GUIDELINES FOR FISHERS & BOATERS

The Yolŋu land-owners welcome recreational fishers and boaters to northeast Arnhem Land. We hope your time on our Sea Country is safe and enjoyable. We ask you to be respectful of our cultural traditions, our resources, and of the natural beauty which makes the region so attractive for those who come here.

REPORTING

Use your eyes
Dhimurru Sea Rangers are out patrolling to check access permit compliance and looking after Sea Country. Feel free to record and report any damage to the environment or suspicious and/or unlawful behaviour to them, the Dhimurru Office, Police, or the Northern Land Council.

Give a hand
Recording your catch, e.g. species and size, to your local fishing club helps all of us with “both ways” management in monitoring our resources.

Turtles
If you accidentally hook a marine turtle, take a picture and report the catch. Remove the hook or remove the line as close to the hook as possible and then release the turtle back into the sea.

ENFORCEMENT

Be Responsible
These Recreational Fishing Guidelines are in principle voluntary. However, some of the guidance provided can be enforced under Commonwealth and Northern Territory Laws.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation: 8987 3992
Northern Land Council (NLC): 8986 8500
Police Nhulunbuy: 8987 1333
Gove Fishing Club: 8987 8333

Fishwatch Hotline (NT Fisheries): 1800 891 136
Your eyes on the water (AFANT): 1800 456 410
AQIS Redline (Quarantine): 1800 803006
Protecting our Borders (Customs): 1800 06 1800

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SEA GRASS
Slow down
Reduce speed over sea grass areas or preferably avoid them altogether.

Reduce noise
Be aware of the effect that motor noise has on marine life.

Avoid boat strikes
Keep a keen eye out for grazing dugong or surfacing turtles.

DISCARDS
Be thoughtful
Yolnu are proud of their tradition of harvesting only what they need and using their catch to the fullest. Remain sensitive to the cultural environment in which marine life is caught and how it is utilised.

Be mindful
When discarding fish carcasses, please do so well away from boat ramps.

POSSSESSION LIMITS
Comply
Stick to the bag limits recommended by your local fishing club and as required by the NT Fisheries Act. Be aware of Fisheries Possession Limits whereby you must not exceed personal possession limits as stipulated by the NT Fisheries Act.

ANCHORING
Be aware
Do not drop anchor over sea grass or sacred site areas and try to avoid damaging fragile coral beds. If you are not sure where they are contact Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation for more information.

SEASONALITY
Be informed
Seasonal, cultural or natural resource management closures may apply to certain areas at certain times.

ACCESS
Stick to the law
Whether or not you intend to fish, a fishing permit is essential to legalise your access to the intertidal zone outside Dhimurru’s Designated Recreation Areas. A fishing permit also provides a licence to take fish subject to Fisheries regulations.

Be sure
When you want access beyond the intertidal zone, outside the designated recreational areas, a permit to access the land is required. Accessing Aboriginal Land including any of the offshore islands without an appropriate access permit is an offence under the Aboriginal Land Act and may be an offence under the NT Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act.

Be prepared
All permits can be obtained from either the Northern Land Council or Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation offices.