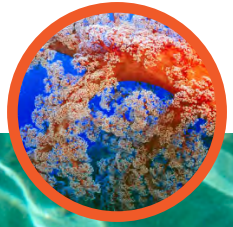




Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts



## FACT SHEET

# RECREATIONAL FISHING IN THE CORAL SEA CONSERVATION ZONE

Recreational fishing is not affected by the declaration of the Coral Sea Conservation Zone.

Recreational fishing is a popular outdoor activity in Australia, with more than three million Australians participating in the sport annually. Although the majority of recreational fishing effort takes place from shore, offshore fishing contributes more per fisher to the economy than inshore fishing, because of the higher costs.

A number of charter fishing companies, which are licensed by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, operate in the offshore environment of the Coral Sea. They offer a mix of rod and line and spear fishing and recreational diving. Fly-in-fly-out game-fishing operations at distant reefs have become more common over the last few years.

Recreational fishing is allowed anywhere within the conservation zone, and is not subject to any new restrictions on equipment or take. Recreational fishing in the Coral Sea Conservation Zone remains subject to the Queensland fisheries laws.

### WHY DECLARE A CONSERVATION ZONE IN THE CORAL SEA?

The Coral Sea is a near-pristine marine environment that is internationally recognised for its rich biodiversity and important heritage values.

The Coral Sea Conservation Zone will protect this environmentally significant area from increasing pressures while it is being assessed for more permanent protection via the marine bioregional planning process.

### HOW DOES THE CONSERVATION ZONE AFFECT OTHER ACTIVITIES?

The conservation zone will have no additional regulatory impact on most activities in the Coral Sea, such as commercial and recreational fishing, or cruise and merchant shipping. However, some commercial activities and scientific research activities will require a permit.

#### Commercial fishing

Commercial fishing operators authorised under Commonwealth or state law will not be subject to additional regulation as a result of the declaration of the Coral Sea Conservation Zone.

#### Minerals, oil and gas

There are no current or proposed oil, gas or minerals exploration or production operations in the conservation zone area. New exploration or mining operations in the Coral Sea Conservation Zone will require a permit.

#### Shipping

Australian and foreign cruise ships and merchant shipping vessels that comply with existing regulations are not required to obtain a permit to transit through the Coral Sea Conservation Zone.

## Other commercial activities

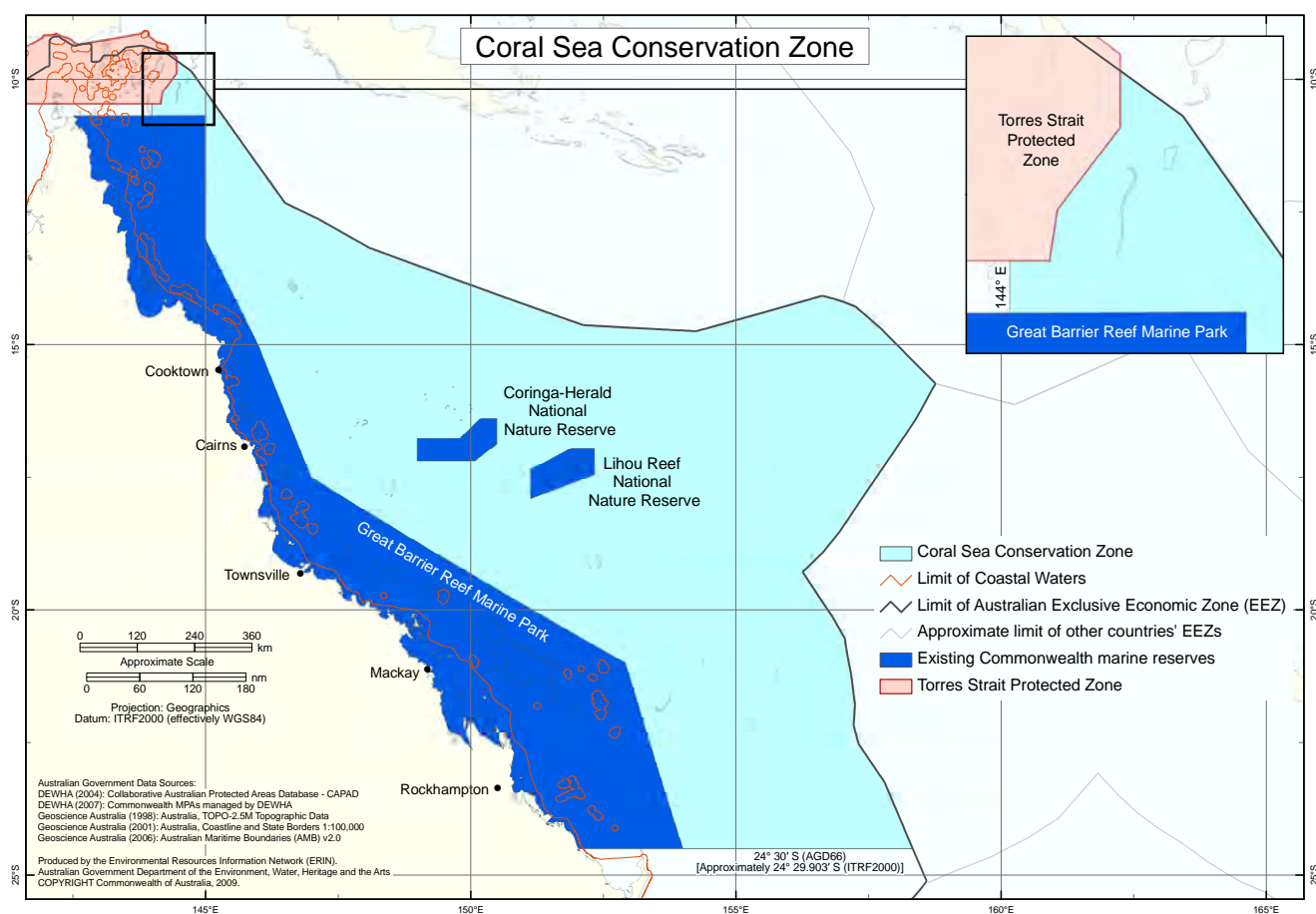
Commercial activities in the Coral Sea Conservation Zone, other than those listed above, such as charter boat operations, require a permit under national environment regulations. There is no cost associated with applying for these permits, and there will be a three month period of grace to allow existing operators in the area time to complete their application. Information on how to apply for a permit is available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/coral-sea.html>

## Scientific research

Scientific research activities proposed in the Coral Sea Conservation Zone require a permit. There is no application fee associated with these permits. If planning to conduct scientific research in the Coral Sea Conservation Zone, please contact the Department of Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts. The contact details are below.

## Indigenous activities

The Torres Strait Turtle Fishery is a traditional fishery, managed by the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority, which extends a small way into the Coral Sea Conservation Zone. Traditional fishing activities are not affected by the establishment of the conservation zone.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CORAL SEA CONSERVATION ZONE

**Email:** coral.sea@environment.gov.au  
**Phone:** 02 6274 1111  
**Write to:** Marine Division  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this document have been compiled using a range of source materials and is valid as at May 2009. The Commonwealth Government is not liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of or reliance on the contents of the document.

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