

## Recreational fishing guide

# Botany Bay, Port Hacking & Bondi to Garie Beach

### NSW Department of Primary Industries

Our State's fisheries are a community-owned resource. We all have a responsibility to protect and safeguard this natural asset for present and future generations.

Fishing regulations are in place to protect and conserve our fish stocks, aquatic habitats and biological diversity, including public health and safety and ensuring that fishing activities remain sustainable.

This recreational fishing guide explains the fishing methods allowed or prohibited in Botany Bay, Port Hacking and their tributaries including beaches, rivers and other waters from Bondi to Garie Beach and must be used together with the Saltwater fishing guide.

These waterways provide a wide range of fishing opportunities from beach or jetty fishing to the more adventurous rock and boat fishing. Anglers have the opportunity to catch a wide variety of fish including bream, whiting, Australian salmon, flathead, yellowtail kingfish, snapper, leatherjackets, trevally and mullet.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) fisheries officers routinely patrol waterways, boat ramps and foreshores to advise anglers about responsible fishing practices and to ensure compliance with NSW fishing regulations.

Fishcare volunteers can also be found at boat ramps and on the water in dedicated Fishcare vessels, advising anglers about responsible fishing practices and distributing saltwater fishing guides and sticky rulers.

Information on bag and size limits, fishing closures and legal fishing gear can be obtained from the NSW DPI website [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au) or by visiting your local NSW DPI fisheries office.

To report illegal fishing activity, call your local NSW DPI fisheries office or the Fishers Watch phone line on 1800 043 536. Where information is given in good faith, all identifying details will be treated as confidential.

### Recreational fishing fee

When fishing in NSW waters, both freshwater and saltwater, you are required by law to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee and carry a receipt showing the payment of the fee. This applies when spear fishing, hand lining, hand gathering, trapping, collecting bait, prawn netting or when in possession of fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters.

All money raised by the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee is spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW.

Projects include:

- Installation of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) to enhance fishing opportunities for dolphinfish or even tuna and marlin;
- Creation of Recreational Fishing Havens;
- Angler fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms;
- Stocking of freshwater fish in dams and rivers;
- Research on popular recreational fish species;
- Restoring important fish habitat;
- Research into saltwater stocking;
- Angler education and advisory programs such as the Fishcare Volunteer Program, fishing workshops, Get Hooked...It's Fun to Fish, and fishing guides;
- Building artificial reefs in estuaries and ocean waters.

You can pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee at hundreds of agents throughout NSW such as over the counter at most fishing tackle shops. You can also pay the fee at some caravan parks, local shops and service stations, many Kmart stores, by calling 1300 369 365 or online at [www.licence.nsw.gov.au](http://www.licence.nsw.gov.au)

If you pay for a one year or three year period online, over the phone, at a Touch agent or if you renew your licence using your renewal letter, you will receive a plastic receipt in the post. You must be able to produce evidence of payment, such as your receipt number, if requested by an authorised officer (until you receive your receipt in the post). If you pay for a 3 day or 1 month period, no receipt will be posted.

Some exemptions apply to paying the fishing fee, including people under the age of 18 and holders of Pensioner Concession Cards. For further information on exemptions visit the NSW DPI website [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au) or call (02) 4424 7499.

You may not need to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee if you are fishing on a charter boat, hire boat or under the supervision of a fishing guide. Please check with the charter/hire boat operator, or guide, before you go fishing. If they do not hold a recreational fishing fee exemption certificate you will need to pay the fee.

## FISHING RESTRICTIONS

A number of fishing restrictions exist in the Sydney South area including Botany Bay, Port Hacking and beaches, rivers and streams from Bondi to Garie Beach. Fishing restrictions exist for a variety of reasons, from public health and safety to preserving our unique aquatic environments.

Possession of any fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters closed to fishing is prohibited. Possession of prohibited fishing gear or excess prescribed recreational fishing gear is prohibited. Heavy penalties apply for not complying with fisheries rules and regulations.

### Fishing prohibited waters

The waters listed immediately below this heading are closed to all fishing methods including spearfishing, fishing with a rod and line, hand line, traps, nets or any collecting methods.

