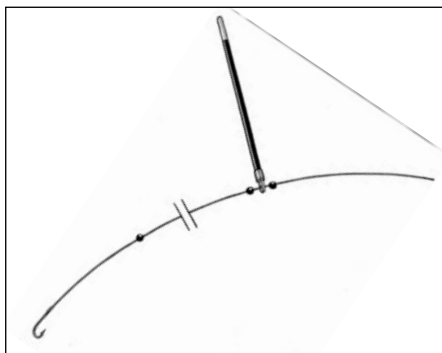
When casting out the baited hooks sink to the depth pre-determined by the position of the lower ball or bean sinker on the line, whether that is 2m or 10m and below the top stopper after casting.



The waggler float.

Waggler floats are by far the most diverse float design and can be used for almost all forms of fishing. The straight design of wagglers provides good buoyancy and excellent visibility at their tip.

Depending on the situation a waggler can be fixed in one spot or left free to slide up and down the line. Straight wagglers as shown here are fixed to the line with two locking shot. Extra shot is added down the line for balance so that only the tip will appear above the surface.



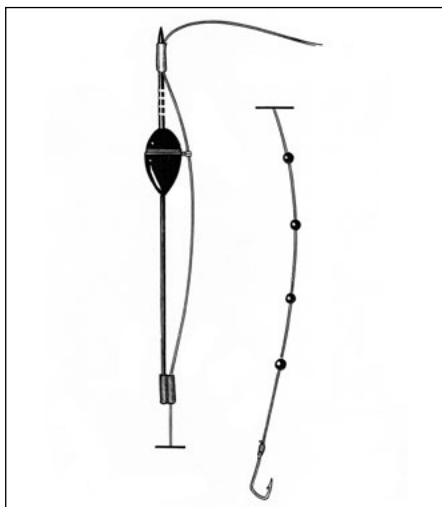
Fixed stem floats.

Stem floats consist of a thin stem with a bulbous body for added buoyancy. Most have a plastic or rubber sleeve which positions over the top of the stem to fix the float in position on the line. Steps to follow in rigging a fixed stem float are:

Remove the sleeve from the stem and pass the line through it and then through the line guide at the stem base.

When the required length of line has been passed through the guides, slide the sleeve back into position to fix the float on the line.

With the float in position, tie on the hook and weight the line with enough split shot to keep it in an upright position in the water.



Permitted methods and activities

Fishing rules apply to help ensure healthy and sustainable fisheries for future generations. Abiding by the rules will help preserve our saltwater recreational fisheries. Plan your activity well in advance and ask about restrictions or closed areas at your local NSW DPI fisheries office. Different rules apply for freshwater fishing and you should refer to the NSW DPI Recreational Freshwater Fishing Guide.

All finfish and invertebrates such as Crabs, Prawns, worms, Nippers and Squid are subject to bag limits and many are also subject to size limits (see bag and size limit section on page 47 for details).

Recreational equipment and maximum permitted number per person:

Rods or lines: 4 rods or handlines in total.

Hooks per line: 3 hooks or three gangs of hooks*.

Rod/hand jigging line: 1 rod or handline with up to 6 single hooks with lures attached[#].

Bait trap: 1 trap.

Hoop net or witches hat: 4 nets.

Crab trap: 2 traps.

Lobster trap: 1 trap.

Spanner Crab net: 1 net.

Hand hauled Prawn net: 1 net.

Scissors (push) net: 1 net.

Dip or scoop net: 1 net.

Spear/spear gun: –

Note: The table provides a maximum of each gear type permitted per person in use or in possession at any time. All the specified recreational fishing equipment has additional restrictions and requirements that must be adhered to. Specific gear requirements are also provided in this section.

* A gang of hooks should have no more than 5 hooks. No more than 3 trebles attached to a lure.

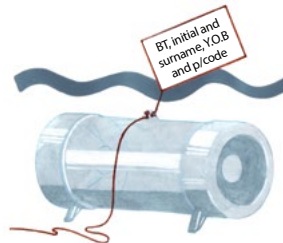
[#] This gear must be used by the method of hand jigging only. This line is included in the total number of lines permitted as given above.

Line fishing



- A maximum of four rods or lines can be used by any one person at any one time. Spare lines should not be capable of taking fish e.g. should not be rigged with hooks or lures attached, and should be properly stowed.
- If any rods or lines are left unattended, they must be clearly marked with the fisher's name and address or name and boat registration number.
- A maximum of three hooks or three gangs of hooks can be attached per line. A gang of hooks should have no more than five hooks.
- One line may have up to six single hooks with a lure attached to each. This line is to be used for jigging only and cannot be left unattended.
- A maximum of three treble hooks can be attached to a lure.

Bait trap



- You can only use or have in your possession one trap at any time.
- The maximum dimensions of a bait trap are 450mm length x 350mm diameter with entrance funnel no larger than 60mm in diameter.
- The trap must have a tag attached to a part of the trap which is at or above water level with dimensions not less than 80mm x 45mm, labelled with the letters BT, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode of the person who sets, uses or lifts the trap, 15mm in height, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour to the tag.

Hand

- Hand picking may be used to take fish. Gloves are permitted.



Knife

- A single blade knife with a blade longer than it is wide may be used to help gather invertebrates.



Pliers

- Pliers may be used to help gather invertebrates except on rock platforms.



Hand (Nipper) pump

- Hand (Nipper) pumps are commonly used to collect Saltwater Nippers.
- Barrel diameter not more than 85mm.



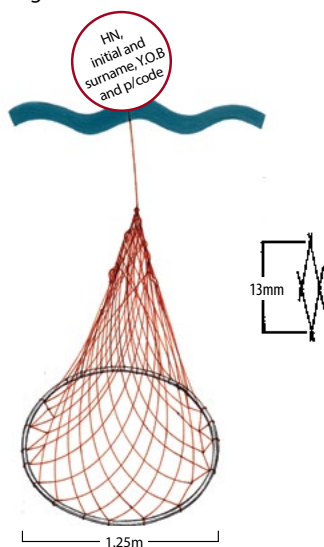
Landing net

- May only be used as an ancillary aid for retrieval of fish caught when line fishing.



Hoop nets and witches hats

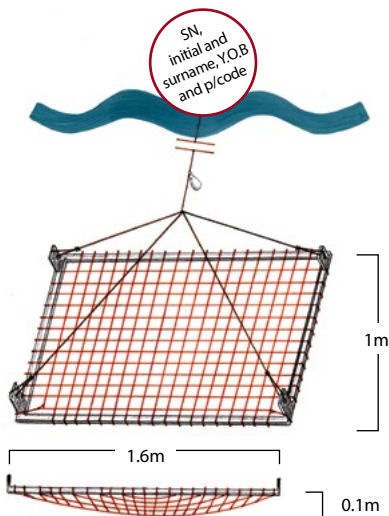
- Not more than four nets are to be used (or in possession) by any one person at any one time.
- No more than two hoops per net (no rigid frame between them).
- Diameter of hoops should be no greater than 1.25m.
- Mesh size cannot be less than 13mm measured on the diagonal.
- Drop (length of net) cannot be more than 1m.
- A float/buoy to be labelled with the letters HN, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode of the person who sets, uses or lifts the fishing gear. The float being at least 100mm in diameter and 50mm above the water with all letters to be a minimum of 15mm in height, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour to the buoy.
- Hoop nets or lift nets must not have any rope floating on the surface of the water.
- The net must be dropped and raised vertically through the water by hand.
- The net must not be used in ocean waters.
- Any Rocklobsters or finfish which are subject to a size limit must be immediately returned to the water unharmed if caught.
- The same rules apply for witches hats as for hoop nets.
- Do not set gear in areas of high boat traffic or navigation channels.



- Check your hoop nets / witches hats regularly. Reducing set time for any fishing gear reduces the chances of harm to accidentally caught aquatic animals such as platypus and turtles.
- When fishing with nets towards the upper reaches of an estuary there is a higher risk of interacting with platypus. Please be extra vigilant, check nets regularly and consider moving gear further downstream.
- Recreational fishers can make some simple modifications to their crab apparatus to reduce the probability of entangling non-target species. Witches hats can easily be converted to a lift net by removing the float from above the mesh and re-attaching the float line with several lengths of lines directly to the ring. When set, the mesh will now lay flat on the bottom underneath the bait line and be effective in catching crabs feeding on the bait when the net is lifted.

Spanner crab net

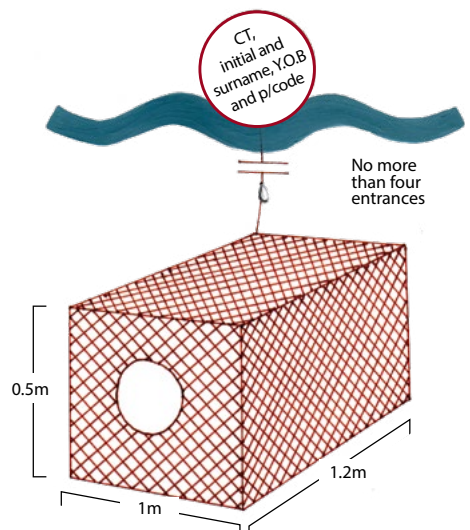
- Not more than one spanner crab net can be used (or in possession) by any person at any one time.
- Net must be attached to a rigid frame not exceeding 1.6m in length and 1m width.
- Net must not be capable of extending more than 0.1m beneath the frame when the frame is suspended in a horizontal position.



- The net must be lowered and raised through the water only by hand.
- The net can only be used for taking of Spanner Crabs.
- May only be used in ocean waters north of Korogoro Point (Hat Head).
- A float/buoy to be labelled with the letters SN, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode of the person who sets, uses or lifts the fishing gear. The float being at least 100mm in diameter and 50mm above the water with all letters to be a minimum of 15mm, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour to the buoy. There must also be a 50 gram weight attached no less than one metre below the buoy so that no rope/line is floating on the surface of the water.

Crab trap

- Not more than two traps to be used (or in possession) by any person at any one time.
- Maximum dimensions – 1.2m length x 1m width x 0.5m depth or has a diameter not exceeding 1.6m at the top or bottom.
- Minimum mesh size 50mm.
- No more than 4 entrances (none of which are on the top of the trap).
- A float/buoy to be labelled with the letters CT, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode of the person who sets, uses or lifts the fishing gear. The float being at least 100mm in diameter and 50mm above the water with all letters to be a minimum

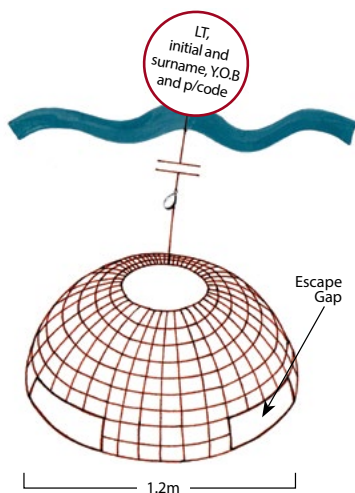


of 15mm, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour to the buoy. There must also be a 50 gram weight attached no less than one metre below the buoy so that no rope/line is floating on the surface of the water.

- Must not be made of entanglement material.
- Must not be set to impede the free passage of fish (2 traps cannot be set closer than 3m apart).
- Do not set gear in areas of high boat traffic or navigation channels.
- Check your crab trap regularly. Reducing set time for any fishing gear reduces the chances of harm to accidentally caught aquatic animals such as platypus and turtles.
- To minimise the incidental capture of non-target species, including turtles, it is recommended you make simple modifications to your crab trap:
 - Trap opening size: Your trap should have a maximum opening of approximately 60cm circumference or smaller. This is a measurement of the opening/s where the crab actually enters the trap (i.e. if the trap has a funnel-type entrance/s then it is the smaller measurement of the funnel).
 - If the trap opening is flexible, then a barrier should be installed that will be effective in excluding turtles (e.g. cable tie or cord at the front of the trap entrance).
- When fishing crab gear towards the upper reaches of an estuary, there is a higher risk of your traps catching and drowning air-breathing wildlife species such as the platypus. It is recommended that traps are deployed further down into the more saline part of the estuary to reduce this likelihood.
- Only Crabs can be taken with this trap.
- Crab traps must not be used in inland or ocean waters.

Lobster trap

- Not more than one trap is to be used (or in possession) by any person at any time.
- The base or floor of the trap may be either rectangular or circular. Rectangular not exceeding 1.2m by 1.2m. Circular not exceeding 1.2m in diameter.

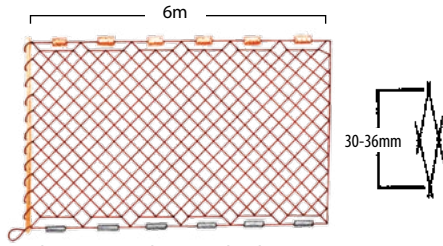


- A float/buoy to be labelled with the letters LT, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode of the person who sets, uses or lifts the fishing gear. The float being at least 100mm in diameter and 50mm above the water with all letters to be a minimum of 15mm in height, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour to the buoy. There must also be a 50 gram weight attached no less than one metre below the buoy so that no rope/line is floating on the surface of the water.
- Escape gaps are required. Either: One gap not less than 57mm high x 500mm wide; or two gaps not less than 57mm wide x 250mm wide; or three gaps not less than 57mm high x 200mm wide so that no part of any escape gap is more than 12cm above the floor of the trap.
- Lobster traps must not be used in inland waters or any waters more than 10m deep (contour).
- Only Rocklobsters can be taken with this trap.
- Do not set gear in areas of high boat traffic or navigation channels.

Prawn nets

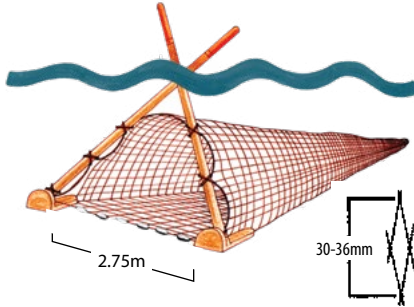
Hand hauled net

- Maximum length 6m.
- Mesh size between 30mm–36mm measured across the diagonal.
- Must not be staked or set, or joined or placed with any other net.



- The net may be attached to up to 2 hauling lines that are not more than 2m in length each.
- Any fish caught which are subject to a size limit must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Hand hauled prawn nets must not be used in inland waters.

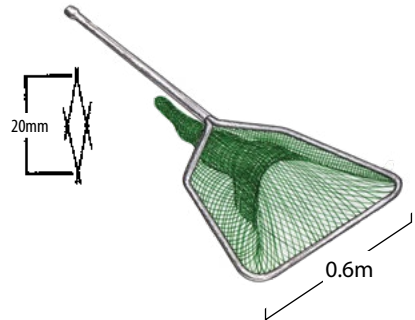
Scissors (push net) – Prawns



- Must be attached to a scissor-type frame.
- Length of the lead or bottom line between the ends of poles must be no longer than 2.75m.
- Mesh size between 30mm–36mm measured across the diagonal.
- Must not be staked or set, or joined or placed with any other net.
- Must be continuously and manually pulled through the water and not used as a stationary net.
- Must be operated by one person only.
- Only one net per person is permitted at any time.
- Any fish caught which are subject to a size limit must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Scissors (push) nets must not be used in inland waters.

