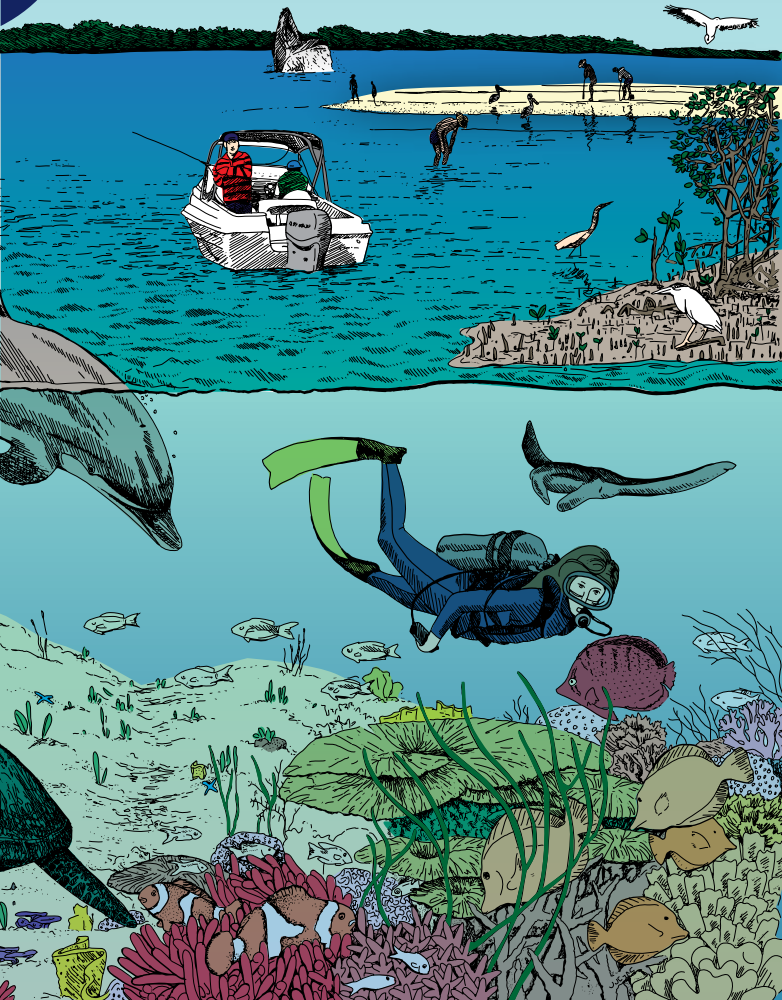


# Moreton Bay *it's your* Marine Park

March 2009



## Our bay – our future

*Moreton Bay Marine Park is a truly extraordinary area.*

*It is home to a vast array of wildlife, sustains a significant proportion of Queensland's economy and its*

*spectacular seascapes provide a popular backdrop for people in south-east Queensland to play and relax. Its future lies in our hands—it's our bay, our future.*



**Managing the marine park**

Moreton Bay Marine Park was first declared in 1993 to protect its unique values and high biodiversity while still allowing people to use it. The marine park covers 3400km<sup>2</sup> and stretches 125km from Caloundra to the Gold Coast. It takes in most of the bay's tidal waters, including many river estuaries and extends seawards to the limit of Queensland waters. The landward boundary is generally the line of highest astronomical tide.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) manages the marine park as a multiple-use marine protected area. This approach recognises that people use and value marine park resources in many different ways. Unlike a national park on land where everything is protected to the greatest possible extent, the marine park allows a range of recreational and commercial activities to occur.

Today, marine park management aims to ensure Moreton Bay remains a diverse, resilient and productive ecological system that can be enjoyed and accessed in a sustainable way. Marine parks, like Moreton Bay, that include green (no-take) zones have been proven around the world to help conserve marine biodiversity by setting aside some areas where species and habitats can evolve and function relatively undisturbed. To achieve the best outcomes for marine biodiversity, international standards recommend that representative samples of each habitat type found in the marine park be protected in no-take zones. This approach was taken when zoning Moreton Bay Marine Park.

