



Australian
Marine Parks

Recreational fishing in Australian Marine Parks



This factsheet outlines how draft management plans for marine parks in the North, North-west, South-west, Temperate East and the Coral Sea will affect recreational fishing in these parks. We are seeking your feedback on these plans.

Marine parks provide places for people to watch wildlife, dive and go boating, snorkelling and fishing.

How will fishing be supported by these plans?

The plans set out where you, your friends and family can fish in Australian Marine Parks. Recreational fishing will be allowed in 97 per cent of Commonwealth waters within 100 km of the coast.

Fishing will also be allowed in 82 per cent of key Coral Sea reefs.

We have provided access to your favourite fishing spots wherever possible, including in the Coral Sea, parts of Perth Canyon and Geographe marine parks. But marine park management is a balance. In some areas, we have not allowed fishing because scientists

told us it is important to have some 'no take' areas including to protect fish spawning and feeding grounds.

Fishing in state and territory coastal waters will not be affected by the draft plans.

Where are Australian Marine Parks?

Australian Marine Parks are in Commonwealth waters. These waters start three nautical miles (5.5 km) from the coast and extend to the edge of Australia's exclusive economic zone. Waters closer to the shore are managed by states and territories.

Where will I be allowed to fish?

The draft plans set out zones and rules for Australian Marine Parks. Recreational fishing can occur in all zones in Australian Marine Parks, except Sanctuary Zones and National Park Zones which are "no-take".

For further information about the zones and rules in each marine park, look at the factsheets on each network at parksaustralia.gov.au/marine.

You won't need a permit to fish in Australian Marine Parks. Fishers in Australian Marine Parks will need to continue to comply with the relevant state and territory fishing rules and regulations.

Where will I be allowed to anchor?

Recreational fishers will be able to anchor in Australian Marine Parks. There may be some places where anchoring is not allowed, to protect important habitats or where research is occurring. We are interested in your views on where we should support moorings to help protect the environment and improve the fishing experience, such as at iconic reefs. When you are in a zone where fishing is prohibited, you will need to stow and secure your fishing gear.

How have we developed the draft plans?

The draft plans set out our approach to managing Australian Marine Parks (formally known as Commonwealth Marine Reserves) over the next ten years. In developing draft plans, we have worked hard to balance the need to protect important marine habitats and features, with supporting people to use and enjoy these special places.

The draft plans have benefitted from input from fishers like you, feedback from the public, the independent review of Commonwealth marine reserves released in 2016, the advice and expertise of traditional owners on managing sea country, the best available science, and the Government's policies and approaches to supporting competitive and sustainable fisheries.

When do the new management arrangements commence?

Until new management plans come into effect, likely to be in 2018, there will be no "on the water" changes for users. More information about the existing management arrangements is available at environment.gov.au/marinereserves.

Further information

If you have questions regarding the draft plans or the public comment process, please visit the Australian Marine Parks website parksaustralia.gov.au/marine, send an email to marinereserves@environment.gov.au, or call 1800 069 352.

How can I be involved in marine park management?

We need your help to manage our marine parks. This includes working together to better understand and protect marine parks, for example by installing moorings, community science and monitoring and cleaning up marine debris. Network advisory committees are one way for people to be involved in marine park management, but there may also be others – we welcome your ideas on how you want to be involved.

Have your say

Please send your feedback on these draft plans by 20 September 2017, by:

1. Filling in our feedback form, available at: parksaustralia.gov.au/marine
2. Emailing: managementplanning.marine@environment.gov.au
3. Writing (free of charge) to:
Australian Marine Parks Management Planning Comments
Department of the Environment and Energy
Reply Paid 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Comments may be made public. Personal information provided to us will be dealt with in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles. Further information and our privacy notice is available at parksaustralia.gov.au/marine. Your personal information may be disclosed to the Minister, relevant government agencies, the Australian Parliament and where required by law.

