

Responsible Reef Practices

A guide to being reef friendly

Handy tips on how to be environmentally friendly
during your charter

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What to do when encountering humpback whales and
other marine life

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Eye On The Reef Program



Butterfly Bay, Hook Island

The World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven natural wonders of the world, the largest living structure visible from outer space and stretching over 2000km along the Queensland coast.

Located in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef lies 74 islands of the Whitsundays, all protected as national parks and most uninhabited.

Let the spectacular landscape and endless horizon dotted with islands wash over you as you experience its beauty on a bareboat charter. Enjoy the many bushwalks offering jaw dropping views over the islands, snorkel fringing reefs and swim in crystal clear waters.

Never the less, environmental best practices are paramount for the protection of the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday islands to minimise any impact on the environment and ensuring future generations can enjoy it too.

Cumberland Charter Yachts are an Eco-accredited company, backed by a strong commitment to sustainable best practices and provide a high quality nature based tourism experience.

When enjoying the many different activities and experiences the Whitsundays and Great Barrier Reef offer, it is important to enjoy them in a responsible and environmentally 'reef friendly' way.

We educate our guests on best practices and encourage everyone to adopt them during their charter and visit to the Whitsundays and Great Barrier Reef. If you are a conscious traveller who shares these values then become an eco-tourist and minimise your impact on the environment and enjoy what this beautiful region has to offer.

Enjoy!

Team Cumberland xx



The Great Barrier Reef offers visitors stunning vistas – both above and below the water, but it contains some very fragile environments. An act as simple as hoisting an anchor overboard may have a significant impact on the world below. It may be years before the damaged area recovers or, in some cases, the coral may never return to its former glory. By taking a little extra care when anchoring and using moorings where available, you will help protect this delicate underwater ‘landscape’.

Anchoring

- Examine the area before anchoring to find the best location
- Anchor in sand or mud away from corals
- Anchor away from fragile or sensitive areas including bird and turtle nesting areas
- Anchor a safe distance away from other boats
- Look out for the safety of people in the water when dropping anchor
- Never wrap the anchor chain around bommies or large coral heads
- If anchoring your tender ashore, carefully place the anchor to minimise shore damage
- If anchoring overnight, double check your 'swinging' room
- Release enough anchor chain for the depth you are in and ensure it holds
- Retrieve the anchor when the line is vertical
- Do not force the anchor free if it is caught on coral by motoring forward
- Motor towards the anchor when hauling it in

Mooring

- Don't attach your vessel to a damaged mooring
- Motor in to the wind towards your mooring when picking up a buoy
- Avoid running over the pick up line
- Use a boat hook to retrieve the pick up line
- Use moorings when available
- Only pick up moorings suitable for your vessel type
- Don't overstay your time on the mooring



Exploring underwater is a great way to take in the spectacular world beneath and get up close to the marine life, but there are times when you get a little too close and may stress the coral or marine life. By having good snorkel and dive practices, you'll be able to preserve this special world for others to experience.

Diving, snorkelling & swimming

- Enhance your experience by learning about the marine environment
- Check that all your gear is properly fitted and is in working order
- Move slowly through the water, relax and take your time - avoid rapid changes in direction
- Avoid making sudden or loud noises underwater
- Avoid leaning on, holding on to or touching any part of the reef
- Avoid kicking up and disturbing the sand
- Avoid touching any plants or animals
- Do not feed the marine life
- Stay more than 1m from giant clams
- Do not touch any of the marine life
- Do not relocate any marine life

Sharks

It is important to be aware that sharks inhabit the Great Barrier Reef including the Whitsunday islands. While shark attacks are rare, they are a reminder that exploring the spectacular ocean does pose risks. To reduce negative interactions with sharks, we strongly suggest charterers follow these recommendations:

- Do not swim or do any water activities at dawn, dusk or at night
- Always swim with a buddy
- Don't swim in murky or unclear water
- Never clean fish or discard food scraps overboard
- Use holding tanks when at anchorage
- Do not interfere with shark signage



Hill Inlet Lookout, Whitsunday Island

The crystal clear turquoise waters is an alluring quality of the Whitsundays. How you dispose of waste water and litter can have a profound effect on the water clarity and quality, which in turn affects the marine life and coral. Litter is also an unsightly and significant danger to wildlife, so ensure you are conscious of how you are disposing of all waste.

