



Hastings Recreational Fishing Guide

Fisheries Compliance Unit

July 2024

Fishing is a fun, outdoor activity for the whole family. Fishing rules help ensure healthy and sustainable fisheries for future generations.

The Hastings district waterways provide excellent beach, rock, and boat fishing opportunities. This guide provides essential information on fishing, including any closures and restrictions, which apply within the Hastings district from Grassy Head in the north, to Diamond Head in the south and to the Great Dividing Range in the west.

DPI fisheries officers routinely patrol waterways, boat ramps and foreshores to advise anglers about responsible fishing practices and to ensure compliance with NSW fishing regulations.

Information on bag and size limits and legal fishing gear can be obtained at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or by visiting your local DPI fisheries office.

To report suspected illegal fishing activity, call the Fishers Watch phone line on **1800 043 536** (free call) or on-line at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance/report-illegal-activity. All calls will be treated as confidential and you can remain anonymous.

RECREATIONAL FISHING FEE

When fishing in NSW waters, both freshwater and saltwater, you are required by law to pay the NSW recreational fishing fee and carry a receipt showing the payment of the fee. This applies when spear fishing, hand lining, hand gathering, trapping, bait collecting and prawn netting or when in possession of fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters.

All money raised by the NSW recreational fishing fee is spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW. Projects include:

- building artificial reefs to create new fishing locations;
- fish aggregating devices (FADs) to enhance fishing for dolphinfish and even tuna and marlin;

- creation of recreational fishing havens;
- angler facilities such as fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms;
- stocking of freshwater fish in dams and rivers;
- essential research on popular recreational fish species;
- restoring important fish habitat;
- marine stocking of prawns in estuaries;
- angler education and advisory programs such as the Fishcare Volunteer program, fishing workshops, Get Hooked...it's fun to fish primary schools education and fishing guides.

Much more information is available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries.

You can pay the NSW recreational fishing fee at www.onegov.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1300 369 365 or at many outlets throughout NSW, such as most fishing tackle stores, caravan parks, local shops, service stations and many Kmart stores.

Some exemptions apply to paying the fishing fee, including people under the age of 18, holders of pensioner concession cards and Aboriginal people. For further information on exemptions go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 4424 7499.

You may not need to pay the NSW recreational fishing fee if you are fishing on a charter boat, hire boat or under the supervision of a fishing guide. Please check with the charter/hire boat operator, or guide, before you go fishing. If they do not hold a recreational fishing fee exemption certificate you will need to pay the NSW recreational fishing fee.

RECREATIONAL FISHING CLOSURES

A number of fishing closures exist in the Hastings area. These exist for a variety of reasons, from public health and safety to preserving unique aquatic environments. The majority of these

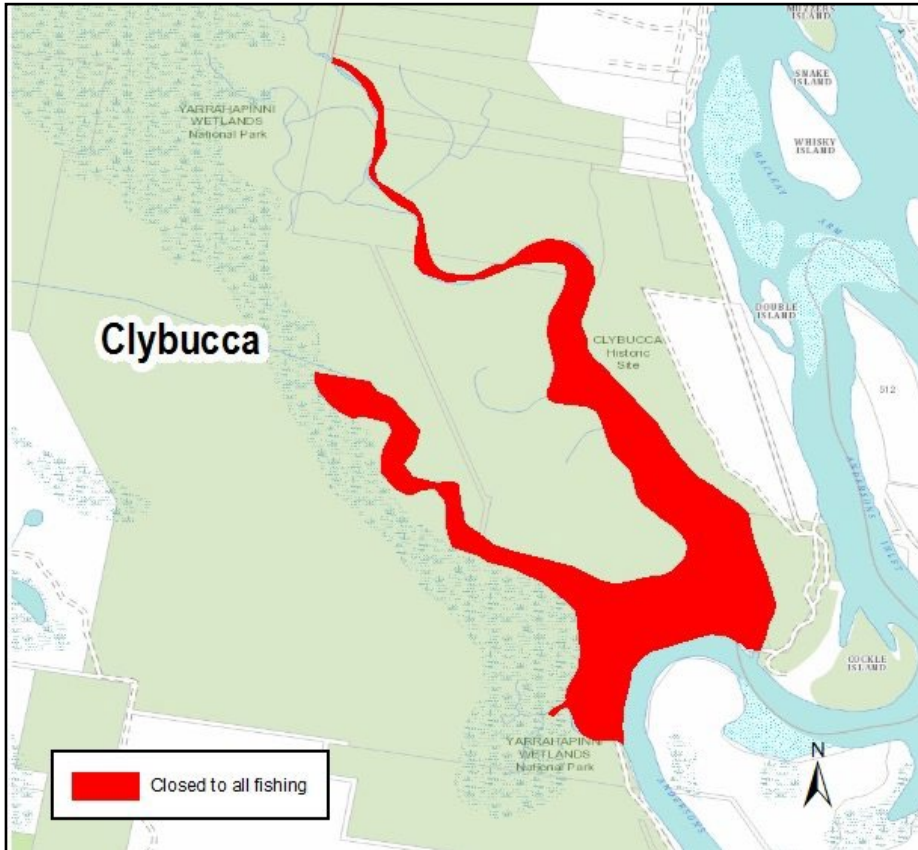
closures are signposted and penalties apply for not complying with fisheries rules and regulations.

