

Our commitment to Douglas Shire's fishing future

- We care for and value the fish we catch.
- We carefully handle the fish we release.
- We care for the environment that the fish depend on – the rivers, the mangroves, the seagrasses, and the reef.
- We obey the rules and encourage everyone to do the same.
- We acknowledge that there are other users of the waters that we fish. We respect their right to do so and the rules that apply to them, and ask them to respect us.



Useful Numbers

- **Emergency Services: 000**
- **Marine Animal Rescue** and **CrocWatch** – report an injured animal or crocodile sighting: **1300 130 372**
- **Port Douglas Volunteer Marine Rescue:** **07 4099 5392**

Report Illegal Fishing

Call the 24-hour Fishwatch hotline, **1800 017 116**, to report suspected illegal fishing directly to *Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol*.

Caring for our environment

- **Do not litter and please remove ALL rubbish**, even if it is not yours – do the right thing. Please look after this special place as our precious marine animals, especially sea turtles and whales, may ingest plastic.
- **Do not dump fish frames and old bait** at boat ramps, jetties and popular land-based fishing areas. These will attract crocodiles and endanger lives.
- **Reduce the amount of fishing litter** ending up in our waterways by looking after your tackle.



This brochure is for recreational fishers who fish within the marine and fresh waters of the Douglas Shire. It is a guide only and does not include all restrictions and rule changes. Keep up-to-date at *Fishing for the Future in Douglas*, by scanning the QR code:



We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and Owners, the Eastern Kuku Yalanji and Yirganydji Peoples, of the land and sea country that encompass the Douglas Shire region.



Queensland
Government

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Australian Government



This brochure was funded by the Queensland Government
Community Fishing Grants Program, 2022

Fishing in the Douglas Shire

Reel Responsibly

CELEBRATING OUR
SUSTAINABLE FISHING FUTURE

FISHING FOR THE FUTURE



Douglas Shire
Working Group

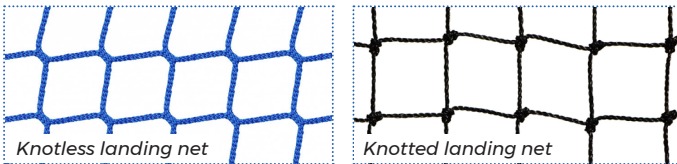
The Douglas Shire is home to an abundant and resilient fishery, cared for by the community.

Caring for our fish

- Use the right hooks – use circle or barbless hooks:



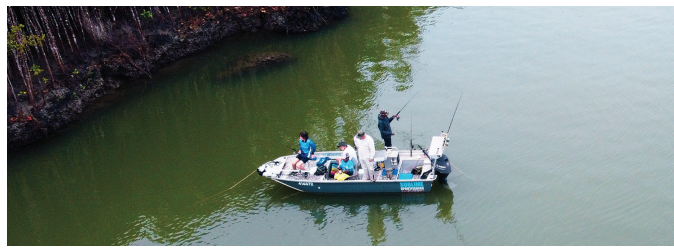
- Use the right net – use a knotless landing net, never a knotted landing net:



- Always handle fish with care** – gently release undersized, protected or unwanted fish.
- Support fish when dehooking** – take care not to damage the fish when removing the hook. Be gentle. Cut the line close to the fish's mouth in a deeply hooked fish. Use long-nosed pliers to ease the hook out if the fish is hooked in the lip.
- Keep fish off hot floors and boat decks** – use a wet rag or a wet towel.
- For photos, never hold a fish by the gills or jaw** – support the fish from underneath with wet hands or a wet cloth, as shown.



- Kill fish quickly and humanely** – the *Iki-jime* is a humane method to kill your catch:
- If you keep your catch, keep it fresh with plenty of ice.



Recreational fishing rules

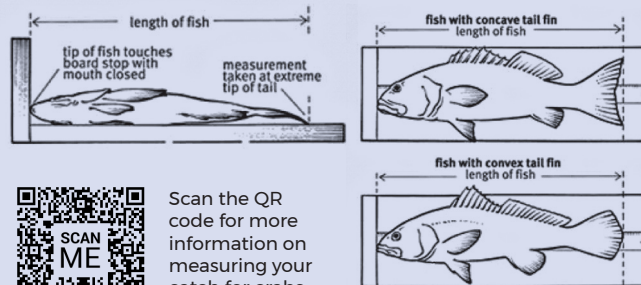
Fishing is a popular outdoor activity in the Douglas Shire. To ensure the sustainability of our fishery, the Queensland Government has implemented rules. By adhering to these rules and practicing responsible fishing, fishers can ensure there will be an abundance of fish today, tomorrow and for generations to follow.

You can check the latest fishing rules any time using the free QLD Fishing 2.0 app.

Size and possession limits apply to recreational fishers in Queensland for various species, as well as fish closures which apply to barramundi, Spanish mackerel and coral reef fin fish. These rules are subject to change, scan the QR code for up-to-date details:



Measuring your catch



Graphic courtesy daf.qld.gov.au

Marine Park Zoning

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park* is zoned to help manage and protect the marine park that users enjoy. Zones define what activities can occur in which locations. Scan the QR code for up-to-date zoning details and to download the “eye on the reef” app:



Planning your fishing trip and safety on the water

- Stay informed – know the rules and read the signs at your fishing location. Download the QLD Fishing 2.0 app.
- Check current weather conditions and marine warnings at the Bureau of Meteorology website.
- Make sure someone knows your plans.
- Always fish with a friend.
- Take safety gear and keep it close by.
- Take care when fishing from a jetty, fishing platforms, riverbanks and beaches.
- Check for trip hazards and identify an exit point in case you fall in the water.
- Don't drink alcohol.
- Always be croc wise.

Important Information

- Crocodiles:**
 - Be croc wise. Never enter water where there might be a crocodile.
 - Stay at least 5 metres from the water's edge.
 - If a crocodile approaches, it is best to leave the area immediately.
- Marine stingers:**
 - Marine stingers are around in the warmer months of September to May.
 - Do not handle marine stingers.
 - If you catch a stinger in a scoop or cast net, release it into the water without touching it and thoroughly clean your net.
- Sharks:**
 - If a shark is caught, it is best to avoid handling it and cut the line to stay safe.
 - Be Shark Smart.
 - See safety tips at SharkSmart: daf.qld.gov.au
 - Find more shark tips by scanning the QR code.

