8 THURSDAY ISLAND TRC

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The Thursday Island TRC consists of the town of Thursday Island in the Torres Strait, and the town of Bamaga on the mainland.

BUSINESS PROFILES

Location and Use of Ports

Table 8.1 shows the number of license holders within the Thursday Island TRC and the number of survey respondents who reported having homeports within the TRC. On the basis of the sample count it is estimated that there are 6 commercial charter operators within this TRC and a 95% certainty that the correct population count of commercial charter operators within the TRC is between 1 and 11. Most respondents reported Seisia as their homeport (66.6%), and Bamaga (16.7%) and Thursday Island (16.7%) were also reported. Figure 8.1 shows the geographic location of the Thursday Island TRC.

Table 8.1 Location of Homeports

Town	Adj. Database Count	Sample Count	Estimated Count	Percent within TRC
Seisia	0	3	4	66.6
Bamaga	5	1	1	16.7
Thursday Island	1	1	1	16.7
Total TRC	6	5	6	100.0
95% Confidence Interval for Estimated TRC Count				1-11
Percent of Total Active License Holders in QLD				2.5%

Note: Adjusted database count is based on the postal address as recorded in the licensing information, which may not be the homeport of the charter business. The count is adjusted for latent license holders (8.6%).
The estimated count adjusts the sample count by the sampling fraction of 1.32

Fishing Activity

Table 8.2 shows the types of fishing activity on charter operations from the Thursday Island TRC for those charters that were predominately fishing-charters. On day trips, the main fishing activities were game fishing (51.7%) and estuary fishing (42.7%). Only little reef fishing (4.0%) and crabbing (1.7%) occurred on day trips. There were no overnight trips that were predominately fishing trips. On extended trips, the main fishing activities were also estuary fishing (72.5%) and game fishing (17.5%).

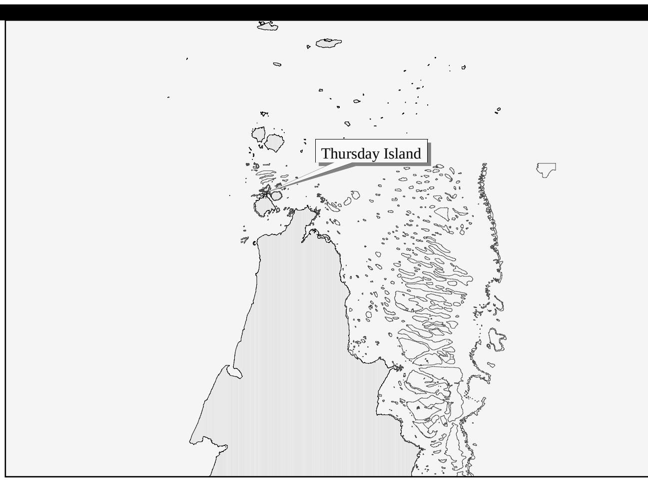

Figure 8.1 Location of the Thursday Island TRC

Table 8.3 shows the number of trips, and percentage of trips that were chartered primarily for fishing from the Thursday Island TRC. Most charters were extended trips (391 days) and day trips (330 days), and 96.4% of extended trips were fishing charters. Only 26.7% of day trips were chartered for fishing. There were no overnight trips from the Weipa TRC.

Table 8.4 shows the percentage of time spent fishing and doing other activities such as diving and cruising, for charters where fishing was not the only activity. On day trips diving/snorkeling (44.3%) and cruising/sightseeing (35.7%) were the main activities, and fishing represented 20% of the activities.

Table 8.4 Charter Activities during last 12 Months

Type	Within TRC	QLD mean
Day Trips		
% time spent fishing	20.0	52.9
% time spent diving/snorkeling	44.3	13.1
% time spent cruising/sightseeing	35.7	17.5
% time spent sailing	0.0	0.4
% time spent whale & dolphin watching	0.0	4.2
% time spent doing other activities	0.0	11.9
Overnight Trips		
% time spent fishing	0.0	51.2
% time spent diving/snorkeling	0.0	22.9
% time spent cruising/sightseeing	0.0	15.9
% time spent sailing	0.0	0.0
% time spent whale & dolphin watching	0.0	0.0
% time spent doing other activities	0.0	10.0
Extended Trips		
% time spent fishing	0.0	51.2
% time spent diving/snorkeling	0.0	31.1
% time spent cruising/sightseeing	0.0	12.5
% time spent sailing	0.0	0.6
% time spent whale & dolphin watching	0.0	0.0
% time spent doing other activities	0.0	4.6

