

15 AYR TRC

The Ayr TRC consists of the main urban towns of Ayr, Home Hill and Giru. This small TRC is located between the two larger TRCs of Townsville in the north and Bowen in the South. Figure 15.1 shows the geographic location of this TRC.

BUSINESS PROFILES

Location and Use of Ports

Table 15.1 shows the number of licence holders within the Ayr 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 16 commercial fishers within this TRC and that the 95% confidence interval places the population count of commercial fishers within the TRC as being between 8 and 24.

Table 15.1
Location of Homeports

Town	Adj. Database Count	Sample Count	Estimated Count	Percent within TRC
Ayr	24	5	12	75.0
Home Hill	7	1	2	12.5
Giru	1	0	0	0.0
Hullhole Creek	0	1	2	12.5
Total TRC	32	7	16	100.0

95% Confidence Interval for Estimated TRC Count 8-24
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.

Only one fishing business was found to use Ayr as a port when operating to or from fishing grounds. This business had Townsville as its homeport.

Fishing Activity and Type

Table 15.2 shows the type of fishing activity undertaken within the last year by fishing businesses within this TRC. Netting (86%) and crabbing (71%) are the primary fishing activities by businesses from the Ayr TRC, followed by line fishing (43%) and trawling (29%).

Table 15.2
Type of Fishing Activity (During the last 12 months)

Fishing Type	Sample Count	Percent within TRC
Netting	6	85.7
Crabbing	5	71.4
Line fishing	3	42.9
Trawling	2	28.6
Total Sample	7	100.0

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

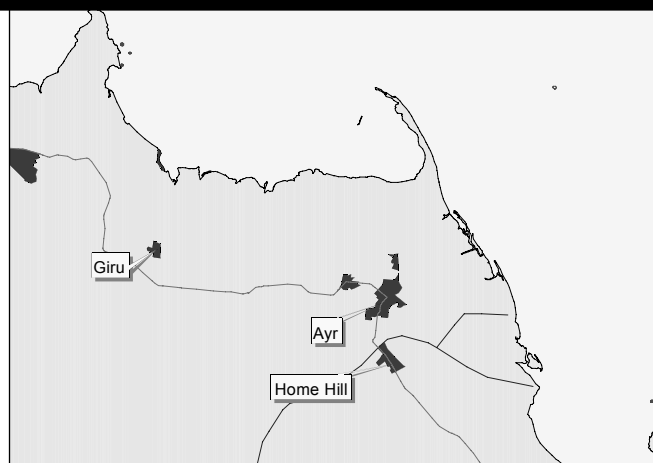


Figure 15.1 Location of the Ayr TRC

As shown in Table 15.3, netting as the primary fishing activity co-occurs predominantly with crabbing (83%) while all line fishers also crab and net.

Table 15.3
Co-occurrence of Fishing Activities

	Line Fishing	Trawling	Crabbing	Netting
Line fishing	3 <i>100.0</i>	0 <i>0.0</i>	3 <i>60.0</i>	3 <i>50.0</i>
Trawling	0 <i>0.0</i>	2 <i>100.0</i>	0 <i>0.0</i>	1 <i>16.7</i>
Crabbing	3 <i>100.0</i>	0 <i>0.0</i>	5 <i>100.0</i>	5 <i>83.3</i>
Netting	3 <i>100.0</i>	1 <i>50.0</i>	5 <i>100.0</i>	6 <i>100.0</i>

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

Table 15.4 shows January and May to be the peak months for fishing activity within the TRC, with very low fishing activity occurring between September and December.

Table 15.4
Peak Fishing Months During Past 12 Months

Months	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Percent of QLD Fishery
January	6	85.7	24.5
February	6	85.7	29.7
March	7	100.0	43.9
April	5	71.4	42.8
May	4	57.1	38.1
June	3	42.9	33.5
July	1	14.3	23.9
August	2	28.6	19.9
September	1	14.3	23.5
October	1	14.3	24.8
November	1	14.3	26.2
December	1	14.3	21.4

Table 15.5 provides a more detailed description of the seasonal variation in fishing activities by businesses. Line fishing is most common between October and November, crabbing occurs throughout the year and netting activity occurs most commonly between February and September.

