

Fish size and possession limits and closures

Size and possession limits for many fish and crab species found in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been put in place by the Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, through Queensland Fisheries. A number of fish



species are protected, which means they cannot be taken without appropriate permits.

Some seasonal closures have also been put in place to protect fish species during times of spawning. These closures prohibit the take of specific species during a particular time of year.

For more information on fish size and possession limits and any closures that may be in place, visit www.deedi.qld.gov.au or phone 13 25 23.

You may also obtain this information at selected bait and tackle shops or visit the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol office at Rosslyn Bay.



Community-based monitoring

CapReef is a community-based monitoring program established in 2005 to collect data on the effects of management changes on the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem.

The CapReef program focuses primarily on collecting data on fish and fishers of the Capricorn Coast region in the broader context of the Reef ecosystem.

Anyone interested in assisting, providing data or obtaining more information can contact Infofish Services toll free on 1800 077 001 or email: capreef@infofish.net

Places to visit in the Capricorn Coast region

On the mainland **Bluff Point**, is part of the Capricorn Coast National Park, and is a great place for a day visit. In the shade of the fig and ironbark trees are push-button barbecues, tables and water taps. A circuit walk offers great views.



Great Keppel Island has some of the best beaches of the Great Barrier Reef and most have excellent snorkelling not far from the shore.

Leeke's Homestead is an historical landmark in the Capricorn Coast region. It was declared a sanctuary for native birds and animals in 1924. The Homestead has been partially restored for visitors.

The lighthouse, located on Great Keppel Island, is surrounded by a number of walking tracks which vary in distance and difficulty. Walking track maps are available on the island or from the Visitor Information Centre in Yeppoon.

Most of the other islands are part of Keppel Bay Islands National Park. Camping (with permits) is available on many of these islands. The most popular islands are Humpy and North Keppel, each with picnic tables, toilets and showers. Both provide easy access to snorkeling and walking tracks.



Releasing fish to survive

Possession and size limits along with a growing trend of catch and release are increasing the numbers of fish that are being released.

Fishers need to be aware of the best practices in releasing fish so that the fish's chance of survival is maximised.



Make sure you:

- Use tackle that will land fish quickly
- Use hooks that reduce gut hooking, as this is a major cause of fish mortality
- Support the fish at all times when using a fish grip.

When fish are brought to the surface from depths of around 20m or more, look for signs of barotrauma (similar to the "bends" suffered by divers). In these cases, you may need to vent the air in the fish's swim bladder or use a release weight. There are a number of ways of venting fish and the most appropriate for a particular species should be used.

A national program funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation has been established to promote best practices in releasing fish.

More information on fish survival and best practices for different fish species is available at www.info-fish.net/releasefish

Boating and navigational hazards in the Capricorn Coast waters

As in most parts of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the waters of the Capricorn Coast region contain areas that may be hazardous to people when boating. Always take care when travelling through the waters of the Marine Park and keep to a safe boating speed.



Diving and snorkelling in the Capricorn Coast region

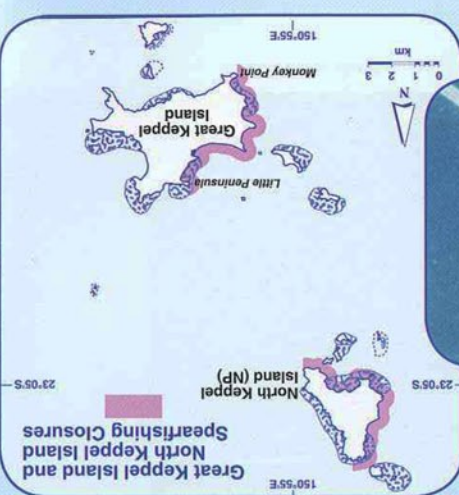
There are many great spots in the waters of the Capricorn Coast region to snorkel and dive including pockets of fringing reefs around the Keppel islands.

Further offshore is the Capricorn Bunker Group of coral reefs and shoals, which is famous for its magnificent diving, snorkelling and fishing.



