

9 COOKTOWN TRC

The Cooktown TRC consists of the town of Cooktown north Queensland Coast to the south of Princess Charlotte Bay and to the north of Port Douglas (Figure 9.1). Cooktown is the main regional centre within this TRC and the primary homeport location of commercial fishers.

BUSINESS PROFILES

Location and Use of Ports

Table 9.1 shows the number of licence holders giving their town address as Cooktown and the number of survey respondents who reported Cooktown as their homeport. On the basis of the sample count, it is estimated that there are 15 commercial fishers within this TRC and that we can be 95% confident that the population count of commercial fishers within the TRC is between 7 and 23. Figure 9.1 shows the geographic location of this TRC.

Table 9.1

Location of Homeports

Town	Adj. Database Count	Sample Count	Estimated Count	Percent within TRC
Cooktown	15	6	15	100.0
Total TRC	15	6	15	100.0
95% Confidence Interval for Estimated TRC Count				7-23
Percent of Total Active Licence Holders in QLD				0.6%

Note: Adjusted database count is based on the postal address as recorded in the licencing information, which may not be the homeport of the fishing business. The adjusted database count reduces the count for latent licence holders (8.8%).
The estimated count adjusts the sample count by the sampling fraction of 2.444.

In addition to the use of Cooktown as a homeport, fishing businesses used Cooktown as a port when travelling to or from fishing areas. Table 9.2 shows a significant number of fishing businesses using Cooktown as a port, with the majority of these businesses having their homeports in Cairns (35%) and Townsville (13%).

Table 9.2

Homeports of Businesses Using Cooktown as a Port

Homeports	Sample Count	Percent
Cairns	11	35.5
Townsville	4	12.9
Innisfail	3	9.7
Mackay	2	6.5
Mourilyan	2	6.5
Brisbane	1	3.2
Bundaberg	1	3.2
Maryborough	1	3.2
Mooloolaba	1	3.2
Mossman	1	3.2
Port Douglas	1	3.2
Sandgate	1	3.2
Tin Can Bay	1	3.2
Wondalli	1	3.2
Total Businesses	31	100.0

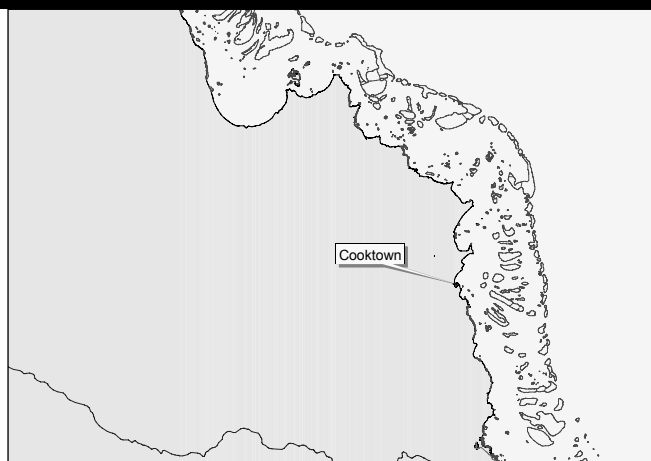


Figure 9.1 Location of the Cooktown TRC

Fishing Activity and Type

Table 9.3 shows the type of fishing activity undertaken within the last year by fishing businesses within this TRC. Line fishing is the primary fishing activity by businesses from the homeport of Cooktown within this TRC.

Table 9.3

Type of Fishing Activity (During the last 12 months)

Fishing Type	Sample Count	Percent within TRC
Line fishing	5	83.3
Crabbing	2	33.3
Netting	1	16.7
Total Sample	12	100.0

Note: This is a multiple response table where all rows are independent.

As shown in Table 9.4, line fishing as the primary fishing activity does not generally co-occur with other fishing activities such as crabbing and netting within this TRC. For instance, of the five fishers within the sample who undertook line fishing within the last year, only one fisher also engaged in netting and crabbing.

Table 9.4

Co-occurrence of Fishing Activities

	Line Fishing	Crabbing	Netting
Line fishing	5 <i>100.0</i>	1 <i>50.0</i>	1 <i>100.0</i>
Crabbing	1 <i>20.0</i>	2 <i>100.0</i>	1 <i>100.0</i>
Netting	1 <i>20.0</i>	1 <i>50.0</i>	1 <i>100.0</i>

Note: The co-occurrence table should be read by column. Column percentages are given as italics.