Table 15.5
Seasonal Variations in Fishing Activity

Months	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Percent of Fishery
Line Fishing			
January	1	33.3	64.6
February	1	33.3	64.3
March	1	33.3	68.1
April	1	33.3	70.4
May	1	33.3	74.7
June	1	33.3	78.7
July	1	33.3	82.0
August	1	33.3	80.8
September	1	33.3	79.7
October	3	100.0	79.7
November	3	100.0	78.2
December	1	33.3	70.6
Crabbing			
January	5	100.0	74.7
February	5	100.0	79.0
March	5	100.0	75.1
April	5	100.0	69.4
May	5	100.0	67.2
June	5	100.0	58.5
July	5	100.0	52.0
August	5	100.0	50.2
September	5	100.0	53.3
October	5	100.0	55.9
November	5	100.0	66.4
December	5	100.0	72.1
Netting			
January	2	33.3	57.5
February	6	100.0	72.9
March	6	100.0	73.9
April	6	100.0	74.2
May	6	100.0	77.6
June	6	100.0	79.9
July	6	100.0	75.9
August	6	100.0	73.9
September	6	100.0	69.6
October	5	83.3	64.2
November	4	66.7	55.9
December	3	50.0	54.5

Note: Trawling has not been provided due to the low sample count for this activity.

Location of Resource Use

Figure 15.2 shows the location of resource use by commercial fishing operations in the Ayr TRC. Given the emphasis on netting and crabbing activities within this TRC it is not surprising that both primary and secondary resource catchments are small and localised to the coastal areas between Cape Bowling Green and Cape Upstart.

Fishing Industry Employees

Table 15.6 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 and off-peak seasons had between two and three full-time employees (which includes the owner or operator). Few businesses had part-time or casual employment. The average number of employees per business during the peak season was 1.7 employees per business and in the off-peak season it was 1.3. It is estimated that during the peak season there were 27 employees while during the off-peak season there were an estimated 21 employees.

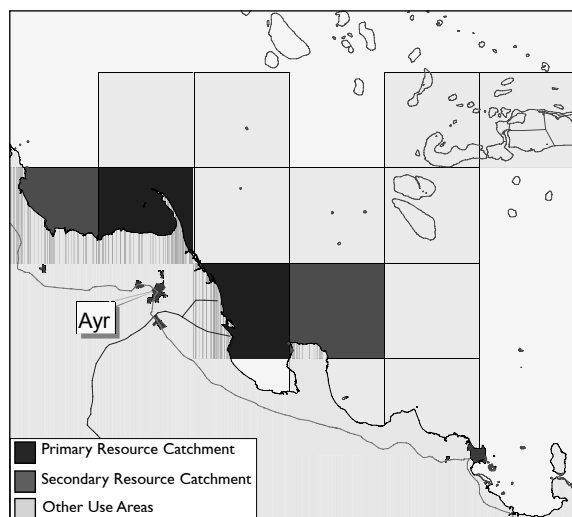


Figure 15.2 Ayr TRC: Location of Resource Use

Business Ownership and Size

Table 15.7 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 12.4 years, with 57% of businesses being owned by the current owner for less than 10 years.

Table 15.7
Number of Years of Current Ownership of the Fishing Business

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Cumulative Percent
1-5	3	42.8	42.8
6-10	1	14.3	57.1
11-15	1	14.3	71.4
16-20	0	0.0	71.4
21-25	1	14.3	85.7
26-30	0	0.0	85.7
31+	1	14.3	100.0
Total	7	100.0	
Mean Number of Years owned or operated			12.4
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (14.6)			-2.2

Note: Standard errors for number of years ownership (sample = 4.2; QLD population = 0.37).

The average number of years the business had been operating was 14.6 years (Figure 15.8), which was somewhat lower to that for all Queensland fishing businesses (18.2 years).