Greywater

- Don't put anything down the toilet other than toilet paper and human waste
- When discharging the holding tanks, make sure you're as far away from reefs and islands as possible

Litter

- Don't throw litter, food scraps, cigarette butts etc overboard - use the bin provided on the boat
- Secure all loose articles i.e clothing and towels, to prevent them from blowing overboard
- Retrieve anything that does go overboard
- Retrieve any entangled fishing gear where possible
- Collect all litter from the water and reef if you come across any

Eco-barge Clean Seas Bags

Eco Barge Clean Seas is a not-for-profit environmental organisation, established in Airlie Beach to engage the community to protect the marine life and aquatic environment of the Whitsunday region by removing marine debris to reduce its impacts, reduce land based litter and littering behaviour to prevent the occurrence of local marine debris and provide care for sick and injured marine turtles.

At the Cumberland Charter Yachts office are marine debris collection bags provided by Eco Barge Clean Seas. Help yourself in taking one with you on charter and collecting any marine debris you see. If you encounter a sick or injured turtle, please call Eco Barge on 07 4946 5198



The Great Barrier Reef certainly gives visitors some memorable opportunities to closely observe the life cycle of one of the most ancient and fascinating creatures, the marine turtle. The Whitsundays are home to 6 of the worlds 7 turtle species with the Greenback turtle being the most common. Marine turtle numbers are rapidly declining so care needs to be taken when driving your bareboat or tender in the waters around the Whitsundays.

Turtles

- Never touch, grab or chase turtles in or out of the water
- Never disturb a turtles nest or its eggs
- Do not feed turtles any food of any kind

When viewing from your boat

- Turtles surface all the time - be on the lookout in areas such as shallow reefs and seagrass beds. Maneuver your bareboat or tender slowly through the water
- If a turtle is close to your vessel, engage it in neutral and allow it to swim away
- Do not encircle or trap turtles with vessels. Allow an escape route
- Do not drive your vessel over a turtle
- Do not chase turtles in your tender

If you see a sick or injured turtle, please contact Eco Barge Clean Seas on 07 4946 5198



