

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, ITS FUTURE AND YOU

Adjacent to Queensland's east coast, the Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's most important natural assets. It is the largest coral reef ecosystem anywhere on Earth. While coral reefs make up only seven per cent of the total area, the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area includes a stunning array of habitats such as coral cays, continental islands, mangrove forests, estuaries, seagrass beds, sponge gardens and deep oceanic waters. This diversity of life throughout the Great Barrier Reef is internationally recognised as being of outstanding universal value and has helped earn the area World Heritage status.

The Australian and Queensland Governments are committed to the long-term health of the Reef. It is well understood that the Reef's future depends on the actions we take now. Pressures such as the impacts of climate change, declining water quality and coastal development are dominant threats to the Reef's future. In the same way you insure your house or boat against future damage, the Reef's resilience or insurance policy is based on minimising the impacts of these pressures. A resilient ecosystem is one that can withstand shocks and pressures and is able to rebuild itself.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Almost the entire Great Barrier Reef ecosystem is included within two Marine Parks. The Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends over 2300km and covers 344 400km². This Marine Park is complemented by the

Queensland Government's Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park in adjacent Queensland waters. Both provide the balance between protecting the Reef's ecosystem while supporting a wide range of ecologically sustainable uses.

Zoning Plans are key pieces of legislation Reef users need to adhere to. The Australian Government's *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* and the Queensland Government's *Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004* define what activities can occur in which locations.

Due to the importance of the Reef's future, penalties apply for not complying with the Zoning Plans. This zoning map provides a guide for recreational users, to help understand zoning and avoid fines. Commercial fishers or tourist operators should consult the Zoning Plans for more detail. If you rely on the Reef for a living, you are expected to know the rules as they apply to your commercial operation.

WILL YOU NEED A PERMIT?

Most recreational visitors to the Marine Parks will not require a permit. The types of activities that require permits include: installing structures and works such as moorings, using specific craft such as a hovercraft, most commercial activities such as tourist operations and some types of research. Permits are issued jointly by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), part of the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (NPRS). For more information, contact either the GBRMPA or NPRS.

MARINE PARK ZONING EXPLAINED

Marine Park zoning is an important component in managing marine areas. It is a key strategy for improving the Great Barrier Reef's health and resilience and has been developed in a way widely considered to be best practice. A healthy and productive Reef means substantial economic benefits to local communities and the wider economy.

The Marine Parks are managed as multiple-use areas. The Zoning Plans provide for a range of ecologically sustainable recreational, commercial and research opportunities and for the continuation of traditional activities.

In the Marine Parks, all zones contribute to the conservation of the Reef. The level of protection increases from the General Use Zone up to the most restrictive, Preservation Zones. Each zone has different rules for what activities are allowed, what activities are prohibited and what activities require a permit. Zones may also place restrictions on how some activities are conducted. Rules for commercial fishing can differ to those for recreational fishing. Commercial fishers should consult the Zoning Plans for more information.

GENERAL USE (LIGHT BLUE) ZONE

Most reasonable activities can occur in Light Blue Zones while still allowing for the conservation of these areas.

HABITAT PROTECTION (DARK BLUE) ZONE

Dark Blue Zones protect and manage sensitive habitats by ensuring they are generally free from potentially damaging activities. Trawling is not permitted in Dark Blue Zones.

CONSERVATION PARK (YELLOW) ZONE

Yellow Zones allow for increased protection and conservation of areas while allowing for limited extractive use. Fishing is limited to one line and one hook (see fishing definitions).

BUFFER (OLIVE GREEN) ZONE

In Olive Green Zones, trolling for pelagic species is the only form of extractive activity allowed. Examples of pelagic species are marlin, trevally, mackerel, tuna, wahoo and cobia.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (ORANGE) ZONE

Orange Zones allow for scientific research, in areas undisturbed by extractive activities. One type of Orange Zone is shown on the maps as green with an orange outline. While public access is allowed, a permit or accreditation is required to conduct research in this type of Orange Zone. The second type of Orange Zone, shown as solid orange on the maps, is a Restricted Access Area and public access is not allowed. There are presently two of these Orange Zones, one adjacent to the Australian Institute of Marine Science near Townsville (Map 7) and the other at One Tree Island Research Station in the Capricorn Bunker Group (Map 18).

