

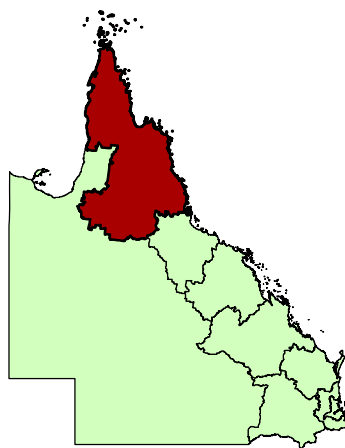
Recreational fishing in the regions Far North residents

A snapshot from the 2010 statewide recreational fishing survey

The local region

This factsheet describes the recreational fishing activities of residents of the Far North region (see red section of map below). This information was collected during the 2010 statewide recreational fishing survey.

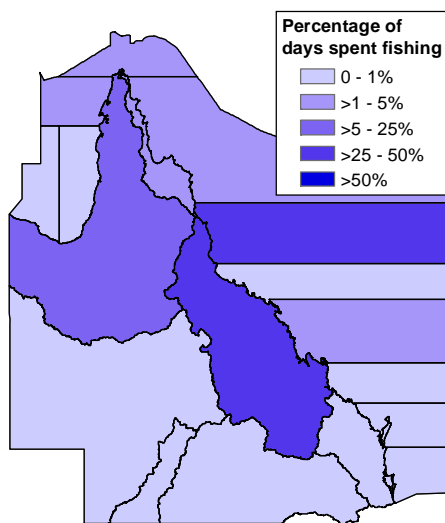
The Far North region is large but sparsely populated containing the towns of Cairns, Cooktown and Weipa. It's a tropical region, and has marine environments in the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Great Barrier Reef. There are also many mangrove lined estuaries, freshwater rivers, lakes and billabongs. The mix of environments accessible from this region provides fishers with a diverse mix of tropical species.



Where do residents fish?

Far North residents did most of their fishing locally. However, they did fish the central coast catchment and the Mackay coastal waters.

Figure 1: Map showing percentage of days spent fishing by Far North residents in the different fishing regions during the survey



Participation

Recreational fishing is popular with approximately 23% of Far North residents aged 5 years or above fishing during the 12 months prior to the survey. This percentage is greater than the statewide average of 17%.

Fishers were distributed across all age groups with 15–29 year olds being the largest group (Figure 2). As with the other regions, there were more male than female recreational fishers.

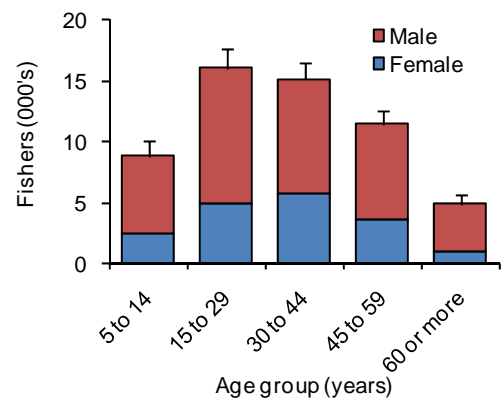


Figure 2: Fishers by age group and gender

Days fished

More days were spent fishing from boats than the shore (Figure 3) and most of this was done in marine waters (Figure 4).