Although the sample size is low, Table 9.5 shows the peak months for fishing activity within the TRC is most likely between July and February.

Table 9.5
Peak Fishing Months During Past 12 Months

Months	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Percent of QLD Fishery
January	2	40.0	24.5
February	2	40.0	29.7
March	0	0.0	43.9
April	0	0.0	42.8
May	0	0.0	38.1
June	0	0.0	33.5
July	1	20.0	23.9
August	1	20.0	19.9
September	1	20.0	23.5
October	2	40.0	24.8
November	1	20.0	26.2
December	1	20.0	21.4

Table 9.6 provides a detailed description of the seasonal variation in line fishing, where it is found to be most common between January and April. Other fishing activities such as crabbing and netting have low sample counts which do not permit meaningful analysis.

Table 9.6
Seasonal Variations in Fishing Activity

Months	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Percent of Fishery
Line Fishing			
January	4	80.0	64.6
February	4	80.0	64.3
March	5	100.0	68.1
April	4	80.0	70.4
May	3	60.0	74.7
June	3	60.0	78.7
July	3	60.0	82.0
August	3	60.0	80.8
September	3	60.0	79.7
October	3	60.0	79.7
November	2	40.0	78.2
December	3	60.0	70.6

Note: Insufficient sample size for an analysis of net and crabbing activity.

Location of Resource Use

Figure 9.2 shows the location of resource use by commercial fishing operations in the Cooktown TRC. The resource catchments are highly localised, with the primary resource catchment consisting of coastal and reefal areas in immediate proximity to the town of Cooktown. The secondary resource catchment extends northward and includes coastal and reefal areas north to those reefal areas east of Cape Melville.

Fishing Industry Employees

Table 9.7 identifies the number of employees of commercial fishing businesses within this TRC for both peak and off-peak seasons. The majority of businesses within peak seasons have one full-time employee (the owner or operator). There is little part-time or casual employment by these businesses. The average number of employees during the peak season is 2.8, while in the off-peak season it is 2.5. It is estimated that during the peak season there are 42 full-time equivalent employees while in the off-peak season there are 37.5 full-time equivalent employees.

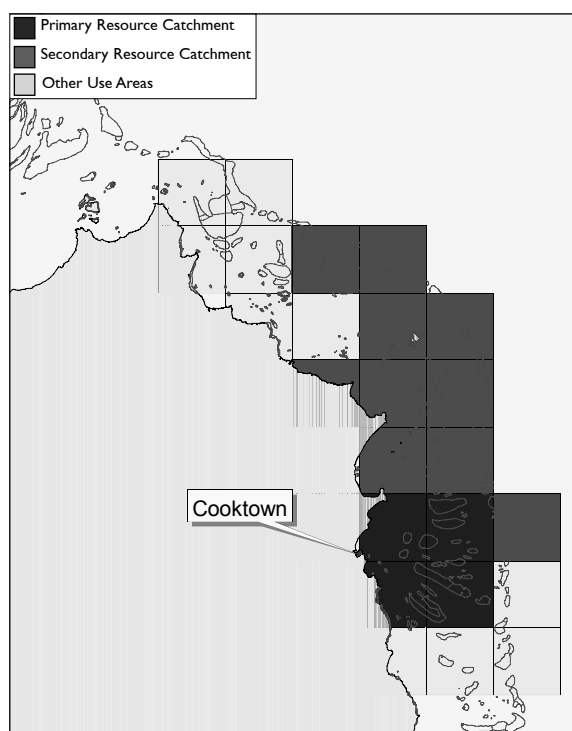


Figure 9.2 Cooktown TRC: Location of Resource Use

Business Ownership and Size

Table 9.8 shows the number of years the current owner or operator has owned the fishing business. On average, businesses within this TRC had been owned for an average of 7.6 years, which was significantly lower than the average for all Queensland commercial fishing businesses.

Table 9.8
Number of Years of Current Ownership of the Fishing Business

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Cumulative Percent
1-5	2	33.3	33.3
6-10	3	50.0	83.3
11-15	0	0.0	83.3
16-20	1	16.7	100.0
21-25	0	0.0	100.0
Total	6	100.0	

Mean Number of Years owned or operated	7.6
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (14.6)	-7.0

Note: Standard errors for number of years ownership (sample = 2.9; QLD population = 0.37).

