



Angling Competition Information Guide

Introduction

There will be 5 target species for the AP&ES games in 2026, Bream, Flathead, Tailor, Trevally and Whiting.

As sizes and bag limits vary between states and territories. This guide is aimed to assist competitors by providing and outline for each species including legal size, bag limit and a guide on where you might find fish during the games.

The guide also provides information in relation Marine Parks, Fisheries Apps and local Marine Rescue groups and their contact details to ensure you are safe while on the water.

Please note that there has been 1 amendment to the fishing rules. As the competition was designed to be INSHORE and BEACH fishing, previously there was no Eastern boundary set. This has now been added and is outlined in red on page 4 of the document.

Flathead in QLD, are a source of confusion as there are two main species caught, Dusky and Bartailed. To assist you identify your catch please see Flathead notes on page 7, in relation to the size and bag limits for each species. Also please ensure when registering photos of the Flathead catch, you also send a second photo of the tail, to ensure your catch is legal size for the species caught.

Keep a lookout for my personal Goto Bream Bait. Yes, it does work, I have also caught the odd Mangrove Jack and Flathead on this weird concoction, but it just proves fish, especially bream, will eat almost anything if they are hungry enough.

Sincerely

John Skinner
Angling Competition Coordinator

Competition Rules

Tournament Times

Registration Day:

- Tuesday, 13th October 2026
- Fishing Hub
- 3pm until 5pm

Fishing Hub:

- Located at the Northern Pavilion, Broadwater Parklands, Corner of Marine Pde and North St, Southport QLD 4215.

Fishing Day 1:

- Wednesday 14 October 2026
- Start Fishing 6:00am
- Stop Fishing 3:30pm
- Fish Submission Deadline 4:00pm

Fishing Day 2:

- Thursday, 15th October 2026
- Start Fishing 6:00am
- Stop Fishing 3:30pm
- Fish Submission Deadline 4:00pm

Tournament Rules

Boat Insurance Requirement:

A valid boat insurance policy must cover all boats participating in the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games Angling competition. It is recommended that policy details be accessible during the event for easy reference.

Catch and Release Policy:

Any size fish can be photographed and submitted, however all fish species that do not meet the legal size must be released alive. All fish kept for consumption must meet Queensland legal length requirements and bag limits.

Fishing Equipment:

Both artificial lures and bait are permitted. Each angler may only use one rod at a time. Anglers are responsible for setting, casting, attending, and retrieving their own rods. Any unequal fishing practices may result in disqualification. Protests must be lodged with the Sport Coordinator on the day of the incident. The coordinator's decisions regarding rules are final.

Bait and Scents:

Burley and commercial scents are permitted.

Photographing Requirements:

Fish must be photographed on the provided tournament sticker/bragmat for clear measurement. Fish measurement must be rounded down.

The length of the fish is measured from the **tip of the nose to the tip of the tail**.

Submission Requirements:

All anglers must submit photos on the platform provided closer to the event.

All queries must be reviewed with the team prior to submission deadlines.

Tiebreaker Rule:

In the event of multiple fish of equal length, the first fish caught will be declared the winner.

Fishing Equipment Restrictions:

Gaffs are prohibited, and fish-friendly nets are recommended.

Line Class and Type:

The tournament is open to all line classes and types.

Fishing Boundaries:

Boundaries extend from Russell Island's overhead powerlines to the Pacific Highway Bridge at Nerang, excluding government-gazetted closed areas. Exclusion zones within these boundaries are specified.

All green zones are strictly adhered to, you fish these areas at the peril of the authorities. It's every boater's responsibility to know green zone boundaries. All anglers must fish within the stated tournament boundaries.