Table 8.2 Type of Fishing Activity (during the last 12 months)

Fishing Type	Day trips: Mean % Time within TRC	Day trips: Mean % Time QLD	Overnight trips: Mean % Time within TRC	Overnight trips: Mean % Time QLD	Extended trips: Mean % Time within TRC	Extended trips: Mean % Time QLD
Reef (bottom fishing)	4.0	47.5	0.0	66.0	5.0	51.2
Game (pelagic)	51.7	18.8	0.0	20.3	17.5	31.1
Estuary	42.7	26.8	0.0	11.6	72.5	12.5
Crabbing	1.7	0.5	0.0	0.2	2.5	0.5
Other	0.0	6.4	0.0	2.0	2.5	4.6
Total Sample	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 8.3 Number of Charter Trips (during the last 12 months)

Type	Mean within TRC	QLD
Day Trips		
Mean number of day-trips (per business)	66.0	85.3
Mean number of fishing-only day-trips	17.6	59.9
Total number of day-trips	330	16,976
Total number of fishing-only day-trips	88	11,919
Percentage fishing-only trips	26.7%	70.2%
Overnight Trips		
Mean number of overnight-trips (per business)	0.0	5.39
Mean number of fishing-only overnight-trips	0.0	3.34
Total number of overnight trips (x2 days per trip)	0.0	1,072
Total number of fishing-only days on overnight trips	0.0	665
Percentage fishing-only trips	0.0%	62.0%
Extended Trips		
Mean number of extended-trips	11.4	6.9
Mean number of fishing-only extended-trips	11.0	4.49
Total number of days on extended trips	391	6,881
Total number of fishing-only days on extended trips	377	4,385
Percentage fishing-only trips	96.4%	66.1%
Mean number of days away (per business)	144.2	121.3
TOTAL days charter	720	16,969
Percentage of charters that were fishing only	*64.5*	*68.1%*

Table 8.5 shows that the peak months for charter activity within the Thursday Island TRC were April to November, especially in July and October.

Table 8.5 Peak Charter Months During Past 12 Months

Months	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Percent of QLD Fishery
January	0	0.0	21.8
February	0	0.0	6.2
March	1	40.0	8.8
April	2	60.0	16.6
May	3	60.0	17.6
June	3	60.0	26.9
July	4	80.0	37.3
August	3	60.0	37.3
September	3	60.0	44.0
October	4	80.0	48.7
November	3	60.0	35.2
December	1	20.0	25.9

Location of Resource Use

Figure 8.2 shows the location of resource use by charter operators in the Thursday Island TRC. The primary resource catchment is the Torres Strait, although some charters extend some distance along the mainland coastline.

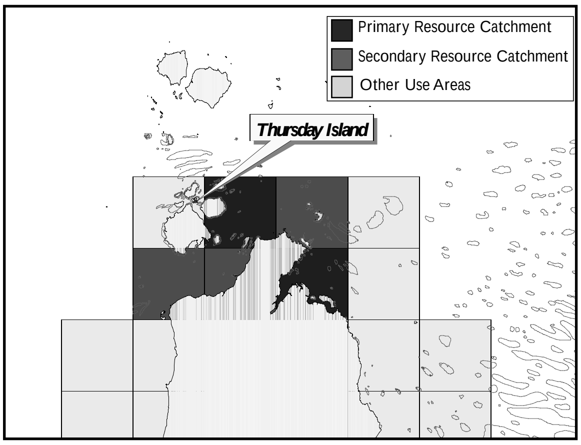

Figure 8.2 Thursday Is. TRC: Location of Resource Use

Charter Industry Businesses

Table 8.6 identifies the number of employees within the Thursday Island TRC. The majority of businesses had 1 fulltime staff (owner-operator) (80%), and 1-3 casual employees (60%). There was a mean of 1.6 fulltime equivalent staff per business, and it is estimated that there were 27 people employed in the industry over the previous 12 months.

Business Ownership and Size

Table 8.7 shows the number of years the current owner-operator had owned the charter business. Most businesses had been owned for less than 5 years (80.0%) and on average, businesses had been owned for 4.6 years. This is around 2.4 years less than the average Queensland charter business (7 years).