Total fishing closures

All methods of fishing are prohibited in the following waters.

Yarrahapinni Wetlands National Park (Figure 1). The following waters are closed to all methods of fishing: the waters of Yarrahapinni Wetlands National Park and its tributaries, upstream from its confluence with Macleay River at the existing flood mitigation gates and associated levy banks located in Anderson's Inlet.

Figure 1. Yarrahapinni Wetlands National Park



General fishing closures

All NSW waters. During the period May to August (inclusive) each year Australian Bass and Estuary Perch can only be taken by catch and release fishing in any NSW waters except impoundments and the waters of rivers above impoundments

Recreational netting and trapping

Macleay River. The whole of the waters of Macleay River and its tributaries, from the Kempsey railway bridge upstream to its source are closed to any method involving the use of a net, other than a landing net.

South West Rocks Creek (Figure 2). The whole of the waters of South West Rocks Creek, from its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean upstream to its source are closed to any method involving the use of a net, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns) or a landing net.

Belmore River. The following waters are closed to the use of a net or trap, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns), a landing net or a bait trap: the whole of the waters of that part of Belmore River and its tributaries, from its source downstream to Gladstone road bridge.

Korogoro Creek (Hat Head) (Figure 3). The following waters are closed to the use of a net, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns) or a landing net: the whole of the waters of Korogoro Creek and its tributaries, from its source to its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean.

Killick Creek (Figure 4). The whole of the waters of Killick Creek and its tributaries upstream from its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean are closed to any method involving the use of a net, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns), a hand-hauled prawn net, a push or scissors net (prawns) or a landing net.

Camden Haven (Figure 5). The following waters are closed to any method involving the use of a net, other than a landing net: the whole of the waters of Camden Haven Inlet upstream from its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean to a line drawn from the western rock wall of the public

baths adjacent to Pioneer Street to the western point of the entrance to Gogleys Creek and including the waters of the creek to a line drawn directly south of the southernmost point of Gogleys Island.