**Ongoing monitoring**

To test the effectiveness of the new zoning plan QPWS has partnered with several leading research and monitoring organisations to conduct a rigorous five year monitoring program.

Ecological, social and economic data is being collected. Results will be regularly updated on DERM's website [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au).

**It's a valuable place**

Moreton Bay is one of the largest estuarine bays in Australia and lies in an "overlap zone" where tropical and temperate species mix. Over 1000 species of fish share the waters with six of the world's seven species of marine turtle, together with a number of other threatened species including dugong and grey nurse sharks. A range of industries occurring in Moreton Bay contribute significantly to Queensland's economy, including shipping, tourism, commercial fishing, recreational boating and fishing, diving and aquaculture.

**It's about biodiversity**

Put simply biodiversity means "variety of life". Moreton Bay Marine Park has a rich and wide variety of life meaning it has high biodiversity. It is this biodiversity—the variety of species, habitats and ecosystems, and the processes that sustain them—that must be maintained to make sure the marine park is healthy and resilient into the future.

## Traditional owners

Traditional Owners have an important spiritual and cultural connection with Moreton Bay. They have rights and interests over land and sea country within the marine park which includes rights for fishing and hunting. QPWS works with Traditional Owners on the management arrangements for the traditional use of resources within the marine park.

## Zoning

Zoning is one of several tools QPWS uses to manage different activities in the marine park and separate potentially conflicting uses, while maintaining the park's unique biodiversity (its variety of life).

The *Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2008* (the zoning plan) sets out the zones and other special management requirements in the marine park. There are four zone types in Moreton Bay Marine Park (see map over).

### Marine national park zone (16%)

Like a national park in the water, these areas are look but don't take areas of high conservation value. Anyone can enter and undertake activities such as boating, snorkelling and sailing. All forms of take (fishing, collecting or extracting) are prohibited.

### Conservation park zone (8%)

Allows a range of recreational and commercial uses. Limited fishing and crabbing can occur but activities that might harm or interfere with an area's habitat and wildlife are prohibited.

### Habitat protection zone (30%)

Protects sensitive habitats by keeping them free from potentially damaging activities. No trawling can occur in these zones.

### General use zone (46%)

Provides for conservation while allowing a range of activities to occur, including trawling.

## Designated areas

Designated areas overlap zones and are used to manage issues that occur at specific locations. For example, go slow areas for turtle and dugong reduce boat strike in areas where turtles and dugong feed and rest. The rules applying in designated areas are in addition to zoning rules, not instead of them.

There are nine types of designated areas in Moreton Bay Marine Park. Four of these primarily relate to recreational and commercial use of the park and are explained below. The remaining five which relate to activities such as dredging and works and can be found in the *Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2008*, available at [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

### Go slow areas for turtles and dugong

Boat strike on turtles and dugong in Moreton Bay – regardless of the size or type of vessel – is a major threat to these animals. Turtles and dugong in the marine park are threatened species, meaning their population numbers have dropped to a concerning level and need special management.

Research indicates that the go slow areas (introduced in 1997) are helping to reduce the incidence of boat strike in the marine park.

These go slow areas are located at (see map over):

- Tangalooma Wrecks north to Cowan Cowan
- Moreton Banks north to Tangalooma Point
- Amity Banks
- North-eastern to the north-western side of Peel Island
- south of Blaksley Anchorage, encompassing Price Anchorage and extending further south
- east of Lamb Island.

*Signs on the water help define boundaries*



To address the specific issue of larger vessels striking dugong in southern Moreton Bay, there are four additional go slow areas for turtles and dugong. They relate specifically to vessels over 8m in length where these vessels are restricted to a maximum speed of 10 knots. These areas are located at (see map over):

- entrance to Weinam Creek
- between Garden and Macleay islands
- Karragarra Channel (The W's)
- Krummel Passage.