Table 8.7 Number of Years of Current Ownership of the Charter Business

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Cumulative Percent
1-5	4	80.0	80.0
6-10	1	20.0	100.0
11-15	0	0.0	0.0
15+	0	0.0	0.0
Total	6	100.0	100.0
Mean Number of Years owned or operated			4.6
Difference of TRC Mean to QLD Population Mean (7.0)			-2.4

Note: Standard errors for number of years ownership (sample = 1.5; QLD population = 0.5).

Table 8.8 shows that the average number of years the charter business had been operating (regardless of the owner) was 5.0 years, which is 3.3 years less than the average Queensland charter business (8.3 years).

Table 8.6 Number of Employees

Number of Charter operators	Full-Time Count	Full-Time Percent	Part-Time Count	Part-Time Percent	Casual Count	Casual Percent
Nil	0	0.0	4	80.0	2	40.0
1	4	80.0	0	0.0	1	20.0
2-3	1	20.0	0	0.0	2	40.0
4-5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5+	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0
Total Businesses	5	100.0	5	100.0	5	100.0
Total Employees	8		14		5	
Mean Number of Employees per Business				3.5		
Mean Number of Full-time Employees per Business				1.6		
Mean Number of Part-time & Casual Employees per Business				3.8		
Estimated Number Employed within the TRC				27		

Note: Part-time and casual employment was recorded as 0.5 when contributing to total employment. Total number of employees includes the respondent.

Table 8.8 Number of Years Business has been Operating

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Cumulative Percent
1-5	4	80.0	80.0
6-10	1	20.0	100.0
11-15	0	0.0	0.0
15+	0	0.0	0.0
Total	5	100.0	100.0
Mean Number of Years owned or operated			5.0
Difference of Mean to Population Mean (8.3)			-3.3

Note: Standard errors for number of years operated (sample = 1.5; QLD population = 0.6)

Table 8.9 shows the number of boats operated by each business in the Thursday Island TRC. The majority of charter businesses operated two (40.0%) or three (40%) boats. The average number of boats (2.2 boats) was greater than the Queensland average (1.3 boats).

Table 8.9 Number of Boats Operated by Charter Businesses

Number of Boats	Sample Count	Percent TRC
1	1	20.0
2	2	40.0
3	2	40.0
4+	0	0.0
Total Number of Businesses	5	100.0
Mean Number of Boats Operated		2.2
Difference of Mean to QLD Population Mean (1.3)		+0.9

Note: Standard errors for number of boats operated (sample = 0.4; QLD population = 0.06)

Table 8.10 shows the frequency distribution of the length of boats within the Thursday Island TRC. Most boats were less than six metres (60%). The mean length of boats (8.4m) was three metres less than the average Queensland vessel (11.4m).

Table 8.10 Length of Vessels Operated

Length of Boat (metres)	Sample Count	Percent TRC
2-6	6	60.0
7-10	1	10.0
11-14	2	20.0
15-18	1	10.0
19-24	0	0.0
24+	0	0.0
Total Number of Boats	10	100.0
Mean Length of Boats Operated (metres)		8.4
Difference of Mean to QLD Population Mean (11.4)		-3.0
Mean Length of Largest Boat Operated (metres)		10.8
Difference of Mean to QLD Population Mean (11.7)		-0.9

Note: Standard errors for mean length of boats (sample = 1.4; QLD population=0.4) and mean length of largest boats (sample =2.3 ; QLD population=0.5).

Value of Production and Location of Sales

Table 8.11 shows the value of charter operations within the Thursday Island TRC for the twelve months prior to the survey. Eighty percent of businesses earned less than $100,000, and 20% earned between $100-200,000. This profile shows that businesses in the Thursday Island TRC were smaller compared to the rest of Queensland, in which 22.7% of businesses earned more than $200,000. The estimated GVP for the Thursday Island TRC was $429,000, representing 1.2% of the Queensland charter industry.