Figure 2. Macleay River and South West Rocks Creek

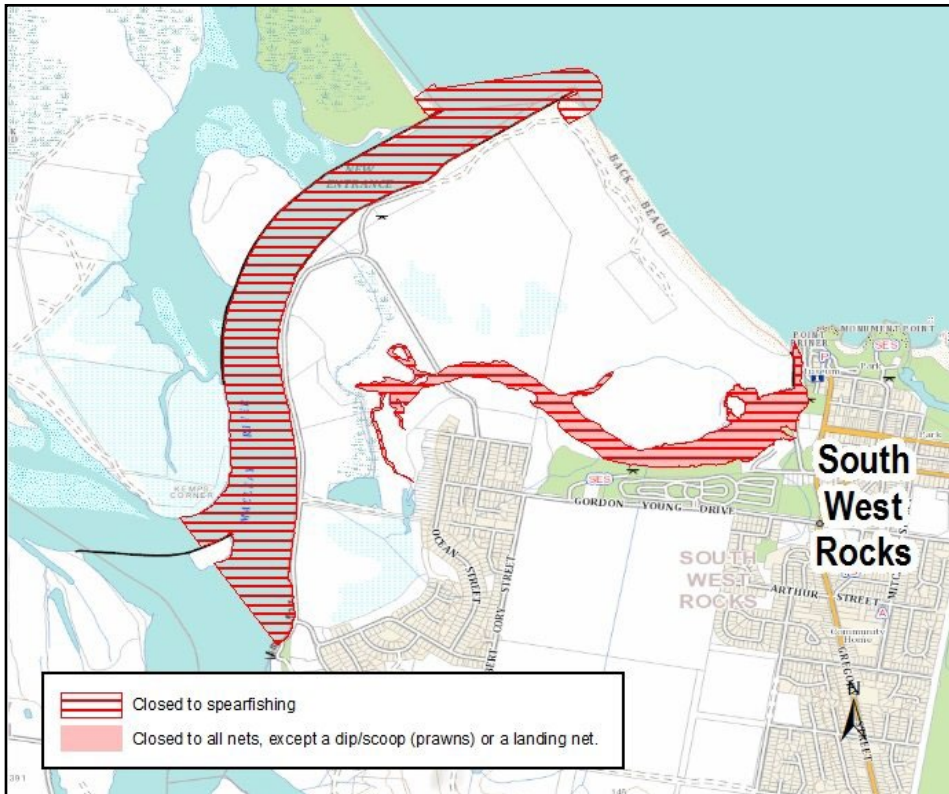
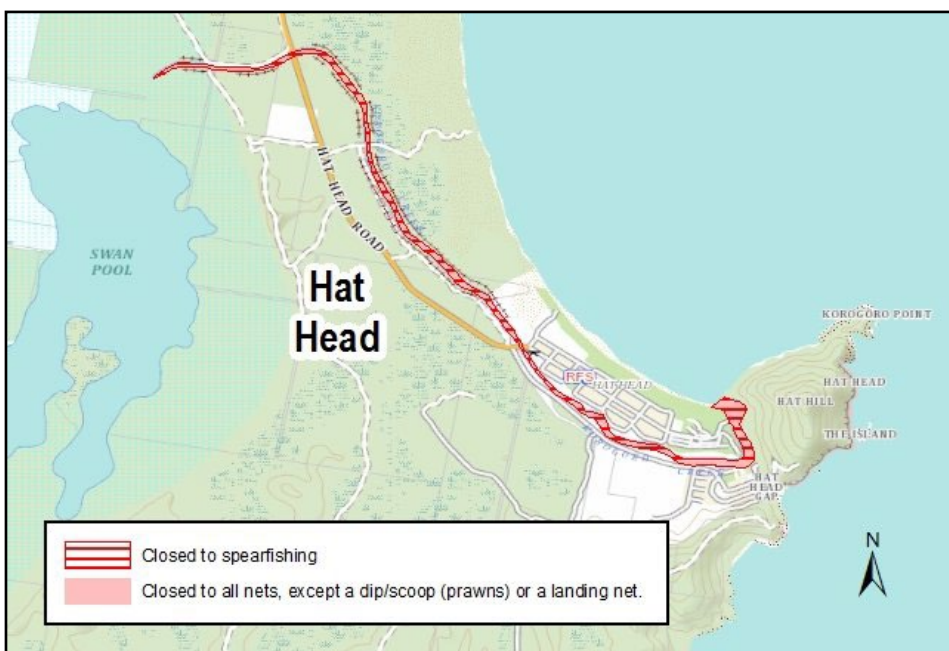


Figure 3. Korogoro Creek – Hat Head



Spearfishing and diving

Spearfishing in NSW is a popular form of recreational fishing and has been recognised for its selective fishing practices. Spearfishers and divers are permitted to use:

- a snorkel when taking fish;
- SCUBA and hookah apparatus for scallops and sea urchins only; and
- bare/gloved hand only when taking lobsters.

