



Tweed Recreational Fishing Guide

Fisheries Compliance Unit

October 2023

Fishing is a fun, outdoor activity for the whole family. Fishing rules help ensure healthy and sustainable fisheries for future generations.

The Tweed district waterways provide excellent beach, rock, and boat fishing opportunities. This guide provides essential information on fishing, including any closures and restrictions, which apply along from the NSW/Queensland border south to Byron Bay.

The Brunswick River is a popular recreational fishing area within the Tweed region and is the northern boundary of the Cape Bay Marine Park. For further information on marine park rules and zoning see www.mpa.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 6620 9300.

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.

Information on bag and size limits and legal fishing gear can be obtained at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or by visiting your local DPI fisheries office.

To report suspected illegal fishing activity, call the Fishers Watch phone line on **1800 043 536** (free call) or on-line at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance/report-illegal-activity. All calls will be treated as confidential and you can remain anonymous.

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, bait collecting and 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:

- building artificial reefs to create new fishing locations;
- fish aggregating devices (FADs) to enhance fishing for dolphinfish and even tuna and marlin;
- creation of recreational fishing havens;
- angler facilities such as fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms;
- stocking of freshwater fish in dams and rivers;
- essential research on popular recreational fish species;
- restoring important fish habitat;
- marine stocking of prawns in estuaries;
- angler education and advisory programs such as the Fishcare Volunteer program, fishing workshops, Get Hooked...it's fun to fish primary schools education and fishing guides.

Much more information is available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries.

You can pay the NSW recreational fishing fee at www.onegov.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1300 369 365 or at many outlets throughout NSW, such as most fishing tackle stores, caravan parks, local shops, service stations and many Kmart stores.

Some exemptions apply to paying the fishing fee, including people under the age of 18, holders of pensioner concession cards and Aboriginal people. For further information on exemptions visit www.dpi.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 NSW recreational fishing fee.

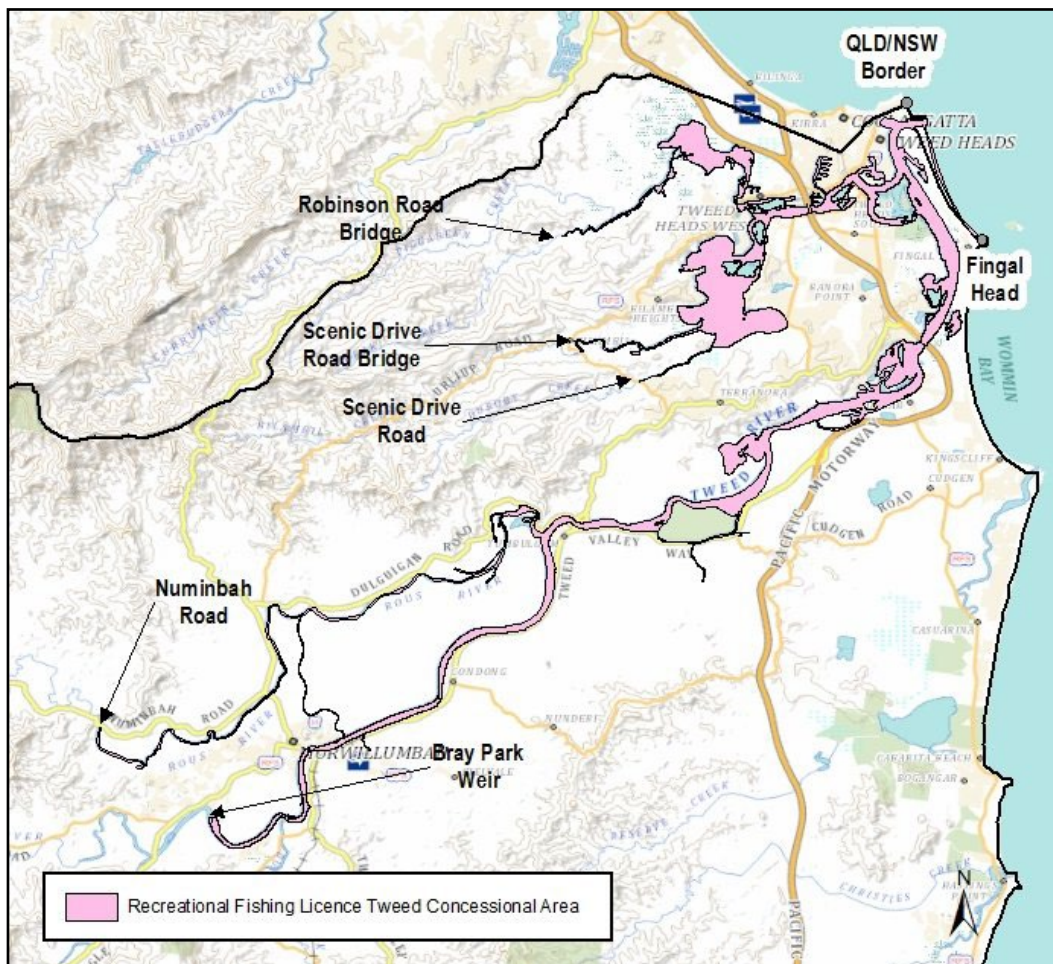
Tweed concession area (Figure 1).

