



Northern  
Territory  
Government

# FISHING THE MCARTHUR RIVER AND SIR EDWARD PELLEW ISLANDS



SEA RANGER UNIT





# WELCOME TO COUNTRY

**The Yanyuwa Traditional Owners of this area welcome you to our country. We ask that you respect and recognise the cultural importance of our land and waters when you are here.**

Many of our stories are told and our knowledge is held in the form of Kujika or song lines, and these narratives travel across both land and sea. They identify places and events of particular cultural and environmental significance as well as defining how people should relate to kin and country.

There are also many cultural heritage sites – mostly of Macassan origin – on the islands and mainland as well as a number of Yanyuwa families who still live and work on land and over sea.

We request that all visitors work with us to help preserve these important historical places and to ensure that our rights of occupation and to privacy, are respected and adhered to. Our senior people are also concerned for your safety and wellbeing, so if you are uncertain of where you can go and what you can do, please contact our Ranger Unit for advice Ph 08 8975 8777.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES.

#### **Recognise the cultural and spiritual attachment Aboriginal people have to their land and water.**

- Respect Aboriginal cultural ceremonies. This may mean that a particular area is temporarily closed to access.
- Be courteous to other water users and those who belong to the local Aboriginal community.
- Do not land ashore without first obtaining a separate Aboriginal land permit, from the Northern Land Council.

#### **Respect Sacred Sites**

- Do not enter any part of the waters containing identified sacred sites unless specifically permitted to do so by the Northern Land Council.
- Take care when boating to avoid damaging sensitive areas.

#### **Take no more than our immediate needs**

- Carefully return excess or unwanted fish into the water using best practice catch and release methods.

#### **Understand and observe all fishing regulations and report illegal fishing activities**

Keep up-to-date with regulations and observe them. They are based on the best available scientific evidence.

#### **Prevent pollution and protect wildlife by removing rubbish**

- Rubbish must be disposed of correctly to avoid potentially entrapping birds and other aquatic creatures.

# STAY SAFE ON THE WATER, AND SLOW DOWN.

## Poor visibility, speeding boats and hazards under the water can cause accidents.

For your safety, and the safety of all water users, please follow these rules:

- Slow down if you can't see well. It's dangerous to travel at speed in the rain, fog, mist, smoke and glare.
- Slow down at night, and take special precautions. Potential hazards may not be lit or easily seen.
- Slow down on busy waterways, when you are near moored or anchored vessels, and around working vessels or larger vessels which may have difficulties turning.
- Slow down in shallow areas and if you aren't familiar with the waterway. Not all hazards will be marked or lit, and water depth can change quickly.
- Slow down in bad weather. Wind, waves and currents can affect the ability of boats to manoeuvre safely.

## DUGONGS AND TURTLES NEST AND FEED IN THESE WATERS.

Habitat is under threat from boats travelling at high speeds and anchoring in their nesting and feeding areas.