Spearfishers and divers are **not** permitted to use:

- a light with a spear/spear-gun;
- powerheads and/or explosive devices.

Spearfishing is prohibited in freshwater as well as many entrances, coastal lagoons and other tidal waters.

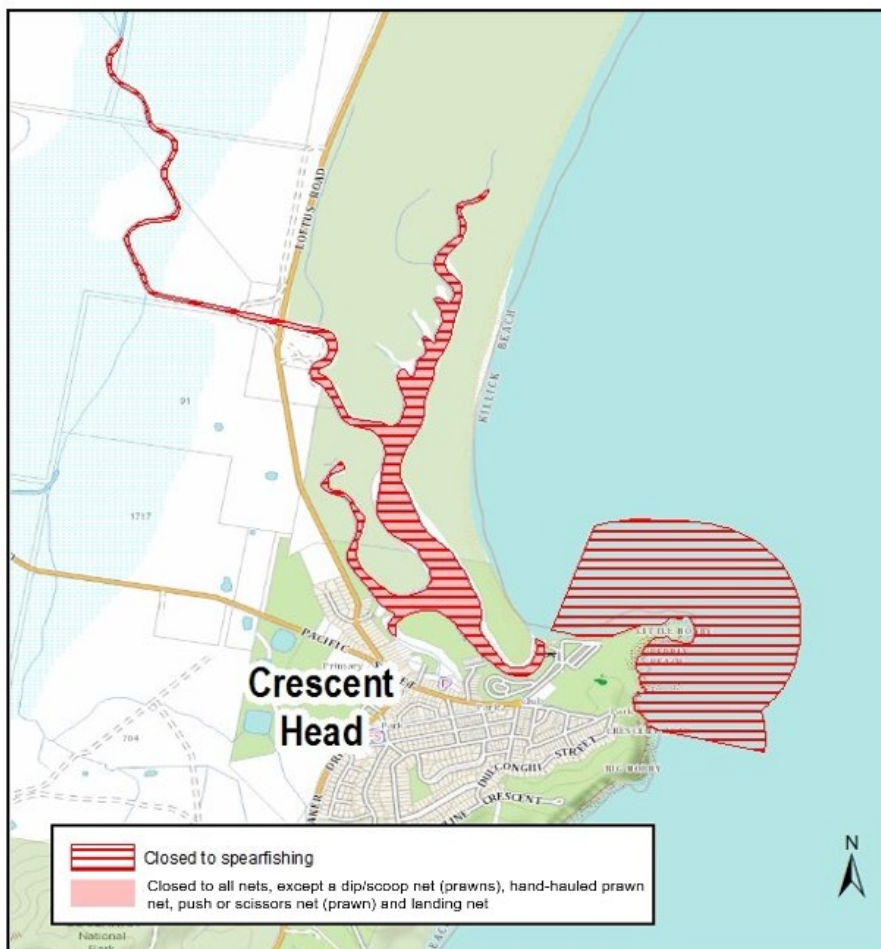
The following areas covered by this guide are closed to spearfishing:

All NSW ocean beaches, excluding the last 20m at each end of the beach.

Camden Haven Inlet (Figure 5). The waters of that part of Camden Haven Inlet, from a line drawn across the entrance to the inlet from the easternmost extremity of the northern training wall to the easternmost extremity of the southern training wall, upstream to the bridge across the Inlet at Laurieton and including the waters of Gogley's Bay and Gogley's Creek, and that part of the waters of Queens Lake Entrance, from their confluence with Camden Haven Inlet upstream to the North Haven road bridge.

Crescent Head (Figure 4). The whole of the tidal waters of that part of the South Pacific Ocean extending seawards for a distance of 400 metres from the line of high water, between the prolongation of the northern boundary of portion 325, and the prolongation of the northernmost northwestern boundary of Reserve No 63725 for Public Recreation and Resting Place, notified 13 January 1933.

