

## Size and bag limits

# Tidal waters (updated 1 August 2012)

The following legal limits apply to fish taken in Queensland waters. A bag limit (take and possession limit) is the total number of fish that one person can legally take and keep at any one time.

These size and bag limits are part of the *Queensland Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide*. To get your copy, call 13 25 23, ask at your local bait and tackle shop or download a copy at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

Fishers should consult the *Fisheries Regulation 2008* or [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) for updates.

Coral reef finfish*		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
<b>All cods and groupers</b>	38 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of all cod and grouper species
<b>Cod and grouper exceptions</b>		
Camouflage grouper	50 min 70 max	Combined limit of 5 in total of all cod and grouper species
Flowery rockcod	50 min 70 max	
Greasy rockcod	38 min 100 max	
Maori rockcod	45 min	
Barramundi cod		<b>No take</b>
Potato rockcod		<b>No take</b>
Queensland grouper		<b>No take</b>
<b>All coral trout</b>	38 min	Combined limit of 7 in total of all trout species
<b>Coral trout exceptions</b>		
Blue spotted coral trout (Chinese footballer)	50 min 80 max	Combined limit of 7 in total of all trout species
<b>All emperors</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>Emperor exceptions (see also Grass emperor (sweetlip) in Other tidal species)</b>		
Redthroat emperor (sweetlip emperor)	38 min	8
Long nose emperor	38 min	5
Spangled emperor	45 min	5
<b>All fusiliers</b>	No limit	No limit
<b>All parrotfishes</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>All surgeonfishes</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>All sweetlips</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>All tropical snappers and sea perches</b>	25 min	5 per species
<b>Tropical snappers and sea perch exceptions</b>		
Rosy snapper (jobfish) and lavender snapper (jobfish)	38 min	Combined limit of 8 in total of both species
Chinaman fish		<b>No take</b>
Crimson snapper (small mouth nannygai) and saddletail snapper (large mouth nannygai)	40 min	Combined limit of 9 in total of both species
Flame snapper	38 min	5
Goldband snapper	38 min	5
Hussar	25 min	10
Green jobfish	38 min	5
Paddletail		<b>No take</b>
Red bass		<b>No take</b>
Red emperor	55 min	5
Ruby snapper	38 min	5
Smalltooth jobfish	38 min	5
Miscellaneous jobfish	38 min	5 per species

\* Coral reef finfish closures apply. Please refer to the *Queensland Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide* for more information.

In addition to individual bag limits for each coral reef finfish species listed, they all have a combined bag limit of 20. Please refer to the *Queensland Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide* for more information. For a complete list of coral reef species, download the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

Coral reef finfish*		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
All wrasse	25 min	5 per species
<b>Wrasse exceptions</b>		
Humphead Maori		<b>No take</b>
Tuskfish (all species)	30 min	Combined limit of 6 in total of all tuskfish species

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Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Amberjack <sup>~</sup>	50 min	Combined limit of 2 in total of amberjack and samsonfish
Australian bass <sup>†</sup>	30 min	2
<b>Barramundi<sup>†</sup></b>		
East coast	58 min 120 max	5
Gulf of Carpentaria	58 min 120 max	5
<b>Bêche de mer (sea cucumber)</b>	No limit	5
<b>Bêche de mer exception</b>		
Black teatfish		No take
<b>Bream</b>		
Pikey	25 min	Combined limit of 30 in total of pikey and yellowfin bream, and tarwhine
Yellowfin		
<b>Blacklip pearl oyster</b>	9 min	No limit
<b>Cobia (black kingfish)</b>	75 min	2
<b>Cod and grouper</b>		
Blackspotted rockcod (estuary cod)	38 min 120 max	Combined limit of 5 in total of all cod and grouper species
Goldspotted rockcod (estuary cod)	38 min 120 max	
<b>Crab</b>		
Blue swimmer	11.5 min	No limit
Mud	15 min	10
Spanner <sup>†</sup>	10 min	20
Three-spot	10 min	No limit
<b>Eels</b>		
Longfin	30 min	Combined limit of 10 in total of all species
Pacific shortfin (south Pacific)	30 min	
Southern shortfin	30 min	
<b>Flathead</b>		
All flathead (except dusky flathead)	30 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of all species (except dusky flathead)
Dusky flathead (mud flathead)	40 min 75 max	5
<b>Garfish</b>	No limit	50
<b>Giant queenfish<sup>~</sup></b>		
East coast	50 min	5
Gulf of Carpentaria	50 min	5
<b>Golden snapper (fingermark)</b>		
East coast	35 min	5
Gulf of Carpentaria	35 min	5

<sup>†</sup> A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to the *Queensland Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide* for more information.

<sup>~</sup> These species belong to the family *Carangidae*, which includes (but is not limited to) trevally, queenfish, yellowtail kingfish, scad and swallowtail dart.

A combined bag limit of 20 applies to all members of this family. Individual bag limits also apply to amberjack, giant queenfish, highfin amberjack, samsonfish, swallowtail dart and yellowtail kingfish.

