

Northern Bernier Island pink snapper closure



From 1 June to 31 August (inclusive), the waters in an area north of Bernier Island, including Koks Island, will be closed to recreational and commercial pink snapper fishing during the annual peak spawning period in the Gascoyne (see map overleaf).

Closure information

It is illegal to fish for pink snapper, or be in possession of pink snapper while line fishing, in the closed waters during the closed season.

Line fishing for other species from a boat is allowed as long as there is no pink snapper on board. However, pink snapper taken outside the closed area may be transported through or be on board your vessel when seeking safe anchorage, as long as no line fishing is undertaken.

While any pink snapper caught should be quickly and carefully returned to the water, those fishers that choose to target other species in the closed area should keep in mind that pink snapper and other demersal scalefish are particularly susceptible to 'barotrauma' when captured in water deeper than 10 metres. The stress from capture can also impact on pink snapper spawning success.

You can play your part by sticking to the rules and avoid taking pink snapper in the closed area.

Recovering pink snapper

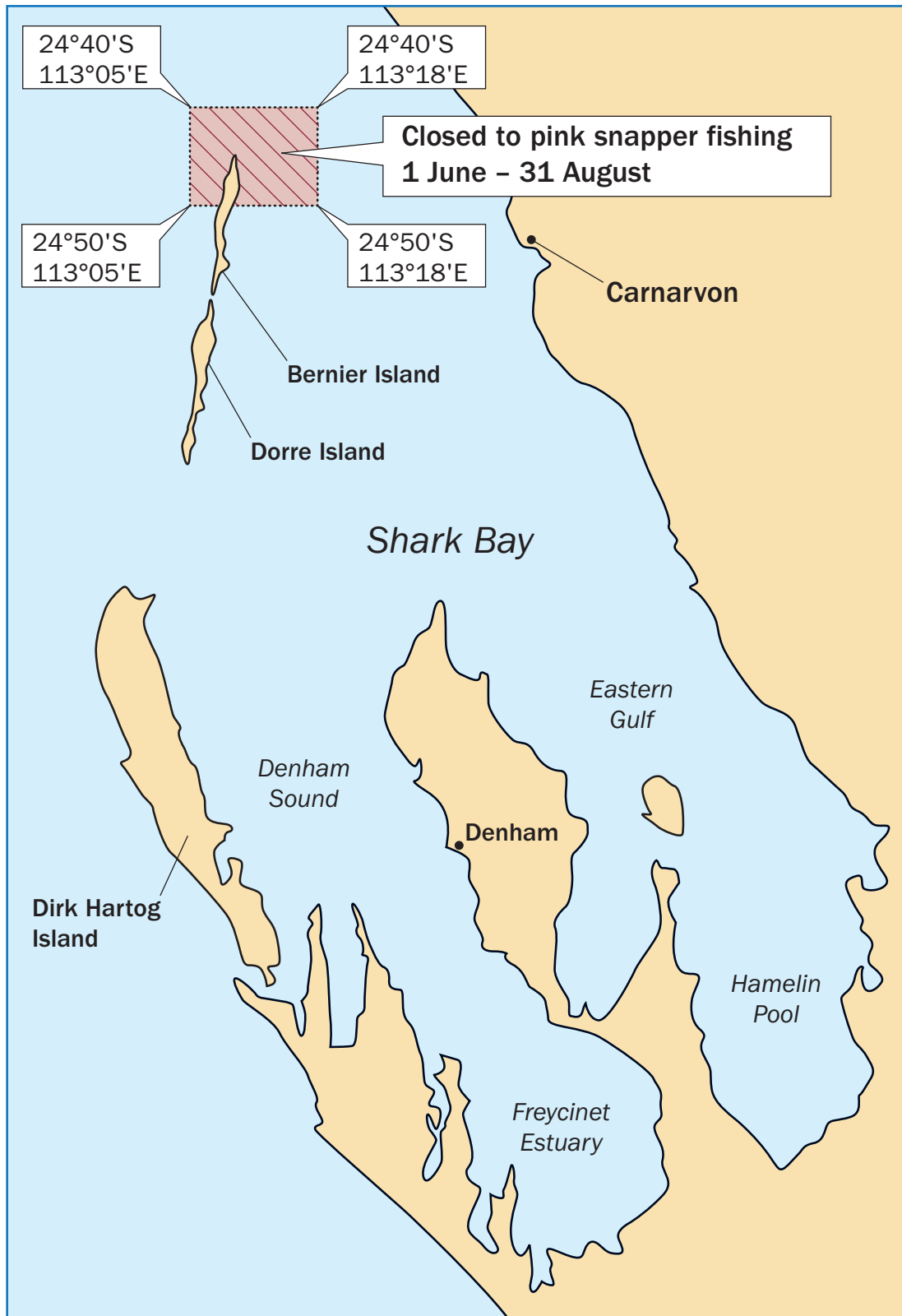
Recent stock assessments raised concerns over the status of the oceanic pink snapper stock in the Gascoyne, so the local community and key stakeholders along with commercial and recreational fishers established a recovery plan for Gascoyne oceanic pink snapper.

This includes an annual three-month spawning closure in an area representing about four percent of waters traditionally fished in the Gascoyne, but accounts for up to 70 per cent of the total Gascoyne annual pink snapper catch from June to August.

Similar closures have been effective in protecting pink snapper spawning aggregations in Cockburn and Warnbro Sounds, and in the inner gulfs of Shark Bay.

In addition to the spawning closure, the annual commercial quota for pink snapper has been reduced from 277 tonnes to 51 tonnes.

The fishery will be closely monitored to evaluate the success of these management actions.



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