#### Botany Bay

- Waters between Sydney Airport runways (Figure 1).
- Alexandra Canal (Figure 1), includes no disturbance of bed sediments due to high levels of pollutants.
- Penrhyn Estuary (Figure 1), from its source to its junction with the Sydney International Container Terminal (SICTL) bridge leading from Foreshore Road.
- Towra Point Aquatic Reserve Sanctuary Zone (Figure 7), also no disturbing, destroying or collecting marine animals or plants, whether dead or alive.

#### Port Hacking

- Shiprock Aquatic Reserve (Figures 8 & 2), also no disturbing, destroying or collecting marine animals or plants, whether dead or alive.

### Nets and traps prohibited waters

#### Botany Bay

- Woronora River (Figure 1). Woronora River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the Woronora Bridge is closed to all recreational fishing nets, except the landing net.
- Sylvania Waters (Figure 1). All waters known as the Sylvania Waters Subdivision in Gwawley Bay is closed to all recreational fishing nets, except the landing net.
- Georges River and Salt Pan Creek (Figure 1). Georges River from Rabaul Road boat ramp at Georges Hall upstream, including Prospect Creek, Cabramatta Creek and Chipping Norton Lake and Salt Pan Creek from Henry Lawson Drive Road Bridge upstream is closed to all recreational fishing traps. Do not eat fish or shellfish from these waters due to high levels of industrial pollutants. You should release your catch.
- Cooks River and its tributaries (Figure 1), is closed to nets and traps. Do not eat fish or shellfish from these waters due to high levels of industrial pollutants. You should release your catch.

#### Wattamolla Lagoon (Royal National Park)

- Wattamolla Lagoon is closed to all recreational fishing nets and traps, except the landing net.

#### Port Hacking

- Port Hacking and its tributaries (Figure 2), upstream of a line drawn southerly from the southernmost extremity of Hungry Point to the northernmost extremity of Cabbage Tree or Pulpit Point is closed to all recreational fishing nets and traps, except the dip/scoop net, landing net and bait trap.