MARINE NATIONAL PARK (GREEN) ZONE

Green Zones are like National Parks on the water. They are 'no-take' areas where extractive activities such as fishing or collecting are prohibited. Anyone can enter a Green Zone for low impact activities such as boating, swimming, snorkelling and sailing. Travelling through a Green Zone with fish on board is allowed, provided the fish were caught outside the Green Zone and your fishing gear is appropriately stowed and secured (see fishing definitions).

PRESERVATION (PINK) ZONE

Pink Zones are the most restrictive type of zone and are strictly 'no-go' areas. You cannot enter a Pink Zone without a permit and all extractive activities are strictly prohibited. Research may only occur in a Pink Zone with a permit, if it cannot be undertaken elsewhere, and only if the research is relevant to, and a priority for management.

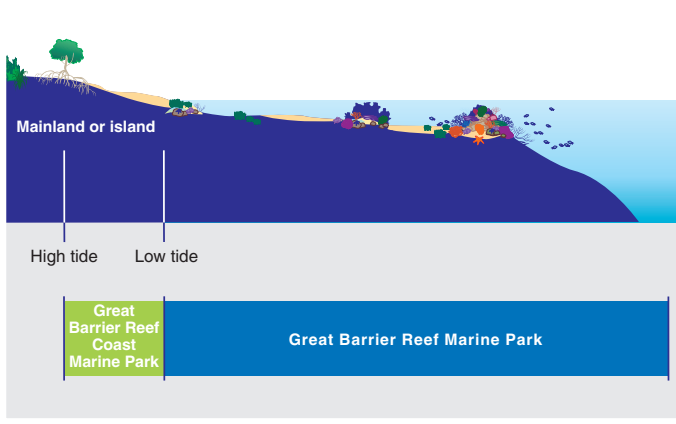
COMMONWEALTH ISLANDS ZONE (CREAM ON MAP)

There are 70 Commonwealth Islands that together form the Commonwealth Islands Zone. They are the only land component of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The zone includes intertidal areas and extends down to the low water mark on these Commonwealth Islands.

ESTUARINE CONSERVATION ZONE (BROWN ON MAP)

The Estuarine Conservation Zones provide for the protection of estuarine areas of Queensland's Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park in a natural state while allowing the public to appreciate and enjoy the relatively undisturbed nature of those areas.

MARINE PARK BOUNDARIES



The Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends seaward from the low water mark. The Queensland Government's Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park lies adjacent and generally extends landward to the high water mark or extent of the tide. Most rivers, creeks, intertidal areas and estuaries are considered to be Queensland waters, as are internal waters like Hinchinbrook Channel. For a description of where this Marine Park boundary is located and, in particular, in areas such as river and creek crossings, see Schedule 2 of the *Marine Parks (Declaration) Regulation 2006* available from www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

The Marine Parks generally adopt complementary zoning. This means that activities that can be carried out within the two Marine Parks are usually the same, however, there are some Queensland Government specific provisions that may apply in the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park.

Visit www.gbrmpa.gov.au for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park zoning rules and www.nprs.qld.gov.au for Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park zoning rules.

NAVIGATING ZONE BOUNDARIES

Zone boundaries are described with a coordinate based system that uses points of latitude and longitude (referenced to the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994, known as GDA94). On the water, zone boundaries can be identified using modern navigational aids such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and plotters. Ensure your GPS is set to either GDA94 or WGS84 as these are functionally equivalent.

A number of products are available to help you determine zone boundaries. This map marks key coordinates for Green and Pink Zones. From the GBRMPA's website, www.gbrmpa.gov.au you can download all zone boundary coordinates in a number of formats as well as generate maps with coordinates for any zone using the interactive mapping tool called Deep Blue. Some electronic navigation product manufacturers have up-to-date zoning products for use in handheld and chart plotter GPS units. See your provider for more details.

