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a copy

BOAT OWNERS GUIDE

caring for our coastal waters

Practical ways to reduce your boats running costs
while looking after our coastal waters



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Reef Watch Program**

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Second Edition

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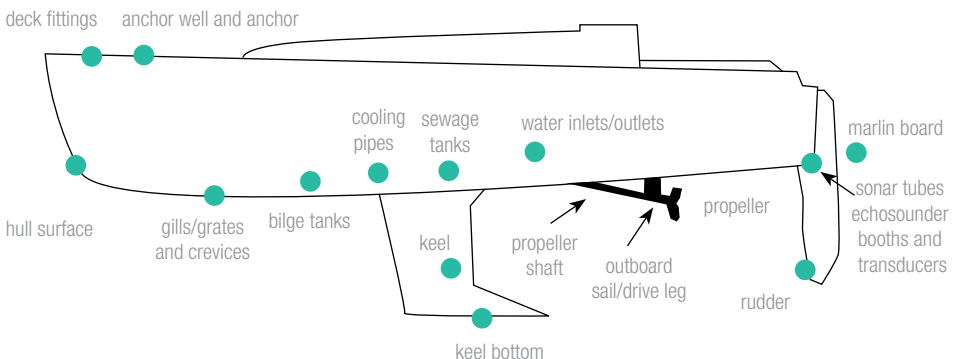
KEEPING YOUR BOAT CLEAN

THE BENEFITS TO YOU AND OUR COASTAL WATERS.

Boats have the potential to spread marine pests from one place to the next. When cleaning down your boat after a day out on the water remember the six D's...

1. **Dislodge** all plants and animals and bin them
2. **Drain** water from the boat and gear
3. **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the bin
4. **Douse** your boat and gear with freshwater
5. **Dry** your boat and equipment for at least 48hrs
6. **Don't forget** to apply an authorised antifoulant

Your boat should be washed down away from water ways to stop spread of pests. Places to check for marine pests when cleaning your moored boat.

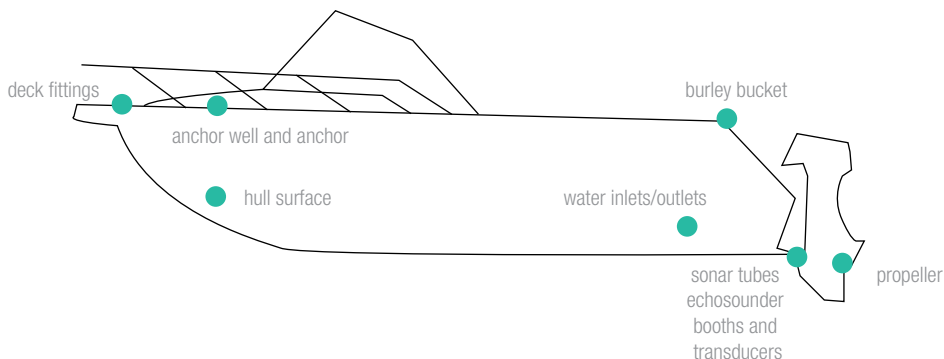


THE BENEFITS OF BOAT MAINTENANCE

- Extend the life of your boat and gear
- Reduce boat running costs
- Use less fuel
- Reduce maintenance costs
- Keep boating industries free from cleaning regulations
- Protect the health of our marine waters for future generations
- Protect our enjoyment of activities like fishing, swimming and diving

Refer to the EPA Code of Practice for Vessel and Facility Management (marine and inland waters) for more information regarding best practice environmental management for boating maintenance.

