



## **PULU KEELING NATIONAL PARK**



### **RECREATIONAL FISHING STRATEGY**

The waters surrounding North Keeling Island contains marine habitats common to other parts of the Indo-Pacific. However the area is not subject to the development pressures now seen in similar coral atolls in many other parts of the region and the world generally. A high level of protection at North Keeling as a marine environment isolated from many of the forces impacting on similar marine environments elsewhere will ensure that the Park's immense scientific and conservation value is retained.

It is not considered appropriate, at this stage, to introduce bag limits and fish size limits due to the low level of recreational fishing historically carried out in what is now Pulu Keeling National Park.

Fishers are required to fill-out and return a fish catch data form for monitoring of fish stocks exploited by recreational fishers. The data will be used to monitor the impact of recreational fishing in the park as well as to increase knowledge of the Parks resources.

The fishing strategy will therefore ensure visitor safety and the protection of marine flora, fauna and marine habitats.

## **DEFINITION OF FISHING**

The definition of 'fishing' by recreational fishers means:

- (a) searching for, or taking fish; or
- (b) attempting to search for, or taking, fish; or
- (c) engaging in any other activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, or taking, of fish; or
- (d) any operation at sea or on shorelines directly in support of, or in preparation for any activity described in this definition; or

Note: This definition is based on, and closely matches, subsection 4(1) of the Commonwealths *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

## **FISHING STRATEGY FOR PULU KEELING NATIONAL PARK.**

- a) The only fishing method allowed will be trolling.
- b) A permit for recreational fishing in the National Park is required from Parks Australia office prior to entering the Park.
- c) Recreational fishing by private individuals shall be allowed outside 100 metres from the shoreline.
- d) Commercial fishing or the taking of any organism or object for sale or barter is prohibited.
- e) In accordance with regulation **12.35 (3b) (I) (ii)**. The only fishing gear allowed are sport fishing rods, reels, handlines, gaff hooks and landing nets. A maximum of three hooks or gangs per line is allowed. All other fishing gear is prohibited, including all types of nets (except landing nets); set lines; all types of harpoons or spears (including gidgees and Hawaiian slings) whether hand held or mechanically projected; and all types of traps including lobster pots.
- f) No spearfishing, harvesting or collecting of marine wildlife is permitted.
- g) Take no more than your personal or family needs.
- h) Take fish for consumption only, do not offer fish for sale, and refuse any offers to purchase fish.
- i) Aim to release unwanted or excess fish unharmed wherever possible.
- j) Promote fishing ethics by killing fish quickly, using tackle appropriate to the fishing situation, and not leaving fishing lines unattended.
- k) Respect the needs of fellow fishers and the environment.
- l) Treat fishing locations with respect. Do not leave bait to foul beaches, or leave packaging, discarded fishing line or plastic bags to pollute the marine environment and possibly entrap birds and other marine wildlife.
- m) Travel carefully, especially in fragile areas.
- n) Report pollution and degradation of the marine environment.
- o) Report illegal fishing activities (such as fish selling by recreational fishers) to Parks Australia or the Police as soon as they are noticed, and with much information as possible.
- p) Fishing or using underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA or Hookah), to take any crustacean, crab, rock lobsters, bugs or trepang is not allowed.

- q) A fish catch data form must be completed and returned to the Parks Australia office so that the impacts of recreational fishing can be evaluated. If necessary further controls can be introduced.
- r) Protected animals or wildlife caught inadvertently must be released immediately, unharmed.
- s) Although no size limits have yet been applied to Pulu Keeling National Park, use common sense and release undersized fish unharmed.

Parks Australia North  
September 2000

## FISH CATCH DATA FORM

The fish catch data form must be filled and returned to Parks Australia office.

Fish species	Size	Weight	Number of catch	Catch time	Rigging on line
Yellowfin Tuna					
Dog tooth Tuna					
Big eye Tuna					
Trevally					
Gold spotted Trevally					
Black Trevally					
Bluefin Trevally					
Big eye Trevally					
Trevally; rainbow runner					
Queenfish					
Tille Trevally					
Grey reef shark					
Black tip reef shark					
White tip reef shark					
Wahoo					
Other					

**Comments:**

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**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_