The recreational fishing fee payable is reduced by 50% for fishing in parts of the Tweed area. *The Tweed concessional recreation fishing fee can only be purchased at local bait and tackle shops.*

The fee is reduced in the tidal waters of the River Tweed, upstream of a line joining the eastern extremities of the Tweed River breakwaters to:

- Bray Park Weir on the Tweed River
- Boat Harbour Bridge
- Numinbah Road on the Rous River
- Bilambil Road on Duroby Creek
- Bilambil Road Bridge on Bilambil Creek
- Robinson Road Bridge on Cobaki Creek or
- From the River Tweed Breakwaters, or
- From the rocks and beach north of the Tweed River Breakwaters to the Queensland Border, or
- From the rocks and beach south of the Tweed River Breakwaters to the lighthouse at Fingal Head

Figure 1. Tweed concession area



RECREATIONAL FISHING CLOSURES

A number of fishing closures exist in the Tweed area. These exist for a variety of reasons, from public health and safety to preserving unique aquatic environments. The majority of these closures are signposted and penalties apply for not complying with fisheries rules and regulations.

Total fishing closures

All methods of fishing are prohibited in the following waters.

Note: This includes a prohibition on feeding fish or the use of burley to attract fish.

Cook Island Aquatic Reserve (Figure 2). The following waters are closed to taking any fish (whether dead or alive) by any method: waters that fall within the area enclosed by the line connecting the following co-ordinates (WGS84 datum) and returning to the point of commencement

- i. 28°11'32.336"S, 153°34'39.872"E,
- ii. 28°11'52.114"S, 153°34'59.282"E,
- iii. 28°11'54.419"S, 153°34'46.449"E,
- iv. 28°11'51.698"S, 153°34'29.560"E
- v. 28°11'42.806"S, 153°34'26.280"E.

Doon Doon Creek (Clarrie Hall Dam). During the period August to October (inclusive) each year, the following waters are closed to all methods of fishing: That part of Doon Doon Creek and its tributaries, downstream from Clarrie Hall Dam wall to the junction with Tweed River.

Iron Pot Creek (Toonumbar Dam). During the period August to October (inclusive) each year, the following waters are closed to all methods of fishing: That part of Iron Pot Creek and its tributaries, 1.225 km downstream from the downstream end of Toonumbar Dam Spillway wall.

