

Valuing Victoria's professional fishing and aquaculture industries

The far east region is the most productive fishing region in Victoria. The fishing industry built the communities of Lakes Entrance and Mallacoota, which today remain economically dependent on fishing.



Far east fisheries make **significant economic contributions**

\$76m
the added value
professional fisheries
contributed to the far east
region in 2016/17

810
the number of
full-time jobs
professional fishing
provided in the far east
region in 2016/17



Victorians prefer
local seafood

90%
say it's important to
produce seafood
in Victoria and **reduce**
reliance on imports*



Consuming seafood is part of
travelling the
Victorian coast

81%
of Victorians say
eating **local seafood**
is an important part of their
coastal holiday
experience

88%
of tourism operators say
the fishing industry adds to the
character of
towns



The seafood industry voluntarily
collaborates in research
and projects to **improve**
environmental health

82%
of assessed Victorian
fish stocks are classified as
'sustainable' or
'recovering'



Fishing contributes to the
sense of identity
in far east coastal communities

83%
of residents agree fishing is
important to their
cultural heritage
and **community**
identity

Valuing Victoria's professional fishing: measuring economic and social contributions in Far East Victoria

The far east region of Victoria encompasses East Gippsland and is the most productive fishing region in Victoria. The two main ports, Lakes Entrance and Mallacoota, support a diversity of professional fishing, as well processing, wholesaling and retailing facilities. Far east fisheries catch the greatest volume of seafood in Victoria. Some 45% of the 15,032 tonnes of seafood professionally caught in Victoria in 2016/17 came from the far east.

Valuing Victoria's wild-catch fishing and aquaculture industries

A research project conducted by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) for the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation investigated how the Victorian fishing and aquaculture industry contributes to the wellbeing of regional communities, and to Victoria overall. The study found the industry in the far east region contributes to wellbeing in five main ways:

- economic diversity and resilience
- food supply
- tourism and recreation
- environmental health
- social fabric

Economic diversity and resilience – Far east fisheries make significant economic contributions

- Professional fisheries contributed \$76 million of added value to the far east in the 2016/17 financial year.
- Professional fisheries accounted for 810 full-time jobs in the region in that period.
- Far east fisheries provide important flow-on economic activity and jobs, locally and in Melbourne.
- The industry supports a range of business and job opportunities, from on-the-boat work through to businesses that service the industry, along with supply chain, tourism and hospitality operations.
- 81% of residents surveyed believe the industry supports their local economy and provides jobs.

Food supply – Local seafood is in demand

- The size of the industry in the far east means a wide diversity of species and reliable continuous supply
- 90% of Victorians believe it's important to produce local seafood and reduce reliance on imports.
- 62% of the hospitality sector surveyed says demand for local seafood is growing.
- 96% of the hospitality sector say customers want to know the origin of their seafood.

Tourism and recreation – The seafood industry is part of the coastal travel experience

- 88% of Victorian tourism operators surveyed say the industry adds to the character of towns.
- 88% of Victorians expect to eat local seafood when visiting the coast.
- 69% of Victorian holidaymakers enjoy watching commercial fishers at work.
- Professional and recreational fishing are often portrayed as being at odds. But the study found evidence that professional and recreational fishers positively intersect, through shared interests, infrastructure and water safety.

Environmental health – The industry helps manage fish stocks and the marine environment

- Data collected by the industry helps manage commercial and recreational fisheries sustainably.
- 82% of Victorian fish stocks assessed are classified as 'sustainable' or 'recovering'.
- The far east industry undertakes voluntary practices to improve stocks and the marine environment – for instance, Mallacoota abalone divers are removing invasive sea urchins.

Social fabric – Fishing contributes to the sense of identity in far east coastal communities

- 83% of residents from coastal towns surveyed agree fishing is important to heritage and identity.
- Far east fishing businesses support and donate to local events and charities.

For more information, see: uts.ac/VictoriaFisheriesAquaculture

Victoria's fisheries and aquaculture: economic and social contributions FRDC Project No 2017-092

Source: Valuing Victoria's Wild-Catch and Aquaculture Industries, UTS

*Percentages are from survey responses

