

## Estimated Annual Harvest

Numbers taken by Australian recreational fishers, aged 5 or older, for key species by State and Territory fished.

Species/species group	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Total
Whiting	1,791,276	4,997	3,704,448	499,432	2,126,680	12,215	2,069		8,141,117
Flathead	2,217,059	3,316,071	380,947	72,105	79,061	1,377,350	1,467		7,444,060
Australian herring		11,354		2,973,402	3,873,411				6,858,166
Bream	2,082,149	506,704	1,684,719	81,088	424,242	45,396	20,625		4,844,924
King George whiting		975,349		2,238,071	408,209				3,621,629
Mullet	445,036	301,848	944,555	775,361	258,676	99,130	86,287		2,910,892
Garfish	302,297	255,199	69,889	1,511,250	275,295	19,549	4,788		2,438,267
Tailor	1,010,943	57,428	651,069	151	587,041	1,721			2,308,352
Australian salmon	110,988	541,852		715,768	41,695	314,221			1,724,524
Pink snapper	334,191	474,879	232,354	115,798	130,251	352			1,287,826
Trevally	250,087	107,241	151,714	80,620	363,710	23,770	17,988		995,131
Leatherjackets	385,594	166,378	5,371	155,168	34,420	20,090			767,022
Wrasse/tuskfish/groper	149,636	120,689	165,906	64,672	192,238	22,792	14,789		730,723
Luderick	622,511	33,273	1,995	3,563		1,879			663,221
Sea perch/snappers	20,765		405,265		68,825		160,959		655,814
Emperors	3,345		438,518		199,374		12,195		653,432
Pike	31,461	257,795	50,149	185,947	60,864	10,481	11,419		608,117
Grunters/trumpeters	4,581		221,467	268,366	68,534		21,836		584,783
Blue mackerel	427,062	7,057	8,997	45,044	78,631	2,528			569,319
Sacds/mackerel	218,237		94,437	2,679	125,746	33,571			474,670
Mackerels	25,725		339,445		85,208		21,292		471,671
Cod (various)	16,265	12,158	185,603	13,675	55,525	66,829	19,924		369,980
Dart	115,287		231,084		11,818				358,189
Catfish	94,222	7,436	210,615	2,480	27,460		3,736		345,950
Mulloway/jevfish	136,852	5,421	73,243	27,004	62,928		18,012		323,459
Coral trout			270,713		38,975		9,939		319,627
Morwong	186,572	4,688	17,541	5,527	27,462	38,291			280,081
Flatfish	99,915	37,572	45,251	2,994	14,663	71,160			271,555
Tuna/bonitos	140,747		41,153	1,576	28,857	12,737	7,280		232,350
Red emperor	172		204,076		18,010		6,342		228,600
Sharks/rays	30,093	89,423	35,899	30,722	24,432	9,808	7,942		228,320
Sweep	92,678	26,324	524	57,864	28,944	633			206,966
Threadfin salmon			103,278		44,724		36,899		184,901
Kingfish/samson fish	90,001	375	5,121	6,160	10,890	1,505			114,053
Rock-cod/groper	2,457		14,155	198	90,861	504	102		108,277
Dhufish					102,848				102,848
European carp	1,168,881	328,189	80,227	483,310			23,940		2,084,548
Redfin perch	244,596	949,351		40,410	47,384	9,316	3,454		1,294,511
Golden perch	542,107	142,276	261,688	86,732	1,258		5,846		1,039,907
Trout/salmon	244,470	345,894		6,871	10,246	214,582	2,495		824,558
Australian bass/perch	93,150	74,931	97,789	8,530	5,059	51	1,100		280,612
Barramundi			88,155		22,570		105,131		215,857
Murray cod	93,973	11,943	158	2,278					108,352
Other finfish	532,398	388,012	469,612	252,340	285,261	169,995	46,608		2,144,226
Squid/cuttlefish	154,627	199,202	61,255	1,047,904	216,850	44,438	264		1,724,540
Blue swimmer crab	412,883		140,242	1,139,795	2,211,466		671		3,905,057
Mud crab	51,724		585,502		100,289		82,371		819,886
Lobsters	10,569	51,228	19,652	113,679	403,833	86,976	494		686,431
Abalone	35,233	10,355		17,780	214,351	108,495			386,214
Prawns	11,074,232	1,188,236	5,461,783	101,547	943,458	9,646	9,731		18,788,633
Macrobrachium/cherabin	20,292			1,065,271	130,473		15,424		1,231,459
Yabbies/nippers (sw)	3,033,392	370,036	16,671,929		7,578				20,082,936
Crayfish (fw)	1,938,164	1,887,942	2,300,453	593,113	645,465	1,422	15,391		7,401,886