Figure 2. Cook Island Aquatic Reserve

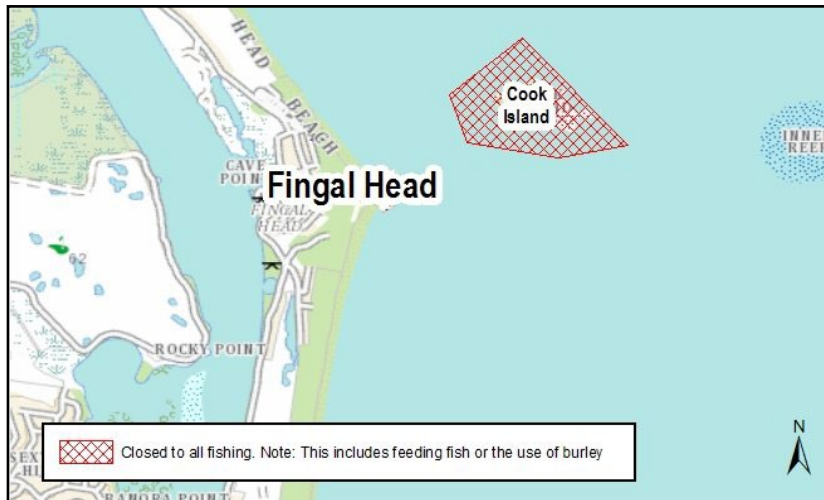
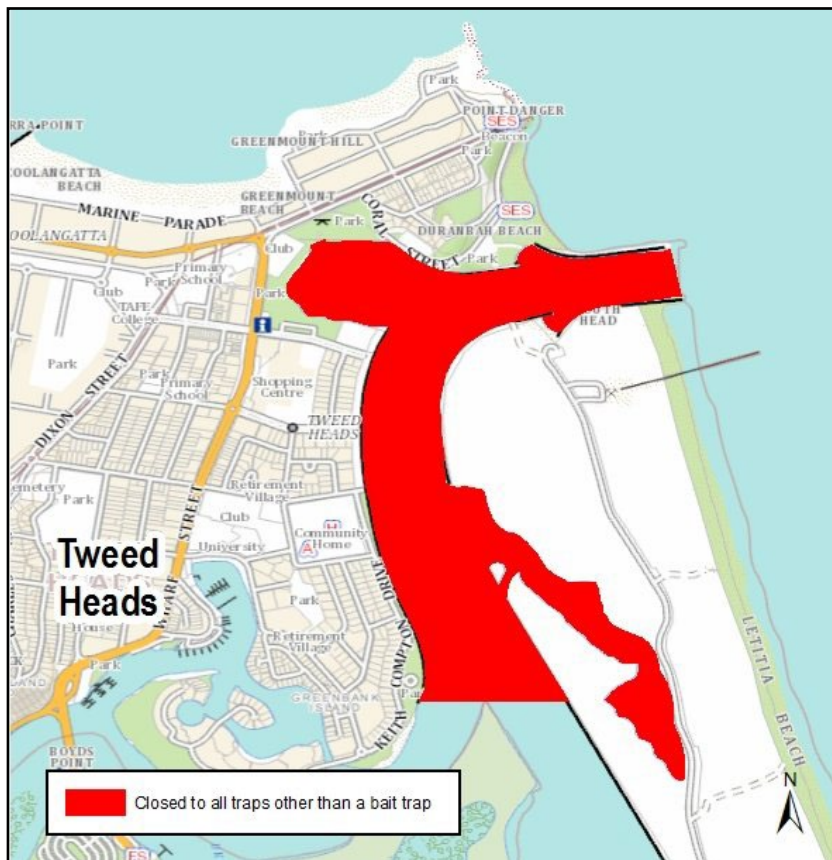


Figure 3. Tweed River Entrance - traps



General fishing closures

All NSW waters. During the period May to August (inclusive) each year Australian Bass and Estuary Perch can only be taken by catch and release fishing in any NSW waters except impoundments and the waters of rivers above impoundments

Recreational netting and trapping

Tweed River Entrance (Figure 3). The following waters are closed to traps of every description other than the bait trap: the waters of the Tweed River from its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean, upstream to a line drawn east-west across the river and intersecting the most northern extremity of Ukerebagh Island.

