

FISH OF THE WEEK



Shelby Wicks caught this coral trout from Broome Jetty. Picture: Monique Beaumont

Respect fellow anglers

FISHING

■ Ben Little

As we forge our way through a great year of fishing, it is important we make sure to respect our fellow anglers, whether they be shore-based or recreational boaters, including kayak fishers.

When the weather is good and more people get out and about on the water, we are bound to find increasing interaction between anglers.

This need not spark an angry situation.

Politely asking someone if you can fish in the area where they are fishing need not cause a problem. Those anglers who

arrogantly make a move to an area where someone is fishing will cause tears.

We are lucky in the Kimberley that we have vast areas and species available, so we should make the most of the recreational fishing experience and allow others to do so in peace and quiet.

Anglers fishing in vessels should be aware others may be fishing from the shore and should pass at a respectable distance and speed.

In a close-quarters situation, the appropriate speed should be implemented.

Forgetting about other anglers is a very easy thing to do and I would think most read-

ers, including myself, will have found themselves in an awkward situation at some stage.

It is nothing a sincere apology would not be able to fix.

People make mistakes and most people are humble enough to understand an honest mistake is forgivable.

Remember, the recreational rules are there for a reason and they should be abided by at all times.

One rule that is not widely known is the eight-knot speed limit on vessels operating in less than 3m of water.

This regulation is relevant for all boat users in and around the bay and would practically

apply to most reaches of the lower Fitzroy River.

Just because you are fishing does not mean you can completely throw the rules out of the window.

Many operators in Dampier Creek when the barramundi fishing is fierce run the risk of being caught by the Department of Transport for breaking such rules, so check out the website on a regular basis for more safety information than you could poke a stick at.

Ignorance is no excuse.

■ Ben Little is an aquaculture lecturer at Kimberley Training Institute and an advocate of sustainable fishing practices.



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