

Coral Sea Fishery

The Coral Sea Fishery covers waters from the east of Sandy Cape (Fraser Island) to east of Cape York. The Fishery commences east of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and extends to the edge of the Australian Fishing Zone. It excludes the areas of the Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reef National Nature Reserves. Together the Nature Reserves cover approximately 17,000 square kms of coral reef habitat.



The Coral Sea Fishery is a diverse fishery. The Coral Sea Fishery harvest strategies includes input controls (limited number of permits, gear and operator limits, spatial and temporal management regimes) as well as output controls (size limits, proportional and total catch limits). The industry has also developed voluntary codes and policies to ensure responsible use of the fishery and its resources.

Key Species

A wide range of finfish species are taken in the Coral Sea Fishery, as well as sharks, lobsters, trochus, sea cucumbers and live rock (limestone encrusted with coralline algae and other encrusting species). Rosy jobfish, alfonsino and red emperor are the three most common species (by weight) taken for seafood markets in the CSF. In the aquarium sector, fishing is highly selective and the species targeted change in response to market demand.

Number of Concession Holders

There are 18 fishing permits held by 11 concession holders;

- 9 demersal line and trap sector permits,
- 2 demersal trawl and trap sector permits,
- 2 sea cucumber sector permits,
- 2 aquarium sector permits, and
- 3 lobster and trochus sector permits.

Sea Cucumber Sector

Operators target amberfish (*Thelenota anax*), blackfish (probably *Actinopynga miliaris*), black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*), greenfish (*Stichopus chloronotus*), lollyfish (*Holothuria atra*), prickly redfish (*Thelenota ananas*), sand fish (*Holothuria scabra*), surf redfish (*Actinopyga mauritiana*), white teatfish (*Holothuria fuscogilva*), deepwater redfish (*Actinopyga echinites*), elephant's trunk fish (*Holothuria fuscopunctata*) and curry fish (*Stichopus hermanni*). Collection of sea cucumber may only be done by hand.

To help prevent localised depletion of species fishers are required to move their fishing to a different location once a specified amount of quota or effort is reached.

List of Concession Holders - Coral Sea Fishery

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Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

The Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery extends from Cape York, Queensland, to the South Australian/Victorian border. Fishing occurs in both the Australian fishing zone and adjacent high seas.

Area of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery



The *Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005* (as amended) contains management measures to ensure the sustainability of the resource. The fishery is managed by annual fishing permits (through transitional arrangements under the Management Plan) until Statutory Fishing Rights are granted.

Key Species

Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*), albacore tuna (*T. alalunga*), broadbill swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*).

Number of Concession Holders

There are 167 fishing permits in total, held by 119 concession holders with a number of operators holding permits allowing more than one fishing method;

- 16 pelagic longline only permits,
- 46 pelagic longline, pole and line, minor line permits,
- 58 pelagic longline and minor line permits ,
- 10 minor line and pole and line permits,
- 32 minor line only permits,
- 2 pole and line only permits, and
- 3 carrier boat permits.

List of Concession Holders – East Tuna and Billfish Fishery

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