

4 Identification of Town Resource Clusters

Identification of TRCs

Town Resource Clusters (TRCs) represent clusters of mutually interdependent towns or communities which have a relationship to a specific geographic region or area of marine resource use.

The identification of TRCs was based on the homeports of charter fishing businesses, as reported in Part A (Fenton and Marshall 2001). It was considered that much of the business expenditure, the residential location of employees, the household expenditure patterns of employees and the use of social infrastructure services among employees would centre around the homeports of these businesses.

An examination of all homeports of businesses indicated that the majority of fishing businesses were located in major regional and sub-regional centres on the Queensland coast. In some instances, suburbs within the regional centre were identified as the homeport. However, suburbs were classified as part of an identified regional centre on the basis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics definition of urban centres and localities.

Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 identify the major regional centres used by charter-operators as homeports. It is these regional centres which have been used to define the TRCs. Where the homeport of a business was not located within a major regional centre, the location of business expenditure and the residential town location of the business operator was used to classify the business within a TRC. Many of the TRCs consisted of a major regional centre in which the majority of businesses were located and smaller towns and communities surrounding the regional centre in which other businesses were also located.

As shown in Table 4.1, this procedure classified 100% of charter businesses within a TRC.

Table 4.1 Charter Businesses in TRCs

TRC	Frequency	Percent
Karumba	6	3.0
Weipa	6	3.0
Thursday Island	5	2.5
Cooktown	5	2.5
Port Douglas	11	5.6
Cairns	30	15.1
Innisfail	1	0.5
Lucinda	1	0.5
Townsville	15	7.6
Airlie Beach	6	3.0
Mackay	8	4.0
Yeppoon	4	2.0
Gladstone	21	10.6
Bundaberg	4	2.0
Hervey Bay	13	6.5
Maryborough	1	0.5
Tin Can Bay	3	0.5
Mooloolaba	15	7.5
Brisbane	19	9.6
Southport	25	12.6
Total Charter Businesses	199	100.0

