Queensland fisheries summary report

Fisheries catch and effort data

May 2022

Queensland Government

This publication has been compiled by Reporting, Information and Digital Solutions, within Fisheries Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries proudly acknowledges all First Nations peoples (Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders) and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the country on which we live and work. We acknowledge their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and commit to ongoing reconciliation. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Summary

Fisheries Queensland provides summarised catch and effort figures for commercial fisheries in Queensland twice per year. The following report displays catch and effort data and trends in commercial fisheries logbook data from 2012 to the end of the 2020–21 financial year. Commercial fisheries operate seasonally, coinciding with either calendar year or financial year cycles. This report is updated every six months to provide the most recent catch and effort figures for all of Queensland's fisheries – data is updated either mid year for fisheries that operate on a calendar year cycle or end of year for fisheries operating on a financial year cycle. Table 1 (overleaf) displays a list of commercial fisheries operating in Queensland and an indication of when data is updated.

Catch and effort data and licensing and fishery symbol information contained in this report are current as at May 2022.

Limitations of logbook data

Fishery quota and logbook figures listed in this report may differ. Logbooks are designed to collect an **estimated** daily weight retained at sea, while quota figures are based on **accurate** weights measured upon landing.

Upon interpreting trends in this data, there are several factors that can affect annual catch. Management changes have the potential to affect catch and effort data, including reductions or increases in quota or total allowable commercial catch (TACC), fishing area closures that are not standard seasonal closures (e.g. whitespot disease containment area) or reducing boat numbers or effort units. Effort figures (licence numbers and number of fishing days) in this report are not designed to be added across species or fisheries as this will likely result in overinflation of the number of effort days.

As part of the *Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017–2027*, Fisheries Queensland is currently undertaking a project to better understand the market value of commercial fishery species. One of the benefits will be the ability to provide economic data in future years with a higher degree of accuracy. The gross value of production (GVP) values displayed in this report are based on fish price series data, which has not been updated since 2012. The GVP figures in this report should be taken as estimates and may not accurately represent the current market value of the species. Fisheries Queensland commissioned a new economic study in 2020 that will be used to update GVP estimates in future summary reports.

For more information on Queensland fishery data or this report, email fishdatacoordinator@daf.qld.gov.au or visit the QFish website, which provides catch and effort information and spatial datasets using interactive tools and pre-defined or customised queries.

Table 1: Queensland's fisheries and annual reporting type, indicating availability of updated data

Fishery	Calendar year reporting (updates mid year)	Financial year reporting (updates end of year)
Harvest		
Coral fishery		✓
Crayfish and rock lobster fishery	✓	
East coast pearl fishery		✓
Marine aquarium fish fishery	✓	
Queensland eel fishery	✓	
Sea cucumber fishery (east coast)		✓
Trochus fishery		✓
Line		
Reef line fishery		✓
Deepwater multiple-hook line fishery		✓
East coast Spanish mackerel fishery		✓
Gulf of Carpentaria line fishery	✓	
Rocky reef fin fish fishery	✓	
Net		
East coast inshore fishery		✓
Gulf of Carpentaria inshore fishery	✓	
Pot		
Blue swimmer crab fishery	✓	
Mud crab fishery	✓	
Spanner crab fishery	✓	
Trawl		
East coast otter trawl fishery	✓	
Fin fish (stout whiting) trawl fishery	✓	
Gulf of Carpentaria developmental fin fish trawl fishery		✓
River and inshore beam trawl fishery	✓	

Table 2: An overview of commercial fisheries in Queensland grouped by fishing method (current at May 2022)

	Fishery	Species targeted	Active licences	Fishery symbols	Number of symbols
Trawl	East coast otter trawl	Prawn, saucer scallop, bugs	406	T1 T2 M1 M2	366 16 46 24
	River and inshore beam trawl	Banana prawn, bay prawn, tiger prawn	78	T5 T6 T7 T8 T9	34 4 5 21 17
	Fin fish (stout whiting) trawl	Stout whiting, yellowtail scad, goatfish	3	T4	5
	Gulf of Carpentaria developmental fin fish trawl	Crimson snapper, saddletail snapper, red emperor	3 permits	N/A	N/A
Net	Gulf of Carpentaria inshore	Barramundi, king threadfin, blue threadfin, shark, grey mackerel	84	N3 N12 N13	85 3 1
Net and line	East coast inshore	Barramundi, king threadfin, blue threadfin, shark, grey mackerel, sea mullet, bream, flathead, tailor	382	N1 N2 N4 N10 N11 K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 S	84 94 5 22 281 2 3 4 1 7 3 4 12 113
Line	Gulf of Carpentaria line	Spanish mackerel	46	L4	46
	Rocky reef fin fish	Snapper, pearl perch, teraglin, amberjack, yellowtail kingfish, cobia, mahi-mahi.	1079	L1 L2 L3	222 190 872
	Deepwater multiple-hook line	Blue eye trevalla, bar rock cod	6	L8	6
	Reef line	Coral trout, redthroat emperor, various other reef species	346	RQ	346
	Spanish mackerel	Spanish mackerel	240	SM	240
Pot	Crab (blue swimmer and	Mud crab, blue swimmer crab	321	C1	411

Fishery	Species targeted	Active licences	Fishery symbols	Number of symbols
mud)				
Spanner crab	Spanner crab	337	C2 C3	236 208

Harvest

Fishery	Species targeted	Active licences	Fishery symbols	Number of symbols
Coral	Live corals, live rock Coral rubble, coral sand	59	D	59
Trochus	Trochus	4	J1	4
Marine aquarium fin fish	Damselfish, anemone fish Butterflyfish, angelfish	43	A1 A2	41 2
Tropical rock lobster	Tropical rock lobster	28	R	28
Pearl oyster	Goldlip pearl and blacklip pearl oyster	6	P	6
Eel	Adult and juvenile eel (Anguilla sp)	12 12	E JE	12 12
Sea cucumber	White teatfish, burrowing blackfish	18	B1	18
Shell	Molluscs (other than trochus, oyster, scallop, pearl oyster, green snail)	2	F	2
Shell grit	Shell grit	37	G	37
Star sand	Star sand (calcareous skeletal Foraminifera remains)	31	H	31
Oyster	Blacklip and milky oyster	82	O	82
Beachworms	*Onuphidae*	34	W1	34
Bloodworms	*Eunicidae*	29	W2	29
Yabby	Marine yabby	30	Y	30

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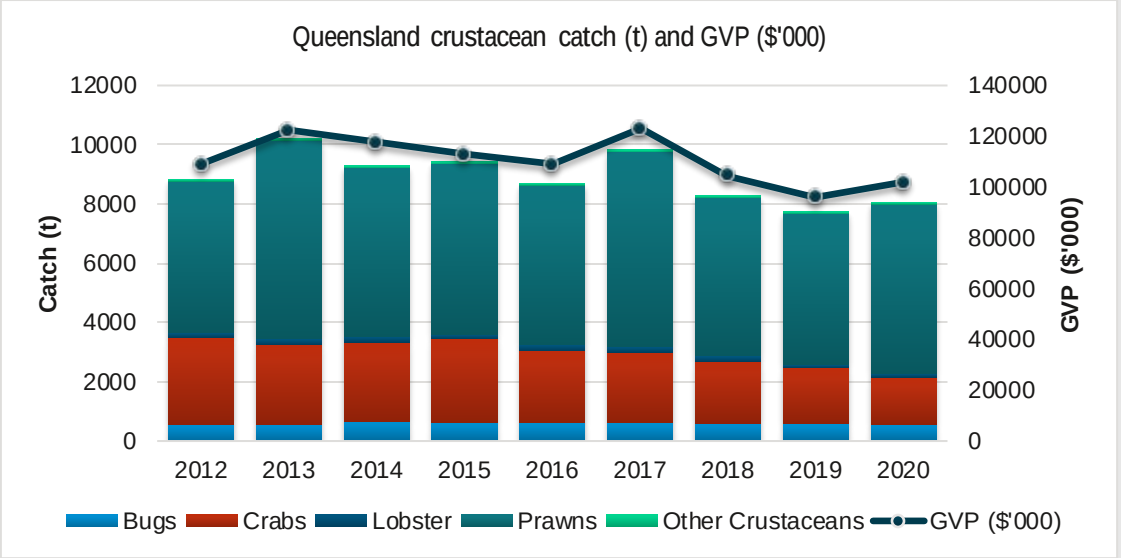
Introduction

Queensland's commercial fisheries have produced an average of approximately 17 000 tonnes of seafood per year since 2015. According to Queensland fish price series data[1] (used to calculate GVP), harvests of this size are valued at approximately $175 million annually. Queensland's commercial net, line, pot and trawl fisheries are comprised of three major species groups – crustaceans, fin fish and molluscs.

Table 3: Total catch (tonnes) of commercial crustacean species in Queensland (2012–2020)[2]

Crustaceans	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Crustacean total	8773	10163	9232	9354	8638	9764	8224	7683	8005
Total bug	574	573	662	614	613	611	601	583	566
Total crab	2928	2692	2674	2839	2443	2384	2095	1896	1590
Blue swimmer crab	449	387	403	459	342	474	216	221	311
Mud crab	1430	1341	1330	1188	990	990	1022	786	655
Spanner crab	1039	945	918	1178	1100	905	846	879	611
Other crabs	9	19	23	14	12	15	11	10	13
Total lobster	161	191	195	156	218	192	180	109	135
Tropical rock lobster	154	181	177	124	198	187	163	105	115
Other lobsters	6	10	18	32	20	6	18	4	20
Total prawn	5108	6698	5693	5743	5359	6571	5340	5089	5705
Banana prawns	332	1151	667	676	442	785	665	450	590
Bay prawns	454	740	322	496	291	379	256	225	248
Endeavour prawns	459	508	463	541	531	402	443	447	361
King prawns	3016	3296	2921	2661	2614	3361	2679	2783	3180
Tiger prawns	834	987	1301	1353	1467	1631	1272	1158	1309
Other prawns	13	16	19	17	13	14	25	25	17
Other crustaceans	3	10	8	2	5	6	8	7	9



1 Queensland's fish price series data has not been updated since 2012 and prior to this date prices were updated sporadically. Results from the recent Fisheries Queensland economic survey will be used in future GVP estimates.
2 Tables 3, 4 and 5 include only commercial catch and GVP. No harvest or charter data is included.