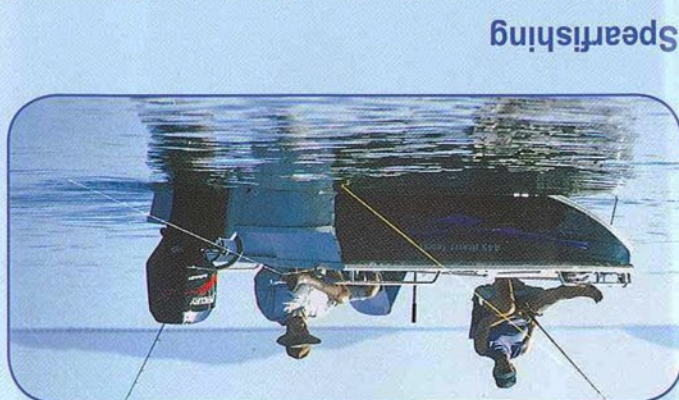
When diving or snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, please ensure you:

- Do not rest or stand on coral
- Avoid touching anything with your fins
- Secure diving equipment to your body
- Ensure high visibility
- Avoid areas or times with strong currents.



Under Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008 additional spearfishing closures are in place on the western and southern foreshores of North Keppel Island and western foreshore of Great Keppel Island (see map below). These areas extend 400m from the shore at low water. For more information, please refer to Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.

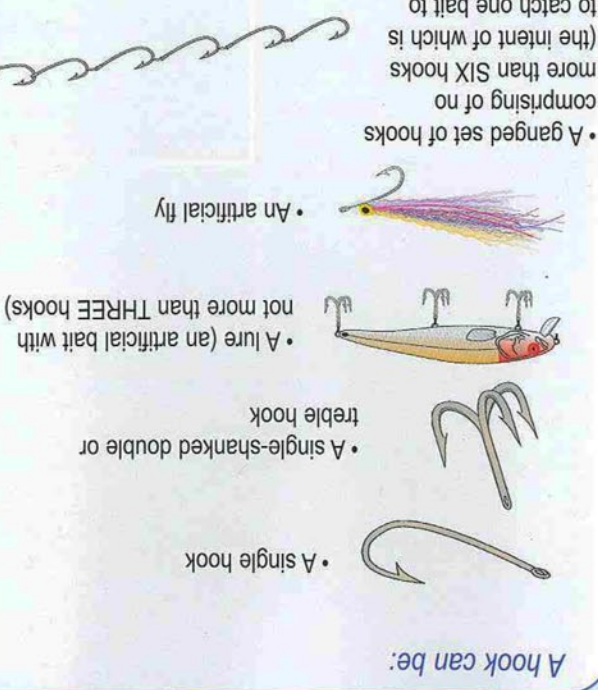
in some sensitive Yellow Zone areas that are defined as Public Appreciation Areas. These areas are identified on the map inside this brochure with pink hatching.



Within a Yellow Zone, trolling behind a vessel while it is underway with no more than three lines per person and up to six hooks (in total) per person is allowed.

Trolling

Spearfishing



Limited line fishing is allowed within Yellow Zones. This means you can fish with ONE hand-held rod OR headline per person with ONE hook attached to that line.

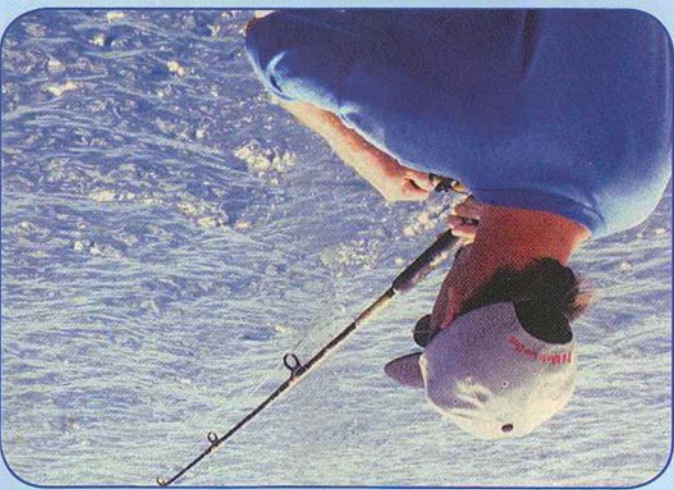
Line fishing

What can I do in a Yellow Zone?

