

Amnesty on recreational fishing restrictions from ocean beaches and headlands in sanctuaries

Beaches and Headlands Factsheet

March 2013

Background

- Our coast, marine waters, estuaries and bays are some of our greatest natural assets – our marine estate – and are highly valued by the people of NSW.
- Around 85 per cent of the State's population live within 50 kilometres of the NSW coast.
- The NSW ocean coastline is approximately 1,500 kilometres long and is made up of 755 beaches.
- Recreational fishing is an important past time that contributes at least \$550 million annually to the NSW economy and importantly much of this money is spent in small coastal towns.
- This amnesty means that more than 80 kilometres of extra coastline and beach area is now available for recreational fishing.

What is it?

- Effective immediately there will be an amnesty allowing line fishing from ocean beaches and headlands in sanctuary zones with the exception of identified sites for the protection of threatened species.

Why?

- The Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks found that information was truly lacking with respect to some no-take zones, for example ocean beaches.
- After the consideration of the Audit findings, the NSW Government is of the view that recreational fishing from ocean beaches and headlands poses little risk to our marine ecosystems. It is considered that any residual risk can be effectively managed through existing fisheries rules and regulations.
- The Expert Knowledge Panel will undertake a six month assessment of recreational fishing access to these areas.
- Through this new approach of assessing real risk and putting science at the heart of all decisions the NSW Government will restore confidence for our fishermen, water users and the conservation of aquatic biodiversity.

What does it mean for me?

- Fisheries and Marine Parks Officers will be instructed not to enforce restrictions that ban recreational line fishing in sanctuary zones on ocean beaches and headlands until the new threat and risk assessments have been undertaken.
- This applies to recreational shore-based fishing with a rod or handline while on ocean beaches and headlands in sanctuary zones within mainland marine parks.
- An assessment of beach and rock fishing activities in marine parks will be undertaken to determine whether new arrangements and changes to the law are needed. This will include consultation with the Knowledge Panel, key stakeholder groups and the community.

Does this mean I can recreationally fish on all ocean beaches and headlands in sanctuary zones in all coastal marine parks?

- Yes the amnesty applies to all ocean beaches and nearly all headlands in coastal marine parks.
- The one exception where the amnesty will not apply and restrictions will remain to help protect threatened species is a headland in a sanctuary zone in Batemans Marine Park.
- This area is Burrewarra Point within the Burrewarra Point Sanctuary Zone at Guerilla Bay. The area where restrictions will remain is defined as the whole of the Burrewarra Point rock platform from the south of the southern end of Guerilla Bay Beach to the eastern end of the first beach approximately 700 metres from the point on the southern side of Burrewarra Point (see Figure 1).

Does the amnesty include all methods of fishing?

- No. Only line fishing while on the shore.
- All other restrictions continue to apply including species lists, protected species, bag and size limits, gear restrictions and all other fisheries and marine park and aquatic reserve closures that are currently in place, including special purpose zones.
- All other sanctuary zone provisions apply.
- Restrictions on other activities in ocean beach and headland sanctuary zones will remain, such as bans on collecting, fishing for lobsters or abalone, spearfishing or fishing from a boat.

Does the amnesty include fishing in any other sanctuary zone?

- No. The amnesty only applies to fishing on ocean beaches and headlands and does not include estuaries and embayments, such as inside Jervis Bay.
- Restrictions will remain in sanctuaries around islands that cannot be reached by land.
- The amnesty does not include Lord Howe Island Marine Park. Current restrictions will remain in place.

More information

More information is available at www.marine.nsw.gov.au

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Figure 1 Burrewarra Point in Burrewarra Sanctuary Zone, Batemans Bay Marine Park

In Batemans Marine Park there is one headland within a sanctuary zone which will remain closed to recreational fishing to help protect threatened species.

This area is defined as the whole of Burrewarra Point rock platform from the south of the southern end of Guerilla Bay Beach to the eastern end of the first beach approximately 700 metres from the point on the southern side of Burrewarra Point.

Batemans Marine Park

