

I Introduction

This report is the outcome of the first phase of a social assessment research project, which examines the commercial fishing industry in Queensland. This first report provides a descriptive overview of the social and financial characteristics of Queensland's commercial fishing industries, the harvest, and tourism fishing charter industries. It summarises the findings of survey research undertaken with the commercial fishing industry using a recently developed framework for social assessment in natural resource management known as Town Resource Cluster (TRC) Analysis.

This report examines the commercial fishing industry in Queensland including the trawl, line fishing, net and crab fisheries. Separate reports will be undertaken for the harvest fisheries and the tourism charter fisheries (Figure 1.1).

Further research in 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) conduct 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 will allow specific queries about the use of fisheries resources (Figure 1.1).

The current report is only the first phase of the fisheries social assessment research project. The report presents basic 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 coastal communities and the fishing industry.

This report consists of 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.

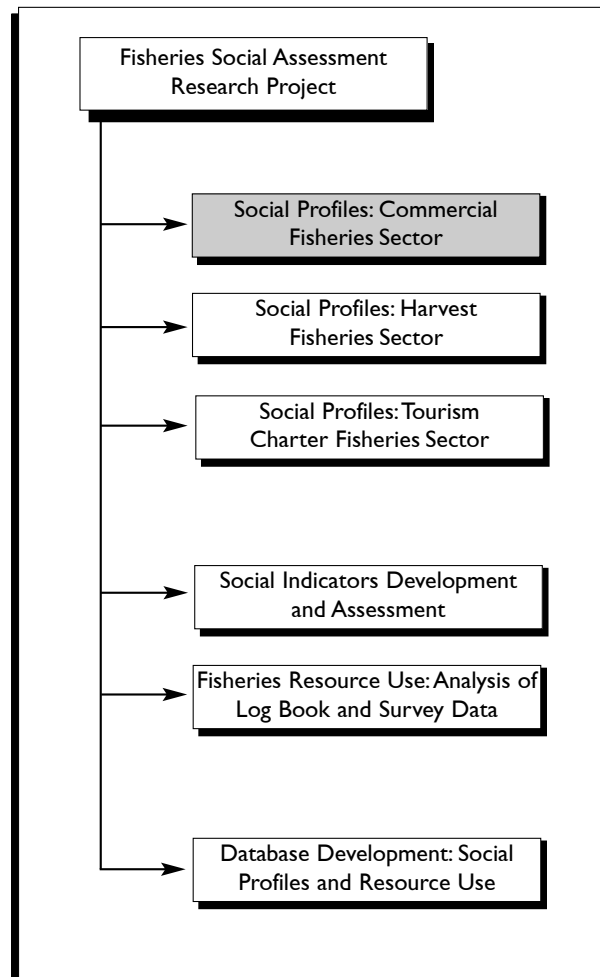


Figure 1.1 Social Assessment Research Projects

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

Chapter 6 - 12: A description of the social and financial profiles of the harvest industry within each of the seven identified TRCs.