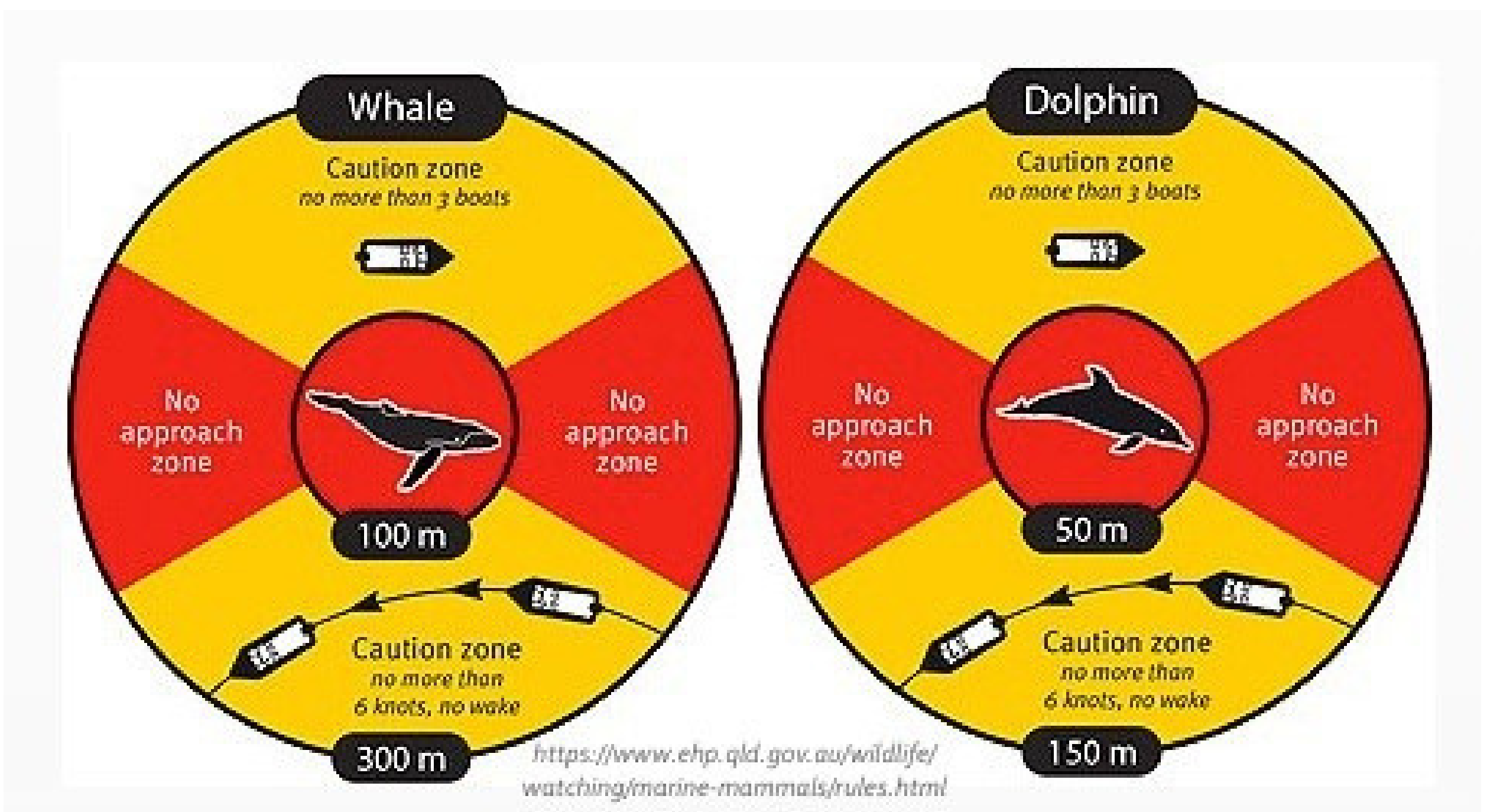
Humpback Whale

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Humpback Whales and dolphins

- You must not kill, take, injure and/or interfere with whales and dolphins including herding, harassing and chasing
- You must not restrict the path of whales or dolphins
- You must not touch or feed, or attempt to touch or feed, a whale or dolphin
- You must not enter the water within 100 metres of a whale or within 50 metres of a dolphin
- You must not approach closer than 30 metres to a whale or dolphin if you are in the water. If a whale or dolphin approaches you while you are in the water, move slowly, do not touch or swim towards it
- You must minimise noise when closer than 300 metres from a whale or dolphin.
- A vessel must not approach closer than 100 metres to a whale, or 50 metres to a dolphin
- Approach the whale or dolphin only from the rear or by positioning the vessel ahead of the whale or dolphin, and always in a position that is more than 30 degrees to its observed direction of travel
- If the whale or dolphin is a calf, a vessel must not enter within a radius of 300 metres of the whale and 150 metres of the dolphin (i.e. the caution zone)
- If a calf appears causing your vessel to be within the caution zone, you must stop the vessel and turn off the engines or disengage the gears or withdraw your vessel at a constant slow speed

- If there are three vessels within 300 metres of a whale or dolphin, all additional vessels must remain outside a 300 metres radius from the whale or dolphin
- If a whale approaches close to your vessel, take all precautions to avoid a collision, either slow down and steer away from the animal, or place the engines in neutral and let the animal pass
- Prohibited vessels (i.e. jetskis, parasails, hovercraft, hydrofoils, wing-in-ground effect craft and motorised diving aids such as underwater scooters) must not approach closer than 300 metres to a whale or dolphin
- An aircraft must not operate below 1000 feet within a horizontal radius of 300 metres of a whale or dolphin and must not approach a whale or dolphin head on
- In addition, a helicopter must not operate below 1650 feet within a horizontal radius 500 metres of a whale or dolphin
- If you accidentally strike a whale or dolphin you must report it
- When in the Whitsunday Planning Area, there are some additional rules in relation to whales: 1. a vessel must not approach closer than 300 metres to a whale in the Whitsunday Whale Protection Area 2. a helicopter must not approach below 2000 feet or within 1000 metres of a whale.





Langford Island, Whitsundays

There are 74 islands in the Whitsundays to explore, with some offering bushwalks leading to stunning lookouts and secluded beaches to relax on. Fauna and flora call these tranquil locations home and therefore critical you 'tread lightly' when going ashore, remembering to take only photographs and leave only footprints!

Visiting islands and beaches

- Access islands during high tide to minimise the risk of bumping coral with your tender
- Remove all seeds from clothes and shoes before going ashore and before leaving the island
- Stay on marked walking tracks - do not tread on vegetation or break branches from trees
- If you encounter any wildlife move slowly away from them
- Avoid making loud noises
- Do not disturb nesting seabirds or turtles
- Do not feed any wildlife
- Do not collect shells, seeds, sand from Whitehaven Beach or any other 'souvenirs'
- Take all rubbish with you back to the boat and dispose of on the mainland
- Collect any litter you find on the island and take it with you



With an estimated 175 species, the Great Barrier Reef boasts an incredible collection of birdlife - some are year round residents, while thousands of others use the Marine Park as a much needed pit stop during their annual migration.