Figure 4. Killick Creek - Crescent Head



Korogoro Creek (Figure 3). The whole of the waters of Korogoro (Hat Head) Creek and Killick or Crescent Head Creek and their tributaries,

upwards from their confluence with the South Pacific Ocean to their source.

Killick Creek (Figure 4). The whole of the waters of Killick or Crescent Head Creek and its tributaries, upwards from its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean to its source.

Shelly Beach Lagoon. The whole of the waters of Shelly Beach Lagoon bounded by the reef that surrounds the lagoon at the southern end of Shelly Beach in Port Macquarie.

Hastings River, Kooloonbung Creek, Lake Innes, Cathie Lake and Cathie Creek (Figure 6). The whole of the waters of that part of the Hastings River within the following boundaries: commencing at the eastern extremity of the northern breakwater and bounded by that breakwater and the northern training wall generally westerly and northerly to the P.W.D. Coal Wharf; then by a line southwesterly to a point on the high water mark of that river at its intersection with the northerly prolongation of the eastern side of Park Street, Port Macquarie; then by that high water mark southeasterly to the confluence of Kooloonbung Creek with the river northeasterly, and the high water mark of the Hastings River generally northeasterly to the

southern training wall; then by that training wall, and the southern breakwater generally easterly to the eastern extremity of that breakwater and then by a line northerly to the point of commencement; and the whole of the waters of Kooloonbung Creek, Lake Innes, Cathie Lake and Cathie Creek and their tributaries.

Macleay River and South West Rocks Creek (Figure 2). The whole of the waters of South West Rocks Creek (or Back Creek) and the whole of the waters of that part of the Macleay River and that part of the South Pacific Ocean lying generally north and northeasterly of a line drawn across the River in a southeasterly direction from the southernmost extremity of Shark Island to the point of highwater mark on the northern edge of the public boat ramp on the eastern training wall, fronting portion 302, to the easternmost extremities of the northern and southern breakwaters of the Macleay River, and including the waters of the South Pacific Ocean within 100 metres of the northwestern side of the northern breakwater and within 100 metres on the southeastern side of the southern breakwater.

