



# FISHING NORTHEAST ARNHEM LAND



# Dhimurru



# WELCOME TO COUNTRY

**The Yolŋu Traditional Owners of this area welcome you to our country. We ask that you respect and recognise the cultural importance of our land and waters when you are here.**

Yolŋu are proud of our tradition of only harvesting what we need and using our catch to the fullest. Please remain sensitive to our cultural environment and how marine life is caught and utilised within it.

Everything in the Yolŋu universe belongs to one of two basic divisions, or moieties, called Dhuwa and Yirritja. Within each moiety, people belong to smaller groups called clans, each with its own language. Clan members own areas of land and sea, but the relationship is much more complex than just caring for, or owning the land. Yolŋu often say that we 'come from' the land, or we 'are the land'.

The extreme importance of the widespread network of kinship in Yolŋu society means that most people would know their relationship to a wide number of places in terms of their relationship to the people who own them.

Yolŋu are concerned for your safety and wellbeing, so if you are uncertain of where you can go and what you can do, please contact the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation on 08 8939 2700. We kindly request that all visitors adhere to our rights of occupation and respect our privacy.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## **Recognise the cultural and spiritual attachment Yolŋu people have to the land and water**

- Respect cultural ceremonies. This may mean that a particular area is temporarily closed to access.
- Be courteous to other water users and those who belong to the local Yolŋu community.
- Do not land ashore without first obtaining an access permit, from either the Northern Land Council or Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation.

## **Respect sacred sites**

- Do not enter any part of the waters containing identified sacred sites.
- Take care when boating to avoid damaging sensitive areas.

## **Take no more than you need**

- Carefully return excess or unwanted fish into the water using best practice catch and release methods.

## **Understand and observe all fishing regulations and report suspicious fishing activity**

- Keep up-to-date with regulations and observe them. They are based on the best available scientific evidence.

## **Prevent pollution and protect wildlife by removing rubbish**

- Dispose of rubbish correctly to avoid potentially entrapping birds and aquatic creatures.

# STAY SAFE ON THE WATER, AND SLOW DOWN.

**Poor visibility, speeding boats and hazards under the water can cause accidents. For your safety, and the safety of all water users, please follow these rules:**

- Slow down if you can't see well. It's dangerous to travel at speed in the rain, fog, mist, smoke and glare.
- Slow down at night, and take special precautions. Potential hazards may not be lit or easily seen.
- Slow down on busy waterways, when you are near moored or anchored vessels, and around working vessels or larger vessels which may have difficulties manoeuvring.
- Slow down in shallow areas and if you aren't familiar with the waterway. Not all hazards will be marked or lit, and water depth can change quickly.
- Slow down in bad weather. Wind, waves and currents can affect the ability of boats to manoeuvre safely.



## DUGONGS AND TURTLES NEST AND FEED IN THESE WATERS.

**Their habitat is under threat from boats travelling at high speeds and anchoring in their nesting and feeding areas. Help preserve the habitat and save our wildlife**

- Don't speed through the nesting and feeding grounds.
- Don't anchor over seagrass and try to avoid fragile coral beds. If you are not sure where they are, contact Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation for more information.
- Don't anchor in narrow channels.



## BE CROCWISE

Saltwater crocodiles inhabit the area and are potentially dangerous to humans. Do not swim in any waters or approach the edge of waterways. Clean fish away from the water's edge.  
[www.becrocwise.nt.gov.au](http://www.becrocwise.nt.gov.au)

Please be aware that this map is only a guide and does not depict all hazards and should not be used for navigation.

Bonner Rocks



Melville Bay is considered a significant area for inshore dolphins. It's important that vessels adhere to the Australian National Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching and do not approach within 50m of a dolphin group, or 100m of a whale group.



# FISHING RESPONSIBLY

Possession limits are the maximum number of fish you may have in your possession, however you should only take enough for your immediate needs.