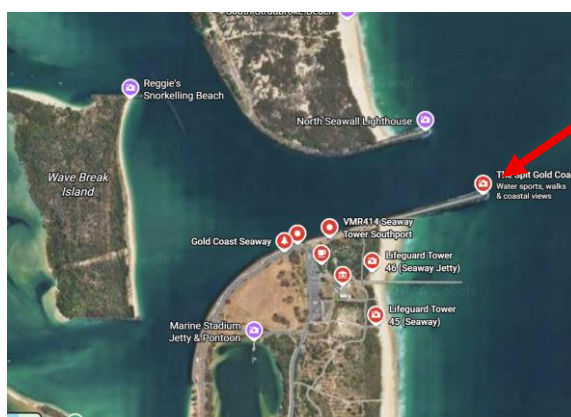
This means even if the boat is within the boundary, no casting or drifting beyond the boundary is permitted whilst lines are in the water.

Remember, a boundary can look different from different perspectives and distances, and unless you are in line with the boundary yourself, it isn't easy to see if someone is in or out of the boundary line.

Fishing Boundary Amendment

As the competition is for INSHORE and BEACH fishing, the eastern boundary is the eastern tip of the Southern Seaway break wall.

Please see map below:



Eastern Boundary
Southern Seaway
Wall, Eastern tip

Boat Usage:

When fishing in shallow water, please keep a cast away from the nearest boat, which is approximately 30m.

Be careful not to drop in on someone's drift. If they are already drifting the bank you should come in behind them, rather than dropping in front of them. If you are motoring against the current, either under electric or main motor, you must give way to boats drifting with the current.

Protest Procedure:

Protests must be reported to the Sport Coordinator on the day of the incident.

Committee Decisions:

All decisions the sport Coordinator makes regarding rules final.

Submission Deadlines:

Fish submissions must be entered by specific deadlines each day. All fish must be entered by 4.00pm on Wednesday & Thursday.

If you are having difficulty, please contact the sport coordinator.

Please ensure adherence to these rules and regulations for the smooth conduct of the competition.

Target Species

Bream

Yellowfin bream are caught in the surf and around headlands and inshore waterways as well as estuary environments.

When targeting them focus on open sand flats as well as areas of structure such as fallen trees (snags), rock bars, pylons, oyster leases, break walls and boat ramps.



Description

- Silvery bronze body
- pelvic, anal and ventral part of caudal fins (particularly the spines and soft rays) are yellowish and whitish, sometimes with black areas
- Lateral line with dark blotch at origin
- Pectoral fins have a dark spot at upper base

Size and possession limits

- Common length: 25 cm
- Maximum total length: 65 cm
- Combined possession limit: 30 (pikey and yellowfin bream and tarwhine)

Different Between Bream and Tarwhine

Bream and Tarwhine are often confused. As you can see in the pictures below, the most obvious differences between the Yellowfin Bream and the Tarwhine are coloration, head shape and anal fins.

The head of a Tarwhine is much more rounded than a bream. Tarwhine are also generally more yellow in colour with faint yellow stripes running horizontally down the body. There is a visible difference in the anal and caudal fins of both fish - this can be seen below. Tarwhine also feature a more prominent eye and a rounder body shape in general.



Bream



Tarwhine

John's Goto Bream Bait

No I am not crazy, both actually work. I have also picked up the odd Mangrove Jack and Flathead as well with both baits.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500g Beef Stir fry strips or Ox Heart • 2 table spoons Vegemite • Mix together let sit for 2-4 hrs • Add 1-1 ½ cups Wheat Germ and coat beef well • Split into Ziplock bags with enough for 1 fishing trip in each bag | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500g Chicken Giblet • 2 -3 Teaspoons crushed Garlic • Mix together, cover, sit for 2-4 hrs in the fridge • Add 1-1 ½ cups Parmesan Cheese and coat well • Split into Ziplock bags with enough for 1 fishing trip in each bag |
|--|--|

Flathead

They favour mud and sand bottoms to accompany their camouflage but have been found over rocky bottoms. Walking along the sandbanks at low tide you can find flathead impressions on the bank, the ambush is set for bait fish leaving the mangroves or flats as the tide drops. Flathead is caught all year round but generally more active in the summer months. March and April are generally the best two months for large flathead.

