

# Commercial fishers in the Great Barrier Reef

The Social and Economic Long-Term Monitoring Program (SELTMP) is assisting Reef managers and other decision-makers within the Great Barrier Reef region to incorporate the human dimension into their planning and management. For more information, visit [research.csiro.au/seltmp](http://research.csiro.au/seltmp).

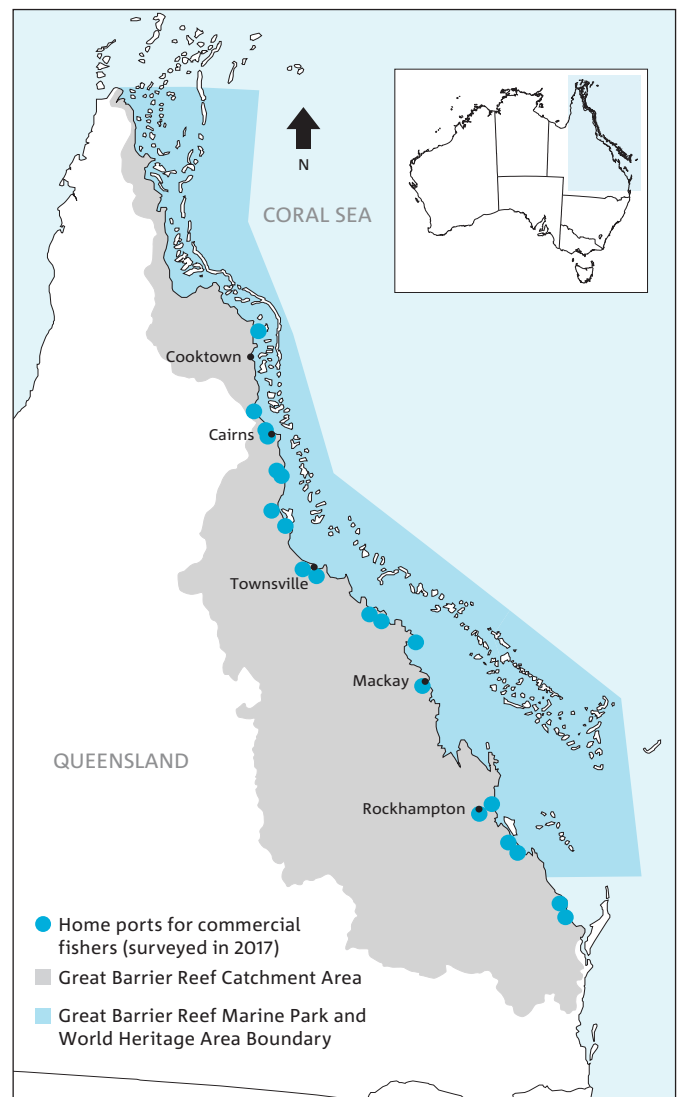
Since 2013, we have surveyed more than 12,300 people including coastal residents, tourists, commercial fishers and tourism operators in the Great Barrier Reef region as well as Australian residents around the country. We ask questions about well-being, use, values, aspirations, stewardship, satisfaction, networks and economic viability.

This brochure takes a closer look at commercial fishers in the Great Barrier Reef region including their values, perceptions and concerns about the Reef.

Long-term social and economic monitoring helps Reef managers understand the current status, historical trends and possible future trajectories of Reef users, industries and communities. It helps build a picture of how these groups are likely to respond and cope with changes in the environment and society. It can also assist in evaluating the effectiveness of management interventions.



Commercial fishing in the Great Barrier Reef sustains livelihoods and is an important part of the region's economy.



# COMMERCIAL FISHERS



On average, commercial fishers in the region spent 147 days in the last year fishing on the Great Barrier Reef.

Data from 91 commercial fishers surveyed in the GBR region in June–July 2017.

## RESPONDENTS

11% FEMALE  
89% MALE



27–81  
AGE RANGE



For 51 per cent, fishing is their only source of income.



On average, they have 29.5 years experience fishing on the Reef.

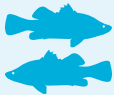


Average of 5.7 employees per business

## VALUES

What do commercial fishers value most about the Reef?

1



Providing fresh seafood

2



Biodiversity

3



Economic

## PERCEIVED THREATS

What do commercial fishers see as the greatest threats to the Great Barrier Reef?

1



Overfishing and illegal fishing

2



Poor water quality

3



Climate change

## TRUST

Who do commercial fishers trust most for information about the Reef?

1



Friends, family, and work colleagues

2



Scientists

3



Industry groups

## CONCERNS

67% are worried about climate change impacts on the Reef

97% feel they would be personally affected if the health of the Reef declines

39% think enough is being done to effectively manage the Reef

## STEWARDSHIP

67% would like to do more to help protect the Reef

66% would like to learn more about the condition of the Reef

71% believe they can make a personal difference in improving the health of the Reef

### CONTACT US

t 1300 363 400  
+61 3 9545 2176  
e [csiropenquiries@csiro.au](mailto:csiropenquiries@csiro.au)  
w [www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)

AS AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL SCIENCE AGENCY AND INNOVATION CATALYST, CSIRO IS SOLVING THE GREATEST CHALLENGES THROUGH INNOVATIVE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

CSIRO. Unlocking a better future for everyone.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CSIRO Land and Water  
Dr Matt Curnock  
Project Leader SELTMP  
t +61 7 4753 8607  
e [matt.curnock@csiro.au](mailto:matt.curnock@csiro.au)  
w [research.csiro.au/seltmp](http://research.csiro.au/seltmp)