

Boating in Cabbage Tree Bay

December 2021

Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve

Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve extends from the southern end of Manly Beach to the northern end of Shelly Beach headland, and includes the entire bay, rocky shores, and beaches.

The protected aspect of the aquatic reserve makes this area very popular with swimmers, snorkelers, scuba divers and surfers.

The sandy beaches, rocky shores, rocky reefs, kelp, seagrass beds, sandy seabed, and open water provide habitat for marine life.

Seagrasses play a vital role in the marine ecosystem - including stabilising the sea floor, providing food and important habitat for marine life, increasing water quality and clarity, and providing nursery grounds for a variety of animals.

You are not permitted to fish by any method, harm marine animals or plants, or collect marine organisms, whether dead or alive (including empty shells).



Figure 1. Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve map (source: DPI)

Anchoring in Cabbage Tree Bay

The seagrasses in Cabbage Tree Bay occur in water shallower than eight metres (8m).

Anchors and chains can damage seagrasses and the marine life that depends on them, and propellers in shallow waters can cause scarring in seagrasses

Tips for anchoring in Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve

- Always check your depth before anchoring and only anchor in water deeper than eight metres.
- Look for a sandy patch to anchor in.
- Check to make sure your anchor or chain isn't impacting any seagrasses.



Figure 2. Paddleweed (Halophila) is found on the seabed of the aquatic reserve (*source: wetweb.media*)

Boating is restricted to waters greater than eight metres (8m) deep to reduce impacts on seagrasses.

Contact us

For more information or to report an issue contact the Maritime Branch of Transport for NSW on **13 12 36 (Option 2)**

More information on Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve is available on the Department of Primary Industries-Fisheries website at <https://bit.ly/cabbagetreebay>