

# Coastcare Afloat and Aware



## Small boating practices for a clean, healthy sea

### Litter kills

Plastic litter is often mistaken for food and can kill fish, birds and marine mammals. Nets, ropes, fishing line and other plastic rubbish can strangle marine animals and birds.

- Be aware of plastics that can blow overboard, such as bait bags and plastic shopping bags.
- Take all the wrappers off food before going aboard. Put food into reusable airtight containers.
- Ensure there is a strong garbage bag or container aboard. Dispose of all garbage properly on shore.
- Report all sightings of marine mammals, birds and fish that are entangled in rubbish to the relevant authority in your state.
- Pick up any plastics or rubbish you see in the water or on the beach and put them in the bin.

### Pollution stinks

Pollution from oil, solvents, detergents, old paint and sewage can harm sea life and damage important areas such as seagrass beds and coral reefs that provide healthy habitats for fish.

- When possible, change oil and refuel carefully on land.
- When slipping your boat, ensure that the scraped paint does not go into the water.
- Use toilet facilities on land, where possible. Only discharge sewage in the open sea or at appropriate port facilities.

### Aliens invade

Introduced marine pests, such as the Northern Pacific Seastar, European shore crab and Caulerpa can be transferred on the hulls of boats or by attaching to fishing or diving gear. Once established, they can take over our native marine life and affect the quality of fish habitats.

- Make yourself aware of what the major introduced pests are and where they are located.
- Thoroughly wash your boat, fishing and diving gear with a high pressure fresh water hose after visiting an infested area.
- In infested areas, make sure any seawater collected is emptied from your boat where it was collected.

### Marine Reserves

Marine Reserves ensure that marine habitats can regenerate and grow without the pressure from fishing or other potentially harmful activities.

- Ensure that you treat the reserves with respect and abide by the no-take rules.
- Use reserves to educate yourself and others about the wonders of the sea.
- Enjoy the biodiversity of Marine Reserves.

### Fish for the future

Some fish habitats and breeding grounds are being over fished, destroyed by pollution and impacted on by recreational and commercial boating.

- Be careful when anchoring boats over sensitive areas, such as reefs or seagrass beds.
- Keep up to date and know the regulations that apply to fish size and species. Some fish, including bait, are protected and cannot be taken.
- Take only what you need when fishing for food.
- Collect only the live bait you need and return unused live bait to the water.



Coastcare is a program of the Commonwealth Government's Natural Heritage Trust in partnership with State/Territory and Local Governments.



**Natural Heritage Trust**  
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To find out more about Coastcare visit the web site at [www.ea.gov.au/coasts/coastcare/](http://www.ea.gov.au/coasts/coastcare/) or call 1800 803 772

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