

Family Fishing

in The Mackay Region

Nestled behind the protected waters of the Great Barrier Reef and the Whitsunday Islands, The Mackay Region offers unique fishing experiences – and lots of them!

Whether it's fishing from rock walls, dams, jetties, boat ramps or bridges, here's your guide to the best fishing spots in The Mackay Region.



Kinchant Dam: Kinchant Dam is famous for large barramundi, sooty grunter and cod. The best conditions to catch barra are no wind or clouds and warm sun. Aim for weeds, rocks or any kind of structure, but be careful not to lose your equipment. Barra fishing takes some finesse but the rewards are well worth it.

Kinchant Dam is located about 40km west of Mackay, and is also popular for watersports such as skiing, biscuiting and jet skiing.



Mackay Marina: The Mackay Marina rock wall is a great spot to catch mackerel, tuna, queenfish, golden trevally and dart. Heavier equipment, a big reel and lots of line are recommended here. Try fishing when the tide is going out or coming in – that's when the baitfish are on the move.

If you don't catch any fish here, at least the views are spectacular.



Pioneer River: With 120km of river to fish from, the hardest part will be picking your spot. West of Mackay, Marian provides easy access to the banks of the river where you can catch some sooty grunter and maybe even barra.

The hospital bridge, at the end of Bridge Road, is also a really great spot for families and has a spectacular sunset.

Hooking queenfish and barra is possible near the mouth of the Pioneer River from the Bluewater Quay's fishing pontoons. Light gear is recommended for the Pioneer River, as your catches are likely to be smaller – but they'll be just as tasty!

The barbecue facilities along the Bluewater Quay mean you can cook up your fresh seafood while enjoying the views.

Fun Fishing Facts from The Mackay Region

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The Mackay Region has the best whiting available in QLD. Try prawns or yabbies for bait, and fish at night along the Pioneer River.

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Mackay is the best location on the east coast to catch Spanish mackerel between July and November.