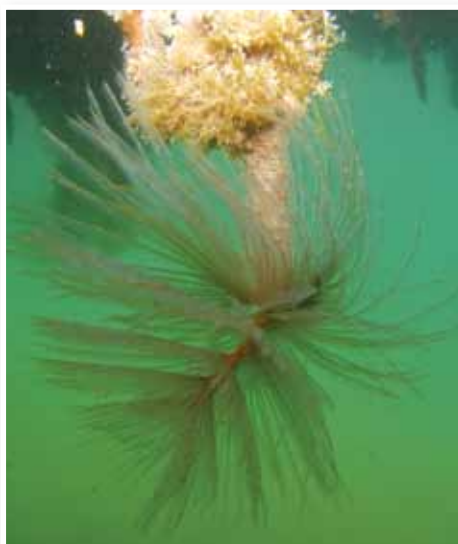
Places to check for marine pests when cleaning down your trailer boat.



MARINE PESTS

Recreational fishers and boaters enjoy the marine environment and its environs. They catch, observe and interact with dozens of different marine species. They are often the people who first see problems such as introduced feral species. That's why if you are a recreational boater, we want you to be our eyes on the water, help us to stop the spread of marine pests and keep fish habitats healthy by reporting the species on the Feral or In Peril identification slates.

In South Australia, the seaweed known as *Caulerpa taxifolia* has been a high profile pest, first found in West Lakes and now established in the Port River system. South Australia also has a number of other well established feral marine species such as the European fan worm, European shore crab and European sea squirt. However, there are some feral marine species that are present in Australia that have not yet reached SA, such as the northern Pacific sea star (*Asterias amurensis*) and Japanese kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*), which pose a very high risk to SA marine ecosystems.



European fan worm on Wallaroo boat ramp pontoons, identified by its multi-layered fan © Peter Moody.

For a free copy of
**Feral or In Peril identification
cards** send an email to...
feralperil@conservationsa.org.au

Further information

www.reefwatch.asn.au and

www.marinepests.gov.au

<http://feralperil.ala.org.au>

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REPORT A MARINE PEST

FERALPERIL.ALA.ORG.AU



Introduced Northern Pacific sea star *Asterias amurensis*.

1. Take a photo and refer to *Feral or In Peril* identification slates and the website www.marinepests.gov.au for information to work out if you have found a marine pest that hasn't already been found in that area. **If you have found a new outbreak of a pest species contact Fishwatch on 1800 065 522** If you have found a pest species that is already recorded in that area or you are not sure if it is a pest species then report your finding here: <http://feralperil.ala.org.au> or email: feralperil@conservationsa.org.au

2. Provide information to allow pest to be relocated. Give as much detail as possible including **location** (e.g. latitude and longitude, shore marks or navigation beacons) and **position** (e.g. on sand, south side of reef, 5 metres deep, etc.).
3. If not in a protected area & you are certain it is a pest then collect a sample. Collect one or two samples of the suspect organism. Place these in a plastic bag with a little seawater and freeze as soon as possible.
4. If you are in a protected area do not remove the organism, instead **take a photo** if possible.

If in any doubt – leave the organism untouched.

FREE
CARDS



Free identification/
reporting cards for feral
or in peril species.

SHARK CODE OF CONDUCT

FOR POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WHILE BOATING



White Shark
Carcharodon carcharias

© Illustration, R. Swainston www.anima.net.au

WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER A SHARK:

- ✓ Restrict your speed to below 4 knots
- ✓ Avoid sudden speed and direction changes
- ✓ Switch the engine to neutral to avoid injury to shark

DO NOT:

- ✗ Antagonise a shark
- ✗ Harm or interfere with sharks
- ✗ Lure sharks out of water with baits
- ✗ Attempt to touch sharks

- ✗ Reward sharks with food for interaction
- ✗ Encourage unnatural behaviour

Sharks are a natural predator and will respond with aggressive behaviour when provoked. Follow the tips above and your shark interaction will be a positive one.