Table 4: Total catch (t) of commercial fin fish species in Queensland (2012–2020)

Fin fish	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total fin fish	9906	9376	8341	9255	8830	8917	8147	6715	7136
Barramundi	1375	918	763	694	717	899	757	661	637
Blue threadfin	199	209	177	156	126	126	124	102	104
Bream	146	165	117	184	154	110	81	64	81
Coral trout	752	863	760	754	912	833	747	707	697
Flathead	67	53	41	50	54	39	43	24	27
Grey mackerel	985	689	782	891	823	709	851	680	849
King threadfin	537	359	325	348	296	336	320	196	229
Mullet	1790	2165	1573	1996	1516	1753	1435	777	1233
Red emperor	45	46	47	40	39	38	36	35	32
Redthroat emperor	213	240	213	168	154	157	150	149	122
Shark	525	561	497	516	643	546	327	284	254
Snapper	63	62	62	62	72	57	44	26	12
Spanish mackerel	517	510	571	473	498	539	456	459	458
Tailor	66	37	58	56	69	59	57	46	45
Trevally	247	271	235	253	248	255	287	229	228
Tropical snapper	261	249	238	450	276	257	217	184	199
Whiting	1070	951	781	1045	1157	1224	1239	1232	1219
Other fin fish	1049	1029	1100	1118	1078	978	974	860	710

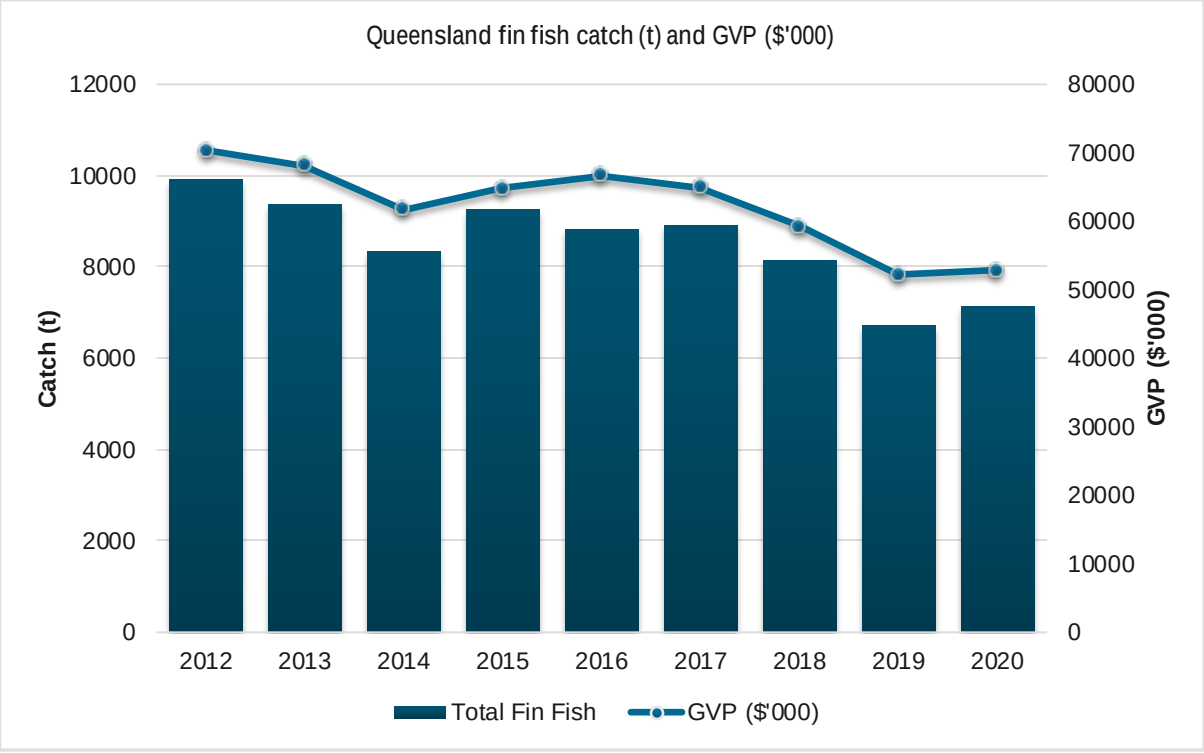
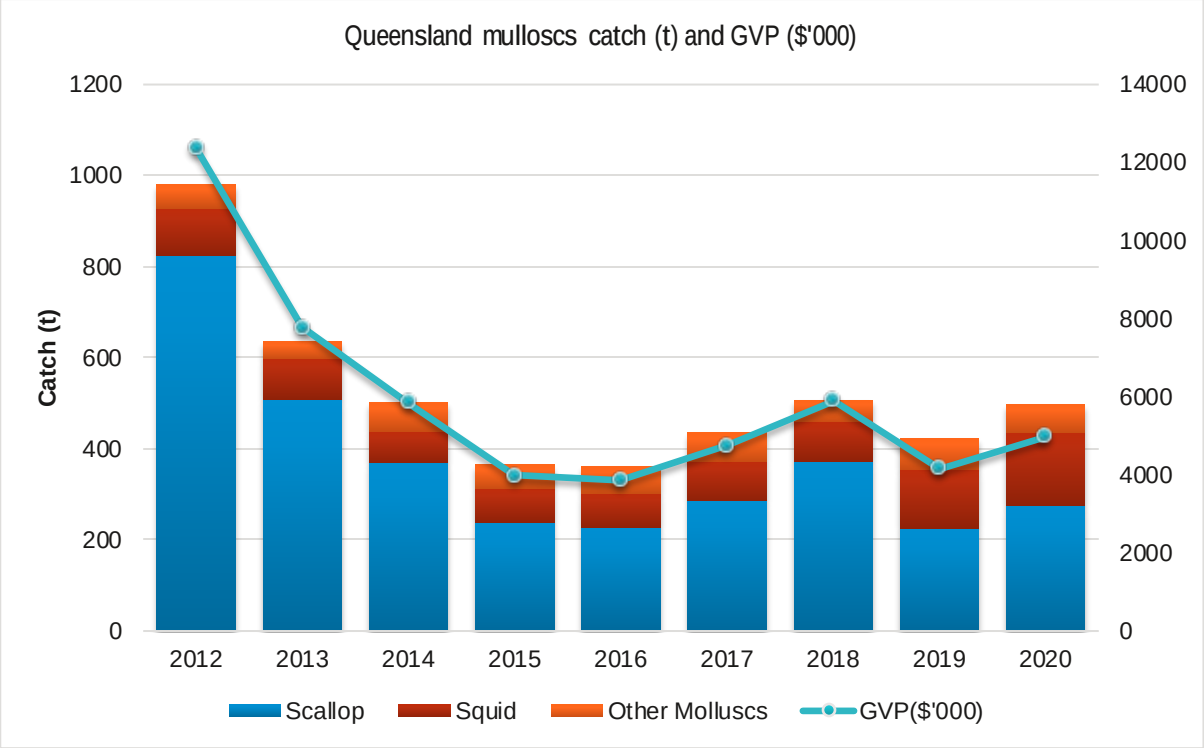


Table 5: Total catch (t) of commercial mollusc species in Queensland (2012–2020)

Molluscs	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total molluscs	981	635	502	365	361	435	507	423	497
Scallop	824	509	369	239	227	286	372	226	276
Squid	104	89	70	74	76	87	87	129	160
Other molluscs	53	38	63	52	58	62	48	68	62



Harvest fisheries

Harvest fisheries are characterised by their fishing method type, primarily caught by hand or hand-held implements. Queensland's harvest fisheries have collected on average 2.14 million individuals (catch is recorded in numbers collected) and 457 tonnes (catch is recorded in weight) annually since 2015.

Table 6: Queensland harvest fisheries production by weight (t) respective of logbook type (2012–2020)

Catch weight (tonnes)

Catch numbers ('000) individuals

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Adult eel (t)	21	7	15	29	9	10	8	3	0
Coral (t)	86	95	98	89	80	79	100	108	90
Juvenile eel (t)	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
Sea cucumber (t)	379	317	349	366	355	321	264	397	411
Trochus (t)	16	0	21	11	1	0	12	3	0
Beachworm & bloodworm (numbers '000)	1544	1431	1464	1386	1375	1161	927	1047	1405
Marine aquarium (numbers '000)	147	118	112	110	120	111	103	102	94
Pearl (numbers '000)	108	0	0	0	0	52	168	83	45
Yabby (numbers '000)	1160	1088	1158	1014	929	662	609	658	703

Tropical rock lobster fishery

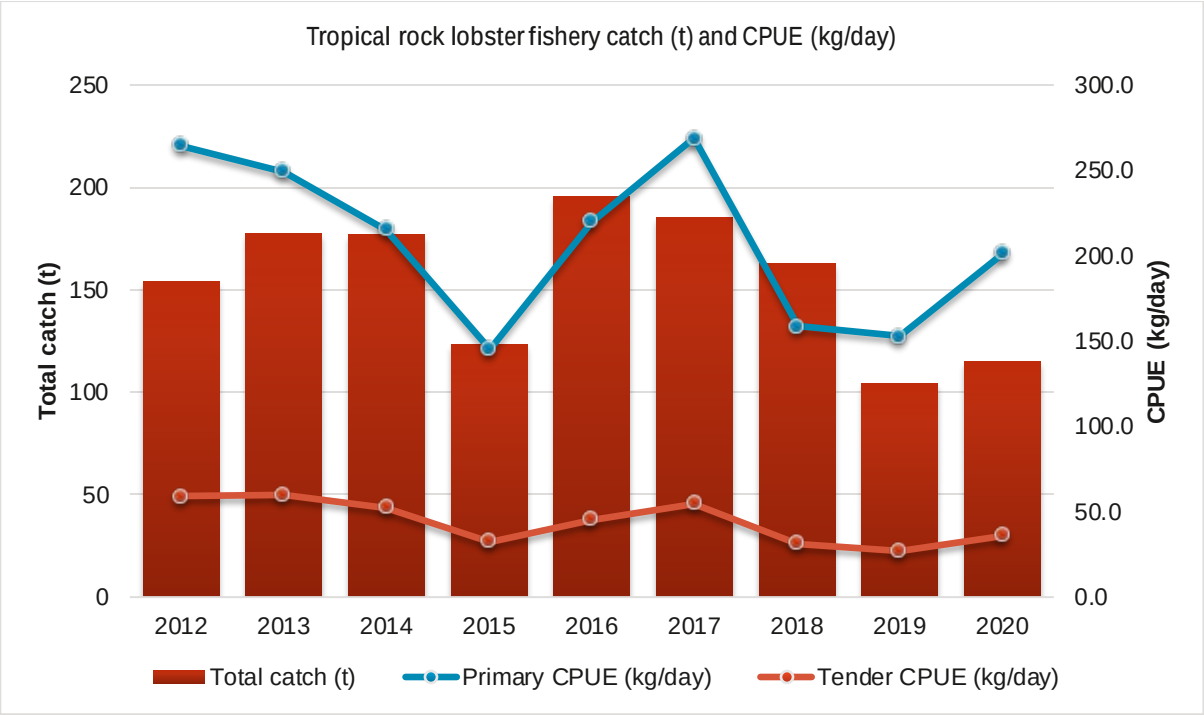
The east coast crayfish and rock lobster fishery consists predominantly of one species – the tropical spiny rock lobster (*Panulirus ornatus*). Other species of tropical spiny rock lobster are also found in Queensland waters, but these are much less abundant and contribute only marginally to the total catch.

Tropical rock lobster in Queensland is quota-managed, with a TACC for all commercial licences of 195 tonnes.

Table 7: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the tropical rock lobster fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total catch (t)	Primary effort (days)	Tender effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	Primary CPUE* (kg/day)	Tender CPUE (kg/day)
2012	154	582	2614	8	5.9	264.5	58.9
2013	178	713	2966	7	6.8	249.1	59.9
2014	177	821	3382	8	6.8	215.3	52.3
2015	123	850	3791	8	4.7	145.2	32.5
2016	195	887	4314	7	7.5	220.2	45.3
2017	185	689	3379	9	7.1	268.9	54.8
2018	163	1026	5204	11	6.2	158.7	31.3
2019	104	684	3866	8	4.0	152.7	27.0
2020	115	572	3198	8	4.4	201.0	36.0

