

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

**Media Release**  
9 January 2012

**Don't net a fine: use the right fishing gear**

While holidays and weekends provide a great time to cast a net for some bait and prawns, recreational fishers are reminded to check their nets to ensure they comply with the rules.

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) senior compliance officer Michael Mikitis said there were some simple rules around what nets could and couldn't be used.

"There are two types of nets recreational fishers can use in Queensland – seine and cast nets," he said.

"A recreational seine net (or bait net) must:

- be no longer than 16m in length
- have a mesh size no greater than 28mm
- be no more than 3m in drop
- not have a pocket
- not be fixed when used.

"A recreational cast net must not be more than 3.7m in length and have a mesh size no greater than 28mm.

"Anything outside of these nets is considered commercial fishing apparatus and recreational fishers can not use or possess them."

Mr Mikitis said the use of incorrect fishing apparatus could incur big fines.

"An on-the-spot fine of \$1000 for unlawfully using or possessing commercial fishing apparatus applies," he said.

"The maximum penalty for this offence is \$30,000.

"All recreational fishers that use nets should be aware of the rules.

"These rules limit the type and amount of fish that can be caught, which is important in helping to protect fisheries resources."

For further fisheries information, and to view the current fishing rules, visit [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)

**Media:** Kristal Hargraves 3225 1396

