



Australian Government

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

Taking fish from Christmas Island to mainland Australia

Fact sheet

June 2025

How much fish can I take from Christmas Island to the mainland?

People travelling from Christmas Island to mainland Australia have been issued a permit to bring up to 10kg of filleted fish per person for personal use. This includes bringing fish to share with family and friends.

What species of fish can I take?

The 10kg fish limit includes both pelagic species, such as wahoo and tuna, and demersal fish like snapper, grouper and sepat.

All fish must be caught in compliance with the Christmas Island Fishing Rules, including bag limits.

What evidence do I need?

It is suggested you travel with a copy of the permit (permit number: 0010576634), which is also attached to this fact sheet.

How must the fish be packaged?

Fish must:

- be gutted and may also be filleted
- have the skin attached
- be packaged flat
- be packaged so that it is easily accessible for identification
- if the fish is frozen, it must be able to be identified without being thawed.

If you are travelling in a group, you may package your individual allowance into a single parcel. For example, a family of four can pack up to 40kg of finfish into a single esky as long as all four people are travelling together.

How are the limits determined?

There are a number of laws that apply when taking finfish from Christmas Island to mainland Australia including:

- *Biosecurity Act 2015* and applicable Goods Determinations under that Act (biosecurity laws)
- *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA)(CI)*
- *Christmas Island Applied Laws Amendment (Fish Resources Management) Ordinance 2022* (recreational Fishing Rules).

All of these laws must be considered together when determining fish export limits.

Currently, there is a difference between how much fish you can take off Christmas Island under the fisheries legislation and how much fish you can bring into the Australian mainland under the biosecurity laws.

This has now been addressed through the issuing of a new permit under Section 179 (1) of the Biosecurity Act, which provides an exemption allowing 10kg of eviscerated fish to be imported into the mainland from CI. This permit is valid for five years from May 2025.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Art and Christmas Island Fisheries Management Committee is in discussions with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Biosecurity) to identify a long-term solution to better align the limits under these laws going forward.

What about travelling to or from Cocos (Keeling) Islands?

There are no biosecurity limits for taking fish directly from Christmas Island to Cocos (Keeling) Islands, or the return. However, the Fishing Rules do apply and these are different for each of the Indian Ocean Territories.

From Christmas Island to Cocos (Keeling) Islands, you can take up to 10kg of finfish (as long as you do not travel via mainland Australia).

From Cocos (Keeling) Islands to Christmas Island you can take up to 5kg of finfish, plus up to 2kg of gong gong and up to 2kg of kima (clam).



Permit to import conditionally non-prohibited goods

This permit is issued under *Biosecurity Act 2015* Section 179 (1)

Permit: 0010576634

Valid for: multiple consignments
between 19 May 2025 and 19 May 2030

This permit is issued to: Administrator of Christmas Island

4 Jalan Pantai

CHRISTMAS ISLAND WA 6798

AUSTRALIA

Attention: Farzian Zainal

This permit is issued for the import of Finfish for human consumption.

Exporter details:	Various exporters
Country of export:	Christmas Island

This permit includes the following good(s). Refer to the indicated page for details of the permit conditions:

1. Finfish for human consumption		
Description:	Fish Non-viable fish excluding members of the family Salmonidae or the genus Plecoglossus.	
End use:	Human consumption	
Permit Conditions:	Goods	Page 3

NOTE: Where a good has more than one set of permit conditions please read each set to determine which set of permit conditions applies to a specific consignment.

-----End of commodity list-----

This permit is granted subject to the requirement that fees determined under section 592(1) are paid.

Yvette Hill

Subdelegate of the Director of Biosecurity

Date: 19 May 2025

Important information about this permit and the import of goods

Note: This permit covers Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry import conditions. It is the permit holder's responsibility to ensure all legal requirements relating to the goods described in this permit are met. While the permit holder should rely on their own inquiries, the following information is provided to assist the permit holder in meeting legal obligations in relation to the importation of the goods described in this permit.

Information about this permit

Authority to import

The permit holder is authorised to import the goods described in this permit subject to the listed conditions specified in this permit.