### Invertebrate and bait collecting restrictions

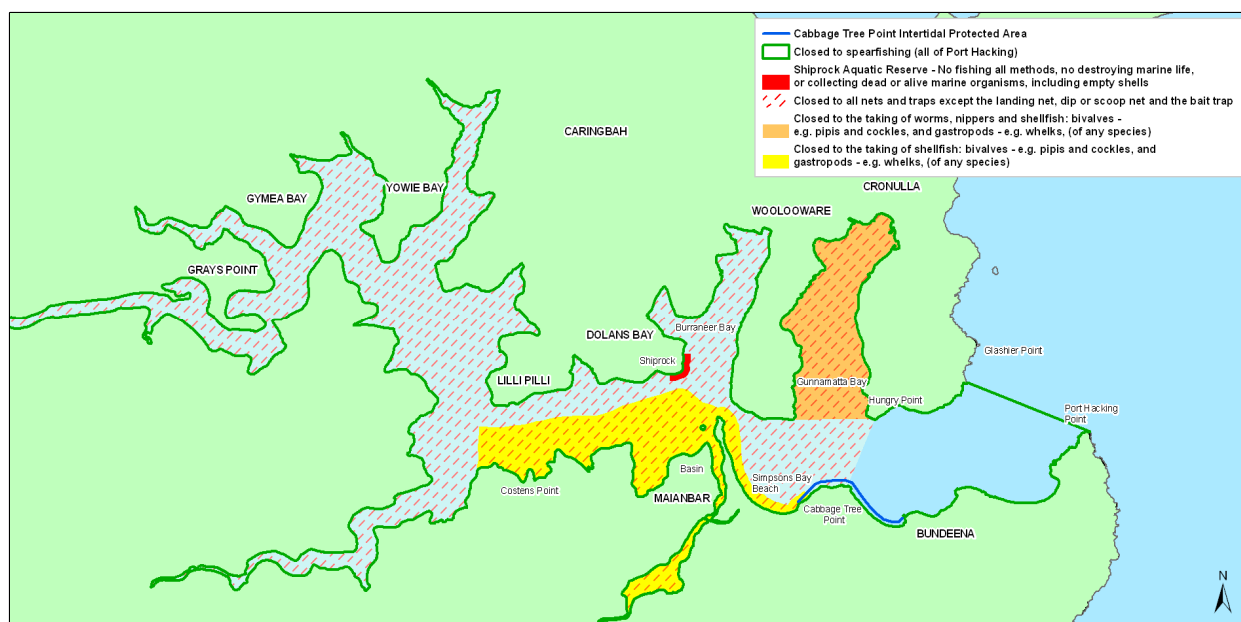
#### Botany Bay

- Towra Point to Kurnell (Figure 1) – Wollooware and Quibray Bays being all waters south of a line drawn north-easterly from the northern extremity of Taren Point, to a point 200 metres offshore (northerly) from the northernmost extremity of Towra Point, and then easterly to the Captain Cook Obelisk at Kurnell is closed to any method involving digging with a spade or fork to take any species of fish including shellfish, worms, nippers, crustaceans, molluscs and invertebrates.
- Georges River & Kogarah Bay, (Figure 1) - all waters of Kogarah Bay & Georges River north of a line extending from Tom Uglys Point east to the St George Motor Boat Club, including the foreshore area, being the area between the mean high water mark and a line drawn 10 m seaward of the mean low water mark is closed to the taking of whelks, and bivalve molluscs including pipis, cockles, oysters and mussels.
- Wollooware Bay (Figure 1) – all waters of Wollooware Bay within the boundaries of a line drawn from the northern extremity of Taren Point to the port channel marker situated approximately 600 meters north-north-west from the western extremity of Pelican Point thence from that channel marker in a south-westerly direction to Shell Point thence following the foreshore in a northerly direction to the point of commencement is closed to the taking of all shellfish including pipis, mussels, oysters, cockles, whelks and turban snails.

#### Port Hacking

- Gunnamatta Bay (Figure 2) - all waters of that part of Port Hacking being Gunnamatta Bay, together with all the creeks, tributaries and inlets of that part north of a line extending north-easterly from the southernmost extremity of Burrameer (Burraneer) Point to the southernmost extremity of Hungry Point are closed to the taking of all species of worms, nippers and shellfish including pipis, mussels, oysters, cockles, whelks and turban snails.
- Simpson's Bay Beach to Costens Point (Figure 2) Includes Port Hacking waters from the east end of Simpson's Bay Beach generally west to the westernmost end of Costens Point, including the foreshore from the mean high water mark, to 200m horizontally seaward of the mean low water mark is closed to the taking of all shellfish including pipis, mussels, oysters, cockles, whelks and turban snails.





**Figure 2.** Port Hacking fishing restrictions (areas shown on the map and restrictions are fully described on pages 2 to 7)

## Intertidal Protected Areas (IPAs)

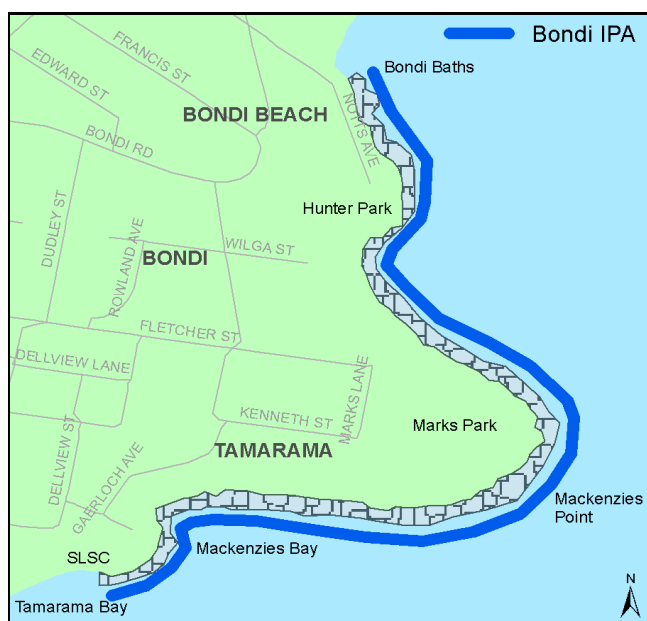
Intertidal protected areas preserve and protect intertidal animals and habitat as well as acting as reservoirs to repopulate other areas.

The collection of all invertebrates and cnidaria is prohibited from all Intertidal protected areas from the mean high water mark to 10 meters seaward from the mean low water mark.

