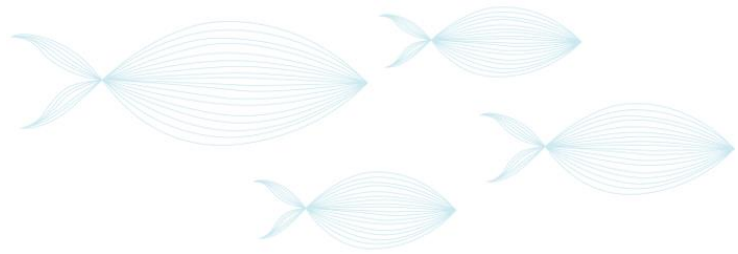


# Changes to fishing rules in Queensland

## September 2019

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## Fish for the future

Queensland's new fisheries regulations start 1 September 2019. A number of changes have been made to recreational, charter and commercial fishing rules to ensure we have fish for the future.

**Please note:** Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol will not immediately issue fines for non-compliance with these changes. Over the next few months the focus will be on education and awareness. Our website, recreational fishing app and recreational fishing guides are being updated to reflect the new rules.

## Changes to fishing rules for all sectors

### Size limits

- Pearl perch minimum legal size limit increased from 35 cm to 38 cm
- King threadfin minimum legal size limit increased from 60 cm to 65 cm on the east coast
- Single minimum legal size limit of 60 cm for Mary River cod and Murray cod, and Murray cod maximum size limit of 110 cm removed
- Clarified in the regulations that the size limit for giant queenfish in the Gulf of Carpentaria applies to all fishers

### Closures

- New seasonal closure for snapper and pearl perch – 15 July to 15 August each year
- New closed waters that prohibit take of black jewfish within 200 m from the Hay Point and Dalrymple Bay coal terminals
- Standardised start and end times for the majority of fishery closures – midnight to midnight

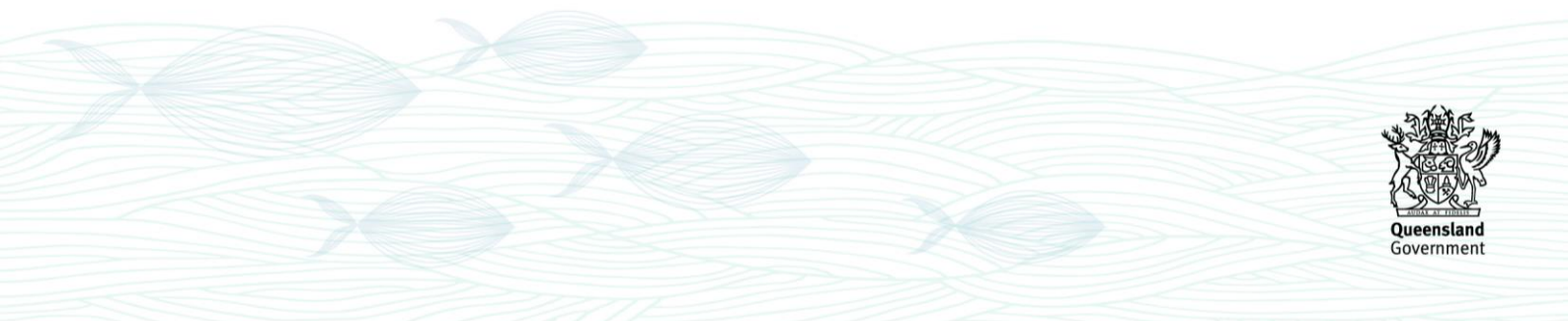
### Other

- Mulloway and scaly jewfish must be kept whole while on board a vessel
- Black jewfish will become a no-take species for all sectors when the total allowable commercial catch is reached

## Changes to recreational fishing rules

### Possession limits

- Mud crab possession limit reduced from 10 to 7
- Boat limits for nine priority black-market species will be two times the possession limit – mud crab, prawns, snapper, black jewfish, barramundi, shark, Spanish mackerel, sea cucumber and tropical rock lobster (these boat limits do not apply to charter fishers)
- Pearl perch possession limit reduced from 5 to 4
- Tropical rocklobster possession limit of 5 applies in all Queensland waters
- Blue swimmer crab possession limit reduced from no limit to 20
- Mollusc and gastropod (including pipis) possession limit reduced from 50 to 30