General boating, diving and snorkelling are allowed in a Green Zone, but fishing is not allowed. Everbody can transit and anchor with care in a Green Zone. You may travel through a Green Zone with fish on your boat that has been caught from outside the Green Zone. In Green Zones, you may slow your fishing gear in board the boat or in rod holders with a hook still attached, as long as they are out of the water.

What can I do in a Green Zone?

For more detailed zoning information, obtain the Byfield (map 16) or the Gladstone (map 17) zoning maps from bait and tackle shops, navigational centres, boat chandlers or the local Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service office. Zones allow for limited line fishing.



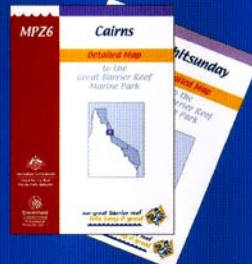
Fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Zoning in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park changed on 1 July 2004. Zoning plans define what activities can occur in which locations both to protect the marine environment and to separate potentially conflicting activities.

Planning your trip

Before visiting the waters of the Capricorn Coast region you should always remember to:

- Check the zoning map for the area you are visiting to find out what activities are allowed in this area
- Check the fish size and possession limits and take them with you if you are planning to fish
- Ensure you have the correct safety equipment on board your boat
- Check the weather forecasts by phoning 1300 360 426 or visiting www.bom.gov.au



Volunteer Coast Guards monitor Capricorn Coast waters during the day and operate from Rosslyn Bay Harbour or Keppel Sands. You can drop in trip sheets or radio trip details on VHF channels 21 or 22.

BOM Weather Forecasts announced on:
VHF channel 21 @ 07:20, 10:10, 12:10 & 17:05
VHF channel 82 @ 06:40, 11:40, & 16:40

Camping

The Capricorn Coast region is home to a diverse range of camping grounds, as shown on the map overleaf. When camping on a National Park island of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area you must obtain a camping permit from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service before visiting the island. You can book online at www.qld.gov.au/camping or by phoning 13 13 04. Remember to follow best environmental practices when visiting these areas.

Please do your bit to look after it!

- Keep sinks, drains and gutters free of chemicals and rubbish, as what goes into drains, creeks and rivers may end up in the ocean.
- Put all litter in the bin and recycle to keep waterways clear and free of litter.
- When fishing, return all undersized or unwanted fish to the water carefully and quickly.
- Anchor in sand or mud away from corals.
- Stay alert for marine animals and do not touch, handle, poke, prod or chase them.

More information

Capricorn Coast Local Marine Advisory Committee
Phone: (07) 4921 4055
Email: southern.region@gbrmpa.gov.au

Sunfish Queensland
Phone: (07) 3882 4518
Email: sunfish.judylynn@iprimus.com.au
Website: www.sunfishqld.com.au

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Phone: (07) 4750 0700
Email: info@gbrmpa.gov.au
Website: www.gbrmpa.gov.au

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Phone 1300 130 372
Website: www.derm.qld.gov.au

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
Phone: (07) 4933 6404
Website: www.deedi.qld.gov.au

Capricorn Coast Tourist Organisation
Phone (07) 4933 6404
Email: yepoon@capricorn tourism.com.au
Website: www.capricornholidays.com.au

Australian Volunteer Marine Coastguard, Yeppoon & Keppel Sands
Phone: (07) 4933 6600 or (07) 4934 4906
Emergency Numbers: (07) 4934 4942 or (07) 4935-4080
Web: www.coastguard.com.au

To report sick, injured or dead marine animals contact the Hotline on

1300 130 372

Boating and fishing in the waters of the Capricorn Coast



New No Anchoring Areas

Reef Protection Markers are white pyramid shaped buoys. They create **No Anchoring Areas** that protect reefs against anchor damage.