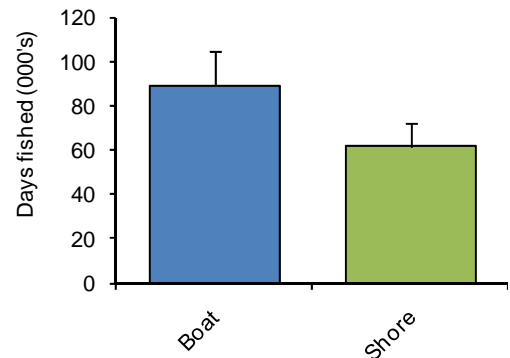


Figure 3: Days fished from a boat or the shore

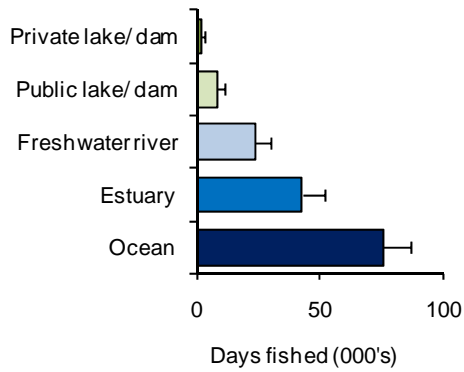


Figure 4: Days fished by water body

People went fishing throughout the year but there were peaks in April and September (Figure 5) coinciding with school holidays.

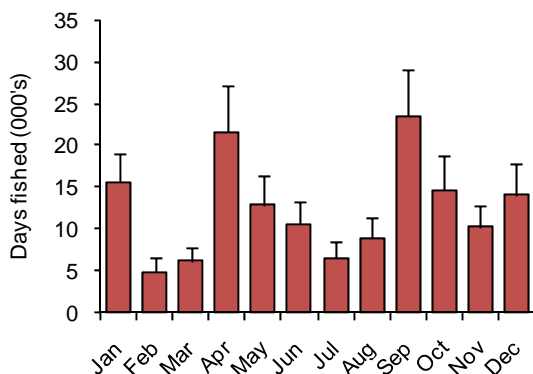


Figure 5: Days fished by month

Top 10 species

Barramundi was the most caught species. Approximately 128,000 were caught and 83% were released. Approximately 27,000 mud crabs were caught (Figure 6) which is considerably less than the 360,000 caught by residents of the neighbouring Northern region.

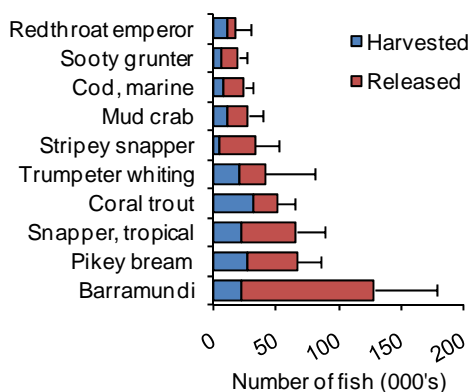


Figure 6: Top 10 species caught (both harvested and released) by number

Proportion of Queensland's harvest

Far North residents took more than 60% of Queensland's recreational harvest of sharks. They also took more than 30% of the state's recreational harvest of barramundi and coral trout and 25% of the state's recreational harvest of Spanish mackerel (Figure 7).

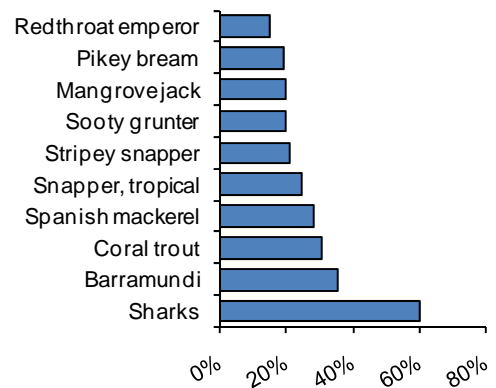


Figure 7: Recreational harvest by residents of the Far North region as a percentage of the recreational harvest by all Queenslanders

The statewide recreational fishing surveys

Fisheries Queensland's 2010 statewide recreational fishing surveys collected the information for these regional profiles. This information would not be available without the honest and thoughtful participation in these surveys by Queensland's recreational fishers. These surveys provide vital information for the sustainable management of Queensland's fisheries and also provide useful information for regional councils, businesses and stakeholder groups.

To find out more about the information available from these surveys please visit Monitoring our Fisheries at www.fisheries.qld.gov.au

Follow Fisheries Queensland on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).