Dip or scoop net – Prawns

- Maximum diameter of hoop or ring 0.6m.
- Minimum mesh size 20mm measured across the diagonal.
- Drop (length of net) no more than 1.25m.
- Must be used by hand and not staked or set.
- Must not be joined or placed with any other net.
- Any fish caught while fishing for Prawns may be kept, however bag and size limits apply.
- Dip or scoop nets must not be used in inland waters.



Diving and spearfishing

- You may only use a hand or gloved hand to take Lobster when snorkelling (ie no tools – implements).
- You may use spear/spear gun with snorkel equipment to take fish in NSW waters.
- You may use SCUBA or hookah apparatus to take scallops and sea urchins only.
- You may use a torch when hand gathering for Lobster.
- For more information on spearfishing in NSW including closed areas, download the factsheet at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/spearfishing

Note: Speargun includes spear, bow and arrow or other similar devices.

Prohibited methods and activities general

You are not permitted to:

- Fish in waters that are closed to fishing. Check website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries for details.
- Use any methods/gear to take fish or invertebrates that are not specified in legislation.
- Take or be in possession of fish or invertebrates in excess of bag limit or of a size outside the legal size limits. All prohibited size fish must be released immediately and unharmed.
- Hold prohibited size fish or fish in excess of the legal bag limit in a live well or use them for bait even if they are injured or dead on capture (e.g. undersize fish such as Tailor). If you have purchased fish or bait from a commercial vendor, retain the receipt to present to a NSW DPI fisheries officer.
- Take, attempt to take, harm or be in possession of threatened or protected species.
- Use any part of an abalone for bait or berley.
- Use a chemical or explosive device to take or assist to take fish.
- Use, or be in possession of, a cast net in, on or adjacent to NSW waters.



- Possess prohibited or excess fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters.
- Alter a fish (e.g. by filleting, removing the head or tail) until well away from the water. You may clean fish by gilling and gutting only. This rule does not apply at areas normally used for cleaning fish such as boat ramp cleaning tables; if the fish are for immediate consumption or immediate use as bait; or for fish that do not have a legal length. See invertebrates section for additional invertebrate restrictions.

Note: Any fish altered for any reason at any location must comply with the listed legal size.

- Remove the fins of sharks while at sea.
- Sell, barter, exchange or supply for profit any recreational catch.
- Interfere with commercial fishers or fishing gear.
- Tranship fish from one boat to another (except specified bait species, Squid and Cuttlefish for use as bait only).

Line fishing

You are not permitted to:

- Carry excess fishing lines in, on or adjacent to waters. Spare lines should not be rigged and should be properly stowed.
- Jag fish (hooking or attempting to hook fish other than through the mouth).
- Use drift lines. Lines must be held in the hand or fixed to a boat or the shore.
- Use abalone as bait. This is due to the AVG virus (see page 72).

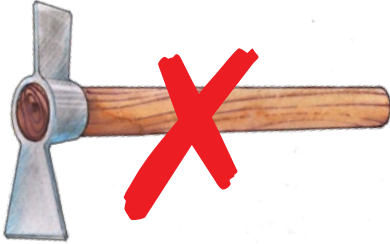
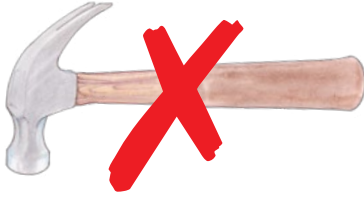


Invertebrates

You are not permitted to:

- Retain Rocklobsters, Bugs or Crabs carrying eggs. They must be returned to the water. It is an offence to remove any eggs.
- Retain any Rocklobsters caught whilst line fishing.
- Collect invertebrates within intertidal protected areas such as Sydney Harbour and some zones within aquatic reserves and marine parks.

- Use hammers, mattocks, chisels, crowbars, dredges or other instruments not specified in legislation.



- Alter or shuck an Abalone, Rocklobster or Turban Snail (e.g. removing the head, shell, tail or meat), until well away from the water.
- Shuck any intertidal invertebrate (e.g. removing the head, shell, tail, claws or meat), until well away from the water. This rule does not apply to intertidal invertebrates (other than abalone, Rocklobster or Turban Snail) for immediate use as bait. e.g. Cunjevoi, Limpets, Pipsis and Cockles.

Note: Invertebrates used for immediate consumption or for immediate use as bait must comply with the listed legal size.

- Use a spear/speargun to take Crabs from intertidal rock platforms.
- Take Pipsis, except for use as bait. Pipsis can not be taken more than 50m from the high tide water mark.



Oyster leases

You are not permitted to:

- Interfere with any oyster lease infrastructure.
- Take any stock from an oyster lease.
- Tie up to oyster lease marker posts or infrastructure.

Spearfishing

You are not permitted to:

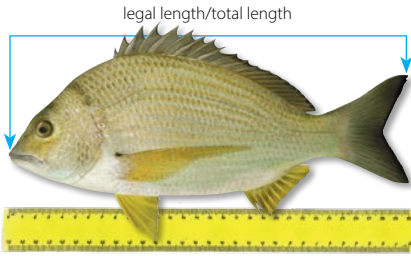
- Use a spear/speargun to take Blue, Brown or Red Groper.
- Use a spear/speargun to take Rocklobster.
- Take fish with a spear/speargun whilst using a light.
- Spearfish on ocean beaches (except the last 20m at each end of the beach).
- Spearfish using SCUBA apparatus.

Please note: All inland waters and many entrances, coastal lagoons and other tidal waters are closed to spearfishing. For more information on spearfishing in NSW visit our website or checkout our spearfishing guide.

Collection of wrack from beaches

You may remove up to 20kg/day of dead or dislodged seagrass or macroalgae (wrack) from some beaches or the intertidal zone for personal use (e.g. as mulch, fertiliser). Ensure you check other rules that might apply to an area such as marine protected areas e.g. marine parks or aquatic reserves where taking of wrack may be prohibited.

How to measure finfish and invertebrates



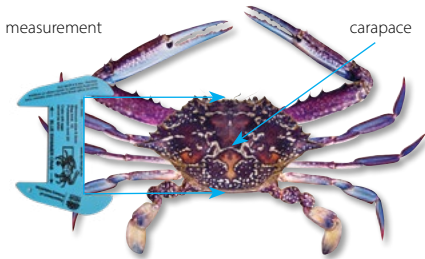
Fin fish

To determine the legal length of a fish, the fish is measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail – this is also known as the total length.



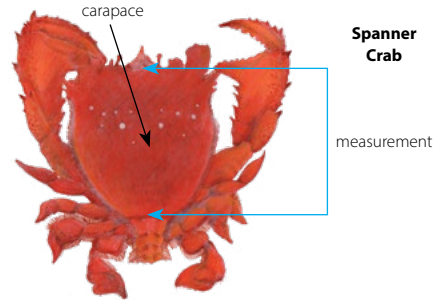
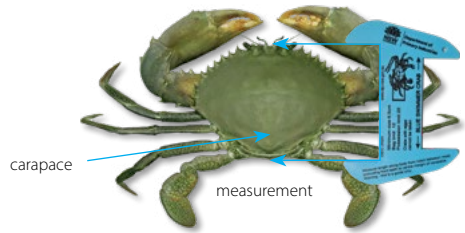
Abalone

Abalone are measured along a straight line at the widest point of the shell.



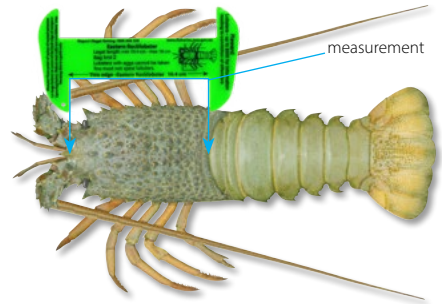
Crab

Crabs, except Spanner Crabs, are measured along the body from the notch between the two most protruding frontal teeth to the centre of the posterior margin of the carapace or shell.



Spanner Crab

Spanner Crabs are measured along the body from the base of the orbital notch (eye socket) to the centre of the posterior margin of the carapace.



Rocklobster

Rocklobsters are measured along the length of the carapace or head, along a straight line from the point of the union of the second antennae or large feelers to the centre of the back edge of the carapace, ignoring any attached hairs.

Measuring devices for abalone, Rocklobster and crabs are available from NSW DPI fisheries offices.

Fish identification

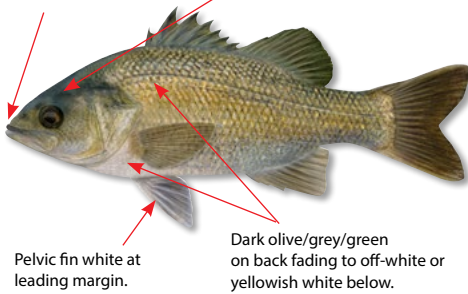
Some families of fish have a number of different species which can make identification difficult. It is important to know exactly what fish you catch as different regulations may apply to different species. Various reference books are available which clearly outline the defining characteristics of fishes.

Some species look quite similar. The following tips have been prepared to help identify characteristics of various fish species.

Australian Bass

Snout length shorter than Estuary Perch.

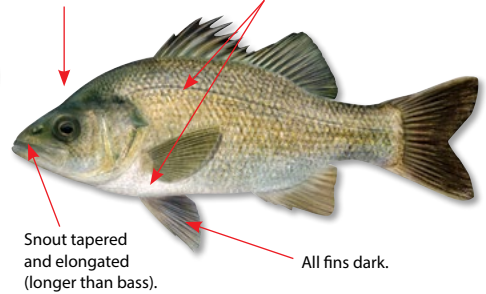
Snout profile – slightly concave to straight.



Estuary Perch

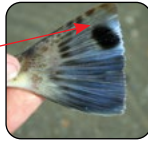
Snout profile – concave.

Dark grey and silvery on back, paler below.



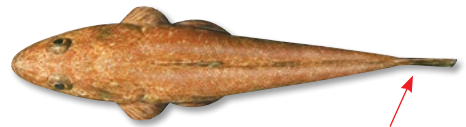
Dusky Flathead

Tail – distinctive black spot at caudal end over a brown/grey speckled background.



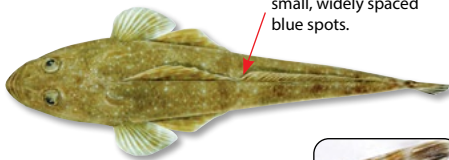
Tiger Flathead

Light brown to orange/brown with spots on upper body. Particularly large teeth on the roof of the mouth.



Bluespotted Flathead (Sand Flathead)

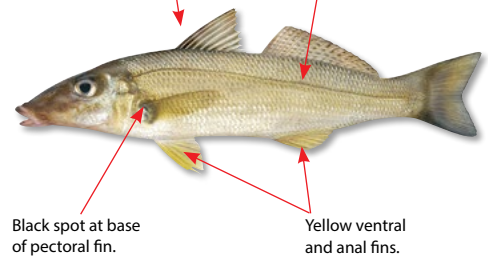
Mottled brown with small, widely spaced blue spots.



Sand Whiting

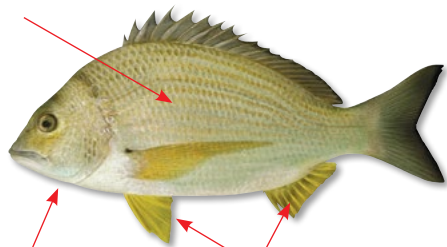
High first dorsal fin.

Uniform body colour, no bars or blotches.



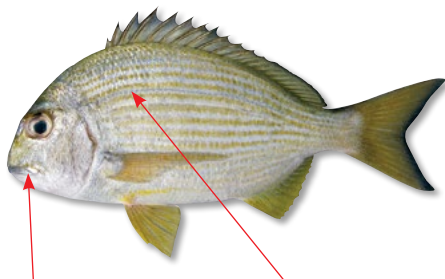
Yellowfin Bream

Body colour varies from silver to bronzy green.



Underside profile of head continued as almost straight line to the anus.

Ventral and anal fins canary yellow, particularly the spines.

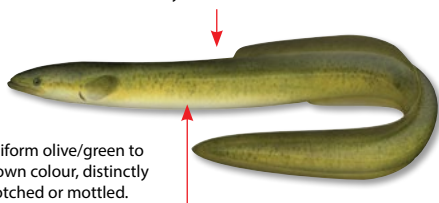
Tarwhine

Head more rounded and snout not as pointed as that of Bream.

Prominent golden lines on head and body with background colour silver.

Longfin Eel

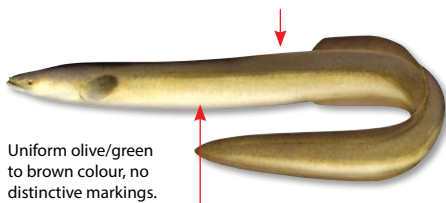
Dorsal fin extends markedly forward of anal fin.



Uniform olive/green to brown colour, distinctly blotched or mottled.

Southern Shortfin Eel

Dorsal fin extends a little forward of anal fin.



Uniform olive/green to brown colour, no distinctive markings.

Mulloway

Dark spot above pectoral fin.



Tail profile – rounded (convex).

Teraglin

Tail profile – rounded (concave).



Check the bag and size limits which apply to these species in the following Fin fish bag and size limits section (see page 47).

Fin fish bag limits, size limits and closed seasons

The following information is current at time of printing but some bag and size limits may change over time. It is the responsibility of fishers to ensure they are acting within the law at all times. A maximum daily bag limit of 20 applies to any species not listed below.

Explanation of terms

Bag limit: The maximum number of fish or invertebrates per person per day. A maximum daily bag limit of 20 applies to any fish or invertebrate not included in the tables below. Protected and threatened species cannot be taken.

***Bag limit comprised of any single species or a combination of listed grouped species.**

Legal length: The minimum length of a fish unless otherwise stated. A fish which does not reach this minimum length must be immediately returned to the water (see responsible fishing section page 10 for more information). Some species have maximum length restrictions to protect larger breeding females (see page 44 for how to measure fish).

Possession limit: The maximum number of fish a person is allowed to have in their possession at any one time. This includes fish that are also stored elsewhere e.g. in fridge/freezer. For the following species or species groupings; Australian Bass and Estuary Perch, Bream and Tarwhine, Flathead species (except Dusky), Tailor, Luderick, Trevallies and Blue Swimmer Crab, the possession limit is twice the daily bag limit. For all other saltwater species, including Dusky Flathead, the possession limit is the bag limit.

Retained fish: All retained fish should be dispatched swiftly and humanely.

Note: You must not alter the length of a fish with a legal size limit by filleting or removing the head or tail until well away from the water or at a fish cleaning facility. You may only gill, gut and scale fish. Undersize fish cannot be used as bait, they must be returned to the water immediately, even if they are injured or dead.