Compliance with permit conditions and assessment and management of biosecurity risk

All imports are subject to biosecurity control and may be subject to biosecurity inspection on arrival to determine compliance with the listed permit conditions and to assess the level of biosecurity risk associated with the goods. Imports that do not comply with the import conditions specified in the permit may present an unacceptable level of biosecurity risk and may be subject to biosecurity measures that may include treatment, export or destruction at the permit holder's expense or forfeited to the Commonwealth.

Additionally, non-compliance with import permit conditions may constitute an offence or contravention of a civil penalty provision under section 187 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Change of import conditions

The Director of Biosecurity may, in accordance with section 180 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* vary or revoke the conditions on a permit or impose further conditions.

General information about importing goods

Notification of import

Notification of the import must be provided to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for all imported goods other than goods imported as accompanied baggage or goods imported via the mail and not prescribed under the *Customs Act 1901*, or where other exceptions specified in the *Biosecurity Regulation 2016* apply. Notification must be provided in accordance with section 120 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and Part 1 of Chapter 2 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2016*. Please refer to '[Sending your goods to Australia](#)' on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website.

Provision of required documentation

It is recommended that all required documentation accompanies each consignment. Required documentation must be presented to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for assessment. Airfreight or mail shipments should have all required documentation securely attached to the outside of the package, and clearly marked "Attention Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry". Documentation may include the permit (or permit number), government certification and invoice.

If the product description on the permit varies from the identifying documentation provided, the goods will not be released from biosecurity control unless evidence is provided to the biosecurity officer that the permit covers the goods in the consignment.

Any documentation provided must comply with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's [minimum documentation requirements policy](#).

Non-commodity cargo clearance

In addition to the conditions for the goods being imported, non-commodity biosecurity risks are assessed including container cleanliness, packaging and destination concerns, and may be subject to inspection and treatment on arrival. Please refer to the [Non-Commodity Cargo Clearance](#) BICON case for further information.

Fees

Fees are payable to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for certain services (see the *Biosecurity Charges Imposition (General) Regulation 2016*, Part 2 of Chapter 9 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2016* and Part 3 of Chapter 11 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*). Detail on how the department applies fees and levies may be found in the [Charging guidelines](#).

Compliance with other regulatory provisions

Goods imported into Australia may be subject to regulatory requirements under other legislation. It is the permit holder's responsibility to identify and ensure they have complied with all requirements of any other regulatory agency or advisory body prior to and after importation.

Permit conditions

It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that the following permit conditions are met in relation to each consignment. Where more than one set of permit conditions is shown for a good please read each set of conditions to determine which applies to a specific consignment.

1. Goods

This section contains permit conditions for the following commodity (or commodities):

1.	Finfish for human consumption	
	Product Description:	Fish Non-viable fish excluding members of the family <u>Salmonidae or the genus Plecoglossus.</u>

1.1. Biosecurity Pathway

Import conditions prior to arrival in mainland Australia

- a. The fish must not be members of the family Salmonidae or the genus Plecoglossus. The fish must be:
 - eviscerated (internal organs removed)
 - in a quantity of not more than 10 kilograms per person
 - carried on a conveyance by or for a person who is on board the conveyance

Note: This permit has been issued to the Administrator on behalf of all residents of Christmas Island. All residents may utilise this permit. Legislation will be amended in the future to remove the requirement for a permit.
- b. The goods must be clearly identifiable.

Import conditions after arrival in mainland Australia

Additional information

- c. Under the [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(General\) Regulation 2016](#) and Chapter 9, Part 2 of the [Biosecurity Regulation 2016](#), fees are payable to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for all services. Detail on how the department applies fees and levies may be found in the [Charging guidelines](#).
- d. In addition to the conditions for the goods being imported, non-commodity concerns must be assessed including container cleanliness, packaging and destination concerns and may be subject to inspection and treatment on arrival. Please refer to the Non-Commodity Cargo Clearance BICON case for further information.

----- . End of permit conditions ----- .