Table 15.8
Number of Years Business has been Operating

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent within TRC	Cumulative Percent
1-5	2	28.6	28.6
6-10	1	14.3	42.9
11-15	1	14.3	57.2
16-20	1	14.3	71.5
21-25	1	14.3	85.8
26-30	0	0.0	85.8
31+	1	14.3	100.0
Total	7	100.0	
Mean Number of Years owned or operated			14.6
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (18.2)			-3.6

Note: Standard errors for number of years operated (sample = 4.1; QLD population = 0.46)

Table 15.6
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	0	0.0	5	71.4	7	100.0
1	3	42.8	2	28.6	0	0.0
2-3	4	57.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
4-5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
6-7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
8-9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Businesses	7	100.0	7	100.0	7	100.0
Total Employees	11		1		0	
Mean Number of Employees per Business (Peak)		1.7				
Estimated Number Employed within the TRC		27				
Off-Peak						
Nil	1	11.3	6	85.7	7	100.0
1	4	27.4	1	14.3	0	0.0
2-3	2	41.9	0	1.6	0	0.0
4-5	0	16.1	0	1.6	0	0.0
6-7	0	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
8-9	0	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Businesses	7	100.0	7	100.0	7	100.0
Total Employees	8		1		0	
Mean Number of Employees per Business (Off-Peak)			1.3			
Estimated Number Employed within the TRC		21				

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 153 fishing businesses (Table 15.1)

Table 15.9 shows that the majority of fishing businesses within this TRC operated either one or two boats (57%).

Table 15.9
Number of Boats Operated by Fishing Businesses

Number of Boats	Sample Count	Percent within TRC
1	3	42.8
2	1	14.3
3	0	0.0
4	2	28.6
5	1	14.3
6+	0	0.0
Total Number of Businesses	7	100.0
Mean Number of Boats Operated		2.6
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (1.7)		+0.9

Note: Standard errors for number of boats operated (sample = 0.6; QLD population = 0.05)

Table 15.10 shows the frequency distribution for length of boats, with 83% of boats being between 3 and 6 metres and a further 17% of boats being between 7 and 10 metres. The mean length of all boats and the mean length of the largest boat were also significantly lower than that of all boats in Queensland.

Table 15.10
Length of Boats Operated by Fishing Businesses

Length of Boat (metres)	Sample Count	Percent within TRC
3-6	15	83.3
7-10	3	16.7
11-14	0	0.0
15-18	0	0.0
19-23	0	0.0
24+	0	0.0
Total Number of Boats	18	100.0

Mean Length of Boats Operated (metres) 5.6
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (9.9) -4.3

Mean Length of Largest Boat Operated (metres) 7.1
Difference of TRC mean to QLD mean (11.4) -4.3

Note: As mean length of boats in a multiple response, standard errors cannot be computed.
Standard errors for mean length of largest boat (sample = 0.9; QLD population=0.14)

Value of Production and Location of Sales

Table 15.11 shows for the 12 months prior to the survey, the wholesale value of all products sold by fishing businesses within the Ayr TRC. The profile for the Ayr TRC is markedly different to the overall profile for Queensland, with all fishing businesses having production values of less than \$100,000. In addition, the median GVP of \$50,000 for the Ayr TRC is less than half the median GVP for Queensland.

Within the Ayr TRC it is estimated that the 16 fishing businesses had a gross value of production of approximately \$0.8 million, which is approximately 0.3% of the total value of production of the Queensland commercial fishing industry.

Table 15.11
Wholesale Value of Product (Annual value)

Wholesale Value (\$,000)	Sample Count	Sample Percent	Queensland Percent
Less than \$100	7	100.0	42.8
\$101 - \$200	0	0.0	21.4
\$201 - \$300	0	0.0	16.2
\$301 - \$400	0	0.0	8.5
\$401 - \$500	0	0.0	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	7	100.0	100.0

Median GVP for TRC	\$49,906
Estimated Total GVP for TRC	\$798,000
Median GVP for QLD Population	\$128,629
Estimated Total GVP for QLD Population	\$314,241,000
Percent of Total Queensland Production	0.3%

Note: Estimated TRC population total is based on an estimate of 16 businesses within the TRC, with a median GVP of \$49,906. Queensland total GVP based on 2,443 businesses (2,679 licenced businesses with 8.8% latency) with a median GVP of \$128,629.