Why have bag and size limits?

Regulations apply to help ensure healthy and sustainable fisheries for future generations. Size limits aim to allow fish to reach maturity and complete their breeding cycle, while bag limits help make sure everyone gets a fair share of the resource and species are not overfished. Abiding by the regulations will help maintain our saltwater recreational fisheries.

Australian Bass and Estuary Perch

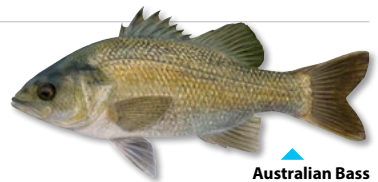
Legal length: Only 1 over 35cm (in rivers and tributaries).

Bag limit: 2 in total*, 4 in possession.

Closure: Zero bag limit for Australian Bass and Estuary Perch in rivers and estuaries from 1 May to 31 August each year. Any Australian Bass or Estuary Perch caught during this period must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

Habitat: Bass migrate to saltwater to breed during the winter months. Estuary Perch live in estuaries and inlets and are most prevalent in waters south of Sydney.

Good baits: Bass and Perch feed aggressively on insects, small fish, crustaceans and worms. Both species respond well to artificial flies and lures.



Australian Bass



Estuary Perch

Australian Bonito

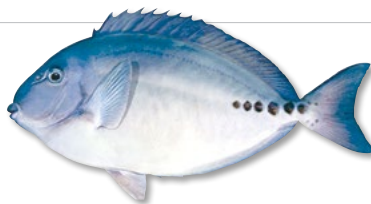
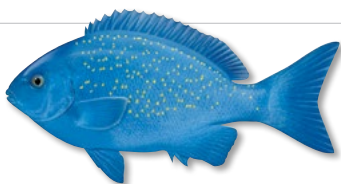
Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 10.

Habitat: Coastal waters, bays and lower estuaries.

Good baits: Pilchards, Squid, small fish or artificial lures.

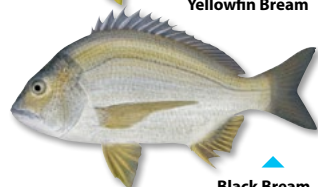


Australian Salmon**Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 5.**Habitat:** Beaches, rocky headlands, inshore reefs, bays, inlets.**Good baits:** Baitfish, Beach Worms, Pipis. An aggressive, schooling fish known for its sporting prowess. Salmon are a regular catch by beach fishermen using Pilchards and lures.**Australian Sawtail (Surgeonfish)****Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 5.**Habitat:** Favours rocky reefs and areas of structure inside bays and harbours.**Good baits:** Often caught as a by-catch by fishers targeting Luderick on Marine Weeds.**Blue Drummer****Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 0 – release only. Prohibited catch in all NSW waters other than Lord Howe Island Marine Park. Lord Howe Island Marine Park: 5.**Habitat:** Coastal and offshore rocky reefs.**Bream and Tarwhine****Legal length:** Black, Yellowfin Bream 25cm.

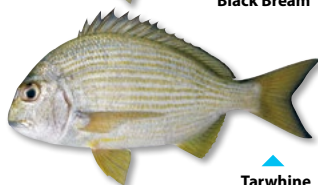
Tarwhine 20cm.

Bag limit: 10 in total*. 20 in possession.**Habitat:** Black or Southern Bream: Creeks and estuary systems, especially in the southern half of NSW. Will tolerate brackish or even fresh water.**Yellowfin or Silver Bream:** Rivers, estuaries, beaches, rocky headlands, inshore reefs.**Tarwhine:** Favours estuaries, rocky reefs and beaches. Often found with Yellowfin Bream.**Good baits:** Crustaceans, Molluscs, Marine Worms, small baitfish. Will also respond to small minnow lures and soft plastics.

Yellowfin Bream



Black Bream



Tarwhine

Cobia**Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 5.**Habitat:** Usually found on offshore reefs but is known to frequent inshore reefs, headlands and bays.**Good baits:** Yellowtail or Slimy Mackerel, Squid or fish strips.

Deep-Sea Fish: Hapuku (Hapuka), Banded Rockcod (Bar Cod), Bass Groper, Blue-Eye Trevalla (Cod), Gemfish

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 5 in total* including a maximum of 2 Gemfish. Within the combined bag limit (above) is a limit of 2 Gemfish per person.

Boat limit: 10 Gemfish per boat.

Habitat: Deep offshore waters, usually on or over the continental shelf.

Good baits: Squid, oily fish such as Tuna or Mackerel.

Gemfish



Blue-Eye Trevalla



Banded Rockcod



Hapuku



Bass Groper



* Bag limit comprised of any single species or a combination of listed grouped species.

Dogfish

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: Harrison's and Southern – 0.

All other dogfish species 2 in total*.

Habitat: Deep offshore waters.

Good baits: Squid, oily fish such as Tuna or Mackerel.



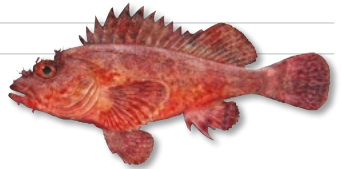
Eastern Red Scorpionfish (Red Rock Cod)

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 5.

Habitat: Inshore and offshore reefs.

Good baits: Pilchards, Prawns, Squid or fish strips.



Eel: Southern Shortfin and Longfin

Legal length: Southern Shortfin Eel 30cm. Longfin Eel 58cm.

Bag limit: 10 of each species.

Habitat: Estuaries, rivers and brackish water zones.

Good baits: Molluscs, Marine Worms.



Longfin Eel



Southern Shortfin Eel

Flathead

Legal length: Dusky (Common) Flathead 36cm.

Only 1 over 70cm. Bluespotted and Tiger Flathead 33cm.

Bag limit: Dusky (Common) Flathead 10.

All other Flathead species 10 in total*. 20 in possession.

Habitat: Coastal rivers, estuaries, lakes, inlets, beaches and offshore areas.

Good baits: Baitfish (poddy mullet are a great bait), Crustaceans, Marine Worms and fish strips. A common catch on diving lures, flies and soft plastics.



Dusky Flathead



Bluespotted Flathead



Tiger Flathead

Flounders and Soles

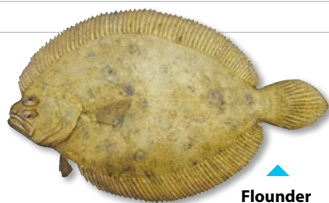
Legal length: Flounder 25cm. Sole none.

Bag limit: 20 in total*.

Habitat: Inshore coastal and estuarine waters.

Good baits: Worms, Pipis, Prawns, Pilchards or fish strips.

Note: Flounder have a distinct tail. Sole have a single fin around their body.



Flounder

Garfish: Eastern Sea

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 20.

Habitat: Found in shallow coastal areas, large bays and estuaries.

Good baits: Bread, Pipis and worms.



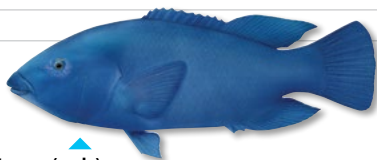
Groper: Blue, Red/Brown

Legal length: 30cm. Only 1 over 60cm.

Bag limit: 2 by line only.

Habitat: Rocky headlands and inshore reefs.

Good baits: Red Rock Crabs, Cunjevoi.



Blue Groper, (male)



Red/Brown Groper, (female)

Hairtail

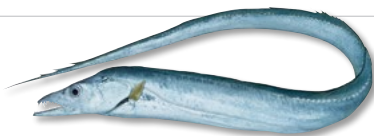
Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 10.

Habitat: Deep water regions in estuaries, especially in the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney.

Good baits: Yellowtail or Slimy Mackerel, ganged Pilchards.

Hairtail tend to fish best at night.



Leatherjackets

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 20 in total*.

Habitat: Tidal rivers, bays, inlets and over reefs extending offshore.

Good baits: Prawns, Squid, Pilchards and fish strips.



Luderick (Blackfish)

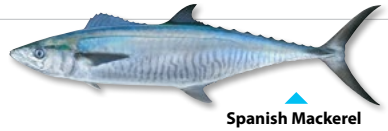
Legal length: 27cm.

Bag limit: 10. 20 in possession.

Habitat: Rocky headlands, coastal rivers and estuary systems.

Good baits: Marine weeds (green weed and cabbage), bread, Cunjevoi and Marine Worms.

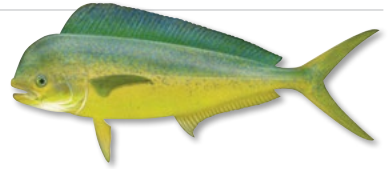
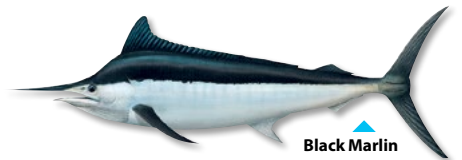


Mackerel: Spanish and Spotted**Legal length:** Spanish 75cm, Spotted 60cm.**Bag limit:** 5 in total*.**Habitat:** Offshore reef systems, bays, rocky headlands. Largely restricted to northern NSW waters during the summer season.**Good baits:** Slimy Mackerel, Yellowtail and Tuna, Pilchards and other oily fish. Also respond well to cast and trolled minnow and skirted lures. Sharp teeth require the use of wire leaders.

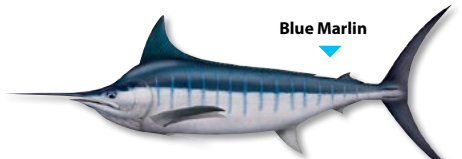
Spanish Mackerel



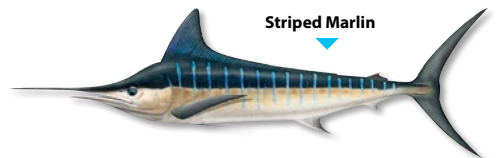
Spotted Mackerel

Mahi Mahi (Dolphinfish)**Legal length:** 60cm. Only 1 over 110cm.**Bag limit:** 10.**Habitat:** Oceanic waters. Commonly found around floating objects such as buoys, driftwood and seaweed.**Good baits:** Pilchards, fish strips, fish or artificial lures.**Mangrove Jack****Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 5.**Habitat:** Mangroves and rocky structure in estuaries and rivers. Migrate to offshore reefs when mature. Largely restricted to northern NSW waters although an occasional capture around Sydney.**Good baits:** Mullet, Yellowtail or Prawns. Oily fish such as Tuna and Mullet. Also takes cast and trolled deep-diving lures.**Marlin: Striped, Black and Blue****Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 1 of each species.**Habitat:** Offshore, usually around or over the continental shelf although Black Marlin will come much closer inshore.**Good baits:** Slimy Mackerel, Yellowtail or Tuna. All species will also respond well to trolled skirted lures.

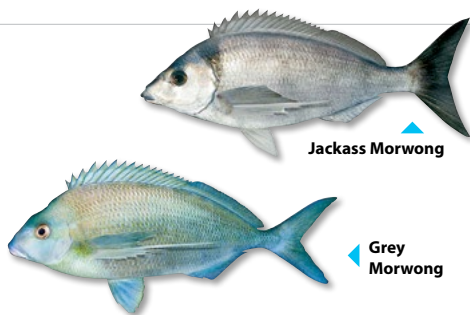
Black Marlin



Blue Marlin

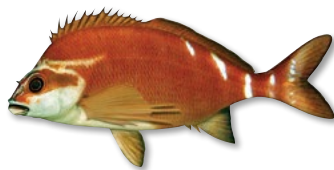


Striped Marlin

Morwong: Jackass and Grey (Rubberlip)**Legal length:** 30cm.**Bag limit:** 10 of each species.**Habitat:** Inshore/offshore reef systems.
Common over areas where rock and sand mix.**Good baits:** Prawns, Squid and fish strips.

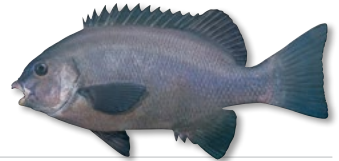
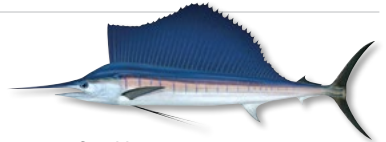
Jackass Morwong

Grey Morwong

Morwong: Red**Legal length:** 30cm.**Bag limit:** 5.**Habitat:** Inshore reef systems.**Good baits:** Prawns, Squid and fish strips.**Morwong: Banded****Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 5.**Habitat:** Inshore/offshore reef systems.**Good baits:** Prawns, Squid.**Moses Snapper (Moses Perch)****Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 5.**Habitat:** Around rocks, mangroves, piers and wharves in estuary systems, generally restricted to northern NSW waters.**Good baits:** Crustaceans, oily fish such as Tuna or Mullet.
Also responds aggressively to small minnow lures and soft plastics.**Mullet****Legal length:** 30cm Sea (Bully) only.**Bag limit:** 20 in total*.**Habitat:** Rivers and estuary systems.
Migrates annually along coastline.**Good baits:** Bread, peeled Prawns, Marine Worms.

Mullet: Juvenile (for live bait only)**Legal length:** Under 15cm Sea (Bully) only.**Bag limit:** 20 in total* for live bait only.**Habitat:** Sand flats and weed beds in rivers and estuary systems.**Good baits:** Bread with fine line and small hooks, although can be caught in bait traps.**Mulloway (Jewfish)****Legal length:** 70cm.**Bag limit:** 1.**Habitat:** Rivers/estuary systems, beaches, rocky headlands, inshore reefs.**Good baits:** Squid, Beach Worms, Mullet, baitfish and oily fish such as Tuna.**Pearl Perch****Legal length:** 30cm.**Bag limit:** 5.**Habitat:** Frequents deep offshore waters around reefs.

Most common in northern NSW waters.

Good baits: Squid, Prawns, baitfish.**Rock Blackfish (Black Drummer)****Legal length:** 30cm.**Bag limit:** 10.**Habitat:** Reefy areas, rocky points and headlands.**Good baits:** Cunjevoi, Prawns, marine weeds, bread.**Sailfish****Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 1.**Habitat:** Offshore waters, often around some sort of reef or structure. Prefers warm sub-tropical waters.**Good baits:** Garfish, small Tuna. Often taken on rigged baits or artificial lures.**Samsonfish and Amberjack****Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 5 in total*.**Habitat:** Inshore and offshore reefs.**Good baits:** Squid, fish, fish strips and artificial lures.

Samsonfish



Amberjack

Sharks and Rays

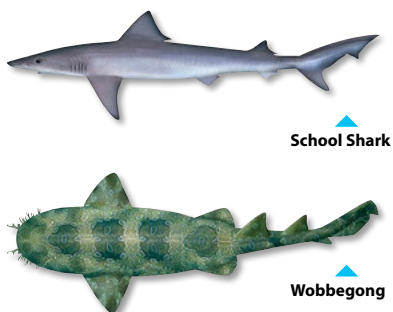
Legal length: 91cm School Shark only.