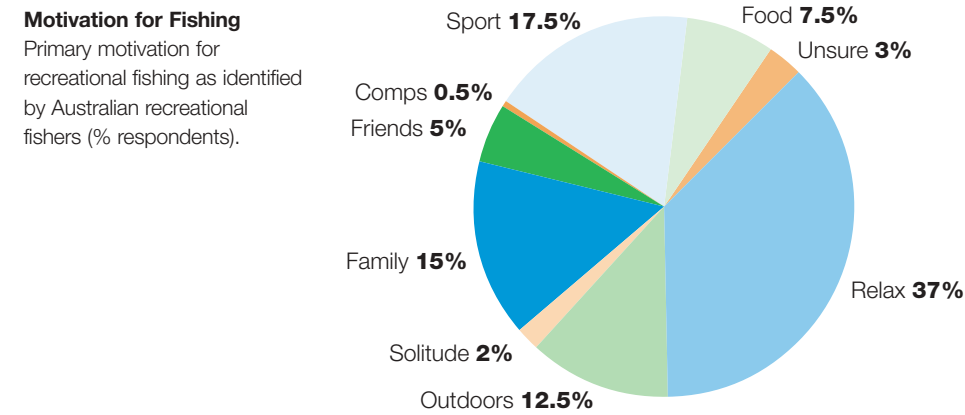
During the survey, Australians spent an estimated 20.6 million days fishing!

## Profile of fishers

- Recreational fishing was more popular with males (2.3 million fishers) than females (1.1 million fishers).
- The 30-44 age group contained the highest number of recreational fishers (644,000 males and 325,000 females), although participation rates were highest among the 5-14 age group (33% for males and 23% for females).
- Fishing club/association membership among recreational fishers was low with an estimated 143,000 members, representing about 4.3% of fishers nationally.
- Australian recreational fishing boats were most commonly engine powered, between 4-5 metres in length and kept on a trailer. About half the vessels were equipped with a depth sounder and about 20% had GPS, though the likelihood of electronic aids increased with vessel size.

## Motivation of Fishers

- Australian recreational fishers identified 'to relax and unwind' (37% of respondents), 'fishing for sport' (18%), 'to be with family' (15%) and 'to be outdoors' (13%) as their primary motives for fishing. Only a small proportion of fishers (8%) considered catching fish for food as their primary motivation.



**Motivation for Fishing**  
Primary motivation for recreational fishing as identified by Australian recreational fishers (% respondents).

## Expenditure of Fishers

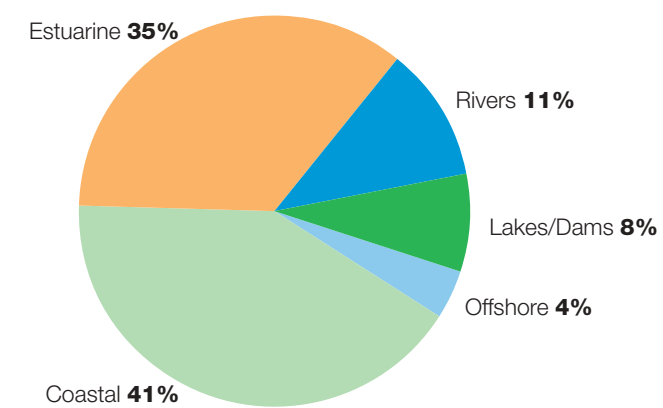
- Recreational fishers in Australia spent an estimated \$1.8 billion on fishing related items during the survey year.
- Expenditure was generally related to the size of the population and the number of fishers. New South Wales had the largest expenditure (\$554 million) and Australian Capital Territory the smallest (\$19 million).
- Australian recreational fishers reported more than 45 different expenditure items. Expenditure on boats and trailers (\$940 million) was the largest individual expense for fishers. Travel associated with fishing (\$395 million) and fishing gear (\$182 million) followed in importance.

