

1. Introduction

This report is the first phase of a social assessment research project which examines the charter fishing industry in Queensland. It forms the third report of a set of three. The first report examines the commercial fishing industry in Queensland, which includes the trawl, line fishing, net and crab fisheries. The second report examines the harvest fishing industry, and this report examines the tourism fishing-charter industry (Figure 1.1). These reports provide a descriptive overview of the social and financial characteristics of Queensland's commercial fishing industries, the harvest, and charter fishing industries. They summarise the findings of survey research undertaken with each industry using a recently developed framework for social assessment in natural resource management known as Town Resource Cluster (TRC) Analysis.

Further research the fisheries social assessment research project will (a) develop specific social indicators of vulnerability and sensitivity to change using survey research data in this report and additional secondary data and information, and (b) a more detailed assessment and analysis of the location and patterns of marine resource use as identified in the current survey research and by assessing fishing industry log book data (Figure 1.1).

In addition, much of the social profile and financial information in this report is being developed into a database which allows specific queries about the use of fisheries resources (Figure 1.1).

The current reports are the first phase of the fisheries social assessment research project. The report, presents social assessment profiles of the fishing industry and employees within the industry. It has not been developed to assess the social and financial impacts of any specific future changes in fisheries management, but simply provides descriptive profiles which may be useful in understanding how changes may impact on coastal communities and the fishing industry.

This report has several chapters:

Chapter 2: An overview of social assessment and the application of Town Resource Cluster Analysis (TRC-Analysis) in natural resource management.

Chapter 3: A description of the survey research methodology used in the current study

Chapter 4: A description of the Town Resource Clusters (TRCs) and their identification.

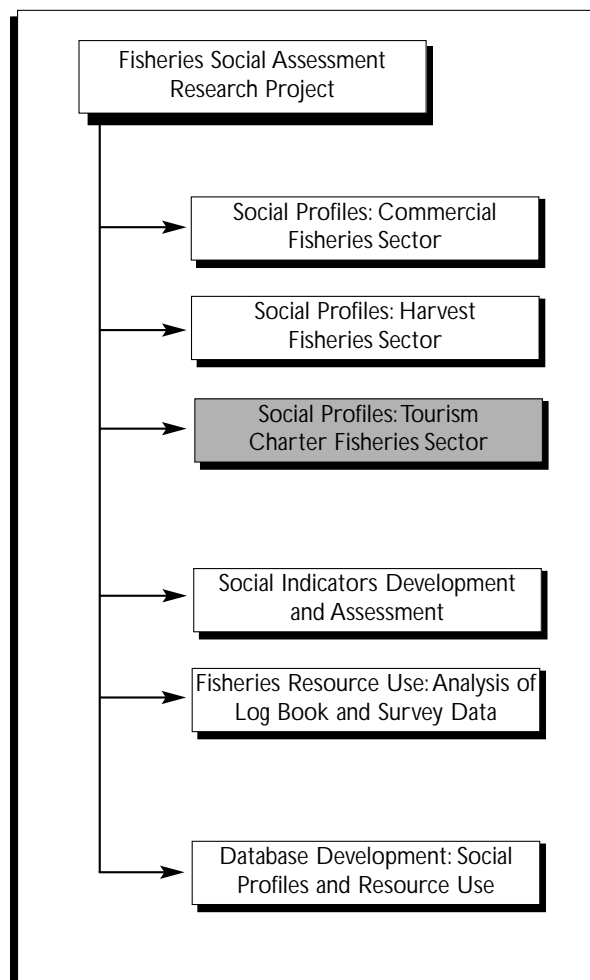


Figure 1.1 Social Assessment Research Projects

Chapter 5: A description of the social profiles of the charter fishing industry on a statewide basis and a comparison of profiles across the identified TRCs.

Chapter 6 - 19: A description of the social and financial profiles of the charter industry within each of the TRCs.