Bag limit: 5 in total*. Only 1 Tiger, Mako, Smooth Hammerhead# or Whaler/Blue Shark.
0 for Wobbegong, release only.

Only Smooth Hammerheads may be taken. Great and Scalloped Hammerheads are protected species in NSW and must be released immediately with minimal harm.

Habitat: Various species occupy a diverse range of habitats including estuaries, beaches, rocky reefs and open ocean.

Good baits: Most sharks and rays will respond to oily fish such as Tuna.



School Shark

Wobbegong

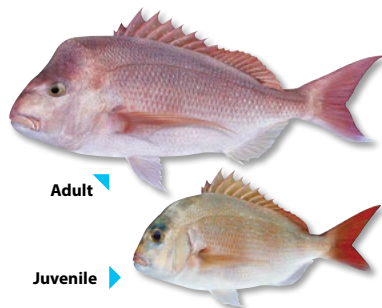
Snapper

Legal length: 30cm.

Bag limit: 10.

Habitat: Inshore and offshore reef systems. Rocky headlands and points. Smaller fish common in estuary systems and protected bays.

Good baits: Squid, Prawns, Octopus, fish.



Adult

Juvenile

Spearfish

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 1.

Habitat: Open ocean.

Good baits: A pelagic predator favouring similar foods as Marlin and Sailfish.

Not common in NSW waters.



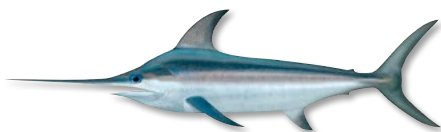
Swordfish

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 1.

Habitat: Deep offshore waters.

Good baits: Most Swordfish are caught on Squid and fish strips, fished near the surface on heavy tackle at night or day time deep dropping. An occasional capture on artificial lures.



Tailor

Legal length: 30cm.

Bag limit: 10. 20 in possession.

Habitat: Beaches, rocky headlands, estuaries, inshore reefs.

Good baits: Small baitfish such as Pilchards and Whitebait or oily fish such as Tuna. Responds aggressively to metal lures and diving minnows.

Please note: Undersize fish cannot be used as bait, they must be returned to the water immediately, even if they are injured or dead.



Teraglin

Legal length: 38cm.

Bag limit: 5.

Habitat: Inshore/offshore reefs.

Good baits: Squid, oily fish such as Tuna, Slimy Mackerel or Yellowtail.



Trevallies

Legal length: 30cm for Silver Trevally only.

Bag limit: 10 in total*. 20 in possession.

Habitat: The most common Trevally in NSW waters is the Silver Trevally, which favours inshore reefs, rocky areas and bays.

Good baits: Marine Worms, Prawns, Squid and Fish strips.



Silver Trevally

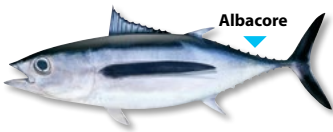
Tuna: Albacore, Big-Eye, Longtail, Yellowfin

Bag limit: 90cm or above – 2 in total*.

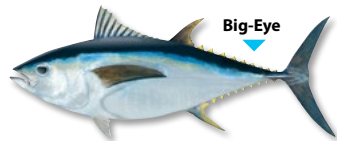
Less than 90cm – 5 in total*.

Habitat: Open ocean, sometimes found close inshore following schools of baitfish.

Good baits: Pilchards, Slimy Mackerel, Yellowtail. Tuna also respond well to trolled skirted and diving lures.



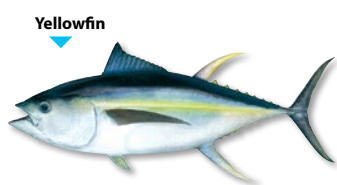
Albacore



Big-Eye



Longtail



Yellowfin

* Bag limit comprised of any single species or a combination of listed grouped species.

Tuna: Southern Bluefin**Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 1**Habitat:** Open ocean.**Good baits:** Pilchards, Slimy Mackerel, Yellowtail.

Tuna also respond well to trolled skirted and diving lures.

**Wahoo****Legal length:** None.**Bag limit:** 5**Habitat:** Open ocean.**Good baits:** Slimy Mackerel, small Tuna.

Wahoo also respond aggressively towards skirted or diving lures.

**Yellowtail Kingfish****Legal length:** 65cm.**Bag limit:** 5.**Habitat:** Inshore and offshore reefs, rocky headlands.**Good baits:** Squid/Slimy Mackerel/Yellowtail, oily fish such as Tuna. Kingfish respond well to cast and trolled lures and jigs.**Whiting****Legal length:** 27cm for Sand Whiting only.**Bag limit:** 20 in total*.**Habitat:** Beaches, estuaries, sandflats.**Good baits:** Saltwater Nippers, Marine Worms, crustaceans.

Sand Whiting

Baitfish bag limits (excluding charter boat operators)**Bag limit of 100 for each of the following:** Australian Anchovy; Blue Sprat (Bluebait); Maray (Round Herring); Australian Sardine (Pilchard); Sandy Sprat (Whitebait); Southern Herring.**A bag limit of 50 for each species or species grouping:** Blue Mackerel (Slimy Mackerel); Jack Mackerel and Yellowtail Scad; Garfish (other than Eastern Sea Garfish); Hardyhead and Silverfish.

Blue Mackerel



Yellowtail Scad

Invertebrates bag and size limits

Invertebrates are creatures without a backbone and include crustaceans, molluscs and worms. Please note that you must pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee to catch or collect invertebrates. A maximum daily bag limit of 20 applies to any invertebrate not listed below (excluding unlisted molluscs which have a combined bag limit of 20 in total*).

***Bag limit comprised of any single species or a combination of listed grouped species.**

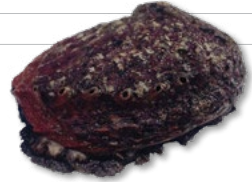
Note: You must not alter the length of an invertebrate with a legal size by shucking and/or removing the head/shell/tail until well away from the water. Special rules apply for abalone, Rocklobster, turban snails and intertidal invertebrates (see page 42 for more information).

Abalone

Legal length: 11.7cm.

Bag limit: 2.

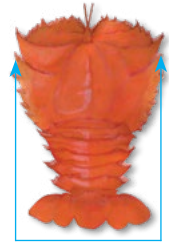
Abalone should be measured as soon as collected, before being put in a catch bag and before leaving the water. You must not shuck (remove the meat from the shell) in, on or adjacent to the water so your catch may be measured if necessary.



Balmain Bug

Legal length: 10cm. Carapace measured from spike to spike at its widest point.

Bag limit: 20.



measurement

Beach Worms

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 20 in whole or part*.



Other worm species

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 100 in total*.



Cockles, Mussels and Pipsis (Pipsis for bait only)

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 50 in total*, including a maximum of 20 cockles

Note: You cannot take Pipsis to eat or remove them more than 50m from the high tide mark.



Mussel



Cockle



Pipi

Crabs

Blue Swimmer Crabs

Legal length: 6.5cm.

Bag limit: 10.
20 in possession.



Spanner Crabs

Legal length: 9.3cm.

Bag limit: 10.



All other crabs

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 10 in total*.



Mud (Black/ Mangrove) Crabs

Legal length: 8.5cm.

Bag limit: 5.



Soldier Crabs

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 100 in total*.



Note: Crabs carrying eggs must be returned immediately to the water. It is an offence to remove any eggs.

Cunjevoi

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 20 in total*.



* Bag limit comprised of any single species or a combination of listed grouped species.

Lobsters

Eastern Rocklobster

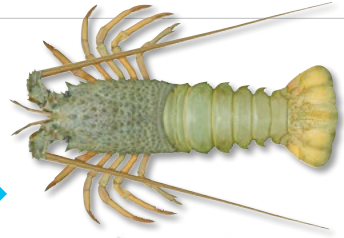
Legal length: Min 10.4cm, Max 18cm.

Bag limit: 2 in total (with Southern Rocklobster).

In any combination.

Colour: Green.

Eastern
Rocklobster ▶



Southern Rocklobster

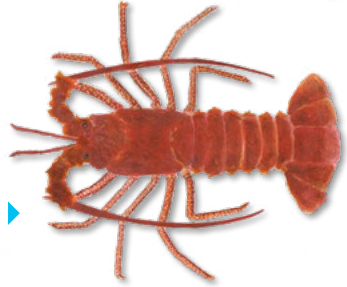
Legal Length: Male 11cm,
Female 10.5cm.

Bag Limit: 2 in total (with Eastern
Rocklobster). In any combination.

Colour: Red.

Note: You must not shuck (remove the head/shell/tail/meat)
a Rocklobster in, on or adjacent to the water.

Southern
Rocklobster ▶



Tropical Rocklobster (Ornate and Painted)

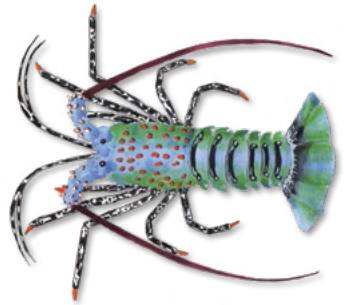
Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 2 in total*.

Colour: Legs and antennae:
Mottled black and white.

Body: Various bright multiple combinations.

Note: Lobsters may be taken by hand or in a lobster trap (1 trap per
person), but not with a hook, spear or snare. Lobsters or Crabs carrying
eggs must be returned immediately to the water. It is an offence to
remove any eggs.



Slipper Lobster (Flat)

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 2.

Colour: Beige/grey.



Octopus

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 10 in total*.

Note: Octopus cannot be taken from ocean rock platforms in NSW
or from rock platforms in Sydney Harbour.



Oysters: Sydney Rock, Pacific, Native

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 50 in total*.

Note: Removal of oysters from an oyster lease is theft and attracts heavy fines.

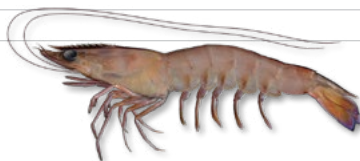
Warning: Oysters, mussels and other shellfish may be contaminated through either pollution or naturally occurring algae. Eating contaminated shellfish can cause serious illness or death. Commercially grown oysters are harvested under strict guidelines to safeguard public health. See www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/industry-sector-requirements/shellfish/shellfish-area-harvest-status



Prawns

Legal length: None.

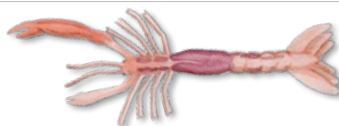
Bag limit: 10 litres in total*.



Saltwater Nippers

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 100 in total*.



Scallops

Legal length: None.

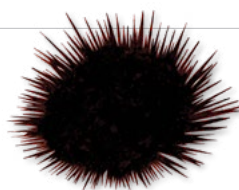
Bag limit: 50 in total*.



Sea Urchins

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 10 in total*.



Squid and Cuttlefish

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 20 in total*.



Turban Snails and other molluscs

Legal length: Sydney, Military 7.5cm. Diameter measured along its longest axis. All other molluscs none.

Bag limit: Combined limit of 20 in total* for unlisted molluscs (including Turban Snails, Sea Snails, Whelks, Periwinkles, Limpets etc).

Note: You must not shuck (remove the meat from the shell) a Turban Snail in, on or adjacent to the water.

Turban Snail
measurement



Threatened and protected species

A threatened species is rare with numbers declining to a point where it is at risk of becoming extinct in NSW. Other rare species with stable numbers are protected. It is illegal to take, harm or possess threatened or protected species. If caught they must be returned carefully to the water. It is also illegal to damage the habitat of a threatened species.

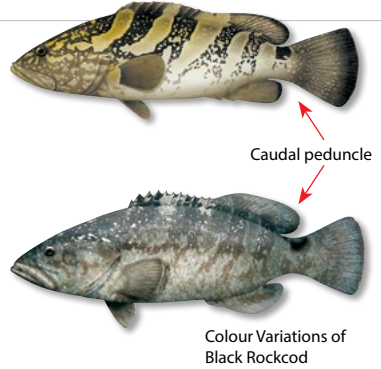
You can keep up to date with threatened or protected species listings on the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries. Help increase knowledge of these species by reporting sightings by e-mail to fisheries.threatenedspecies@dpi.nsw.gov.au or online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection/report-it

Threatened species

Black Rockcod *Epinephelus daemeli*

Conservation Status: Vulnerable species.

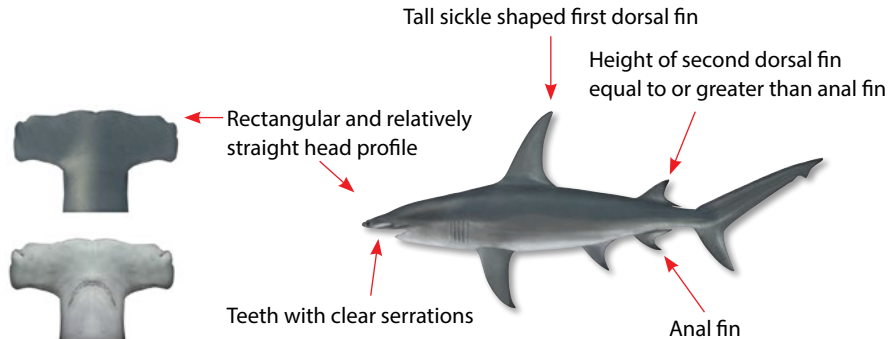
This magnificent but timid creature is territorial, living for years in the same deep cave or ledge. Black Rockcod are found along the entire NSW coast and also occur in estuaries. Growing to 1.5m and weighing over 80 kg, it has a distinctive black blotch on the upper caudal peduncle.



Great Hammerhead *Sphyrna mokarran*

Conservation Status: Vulnerable species.

Largest species of hammerhead in the world. Tall sickle shaped dorsal fin. Occurs in NSW waters south to about Sydney during the warmer months.



Green Sawfish *Pristis zijsron*

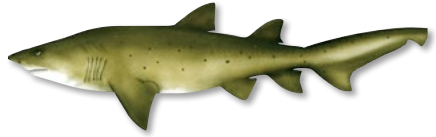
Conservation Status: Presumed extinct.

A large ray with a long studded snout or 'saw'. Lives in estuaries and shallow coastal waters around south-east Asia and northern Australia. Numbers reduced by fishing and accidental capture by prawn trawlers. Grows to at least 5m. Now extremely rare and presumed extinct in NSW.