Bray Park Weir . The tidal waters of the Tweed River within 400 metres downstream from the weir face of Bray Park Weir are closed to nets and traps of every description, other than a landing net or bait trap.

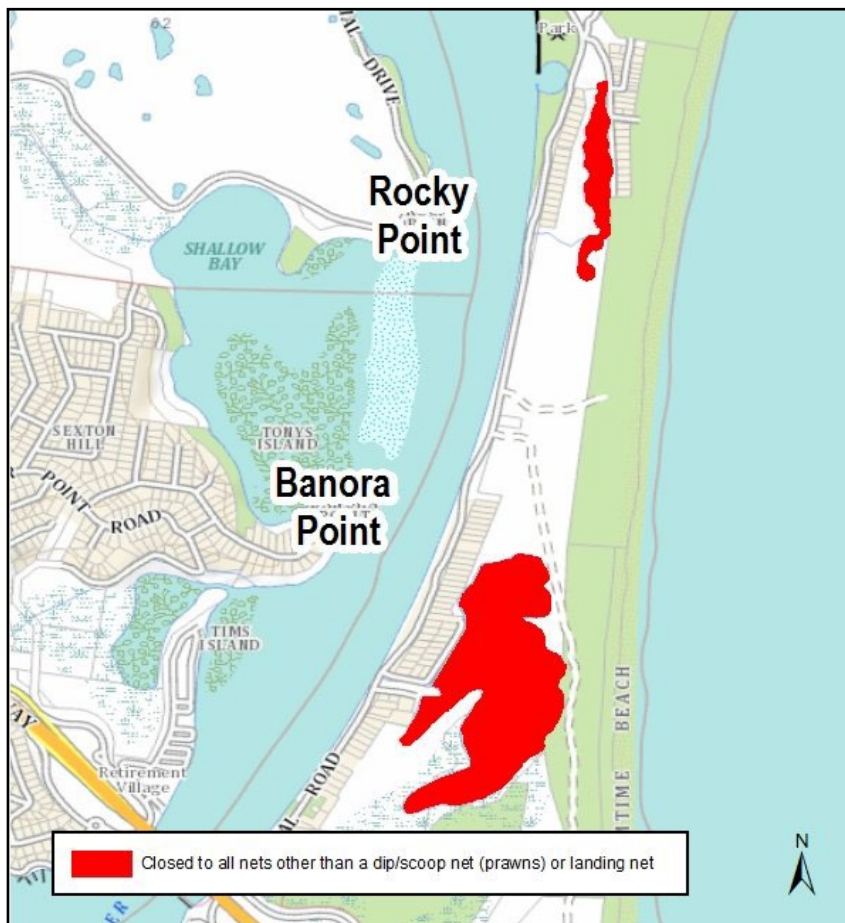
Upper Tweed River. The following waters are closed to nets and traps of every description, other than a landing net or a shrimp net: the non-tidal waters of Tweed River and its tributaries, upstream from the Bray Park Weir wall to its source.

Rous River. The following waters are closed to nets and traps of every description, other than the landing net: the waters of the Rous River and its tributaries from the Boat Harbour bridge, upstream to its source.

Upper Rous River. The non-tidal waters of Rous River and its tributaries, from Boat Harbour Bridge upstream to its source are closed to nets and traps of every description, other than the landing net.

Wommin Lake and Wommin Lagoon (Figure 4). The following waters are closed to nets of every description, other than the dip or scoop net (prawns) or a landing net: the whole of the waters within Wommin Lake and Wommin Lagoon, adjacent to the main road from Chinderah to Fingal (Fingal Road).

Figure 4. Wommin Lake and Wommin Lagoon



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 guide are closed to spearfishing:

All NSW ocean beaches, excluding the last 20m at each end of the beach.