If a shark is in an area close to people in the water report to
FISHWATCH 1800 065 522

Email your sighting to:

feralperil@conservationsa.org.au

www.conservationsa.org.au/coast-and-marine-projects/sharkwatch



REPORT A SIGHTING

[HTTP://FERALPERIL.ALA.ORG.AU](http://feralperil.ala.org.au)

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<http://feralperil.ala.org.au>

Blue devil grows to 36cm



© Simon Bryars

Blue morwong grows to 70cm



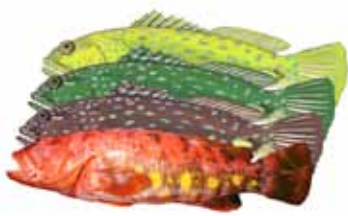
© SA Angler Magazine

Western blue groper grows to 1.75m



© Simon Bryars

Harlequin fish grows to 76cm



© Simon Bryars

The taking of **Western blue groper** in Spencer Gulf, Gulf St Vincent and Backstairs Passage is **prohibited at all times**.
Outside of these areas, blue groper can only be caught between 60 – 100 cm long, with a bag limit of 2 and a boat limit of 6.



MARINE LITTER

KEEP IT IN THE BOAT!

POLLUTION AFFECTS THE HEALTH OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPOILS OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE OUTDOORS.

Protecting the environment means:

- If a marine mammal or bird visits while you are fishing, pull in your line and take a short break until they move on
- Taking all rubbish away from fishing sites including: discarded fishing line, hooks, plastic bags, bottles, six-pack holders and all other packaging
- Disposing of all items correctly to avoid potential hazards to fauna
- Appropriately disposing of pest species such as *Caulerpa taxifolia*
- Not leaving unused bait to foul rock platforms, river banks or beaches
- Not flushing rubbish, chemicals or other waste into stormwater systems
- Participating where possible in environmental programs such as Clean up Australia Day, Reef Watch SA and TAnglerBin Program.

HOOK, LINE AND THINKER: FISHING DEBRIS RECYCLING PROGRAM

BE A RESPONSIBLE FISHER.

Place old fishing line, hooks and sinkers in the TAnglerBin to be recycled. Bins are located in several popular Onkaparinga fishing spots.

For locations call the City of Onkaparinga (08 8344 0606) or visit www.onkaparingacity.com.

This project is supported by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.





IF POSSIBLE DON'T DUMP IT... PUMP IT!

GREY AND BLACK WATER DISPOSAL

Grey water is water that has been used in the kitchen, showers, sinks and laundry. Black water is the drainage and other wastes from any form of toilet or urinal. If either type of wastewater is discharged into aquatic environments it can damage ecosystems, create algal blooms and pose significant human health risks.

Why pump it rather than dump it?

Unless you can treat your wastewater on board, you should contain it on your vessel until it can be disposed of properly on land. Look out for marinas that provide wastewater pump-out stations and other services to help you protect the environment. However, you can legally release wastewater into the ocean if you follow all of the rules below.

You can release black water into the ocean if:

- your boat is moving
- your boat is at least three nautical miles from land, an aquaculture lease or any people in the water
- it has been put through a macerator before it is released and it has not been treated with a formaldehyde-based treatment

You can only release grey water if:

- your boat is at least 1 nautical mile from land or any people in the water
- your boat is at least 3 nautical miles from an aquaculture lease
- it doesn't have anything visibly floating in it

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

By reporting problems to the relevant authorities, we help ensure that our waters are pollutant free and discourage practices that destroy fish habitat.

Reporting environmental damage includes:

- Reporting any fuel or oil spills
- Reporting all fish kills
- Reporting all stranded or dead aquatic animals and protected species
- Reporting any signs of pollution or run-off that may impact on the aquatic environment
- Reporting any unusual vegetation or stream damage, e.g. algal blooms, habitat destruction etc
- Reporting sightings of marine pest species such as *Caulerpa taxifolia* (if pest has not already been reported in the area found)



BEACH LAUNCHING

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

USE ONLY ESTABLISHED ROADS AND TRACKS AND STAY CLOSE TO WATERLINE

Using designated/approved roads and walking tracks includes:

1. Only driving on beaches where it is permitted
2. Avoiding straying from established roads and tracks
3. Treating all natural areas with respect
4. Driving vehicle as close to waterline as possible



HOODED PLOVERS NEED YOUR HELP!