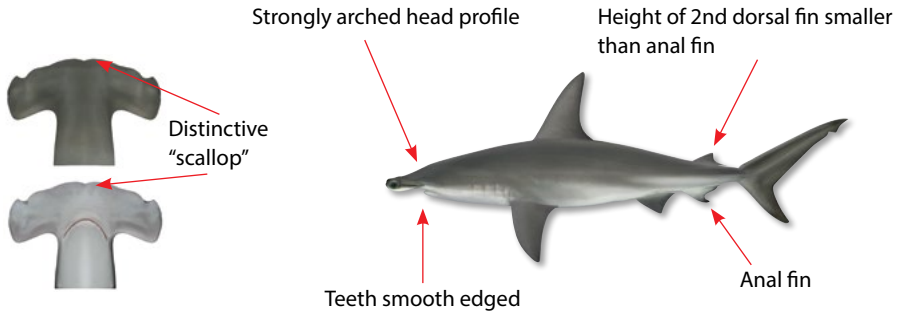
Grey nurse Shark *Carcharias taurus*

Conservation Status: Critically endangered species. Grey nurse Sharks have been recorded roaming over large areas of the NSW and Queensland coasts, but are known to gather to feed, mate and pup at a small number of locations. Marine scientists have identified a number of sites along the NSW coast, called aggregation sites and critical habitats, which are vital to the survival of the Grey nurse Shark. Some of these sites are located in marine parks, and recreational fishers should consult the relevant marine park zoning map and management plan to check the fishing rules and regulations. Additional information and maps of aggregation sites and critical habitats is available from the NSW DPI website at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection



Scalloped Hammerhead *Sphyrna lewini*

Conservation Status: Endangered Species. Prominent 'scallop' or indentation in the centre of the front edge of the head. Serious decline in many geographic regions around the world. Occurs in NSW waters south to about Sydney during the warmer months.



Southern Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus maccoyii*

Conservation Status: Endangered species. Pelagic species found in deep offshore waters. Grows to 2.4m. Limited recreational fishing is allowed. The bag limit for Southern Bluefin Tuna is 1 per person. A possession limit of 1 is also in place.



White Shark *Carcharodon carcharias*

Conservation Status: Vulnerable species. Found throughout the world in temperate and subtropical oceans. White Sharks can grow to an estimated 6m.



Other saltwater species

A number of other marine species are listed as threatened in NSW. However, fishers are unlikely to encounter these species when carrying out normal fishing activities. Examples include White's Seahorse (*Hippocampus whitei*) and the marine slug (*Smeagol hilaris*).

Protected species**Ballina Angelfish** *Haetodontoplus ballinae*

Found in very deep water in the north and around Lord Howe Island.
Grows to 20cm.

**Blue Drummer** *Girella cyanea*

This fish inhabits coastal and offshore rocky reefs. It is bright blue with small yellow dots and grows to about 75cm length. The taking or possessing of Blue Drummer from NSW waters other than the waters of the Lord Howe Island Marine Park is prohibited and heavy penalties apply.

**Eastern Blue Devil Fish** *Paraplesiops bleekeri*

Inhabiting caves and ledges in about 15–20m of water along the southern NSW coast (has been seen as far north as the Solitary Islands Marine Park). Grows to 40cm.

**Elegant Wrasse** *Anampses elegans*

Found around Lord Howe Island, occasionally along the NSW coast south to Montague Island. Grows to 30cm.



Male



Female

Goldspotted Rockcod (Estuary Cod) *Epinephelus coioides*

Found mainly in the reefy inshore waters and estuaries of northern NSW. Growing to 2m and weighing over 225kg.

**Queensland Groper** *Epinephelus lanceolatus*

Bold and curious, they can be hand-fed by divers.
Found in northern NSW waters. Growing to 2m and weighing over 250kg.



Adult



Juvenile

Sandtiger Shark (Herbsts Nurse) *Odontaspis ferox*

Related to the Greynurse Shark. It inhabits deeper waters, up to 420m and is found along the entire coast. Grows to 3.6m.

**Syngnathiformes** *Syngnathids, Solenostomids and Pegasids*

Seahorses, Pipefish, Pipehorses and Seadragons belong to the Syngnathidae family and together with their close relatives, the Ghost Pipefish and Seamoths, are called Syngnathiformes. All Syngnathiformes are protected.

**Help protect these species by reporting sightings by e-mail to fisheries.**

threatenedspecies@dpi.nsw.gov.au or
online at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/
threatened-species/report-it](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/threatened-species/report-it)

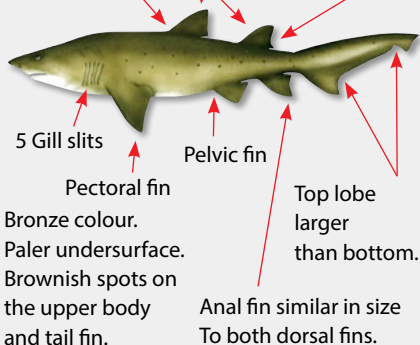
Fishing and diving rules to help protect the Greynurse Shark

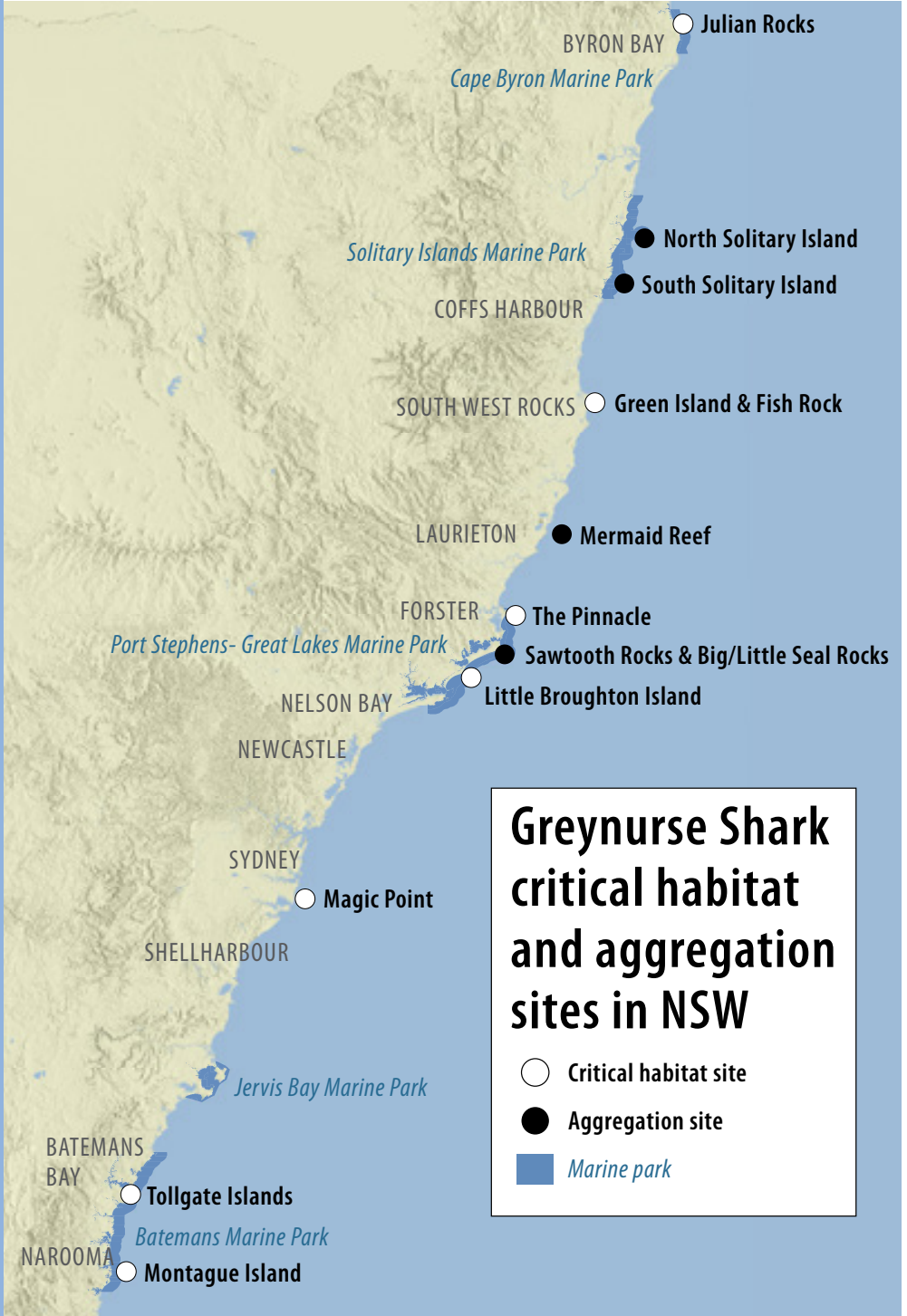
Greynurse Sharks roam over very large areas along the NSW and Queensland coasts, but are known to consistently occupy a small number of locations to feed, mate and pup. These locations are termed 'aggregation sites', and the largest and most significant of these sites are termed 'critical habitats'. Some of these locations are also popular fishing and diving locations, therefore fishers and divers are encouraged to be able to correctly distinguish Greynurse Sharks from other species. Fishers are also encouraged to release all sharks unless they are certain they are not a protected species. Fishing rules and regulations vary between aggregation sites and critical habitats, and fishers should consult the relevant rules and regulations prior to fishing (see map on the following page). More details are available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

Identifying a Greynurse Shark

It is illegal to harm a Greynurse Shark – so it is important fishers and divers can distinguish Greynurse Sharks from other sharks. The Greynurse Shark's most distinctive feature is the similarity in size of the two upper dorsal fins.

1st dorsal fin set well back from the pectoral fin. Two upper dorsal fins of almost equal size. 2nd dorsal fin set well forward of the anal fin.





Looking after the NSW marine estate

The rivers, lakes, wetlands, beaches, ocean and islands along the NSW coast are all part of the marine estate – our blue backyard!

We all enjoy these special places – whether catching a fish, relaxing or swimming at a beach or exploring our coastal waterways on land or by boat.

So it is critical that we work together to look after our marine estate.

The Marine Estate Management Authority helps to improve coordination across government agencies to manage our marine estate.

The Authority has a vision for a **healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.**

To achieve this vision the Authority has put the Marine Estate Management Strategy into action and is working closely with a range of partners and stakeholder groups to deliver its outcomes.

For more information visit www.marine.nsw.gov.au



Marine Estate Management Strategy

Keeping our coast healthy

The Marine Estate Management Strategy is a 10-year strategy to help protect and improve the health of the NSW marine estate. It brings together government, industry, interest groups and individuals to work together on actions to improve our coast for everyone's benefit.

Funding for the Marine Estate Management Strategy is separate to the recreational fishing fee paid by recreational fishers in NSW and complements projects supported by the Recreational Fishing Trusts. For more information visit www.marine.nsw.gov.au

A snapshot of Strategy actions that will improve your fishing



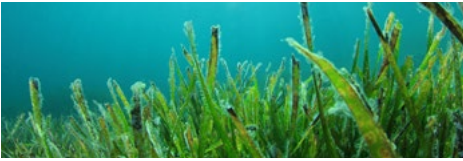
Reducing water pollution

Working with farmers, fishers, councils, industry and building developers to reduce pollution and sediments entering coastal waterways.



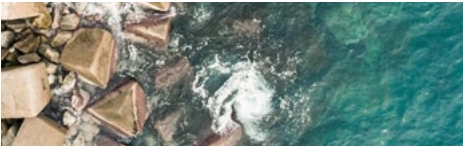
Reducing marine litter

Implementing a marine litter campaign to reduce litter entering coastal waterways.



Improving fish habitat

Protecting and rehabilitating foreshore vegetation, seagrasses, mangroves, saltmarsh, wetlands and natural oyster reefs that are important fish habitat and help improve water quality.



Developing fish-friendly breakwaters

Making breakwaters and training walls friendlier to fish and fishers.



Restoring fish passage

Restoring fish passage at coastal weirs and road crossings to reconnect fish habitats.



Managing estuaries to enhance habitat

Ensuring private and public structures and works on foreshores, such as seawalls, jetties, pontoons and boat ramps, protect and, where possible, enhance fish habitats, water quality and marine biodiversity.



Research and monitoring

Improving knowledge of fish and fish habitats and determining how effective management actions under the Strategy have been.



Planning for climate change

Determining adaption strategies for fish and fish habitats vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Conserving our marine biodiversity

NSW marine protected areas, including 6 marine parks and 12 aquatic reserves (see map below), help conserve the variety of marine life for all of us, our kids and our grandkids. They are great places to visit and enjoy a range of recreational activities, including fishing.

Marine parks and aquatic reserves have special fishing rules, so you need to check the rules before you go fishing. Standard recreational fishing rules such as bag and size limits also apply.

For up-to-date information please use the DPI FishSmart app or contact your local NSW DPI Fisheries office, or visit the marine protected areas webpages www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/protecting-habitats/mpa

Marine protected areas help manage how we enjoy and benefit from our marine biodiversity. They also seek to balance and enhance a range of uses including:

- education
- scientific research
- cultural heritage practices
- nature tourism
- a wide variety of recreational activities such as fishing, diving, boating and snorkelling.

Management of these areas links with other programs, for example, planning for coastal development, improving water quality and fish habitat, and managing fisheries and boating.

Marine parks

You can enjoy recreational fishing in every NSW marine park (see map below). Zoning maps are available for each marine park and show you where you can go fishing. Over 80 per cent of marine parks are open to recreational fishing.



Aquatic reserves

There are 12 aquatic reserves in NSW, 10 of these are in the Sydney region (see map on page 68). Several aquatic reserves are more than 35 years old and the newest reserves have been in place for over 15 years.

Fishing activities that are permitted depend on the individual reserve.

All fishing and collecting is prohibited in:

- Part of Cook Island Aquatic Reserve (near Tweed Heads).
- Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve (Shelly Beach, Manly).
- The sanctuary zone of Towra Point Aquatic Reserve (Botany Bay).
- Shiprock Aquatic Reserve (Port Hacking).
- Bushrangers Bay Aquatic Reserve (Bass Point, Shellharbour).

Collecting cunjevoi or any invertebrates, unless specifically listed as exempt, is prohibited in all aquatic reserves. For example, you cannot collect anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, oysters, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, whether they are dead or alive. Collecting or killing these animals for berley or to feed fish is prohibited.

You can collect rocklobster, abalone, sea lettuce (*Ulva*) and bait weed (*Enteromorpha*) from Barrenjoey Head, Narrabeen Head, Bronte-Coogee, Cape Banks and Boat Harbour aquatic reserves.

You can go line fishing in:

- Part of Cook Island Aquatic Reserve.
- The refuge zone of Towra Point Aquatic Reserve.
- All areas of Barrenjoey Head, Narrabeen Head, Bronte-Coogee, Cape Banks and Boat Harbour aquatic reserves as long as bait is not collected.
- Long Reef and North (Sydney) Harbour aquatic reserves for finfish (bony fish and cartilaginous fish) only. Fishing by any method for any invertebrates, such as cuttlefish and squid, is not permitted in these reserves.

You can spearfish in:

- Cook Island Aquatic Reserve outside the closed area.

- Barrenjoey Head, Narrabeen Head, Cape Banks and Boat Harbour aquatic reserves.
- Bronte-Coogee Aquatic Reserve except in Clovelly Bay and Gordons Bay and between Shark Point and the southern headland of Gordons Bay.
- Long Reef Aquatic Reserve for finfish (bony fish and cartilaginous fish) only.