Without a GPS you can still determine your position relative to most zone boundaries. Green Zones close to the coast are mostly simple shapes and boundaries can usually be lined up with recognisable coastal features such as headlands. Zone boundaries have also been oriented north, south, east and west as much as possible for ease of navigation.

You need to be aware that the coast is a natural feature which may change due to climatic influences and other natural factors. The primary reference for zone boundaries is the legislation. Schedule 1 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* describes zone boundaries for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Schedule 1 of the *Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004* describes zone boundaries for the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. Please note that the coordinates do not change even if coastal features near them, such as sand spits or river mouths change or move over time.

RECREATIONAL FISHING GUIDE

Note: Special Management Area requirements also apply to fishing. This guide must be read in conjunction with Special Management Area information provided on these maps.

RECREATIONAL FISHING, CRABBING, BAIT NETTING AND COLLECTING

- Line fishing and trolling**
(Maximum three lines and six hooks. *Trolling must occur behind a vessel that is underway)

 - ✓ In General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue) and Estuarine Conservation Zones
 - ✓ In Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones - **Limited line fishing** (one line, one hook - see diagrams below)
 - ✓ In Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones - trolling* with maximum three lines and six hooks
 - ✓ In Buffer (Olive Green) Zone trolling* for pelagic species is the **only form of fishing allowed**. Seasonal closures also apply in some of these zones
 - ✗ **Prohibited in all other zones**

Bait netting

 - ✓ In General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue), Conservation Park (Yellow) and Estuarine Conservation Zones
 - ✗ **Prohibited in all other zones**

Crabbing (trapping)
(Maximum of four pots, dillies, collapsible traps per person)

 - ✓ In General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue), Conservation Park (Yellow) and Estuarine Conservation Zones
 - ✗ **Prohibited in all other zones**
- Limited collecting**
(The taking of shells, fish, crustaceans or other invertebrates by hand or hand-held implement)

 - ✓ Generally not more than five of any one species (except coral) can be taken in General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue), Conservation Park (Yellow) and Estuarine Conservation Zones, except when collecting bait or oysters for immediate use or consumption
 - ✗ **All collecting prohibited in all other zones**
 - ✗ **The collection of coral (alive or dead) is strictly prohibited throughout the Marine Parks**

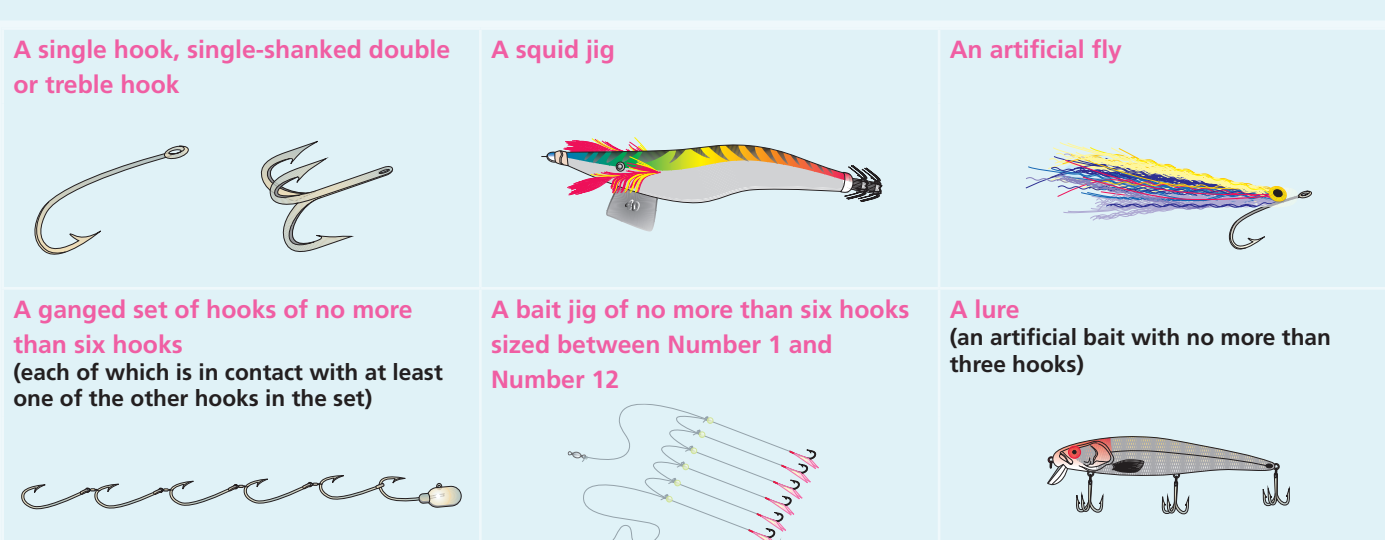
Limited spearfishing
(Limited spearfishing means fishing with a spear or speargun not using a powerhead, a firearm, a light or underwater breathing apparatus other than a snorkel)