Figure 5. Camden Haven

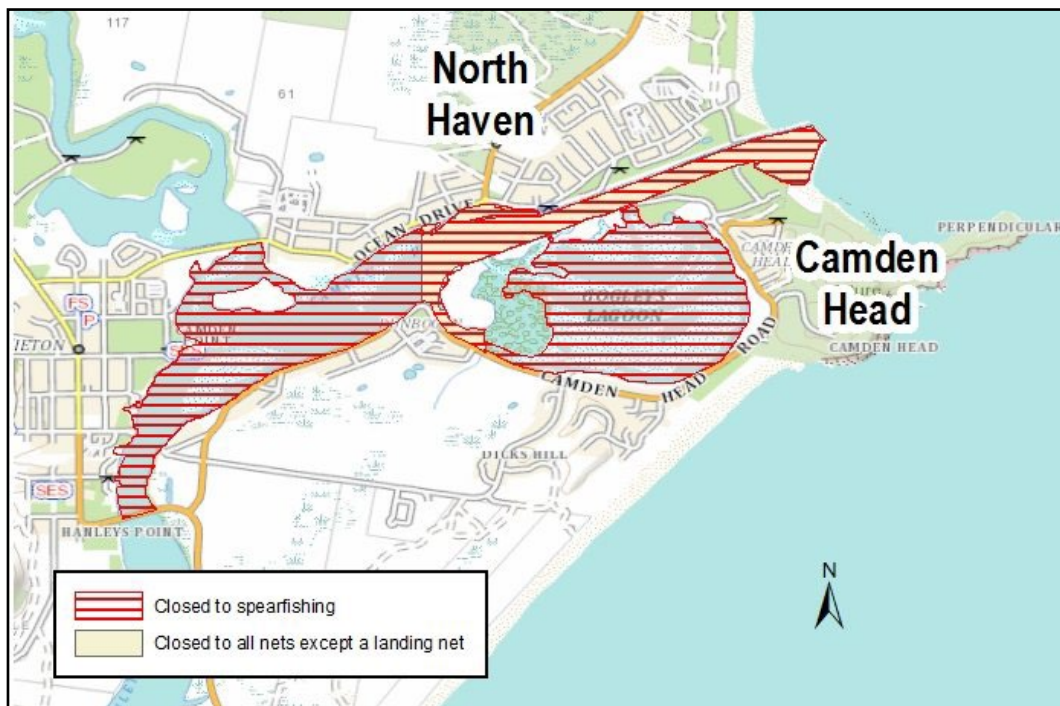


Figure 6. Hastings River



GENERAL RECREATIONAL FISHING RULES

- It is illegal for recreational fishers to sell their catch.
- Taking Eastern Blue Groper (also known as Blue, Brown or Red Groper) is prohibited.
- Protected species, prohibited size or fish in excess of the bag limit must be returned to the water immediately.
- It is illegal to jag/foul hook fish other than through the mouth.
- Leave all commercial fishing gear in place and do not disturb commercial fishers going about their lawful business.
- You must not alter the length of fish by filleting and/or removing the head until you are well away from the water. This rule does not apply at areas normally used for cleaning fish, such as boat ramp cleaning tables, if the fish are for immediate consumption or immediate use as bait, or for fish that do not have a legal length. You may clean fish by gilling and gutting only.
- It is an offence to interfere with any oyster lease. Please ensure that your vessel, your vessel's wash or your tackle does not interfere with any part of an oyster lease, including the oysters.
- Abalone gut is prohibited for use as bait in NSW waters to prevent the spread of abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG).
- Collecting pipis by recreational fishers for human consumption is prohibited in NSW. A maximum of 50 pipis is permitted to be collected for bait and not be removed more than 50m from the high tide mark. Pipis and cockles may contain toxins due to natural algal blooms. The blooms are not always visible.

Fishing safely

Fishing is fun, but remember to take care and exercise caution. Rock fishing can be particularly dangerous due to the unpredictable nature of the ocean. Follow these basic safety tips at all times when rock fishing:

- Always wear a life jacket
- Stay alert to the weather conditions
- Plan an escape route in case you are washed in
- Never turn your back on the ocean
- Wear appropriate non-slip footwear and light clothing
- Do not jump in if someone is washed in - wait for assistance
- Never fish alone

For more information go to www.safefishing.com.au

Responsible fishing

- Reduce wildlife injuries by attending your lines and avoid bird feeding areas.
- Only catch sufficient fish for your immediate needs. Release all others using best practice catch and release techniques. Remember all fish, including scavengers, are important to the ecosystem.
- If you retain your catch, dispatch all fish and invertebrates swiftly and humanely.
- Dispose of all litter and fish waste responsibly.
- Be considerate of others and keep noise to a minimum, especially in residential areas.
- Reduce wildlife injuries by attending your lines and avoid bird feeding areas.
- Use environmentally friendly fishing tackle such as lead alternative sinkers, biodegradable line, and non-stainless hooks where possible.
- Act responsibly when you have reached your bag limit and you remain in the fishing grounds.
- Do not interfere with commercial fishing activities or commercial fishing gear.

Recreational harvest of shellfish

Shellfish are filter feeders and they sometimes accumulate harmful substances from the water during feeding. Shellfish collected by recreational fishers should never be eaten raw. This is because recreationally harvested shellfish are not subject to

the same strict food safety controls as commercially harvested shellfish. Consequently the NSW Food Authority recommends eating only shellfish harvested under a recognised program. For more information check the DPI Recreational Fishing Guide or www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300 552 406.

Penalties

Penalties apply to persons who take or possess fish (including invertebrates, shells, etc.) taken in contravention of fishing closures, including aquatic reserves and intertidal protected areas.

Further information

For more information about fishing restrictions that apply to the Hasting's district waterways and beaches, please contact the;

Hasting District Fisheries Office

Unit 3, 22 – 24 Acacia Avenue

Postal Address: PO Box 5584

Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Phone: 1800 043 536

Web: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

Check for updates of this Recreational Fishing Guide at:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (July 2024).

However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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