Fishing in any aquatic reserve must also comply with other fishing restrictions such as closures, bag limits and size limits. For example, you cannot take blue groper by any method in Bronte-Coogee Aquatic Reserve due to a fishing closure. This closure applies from the northern end of Clovelly Bay to the southern end of Gordons Bay and the adjoining waters to 100m offshore.

Intertidal protected areas

There are eight intertidal protected areas around Sydney that allow fishing but protect seashore animals and seaweeds from hand gathering and collection activities (see map on page 68).

These extend from mean high water to 10m seaward of mean low water. You can fish in these areas but you cannot gather or collect seashore animals such as crabs, snails, cunjevoi, octopus, sea urchins, anemones, pipis, cockles, mussels, oysters and saltwater nippers.

For more information check the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or the DPI FishSmart app.



Good fish habitat means more fish

Habitats are where fish live, feed and breed. A wide variety of healthy fish habitats means more fish, healthy fish and a variety of different species. This is essential for better fishing and a variety of fishing experiences.

Large areas of fish habitat have been lost or degraded. So it is critical that NSW DPI works to protect and repair fish habitats for better fish stocks and better diversity of marine flora and fauna.

The Recreational Fishing Trust helps support the protection and repair of fish habitat and now additional funding from the Marine Estate Management Strategy is supporting this work as well.

Things you can do to help

Protect fish habitats and marine biodiversity – tips to remember:

- Use established access points to launch and retrieve your boat.
- Do not anchor over seagrass.
- Avoid motoring over shallow seagrass beds. If this is unavoidable, trim your motor up high and travel slowly.
- Travel at low speed near riverbanks to prevent boat wake eroding them.
- Put rocks back the way you found them when collecting bait.
- Tread carefully around shoreline vegetation such as mangroves, saltmarsh plants and river oaks.
- Take your litter home and encourage your friends to take their litter home too.
- Where you can, pick up litter that is spoiling your local fishing spot.
- Use approved pump out facilities.
- Use environmentally friendly fishing tackle such as lead-alternative sinkers, non-stainless hooks and biodegradable fishing lures.
- Get your friends or local fishing club involved in restoring fish habitat. For more info check out www.fishhabitatnetwork.com.au

NSW DPI also regulates activities that can degrade fish habitat. If you see or suspect any illegal activities affecting fish habitat, contact

your local NSW DPI fisheries office or the Fishers Watch Phoneline on 1800 043 536.

Watch out for:

- Saltmarsh, mangroves or seagrasses being damaged or destroyed.
- Drains being dug or other works taking place in wetlands.
- Machinery working in waterways.
- New bed or bank stabilisation works within a waterway.
- New waterfront structures such as jetties and boat ramps.
- Removal of in-stream native aquatic vegetation or snags (large woody debris).
- Dredging or removal of in-stream sediment, boulders, gravel beds, cobbles.
- Materials being placed into a waterway (e.g. tyres, concrete, sediment etc.).
- Any works next to a waterway causing sediments to run directly into the waterway.
- Placing of permanent or temporary barriers to fish passage across a waterway (e.g. new waterway crossings, nets, silt fences, fill).
- Discharge of pollutants into waterways.
- Poisoning or removing bankside vegetation.
- Cattle or other domestic stock grazing on mangroves or saltmarsh adjacent to the estuary.

Newstreams is a free electronic newsletter, produced by NSW DPI every two months, to keep people up to date with information on aquatic habitat repair. To subscribe, e-mail newstreams@dpi.nsw.gov.au and register your contact details.

Report fish kills

A fish kill is any sudden and unexpected large number of deaths of wild or cultured fish. Fish kills are often very obvious and cause a lot of public concern as many people think they are caused by pollution. There are many different reasons for fish kills and in fact many are caused by natural events. For information on how to report fish kills please see page 86 of this guide.

Aquatic Pests and diseases

NSW DPI works together with fishers and other water users to help prevent the spread of pests and diseases in our marine, estuarine and freshwater environments. NSW DPI does this through: raising awareness of aquatic pest and disease issues and what we can all do to reduce the risks; responding to suspect aquatic animal health issues; assisting stakeholders to improve aquatic animal health management; conducting surveillance for key diseases including white spot disease in crustaceans; control measures to help manage aquatic animals and their products and equipment that could be carrying pests and diseases; and supporting research and investigation of aquatic animal health issues. Doing your part is not only good for our fish stocks and environment it also helps you to fulfil your **general biosecurity duty** under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, to help reduce the risks associated with aquatic pests and diseases (see section on General Biosecurity Duty at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity).

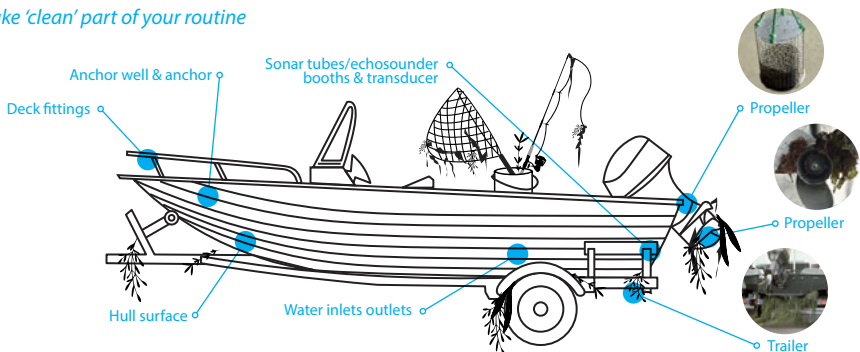
Do your part to reduce the risks:

- **'Use the right bait mate'** – collect your bait and berley in the area you plan to fish or buy from a reputable local bait supplier. Never use prohibited baits, such as abalone (see section on AVG below) and never use imported prawns or other seafood meant for human consumption – (see section on White spot disease on page 72) as bait or berley
- **Make 'clean' part of your routine** – before leaving a location (and prior to use) check,

thoroughly clean (see the following diagram for areas to pay particular attention to), drain and dry your boat, trailer, motor and gear away from the water's edge to prevent potential transfer of pests and diseases. Dispose of any weeds and other organic matter in the garbage, not allowing them to return to any waterway.

- **Slip and clean moored boats regularly**, disposing of any organic material removed to general waste (and ensuring that it does not enter any waterways).
- **Dispose of all seafood waste in a bin.**
- **Dispose of sewerage and bilge water at an approved pump-out facility.**
- **Don't dump that fish!** Give unwanted aquarium fish to friends or a pet shop rather than letting them go in the wild. Note: It is illegal to release live fish into NSW waterways without a permit and heavy fines apply.
- **Abide by biosecurity restrictions and fishing closures** – including the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and its associated regulations and control orders and other instruments that are specifically in place to protect against the spread of pests and diseases (see www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/legislation/list/biosecurity-act-2015 and www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/closures).
- **Learn about aquatic pests and diseases** that could impact our fish, industries and environment (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity)

Make 'clean' part of your routine



- Take photographs and report suspected aquatic pests or diseases to NSW DPI. If you collect samples, keep them cool (if you suspect disease, do not freeze)

Reporting

You can help protect our waterways and native fish by helping to stop the introduction and spread of aquatic pests and diseases into new areas by:

- Reporting any suspect aquatic pest or disease to NSW DPI Aquatic Biosecurity as soon as possible on the 24 hour biosecurity hotline **1800 675 888** or email aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au or online at dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity.
- Take a photograph and send to NSW DPI.
- If you are able to collect samples, keep them cool (if you suspect disease, do not freeze).
- Check out the NSW DPI website for further information or for general enquiries call 02 4916 3900 during business hours.

AVG: Ban of Abalone as bait or berley Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis.

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) is caused by a virus first detected in wild and farmed abalone in Victoria in 2005 where it has resulted in extensive abalone mortalities (Note: AVG has no impact on human health). AVG has also been identified in wild and farmed abalone in Tasmania. AVG affects the nervous system of abalone and symptoms include swollen mouthparts, curling of the foot, difficulty adhering to surfaces, lethargy and often death. There is no evidence of AVG in NSW wild abalone stocks. However AVG was detected (and subsequently eradicated) in retail outlets in 2011 through importation of live abalone for human consumption. To reduce the risk of transfer of AVG to NSW abalone stocks, the recreational or commercial use of abalone as bait or berley in NSW is prohibited under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*.

White spot disease of crustaceans

White Spot Disease (WSD), also known as White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV), is a highly contagious viral disease of prawns that causes high rates of mortality in affected stock. Other crustaceans (both saltwater and freshwater species) can be carriers of the virus, but they are rarely impacted by the disease. WSD poses no threat to human health or food safety. There are also a number of reasons why prawns can have white spots on them, including those formed during the freezing process.

In December 2016 White Spot Disease was detected in farmed prawns in south east Queensland.

There is no evidence of White Spot Disease in NSW prawn farms or in wild caught prawns. It does however highlight the need for good biosecurity practices when enjoying our waterways and how we can all play our part in safeguarding our environment and the availability of fresh local seafood from aquatic diseases.

Diseases can be inadvertently introduced when fresh or frozen seafood products imported for human consumption are used as bait. Using the right bait and other good biosecurity practices, as described under the heading "Do your part to reduce the risks" are important in helping reduce the risks associated with this and other aquatic diseases.

Be aware of importation restrictions (interstate, not just overseas) on some products as you move from State to State (including control orders at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/legislation/list/biosecurity-act-2015) put in place to reduce the risk of spread of aquatic diseases within Australia.

See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity for further information or check for the latest National information at www.outbreak.gov.au.

Tilapia

Tilapia are listed in the top 100 of the world's worst introduced species. Under NSW legislation Tilapia are classed as a notifiable species which means it's illegal to possess, sell or move live Tilapia. Due to the significant risk posed by this species it is also illegal to return any Tilapia to NSW waters. If you catch one it is mandatory to humanely dispatch the fish and utilise or dispose of it away from the water. If you suspect the presence of a Tilapia in a NSW waterway report it to Aquatic Biosecurity via the biosecurity hotline 1800 675 888, or email aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au



General biosecurity duty

Under the NSW Biosecurity legislation people in NSW are expected to have a basic level of knowledge about the biosecurity risks they might encounter in their normal work and recreational activities. All community members have a general biosecurity duty to consider how actions, or in some cases lack of action could have a negative impact on another person, business enterprise, animal or the environment. We must then take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the potential impact.

Other prohibited or notifiable pests and diseases

Prohibited matter pests and diseases are not currently known to be present in NSW and have been assessed as posing very high risks to our native species, industries and the environment.

Prohibited marine pests include: Northern Pacific Seastar, Japanese Seaweed, Asian Date Mussel, Asian Green Mussel and Black Striped Mussel. Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) is an example of a prohibited marine disease. Any suspect occurrences of these pests and diseases in NSW must be reported immediately on 1800 675 888.

Other notifiable aquatic pests known to be present in NSW marine waters include: the alga *Caulerpa taxifolia*, European Green Crab, European Fan Worm, the New Zealand Screw Shell and Tilapia (only known to be present in NSW in a northern coastal catchment).

Notifiable diseases to be on the lookout for include: Red Spot Disease (Epizootic ulcerative syndrome, EUS) of fish, and Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) and Perkinsus, affecting abalone. Red Spot disease is known to occur in some areas of NSW, particularly coastal waterways of northern NSW after heavy rain and results in red ulcerations in affected fish. AVG is prohibited matter that is considered exotic to NSW and can result in abalone that appear weak, while Perkinsus is known to occur in some NSW abalone populations and can cause blisters and other lesions, particularly on the foot of the abalone.