The average number of years the business had been operating was 14.3 years (Table 9.9), which was also significantly lower than all Queensland fishing businesses (18.2 years).

Table 9.9 Number of Years Business has been Operating

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Cumulative Percent
1-5	2	33.3	28.6
6-10	1	16.7	57.2
11-15	0	0.0	0.0
16-20	1	16.7	71.5
21-25	0	0.0	85.8
26-30	2	33.3	100.0
Total	6	100.0	

Mean Number of Years owned or operated	14.3
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (18.2)	-3.9

Note: Standard errors for number of years operated (sample = 5.5; QLD population = 0.46)

Table 9.7
Number of Employees

Number of Employees	Full-Time Count	Full-Time Percent	Part-Time Count	Part-Time Percent	Casual Count	Casual Percent
Peak Season						
Nil	1	16.7	6	100.0	5	83.3
1	3	50.0	0	0.0	1	16.7
2-3	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
4-5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
6-7	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
8-9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Businesses	6	100.0	6	100.0	6	100.0
Total Employees	16		0		0.5	
Mean Number of Employees per Business (Peak)		2.8				
Estimated Number Employed within the TRC		42				
Off-Peak Season						
Nil	2	33.3	6	100.0	6	100.0
1	2	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
2-3	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
4-5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
6-7	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
8-9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Businesses	6	100.0	6	100.0	6	100.0
Total Employees	15		0		0	
Mean Nos Employees per Business (Off-Peak)		2.5				
Estimated Number Employed within the TRC		37.5				

Note: Part-time and casual employment is recorded as 0.5 when contributing to total employment.
Total number of employees includes the owner-operator and is the number of full-time equivalent employees.
Estimates of total employment based on an estimated 15 fishing businesses (Table 9.1)

Table 9.10 shows that the majority of fishing businesses within this TRC operated one boat (67%).

Table 9.10
Number of Boats Operated by Fishing Businesses

Number of Boats	Sample Count	Percent within TRC
1	4	66.7
2	1	16.7
3	1	16.7
4	0	0.0
Total Number of Businesses	6	100.0
Mean Number of Boats Operated		1.5
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (1.7)		-0.2

Note: Standard errors for number of boats operated (sample = 0.3; QLD population = 0.05)

The majority of boats (75%) operated by businesses were between 3 and 10 metres (Table 9.11).

Table 9.11
Length of Boats Operated by Fishing Businesses

Length of Boat (metres)	Sample Count	Percent within TRC
3-6	3	37.5
7-10	3	37.5
11-14	1	12.5
15-18	1	12.5
Total Number of Boats	8	100.0
Mean Length of Boats Operated (metres)		8.3
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (9.9)		-1.6
Mean Length of Largest Boat Operated (metres)		10.1
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (11.4)		-1.3

Note: As mean length of boats is a multiple response, standard errors cannot be computed. Standard errors for mean length of largest boat (sample = 1.6; QLD population=0.14)

Value of Production and Location of Sales

Table 9.12 shows for the 12 months prior to the survey, the wholesale value of all products sold by fishing businesses within the Cooktown TRC. Eighty-three percent of businesses within this TRC had production values of less than \$200,000 for the previous 12 months, with 50% having production values less than \$100,000.

Within the Cooktown TRC it is estimated that the 15 fishing businesses had a gross value of production of approximately \$1.5 million, which is approximately 0.5% of the total value of production of the Queensland commercial fishing industry.

Table 9.12
Wholesale Value of Product (Annual value)

Wholesale Value (\$,000)	Sample Count	Sample Percent	Queensland Percent
Less than \$100	3	50.0	42.8
\$101 - \$200	2	33.4	21.4
\$201 - \$300	0	0.0	16.2
\$301 - \$400	0	0.0	8.5
\$401 - \$500	1	16.7	3.8
\$501 - \$600	0	0.0	1.8
\$601 - \$700	0	0.0	1.3
\$701 - \$800	0	0.0	0.4
\$801 - \$900	0	0.0	1.0
\$901 - \$1,000	0	0.0	0.3
Over \$1,000	0	0.0	2.3
Total	6	100.0	100.0
Median GVP for TRC			\$100,166
Estimated Total GVP for TRC			\$1,502,000
Median GVP for QLD Population			\$128,629
Estimated Total GVP for QLD Population			\$314,241,000
Percent of Total Queensland Production			0.5%

Note: Estimated TRC population total is based on an estimate of 15 businesses within the TRC, with a median GVP of \$100,166. Queensland total GVP based on 2,444 businesses (2,679 licenced businesses with 8.8% latency) with a median GVP of \$128,629.

