The fishers, the effort, the catch, the spend

Angling for information

The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies conducted a statistically-designed survey to understand recreational fishing participation and catch, especially for scalefish. It is the fourth general recreational fishing survey conducted since 2000.

Over 3,000 Tasmanian households were surveyed in late 2017 to see if they fished recreationally.

The full report is available here: tinyurl.com/RecFishReport1718

Numbers of key fish species caught, kept and released for 2017-18:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Caught</th>
<th>Kept</th>
<th>Released</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flathead</td>
<td>1,681,300</td>
<td>733,500</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout</td>
<td>206,200</td>
<td>85,900</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Salmon</td>
<td>128,800</td>
<td>80,600</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurnard</td>
<td>99,300</td>
<td>21,400</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrasse</td>
<td>40,100</td>
<td>8,100</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiting</td>
<td>31,800</td>
<td>18,800</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bream</td>
<td>27,100</td>
<td>9,100</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Trevally</td>
<td>20,400</td>
<td>11,100</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mullum</td>
<td>16,100</td>
<td>9,400</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barracouta</td>
<td>16,100</td>
<td>9,400</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>14,800</td>
<td>8,800</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leatherjacket</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who’s fishing in Tasmania and how much do they spend? How often do they go, how and where do they fish, and what’s the catch?

Fish illustrations on this page by Peter Gouldthorpe ©DPIPWE

2017/18 SURVEY OF RECREATIONAL FISHING IN TASMANIA
Who is fishing?

- Twice as many males as females
- Almost 25% of Tasmanians

The effort

- 1 in 4 Tasmanians go fishing (106,000 persons)
- They fish an average of 5 days per year

How much do they spend?

- Total spend by fishers: $161 million per year
  - $161 million per year
  - $1,800 per fisher

The catch

- Over 80 species of fish and shellfish
- Almost 2.5 million finfish

The spend

- 68% Flathead
- 8% trout
- 6% others
- 60% is boat-based
- 40% is shore-based

How and where?

- Saltwater: 75%
  - 66% boat-based
  - 34% shore-based
- Freshwater: 25%
  - 37% boat-based
  - 63% shore-based

What’s the catch?

- Flathead: 733,000 kept | 948,000 released
- Squid: 200 tonnes
  - 88,000 kept (41,000 Calamari, 47,000 Gould’s Squid)
- Australian Salmon: 1.7 million caught per year
  - 129,000 caught per year
  - 80,000 kept | 49,000 released
- Trout: 206,000 caught per year
  - 86,000 kept | 120,000 released

The fishers

- 74% fish only in saltwater
- 13% fish only in freshwater
- 13% fish in both

The effort

- They fish an average of 5 days per year

The spend

- $100M on fishing gear, boats/fuel, travel etc
- $16M on fishing gear
- $16M on travel
- $161 million per year
- $1,800 per fisher
- 10% fishing gear
- 10% travel
- 18% other