

# Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plan

## Saltwater

### Tweed Trial Rules Summary

2022



**Report illegal fishing to 1800 043 536**



[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Permitted and prohibited methods and activities

It is illegal to:

- sell, barter, exchange or supply for profit any recreational catch.
- use a firearm, a chemical or explosive device to take or assist to take fish.
- 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. *Note: Any fish altered must comply with the listed legal size.*
- alter an invertebrate (e.g. by removing the shell, head, tail or meat) until 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 invertebrate is for immediate consumption within 100 mtrs of the high water mark or immediate use as bait; or for invertebrates that do not have a legal length. Special rules apply to abalone, rocklobster, turban snails and intertidal invertebrates (see general rules section).
- Note: Any invertebrate altered must comply with the listed legal size.*
- retain prohibited fish for any reason, including if they are to be used as bait, they must be returned to the water immediately, even if they are injured or dead.
- tranship fish from one boat to another (except specified bait species).

### Line fishing

- You may use 6 rods or lines with up to 3 hooks (or gangs of hooks) each. Each gang is limited to 5 hooks.
- One hand-held jigging line with 3 hook-lures is permitted.
- Drift lines are banned. Lines must be held in the hand or fixed to a boat or the shore.
- It is illegal to jag fish (hooking or attempting to hook fish other than through the mouth).

### Nets for catching prawns

The following nets can be used to catch prawns:

- 1 hand-hauled prawn nets (max 6 m long, mesh 30–36 mm).
- 1 push or scissors net (lead-line to 2.75 m, mesh 30–36 mm).
- No limit on the number of dip or scoop nets (mesh 20 mm min, 1.25 m drop max, diameter 0.6 m max). Prawn nets must not be towed by a boat.

### Nets and traps for catching crabs and lobster

- 1 cast net (Hand) that is only permitted to be cast not set.
- Up to 6 hoop or lift nets (mesh 13 mm min, 1–2 hoops per net). Not to be used in ocean waters.
- 2 spanner crab net (max 1.6 m long x 1 m wide).
- 2 lobster trap or pot (max 1.2 m x 1.2 m, buoy 100 mm min).
- 5 crab traps (up to 1.2 m x 1 m x 0.5 m, buoy 100 mm min, mesh 50 mm min, max 4 entrances – none on top).
- All floats/buoys must be labelled with the initial, surname, year of birth and postcode **or** unique cultural fishing number of the person who sets, uses or lifts the fishing gear.
- Floats/buoys must measure not less than 100 mm in all dimensions.
- The minimum height of the float/buoy must be 50 mm above the water.
- All letters to be a minimum of 15 mm and in a colour contrasting to the buoy.
- An abbreviation of the type of gear to be marked on float/ buoy. 'CFCT' = crab trap, 'CFLT' = lobster trap, 'CFHN' = hoop or lift net, 'CFSN' = spanner crab net along with **unique participant number (Cultural Fisher Number)**.
- All lobster traps, crab traps and spanner crab nets must have a 50 gm weight attached to the buoy at least 1 m below the surface so that no rope is floating on the surface of the water.

- Hoop nets or lift nets must not have any rope floating on the surface of the water.
- Check your crab net/trap regularly. Reducing set time for fishing gear reduces the chances of harm to accidentally caught aquatic animals e.g. platypus and turtles.

### Bait traps

- 1 bait trap (entrances 60 mm max not exceeding 45 cm long x 35 cm diameter).
- A tag must be attached to a part of the trap which is at or above water level with dimensions not less than 80 mm x 45 mm, labelled with initial and surname, year of birth and postcode of the person who sets, uses or lifts the trap and an abbreviation of the type of gear 'BT' = bait trap.
- All letters to be a minimum of 15 mm and in a colour contrasting to the tag.

### Hand Gathering

- A maximum of 2 crab wires are permitted for the purpose of hooking crab.

### Diving and spearfishing

If you are diving and spearfishing:

- only use a snorkel when taking fish.
- you may use SCUBA gear for scallops and sea urchins.
- only use bare or gloved hands to take lobsters.

### Threatened or protected species

The following species are protected under law. If you catch them, they must be immediately returned to the water causing the least possible harm.

