

An Assessment of the Social Characteristics of Queensland's Recreational Fishers.

Stephen G. Sutton

CRC Reef Research Centre, School of Tropical Environment Studies and
Geography, James Cook University,
QLD, 4811, Australia.

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CRC Reef Research Centre
PO Box 772
Townsville QLD 4810 Australia
Telephone: 07 4729 8400
Fax: 07 4729 8499
Email: info@crcreef.com
Website: www.reef.crc.org.au

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Executive Summary

A combination of telephone and mail survey methods was used to collect information from Great Barrier Reef area (GBR) and non-GBR area recreational fishers in Queensland regarding their demographic and fishing participation characteristics, the importance of fishing, their motivations and consumptive orientation, their beliefs, opinions and involvement in fisheries management, stocked impoundment fishing and social values. The telephone survey contacted 13,390 fishers between February 16, 2004 and March 18, 2004. In total, 9,754 interviews that provided basic household-level information were completed (73% response rate). Only active recreational fishers (those who had fished in the previous 12 months) were interviewed further. This resulted in 2,733 full interviews and a sample of 2,355 fishers who agreed to participate in the follow-up mail survey. Questionnaires were mailed to these fishers on May 5, 2004. In total, 1,385 usable surveys were returned. After non-deliverables were eliminated, the effective response rate was 60%. A non-response bias check suggested that older more experienced and committed fishers may be somewhat overrepresented in the mail survey. This should be taken into consideration when viewing and using the results of this study.

Demographic and fishing participation characteristics

- Most (81%) GBR and non-GBR area fishers were male.
- Average age was 41 years.
- Median household income was \$30,000- \$39,999.
- Fishers from both areas had approximately 27 years fishing experience.
- Significantly more GBR area fishers (27%) than non-GBR area fishers (17%) said they go fishing fortnightly or more often.
- Average number of days fished during the previous 12 months was significantly higher for GBR area fishers (23.5 days) than for non-GBR area fishers (20.5 days).
- For both groups, most fishing over the previous 12 months occurred in inshore and offshore marine waters. However, GBR area fishers fished

significantly more days in offshore water and significantly fewer days in freshwater lakes, dams and weirs than non-GBR area fishers.

- A majority (61%) of GBR area fishers and a minority (18%) of non-GBR area fishers reported fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park during the previous 12 months.
- Coral trout and barramundi were the most preferred species for GBR area fishers, whereas whiting, flathead and silver bream were most preferred by non-GBR area fishers.
- Most GBR (90%) and non-GBR (85%) area fishers said that they usually fish with family and/or friends.
- A majority of GBR (64%) and non-GBR (51%) area fishers reported that someone in their household owns a boat that they use for fishing. Most (73% GBR; 77% non-GBR) reported single boat ownership with an average length of 4.9m.
- A minority of fishers (6% GBR; 8% non-GBR) reported being a member of a fishing club or conservation organization.
- A majority of fishers (75% GBR; 73% non-GBR) said that they were moderately or very satisfied with fishing in Queensland.
- Seventy two percent of GBR area fishers and 70% of non-GBR area fishers reported that there are factors that prevent them from fishing as often as they would like.
- Statements about why fishers do not fish more often that received the highest level of agreement/strong agreement were “I have too many work/family commitments” (75% GBR; 75% non-GBR), and “Other leisure activities take up too much of my time” (38% GBR; 47% non-GBR).

The importance of fishing

- Statements about the importance of fishing to the fisher’s lifestyle that received the highest level of agreement/strong agreement were “Most of my friends are in some way connected with fishing” (41% GBR; 26% non-GBR), “I would rather go fishing than do most anything else” (35% GBR; 26% non-

GBR), and “Other leisure activities don’t interest me as much as fishing (33% GBR; 27% non-GBR).

- Mean centrality to lifestyle (i.e., the extent to which a fishers’ lifestyle and social networks are connected to fishing) for GBR area fishers (2.47 out of 5) was significantly higher than for non-GBR area fishers (2.27 out of 5).
- Significantly more GBR area fishers (42%) than non-GBR area fishers (26%) said that fishing is their most important outdoor activity.
- A majority of fishers in both areas (54% GBR; 63% non-GBR) agreed that other activities could be substituted for fishing.
- GBR area fishers most commonly cited camping (36%) and hiking (23%) as potential substitutes for fishing. Non-GBR area fishers most commonly cited camping (45%), hiking (34%) and surfing/waterskiing (32%) as potential substitutes for fishing.

Motivations and consumptive orientation

- Individual questions designed to measure motivations for fishing that received the highest level of very important/extremely important were “For relaxation” (78% GBR; 78% non-GBR), “To be outdoors” (67% GBR; 69% non-GBR), and “To experience unpolluted natural surroundings” (65% GBR; 68% non-GBR).
- For GBR area fishers, the motivation that received the highest score (i.e., level of importance) was “relaxation” (3.53 out of 5), followed by “socialization” (3.46), “experiencing nature” (3.45), “catching fish” (3.14), and “experiencing excitement” (3.12).
- For non-GBR area fishers, the motivation that received the highest score was “relaxation” (3.55), followed by “experiencing nature” (3.49), “socialization” (3.39), “catching fish” (3.14), and “experiencing excitement” (3.07).
- Individual questions designed to measure consumptive orientation that received the highest level of agreement/ strong agreement were “I usually eat the fish I catch” (84% GBR; 77% non-GBR), “A fishing trip can be successful

even if no fish are caught" (78% GBR; 75% non-GBR), and "I'm happier if I release some of the fish I catch" (72% GBR; 70% non-GBR).

- For GBR area fishers, the catch-related aspect of fishing that received the highest score (i.e., level of importance) was "size of fish caught" (3.21 out of 5), followed by "keeping fish" (2.72), "catching something" (2.69), and "number of fish caught" (2.58).
- For non-GBR area fishers, the catch-related aspect of fishing that received the highest score was "size of fish caught" (3.28 out of 5), followed by "catching something" (2.67), "keeping fish" (2.66), and "number of fish caught" (2.57).

Fisheries management beliefs, opinions and involvement

- Statements about the effects of recreational fishing and the effects of catch reductions on fish populations that received the highest level of agreement/strong agreement were "Recreational fishing regulations are necessary to protect fish populations from over fishing" (84% GBR; 92% non-GBR), "Strict bag limits on recreational catch will lead to healthier fish populations in the future" (76% GBR; 85% non-GBR), and "Limiting recreational fishing catch today will help ensure quality recreational fishing in the future" (73% GBR; 79% non-GBR).
- Factors rated as a "major threat" to recreational fishing were "Over fishing by commercial fishers" (89% GBR; 89% non-GBR), "Loss or destruction of fish habitat" (82% GBR; 91% non-GBR), and "Pollution" (80% GBR; 89% non-GBR).
- Statements about recreational fishing issues that received agreement/strong agreement from a majority of GBR area fishers were "Recreational fishing regulations are adequately enforced" (53%), and "There are enough public boat ramps to meet my needs" (53%).
- Statements about recreational fishing issues that received the highest level of agreement/strong agreement from non-GBR area fishers were "There are enough public boat ramps to meet my needs" (49%), and "The quality of public boat ramps is good" (43%).

- Fisheries regulations that received the highest level of support/strong support were “Releasing fish below a certain length” (97% GBR; 98% non-GBR), “A limit on the number of fish you can catch at any one time” (88% GBR; 90% non-GBR), and “No fishing during spawning seasons” (88% GBR; 84% non-GBR).
- Sources of information about recreational fishing in Queensland that received the highest level of use were “Television shows” (46% GBR; 51% non-GBR), “Newspaper columns and articles” (46% GBR; 41% non-GBR), “Local bait or tackle shop” (43% GBR; 40% non-GBR).
- A minority of fishers reported ever attending a public meeting (25% GBR; 7% non-GBR), making a formal submission to a government agency (17% GBR; 7% non-GBR), or contacting their government representative (11% GBR; 7% non-GBR) about a fisheries-related issue.

Stocked impoundment fishing

- Approximately 15% of GBR area fishers and 20% of non-GBR area fishers had ever purchased a Stocked Impoundment Permit (SIP).
- Impoundments fished most often by GBR area fishers were Tinaroo (35%), Teemburra (21%), and Peter Faust (21%). Dams fished most often by non-GBR area fishers were Somerset (16%), Bjelke-Petersen (11%), and Boondooma (11%).
- A majority of GBR area fishers listed barramundi as the species they most preferred to catch in stocked impoundments, whereas most non-GBR area fishers listed either bass (40%) or yellowbelly (23%).
- A majority of GBR (75%) and non-GBR (78%) area fishers said that they were either moderately or very satisfied with stocked impoundment fishing in Queensland.
- The most frequently cited reasons for why fishers had never purchased a SIP were “I don’t live near a stocked dam requiring a permit to fish” (64% GBR; 64% non-GBR), and “I have no interest in fishing a stocked dam” (47% GBR; 50% non-GBR).

Social values

- Statements about the importance of recreational fishing and fisheries resources to fishers and society that received the highest level of agreement/strong agreement were “Even if I didn’t fish, it would still be important for me to know that healthy fish populations exist” (94% GBR; 96% non-GBR), “We should do everything we can today to ensure that future generations inherit healthy recreational fisheries” (91% GBR; 95% non-GBR), and “It is important that people have opportunities to view aquatic wildlife such as fish, coral and whales” (87% GBR; 90% non-GBR).
- The social value that received the highest rating was “Bequest and existence” (4.07 out of 5 GBR; 4.20 out of 5 non-GBR), followed by “Aesthetic/spiritual” (3.75 GBR; 3.84 non-GBR), “Research/education” (3.64 GBR; 3.74 non-GBR), “Subsistence” (3.31 GBR; 3.13 non-GBR), and “Intrinsic value” (3.08 GBR; 3.13 non-GBR).

Conclusions

- This study provides an extensive database on the social aspects of recreational fishing in Queensland. As such, it should begin to give managers and other stakeholders a better understanding of the recreational fishing sector, and allow the needs, concerns, and values of recreational fishers to be incorporated into the management process.
- The results presented in this report are primarily descriptive in nature, with the aim of providing a broad overview of the social characteristics of recreational fishing in Queensland. There is scope for future analysis of the dataset described to provide a further understanding of recreational fishers and their relationships with fisheries resources and fisheries management.
- A number of projects using the dataset collected here are currently be conducted including: 1) understanding constraints on recreational fishing activity; 2) investigating participation by recreational fishers in public consultation programs; and 3) analysing the content of the open-ended comments provided by respondents.

- Further work using the data collected here should explore managerially useful ways of segmenting the recreational fisher population with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the level of diversity within and between various segments.
- Variables such as satisfaction, social values, motivations, catch orientation, perceptions of threats and issues facing recreational fishing, and beliefs about fisheries management provide a baseline for monitoring future changes in the social characteristics of recreational fishing in Queensland. Such monitoring should be done in conjunction with State and Commonwealth efforts to monitor recreational fishing activity and recreational use of marine parks.

Introduction

Fishing is a popular recreational activity in Queensland. The recent National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey found that approximately 785,000 Queenslanders aged 5 or over (about 25% of the Queensland population) make about 4.6 million fishing trips each year. Recreational fishing also has a significant economic component with fishers spending approximately \$319 million per year on their sport in Queensland (Henry and Lyle 2003).

Management of recreational fisheries in Queensland is the responsibility of the Queensland Government through the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F) which achieves its goals in part through the setting of size, bag, and no-take limits, and temporal closures. On Queensland's east coast, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park covers an area of 348,000km² which encompasses a large percentage of the marine environment available to recreational fishers. Management of the Marine Park is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) which achieves its goals primarily through the provision of zoning plans. Consultation between QDPI&F and GBRMPA is undertaken regularly to ensure that Marine Park and fisheries management arrangements within the park are complementary and compatible (Wachenfeld et al. 1998).

Recreational fisheries in Queensland have undergone significant changes in recent years due to the implementation of a number of fisheries and marine park management initiatives. In December 2003, QDPI&F implemented the Coral Reef Fin Fish Management Plan which instituted new size, bag, and no-take restrictions on many of the coral reef fish species targeted by recreational fishers. In July 2004, GBRMPA implemented the Representative Areas Program which increased no-fishing areas within the Park from 5% to approximately 33% of the total area of the Park. Freshwater fishing in Queensland has also undergone changes with the implementation of the Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan in 1999 and the

introduction of the Stocked Impoundment Permit program in 2000 (which requires recreational fishers to purchase a permit to fish in many of the stocked impoundments throughout the State).

Future fisheries management initiatives are likely to affect recreational fishing in Queensland further. In particular, QDPI&F is currently considering new size, take, and possession limits for inshore species on the State's east coast, with plans for a possible future implementation of a new Inshore Fin Fish Management Plan. A new inshore plan would have the potential to affect more recreational fishers than those plans introduced previously because the east coast inshore fishery has the highest participation rate state wide.

With this rapidly changing management environment, there is strong potential for recreational fishers to be impacted negatively by changes and for agencies to receive opposition from an increasingly organized and vocal recreational fishing sector. To be proactive in countering these potential outcomes, and to continue to provide quality recreation opportunities in a changing management environment, agencies need to maintain effective communication with recreational fishers, involve them in the decision-making process, and predict and monitor the impacts of management initiatives on fishing participation, activity patterns, values, and satisfactions. To achieve these objectives, managers will require data on a wide range of social indicators and variables relating to recreational fishing. In addition to providing managers with the ability to deal more effectively with specific issues such as those discussed previously, the availability of social data will facilitate a more integrated approach to fisheries and marine park management that includes consideration of social factors throughout the entire management process.

There is limited social information available that can be used to understand, predict, and monitor the effects of management decisions on the recreational sector and integrate social concerns into fisheries management in Queensland. Without this information, managers who are increasingly required to deal with social issues and

engage with stakeholders must rely on anecdotal data, their own opinions and values, or information obtained from a vocal minority of stakeholders. Reliance on such sources can leave decisions open to criticism from stakeholders who claim that their opinions and values have not been considered in the management process.

Both the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries recognize the need for social science data in support of fisheries and marine park management. Among its research priorities, GBRMPA lists “gain better information regarding the levels of use by identified user groups and their interactions, perceptions and motivations”, “assess the effectiveness of communication and consultation methods”, “monitor long-term trends in social, economic, and cultural parameters”, and “gain a better understanding of the social and economic impacts of alternative management strategies” (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2005). In response to the need for better data on recreational fisheries in Queensland, QDPI&F instigated the RFISH program in 1996 to monitor recreational fishing activities. Through a series of biennial state-wide telephone surveys and fishing diary programs, the RFISH program has collected extensive data on recreational fishing catch, effort, and participation as well as some data on fishers’ motivations, satisfactions, and experiences (Roy Morgan Research 1999; Higgs and McInnes 2003; Ormsby 2004).

In recognition of the need for further social science data in support of recreational fisheries and marine park management in Queensland, the CRC Reef Research Centre funded a state-wide survey of recreational fishers in 2004. The study was conducted with the support of, and in consultation with, QDPI&F, GBRMPA, and Sunfish Queensland (the peak body representing recreational fishers in Queensland). The CRC Reef study was designed to build on the catch, effort, and participation data collected through the RFISH program by collecting data on a wide range of “human dimensions” of recreational fisheries variables not previously studied in Queensland.

This report details the methodology and descriptive results for all questions included in the CRC Reef survey. Whereas these descriptive results will give managers and other stakeholders a basic understanding of recreational fishers, the primary value of the study lies in the extensive data set that will be used by researchers and managers to explore further the relationships among the variables described here. The next section of the report describes the methodology used to collect the data, followed by the descriptive results of the survey organized into six sub-sections: 1) Demographics and fishing participation; 2) Importance of fishing to fishers; 3) Motivations and consumptive orientation; 4) Fisheries management beliefs, opinions, and involvement; 5) Stocked impoundment fishing; and 6) Social values. The implications of the results are then discussed and a number of additional projects in progress at the time of writing of this report that utilize the dataset described here are briefly outlined. Tables of descriptive results for all variables included in the survey are presented in Appendix A. In recognition of the fact that recreational fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef area have undergone the most significant changes recently with the introduction of the Coral Reef Fin Fish Management Plan and the Representative Areas Program, results for fishers residing in the Great Barrier Reef area are presented separately from the results for fishers residing in the remainder of the State.

Methods

Overview

Data were collected using a combination of telephone and mail survey methods. A list of active fishers in Queensland was not available; therefore, a random household telephone survey was used to obtain a sample of Queensland residents who had gone recreational fishing in Queensland over the preceding 12 months. Fishers identified through the telephone survey were asked to participate in a follow-up mail survey designed to collect information on a wide range of social variables related to recreational fishing.

Telephone survey

The target population for the survey was Queensland residents aged 15 years or over who had gone fishing, crabbing, or prawning (hereafter referred to as fishing) in Queensland between February 2003 and February 2004. For sampling purposes, the State was divided into two areas: 1) the Great Barrier Reef area (GBR) (defined as the area encompassed by all postal codes that lie within 50 kilometres of the coast from the tip of Cape York to Bundaberg)¹; and 2) the remainder of the State (non-GBR). A target of 1,500 completed telephone interviews with active recreational fishers was set for each area. A stratified random design was used to sample from each area an equal number of telephone numbers from the electronic telephone directory using the Queensland/Northern Territory January 2004 edition of *Marketing Pro* (a digital source of information from Australian phone books). Duplicate numbers and mobile numbers were excluded from the sampling frame prior to sample selection. Up to six attempts were made to contact each selected household, after which the household was considered non-contactable and replaced with an alternative household.

The telephone survey was conducted from February 16, 2004 to March 18, 2004. On weekdays, calls were made from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. On weekends,

¹ Approximately 20% of the Queensland population resides within the GBR region.

calls were also made from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Individuals who answered the telephone were given a brief explanation of the research and asked for their cooperation in a brief survey. Individuals who agreed to participate in the survey were asked if anyone in the household had done any recreational fishing in Queensland during the previous 12 months. If no one in the household had fished during the previous 12 months, the number of people residing in the household was recorded and the survey concluded. In households where at least one person fished, one fisher was randomly selected for interviewing. When the selected fisher was not available, an appointment was made and the fisher was called back at the appointed time.

Fishers were administered a short survey about their fishing activity in Queensland that included questions on avidity, experience, importance of fishing as an outdoor activity, and self assessed skill level (Appendix C). At the end of the survey, respondents were asked if they would be willing to participate in a follow-up mail survey, and names and addresses were collected from those who agreed.

In total, 13,390 households throughout Queensland were contacted resulting in 9,754 interviews in which the respondent provided at least household-level information about fishing activity (Table 1). This resulted in 2,733 full interviews with an active recreational fisher and a sample of 2,355 fishers who agreed to participate in the follow-up mail survey.

Mail survey

An 11-page self-administered questionnaire was developed in consultation with the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS), the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), and Sunfish Queensland to collect information from fishers (Appendix C). The survey was designed to collect data on a wide range of social factors including: fishing participation, preferences, satisfaction, motivations, consumptive orientation, opinions and knowledge of recreational fishing regulations, values and beliefs surrounding fisheries resources, fishing, and fisheries management,

Table 1. Number of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by response rate.

	GBR Area	Non- GBR Area	Total
Telephone survey			
Number contacted (NC)	5733	7657	13390
Number of responses (NR)	4379	5375	9754
Number of interviews with active fishers	1547	1186	2733
Number of fishers agreed to participate in mail survey	1372	983	2355
Response rate $((NR \div NC) \times 100)$	76%	70%	73%
Mail survey			
Number mailed (NM)	1372	983	2355
Number of non-deliverables (ND)	16	16	32
Number of completed returns (NCR)	793	592	1385
Response rate $(NCR \div (NM - ND) \times 100)$	59%	61%	60%

constraints on fishing participation, and involvement in fisheries management issues. On the final page of the survey, respondents were asked if they had any additional information to add and were given space to write comments.

Survey procedures were similar to those recommended by Salant and Dillman (1994) (with the exception that an introductory letter was not sent to fishers prior to the first survey because fishers had recently been contacted by telephone). Questionnaires were mailed to the sample of fishers on 5 May, 2004. A detailed letter explaining the purpose of the research was included with the questionnaire, as well as a postage-paid return envelope. A postcard reminder/thank you was sent one week after the mail out, and a second letter, questionnaire and postage-paid return envelope were sent to fishers who had not responded 4 weeks after the initial mailing.

In total, 1,385 completed mail surveys were returned. Of these, 38 were unusable because they were not completed by the person to whom the survey was addressed. After excluding non-deliverable surveys ($n=32$), an effective response rate of 60% was achieved. Salant and Dillman (1994) suggest that mail surveys using the procedure used in this study should result in a response rate of 50-60%.

Non-response check

Survey respondents may not be representative of the target population if the probability of response is related to differences between subgroups within the population (i.e., if respondents differ somehow from non-respondents). Because data from the telephone survey were available for both respondents (n=1,385) and non-respondents (n=936) to the mail survey, it was possible to conduct a check for non-response bias in the mail survey. Significant differences between mail survey respondents and non-respondents were tested on the following variables measured in the telephone survey: 1) importance of fishing as an outdoor activity; 2) number of days recreationally fished during the previous 12 months; 3) number of years fishing experience; 4) whether the respondent had fished in the GBRMP in the previous 12 months; 5) area (GBR vs. non-GBR); 6) gender; and 7) age. T-tests were used for continuous variables and Kruskal-Wallis tests for ordinal variables. Level of statistical significance was set at $\alpha = 0.05$.

Results of the non-response bias check revealed that non-respondents were significantly younger (37.3 years vs. 43.6 years; $F=91.1$; $p<0.0001$), had significantly fewer years fishing experience (24.5 years vs. 30.1; $F=76.9$; $p<0.0001$), and were less likely to rate fishing as their most important outdoor activity (31.7% vs. 40.2%; $Z=4.9$; $p<0.0001$) compared to respondents. These results suggest that older, more experienced and committed fishers may be somewhat overrepresented in the mail survey. Because other variables measured in the survey may be related to these variables, caution should be used when generalizing the results of this study to the wider population of fishers in Queensland.

Analysis

Data for all survey questions were analyzed descriptively, and the results described separately for GBR and non-GBR area fishers. To provide reliable measures of motivations, values, consumptive orientation, and centrality to lifestyle, individual variables were combined to create an index of each higher-order motivation, value,

etc. For simplicity, the methodology and individual items used to create each higher-order index are briefly described in the appropriate sections of the results.

Responses to all questions were tested for statistically significant differences between GBR and non-GBR area fishers. T-tests were used to test for differences between groups on interval-scaled (i.e., continuous) variables, Kruskal-Wallis tests were used for variables with ordinal measures (scale items), and chi-square tests for independence were used for nominal (binary) variables. All tests were conducted using SAS Version 8 with level of statistical significance set at $\alpha=0.05$. Responses to the open-ended question that asked respondents if they had any additional information to provide were typed into a file as written with names of individuals removed to protect their confidentiality. These comments are presented in Appendix B for archival purposes.

Results

Demographic and fishing participation characteristics

The majority of respondents to the survey were males (81%) (Table A34; Figure 1) between the ages of 31-60 (62% GBR; 64% non-GBR) (Table A52; Figure 2). Average age was about 41 years.

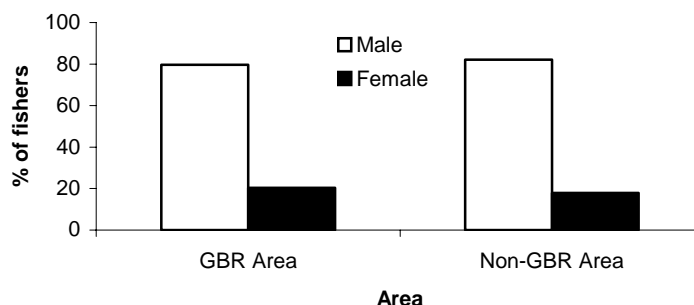


Figure 1. Gender distribution of GBR and non-GBR area fishers.

Household income ranged from under \$10,000 to over \$100,000. The median household income category in both the GBR and non-GBR area was \$30,000-\$39,999 (Table A35; Figure 3).

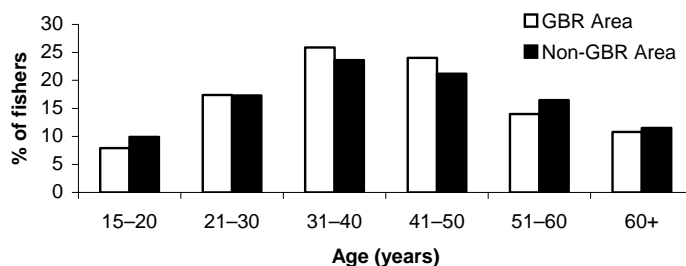


Figure 2. Age distribution of GBR and non-GBR fishers.

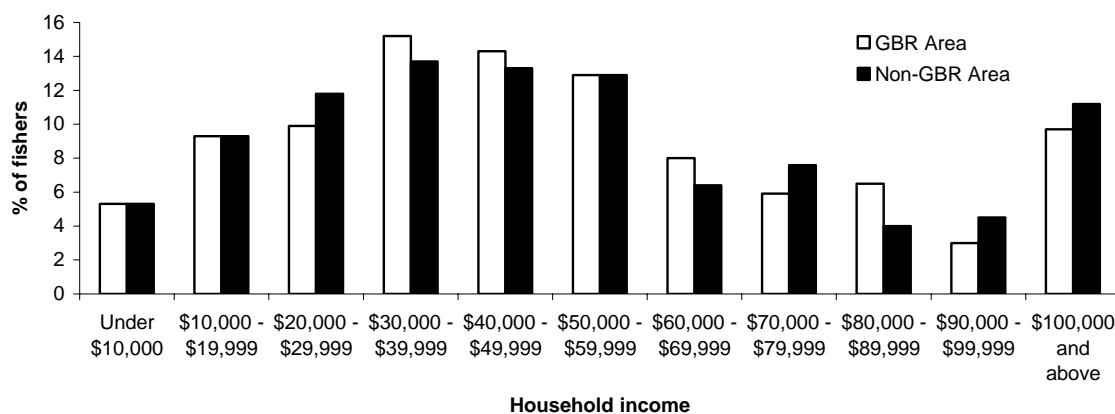


Figure 3. Distribution of household income of GBR and non-GBR area fishers.

Fishing experience for GBR and non-GBR fishers ranged from < 1 year to over 60 years. On average, fishers from both areas had approximately 27 years fishing experience (Table A50; Figure 4).

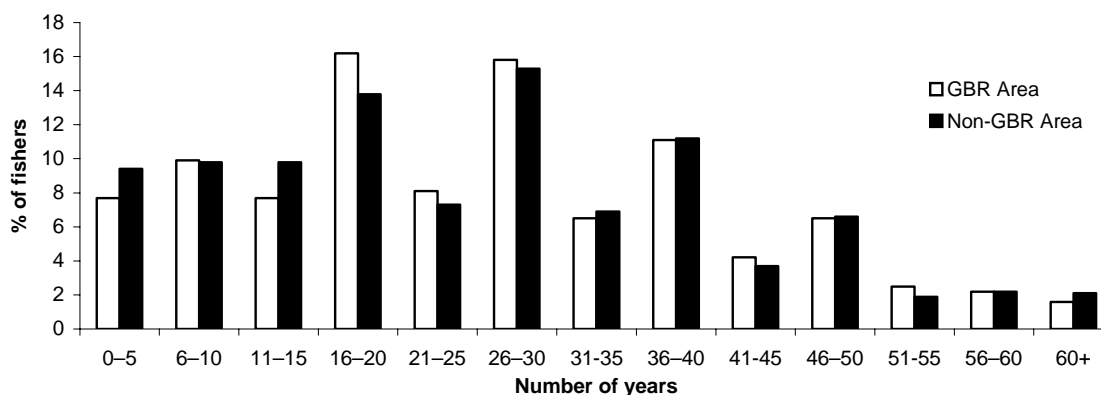


Figure 4. Distribution of number of years fishing experience by GBR and non-GBR fishers.

When asked how often they go fishing, most (73% GBR; 83% non-GBR) fishers said they go once a month or less often. Significantly more GBR area fishers (27%) than non-GBR area fishers (17%) said they go fishing fortnightly or more often (Table A46; Figure 5).

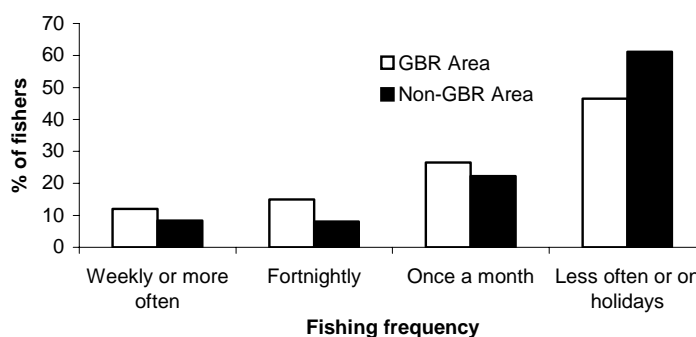


Figure 5. Distribution of fishing frequency by GBR and non-GBR area fishers

Average number of days fished during the previous 12 months was significantly higher for GBR area fishers (23.5 days) than for non-GBR area fishers (20.5 days) (Table A1; Figure 6).

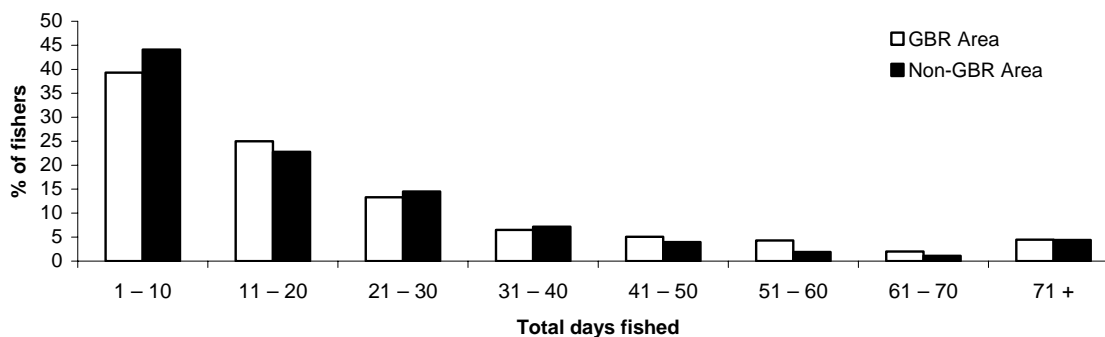


Figure 6. Distribution of average number of days fished during the previous 12 months by GBR and non-GBR area fishers.

For both groups, most fishing over the previous 12 months occurred in inshore and offshore marine waters (Table A2; Figure 7). However, GBR area fishers fished significantly more days in offshore waters and significantly fewer days in freshwater lakes, dams, and weirs than non-GBR area fishers (Table A2; Figure 7).

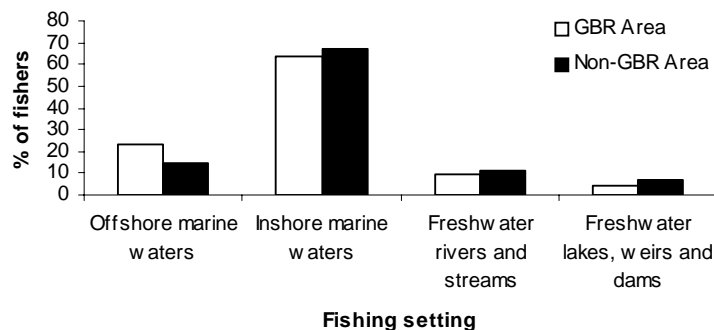


Figure 7. GBR and non-GBR area fishers' frequency of usage different fishing settings

A majority (61%) of GBR area fishers and a minority (18%) of non-GBR area fishers reported fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park during the previous 12 months (Table A48; figure 8).

Coral trout and barramundi were the most preferred species for GBR area fishers, whereas whiting, flathead, and silver bream were most preferred by non-GBR area fishers (Table A13; Figure 9).

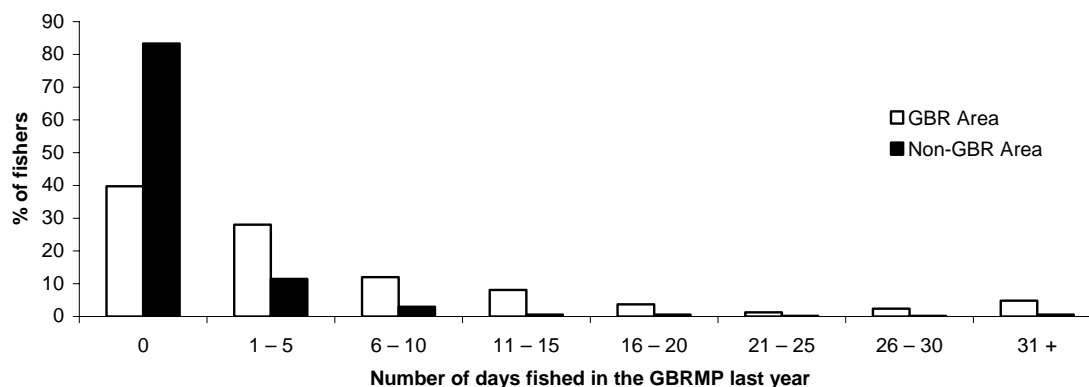


Figure 8. Distribution of number of times GBR and non-GBR area fishers reported fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park during the previous 12 months.

