

Fishing in Queensland



Photo credit: lauritz@mira.

Queensland commercial fisheries production is Valued at \$250M (2004-2005). This represents 12% of the total value of Australian fisheries production (ABARE, 2006)

No habitat = no fish!

AQUATIC HABITAT PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY – NO HABITAT = NO FISH

QLD FISH HABITATS

Do you like seafood? To ensure we can enjoy wild harvest seafood for years to come, we need to look after the habitats that fish depend on for their survival such as sea-grass, mangroves, saltmarsh, as well as open water.

QLD's mangroves – important habitat for fish!



© Julian Taylor. Mangrove swamp on the Daintree River

QLD has 35 of the world's 69 species of mangroves as well as 3 hybrids! Mangroves are found in the lower reaches of estuaries and rivers lining the waters edge. They provide food and shelter for juvenile (baby) fish of many species including commercially important fish such as king and banana prawns, mud crabs, barramundi, mackerel, threadfin salmon, bream whiting, luderick and flat-head. They also help filter the water and keep it clean.

QLD saltmarsh – important habitat for fish, prawns and crabs!



Photo credit: QLD Department of Primary Industries. Low lying saltcouch and tall mangroves.

Qld has over 32 species of saltmarsh! This saltmarsh is usually found just landward of the mangroves. Saltmarsh is an important place for baby crabs, prawns, molluscs and insects. Fish such as yellow fin bream feed upon these animals at high tide.

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QLD seagrass – healthy waterways = more seagrass, more fish, turtles & dugongs!



Photo credit: NSW Department of Primary Industries

Did you know...??

Of some 60 seagrass species found worldwide, 30 species are found in Australia and 15 species are found in Queensland. Seagrass is found in shallow, protected salty water. It provides food and shelter for many fish and marine life such as dugongs and turtles.

QLD has lost lots of seagrass!

Increased nutrients and silt from agricultural and urban runoff has resulted in vast losses of seagrass in the past 50 years.

What can you do to help!??

- Only rain down the drain!
- Grow natives which do not need fertiliser!
- Keep boat propellers away from seagrass beds!

QLD's beautiful reefs - Clean river water, means clean seawater & healthy reefs!!



Photo credit: Anissa Lawrence, OceanWatch Australia Ltd

DID YOU KNOW...

Mangroves, seagrass, saltmarsh and all other marine plants are protected by law under the QLD Fisheries Management Act 1994.

Reefs are a very important habitat for many fish and marine creatures. The Great Barrier Reef supports 10 000 species of sponge, 350 different species of coral, 4 000 species of molluscs, 350 species of echinoderms (sea urchins, starfish) and over 1 500 species of fish. Dirty water that flows from the river into the ocean harms these reefs.



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Even logs in the rivers are home for fish!



Fish live and breed under fallen logs called “snags” in the river. It is important to leave them undisturbed.

Photo credit: NSW Department of Primary Industries

Riverside plants help keep water cool and clean!



Riparian vegetation is the trees and other plants that grow along the banks of the river. They shade the river, help keep the water cool for fish and other animals. They also help keep the soil in place so that it doesn't wash into the river when it rains.

Photo © Dept of Environment and Heritage: taken by Trevor Preston

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Banks fall in with no trees by the creek!



Without native riparian vegetation, the water is warmer, the banks collapse into the water, valuable soil is lost from the land and fills the waterways with nutrients and choking sediment.

Around 22, 000 tonnes of sediment find its way into the Maroochy River waterways each year from rural runoff.

Photo credit: Maroochy Shire Council. Echidna Creek.

Planting riparian vegetation - you can help!



You can help keep the rivers and creeks healthier for fish and other aquatic life by planting native vegetation alongside river-banks. Maroochy Council, as part of their River Recovery Project, has supported community groups to do on ground works such as this! Contact the council if you'd like to be involved.

Photo credit: Maroochy Shire Council.

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Your Local Catchment! – healthy forests in the upper catchment



Both Maroochy and Mooloolah Rivers have healthy forested upper catchments, cool water and healthy fish communities.

Photo credit: Maroochy Shire Council – Coolum Creek

Urbanised lower catchments of Maroochy and Mooloolah Rivers.



Photo credit: Maroochy Shire Council. Maroochy River Estuary.

Maroochy and Mooloolah Rivers both have very urbanised lower catchments, lots of canal estates with little riparian vegetation and seagrass remaining.

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Sediment plumes = not good for seagrass



Photo credit: Maroochy Shire Council.

Soil is washed from urban drains, building sites and rural land following rain events creating these large turbidity plumes (not good for seagrass!!). Maroochy Shire Council has a Sediment and Erosion Control Team to promote best practice in the building industry as one way they are addressing this issue.

Only use as much fertiliser as you need!



Photo credit: Maroochy Shire Council.

Fertilisers are used to make crops healthier and grow faster. If too much fertiliser is used, it can run into the river polluting the water and creating unnatural and sometimes poisonous algal blooms. This can harm the animals and plants in the river and in the ocean too.

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Less water in the river = less fish!



Water is pumped from the river to make crops grow. Only pump the amount of water crops use so there is enough water left for fish to swim in and others to use!

Photo credit: © Dept of Environment and Heritage. Taken by Trevor Ierino

Only rain down the drain!!



Whatever goes down our street and stormwater drains such as rubbish, leaves etc ends up in our rivers and on our beaches, making an awful place for fish and for us to swim!

Only water should go down these drains.

Clean streets = clean rivers, beaches and oceans.

Photo credit: NSW Department of Environment and Conservation



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Treated sewage in our waterways



Photo credit: Maroochy Shire Council.

Treated sewage discharged into the river from sewage treatment plants will always contain small amounts of nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorous and sometimes bacteria in low amounts. In the future, Maroochy Shire Council will not be discharging sewage into the river, but will use it as a valuable resource

Nasty Lyngbya!!



Photo credit: Bay Journal 12/1/06 – Lyngbya on Redland Shire Beaches.

Lyngbya is a native blue-green algae often found in Moreton Bay. However, there has been an increase in the severity, intensity and extent of blooms. This has been linked to land based pollutants entering the bay eg sewage, rural and urban runoff from poorly managed developments

It is nasty! It severely irritates skin, smothers seagrass and mangrove seedlings.