#### Threatened species

- Black Rockcod
- Great Hammerhead Shark
- Green Sawfish
- White Shark
- Grey nurse Shark
- Scalloped Hammerhead Shark
- Southern Bluefin Tuna\*\*

#### Protected species

- Ballina Angelfish
- Eastern Blue Devil Fish
- Elegant Wrasse
- Goldspotted Rockcod (Estuary Cod)
- Queensland Groper
- Sandtiger Shark (Herbsts Nurse)
- All Syngnathiformes

For more information on the sightings of protected fish, visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries)

## Fishers who are Aboriginal persons are exempt from paying a fishing fee.

### Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plan Tweed Trial

The NSW Government, in conjunction with engaged local Aboriginal communities (Aboriginal communities), is trialing Local Management Plans (LMPs) for Aboriginal cultural fishing in pilot regions. LMPs will be trialled to determine their effectiveness in addressing the cultural fishing aspirations of Aboriginal communities, and whether or not they should be implemented more broadly across NSW. They are part of the NSW Government's broader investigations into protecting and promoting the continuation of Aboriginal cultural fishing. The Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Interim Access Arrangement (Interim Access Arrangement) will remain in place during the trials to ensure broader community cultural fishing access continues to be supported. Authority to fish beyond what is provided for under the Interim Access Arrangement will also continue to be available under section 37 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

For more information scan the QR code or visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/cultural-fishing-lmp](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/cultural-fishing-lmp)



# Invertebrates – bag and size limits

Fish Species	Minimum Legal Length	Bag limit
Abalone	11.7 cm	15(BL) 30(PL)
Balmain Bug	10 cm	40(BL) 40(PL)
Beach Worms All other worm species	–	50(BL) 90(PL) 100 in total*
Pipis**	–	150(BL) 250(PL)
Cockles and Mussels		150(BL) 300(PL) (combined)
Crab		
Blue Swimmer	6.5 cm	40(BL) 65(PL)
Mud (Black/Mangrove)	8.5 cm	15(BL) 30(PL)
Spanner	9.3 cm	20(BL) 45(PL)
Soldier	–	100(BL) 200(PL)
All other crabs	–	20(BL) 40(PL)
Cunjevoi	–	40(BL) 40(PL)
Lobster		
Eastern Rock	10.4 cm min. - 18 cm max.	6(BL) 10(PL)
Southern Rock (male)	11 cm min.	(combined)
Southern Rock (female)	10.5 cm min.	
Tropical Rock (Painted, Ornate)	–	6(BL) 12(PL)
Slipper (flat)	–	5(BL) 10(PL)
Octopus	–	30(BL) 60(PL)
Oysters		
Sydney Rock }	–	150 or 20lt (BL) (combined)
Pacific, Native }	–	300 or 40lt (PL) (combined)
Prawns	–	30lt(BL) 60lt(PL)
Saltwater Nippers	–	100(BL) 100(PL)
Scallops	–	150(BL) 300(PL)
Sea Urchins	–	20(BL) 40(PL)
Squid		
Cuttlefish	–	60(BL) 85(PL)
–	60(BL) 85(PL)	
Turban Snails and other Molluscs		
Sydney Military	7.5 cm	40(BL) 80(PL)
	–	15(BL) 35(PL)

\* Bag limit comprised of any single species or a combination of listed grouped species. A maximum daily bag limit of 40 applies to any invertebrate (excluding molluscs) not listed above.

\*\* unless undertaken in line with conditions as outlined in section 3.8(f) of the TLMP or authorised under Section 37 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994, it is an offence under Clause 86 of the Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2019 for any person to take pipis except for use as bait.



## General rules

- Lobsters, crabs and bugs carrying eggs must be returned immediately to the water. It is an offence to remove the eggs.
- Abalone, rocklobster and turban snails may only be shucked within 100 meters of the high water mark if the fish are consumed within that area.
- Intertidal invertebrates or fish must not be shucked or mutilated in or adjacent to any waters except for immediate use as bait.