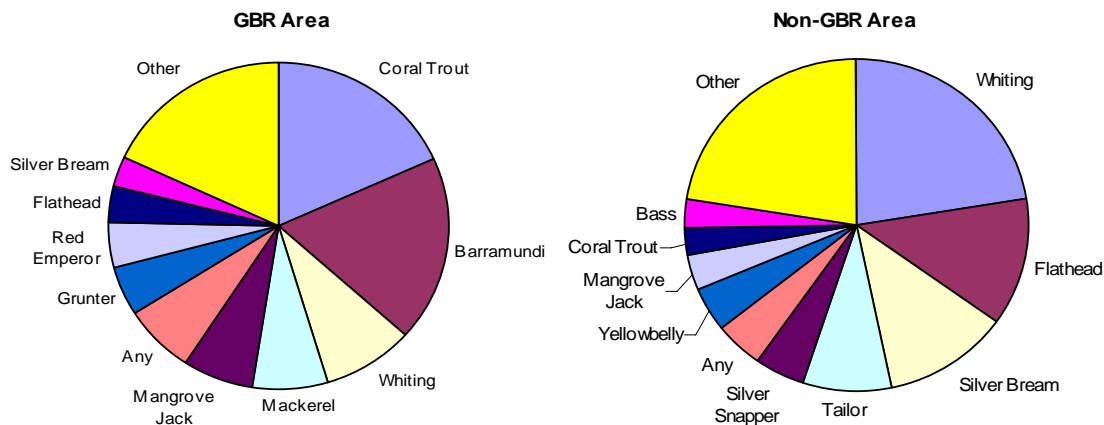


Figure 9. Species most preferred to catch by GBR and non-GBR area fishers when fishing in Queensland.

Compared to total number of days fished during the previous 12 months, number of days spent spear fishing, crabbing, and prawning were relatively low for both GBR and non-GBR area fishers (Table A3).

When asked what social group they most often fish with, most (90% GBR; 85% non-GBR) said that they usually fish with family and/or friends (Table A4; Figure 10). Most (53% GBR; 50% non-GBR) also said they were about as equally skilled as other fishers (Table A51; Figure 11).

A majority of GBR (64%) and non-GBR (51%) area fishers reported that someone in their household owns a boat that they use for fishing (Table A9). Most (73% GBR; 77% non-GBR) reported single boat ownership with an average boat length of approximately 4.9m (Table A11).

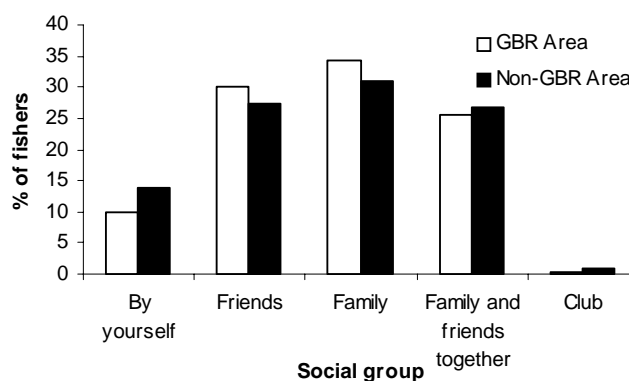


Figure 10. Social group GBR and non-GBR area fishers most often fish with.

Only a small percentage of fishers (6% GBR; 8% non-GBR) reported being a member of a fishing club or conservation organization (Table A6). When asked to rate their overall level of satisfaction with fishing in Queensland, a majority of fishers said they were moderately or very satisfied (75% GBR; 73% non-GBR) (Table A5; Figure 12).

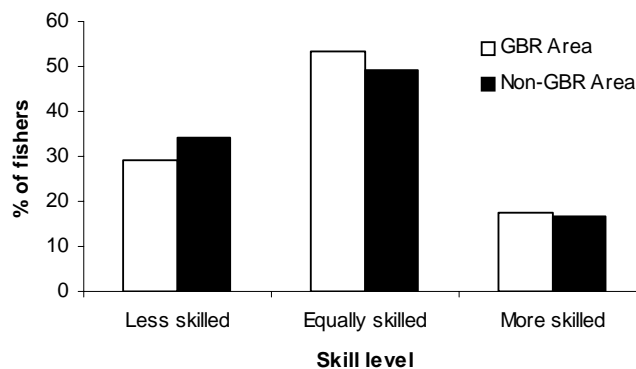


Figure 11. Self-assessed skill level of GBR and non-GBR area fishers compared with other fishers.

When asked if there are factors that prevent them from fishing as often as they would like, 72% of GBR area fishers and 70% of non-GBR area fishers answered affirmatively (Table A31). Fishers who said that there are factors that prevent them from fishing as often as they would like were asked to rate their level of agreement with a series of statements as to why they do not fish more often (Table A32). Statements receiving the highest level of agreement/strong agreement were “I have too many work/family commitments” (75% GBR; 75% non-GBR), and “Other leisure activities take up too much of my time” (38% GBR; 47% non-GBR). Other statements receiving a substantial level of agreement/strong agreement were “The cost of fishing equipment and supplies is too expensive” (27% GBR), “I can’t afford to fish more often” (24% GBR; 22% non-GBR), “Fishing facilities are poorly developed and/or maintained” (24% GBR). “Fishing areas are too crowded” (28% non-GBR), and “I don’t have access to fishing opportunities close to home” (27% non-GBR).

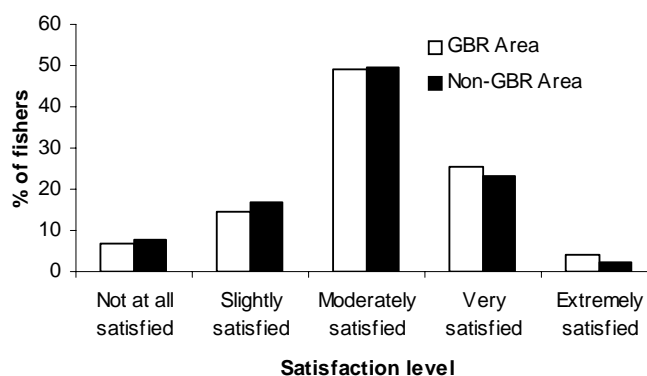


Figure 12. GBR and non-GBR area fishers' satisfaction level with fishing in Queensland.

Importance of fishing to fishers

The importance of recreational fishing to fishers was measured in terms of : 1) centrality of fishing to the fisher's lifestyle; 2) importance of fishing compared to other outdoor activities; and 3) whether other leisure activities can provide acceptable substitutes (i.e., the same level of satisfaction and enjoyment) as fishing.

Centrality to lifestyle is defined as the extent to which a participant's lifestyle and social networks are connected to his or her pursuit of a given leisure activity (Kim et al. 1997). High centrality to lifestyle indicates a high level of commitment to fishing, and provides a strong motivation to maintain participation. Centrality to lifestyle was measured using a scale developed by Kim et al. (1997) to measure centrality to lifestyle of birders and adapted to recreational fishing by Sutton (2003). Fishers were asked to rate their level of agreement (on a 5-point scale ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree") with nine statements related to the importance of fishing to their lifestyle. The nine variables were then averaged to calculate an overall measure of centrality to lifestyle.

Responses to the nine individual statements are presented in Table A45. The items receiving the highest level of agreement/strong agreement were "Most of my friends are in some way connected with fishing" (41% GBR; 26% non-GBR), "I would rather go fishing than do most anything else" (35% GBR; 26% non-GBR), and "Other leisure activities don't interest me as much as fishing" (33% GBR; 27% non-GBR). The distributions of the overall measure of centrality to lifestyle calculated by averaging the nine items are presented in Figure 13. Mean centrality to lifestyle for GBR area fishers (2.47 out of 5) was significantly higher than for non-GBR area fishers (2.27 out of 5). The majority of fishers in both areas (80% GBR; 79% non-GBR) scored either 2 or 3 out of 5.

When asked about the importance of recreational fishing compared to other outdoor activities, significantly more GBR area fishers (42%) than non-GBR area fishers (26%) said that fishing is their most important outdoor activity (Table A49; Figure 14). A majority (56%) of fishers in the GBR area said fishing was either their first or second most important activity whereas only 41% of non-GBR area fishers said fishing was their first or second most important activity.

To assess whether other outdoor activities could provide acceptable substitutes for fishing, fishers were asked “If you could not go fishing, are there any other outdoor activities that would provide you with the same level of satisfaction and enjoyment that you receive from fishing?” A majority of fishers in both areas (54% GBR; 63% non-GBR) agreed that other activities could be substituted for fishing (Table A17). For GBR area fishers, camping (36%) and hiking (23%) were the most commonly cited substitutes for fishing. For non-GBR area fishers, camping (45%), hiking (34%), and surfing/waterskiing (32%) were the most commonly cited substitutes (Table 2).

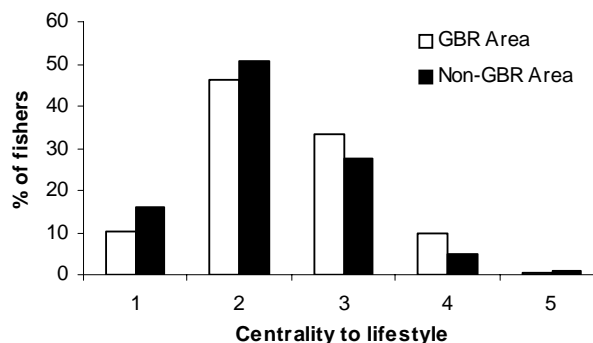


Figure 13. Distributions of the overall measure of centrality to lifestyle.

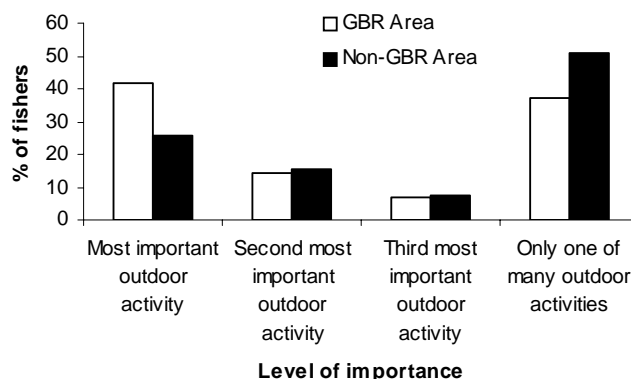


Figure 14. Importance of recreational fishing to GBR and non-GBR area fishers compared to other outdoor activities

Table 2. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by the top ten outdoor recreation activities that would provide the same level of satisfaction and enjoyment as fishing.

GBR Area				Non-GBR Area			
Substitute activity	n	%		Substitute activity	n	%	
Camping	123	35.9		Camping	91	45.0	
Hiking/Bushwalking	76	22.8		Hiking/Bushwalking	69	34.2	
Playing Sports (i.e. rugby and cricket)	48	14.4		Surfing/Boarding/Water Skiing	65	32.2	
Hunting/Shooting/Archery	42	12.6		Playing Golf	37	18.3	
Playing Golf				Other Outdoor Sports/Activities (incl. snow skiing/boarding, horse activities, marine wildlife touring and not specified water/land activities)	32	17.3	
	40	12.0		Boating (incl. racing)	31	15.3	
Family/Friends Activities	35	10.5		Playing Sports (i.e. rugby and cricket)	29	14.4	
Travelling/Touring	31	9.3		Other Hobbies (incl. martial arts, reading, gardening, bird watching)	27	13.4	
Surfing/Boarding/Water Skiing	29	8.7		Hunting/Shooting/Archery	26	12.9	
4-Wheel Driving	28	8.4		Motor Sports (racing and riding)	26	12.9	
Other Hobbies (incl. martial arts, reading, gardening, bird watching)	27	8.1					

There was a strong correlation between centrality to lifestyle, importance of fishing compared to other outdoor activities, and ability to substitute other activities for fishing (Figure 15). Mean centrality to lifestyle was 2.83 for fishers who rated fishing as their most important outdoor activity, compared with only 1.97 for fishers who rated fishing as only one of many outdoor activities. Likewise, only 35% of fishers who rated fishing as most important were able to substitute other activities for fishing, whereas 74% of fishers who rated fishing as only one of many outdoor activities were able to substitute other activities for fishing.

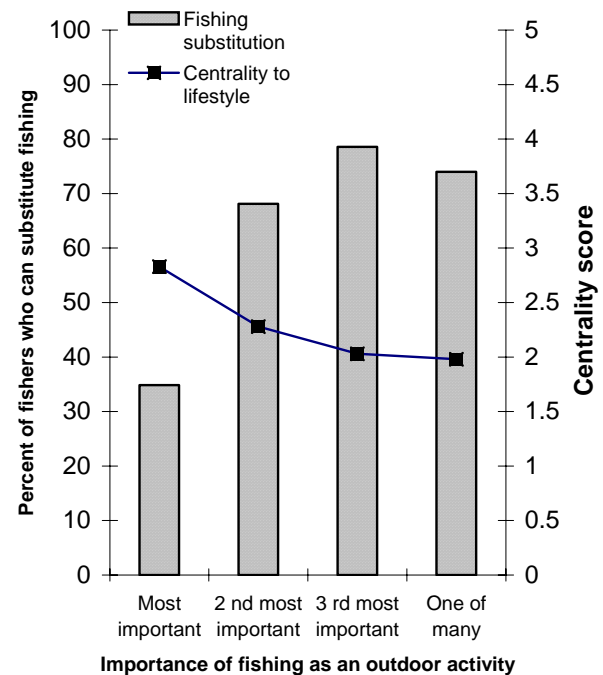


Figure 15. Correlation between centrality to lifestyle, importance of fishing compared to other outdoor activities, and ability to substitute other activities for fishing.

Motivations and consumptive orientation

Motivations are the psychological outcomes one desires from the experience of recreational fishing and include consumptive dimensions (e.g., catching and keeping fish) and non-consumptive dimensions (e.g., relaxation, socializing). A large body of research has shown that individual fishers have multiple reasons for fishing, and that these motivations can vary between individual fishers and between different fisher populations (Fedler and Ditton 1994). Consumptive orientation is the degree to which a fisher values the specific catch-related outcomes of the fishing experience. Like motivations in general, the importance placed on the specific catch-related outcomes of fishing has been shown to vary within and between fisher populations (Fedler and Ditton 1986; Aas and Kaltenborn 1995). Understanding the importance placed on various consumptive and non-consumptive aspects of the fishing experience is important because these variables are expected to have a strong influence on fishers' attitudes and behaviours.

Motivations for fishing were measured by asking fishers to rate the importance of each of 22 reasons for going fishing on a 5-point scale (ranging from "not at all important" to "very important"). These items were drawn from the Recreation Experience Preference scales developed and tested by Driver and others (Driver 1977; Manfredo et al. 1996) to measure leisure motivations. The 22 individual items are grouped into separate domains that measure the importance placed on five general motivations for fishing: 1) catching fish; 2) relaxation/escape; 3) experiencing excitement; 4) socialization; and 5) experiencing nature. Within each domain, the items were averaged to provide an overall measure of the importance placed on the general motivation which they were designed to measure.

Importance placed on each of the 22 separate motivational items (grouped by domain) is presented in Table A43. Motivation items receiving the highest level of very important/extremely important were "For relaxation" (78% GBR; 78% non-GBR), "To be outdoors" (67% GBR; 69% non-GBR), and "To experience unpolluted natural surroundings" (65% GBR; 68% non-GBR). Items receiving the lowest level of

very important/extremely important were “To catch a record or trophy fish” (15% GBR; 16% non-GBR), “To learn more about nature” (31% GBR; 30% non-GBR), and “To have thrills” (33% GBR; 35% non-GBR). Distributions of responses to the overall measures of each of the 5 separate motivation domains are presented in Figure 16. For GBR area fishers, the motivation domain receiving the highest score (i.e., level of importance) was “relaxation” (3.53 out of 5 GBR), followed by “socialization” (3.46), “experiencing nature” (3.45), “catching fish” (3.14), and “experience excitement” (3.12). For non-GBR area fishers, the motivation domain receiving the highest score was “relaxation” (3.55), followed by “experiencing nature” (3.49), “socialization” (3.39), “catching fish” (3.14), and “experience excitement” (3.07).

Consumptive orientation was measured with a series of items developed by Graefe (1980) and refined further in subsequent studies (Fedler and Ditton 1986; Aas and Kaltenborn 1995). Fishers were asked to rate their level of agreement (on a 5-point scale ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”) with 16 statements related to various catch-related aspects of fishing. The items were designed to measure the importance placed on four separate catch-related aspects of the fishing experience: 1) catching ‘something’; 2) number of fish caught; 3) size of fish caught; and 4) keeping fish. Within each domain, the items were averaged to provide an overall measure of the importance placed on the consumptive dimensions which they were designed to measure.

Level of agreement with each of the 16 separate items (grouped by consumptive domain) is presented in Table A42. Items receiving the highest level of agreement/strong agreement were “I usually eat the fish I catch” (84% GBR; 77% non-GBR), “A fishing trip can be successful even if no fish are caught” (78% GBR; 75% non-GBR), and “I’m happier if I release some of the fish I catch” (72% GBR; 70% non-GBR). Items receiving the lowest level of agreement/strong agreement were “When I go fishing, I’m not happy unless I catch a lot of fish” (3% GBR; 5% non-GBR), “I want to keep all the fish I catch” (9% GBR; 6% non-GBR), and “If I thought I wouldn’t catch any fish, I wouldn’t go fishing” (32% GBR; 32% non-GBR).

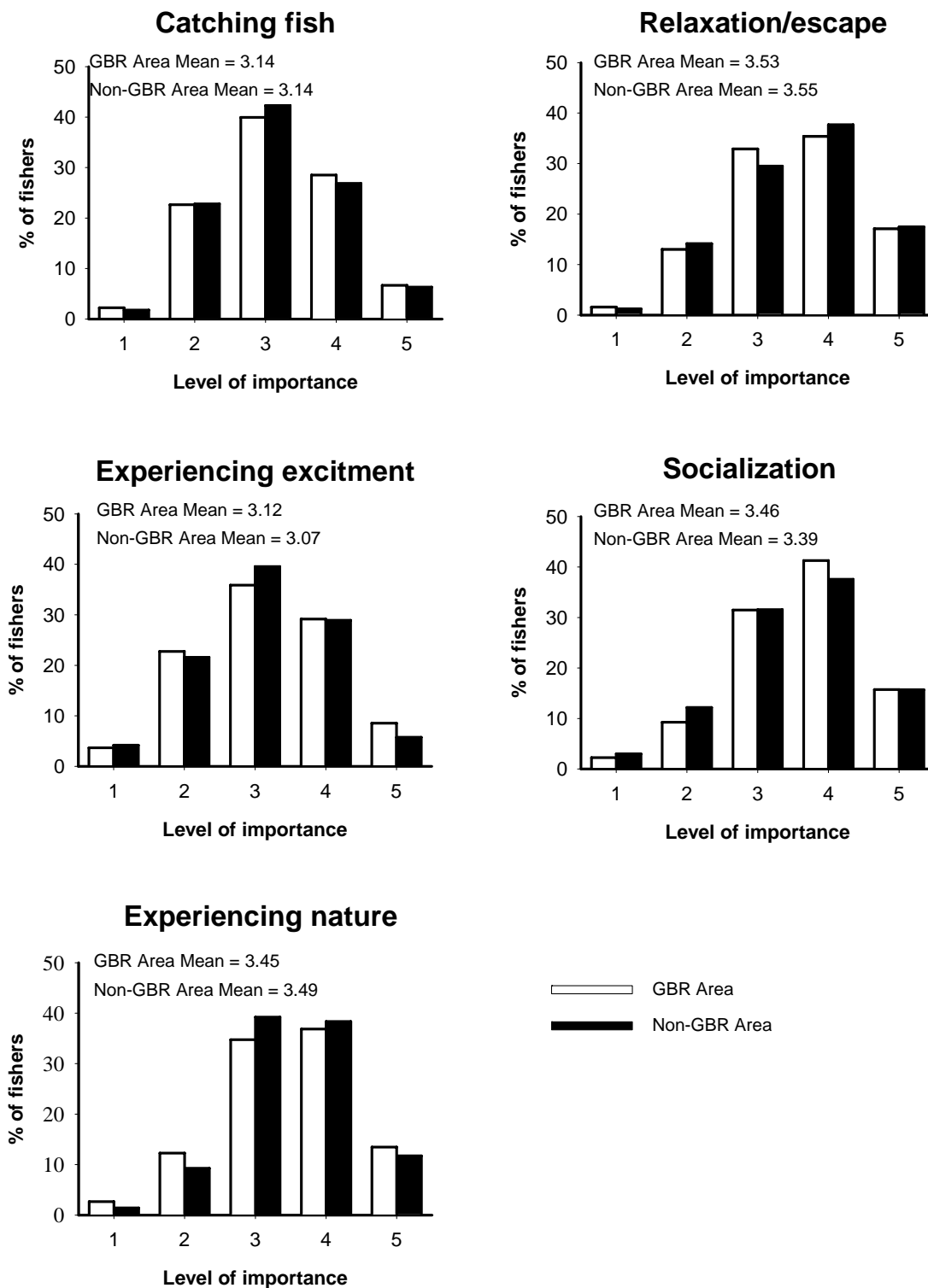


Figure. 16. Distributions of responses to the overall measures of each of the 5 separate motivation domains.

Distributions of responses to the overall measures of each of the four separate catch-related domains are presented in Figure 17. For GBR area fishers, the catch-related domain receiving the highest score (i.e., level of importance) was “size of fish caught” (3.21 out of 5), followed by “keeping fish” (2.72), “catching ‘something’” (2.69), and “number of fish caught” (2.58). For non-GBR area fishers, the catch-related domain receiving the highest score was “size of fish caught” (3.28 out of 5), followed by “catching ‘something’” (2.67), “keeping fish” (2.66), and “number of fish caught” (2.57).

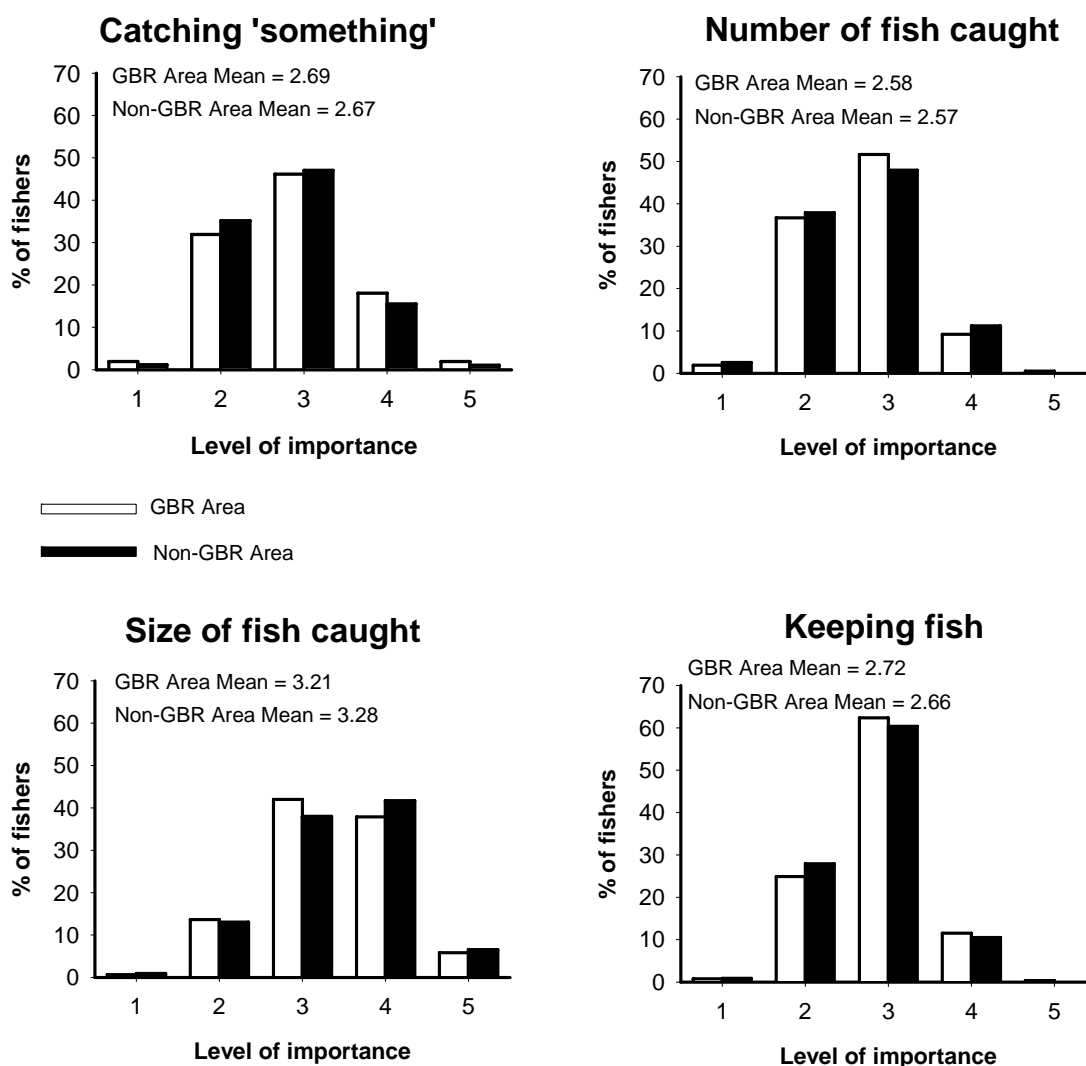


Figure. 17. Distributions of responses to the overall measures of each of the 4 separate catch-related domains.

Fisheries management beliefs, opinions, and involvement

To measure beliefs about recreational fishing and fisheries management, fishers were asked to rate their level of agreement (on a 5-point scale ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”) with 13 statements about the effects of recreational fishing and the effects of catch reductions on fish populations (Table A41).

Statements receiving the highest level of agreement/strong agreement were “Recreational fishing regulations are necessary to protect fish populations from over fishing” (84% GBR; 92% non-GBR), “Strict bag limits on recreational catch will lead to healthier fish populations in the future” (76% GBR; 85% non-GBR), and “Limiting recreational fishing catch today will help ensure quality recreational fishing in the future” (73% GBR; 79% non-GBR). Statements receiving the lowest level of agreement/strong agreement were “There should be no restrictions of the activities of people using Queensland’s fisheries resources” (15% GBR; 11% non-GBR), “Fish stocks would be better managed if they were owned by someone” (11% GBR; 15% non-GBR), and “There is little connection between the number of fish caught by recreational fishers today and the number that will be available in the future” (19% GBR; 12% non-GBR).

Fishers opinions about threats to recreational fishing in Queensland are presented in Table 3. Factors rated as a “major threat” were “Over fishing by commercial fishers”

Table 3 Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by perceived level of threat each listed factor is to recreational fishing in Queensland.

Factor	Area	Level of Threat (%)			
		No Threat	Minor Threat	Major Threat	Don't Know
Pollution *	GBR	0	17	80	3
	Non-GBR	0	9	89	2
Over fishing by recreational fishers *	GBR	14	60	25	1
	Non-GBR	8	52	38	2
Over fishing by commercial fishers	GBR	1	8	89	2
	Non-GBR	1	7	89	3
Closing areas to fishing *	GBR	37	32	22	9
	Non-GBR	49	26	14	11
Loss or destruction of fish habitat such as wetlands, reefs, breeding areas, etc. *	GBR	2	13	82	3
	Non-GBR	1	6	91	2

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.0005$

(89% GBR; 89% non-GBR), “Loss or destruction of fish habitat” (82% GBR; 91% non-GBR), and “Pollution” (80% GBR; 89% non-GBR). Neither “Over fishing by recreational fishers” nor “Closing areas to fishing” were seen as major threats by a majority of GBR and non-GBR area fishers. Significant differences between GBR and non-GBR area fishers were observed on the ratings of a number of potential threats. In particular, non-GBR area fishers were significantly more likely than GBR area fishers to: 1) rate “Over fishing by recreational fishers” as a major threat (25% GBR; 38% non-GBR), and 2) rate “Closing areas to fishing” as a no threat (37% GBR; 49% non-GBR).

To understand opinions about issues facing recreational fishing in Queensland, fishers were asked to rate their level of agreement (on a 5-point scale ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”) with 8 statements about recreational fishing issues (Table A19). Statements receiving agreement/strong agreement from a majority of GBR area fishers were “Recreational fishing regulations are adequately enforced” (53%), and “There are enough public boat ramps to meet my needs”(53%). None of the statements received agreement/strong agreement from a majority of non-GBR area fishers. Statements receiving the highest level of agreement/strong agreement from non-GBR area fishers were “There are enough public boat ramps to meet my needs” (49%), and “The quality of public boat ramps is good” (43%). Statements receiving the lowest level of agreement by GBR and non-GBR area fishers were “Fishing quality is improving in the areas where I fish” (14% GBR; 13% non-GBR), “Recreational fishers are adequately consulted about fisheries management decisions” (24% GBR; 16% non-GBR), and “Compared to other groups, recreational fishers receive fair treatment in fisheries management decisions” (26% GBR; 26% non-GBR). Significant differences between GBR and non-GBR area fishers were observed on the level of agreement with a number of statements. In particular, GBR area fishers were significantly more likely than non-GBR area fishers to agree with the statements “Recreational fisheries regulations are adequately enforced” and “Important fish habitats are currently adequately protected”.

Fishers were asked about their level of support for 10 general recreational fisheries regulations, and about their level of knowledge about 13 specific regulations used to manage recreational fisheries in Queensland. All of the general regulations received support or strong support from a majority of GBR and non-GBR fishers (Table A33). Regulations receiving the highest level of support/strong support were “Releasing fish below a certain length” (97% GBR; 98% non-GBR), “A limit on the number of fish you can catch at any one time” (88% GBR; 90% non-GBR), and “No fishing during spawning seasons” (88% GBR; 84% non-GBR). Regulations receiving the lowest level of support were “Limiting the types of gear that can be used” (57% GBR; 61% non-GBR), “Limiting the locations in which some gears can be used” (58% GBR; 64% non-GBR), and “Catch-and-release only in selected areas” (58% GBR; 64% non-GBR).

Fishers were asked whether they were aware or not aware of 13 specific regulations used to manage recreational fisheries in Queensland. Fishers who did not report fishing in freshwater in the previous 12 months were excluded from analysis of regulations that apply specifically to freshwater species. Likewise, fishers who did not report fishing in saltwater in the previous 12 months were excluded from the analysis of saltwater-specific regulations. Most GBR area fishers were aware of regulations that apply to recreation fishing in the GBR (Table A23). GBR area fishers were most aware of the regulations “Prohibition on the sale of recreationally caught fish” (86% aware), “35cm minimum size for mangrove jack” (81%), “38cm minimum size for coral trout”, and “Prohibition on taking barramundi cod and Maori wrasse” (76%). Fewer GBR area fishers were aware of regulations that apply to species that are not found within the GBR area (e.g., Australian bass, tailor; Table A23). Likewise, non-GBR area fishers were more aware of regulations pertaining to non-GBR freshwater and saltwater fishing. Non-GBR area fishers were most aware of the regulations “38cm minimum size for tailor” (78%), “Prohibition on the sale of recreationally caught fish” (77%), “40cm minimum and 70cm maximum size for mud flathead” (76%), and “30cm minimum size for golden perch” (73%).

Table 4. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of use of sources to get information about recreational fishing in Queensland.

Information source	Area	Level of Use (%)			
		None	A little	Moderate	A lot
Newspaper columns and articles *	GBR	23	31	30	16
	Non-GBR	26	33	29	12
Radio shows	GBR	50	35	11	4
	Non-GBR	48	34	15	3
Boating and fishing magazines	GBR	38	30	21	11
	Non-GBR	43	29	16	12
Queensland Fisheries Service office or personnel *	GBR	68	25	6	1
	Non-GBR	73	21	5	1
Local bait or tackle shop	GBR	22	35	32	11
	Non-GBR	22	38	30	10
Queensland Department of Primary Industries Internet web site	GBR	84	12	3	1
	Non-GBR	84	12	3	1
Queensland Department of Primary Industries newsletters	GBR	89	9	1	1
	Non-GBR	90	8	1	1
Other Internet websites *	GBR	77	15	6	2
	Non-GBR	72	15	10	3
Television shows *	GBR	22	32	32	14
	Non-GBR	17	32	35	16

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fisher usage $P < 0.05$

Fishers were asked to report how much they use a number of sources to get information about recreational fishing in Queensland (Table 4). Information sources receiving the highest level of use (moderate to a lot of use) were “Television shows” (46% GBR; 51% non-GBR), “Newspaper columns and articles” (46% GBR; 41% non-GBR), and “Local bait or tackle shop” (43% GBR; 40% non-GBR). The least used sources of information were “Queensland Department of Primary Industries newsletters” (2% GBR; 2% non-GBR), “Queensland Department of Primary Industries internet web site” (4% GBR; 4% non-GBR), and “Queensland Fisheries Service office or personnel” (7% GBR; 6% non-GBR).

Fishers’ level of involvement in fisheries management issues was measured by asking whether they had ever attended a public meeting, made a submission to a government agency under a formal consultation process, or contacted their government representative about a fisheries management issue. Involvement in management issues differed significantly between the GBR and non-GBR areas. In

Table 5. Percentage of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by whether they have contributed to fisheries management.

Activity	Area	Response (%)	
		Yes	No
Attended a public meeting about a fisheries-related issue *	GBR	24	76
	Non-GBR	7	93
Made a submission to a government agency as part of a formal consultation process about a fisheries-related issue *	GBR	17	83
	Non-GBR	7	93
Contacted government representative about a fisheries-related issue*	GBR	11	89
	Non-GBR	7	93

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

the GBR area, 24% reported attending a public meeting, 17% reported making a formal submission, and 11% reported contacting their government representative over a fisheries management issue. In the non-GBR area, only 7% of fishers reported being involved in public meetings, submissions, or contacting their government representative (Table 5).

Specific issues about which fishers reported being involved are presented in Tables A20-A22. In the GBR area, the recent rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was the issue cited by 72% of those who attended meetings, 75% of those who made a formal submission, and 35% of those who contacted their government representative. In the non-GBR area, the list of issues was more diverse and not dominated by any particular issue (Table A20-A22).