Table 8.11 Business Income (Annual value)

Value ($,000)	Sample Count	Sample Percent	Queensland Percent
Less than $100	4	80.0	65.8
$101 - $200	1	20.0	11.5
$201 - $300	0	0.0	7.5
$301 - $400	0	0.0	4.0
$401 - $500	0	0.0	6.0
$501 - $600	0	0.0	2.0
$601 - $700	0	0.0	2.5
$701 - $800	0	0.0	0.0
$801 - $900	0	0.0	0.0
$901 - $1,000	0	0.0	0.0
Over $1,000	0	0.0	0.5
Total	5	100.0	100.0
Mean GVP for TRC			$65,000
Estimated Total GVP for TRC			$429,000
Estimated Total GVP for QLD			$34,419,000
Percent of Total Queensland Production			1.2%

Table 8.12 shows the mean and total number of customers for the Thursday Island TRC over the previous year. It is estimated that approximately 5,000 customers chartered trips from the Thursday Island TRC, representing 1.5% of the Queensland business.

Table 8.12 Number of Customers for the Previous Year

	Mean Customers per Business	Sample Count	Estimated Total
Thursday Island TRC	839	3,356	5,034
QLD	1,335	259,930	343,100
Percent of Queensland	1.5%		

Table 8.13 shows the value of sales and the origin of customers visiting the Thursday Island TRC over the previous year. Most customers were from the Queensland area (44%) and other parts of Australia (25%), although a considerable number were from the local area (23%). Only 8% of customers were visitors from overseas. The estimated value of trips that were chartered over the previous 12 months is $429,000.

Table 8.13 Origin and Value of Customers

Origin	Sample Value of Sales	Mean Percent of Sample	Est.Value of all Sales
Local area	74,750	23.0	98,670
Queensland area	143,000	44.0	188,760
Outside Queensland	81,250	25.0	107,250
Overseas	26,000	8.0	34,320
Total Sales	$325,000	100.0	$429,000

Note: The sample value of sales is based on GVP as reported by businesses in the survey

Business Expenditure

Table 8.14 displays the towns in which charter-owners purchased goods and services (excluding salaries and wages) for their business. It is estimated that $0.2m was spent by businesses from the Thursday Island TRC over the previous 12 months. The majority of this expenditure occurred in Cairns (36.9% or $82,000), Seisia (32.6% or $73,000), and Thursday Island (22.1% or $9,000).

Table 8.14 Town Location of Business Expenditure
(All costs, excluding salaries and wages)

Location of Expenditure	Sample Value of Expenditure	Percent of Sample	Est.Value Expenditure
Cairns	62,472	36.9	82,472
Seisia	55,192	32.6	72,861
Thursday Island	37,415	22.1	49,394
Bamaga	6,772	4.0	8,940
NSW	3,420	2.0	4,515
Townsville	2,540	1.5	3,353
WA	1,016	0.6	1,341
Total Expenditure	$169,300	100.0	$223,500

Note: Business expenditure includes all non-labour expenditure (ie. fuel, equipment, repairs etc). Coefficients from the QLD input-output table for 1992-1993 indicate that expenditure on local intermediate purchases and imports, accounted for 52.1% of total revenue. The amount of business expenditure occurring within specific locations is based on 52.1% of the estimated GVP for the business.

CHARTER-OPERATOR PROFILES

Town of Residence

Table 8.15 shows the primary town of residence for charter-owners from the Thursday Island TRC. Most owners resided in Seisia (60%) and others lived in Bamaga (20%) and Cairns (20%).

Table 8.15 Town of Residence

Town of Residence	Sample Count	Percent of Sample
Seisia	3	60.0
Bamaga	1	20.0
Cairns	1	20.0
Total	5	100.0

Months Employed in the Charter Industry

Table 8.16 indicates that all owner-operators within the Thursday Island TRC were employed in the industry in March, and from June to October. Only 20% of owners were employed during January to March, however.

Table 8.16 Months Employed in the Charter Industry During Past 12 Months

Months	Owner Operators (%)	All QLD operators
January	20.0	81.0
February	20.0	81.5
March	20.0	85.7
April	100.0	89.4
May	80.0	92.6
June	100.0	92.6
July	100.0	92.6
August	100.0	93.7
September	100.0	95.2
October	100.0	93.7
November	60.0	91.5
December	80.0	86.8

Table 8.17 shows the location of household expenditure derived from employment in the Charter Industry. It is estimated that $120,000 was spent on household items and the majority of this was spent in Seisia (48.4%), Cairns (25.2%) and Thursday Island (12.7%).

