

# Mackay Net Free Zone Voluntary Code of Practice for Recreational Fishers

The **Mackay Net Free Zone Voluntary Code of Practice** is designed to encourage local and visiting recreational fishers to adopt sustainable and responsible fishing practices while fishing in the Mackay Net Free Zone (St Helens to Cape Hillsborough). The Code seeks to ensure that fish stocks remain at a sustainable and healthy level throughout the Net Free Zone.

This **Voluntary Code of Practice** has been developed through a collaborative community partnership. The code is voluntary and does not replace Queensland Fisheries' regulations, which still apply.



**Take the Pledge today that you will uphold and promote the values, behaviours and practices of the Mackay Net Free Zone Voluntary Code of Practice.**



## Value ONE

### Maintaining healthy fish stocks through sustainable harvest behaviours

1. Limit your take of barramundi and king threadfin to a maximum of three of each species per trip
2. When keeping barramundi and king threadfin, limit the size to a maximum of 100cm in length
3. Limit your keep of all other species

## Value TWO

### Proper care and handling of all fish being released to maximise survival rates

1. Ensure fish to be released are supported along their length if removed from the water prior to release (especially if being photographed)
2. Do not lay fish on hot surfaces during the removal of hooks
3. Use knotless landing nets as they are less damaging to fish for catch and release fishing

## Value THREE

### Zero tolerance for illegal fishing activities

1. Immediately report any illegal or suspicious fishing activity observed within the Net Free Zone to Qld Boat & Fishing Patrol or Police (Fishwatch on 1800 017 116)
2. Promote the Voluntary Code of Practice among friends and visitors

## Value FOUR

### Care and respect of our environment

1. Keep our waterways pristine by removing all rubbish
2. Know your Marine Park zoning - don't be the next catch
3. Look after nursery areas such as lagoons, brackish and freshwater wetlands
4. Be croc wise - don't dispose of fish frames at boat ramps
5. Data is valuable in sustaining the Net Free Zone - assist with sharing information involved in monitoring its' effectiveness.



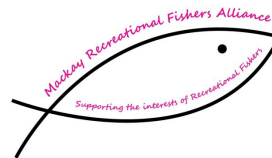
## To take the pledge visit

[www.hookedonmackay.com.au](http://www.hookedonmackay.com.au)

To find out more about Queensland  
boating and fishing regulations visit

[www.daf.qld.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/fisheries)

### This Voluntary Code of Practice is proudly supported by:



# FISH FOR OUR FUTURE