Table 15.12 shows the value of sales to specific locations within Australia for the sample of 16 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 15.12, and as shown in Figure 15.3, 55% of sales (\$0.4 million) occurs directly to Ayr, \$0.1 million to NSW, while a further \$0.1 million is sold in Home Hill.

Table 15.12
Town Location of Sales (\$'000)

Location of Sales	Sample Value Sales (\$'000)	Percent of Sample	Estimated Sales
Ayr	192	55.0	439
New South Wales	61	17.5	140
Home Hill	60	17.2	137
Victoria	20	5.7	45
Brisbane	10	2.9	23
Townsville	4	1.1	9
Cairns	2	0.6	5
Total Sales (Australia)	349	100.0	798
Total Sales (Overseas)	0	0.0	0
Total Sales	349	100.0	798

Note: The sample value of sales is based on GVP as reported by businesses in the survey. The estimated value of business sales (Table 15.11) is proportionally distributed to all locations on the basis of sample percentages.

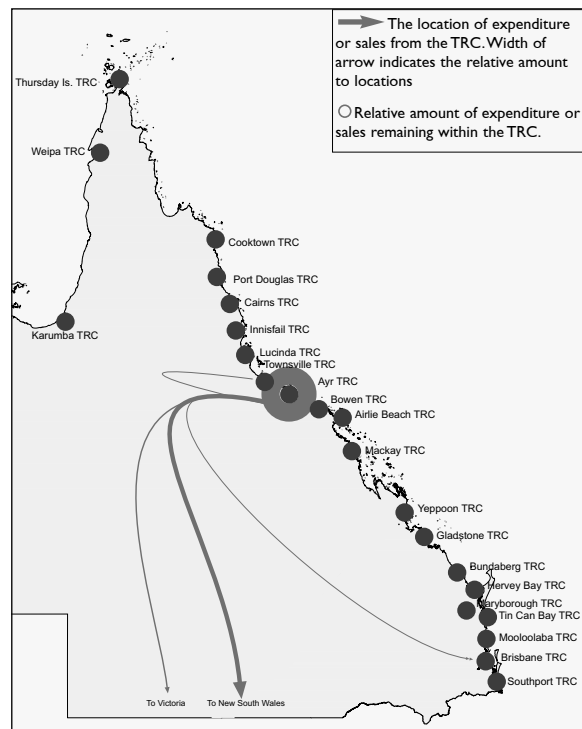


Figure 15.3 Ayr TRC: Location of Business Sales

Business Expenditure and Debt Levels

Table 15.13 shows that approximately \$0.4 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 occurred in Ayr (\$0.3 million).

Table 15.13
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)
Ayr	110	60.4	251
Townsville	39	21.4	89
Home Hill	27	14.8	62
Brisbane	6	3.4	14
Total Expenditure	182	100.0	416

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.

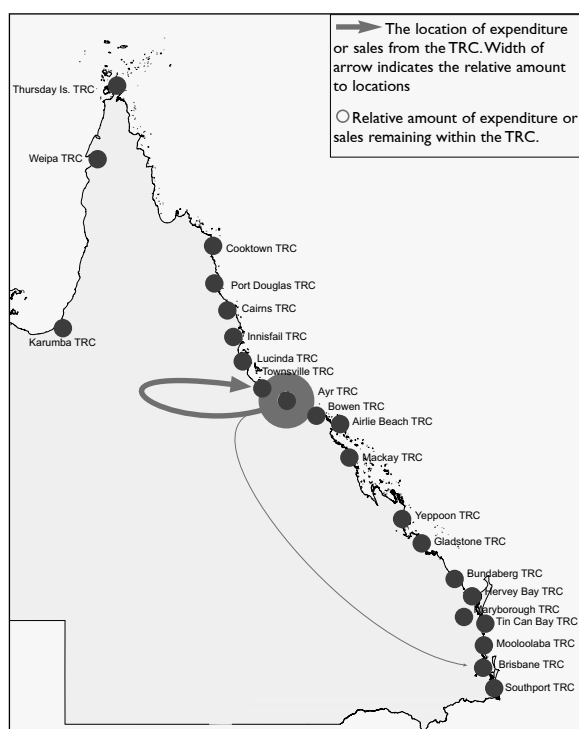


Figure 15.4 Ayr TRC: Location of Business Expenditure

Asking each business operator, what percentage of their business assets were not owned outright by their business, identified for the purpose of this study the level of business debt. Table 15.14 shows that 29% of businesses within the Ayr TRC had no debt. The mean debt level within the TRC was 22% of business assets, which was 5% higher than the Queensland industry average.