Many of the islands are breeding and nesting sites with some islands closed off during nesting season and on any case, it's vital the care is taken when encountering any bird life.

Bird watching

- Never feed any birds
- Land and launch your boat well away from any seabirds or shorebirds
- Do not pull your dinghy up the beach into nesting areas
- Always try to not disturb any birds
- Stay well clear of nesting and roosting shorebirds and seabirds
- Watch your step to avoid crushing camouflaged eggs and chicks
- Never try to touch birds, chicks or eggs
- Do not conduct activities that may disturb birds (for example, kite flying, volleyball, beach rugby, beach cricket)
- Do not shine torches or bright lights directly on roosting or nesting seabirds



Fishing is a popular pastime of any Australia holiday that allows people to spend time with friends and family while you 'wet the line'. You can hire a fishing rod and tackle from Cumberland Charter Yachts or bring your own, however there are certain zones within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park where fishing is not allowed. A zoning map is provided on board your bareboat and your Breifer will also let you know about the different zones and associated rules.

Fishing

- Take only what you need
- Return all undersized and unwanted fish
- If you're unsure of the fish identity or size, release the fish immediately
- Do not use pest or non-native fish for bait
- Do not fish where fish feeding takes place
- If you're keeping the fish, remove it from the hook or net immediately and kill it humanely
- Do not litter - clean up all fishing gear (such as discarded tackle and line, and bait bags) and take it back to shore to dispose of it properly
- Do not clean fish or discard scraps overboard

Spearfishing

- Spear only what you need
- Do not pursue a fish if you are unsure of its identity or size
- Do not take big fish merely as trophies because these are important breeding stock
- Always track down injured fish, do not let them swim off injured
- Minimise the length of time a fish is out of the water - keep fish in the water as much as possible and have your equipment close at hand. Very large fish should not be removed from the water

Cumberland Charter Yachts will provide a zoning map on board your bareboat

| <div>ACTIVITIES GUIDE</div> <div>(see relevant Zoning Plans and Regulations for details)</div> | | General Use Zone | Habitat Protection Zone | Conservation Park Zone | Buffer Zone | Scientific Research Zone ³ | Marine National Park Zone | Preservation Zone |
|--|--|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Aquaculture | | Permit | Permit | Permit ¹ | X | X | X | X |
| Bait netting | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ² | X | X | X | X |
| Boating, diving, photography | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ³ | ✓ | X |
| Crabbing (trapping) | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ⁴ | X | X | X | X |
| Harvest fishing for aquarium fish, coral and beachworm | | Permit | Permit | Permit ¹ | X | X | X | X |
| Harvest fishing for sea cucumber, trochus, tropical rock lobster | | Permit | Permit | X | X | X | X | X |
| Limited collecting | | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁵ | X | X | X | X |
| Limited spearfishing (snorkel only) | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ¹ | X | X | X | X |
| Line fishing | | ✓ ⁶ | ✓ ⁶ | ✓ ⁷ | X | X | X | X |
| Netting (other than bait netting) | | ✓ | ✓ | X | X | X | X | X |
| Research (other than limited impact research) | | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit |
| Shipping (other than in a designated shipping area) | | ✓ | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | X |
| Tourism programme | | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | X |
| Traditional use of marine resources | | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | X |
| Trawling | | ✓ | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Trolling | | ✓ ⁶ | ✓ ⁶ | ✓ ⁶ | ✓ ^{6,9} | X | X | X |

PLEASE NOTE: This guide provides an introduction to Zoning in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks.

1. Restrictions apply to aquaculture, spearfishing and harvest fishing for aquarium fish, beachworm and coral in the Conservation Park Zone.

2. No take of bream, flathead or whiting by commercial bait netters.

3. Except for One Tree Island Reef (SR-23-2010) and Australian Institute of Marine Science (SR-19-2008) which are closed to public access and shown as orange, all other Scientific Research Zones are shown as green with an orange outline.

4. Limited to 4 catch apparatus per person (eg. crab pots, collapsible traps or dillies).

5. By hand or hand-held implement and generally no more than 5 of a species.

6. Maximum of 6 hooks attached to no more than 3 hand-held rods or handlines per person.

7. Limited to 1 hook attached to 1 hand-held rod or handline per person. Only 1 dory detached from a commercial fishing vessel.

8. Apart from traditional use of marine resources in accordance with s.211 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, an accredited Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement or permit is required.

