



## fact file

# Fish Of Fraser Island

QUEENSLAND: Fishing enthusiasts from around the world come to Fraser Island to experience one of Australia's most rich and diverse fishing areas. On island and in the marine park, 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.

Geographically speaking the Fraser Coast is a top spot where anglers can readily catch Bream, Bass and Barra. Estuary, surf beach, reef, deep sea and sport fishing are all popular pastimes. Sport and game fishing charter boats depart from Hervey Bay to fish the offshore and outer reefs for Snapper, Red Emperor, Sweetlip, Wahoo, Spanish Mackerel, Tuna, Tuskfish, Queen Fish and Dolphin Fish.

The fishing is also excellent in the calm waters of The Great Sandy Strait and marine park, where 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, Sweetlip, 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 and Mackerel abound during the summer months.

The sand flats along the western side of the island, south of Moon Point, are also 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.



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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 spring up along 75-Mile Beach. All the usual rock species can be caught off the headlands from Indian Head to Waddy Point.

For those with boats, trailer boats can be launched in the calm water behind Indian Head and Waddy Point on the eastern side of the island. Off shore, both northern coral and southern reef species can be found.

In May 2014, the teams at Eurong Beach Resort, Kingfisher Bay Resort and Fraser Island Barges partnered with the Australian Fishing Championships to host the Australian Fishing Championships in region. The show currently screens on the Nine Network, Fox Sports and is syndicated on the World Fishing Network (WFN) and CTV in Asia.

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