



## Fish Of Fraser Island

Fishing enthusiasts from around the world come to Fraser Island to experience one of Australia's most rich and diverse fishing areas.

Fishers are required to observe size and bag limits and are urged to take only what they need in order to protect the fish resource.

Estuary, surf beach, reef, deep sea and sport fishing are all available. Sport and game fishing charter boats go out from Hervey Bay to fish the offshore and outer reefs for snapper, red emperor, sweetlip, wahoo, Spanish mackerel, tuna, tusk fish, queen fish and dolphin fish.

The fishing is also excellent in the calm waters of Great Sandy Strait where the good fishing grounds are found in the small natural coral reefs off the northern tip of Big Woody Island, the channel ledges around Moon Point (on the Western side of Fraser Island), the sand flats near mangroves and the Roy Rufus Artificial Reef.

The artificial reef is the largest in the southern hemisphere and was built to help stop the decline of the local fish population. Since 1968, some 2,500 car bodies, 800 tonnes of concrete rubble, 12,000 car tyres and seven large vessels have been dumped. It is now home to reef fish, including large groper, coral trout, sweet lip, red emperor, parrot fish and cod. In these varied fishing grounds on the western side of the island you have the chance to catch reef fish, wahoo, mackerel, mack tuna, trevally, black kings, amberjack, tailor, jewfish, whiting, bream, flathead, tarwhine and swallowtail.

Crab pots, put down in the mangrove areas trap, the much-prized Queensland mud crab. The whiting fishing is regarded as the best in Queensland, with the season running from July to March.

The tailor season runs through the winter months mackerel abound during the summer months.

The sand flats along the western side of the island, south of Moon Point, are regarded as one of the top saltwater fly fishing areas in Australia.

The gin-clear water over the sandy shallow flats is home to big golden trevally and bone fish, which can be caught by wading off the beach or casting from a boat with experienced local guides.

Beach fishing is popular on the eastern side of the island where surf gutters along the ocean beaches provide all-season angling.

Whiting and bream are plentiful in these gutters in warmer months and swallowtail can be caught all year round. The tailor season in winter sees dozens of fishing camps along the beach. All the usual rock species can be caught off the headlands from Indian Head to Waddy Point.



Trailer boats can be launched in the calm water behind Indian Head and Waddy Point.

Off shore, both northern coral and southern reef species can be found.