

Line fishery (rocky reef)

Commercial fishing rules in Queensland

From **1 September 2021**, the following commercial fishing rules will apply to the Queensland rocky reef line fishery.

General

- The rocky reef line fishery operates on the Queensland east coast and predominantly targets snapper (*Pagrus auratus*).
- Other key secondary species include pearl perch (*Glaucosoma scapulare*), teraglin (*Atractoscion aequidens*) and cobia (*Rachycentron canadus*). By-product species in the fishery include, mahi mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*), yellowtail kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*), amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*), Samsonfish (*Seriola hippos*), sea sweep (*Scorpius aequipinnis*), and grass sweetlip (*Lethrinus laticaudis*). Most fish stocks are shared with New South Wales.
- To operate in the fishery, a primary commercial fishing licence must have one of the following line fishery symbols:
 - L1 – line fishery (other than Great Barrier Reef region)
 - L2 or L3 – line fishery (reef)
 - L8 – line fishery (multiple hook – east coast).
- The commercial fishery area is defined by the relevant line symbol on the licence (see Figure 1 or refer to the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019). However, a large proportion of rocky reef fish are taken in waters south of Baffle Creek (24.5°S) by commercial operators fishing under the L1 fishery symbol.
- Snapper and pearl perch are managed under a competitive total allowable commercial catch (TACC) quota system. No catch limits are in place for other species in this fishery; however, all species are monitored for changes in harvest and catch rates.
- The TACC can be found in the Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019 and is currently 42 tonnes for snapper and 15 tonnes for pearl perch.
- The rocky reef line fishery quota season runs from 1 July to 30 June each year.

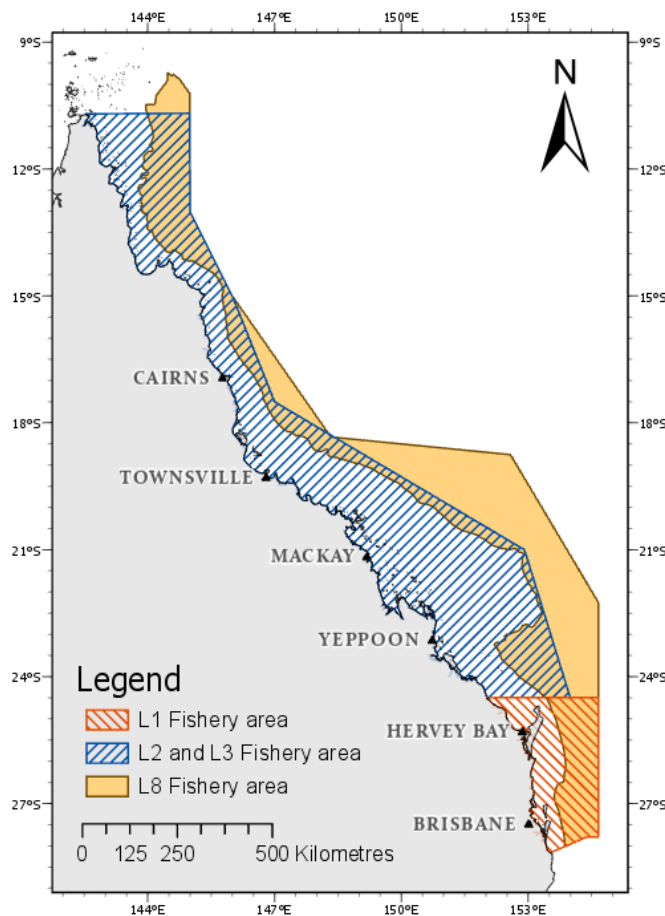


Figure 1: Rocky reef line fishery area

Closures

- A four-week annual spawning closure applies to snapper and pearl perch from 15 July to 15 August.

Equipment

- Rocky reef fish may only be taken by using fishing lines, with additional restrictions depending on the line symbol being used:
 - **L1, L2 or L3** – maximum of 3 fishing lines at the same time and a total of 6 hooks or lures attached, per person
 - **L8** – a drop line or bottom set line can be used, but not at the same time
 - a person must be within 100 m of a line or group of lines while they are in use
 - maximum of 6 drop lines with a float and up to 50 hooks attached to each line
 - maximum of 3 bottom set lines and 300 hooks with a float attached to the end of each line
 - floats must be solid, light-coloured and no less than 30 cm in any dimension.
- Primary vessels in the reef line fishery can be up to 25 m long and service up to 7 tender vessels, except L3 which may have 1 tender. Each tender may be up to 10 m long.
- 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.

Fishing operation

- The legal size limits and form requirements for reef fish species can be found in Schedule 2 of the Fisheries Declaration 2019.
- Commercial fishers must not possess fish in a form other than whole.
- If a primary commercial fishing licence has more than one fishery symbol on it, a person acting under the licence is not authorised to take fish in more than one commercial fishery at the same time, unless that person is:
 - taking fish under an SM symbol
 - taking regulated coral reef fish under an RQ symbol
 - taking fin fish (other than Spanish mackerel and regulated coral reef fin fish) under an L1, L2, L3 or L8 symbol
 - taking shark under an S symbol.
- 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.
- 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 and go-slow zoning – for more information, visit gbrmpa.qld.gov.au and/or des.qld.gov.au.

Licensing

- All commercial fisheries now operate under a single primary commercial fishing licence. A unique boat mark must be registered on the 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.
- A range of transactions can be completed online using FishNet Secure (e.g. registering vessel tracking units to primary commercial fishing licences, accessing quota activity statements and registering change of personal contact details).
- The licence holder is responsible for keeping vessel tracking and contact details up to date on FishNet Secure.
- Fees for licences are invoiced in advance (i.e. before the fishing season starts or before the licence can be used).
- You may require accreditation with Safe Food in order to legally sell or supply your product in Queensland – for more information, visit safefood.qld.gov.au.

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
- complete catch disposal records for the disposal of all catch to which a TACC applies
- 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.