

Coral fishery

Commercial fishing rules in Queensland

From **1 September 2021**, the coral fishery will be managed under the *Queensland coral fishery harvest strategy*.

General

- The coral fishery is managed at a species level and risks to stocks identified through ecological risk assessments.
- *Scolymia* species have been identified as a Tier 1 species (moderate or high level of ecological risk) in the harvest strategy, while the following species have been identified as Tier 2 species (acceptable level of ecological risk):
 - *Acanthastrea lordhowensis*
 - *Acropora echinata*
 - *Acropora microclados*
 - other *Acropora* species
 - *Blastomussa wellsi*
 - *Catalaphyllia jardinei*
 - *Cynarina lacrymalis*
 - *Duncanopsammia axifuga*
 - *Euphyllia ancora*
 - *Euphyllia divisa*
 - *Euphyllia glabrescens*
 - *Euphyllia parancora*
 - *Trachyphyllia geoffroyi*
 - anemone (*Entacmea*)
 - anemone (*Magnifica*)
 - anemone (*Quadricolor*).
- Speciality and other coral categories are managed under a total allowable commercial catch (TACC) allocated as individual transferable quota units. Catch limits have now been declared via quota declaration, rather than managed via licence conditions. This is an administrative change only and will not affect authority holders' quota holding or the total allowable catch for the fishery.
- Measurements of vessels used in commercial fisheries are determined by national marine safety requirements under the National Standard for Commercial Vessels – for more information, visit amsa.gov.au.
- Other Australian Government requirements include displaying unique identifying numbers, safety management plans, safety equipment and licensing – for more information, visit amsa.gov.au.

Equipment

- Fish may be taken by hand using underwater breathing apparatus and non-mechanical hand-held implements.
- Fishers must comply with marine park and go-slow zoning – for more information, visit gbrmpa.qld.gov.au and/or des.qld.gov.au.

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Fishing operation

- Fishers can use a tender boat in collaboration with a primary boat to harvest coral.
- A1 and D (coral) symbols can be fished together on the same fishing trip provided that both symbols are on the same primary commercial fishing licence. However, only three divers can take coral at any one time.
- Transshipment between primary vessels under the same authority name can occur provided the transshipment of catch is reported correctly.
- Coral cannot be trimmed at sea and must be landed as harvested.
- An approved vessel tracking unit must be:
 - installed as per the department's *Vessel tracking installation and maintenance standard*
 - installed on vessel/s and confirmed working prior to commencement of a fishing trip.
- The licence holder must have a contract with an approved supplier for collection of vessel tracking positional data.
- The licence holder is responsible for keeping vessel tracking and contact details up to date on FishNet Secure.
- There is also no longer a distance requirement for primary and tender vessels operating in this fishery. However, Australian Maritime Safety Authority safety rules apply – for more information, visit amsa.gov.au.
- Fishers must comply with marine park, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and go-slow zoning.

Post-harvest requirements

Trimming or fragging of corals is not considered aquaculture, so a development approval is not required for sites where trimming and fragging occurs before resale.

Licensing

- Fishers must have a primary commercial fishing licence, a D symbol and quota to operate in the fishery.
- A unique boat mark must be registered on the primary commercial fishing licence if a boat is being used.
- The person in charge of an operation must hold a commercial fisher licence to operate under a primary commercial fishing licence. Licence holders are no longer required to list nominees on their licence.
- Fishers can complete a range of transactions online using FishNet Secure (e.g. quota temporary transfers, registering vessel tracking units to primary commercial fishing licences, accessing quota activity statements and registering change of personal contact details).
- Fees for licences and quota are invoiced in advance (i.e. before the fishing season starts or before the licence can be used).
- The licence holder is responsible for keeping contact details up to date on FishNet Secure.

Reporting requirements

In summary, fishers must:

- report trip/catch notices for all catch to which a TACC applies via approved means (e.g. Automated Integrated Voice Response system)
- complete catch and effort logbooks and the threatened, endangered and protected animal logbook
- keep sale dockets for all wholesale sales for 5 years, including to businesses involved in the processing and storage of fisheries resources.

For more information on reporting requirements, visit fisheries.qld.gov.au.