Stocked impoundment fishing

In 2000, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries introduced the Stocked Impoundment Permit (SIP) program. Under this program, recreational fishers are required to purchase a permit to fish in 29 stocked impoundments throughout Queensland. Funds raised through the SIP are used to manage the recreational fisheries in these waters. Fishers were asked a series of questions to understand their SIP purchasing history, attitudes towards the SIP, and stocked impoundment fishing characteristics.

Approximately 15% of GBR area fishers and 20% of non-GBR area fishers had ever purchased a SIP (Table A24). Impoundments fished most often by GBR area fishers were Tinaroo (35%), Teemburra (21%), and Peter Faust (21%). Dams fished most often by non-GBR area fishers were Somerset (16%), Bjelke-Petersen (11%), and Boondooma (11%) (Table A26; Figure 18).

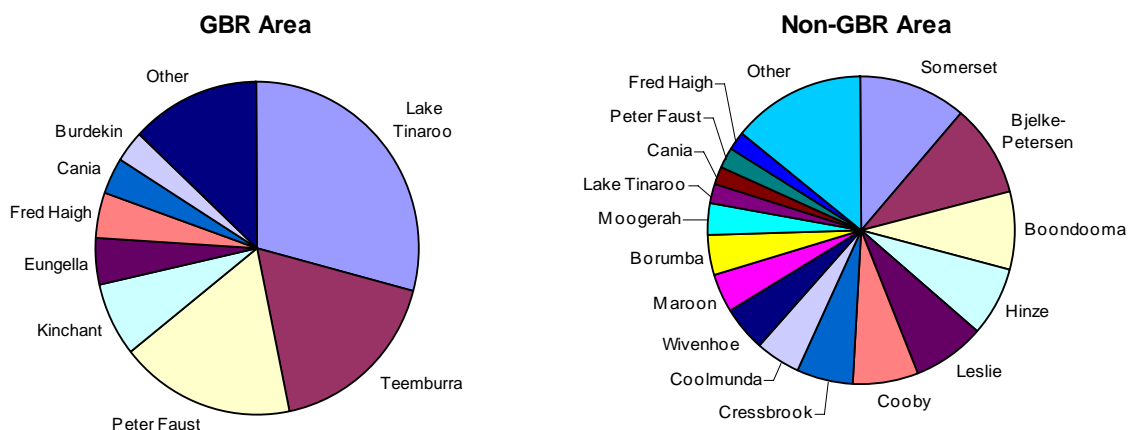


Figure 18. Impoundments fished by GBR and non-GBR area fishers

A majority (73%) of GBR area fishers listed barramundi as the species they most prefer to catch in stocked impoundments whereas most non-GBR area fishers listed either bass (40%) or yellowbelly (23%) as their most preferred stocked impoundment species (Table A27; Figure 19).

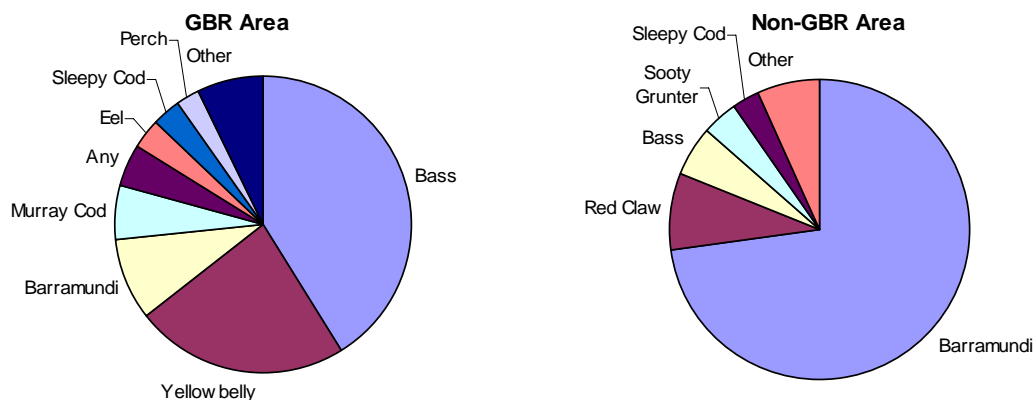


Figure 19. Species most preferred to catch in stocked impoundments by GBR and non-GBR area fishers.

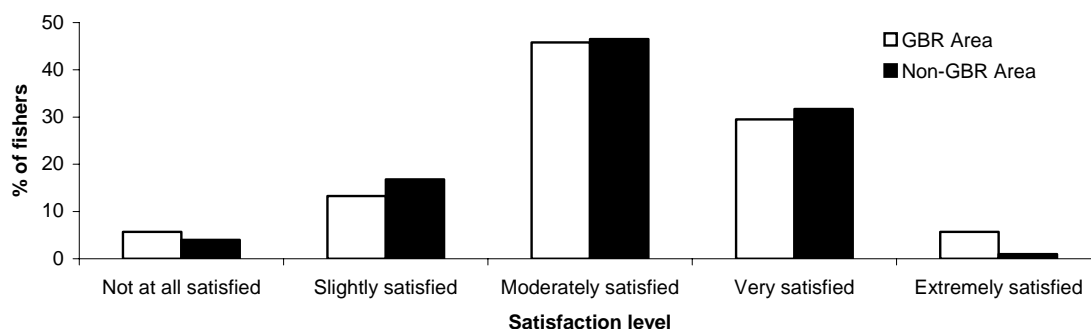


Figure 20. GBR and non-GBR area fishers' satisfaction level with stocked impoundment fishing in Queensland.

A majority of GBR (75%) and non-GBR (78%) area fishers said they were either moderately or very satisfied with stocked impoundment fishing in Queensland (Table A30; Figure 20).

Fishers who had never purchased a SIP were asked to rate their level of agreement (on a 5 point scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree") with 7 possible reasons why they have never purchased a SIP (Table A25). The most frequently cited reasons for never having purchased a SIP were "I don't live near a stocked dam requiring a permit to fish", (64% GBR; 64% non-GBR) and "I have no interest in fishing a stocked dam" (47% GBR; 50% non-GBR). The least frequently cited reasons for never having purchased a SIP were "I can't afford the cost of a Stocked Impoundment Permit" (10% GBR; 8% non-GBR) and "I should not have to pay to fish in a stocked dam" (19% GBR; 16% non-GBR).

Social Values

Recreational fishers ascribe numerous values to fisheries resources. Many of these values are related directly to the experience of fishing and can be inferred from the importance placed on the various experience preferences or motivations (e.g., socialization, relaxation, etc.) presented in the section titled "Motivations and consumptive orientation". However, other values not directly related to the experience of fishing may not be as obvious or recognized. These more general values represent fishers' basic beliefs about the importance of fisheries resources to

society. These general “social values” may be non-use values (e.g., intrinsic, bequest, and existence values), non-consumptive use values (e.g., research, educational, aesthetic, and spiritual values), or consumptive use values (e.g., subsistence (food) values).

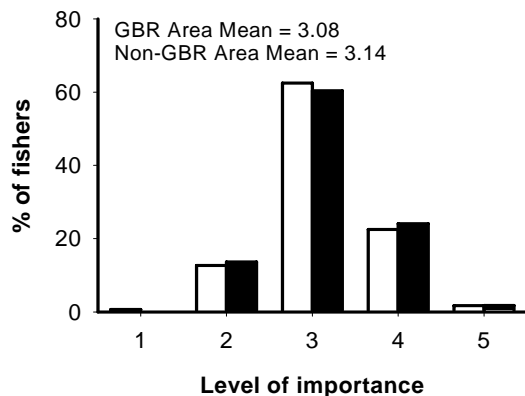
Social values were measured by asking fishers to rate their level of agreement (on a 5-point scale ranging from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree”) with 30 statements about the importance of recreational fishing and fisheries resources to themselves and society. The statements were designed to measure the importance of 5 separate recreational fisheries social values to recreational fishers: 1) intrinsic value of fisheries resources; 2) bequest and existence values; 3) research and educational values; 4) aesthetic and spiritual values; and 5) subsistence values. Statements used to measure intrinsic values, bequest and existence values, research and educational values, and aesthetic and spiritual values were based on those developed and tested by previous researchers (Fulton et al. 1996; Vaske and Donnelly 1999; Salz 2001). Statements used to measure subsistence values were developed specifically for this study. Within each of the 5 social value domains, the individual items were averaged to provide an overall measure of importance placed on the social value that the items were designed to measure.

Level of agreement with each of the 30 value statements (grouped by social value domain) is presented in Table A38-A40. Statements receiving the highest level of agreement/strong agreement were “Even if I didn’t fish, it would still be important for me to know that healthy fish populations exist” (94% GBR; 96% non-GBR), “We should do everything we can today to ensure that future generations inherit healthy recreational fisheries” (91% GBR; 95% non-GBR), and “It is important that people have opportunities to view aquatic wildlife such as fish, coral, and whales” (87% GBR; 90% non-GBR). Statements receiving the lowest level of agreement/strong agreement were “The value of aquatic environments exists only in the human mind; without people, aquatic environments have no value” (11% GBR; 11% non-GBR), “Viewing aquatic wildlife really does not add much to the enjoyment of my fishing

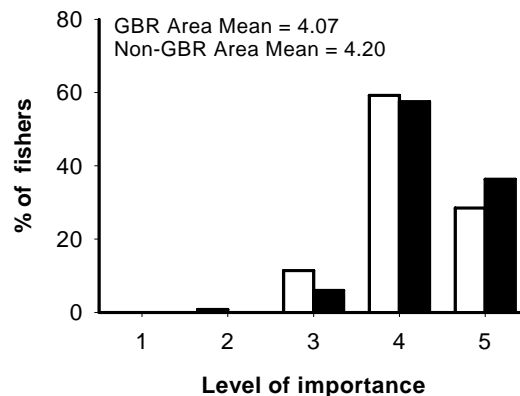
experience” (15% GBR; 14% non-GBR), and “The government spends too much money on aquatic research projects that do not benefit the general public” (21% GBR; 14% non-GBR).

Distributions of responses to the measures of each of the 5 social values are presented in Figure 21. The value receiving the highest rating was “Bequest and existence” (4.07 out of 5 GBR; 4.20 out of 5 non-GBR), followed by “Aesthetic/spiritual” (3.75 GBR; 3.84 non-GBR), “Research/education” (3.64 GBR; 3.74 non-GBR), “Subsistence” (3.31 GBR; 3.13 non-GBR), and “Intrinsic value” (3.08 GBR; 3.13 non-GBR).

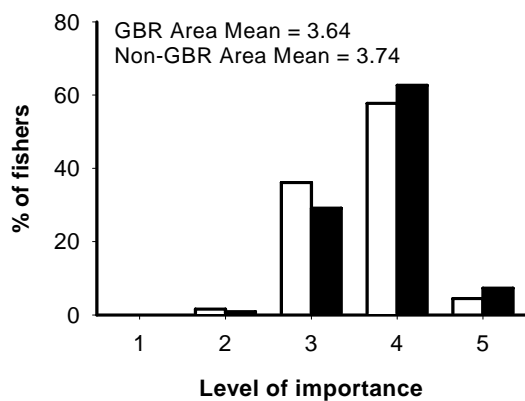
Intrinsic value of fisheries resources



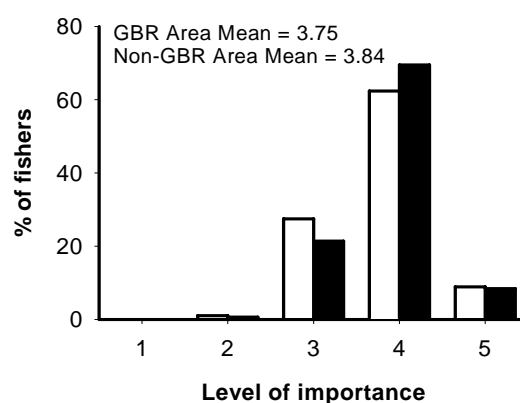
Bequest and existence values



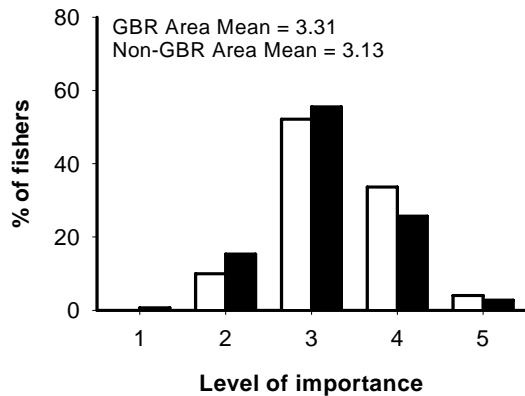
Research and educational values



Aesthetic and spiritual values



Subsistence values



 GBR Area
 Non-GBR Area

Figure 21. Distributions of responses to the measures of each of the 5 social values.

Discussion

Natural resource managers in Queensland must be prepared to deal with social issues as fisheries and marine park management becomes more contentious and stakeholders become increasingly organized, vocal, and able to influence the management process. Dealing effectively with social issues will require managers to understand various stakeholder groups, their values, and their relationship with natural resources and resource management. As noted previously (see Introduction) fisheries and marine park management agencies in Queensland recognize the need for social-science information in support of decision-making. The study detailed in this report represents the first large-scale effort aimed at providing information on a range of social aspects of recreational fishing and fisheries and management in Queensland. The information presented here should begin to give managers and other stakeholders a better understanding of the recreational fishing sector, and allow the needs, concerns, and values of recreational fishers to be incorporated into the management process.

Related projects

The primary aim of this report is to provide a broad overview of the social characteristics of recreational fishing in Queensland. Therefore, the results presented in the preceding sections are primarily descriptive in nature. However, more in-depth secondary analyses of the data have the potential to yield a deeper understanding of Queensland's recreational fishers and their relationships with fisheries resources and fisheries management. Accordingly, at the time of writing of this report, a number of projects that make further use of the data collected and described here are being conducted by researchers and post-graduate students at James Cook University. The following sections briefly describe three of these projects. Further details on the methods and results will be made available upon completion of each project through student authored theses and/or peer reviewed scientific publications.

Fisher participation in public consultation programs

Public meetings and formal submissions programs are often used to facilitate public input into fisheries and marine park management decisions in Queensland. Results of the survey indicate that only a minority of recreational fishers participate in public consultation programs (Table 5). Low participation in public meetings and submission programs raises the question of whether these programs are providing biased or misleading information from recreational fishers. Accordingly, further analysis of the data has been undertaken to understand which recreational fishers are more likely to participate in public consultation programs about fisheries and marine-park management issues, and understand how participants differ from those who choose to not participate. Results show that fishers who have higher centrality to lifestyle, higher avidity, or who are members of fishing-related organizations are more likely to participate in public meetings and formal submission programs. Results also indicate that participants and non participants differ in many of their attitudes and beliefs about fisheries management and the effects of recreational fishing on fish populations (Sutton In Review). These results suggest that fishers who participate in public consultation programs may not be representative of the wider recreational fisher population in Queensland. Such knowledge will be useful to managers at GBRMPA and QDPI&F for evaluating the information received from recreational fishers through past and future public consultation efforts, and for improving the representativeness of future consultation programs.

Constraints to fishing participation

Research conducted by the Queensland government has shown that the percentage of the Queensland population participating in recreational fishing has been decreasing steadily (from 28.1% in 1996 to 24.6% in 2001 (Higgs and McInnes 2001)), indicating that a substantial number of people are being displaced from fishing. This decline in fishing participation suggests that some recreational fishers are encountering constraints that interfere with their ability and/or desire to participate in fishing. If a goal of fisheries management is to provide satisfying fishing experience and maintain a vibrant recreational fishing industry, it will be necessary

to gain a better understanding of what constrains participation in fishing and which fishers are most likely to experience these constraints. Results presented in Table A32 provide some insight into the nature and prevalence of constraints to fishing participation in Queensland. Further analysis of the data collected here have indicated that fishers who report experiencing constraints also report fishing less often and report lower satisfaction with fishing in Queensland than unconstrained fishers. Results also show that fishers who are male, have higher incomes, higher centrality to lifestyle, or who place higher importance on catch-related and relaxation motivations for fishing are more likely to report experiencing constraints (Sutton 2005). Comparison of the Queensland results to studies from North America (Ritter et al. 1992; Fedler and Ditton 1999; Anderson and Ditton 2004) reveals a high level of similarity in terms of the types of factors that constrain fishing participation. These similarities suggest that measures implemented to halt declining fishing participation elsewhere may also be relevant to the Queensland situation.

Analysis of open-ended comments

At the conclusion of the mail survey, respondents were invited to comment on any fisheries-related issue that they believed relevant; these comments have been archived in Appendix B. Whereas surveys of recreational fishers often solicit open-ended comments, these comments are rarely subjected to further analysis. At the time of writing of this report, the open-ended comments collected as part of this study are being analysed for content (Weber 1990) in an effort to develop a better understanding of the type and nature of the issues commented on by Queensland fishers. Of particular interest is the nature of comments regarding recent fisheries and marine park management changes in Queensland. In total, 487 (35%) of fishers wrote comments in the space provided. Preliminary analysis indicates that the issues cited most frequently by fishers who made comments were 1) Fisheries management (including fisheries controls and fisheries research); 2) Control of commercial fisheries; and 3) Conservation-related management actions (including no take zoning and the Representative Areas Program). Examination of the content of the comments related to fisheries- and conservation-related management issues suggest that: 1)

recreational fishers believe commercial fishing activities should be more strictly controlled (recreational fishers appear to believe commercial fishing is the greatest threat to the shared resource); and 2) There is a clear misunderstanding of the role of management measures such as marine park zoning (i.e., the majority of those who commented on GBRMPA's Representative Areas Program considered it to be a fisheries control rather than a biodiversity conservation strategy). Full results of the analysis of open ended comments will be contained in a Masters of Applied Science thesis available from the school of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography at James Cook University in early 2006.

Future research opportunities and needs

The data collected in this study give researchers and managers the capacity to focus on and learn more about specific segments of the Queensland recreational fisher population. For example, managers may wish to learn more about fishers who target inshore saltwater species (e.g., barramundi) in support of the design and implementation of the proposed Inshore Fin Fish Management Plan. In addition to species preference, the population could also be segmented in other ways including by geographic location, demographic characteristics, experience level/avidity, type of environment fished (e.g., freshwater vs. saltwater), specialization level (Bryan 1977), or fishing commitment (Buchanan 1985). Such segmentation techniques provide a way of understanding diversity within the fisher population and identifying differences between managerially relevant groups of fishers (Pollock et al. 1994). Data in this report were presented separately for two important segments – GBR area fishers and non-GBR area fishers – and numerous differences between the two groups were observed. It is likely that other important differences exist between various population segments that are not evident when results are presented at the population level. Further work using the data collected here should explore managerially useful way of segmenting the recreational fisher population with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the level of diversity within and between various segments.

Recreational fisheries in Queensland have undergone a number of significant changes recently (e.g., rezoning of State and Commonwealth marine parks, introduction of new size and bag limits) and will likely be affected further by future management initiatives (e.g., the proposed Inshore Fin Fish Management Plan). Such a rapidly changing management environment is likely to impact the way recreational fishers use and value fisheries resources, the satisfactions and benefits they receive from recreational fishing, and the way they relate to fisheries management. The results of this study provide a baseline against which changes in the social characteristics of recreational fishing in Queensland can be measured. A number of variables included in this study have the potential to be useful indicators of the recreational fishing social environment. For example, the importance placed on various fishing motivations is an indicator of the benefits people expect to receive from fishing; satisfaction with fishing indicates the extent to which these benefits are being obtained. Changes in these measures in response to management changes would indicate impacts on experience quality and fishers' ability to achieve the benefits they desire from fishing. Likewise, changes in fishers' beliefs about fisheries management and perceptions of issues and threats facing recreational fishing would be a valuable indicator of changes in the nature and level of fishers' interest and involvement in fisheries-related issues. Other variables reported on here also have the potential to be useful indicators of the recreational fishing social environment including: species preferences, fishing environment preferences, social values, and catch orientation.

Ideally, measurement of changes in social factors should be done as part of a long-term program designed to monitor aspects of social environment of recreational fishing relevant to fisheries and marine park management actions and objectives. It is suggested that monitoring of social aspects of recreational fishing in Queensland be done in conjunction with, or as part of, the QDPI&F RFISH survey which is conducted every three years and which currently collects data on a limited number of social variables (Higgs and McInnes 2003; Ormsby 2004). A link with the RFISH program would provide a direct connection between social indicators and the catch

and effort data already collected by the Queensland government, and would provide a framework within which social indicators could be evaluated. Because a significant proportion of the recreational fishing activity in Queensland occurs within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, any program to monitor the social aspects of recreational fishing should also be linked to the proposed social indicators monitoring system for tourist and recreational use of the Great Barrier Reef (Moscardo and Ormsby 2004).

This study is the first to employ a combination of telephone and mail survey methodologies to collect extensive social data on recreational fishing on a state-wide basis in Queensland. Using established survey methods, this study was able to achieve response rates of 73% for the telephone survey and 60% for the mail survey. These response rates are within the expected range for these types of surveys (Higgs and McInnes 2003; Hunt and Ditton 1996; Salant and Dillman 1994) and demonstrate the utility of combining telephone and mail surveys for collecting information from recreational fishers. Mail surveys can also be effectively combined with creel-intercept type surveys (Ditton and Hunt 2001) (which is useful when fishers must be sampled from a limited geographic area), or can be done on a stand-alone basis when a sampling frame of recreational fishers is available (e.g., from fishing license information, boat registrations, etc.). Because mail surveys allow for a wide range and large number of questions to be asked, future studies should consider using mail survey methods when data on a range of social issues is desired.

This study has addressed a number of research and information needs of fisheries and marine park management agencies in Queensland. In doing so, it has increased significantly the amount of social science data available in support of recreational fisheries and marine park management. Hopefully, this approach will begin to facilitate a more integrated approach to fisheries and marine park management that includes consideration of social factors throughout the entire management process. It is also hoped that this study will stimulate further research efforts aimed at exploring and understanding the “human dimensions” of recreational fisheries and marine park management in Queensland.

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Appendix A

Tables of Survey Results for GBR and non-GBR area fishers

(Presented in the order the questions appeared in the survey instrument (see Appendix C))

Mailed Survey Tables

TABLE A1. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by number of days fished in the past 12 months (Q1a).

Total days	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
0 – 10	301	39.3	253	44.1
11 – 20	191	25.0	131	22.8
21 – 30	102	13.3	83	14.5
31 – 40	50	6.5	41	7.2
41 – 50	39	5.1	23	4.0
51 – 60	33	4.3	11	1.9
61 – 70	15	2.0	7	1.1
71 +	34	4.5	25	4.4
Total	765	100.0	574	100.0
Mean	23.5		20.5	
Std. Dev.	1.1		1.0	

Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P = 0.045$.

TABLE A2. Mean number of days fished by GBR and non-GBR area fishers in the past 12 months by setting (Q1b).

Setting	GBR Area (n=773)		Non-GBR Area (n=580)	
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
Offshore marine waters (e.g., reefs, shoals, offshore island, etc)*	5.4	0.5	2.9	0.3
Inshore marine waters (e.g., bays, estuaries, creeks, beaches, breakwaters, etc.)	14.7	0.8	13.7	0.8
Freshwater rivers and streams	2.1	0.2	2.3	0.4
Freshwater lakes, weirs, dams, etc.*	1.0	0.1	1.4	0.2

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.018$

TABLE A3. Mean number of days fished by GBR and non-GBR area fishers by non-angling fishing type (Q2).

Non-angling fishing type	GBR Area			Non-GBR Area		
	n	Mean	Std. Dev.	n	Mean	Std. Dev.
Spear Fishing	610	0.7	0.1	490	0.8	0.3
Crabbing*	731	5.1	0.4	551	3.4	0.3
Prawning*	642	2.5	0.3	496	1.1	0.2

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.002$

TABLE A4. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by group they fish with most often (Q3).

Group type	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
By yourself	73	9.8	77	13.8
Friends	222	30.0	153	27.4
Family	254	34.2	173	31.0
Family and friends together	190	25.6	150	26.9
Club	3	0.4	5	0.9
Total	742	100.0	558	100.0

TABLE A5. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of overall satisfaction with fishing in Queensland (Q4).

Satisfaction level	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Not at all satisfied	52	6.9	44	7.7
Slightly satisfied	110	14.5	95	16.8
Moderately satisfied	374	49.3	281	49.7
Very satisfied	192	25.3	132	23.3
Extremely satisfied	30	4	14	2.5
Total	758	100.0	566	100.0

TABLE A6. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by whether they are a member of a fishing club or conservation organisation (Q5).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	47	6.2	44	7.7
No	717	93.8	530	92.3
Total	764	100.0	574	100.0

TABLE A7. Frequency and percent of GBR area fishers by membership with fishing clubs or conservation organisations (Q5yes).

Club/Organisation name	GBR Area	
	n	%
Castle Hill Amateur Angling Club	2	4.4
Kurrawine Beach	1	2.2
Alice River Anglers	1	2.2
Sunfish	4	8.9
AMH Social Fishing Club	1	2.2
Landcare	1	2.2
The Society of Fish Wranglers	2	4.4
WWF	1	2.2
RSL	1	2.2
Mount Larcom Fishing Club	1	2.2
The Wilderness Society	1	2.2
IGFA	1	2.2
Gladstone Yacht club	2	4.4
Breakwater Reef Fishing Club	1	2.2
Holloway's Beach Fishing Club Inc.	1	2.2
Cungulla Recreational Fishing Association	1	2.2
Bundaberg Sports Fishing Club	1	2.2
Cairns Rod & Reel Club	1	2.2
Kalka Fishing Club	1	2.2
Yorkey's Boating	1	2.2
Balgol Beach Fishing + Leisure Club	1	2.2
King Ash Bay NT	1	2.2
Red Devils Fishing Club	1	2.2
Kalka Lightgear And Deepsea	1	2.2
The Fishing Party	1	2.2
QRI Rockhampton	1	2.2
Postele	1	2.2
Mackay Conservation Group	1	2.2
ANSA QLD	2	4.4
Mission Beach Game Fishing	1	2.2
ECO North	1	2.2
Barrata Boating & Angling Club	1	2.2
CAPTAG	1	2.2
Townsville Game Fishing Club	1	2.2
CAFNEC	1	2.2
EDO	1	2.2
Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association	1	2.2
Calliope Anglers and Social Club	1	2.2
Total	45	100.0

TABLE A8. Frequency and percent of non-GBR area fishers by membership with fishing clubs or conservation organisations (Q5yes).

Club/ Organisation name	Non-GBR Area	
	n	%
Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club	1	2.4
Sunfish	1	2.4
Coominya Fishing Club	1	2.4
Dauth Park Fishing Club	2	4.8
Landcare	3	7.1
The Society of Fish Wranglers	2	4.8
Local Tackle Shop Seminars/Group	1	2.4
Sunshine Coast Fly Fishers	1	2.4
Sandy Cape Deep Sea	1	2.4
Redlands Boating club	2	4.8
Yandina Fishing Club	1	2.4
Ipswich and United Fishing Club	1	2.4
The Conservation Wilderness Society	1	2.4
Victory AFC	1	2.4
Howard District Amateur Fishing Club	1	2.4
Stanthorpe Blue Water Fishing & Restocking Club	1	2.4
Gap Sports Fishing Club	1	2.4
XXXX Fishing Club	1	2.4
Hookers Fishing Club	1	2.4
Marburg	1	2.4
Cairns Rod & Reel Club	1	2.4
Balgol Beach Fishing & Leisure Club	1	2.4
Blue Fin Fishing Club	1	2.4
Pine Rivers Services Fishing Club Inc.	1	2.4
Sherwood Services Fishing Club	1	2.4
Green Bank RSL	1	2.4
Noosa Fishing Club	1	2.4
Charleville Fishing & Restocking Club Inc.	1	2.4
Redlands RSL Fishing Club	1	2.4
Redcliff City Amateur Anglers	1	2.4
Cooran Fishing Club	1	2.4
Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club	2	4.8
Racehorse Hotel Fishing Club	1	2.4
Boondooma Fish Stocking ASSN	1	2.4
Lake Dyar Fish Restocking Group	1	2.4
A.N.G.F.A	1	2.4
Total	42	100.0

TABLE A9. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR fishers by whether someone in their household owns a fishing boat that they use for fishing in Queensland (Q6).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	484	63.6	293	51.1
No	277	36.4	280	48.9
Total	761	100.0	573	100.0

Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fisher households $P < 0.0001$

TABLE A10. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by number of fishing boats owned by the household that they use for fishing in Queensland (Q6).

Boat number	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
1	351	73.1	223	77.4
2	110	22.9	56	19.4
3	10	2.1	6	2.1
4 or more	9	1.9	3	1.1
Total	480	100.0	288	100.0
Mean	1.34		1.26	
Std. Dev.	0.72		0.54	

TABLE A11. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by mean boat length (Q6).

Boat length (m)	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
< 4	177	37.0	102	35.2
4.1 – 5	174	36.4	104	35.9
5.1 – 6	61	12.8	54	18.6
6.1 – 7	33	6.9	8	2.7
7.1 – 8	12	2.5	6	2.1
> 8	21	4.4	16	5.5
Total	478	100.0	290	100.0
Mean	4.97		4.91	
Std. Dev.	3.53		1.96	

TABLE A12. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by whether they have access to the Internet (e-mail and/or World Wide Web) (Q7).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	508	66	392	68
No	257	34	181	32
Total	765	100.0	573	100.0

TABLE A13. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by fish species identified as their most preferred to catch when fishing Queensland (Q8a).

GBR Area			Non-GBR Area		
Species	n	%	Species	n	%
Coral Trout	139	18.4	Whiting	127	22.5
Barramundi	138	18.3	Flathead	71	12.6
Whiting	64	8.5	Silver Bream	65	11.5
Mackerel	56	7.4	Tailor	47	8.3
Mangrove Jack	51	6.7	Silver Snapper	27	4.8
Any	51	6.7	Any	26	4.6
Grunter	36	4.8	Yellowbelly	24	4.3
Red Emperor	34	4.5	Mangrove Jack	19	3.4
Flathead	27	3.6	Coral Trout	16	2.8
Silver Bream	23	3.1	Bass	15	2.6
Red Throat Emperor	19	2.5	Reef Fish	15	2.6
Reef Fish	15	2.0	Mackerel	14	2.5
Salmon	12	1.6	Barramundi	14	2.5
Cod	11	1.5	Red Emperor	13	2.3
Other (incl. crab)	78	10.4	Other (incl. crab)	72	12.7
Total	754	100.0	Total	565	100.0

TABLE A14. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by fish species identified as their second most preferred to catch when fishing Queensland (Q8b).

GBR Area			Non-GBR Area		
Species	n	%	Species	n	%
Coral Trout	87	11.7	Silver Bream	128	23.2
Barramundi	66	8.9	Flathead	94	17.0
Mangrove Jack	61	8.2	Whiting	76	13.7
Silver Bream	61	8.2	Tailor	34	6.1
Any	57	7.7	Silver Snapper	26	4.7
Whiting	48	6.4	Any	26	4.7
Grunter	46	6.2	Mackerel	18	3.3
Flathead	45	6.0	Yellowbelly	14	2.5
Red Throat Emperor	45	6.0	Barramundi	12	2.2
Red Emperor	40	5.4	Mangrove Jack	12	2.2
Mackerel	40	5.4	Coral Trout	11	2.0
Salmon	26	3.5	Red Throat Emperor	10	1.8
Fingermark	12	1.6	Other (incl. crab)	92	16.6
Cod	12	1.6			
Other (incl. crab)	99	13.2			
Total	745	100.0	Total	553	100.0

TABLE A15. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by fish species identified as their third most preferred to catch when fishing Queensland (Q8c).

GBR Area			Non-GBR Area		
Species	n	%	Species	n	%
Flathead	71	9.8	Flathead	96	18.2
Any	69	9.5	Silver Bream	91	17.2
Silver Bream	62	8.6	Whiting	85	16.1
Mackerel	60	8.3	Tailor	36	6.8
Barramundi	59	8.2	Any	30	5.7
Whiting	48	6.7	Yellowbelly	15	2.8
Mangrove Jack	42	5.8	Silver Snapper	12	2.3
Grunter	40	5.5	Trevally	12	2.3
Red Throat Emperor	35	4.8	Mackerel	11	2.1
Coral Trout	32	4.4	Coral Trout	11	2.1
Red Emperor	28	3.9	Other (incl. crab)	129	24.4
Cod	27	3.7			
Salmon	28	3.2			
Trevally	13	1.8			
Fingermark	12	1.7			
Other (incl. crab)	102	14.1			
Total	723	100.0	Total	528	100.0

TABLE A16. The minimum size a “most preferred fish” would have to be to be considered a ‘big’ or a ‘memorable’ fish, and the number of fish of this size ever caught by the fisher (Q9).

Species	Mean Length (cm)	# Caught
Barramundi	90	3.8
Bass	48	4.1
Coral Trout	62	7.1
Flathead	58	5.3
Grunter	55	12.4
Mackerel	105	6.3
Mangrove Jack	50	6.1
Red Emperor	72	4.7
Red Throat Emperor	50	9.3
Salmon	76	5.3
Silver Bream	35	8.0
Silver Snapper	55	5.7
Tailer	50	11.0
Whiting	34	11.8

TABLE A17. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by whether any other outdoor recreation activities could substitute fishing and provide the same level of satisfaction and enjoyment (Q13).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	386	53.6	342	62.9
No	334	46.4	202	37.1
Total	720	100.0	544	100.0

Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P = 0.001$

TABLE A18. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by outdoor recreation activities that would provide the same level of satisfaction and enjoyment as fishing (Q13yes).

