

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

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**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

3 March 2020

Fishers warned over Black Jew catch changes

The black jewfish catch limit has now been reached on Queensland's east coast, with the Palaszczuk Government introducing a total allowable catch limit of 20 tonnes.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said the limit was introduced in response to rapidly escalating catches of the species and concerns about sustainability.

“Black jewfish are vulnerable to overfishing in Central Queensland and there is a risk of black-marketing due to the extremely high market prices for their swim bladders.

“Stock collapses have been previously seen in Australia and overseas, so the Palaszczuk Government has taken management action to protect this resource and its long-term economic viability.”

She said after the commercial catch limit was reached on 1 March 2020 black jewfish is now a commercial and recreational no-take species on the east coast of Queensland until the fishery reopens on 1 January 2021.

Any commercial or recreational fisher found to be in possession of black jewfish will be in breach of the *Fisheries Act* and could face a maximum fine of \$133,450.

Additionally, any fisher found to be in possession of commercial quantity of black jewfish with the intention of black marketing the fish may be subject to a maximum fine of \$400,350 or three years' imprisonment.

Black jewfish identification: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/fish-identification-information/fish-species-guide/fish-species-id-info/profile?fish-id=black-jewfish>

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For information on the Palaszczuk Government's 10-year Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy please visit:

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable/sustainable-fisheries-strategy/sustainable-fisheries-strategy-overview>

For further information please call Nathan Legge, Fisheries Advisor on 3719 7420.

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