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Goldlip pearl oyster	13 min 23 max	No limit
Grass emperor (sweetlip)	30 min	10
<b>Javelin</b>		
Barred (spotted grunter) East coast	40 min	10
Barred (spotted grunter) Gulf of Carpentaria**	40 min (whole or partly processed length) 26 min (fillet length)	10 whole fish or 20 fillets
Silver (small spotted grunter)	30 min	10
<b>Jewfish</b>		
Black (east coast)	75 min	2
Black (Gulf of Carpentaria)	60 min	2
Scaly jewfish (jewel fish)	45 min	No limit
<b>Luderick</b>	30 min	10
<b>Mackerel</b>		
Grey	60 min	5
Spanish	75 min	3
School	50 min	10
Shark	50 min	10
Spotted	60 min	5
<b>Mahi mahi (dolphin fish)</b>	50 min	5
<b>Mangrove jack</b>	35 min	5
<b>Mullet</b>		
Diamondscale	30 min	20
Sea	30 min	20
<b>Bivalve molluscs and gastropods (including pipis, mud whelks and cockles)—excluding oysters</b>	No limit	50
<b>Mulloway</b>	75 min	2
<b>Pearl perch</b>	35 min	5
<b>Prawns</b>	No limit	10 litres <sup>†</sup>
<b>Samsonfish<sup>~</sup></b>	50 min	Combined limit of 2 in total of amberjack and samsonfish
<b>Sharks and rays</b>	1.5 m max	1
<b>Sharks and rays <i>exceptions</i></b>		
Great white sharks Grey nurse sharks Sawfish Speartooth sharks		<b>No take</b>
<b>Snapper</b>	35 min	4 with no more than 1 over 70 cm
<b>Swallowtail dart<sup>~</sup></b>	30 min	30
<b>Tailor</b>	35 min	20
<b>Tarwhine</b>	25 min	Combined limit of 30 in total of pikey and yellowfin bream, and tarwhine
<b>Teraglin</b>	38 min	5
<b>Threadfin (salmon)</b>		
King	60 min	5
Blue (east coast)	40 min	10

<sup>†</sup> A person must not possess prawns with the heads or any other part removed, unless the removal was to process the prawns for immediate consumption.

\*\*Fishers may fillet this species at sea provided the skin is left on the fillet.

<sup>~</sup> These species belong to the family *Carangidae*, which includes (but is not limited to) trevally, queenfish, yellowtail kingfish, scad and swallowtail dart.

A combined bag limit of 20 applies to all members of this family. Individual bag limits also apply to amberjack, giant queenfish, highfin amberjack, samsonfish, swallowtail dart and yellowtail kingfish.

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Blue (Gulf of Carpentaria)	40 min	20
Trevally (family <i>Carangidae</i> ) <sup>~</sup>	No limit	20
Trochus	8 min 12.5 max	50
Tropical rock lobster <sup>†#</sup>	No limit	Above 14° south latitude and in Gulf waters: combined limit of 3 per person/6 per boat in total of all species Below 14° south latitude: combined limit of 5 per person/10 per boat in total of all species
<b>Tropical rock lobster exceptions</b>		
Painted crayfish <sup>†#</sup> ( <i>Panulirus ornatus</i> )	11.5 tail min 9 carapace min	As above
Wahoo	75 min	2
<b>Whiting</b>		
Summer/sand, goldline and northern whiting	23 min	Combined limit of 30 in total of these whiting species
Trumpeter (winter whiting)	No limit	50
Wolf herring	No limit	10
<b>Worms (including part thereof)</b>		
Beach	No limit	30
Blood (all worms of the family <i>Eunicidae</i> )	No limit	50
Yellowtail kingfish <sup>~</sup>	60 min	2

<sup>†</sup> A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to *Recreational fishing rules for Queensland* for more information.

<sup>#</sup> Recreational fishers must not possess live tropical rock lobsters.

<sup>~</sup> These species belong to the family *Carangidae*, which includes (but is not limited to) trevally, queenfish, yellowtail kingfish, scad and swallowtail dart.

A combined bag limit of 20 applies to all members of this family. Individual bag limits also apply to amberjack, giant queenfish, highfin amberjack, samsonfish, swallowtail dart and yellowtail kingfish.

No-take finfish species			
Barramundi cod	Chinaman fish	Humphead Maori wrasse	Red bass
Paddletail	Potato rockcod	Queensland grouper	

Other no-take species include:	
Female mud and blue swimmer crabs	Egg-bearing spanner crabs, three-spot crabs, slipper lobsters and tropical rock lobsters
Tropical rock lobsters with tar spots attached (tar spots are sperm packets)	All sawfish
Great white sharks, grey nurse sharks and spartooth sharks	Clams in the family Tridacnidae, helmet shells and trumpet shells
Black teatfish	

**Note:** Whales, porpoises, dugongs, turtles and dolphins are all protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.