Tweed River (Figure 5). The following waters are closed to spearfishing: the whole of the tidal waters of that part of the Tweed River commencing at the eastern most extremity of the northern breakwater at the entrance to Tweed River and bounded by the high water mark of the western training wall, inclusive of northern boatharbour, generally south to its point of commencement, by the high water mark of Greenbank Island as reclaimed to the southern boatharbour, by the high water mark of the boatharbour, by the high water mark generally southwest to Boyd's Bay bridge, by the eastern side of that bridge, by the southwestern bank of Ukerebagh Passage to a point being the intersection of the northeastern prolongation of the northwestern boundary of portion 374 with the high water mark of that bank, and then by a line easterly to the westernmost extremity of Ukerebagh Island, by the northwestern shore of Ukerebagh Island to the northernmost extremity of that island then by a line drawn northeasterly to the end of the eastern training wall by the high water mark of that wall inclusive of the tidal waters of Kerosene Inlet on the eastern side of the eastern training wall and then to the high water mark of the southern breakwater northwesterly and northeasterly to the easternmost extremity of that breakwater and then by a line across the entrance to the Tweed River to the point of commencement.

Figure 5. Tweed River - spearfishing



Mooball Creek. The following waters are closed to spearfishing: the whole of the tidal waters of that part of Mooball Creek from the traffic bridge at Pottsville downstream to its confluence with the waters of the South Pacific Ocean.

Cudgen Creek. The following waters are closed to spearfishing: the whole of the waters of that part of Cudgen Creek north of the traffic bridge at Kingscliff.

Cudgera Creek. The following waters are closed to spearfishing: the whole of the waters of Cudgera Creek, together with its tributaries upwards to its source from the South Pacific Ocean.

Brunswick River. The following waters are closed to spearfishing: the whole of the Brunswick River is closed to spearfishing as a result of a general spearfishing closure in the lower reaches of the river and further closures upstream affecting spearfishing within in the Cape Byron Marine Park.

GENERAL RECREATIONAL FISHING RULES

- It is illegal for recreational fishers to sell their catch.
- Leave all commercial fishing gear in place and do not disturb commercial fishers going about their lawful business.
- You must not alter the length of fish by filleting and/or removing the head 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.
- 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).
- 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. Pipis and cockles may contain toxins due to natural algal blooms. The blooms are not always visible.
- Intertidal invertebrates must not be shucked except for immediate use as bait.
- It is illegal to jag/foul hook fish other than through the mouth.

Fishing safely

Fishing is fun, but remember to take care and exercise caution. Rock fishing can be particularly dangerous due to the unpredictable nature of the

ocean. Follow these basic safety tips at all times when rock fishing:

- Always wear a life jacket
- Stay alert to the weather conditions
- Plan an escape route in case you are washed in
- Never turn your back on the ocean
- Wear appropriate non-slip footwear and light clothing
- Do not jump in if someone is washed in - wait for assistance
- Never fish alone

For more information go to www.safefishing.com.au

Responsible fishing

- Reduce wildlife injuries by attending your lines and avoid bird feeding areas.
- 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..
- Dispose of all litter and fish waste responsibly.
- Be considerate of others and keep noise to a minimum, especially in residential areas.
- Reduce wildlife injuries by attending your lines and avoid bird feeding areas.
- Use environmentally friendly fishing tackle such as lead alternative sinkers, biodegradable line, and non-stainless hooks where possible.
- Act responsibly when you have reached your bag limit and you remain in the fishing grounds.

- Do not interfere with commercial fishing activities or commercial fishing gear.

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 check the DPI Recreational Fishing Guide or www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300 552 406.

Penalties

Penalties apply to persons who take or possess fish (including invertebrates, shells, etc.) taken in contravention of fishing closures, including aquatic reserves and intertidal protected areas.

Further information

For more information about fishing restrictions that apply to Tweed's waterways and beaches, please contact the;

Tweed Fisheries Office

20 River Terrace

TWEED HEADS NSW 2485

Phone: (07) 5523 6900

Web: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

Check for updates of this Recreational Fishing Guide at:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2023). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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