

Aquarium fish fishery

Commercial fishing rules in Queensland

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

General

- The aquarium fishery is managed at a species level and risks to stocks identified through ecological risk assessments.
- The following species have been identified as Tier 1 species (moderate or high level of ecological risk, or no-take recreational species) in the harvest strategy:
 - scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*)
 - wideband anemonefish (*Amphiprion latezonatus*)
 - great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokaran*)
 - blackback anemonefish (*Amphiprion melanopus*)
 - smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*)
 - ocellaris clownfish (*Amphiprion ocellaris*)
 - wedgefish (family Rhinidae)
 - orange clownfish (*Amphiprion percula*)
 - giant guitarfish (family Glaucostegidae)
 - harlequin tuskfish (*Choerodon fasciatus*)
 - shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)
 - pineapplefish (*Cleidopus gloriamaris*)
 - longfin mako shark (*Isurus paucus*)
 - blue tang (*Paracanthurus hepatus*)
 - barramundi cod (*Chromileptes altivelis*)
 - scribbled angelfish (*Chaetodontoplus duboulayi*)
 - humphead Maori wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus undulates*)
 - Queensland yellowtail angelfish (*Chaetodontoplus meredithi*)
 - paddletail (*Lutjanus gibbus*)
 - Queensland groper (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*)
 - potato rockcod (*Epinephelus tukula*)
 - sawfish (family Pristidae).
- All other species caught within the fishery (all non-Tier 1 species) have been identified as Tier 2 species (acceptable level of ecological risk) in the harvest strategy.
- No catch limits are in place for this fishery; however, all species will be monitored and harvest strategy decision rules applied depending on changes in catch rates.
- 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.



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Equipment

Fish may be taken by hand using underwater breathing apparatus. A herding device, fishing lines (using a single barbless hook only), cast net, scoop net or small mesh net may also be used.

Fishing operation

- Fishers can use a tender boat in collaboration with a primary boat to harvest fish.
- 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 fish at any one time.
- Fish taken under the licence can only be sold if used for display as aquarium fish or broodstock. Fish must not be taken for human consumption.
- 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 requirements.

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.
- Fishers must have a primary commercial fishing licence and an A1 symbol to operate in the fishery.
- 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. 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 notices applicable to the aquarium fish fishery 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.