

**Queensland Government  
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation  
Fisheries Queensland**

**Media Release**  
14 October 2011

**Coral reef fin fish off limits**

Coral reef fin fish will be off limits for two periods this year to reduce fishing pressure during the spawning season.

The first closure will be October 24 to 28 and the second from November 22 to 26.

Fisheries Queensland manager Dr Brigid Kerrigan said the closures protected fish at an important time in their lifecycle.

"Two five-day closures each year for five years were announced in October 2009," she said.

"The closures coincide with the new moon when key commercially fished coral reef fish species aggregate to spawn.

"October and November have been found to be months of high effectiveness for closures to protect coral reef fin fish particularly the key target species.

"Coral trout and other coral reef fin fish may be more susceptible to concentrated fishing when spawning and these closures are to help ensure the sustainability of the fishery."

Dr Kerrigan said the dates for the closures changed each year depending on the new moon phases.

"The closures only apply to those who are fishing for coral reef fin fish, which includes coral trout, cods, emperors, parrotfish, sweetlips, tropical snappers and sea perches," she said.

"Fishers need to remember that they should not take and possess coral reef fin fish species during the closure period."

The closures are in place from the tip of Cape York in the north, to Bundaberg in the south (the southern boundary is at latitude 24o50'S).

The eastern boundary of the closure is the same as the eastern boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. A map can be found at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

**Upcoming closures**

Year	Closure 1	Closure 2
2011	24 October to 28 October	22 November to 26 November
2012	12 October to 16 October	11 November to 15 November
2013	2 October to 6 October	31 October to 4 November

Latest fisheries information can be found at [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au) or via Twitter at [www.twitter/fisheriesqld](https://twitter.com/fisheriesqld) and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FisheriesQueensland](https://www.facebook.com/FisheriesQueensland)

