



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

# Christmas Island Recreational Fishing Rules 2022

## Fact sheet

August 2022

### New recreational fishing rules have been introduced for Christmas Island (CI)

On 23 March 2022, the Christmas Island Applied Laws Amendment (Fish Resources Management) Ordinance 2022 came into effect – establishing the first fishing rules designed to meet the needs and interests of the CI community and its unique marine environment.

The Australian Government has been working closely with the local community and CI Fisheries Management Committee to create local recreational fishing rules that are founded on more than 10 years' research and the views of the CI community.

### CI Fisheries Advisory Committee

As part of a collaborative fisheries management approach, an important element of the new rules is the establishment of a CI Fisheries Advisory Committee. This advisory committee is a key source of advice to the Minister regarding local fisheries matters.

Members of the advisory committee are appointed by the Minister for their ability to contribute to sustainable fisheries management at CI.

Acknowledging their local expertise and work in shaping the new recreational fishing arrangements, members of the CI Fisheries Management Committee form the foundational membership of the new advisory committee.

### The new rules

Given CI's isolation, fish stocks around the island depend mostly on local breeding populations to maintain and replenish the stocks. If not well-managed, they are vulnerable to changing environmental conditions and fishing pressure.

As such, a community and science-based approach to managing the CI fisheries has been adopted.

To protect fish stocks, the new rules contain the following key elements:

- Daily bag limits for pelagic and demersal finfish and rock lobster
- An airport possession limit for the export of fish off island of 10 kilograms of fish per person
- Totally protected species
- Requirements for fish to be landed whole, as fish trunks or skin-on fillets
- Fishing gear controls
- Spearfishing prohibition at Flying Fish Cove.

For more information, please go to:

- [Christmas Island Applied Laws Amendment \(Fish Resources Management\) Ordinance 2022](#)
- The Department of Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts via email at [IOTfisheries@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:IOTfisheries@infrastructure.gov.au)

## Reviewing and updating the new rules

For the benefit of the CI community, the sustainable management of local fish populations remains a key focus of the Australian Government.

As community values, environmental conditions and fish stocks may change over time, it will be important to update the rules as new information becomes available.

Ongoing monitoring and research will help inform changes to the rules in the future. This includes community input through citizen science, monitoring catch and effort by recreational fishers, stock assessments and other scientific research.

The CI Fisheries Advisory Committee plays an important role in guiding the science and research activities that takes place at CI and informing any changes to the fishing rules to ensure the ongoing sustainability of local fish stocks.