### Go slow areas for natural values

Go slow areas for natural values aim to protect the natural integrity of the location. They provide an opportunity for all marine park users to appreciate and enjoy the relatively undisturbed values and beauty of the area without the interruption and impacts of fast moving vessels.

The seven go slow areas for natural values are designated over some marine national park (green) zones (MNP's). The areas are (see map over):

- Westaways Creek (MNP01)
- Tripcony Bight – Long Island (MNP02) (excluding the marked navigation channel)
- Hays Inlet (MNP11)
- Willes Island (MNP29)
- Swan Bay – Never Never Creek (MNP31)
- McCoys Creek (MNP33)
- Coombabah Lake (MNP34).

### In go slow areas for turtles and dugong and go slow areas for natural values:

- all vessels must travel off-the-plane
- all vessels must not undertake motorised water sports (see definition).

### In go slow areas for vessels > 8m:

- maximum speed limit of 10 knots applies to vessels over 8m in length.

## No anchoring areas

To help protect sensitive reef habitats, three no anchoring areas are designated. In these areas, which are also marine national park (green) zones, anchoring is prohibited. Where public moorings are available they are first come first served and a two hour time limit applies. The no anchoring areas are located at (see map over):

- Flat Rock (MNP19)
- Flinders Reef (MNP04)
- Myora Reef (MNP22).

## Grey nurse shark areas

The grey nurse shark is one of Australia's most endangered shark species. Today, activities such as diving and fishing continue to impact on these sharks. Three grey nurse shark areas, sitting within marine national park (green) zones, place restrictions on diving activities. These areas are located at (see map over):

- Cherubs Cave and Henderson Rock (both contained within MNP10)
- Flat Rock (same boundary as MNP19)



## Mooring areas

The mooring areas establish locations where vessels can be moored long term by allowing a new buoy mooring to be installed. Specific conditions must be met and approval is required from Maritime Safety Queensland to install a mooring. The mooring areas are not shown overleaf but are available at [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au) or ph 1300 130 372. Existing approved buoy moorings outside of mooring areas are allowed to remain in place.

## Activities quick guide

The following is a quick guide to carrying out certain activities in the marine park.

### Need a permit?

Marine park permits are an important tool for managing Moreton Bay Marine Park. Through the permit process QPWS can place conditions on certain activities, separate conflicting activities, limit the impacts on high-use and/or sensitive areas, collect data and encourage responsible behaviour by marine park users. The zoning plan states activities that can occur without specific permission and those that require a permit. Marine park permits are required for most commercial or high impact activities including;

- commercial tourism programs
- collecting restricted marine plants or animals
- works considered consistent with the object of the zone
- constructing or installing a jetty, boat ramp or revetment wall
- dredging, material extraction and disposal
- aquaculture operations (not including the addition of feed)
- non-accredited research and educational activities
- vessel charter operations
- operating a hovercraft.

Before undertaking any activity in the marine park, check the zoning plan to determine whether a marine park permit is required. Issuing a permit is not automatic, after careful assessment an applicant may either receive a permit to conduct the activity or be refused permission. For more information about marine park permits visit [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au) or ph 1300 130 372.



## Boating

Boating is largely unrestricted in the marine park, however boat operators must:

- adhere to rules in go slow and no anchoring areas (see designated areas)
- ensure they do not unreasonably disturb shorebirds anywhere in the marine park
- not discharge any waste, including treated or untreated sewage in marine national park (green) zones.

## Jet skis and other personal watercraft (PWC)

In the zoning plan jet skis are considered vessels and the same rules apply. Operators must:

- adhere to rules in go slow and no anchoring areas (see designated areas)
- ensure they do not unreasonably disturb shorebirds anywhere in the marine park.