## International Visitors

- Around 4% of international tourists visiting Australia in 2001 went fishing. Most tourist fishers came from the United Kingdom, Japan, USA and New Zealand.

### Areas Fished

Annual recreational fishing effort (events) by water body type for Australian recreational fishers aged 5 years or older.



This survey is the first of its kind for the fishing sector and the information gathered will be invaluable for measuring future trends and developments. A full report is available from [www.affa.gov.au/recfishsurvey](http://www.affa.gov.au/recfishsurvey). If you would like further information, please call Phil Sahlqvist, AFFA: Phone **02 6272 5243**, email [fisheries\\_marine@affa.gov.au](mailto:fisheries_marine@affa.gov.au)



# Gone fishing!

Catch all the fishing facts and figures

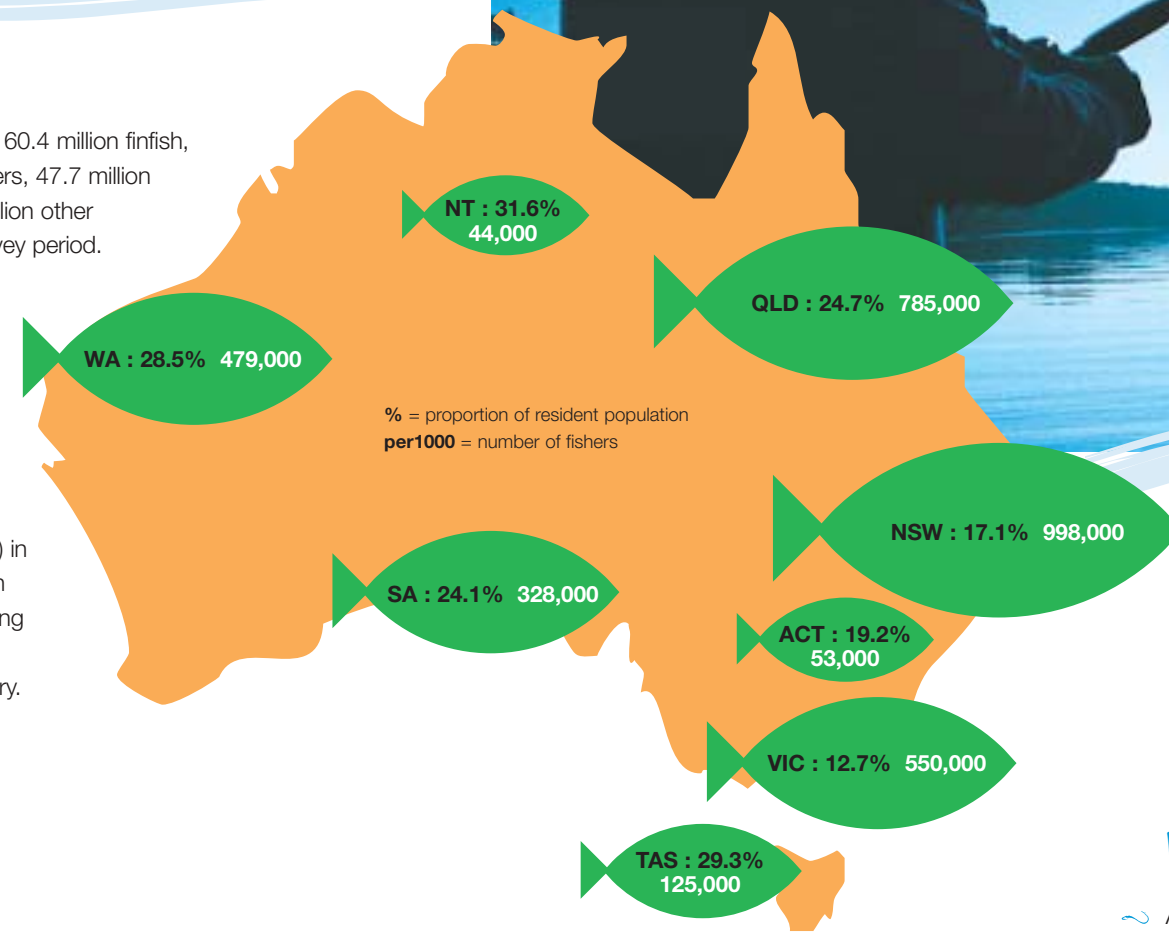
A survey of recreational and indigenous fishing in Australia from 2001-2002



