

# Marine Matters

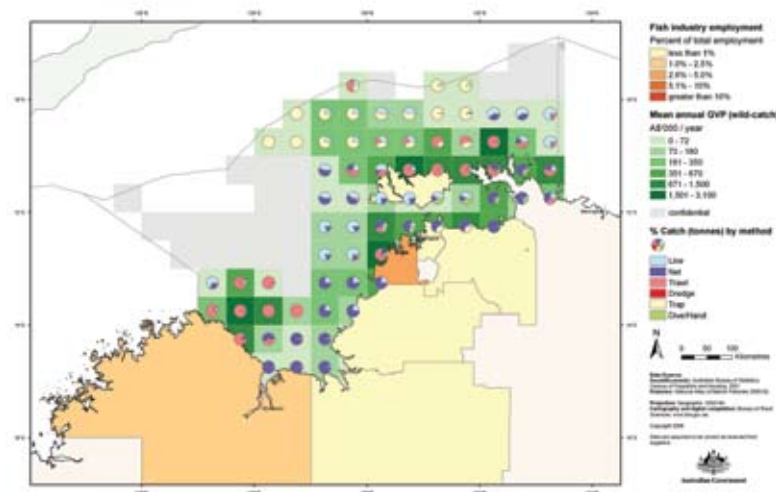
## THE ATLAS OF AUSTRALIAN MARINE FISHING AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

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

# Northern Bonaparte Area

### Area

This Area covers Metropolitan Darwin as well as encompassing Bathurst and Melville Islands, several Aboriginal Land Trust areas in both the Northern Territory and Western Australian portions and vast desert areas.



### Population

The Area has a population of approximately 68,800 people, with 70% living within the coastal Metropolitan portion of the Area.

### Importance of Fishing Related Activity

Commercial fishing is an important economic activity in the Area, with the aquaculture industry accounting for more than half of the fishing industry workforce. There are several small-scale Indigenous 'fish-pond' operations and pockets of pearling activity scattered along the Area's coastline.

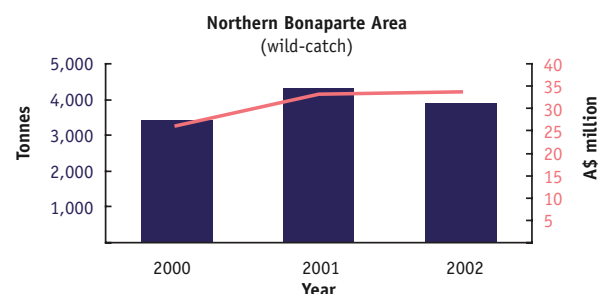
Fishing employment in the Area is characterised by daily commuting to fish farms or aquatic centres or fly-in and fly-out roster systems for those working in more isolated areas.

### Key Commercial Fisheries

Major commercial fisheries in the Area include: the Northern Prawn (trawl) Fishery; mud crab trap fishery; barramundi net fishery; mackerel line fishery; and a variety of tropical finfish fisheries utilising trap, line, net and trawl methods. All fisheries are managed by the Northern Territory, except for the Northern Prawn Fishery managed by the Australian Government.

### Economic Value of Fisheries

The commercial fisheries wild catch production for the Area in 2002 was estimated at 3,900 tonnes with a gross value of production (GVP) of \$33m.





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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](http://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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