Hooded Plovers can be seen at a number of the regions' sandy beaches. They nest directly on the sand between the high-water mark and the base of the sand dunes during spring and summer, which is also the busiest time of year on our beaches. If you see Hooded Plovers on the beach or want further information please contact the Department for Environment and Natural Resources on **(08) 8204 1910**

© Christopher Zamore and Glenn Ehmke



TAKE CARE WHEN BOATING

AVOID DAMAGE TO WILDLIFE & HABITAT

**THINK ABOUT WHAT IS UNDER YOUR BOAT!
ANCHOR ON SAND TO AVOID REEF AND SEAGRASS**

BOATING INCREASES THE RANGE OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES BUT UNSKILLED AND THOUGHTLESS USE OF BOATS CAN LEAD TO ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

Taking care when boating includes:

1. Showing care when boating and anchoring, particularly around reef or seagrass areas
2. Avoiding disturbance to wildlife by excessive noise or harassment
3. Stay alert when boating to avoid collisions with wildlife
4. Refuelling on land wherever possible and not discharging wastes, oil or sewage into the water
5. Taking care with your boating speed to minimise erosion of riverbanks and shorelines from wave action
6. Avoiding modification of or disturbance to fish habitat while boating and fishing

WHALE & DOLPHIN ZONES

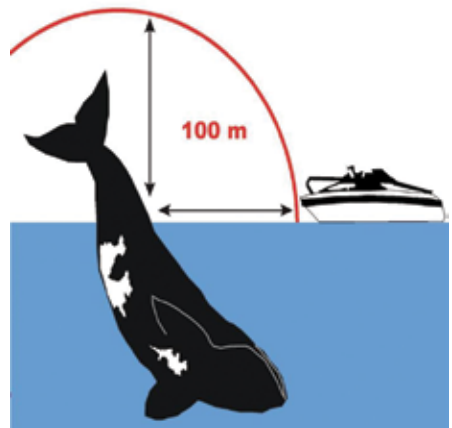
A PERSON WHO IS IN CONTROL OF A BOAT MUST NOT MOVE IT CLOSER THAN 100 METRES TO A WHALE AND 50 METRES TO A DOLPHIN IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WATERS.

A person who is in control of a vessel that is within 300 metres of a whale:

- must not approach the whale head on or tail on
- must not move the vessel between the whale and another whale that is within 300 metres of the vessel
- must not drop an anchor from the vessel
- if the whale is moving towards the vessel - must not use, or continue using, the vessel to enable persons on the vessel to observe the whale or swim near it unless he or she either maintains the vessel's position or moves it away from the whale
- must not drive the vessel at a speed exceeding 4 knots if the vessel is within 300 metres of a whale

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR SOMEONE CONVICTED OF BREACHING THIS REGULATION IS \$100,000 OR IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

THE REGULATIONS ARE IMPORTANT FOR BOTH ANIMAL WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY.



FURTHER INFORMATION

National Marine Pest information www.marinepests.gov.au

Boat biofouling www.marinepests.gov.au/recreational-boating/managing-biofouling

Pest and disease www.padil.gov.au

Biosecurity www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/aquatic

Whale watching www.victor.sa.gov.au

Birds Australia, Beach Nesting Birds www.birdlife.org.au

PIRSA Fisheries www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing

Grey and black water discharge www.epa.sa.gov.au/vfm

SA National Parks and Wildlife Whale and Dolphin Regulations Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources www.environment.sa.gov.au

Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board www.amlrnm.sa.gov.au

RecFish Australia www.recfish.com.au

RecFish SA www.recfishsa.com.au

Conservation Council SA www.conservation.sa.gov.au

Reef Watch www.conservation.sa.gov.au/reefwatch-home

Feral or In Peril www.conservation.sa.gov.au/feral-or-in-peril

Shark Watch www.conservation.sa.gov.au/coast-and-marine-projects/sharkwatch

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



feralperil@conservationsa.org.au
<http://feralperil.ala.org.au>

