



TEN COMMANDMENTS

BENTHIC

1. Ensure senior crew are aware of the restrictions of fishing in Benthic Protection Areas.
2. Ensure senior crew are briefed, comply with the DWC Benthic OPs and are familiar with the Deepwater Benthic ID Guide and quiz (tinyurl.com/BenthicIDguide and tinyurl.com/BenthicIDquiz)
3. Ensure at least one crew member is adequately prepared to identify between corals, sponges and bryozoan.
4. All vessels will operate in accordance with a principle of avoidance from areas where there may be significant catches of benthos as a result of prior experience or knowledge.
5. If a significant catch of benthos is encountered, scout the area with an echosounder, and consider how and where to undertake the next fishing event
6. For the avoidance of doubt, vessels should treat all and any coral or coral-like bycatch as protected and ensure they meet the requirements of the Wildlife Act
7. Vessels must report corals, sponges and bryozoans on NFPS reports (other benthic captures should be reported in disposals)
8. Use the Notes section to report coral rubble and anything else worth noting about the incident.
9. Report coral captures of >50 kg and sponge captures of >600 kg to DWC (admin@deepwatergroup.org) with a photo of the coral and/or the sponge.
10. As legally required report all captures via your vessel's Electronic Reporting System.