Fishing is allowed in these areas but taking, gathering or collecting seashore animals including crabs, snails, worms, octopus, sea urchins, anemones, pipis, cockles, mussels, oysters, saltwater nippers and cnidaria is prohibited.

Exempt invertebrates that may be taken are Abalone and the Eastern and Southern rocklobster. Abalone can only be taken on weekends and adjacent NSW public holidays.

Located between Bondi and Garie Beach is four Intertidal Protected Areas. They are: Bondi & Tamarama (Bondi IPA, Figure 3), Malabar (Long Bay IPA, Figure 4), Kurnell (Inscription Point IPA, Figure 5) and Bundenna (Cabbage Tree Point IPA, Figure 6).

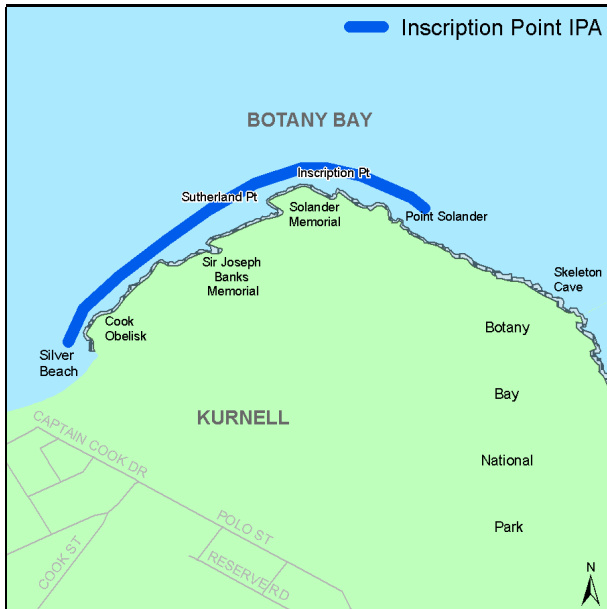


**Figure 3.** Bondi Beach Intertidal Protected Area, includes the whole of the foreshore from the rock baths at the southern end of Bondi Beach to the northern end of Tamarama Beach.

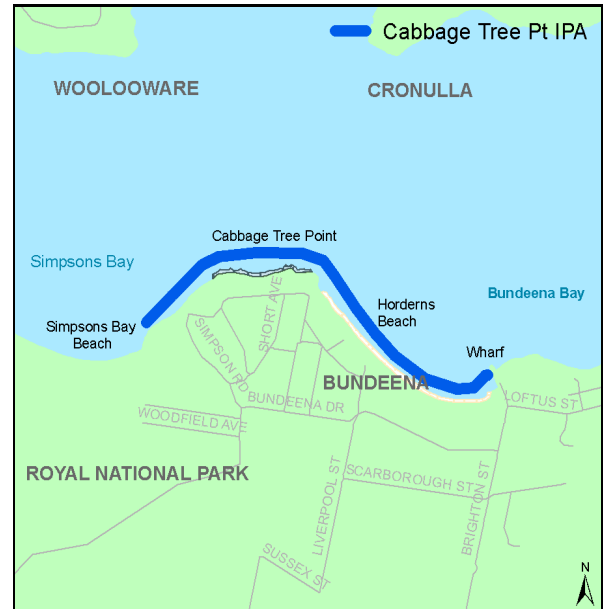


**Figure 4.** Long Bay Intertidal Protected Area, includes the whole of the foreshore from the easternmost point of Boora Point to the easternmost point of Tupia Head.





**Figure 5.** Inscription Point Intertidal Protected Area, includes the whole of the foreshore from the Captain Cook Obelisk at Kurnell to the defined climbing track at Inscription Point.