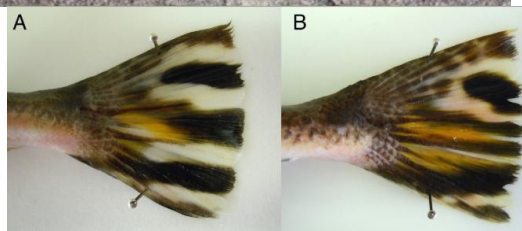


Dusky Flathead



- Top of body varies from dark greenish-brown, to pale fawn, to mid-brown; has blotchy appearance
- Can change body colour to match substrate
- under-surface of head is pale pink
- Pectoral fins are densely spotted with brown
- Tail has a distinguishing large dark blotch

Bartailed Flathead



- The top of the head and body is whitish and covered with small brown flecks; may have several indistinct dark bands across back
- Dorsal, pectoral and pelvic fins have small brown spots on rays
- Caudal fin has two or three horizontal dark bars, a prominent yellow blotch near the middle of the fin, whitish areas in upper lobe and along the lower margin

Description

Dusky

- Minimum: 40cm Maximum: 75cm
- 5, Not included in the combined possession limit for other flathead species

Bartailed

- Minimum: 30cm
- 5 combined limit for all flathead species (except dusky flathead)

Flathead Note:

Please ensure that you check the tail to ensure you have identified which species of flathead and ensure you provide a photo of the tail when logging your Flathead catch.

Tailor

Tailor are an aggressive hunter with a ferocious appetite and razor-sharp teeth. In fact, the name Tailor originates from their ability to cut through fishing nets with their sharp teeth. They have a tendency to school up and patrol turbulent near shore waters where they prowl the wash zones for baitfish.

The upper surface of their body is bluish green while the fins are paler blue-green with a tinge of yellow. Their lower jaw protrudes slightly beyond the upper jaw and both are lined with razor-sharp teeth.



They are a popular inshore sport fish that are best targeted at dusk and dawn around headlands, inshore reefs, surf beaches and estuaries.

Description	Size Limit
• greenish-blue back • silvery belly and sides • dorsal and anal fins pale green (tinged with yellow) • pectoral fins are bluish at the base • caudal fin is a dull green tinged with yellow	• Minimum size 35cm • possession limit 20
prominent sharp teeth compressed in a single series	

Whiting

Whiting fishing with baits in the river or on calm ocean beaches is one of the most relaxing ways to spend an evening. If you have young children it is also a great way to spend time together on the weekends, especially on those balmy summer nights. Get there early, have a picnic dinner and start fishing as the sun goes down.



Description

Sand Whiting



- adults are a uniform silver colour (no darker bars or blotches)
- pectoral fins have a dark spot at the base
- pale yellow pectoral, pelvic and anal fins
- dorsal fin is a pale olive-green
- the snout has a dull blue-grey tinge on very large specimens

Trumpeter Whiting



- silvery grey back
- paler belly with a silver horizontal band
- back and sides have dark blotches; upper and lower blotches frequently joined (especially towards the caudal fin); upper blotches generally larger
- pectoral fin has black spot at base
- operculum is dull or with an inner dark blotch showing through

Other Names

- Winter whiting
- Diver whiting

Size and Possession Limits

- 23cm
- Combined limit of 30 in total combined with Northern Whiting and Goldenline Whiting
- No legal size
- 50 possession limit

Trevally

The Gold Coast area harbours numerous trevally types including bluefin, diamond, brassy, golden, and giant, with the last two the most prolific.

The common theme with all these trevally is they become more active on the big tides leading up to both the new and full moons. They also like lots of baitfish present and tend to spike in their feeding habits around tide changes.



Discription



Bigeye Trevally

A large dark bluish-green to gold trevally, a paler yellowish-green to silvery below, with a dark caudal fin and dark grey to dusky tips on the soft dorsal and anal fins. Juveniles have 4-7 broad dark cross-bars, a round dark spot on the gill cover and a yellow caudal fin with black tip on the upper lobe.