 - ✓ In General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue) and Estuarine Conservation Zones
 - ✗ **Prohibited in Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones that are declared Public Appreciation Areas**
 - ✓ In Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones that are **not** declared Public Appreciation Areas
 - ✗ **Prohibited in all other zones**

In all zones where fishing is allowed, Queensland Fisheries legislation (e.g. size and bag limits, gear restrictions, protected species) also applies. Contact Fisheries Queensland for more detail, ph 13 25 23 or visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au, or contact local Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers.

FISHING DEFINITIONS

A maximum of three lines and six hooks per person is allowed when line fishing in the General Use (Light Blue), Habitat Protection (Dark Blue) and Estuarine Conservation Zones. In Conservation Park (Yellow) Zones all fishing other than trolling is restricted to **limited line fishing** which means using a **maximum of one hand-held line or rod per person with a maximum of one hook. One hook can be:**



Stowed and secured

Gear that is normally used for fishing must be stowed and secured when in a zone where that type of fishing is not permitted. For example when in a Marine National Park (Green) Zone all fishing apparatus must be onboard the boat and otherwise completely out of the water. If a commercial trawl vessel is navigating through a zone where trawling is prohibited, any equipment used for fishing must be stowed and secured in accordance with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*.

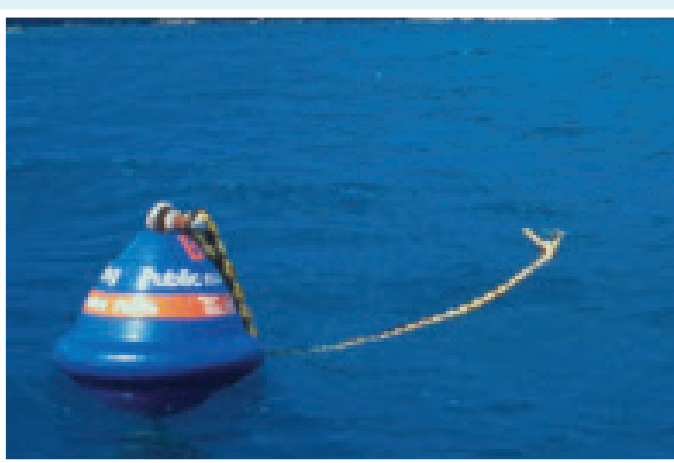
Rules for commercial fishing can differ to those for recreational fishing. Commercial fishers should consult the Zoning Plans or contact GBRMPA or QPWS for more information.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Estuarine crocodiles are known to live in coastal tidal areas covered by this map. They can occur along beaches, around islands and cays and even in offshore areas far from the coast. Pay particular attention when fishing and camping. Remember - be croc wise in croc country.



ANCHORING AND MOORING



When anchoring or mooring follow the Responsible Reef Practices to protect fragile habitats (see Responsible Reef and Island Practices section). In some high-use areas public moorings are available. These blue beehive-shaped buoys are used on a first-come first-served basis and time limits apply. Designed to suit different sized vessels, the colour-coded band and information on the buoy and the pick-up line helps you determine if it will be suitable for your vessel. Take care not to run over the pick-up line when motoring towards moorings.