Table 9.13 shows the value of sales to specific locations within Australia for the sample of six businesses and the percentage of sales to each location. The sample percent of sales to each location has been used directly to estimate the total value of business sales to all locations. From Table 9.13, and as shown in Figure 9.3, 53% of sales (\$0.8 million) occur directly to Cairns. Although \$0.6 million of sales is reported as occurring to overseas markets it is probable that the majority of these sales occur firstly through Cairns, thereby increasing the total value of sales through Cairns.

Table 9.13
Town Location of Sales (\$'000)

Location of Sales	Sample Value of Sales	Percent of Sample	Estimated Sales
Cairns	427	52.8	793
New South Wales	39	4.8	72
Mooloolaba	5	0.6	9
Victoria	4	0.5	7
Total Sales (Australia)	475	58.8	883
Total Sales (Overseas)	333	41.2	619
Total Sales	808	100.0	1,502

Note: The sample value of sales is based on GVP as reported by businesses in the survey. The estimated value of business sales (Table 10.12) is proportionally distributed to all locations on the basis of sample percentages.

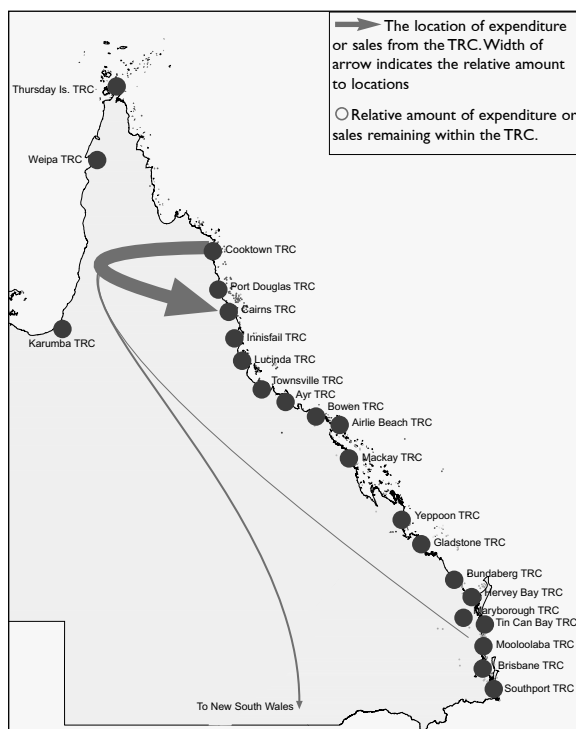


Figure 9.3 Cooktown TRC: Location of Business Sales

Business Expenditure and Debt Levels

Table 9.14 shows that approximately \$0.8 million was spent by businesses in this TRC within the previous year on business goods and services (excluding salaries and wages). The majority of this expenditure (49%) or \$0.4 million occurred within Cairns and a further 44% or \$0.3 million occurred within Cooktown (Figure 9.4).

Table 9.14
Town Location of Business Expenditure (All costs, excluding salaries and wages)

Location of Expenditure	Sample Value of Expenditure (\$'000)	Percent of Sample	Estimated Expenditure (\$'000)
Cairns	205	48.7	382
Cooktown	184	43.6	342
Brisbane	29	6.9	54
Sunshine Coast	2	0.6	4
New South Wales	1	0.1	1
Total Expenditure	712	100.0	783

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.

