

Size and bag limits

Tidal waters (updated 1 February 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 *Recreational fishing rules for Queensland*. 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

Fishers should consult the *Fisheries Regulation 2008* or www.fisheries.qld.gov.au for updates.

Coral reef fin fish*		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
All cods and groupers	38 min	Combined limit of 5 in total of all cod and grouper species
Cod and grouper exceptions		
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		No take
Potato rockcod		No take
Queensland grouper		No take
All coral trout	38 min	Combined limit of 7 in total of all trout species
Coral trout exceptions		
Blue spotted coral trout (Chinese footballer)	50 min 80 max	Combined limit of 7 in total of all trout species
All emperors	25 min	5 per species
Emperor exceptions		
Redthroat emperor (sweetlip emperor)	38 min	8
Long nose emperor	38 min	5
Spangled emperor	45 min	5
All fusiliers	No limit	No limit
All parrotfishes	25 min	5 per species
All surgeonfishes	25 min	5 per species
All sweetlips	25 min	5 per species
All tropical snappers and sea perch	25 min	5 per species
Tropical snappers and sea perch exceptions		
Rosy snapper (jobfish) and lavender snapper (jobfish)	38 min	Combined limit of 8 in total of both species
Chinaman fish		No take
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		No take
Red bass		No take
Red emperor	55 min	5
Ruby snapper	38 min	5
Smalltooth jobfish	38 min	5
Miscellaneous jobfish	38 min	5 per species

* Coral reef fin fish closures apply. Please refer to *Recreational fishing rules for Queensland* for more information.



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

* Coral reef fin fish closures apply. Please refer to *Recreational fishing rules for Queensland* for more information.

In addition to individual bag limits for each coral reef fin fish species listed, they all have a combined bag limit of 20. Please refer to *Recreational fishing rules for Queensland* for more information. For a complete list of coral reef species, download the Fisheries Regulation 2008 at www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

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

[†] A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to *Recreational fishing rules for Queensland* for more information.

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

[†] 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.

Other tidal species		
Species	Size limit (cm)	Bag limit
Trochus	8 min 12.5 max	50
Tropical rock lobster ^{†#}	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
Tropical rock lobster exceptions		
Painted crayfish ^{†#} (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>)	11.5 tail min 9 carapace min	As above
Wahoo	75 min	2
Whiting		
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
Worms (including part thereof)		
Beach	No limit	30
Blood (all worms of the family <i>Eunicidae</i>)	No limit	50
Yellowtail kingfish	60 min	2

[†] A closed season applies to these species. Please refer to *Recreational fishing rules for Queensland* for more information.

[#] Recreational fishers must not possess live tropical rock lobsters.

No-take 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*.