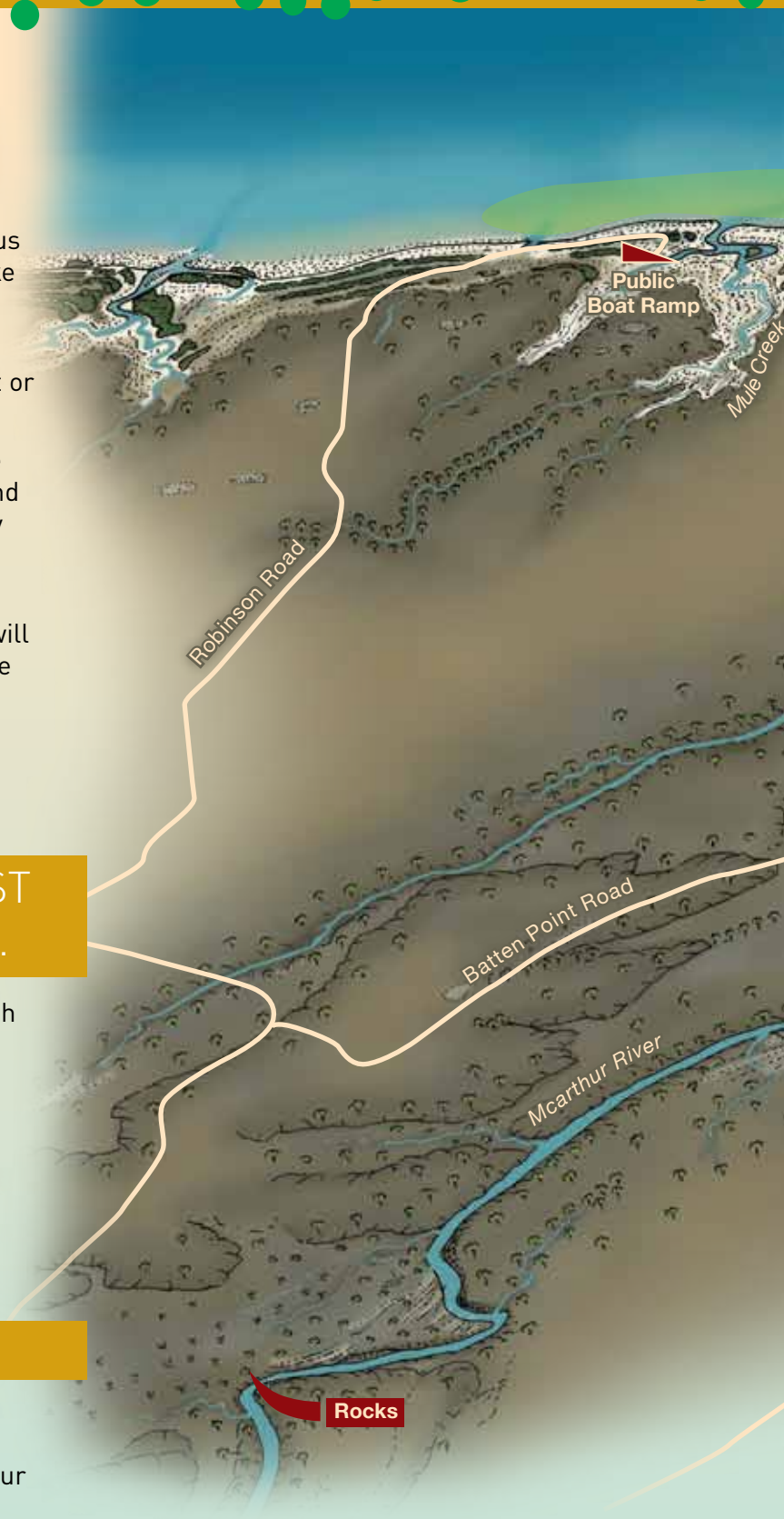
### Help preserve their habitat and save our wildlife:

- Don't speed through the nesting and feeding grounds.
- Don't anchor in narrow channels.



## CROCODILES

Saltwater crocodiles inhabit the area and are potentially dangerous to humans, so for your own safety do not swim in the waters or approach the edge of waterways. Clean fish away from the water's edge.



Please be aware that this map is only a guide and does not depict all rock bars, sand bars and logs and should not be used for navigation.





Turtle nesting areas

Sea grass feeding areas for turtles and dugong







## ABORIGINAL LAND

Aboriginal land is privately owned. It is not Crown land, nor public land. You must obtain permission before going ashore onto aboriginal land. The Sir Edward Pellew group of islands and some of the surrounding coastline is Aboriginal land owned and managed by the Yanyuwa people.

To apply for a land permit and for more information please contact the Northern Land Council (NLC) office in Borroloola (08)89 757 500.

Please be advised that Permits take some time to process, so it is wise to apply well ahead of your intended visit.

## BARRANYI NATIONAL PARK (NORTH ISLAND)

The Park is Aboriginal land and has been leased to the Northern Territory Government for management as a National Park. Parks and Wildlife NT manage the park in cooperation with Yanyuwa Traditional Owners. Permit free camping - is available at Paradise Bay and Mud Bay. Visit the Parks and Wildlife website for more information [www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au](http://www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au)

## FISHING RESPONSIBLY

Possession limits are the maximum number of fish you may have in your possession, however you should only take enough for your immediate needs.

The McArthur river delta is an important nursery habitat for many popular fish species. Much of the water is shallow in depth (<10m) and as a result barotrauma is less of an issue when releasing fish. To help maintain the quality of fishing and ensure the future sustainability of fish stocks, wherever possible anglers fishing in shallow water should endeavour to release small fish and mature breeding fish unharmed.

For more information on recreational fishing and the rules visit the Fisheries website [www.fisheries.nt.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nt.gov.au)





*Artist Marjorie Keighran*

**Fishwatch Hotline 1800 891 136 (report suspicious fishing activity)  
Lianthawirriyarra Sea Rangers 08 8975 8777**

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](http://www.fisheries.nt.gov.au) or  
contact Fisheries on 08 8999 2144.  
Printed July 2014