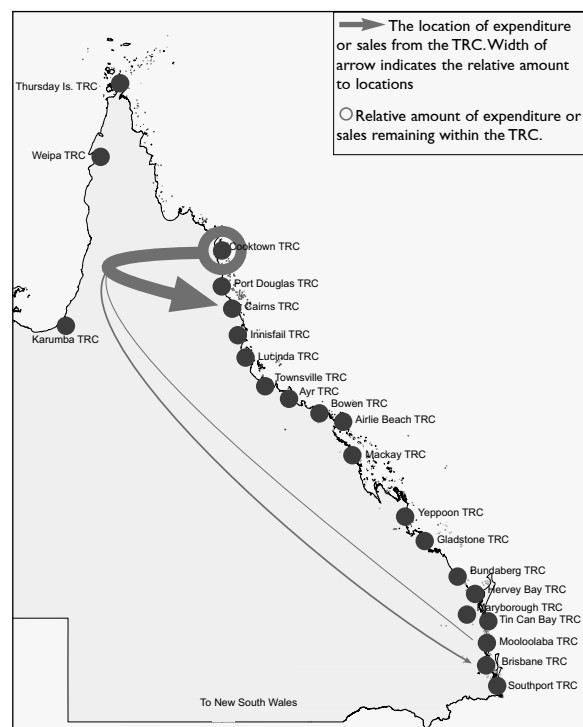


Figure 9.4 Cooktown TRC: Location of Business Expenditure

Each business operator, was asked what percentage of their business assets were not owned outright by their business, which identified for the purpose of this study the level of business debt. Table 9.15 shows that 80% of businesses within the Cooktown TRC had no debt. Although based on a small sample count, the overall debt level within the TRC was 6% of business assets.

Table 9.15
Business Debt Levels

Percent of Assets Not Owned	Sample Count	Sample Percent	Queensland Percent
Nil	4	80.0	60.1
1 – 10%	0	0.0	6.4
11 – 20%	0	0.0	5.2
21 – 30%	1	20.0	6.4
31 – 40%	0	0.0	3.3
41 – 50%	0	0.0	9.6
51 – 60%	0	0.0	1.8
61 – 70%	0	0.0	1.2
71 – 80%	0	0.0	1.1
81 – 90%	0	0.0	1.6
91 – 100%	0	0.0	3.3
Total	5	100.0	100.0

Median Debt Level for TRC 6%
Median Debt Level for QLD Population 16.6%
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (16.6) -10.6%

Note: Debt level defined as the percentage of total business assets not owned outright by the business.

EMPLOYEE PROFILES

Town of Residence

Table 9.16 shows that within this TRC the survey of fishing industry employees found that all employees resided in the town of Cooktown (100%).

Table 9.16
Town of Residence

Town of Residence	Sample Count	Percent of Sample
Cooktown	16	100.0
Total	16	100.0

Months Employed in the Fishing Industry

Table 9.17 shows that during the past 12 months the majority of owner/operators and employees within this TRC were employed in the fishing industry between June and October, which is also similar to the profile for all Queensland employees.

Table 9.17
Months Employed in the Fishing Industry
During the Past 12 Months

Months	Owner/ Operators		Total	All QLD
	Employee	Within TRC	Employees	
January	83.3	25.0	50.0	80.7
February	83.3	25.0	50.0	82.3
March	100.0	50.0	71.4	86.1
April	100.0	62.5	78.6	86.8
May	100.0	62.5	78.6	87.3
June	100.0	75.0	85.7	87.8
July	100.0	87.5	92.9	86.7
August	100.0	87.5	92.9	86.3
September	100.0	87.5	92.9	86.8
October	100.0	75.0	85.7	85.4
November	83.3	75.0	78.6	84.4
December	83.3	75.0	78.6	82.3

Note: Owner/operator sample of 6, employee sample of 10

Location of Household Expenditure

Table 9.18 shows the location of household expenditure related to individual income derived from employment in the fishing industry. As might be expected, the majority (87%) of industry related household expenditure occurs in Cooktown (\$0.5 million) with a further 11% occurring within Cairns (\$0.6 million).

Table 2.18
Town Location of Household Expenditure
(all commodities and services)

Location	Value of Expenditure (\$'000)	Percent of Sample	Estimated Expenditure (\$'000)
Cooktown	175	86.6	490
Cairns	22	10.9	62
Townsville	4	2.0	11
Milla Milla	1	0.5	3
Total	202	100.0	566

Note: The gross individual annual income of fishers within this TRC was estimated as \$22,167 (Table 9.20). 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. Applying these percentages to the gross individual annual income of employees indicates that direct employee expenditure on household commodities and services to be \$13,484, with total household expenditure across all 42 (Table 9.7) employees to be \$0.6 million (Table 9.18)

School and Employment Locations of Family Members

The towns in which family members attend school and are employed are shown in Table 9.19. As might be expected, Cooktown is the primary location for school and employment (85%).

