



Boating

Photo: Lyndal Scobell

The coasts, rivers and waterways of Cape York Peninsula are great places to go boating. There are many things you can do to ensure your safety, and minimise your impact on the environment.

AVOID DAMAGING RIVER OR CREEK BANKS

Take care not to damage river or creek banks - soil erosion is already a significant problem on the Cape. Soil erosion can impact coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass and other fish habitats.

BE CROC WISE

Cape York is crocodile country. Be croc-wise, especially at boat ramps and launch points.

Never clean fish near boat ramps. You'll attract crocs, and they'll be a risk to you or others using the ramp in the future.

For information about boating and fishing safely in croc country, go to

https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/crocodiles/crocodiles__be_croc_wise.html

Sharks can be found in some Cape York rivers, and may be present a long way from the sea.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEATHER

Cape York has a dry season (May to October) and a wet season (November to April). Rain is possible at any time of year, but heavier persistent falls occur during the wet.

During the dry season, rivers and creeks may have little water, or be completely dry. That can change rapidly, with flash flooding possible after heavy falls. It doesn't have to rain at your location for it to flood. Rainfall some distance

away can travel along catchments and cause rapid water level rises or flooding.

Dramatic weather changes are possible on the Cape, and may create conditions beyond your level of boating experience. Seek local information and advice. Keep a close eye on the weather and read local forecasts.

Check tide tables for accurate local tide predictions.

<http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Tides/Tide-tables>

BE AWARE OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Queensland boating laws and licensing requirements apply in Cape York waters. Go to

<http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/> for details.

You are required to carry safety equipment appropriate to your journey. Details at

<http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Safety-equipment-recreational-ships>

TAKE CARE AROUND SEAGRASS AREAS

These are important habitats for sea turtles and dugong.

DISPOSE OF FOOD SCRAPS PROPERLY

Don't throw rubbish or food scraps overboard. These will harm marine creatures, and attract crocodiles. Use sturdy bags to contain your rubbish, and take it out with you for proper disposal.



RETRIEVE ALL YOUR FISHING GEAR

Don't leave abandoned fishing gear behind. Lines, hooks, sinkers and other gear can be dangerous to wildlife.

CARRY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WITH YOU

You are travelling in remote areas. Mobile phone coverage may not be available, and emergency response times will be slower than in other areas. Carry a satellite phone or UHF two-way radio. Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.