* CPUE = catch per unit effort



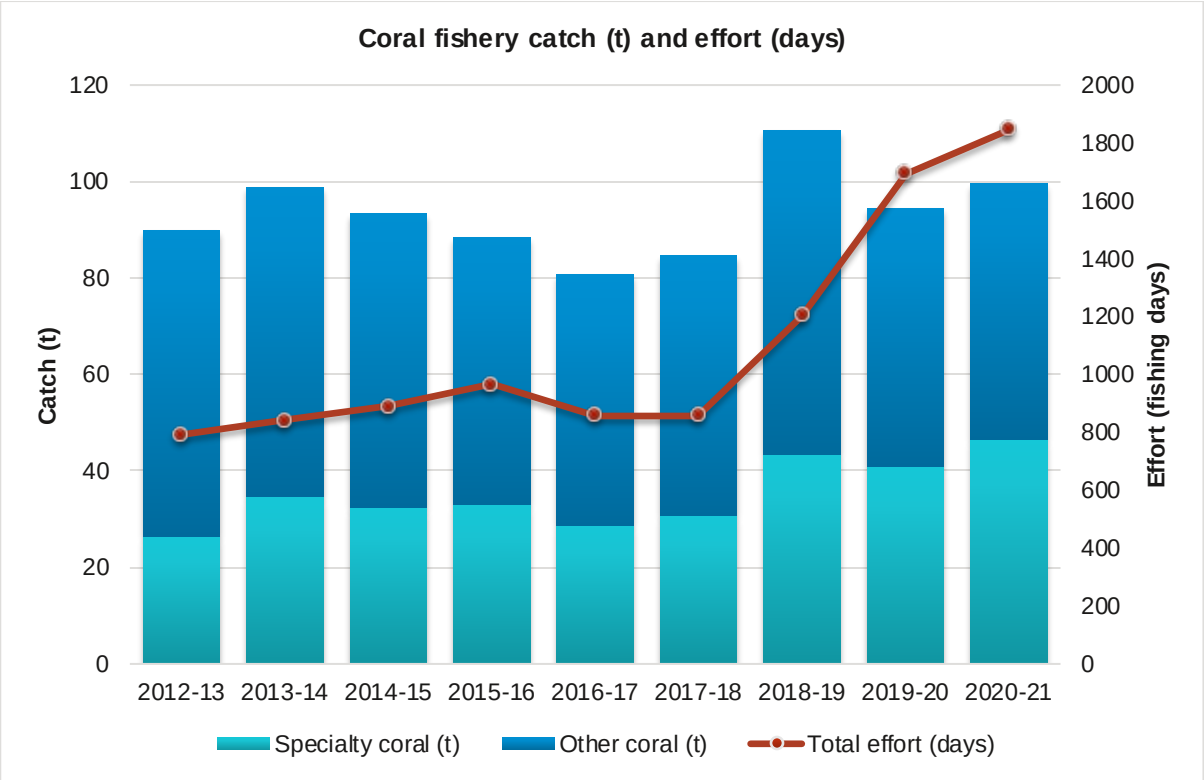
Coral fishery

The commercial coral fishery targets a broad range of species from the classes Anthozoa and Hydrozoa. A TACC)of 200 tonnes exists for the fishery, which is divided up into 'specialty coral' at 60 tonnes and 'other coral' at 140 tonnes. The key components of the fishery are:

- live corals (such as Euphyllidae, Zoanthida, Corallimorpharia and Fungidae families)
- sea anemones
- ornamental (non-living) corals (such as Acroporidae and Pocilloporidae families)
- live rock (dead coral skeletons with algae and other organisms living on them)
- Coral sand (finely ground-up particles of coral skeleton, which fishers can only take as incidental catch and must not target in marine park waters).

Table 8: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the coral fishery (2012–13 to 2020–21 financial years)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	Specialty coral (t)	Other coral (t)	Coral sand (t)
2012-13	90	792	33	26	63	0
2013-14	99	840	34	35	64	0
2014-15	93	889	33	32	61	0
2015-16	88	964	36	33	55	0
2016-17	81	858	32	29	52	0
2017-18	85	858	32	31	54	0
2018-19	111	1204	37	43	67	0
2019-20	94	1693	42	41	54	0
2020-21	100	1845	39	47	53	0



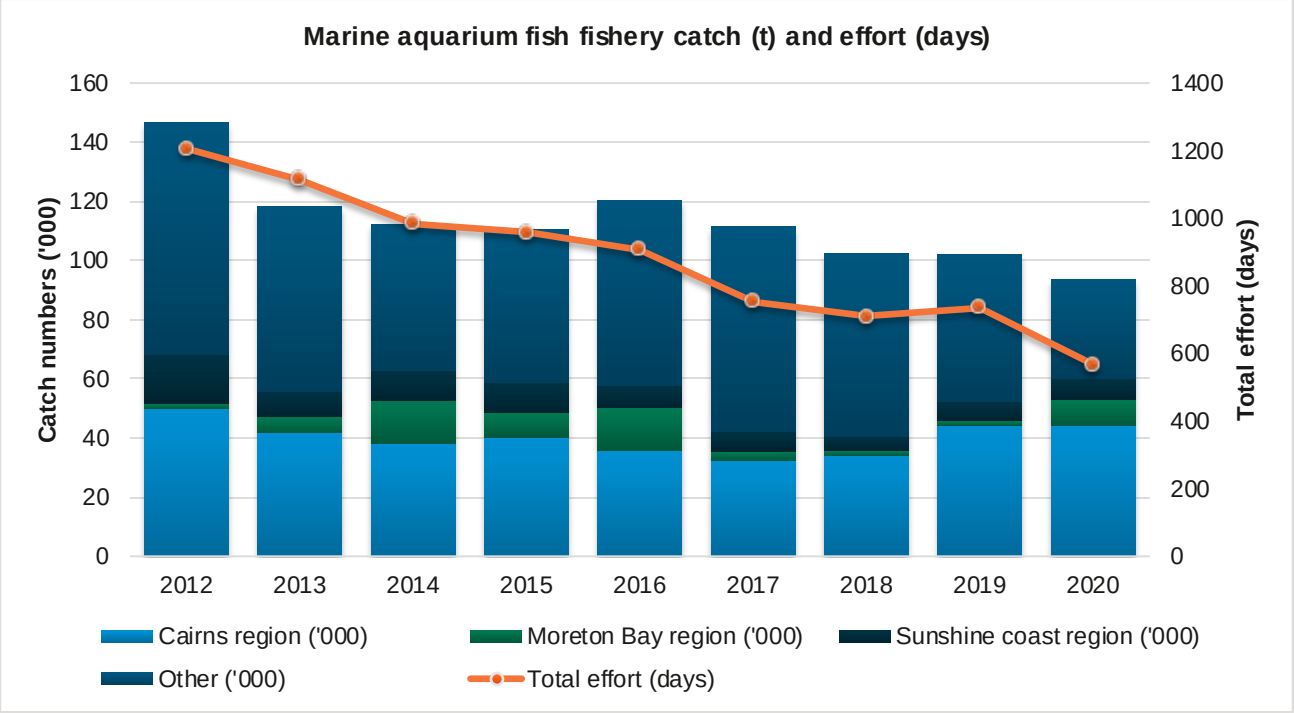
Marine aquarium fish fishery

The marine aquarium fish fishery is one of a range of harvest (hand collection) fisheries managed by Fisheries Queensland. The commercial fishery is focused on the collection of marine aquarium fish and invertebrates that are marketed both domestically and internationally. Specimens can also be collected recreationally for display in home aquariums. The fishery symbols for this fishery are A1 and A2. The fishery is divided into management regions – Cairns, Whitsundays, Keppel, Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay. The fish families important to the aquarium trade include:

- damselfish (family Pomacentridae)
- butterflyfish and bannerfish (family Chaetodontidae)
- angelfish (family Pomacanthidae)
- wrasses (family Labridae)
- surgeonfish (family Acanthuridae).

Table 9: Total catch (numbers) and effort (days) for the marine aquarium fish fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total numbers ('000)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	Cairns region ('000)	Moreton Bay region ('000)	Sunshine Coast region ('000)	Other (000')
2012	147	1206	29	50	2	17	78
2013	118	1116	27	42	5	9	62
2014	112	984	26	38	15	10	49
2015	110	959	30	40	8	10	52
2016	120	909	28	36	14	7	63
2017	111	755	26	32	3	7	69
2018	103	708	27	34	2	5	62
2019	102	736	28	44	1	6	50
2020	94	568	25	44	9	7	34



Eel fishery

Queensland's commercial eel fishery has two components:

- adult eel fishery – eels more than 30 cm long (fishery symbol E)
- juvenile eel fishery – eels less than 30 cm long (Fishery symbol JE).

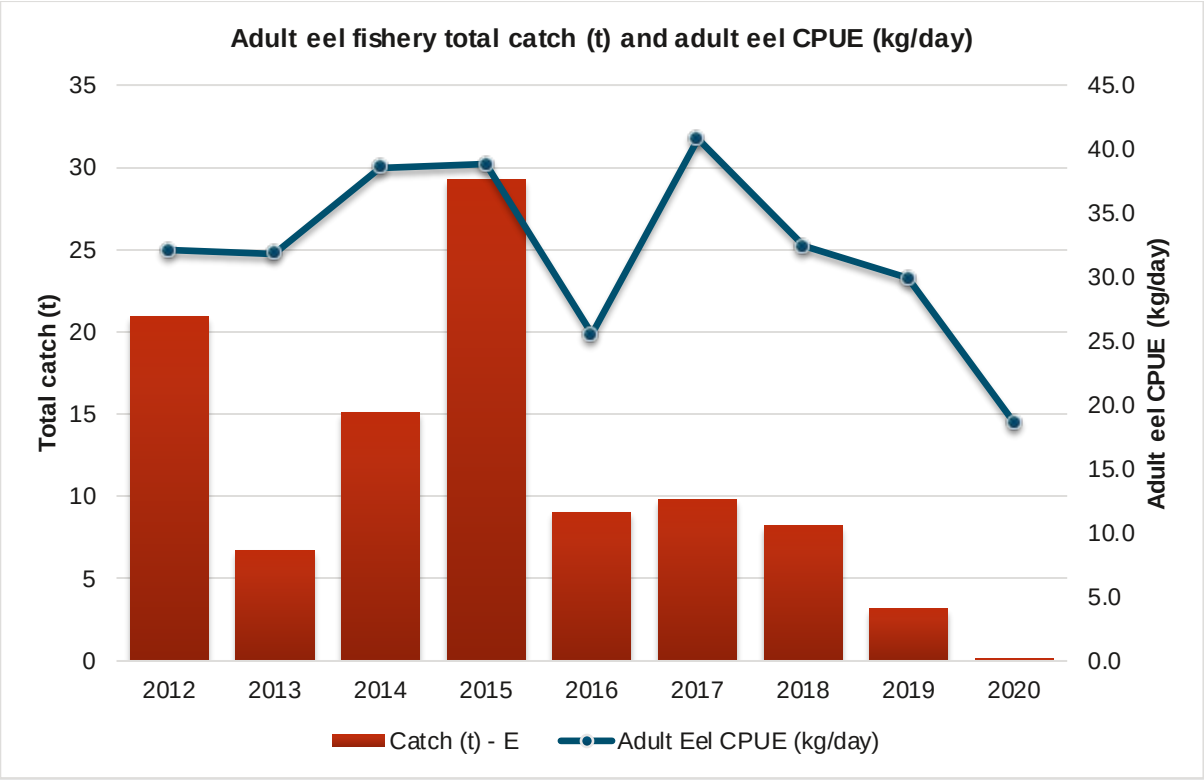
The two eel fishery sectors harvest eels using different fishing apparatus but target the same eel populations and species. The major difference in the two eel fishery sectors is the target life stage – juvenile (glass/elvers) vs adult. Freshwater eels are the only species that may be taken for trade or commerce in Queensland freshwaters. No other species may be kept.

The target species in the Queensland commercial eel fishery are:

- long-finned eel (*Anguilla reinhardtii*)
- short-finned eel (*Anguilla australis*).