CHOOSE TO WEAR A LIFEJACKET

OR CHOOSE TO RISK IT ALL

WEAR A LIFEJACKET

DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE

VISIT LIFEJACKETWEARIT.COM.AU



SYDNEY (FORT DENISON) – NEW SOUTH WALES

LAT 33° 51' S LONG 151° 14' E

Times and Heights of High and Low Waters

2022

Local Time

MAY			JUNE			JULY			AUGUST				
Time	m	Time	Time	m	Time	Time	m	Time	Time	m	Time	m	
1 0235	0.48	16 0208	0.36	1 0335	0.51	16 0347	0.23	1 0352	0.48	16 0426	0.19	1 0434	0.40
0833	1.50	0807	1.60	0930	1.33	0946	1.45	0947	1.30	1026	1.45	1037	1.36
SU 1425	0.53	MO 1358	0.43	WE 1453	0.67	TH 1517	0.52	FR 1511	0.65	SA 1601	0.45	MO 1615	0.56
● 2049	1.79	○ 2027	2.01	2129	1.81	2153	2.10	2145	1.80	2230	2.01	2235	1.70
2 0315	0.49	17 0301	0.30	2 0414	0.53	17 0445	0.25	2 0430	0.49	17 0515	0.24	2 0509	0.41
2 0913	1.44	0900	1.55	2 1010	1.30	17 1045	1.42	2 1027	1.29	17 1118	1.45	2 1117	1.39
MO 1455	0.58	TU 1443	0.47	TH 1530	0.71	FR 1614	0.56	SA 1551	0.66	SU 1657	0.50	TU 1700	0.59
2122	1.80	2115	2.05	2206	1.78	2247	2.04	2222	1.76	2321	1.87	2315	1.62
3 0355	0.51	18 0356	0.29	3 0454	0.55	18 0542	0.30	3 0508	0.50	18 0603	0.32	3 0545	0.43
0952	1.38	0957	1.49	1052	1.28	1144	1.40	1108	1.29	1211	1.46	1201	1.42
TU 1525	0.64	WE 1531	0.53	FR 1611	0.74	SA 1713	0.60	SU 1633	0.69	MO 1754	0.57	WE 1750	0.63
2156	1.78	2205	2.05	2245	1.74	2343	1.94	2301	1.72			2358	1.53
4 0435	0.52	19 0454	0.31	4 0538	0.58	19 0638	0.36	4 0548	0.52	19 0012	1.71	4 0625	0.47
1032	1.34	1055	1.42	1136	1.26	1243	1.40	1152	1.30	MO 0650	0.41	1249	1.45
WE 1558	0.70	TH 1625	0.60	SA 1654	0.78	SU 1814	0.66	MO 1720	0.72	TU 1303	1.46	TH 1847	0.66
2231	1.74	2259	2.00	2327	1.69			2343	1.66	1854	0.64	● 2040	1.70
5 0517	0.58	20 0556	0.36	5 0625	0.61	20 0040	1.80	5 0630	0.52	20 0103	1.53	5 0047	1.42
1115	1.27	1158	1.37	1226	1.25	1276	0.42	1240	1.32	1322	1.49	1201	1.42
TH 1634	0.75	FR 1722	0.67	SU 1744	0.81	MO 1843	1.41	TU 1812	0.74	WE 1857	1.47	FR 1342	1.49
2310	1.69	2357	1.91	1919	0.71			2000	0.70			● 1956	0.66
6 0604	0.63	21 0700	0.41	6 0014	1.63	21 0139	1.66	6 0028	1.59	21 0159	1.38	6 0149	1.32
1201	1.23	1303	1.34	MO 0715	0.62	TH 0825	0.48	WE 0713	0.53	TH 0819	0.56	MO 0800	0.54
FR 1717	0.81	SA 1827	0.73	MO 1320	1.26	TU 1441	1.45	WE 1331	1.37	TH 1452	1.49	SA 1442	1.55
2354	1.63			1841	0.84	● 2030	0.74	1911	0.76	● 2114	0.73	2115	0.63
7 0658	0.66	22 0100	1.81	7 0105	1.58	22 0240	1.54	7 0119	1.51	22 0300	1.26	7 0304	1.20
1256	1.20	0805	0.45	TH 0804	0.61	22 0914	1.53	TH 0758	0.53	22 0905	0.62	0900	0.56
SA 1810	0.86	SU 1413	1.34	TU 1418	1.30	WE 1537	1.50	TH 1425	1.44	FR 1546	1.53	SU 1545	1.63
		1938	0.76	1945	0.84	2141	0.74	● 2018	0.75	2227	0.72	2235	0.54
8 0046	1.57	23 0208	1.72	8 0203	1.55	23 0341	1.43	8 0219	1.45	23 0404	1.19	8 0424	1.24
0758	0.68	0905	0.48	0853	0.58	0958	0.57	0845	0.53	0954	0.65	1005	0.56
SU 1400	1.20	MO 1517	0.59	WE 1515	1.38	TH 1629	1.56	FR 1520	1.53	SA 1640	1.57	MO 1650	1.74
1915	0.89	● 2053	0.76	● 2055	0.82	2250	0.72	2132	0.70	2332	0.66	2345	0.42
9 0148	1.53	24 0316	1.65	9 0304	1.53	24 0439	1.36	9 0327	1.40	24 0510	1.18	9 0536	1.28
0858	0.67	0959	0.50	0940	0.54	1040	0.59	0937	0.52	1044	0.66	1111	0.52
MO 1510	1.23	TU 1615	1.46	TH 1606	1.48	FR 1716	1.63	SA 1615	1.64	SU 1730	1.61	TU 1752	1.85
● 2030	0.88	2205	0.74	2203	0.75	2351	0.67	2245	0.61			WE 1200	0.61
10 0255	1.53	25 0417	1.59	10 0404	1.52	25 0532	1.32	10 0434	1.38	25 0024	0.60	10 0045	0.30
0951	0.62	1045	0.51	1025	0.51	1121	0.61	1030	0.51	FR 0605	1.19	MO 0638	1.34
TU 1609	1.31	WE 1706	1.55	FR 1654	1.61	SA 1800	1.69	SU 1711	1.77	MO 1131	0.65	WE 1211	0.46
2141	0.84	2311	0.69	2307	0.65			2352	0.49	1815	1.66	1849	1.96
11 0357	1.55	26 0512	1.54	11 0501	1.52	26 0041	0.61	11 0541	1.38	26 0106	0.54	11 0137	0.20
1037	0.57	1127	0.52	1109	0.48	0622	1.30	1125	0.49	0652	1.23	0732	1.40
WE 1657	1.41	TH 1751	1.63	SA 1741	1.75	MO 1200	0.62	MO 1805	1.89	TU 1216	0.63	TH 1308	0.39
2243	0.76			1840	1.73			1856	1.71			1943	2.03
12 0450	1.59	27 0007	0.64	12 0006	0.53	27 0124	0.56	12 0052	0.36	27 0144	0.48	12 0227	0.14
1118	0.51	0600	1.49	0558	1.52	0707	1.29	0643	1.40	0732	1.26	0823	1.45
TH 1738	1.54	FR 1204	0.53	SU 1154	0.46	MO 1238	0.63	TU 1220	0.47	WE 1259	0.60	FR 1401	0.35
2336	0.65	1831	1.70	1828	1.88	1917	1.77	1900	2.00	1934	1.75	○ 2033	2.05
13 0539	1.62	28 0056	0.59	13 0102	0.42	28 0202	0.52	13 0148	0.26	28 0218	0.44	13 0313	0.13
1157	0.45	0645	1.45	0654	1.51	0749	1.30	0742	1.42	0811	1.29	0912	1.49
FR 1818	1.67	SA 1239	0.55	MO 1242	0.45	TU 1316	0.63	WE 1315	0.45	TH 1338	0.57	SA 1455	0.33
		1909	1.76	1917	2.00	1955	1.80	1954	2.08	2012	1.78	2122	2.00
14 0028	1.54	29 0139	0.55	14 0157	0.32	29 0239	0.49	14 0242	0.19	29 0253	0.41	14 0358	1.16
1118	0.51	0728	1.41	0751	1.49	0830	1.30	0838	1.44	0846	1.31	1000	1.52
SA 1235	0.42	SU 1312	0.58	TU 1330	0.47	WE 1354	0.64	TH 1411	0.43	FR 1415	0.55	SU 1546	0.36
1900	1.80	1945	1.80	● 2007	2.08	● 2031	1.81	○ 2047	2.11	● 2047	1.79	2209	1.89
15 0117	0.44	30 0219	0.52	15 0252	0.26	30 0315	0.48	15 0334	0.17	30 0327	0.40	15 0440	0.23
0735	1.63	0808	1.38	0849	1.47	0908	1.30	0932	1.45	0922	1.32	1046	1.53
SU 1315	0.41	MO 1345	0.61	WE 1423	0.49	TH 1432	0.64	FR 1506	0.43	SA 1454	0.54	MO 1638	0.41
1942	1.92	● 2018	1.82	2100	2.12	2108	1.81	2140	2.09	2123	1.79	2255	1.73
31 0257	0.51	31 0257	0.51					31 0400	0.39			31 0430	0.35
TU 1418	0.64	2053	1.83					SU 0859	1.34			WE 1645	0.47
								SU 1533	0.55			2252	1.54
								2159	1.75				

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Datum of Predictions is Lowest Astronomical Tide

Times are in local standard time (UTC +10:00) or daylight savings time (UTC +11:00) when in effect

Moon Phase Symbols

● New Moon

○ First Quarter

○ Full Moon

● Last Quarter

SYDNEY (FORT DENISON) – NEW SOUTH WALES

LAT 33° 51' S LONG 151° 14' E

Times and Heights of High and Low Waters

2022

Local Time

SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				NOVEMBER				DECEMBER				
Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	
1	0505 0.40	16	0542 0.58	1	0515 0.51	16	0115 1.13	1	0246 1.20	16	0244 1.14	1	0338 1.33	16	0253 1.24	
TH	1127 1.54	FR	1216 1.52	SA	1148 1.67	MO	0636 0.71	TU	0810 0.68	WE	0800 0.80	TH	0914 0.66	FR	0822 0.78	
	2337 1.43	FR	1855 0.60	SU	1316 1.51	MO	2019 0.61	TH	1445 1.65	WE	1428 1.46	FR	1535 1.60	FR	1434 1.45	
								☉	2154 0.41	☾	2135 0.59	☾	2222 0.41	☉	2125 0.54	
2	0544 0.46	17	0043 1.15	2	0029 1.23	17	0214 1.09	2	0403 1.24	17	0350 1.17	2	0439 1.41	17	0349 1.30	
1214 1.55	FR	0621 0.66		2	0706 0.60	17	0731 0.77	2	0929 0.68	17	0912 0.80	2	1028 0.65	17	0930 0.77	
FR	1835 0.55	SA	1305 1.47	SU	1346 1.63	MO	1412 1.45	WE	1600 1.62	TH	1532 1.43	FR	1642 1.52	SA	1534 1.40	
			2000 0.65	2046 0.49		2127 0.63		2257 0.39		2230 0.56		2312 0.42		2213 0.53		
3	0031 1.31	18	0145 1.07	3	0243 1.16	18	0329 1.08	3	0509 1.32	18	0449 1.24	3	0533 1.49	18	0443 1.39	
0630 0.53	SU	0715 0.73		3	0813 0.66	18	0844 0.80	3	1045 0.63	18	1023 0.77	3	1139 0.61	18	1041 0.73	
SA	1308 1.56	SU	1403 1.43	MO	1457 1.60	TU	1520 1.41	TH	1710 1.62	FR	1635 1.43	SA	1742 1.46	SU	1637 1.37	
	1946 0.57	☉	2115 0.66	☉	2208 0.47	☉	2233 0.61		2350 0.36		2316 0.51		2358 0.44		2259 0.50	
4	0138 1.21	19	0307 1.05	4	0410 1.16	19	0445 1.12	4	0602 1.42	19	0538 1.34	4	0622 1.59	19	0531 1.50	
0727 0.60	MO	0828 0.76		4	0934 0.67	19	1003 0.79	4	1153 0.56	19	1127 0.70	4	1243 0.55	19	1147 0.65	
SU	1414 1.57	MO	1514 1.42	TU	1616 1.62	WE	1632 1.42	FR	1809 1.62	SA	1731 1.45	SU	1837 1.41	MO	1738 1.36	
☉	2111 0.55	2225 0.62		20	0526 1.23	20	0544 1.20	5	0036 0.34	20	0619 1.46	5	0039 0.45	20	0618 1.63	
5	0302 1.16	20	0428 1.09	5	0526 1.23	20	0544 1.20	5	0650 1.53	20	1222 0.61	5	0707 1.67	20	1248 0.53	
0840 0.63	TU	0944 0.75		5	1054 0.62	20	1112 0.73	SA	1252 0.48	SU	1821 1.47	MO	1337 0.49	TU	1837 1.37	
MO	1528 1.61	TH	1621 1.45	WE	1730 1.67	TH	1733 1.47	1900 1.60				1927 1.37				
2321 0.47		2321 0.56		6	0019 0.34	21	0015 0.50	6	0117 0.33	21	0035 0.42	6	0117 0.48	21	0030 0.46	
6	0247 1.18	21	0524 1.16	6	0625 1.33	21	0628 1.29	6	0733 1.63	21	0659 1.58	6	0748 1.73	21	0705 1.76	
0957 0.60	WE	1047 0.69		6	1202 0.53	FR	1208 0.65	SU	1345 0.41	MO	1312 0.51	TU	1425 0.45	WE	1344 0.41	
TU	1640 1.70	WE	1717 1.51	1830 1.73		1822 1.52		1947 1.57		1908 1.49		2014 1.33		1933 1.38		
2337 0.36				7	0109 0.27	22	0053 0.44	7	0155 0.35	22	0112 0.39	7	0154 0.50	22	0116 0.44	
7	0535 1.26	22	0005 0.49	7	0714 1.44	22	0704 1.38	7	0814 1.70	22	1137 1.71	7	0827 1.77	22	0753 1.88	
1106 1.52	TH	1139 0.23		FR	1300 0.43	SA	1255 0.56	MO	1433 0.37	TU	1400 0.41	WE	1507 0.41	TH	1437 0.30	
WE	1740 1.80	1802 1.58		1922 1.77		1903 1.57		2032 1.51		1955 1.49		2057 1.31		2030 1.39		
8	0031 0.26	23	0042 0.42	8	0152 0.23	23	0127 0.38	8	0230 0.38	23	0150 0.38	8	0229 0.53	23	0206 0.43	
0630 1.36	FR	0643 1.31		8	0758 1.54	23	0739 1.49	8	0852 1.76	23	0818 1.82	8	0904 1.79	23	0843 1.98	
TH	1207 0.43	FR	1222 0.54	SA	1354 0.35	SU	1338 0.48	TU	1518 0.35	WE	1448 0.31	TH	1546 0.40	FR	1530 0.21	
	1838 1.89	1842 1.64		2009 1.77		1944 1.60	☉	2115 1.44	☉	2044 1.48	☉	2138 1.29	☉	2125 1.40		
9	0119 0.18	24	0114 0.37	9	0231 0.22	24	0159 0.34	9	0302 0.43	24	0230 0.38	9	0304 0.56	24	0257 0.43	
0718 1.45	MO	0716 1.39		9	0840 1.62	24	0814 1.59	9	0930 1.78	24	0901 1.91	9	0941 1.79	24	0934 2.05	
FR	1301 0.35	SA	1301 0.47	SU	1443 0.31	MO	1420 0.40	WE	1600 0.36	TH	1538 0.25	FR	1624 0.40	SA	1622 0.16	
	1928 1.93	1918 1.68		2054 1.72		2023 1.60	2156 1.37		☉	2135 1.45	2218 1.27		2219 1.40			
10	0203 0.15	25	0145 0.32	10	0308 0.25	25	0231 0.32	10	0335 0.49	25	0315 0.41	10	0341 0.59	25	0350 0.43	
0803 1.53	MO	0748 1.46		10	0920 1.68	25	0849 1.69	10	1005 1.78	25	0947 1.97	10	1016 1.78	25	1027 2.07	
SA	1352 0.29	SU	1340 0.41	MO	1530 0.30	TU	1503 0.33	TH	1641 0.38	FR	1630 0.21	SA	1701 0.41	SU	1715 0.15	
☉	2025 1.91	☉	2154 1.69	☉	2137 1.63	☉	2105 1.58	2237 1.31		2229 1.41		2258 1.25		2314 1.40		
11	0244 0.15	26	0215 0.29	11	0343 0.31	26	0305 0.32	11	0408 0.55	26	0401 0.45	11	0418 0.62	26	0445 0.45	
0847 1.58	MO	0822 1.54		11	0959 1.71	26	0927 1.78	11	1041 1.75	26	1037 1.98	11	1054 1.75	26	1119 2.03	
SU	1442 0.28	MO	1420 0.37	TU	1615 0.32	WE	1548 0.28	FR	1722 0.42	SA	1724 0.21	SU	1740 0.44	MO	1808 0.18	
	2100 1.83	☉	2030 1.68	2218 1.52		2149 1.54		2318 1.25		2324 1.36		2337 1.23				
12	0323 0.20	27	0245 0.29	12	0415 0.38	27	0342 0.35	12	0442 0.61	27	0454 0.50	12	0458 0.65	27	0010 1.39	
0930 1.61	MO	0857 1.61		12	1037 1.72	27	1008 1.84	12	1117 1.71	27	1129 1.95	12	1131 1.70	27	0543 0.48	
MO	1530 0.31	TU	1501 0.34	WE	1700 0.36	TH	1637 0.27	SA	1804 0.47	SU	1821 0.25	MO	1820 0.48	TU	1213 1.95	
	2144 1.71	2110 1.63		2300 1.40		2238 1.46								1902 0.24		
13	0400 0.28	28	0318 0.31	13	0447 0.47	28	0422 0.41	13	0001 1.20	28	0023 1.32	13	0019 1.21	28	0106 1.38	
1012 1.62	TU	0934 1.66		13	1114 1.69	28	1052 1.85	13	0520 0.67	28	0550 0.56	13	0541 0.68	28	0642 0.53	
TU	1618 0.37	WE	1546 0.34	TH	1744 0.42	FR	1730 0.28	SU	1157 1.65	MO	1224 1.89	TU	1212 1.65	WE	1307 1.82	
	2227 1.56	2151 1.55		2342 1.30		2330 1.38	1849 0.52		1922 0.30		1903 0.51		1955 0.31			
14	0434 0.38	29	0353 0.39	14	0519 0.55	29	0507 0.49	14	0048 1.16	29	0126 1.29	14	0106 1.20	29	0204 1.39	
1052 1.61	WE	1015 1.69		14	1151 1.65	29	1140 1.83	14	0604 0.72	29	0653 0.61	14	0628 0.72	29	0745 0.59	
WE	1707 0.45	TH	1635 0.37	FR	1830 0.49	SA	1827 0.32	MO	1240 1.58	TU	1323 1.79	WE	1254 1.58	TH	1403 1.67	
	2309 1.40	2237 1.45						1940 0.56		2025 0.34	1948 0.54		2046 0.39			
15	0507 0.48	30	0430 0.43	15	0026 1.20	30	0027 1.30	15	0141 1.14	30	0232 1.29	15	0157 1.21	30	0303 1.42	
1133 1.57	FR	1059 1.69		15	0554 0.64	30	0558 0.57	15	0657 0.77	30	0800 0.65	15	0721 0.75	30	0852 0.64	
TH	1759 0.53	FR	1730 0.41	SA	1231 1.58	SU	1233 1.78	TU	1330 1.51	WE	1428 1.69	TH	1342 1.51	FR	1502 1.51	
	2353 1.26	2329 1.34		SA	1920 0.56	SU	1930 0.37	2036 0.59		2126 0.38		2036 0.55		☉	2137 0.46	
				31	0132 1.23		0658 0.64							31	0401 1.47	
					MO	1334 1.71									1005 0.67	
						2043 0.41									SA	1606 1.38
															2216 0.51	

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Datum of Predictions is Lowest Astronomical Tide

Times are in local standard time (UTC +10:00) or daylight savings time (UTC +11:00) when in effect

Moon Phase Symbols

● New Moon

☾ First Quarter

☉ Full Moon

☾ Last Quarter

Lag times (* Indicates secondary ocean location)

In view of the variations caused by local conditions and meteorological effects, these times are approximate and must be considered as a guide only. All times are Eastern Standard Time.

