Background

Commercial fishers are required to provide details of their retained catch, which is recorded in their logbooks. Although fishers are directed to provide their information within 15 days after the end of the month that the catch refers to, Fisheries Queensland works on the basis that there is a three month delay between the fishing activity taking place and the entry of the information into fisheries databases.

Because of this delay, Fisheries Queensland updated the following graphs and tables in April when information for December was available. This report now provides information for all of 2011. However, there are approximately 12% of fishers from the Gladstone area who have yet to submit log sheets for 2011, so the following catch information may change.

The number of days fishing in 2011 (Figure 1) follows previous years until September, after which few fishing days were undertaken.

![Cumulative Number of Days Fishing](image)

**Figure 1 Cumulative number of days fishing in Gladstone (S30)**

Based on information extracted on 18 April 2012, the total catch taken for the years 2006 to 2011 is presented in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total catch (t)</td>
<td>431.5</td>
<td>361.6</td>
<td>528.4</td>
<td>415.4</td>
<td>404.7</td>
<td>535.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following are graphs of the cumulative commercial catch and effort (days fished) for key species taken in Gladstone (fishing grid S30).
Barramundi catch is significantly higher in 2011 than the previous five years. Commercial fishers have exercised high effort in the fishery from the opening until August 2011. In 2011 they had fished for a total of 416 days compared with an average of 172 days over the previous five years.
Blue threadfin salmon catch in 2011 shows a similar pattern to the previous five years in both catch and effort.

Figure 4 Cumulative catch of blue threadfin salmon in Gladstone

Figure 5 Cumulative number of days fishing for blue threadfin salmon in Gladstone
Very little grey mackerel was caught in 2011. Grey mackerel was only caught during 90 days of fishing compared to an average of 275 days over the preceding five years. Fishing effort may not have switched from targeting barramundi.
Mullet catch in 2011 shows a similar pattern to previous years in both catch and effort until September, after which mullet catches were only recorded on a few extra days.
Shark catch in 2011 shows a similar pattern to previous years in both catch and effort up until July. No fishing for shark was recorded after July.
Banana prawn catch in 2011 was higher than the previous five years. The number of days fished were high in February and March 2011, which coincides with the months of high catch. The total number of days of fishing in 2011 was lower than in 2006 and 2010.
Mud crab catch and effort trends in 2011 are similar to the previous years. The annual catch was the second highest for the period 2006 to 2011.