Reef Protection Markers have been installed at:

- Barren Island (north-western side)
- Great Keppel Island (Big Peninsula and Monkey Beach Reef)
- Humpy Island (west of campground).

Anchoring is not allowed inshore of the line of buoys. Reef Protection Markers must not be used to moor vessels.

For further information go to www.gbrmpa.gov.au/keppelbay



An initiative of the Capricorn Coast Local Marine Advisory Committee

Capricorn Coast Local Marine Advisory Committee Community Map



LEGEND

Special Management Area

Public Appreciation Area
Spearfishing, commercial harvest (dive based) fishing and aquaculture are prohibited in these areas.

Marine National Park zone

Conservation Park zone

Public Boat Ramp

Camping Ground

Resort

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park boundary
Note: Marine Park boundary shown is extent of both Great Barrier Reef and State Marine Parks

Indicative Reef boundary

Road

National Park (NP)

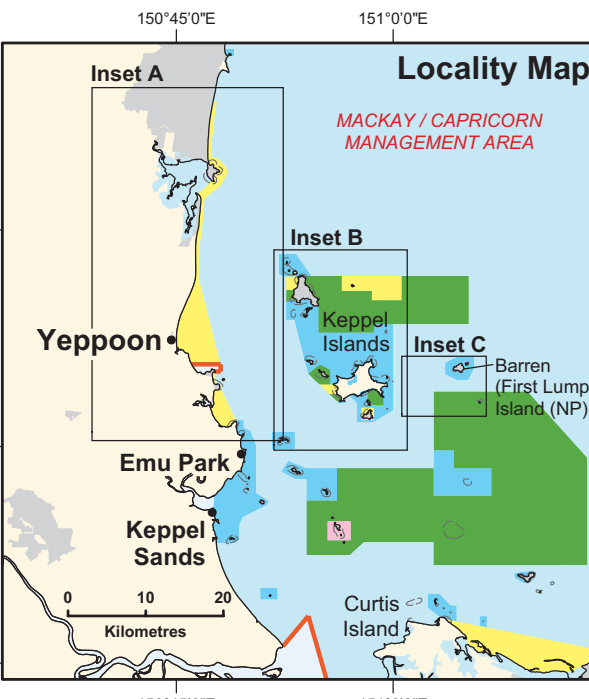
National Park (NP) (Scientific) No access

Town

Satellite imagery has a positional accuracy of 50 metres.
Map Projection: Unprojected Geographics
Horizontal Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994
SDC041002 - October 2006

This map is indicative only.
Names are not necessarily authoritative.
Some names have been derived from a variety of sources and are currently under review.

Detailed 1: 250 000 zoning maps are available from Community Access Points such as bait and tackle shops.
Maps titled MPZ16 - Byfield and MPZ17 - Gladstone relate to this area.



Note: General Use and Habitat Protection Zones are not shown on satellite imagery Insets A, B and C.