Add or subtract the appropriate hours and/or minutes listed here to adjust for the time difference between when high or low tide occurs at Sydney (Fort Denison) and when the corresponding tide will occur at the secondary location. Lows may be fractionally later than the highs because the falling water levels will no longer have the tidal force behind them.

Location	Hour: Mins
Tweed River Basin	
Tweed Heads, River Entrance	+0:04*
Greenbank Island	+0:40
Murwillumbah	+2:40
Caddys Island, Terranora Creek	+1:40
Cobaki Broadwater	+2:10
Kingscliff, Cudgen Creek Mouth	+0:17
Brunswick River Basin	
Brunswick Heads, River Entrance	+0:06*
Billinudgel, Marshalls Creek	+3:55
Mullumbimby	+1:10
Richmond River Basin	
Ballina, River Entrance	+0:07*
Byrnes Point Ferry	+0:30
Highway Bridge, Tucombil Creek	+2:30
Coraki	+4:05
Lismore Airfield South, Wilson's River	+5:10
Clarence River Basin	
Yamba, River Entrance	0:00*
Palmers Island, Palmers Channel	+2:40
Macleay	+2:00
Grafton	+4:15
Wooli River Entrance	+0:12
Wooli Caravan Park	+1:40
Coffs Harbour Region	
Harbour Jetty	-0:07*
Highway Bridge, Coffs Creek	+1:50
Boambee, Boambee Creek	+1:50

Location	Hour: Mins
Bellingen River Basin	
East Bellingen	+2:10
Urunga Bridge, Kalang River	+1:45
Nambucca River Basin	
Stuarts Island	+1:10
Macksville	+2:00
Macleay River Basin	
South West Rocks (Kemps Corner)	+0:23
Smithtown	+2:10
Kempsey	+3:25
West Euroka	+4:05
Hastings River Basin	
Port Macquarie, River Entrance	+0:19*
Settlement Point	+0:50
Wauchope Railway Bridge	+1:55
Telegraph Point, Wilson River	+3:05
Camden Haven Basin	
North Haven	+0:18
Laurieton	+0:45
Manning River Basin	
Crowdy Head, Harbour Marina	-0:02
Harrington	+0:11
Taree	+2:25
Wingham	+3:45
Wallis Lake	
Forster, Harbour Entrance	+0:01*
Wallamba Island, North Tuncurry	+2:05
Tiona	+3:25

Location	Hour: Min
Hunter River Basin	
Tomaree, Port Stephens	+0:05*
Nelson Bay, Port Stephens	+0:30
Stockton Bridge	+0:20
Tea Gardens, Port Stephens	+1:30
Hexham Bridge	+1:10
Raymond Terrace, Williams River	+1:55
Morpeth	+3:30
Maitland, Belmore Bridge	+4:50
Paterson, Paterson River	+4:30
Swansea, Lake Mouth	0:00*
Brisbane Waters/ Broken Bay	
Ettalong	+0:40
Woy Woy Bridge	+2:15
East Gosford	+2:20
Patonga	+0:10
Newport Wharf, Pittwater	+0:08
Berowra Waters Ferry	+1:00
Hawkesbury River	
Spencer	+1:10
Wisemans Ferry	+2:25
Lower Portland	+3:10
Sackville	+3:55
Windsor	+5:40
Freemans Reach	+7:30
Sydney Harbour	
Roseville Bridge Marina	+0:03
Gladesville Bridge	+0:05
Ryde Railway Bridge	+0:12
Georges River Basin	
Canterbury Bridge, Cooks River	+0:40
Picnic Point	+1:10
Milperra	+2:15
Lansvale	+2:35
Warwick Farm	+2:45

Location	Hour: Min
Cabbage Tree Point, Port Hacking	+0:03*
Lake Illawarra Basin	
Port Kembla	-0:01*
Shoalhaven River Basin	
South Shoalhaven Heads	+0:55
Shoalhaven Heads Inlet	+1:05
Nowra Bridge	+2:00
Crookhaven River Entrance	+0:16
Greenwell Point, Crookhaven River	+0:40
Jervis Bay	
Huskisson	+0:08*
St Georges Basin	
Lumeah	+0:18
Sussex Inlet Coastal Patrol Jetty	+0:35
Talofa Caravan Park	+1:15
Island Point	+3:40
Lake Conjola Entrance	+1:35
Narrawallee Inlet	+0:45
Burril Lake, Highway Bridge	+0:55
Batemans Bay	
Snapper Island	+0:03*
Princes Highway Bridge	+0:20
Nelligen, Clyde River	+0:45
Moruya Region	
Tuross River, West Tuross Head	+1:40
Moruya Quarry Wharf	+0:35
Wagonga Inlet (Narooma)	
MSB Boatshed/Jetty	+0:15
Apex Park Boat Ramp	+0:55
Princes Highway Bridge	+1:15
Barlows Bay	+2:00
Far South Coast Region	
Bermagui, Boat Harbour	+0:08*
Wallaga Lake Entrance	+1:40

Location	Hour: Min
Wallaga Lake, Regatta Point	+2:50
Merimbula Wharf	+0:40
Bonnie Doon, Merimbula Lake	+2:40
Tee Tree Point, Pambula Lake	+1:10
Eden, Fishing Co-operative Jetty	+0:08*

Local guides provide valuable information on fishing in the coastal areas from Tweed Heads in the north to Eden on the far south coast. Whether you are a resident or a visiting fisher you can find details on fishing locations, local fishing rules and closures along with summary maps in the local areas on our website at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/info. They are also available on the DPI FishSmart app.

Local recreational fishing guides

Primefact Districts

- 
- 1, Tweed
 - 2, Richmond
 - 3, Clarence
 - 4, Coffs Harbour
 - 5, Hastings
 - 6, Wallis
 - 7, Port Stephens
 - 8, Hunter
 - 9, Central Coast
 - 10, Sydney North
 - 11, Sydney South
 - 12, Illawarra
 - 13, Shoalhaven
 - 14, Batemans Bay
 - 15, Montague
 - 16, Far South Coast
 - 17, New England
 - 18, Peel
 - 19, Macquarie
 - 20, Far West
 - 21, Riverina
 - 22, Central Tablelands
 - 23, South West Slopes
 - 24, Hume
 - 25, Monaro

Also Available

- Recreational Spearfishing
- Trout Fishing (Northern)
- Trout Fishing (Central)
- Trout Fishing (Southern)

Fisheries officers

Fisheries officers have an important role in helping our fisheries resources remain healthy and sustainable into the future. They advise recreational and commercial fishers and the general community on fishing and marine estate rules to ensure everyone is abiding by the state's fishing and marine protected area laws.

Fisheries officers patrol our waterways including coastal estuaries, lakes and offshore waters, and our inland rivers, streams and dams. You will see fisheries officers just about everywhere there are fish and fishers.

They deal with recreational fishers, commercial fishers, fish farmers, and fish retailers. They also provide education and enforcement in marine parks and aquatic reserves, assist with conservation issues and education and advisory programs. Most fisheries officers are keen fishers and are happy to provide you with local knowledge and tips for a given area. Under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* fisheries officers have powers which enable them to stop and search your boat and vehicle, examine your fishing gear, inspect your fish and bait and require certain information including your name and address.

They can also require you to lift any fishing gear such as fishing lines, hoop nets and crab traps from the water for their inspection. In serious matters they can also seize fish, fishing gear, boats and vehicles and can make an arrest.

If you are found breaking the rules, you may be issued with a written caution or a penalty notice ranging between \$75 and \$2500. In serious matters you may have to face court and have the matter determined by a magistrate. Most serious fisheries offences have maximum fines up to \$22,000 and terms of imprisonment (or both). Some fisheries offences carry a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment.

Your recreational fishing fee contributes to improving salt and freshwater fisheries compliance and employs additional fisheries officers throughout the state. A fisheries officer

can require you to produce your Recreational Fishing Fee receipt (your license) or proof of an exemption.

Remember that fisheries officers are there to ensure the rules are being adhered to so there will be healthy fisheries for the enjoyment of future generations.

Reporting illegal activities

If you want to report illegal or suspect fishing activity call the Fishers Watch on 1800 043 536 or report online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/compliance/report-illegal-activity.

Report illegal activity as soon as you suspect it is happening. If your call is outside business hours or if our operator is busy calls are managed by an interactive voice response system which allows callers to record a message and this will be sent to a fisheries officer.

Fisheries officers in the identified area will be notified of all illegal fishing reports.

When lodging any report be prepared to provide the following information:

- Type of activity.
- Time, date and location of activity.
- Number of people involved, identity if known and descriptions.
- Registration numbers of any boats or cars involved and their descriptions.
- Your own name and contact details to further substantiate your report and provide you with follow up information.

Reporting illegal fishing can be done from within the FishSmart app available for smartphones.

Where information is given in good faith, all identifying details will be treated as confidential. Where an immediate response is not possible, information received will be used in targeting ongoing surveillance and enforcement activities.



Coastal offices

Far North Coast		Office
Tweed	20 River Terrace, Tweed Heads 2486	07 5523 6900
Wollongbar Primary Industries Institute	1243 Bruxner Highway, Wollongbar 2477	02 6626 1200
Clarence	18A River Street, Maclean 2463	02 6645 0500
Coffs Harbour	32 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour Jetty 2450	02 6652 3977
North Coast		
Hastings	3/22-24 Acacia Avenue, Port Macquarie 2444	02 5524 0600
Wallis Lake	2 Palm Street, Tuncurry 2428	02 6591 6300
Port Stephens	Taylor's Beach Road, Taylor's Beach 2316	02 4916 3934
Hunter	55 Lambton Parade, Swansea 2281	02 4980 9200

Coastal offices

Sydney Metropolitan and Central coast		Office
Central Coast	Northloop Road, Ourimbah 2258	02 4328 8618
Sydney North	12 Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft 2065	02 8437 4903
Sydney South	1 Water Street, Sans Souci 2219	02 9529 6021
Illawarra	2/91 Foreshore Road, Port Kembla 2505	02 4220 8499
South Coast		Office
Batemans Bay	Suite 8, Braysyth Building, Cnr Beach Road and Orient Street, Batemans Bay 2536	02 4478 9100
Montague	Riverside Drive, Narooma 2546	02 4476 0100
Far South Coast	13 Cocora Street, Eden 2551	02 6496 8200
Shoalhaven	4 Woollamia Road, Huskisson 2540	02 4428 3400

Inland offices

Region		Office
Central Tablelands	Research Station Drive, Bathurst 2795	02 6330 1203
Hume	5/620 Macauley Street, Albury 2640	02 6051 7763
Far West	Agricultural Research and Advisory Station, Silver City Highway, Dareton 2717	03 5019 8408
Macquarie	Cnr Hampden and Cobra Streets, Dubbo 2830	02 6881 1208
Monaro	Kosciusko Road, Jindabyne 2627	02 6451 3402
Inverell Research Station	7023 Gwydir Highway, Inverell 2360	02 6721 9845
Peel	4 Marsden Park Road, Calala 2340	02 6763 1132
Riverina	449 Charlotte Street, Deniliquin 2710	03 5881 9928
South West Slopes	64 Fitzroy Street, Tumut 2720	02 6941 1404

Please note that fisheries offices are not always open due to operational commitments. It is recommended to arrange an appointment prior to attending a fisheries office.

Marine parks offices

Marine parks		Office
Cape Byron Marine Park	Tallow Beach Road, Byron Bay 2481	02 6620 9308
Solitary Island Marine Park	32 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour 2450	02 6691 0600
Lord Howe Island Marine Park	Anderson Road, Lord Howe Island 2898	02 6563 2359
Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park	Taylors Beach Road, Taylors Beach 2316	02 4916 3970
Jervis Bay Marine Park	4 Woollamia Road, Huskisson 2540	02 4428 3000
Batemans Marine Park	Cnr Graham & Burrawang Street, Narooma 2546	02 4476 0802

Please report illegal or suspected fishing activities to the Fishers Watch Phonenumber on **1800 043 536** (free call).

For general fishing information call **1300 550 474** or check the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

Fish kills in the wild should be reported to your local NSW DPI fisheries office or the NSW DPI Fishers Watch Phonenumber on **1800 043 536**.

If the fish kill is due to a suspected pollution event contact the Environment Protection Authority on **131 555**.

Report all suspicions of **aquatic pests and disease** on the 24-hour biosecurity hotline **1800 675 888** immediately. Take clear photographs and a record of the location (such as a latitude and longitude recorded on your phone, and any landmarks). Keep any samples on ice (not frozen) - the Aquatic Biosecurity team can then arrange a courier to collect the samples for laboratory diagnosis if required.

The team can also be reached via email: aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au or for general biosecurity enquiries call **02 4916 3900**.

NSW Fisheries office locations



Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

Date	Catch	Comments
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Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

CATCH SOME FAMILY TIME

Have fun, learn new skills and make lasting memories - Fishing is the perfect way to spend time together in nature.



Find out how easy it is to get fishing with your family at

WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/FISHFORLIFE