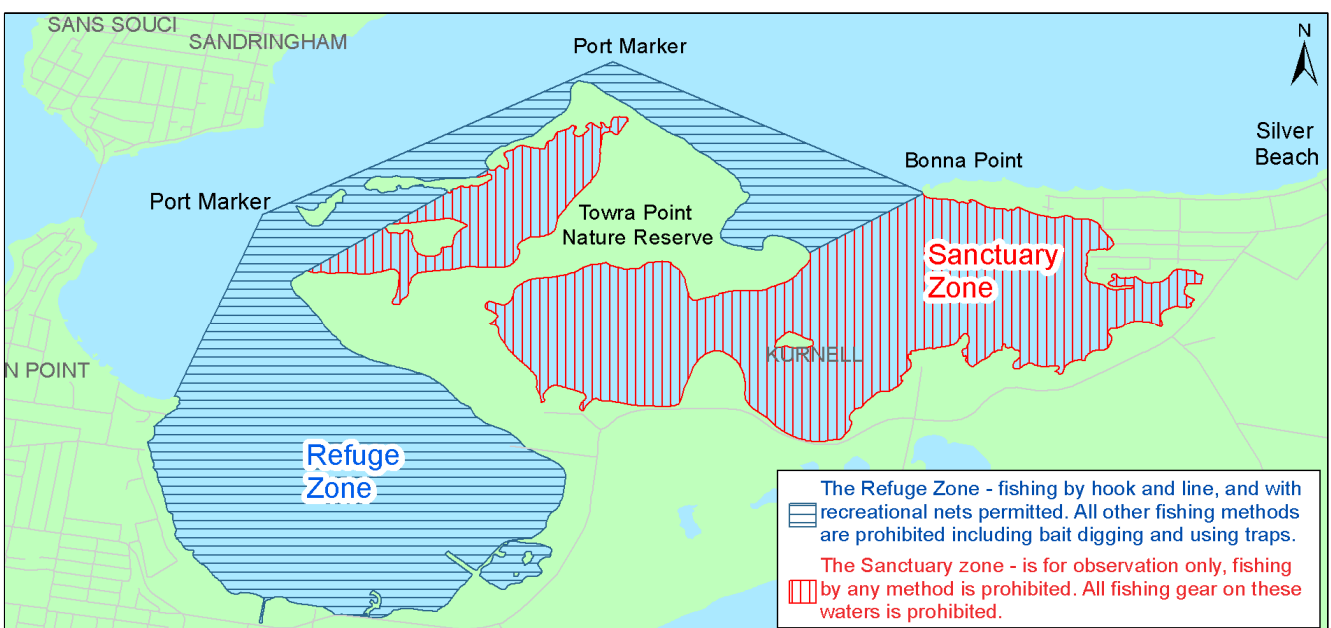
**Figure 6.** Cabbage Tree Point Intertidal Protected Area, includes the whole of the foreshore from the Bundeena Ferry Jetty to the eastern end of Simpson's Bay Beach.

## Aquatic Reserves

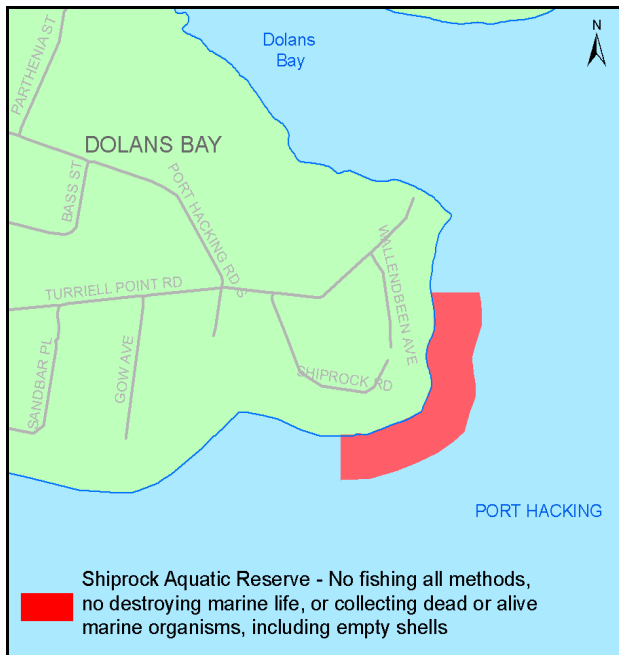
New South Wales currently has 12 aquatic reserves established to protect biodiversity and provide representative samples of our wonderfully varied marine life and habitats. Although aquatic reserves are generally small compared with marine parks, they play a significant role in the NSW marine protected area system. Apart from protecting important habitat, nursery areas and vulnerable and threatened species, aquatic reserves are valuable areas for research and educational roles.