Anchoring within 50m of a mooring and 200m of a pontoon is prohibited at most locations in the Cairns Planning Area.



No Anchoring Areas are in place in some high use locations to further protect fragile coral. Generally they are marked with Reef Protection Markers which are white pyramid-shaped buoys with blue Marine Park labels. Do not tie up to, or use Reef Protection Markers as a mooring. Before you head out on the water make sure you know the location of these areas. While No Anchoring Areas are generally permanent, temporary No Anchoring Areas may be located where damage such as coral bleaching has occurred. Please observe No Anchoring Areas wherever they are placed. In the Cooktown area, No Anchoring Areas are located at Anchor Bay and Watsons Bay, Lizard Island and Cod Hole, Ribbon Reefs.

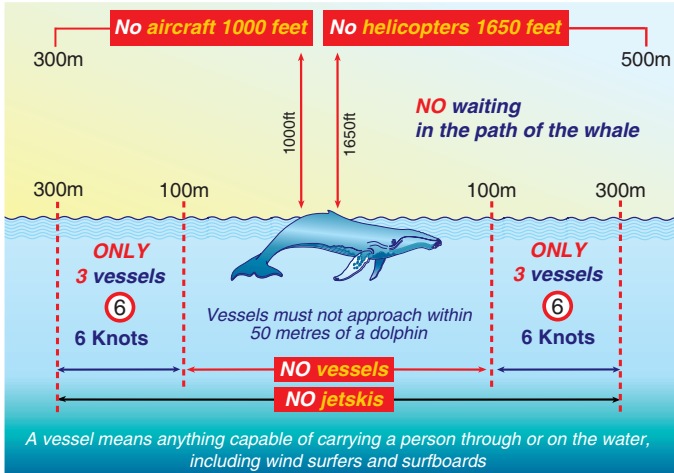
PUBLIC MOORINGS IN THE COOKTOWN AREA				
LOCATION	MOORING CLASS	NO. MOORINGS	MAXIMUM VESSEL LENGTH	WIND SPEED
Watsons Bay, Lizard Island	A (Yellow band)	1	10m - monohull 9m - multihull	24 knots
Mermaid Cove, Lizard Island	B (Green band)	2	20m - monohull 18m - multihull	34 knots
Cod Hole, Ribbon Reefs	D (Red band)	2	35m - monohull 30m - multihull	34 knots
East Hope Island	B (Green band)	1	20m - monohull 18m - multihull	34 knots
	C (Blue band)	1	25m - monohull 22m - multihull	34 knots

Locations and number of public moorings can change, please check with the GBRMPA or QPWS.

RESPONSIBLE REEF AND ISLAND PRACTICES – AROUND ANIMALS

The Great Barrier Reef is a refuge for many marine animals of conservation concern. For a number of species, the Reef is vital for their survival and recovery. You can help protect these species by following these Responsible Reef and Island Practices. To report sick, injured or stranded marine animals phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

WHALES AND DOLPHINS



Watching whales can be exciting but approach distances must be respected both for the animals' safety and your own.

- Be alert and watch out for whales and dolphins at all times, particularly May to September.
- Slow down to minimise the risk of collision and do not intentionally drive through pods.
- Let the whale or dolphin control the encounter, never try to round up or herd or try to get dolphins to bowride.
- Avoid disturbing mothers and their calves and do not approach closer than 300m to a whale calf.

ISLANDS AND COASTS IN THE WORLD HERITAGE AREA

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area includes over 900 islands, ranging from high continental islands to sandy or coral cays, some of which periodically change shape and size. About one third of these islands are national parks. QPWS manages all national park islands from highly visited inshore islands to remote coral cays of the outer reef. Most national park islands have further information online at www.nprs.qld.gov.au.

