



# Taking fish from Christmas Island to mainland Australia

## Fact sheet

October 2024

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### How much fish can I take from Christmas Island to the mainland?

People travelling from Christmas Island to mainland Australia may bring up to 5kg of fish per person for personal use. This includes bringing fish to share with family and friends.

### What species of fish can I take?

The 5kg fish limit includes both pelagic species, such as wahoo and tuna, and demersal fish like snapper, grouper and sepat.

All fish must be caught in compliance with the Christmas Island Fishing Rules, including bag limits.

### How must the fish be packaged?

Fish must:

- be gutted and may also be filleted
- have the skin attached
- be packaged flat
- be packaged so that it is easily accessible for identification
- if the fish is frozen, it must be able to be identified without being thawed.

If you are travelling in a group, you may package your individual allowance into a single parcel. For example, a family of four can pack up to 20kg of finfish into a single esky as long as all four people are travelling together.

## How are the limits determined?

There are a number of laws that apply when taking finfish from Christmas Island to mainland Australia including:

- *Biosecurity Act 2015* and applicable Goods Determinations under that Act (biosecurity laws)
- *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA)(CI)*
- *Christmas Island Applied Laws Amendment (Fish Resources Management) Ordinance 2022* (recreational Fishing Rules).

All of these laws must be considered together when determining fish export limits.

Currently, there is a difference between how much fish you can take off Christmas Island under the fisheries legislation and how much fish you can bring into the Australian mainland under the biosecurity laws.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Art and Christmas Island Fisheries Management Committee is in discussions with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Biosecurity) to identify any opportunities to better align the limits under these laws going forward.

## What about travelling to or from Cocos (Keeling) Islands?

There are no biosecurity limits for taking fish directly from Christmas Island to Cocos (Keeling) Islands, or the return. However, the Fishing Rules do apply and these are different for each of the Indian Ocean Territories.

From Christmas Island to Cocos (Keeling) Islands, you can take up to 10kg of finfish (as long as you do not travel via mainland Australia).

From Cocos (Keeling) Islands to Christmas Island you can take up to 5kg of finfish, plus up to 2kg of gong gong and up to 2kg of kima (clam).