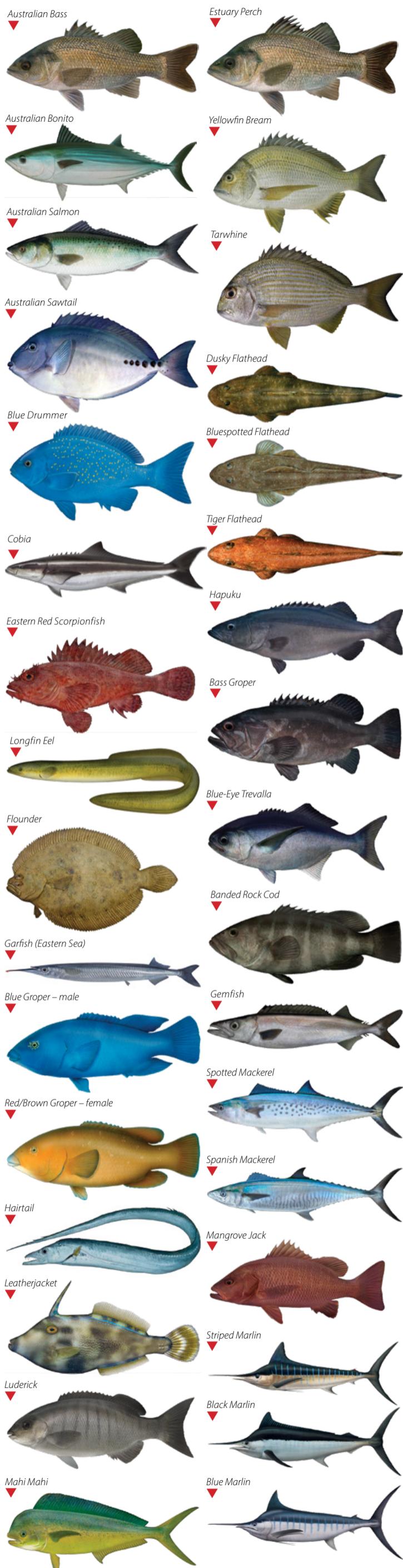
Food safety risks exist in shellfish such as oysters and mussels, which are controlled through regular monitoring. Specific programs are in place for commercially harvested shellfish areas, but not for recreational shellfish areas. Hence people should refrain from eating shellfish that they collect. For more information on recreational shellfish collection, refer to the NSW Food Authority's fact sheet at [www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 552 406.

# Fish – Bag and size limits

**Legal length:** Minimum length of fish unless otherwise stated.

**LMP Bag limit:** The maximum number of fish or invertebrates per person per day. A maximum daily bag limit of 80 applies to any fish or invertebrates not listed.

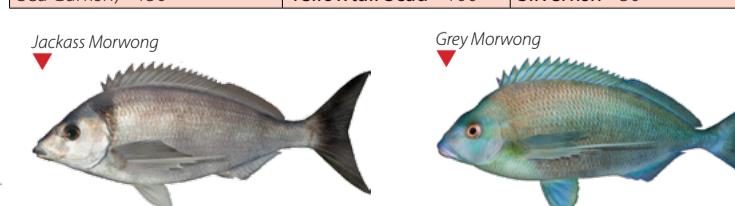
**LMP Possession limit:** The maximum number of fish a person is allowed to have in their possession at any one time. This includes fish that are also stored elsewhere e.g. in fridge/freezer.