In the Cooktown area

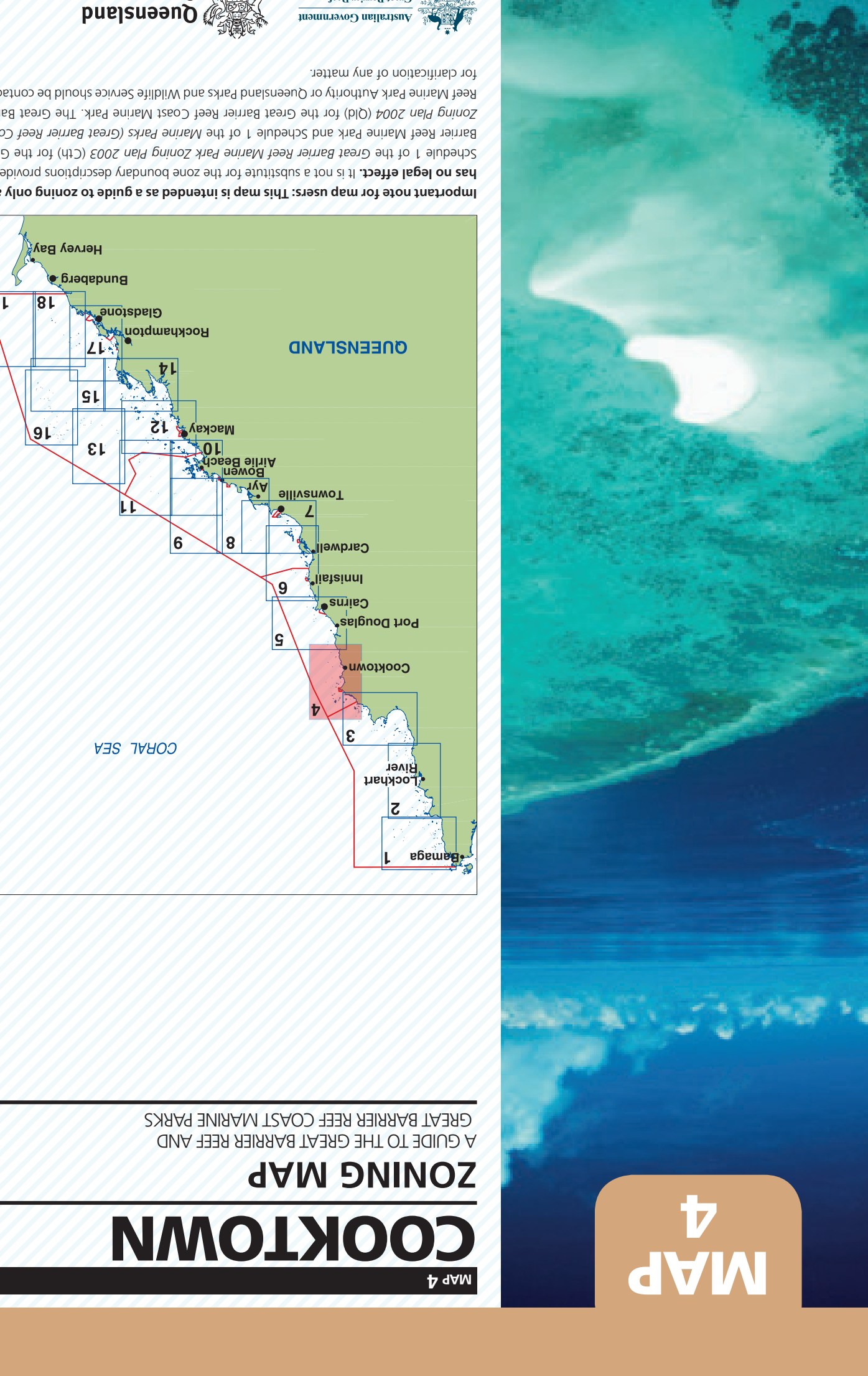
Many of the island national parks on this map are remote and have no facilities. Only Lizard Island and Hope Islands national parks have basic facilities. Day visits can occur on most island national parks but camping opportunities are limited. For all camping, a permit is required. Bush camp on Turtle Group and Three Island Group national parks. Camp at Watsons Bay (Lizard Island) or East Hope Island where some facilities, including toilets, are provided. Visit www.nprs.qld.gov.au for more information on things to do and see on island national parks.

