

Marine Matters

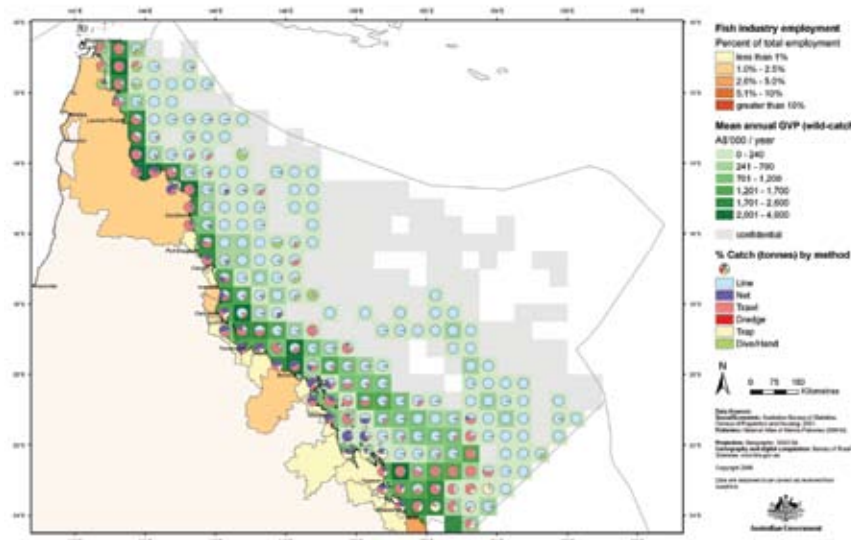
THE ATLAS OF AUSTRALIAN MARINE FISHING AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Information on Australian fisheries and the communities that rely on fishing activity.

North Eastern Region

Area

The North Eastern Region stretches from the Cape York Peninsula along the coastline of the Great Barrier Reef to the northern-most tip of the Wide Bay-Burnett Mary area, encompassing most of the sugar-belt area of Queensland and the popular tourist areas of Whitsunday and Port Douglas.



Population

The Region has a population of approximately 441,000 people.

Importance of Fishing Related Activity

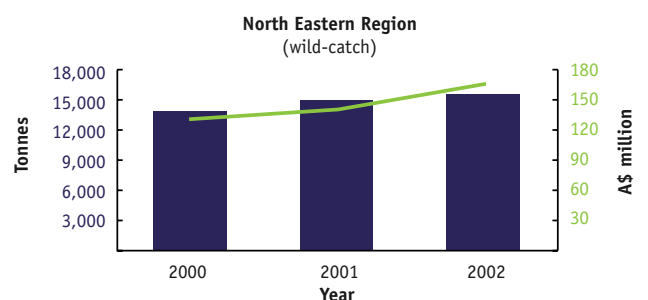
Employment within the fishing sector is heavily concentrated in the commercial sector, with scattered pockets of aquaculture activity, fish wholesaling and processing operating in coastal towns with strong linkages to commercial fishing activities.

Key Commercial Fisheries

Major commercial fisheries in the Region include: coral reef line fisheries for coral trout (*Plectropomus spp.*) and emperors (Lethrinidae); prawn trawl fisheries; inshore and estuarine fisheries for crabs and tropical finfish using trap, line, net and trawl methods; and offshore pelagic longlining for tuna and billfish. All are Queensland fisheries except the Australian Government managed pelagic longline fishery.

Economic Value of Fisheries

The total commercial wild-catch fisheries production for the Region in 2002 was estimated at 15,600 tonnes with a gross value of production (GVP) of \$165m.





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Where are the fish and who's catching them?

Fishing activity makes a vital contribution to Australia's economy and is important to the social fabric of many coastal communities.

The Atlas of Australian Marine Fishing and Coastal Communities is the first comprehensive national overview of fishing activity in Australia.

The Atlas shows where fish are caught in Australia, the value of those catches, where different fishing gears are used and the species that are taken. It also provides information on the socio-economic characteristics of coastal communities in eight Marine Regions around Australia.

The Atlas includes two products – a hard copy version and a companion website featuring an interactive online mapping system.

www.brs.gov.au/fishcoast

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Australian Fishing Zone covers nine million square kilometres, and extends 200 nautical miles from shore.
- The Zone takes in tropical to subantarctic waters and reaches one quarter of the globe – from the Indian Ocean in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east.
- High value fisheries include southern bluefin tuna in the Great Australian Bight, rock lobster off Western Australia and abalone in south western Tasmania.
- Rock lobster accounts for nearly one third of the GVP of all Australian wild-catch commercial fisheries, at \$390 million. Prawns are second, with a GVP of \$93 million which is 20% of the GVP total.
- Commercial fishing, aquaculture, fish processing and wholesaling are important to local communities, particularly in more remote regions.
- Gone Fishing? You're not alone. 3.36 million people, or 19.5% of the population over the age of five years, fish recreationally at least once each year. Participation rates are highest in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Tasmania.

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