Table 10: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the eel fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Catch (t) - E	Effort (days) - E	Active licences - E	Catch (kg) - JE	Effort (days) - JE	Active licences - JE	Adult eel CPUE (kg/day)
2012	21	653	14	95	44	3	32.1
2013	7	211	13	48	52	2	31.9
2014	15	392	12	0	0	0	38.6
2015	29	755	11	7	7	1	38.8
2016	9	355	8	0	0	0	25.5
2017	10	241	6	0	0	0	40.8
2018	8	254	5	0	0	0	32.4
2019	3	106	3	20	47	2	29.9
2020	0	2	1	0	0	0	18.6



Sea cucumber fishery

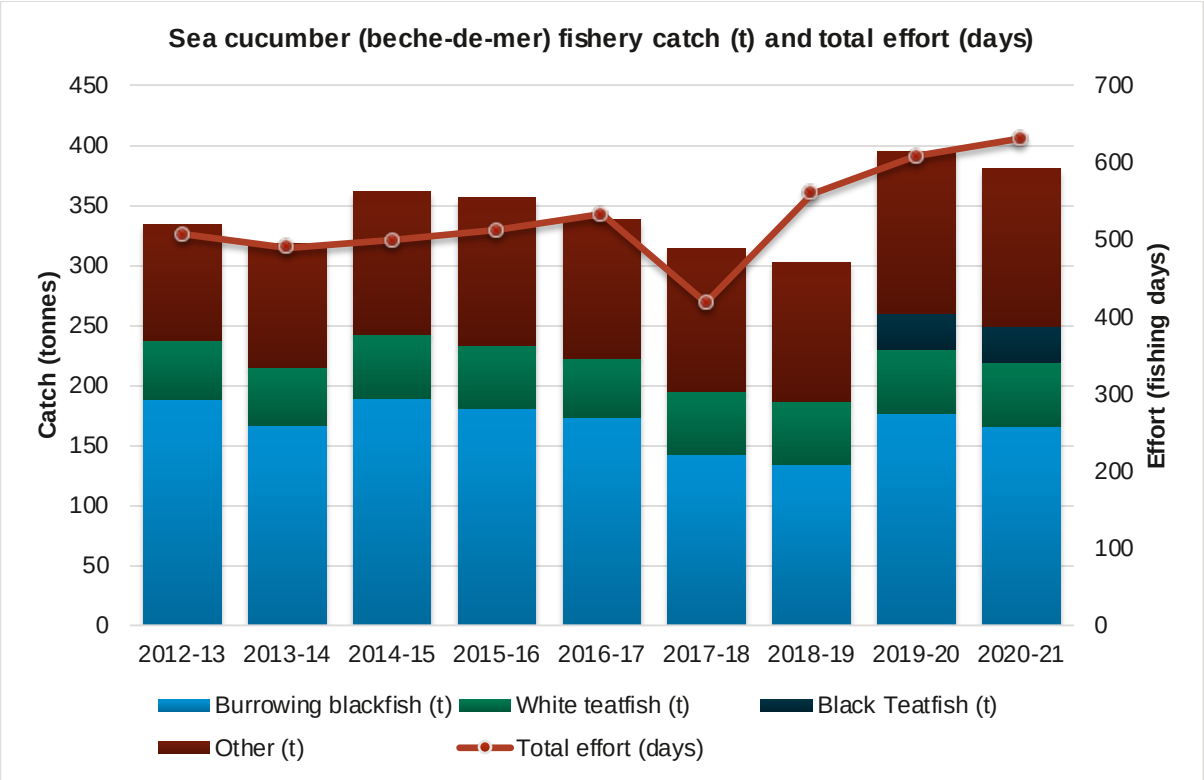
The commercial sea cucumber (beche-de-mer) fishery is a limited entry fishery – 18 commercial harvest fishery licences are currently endorsed. The fishery is designated by the fishery symbol B1. A TACC of 391 tonnes landed weight exists for the entire fishery. This is made up of 53 tonnes of white teat fish, 30 tonnes of black teatfish and 308 tonnes of all other beche-de-mer. The major commercially harvested sea cucumber species include:

- blackfish (*Actinopyga palauensis*)
- burrowing blackfish (*Actinopyga spinea*)
- sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*)
- white teatfish (*Holothuria fuscogilva*).

Due to potential vulnerability to depletion, black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*) had a 'no-take' restriction applied on harvest and a quota of zero on all licences until the end of the 2018–19 season. The fishery has had a 30 tonne harvest quota per year since start of the 2019–20 fishing season.

Table 11: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the sea cucumber fishery (2012–13 to 2020–21 financial years)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Total effort hours (active)	Licences (active)	Burrowing blackfish (t)	White teatfish (t)	Black teatfish (t)	CPUE (kg/hr)
2012-13	334	507	13024	5	188	49	0	25.7
2013-14	318	489	12986	4	167	48	0	24.5
2014-15	361	499	15412	6	189	53	0	23.4
2015-16	356	512	14207	4	180	53	0	25.1
2016-17	338	532	14335	4	173	49	0	23.6
2017-18	314	418	12217	5	142	53	0	25.7
2018-19	302	560	15398	5	134	53	0	19.6
2019-20	395	608	19413	6	177	53	30	20.3
2020-21	381	631	17695	5	166	53	30	21.5



Minor harvest fisheries

Smaller commercial harvest fisheries exist in Queensland for:

- **beachworms** (Onuphidae) – symbol W1
- **bloodworms** (Eunicidae) – symbol W2
- **marine yabbies** (*Trypaea australiensis*) – symbol Y
- **Trochus** (*Trochus niloticus*) – symbol J1
- **Pearl oysters** – blacklip pearl oyster (*Pinctada margaritifera*) and goldlip pearl oyster (Pinctada maxima) – symbol P
- **Wild-caught oysters** – blacklip oysters (*Striostrea mytiloides*) and milky oysters (*Saccostrea cucullata*) – symbol O.

The catch weight (tonnes) figures for the minor harvest fisheries are shown in Table 6.

Line fisheries

Reef line fishery

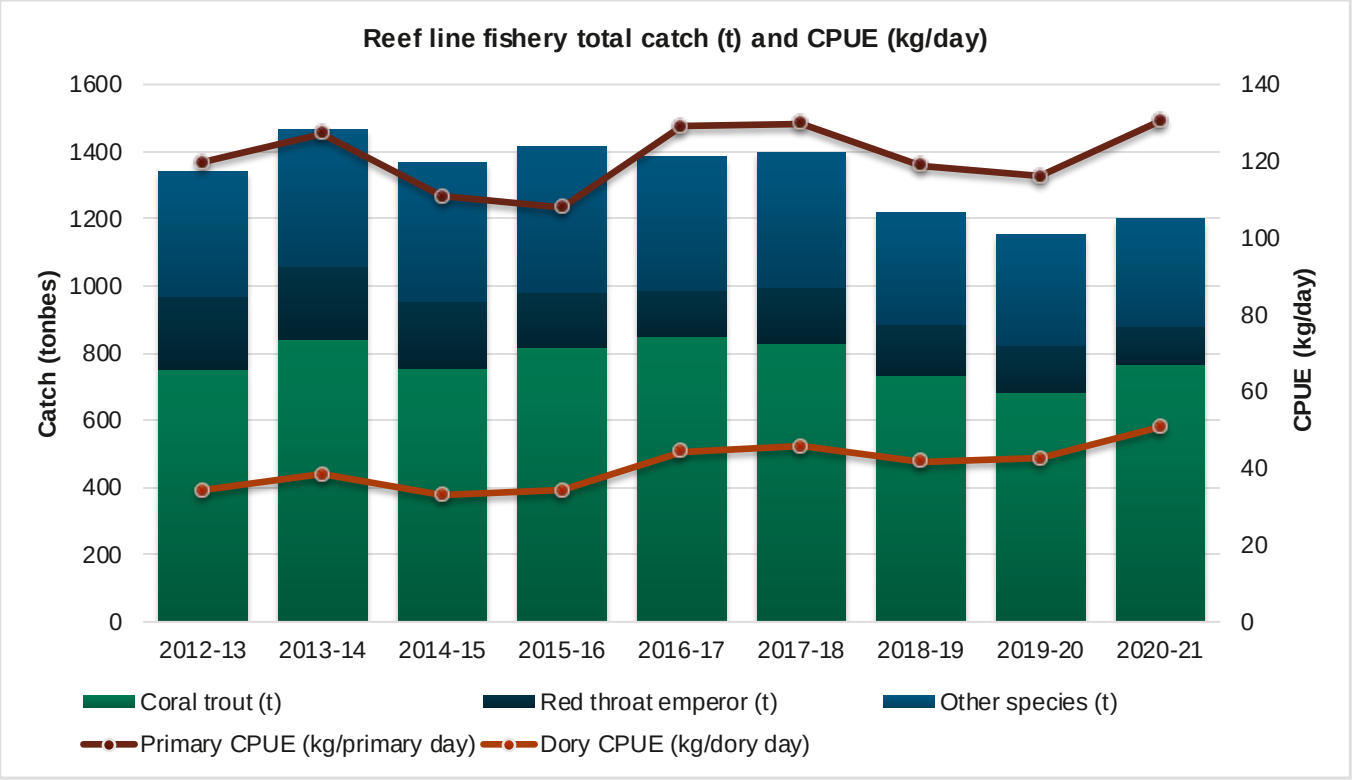
The reef line fishery operates predominantly in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, with operators generally using smaller tender boats (dories) independently from a mother vessel. A comprehensive suite of management arrangements, including an individual transferable quota (ITQ) system, is in place for the commercial fishery to ensure its sustainability into the future. The fishery symbol for the fishery is RQ.

Target species in the reef line fishery and their respective quotas are:

- coral trout (1163 tonnes)
- red-throat emperor (611 tonnes)
- reef line species including cods, emperors and tropical snappers (956 tonnes).

Table 12: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the reef line fishery (2012–13 to 2020–21 financial years)

Year	Total catch (t)	Primary effort (days)	Dory effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	Coral trout (t)	Red throat emperor (t)	Other species (t)	Primary CPUE (kg/primary day)	Dory CPUE (kg/dory day)
2012-13	1342	11212	39048	244	28.2	751	218	373	119.7	34.4
2013-14	1466	11530	38239	239	31.4	840	219	407	127.2	38.3
2014-15	1369	12363	41415	240	28.5	753	202	414	110.7	33.1
2015-16	1417	13122	41472	253	30.4	817	164	436	108.0	34.2
2016-17	1385	10729	31222	250	31.1	850	137	398	129.1	44.4
2017-18	1399	10764	30666	242	30.7	829	167	403	130.0	45.6
2018-19	1219	10238	29187	231	27.1	734	151	333	119.0	41.7
2019-20	1153	9938	27114	240	25.3	684	140	330	116.0	42.5
2020-21	1200	9196	23635	252	27.8	767	113	320	130.5	50.8



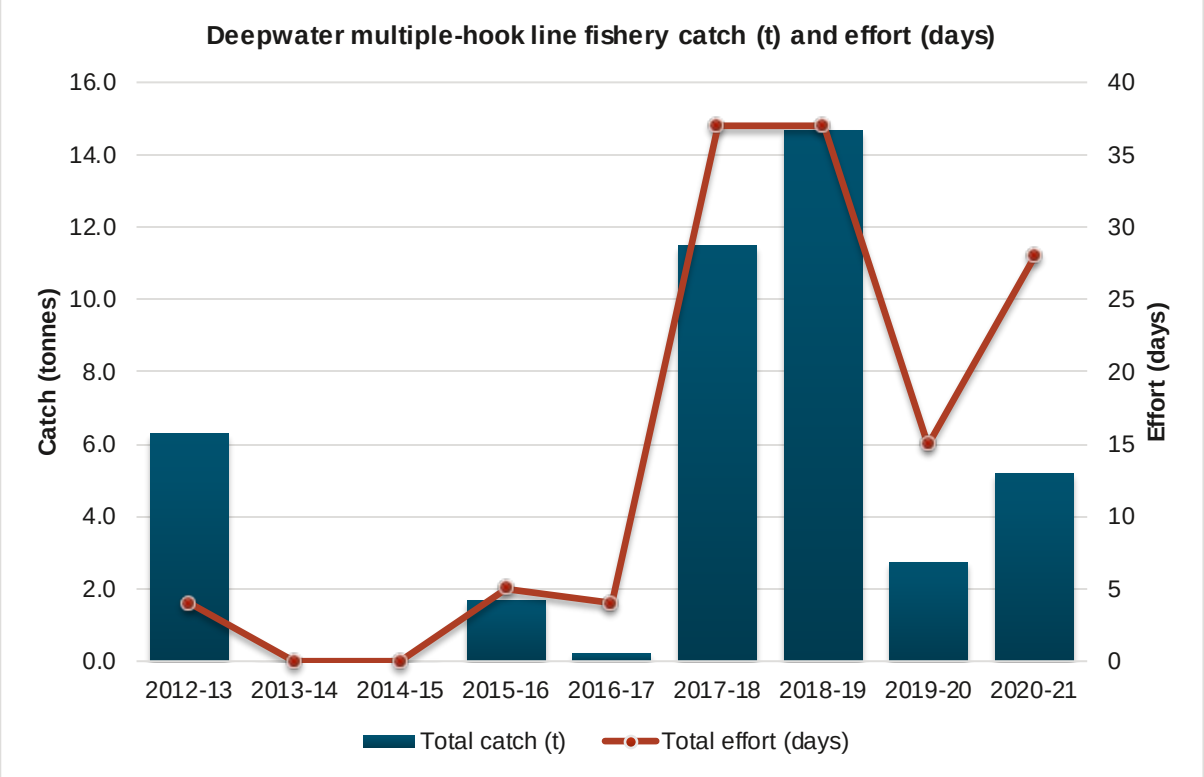
Deepwater (multiple-hook) line fishery

The deepwater multiple-hook line fishery is a small commercial multi-hook line fishery that operates on the east coast of Queensland, beyond the 200 metre bathometric line. The majority of fish product is landed whole and sold domestically, with occasional exports. The fishery has a quota for reef managed species only. Fishery symbol is L8. Target species include:

- blue eye trevalla
- hapuku
- emperors
- bar rockcod
- pearl perch.