### What can I do in an aquatic reserve?

The type of protection varies from reserve to reserve. In some reserves, for example, fishing is permitted, as long as bait is not collected in the reserve. In other places, however, fishing is prohibited and only diving and observing the marine life is permitted. Collecting cunjevoi or invertebrates including: anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, whether they are dead or alive, is prohibited in all aquatic reserves including collecting, destroying or interfering with any marine vegetation. For fishing and other restrictions in aquatic reserves located between Bondi and Garie Beach refer to the text in the maps on Figures 7,8,9,10 & 11 on this and the next page. For more information visit NSW Department of Primary Industries website at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au) or contact your local fisheries office.



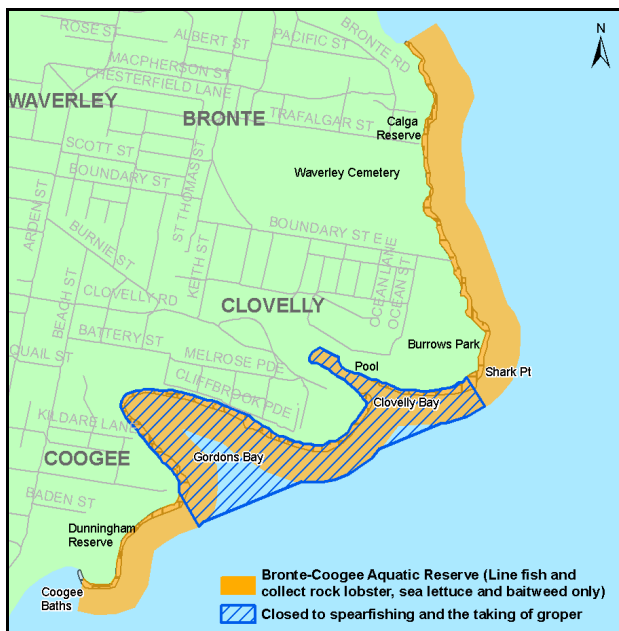
**Figure 7.** Towra Point Aquatic Reserve is located in Botany Bay and covers approximately 333 hectares and the saltmarshes, mangroves and seagrasses found here are the most extensive in the Sydney region.



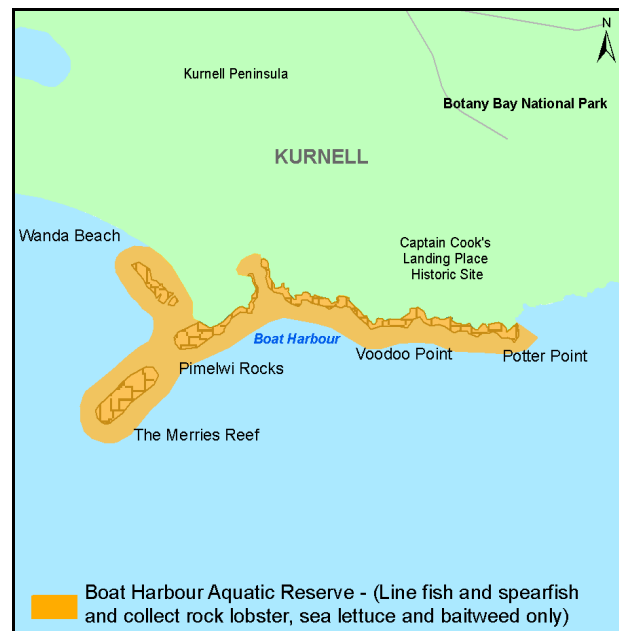
**Figure 8.** Shiprock Aquatic Reserve is located in Port Hacking near Dolans Bay and covers an area of approximately 2 hectares and extends 60 meters from the shore. A popular dive spot, the reserve is composed of submarine cliffs that combine with strong currents and oceanic waters to create a diverse environment for plants and aquatic animals.



**Figure 10.** Cape Banks Aquatic Reserve is located near La Perouse and includes the whole foreshore from the eastern side of the bridge at Cape Banks to the Endeavour Light at Henry Head, and extends 100 meters seaward from mean low water.