Table 15.14
Business Debt Levels

Percent of Assets Not Owned	Sample Count	Sample Percent	Queensland Percent
Nil	2	28.6	60.1
1 – 10%	0	0.0	6.4
11 – 20%	1	14.3	5.2
21 – 30%	2	28.6	6.4
31 – 40%	2	28.6	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	7	100.0	100.0

Mean Debt Level for TRC	22.1%
Median Debt Level for QLD Population	16.6%
Difference of TRC Mean to QLD Mean (16.6)	+7.0%

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

EMPLOYEE PROFILES

Town of Residence

Table 15.15 indicates that the majority of employees reside in Ayr (65%).

Table 15.15
Town of Residence

Town of Residence	Sample Count	Percent of Sample
Ayr	11	64.7
Home Hill	3	17.6
Alva	2	11.8
Giru	1	5.9
Total	17	100.0

Months Employed in the Fishing Industry

Table 15.16 shows that during the past 12 months the majority of owner/operators and employees within this TRC were employed in the fishing industry between February and June.

Table 15.16
Months Employed in the Fishing Industry During Past 12 Months

Months	Owner/ Operators	Employee	Total Within TRC	All QLD Employees
January	85.7	62.5	73.3	80.7
February	85.7	75.0	80.0	82.3
March	100.0	75.0	86.7	86.1
April	100.0	75.0	86.7	86.8
May	85.7	62.5	73.3	87.3
June	85.7	75.0	80.0	87.8
July	85.7	72.2	73.3	86.7
August	85.7	62.5	73.3	86.3
September	85.7	62.5	73.3	86.8
October	85.7	62.5	73.3	85.4
November	85.7	62.5	73.3	84.4
December	85.7	50.0	66.7	82.3

Note: Owner-operator sample of 7; employee sample of 10.

Location of Household Expenditure

Table 15.17 and Figure 15.5 show the location of household expenditure related to individual income derived from employment in the fishing industry. Ayr attracts 82% (\$0.5 million) of all annual employee household expenditure from within the TRC, while Home Hill attracts 14% (\$0.1 million).

Table 15.17
Town Location of Household Expenditure
(all commodities and services)

Location of Expenditure	Sample Value of Expenditure (\$'000)	Percent of Sample	Estimated Expenditure (\$'000)
Ayr	290	81.9	461
Home Hill	50	14.1	79
Townsville	14	4.0	23
Total Expenditure	354	100.0	563

Note: The gross individual annual income of fishers within this TRC was estimated as \$34,250 (Table 15.19). 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 \$20,834, with total household expenditure across all 27 (Table 15.6) employees to be \$0.6 million (Table 15.17).