Provided activity	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Camping	123	35.9	91	45.0
Hiking/Bushwalking	76	22.8	69	34.2
Playing Sports (i.e. rugby and cricket)	48	14.4	29	14.4
Hunting/Shooting/Archery	42	12.6	26	12.9
Playing Golf	40	12.0	37	18.3
Family/Friends Activities	35	10.5	23	11.4
Travelling/Touring	31	9.3	19	9.4
Surfing/Boarding/Water Skiing	29	8.7	65	32.2
4-Wheel Driving	28	8.4	17	8.4
Sailing/Yachting	20	6.0	17	8.4
Boating (incl. racing)	19	5.7	31	15.3
Beach Activities	19	5.7	17	8.9
Creative Hobbies (incl. art, crafts, cooking, wood/masonry working, other)	16	4.8	10	5.0
Swimming	15	4.5	18	8.9
Watching Sport	15	4.5	6	3.0
Cycling/Bike Riding	14	4.2	13	6.4
Kayaking/Canoeing/Rafting	14	4.2	12	5.9
Excavating/Prospecting/Fossicking	14	4.2	5	2.5
Snorkelling	13	3.9	9	4.5
Motor Sports (racing and riding)	13	3.6	26	12.9
Scuba Diving	11	3.3	15	7.4
Playing Lawn Bowling	6	1.8	10	5.0
Walking/Running	5	1.5	12	5.9
Playing Tennis	4	1.2	11	5.4
Other Hobbies (incl. martial arts, reading, gardening, bird watching)	27	8.1	27	13.4
Other Activities (in-home, going to venues, drinking, driving and gambling)	24	7.2	17	8.4
Other Outdoor Sports/Activities (incl. snow skiing/boarding, horse activities, marine wildlife touring and not specified water/land activities)	22	6.6	32	17.3

TABLE A19. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of agreement with the listed statements about issues affecting recreation fishing in Queensland (Q16).

Issues	Area	Level of Agreement (%)				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Recreational fishers are adequately consulted about fisheries management decisions	GBR	17	32	27	22	2
	Non-GBR	10	37	37	14	2
Recreational fishing regulations are adequately enforced*	GBR	6	21	19	50	4
	Non-GBR	8	33	21	36	2
Important fish habitats (e.g., reefs, streams, wetlands) are currently adequately protected*	GBR	10	33	21	31	5
	Non-GBR	9	44	24	20	3
There are enough public boat ramps to meet my needs	GBR	13	19	15	48	5
	Non-GBR	8	17	26	43	6
The quality of public boat ramps is good*	GBR	13	22	23	38	4
	Non-GBR	7	19	31	40	3
Information about changes in fisheries regulations is readily available to recreational fishers	GBR	9	23	23	43	2
	Non-GBR	6	26	28	38	2
Fishing quality is improving in the areas where I fish	GBR	16	39	31	12	2
	Non-GBR	18	40	29	11	2
Compared to other groups (e.g., commercial fishers, tourism), recreational fishers receive fair treatment in fisheries management decisions*	GBR	18	24	32	23	3
	Non-GBR	8	24	42	25	1

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

TABLE A20. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by issue addressed at the public meeting they attended (Q17yes).

Public meeting issue	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Zoning/RAP	126	71.6	6	14.6
Reefline plan	7	4.0	3	7.3
Commercial closures	8	4.6	4	9.8
Restocking	3	1.6	5	12.2
Localised issues	8	4.6	10	24.4
Other	24	13.7	13	31.7
Total	176	100.0	41	100.0

TABLE A21. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by the issue they addressed through making a submission to their government agency during a formal consultation process (Q18yes).

GBR Area			Non-GBR Area		
Issue	n	%	Issue	n	%
Zoning/RAP	98	74.8	Species related	7	17.5
Species related	6	4.6	Reefline plan	6	15.0
Other surveys	6	4.6	Zoning/RAP	5	12.5
Reefline plan	4	3.1	Other surveys	4	10.0
Commercial fishing	4	3.1	Aquaculture	3	7.5
Other	13	9.8	Local government plans	3	7.5
			Restocking	2	5.0
			Commercial fishing	2	5.0
			Other	8	20.0
Total	131	100.0	Total	40	100.0

TABLE A22. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by the issue they addressed through contacting their local government representative (Q19yes).

Issue	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Zoning/RAP	28	35.0	1	2.3
Reefline plan	3	3.8	4	9.3
Licences/Permits	4	5.0	-	-
Boat Ramps	4	5.0	2	4.6
Environmental (ie. pollution, loss)	6	7.5	2	4.6
Management Ideas	2	2.5	3	7.0
Report illegal crabbing/prawning/fishing/netting	5	6.3	10	23.3
Report commercial fishers	8	10.0	6	14.0
Report species (ie. dead, tagged)	5	6.3	2	4.6
Other	15	18.8	13	30.3
Total	80	100.0	43	100.0

TABLE A23. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by awareness of regulations currently used to manage recreational fisheries in Queensland (Q22).

Regulations	Area	Aware	
		n	%
38cm minimum size for coral trout	GBR	534	75.5
	Non-GBR	252	47.7
30cm minimum size for Australian bass	GBR	106	35.8
	Non-GBR	158	64.8
40cm minimum and 70cm maximum size for mud (dusky) flathead	GBR	460	65.3
	Non-GBR	399	75.8
30cm minimum size for golden perch (yellowbelly)	GBR	120	40.5
	Non-GBR	178	72.7
2 fish bag limit for Australian bass	GBR	83	28.0
	Non-GBR	136	55.5
5 fish bag limit for spotted mackerel	GBR	463	66.0
	Non-GBR	282	53.5
35cm minimum size for mangrove jack	GBR	572	80.6
	Non-GBR	337	63.6
75 cm minimum size for Spanish (narrow-barred) mackerel	GBR	517	73.2
	Non-GBR	262	49.7
3 fish bag limit for Spanish (narrow-barred) mackerel	GBR	412	58.9
	Non-GBR	187	35.8
Prohibition on taking barramundi cod and Maori wrasse	GBR	538	75.8
	Non-GBR	234	44.5
Requirement to remove a pectoral fin from reef fish before storage	GBR	397	56.3
	Non-GBR	126	23.9
30 cm minimum size for tailor	GBR	305	43.5
	Non-GBR	414	78.0
Prohibition on the sale of recreationally caught fish	GBR	639	86.2
	Non-GBR	436	77.0

TABLE A24. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by whether they have purchased a Stocked Impoundment Permit to fish in a stocked dam (Q23).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	113	15.2	109	19.5
No	631	84.8	451	80.5
Total	744	100.0	560	100.0

Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P = 0.04$

TABLE A25. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of agreement with statements about why they have never purchased a Stocked Impoundment Permit (Q24a).

Reasoning	Area	Level of Agreement (%)				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I don't live near a stocked dam requiring a permit to fish	GBR	5	14	17	44	20
	Non-GBR	4	14	19	43	20
I have no interest in fishing a stocked dam	GBR	6	24	23	34	13
	Non-GBR	6	25	19	35	15
I should not have to pay to fish in a stocked dam*	GBR	10	46	25	14	5
	Non-GBR	16	45	23	9	7
I can't catch the types of fish I want to catch in a stocked dam	GBR	5	26	33	28	8
	Non-GBR	5	23	38	26	8
I was not aware that there are stocked dams in Queensland	GBR	21	49	16	11	3
	Non-GBR	19	48	16	12	5
I can't afford the cost of a Stocked Impoundment Permit	GBR	14	46	30	9	1
	Non-GBR	17	44	31	6	2
I was not aware that I require a permit to fish in some stocked dams	GBR	18	42	16	19	5
	Non-GBR	16	42	17	19	6

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P = 0.0081$

TABLE A26. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by the dam fished most often, and the number of days fished in each one over the past 12 months (Q24b).

GBR Area			Non-GBR Area		
Dam fished	n	%	Dam fished	n	%
Lake Tinaroo	40	29.2	Somerset	17	11.5
Teemburra	24	17.5	Bjelke-Petersen	14	9.5
Peter Faust	24	17.5	Boondooma	12	8.1
Kinchant	10	7.3	Hinze	11	7.4
Eungella	6	4.4	Leslie	11	7.4
Fred Haigh	6	4.4	Cooby	10	6.8
Cania	5	3.7	Cressbrook	9	6.1
Burdekin	4	2.9	Coolmunda	7	4.7
Boondooma	2	1.5	Wivenhoe	7	4.7
Awoonga	2	1.5	Maroon	6	4.1
Callide	2	1.5	Borumba	6	4.1
Kinchen	2	1.5	Moogerah	5	3.4
Isis Balancing			Lake Tinaroo		
Storage	2	1.5		3	2
Cooby	1	0.7	Cania	3	2
Barwon	1	0.7	Peter Faust	3	2
Wivenhoe	1	0.7	Fred Haigh	3	2
Glenlyon	1	0.7	Awoonga	2	1.4
Lenthalls	1	0.7	Glenlyon	2	1.4
Samsonvale	1	0.7	Lenthalls	2	1.4
Baroon Pocket	1	0.7	Lake MacDonald	2	1.4
Elliott	1	0.7	Perseverance	2	1.4
			Fairburn	1	0.7
			Callide	1	0.7
			Teemburra	1	0.7
			Fred Haigh	1	0.7
			Theresa Creek	1	0.7
			Clermont	1	0.7
			Waruma	1	0.7
			Lake Glenbawn	1	0.7
			Personal/Own	1	0.7
			Storm King	1	0.7
			Toowoomba	1	0.7
Total	137		Total	148	

TABLE A27. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by fish species identified as their most preferred to catch when fishing in stocked dams (Q24c1).

GBR Area			Non-GBR Area		
Species	n	%	Species	n	%
Barramundi	97	72.9	Bass	51	41.1
Red Claw	11	8.3	Yellowbelly	29	23.4
Bass	7	5.3	Barramundi	11	8.9
Sooty Grunter	5	3.8	Murray Cod	7	5.7
Sleepy Cod	4	3.0	Any	6	4.8
Yellowbelly	2	1.5	Eel	4	3.2
Any	2	1.5	Sleepy Cod	4	3.2
Other (incl. crab)	5	3.7	Perch	3	2.4
			Other (incl. crab)	9	7.3
Total	133	100.0	Total	124	100.0

TABLE A28. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by fish species identified as their second most preferred to catch when fishing in stocked dams (Q24c2).

GBR Area			Non-GBR Area		
Species	n	%	Species	n	%
Sooty Grunter	31	31.4	Yellowbelly	41	38.0
Barramundi	14	14.1	Bass	23	21.3
Bass	12	12.1	Silver Perch	7	6.5
Yellowbelly	11	11.1	Any	6	5.5
Mangrove Jack	9	9.1	Catfish	6	5.5
Any	4	4.0	Sleepy Cod	5	4.6
Red Claw	3	3.0	Barramundi	4	3.7
Perch	3	3.0	Perch	3	2.8
Sleepy Cod	2	2.0	Eel	2	1.9
Other (incl. crab)	10	10.2	Murray Cod	2	1.9
			Other (incl. crab)	9	8.3
Total	99	100.0	Total	108	100.0

TABLE A29. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers fish species identified as their third most preferred to catch when fishing in stocked dams (Q24c3).

GBR Area			Non-GBR Area		
Species	n	%	Species	n	%
Sleepy Cod	12	17.1	Yellowbelly	19	23.5
Perch	8	11.4	Catfish	16	19.7
Yellowbelly	7	10.0	Silver Perch	12	14.8
Saratoga	6	8.6	Bass	8	9.9
Catfish	6	8.6	Sleepy Cod	7	8.6
Bass	6	8.6	Any	6	7.4
Red Claw	5	7.1	Sooty Grunter	3	3.7
Barramundi	4	5.7	Perch	3	3.7
Any	4	5.7	Red Claw	2	2.5
Sooty Grunter	4	5.7	Other (incl. crab)	5	6.2
Mangrove Jack	3	4.4			
Other (incl. crab)	5	7.1			
Total	70	100.0	Total	81	100.0

TABLE A30. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of overall satisfaction with stocked dam fishing in Queensland (Q24d).

Satisfaction level	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Not at all satisfied	6	5.7	4	4.0
Slightly satisfied	14	13.3	17	16.8
Moderately satisfied	48	45.8	47	46.5
Very satisfied	31	29.5	32	31.7
Extremely satisfied	6	5.7	1	1.0
Total	105	100.0	101	100.0

TABLE A31. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by whether there are factors keeping them from fishing as often as they would like (Q26).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	518	71.5	385	70.3
No	207	28.5	163	29.7
Total	725	100.0	548	100.0

TABLE A32. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of agreement with reasons why they don't fish more often (Q26yes).

Factor	Area	Level of Agreement (%)				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fishing regulations are too confusing*	GBR	14	50	17	15	4
	Non-GBR	14	63	15	6	2
I can't catch enough fish to suit me	GBR	12	62	14	10	2
	Non-GBR	17	58	11	12	2
I don't have access to fishing opportunities close to home*	GBR	13	60	12	12	3
	Non-GBR	13	45	15	22	5
I have too many work/family commitments	GBR	3	14	8	56	19
	Non-GBR	4	12	9	56	19
Other leisure activities take up my time*	GBR	4	37	21	34	4
	Non-GBR	6	25	22	44	3
Fishing regulations are too restrictive*	GBR	12	50	23	12	3
	Non-GBR	17	58	18	5	2
The cost of fishing equipment and supplies is too expensive*	GBR	7	44	22	23	4
	Non-GBR	14	44	22	16	4
Fishing areas are too crowded*	GBR	8	49	26	15	2
	Non-GBR	8	41	23	23	5
I can't afford to fish more often	GBR	8	52	16	21	3
	Non-GBR	12	49	17	18	4
I don't have the necessary fishing skills	GBR	14	63	15	6	2
	Non-GBR	17	60	15	6	2
It is difficult to find others to fish with	GBR	12	62	14	11	1
	Non-GBR	15	62	13	8	2
Fishing facilities (boat ramps, jetties, etc.) are poorly developed and/or maintained*	GBR	6	50	20	17	7
	Non-GBR	11	51	24	10	4

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

TABLE A33. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of support for the use of regulations used to manage recreational fisheries (Q27).

Regulations	Area	Level of Support (%)				
		Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support
Releasing fish below a certain length (minimum size limit)*	GBR	0	1	2	42	55
	Non-GBR	0	1	1	35	63
Releasing fish above a certain length (maximum size limit)	GBR	1	6	8	43	42
	Non-GBR	1	6	12	40	41
No fishing during spawning seasons (closed seasons)	GBR	0	4	8	45	43
	Non-GBR	1	4	11	43	41
Recreational fishing only areas	GBR	2	9	12	39	38
	Non-GBR	2	8	11	40	39
A limit on the number of fish you can catch at any one time (bag and possession limits)	GBR	1	4	7	47	41
	Non-GBR	1	3	6	46	44
Catch-and-release only for certain species*	GBR	2	11	15	48	24
	Non-GBR	1	7	17	47	28
Catch-and-release only in selected areas*	GBR	4	17	21	39	19
	Non-GBR	1	11	24	43	21
Setting aside areas as no-fishing zones (closed areas)*	GBR	5	14	16	42	23
	Non-GBR	2	6	13	46	33
Limiting the types of gear that can be used (gear restrictions)	GBR	4	16	23	38	19
	Non-GBR	4	12	23	39	22
Limiting the locations in which some gears can be used*	GBR	4	16	22	40	18
	Non-GBR	4	8	24	44	20

Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

TABLE A34. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by gender (Q28).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Male	616	79.7	476	82.1
Female	157	20.3	104	17.9
Total	755	100.0	571	100.0

TABLE A35. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by household income category (Q29).

Household income	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Under \$10,000	37	5.3	28	5.3
\$10,000 - \$19,999	65	9.3	49	9.3
\$20,000 - \$29,999	69	9.9	62	11.8
\$30,000 - \$39,999	106	15.2	72	13.7
\$40,000 - \$49,999	100	14.3	70	13.3
\$50,000 - \$59,999	90	12.9	68	12.9
\$60,000 - \$69,999	56	8.0	34	6.4
\$70,000 - \$79,999	41	5.9	40	7.6
\$80,000 - \$89,999	45	6.5	21	4.0
\$90,000 - \$99,999	21	3.0	24	4.5
\$100,000 and above	38	9.7	59	11.2
Total	698	100.0	527	100.0
Median	\$35,000		\$35,000	

TABLE A36. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by whether they are willing to participate in similar future surveys (Q30).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	555	73.8	431	75.8
No	197	26.2	138	24.2
Total	752	100.0	569	100.0

TABLE A37. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by whether they requested a result summary of this survey (Q32).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	575	80.7	424	79.1
No	138	19.3	112	20.9
Total	713	100.0	536	100.0

TABLE A38. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of agreement with statements about value orientation dimensions: biocentric/anthropocentric; and fisheries management.

Dimensions	Area	Level of Agreement (%)				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Biocentric/anthropocentric orientation						
The rights of fish and wildlife are more important than human use of fish and wildlife*	GBR	7	21	32	28	12
	Non-GBR	5	20	30	30	15
Fish and wildlife should have rights similar to the rights of humans	GBR	10	29	30	21	10
	Non-GBR	10	28	29	24	9
All species, including humans, should have an equal right to coexist on the planet	GBR	3	11	22	42	22
	Non-GBR	5	11	17	46	21
The value of aquatic environments exists only in the human mind; without people aquatic environments have no value*	GBR	27	41	21	8	3
	Non-GBR	33	39	17	8	3
Nature's primary value is to provide services and products useful to people	GBR	17	29	20	25	9
	Non-GBR	16	30	22	25	7
Humans should manage fish populations so that humans benefit	GBR	8	16	19	41	16
	Non-GBR	7	19	20	40	14
When fish populations are not threatened, we should allow fishing to add to the quality of human life	GBR	3	8	20	52	17
	Non-GBR	3	9	16	55	17
Fisheries management orientation						
There should be no restrictions on the activities of people using Queensland's fisheries resources	GBR	32	42	11	10	5
	Non-GBR	36	42	11	8	3
People should not have to buy a license to go fishing in Queensland*	GBR	7	12	15	25	41
	Non-GBR	9	15	19	23	34
Freedom to fish in Queensland's waters is a right, not a privilege*	GBR	6	17	17	25	35
	Non-GBR	10	18	20	27	25
Fish stocks would be better managed if they were owned by someone	GBR	33	30	26	8	3
	Non-GBR	30	29	26	12	3
Recreational fishing regulations are necessary to protect fish populations from over fishing*	GBR	4	6	6	40	44
	Non-GBR	2	3	3	37	55

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

TABLE A39. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of agreement with statements about value orientation dimensions: bequest and existence; and research and education.

Dimensions	Area	Level of Agreement (%)				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Bequest and existence orientation						
It is not that important to me that there is always a large number of different fish species, as long as the types of fish I like to catch are present	GBR	27	40	12	16	5
	Non-GBR	26	38	14	16	6
Even if I didn't fish, it would still be important for me to know that healthy fish populations exist	GBR	0	2	4	51	43
	Non-GBR	0	1	3	49	47
We should do everything we can today to ensure that future generations inherit healthy recreational fisheries*	GBR	1	1	7	43	48
	Non-GBR	1	1	3	40	55
I would be willing to accept stricter limits on recreational catch today, if it meant that future generations would inherit healthy fish populations*	GBR	4	9	16	39	32
	Non-GBR	2	4	11	41	42
Whether or not I actually get to see aquatic wildlife (such as fish, coral, dolphins, birds) in the wild, I feel better knowing that healthy populations still exist*	GBR	1	3	9	50	37
	Non-GBR	1	3	5	47	44
Conservation of fish populations should be the primary objective of fisheries management*	GBR	2	7	16	43	32
	Non-GBR	1	3	10	46	40
Research and education orientation						
Many important discoveries that improve the quality of human life come from aquatic research	GBR	0	4	36	48	12
	Non-GBR	0	3	35	47	15
It is important that the general public has a chance to learn about aquatic environments*	GBR	0	0	10	71	19
	Non-GBR	0	1	6	69	24
I make an effort to learn as much as I can about aquatic environments	GBR	0	6	33	49	12
	Non-GBR	0	6	32	51	11
Fisheries research efforts do little in terms of improving the quality of recreational fishing*	GBR	6	39	32	18	5
	Non-GBR	8	40	37	13	2
The government spends too much money on aquatic research projects that do not benefit the general public*	GBR	7	31	41	15	6
	Non-GBR	9	33	44	10	4
Aquatic environments are a tremendous source of knowledge that we have only begun to explore	GBR	1	3	20	58	18
	Non-GBR	1	2	18	59	20
It is important to leave parts of aquatic environments relatively undisturbed for the purposes of conducting scientific research*	GBR	2	6	20	52	20
	Non-GBR	1	3	14	54	28

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

TABLE A40. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of agreement with statements about value orientation dimensions: aesthetic and spiritual orientation; and subsistence orientation.

Dimensions	Area	Level of Agreement (%)				Strongly Agree
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Aesthetic and spiritual orientation						
It is important that people have opportunities to view aquatic wildlife such as fish, coral, and whales*	GBR	1	3	9	63	24
	Non-GBR	0	2	8	57	33
Viewing aquatic wildlife (such as turtles, dugongs, etc.) really does not add much to the enjoyment of my fishing experience	GBR	27	48	10	11	4
	Non-GBR	33	43	10	11	3
Viewing photographs, videos and nature shows about aquatic life greatly enriches people's lives	GBR	0	6	21	55	18
	Non-GBR	0	5	17	60	18
I believe aquatic environments are important for spiritual development and healing	GBR	6	11	45	28	10
	Non-GBR	4	12	44	33	7
The aquatic environment can be a source of personal inspiration	GBR	2	3	29	50	16
	Non-GBR	1	3	25	57	14
Subsistence orientation						
It is important that people have opportunities to catch fish for food*	GBR	1	4	9	56	30
	Non-GBR	1	7	11	57	24
Catching fish myself is cheaper than buying it*	GBR	11	34	17	24	14
	Non-GBR	13	36	19	22	10
I eat fish more often because I catch it myself*	GBR	6	28	13	37	16
	Non-GBR	6	37	17	29	11
Compared to other reasons for fishing, catching fish to eat is not a very important reason for going fishing*	GBR	9	29	17	36	9
	Non-GBR	6	21	19	42	12
Recreational fisheries are valuable because they are an important source of food*	GBR	2	21	28	39	10
	Non-GBR	5	25	31	32	7

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

TABLE A41. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of agreement with statements about belief dimensions: detrimental effects of fishing; and effect of reduction in catch.

Dimensions and items	Area	Level of Agreement (%)				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Detrimental effects of fishing						
Recreational fishers don't take enough fish to have a negative impact on fish populations*	GBR	6	26	21	37	10
	Non-GBR	7	40	19	30	4
Recreational fishing is rarely to blame for the decline of fish populations*	GBR	5	20	20	42	13
	Non-GBR	6	31	19	40	4
For some species, the total number of fish taken by recreational fishers is greater than the number taken by commercial fishers*	GBR	19	39	24	14	4
	Non-GBR	15	35	29	19	2
The combined effects of thousands of recreational fishers can contribute to over fishing for some species*	GBR	4	16	17	54	9
	Non-GBR	1	10	16	61	12
Effect of reduction in catch						
Limiting recreational fishing catch today will help ensure quality recreational fishing in the future*	GBR	2	9	16	59	14
	Non-GBR	1	6	14	60	19
There is little connection between the number of fish caught by recreational fishers today and the number that will be available in the future*	GBR	12	42	27	16	3
	Non-GBR	17	49	22	10	2
Strict bag limits on recreational catch will lead to healthier fish populations in the future*	GBR	2	9	13	60	16
	Non-GBR	1	5	9	59	26
Limiting recreational fishing catch is not necessary as long as commercial fishing catch is limited*	GBR	6	36	21	24	13
	Non-GBR	8	42	22	22	6

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

TABLE A42. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of agreement with statements about consumptive orientation dimensions: number of fish caught; catching something; size of fish; and keeping fish.

Dimensions and items	Area	Level of Agreement (%)				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Number of fish caught						
A successful fishing trip is one in which many fish are caught	GBR	7	40	20	28	5
	Non-GBR	8	42	21	24	5
The more fish I catch, the happier I am	GBR	8	37	16	32	7
	Non-GBR	8	36	16	32	8
It doesn't matter to me how many fish I catch	GBR	1	18	18	53	10
	Non-GBR	3	18	17	52	10
When I go fishing, I'm not happy unless I catch a lot of fish	GBR	15	70	12	2	1
	Non-GBR	14	70	11	4	1
Catching something						
A fishing trip can be successful even if no fish are caught	GBR	3	12	7	61	17
	Non-GBR	3	12	10	60	15
When I go fishing, I'm just as happy if I don't catch any fish	GBR	2	30	18	42	8
	Non-GBR	4	28	22	38	8
If I thought I wouldn't catch any fish, I wouldn't go fishing	GBR	13	45	10	23	9
	Non-GBR	14	44	10	24	8
When I go fishing, I'm not satisfied unless I catch at least something	GBR	6	32	21	34	7
	Non-GBR	6	35	19	33	7
Size of fish caught						
I would rather catch 1 or 2 big fish than 10 smaller fish*	GBR	2	21	18	46	13
	Non-GBR	2	16	17	48	17
The bigger the fish I catch, the better the fishing trip	GBR	5	34	22	32	7
	Non-GBR	5	31	20	35	9
I'm happiest with the fishing trip if I catch a challenging sport fish	GBR	8	31	21	30	10
	Non-GBR	8	28	20	34	10
I like to fish where I know I have a chance to catch a "big" fish	GBR	3	25	17	46	9
	Non-GBR	4	25	19	43	9
Keeping fish						
I usually eat the fish I catch*	GBR	2	9	5	57	27
	Non-GBR	4	11	8	54	23
I'm just as happy if I don't keep the fish I catch*	GBR	3	26	16	45	10
	Non-GBR	4	19	17	47	13
I want to keep all the fish I catch	GBR	24	59	8	7	2
	Non-GBR	23	62	9	5	1
I'm happier if I release some of the fish I catch	GBR	1	8	19	55	17
	Non-GBR	2	6	22	53	17

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

TABLE A43. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of importance of statements about motivation dimensions: catching fish; relaxation/escape; and excitement.

Dimensions and items	Area	Level of Importance (%)				
		Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Catching fish						
To catch fish for eating*	GBR	10	17	30	23	20
	Non-GBR	13	21	31	19	16
For the experience of the catch	GBR	6	12	28	30	24
	Non-GBR	5	13	26	30	26
To catch a 'record' or 'trophy' fish	GBR	46	21	18	7	8
	Non-GBR	43	24	17	8	8
For the fun of catching fish	GBR	4	8	26	34	28
	Non-GBR	3	6	28	34	29
For the challenge or sport of fishing	GBR	20	16	26	25	13
	Non-GBR	20	16	22	23	19
Relaxation/escape						
To get away from the regular routine	GBR	7	9	24	32	28
	Non-GBR	6	12	22	33	27
For relaxation	GBR	2	4	16	42	36
	Non-GBR	3	4	15	42	36
To experience solitude or tranquility	GBR	12	15	22	27	24
	Non-GBR	8	16	28	25	23
To get away from the demands of other people	GBR	17	15	20	25	23
	Non-GBR	17	17	17	25	24
To get away from crowds of people	GBR	12	14	22	28	24
	Non-GBR	10	13	24	30	23
Excitement						
To experience new and different things	GBR	12	19	30	27	12
	Non-GBR	13	22	28	25	12
To experience adventure and excitement	GBR	17	17	30	23	13
	Non-GBR	18	19	30	22	11
To have thrills	GBR	21	20	26	19	14
	Non-GBR	21	23	21	23	12

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

TABLE A44. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of importance of statements about motivation dimensions: social; and experiencing nature.

Dimensions and items	Area	Level of Importance (%)				
		Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Social						
To do something with your family	GBR	8	7	23	37	25
	Non-GBR	6	11	25	34	24
To bring your family closer together	GBR	12	12	26	30	20
	Non-GBR	13	17	22	30	18
To be with friends	GBR	9	12	28	35	16
	Non-GBR	9	14	26	35	16
To be with others who enjoy the same things you do	GBR	8	10	27	35	20
	Non-GBR	8	12	29	36	15
Experiencing nature						
To be outdoors	GBR	4	6	23	42	25
	Non-GBR	2	7	22	47	22
To be close to the water	GBR	8	12	21	36	23
	Non-GBR	7	9	23	33	28
To experience unpolluted natural surroundings	GBR	8	8	19	32	33
	Non-GBR	4	9	19	35	33
To learn more about nature	GBR	14	24	31	20	11
	Non-GBR	14	28	28	19	11
To be close to nature	GBR	11	14	28	29	18
	Non-GBR	8	18	31	27	16

TABLE A45. Percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by level of agreement with statements about the centrality of fishing to their lifestyle.

Centrality scale items	Area	Level of Agreement (%)				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
If I stopped fishing, I would probably lose touch with a lot of my friends*	GBR	21	56	11	10	2
	Non-GBR	26	57	9	7	1
If I couldn't go fishing, I am not sure what I would do*	GBR	17	46	13	18	6
	Non-GBR	22	49	14	13	2
Because of fishing, I don't have time to spend participating in other leisure activities*	GBR	20	62	10	6	2
	Non-GBR	26	60	8	5	1
Most of my friends are in some way connected with fishing*	GBR	11	36	12	38	3
	Non-GBR	16	44	14	23	3
I consider myself to be somewhat expert at fishing	GBR	15	42	26	14	3
	Non-GBR	17	44	24	13	2
I find that a lot of my life is organized around fishing*	GBR	17	51	13	16	3
	Non-GBR	24	52	11	10	3
Others would probably say I spend too much time fishing*	GBR	21	57	9	10	3
	Non-GBR	27	54	7	9	3
I would rather go fishing than do most anything else *	GBR	13	37	15	27	8
	Non-GBR	17	42	15	22	4
Other leisure activities don't interest me as much as fishing*	GBR	14	39	14	24	9
	Non-GBR	18	45	10	21	6

* Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.05$

Telephone Survey Tables

TABLE A46. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by how often they have been fishing in Queensland within the past 12 months (Q2).

How often	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Weekly or more often	181	12.0	99	8.4
Fortnightly	227	15.0	95	8.1
Once a month	401	26.5	261	22.3
Less often or on holidays	702	46.5	717	61.2
Total	1511	100.0	1172	100.0

Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.0001$

TABLE A47. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by whether they have recreationally fished in the GBRMP within the past 12 months (Q4).

Yes/No	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	924	60.7	215	18.3
No	598	39.3	959	81.7
Total	1522	100.0	1174	100.0

Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.0001$

TABLE A48. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by the number of times they have recreationally fished in the GBRMP within the past 12 months (Q4yes).

Total times	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
0	598	39.7	959	83.3
1 – 5	422	28.0	132	11.5
6 – 10	180	12.0	35	3.0
11 – 15	122	8.1	7	0.6
16 – 20	56	3.7	7	0.6
21 – 25	20	1.3	2	0.2
26 – 30	36	2.4	2	0.2
31 or more	72	4.8	7	0.6
Total	1506	100.0	1151	100.0
Mean	13.3		7.9	
Std. Dev.	24.5		19.1	

TABLE A49. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by importance of fishing as an outdoor activity (Q5).

Comparison	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Most important outdoor activity	633	41.6	300	25.5
Second most important outdoor activity	217	14.3	185	15.7
Third most important outdoor activity	108	7.1	90	7.7
Only one of many outdoor activities	564	37.0	601	51.1
Total	1522	100.0	1176	100.0

Significant difference between GBR and non-GBR area fishers $P < 0.0001$

TABLE A50. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by the number of years they have been recreational fishing (Q6).

Total years	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
0 – 5	117	7.7	109	9.4
6 – 10	151	9.9	114	9.8
11 – 15	117	7.7	114	9.8
16 – 20	245	16.2	161	13.8
21 – 25	123	8.1	85	7.3
26 – 30	239	15.8	179	15.3
31 – 35	98	6.5	80	6.9
36 – 40	168	11.1	131	11.2
41 – 45	63	4.2	43	3.7
46 – 50	99	6.5	77	6.6
51 – 55	38	2.5	22	1.9
56 – 60	34	2.2	26	2.2
60 and more	24	1.6	25	2.1
Total	1516	100.0	1166	100.0
Mean	27.5		27.2	
Std. Dev.	15.3		15.9	

TABLE A51. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by self-reported skill level compared to other anglers (Q7).

Fishing ability	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
Less skilled	439	29.1	396	34.0
Equally skilled	804	53.4	573	49.3
More skilled	264	17.5	194	16.7
Total	1507	100.0	1163	100.0

TABLE A52. Frequency and percent of GBR and non-GBR area fishers by age category (Q8).

Age	GBR Area		Non-GBR Area	
	n	%	n	%
15 – 20	111	7.9	109	9.9
21 – 30	244	17.4	190	17.3
31 – 40	363	25.9	259	23.6
41 – 50	336	24.0	232	21.2
51 – 60	197	14.0	181	16.5
Over 60	151	10.8	126	11.5
Total	1402	100.0	1097	100.0
Mean	41.3		41.2	
Std. Dev.	14.7		15.5	

Appendix B

List of comments supplied by fishers to the mail survey question “Is there anything else you would like to share with us?”. These comments are presented here for archival purposes.