Table 13: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the deepwater multiple-hook line fishery (2012–13 to 2020–21 financial years)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ '000)	CPUE (kg/day)
2012-13	6.3	4	2	15.7	1571.5
2013-14	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2014-15	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2015-16	1.7	5	1	8.8	336.0
2016-17	0.2	4	1	1.4	55.5
2017-18	11.5	37	2	63.7	310.3
2018-19	14.7	37	1	75.1	396.3
2019-20	2.7	15	3	14.4	182.6
2020-21	5.2	28	1	34.4	185.3



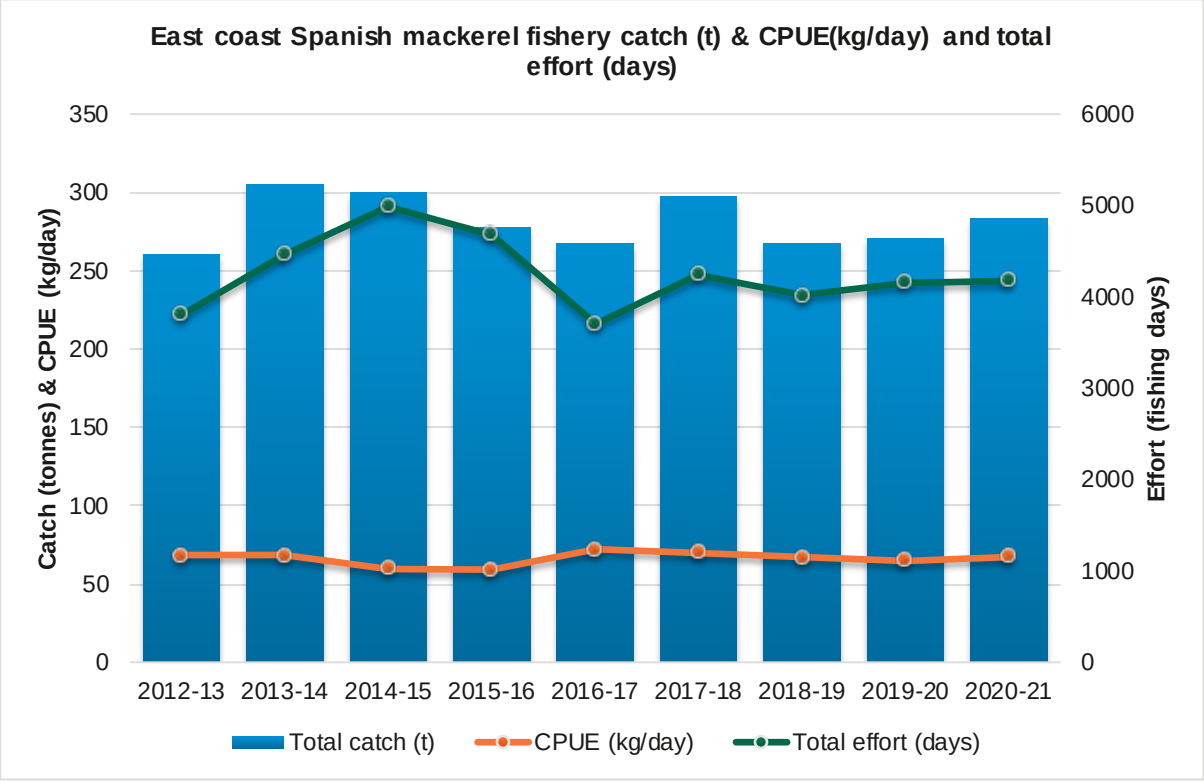
East coast Spanish mackerel fishery

The east coast Spanish mackerel fishery is a line fishery that commenced in the early 1900's – targeting the largest of the mackerel species in Queensland, *Scomberomorus commerson*. Spanish mackerel are highly sought after by commercial and recreational fishers. In Queensland waters, access to the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery is restricted to holders of an SM fishery symbol. This symbol is linked to individual quota holdings.

The fishery has a TACC divided among symbol holders using the ITQ system. The TACC in 2020–21 was 578 tonnes.

Table 14: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the east coast Spanish mackerel fishery (2012–13 to 2020–21 financial years)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	CPUE (kg/day)
2012-13	261	3810	167	1.8	68.4
2013-14	305	4462	180	2.1	68.3
2014-15	300	4986	186	2.1	60.1
2015-16	277	4686	174	1.9	59.2
2016-17	268	3704	168	1.9	72.2
2017-18	297	4250	174	2.1	70.0
2018-19	268	4013	164	1.9	66.7
2019-20	271	4160	182	1.9	65.1
2020-21	283	4179	184	2.0	67.8



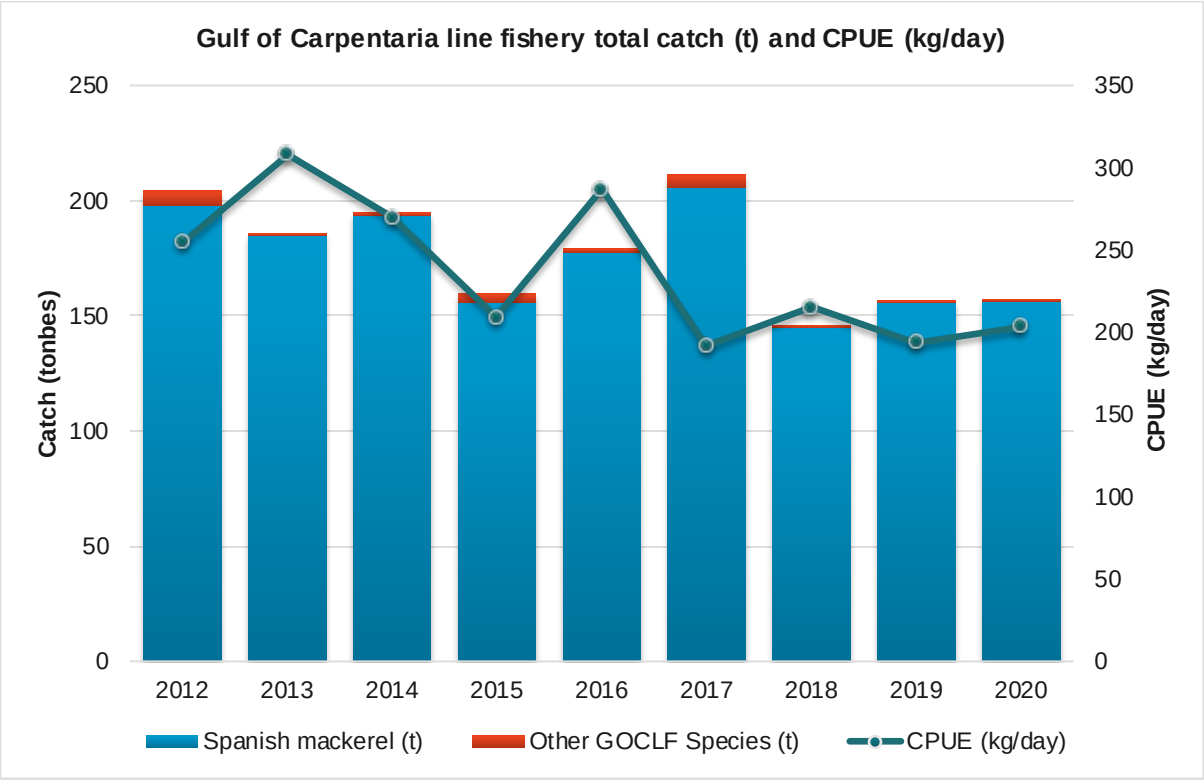
Gulf of Carpentaria line fishery

The Gulf of Carpentaria line fishery is a multi-species fishery that harvests a variety of pelagic and demersal fish. The pelagic Spanish mackerel accounts for most of the fishery's catch.

Other pelagic species taken include trevally and small mackerels caught using surface trolling methods. Demersal fish include tropical snappers, cods and emperors that are mainly caught on coral and rocky reefs between 10 m and 30 m deep using hand lines

Table 15: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the Gulf of Carpentaria line fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($A million)	CPUE (kg/day)	Spanish mackerel (t)
2012	204	803	16	1.4	254.5	198
2013	185	602	16	1.3	307.8	185
2014	195	721	16	1.4	270.0	194
2015	160	764	15	1.1	209.1	156
2016	179	625	16	1.3	286.7	178
2017	211	1101	20	1.5	191.8	206
2018	146	679	16	1.0	214.9	145
2019	157	809	16	1.1	193.6	156
2020	157	770	17	1.1	203.7	156



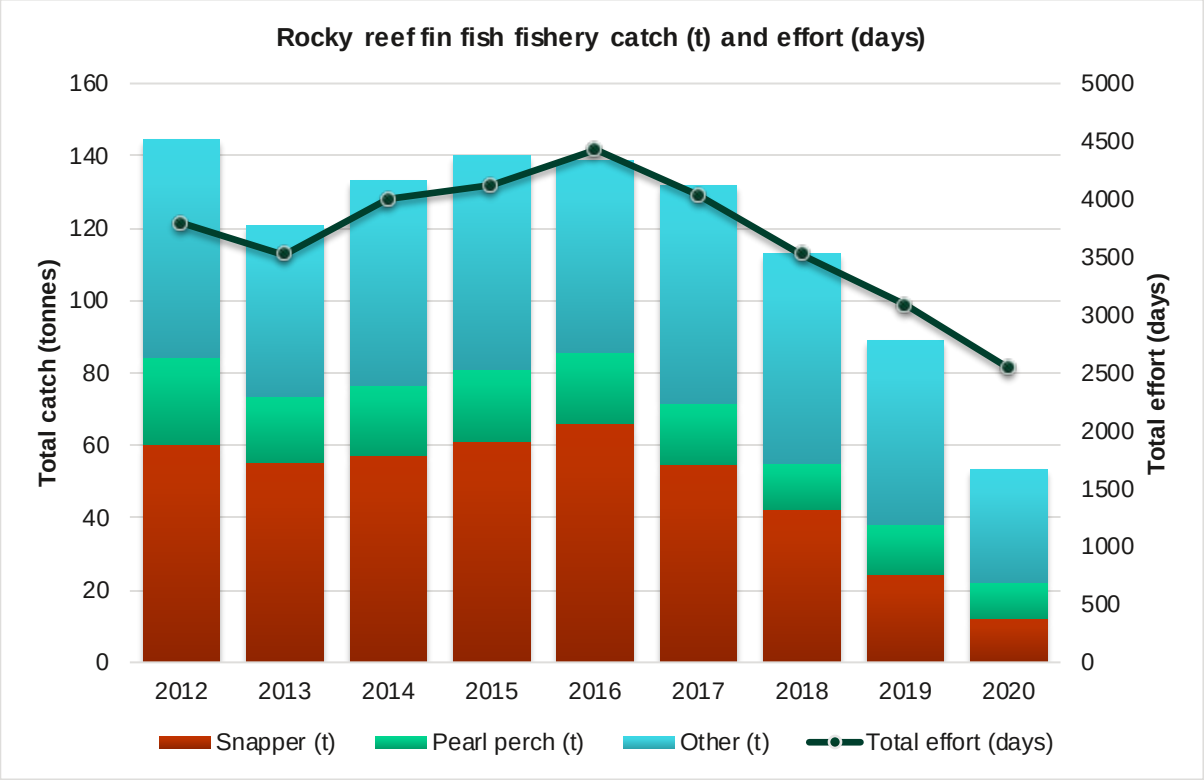
Rocky reef fin fish fishery

The Rocky reef fin fish fishery mainly targets snapper (*Pagrus auratus*). Other key secondary species include pearl perch (*Glaucosoma scapulare*) and teraglin (*Atractoscion aequidens*). Most rocky reef fin fish are taken in South East Queensland, which can be fished by commercial operators in possession of an L1 fishery symbol.

