

FISHING THE TIWI ISLANDS

WELCOME TO OUR ISLANDS

The Tiwi Islands are made up of Melville and Bathurst Islands and numerous smaller, adjacent islands. The Vernon Islands also form part of the Tiwi estate. The Tiwi Traditional Owners and custodians of the area welcome you to our islands and ask that you respect and recognise the cultural importance of our land and waters.



CODE OF CONDUCT

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS.

- Understand and observe all fishing regulations and no fishing zones. Report illegal fishing activities to the FISHWATCH hotline 1800 891 136 or the Tiwi Land Council HQ at Pickataramoor - 08 8970 9373.
- Take no more fish than your immediate needs and carefully return excess or unwanted fish into the water unharmed.
- Be courteous to all water users and those who belong to local Tiwi communities.
- Respect Tiwi cultural ceremonies. This may mean that a particular area is temporarily closed to access.
- Do not land ashore without first obtaining a separate Aboriginal land permit, from the Tiwi Land Council and abide by alcohol restrictions for the area.
- Respect sacred sites and do not enter any part of the waters containing identified sacred sites unless specifically permitted to do so by the Tiwi Land Council.
- Do not clean or dispose of fish within the vicinity of a community.
- Prevent pollution and protect wildlife by removing rubbish and dispose of correctly to avoid potentially entrapping birds and other aquatic creatures.

Tiwi artwork provided by Munupi Arts © remains with Munupi Arts and artist Robert Puruntatameri

Fishwatch Hotline 1800 891 136 (report suspicious fishing activity)

The information in this booklet does not replace the controls in the NT Fisheries legislation, but provides a summary of its general intent. For the most up to date recreational fishing regulations visit the Fisheries website at www.fisheries.nt.gov.au or contact Fisheries on 08 89992144. Printed June 2014



TIWI AND VERNON ISLANDS ZONES

PERMIT FREE ACCESS

The Tiwi have agreed to provide permit free access to the intertidal waters of the Tiwi and the Vernon Islands in the areas as outlined in the attached map.

This includes access to the entire southern sections of the islands and the eastern side of Melville as well as the Aspley Strait (including associated rivers and creeks). In effect, this means that fishers in boats can access and fish in these areas provided they do not go ashore (land access at designated camp sites requires permission by way of a permit as detailed below).



CAMPING AREAS PROVIDED WITH A PERMIT

There are currently two designated camping areas for use by fishers and campers.

These camping areas provide a roofed shelter. Access to these areas requires a permit which can be applied for through the Tiwi Land Council (TLC) website www.tiwilandcouncil.com

A third camping area is proposed to be built in the Apsley Strait to provide shelter and land access similar to the sites currently provided by the TLC.

Visitors are also permitted to enter the town site at Wurrumiyanga and also Pirlangimpi where they may be able to buy fuel and supplies or visit the art gallery provided 24 hours' notice is given (visit www.tiwilandcouncil.com for more details).

FISHING EXCLUSION ZONE (NO ACCESS OR FISHING)

There are two exclusion zones where access or fishing is not permitted.

The zones cover part of the west coast of Bathurst Island from Deception Point south to the Cape Fourcroy lighthouse and the north coast of Melville Island from Cape Van Diemen in the west to Quanipiri Bay in the east. (Coloured red on the map)

These zones are set aside for the use of Tiwi Islanders and to ensure ongoing economic benefits from the three lodges operated by Tiwi Islands Adventures. The exclusion zones include all creeks, rivers, estuaries and intertidal waters, and are legislated and enforceable under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and the Fisheries Act.

It is important that all recreational fishers, fishing tour operators (other than Tiwi Islands Adventures clients), commercial fishers and recreational boaters respect the decision that has been made by the Traditional Owners and not access these areas. This will ensure fishers continue to enjoy permit free access to the majority of the Islands.

SAFE ANCHORAGE

Designated safe anchorages for vessels are provided at the Johnson River, Milikapiti (Snake Bay) and Port Hurd (see map for details and coordinates). No access is permitted in these areas other than for the purpose that they have been designated (ie fishing cannot be undertaken in 'safe anchorage' zones that are within exclusion zones).