COMMENTS

1. Green Zones + restrictions are a good thing + a lot of the fishermen know it. I know for a fact that many just won't own up due to “peer” pressure from clubs + stores + mates.
2. Project Director Steve Sutton, I'm sorry but I have sold my boat and am leaving Bowen in the next few months. So, I have not been fishing all this year. Sorry about this but I'm no help in your survey. But keep up the good work. Sincerely #####
3. I rang GGCC about the Runaway Bay Boat Ramp and they repaired and add to as I had asked. Well done Gold Coast City Council
4. When I was younger, I could fish off the Beach and could almost guarantee to catch something. Now Due to the overfishing by commercial fishers in to close ripping out sea grasses killing everything in their path ie B. Products it is almost a waste of time to take my family down to have a go. I was in the belief that there was a 12 mile limit around the islands.
5. #####, #####
I'm a lure making and be fishing for 40 years. I would like to see Queensland fisheries get together with club and commercial fisherman to stock fiver east and west if we all work to restocking the fish will be there in the future.
6. I would just like to add, that I agree with bag limits, size limits and green zones. As long as it is fair to all who fish. I also understand that it is hard to please all the people who fish but these limits and zones need to be looked at a bit closer as I believe some area's are hit by the rule's harder than others. Coastal area's should be looked at as individuals as some have greater numbers, of a particular species. Size of boats. And number of them.
7. Stricter fish regulations should have been used earlier. In my opinion, bad management. Eg. Snapper used to be 30 per person. Just recently changed to 5 per person.
8. I think the rule on not filleting fish in your boat useless fillets are 40 cm or over sinks! On a recent trip to P.C.B (Princess Charlotte) the camp next to us (not being crabbers) were throwing their backbones and heads back into the creek (thus encouraging crocodiles) I know some people you never educate!
9. I'm sick of fishermen saying they catch this and that so you go fishing with 'em and they catch nothing but crap. Like I'm sick of going to the shops to buy a cooked fish for \$10 or

more I think that's just wack.

10. Basically as you can probably tell I believe Pro's and high bag limits are the problem. I believe shutting large areas, that is upon us, is wrong, as all the rest will get abused. Leave 90% open as it is. Shut the commercial fishing down totally. Let the recreational go where they like but have a very strict bag limit. 2 fish per person total. 2 good sized fish will give you 4 meals for your family. You want more go fishing again.
We should move more toward farming fish. Buy the pro's out + give them good assistance with starting new careers.
Thanks
11. In Brisbane area it is very apparent that groups of Asian's 'recreationally fish' in areas, then sell it. Yet nothing ever seems to be done about it. I am not racist but there is no other way to describe them. I am sure other people do it as well but not to the same extent.
12. Beware of the imported culture of taking anything that moves. Stripping banks kills the area.
13. The fisheries resource is owned by all Australians and should be managed accordingly.
Fishing competitions place an undue pressure on the resource.
14. Definitely more enforcement necessary. I have been stopped by QBFP officers twice in 30 years on Moreton Bay. I have witnessed illegal fishing activities + I am generally aware of people who break regulations eg. Undersize fish and crabs.
15. I believe people should consider fishing as means for a meal, not as a fun weekend catching everything possible. Its good Australia has rights and freedom, but sometimes we humans take things to far and need limits set
16. Keep professionals out of rivers and bays
17. We have a family holiday house at Teewah (Noosa North Shore), and really only fish from the beach there. We do a little crabbing and fishing in the Noosa River. I have been deep sea fishing only one. I was taught to bait up, cast etc rather young, and hope to teach my children. To our family, fishing is more about the setting than the catch.
18. There are two aspects of fishing that our family enjoys. One is being in the estuaries and catching fish. The second is the eating quality of the majority of those fish.
19. I enjoy catching one to two fish for consumption. But thoroughly enjoy catching large volumes of fish to be released. The experiences of pulling them in, exceeds taking home large volumes. A bag limit is the key. Certain types of fish the legal size is excessive and needs reviewing. I don't have a boat and rarely eat many for consumption.
20. Don't send me anymore surveys

21. Not enough info on some questions
Q. 27 e,f,g,h,I,j for exp.
22. I would like the Repulse Bay are to be excluded from Commercial fishers & crabbers, as it is a breeding are for both.
23. Preserve our environment for the future by sensible regulation.
24. Too many professional fishermen in this area and not enough fishing inspectors and all beam trawlers should be prohibited.
25. Restrictions for recreational fishing are acceptable total bans will hurt all concerned.

Trawlers are constantly sweeping rivers + their immediate mouth areas minimising breeding grounds. Catching fish in nets kills more fish than anything else.
26. Commercial fishing should be limited where it badly affects recreational fishing off beaches that kids & part-time anglers use on a casual or holiday basis.
27. Most question in this survey I find are far, far to broad to answer honestly or correctly as I believe that for different reasons and different set of rules need to apply. I believe GBRMPA is well off track, whole fishing off QLD as awhile. I believe Australian fish for Australian people from the GBR. If the GBR is 'fished out' and polluted as the GBRMPA would lead the Australian people or the world for all that matters believe, than commercial fishing of the reef where certain species are targeted need to be curbed. So far to date I believe that GBRMPA representatives have ell the populace far too many improved facts or even total lies about the condition of the reef to achieve city people to agree and seen for total banning of fishing of the GBR to fall in line with the world green movement to close 1/3 of the worlds fishing grounds. We know that Asian country will not agree to this so Australian fishers wear more than their share of this. ####
28. A lot of the places around Townsville have been completely crabbed, fished
29.
 1. Please educate fishing show hosts like Rex Hunt on QUICK release & regulations, recently saw one of his shows where he foul hooked a (from memory) Barracuda & kept it. People seeing fish kept out of the water for minutes at a time think it is O.K for them to do the same.
 2. Introduction of Artificial reefs (tyres etc)
 3. One rule for all, indigenous or white! 100 years ago indigenous people weren't catching dugongs, turtles & undersized fish with tinnies, outboards & nylon lines.
 4. We always keep info on size & limits in our boat but rarely keep pan size fish.
30. Fishing being such a complex issue there is going to be division between recreational & commercial fishers. Sometimes it is hard not to give it all away when you go prawning and there has already been a beam trawler up the creek (off limits) and there is bycatch floating out with the tide. It is a known fact that with trawlers there is (10) ten tonne bycatch to one (1) tonne prawns. And this is in your mackerel and reef fish spawning grounds, only 2 kms off shore at Seaforth via Mackay.

31. Spear fishing should be Banned or Licensed
Coast netting should be Banned or Licensed
More fishing competitions
Bait prices should be regulated
Netting of fish for food for personal consumption should be banned.
More fishing newsletters + updates.
Netting for bait should be regulated.
32. It was hard for me to fill in a lot of questions as I now crab more than anything else. I have found that the crab population is not as great as of yester years but to be fair the introduction of the "tinny" & outboard have done a lot to this as more people fish + can travel longer distances for their sport + food.
33. Limit the HP for outboard motors to 4hp in smooth waters would go along way towards protecting fish, crabs and banks of creeks

All my outdoor activities have almost come to a stand still for the last 2 years due to angina problems.
34. Hope this survey helps. Fishing for me is a way of relaxing outdoors not catching fish for food at all. I have never kept a fish I have caught myself, we all need to let the fish be, so they are able to produce more fish numbers and leave it to the commercial fishery companies for all our seafood supplies. Thanks.
35. I think bag limits of school mackerel of 30 should be reduced by half.
36. All levels of government should provide support + encouragement to the aqua-culture industry. When the aqua-cultural industry can supply the domestic demand for seafood the relevant government agencies should progressively buy-back all commercial licenses on the QLD. East coast.
37. I doubt if there is enough inspection of bag limits + sale of fish by recreational fishermen.
38. Commercial fishing wastes too much fish & kill!! To many undersize fish.
Total bans are ok if people have some where else to go.
Commercial fishing in creeks & rivers take to many fish especially at breeding time.
39. This survey is total waste of time as the government departments are full of greenies who want to stop all fishing to which I am opposed.
40. Wow it was long!!
41. I am a farmer, fishing has been a traditional leisure activity on fresh water rivers & creeks in particular mullet fishing in the creek backwater after floods with Wacko rods for mullet. This kind of fishing in our area the Kolan + Barnett river systems is extinct because of damming. This is a disappointment as our family has done this for almost 100 years.

42. I don't support the idea of having to buy a permit for beach fishing as in N.S.W.
I strongly believe that it is every Australians right to throw a line in the ocean.
43. Stop Indigenous persons from being exempted from current restrictions.
44. I believe commercial fishing has had the greatest impact on current reductions in fish stocks. If unchecked recreational fishing also has the potential to significantly impact fish stocks. Sensible fish management strategies are the key to the long term viability of recreational fishing in Qld. Through proper management, I hope that my children can also enjoy the pleasures from fishing. I am also pleased to see the effort & benefits that are currently going into impoundment restocking. This will be a key area for long term recreational angling.
45. I am a bit of a novice but enthusiastic, many having caught nil.
46. Would be interested in different fish types being stocked in dams – Mangrove Jack?
47. All Schools should have studies to do with all of this type of survey with easy explanations and also have pamphlet handouts/videos.
48. I think between STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNEMTNS, GRUMPA. It is quite Futile of me filling in this Questionnaire including our local Politician (Ian MacDonald) who wouldn't know what a crab, Prawn, or Fish looks like. ####
49. My fishing partner #### #### (gave address) & I completed this survey jointly. We feel more consideration should be given toward management of our offshore marine waters, greater attention + action toward closing areas to fishing during spawning + breeding periods of species most caught after commercial thereby creating + allowing, sustainable supplies of these fish for both commercial + recreational fishermen, women + children of present + future generations = A perfect example of such is practiced + proven to be most successful in Greenland. Also, Iceland and Alaska are ahead of us with such management. Until as recently as 1999 we could surf cast from our Sunshine Coast beaches in gutters at night assured of an edible fish but have almost given up now as all are undersize + resort to spear fishing with very limited results locally, + annual trip on friends 38 ft catamaran from Cairns out on our Gt. Barrier Reef with much satisfaction, or on expensive charter boast to offshore recreational waters from Noosa. Crab pots were raided from fast power boats within visibility of our small "tinny" until we gave up around sunshine coast. #### #### #### ####
50. Size limits should be increased.
Bag numbers should be dropped as I do not believe that people need to keep anymore than 2 decent sized fish at any one time.
Patrolling on foot should be more frequent as I never see anyone around the rocks etc. where myself and many other recreational fishers frequent. On many occasions I have taken it upon myself to remind others of the regulations. As there are so many people who keep a lot of undersize fish, and exploit bag limits.
Penalties should be stricter.

51. Our local dam is only 10-15 minutes away. To fish there you need a fishing licence which I oppose and then with this licence you are only able to fish in certain areas.

When the dam was built, one purpose was to create a recreational facility. How can we enjoy this when local government etc. close most of the dam to fishing. Most of these areas which are closed are already equipped with toilets etc.

52. We are both against nets + people who blow fish holes thinking they will get plenty of fish. Wrong, tho big fish only come up days later. Therefore no one gets the fish which is bad waste. ##### (gave address and phone)

53. Complete ban on spear fishing
Prawn trawlers wipe out millions of juvenile fish crabs etc.
Complete ban on jet skies.
Biodegradable plastic bags maybe can be made from banana pulp.
Ban anymore destruction of mangrove water ways by developers.

54. Stop Pro Fisherman.
They take to many
And kill to many smaller fish in their nets

55. I do not have a care & rely on others to take me to the dam. #####

56. Boat owners should be issued with a sticker of the same colour as the Rego sticker each year (once only) so that the operator knows changes of regulations.
So we have constant up date of changes we now use newspaper/baitshop advertisements (it borders on entrapment).

57. None of my boats are in the water yet 2 got burned in house fire the latest 2 are ready for the water as soon as the ship come in I will be right.
We are all was born with nuthin + I still got most of mine left but I still have a lot of kick to bring up ####
P.S I forgot to mention no crab pots allowed for the young ones doesn't suit my family the closure of the beach north of Yeppon to 4X4 traffic why don't the Power's to be close the Rainbow beach make it even ####

58. Opening of Green Areas
Closure of other Areas
Opening of Uni Closed areas to Rec Fishers some areas have been closed for over 20 years
One Tree Is & Reef Cave/Bunker Group N.S.W UNI

59. Problem of Pro-fishing, crabbing. Destroying fish, crab stocks in systems. Illegal netting in creeks.

60. A fishing Inspector transferred from this area. Made a comment in the Daily Mercury. That he would have liked to have stopped longer. To see if netting of fish would be controlled my

comment is he would never lived long enough. #### (gave address)

61. I enjoyed many happy times fishing with my grandparents and family. I would like to be able to do that same with my grandchildren. To let them see the diversity and majesty of nature and feel the thrill of seeing nature first hand. If we don't start now there will be nothing to see in the sea the land or the sky.
62. I hope the federal government keeps funding your organisation. John Howard is an arsehole, and the federal members are absolutely useless keep up the good work.
63. Q 27 H. on a rotation system
+
I in some areas.
64. Ban commercial fishing. They take too much fish and recreational fishermen don't get a good chance to catch a decent sized fish or at least lower their bag limits + what they can take.
65. I would agree to a rise in legal length of fish rather than a bag limit E.G whiting 24cm. Bream 25 cm all flathead 40 cm
66. There does not appear to be sufficient information + warning signs in fishing areas.

Field officers + inspectors must be in the 'field' not in the 'office'.
67. Trawlers + commercial fishing is the biggest problem for the stocks of fish.
68. I would like to see a closed season on crabs.
69. SORRY MY PRINTER WENT BUNG.
I have been fishing in the same areas for the past 6 years and have noticed a dramatic reduction in the number of species caught (approx 40 in 1998 to about 15 in the last 12 months). I see countless recreational netters put out 1200 m of nets 50 m from shore along side creek + river mouths, 10 minutes from Cairns CBD – What hope have the fish got!
Recently, I read the book "COD" – Mark Kurlansky – (about the demise of the North Atlantic Cod fishing industry) – an eye opener but also very depressing – I think it should be mandatory reading for any fisherman.

Commercial + recreational fishing must be drastically be reduced otherwise the industry will end up like the Cod. – Everybody will tell you – there aren't as many fish about now as there used to be!

I thank you for the opportunity to participate in the survey and hope it produces results that support fish conservation.

Yours Sincerely,
####

70. Pay out commercial fishing people whenever possible to allow more people to leave the industry.
- Limit charter boat operators to one or two in each port.
71. Everyone must have the right to fish free of charge in non-stocked environments.
- It is appropriate to have limitations on where/when + how many fish are taken.
- There can be no justification for licences or fees except where they contribute the cost of maintaining stocks in artificial environments (dams).
72. I was born in Townsville and my first recollection of fishing was by my father at Kissing Point (we lived near by) used cord Cutty Hunk hand lines and caught Trevally amongst juvenile grey nurse sharks. I was around 5 yrs of age.
73. How is it that the Chinese (+ associated cultures) and the Indigenous people feel they are above the rules + regulations as set out before? – When in the eyes of the government etc. we are all supposedly equal !!?
74. 1. The laws discriminating against spear fishing is blatant discrimination + unconstitutional.
2. Commercial fishing must be slowed + stopped on some species. Rec Fishing is not as big a problem as commercial fishing.
3. Laws on spearfishing must be lifted as we are selective hunters + eat what we kill. We do not fake under or over size fish, leave head, line or bait wrapping or netting behind. SO why are there laws discriminating against us???
75. Prawn trawler's do a lot of damage e.g by catch + sea grass + fern.
Gill net's on mackerel – grey – spotted reduce stock.
76. All beam trawling and netting should be banned from our rivers and creek, they do untold damage to juvenile crabs prawns and fish. I have personally witnessed the destruction, for example approx 100 kg of juvenile fish caught and pulled in one trawl.
77. -Free maps should be given to recreational fishers prior to legislative changed (eg green zones)
78. I believe research is important for preserving species and environments. Educating those whom fish and spend time in the environment aimed at supporting species, fish numbers, environmental care will preserve our aquatic environment for the animals and people. Consideration and common sense will also help. Advertising (as has been done) and fines for sloppy recreational activities is also important.
79. This was a very long survey!! Which a lot of people would have gotten bored with and not completed.

80. I would like to see Fisheries Inspectors be more accountable. Every time I have been questioned, I have been treated as if I had already committed a crime eg I have been deemed guilty before I was tried
 ##### 31/5/2004
81. I worked on a prawn trawler. They kill about 5 tonnes of fish and bait every night depending on you are.
 I could tell you heaps!
 #####
82. 50 pp on taylor if on Frazer island more than 72 hours. I go up once a year with my club and spend \$2500 for some club members to go up and stay 7 day 3
 Bag limits on winter whiting 45 pp
83. The government doesn't spend enough money in this area, as in my opinion this department is under staffed and working to a budget like most departments today.
84. Sorry we took so long to fill + return this form we moved house.
85. I would like to see the possession limit for Australian bass increased from 2 to 4 or 5.
86. The prawn trawlers and barra. Pro. Are raping this country. Why don't they listen to my people and take only what they can eat. We are not very educated but we know how to manage our land and waters-ways
 Why have trawlers and prawn farms=
 Why have barra. Pro. And barra farms=
 When you send my results, could you also tell me how many trawlers and prawn farms we have in Australia and how many barra pro. And barra farms we have in Australia. To date please.
- TA
- Juru people, 8-5-05 Junior Elder
 #####
 (gave address)
87. Some question not applicable/obtuse/not important/ eg Q 8+9
88. We found this survey too confusing to complete. We filled it as best as we could.
89. I have no objection to pro fishing + crabbing only you have no limit to how many use the same area.
 They came from Bundaberg-mainly. – Harvey Bay-Gladstone-and many other areas to flog the Fitzroy- Port Alma Area.

90. It is my firm belief that commercial fishing should be banned from estuaries, lakes & near - coastal areas. (say 5 miles off shore). Commercial fishers can exist on the open ocean as they have the equipment to fish these areas. Recreational fishers mostly do not. Government should buy back licenses of commercial fishers who want to give the game away. Most fish products are available via aquaculture and should not be wild -caught. Recreational fishing in 'dollar-values-worth' is many items more valuable than commercial fishing. Most of the top quality commercially caught fish products go overseas anyway. Governments (and their regulations) are biased towards diving, 'tourism', commercial interest and against recreational fisherman. Fishing is part of the 'hunter-gatherer' instinct of all humans, and so should be encouraged to the greatest extent, for the benefit of humankind!
91. Due to owning a 14 ft boat offshore reef fishing is limited to fine weather + close reefs this is the same for majority of people I know with boats. Where reef fishing average fish take is 5 per trip when new zoning comes into effect area of close reefs is dramatically reduced. + Will put far more strain on resources of still opened reefs attended meetings + put toward submissions but it looks like new zones are still the same. Great sense of just being overlooked.
92. I am willing to fish less if it means revitalising our plant. Sorry could not find time to complete survey because of work demands and young family.
93. YES By the closure of to much reef area. Extra pressure is put on the remaining reef areas. ALSO I am satisfied with the new bag limits for recreational fishers. BUT no more further bag limits.
- #### ####
94. NO 14
Q. J.
It's a dammed if you do
Or dammed if you don't
Question
It needs to be reworded
95. I believe there should be no changed to the restrictions on the recreational fisherman they should just be 'policed' more often & thoroughly.
But out diving I found a beautiful strip of 'reef', life or whatever you'd call it, destroyed by a commercial scallop boat it was like a bulldozer went through the whole area. This is the reason I believe stricter regulation should be placed of the commercial fisherman.
96. I would like to suggest they make more artificial reefs as I have seen how successful they are. I realise people can't dump just everything but I wish it would be considered more seriously.
- I disagree with some of the green zones.

97. I found there were a lot of questions I wished to be more precise about, but because of the multiple choice setup, I didn't have the opportunity. I believe that entire habitat management + conservation are essential if fish populations are going to be restored + maintained in the long term. People, especially fishermen of every variety, need education about the importance of habitat, and equipment, especially commercial, that damages habitat should be banned.
98. I am opposed to promoting large scale fishing competitions.
Indiscriminate Killing!
99. Fishing is not a sport, it is a lifestyle!
100. The biggest problem with fishing in QLD is commercial fishermen. Reduced numbers and more surveillance on commercial fishermen would help control and increase fish numbers dramatically. I do not need any scientific research to tell me this. I have listened to commercial fishermen I know gloat about their illegal activities.
101. I go fishing for fun I very rarely keep what I catch.
102. Me & the public need a lot more information to help and understand (rules + why)
103. I like fishing the bigger dams in the south/east area of QLD, but find that limited access to most parts of the dams are restricted. I only fish off the bank or out of canoes/kayak I do not mind paying the freshwater permit as long as there is a much improved access to most areas of the dams.

THANK YOU!

P.S. I do not want to join a sailing or fishing club so that I have better access.

104. I believe boat ramps in some creeks are to good which leads to over fishing I know years ago when ramps where not concrete the numbers of people where not as much, I feel if some creeks where not so accessible people temp to stay away from things that are difficult just my though.
105. One thing I think should be considered is management of certain areas as opposed to closing areas for good.
Do plenty of research in species recovery so as to properly manage the reefs + estuaries of Australia
106. Restricting the number of professional fishing and crabbing licences in most areas (especially estuaries, rivers + smooth + semi-smooth waters) of Queensland must start to help the nursery stocks of our marine estuarine species.
107. I don't earn an income as I am only 15 years of age but I do have a job.
Relating to q29.
I don't' know many species therefore I release most fish I catch
Relating to Q8 and 9

108. Due to permits being required in N.S.W I hardly ever bother taking a break/camping down that way anymore.
- The only interest I have with freshwater/dam fishing is for yabbies/blue claw but don't know any good spots to obtain a feed yet.
109. Hope completed correctly the recreational survey
My name and address is:

(gives address and phone number)
110. Commercial fishing should be limited as there area too many trawlers just catching too much. I want fish to be there for my child/grandchildren.
111. I disagree with the rules on processing catch at sea because it causes rapid loss of ice, double handling, and various problems with processing at home.
112. The survey failed to gain recreational fisho's views on commercial fishing and proposal for changes to commercial fishing. I feel the biggest threat to fishing is that of over fishing and illegal fishing by commercial fishermen. This is an area which needs considerable addressing. Only a small minority of rec. fisherman disobey laws and restrictions, causing stress on our resources.
113. I think that if you are fishing the GBReef (that is a long way out from base in most cases) Bag limits should apply as a per day catch limit only E.G. a fish with a bag limit of 5 x 2 days = 10 in possession to a maximum of 3 or 4 days.
As long as the boat skipper can prove the day the boat left home base.
114. Questions on other users of the reef, namely tourism operators + dive boats and their impact on the marine environment could also be included in this survey.
115. There are too many foreign people coming to this country + keeping every fish they catch. They catch buckets of undersize fish and get away with it every day. This needs to stop or we will have no fish or impose big finds on these people to detour there destructive ways.
116. Although in the past I fished regularly I have limited freedom to do so presently I would like to be able to teach my son freely fishing with the ability to be able to pull up to any coast area and drop a line. I understand you can not do so now.
117. I have a boat licence but I never go fishing by myself. My partner tells me if I can eat the fish I caught or if it is over the size limit. The last 2 years we have gone fishing we have only caught a couple of fish. So most times we go home with nothing.
118. Although this was a comprehensive questionnaire – it seemed like an exam! Especially using 'double negatives' in questions. Some of use find this type of questionnaire daunting.

The late submission of this questionnaire was due to my absence from Brisbane.

119. There are many people (amateurs) out there whom are selling there catch, (fish, mollo) for pure profit who also admit to it and the attitude is (catch me if you can). Also high light (your organisation) to the public, about 'bycatch' by commercial fishing persons/organisations. Do this far more than what is advertised at this time! Also show people what pollution does to aquatic life and to them, as they eventually eat it.
120. I think that the regulations imposed are fine. I think that the new green zones are also fine. I don't mind paying for a stocked impoundment license. I don't think a general fishing licence is important unless monies are used properly.
121. Too many questions.
122. We all have the right to earn a living. Even commercial operations they should. Not be chased out of the GB Reef area. Commercial fishing based on energy use alone is fare more efficient. The recreational fishing as a source of food.
123. I would like to see an increase in fishing inspectors and cast nets to be of a 9 ft maximum size. Bait nets and cast nets should only be aloud in certain places at certain times. I would like to see a limit of (20) beach worms per person at any one time because a lot of people catch to many to use. Then they just throw away what they don't use. Which makes them more scarce and even smaller, if there is not something done about it soon they will become the as pippies are now.
124. Bag limits don't work. I've seen people with limit, catch a bigger one + throw a smaller dead one back (it stinks)
It also stinks when recreational fisher is caught with one undersized whiting, (a great bait dead or alive) is fined and trawlers have been allowed to trawl right into the bays and estuary mouths + kill thousands of them, Also prawn farms are allowed to much environmental damage to set them up + ongoing damage with their waste are we to end up like Thailand? Where coastal waters are unproductive from prawn farm waste, and fish have to be farmed creating more waste.
125. Ban or restrict professional trouters + trawlers in populated coastal areas within 100 km. Recreational spend a lot of money on boats, rego, fuels, supplies etc and shouldn't have areas closed to fishing as they don't make the impact of professional fishers on reefs.
126. When you purchase a \$7.00 (7 day) dam licence and you are unable to use it you should be able to transfer it to a later date
Should be able to catch more than 2 bass – (bag limits) on jew also
127. Commercial fishing near coastal towns + cities

128. I believe Frazer Island is key. Stopping the netting will be a great improvement. The boats would often clear out massive amount of fish leaving the area 'dead' for weeks. All the recreational fishermen in Australia could not have done anything like that. I do believe some of the restrictions on fishing on the weir of the island should be lifted. Very few fishermen ever fished there. ####
129. This survey was completed by the husband of the person it was addressed to-as the main fishing person-#### ####
130. Steve, I would like to see a baglimit of five (5) mud crabs per person instead of 10 that is over kill what would one person do with ten bucks give them away over kill sorry. ####
131. A tax of maybe 1% or 2% on all fishing products, both recreational + professional. This could be used to set up breeding + releasing fish farms on rivers along the QLD coast. A ban on beam trawlers might be required for a period after releasing. I believe that to sustain + grow fish stocks to satisfy both recreational + professional + also keep fish prices affordable to the public in fish shops, breeding + releasing is necessary.
Artificial reefs probably should be built + be an ongoing project with the reefs being continuously expanded in the areas south of the barrier reef.
132. 1. Releasing reef fish under the minimum size limit usually results in them floating away to become shark food. Why not allow us tot keep the smaller fish + tighten the bag limit instead of wasting their lives?
2. Why was there no consultation about banning barramundi cod, maori wrasse, chinaman + red bass? We love to catch + eat these species particularly chinaman which seem more plentiful than other reef fish eg. Red emperor again, releasing these after accidentally catching them seems wasteful when they float away after all attempts to revive them have failed.
133. 1 believe that some ethnic groups have a 'catch everything/eat everything/ attitude. I don't think that they fully understand recreational fishing limits. These types of laws probably don't exist in their country of origin. Perhaps these cultural groups need additional education or a targeted advertising campaign.
134. I completed the first one sent = returned it about 4 days before I got the blue reminder card. When it turns up you can compare it for consistency.
One constant problem seems to be education of immigrant groups – mass removal of 'minimal' shell fish from inter-tidal zones on rocky headlands for example.
Ta
####
135. I just would like to say that I enjoy going fishing, not just to catch fish but also to relax and to forget about work. To be with my son to watch him catch a fish and to see a smile on his face and if we do go home with 1 or 2 fish well best –thing + if not well that good to.

136. I have very little time or chance to go fishing, when I get to go, it's a long way to go, costs a lot of \$ and we usually catch very little of the types we are after. I get very annoyed by the people who live at the coast and get to fish every other day and catch something most times. Bag Limits are useless when people fish 5 times a week and a pest when you fish once a year.
137. I have been fishing in the Whitsundays for 50 yrs. My understanding does not come from Gov regulations. I do not understand many of the new and complicated restrictions. I rely on my family for that information. I also fish using imperial sizing. Not metric.
138. There needs to be a significant reduction in the number of trawlers + professional fishing licences in Queensland.
Also there should be much more policing of commercial fishermen's catches.
139. Fishing is a nice outing for myself + the kids and friends. I believe if area's were closed of for the re-habitat of fish at certain times and various locations with a column in a paper indicating these, people would get used to it and we could all enjoy this for many years to come!
140. Catch + release for fish below a certain size is often a waste of time for fish dragged up from deep water as their swim bladder expands + they cannot dive. More info needs to be given on whether puncturing their swim bladder works + if so, the correct way of doing it.
141. From the worst fisherman in Cairns. Started fishing the Cairns inlet '96 total fish bag for eating less than 12.
142. More control on pro crabbers they are plundering the stocks. In the Gladstone Rockhampton area.
143. I cannot understand by closing one third of the reef how it will improve anything. Surely the remaining two thirds will sustain a lot more pressure by both rec + pro fishers. As a professional fisherman from 1975-85 the decline was evident then, all fishing should have 2 ones as adopted by S.A. which has sustained a very good fishery.
144. Spear fishing should be stopped. On a line the fish you get (mostly too small) and at any type where spear fishing take big & selective stop the waste of fish by trawlers.
145. I think it would be a good idea for bait bags to have information about the legal size and quantity of fish allowable. Quite often there are debates on the shores about the sizes allowed. A small picture of each fish would also help with identification I am sure this would encourage most people to release undersized fish and stay within quantity limits.
146. Survey adequately covers most aspects. No further comments.
147. If people threw back undersized fish instead of using them for live bait, it would increase future population of fish stocks.
Bait packets should be made from environment friendly materials

148. I believe that the future of fish stocks is far more important than going fishing, however we practice catch and release on every outing and rarely take home to eat. Generations are to follow us, and will they have the same opportunity to recreationally fish for food or fun as we have, and the generations before us. Strict limits etc, are necessary to ensure, stable management of one of earths greatest natural resources, and to ensure the reservation of many low numbered species.

Thanks

####

149. I would like to see more restrictions put on commercial professional fishermen. From netting in estuaries + creeks. These people take all of the whiting along with other species that should be allowed to breed in these rivers amateur fishermen are missing out there.

150. I believe that the future of recreational fishing lies in the restocking groups = clubs. The area that pro fishers can fish needs to be restricted as I have seen pro fishermen + trawlers etc come in so close to popular rec fishing spots that it has made many people pack up + go home. I believe that some of the bag limits are still way to excessive + need to be reduced for the future. Fish can only be kept frozen for so long before it is no good. So we need to reduce the large cricket score catches of some anglers.

151. 2 Things

1. Personally I believe that commercial fishing (trawling) is very and completely wrong and should be stopped altogether.
2. In question 8, 'the most preferred species' I go out to fish. I don't believe in targeting a fish to catch. IT'S THE LUCK OF THE DRAW.

152. There are too many loaded questions and answer in this survey. Answers can be misconstrued to say you said such and such. Solution to better management lies in the overall affects on the reef, not just restrictions on amateurs who infrequently use the reef. Extrapolation of information to the number of boats or the fish they catch on an occasional outing is by no means a credible way of determining fish stocks or the use of marine parks.

153. I just like to throw a line when I want to and have no hassles.

Ta.

154. The skipper of the boat I used to sail + motor with died. We only went North for 3 moths of the year and I am nearly 80 ears + have been ill for sometime, so my fishing days are over, though songs go fishing regularly

#####

Good luck with your survey.

155. I believe that commercial fishing should be severely restricted – maybe through government subsidies to commercial fishermen to mitigate their losses.

156. 1. More aquatic farming,
2. More stocked impoundments
3. More restrictions on professional fishermen,

4. Impoundment fishing is very enjoyable

157. Listen to the General Public (Recreational Fishing people) on their views of Closed Areas and Bag Limits. They don't profit from the spoils of sport.
158. I fish often and have not seen a DPI officer for new 2 years.
I hope this does some good.
159. Construction of wetland systems to replace and add to existing areas, reclaim ponded pastures.

Construct artificial reef for inshore fishing.

To be able to catch a feed for your family and friends of fresh fish, same day, is a satisfying experience. It is the only primal freedom we have left to share with each other in our communities of Australia

(Lucky Country YES!)

160. I live on the edge of the Great Sandy Strait (high tide mark.) I can catch up to 10 large flathead in 1 hour on lures. I take 1 fish and release the rest. What stuns me is the amount of rec. fishers that come here and are amazed at the no. + size of the fish but take as many as they can catch. They apparently have no foresight or just don't care. How do you ever change the way people think. My father tells me about catching 300 yellowbelly (before refrigeration) I just say why? He still at 91 sees no relationship between this kind of fishing + the relatively small number of these fish to be caught today!

Thanks for finally sending the envelope

161. I don't think question 29 has anything to do with this survey.
The sooner there are heavier fines for people keeping undersize fish the better.
162. The Barramundi Closed Season should be a floating closure to suit the timing of our wet season and not a fixed date.

I don't see pollution from YABULU being stopped when it is Government run.

163. I was born in 1941. Most of my life when old enough I've fished at Woodgate Beach both in a boat and from the shore. Sadly the fish population there is now non-existent. Even the yabbies we used for fishing and the pippies have vanished. Very sad state of affairs I feel.
164. I believe recreational fishing to be a very important part of the Queensland way of life. Any further restrictions would be detrimental to its popularity – its flow on effects are much greater than many realise (tourism relaxation benefits) any further restriction will have to come from the commercial sector which is still the targets by far taker of fish. Farmed fish can supply most of these requirements now. Catching fish with a line is certainly as inefficient

method of taking fish in comparison to netting of them.