Size and Possession Limit

- Minimum size: No size Limit in Qld
- Possession limit: 20
- Combined limit for all trevally (family *Carangidae*) (other than amberjack, queenfish, samsonfish, swallowtail dart and yellowtail kingfish)



Giant Trevally

Giant Trevally can be recognised by its steep head profile, strong scutes on the straight, posterior portion of the lateral line and its large size. Its colouration varies from uniform silvery to almost black. It can sometimes be a dusky golden colour and have dark irregular bands on the back, but never has a dark spot on the rear of the operculum.

Size and Possession Limit

- Minimum size: No size Limit in Qld
- Possession limit: 20
- Combined limit for all trevally (family *Carangidae*) (other than amberjack, queenfish, samsonfish, swallowtail dart and yellowtail kingfish)



Swallowtail Dart (Trevally)

Swallowtail Dartbody have a silvery body with dark blotches on the sides, a deeply forked caudal fin and elongate leading rays in the soft dorsal fin and anal fins. The body is silvery with dark blotches on the sides. There are two blotches above the pectoral fins.

Size and Possession Limit

- Minimum size: 30cm
- Possession limit: 30
- Combined limit for all trevally (family *Carangidae*) (other than amberjack, queenfish, samsonfish, swallowtail dart and yellowtail kingfish): 20

Other Useful Information

Where To Fish

Bream

Broadwater, Rivers

Gold Coast Broadwater & Seaway: Exceptional land-based options exist along the Marine Parade rock walls, where bream hold near drop-offs and bait-rich structures.

Canals and Pontoons (Main Beach to Broadbeach): Bream seek shade under residential pontoons. Casting unweighted or lightly weighted lures and letting them slowly sink is an excellent tactic.

Southern Moreton Bay (Jumpinpin Pin): For boat-based anglers, the deep channels, Tiger Mullet Channel, and mangrove edges are highly regarded for larger bream.

Surf Beaches

The Spit: The surf gutters and the area near the northern rock wall hold excellent bream, especially during a high tide.

Palm Beach & Burleigh Heads: The stretches of beach south of the headlands often feature deep holes and rips where bream forage for exposed

Flathead

Broadwater Sandbanks: Areas like **Crab Island** and **Curlew Island** offer excellent drift fishing along the edges of the banks.

Structure & Channels: Work your lures around the rocky edges and deep channels of the **Southport Seaway** or the western side of **Wave Break Island**.

Coomera River & Surrounds: The mouth of the northern arm, **Kalinga Bank**, and the **Pimpama River** are consistent producers.

Tailor

Broadwater

The Gold Coast Seaway: Both the North and South walls are premier spots. Fish here during early mornings or late afternoons, especially as the tide is changing, as larger "greenback" tailor congregate to ambush baitfish.

The Pipeline: Located inside the Seaway, this structure holds immense amounts of bait. Trolling lures over the pipeline or casting metal spinners into the current can yield great results.

Sovereign Islands & Deep Channels: The deeper waters and drop-offs around Sovereign Islands are well-known tailor hangouts. Trolling divers or flicking soft plastics and metals along the edges of the drop-offs is highly effective.

Channel Markers: Tailor often bust up baitfish around the navigation beacons. Keep an eye out for diving birds, which will help locate active feeding schools.

Southern Broadwater (Near Southport): The area between the Sundale Bridge and the Seaway contains shallower sandbanks, where smaller tailor chase whitebait.

Beaches

South Stradbroke Island: Famed for its deep surf gutters and often holds excellent sized tailor, especially during westerly winds. Accessible by boat or water taxi across the Gold Coast Broadwater.

The Spit: The northern end of Main Beach near the Gold Coast Seaway offers great water movement and wash areas that tailor love to patrol.

Narrowneck & Philip Park: Located centrally along the main stretch of beaches, these spots feature regular beach breaks and deeper channels that are perfect for a targeted tailor session. Access is easy via the Gold Coast Highway and Macarthur Parade.