Table 8.17 Town Location of Household Expenditure (all commodities and services)

Location of Household Expenditure	Sample Value of Expenditure	Percent of Sample	Est. Value Expenditure
Seisia	44,141	48.4	58,274
Cairns	22,982	25.2	30,341
Thursday Island	11,582	12.7	15,291
Bamaga	8,208	9.0	10,836
NSW	3,739	4.1	4,936
Brisbane	547	0.6	722
Total Expenditure	$91,200	100.0	$120,400

Note: The sample total personal income for the Thursday Island TRC was $150,000. The Household Expenditure Survey for Queensland: 1993-1994 (ABS, 1996) indicates that for households in non-metropolitan areas 79% of gross weekly income was related to commodity and service purchases. Furthermore, of the total expenditure on commodities and services purchased by households, Queensland Input-Output tables indicate that 77% of expenditure occurs within Queensland, with the balance contributing to taxes and imports from outside Queensland. The sample value of expenditure was therefore calculated to be $91,245. Estimated value of expenditure was calculated by multiplying the sample value of expenditure by 1.32

School and Employment Locations of Family Members

The town locations in which family members attended school or were employed are shown in Table 8.18. Seisia (41.7%) and Thursday Island (16.7%) were the main towns for school and employment of family members. Nearly 17% of family members attended school or were employed overseas, and others attended school or were employed in Cairns (8.3%) and Brisbane (8.3%).

Table 8.18 School and Employment Locations of Family Members

Location of Employment or School	Sample Count	Percent of Sample
Seisia	5	41.7
Thursday Island	2	16.7
Overseas	2	16.7
Bamaga	1	8.3
Brisbane	1	8.3
Cairns	1	8.3
Total Family Members	41	100.0

Note: Counts and percentages based on all immediate family members.

Social and Demographic Profiles

Table 8.19 provides charter-owner profile information for the Thursday Island TRC. Information is also provided for all Queensland charter-owners. Owners from the Thursday Island TRC were all male, newer residents to the area, worked longer hours per week, were more likely to have moved to retain their employment, less likely to have other employment, more likely to have completed a business course and have a business plan. Fewer were likely to be married, there were no dependents, and the individual income was also lower than the Queensland average.

Table 8.19 Owner-Operator Profiles for the Thursday Island TRC

Profile	Owner-Operators	All QLD Operators
Estimated Number of Charter-owners	5	199
Mean age of fisher	44.0	45.4
Age range	36-53	20-76
Percent males	100.0	93.8
Mean years resident in town	9.6	19.1
Mean number of years in charter industry	10.0	11.0
Mean hours per week in charter industry	64.4	50.7
Percent moved town to retain employment	40.0	14.0
Percent currently employed in other industry	20.0	46.1
Percent previously employed in other industry	100.0	93.7
Housing tenure (%)		
Rent	20.0	14.1
Mortgage	20.0	33.0
Own home	60.0	50.8
Other (eg, live with parents, on boat)	0.0	2.0
Educational		
Year completed school (%)		
Primary school	0.0	3.2
Year 8	0.0	3.2
Year 9	0.0	4.7
Year 10	40.0	32.6
Year 11	20.0	10.5
Year 12	40.0	45.8
Percent completed trade or TAFE certificate	50.0	52.2
Percent completed industry or business course	80.0	55.6
Percent with business plan	80.0	53.4
Marital Status		
Percent married or relationship	60.0	88.1
Partner's Income*		
Full-time employment	66.7	52.2
Part-time employment	0.0	23.3
Casual employment	0.0	8.8
Not employed	33.3	15.7
Family Composition		
Mean family size	2.5	3.2
Estimated number of total family members	10	596
Dependency Ratios		
Age Dependency Ratio**	0.0	21.7
Elderly Dependency Ratio	0.0	1.2
Child Dependency Ratio	0.0	20.6
Family Member Industry Dependency Ratio***	0.0	20.4
Gross Individual Income (%)		
Less than $16,000	66.7	39.2
$16,000 - $26,000	16.7	22.2
$26,000 - $36,000	0.0	9.5
$36,000 - $52,000	16.7	13.3
$52,000 - $78,000	0.0	9.5
Over $78,000	0.0	6.3
Average Income ($)	16,000	28,000

Note: **Percentage based on those charter operators with partners. Includes partners income from all sources.*
***The age dependency ratio is the number of children (below 15 years) and elderly persons (above 65 years) to every 100 persons in the population*
****The industry dependency ratio is the number of persons in the family who are over 15 years of age and working in the charter industry as a proportion of all family members over 15 years of age.*