165. I would like to learn more about fishing and what might happen in the future with fisheries', maybe get some information about rules and regulations'
166. Sorry I took so long to finish this survey, I have been out west then down south conducting research with Murri youth.
167. Cut back on commercial fishers to many fishing the same creek.
168. I am willing to participate in a survey if it is not longer than this one.
169. My apologies for delay in responding.
Re freshwater fishing – answers may seem odd
- I lived inland and fished rivers not dams.
170. I very rarely catch anything big enough to keep. My children would hate to eat anything we catch anyways. I hope all the (not many) fish I catch survive when I release them. I'm probably not the best person to do these surveys although I hope you can get support for more control over people keeping undersized fish – I see this all the time. People think that if children catch a small fish they should be able to keep them!
171. I think one area you have not covered is the advancement in technology in the last thirty years, in my opinion also affecting fishing numbers. 4wds – faster + better boats and G.P.S Plotters and sounders.
172. The amount of money paid to government in boat registrations. There should be more boat ramps + better designed ramps, with perhaps floating finger wharfs, to take pressure off ramps, when people getting in + out of boats. Freeing up ramp for launch + retrieval of boats only.
173. I firmly believe that pollution, overfishing by professionals + recreational fishermen (eg Frazer Island) has a serious detrimental effect on our fish populations + the sustainable maintenance of such population. I feel sorrow when I see the beaches + rocks of Morton Bay covered with thousands upon thousands of tiny fish, The by kill from netting.
174. In my opinion. Broadwaters and small estuaries hold the largest diversity of juvenile fish and should be foremost of the government's conservation concerns.
175. More information for overseas + interstate visitors so they don't damage our fishing areas and understand our rules. Politicians being one area that needs working on.
176. You only get good fish when there on the bite.
You don't get fish every trip

177. Until now work + home have not allowed me to go fishing as frequently. I have left the work force and hope to fish more.
Fishing have always been parts of my life – (preschool)
I fly fish, bait cats and troll.
178. Recreational fishers pay to fish and restock dams (user pays) Q. 14.B
Trawler and pro/netters rape and put nothing back.
179. Nothing has been said about the reefs being closed for half the year anyways, due to weather conditions it's 20 knots over half the year anyways there are only half a dozen weekends the conditions allow you to fish anyway.
- You cant' catch and release fish like barramundi Cod from the reef, because once you bring them up from deep water the cod is dead. They want you to release them but there dead you might as well take them home and put them on the dinner table.
- ####
180. As a pensioner I find fishing is a relaxing way to spend time. Even if no fish are caught. Many tourist come to Conway to enjoy fishing or prawning. If you took the fishing away from here (recreational) the place would die. I do believe that it's the trawlers that take up all the Dugong grass + kill many little fish. Many times I've been fishing and never caught anything so I don't believe us rec fishers do take many fish, like the (pro's.) In some questions I put neutral as I wasn't sure of the questions. Fishing is a sport + fun of living.
- #### ####
181. I noted there were very few questions on how I feel commercial fishing impacts on my recreational fishing. It is, I believe the most magnificent challenge to recreational fishers. I have 1st hand experience at being cut out of a fishing area by pro's. It rates as one of my most disappointing fishing experience.
182. The only new regulation I don't agree with is the cleaning of fish. As a boat owner who keep his boat in a marina, having to bring my fish home to clean is very annoying. Even for trailer boaters not to be able to clean at boat ramp facilities is not in the best interest of public health, with rubbish bins @ home full of rotting fish carcasses.
183. Why hasn't beam trawling in our northern rivers + creeks been banned. All rivers + creeks should be closed to netting. Qld should follow NT regulations. We will lose all our estuary species if this is not too late already.
184. Green zones + restrictions are a good thing + a lot of the fishermen know it. I know for a fact that many just wont own up due to 'peer' pressure from clubs + stores + mates.
185. I people want a feed of fish take time out to catch it yourself and do away with commercial fishermen that are ruining our estuaries via netting large quantities. Myself and many others would spend more time fishing in creeks if fish availability were higher rather than expensive trips to open water areas (reefs, shoals, shelf).

186. I have fished once in the last year + didn't catch anything!
187. Not saying they are the only violators, but many of our Asian population flaunt the rules. It's visible.
188. What I earn has nothing to do with you and fishing. Keep to your fishing surveys up good work!
189. People who have commercial licences inflict the most damage on fish and crustaceans stocks. I support recreational ONLY fishing zones on and around the Barrier Reef. Large scale netting must be banned.
190. Barra size should be reduced to 5000 mm and maximum 800mm
This should be the size fishers can keep.
191. I have seen the fisheries of South Australia destroyed because of greed drag netting etc. it left nothing not even weeds. Regulation is needed but it needs to be balanced so as not to restrict the general part time fisherman.
192. I believe recreational fishing is damaging. I also think commercial fishing is worse. My father was a commercial fisherman + I can see both sides of the fence. Putting in green zones only makes the same amount of people fish in a smaller area. I believe as each commercial license comes up for sale it should be purchase by the government + these people employer by the government to patrol our fishing areas. No amount of research is going to save our fishing areas if the amount of fish stock taken is not lessened. I would also pay for a permit to fish if it goes back into restocking.
193. Fishing anywhere in Wivenhoe dam public dam from the bank of the dam
194. Prawning is a major threat to the commercial + recreational fishing industry.
195. In the area where I live it is now almost impossible for the occasional recreational fisherperson to catch fish from the shore. Trawlers in the estuaries + offshore have degraded the numbers to such an extent that you often, not only don't catch a legally sized fish, you don't even get a nibble.
196. My son advises me on length of fish + width of crabs that are legal + I wouldn't know the length of the boat. I rang my son to check on these issues.
197. I feel strongly than if we want to conserve our fish stocks. We should cease the export of all reef fish. Especially live fish this point for some reason always seems to be ignored. (might be something to do with profit)

198. Commercial fishing vessels are not restricted by weather conditions. They catch many species of no use to them and by the time those species are released they are dead.
- Recreational fishers usually say that the reef is protected by the weather, meaning that we cannot always access the reef.
- Unfortunately the government prime concern is jobs and not the environment.
199. For recreational fisheries to improve such as Barra + Crabs, commercial fisheries effort needs to be moved to the aquaculture industry. Much, much more scientific effort needs to go into making aquaculture of sustainable industry.
200. There should be funding (community) for building man made reefs closer to Townsville (50km). This can only enhance both populations + peoples experiences.
201. Close rivers to netting by professional fishermen. Which will increase fishing by recreational fishers which will increase spending. Eg: boats 4wd + fishing gear. + camping gear etc. Restrict trawling, drift netting.
202. This survey was completed by my husband because he goes fishing and I very rarely do.
203. For the last 25 years we have spent approx. 30 days per year holidaying + fishing in Northern NSW from Pottsville to Yamba to enjoy the better fishing opportunities.
We would have preferred to spend some of that time locally but over the years have seen the destruction of our fish + crab stocks by poor government management. We now rarely bother fishing in our own state hence the limited days recorded in your survey.
204. There is nobody here to enforce the rules and regulations.
- “Anything goes!,” it seems to me!
Why have any restrictions?
205. Where we fish we see dolphins, whales + other special thing, this make a trip out in our boat special.
- This year we saw a tiger shark eating a turtle, the turtle was approximately 3ft across + the tiger shark was about 10 ft long. This is special (nature in all it's elements).
206. An area of fish conservation that needs researching is the effectiveness of upper size limits compared to lower size limits. It seems patently stupid to release small fish which are far more likely to die from hook + handling injuries and to remove large breeding stock which are far more valuable to the fishery and are more likely to survive hook + handling injuries. To state the obvious: regulation without supervision is a waste of time + money. This however, seems to be the current Queensland situation.

207. I think that there should be heavier restrictions on commercial fishing, for future fish stock concerns and also environment concerns.
Eg. Trawling destroys the ocean floor, and the fish they say they release are too damaged to survive.
208. I believe that all netting in bays and close to beach areas by professional fishers should be stopped – No set lines should be allowed by professional fishers.

There are no facilities for loading + unloading from boats – lack of pontoons is quite a problem seems to be the only state that offers no assistance in this area.
209. I strongly support closed seasons during spawning of some species eg. Bream, whiting, flathead.
210. I would like to see the whole of the coast out to 5km deemed yellow zone so as to protect our fish habitats and nursery areas from over fishing and trawling.
211. There should be stricter bag limits for sand + golden lined whiting.
There should be no netting of any estuaries.
212. Very little was said about professionals, and 'live trout market'
e.g severity of fines for fishing in restricted areas make substantial, not a slap on hand.
Undersized fillets disguised in blocks of fillets. Etc.
All attention on the reef seems to be near coastline. No mention is middle of the vast area between this and the 'hardline' and the massive area it covers. Where few recreational fishers venture.
213. Most of your questions are stupid and I can't not be bothered to answer them neither has fishing anything to do wit my personal income

What is really behind this.
214. Q22. Usually ask for info or I have my book for size & limits. Jetty has measuring equipment handy.
215. All the recreational fishers with whom I have fished are sensible law abiding people who are very much aware of not over fishing an area, and thus destroying it. I and these with whom I associate would be quick to call to task anybody doing the wrong thing. Over regulating can sometimes have an adverse effect, you will find that fishers will assist fisheries people if they are not regulated by the big stick. Not every fisher has a university degree, but they are not fools, and they too have the future generations in mind.
216. I do not buy fish from retail outlets because there is no comparison with freshly caught fish.
217. 1. Some questions seem to me are merely confirming each other eg. 14h + 14I
2. Some questions, eg 21a and 21b, I have answered neutral – that is I do not know

218. I believe there is something wrong when the average person can't afford to buy fresh seafood and we have such a huge coastline. Also the 'fraudulent' substitution of less attractive fish species for so-called 'barramundi' etc etc in restaurants + fish outlets at exorbitant prices needs strict regulatory controls.
219. Stop beam trawling in rivers and estuaries.
220. Keep rules simple.
Stop pro netting in creeks + breeding areas eg Victor Ck/Repulse Bay Area. South of Mackay in Sarina/West Hill area and any other obvious breeding grounds.
221. As I was a professional years ago some these question are of no importance to me my greatest concern are the damage that inshore trawling has done to inshore fishing grounds + the countless thousands of fish stock killed. Weather conditions keep many offshore fishing days limited there are times no fish are caught then there are times when one gets an to a good catch only to have to leave because of bag limits I fish for eating only! To buy fish for consumption is to expensive for most low earning people. Exporting fish to overseas for the dollar + Australian paying the price for the mighty dollar!
222. At present I am 84 & do very little fishing + crabbing but I have studied fish habits + ways for many years and always caught plenty of fish through studying their habits. I think in this area (Morton Bay) funnel nets catching the breeding fish in the spawning season mesh nets, and trawlers skimming the sea floor of sea growth etc also councils spraying the mangrove tidal swamps for mosquitoes kills juvenile fish + crabs by millions
####
223. I only go fishing for food fish + I don't believe rec fishers are to blame for fish stock numbers I know there are people who sell their catch for profit which I frown on. I strongly believe that trawling has by far caused the most damage to fish numbers I have in the past held a master fishing licence netting fishing licence trap fishing licence also big fish spawn a lot more roe than small fish previous survey was completed + mailed back to you

(gave address)
224. There appears to be a growing prejudice, in management, against spearfishing. It's a response to poor public perception + not sound management requirements. Spearfishing competitions are fair game but spear fishing as a means of fishing is very fish friendly, if that's possible!
225. I support controls over bag limits and sizes, however I strongly feel that large excluded zones need to be very carefully considered before being put into place. Total denial of access is a heavy handed policy where alternative methods would work. I feel most people are happy with catching moderate numbers of food fish.

226. 27B On certain species a maximum should apply because they are older breeding fish.
- Tighter restrictions on trawlers. We fish in the Logan River and have to watch trawlers go past with nets out taking away all the fish. Send them outside. People who commercially fish in the rivers are the reason that we can't catch any decent fish anymore. It's frustrating and just not right.
227. I find that because I only go fishing a few times a year, that the rules have changed every time I go. You can't just jump in the car with the kids, for a quick fish as you might be doing something illegal + be fined or ostracised in front of your family more literature should be available from local tackle shops.
228. I am all for restrictions, bag limits etc. but when a professional fisherman an go to the reef and take every coral trout he can get his dirty stinking hands on how can the government/Qld fisheries maintain any credibility? (As one example)
229. Walkers Point Boat Ramp
Someone's going to get badly hurt
Needs a wall to slow the flow
230. Hillsborough Channel
Sand from erosion has covered much habitat and trawlers have destroyed remaining habitat from estuaries to Islands and from islands to reefs. Outcrops that damage nets have been destroyed by trawlers dragging serrated edge changes in tandem as do land-clearing bulldozers. Many outcrops I fished in the 1960-70 period no longer exist.
Some small artificial reefs towards replacing some of this lost transitional habitat is needed.
231. I would be willing to participate in future surveys only if they are of reasonable length, I found this was too long!
232. Please Improve The Weather
233. 1. Band all net's from rivers,
2. Pro Crabmen stopped.
3. Crab's not to be taken for next 5 years
4. no long lines fishing – more than two hooks per line.
5. Big Barra from dam's to salt water so they can change sex.
6. more salt water in rivers than dam's stopping the flow of – salt water river's in first place, taken over by dam's.
7. more fish O'S on stand by never enough of them around to keep an eye on things.
234. Get rid of bloody commercial fishers close to Cairns.
235. When I was younger I used to fish more now over 70 I go when I'm asked, by my son, which is quite often. I just enjoy being out in a boat even if I catch nothing. Hope my answers help in

some way!!

236. Pro fishermen are ruining fishing for the public see it every time I go fishing
237. More patrolling/enforcement of regulations on recreational fishers. (ie undersize whiting in Hervey Bay and other popular tourist spots).
Stopping fishing methods (both commercial + recreational) that have by-catch +destroy fish habitat.
238. The amount of fishing I do could not possibly contribute to diminished fish populations. I would like to know what has happened to all the big fish as we catch too many undersized fish that need to be thrown back + hardly any keepers.
It appear Commercial Fishermen net all the large fish leaving only undersize fish for recreational fishers.
239. Is GBRMPA + other Government Departments doing its job properly. Ie Fan the benefit of the ecosystem or is it bowing to the pressures of the tourism industry? Or other minority groups.
240. The fishing in my area (Magnetic Island) has greatly improved since gillnetting has stopped in Cleveland Bay area. We have caught lots more Barra especially, along with grunter + jacks. Great stuff!
241. Professional fishing + crabbing should be banned in all rivers and ½ km radius of river mouth.
Somehow they need to be able to combat the amount of illegal crabbing.
The Government should ban and compensate all beam trawler operators.
242. Please buy back professional fishing licences gradually and do not issue anymore. Especially those used in river + estuarine systems
243. 244. Trawlers – I believe – do most damage to fish stock
2. Live fish trade, is like the live lamb trade and should be stopped, to overseas destinations
3. I have mainly stopped fishing, as trips (ocean) are now to often a waste of time + money.
4. I like fresh water fishing, but I have never bought a permit. Therefore, I don't go + mainly because I don't have the time to go
245. Speaking to anglers in my travels around Australia I found great resentment at the imposition of salt water fishing licences in NSW and Victoria by local and visiting anglers. Also, the exclusion of large coastal areas to angling in Victoria. We do not want to see this in Queensland, especially for the tourist industry. There are more subtle ways of raising revenues for fisheries management.
Ps was ill last year and did not get out fishing at all trying to rectify this.

246. Government's of the day aren't interested in rec fishing. Only in the tourism industry eg dive charter, live trout export, industry. You only have to look at where the reef closure out of Cairn's take's place. Every where a pontoon is situated (all these areas closed to line fishing) what's going to happen to the remainder of reef's with over exposure from rec + pro's. After working in airline industry for 10 years and seeing first hand the amount of live trout, beach de mere, and shark fin exported to Hong Kong. Any wonder the ocean's being depleted. The average rec fisherman with a boat of 4.5 to 6 m range would be lucky to average 6 trips a year out fishing: work, whatever etc. we fisherman with 40 years experience, know what goin on. Its about time Government's fixed the real problem before it's to late for all.
247. I feel the weather is the best protector of our reefs. Amateurs only venture out when time and weather permits, also when we get there not everyone is a skilled fisher. Professionals on the otherhand can take in a week what our community takes in a year. I feel more restrictions need to be imposed on them. Buy their licences off them and set regions for pro's to operate in. Localising pro's will foster responsibility for their area.
- Thank You.
248. I think more thought should go into a lot of things.
249. I am now very reluctant to participate in public consultation. The green zoning consultation carried out by "GBRMPA" was a complete hoax, with the outcome of consultation determined before the public consultation process was started!
250. Keep the beamies out of Estuary's so that fish stocks can rebuild!
251. We need more fisheries people policing. Waterways all of the time not just some of the time.
Out of ten fishing trips I am lucky if I see the fishing inspectors once let alone be checked.
I get sick of reporting people to see nothing change.
252. Most of my fishing is coastal performed on holidays. I am worried about declining numbers as each year there seems to be less fish caught in the same area we always fish. Fish caught are definitely smaller.
253. 1. Educate to keep enough for a feed
2. Better design of gear + techniques to return fish so they survive
3. I'd love to catch 300 tailor if I could return 299 to breed on
254. I have fished these waters for more than 50 yrs + find I can still catch as many fish as in the past. New regulations to be enforced in July are extremely over the top. Anyone with a small runabout such as us will no longer be able to fish as we do not travel over any passages so therefore our grandchildren as well as us will not enjoy family outings on the water. Fishing the coastline where we have fished for the past 50 yrs will be prohibited. Only people with large boats will fish successfully in the Whitsunday area.

These new regulations are called "overkill"

255. I feel + have observed that professional fishermen with drag nets kill more little fish than amateurs.
NSW should not be allowed to have no limits on crabs to stop over border transfers.
256. I think river trawling should be stopped.
257. A lot of this is not fishing related + too broad to answer also repetitive.
258. There are insufficient facilities for free movement of fish in our streams ie ladders etc.
Further research is needed to increase fish species into our impoundments.
Government should continue to fund fish stocking in addition to stocking permit fees.
Government should increase funding to upgrade + develop lakeside + camping facilities to make wider usage + appreciation of aquatic environment.
259. I would like to see professional fishermen ie trawlers, removed from rivers & estuaries –
Fishing for recreational purposes would be increased and out of work trawlers (pros) would/could be used as fishing guides etc. everyone would benefit. Incl the fish.
260. Commercial fishers cause far more damage to both fish stocks + habitat than recreational fishers. A fish in their net is worth more than them than a fish in the creek. One prawn trawlers causes more habitat damage in one day than most recreational anglers would in a lifetime. The marine ecosystem cannot continue to support our growing population.
Aquaculture development is absolutely necessary to ensure that commercial impact is reduced on the marine environment.
261. I work for Q.R. my sons work at the coal mines here.
We all have long weekends once a month but they only come together about 6 times a per year the rest of our fishing parties are retirees.
The fishing trips are well planned in advance (6x weekend p.a.) But then mother nature steps in here in C.Q. with howling S.E. winds. This usually results in last minutes cancellations to approx. half of our trips per year. So, mother nature herself is imposing a recreational fishing ban on us and all like us in this neck of the woods.
262. As a member of the public I like to do the right thing as far as rules + regs. But I see + hear of a lot of people who don't, professionals included. Which can make for some very disappointing fishing trips.
263. Sorry this is a bit late.
Been Fishing
24/07/04
####

264. Re-27H.
Do not lock up & leave for good
A green zone for 5/7 yrs.
Release for 1 yr yellow
With more green/yellow.
265. Trawl fishing + exporting to Japan + other country should be stopped. Only way any fish exports to other countries is frozen. This go for all types of sea foods.
266. I believe all Australians have the right to catch fish in our waters for themselves! Not catch and sell overseas let them come here and get both tourism and work for Australians.
I believe all commercial fishing should stop before recreational fishing!
267. Most of my mates fish we have comps where fish are caught measured and released many of the Asian fishermen on the gold Coast don't care what size they take as most of the fish they catch are minced for cooking Stronger penalties need to be enforced. It would be insane if fishing licences were to be enforced in Queensland as I don't believe money from that will go into fish research or management.
268. I can't believe that tour fisheries QLD would allow drift netting for shark fin. Which you probably would know is an excuse for slaying masses of breeding mackerel in season. With the ring netting in the past few years severely depleting our school mackerel stocks. It's typical of fisheries Qld's decision making. TOO LITTLE TOO LATE!
269. Closed areas are all well + good but they never seem to be re-opened + if they are the pros five them a flogging.
270. I am for green zones, no problems there. But I believe GBRMPA were not flexible for the areas some of my blub members want to fish. Mymidon reef where we target black marlin during the months of oct, nov, and dec (tag and release) was made green, despite some meetings between us and GBRMPA. They had their mind made up and did not consider our requests. We are the primary users of this reef (70 miles off shore) A large area around the reef was made green. We wanted a troll only zone which there is a zoning available. (I stress tag and release)
271. I consider myself a reasonably successful fisher for the past 50 odd years. Therefore Question 9 was truly impossible to answer.

272. It is difficult to answer some questions as the intent of the question in some cases is vague or ambiguous.

I only keep what I can eat and return rest to the water but enjoy a bountiful catch and hopefully a prize fish.

I most certainly support size and reasonable bag limits for recreational fishers on any threatened species.

In my opinion the threat to sustainability is commercial fishing. Many times I have seen the result of netting in estuarine waters and the result disgusts me. Also the netting of tailor in the surf is harmful and no amount of recreational fishing could do the same damage to fish stocks.

I would like to see all commercial fishing banned in all estuarine waters in QLD. The argument that people need to be able to buy these fish is rubbish as very few are popular as preferred table fish. Tailor ends up predominantly as cat food.

If necessary most of these species could be farmed, as Barramundi is, ensuring availability to those who don't fish. However, I would suggest that only whiting is viable enough to bother with.

As for enforcing the current rules it really is a case of self regulation and most fishers are very responsible. I have never been questioned about my catch. Fisheries are more interested in checking boats for rego and safety equipment as it makes more revenue.

Stop wasting money on meaningless research and use it to buy back commercial licences.

273. More money needs to be spent on more patrol officers ("fisho") to enforce regulations. In the last 10yrs I have not been checked once and I know that often the regulations are often abused, especially for creeks.

Trawling, especially beam trawlers need to be totally banned, they are destroying the breeding grounds and the ecosystem of marine life. Gill nets also need to be banned. They just catch anything that swims and also once fish are caught, crabs move in and get caught too. Pro's haven't got the time to remove female crabs from nets, so they are often just smashed and removed in pieces.

274. I think more Government funding should be available to fish restocking clubs and groups. I know there is some funding but not nearly enough,

275. Most fishing boats don't give specifics listed in question 22 and I'm not sure where to get specific catch sizes for each area that's why I throw them all back. Also, I don't know how to fillet properly and don't know where to learn the right way to do it. I want to do the right thing but I would like to catch small quantities to eat to show my sons where fish fingers really come from.

276. I see little point in subjecting a creature to the barbarous activity called fishing. How would you like to be caught by a hook in the mouth and then left to suffocate. Regrettably politicians who promulgate rules are more interested in voters than animal welfare.
I have given up fishing for good.
277. By the length of the questionnaire I am sure you have covered everything. Some answer's to your questions could be a bit of guess work.
Well done
278. 1) How about artificial reefs?
2) Could old tyres be used to create artificial reefs?
279. Question 22 c, f, I, k are either different or not included in the official tide tables + boating safety guide 2003 issued by Qld Tpt. (I do not have a copy of the 2004 guide.
280. Half way through this fishing survey I found to many unwarranted questions, the fishing rules that I understand of today is legal length amount of fish to keep and to protect the live baits that we use instead of wasting our live baits do not over catch and destroy, Great believer in lure fishing and catch + release when one has their quota.
281. I live close to the QLD/NSW border and I do a lot of fishing on the northern NSW coast because it is easier to get there.
282. Interstate commercial operators using licences in Queensland.
Eg north Stradbroke Is has had up to 5 now when once only local operator.
Commercial operators forgetting recreational areas when seeing catches
283. Some bag limits need to be increased catch 6 throw smallest catch 7 throw next?
How can you control we can only control honest people.
284. We have tried fishing many times as a family activity – I loved it when I was a child. We actually caught fish from jetties etc. back then.
We have never caught anything keepable. I believe these days a boat is needed to fish. We don't have one. Therefore, we only try fishing a few times a year.
285. Rotational closures (every 2-3 years) would benefit more people (and the fish), than the current draconian GBRMPA plan. This plan will cause over fishing in the limited remaining accessible zones and also make a lot of us into criminals. I predict severe violence imposed on GBRMPA enforcers in the future because of their attitude of ownership instead of caretaker/manager.
286. Give me a fishin magazine please.
287. More policing of rec fisherman required lower bag limits. Ie How can one person keep 3-4 snapper, flathead, whiting etc when usually they end up in freezer and later thrown out.

288. Serious aquaculture initiative/business need to be supported by governments + undertaken in Qld. To achieve following;
 1. Farm all to palatable fish, prawn, shell + crustacean socks. High percentage of these should be available at affordable prices for domestic market.
 2. Farm fish to restock salt water estuaries + inner protected seaways.
289. 1. Foreign own fishing companies limited or restricted.
 2. More focus on catch + release in certain times + locations. (I more often take a camera than an esky)
 3. Greater enforcement + penalties on interstate anglers disregarding our laws. I.e. undersize + female grabs etc, bag limits.
290. Being over 70 years old the days of thinking more is better are long gone.
 Regulations on size and bag limits are meaningless unless they are enforced.
 It is sad and revolting to hear of recreational fishers catching, sometimes, up to 200 winter whiting and then throwing them away because they can't be bothered to deal with them.
 Education needed - and if that doesn't work hit the stupid people where it hurts.
291. I think if you want to eat a fish you have got to catch it yourself not just buy from the shop.
 And that will replenish the fish stocks.
292. Recreational fishing should be to catch a feed of fish for that family not going out at every opportunity to fish & freeze (sometimes illegally selling excess) catches.
293. The matter of "by-catch" in trawlers and the littering of beaches with dead undersized fish and other marine life.
 I am a beach angler.
294. I've fished + learnt the art + other aspects of this sport with my great grandfather, grandfather, father, brother and some of my most fondest memories have come from this. I would love to think that my two girls aged 3 + 1 can say the same one day. They already love it.
- Thank You
295. My personal opinion is that the trawling of prawns in the southern side of Townsville down should be restricted further as this stops fish from travelling north. Also as system where rec anglers have to pay for tags at bait + tackle shops to be used on fish caught and skippers of the boat be made responsible for their attachment, tags left over are to be refunded.
296. Fishing access to public land e.g. national parks and such is very important for family's as other type of holidays are beyond most family's budget.
297. No. I think the survey covers most areas. Its good to see someone doing a survey like this.
 Hope some common sense comes from it.

298. We live in an area where commercial + recreational fishing takes place. We get commercial fishermen from lots of different area here which can lead to overfishing.
- On the recreational side on the good tides fishers catch fish every day for a week or more and don't release them.
299. I was the wrong person to choose for this type of survey. My fishing interests are awareness of insignificant to impact on your outcomes.
This was told to the person who rang. I'm too infrequent for any of this to apply.
300. With regard to Q. 15 Pollution.
The reason I regard pollution as a minor, not major threat is because of pollution control measures already in place. In the dry season, when the salt water returns to the Fitzroy river barrage (near my home) the variety of species caught is amazing prawns (our best yet is 148mm) mud crabs, bream, barra, threadfin, cod, mullet, flathead and even whiting. Approx 70 km from the coast!
Re q 21 a-f I believe (some) light gear sport fishers must have some negative effect on some species. Whiting have been caught by these boys in very large numbers for points value only. The fish are often wasted totally or used for crab pot bait.
Re Q 25 o odd questions. Obviously yes.
Re Q 27g No. My view is if the fish cannot be kept, they should not be caught at all.
####
301. The survey was much too !!! long and asked the same question in many different ways
302. I support continued access of spearfisherman to reef sigh. Spearfishing is more selective than line fishing and more challenging. People who oppose it are whingers who are too afraid to get their feet wet.
303. All information about fishing + boating to be sent out with boat rego renewal.
304. I used to enjoy mackerel fishing but thanks to commercial ringnetting I've seen the radical decline + still waiting for that recovery.
- The size of grunter could go up a notch to the N.T. (Gulf of Carpentaria) size limits to breed a better average fish there is not much of a fillet off of a 30 cm grunter.
305. There are too many commercial fishing licences.
306. Keep the good work to protect our natural resources
307. I live on the pummicestone passage over the past years I have seen a decline in fish + crab numbers. Recently fishing seems to be a little better but nowhere near the past. I believe sedimentation and leeching of chemicals into the waterways is a major contributing factor. Bream, whiting, flathead once were common are harder to catch. Mangrove jack and estuary cod are still there however in lower numbers. Dew which once commonly schooled now are a

rare occurrence.

I don't know the solution to the problem. I think that maybe closing fishing + crabbing in nomans or even the whole of the W's, from the Northern end of Nomans to the southern end of nomans would provide an area large enough for fish to sustainable live.

308. I do not like people using barr nets were I fish I am sure they are not meant to
309. Yes instead of shut of areas there should be more put on bag limits and size with it patrolled more. This combined with no fishing days would be more successful then shutting of areas only putting more pressure on area's that is left open. Then in time these places will be shut then it all will be shut
- #### ####
Lower Tully
310. In the Whitsunday region tourist operator's do not have the same guidelines as rec or comm. fishers as a chef I see a lot of fish undersized to all rec. fishers but are deemed a legal catch for tourist operator.
311. As fishing areas are more restricted more information is required to better inform recreational fishers where to go.
For example_. Sidescan & multibeam (Reson 8125) for wrecks (bombers etc) & other FADs. => better location advice
See www.geocomp.com.au/tmhdms/
312. Good luck with your Studies!
313. 1. I have been fishing in Qld for 40 years and have fished nearly every second weekend and have only been inspected by a fishery inspector once. Why aren't the inspectors at boat camps to inspect catches etc. they don't need to have a boat to patrol the areas everybody has to come back to land somewhere.
314. I fish Teewah Beach regularly and commercial netting of people from other areas and states (eg: NSW netters) reduces fish stock and their camps destroy beach environment. Would definitely agree with fishing permits as in NSW.
315. Yorkeys Knob (Cairns) boat ramp is not big enough for the ramp rage that goes on. If we pay boat + trailer rego that money should cover better facilities across Qld. It is not fair that new green zones+ big + size limits are already in place + no tackle shops have the new maps out yet. So the fisherman can fish within these new rules.
316. I think beam trawling and netting should be stopped in rivers (totally) it does a lot of damage – catching mullet for there eggs can't be much good for the mullet population or the other species that feed on the juveniles of this species.

317. A distinction needs to be made between the higher population density (southern) parts of Queensland and the rest of the state.
Recreational fishing restriction should only be imposed where necessary, and should be done on a zone/regional basis (eg different bag limits vs North) etc.
318. There is definitely not enough fish for bigger fish in heavily fished areas. We should be trying to improve fish numbers & size not just stop it getting worse. This could be achieved by more research into fish species spawning & growth rates & by more no fishing zones, & closed seasons. Professionals should not be able to target recreational species. Why should the fishing offshore Gold Coast not be as good as other less populated areas?
It could be achieved.
319. I believe there should be limitation of fishing area, but there should be some common sense on these areas.
Not in built up areas or inshore reefs
I do not own a boat and release 99% of my catch not like others.
320. Re q22, while I am not “aware” of sizes for fish/crabs I don’t usually catch, I make sure I have identified & sized any strange fish before I keep it. I use a book when fishing (house is near by).
321. I would like to explain just how I feel about fishing. I have fished a lot in my life time when you could go out and catch half dozen salmon + king fish in the river crabber 12 probably more twice the size we get now throw all Jennies back all under size + ½ empty and you don’t find any of those now. Mackerel you go 15 mile out to sea bring back quite a few plus other type of fish put them in the freezer I would not go out again til I wanted to. Now we go out and bring very little now with the closure of certain islands + reefs. Some days you have 12 to 14 boats fishing on non closed areas so that’s going to double in most areas. So who knows just what to do maybe the World getting over populated and eating to much I watch a lot of programs or TV there not very good for sea populations.
Makes me mad when fishing in deep waters. You catch fish that are just under size which you have to throw back they are dead. So you have to catch some more legal ones. I remember throwing back quite a number like this so are we really winning. I am only one of thousands. I also hope that most people throw back partly empty crabs back and not just take them because there no others there. Sorry for being so long.
322. Fishing permits for both salt + freshwater fishing
- provided the government doesn’t keep upping the price
- provided funds go directly to fish restocking in that area.
Changing of greenzones from time to time – ie open up greenzones, create other g/zones to spell different areas of reefs
Creek closures to all pro-fishing
More patrolling of boat ramps exp with tourist season for undersized catches.
323. Were the sections & questions developed in consultation with recreational fishing bodies as I felt that some of these were slightly skewed?

Lies, damned lies & statistics!

324. Some questions were a bit confusing. They didn't have the answer that suited me perfect. So had to circle an answer that was close.
Needed space to some questions to explain why I chose that answer.

Thank you

325. I hope some of my comments are helpful so there is other generations able to enjoy recreational fishing in the future

326. This is far too long + lots of the questions do not relate to my circumstance – a lapsed fisher.

327. No mention of pensioner. Or native rights to fish in certain areas. What is allowed (etc)
I have no problem putting my name to my answers. #### #### (gives phone number)
Most of my fishing is done in the Morton Bay and Tributaries, Glad to be of help.

Thank You

328. Put trawlers further back from mouths of creeks

329. I support all moves to protect the resource, from over kill by beam trawlers in shallows, ring netting, beach netting or taylor + bullet.
I think the red emp population must be looked at as it is targeted heavily by rec fishers myself included.
But some take it to far to often in the same grounds. And any "big" fish is clearly a breeder this is a fact. But people don't want to think that way!

330. Didn't understand some questions

Sorry

Yours sincerely

####

331. Very well put together survey, good luck analysing the results!

332. Recreational fishing should be a fun thing, not a sporting thing, that's for the commercial boats I feel. I enjoy fishing because I also enjoy all the other natural elements that go with it. The majority of fish I catch I release again simply because I catch a lot of small ones. I look at fishing as a way to give myself some time to me good things + times don't have to cost a lot I consider fishing as one of these few rare things – My 7yo has also caught on to the spirit of it. It would be nice to catch a feed but it isn't an issue when I fish.

333. The proposed "green zones" should not restrict access for families for recreational fishing. Strongly oppose restrictions for easily accessible areas for small craft.