Kirra Beach: Located further south, Kirra is a legendary winter spot for tailor where anglers often target the deep gutters near the rock wall and current rip

Whitting

Crab Island: The extensive sand flats here are a premier spot, especially when fished during the incoming tide as whiting move up onto the bank to feed on yabby holes.

Wavebreak Island: Fish the shallow sandbars on the western and northern sides where warm water meets the cooler currents.

Budds Beach / Nerang River mouth: An excellent land-based option on the southern edge of the Broadwater system.

South Stradbroke Island: The sheltered shores and sandbars along the western and southern edges of the island.

Southern Moreton Bay (Jumpinpin Pin): For boat-based anglers, the deep channels, Tiger Mullet Channel, and mangrove edges are highly regarded for larger bream.

Trevally

The Gold Coast Seaway: The rock walls and the pipeline area are prime zones. The Seaway features deep, high-flow water where trevally congregate to hunt baitfish. Use heavy tackle with live baits or cast top water poppers and stickbaits near the turbulent edges.

Wavebreak Island: The rocky fringes and drop-offs here are excellent for casting lures. Working a fast-retrieval stick bait or a popper along the edges during an incoming tide is highly productive when trevally are active on the surface.

The Deep Channels: Areas between the Sundale Bridge and the Seaway, including the Western Channel near Runaway Bay, consistently hold Bigeye Trevally. Trolling deep-diving minnow lures or casting small soft plastics into the drop-offs works wonders here.

Canal Entrances: Trevally frequently move into the canal entries off the main Broadwater to hunt. Casting at dock pylons, bridge supports, and edges with live bait or skipping lures can result in large fish

Qld Fisheries

Qld Fisheries have a very useful app that will assist you to identify your catch and insure your catch is legal size. The app is available in your App store.



For more information in relation to Queensland Fisheries please visit:
<https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/boating-fishing>

Marine Parks

The Gold Coast Broadwater is part Marine Parks Queensland in particular Marine Parks Southern Qld. It is important that all competitors are familiar with the requirement in relation to Green Zones, Go Slow Zone. The app is available in your App store.



For more information in relation to Marine Parks Queensland please visit:
<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/marine-parks>

Marine Rescue

There are 2 main rescue groups on the Gold Coast, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Southport and Volunteer Marine Rescue southport, and both fall under the banner of Marine Rescue Queensland. Volunteer Marine Rescue southport is the only group that provide a 24hr radio watch service. It is strongly recommended that competitors venturing out on to the Gold Coast Broadwater logon and off with them each day.

You can logon and off via VHF marine radio on channel 73 or by phone. Details below:

Call Sign: VMR Southport or VMR 402

Phone Number:..... 5591 1300

Information Needed:..... vessel name, Registration number, number of people on board, destination, estimated time of return, phone number onboard.

When you return to the boat ramp, please ensure that you log off with Volunteer Marine Rescue southport. If you fail to log, they will try to contact you via radio, if unsuccessful via phone. If no answer or reply after 30 minutes, Gold Coast Water Police will be notified.

Volunteer Marine Rescue southport also maintain a radio watch on VHF emergency marine radio channels 16 and 67.

Seaway Tower

For those with vessels capable of venturing offshore, the Seaway Tower maintains a radio watch for vessels leaving and returning between 0545hrs and 1800hrs daily. The Seaway Tower is staffed by volunteers of both rescue groups mentioned above.

It is strongly recommended that you utilise this service if you do venture into our offshore for a little extra fishing.

You can logon and off via VHF marine radio on channel 73 or by phone. Details below:

Call Sign: Seaway Tower or VMR 414

Phone Number:..... 5591 2948

Information Needed: vessel name, registration number, number of people on board, destination, estimated time of return, phone number onboard.

When you return to the Seaway, please ensure that you log off with the Seaway Tower.. If you fail to log, they will try to contact you via radio, if unsuccessful via phone. If no answer or reply after 30 minutes, Gold Coast Water Police will be notified.