Table 9.19
School and Employment Locations of Family Members

Location of Employment or School	Sample Count	Percent of Sample
Cooktown	17	85.0
Townsville	1	5.0
Cairns	1	5.0
Brisbane	1	5.0
Total Family Members	20	100.0

Note: Counts and percentages based on all family members.

Employee Social and Demographic Profiles

Table 9.20 provides profile information about employees within the TRC. Information is provided separately for owner-operators and non owner-operator employees of businesses within the TRC. For comparative purposes, information is also provided for all employees throughout Queensland.

Table 9.20. Owner-Operator and Employee Profiles

Profile	Owner/ Operators ^a	Employee	Total Within TRC	All QLD Employees
Estimated Number of Employees ^b	15	27	42	7,088
Mean age of fisher	47.2	38.9	42.2	37.3
Age range	30-64	26-66	26-66	15-79
Percent males	100.0	88.9	93.3	94.8
Mean years resident in town	9.2	11.3	10.4	19.1
Mean number of years in fishing industry	17.2	11.3	13.7	12.6
Median hours per week in fishing industry	51.7	72.5	63.6	60.0
Percent moved town to retain employment	50.0	50.0	50.0	20.5
Percent currently employed in other industry	0.0	22.2	13.3	34.2
Percent previously employed in other industry	100.0	100.0	100.0	69.2
Housing tenure				
Rent	33.3	55.6	46.7	33.6
Mortgage	33.3	0.0	13.3	20.1
Own home	33.3	11.1	20.0	31.1
Other (eg, live with parents, on boat)	0.0	33.3	20.0	15.2
Educational				
Year completed school				
Primary school	0.0	11.1	6.7	5.2
Year 8	0.0	22.2	13.3	8.0
Year 9	33.3	0.0	13.3	11.9
Year 10	33.3	22.2	26.7	44.4
Year 11	0.0	11.1	6.7	10.1
Year 12	33.3	33.3	33.3	20.2
Percent completed trade or TAFE certificate	66.7	44.4	46.7	37.7
Percent completed industry or business course	0.0	33.3	20.0	15.2
Percent with business plan ^c	50.0	—	50.0	22.9
Percent active fishing group member	33.3	44.4	40.0	25.7
Marital Status				
Percent married or relationship	66.7	55.6	83.3	62.0
Percent with partner employed in business ^d	50.0	—	50.0	56.1
Median hours per week employed in business	15.0	—	15.0	20.0
Partners Income^{de}				
Full-time employment	75.0	80.0	25.0	28.3
Part-time employment	0.0	0.0	25.0	18.5
Casual employment	0.0	0.0	25.0	11.6
Not employed	25.0	20.0	25.0	41.5
Family Composition				
Mean family size	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6
Estimated number of total family members	34	62	96	18,429
Dependency Ratios				
Age Dependency Ratio ^f	7.7	83.3	40.0	33.4
Elderly Dependency Ratio	0.0	8.3	4.0	2.3
Child Dependency Ratio	7.7	66.7	36.0	31.2
Family Member Industry Dependency Ratio ^g	57.1	25.0	45.5	23.9
Gross Individual Income				
Less than \$16,000	33.3	25.0	50.0	34.6
\$16,000 - \$26,000	33.3	37.5	16.7	19.6
\$26,000 - \$36,000	16.7	37.5	16.7	22.1
\$36,000 - \$52,000	16.7	0.0	0.0	11.7
\$52,000 - \$78,000	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6
Over \$78,000	0.0	0.0	16.7	5.4
Average Income (\$)	22,167	21,500	22,167	27,471

Note: ^a Owner/operator sample of 6, employee sample = 10.

^b Based on peak estimates derived in Table 9.7

^c Percentages for owner-operators only.

^d Percentage based on those fishers with partners.

^e Includes partners income from all sources.

^f 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

^g The industry dependency ratio is the number of persons in the family who are over 15 years of age and working in the fishing industry (excluding the direct industry employee) as a proportion of all family members over 15 years of age.

All Queensland employees includes all owner-operators and employees. Value is the weighted sample of owner-operators (2.43) and employees (8.68).