Many islands and coastal areas are important seabird or shorebird nesting and roosting sites, or turtle rookeries. Important sites in this area include Coombe, Stapleton, Three, Two and West-Hope Islands, and Rocky, Eagle and Seabird islets. Access to all or part of these islands may be restricted from time-to-time as indicated by signs

Remember to leave your domestic animals at home. They are not permitted on Commonwealth Islands or island national parks and on adjacent beaches and tidal flats. Also, where signs are displayed, domestic animals are not permitted on beaches and tidal flats adjacent to mainland national parks.

GOING FISHING OR CAMPING ALONG THE COAST OR ON AN ISLAND? ZONING AND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT RULES APPLY:

- A marine park zone continues to the high water mark. For example, fishing, bait netting and collecting are not permitted from beaches in Marine National Park (Green) Zones.
- In Marine National Park (Green) Zones such as those adjacent to Cape Tribulation, Cedar Bay beach, Lizard Island and islands of the Turtle Group, fishing and spearfishing is not permitted.
- Spearfishing is not permitted in the Public Appreciation Area surrounding Lizard Island (CP 14-4018).
- No fishing or collecting except for trolling and bait netting for pelagic species within the Natural Resources Conservation (Mermaid Cove, Lizard Island) Special Management Area.
- Pay particular attention to the zoning at river and creek mouths as zoning extends into some rivers and creeks.
- Anchor outside the No Anchoring Areas located at Lizard Island.
- Under the Cairns Area Plan of Management, vessels more than seven metres in length cannot anchor in an area north west of Lizard Island.
- At the Cod Hole, Ribbon Reefs, anchoring is not permitted -public moorings are provided.
- Cairns Area Plan of Management provisions apply to waters around Lizard Island including motorised water sports restrictions.
- In the Endeavour River, Conservation Park (Yellow) and Estuarine Conservation (Brown) zones apply.
- Pay particular attention to the zoning at river and creek mouths as zoning extends into some rivers and creeks.



SAFEGUARDING THE REEF'S FUTURE

Today, the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem is at a crossroads and the actions we take now will determine its long-term future. There are significant challenges ahead for the Reef to remain one of the world's healthiest ecosystems. Pressures such as impacts from climate change and declining water quality will largely dominate the Reef's future health. How the Reef responds will depend on its ability to withstand and adapt to these pressures and the actions we each take.

Before heading out to the Marine Parks or on to an island, run through the following checklists and see inside for information that will help you.

FISHING	BOATING	CAMPING OR WALKING
✓ Have a zoning map and know the zones where you are going and what's allowed there	✓ Have a zoning map and know the zones where you are going and what's allowed there	✓ Leave your domestic animals at home
✓ Know any Special Management Area or Plan of Management requirements	✓ Know any Special Management Area or Plan of Management requirements	✓ Have a camping permit
✓ Know the definition of one hook	✓ Know any anchoring or mooring rules and responsible practices	✓ Observe best island practice guidelines
✓ Know which species are protected and no-take	✓ Rubbish bin onboard to take your rubbish home with you	✓ Know where seasonal closures are in place to protect vulnerable species
✓ Know Fisheries Queensland bag and size limits and any additional regulations	✓ Engine well maintained, safety gear packed and all in good working order	✓ Stay on marked tracks
✓ Bring a sturdy bag or container to take rubbish home	✓ Slow down over seagrass beds and near coral reefs	✓ Bring gas or fuel stove for cooking
		✓ Bring a sturdy bag or container to take rubbish home
		✓ Carry sufficient water

