

Marine Matters

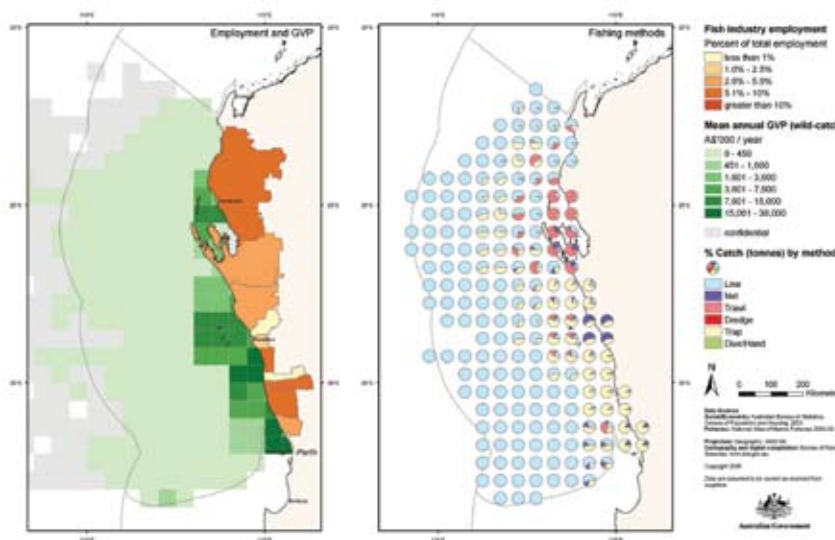
THE ATLAS OF AUSTRALIAN MARINE FISHING AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

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

Western Central Region

Area

The Region extends along the western seaboard of Western Australia from Perth to Exmouth.



Population

The Region has a population of approximately 312,100 persons, 81% of whom reside within the coastal Metropolitan portion.

Importance of Fishing Related Activity

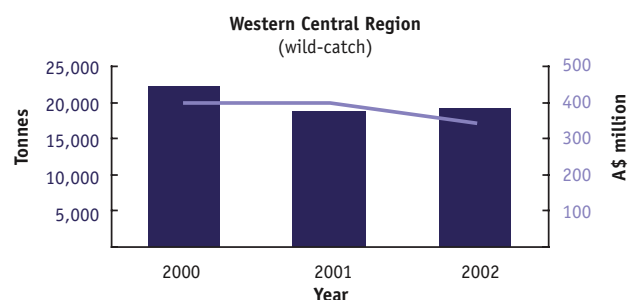
Fishing activities play an important role for local economies across the Region, given that fish industry employment is largely located outside of the Metropolitan portion where the vast majority of its workforce resides. The Region includes the Shark Bay and Ningaloo Marine Parks.

Key Commercial Fisheries

Major commercial fisheries in the Region include: the western rock lobster trap fishery (Western Australia); prawn and scallop trawl fisheries in the vicinity of Shark Bay (Western Australia); pelagic longline fisheries offshore (Australian Government); and various finfish fisheries (Australian Government and Western Australia).

Economic Value of Fisheries

The commercial fisheries wild catch production for the Region in 2002 was estimated at 19,000 tonnes with a gross value of production (GVP) of \$334m.





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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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