334. There appears to be some ambiguity with size + bag limits - even my local tackle shop proprietor says he is confused (e.g. Question 22 (j)) I don't think penalties for Professional fishers are severe enough. Several local pros have been caught breaking netting rules and taking female crabs and their penalties, compared to amateur miscreants, seem out of proportion.
- ####
335. As I haven't been involved in fishing of late as in the past, it is difficult to keep up with all rules & regulations regarding fish numbers/sizes/etc. I believe the bait & tackle suppliers are best to obtain information updates from for "casual" fishing persons like myself. Keep up the good work to keep the fish around for all recreational fishing.
336. We only go fishing occasionally, when we go on holidays. Which is normally on Frazier Island. Fish is usually a bonus or our main meal while on the island. We go on camping holidays. approx. once or twice a year.
337. I agree strongly with fisheries policing. Being in the navy and having enforced AFMA regulations on countless illegal fishermen, Being a fisherman myself, I believe that current fishing regulations are adequate, but require better policing and need to be made known to the public.
338. commercial fishers don't seem to be (a tourism) suffer the same restrictions & yet have to have a huge impact on fisheries. Most recreational spend lots of money & catch very little. Why would fishing inspectors check only my camp & not any others (local aboriginals) even with set nets in front of them. I'm happy to be checked but everybody, surely. A common situation.
339. I have lived with the aboriginal people of N.Q. for the past 25 years. When I arrived here I was vegetarian fishing was the first meat I ate. I rarely go fishing these-days-but I still love to. I always eat what I catch and never catch more than I can eat.
340. Bag limit crabs: 10 mud crabs.
Then why a limit on pots (4)
Sand crabs different species
Why a combination of (4) pots + dillies
Why not 4 of each.
341. There should be tighter control on commercial fishing
Plus people keeping undersized fish
Also prohibiting recreational to save grey nurse sharks is rubbish
I've fished some of those area's for years and have never caught a grey nurse shark. Plus how can they test how many there is.
342. I think you are -(we) fighting a losing battle
The environment will only get worse over time
This is the way of the universe. Made worse by man but I believe we should care!

343. No fishing zones are great but they should be rotated to ensure health to all areas – not deserts + paradises
344. Sorry its late!! I've been flat out!
We need to drop the max size limit of barra from 120 cm to about 85 cm because too many big breeders are getting killed 120cm is way to big to eat anyways.
And also drop in possession limit from 5 to 1 Barra numbers are in decline and we need to look after these great fish.
345. I am opposed to spending on useless endeavours such as coral bleaching which may interest some who study but surely cannot be prevented + is hardly unique in the world.
It's great to see abalone, crabs, fish + prawns being bred along with clams etc. I hope to see re-stocking of the sea one day.
I am utterly opposed to the hunting of protected species i.e. dugong, turtles by aboriginals if not by traditional methods – but which of them has a dug-out canoe these days? All must share the dream of sustainability.
346. The greatest concern to future fishing in Hervey Bay in my opinion is the destruction of the fish breeding grounds and native habitat.
- Recent housing development within this area has seen bull dozing of mangrove, high bun wall built disrupting of flow in tidal drains, silting of creeks and destruction of native forest.
- Permits issued in 1990 have allowed Eli Creek area to be environmentally vandalised further to our north similar developments are taking place causing similar problems.
347. If the main reason for reducing bag limits on trout why are they not reducing live trout fishing
348. Make questions easier to understand. Restrict commercial fisheries. Buy back their licence + boats.
Stronger policing on live trout fishing.
349. Trawlers are the most destructive things on this earth, they destroy the sea bed and kill all sea life prawns are a part of the sea food chain you cannot have fish if there is nothing for them to eat, it is not a crime not to waste but by catch is a crime, pro fishermen are a danger to the reef, because they target certain species, they are no use to Australian housewife, because most cant afford to pay &20 and over for reef fish, most fish that is eaten in Australia is imported, hard to find Aust. Reef Fish at restaurant. And all fish are judged on commercial value if there is no com. Value there is no bag limit

350. Regarding closed areas, yes to such as Yongala wreck but the new zones are so many if you did not have high navigation skills the average person could not guarantee he or she was or was not in a zone, they need to be straight areas on landmarks that people can visualise ie headland to headland or hill not weird shapes on the water that no one has a hope of working out, also rotation of off limit areas on say a two year roster.
351. More research should go into female crab issue whether or not they breed over a certain size where I go crabbing of late there seems to be more jenny's (big) 8 inches and more than buck of equal size. We should be able to take these non breeders put a bag limit on them or something.
352. I think that persons caught with a mincing machine should be prosecuted.
It is shocking how many people use mincers to mince little fish for food (these poor undersized fish)
On another note my girlfriend & I were 4wd on Noosa's great Beaches but were angry at all the dead fish from trawlers off the coasts. In ½ an hour we spotted and collected 1 nautilus dead 1 sea turtle the size of a dinner plate. When reported to ranger we were told & quote "oh this is just a common thing now." And was left at that.
I would like to know what is being done about unnecessary culling.
353. In 31 years in Australia. The fishing trip has become less & less of catching a feed and more and more about getting away from it all. 30 years ago, I would go out confident I would catch a feed but in 2004 I am glad to just go but happy even if I don't catch any in the same places I used to go.
354. Survey would appear to me to be too long + a lot of irrelevant questions?
355. Some commercial fishers seem to have little respect for their work-place-the environment. At Mourilyn Harbour I have witnessed (sadly, more than once) com. Fishers dumping rubbish (old bait, plastic etc) into the water right beside the jetty (and not more than 15 m to the nearest mini-skip.)
If that happened in full view of other recreational fishers, what might they deem acceptable out of the harbour?
P.S. I was sad to hear about the cut in funding to your research centre. It's an absolute disgrace. I hope more funding appears quickly.
356. My annual income is none of your concern!
357. I fish as much for the social aspect – getting out with my friends – as for any other reason. Though we like and consider it important to catch fish to eat the sport of fishing is probably most important.
358. I only do recreational fishing with my children on weekends or school holidays.
It is hard to know what all the regulations for catching fish are when we don't fish very often.

###

359. Like to see maximum size limit on all species and closed season on crabbing
Other survey given to friend
360. Need to stop “Shamateurs” (people who sell their catch) from going out day after day & overfishing an area & selling it.
361. I am only a social fisherman and as such I do not take the commercial fishing ventures as big a threat as my friends. Indicate as I believe that the rules will be fair to all. I hope this is true! I am worried about the wording of question 14c. Ownership should not be used in the fish resource equation at all since it is then “sellable” and ownership may change hands blah blah blah. The recreational fisherman can not afford to be in that situation. We are there for fun & not business. It should not be priced off the market because we can not pass as much as the commercial guys.
362. Make regulations, bag limits, season restrictions, size etc, all readily and freely available at all bait, tackle, camping + outdoor living facilities. Most recreational and periodic fishermen are good law-abiding citizens, but with continual changes to regulations, without being appropriately, fully or regularly informed, it is easy to accidentally be turned into an inadvertent “transgressor” or criminal”. Changing regulations require constant education of the whole population because just so many people do enjoy a free ‘dabble’ at fishing, for the refreshment of their souls and the human spirit, every now and then.
363. My main concern is that I believe in the reef zonings but would like the commercial sector banned from yellow zones & area’s set aside just for them as well. My prime fishing area due mainly to location as been flogged by trout fisherman on all 7 occasions I have fished it in the last 12 months. 3 main user groups divide the resource into 3. We will soon have 1/3 protected for one group.
364. We don’t go fishing very often – enjoy it when we do though. I thought the survey was too long + not all closely related to “fishing”. We accept fishing regulations + bag limits – you should be able to keep just a few fish each day – enough for your own use. I would not have agreed to doing this survey, if I had known it was so involved. I am not very knowledgeable about lengths + weights of different fish, but would check up with one of those Fishing Regulation leaflets.
365. Recreational fishing regulations are only useful if they are enforced.
- A more balanced approach to managing the fishery.
The Northern Territory’s model is an example
Of maximum value from a fishing resource whilst
Allowing the fishery to grow + improve.
366. A stronger review of bag limits + min + max size limits. Some are a joke, too many, too small. Review commercial fishing licenses, just a hobby to some people. Keep up the good work.

367. Take beam trawlers out of all rivers & creeks.
368. Primary objective of fisheries management is to police the “tourists” who continue to damage and pollute our environment.
369. I like fishing all year round.
By boat mostly. Surf fishing sometimes with my brother. Never go fresh water fishing. My time fishing is never over 3 hours unless the weather is fine and the fish are still biting. I enjoy my boat and sometimes invite my mates also I held a rod in my hand when I was 4 years old.
I am 70
370. The taking of prawns in the Morteon Bay area is pretty much unchecked by authorities. Also the same thing is happening at Lake Wivenhoe below the dam wall and you can try to explain to them bag limits and not taking native fish and you get (a) threatened by them, or (b) they say no speak English but have car licences or (c) ignore you completely.
371. A lot of times I go beach whiting fishing and there might be up to 5 prawn trawlers in the bay and they are mainly at night and on the beach there would be hundreds of dead small fish (by produce) eg whiting, bream, flathead grunter small sharks eg. I have rang the fish hot line and they tell me, nothing can be done as the trawlers have a licence to fish. This is some of the reason why our fish stocks are low. This really bugs me.
372. I often plan to go fishing but bad weather + tides stops me, as well as my children’s sport. I like many others don’t like the pro’s (live trout etc) catching tonnes of fish + sending them over seas. I talk to a lot of people as I own a shop + most agree.
373. Thank you for finally being the first people to ask me my thoughts, views on the situation. I have strong beliefs/thoughts on the whole fishing community also the role land lubbers play. Keep the poo out of our streams and we’ll look after the sea heaps easier
Quote – Rex hunt....Yibbida Yibbida that’s all folks
Thanks, Be good – Be careful
Chris
374. With regard to the implementation + enforcement of the relevant regulations + legislation, “Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely.”
375. My personal thoughts + of others on the limit of Bass is now out dated as there are more Bass than other species + we would like to see it raised from 2 per person to 4 or 5. As they are good do**s + seem to grow very well in our natural waters + Dams. I believe this limit was introduced when Bass were first put into fresh water. In case their growth was impaired now we know different.
376. To control our waters from overseas fisherman. The government should look at buying trawlers etc and refit them to patrol our waters especially northern waters!!
377. I believe they closed too much of the Reef up. Even through I don’t fish there.

378. Yes, I would like to see more stocking of sleepy cod in impoundments as they are a superior food fish + generally get ignored by stocking bodies. I would also like to see a reduction in bag limits on Barramundi particularly in fresh water such as the Mitchell river as I don't believe that these river systems can cope with the current bag limit.
379. Due to the low numbers of fish & small sizes fishing in SE Qld can be disappointing. 95% of fish I catch, I release in an effort to support resources, unfortunately, I see many people who don't. I would like to see more 'policing' of shore, jetty & boardwalk fishers.
380. Bag limits need further reductions education of public about safe release of fish. Better management of water uses ie. Areas for jet skies (you cant' ride moto-cross bikes in a public park)
381. Not sure on pro fishing in river/estuary systems, has this been banned, is it being looked at? Will be testing the bag limit & size limits on reefs at Swains reef trip June 12 – 19th. Will be recording how regulations etc, restricted fishing areas go. A bit concerned about this but hopefully all will go well for charter boat operators.
382. Please! Don't ruin fishing for family fun. Our kids need the freedom to do so. Encourage kids to fish, shocked at the amount of children that don't know how!!
383. There are not enough fish around Queensland because of commercial fishing wiping them out.
384. I think there are people who deliberately go out of their way to avoid regulations designed to protect populations of fish. They think if they catch a big fish that they don't have to throw it back. Whether this is a regulation or not, doesn't matter, people need to know that populations will die out if they keep fishing & taking every fish they catch. Some people know of the regulations, some don't. if conservation is your aim, then education is the key. Thanks
385. Q 29. Wife only works.
I believe present bag + size limits are adequate. Also closed areas (probably over done). All my answers were based on present bag + size limits + closed areas. Would not agree to any more restrictions.

Regarding Ques 14 (a).
I do regard fishing in Qld waters is a privilege. However, I do believe that privilege is being eroded by Government support for the tourist industry. Rec Fishers in general, live in the area they fish. Tourists are here today – gone tomorrow.
####
386. I'm not much of a Fisherman!
- Badly out of practice, But trying to get back into it.

387. 1. Commercial Net Fisherman can wipe out entire fish populations. I know of a few pro Fishermen, they will keep reducing their net size until they have exhausted the resource in an area.
 2. Commercial Line Fishermen, will fish an area down to where it is uneconomical for them to continue to fish it. They will then let the area rejuvenate.
 3. Increasing legal minimum size limits for species would be better option then to decrease bag limits.
 4. If you reduce the total area allowed for fishing without reducing the number of professional fisherman you increase the pressure on the fish stocks in the areas allowed to be fished. This will result in a dramatic decline in the aquatic resource as well as recreational fishermen.
388. Restrict the number of Pro Nets in Fitzroy or limit the number of Pro.
389. As always most people are OK I think the biggest problems lie with sediment pollution (Banana, cane farm etc) Pro boat (1) Trawler (2) Gill Net (3) Trout Fishers plus some people I know fish every second day weather prevailing + catch far too much mostly in reef boats 6m plus
390. Strongly oppose offshore area closures in which most if not all pelagic + marlin are released or where fish apparently should be cut off if they enter into closed area No go zone are not applicable to trolling-which practice tag + release and do not and can not anchor eg offshore continental shelf eg 200 – 1000 mts
391. We are going to right direction to protect out marina life, fish stock by the bag limits and size. But stoping fishing certain reef zones doesn't save the whole picture. Commercial fishing (live trout) etc. Can damage the reef life in long run.
 Cheers, ####
392. New Government restrictions are poorly researched and many are unnecessary to maintain healthy fish populations. Input collected from user groups is not used and is a public relations exercise only. This is very disappointing as some users have far greater knowledge than the bureaucrats making the new restrictions.
 Commercial fishing should be further restricted to maintain a sustainable fish level.
 Economically, recreational fishing is worth more to the state than commercial fishing and any species under pressure should be banned from commercial fishing rather than recreational fishing eg coral trout, barra cod etc
393. There should be a bag limit & size restriction placed on the fishing of big jew.
 (e.g. fishing at Stanage Bay + Corio Heads in central Queensland)
394. As having fished with my day in the 50s + 60s I have certainly noticed the decline in the numbers of fish being caught now (I fish inside Morteton Bay _ mouth of Brisbane River). We put this down to pollution but mainly to prawn trawlers, trawling inside Green + St Helena Is. Hopefully, this has now stopped and maybe we can get a feed every time we go out.
 Hopefully filling this in helps your survey.
 #####

395. It has been some time since I have done a lot of regular fishing. However, there doesn't seem to be many around to catch anymore as I still prefer not to fish from a boat.
396. There is not mention of the Indigenous right to fish endangered species. Modern technology enables A.T.S.I people to fish indiscriminate quantities + waste them. I refer in particular to turtle, I have this as first hand information from my ATSI students. Education only effects the 'converted' but a law is able to be enforced on all people.
397. I live at Whitsunday & don't believe at this time recreational fishing is causing a problem. Commercial fishing of Whitsunday/Great Barrier Reef should be stoped or reduced.
398. Not a great fisherman.
But like to catch one now and again
And abide by the rules
 #### ####
399. Fix up the Commercial Fishermen who flog the reef and beaches. Stop netting the beaches between Cairns & Innisfail. Limit trawl areas where the "Drag Cage" totally destroys everything in its way and wastes bycatch.
400. No more world heritage.
This is my country and I'm sick to death of the ban all brigade – no camping, no hunting, no dogs, no access, no camping, no guns, blacks only. The capes is progressively closing up, and as an Australian Citizen I have a right to use it maintain it and respect is. Equality – one set of rules for everyone.
(Attached this newspaper clipping)
Man Fined for cast net in national park
A MAN who illegally took a fishing device into Daintree National park was fined after appearing in Mossman Magistrates Court on Monday.
The Cow Bay man was fined \$900 after pleading guilty to possessing a cast net at Cooper Creek, north of Mossman, which is a protected area.
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Regional director Clive Cook said the court's decision to convict and fine the man would act as a deterrent.
401. Releasing big breeding size fish is a good idea (72b).
402. I know on some amateurs? Who keep all they catch regardless of size or number. Fishing clubs can be bad. I have been told that this trip pays for the next (sell fish privately). A live trout fisherman who has his crew stick any fish unsuitable + throw away. Professional crabbing with their 60 odd pots fulltime cleaning out a creek then moving to the next one. Why do we have to export south or overseas to help a few while locals miss out.

403. 14J is very dubious questions
 14n Commercial fishing zones should be limited much more.
 14p Who was the idiot who put this question in a survey?
 27h Only for commercial fishing
404. Sorry about the tardiness, but English language is very ambiguous, hence you have to read questions many times. Also no matter how often I read, I feel some questions are 'loaded.' I 've done the best I could now about Commercial fishing, I saw first hand how bommie hopping was conducted, certain fish targeted and taken to mother ship. Also, the live catch has a lot to do with depletion. Selective fishing is bad. Years ago you couldn't give away certain species – now they command a big price; obviously commercial advertising of certain fish being more tastier than other has impact. Commercial fishery companies should advertise all fishes. Also closure of spawning season is a must – look at the Barra etc. Many thanks for your patience. #####
405. Spearfishing is a highly selective activity without the bycatch mortality associated with others, & which has no impact on non-target species/individuals. I do not believe this is recognised or acknowledged by fisheries managers to the degree it should be. I strongly believe that at the very least, spearfishing should have no more restrictions placed on it than other recreational fishing activities in a marine waters outside rivers, creeks and estuaries. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in this
 survey, I appreciate being able to voice my
 opinions.
406. At 68 just fishing is worth getting out of bed for.
407. I only fish outback rivers and a lot of the fish species are not out here.
408. Just that I lived in Poona Bay Queensland 4 years ago when I first got there the fishing was great over the 2 years I lived there, the fishing went down hill I blamed the commercial fishing, which I saw too much of.
409. Why can't the reef closures be fore 6-12 months and then close another reef. The same time opening the first this will get the fish stocks back. Getting the live trout boats out and us little blokes might have a chance for the future. We pay our taxes the same as commercial fishers. They have closed reefs close to cairns (safety) we have to go further now.
410. Q 14 (d) Pro-fishers should be included, not just recreational fishers.
 (e). should also include pro-fishers (the latest restrictions and regulations governing this issue should be sufficient, without more added restrictions.)
411. There is no quick fix for our problems but all the regulations have to be across the board for everyone. More research needs to be done. The Australian people need to be educated as to how everything they do effects the environment and the people.

412. Hard survey to give accurate opinions
- More than one way to answer questions within the given responses (15a)
 - Your questions seem to be given from a bureaucratic perspective – false results could easily be drawn from them (eg 21c)
 - Try to consult rec fishers to frame your questions
413. My answers may not be the best to judge by, as I go fishing on odd occasions to spend time with my children as this is our activity we can do as a family + my knowledge of fishing + regulations are limited.
414. 1) Live fish export is having a dramatic effect on our fish stocks!
 2) The Govt should make public the number of live fish exported
 3) Per year. This would change peoples minds Commercial live trout fishers are not primary producers!
415. Patrolling of the waterways is essential. Many problems seem to occur when checking bag limits and fining the offenders.
 Fishermen are sneaky at hiding illegal catches and the authorities seem to have their hands tied.
- Good Luck =)
416. More effort should be put into policing these rules + regulations we already have, before introducing more. I have found that Qld Fisheries Dept could not catch a cold even if they fell out of their boats. That they spend so much time lazing around in.
417. Crocodiles should be culled to making fishing safer.
 Families
418. Recreational fishermen tend to receive blame for overfishing of Reefs + estuaries which is caused by commercial operators.
 There is no way recreational fishermen take anywhere near the same quantities of fish as the pros.
 Recreational fishermen + tourists spend more money locally in smaller communities in the areas the fishing by pros occurs.
419. Many Qld Estuaries are becoming silted up and access no longer available at low tide. I.e Dungeness Creek, Lucinda.
 This survey did not address the effects of the Beach Protection , Land Care etc on Fish Habitats.
420. Questions not ambiguous
421. I am concerned of the speed in high jet skis wind surfers, kit surfers travel close to all. Recreational Fisher people on land and in particular boaties. In my 25 years of experience in boats I have found the Coloundra Bar and the Coloundra Passage to be a danger zone for jet ski activity. Whilst they have rights to the water like everybody else it would be pleasing to see them in a designated area such as bottom end of passage eg Lighting Ridge.

422. Reduce still more the number of trawlers that work + strip clean the seabed of Moreton Bay + adjacent waters. Their by-catch kill is ruining the fish breeding grounds. Too many trawlers are working out of the designated areas + times.
423. My views to Barramundi sizes minimum sizes OK but maximum sizes should be reduced to 100cm.
424. People should be fined for leaving old line on the rocks and beaches.
Thank You
####
425. I am appalled at the number of people that I see that keep every fish they catch no matter what size or species.
I disagree with the use of mincers when fishing. People catch small fish + mince them so that no one can see the size.
I would like to see more activity from fisheries officers.
426. Limiting Area (such as the reef area's of Bundaberg) in such vast proportion is unfair to all anglers. Government Departments should source more information before making rash statements about damage or overfishing by both rec and professional anglers. Major closures has not improved or will not help relations between fishers and fisheries officials and Government bodies (otherwords) how can Pinhead make wise decisions about things they know nothing about.
427. If the Government and GBRMPA took more notice of the findings of research by people such as yourselves we would not be in the predicament that we are in now. Because of areas being closed other areas area being overcrowded. But not for the tourist industry. Has anyone done anything about the rent a boat overcrowding? Or diver overcrowding? Even day tripper numbers? Not likely because GBRMPA collect revenue there. If you want to check out overcrowding and its effect go to White Haven, Nara, Hook + Handy, Michelmans Cay to name a few. It seems that they can wreck an area and be given new places to go at the expense of others.

As a professional skipper who grew up in the Whitsunday area I am appalled at what is happening in not only this area but all the major tourist areas. Locals are loosing out to the tourist dollar.

I would gladly elaborate on this if required to. I am not a commercial fisherman but have friends who are. I am not in the tourist industry but started out in it.

Regards.

####

(Gives address)

428. I have been out on Prawn + scallop trawlers + seen the tons of bycatch they kill every day until the powers that be stop this going on there will never be enough fish left for the amateur to catch I go to Karumba for 3 months each year + it costs me heaps. I think the allowed fish in possession is too low.
429. Double catch can question page 4-14R
I am asked first if the value of aquatic environments exists only in the human mind – this one I had to agree with
Then I'm asked if without people would aquatic environments have no value – here I strongly disagree for if there are no people the environment would be pristine.
430. My husband and I are retired.
I have severe osteoporosis and since we have had a larger fish diet the density of my bones has improved greatly.
The weather controls the amount of times a recreational fisher can go out fishing our fish can be controlled by tighter bag limits and closing closer reefs to commercial fishers.
431. Cane farmers should not be allowed to hold commercial fishing licence.
Government should encourage and financially assist GBR area fishermen (commercial) to go further out to sea (long living etc) Live trout industry should be banned.
432. The government fishing bodies to me seem to concentrate their fund and equipment to offshore and reef areas, but very little to freshwater river and streams
433. It is not good enough to impose strict bag limits on recreational anglers when at the same time strict restrictions are not placed on professional fishermen. In Cooktown 2 years ago, netters were taking up to 90 barra a night from the mouth of the river. Cooktown's local economy relies a lot on recreational fisher people and the money they spend. The better the Barra fishing the more tourism. The immediate coastline North and South of Cooktown should be closed to netting to allow barra stocks to reach maximum carrying capacity. Currently barra stocks are low due to the 3 severe drought years. Huge amounts died when creeks and billabongs dried up.
434. I would love to catch a fish but every time my family went we never caught anything.
435. Commercial Fishers, avoiding quotas selling direct to public
Recreational/Pros
Over crabbing, over prawning, overfishing, selling to public
Cast Nets
Over used. I have seen catches where several 20lt buckets have been taken, leaving behind a large dead bycatch.

More policing needed. I have been back in Brisbane for 6 years fish every week and only been asked once to inspect catch.
Crabbing
Mud crab limit should be reduced to 5

Females should be allowed to be taken.

I have been told that the male has to be 50mm bigger than females to mate. If this is true a high percentage of the females are not viable.

436. The fishing and fish habitat have dramatically declined since Southport Seaway opened.
437. An education program to the Asian & Pacific Islanders who in the middle of the night net our rivers
Tougher penalties
438. I would like to see the size of Cast nets restricted not mesh size but overall coverage (drop) also I would like to see more notices of restrictions and rules posted at boat ramps etc printed in foreign language especially Vietnamese as the Vietnamese seem unable to understand how many kilos of banana prawn etc they are allowed to take when challenged they plead unable to understand our rules.
439. More regulations are OK – the problem is making people aware of them.
440. This survey was hard because, I'm 17 and I have only fished a few times in my life and only once caught some fish. My few fishing trips were with people who knew what they were doing so I don't need to know anything about fishing.
441. Why impoundments costs be more expensive near Brisbane than Fairburn + Awonga dams, compared to Somerset dam
442. Old age pensioner's and their spouse should be exempt from any recreational permits
Fishing ladders on all dams
Sewerage and waste chemicals should not be released near or into any rivers or running streams.
I have fished club + recreational fishing for many years and always at a fairly large expense for the fish you catch.
443. Female mud crab over a certain size should be allowed to keep.
444. Adverse effect of trawling
Amount of Bycatch
Destruction of Sea beds (sea grass coral + Rubble bottom
Destruction of Habitat in Bays and Inlets
Locate trawling to sandy sea bed areas only until this issue is properly addressed fish and other sea life have no change of increasing in numbers
445. People of my age group 17-21 that I know of don't really like to go fishing for fun and would rather go to the movies or shopping
446. I believe we pay enough tax thru income, GST, stamp duties, fuel etc for Gov Agencies to put – fish restocking + habitat measures in place.

447. I believe that there should be tougher size and bag limits for both recreational and commercial fishing. Fish farming should be encouraged for commercial fishing rather than depleting natural fish stocks and more fish should be stocked into waterways. In a similar way as the impoundment permit works.
448. Issues which could also be address:
- Inspection of catches along jetties + rock walls where undersized fish are often kept.
 - Total ban on trawling in Moreton Bay, its estuaries and rivers
 - Total ban on netting along island beaches (catch is not generally for human consumption)
 - More inspectors to police/monitor recreational catches
 - No fish farms within Moreton bay
449. Be responsible about fisheries management- Cater for all rather than the strongest voice – Often belonging to an extreme view on either side of the argument.
- Limit catches + keeps, Not access
I would rather catch 20 + keep 2 than not be allowed to fish.
450. Limit the number of net fishermen in each area.
Restrict licensed net fishermen to those who reside and work in that area
Closed seasons on all edible fish species for all fishermen
Out of 90 fishing trips I had, 13 resulted in a zero catch: 66 trips with a catch of 1 to 10
451. There should be more restrictions on commercial and more patrols our coastline for illegal taking of fish + other crustaceans. I have also seen international tourists let off on a fine because they did not know of the rules. And I believe that is wrong. They should be made clear to them before they go.
452. I used to fish frequently in the Central Queensland area and considered myself to be conscious of taking, but only what would be one meal. I worry that over fishing from recreational and commercial fishing is causing irreparable damage to fish stocks and feel the Government is standing by and letting it be raped because they won't take necessary measures for fear of being unpopular.
453. Fishing is a relaxing sport, which many people love to do. To be outdoors enjoying the sport is a thrill. We need to keep our rivers, dams, oceans etc. for the next generation & the next after that, so our youngsters can enjoy the experiences that we have today.
Fishing I recommend to anyone (sex, age or disability)

454. The minimum size for Golden Perch (YellowBelly) should be increased to at least 35cm or more. At present if you fillet a fish of 30cm which many people do, the small amount of fish fillet retrieved is hardly worth the effort, then in 12 months or so these same fish would have time to grow into better quality fish and may also have time to breed with the long term result of more fish to be caught in the future.

In Western Queensland inland channel country river systems, for example Bareoo and Thompson rivers, all boats should be restricted and using electric motors only and the banning of jetskies and water skiing completely from these inland water holes. The reason for this is that since 1990 there has been a large increase in boating activities with large motors and I have witnessed not only the damage being caused to the river banks as well as the environment. I have also witnessed the water turning to a muddy soup with fish coming to the surface trying to breathe from the constant water skiing. This has happened in such a short period of time and if we are to preserve our inland water holes and environment, then something should be done immediately before it is too late.

Also all fishing and boating patrol officers should be instructed to inform fishing and boating people of any changes to rules and regulations on fishing and boating by either holding regular information nights and to hand out handbooks or pamphlets on any changes or to supply this information to people then they are fishing. I have, since 1990, been checked out by fishing and boating patrol officers in this area on numerous occasions, but they have failed to inform me of any changes. I am quite sure they try to keep this information to themselves and the only thing they try to do in this area is to catch people who are not aware about any changes to regulations and issue them with an infringement notice. Even in the last week when I was fishing in this area, I was talking to a group of people who were fishing at the same water hole and they were not aware of changes to bag and size limits on our local fish. They had not been fishing for a few years and only fished occasionally but this is an example of lack of information on regulation changes. As these people were fishing under the old regulations and if the patrol officers had turned up and caught these people with undersize or too big a bag limit under the current regulations on some species of fish, then they would have been charged as they consider people who go fishing should know about the current regulations.

455. The response options in some of the questions are not appropriate (as needed)

Question 14k does not make sense.

456. I think boat speeds in estuaries and in coastal waterways – Pumice Stone Passage, Southport Broadwater + areas behind N+S Stradbroke Is.. Great Sandy straits etc should be restricted to a 6 boats/No wake maximum for all boats.
457. I feel commercial fishing is having a great impact on fish stocks. More regulations and innovations for saving endangered species also.
When licensing was introduced I was led to believe that the money was to be used to buy commercial fishing licenses from operators operating in recreational fishing areas. This has not happened and I believe it should. Where does our money go??

458. The maintenance and health of QLD's waters should be more important to the government.
459. Sorry I didn't fill out this survey more promptly.
460. This is the first survey I ever You said u send one out 2 weeks ago.
461. As I live in the Noosa Area almost all my fishing is done in the Noosa River hence the limited number of fish types.
- My main concern would be the large amount of information I would have to acquire + remember in case I inadvertently missed something + was fined for ignorance.
462. I believe that some areas close to towns are over fished by amateurs. Bag limits in these areas would not make much difference in these areas as catching a bag limit on some species would be rare in these areas.
463. This survey seems to be only pointed towards people who are real experts & that are along the coastal area. Both my husband and I answered the questions & found most didn't apply to us out in Chinchilla. We only go fishing very rarely-mainly due to the water levels in the rivers/dams etc.
464. I would like to know the restrictions on commercial fishing of Tailor.
465. I have had the experience of seeing the by-catch (waste) from a trawler on a single pull. There would have been 10's of thousands of tiny fish, whiting, bream, flathead etc, etc. These are all fish that recreational fishermen will not get the chance to catch as they are dead before the nets are raised. The quantity wasted in each pull could surely equal the quantity caught by recreational fishermen in a normal weekend. There are 100's of trawlers working at any 1 time along the Queensland coast!
- Thank you.
466. Too many people still have the got
To fill the freezer mentality!
467. Sorry it took so long but the survey itself is long.
468. I am 32, and have been fishing since I was about 10 years old. I have seen a depletion of "bread + butter" species in my local area (in particular, the last ten years) e.g. whiting, bream, flathead. I feel bag limits should be reasonable, but heavily enforced, with fines high for offenders. Education is vital for future conservation of worldwide fisheries.
469. I specialise in fishing for whiting in Hervey Bay. I apologise for not returning the questionnaire sooner, but have been in Melbourne for a month.
470. This took a lot longer than "it won't take long".
It better be put to good use!

471. Small number Bag Limits
 Restrict my ability to go offshore. Snapper baglimit of 5 per person reduced from 30 per person is an example of this
 I have never caught a bag limit.
 I eat all of what I catch it is how I can justify the expense incurred.
472. 1) The education of fishers in the safe catch and release or undersize fish with their air bladder out of their mouths. Is essential
 2) Netting off beachers by commercial fishermen should be banned. Recreational fishers should be able to catch a feed of fish after spending hundreds, if not thousands of dollars in gear and effort, and being frustrated by seeing commercial fishermen netting a whole beach.
 3) The export trade in fish should be banned. It only benefits a relatively small number of people. These fish stocks should be preserved for our future generations.
473. I do not fish often but enjoy the experience on camping holidays a couple of times per year. I “detest” watching commercial fishermen pulling in large catches with nets whilst my bait remains untouched. I would only like to catch but a few of the hundreds they pull in. I hope my children catch more fish than I!!
474. 1) Pay private people to breed fish
 2) Anything the Government does fails. (sugarcane) (dairy) small business
 3) Good breeding programs are very important
 4) More storage dams should be built especially for fresh water fish water is money in the bank.
475. I don't believe commercial fishing (including prawn trawling) should be allowed on the reef or inside it for any reason whatsoever. The environment is far too fragile. So far as I understand the average commercial boat has to catch at least 20 tons of fish weekly to stay in business. I have owned my own boat (although not at present) for more than twenty years, and wouldn't have caught anywhere near that many fish in all that time. I don't believe the reef should be viewed as a commercial resource. I have also seen huge abuse of the reef by commercial fishermen that amateurs would never be allowed to get away with.
476. More restocking of the marine environment is needed. I.e prawns, crabs, snapper, emperor, bream, whiting
 A reduction in riparian vegetation destructions, greater protection + revegetation of mangrove forests.
 Major reduction in live reef fish quotas i.e commercial trout boats remove 1800 hundred fish in 4 day turnarounds during March April seasons more than all rec's put together for the year.
 Reduction in pro crabbers and increases in crab restocking out of DPI Bribie Isl
 Make commercial/fisherman restricted to one area as this gives them ownership and causes better management on their part also use their licences fees for restocking + rec's regos.