Effort is concentrated in waters from Baffle Creek (24.5°S) south to the New South Wales border. However, fishers are permitted to harvest rocky reef fin fish species throughout Queensland waters provided they have the appropriate L2 or L3 endorsement.

Table 16: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the rocky reef fin fish fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($A million)	Snapper (t)	Pearl perch (t)
2012	144	3791	256	0.9	60	24
2013	121	3521	270	0.8	55	18
2014	133	3994	285	0.8	57	19
2015	140	4119	286	0.9	61	20
2016	139	4428	274	0.9	66	20
2017	132	4032	274	0.8	55	17
2018	113	3521	268	0.7	42	13
2019	89	3080	241	0.5	24	14
2020	53	2541	265	0.3	12	10



Net fisheries

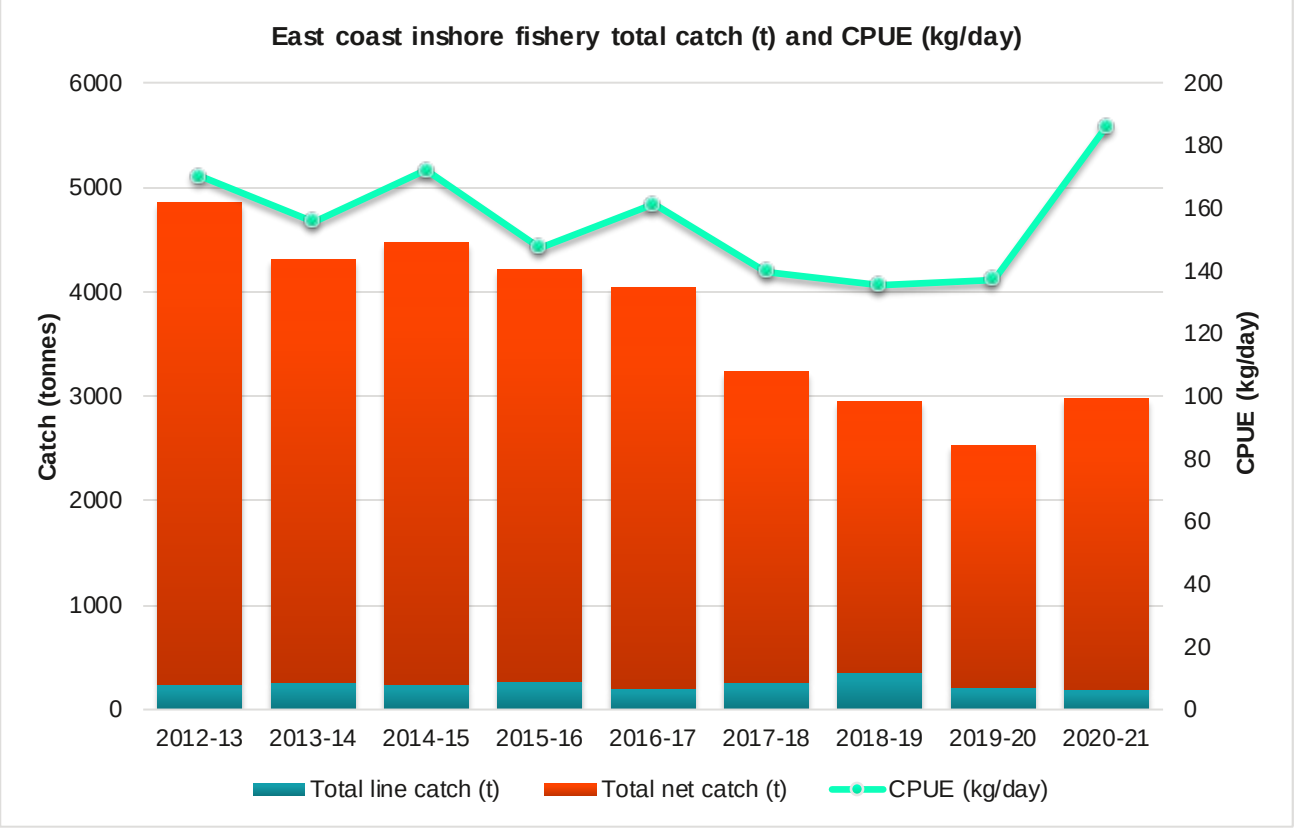
East coast inshore fishery

The east coast inshore fishery is Queensland's largest and most diverse fishery, comprising commercial, recreational, charter and Indigenous sectors. The commercial sector is Queensland's third most valuable commercial fishery, targeting several fin fish species, using a variety of different net and line fishing methods. The main species targeted in the fishery are:

- barramundi
- sea mullet
- blacktip sharks
- dusky flathead
- threadfins (blue and king).

Table 17: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the east coast inshore fishery (2012–13 to 2020–21 financial years)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	Barramundi (t)	Blacktip shark (t)	Dusky flathead (t)	Grey mackerel (t)	King threadfin (t)	Sea mullet (t)	Total line (t)	Total net (t)	CPUE (kg/day)
2012-13	4855	28538	602	20.0	414	133	61	191	210	2075	237	4618	170.1
2013-14	4310	27687	578	18.0	350	120	50	198	183	1667	263	4047	155.7
2014-15	4472	25998	556	18.4	308	96	42	211	205	1924	243	4230	172.0
2015-16	4213	28578	548	17.9	273	193	55	177	153	1508	266	3947	147.4
2016-17	4037	25067	548	15.9	241	130	46	176	115	1851	203	3834	161.0
2017-18	3231	23106	525	13.0	197	107	39	144	77	1286	256	2975	139.9
2018-19	2950	21788	491	12.0	164	51	34	129	67	1169	350	2600	135.4
2019-20	2529	18443	479	10.2	132	36	27	120	70	1087	212	2317	137.1
2020-21	2978	16009	483	11.0	114	31	23	148	55	1602	189	2789	186.0



Gulf of Carpentaria inshore fishery

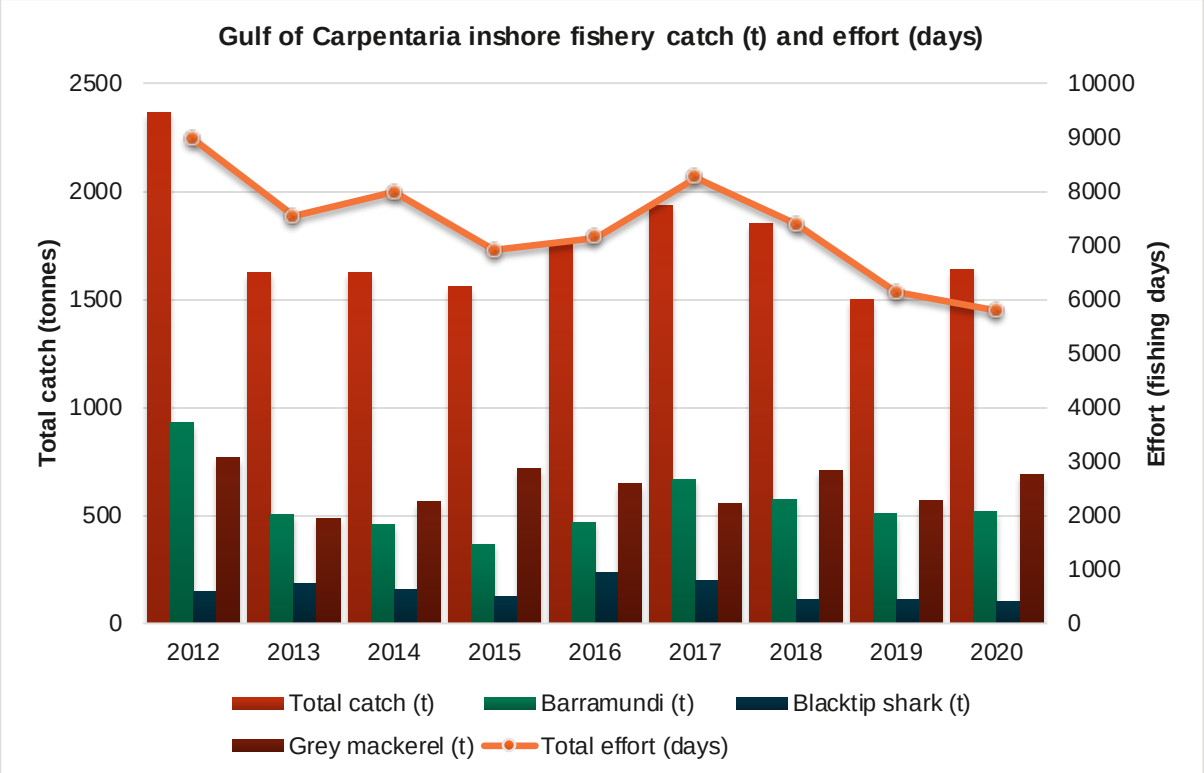
The Gulf of Carpentaria inshore fishery is a multi-species fishery comprising a commercial inshore (N3) net fishery, a commercial offshore (N12 and N13) net fishery, commercial bait netting (N11), recreational fishing, Indigenous fishing and charter boat fishing of species related to the fishery within the Queensland jurisdiction of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

This fishery includes:

- a component that primarily targets river and near-shore species such as barramundi and threadfins up to seven nautical miles from the coast
- a component that primarily targets species such as shark and grey mackerel more than seven nautical miles from the coast.

Table 18: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the Gulf of Carpentaria inshore fishery (2012–2021)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	Barramundi (t)	Blacktip shark (t)	Blue threadfin (t)	Grey mackerel (t)	King threadfin (t)
2012	2364	8962	87	15.5	929	149	39	767	313
2013	1622	7528	83	9.8	505	185	40	486	176
2014	1623	7974	74	9.7	457	155	49	562	142
2015	1560	6901	71	9.2	367	123	41	718	138
2016	1759	7144	77	10.3	468	234	54	645	169
2017	1936	8255	79	11.9	668	200	69	555	236
2018	1850	7390	75	11.5	575	112	61	709	247
2019	1499	6128	71	9.5	508	110	48	568	145
2020	1639	5788	68	10.3	517	99	60	690	152