9. Pelagic species only. Seasonal Closures apply to some Buffer Zones.

Detailed information is contained in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003 and Regulations* and the *Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004*.

• Permits are required for most other activities not listed above.

• Commonwealth owned islands in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are zoned "Commonwealth Islands Zone" - shown as cream.

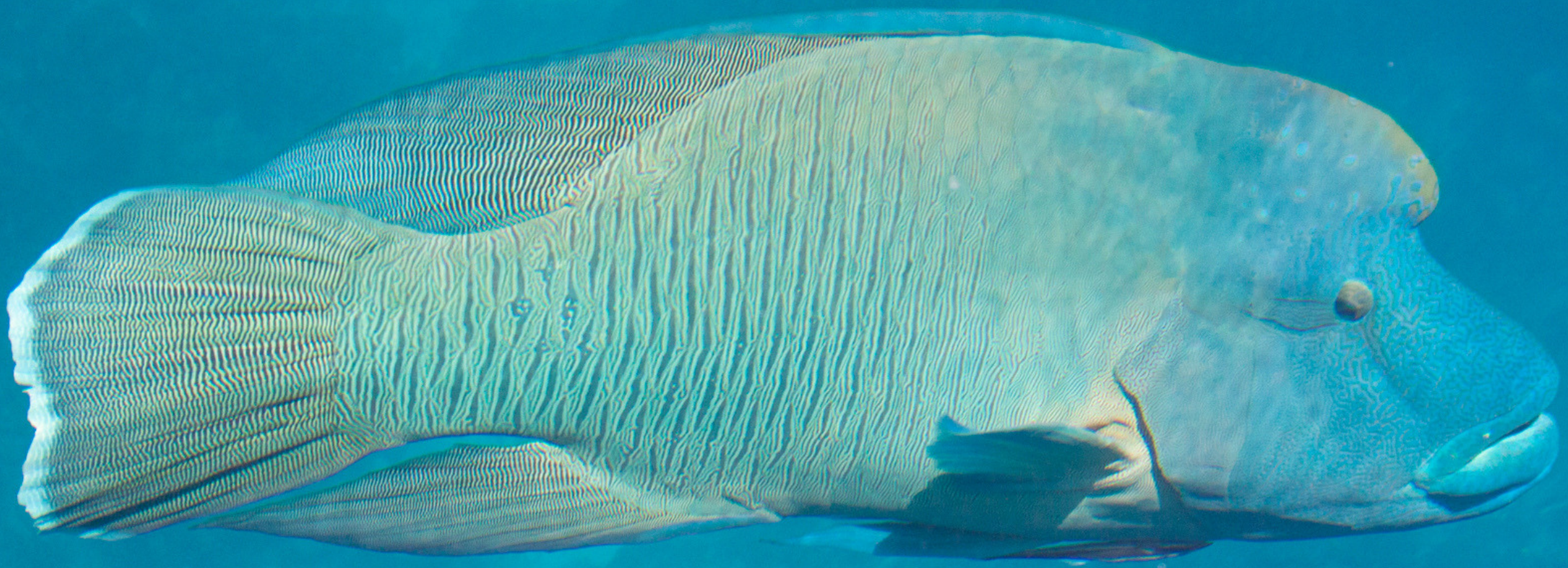
• All Commonwealth Islands may not be shown.

• Special Management Areas may provide additional restrictions at some locations.

• The Zoning Plan does not affect the operation of s 211 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

ACCESS TO ALL ZONES IS PERMITTED IN AN EMERGENCY.

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Humpheaded Maori Wrasse

Eye On The Reef Program

Eye on the Reef is a powerful monitoring program that enables anyone who visits the Great Barrier Reef to contribute to its long-term protection by collecting valuable information about reef health, marine animals and incidents. You too can take part as everyone's contribution is welcome.

Eye On The Reef app

The Eye on the Reef Sightings Network is a community based program developed to capture the interesting, unusual and amazing experiences people have on the Great Barrier Reef. The Eye on the Reef app has been built specifically to empower anyone with a GPS enabled mobile phone to join this network of citizen scientists and contribute GPS tagged observations. Via the app you can submit photos of what you have seen out on the Reef. This can be anything from wildlife (including protected species) to pests like crown-of-thorns starfish, or marine pollution and coral bleaching, to special events like coral spawning. You can also use this app to help identify the wildlife you've seen and share your Eye on the Reef sighting photos directly to their Facebook page.

Download the free app by scanning the below QR codes or head to iTunes/Google Play app stores



iTunes - Eye on the Reef app



Google Play - Eye on the Reef app