ACTIVITIES IN THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

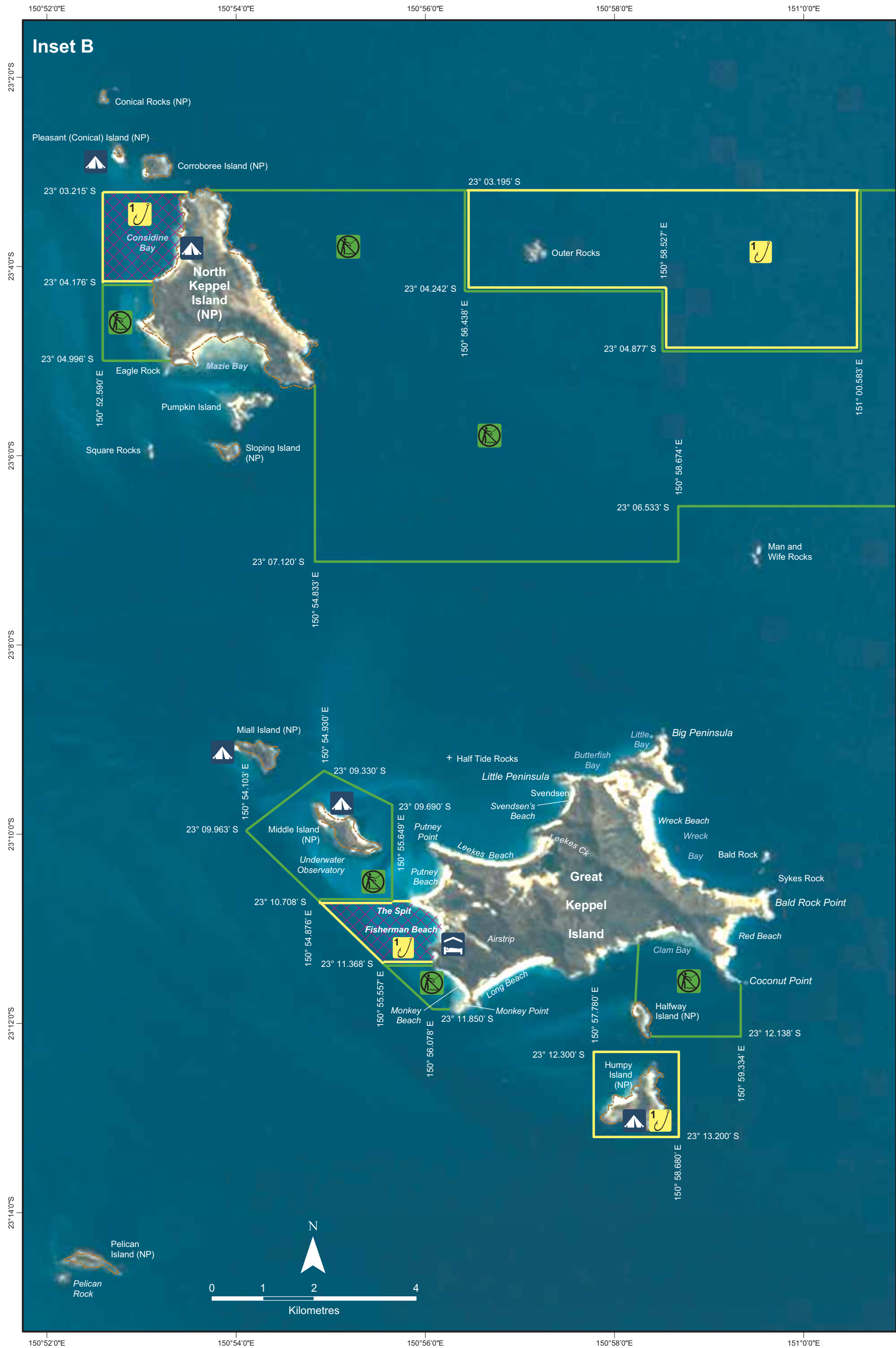
Note: Not all zoning categories necessarily occur in the mapped area shown in this brochure

Zoning	General Use Zone	Habitat Protection Zone	Conservation Park Zone	Buffer Zone	Scientific Research Zone	Marine National Park Zone	Preservation Zone
	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Yellow	Olive Green	Green with Orange outline	Green	Pink
Boating, diving photography	✓	✓	✓	✓	Except for One Tree Island and AIMS which are closed to public access and shown as orange	✓	✗
Line fishing (max of 3 hand-held rods/lines per person & up to 6 hooks combined total)	✓	✓	Limited to 1 hand-held rod/line per person & 1 hook/line per line	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trotting (max of 3 hand-held rods/lines per person & up to 6 hooks combined total)	✓	✓	✓	Limited to pelagic species	✗	✗	✗
Limited spear fishing (not using a powerhead or underwater breathing apparatus other than a snorkel)	✓	✓	Unless identified as a Public Appreciation Area or State Closure	✗	✗	✗	✗
Bait Netting	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Crabbing (trapping)	✓	✓	Limited to 4 crab pots or dillies per person	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trawling	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

WARNING

This map must not be used for marine navigation.
Comprehensive and updated navigation information should be obtained from published hydrographic charts.

Inset B



Inset A



Inset C