Species	Minimum Legal Length	Bag limit
<b>Australian Bass and Estuary Perch</b> Zero bag limit in rivers and estuaries from 1 May to 31 August	Only 1 over 35 cm	8 in total (BL)*, 15 (PL)
<b>Australian Bonito</b>	–	20(BL) 40(PL)
<b>Australian Salmon</b>	–	15(BL) 20(PL)
<b>Australian Sawtail (Surgeonfish)</b>	–	10(BL) 20(PL)
<b>Blue Drummer (Bluefish)</b>	–	0 – Release only
<b>Tarwhine</b>	20 cm	40(BL) 80(PL)
<b>Yellowfin Bream</b>	25 cm	40(BL) 65(PL)
<b>Cobia</b>	–	10(BL) 20(PL)
<b>Deep-sea fish</b> Hapuku, Banded Rockcod, Bass Groper, Blue-Eye Trevalla, Gemfish	–	10(BL) 15(PL)* no more than 4 Gemfish.
<b>Dogfish</b> Harrisons Southern All other	–	0 0 2 in total*
<b>Eastern Red Scorpionfish</b> (Red Rock Cod)	–	15(BL) 20(PL)
<b>Eels</b> Southern Shortfin Longfin	30 cm 58 cm	40(BL) 40(PL) 40(BL) 40(PL)
<b>Flathead</b> Dusky (Common) All other	36 cm Dusky, only 1 over 70 cm 33 cm Bluespotted and Tiger only	20(BL) 40(PL) 60(BL) 80(PL)
<b>Flounders and soles</b> Flounder Sole	25 cm }	60(BL) 80(PL)*
<b>Garfish</b> Eastern Sea	–	60(BL) 80(PL)
<b>Groper</b> Blue, Red/Brown	30 cm, only 2 over 60 cm	4(BL) 8(PL) single fish permitted to be speared
<b>Hairtail</b>	–	4(BL) 8(PL)
<b>Leatherjackets</b>	–	40(BL) 80(PL)
<b>Luderick</b>	27 cm	60(BL) 80(PL)
<b>Mackerel</b> Spanish Spotted	75 cm 60 cm }	15(BL) 15(PL)*
<b>Mahi Mahi</b> (Dolphinfish)	60 cm, only 2 over 110 cm	30(BL) 40(PL)
<b>Mangrove Jack</b>	–	10(BL) 15(PL)
<b>Marlin</b> Striped, Black or Blue	–	2(BL) 2(PL)
<b>Morwong</b> Jackass Grey (Rubberlip) Red Banded	30 cm 30 cm 30 cm –	30(BL) 40(PL) 30(BL) 40(PL) 15(BL) 20(PL) 30(BL) 40(PL)
<b>Moses Snapper</b> (Perch)	–	15(BL) 15(PL)
<b>Mullet</b> Poddy	Under 15 cm	40 in total* for live bait only
	All others	30 cm Sea (Bully) only 60(BL) 90(PL)
<b>Mulloway</b> (Jewfish)	70 cm	10(BL) 20(PL)
<b>Pearl Perch</b>	30 cm	15(BL) 20(PL)
<b>Rock Blackfish</b> (Black Drummer)	30 cm	30(BL) 40(PL)
<b>Sailfish</b>	–	2(BL) 2(PL)
<b>Samsonfish and Amberjack</b>	–	15(BL) 20(PL)
<b>Sharks and Rays</b>	91 cm School Shark only	15(BL) 20(PL) but no more than 2 tiger sharks, mako sharks, smooth hammerhead sharks or whaler sharks/blue sharks
<b>Snapper</b>	30 cm	30(BL) 50(PL)
<b>Spearfish</b>	–	2(BL) 2(PL)
<b>Swordfish</b>	–	2(BL) 2(PL)
<b>Tailor</b>	30 cm	50(BL) 80(PL)
<b>Teraglin</b>	38 cm	10(BL) 20(PL)
<b>Trevallies</b>	30 cm Silver Trevally only	40(BL) 80(PL)*
<b>Tuna</b> Albacore, Big-Eye, Longtail, Yellowfin	90 cm or above less than 90 cm	15(BL) 30(PL) 15 combined, of which 4 have a length of 90cm or more and 10 have a length of less than 90cm
Southern Bluefin Note 1 only		
<b>Wahoo</b>	–	10(BL) 20(PL)
<b>Whiting</b>	27 cm Sand only	50(BL) 100(PL)
<b>Yellowtail Kingfish</b>	65 cm	15(BL) 20(PL)

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

Baitfish bag limits		
Stated limits below describe BL & PL		
<b>Australian Anchovy</b> - 350	<b>Maray</b> (Round Herring) - 200	<b>Southern Herring</b> - 150
<b>Australian Sardine</b> (Pilchard) - 350	<b>Blue Sprat</b> (Bluebait) - 200	<b>Sandy Sprat</b> (Whitebait) - 300
<b>Garfish</b> (other than Eastern Sea Garfish) - 150	<b>Jack Mackerel</b> and <b>Yellowtail Scad</b> - 100	<b>Hardyhead</b> and <b>Silverfish</b> - 30



Measure fish from point of nose to tip of tail