REPORTING MARINE PARK AND NATIONAL PARK OFFENCES

Breaches of legislation regulating the Marine Parks compromise the Reef's ability to build and maintain its resilience. To report illegal activity contact the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on 1800 990 177 (after hours (07) 4726 0588) or Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (including illegal activity on national parks) on 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK	OTHER CONTACTS
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Ph: 1800 990 177 Reporting oil spills: (07) 3830 4919 (quote "oil spill") Email: info@gbrmpa.gov.au Web: www.gbrmpa.gov.au	Fisheries Queensland Ph: 13 25 23 Fishwatch hotline Ph: 1800 017 116 (Report Fisheries offences) Web: www.fisheries.qld.gov.au
GREAT BARRIER REEF COAST MARINE PARK AND ISLAND NATIONAL PARKS	Australian Maritime Safety Authority Ph: 1800 641 792 (24hr) (Report oil spills, vessel collisions or groundings) Web: www.amsa.gov.au
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing Queensland Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68) Web: www.nprs.qld.gov.au Reporting marine animal strandings: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)	

RESPONSIBLE REEF AND ISLAND PRACTICES ACROSS THE WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Observing zoning rules is one way you can help to look after the Reef. By following Responsible Reef and Island practices you will also help to maintain the World Heritage Area in good shape into the future. They are common sense and apply regardless of where you visit. To learn about more ways to help the Reef and islands go to www.gbrmpa.gov.au or www.nprs.qld.gov.au.

ANCHORING AND MOORING

Dropping an anchor on coral takes seconds to damage or destroy and many years for it to rebuild.

- Use public moorings where available and observe No Anchoring Areas - they are there to protect coral.
- Where possible, anchor in sand or mud away from corals and other fragile marine environments. Suitable areas often show up as flat and smooth on your sounder.
- Use your sand anchor and reef pick appropriately to minimise damage.
- Use only as much chain as you need to hold the vessel without compromising safety.
- Keep watch to make sure the anchor is not dragging.

FISHING

- Take only the fish you need.
- Return all undersized or unwanted fish to the water carefully and quickly to minimise injury.
- Do not use pest or non-native fish for bait. Choose locally caught bait products as imported bait can increase the risk of introducing disease or pest species.

BOATING

- Always ensure your boat is well maintained. Carry all necessary safety equipment and make sure everyone on board knows where it is stowed.
- Slow down around shallow coral reefs, seagrass beds and beaches.
- If you need to dispose of sewage at sea, do so well away from reefs and islands. For information on vessel sewage regulations visit www.gbrmpa.gov.au and www.msqs.qld.gov.au
- Refuel on shore whenever possible. Use the correct gear and have spill response equipment readily available.

DIVING OR SNORKELLING

- Avoid standing on, leaning on, holding onto, or touching any part of coral - in particular watch your fins.
- Before approaching a reef, practise buoyancy control over sand patches and check your gear is secure.
- Be mindful of all marine life. Do not touch, prod or chase them and avoid making loud noises.

LITTER

- Rubbish such as discarded fishing line or other gear, plastic bags and bottles and polystyrene foam are having an increasingly devastating impact on our marine wildlife.
- Stow your rubbish onboard and collect any you find.
- Take all rubbish back to the mainland with you - there are no bins on national park islands.
- When at home, recycle what you can and ensure all other rubbish ends up in the bin.

RESPECT OTHERS

- Try to match your activities to the environment around you and be particularly conscious of the amount of noise you are making.



For more tips on how to be croc wise in croc country visit www.nprs.qld.gov.au.

WHEN PLANNING YOUR TRIP

- Before visiting islands, check their facilities, opportunities and special requirements such as seasonal closures.
- Bring your own fresh water as most islands have no permanent freshwater.
- Marine stingers (jellyfish) may be present all year, and are prevalent from October to May. Wear protective clothing. Heed safety advice at www.marinestingers.com.au.
- Protect yourself from biting insects and wear insect repellent.

Most national park islands have further information online at www.nprs.qld.gov.au.

THE SIGHTINGS NETWORK

See anything unusual, or something that makes you go wow? Join the Sightings Network and let the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority know about it. Your observations are important and provide information that can be used for management and research. Contact the Sightings Network on sightings@gbrmpa.gov.au for more information.