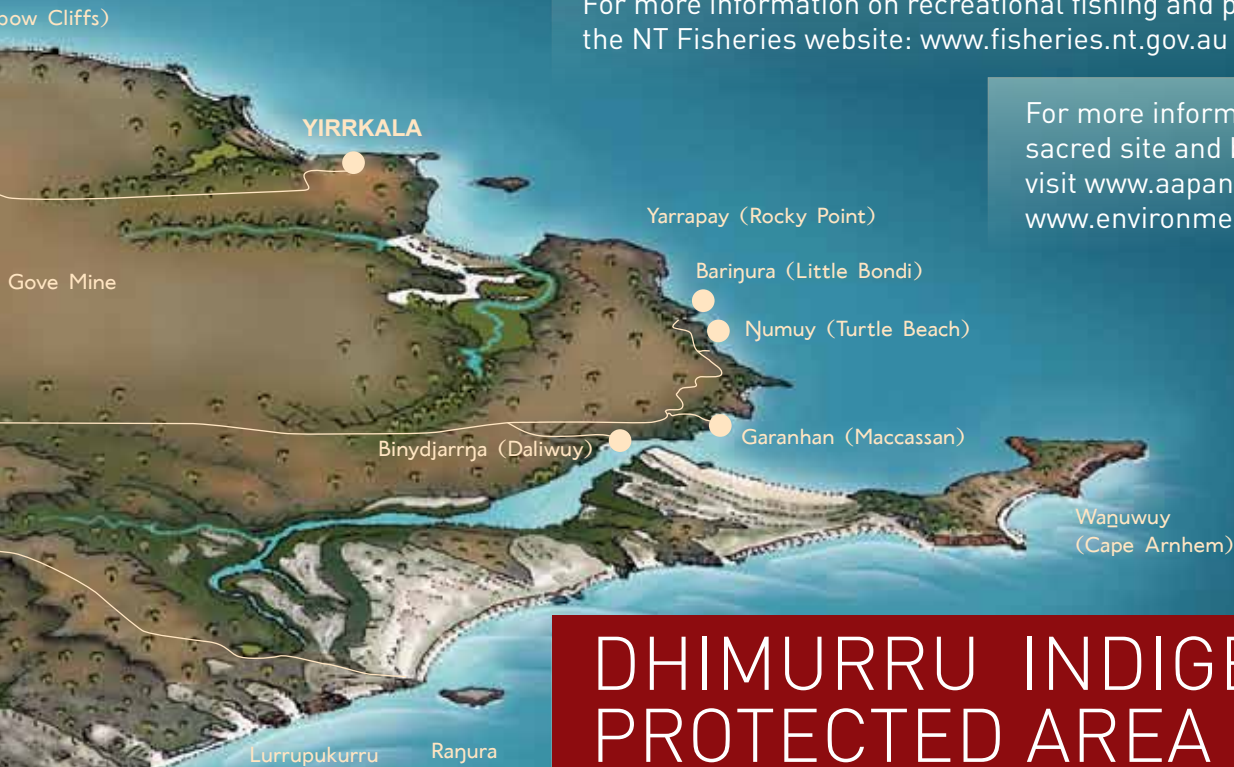
## Fishing for reef fish? Be barotrauma aware.

Don't target reef fish for catch and release when fishing in a depth of 10 metres or more.

Keep the reef fish you catch and utilise them, within possession limits, as released fish are unlikely to survive.

For more information on recreational fishing and possession limits, visit the NT Fisheries website: [www.fisheries.nt.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nt.gov.au)

For more information regarding sacred site and biodiversity protection visit [www.aapant.org.au](http://www.aapant.org.au) and [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)



## DHIMURRU INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA (IPA)

Aboriginal land is privately owned. It is not Crown land, nor public land. You must obtain permission before going ashore onto aboriginal land.

To apply for an access permit or for more information please contact the Northern Land Council (NLC) on 08 8986 8500 or Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation on 08 8939 2700, or visit [www.dhimurru.com.au](http://www.dhimurru.com.au).





**Fishwatch Hotline 1800 891 136 (report suspicious fishing activity)**

**Dhimurru Sea Rangers 08 8939 2700**

The information in this booklet does not replace  
the controls in the NT Fisheries legislation.  
For the most up to date recreational fishing regulations  
visit the Fisheries website at  
[www.fisheries.nt.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nt.gov.au)  
or contact Fisheries on 08 8999 2144.  
Printed January 2016