- General possession limit of 20 introduced for all species without a prescribed possession limit (excluding some bait species)
- No possession limit for the following bait species – southern herring, common hardyhead, Australian sardine, Australian anchovy, silver biddy, saltwater yabby, soldier crab and non-regulated worms (e.g. mangrove worms)
- Possession limit of 50 introduced for certain bait species – mullet (excluding diamondscale, sea and freshwater mullet), cuttlefish or squid (excluding tiger squid), smooth-clawed rock crab and yellowtail pike
- Hammerhead shark and white teatfish are now no-take species
- Oyster possession limit clarified in the regulations – a person must eat oysters (excluding pearl oysters) on the spot where they are taken (pearl oysters can be taken away from the site but they must be the correct size)
- Australian bass possession limit in stocked impoundments increased from 2 to 5
- Clarified in the regulations that a possession limit of 50 applies to the Cribb Island worm (formerly known as blood worm)
- Mary River cod possession limit of 1 in stocked impoundments expanded to include Wyaralong Dam, Ewen Maddock Dam, Caboolture River Weir, Robina Lakes, Lake Kurwongbah, Enoggera Reservoir and Lake Manchester

## Closures

- Tinana Creek and its tributaries upstream of Teddington Weir wall closed to all forms of fishing
- Murray cod seasonal closure changed to 1 August to 31 October each year
- New waters closed to line fishing (or possession of a fishing line) from 1 August to 31 October in the following locations:
  - Coomera River (upstream of defined boundary)
  - Albert River (upstream of defined boundary)
  - Running Creek
  - Christmas Creek
  - Stanley River (upstream of defined boundary)
  - Mary River (upstream of defined boundary, excluding Baroon Pocket Dam, Borumba Dam and Lake MacDonald)

## Gear requirements

- Recreational crab apparatus and freshwater traps must now be marked with the surname and address of the person **using** the apparatus

## Changes to charter fishing rules

- Offshore charter fishers now permitted to use trot lines to take spanner crabs
- Snapper and pearl perch extended in-possession limit removed

## Changes to commercial fishing rules

### Trawl

- New management regions established in the East Coast Trawl Fishery (replacing the existing Northern and Southern Regional Waters):
  - Southern Inshore Trawl Region
  - Southern Offshore Trawl Region
  - Central Trawl Region
  - Northern Trawl Region
- Extended winter no-take of scallop by a month to 1 May and 30 November in the Southern Inshore and Southern Offshore trawl regions
- Introduced a scallop effort cap in the Southern Inshore Trawl Region of 118 635 units (if effort reaches the cap between 1 December and 24 April scallop will become no take)

- Introduced strip closures to protect small prawns in the Southern Offshore Trawl Region between 2 November and 1 March in the following areas:
  - Stradbroke Island
  - Caloundra to Moreton Island
  - Fraser Island

### Spanner crab

- Spanner crab dilly maximum limit increased from 45 to 75 if 2 crew are on board (all boats may carry up to 10 extra dillies on board to replace lost/damaged dillies during a trip)
- Spanner crab fishery quota year adjusted to run from 1 July to 30 June each year
- Number of C2 fishery symbols limited to those currently in existence (consistent with limited entry in all other Queensland fisheries)

### Snapper and pearl perch

- Total allowable commercial catch limits established for snapper (42 tonnes) and pearl perch (15 tonnes)
- Take of snapper using commercial net gear is now prohibited
- Snapper and pearl perch must be kept whole while on board a vessel

### Vessel tracking

- Vessel tracking requirements amended to apply to all commercial fishing vessels (not including charter) from 1 January 2020 – fisheries that require vessel tracking from 1 January 2020 are D, A1, A2, R, B1, J1, M2, T5, T6, T7, T8 and T9

### Licensing

- Limited entry nature of commercial fisheries clarified in the regulations
- Payment of commercial fishing fees amended from 'in arrears' to 'in advance' – no changes to fees as part of this administrative change (it will be just like paying your car or boat registration)
- Clarified the purposes for which a General Fisheries Permit may be issued in the regulations.
- A tender vessel must be nominated as the primary vessel against a commercial fishing boat licence before the vessel can be used (i.e. tender operating solely) in any fishery
- All commercial fishers must display details of their commercial fishing boat licence or commercial harvest fishing licence on a sign adjacent to their land-based commercial fishing operation
- A person applying for a commercial fisher licence must be at least 18 years of age and possess knowledge of fisheries legislation to the extent it applies to commercial fisheries

### Other

- Clarified in the regulations that commercial fishers digging for bloodworms must put any disturbed or removed seagrass in an upright position back in the same location

**Please note:** As part of the fisheries reform process, further regulatory changes are expected to be considered before the end of the year.

## More information

For more information on the changes, visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) or call **13 25 23**.