477. Each year I fish with a party of 9 on the western beach of Fraser island (4 anglers and 5 dangles). We only fish in front of our camp + don't chase fish up + down the beach. If the wind and seaweed allow we can usually be successful with whiting.
 Last year all we caught over 3 days were fish that were just undersized. On mentioning this to the Barge skipper he told us that there was professional fishing activity along the beach a few days earlier = we caught the ones that squeezed through their nets.
 This is unfair when beach fishermen have only the length of their cast from the beach to fish not the whole ocean.
 Hervey bay is popular holiday + fishing destination for amateurs. What I have described is quite unfair.
 Beam trawling should not be allowed in QLD streams particularly near town + cities.
 Thank you for the opportunity to participate
 #####
478. In the Gladstone area the closer reefs (Polmaise, Mashead) are being closed jeopardising safety of boaties as they will now be travelling further out to sea.
 I am positive that in the coming year there will be an increase in rescues as a result.
479. I feel the biggest problem with over fishing relates to number of recreational fishermen taking undersize fish.
480. I have been checked several times by the fisheries department. Have never kept anything undersized or oversize. Most times the fisheries guys were ok but on a couple of occasions they made you feel as if they wanted to find something illegal & were disappointed. Not the right type for the job??
481. Bag limits & sizes seem to be fairly reasonable, but bream, whiting should be 27cm, (at least). Japanese shouldn't be aloud anywhere near our precious waterways. I currently work on charter boats, so I see both sides.
482. Please include me on future surveys:
 (gives Name and address)
483. We should have closed seasons on mud crabs.
 A bag limit of 5 mud crabs (not 10)
 A bag limit on all fish species (Mangrove Jack no bag limit?)
 We should be able to fillet fish at sea, when staying over night.
 Removal of pectoral fin – is complete nonsense.
 People sell fillets not whole fish.
 (attached)
 This survey was sent to (give name and address)
 He received two, so passed one on to me.
 (gives name and address)

484. The areas of the Great Barrier Reef which has been protected include Mud + shale area's which are area's for our types of fish, not spawning grounds!
I feel very strong about survey's to close parts of our outer reef which are used against us, to only close what we fish in. GBRMPA used a survey asking where we would like to keep for fishing + they closed the area's we wrote down! Sure close all the reefs down forever, with 1nm surroundings for spawning + get the pros out of the live trout trade. Or maybe the Government is making too much money out of it?
485. (15f, 27i) The questions do concern me. I am not a big fisherman, but where I live is opposite a estuary (Currumbin Creek) which is not a large expanse of water. A lot of rec. fishermen do fish there and enjoy it a lot, a limited number of fish is caught but it does not deter people fishing. I think fish stocks can be improved if this creek be made a "no spearfishing" zone
486. Regularly spear fishermen come and virtually clean out the big breeding fish around the rocks + bridges, as the water is shallow and they are virtually sitting ducks. These fish have a better survival rate + breeding rate with the line fishermen only. Is there some Dept. that I can take this issue up with?
- Sincerely,
####
487. I fish for Spanish mackerel + 15 years ago I approached a trawler to try to get wolf herring for bait. He had more but said he could get me all the baby mackerel I wanted and that they were good baits. This was one trawler so how many baby mackerel + other fish are being killed in a trawler season. Maybe one trawler kills more fish than 200 recreational fisherman catch in one season. Does any research centre do a truer honest test on trawler bycatch.
My family have fished the same areas for over 150 years and have noticed the depleted mackerel stocks since trawler came north.
488. Doesn't matter what I think the government and DPI do whatever they want anyway. Eg July 1st 2004-10-05 what happens to boat and trailer rego money? \$100 plus from thousands of people you hear about people getting done for fishing breaches and where does that money go?
You asked a lot of questions but you never asked "How often do you/or family eat fish?" because I'm lucky to eat it once a fortnight, is your freezer full. How much seafood is wasted from supermarkets, do we (oz) have to import seafood? Eg prawns zoot last year
the real question is "Do we (humans) have to kill so much seafood to eat"
There is still the matter of raw sewage being dumped out of sea from boats.
489. To whom it may concern,
I would like to see more limitation to commercial fishers in our estuaries as the reef is protected most of the year by the weather. I fish a lot of the year and believe a great deal in conservation and also the quality of life it brings to myself and others (especially children). I would be glad to participate in more surveys in future and hope to see results come out of them for the better.

Appendix C

Queensland Recreational Fishing Telephone Survey

Queensland Recreational Fishing Mail Survey

First letter

Second Letter

Queensland Recreational Fishing Telephone Survey

Record the:

Phone number: _____ **Area:** _____ **ID #:** _____

Personal number: _____

Appointment Details:

(1) Date and time: _____

Name of person to be surveyed: _____

(2) Date and time: _____

Name of person to be surveyed: _____

(3) Date and time: _____

Name of person to be surveyed: _____

(4) Date and time: _____

Name of person to be surveyed: _____

(5) Date and time: _____

Name of person to be surveyed: _____

Mail Survey Contact Details:

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____

State: _____

Postcode: _____

If this is a completed survey, record the:

Phone number: _____ Area: _____ ID #: _____

Personal number: _____

Queensland Recreational Fishing Telephone Survey

Good morning/afternoon/evening, this is _____ from the CRC Reef Research Centre at James Cook University. We are doing some research on recreational fishing in Queensland and I was hoping to ask you a few questions. It will only take 3-4 minutes and all of the answers that you give will be strictly confidential. (CRC = Cooperative Research Centre)

Is there anyone in your household who is 15 or older that has done any recreational fishing, crabbing or prawning in Queensland in the last 12 months?

NOT INTERESTED Thank you anyway. Have a good morning/afternoon/evening. (*end of survey*)

NO Can I just ask how many people, including yourself, live in your household who are 15 or older? _____

Thank you very much for your time. Have a good morning/afternoon/evening. (*end of survey*)

Why are there no further questions? – The rest of the survey only involves households where someone 15 or older has fished in Queensland in the last year.

YES How many?

And, including yourself, how many people 15 years or older live in your household?

If only one person in the household is 15 or older – go to Question 2

If more than one person in the household is 15 or older — Would it be possible for me to speak with the person who is 15 or older and has fished in Queensland in the last year who has the next birthday? (*if it is the same person, go to Question 2*)

If respondent does not want to continue or does not want us to speak with a new respondent – Thank you very much for your time. Have a good morning/afternoon/evening. (end of survey)

If new respondent is not home — What would be a good time to reach him/her? What is his/her name? Thank you very much for your time. We'll call back at ____ on ____.
(*record name and appointment time on front sheet*)

Why do we need to speak to the person who has the next birthday? – To ensure a random sample of fishers.

If a new respondent comes to the phone –

Good morning/afternoon/evening, this is _____ from the CRC Reef Research Centre at James Cook University. We are doing some research on recreational fishing in Queensland, and I just spoke with someone in your household who told us that you have been fishing, crabbing, or prawning in Queensland in the last 12 months. Is this correct?

YES I would like to ask you some questions about the fishing, crabbing, or prawning you have done in Queensland in the last year. It should only take 2-3 minutes and all of the answers that you give will be strictly confidential. *(go to Question 2)*

If fisher is busy at the moment – When would be a better time to talk? And what is your name? Thank you very much for your time. We'll call back at ____ on ____. *(record name and appointment time on front sheet)*

If fisher is not willing to continue – Thank you anyway. Have a good morning/afternoon/evening. *(end of survey)*

NO Is there anyone else in your household who is 15 or older and has fished in the last year? If there is more than one person, I'd like to talk with the person who has the next birthday.

If nobody else meets the criteria – Thank you very much for your time. Have a good morning/afternoon/evening. *(end of survey)*

If a new respondent comes to the phone – Repeat 'new respondent' introduction

If new respondent is not home - What would be a good time to reach them? What is their name? Thank you very much for your time. We'll call back at ____ on ____.

(record name and appointment time on front sheet)
If calling back after making an appointment -

Can I please speak with ____? Good morning/afternoon/evening, this is _____ from the CRC Reef Research Centre at James Cook University. We are doing some research on recreational fishing in Queensland, and we spoke with someone in your household earlier who told us that you have been fishing, crabbing, or prawning in Queensland in the last 12 months. Is this correct?

YES I would like to ask you some questions about the fishing, crabbing, or prawning you have done in Queensland in the last year. It should only take 2-3 minutes and all of the answers that you give will be strictly confidential. *(go to Question 2)*

If fisher is busy at the moment – What would be a better time to talk? Thank you very much for your time. We'll call back at ____ on ____. *(record name and appointment time on front sheet)*

If fisher is not willing to continue – Thank you anyway. Have a good morning/afternoon/evening. *(end of survey)*

NO Is there anyone else in your household who is 15 or older and has fished in the last year? If there is more than one person, I'd like to talk with the person who has the next birthday.

If nobody else meets the criteria – Thank you very much for your time. Have a good morning/afternoon/evening. *(end of survey)*

If a new respondent comes to the phone – Go to 'new respondent' intro at top of page

If new respondent is not home - What would be a good time to reach them? What is their name? Thank you very much for your time. We'll call back at ____ on ____.

(record name and appointment time on front sheet)

2. For the next few questions, I'll refer to recreational fishing, prawning or crabbing as 'fishing'.

How often have you gone fishing in Queensland in the last 12 months?

Read out answer categories and encourage best guess

- 1 Weekly or more often
- 2 Fortnightly
- 3 Once a month
- 4 Less often or on holidays
- 5 *(Don't read)* Not sure

3. How many days in total did you go fishing in Queensland in the past year?

4. Have you gone recreational fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in the last 12 months? By the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park I mean the reefs, the islands, and the waters from Bundaberg to the tip of Cape York, and the waters from and including the shoreline to beyond the edge of the reef. *(Note to surveyors, creeks are generally not included in the MP)*

NO Go to Question 5

YES How many times did you fish in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in the last 12 months?

5. Compared to other outdoor activities that you participate in (like golf, tennis, camping, etc.) would you say fishing is:

Read out answer categories

- 1 Your most important outdoor activity
- 2 Your second most important outdoor activity
- 3 Your third most important outdoor activity
- 4 Only one of many outdoor activities

6. How many years have you been fishing recreationally?

7. Compared to the fishing ability of other fishers, would you say that you are:

- 1 Less skilled
- 2 Equally skilled
- 3 More skilled
- 4 *(Don't read)* Not sure

8. And what is your age? *If not willing to give age, ask for age group (15-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, over 60).*

9. *Gender (don't ask!)*

- 1 Male
- 2 Female
- 3 Not sure

We have a lot more questions we'd like to ask, but we would like to send you a survey in the mail that you can complete at your own convenience. The information we collect in the mail survey will help give anglers a voice for input into fisheries management in Queensland. Can I send you a mail survey?

NO Ok, thank you again and have a good morning/afternoon/evening.

YES *Record name and address information on front sheet.*

Can I confirm your name and address details are correct? They are _____. You should be getting the survey in the next few weeks. Thank you and have a good morning/afternoon/evening.

How long it will take to fill out? – About 20 minutes

What kinds of questions will be in the mail survey? – There will be some more specific questions related to your recreational fishing activities in Queensland. Information that will be collected includes why you go fishing, the benefits you get from fishing, and your opinions on fisheries management in Queensland.

I don't fish enough – We are trying to collect information from ALL fishers, whether you go fishing regularly or only once a year. Even if you don't fish regularly, the information you give us will still be important.

Why do you need more information? – The data collected for this research will allow managers to be more aware of and responsive to the needs and concerns of the recreational angling community, and will provide a baseline for long-term monitoring of the social effects of natural resource management on the recreation sector. This survey also is important to identify the issues important to recreational fishers, leading to recreational fisher input into fisheries management.

What do you mean by 'strictly confidential' – Results will only be reported in aggregate so no participants can be identified with their answers.

Will it cost me anything? – No, we will send you a reply paid envelope for you to return the survey to us.

Can I get a copy of the results? – Results of the research will be available in about 6 months time at the CRC Reef website (www.reef.crc.org.au). If you complete the mail survey, you can choose to have a copy of the results sent to you.

Queensland Recreational Fishing Mail Survey

Queensland Recreational Fishing Survey



CONDUCTED BY::

**CRC Reef Research Centre
and
James Cook University**

1. In the past 12 months, how many **days** did you go fishing (including line fishing, spear fishing, crabbing and prawning) in: *(if none, please enter 0)*

- _____ Offshore marine waters (e.g., reefs, shoals, offshore islands, etc)
- _____ Inshore marine waters (e.g., bays, estuaries, creeks, beaches, breakwaters, etc.)
- _____ Freshwater rivers and streams
- _____ Freshwater lakes, weirs, dams, etc.

_____ Total days fished since this time last year *(sum of above)*

2. Since this time last year, how many **days** did you go: *(if none, please enter 0)*

- _____ Spear fishing
- _____ Crabbing
- _____ Prawning

3. What type of group do you fish with most often? *(circle only one answer please)*

- 1 By yourself
- 2 Friends
- 3 Family
- 4 Family and friends together
- 5 Club

Not at all
Satisfied

Slightly
Satisfied

Moderately
Satisfied

Very
Satisfied

Extremely
Satisfied

4. Overall, how satisfied are you with fishing in Queensland?1 2 3 4 5

5. Are you a member of a fishing club or conservation organization?

- 1 Yes → If Yes, which one(s)? _____
- 2 No

6. Do you or someone in your household own a boat that you use for fishing in Queensland?

- 1 Yes → If yes, how many? _____ What is the length of your largest boat? _____
- 2 No

7. Do you have access to the Internet (e-mail and/or World Wide Web)?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

8. What species do you most prefer to catch when fishing in Queensland?

_____ Most preferred species
 _____ Second most preferred species
 _____ Third most preferred species

9. For many fishers, catching a 'big' or 'trophy' fish is a noteworthy or memorable event. For all of the species you listed above (in Question 8) as your most preferred, please tell us the minimum size each would have to be for you to consider it a 'big' or a 'memorable' fish, and the number of fish of this size you have ever caught.

A 'big' fish of my...

caught

a)...most preferred species would be _____ cm and/or _____ kg _____
 b)...second most preferred species would be _____ cm and/or _____ kg _____
 c)...third most preferred species would be _____ cm and/or _____ kg _____

10. Have you ever caught a fish of any **other** species that you would consider a 'trophy' or 'memorable' fish?

1 No
 2 Yes → If Yes, what species? _____
 How big was it? _____ cm and/or _____ kg

11. How often do you make use of the following sources to get information about recreational fishing in Queensland?

	No Use	A Little Use	Moderate Use	A Lot of Use
a) Newspaper columns and articles	1	2	3	4
b) Radio shows	1	2	3	4
c) Boating and fishing magazines	1	2	3	4
d) Queensland Fisheries Service office or personnel	1	2	3	4
e) Local bait or tackle shop	1	2	3	4
f) Queensland Department of Primary Industries Internet web site	1	2	3	4
g) Queensland Department of Primary Industries newsletters	1	2	3	4
h) Other Internet web sites	1	2	3	4
i) Television shows	1	2	3	4
j) Other (explain) _____	1	2	3	4

12. How important is each item to you as a reason for going fishing?

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
a) To be outdoors	1	2	3	4	5
b) To do something with your family.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) To experience new and different things.....	1	2	3	4	5
d) For relaxation.....	1	2	3	4	5
e) To be close to the water.....	1	2	3	4	5
f) To catch fish for eating.....	1	2	3	4	5
g) To get away from the demands of other people.....	1	2	3	4	5
h) For the experience of the catch	1	2	3	4	5
i) To learn more about nature	1	2	3	4	5
j) To be with friends.....	1	2	3	4	5
k) To experience unpolluted natural surroundings.....	1	2	3	4	5
l) To have thrills	1	2	3	4	5
m) To get away from crowds of people.....	1	2	3	4	5
n) To get away from the regular routine.....	1	2	3	4	5
o) To catch a 'record' or 'trophy' fish.....	1	2	3	4	5
p) For the challenge or sport of fishing	1	2	3	4	5
q) For the fun of catching fish	1	2	3	4	5
r) To experience adventure and excitement.....	1	2	3	4	5
s) To bring your family closer together	1	2	3	4	5
t) To be with others who enjoy the same things you do.....	1	2	3	4	5
u) To be close to nature.....	1	2	3	4	5
v) To experience solitude or tranquillity	1	2	3	4	5

13. If you could not go fishing, are there any other outdoor recreation activities that would provide you with the same level of satisfaction and enjoyment that you receive from fishing?

- 1 No, for me there is no substitute for fishing —→ ***If No, please skip to Question 14***
 2 Yes, other activities can substitute for fishing
 → **If Yes**, which activity or activities would substitute for fishing?

14. The following questions focus on your beliefs about the role of people in managing fisheries resources. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The following questions focus on your beliefs about the role of people in managing fisheries resources. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:						Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) Freedom to fish in Queensland's waters is a right, not a privilege.	1	2	3	4	5					
b) People should not have to buy a license to go fishing in Queensland.	1	2	3	4	5					
c) Fish stocks would be better managed if they were owned by someone....	1	2	3	4	5					
d) Recreational fishing regulations are necessary to protect fish populations from over fishing.	1	2	3	4	5					
e) I would be willing to accept stricter limits on recreational catch today, if it meant that future generations would inherit healthy fish populations.....	1	2	3	4	5					
f) Whether or not I actually get to see aquatic wildlife (such as fish, coral, dolphins, birds) in the wild, I feel better knowing that healthy populations still exist.	1	2	3	4	5					
g) Conservation of fish populations should be the primary objective of fisheries management.	1	2	3	4	5					
h) It is not that important to me that there is always a large number of different fish species, as long as the types of fish I like to catch are present.	1	2	3	4	5					
i) Even if I didn't fish, it would still be important for me to know that healthy fish populations exist.	1	2	3	4	5					
j) We should do everything we can today to ensure that future generations inherit healthy recreational fisheries.	1	2	3	4	5					
k) Nature's primary value is to provide services and products useful to people.....	1	2	3	4	5					
l) Humans should manage fish populations so that humans benefit.....	1	2	3	4	5					
m) When fish populations are not threatened, we should allow fishing to add to the quality of human life.....	1	2	3	4	5					
n) There should be no restrictions on the activities of people using Queensland's fisheries resources.....	1	2	3	4	5					
o) The rights of fish and wildlife are more important than human use of fish and wildlife.....	1	2	3	4	5					
p) Fish and wildlife should have rights similar to the rights of humans.	1	2	3	4	5					
q) All species, including humans, should have an equal right to coexist on the planet.....	1	2	3	4	5					
r) The value of aquatic environments exists only in the human mind; without people aquatic environments have no value.	1	2	3	4	5					

15. Please tell us how much of a threat you believe each of the following factors is to recreational fishing in Queensland:

	No Threat	Minor Threat	Major Threat	Don't Know
a) Pollution.....	1	2	3	4
b) Over fishing by recreational fishers	1	2	3	4
c) Over fishing by commercial fishers	1	2	3	4
d) Closing areas to fishing	1	2	3	4
e) Loss or destruction of fish habitat such as wetlands, reefs, breeding areas, etc.	1	2	3	4
f) Other (explain).....	1	2	3	4

16. Please circle the number that indicates your level of agreement with each of the following statements about issues affecting recreational fishing in Queensland:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) Recreational fishers are adequately consulted about fisheries management decisions	1	2	3	4	5
b) Recreational fishing regulations are adequately enforced.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) Important fish habitats (e.g., reefs, streams, wetlands) are currently adequately protected	1	2	3	4	5
d) There are enough public boat ramps to meet my needs.....	1	2	3	4	5
e) The quality of public boat ramps is good.....	1	2	3	4	5
f) Information about changes in fisheries regulations is readily available to recreational fishers	1	2	3	4	5
g) Fishing quality is improving in the areas where I fish.....	1	2	3	4	5
h) Compared to other groups (e.g., commercial fishers, tourism), recreational fishers receive fair treatment in fisheries management decisions	1	2	3	4	5

17. Have you ever attended a public meeting about a fisheries-related issue?

- 1 No
2 Yes → If Yes, what issue? _____

18. Have you ever made a submission to a government agency (e.g., Queensland Fisheries Service, GBRMPA) as part of a formal consultation process about a fisheries-related issue?

- 1 No
2 Yes → If Yes, what issue? _____

19. Have you ever contacted your government representative about a fisheries-related issue?

- 1 No
2 Yes → If Yes, what issue? _____

20. The following questions focus on the reasons why you value recreational fisheries and some of the human benefits that are often associated with fisheries resources. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) It is important that people have opportunities to catch fish for food	1	2	3	4	5
b) Catching fish myself is cheaper than buying it	1	2	3	4	5
c) I eat fish more often because I catch it myself.....	1	2	3	4	5
d) Compared to other reasons for fishing, catching fish to eat is not a very important reason for going fishing	1	2	3	4	5
e) Recreational fisheries are valuable because they are an important source of food	1	2	3	4	5
f) Many important discoveries that improve the quality of human life come from aquatic research.....	1	2	3	4	5
g) It is important that the general public has a chance to learn about aquatic environments.....	1	2	3	4	5
h) I make an effort to learn as much as I can about aquatic environments. ..	1	2	3	4	5
i) Fisheries research efforts do little in terms of improving the quality of recreational fishing.	1	2	3	4	5
j) The government spends too much money on aquatic research projects that do not benefit the general public.	1	2	3	4	5
k) Aquatic environments are a tremendous source of knowledge that we have only begun to explore.....	1	2	3	4	5
l) It is important to leave parts of aquatic environments relatively undisturbed for the purposes of conducting scientific research.	1	2	3	4	5
m) It is important that people have opportunities to view aquatic wildlife such as fish, coral, and whales.....	1	2	3	4	5
n) Viewing aquatic wildlife (such as turtles, dugongs, etc.) really does not add much to the enjoyment of my fishing experience.	1	2	3	4	5
o) Viewing photographs, videos and nature shows about aquatic life greatly enriches people's lives.	1	2	3	4	5
p) I believe aquatic environments are important for spiritual development and healing.	1	2	3	4	5
q) The aquatic environment can be a source of personal inspiration.	1	2	3	4	5

21. The following questions focus on your beliefs about the health of fisheries resources and the effects of recreational fishing. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) Recreational fishers don't take enough fish to have a negative impact on fish populations.....	1	2	3	4	5
b) Recreational fishing is rarely to blame for the decline of fish populations.	1	2	3	4	5
c) For some species, the total number of fish taken by recreational fishers is greater than the number taken by commercial fishers.....	1	2	3	4	5
d) The combined effects of thousands of recreational fishers can contribute to over fishing for some species.	1	2	3	4	5
e) Limiting recreational fishing catch today will help ensure quality recreational fishing in the future.	1	2	3	4	5
g) Strict bag limits on recreational catch will lead to healthier fish populations in the future.....	1	2	3	4	5
h) Limiting recreational fishing catch is not necessary as long as commercial fishing catch is limited.	1	2	3	4	5
f) There is little connection between the number of fish caught by recreational fishers today and the number that will be available in the future.	1	2	3	4	5

22. Please indicate whether you were aware or not aware of each of the following regulations currently used to manage recreational fisheries in Queensland:

	Aware	Not Aware
a) 38cm minimum size for coral trout.....	1	2
b) 30cm minimum size for Australian bass.....	1	2
c) 40cm minimum and 70cm maximum size for mud (dusky) flathead.....	1	2
d) 30cm minimum size for golden perch (yellowbelly).....	1	2
e) 2 fish bag limit for Australian bass	1	2
f) 5 fish bag limit for spotted mackerel.....	1	2
g) 35cm minimum size for mangrove jack.....	1	2
h) 75cm minimum size for Spanish (narrow-barred) mackerel	1	2
i) 3 fish bag limit for Spanish (narrow-barred) mackerel	1	2
j) Prohibition on taking barramundi cod and Maori wrasse.....	1	2
k) Requirement to remove a pectoral fin from reef fish before storage	1	2
l) 30cm minimum size for tailor	1	2
m) Prohibition on the sale of recreationally caught fish	1	2

23. In 2000, the Queensland Fisheries Service introduced the Stocked Impoundment Permit (SIP) scheme. Under this scheme, recreational fishers are required to purchase a permit to fish in 29 stocked impoundments (dams) throughout Queensland. The money fishers pay for these permits goes to local stocking groups to pay the cost of stocking fish in these dams.

Have you ever purchased a Stocked Impoundment Permit to fish in a stocked dam?

- 1 Yes → *If Yes, please skip to Question 24b*
 2 No

- 24a. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements as to why you have never purchased a Stocked Impoundment Permit.

I have never purchased a Stocked Impoundment Permit because...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a)...I don't live near a stocked dam requiring a permit to fish	1	2	3	4	5
b)...I have no interest in fishing a stocked dam	1	2	3	4	5
c)...I should not have to pay to fish in a stocked dam.....	1	2	3	4	5
d)...I can't catch the types of fish I want to catch in a stocked dam.....	1	2	3	4	5
e)...I was not aware that there are stocked dams in Queensland	1	2	3	4	5
f)...I can't afford the cost of a Stocked Impoundment Permit	1	2	3	4	5
g)...I was not aware that I require a permit to fish in some stocked dams.....	1	2	3	4	5

Please skip to Question 25

- 24b. Please list the stocked dams that you have fished most often and the number of days you fished each one over the past 12 months.

Dam fished	# days fished past 12 months
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- 24c. What species do you most prefer to catch when fishing in stocked dams?

_____ Most Preferred
 _____ Second most preferred
 _____ Third most preferred

- 24d. Overall, how satisfied are you with stocked dam fishing in Queensland?...1

2 3 4 5

Not at all Satisfied Slightly Satisfied Moderately Satisfied Very Satisfied Extremely Satisfied

25. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about recreational fishing:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) The more fish I catch, the happier I am	1	2	3	4	5
b) A fishing trip can be successful even if no fish are caught	1	2	3	4	5
c) I usually eat the fish I catch.....	1	2	3	4	5
d) A successful fishing trip is one in which many fish are caught	1	2	3	4	5
e) I would rather catch 1 or 2 big fish than 10 smaller fish	1	2	3	4	5
f) When I go fishing, I am just as happy if I don't catch any fish	1	2	3	4	5
g) It doesn't matter to me how many fish I catch.....	1	2	3	4	5
h) The bigger the fish I catch, the better the fishing trip.....	1	2	3	4	5
i) I'm just as happy if I don't keep the fish I catch.....	1	2	3	4	5
j) When I go fishing, I'm not happy unless I catch a lot of fish	1	2	3	4	5
k) I want to keep all the fish I catch	1	2	3	4	5
l) I'm happiest with the fishing trip if I catch a challenging sport fish	1	2	3	4	5
m) I'm happier if I release some of the fish I catch	1	2	3	4	5
n) If I thought I wouldn't catch any fish, I wouldn't go fishing	1	2	3	4	5
o) I like to fish where I know I have a chance to catch a "big" fish.....	1	2	3	4	5
p) When I go fishing, I'm not satisfied unless I catch at least something.....	1	2	3	4	5
q) If I stopped fishing, I would probably lose touch with a lot of my friends.....	1	2	3	4	5
r) If I couldn't go fishing, I am not sure what I would do.....	1	2	3	4	5
s) Because of fishing, I don't have time to spend participating in other leisure activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
t) Most of my friends are in some way connected with fishing.....	1	2	3	4	5
u) I consider myself to be somewhat expert at fishing.....	1	2	3	4	5
v) I find that a lot of my life is organized around fishing	1	2	3	4	5
w) Others would probably say I spend too much time fishing	1	2	3	4	5
x) I would rather go fishing than do most anything else.....	1	2	3	4	5
y) Other leisure activities don't interest me as much as fishing	1	2	3	4	5

26. Are there factors that keep you from fishing as often as you would like?

- 1 No → *If No, please skip to Question 27*
 2 Yes

If **Yes**, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements as to why you don't fish more often:

I don't fish more often because...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a)...fishing regulations are too confusing.....	1	2	3	4	5
b)...I can't catch enough fish to suit me.....	1	2	3	4	5
c)...I don't have access to fishing opportunities close to home.....	1	2	3	4	5
d)...I have too many work/family commitments	1	2	3	4	5
e)...other leisure activities take up my time	1	2	3	4	5
f)...fishing regulations are too restrictive.....	1	2	3	4	5
g)...the cost of fishing equipment and supplies is too expensive	1	2	3	4	5
h)...fishing areas are too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
i)...I can't afford (\$) to fish more often.....	1	2	3	4	5
j)...I don't have the necessary fishing skills.....	1	2	3	4	5
k)...it is difficult to find others to fish with.....	1	2	3	4	5
l)...fishing facilities (boat ramps, jetties, etc.) are poorly developed and/or maintained	1	2	3	4	5
m)...other (explain)	1	2	3	4	5

27. The following is a list of types of regulations used to manage recreational fisheries. Some are currently in use in Queensland, some are not. Please indicate whether you support or oppose the use of each of these in Queensland:

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support
a) Releasing fish below a certain length (minimum size limit).....	1	2	3	4	5
b) Releasing fish above a certain length (maximum size limit)	1	2	3	4	5
c) No fishing during spawning seasons (closed seasons)	1	2	3	4	5
d) Recreational fishing only areas	1	2	3	4	5
e) A limit on the number of fish you can catch at any one time (bag and possession limits)	1	2	3	4	5
f) Catch-and-release only for certain species.....	1	2	3	4	5
g) Catch-and-release only in selected areas	1	2	3	4	5
h) Setting aside areas as no-fishing zones (closed areas).....	1	2	3	4	5
i) Limiting the types of gear that can be used (gear restrictions).....	1	2	3	4	5
j) Limiting the locations in which some gears can be used	1	2	3	4	5

28. Are you:

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

29. What is your approximate annual **household** income before taxes?

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Under \$10,000 | 5 \$40,000 to 49,999 | 9 \$80,000 to \$89,999 |
| 2 \$10,000 to \$19,999 | 6 \$50,000 to \$59,999 | 10 \$90,000 to \$99,999 |
| 3 \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 7 \$60,000 to \$69,999 | 11 \$100,000 and above |
| 4 \$30,000 to \$39,999 | 8 \$70,000 to \$79,999 | |

30. Would you be willing to participate in future surveys like this one?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

31. Was this survey completed by the person to whom it was addressed?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Is there anything else you would like to share with us? (use additional paper if necessary)

Would you like a summary of the results of this survey?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Your contribution of time to this study is greatly appreciated. Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage-paid return envelope as soon as possible. Thank you.

CRC Reef Research Centre
 School of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography
 James Cook University
 Townsville, QLD 4811

04/04

First Letter



JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

Townsville campus
 Townsville QLD 4811 AUSTRALIA
 Telephone: (07) 4781 4111 Web: www.jcu.edu.au

Dr Steve Sutton
Project Director
 Telephone: (07) 4781 5510

XX XXXX 2004

XXXX XXXX
 XX XXXX XXXX
 XXXX
 Qld XXXX

Dear XXXX XXXX,

In cooperation with the CRC Reef Research Centre, Sunfish Queensland, and the Queensland Fisheries Service, we are conducting a survey of recreational fishers in Queensland. You volunteered to participate in this study when we contacted you by telephone earlier this year.

We are conducting this study to better understand the people who participate in recreational fishing in Queensland. The enclosed survey is designed to tell us about your fishing activity, and your attitudes, preferences, opinions, and values related to Queensland's recreational fisheries. This information will be useful for evaluating recreational fisheries management in Queensland, and will allow us to better understand the needs and desires of recreational fishers so that these factors can be considered in management decisions that affect recreational fishing.

You are one of a small number of anglers selected to participate in this study. It is important that YOU and no one else complete the questionnaire. Your responses are important to us whether you fish often or infrequently.

Participation in this survey is voluntary, and the information you give us is strictly confidential. There is an identification number on the questionnaire for mailing purposes only. No names, addresses, or other identifying information is recorded on the questionnaire so your responses to questions cannot be traced to you.

After you complete the questionnaire, please return it in the postage-paid reply envelope as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact Steve Sutton at James Cook University at (07) 4781 5510, e-mail Stephen.Sutton@jcu.edu.au or visit our website at <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/resprogram/programA/A1-2-3a.htm>. For questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact Tina Langford, Ethics Administrator, James Cook University, Townsville QLD 4811. Phone: (07) 4781 4342; e-mail: Tina.Langford@jcu.edu.au.

Thank you for your assistance. Good Fishing!

Sincerely,

Dr Steve Sutton
 Project Director

Second Letter



JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

Townsville campus
Townsville QLD 4811 AUSTRALIA
Telephone: (07) 4781 4111 Web: www.jcu.edu.au

Dr Steve Sutton
Project Director
Telephone: (07) 4781 5510

XX XXXX 2004

XXXX XXXX
XX XXXX XXXX
XXXX
Qld XXXX

Dear XXXX XXXX,

About three weeks ago we sent you a survey about recreational fishing in Queensland. As of today we have not yet received your completed questionnaire. If you have recently mailed your survey, please accept our thanks and disregard this letter. If you have not yet completed and mailed your survey, please consider doing so today.

We have had a good response to the survey so far, but the success and accuracy of the study depends on you and the others who have not yet responded. You and the other fishers who have not responded may have different opinions and attitudes about fishing than those who have already sent in their questionnaires. We need to hear from YOU!

We are conducting this study to better understand the people who participate in recreational fishing in Queensland. The enclosed survey is designed to tell us about your fishing activity, and your attitudes, preferences, opinions, and values related to Queensland's recreational fisheries. This information will be useful for evaluating recreational fisheries management in Queensland, and will allow us to better understand the needs and desires of recreational fishers so that these factors can be considered in management decisions that affect recreational fishing.

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After you complete the questionnaire, please return it in the postage-paid reply envelope as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact me on (07) 4781 5510, e-mail Stephen.Sutton@jcu.edu.au or visit our website at <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/resprogram/programA/A1-2-3a.htm>.

Thank you for your assistance. Good Fishing!

Sincerely,

Steve Sutton
Project Director