



## CPGFA Code of Practice 2018

As professional operators in the game fishing industry there is an industry, governmental and community expectation you will operate in a safe, environmentally aware and professional manner at all times whilst operating in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Area and in any other area of operation.

The CPGFA Code of Practice has been developed by the members for use while in the GBRMPA, The Coral Sea Marine Park Area and in any other area of operation.

It is a requirement that all operators wishing to become a member of the CPGFA always act with integrity and in a responsible and professional manner, accept and abide by the CPGFA Code of practice listed below.

### Safety

1. Ensure all vessels are operated by suitably licensed crew and all vessels are in a well-maintained condition with current survey and will be within the operational limits of the survey conditions in regard to crewing, passengers and area of use at all times.
2. Keep radio communication on Coast Guard repeater stations to a minimum and assist when needed in an emergency situation if safe to do so.

### Environment, Habitat and Bio Diversity

3. Protect the marine environment and the natural resources within. Educate charter guests and others about the marine environment, the Great Barrier Reef, the surrounding waters and its bio-diversity.
4. Promote the marine environment and the natural resources.
5. Keep the marine environment free from any pollution. Report and record any incidents of marine pollution. Vessels to make a conscious effort to retrieve any observed marine pollution if deemed safe to do so.
6. Vessels to consider their environmental footprint when taking on cargo prior setting to sea with particular attention in regard to plastics taken aboard. It is recommended vessels install filtered water taps and limit the need for SUPs such as bottled water bottles and plastic shopping bags.
7. Correct disposal of garbage and sewerage to be adhered to at all times.
8. Make sound anchoring decisions and avoid anchoring where damage to coral may result. When choosing an anchorage for an overnight stay use proper judgement in regards to suitability, access, safety and consider other vessels in the anchorage.
9. Support research that has an obvious benefit to the Great Barrier Reef and the marine ecosystem as a whole.

### Conservation

10. The CPGFA encourages and endorses 100% catch and release fishing for all Billfish species. The CPGFA recognises the rights of anglers who wish to take fish for potential record purposes captured under the rules set out by the International Game Fish Association.
11. The CPGFA and its members encourage the use of circle hooks when fishing for Billfish.



12. All Billfish weighed for record purposes shall, upon completion of weighing be immediately returned to the sea and disposed of in a responsible manner. The CPGFA encourages operators to make available sampling of caught fish for research projects.
13. Abide by the bag and in-possession limits for all species. Only keep what is needed releasing the rest. Observe the Coral Fin fish closure times each year. Details on the CPGFA website.
14. Encourage and promote to anglers and crew the benefits of releasing all Billfish.

#### Legal requirements

15. Abide by all Local, State and Federal Government laws and By Laws when operating.
16. Report and record any illegal and irresponsible activities to the appropriate authorities.
17. Keep up to date with legislation changes which may impact the industry, or the area operated in by vessels and that of supporting business onshore.

#### Professionalism

18. Encourage all anglers and crew to fish within the regulations of the GFAA and the IGFA rules.
19. Use caution when approaching any other vessels as there may be people in the water.
20. Be courteous to other operators, landholders, Government officials and to the general public.
21. Recognise the rights and beliefs of the traditional and historical users in the marine area you are operating in. The CPGFA recognises the traditional owners of the marine environment past and present.
22. Actively promote the benefits of becoming a member of the CPGFA and encourage the use of the CPGFA Code of Practice.
23. Be courteous at all times to fellow fisherman (members). Keep a safe distance when a/ anchoring, b/running, c/a fellow fisherman is fighting a fish.
24. Always assist fellow operators in times of distress and peril if safe to do so with a view to maintain a world's best practice in regard to industry and operational standards.
25. Members to be very aware of the use of Social Media and how their information shared may impact the CPGFA and the wider industry.

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby acknowledge and accept the Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association Inc. Code of Conduct.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

CPGFA \_\_\_\_\_