

Minimum Size Limits

Maintaining healthy breeding populations is critical to sustaining fisheries resources.

Some fish and aquatic animals must reach a minimum size before they can be legally harvested. This is to prevent young animals from being harvested before they can reproduce.

If you catch animals smaller than the minimum size you must release them. Recommended sizes should be followed in areas where overharvesting is a concern.

Fishing Ruler & Guide to Fiji's Fisheries Regulations

October 2013



Using the Guide

This guide provides information about Fiji's inshore fisheries regulations and recommends some best practices to ensure marine resources endure.

We must be responsible and respectful custodians of our marine resources today so that future generations continue to benefit from them as we do.

The future of Fiji's fisheries is in your hands. Please fish wisely and sustainably.

Fishing Permits & Licenses

A fishing permit & license is required for anyone who wishes to take fish or any aquatic animal by way of trade or business. This includes:

- 1) All people & businesses that sell fish / aquatic animals that they harvest, and
- 2) All operators who take people to catch fish / aquatic animals in any qoliqoli.

A fishing permit is required for all non-fishing right owners who wish to undertake subsistence fishing using methods other than hook & line, spear, or one-man portable fish trap.

These Fishing Methods and Gear are Banned



Use of derris root (duva) or other chemicals, and dynamite or other explosives;



Use of SCUBA / compressed air.

Net Regulations

Cast nets – mesh not less than 3 cm wet & stretched.

Sardine & whitebait nets – mesh not less than 3 cm wet & stretched, 10.5 m in length & 1.5 m in height.

Other nets & fish fences – mesh not less than 5 cm wet & stretched.

Nets shall not be used in any estuary or in the sea within 100 m of the mouth of any river or stream except hand nets, wading nets, & cast nets.

Responsible Practices

It is important that fishers adopt responsible fishing practices as well as observe national fishing regulations. Responsible practices help protect and maintain targeted populations of fish and other marine life along with the ecological balance of the fishing ground.

Responsible fishers:

- Release undersized fish quickly & carefully to minimize injury;
- Encourage compliance to national fisheries regulations;

- Are aware of and respect local marine management activities such as no-take marine protected areas (*tabu*) & other restrictions.

Responsible fishers DO NOT:

- Fish spawning aggregations;
- Spearfish at night;
- Leave nets out unattended;
- Spear crabs or lobsters or take females, especially bearing eggs;
- Spear or take fish / marine animals that are too small to reproduce;
- Litter or damage the fishing ground.