Between 2000 and 2001, the Australian and State Governments surveyed approximately 17,000 non-commercial fishers throughout Australia. Using telephone, diary and modified creel **Survey techniques.** This is what they found . . .

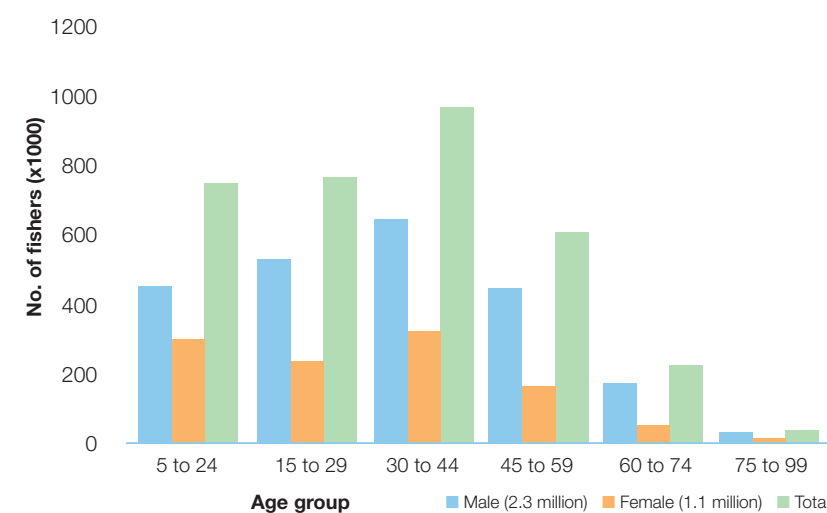
### Recreational Fish Catch

- ~ Australian recreational fishers harvested an estimated 60.4 million finfish, 11.5 million small baitfish, 6.1 million crabs and lobsters, 47.7 million prawns and yabbies, 1.8 million cephalopods, 7.2 million other molluscs, and 1.2 million other species during the survey period.
- ~ The highest numbers of marine finfish caught nationally were: whiting, including King George whiting, followed by flathead, Australian herring and Australian salmon, bream, mullet, garfish, tailor, and pink snapper.
- ~ The most fished species for each State was flathead (2,217,059) in New South Wales, flathead (3,316,071) in Victoria, whiting (3,704,448) in Queensland, Australian herring (2,973,402) in South Australia, Australian herring (3,873,411) in Western Australia, flathead (1,377,350) and sea perch/snappers (160,959) in Northern Territory.



### Age and Gender of Fishers

Fishing participation in the 12 months prior to May 2000 by age class and gender for Australian residents aged 5 or older.



In Australia, more than 511,000 boats with a capital value of \$3.3 billion were used for recreational fishing.

### Recreational Non-Finfish Catch

- ~ A wide diversity of non-fish species was harvested, primarily for use as bait or food. Squid/cuttlefish, blue swimmer crabs, mud crabs, lobsters and abalone were dominant among the larger non-fish species. Smaller organisms such as prawns, yabbies, crayfish, bivalve molluscs (especially mussels and pippis) and worms were also harvested in large numbers.