## Motorised water sports

In the go slow areas for turtles and dugong and natural values, vessels (including PWC) cannot undertake motorised water sports. This includes:

- driving a vessel other than in a straight line; for example driving in circles, weaving and surfing down or jumping over waves, swell or wash; or
- towing a person, such as for waterskiing, parasailing or wakeboarding
- PWC not taking the most reasonable direct route between two places.

## Time limits

Time limits apply to vessels anchoring throughout the marine park. A permit is required when anchoring more than 14 consecutive days, or more than 30 days in any period of 60 days, in one area. A 2 hour limit applies on using public moorings in the marine park.

## Dogs

Dogs must remain onboard a vessel in intertidal areas (including beaches) adjacent to all national parks, such as Moreton Island and Bribie Island national parks. Dogs must be controlled when near shorebirds so as not to disturb them.

## Artificial reef program

Restrictions also apply to activities at artificial reefs created through the QPWS trial artificial reef program. Refer to the DERM website [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au) for further details.

## Recreational fishing, crabbing, bait gathering and netting

Line fishing and trolling	Allowed in all zones except marine national park (green) zones where it is prohibited. Limited to two lines each and a total of two hooks per person in conservation park (yellow) zones.
Crabbing	Allowed in all zones except marine national park (green) zones where it is prohibited. Limited to four crab pots per person in conservation park (yellow) zones.
Bait gathering (taking by hand or hand-held implement only)	Allowed in all zones except marine national park (green) zones where it is prohibited.
Limited spearfishing (spearfishing that <b>does not</b> include the use of a power-head, firearm, light or underwater breathing apparatus – other than a snorkel)	Allowed in all zones except marine national park (green) zones where it is prohibited. Under other state legislation spearfishing is prohibited in some areas. Consult the <i>Fisheries Regulation 2008</i> for exact boundaries.
Netting	Allowed in all zones except marine national park (green) zones where it is prohibited. Bait netting is the only type of netting allowed in conservation park (yellow) zones.

Examples of **one** hook includes:



▲ single hook



▲ a bait jig (of up to six hooks)



▲ lure with up to three hooks



▲ single-shanked double hook

• artificial fly (no photo)

• squid jig (no photo)



▲ ganged hook set (of up to six adjoining hooks)

Photos courtesy of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia

## Stowed or secured

When in a zone that prohibits an activity all equipment used for that activity must be stowed or secured while in, or passing through that zone. For example, because marine national park (green) zones prohibit fishing all fishing equipment must be in board the vessel and completely out of the water while in the green zone. Fishing rods can be stored in rod holders and hooks secured to the rod or handline.

## Collecting

Depending on the type and quantity of plants or animals to be collected, a permit may be required. Collecting is prohibited in the marine national park (green) zones. Taking coral (live or dead) is prohibited in all zones of the marine park without a permit.

## Removal of material

It is an offence to remove almost any material (for example, rock and sand) from the marine park without permission. Similarly, depositing any material without permission is also an offence.

## Penalties apply

Be warned! While most people do the right thing, you can and will be fined for breaches of the zoning plan, *Marine Parks Act 2004* or *Marine Park Regulations 2006*. This includes on-the-spot fines of up to \$600. Significant penalties of up to \$300,000 can be imposed against breaches of marine park legislation.

## Shorebirds

Some 3500 resident shorebirds live and breed around the marine park's shorelines and more than 50 000 migratory shorebirds visit annually. Moreton Bay is internationally recognised as a Ramsar site for its importance to the survival of these birds. It is a requirement that Moreton Bay is managed in a manner that protects these birds and their habitat.

In all areas of the marine park shorebirds must not be unreasonably disturbed, whether by vessels, vehicles, uncontrolled dogs or people's activities. If a shorebird is put to flight this could be considered to be unreasonable disturbance.