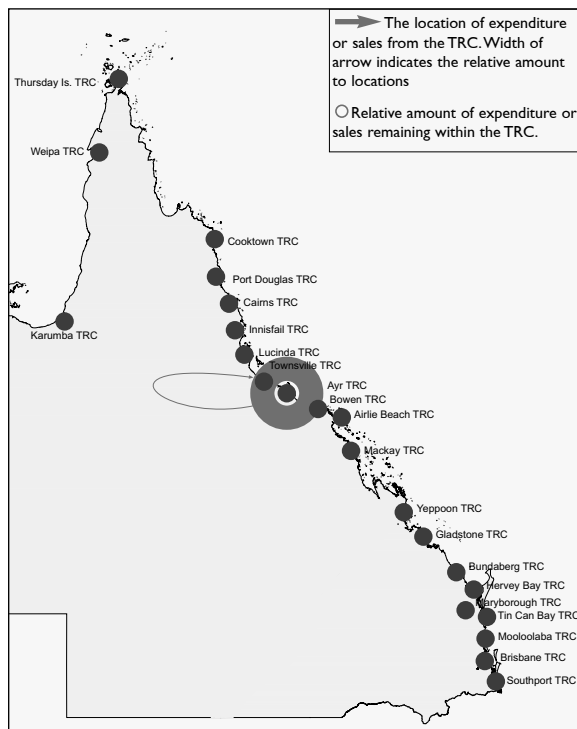


Figure 15.5 Ayr TRC: Location of Household Expenditure

School and Employment Locations of Family Members

The towns in which family members attend school and are employed are shown in Table 15.18. As might be expected, Ayr (62%) and Home Hill (17%) are the primary towns for school and employment.

Table 15.18 School and Employment Locations of Family Members

Location of Employment or School	Sample Count	Percent of Sample
Ayr	15	62.5
Home Hill	4	16.7
Townsville	2	8.3
Other towns and interstate	3	12.5
Total Family Members	160	100.0

Note: Counts and percentages based on all family members. Other towns includes all towns with a frequency of one.

Employee Social and Demographic Profiles

Table 15.19 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 15.19. Owner-Operator and Employee Profiles

Profile	Owner/ Operators ^a	Employee	Total Within TRC	All QLD Employees
Estimated Number of Employees ^b	16	11	27	7,088
Mean age of fisher	41.9	33.3	36.8	37.3
Age range	30-55	20-50	20-55	15-79
Percent males	100.0	80.0	88.2	94.8
Mean years resident in town	28.3	19.5	23.1	19.1
Mean number of years in fishing industry	17.8	7.4	11.7	12.6
Median hours per week in fishing industry	80.0	32.5	48.0	60.0
Percent moved town to retain employment	28.6	10.0	17.6	20.5
Percent currently employed in other industry	71.4	100.0	88.2	34.2
Percent previously employed in other industry	100.0	70.0	81.3	69.2
Housing tenure				
Rent	14.3	0.0	5.9	33.6
Mortgage	28.6	30.0	29.4	20.1
Own home	57.1	50.0	52.9	31.1
Other (eg, live with parents, on boat)	0.0	20.0	11.8	15.2
Educational				
Year completed school				
Primary school	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2
Year 8	14.3	10.0	11.8	8.0
Year 9	14.3	10.0	11.8	11.9
Year 10	57.1	50.0	52.9	44.4
Year 11	0.0	20.0	11.8	10.1
Year 12	14.3	10.0	11.8	20.2
Percent completed trade or TAFE certificate	42.9	60.0	52.9	37.7
Percent completed industry or business course	14.3	0.0	5.9	15.2
Percent with business plan ^c	28.6	—	28.6	22.9
Percent active fishing group member	42.9	20.0	29.4	25.7
Marital Status				
Percent married or relationship	85.7	60.0	70.6	62.0
Percent with partner employed in business ^d	50.0	—	50.0	56.1
Median hours per week employed in business	40.0	—	40.0	20.0
Partners Income^{de}				
Full-time employment	20.0	33.3	27.3	28.3
Part-time employment	40.0	33.3	36.4	18.5
Casual employment	0.0	33.3	18.2	11.6
Not employed	40.0	0.0	18.2	41.5
Family Composition				
Mean family size	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6
Estimated number of total family members	42	27	67	18,429
Dependency Ratios				
Age Dependency Ratio ^f	6.2	9.5	8.1	33.4
Elderly Dependency Ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
Child Dependency Ratio	6.2	9.5	8.1	31.2
Family Member Industry Dependency Ratio ^g	30.0	7.7	17.4	23.9
Gross Individual Income				
Less than \$16,000	0.0	66.7	33.3	34.6
\$16,000 - \$26,000	16.7	0.0	8.3	19.6
\$26,000 - \$36,000	16.7	0.0	8.3	22.1
\$36,000 - \$52,000	33.3	16.7	25.0	11.7
\$52,000 - \$78,000	33.3	16.7	25.0	6.6
Over \$78,000	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4
Average Income (\$)	45,000	23,500	34,250	27,471

Note: ^a Owner/operator sample of 7; employee sample = 10.

^b Based on peak estimates derived in Table 15.6.

^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).