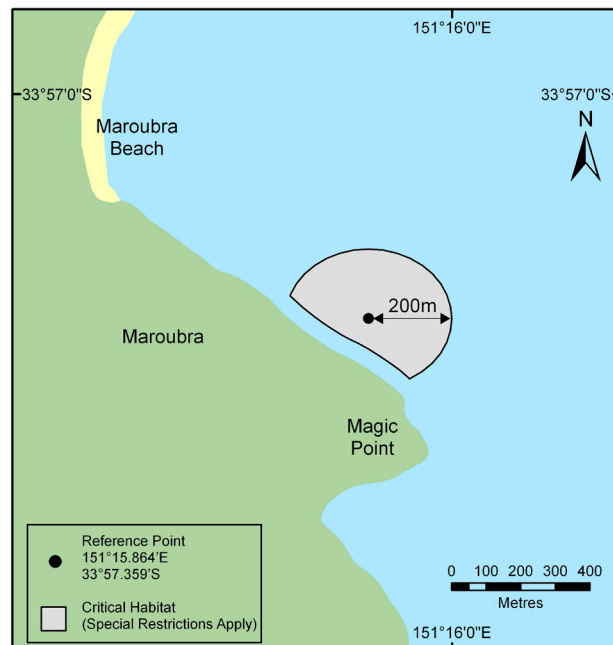
**Figure 9.** Bronte–Coogee Aquatic Reserve includes the whole foreshore from the southern end of Bronte Beach to the rock baths at the northern end of Coogee Beach – 4000 meters of coastline – and extends 100 meters seaward from mean low water. Refer to page 7 under the Spearfishing and diving heading for a full description of the Clovelly Bay and Gordons Bay marked blue area in map above that is closed to spearfishing and taking of groper.



**Figure 11.** Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve is located near Kurnell and includes the southern part of the Kurnell peninsula, commencing at a point on Cronulla Beach known as Greenhills. It incorporates the whole of Merries Reef including Pimelwi Rocks and extends east to three green 'Waterboard' vents at Potter Point. The seaward boundary extends 100 meters from mean low water.

## Other local and general fishing restrictions

- Magic Point – Grey Nurse Shark Critical Habitat located near Maroubra. All methods of line fishing using bait (whether alive or dead but excluding soft plastics, artificial baits, baits that are not animal products and baits that are not derived from animal products) is prohibited in all waters within the critical habitat of Grey Nurse Shark at Magic Point as shown in Figure 12 map.
- Blue, red and brown groper is protected in Clovelly and Gordons Bay located in Bronte – Coogee Aquatic Reserve (see the groper fishing closure Figure 9 map and the waters described in Clovelly Bay and Gordons Bay dot point under the Spearfishing and diving heading on this page).
- Oysters are not to be taken by recreational fishers from Botany Bay and all its tributaries including Georges River, Cooks River and Woronora River and all their tributaries.
- Digging is prohibited in seagrass beds, mangroves, saltmarsh and rock platforms.
- Abalone can only to be taken on weekends and adjacent NSW public holidays from the waters located between Port Stephens and Wreck Bay Beach (Jervis Bay).
- Octopus can not be taken from ocean platforms.
- Leave all commercial fishing gear in place and do not disturb commercial fishers going about their lawful business. Penalties up to \$5,500 can apply.
- No taking fish with chemical or explosive devices.
- It is illegal for recreational fishers to sell their catch.
- You must not alter the length of fish by filleting and/or removing the head/tail until you are well away from the water. 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. You may clean fish by gilling and gutting only.
- You may not shuck intertidal invertebrates in, on or adjacent to any waters except for immediate bait use including sea urchins.
- It is an offence to interfere with any oyster lease. Please ensure that your vessel, your vessel's wash or your tackle does not interfere with any part of an oyster lease, including the oysters.
- Abalone gut is prohibited for use as bait in NSW waters to prevent the spread of abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG).
- There is a state-wide closure on the taking of pipis from ocean beaches. The taking of pipis is prohibited except for their immediate use as bait. Pipis cannot be taken further than 50 m from the high water mark.
- It's an offence to possess undersize fish, excess bag limit, prohibited fishing gear or excess prescribed recreational fishing gear.



**Figure 12 Magic Point -Grey Nurse Shark Critical Habitat**

## Spearfishing and diving

Spearfishing in NSW is a popular form of recreational fishing and has been recognised for its selective fishing practices.

### **Spearfishers and divers are permitted to use:**

- a snorkel when taking fish;
- SCUBA and hookah apparatus for scallops and sea urchins only; and
- bare/gloved hand only when taking lobsters.