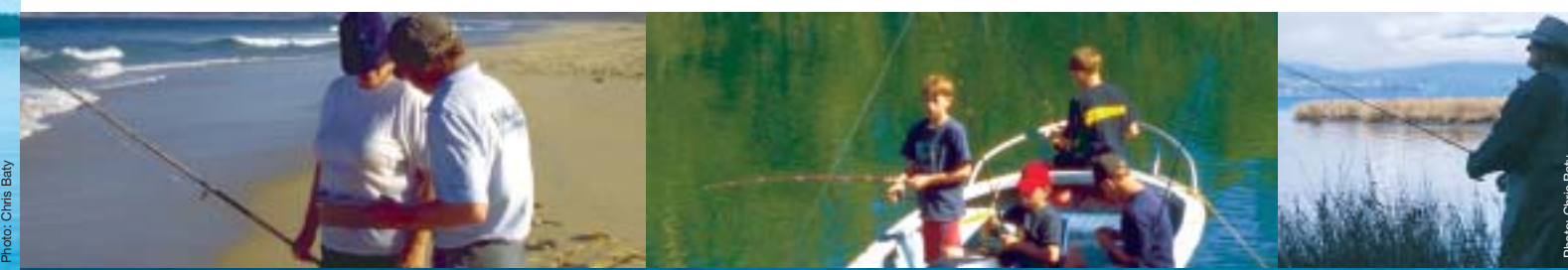


### How many Australians go fishing every year?

- ~ An estimated 3.36 million Australians, aged 5 years or older, went recreational fishing at least once during the survey period, representing a national recreational fishing participation rate of 19.5%.
- ~ New South Wales had the highest number of recreational fishers followed by Queensland and Victoria. But the highest participation rates were recorded from Northern Territory, Tasmania and Western Australia.
- ~ Regional participation rates were lowest in urban centres such as Sydney (13.1%) and Melbourne (10.2%), but because of their large populations, urban centres contained large numbers of fishers, often dominating the fisher populations at the State or Territory levels.



Most active fisher? was a NSW fisher who rowed from his own wharf and went on 169 trips per year



### Indigenous

- ~ Indigenous non-commercial fishers harvested more than 3 million aquatic animals from the waters of northern Australia. The harvest included 900,000 finfish, 1.1 million shellfish, 660,000 prawns and yabbies, 180,000 crabs and lobsters and smaller numbers of other species.
- ~ Indigenous fishers caught more than half their fish in inshore waters. 53% of indigenous fishers used lines to fish, 26% hand collected, 12% used nets and 9% used spears.
- ~ Indigenous fishers made an estimated 671,000 fishing trips during the survey period.



Nationally, about 80% of fishing efforts occurred in saltwater (offshore, coastal and estuarine waters) as opposed to 20% in freshwater (freshwater rivers, lakes and dams).

### Recreational Fishing Effort

- ~ During the survey time, Australians spent an estimated 20.6 million days fishing, representing 23.2 million separate fishing events or 102.9 million hours spent fishing.
- ~ New South Wales recorded the greatest effort (6.9 million fisher days, 7.7 million events or 30.4 million fisher hours), followed by Queensland (4.6 million fisher days, 5.8 million events or 25.4 million fisher hours) and Western Australia (3.4 million fisher days, 3.4 million events or 19.7 million fisher hours).
- ~ Recreational fishing in coastal waters attracted 41% of fishing effort, followed by fishing in estuarine waters (35%), freshwater rivers (11%), freshwater lakes and dams (8%) and offshore waters (4%).
- ~ Shore-based fishing attracted a greater level of activity (13.3 million events or 57% of total) than fishing from boats (9.8 million events or 43% of total).
- ~ 85% of the overall annual fishing effort was with line fishing (including the use of bait, artificial lures and jigs as well as set-lines), followed by fishing with pots and traps (7%), harvesting bait with pumps, rakes and spades (4%), fishing with nets (3%) and diving with spears or hand collecting (1%).



Number of zero trips? one third of fishers went home empty handed

### Annual Fishing Methods

Fishing effort (events) by fishing method for Australian recreational fishers aged 5 or older.