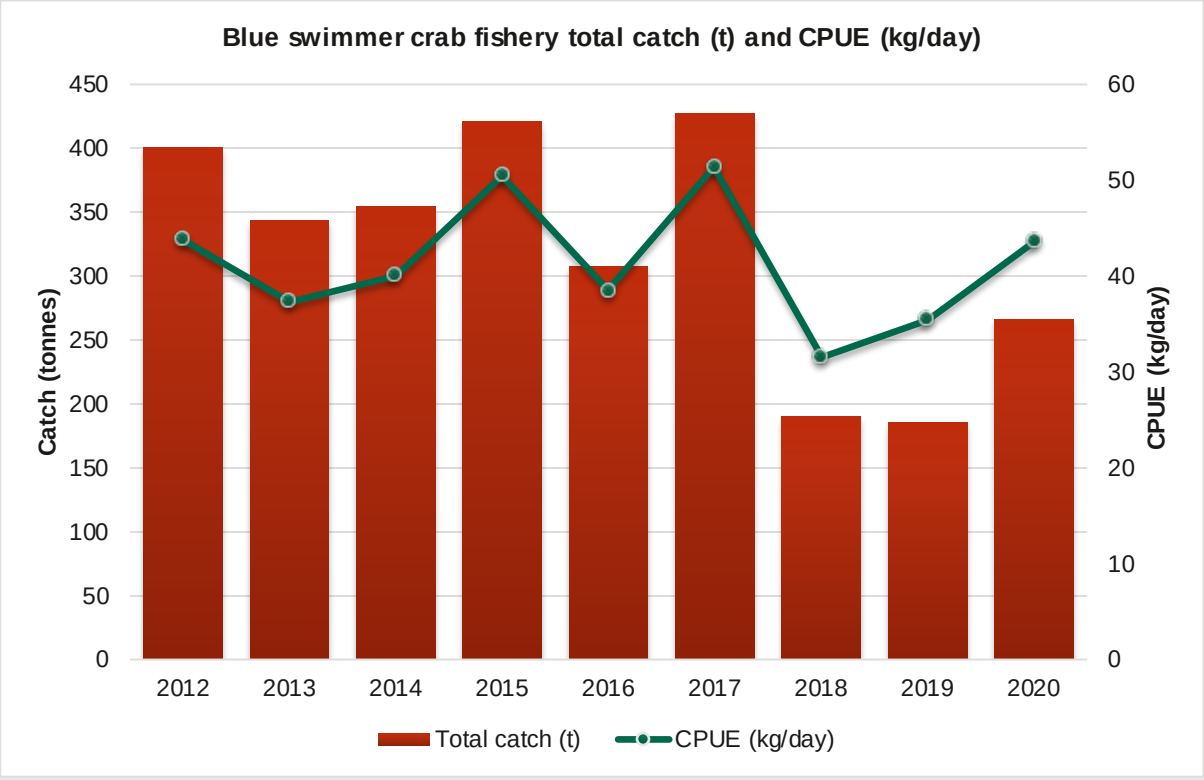
Crab fisheries

Blue swimmer crab fishery

Blue swimmer crabs (*Portunus armatus*) are widely distributed along the Australian coastline. In Queensland, this species is found on sandy and muddy substrates in shallow coastal and estuarine waters along the entire coast, though it is mainly fished in the state's south. The fishery area includes the Gulf of Carpentaria, although most catch occurs on the east coast of Queensland. Commercial fishers mainly use baited collapsible pots. Blue swimmers are also taken by prawn and scallop trawling in the east coast otter trawl fishery. This section includes pot catch only for the whole of Queensland.

Table 19: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the blue swimmer crab fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	CPUE (kg/day)
2012	401	9139	131	3.7	43.9
2013	344	9187	126	3.2	37.4
2014	355	8846	108	3.2	40.1
2015	421	8322	113	3.8	50.5
2016	308	8001	110	2.8	38.5
2017	427	8311	106	3.9	51.4
2018	190	6020	99	1.7	31.5
2019	185	5222	81	1.7	35.5
2020	266	6112	80	2.4	43.6

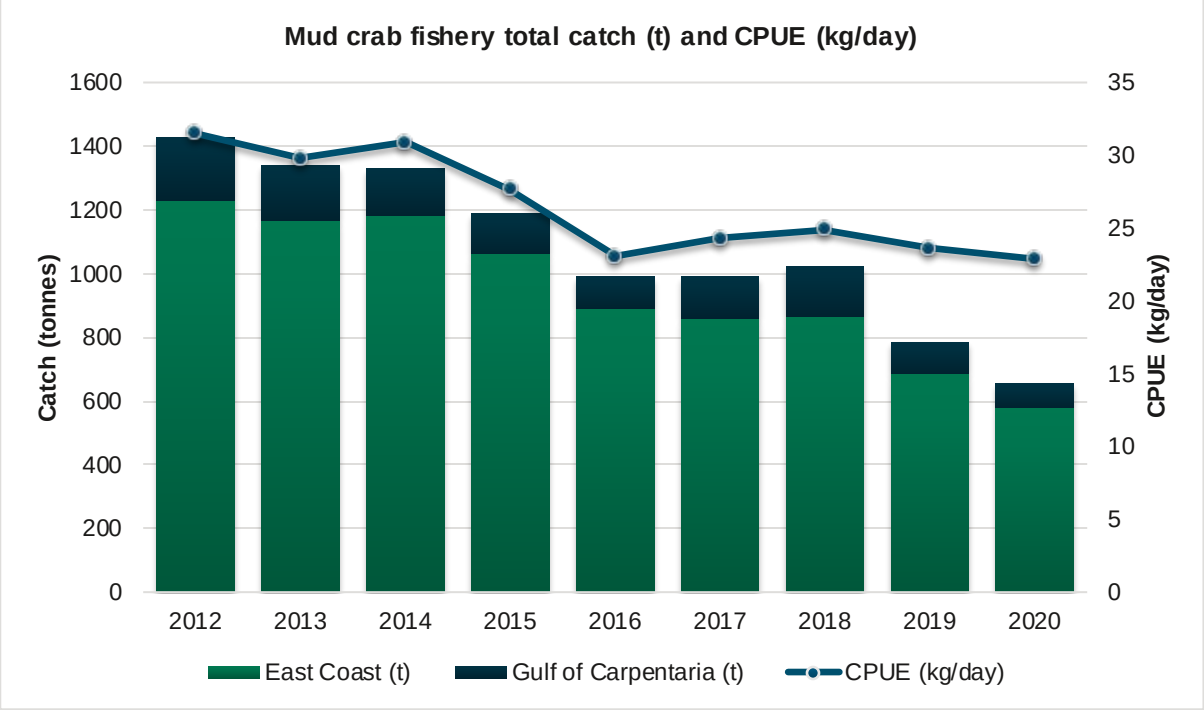


Mud crab fishery

Most mud crabs are caught between December and June in intertidal waters. The major mud-crabbing areas are Moreton Bay, the Narrows (near Gladstone), Hinchinbrook Channel and Princess Charlotte Bay. Mud crab catch in the Gulf of Carpentaria typically contributes less than 20% to the total Queensland catch, which has averaged approximately 890 t annually over the past five years.

Table 20: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the mud crab fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	East coast (t)	Gulf of Carpentaria (t)	CPUE (kg/days)
2012	1429	45364	387	22.9	1230	199	31.5
2013	1341	45034	384	21.5	1167	174	29.8
2014	1329	43059	370	21.3	1183	146	30.9
2015	1188	42921	348	19.0	1062	127	27.7
2016	990	42886	326	15.8	889	100	23.1
2017	990	40799	320	15.8	860	130	24.3
2018	1022	40994	315	16.3	864	157	24.9
2019	785	33322	296	12.6	686	99	23.6
2020	655	28610	284	10.5	578	76	22.9

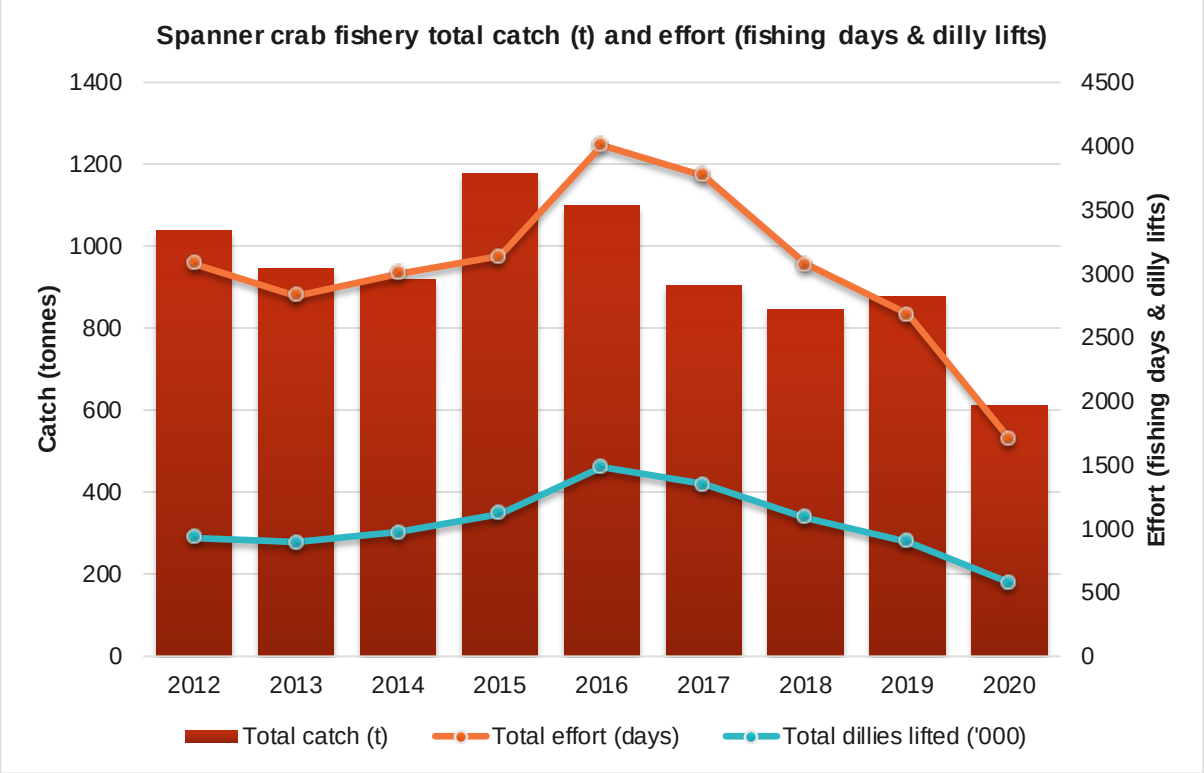


Spanner crab fishery

Commercial spanner-crabbers are required to use dillies to obtain their catch. Spanner crabs are harvested all year round, except during the spawning season from 1 November to 15 December. Most of the Queensland catch is taken in deep oceanic waters south of Yeppoon. The fishery is managed through a TACC, ITQs also issued to fishers. The spanner crab harvest has averaged approximately 870 tonnes annually over the past five years.

Table 21: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the spanner crab fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Total dillies lifted ('000)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	Management Area A (t) (C2)	Management Area B (t) (C3)	CPUE (kg/dilly lift)
2012	1039	3080	935	63	4.3	1039	0	1.1
2013	945	2829	890	61	3.9	945	0	1.1
2014	918	3000	970	56	3.8	918	0	0.9
2015	1178	3137	1120	57	4.8	1178	0	1.1
2016	1099	4007	1484	73	4.5	1098	1	0.7
2017	905	3768	1351	61	3.7	905	0	0.7
2018	846	3069	1088	51	3.5	846	0	0.8
2019	879	2684	901	48	3.6	879	0	1.0
2020	611	1705	578	38	2.5	611	0	1.1