### **Spearfishers and divers are not permitted to use:**

- a light with a spear/spear-gun;
- a spear/spear-gun to take blue, brown or red groper or any protected fish;
- powerheads and/or explosive devices.

Spearfishing is prohibited in freshwater as well as many entrances, coastal lagoons and other tidal waters. The following areas covered by this recreational fishing guide are closed to spearfishing.

- NSW ocean beaches, excluding the last 20 meters at each end of the beach.
- Port Hacking and its tributaries, inlets and bays west of a line drawn from the eastern extremity of Glashier Point to the northern extremity of Port Hacking Point (Figure 2).
- Clovelly Bay and Gordons Bay (Figure 9), including waters encompassed by a line commencing at the south-eastern extremity of Shark Point, extending south-easterly for 100 metres to a point 33°54.950 'S, 151°16.300 'E, then generally south-westerly to a point 33°55.100 'S, 151°15.800 'E, then 100 metres north-westerly to the easternmost point of the southern headland of Gordons (or Thompsons) Bay, then by the mean high water mark to the point of commencement. Taking blue, red and brown groper from these waters is also prohibited.
- Spearfishing closed waters described in Figures 1,2,7,8 & 9 maps.

## Fishing safely

### Going rock fishing

Fishing, especially rock fishing, can be dangerous. Please 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.
- **Carry safety gear.** Wear a life jacket or buoyancy vest. Also bring something buoyant that can be easily thrown and held onto, 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. Listen to weather forecasts or call the weather information line on 1900 937 107. 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 DVD is available free of charge by emailing [info@safefishing.com.au](mailto:info@safefishing.com.au) or visiting websites [www.safefishing.com.au](http://www.safefishing.com.au) or [www.rfansw.com.au](http://www.rfansw.com.au) or call NSW DPI (02) 4424 7421.

### Recreational harvest of shellfish

Shellfish are filter feeders and they sometimes accumulate harmful substances from the water during feeding. Shellfish collected by recreational fishers should never be eaten raw. This is because recreationally harvested shellfish are not subject to the same strict food safety controls as commercially harvested shellfish. Consequently the NSW Food Authority recommends eating only shellfish harvested under a recognised program. For more information contact NSW Department of Primary Industries or NSW Food Authority on 1300 552 406 or visit websites [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au) or [www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au)

## Local Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) & Artificial Reefs locations

FAD Location	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)	Distance from nearest port
Sydney Harbour	33°47.021'	151°22.700'	Port Jackson – 8.5 km
Sydney East	33°59.316'	151°20.951'	Botany Bay – 9.5km
Botany Bay	33°59.672'	151°26.743'	Botany Bay – 16km
Sydney South	34°07.658'	151°23.254'	Port Hacking – 21km

Make sure your boat is suitable for offshore fishing, has the right safety equipment and that you check the latest marine forecast before venturing offshore.

Recreational fishing reefs have been constructed using purpose-built reef modules in Botany Bay.

Coordinates (WGS84):

<b>Yarra Bay 1 (Botany Bay)</b> 33 58.975 S 151 13.456 E	<b>Yarra Bay 2</b> 33 58.962 S 151 13.481 E
<b>Yarra Bay 3</b> 33 58.923 S 151 13.425 E	<b>Yarra Bay 4</b> 33 58.945 S 151 13.415 E

DPI deployed the States first offshore recreational fishing reef approximately 1.2 km east of 'The Gap' (South Head) in 38 m of water. The reefs GPS coordinates (WGS84) are: 33°50.797'S 151°17.988'E

For more information on FADs and artificial reefs visit [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au) or phone (02) 6691 9673.

### Fish responsibly

Please observe bag limits, size limits and other fishing rules, carefully release undersize or fish you don't want to keep, catch and keep only what need, take your bait, plastic bags or other rubbish home and leave the area clean after you finished fishing.

### Reporting illegal fishing

Report illegal or suspect fishing activities to the nearest NSW DPI fisheries office or Fishers Watch Phoneline on **1800 043 536** or online at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance)

When lodging any report please provide: the type of activity, time, date, location of activity, number of people involved and their description, registration numbers of boats or cars involved and their descriptions.

### Further Information

For more information on fishing and rules in this brochure phone Sydney South Fisheries Office on (02) 9529 6021.

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