

Marine Matters

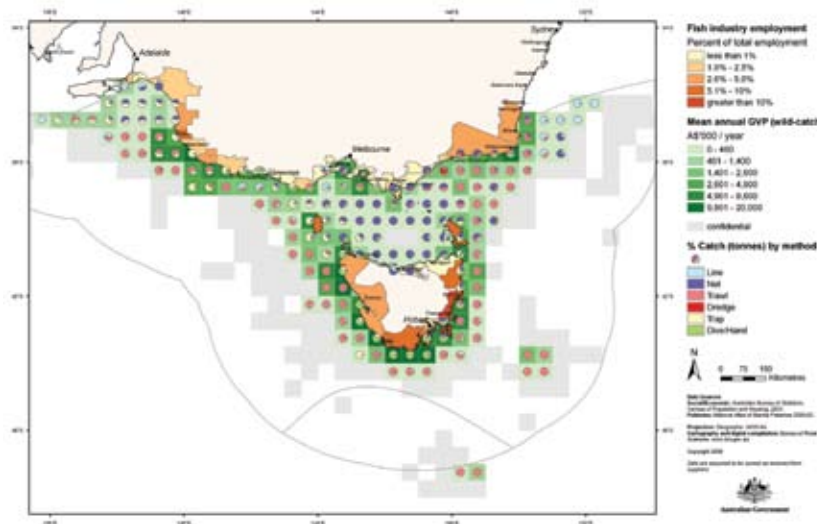
THE ATLAS OF AUSTRALIAN MARINE FISHING AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

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

South Eastern Region

Area

The South Eastern Region stretches across the coastline of four states in southern Australia; taking in south-eastern South Australia, all of coastal Victoria and coastal Tasmania and the southern part of New South Wales.



Population

The Region is socially diverse, ranging from very small and isolated communities through to Metropolitan centres. It is the second most populous Marine Region, with approximately 1,465,200 people.

Importance of Fishing Related Activity

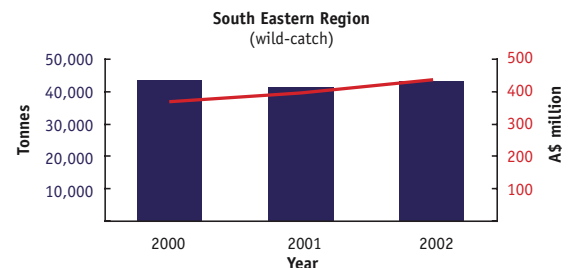
The fishing industry is an important economic activity within the Region, particularly in Tasmania where a relatively large fish wholesaling and processing industry operates along the eastern coastline.

Key Commercial Fisheries

Major commercial fisheries in this Region include: the Southeast Scalefish and Shark Fishery using fish trawl, net and line methods (Australian Government fishery); and a range of New South Wales, Tasmanian, Victorian and South Australian fisheries – namely, abalone, rock lobster and inshore and estuarine fisheries for crabs and finfish using trap, line and net methods.

Economic Value of Fisheries

The total commercial wild-catch fisheries production for the Region in 2002 is estimated at 43,300 tonnes with a gross value of production (GVP) of \$436m.





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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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