Trawl fisheries

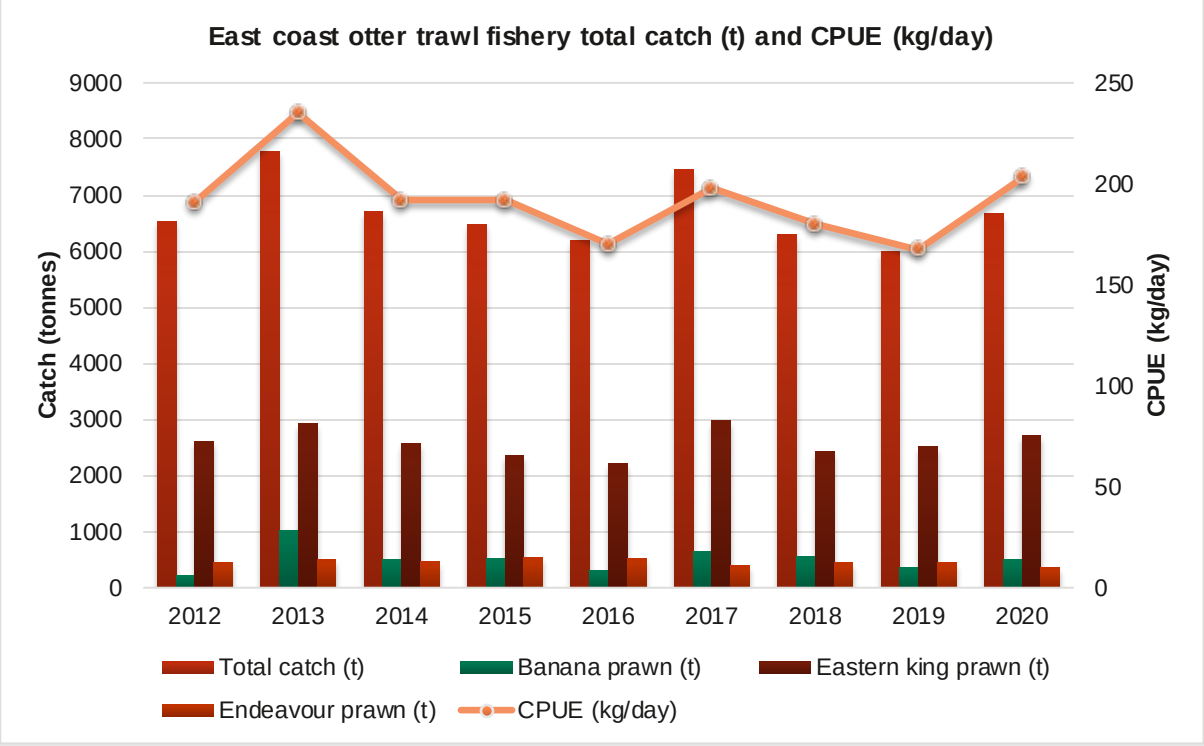
East coast otter trawl fishery

The east coast otter trawl fishery is managed using effort units that are split between east coast (symbols T1 and M1) and concessional (T2) users. The quota effort units for east coast (T1) and concessional (T2) sectors of the fishery in 2020 were 2.74 million units and 67 866 units, respectively. Major species caught within the fishery are:

- prawns (eastern king, banana, endeavour, greasy, red spot king and blue leg king)
- Moreton Bay and Balmain bugs
- saucer scallop.

Table 22: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the east coast otter trawl fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licen-ces (active)	GVP ($ million)	Banana prawn (t)	Balmain bugs (t)	Blue-leg king prawn (t)	Eastern king prawn (t)	Endea-vour prawn (t)	Greasy prawn (t)	Moreton Bay bug (t)	Red spot king prawn (t)	Saucer scallop (t)
2012	6536	34220	311	83.3	227	102	137	2613	458	136	468	263	738
2013	7775	33065	301	93.2	1027	69	144	2924	508	188	502	220	486
2014	6703	34975	288	86.3	505	89	178	2571	463	69	570	168	334
2015	6483	33826	293	82.2	519	84	151	2362	541	101	527	148	230
2016	6198	36463	296	80.4	315	68	181	2208	526	81	539	222	201
2017	7462	37793	307	95.6	649	47	176	2973	401	93	561	206	252
2018	6296	35016	308	81.0	550	54	145	2427	443	65	536	99	357
2019	5987	35780	299	77.0	360	64	127	2523	447	45	515	128	209
2020	6666	32832	287	85.6	499	71	219	2717	361	56	489	243	262

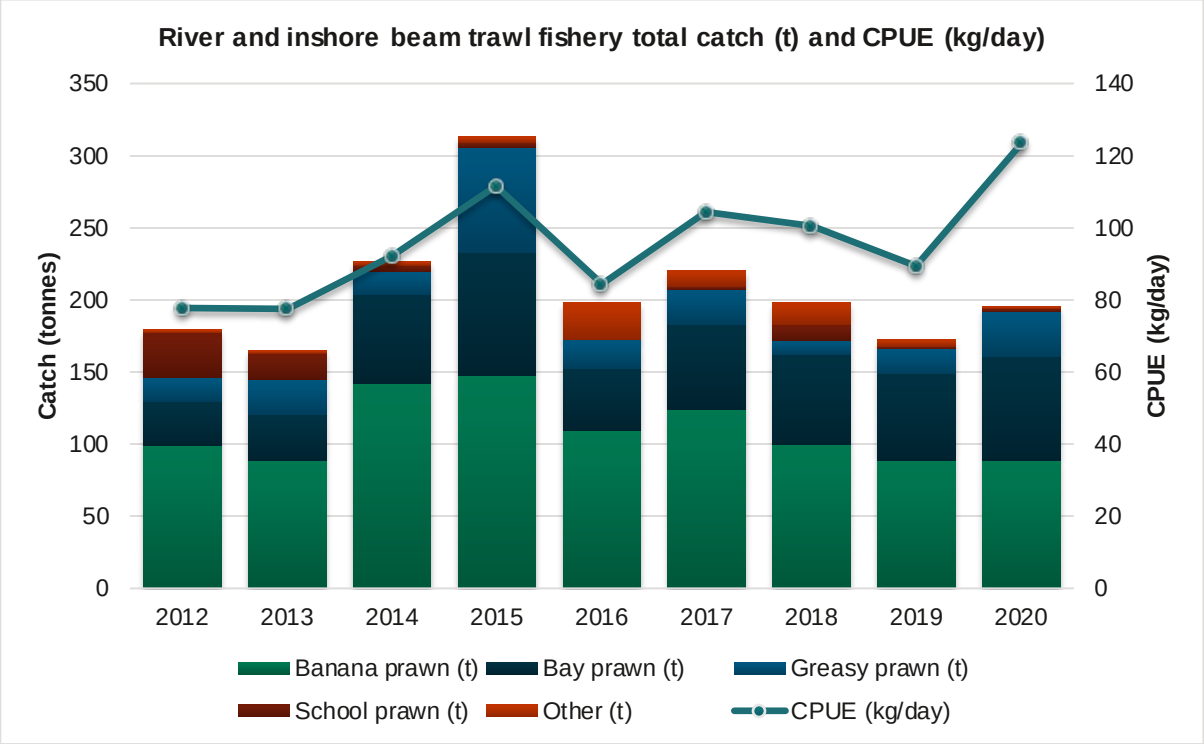


River and inshore beam trawl fishery

The river and inshore beam trawl fishery is one of three sub-fisheries within the Queensland east coast trawl fishery. Target species include greasyback (bay) prawns, banana prawns and school prawns. Minor quantities of other species are also landed.

Table 23: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the river and inshore beam trawl fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	Banana prawn (t)	Bay prawn (t)	Greasy prawn (t)	School prawn (t)
2012	179	2312	66	1.3	99	30	17	31
2013	165	2127	57	1.2	89	32	24	18
2014	227	2463	51	1.7	142	61	16	4
2015	313	2810	51	2.2	148	85	73	3
2016	198	2354	53	1.6	109	43	20	0.01
2017	220	2111	49	1.6	124	59	24	3
2018	198	1973	50	1.5	100	62	10	11
2019	172	1928	38	1.2	89	60	17	2
2020	196	1586	35	1.3	89	72	31	2



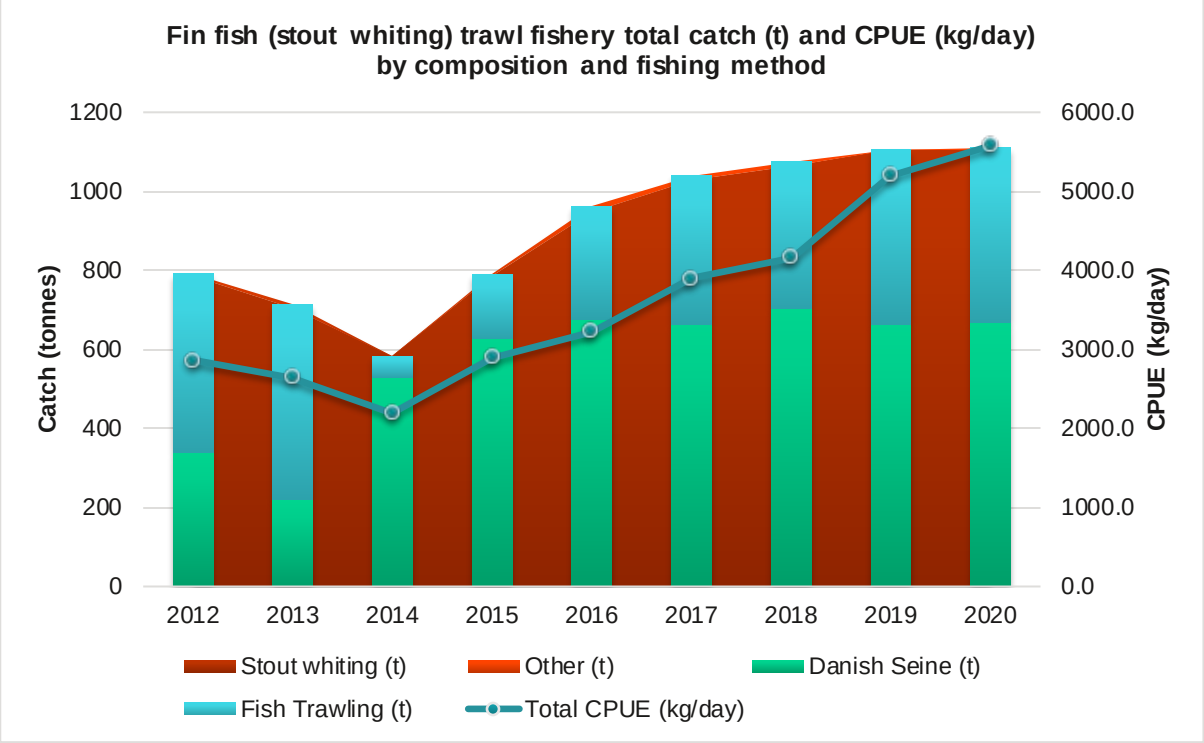
Fin fish (stout whiting) trawl fishery

The Queensland fin fish (stout whiting) trawl fishery is a demersal otter trawl and Danish seine fishery. The fishery is permitted to target stout whiting (*Sillago robusta*) and retain other permitted by-product species such as yellowtail scad (*Trachurus novaezelandiae*) and goatfish (Mullidae family).

The fishery has a total allowable catch for stout whiting divided among licence holders using an ITQ system.

Table 24: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the fin fish (stout whiting) trawl fishery (2012–2020)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Licences (active)	GVP ($ million)	Stout whiting (t)	Danish seine (t)	Fish trawling (t)	Total CPUE (kg/day)
2012	791	276	2	2.0	784	340	451	2865.9
2013	713	269	2	1.8	704	221	492	2649.5
2014	583	266	2	1.5	581	529	54	2192.0
2015	790	272	2	2.0	787	627	163	2903.4
2016	961	298	2	2.4	946	676	286	3226.3
2017	1040	267	2	2.6	1026	664	376	3895.5
2018	1075	258	2	2.7	1064	703	372	4165.9
2019	1107	213	3	2.8	1106	663	443	5195.6
2020	1110	199	2	2.8	1103	667	443	5576.6



Developmental fisheries

The Gulf of Carpentaria developmental fin fish trawl fishery is a limited-entry, quota-managed, semi-demersal trawl fishery that has operated under Queensland Fisheries joint authority jurisdiction since June 1998. The fishery remains developmental and any change to a licensed status depends on it continuing to demonstrate ecological sustainability, commercial viability and social acceptability.

Table 25: Total catch (t) and effort (days) for the Gulf of Carpentaria developmental fin fish trawl fishery (2012–13 to 2020–21 financial years)

Year	Total catch (t)	Total effort (days)	Permits (active)	GVP ($ million)	Crimson snapper (t)	Saddletail snapper (t)	Mangrove jack (t)	Goldband snapper (t)	Golden snapper (t)	CPUE (kg/day)
2012-13	25	7	1	0.2	12	9	0	1	< 1	3627.6
2013-14	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
2014-15	5	2	1	< 0.1	2	2	0	< 1	< 1	2395.0
2015-16	231	60	2	1.5	105	69	14	20	5	3847.0
2016-17	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
2017-18	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
2018-19	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
2019-20	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
2020-21	217	49	2	1.4	102	49	13	6	18	4422.6