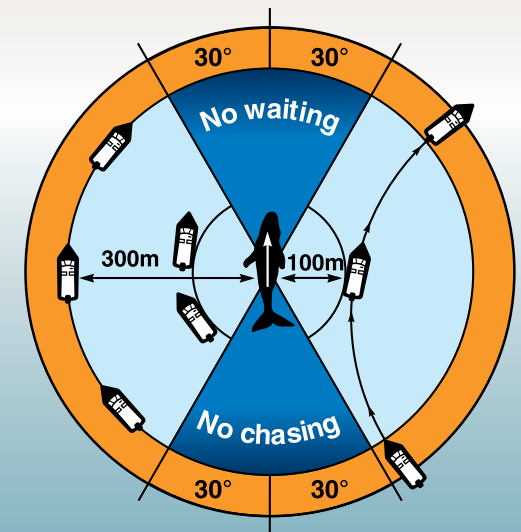


## Whale watching

From around May to November each year, whales are more frequently seen in the marine park. To ensure the whales' safety—and that of the people around them—strict regulations apply.

To keep you, the whales and your vessel safe:

- keep a sharp lookout for whales and whale watchers
- slow down or stop to see in which direction whales are travelling
- do not approach a whale from directly in front or behind
- stay at least 100 metres away (300 metres for a jet ski)
- if there are three or more boats, stay 300 metres away
- stay at least 500 metres away from “special interest” whales like “Migaloo” the white whale
- if possible, always stay on the landward side of the whale.



## Pollution

Rubbish, carelessly discarded on land and in the ocean threatens Moreton Bay Marine Park's wildlife. Remnants of fishing gear such as nets, line, hooks, floats, buoys and domestic rubbish, such as plastic bags and bottles, can cause serious injuries or death from infections, amputations, blocked gut, choking and drowning.

You can help by appropriately disposing of your rubbish and using environmentally friendly products.

## What you can do

The only way to secure Moreton Bay Marine Park's future is by — governments, communities and individuals working together — everyone making their contribution.

**Know** your zones and designated areas, their boundaries and what you can do where. Know how to behave around whales and shorebirds. There are a number of products to help you:

- Moreton Bay Marine Park user guide which details the boundaries of the marine national park (green), conservation park (yellow) and habitat protection (dark blue) zones and some designated areas. Available in hard copy and on the web.
- Further web resources from [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au) include zoning and designated area maps, information sheets, and zone and designated area boundary descriptions.
- Signs out on the water mark many marine national park (green) zone and go slow area boundaries.
- Signs at boat ramps act as a reminder to you before you head out on the water.
- Brochures on whale watching and shorebirds are available in hard copy as well as on the web. Contact DERM Customer Service Centre ph 1300 130 372.

**Understand** how your activities can affect Moreton Bay Marine Park. Become familiar with the best and most appropriate way to conduct activities such as anchoring and watching wildlife. These are outlined on the web at [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au).

**Involve** yourself and others in caring for Moreton Bay Marine Park. Report illegal activity or stranded marine animals on ph 1300 130 372.

## Further information

### For free copies of the Moreton Bay Marine Park user guide

Visit us online at [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)  
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service  
GPO Box 2454  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Ph 1300 130 372



### To report stranded and injured marine wildlife and illegal activity

Contact us on the DERM hotline  
Ph 1300 130 372

### For fisheries information

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries  
Ph 13 25 23  
[www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fishweb](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fishweb)

### Disclaimer

While this visitor guide has been prepared with care, readers are advised that legal requirements are contained in the *Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2008*. This legislation should be read in conjunction with the *Marine Parks Act 2004*, and *Marine Parks Regulation 2006*. Commercial operators in particular should familiarise themselves, their employees and their agents with the zoning plan, *Fisheries Act 1994*, *Fisheries Regulation 2008* and relevant legislation. Copies are available from GoPrint (Government Printer) or visit [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au). Neither the Queensland Government nor QPWS accepts liability for any decisions or any actions taken on the basis of information contained or not contained in this document.



Western side of Moreton Island – photo by Keira Price