

# 5 Queensland Fishing Industry and Employee Profiles

The following analyses are undertaken for all fishing businesses and all employees throughout Queensland. Where appropriate, comparisons across the 22 TRCs are also presented.

## BUSINESS PROFILES

### Number of Fishing Businesses

There were 2,679 individual licence holders identified in the Queensland Fisheries Service database of master fishers (Table 3.1). It was estimated that there was 8.8% latency within the database; fishers were either deceased or reported they were no longer in business or had retired. Therefore in the past 12 months, there were 2,444 active licence holders in Queensland.

Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1 show the estimated count and percentage distribution of fishing businesses within the 22 TRCs. The Bundaberg TRC has the highest number of fishing businesses (13%), with TRCs from Mackay to Hervey Bay accounting for a third (33%) of all fishing businesses in Queensland. Other regions with significant numbers of fishing businesses include the Cairns (8%) and Innisfail (6%) TRCs, which account for 14% of all fishing businesses and TRCs from Mooloolaba to Southport which account for an additional 30% of all fishing businesses.

Table 5.1 also shows that those TRCs that are directly adjacent to the boundaries of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (from Cooktown to Gladstone) include 44% of all fishing businesses. The balance of fishing businesses (56%) are located in TRCs in the Gulf of Carpentaria and south of Bundaberg.

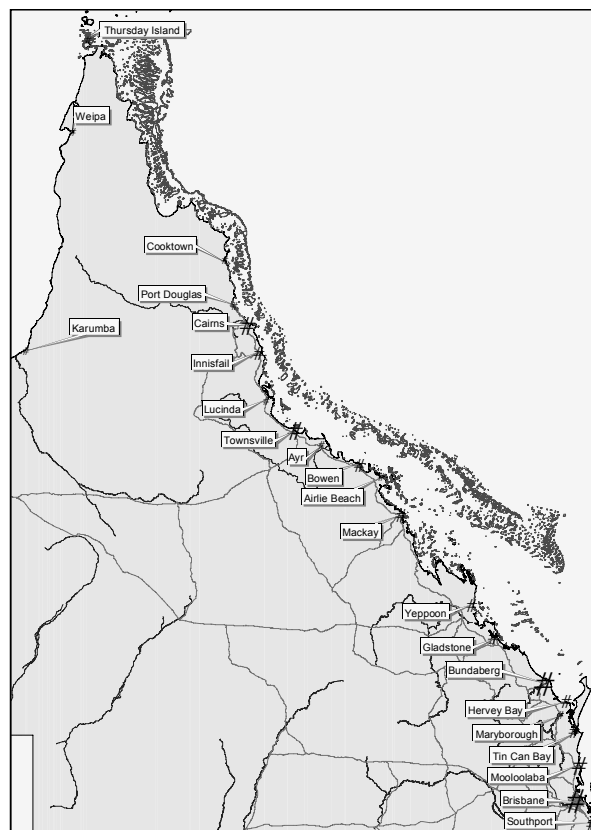


Figure 5.1 Percentage of Fishing Businesses within TRCs

Table 5.1. Number of Fishing Businesses by TRC

TRCs	Estimated Count	Percent of all Businesses
Karumba	31	1.3
Weipa	16	0.7
Thursday Island	19	0.8
Cooktown	15	0.6
Port Douglas	34	1.5
Cairns	192	8.3
Innisfail	134	5.8
Lucinda	36	1.6
Townsville	153	6.6
Ayr	16	0.7
Bowen	70	3.0
Airlie Beach	14	0.6
Mackay	119	5.1
Yeppoon	102	4.4
Gladstone	131	5.7
Bundaberg	307	13.3
Hervey Bay	111	4.8
Maryborough	36	1.6
Tin Can Bay	78	3.4
Mooloolaba	218	9.4
Brisbane	382	16.5
Southport	98	4.2
Total	2,312	100.0

Note: The total estimated count does not sum to 2,444 as it is based on the sum of individual estimates from within each TRC.

### Fishing Activity and Type

Table 5.2 shows the type of fishing activity undertaken within the last year by fishing businesses in Queensland. Trawling (47%) and line fishing (42%) are the most common fishing activities, followed by netting (31%) and crabbing (24%).

Table 5.2 Queensland State: Type of Fishing Activity (During the last 12 months)

Fishing Type	Sample Count	Sample Percent	Estimated Population Count
Trawl	471	47.3	1,157
Line Fishing	414	41.6	1,016
Netting	306	30.8	752
Crabbing	237	23.8	581
Spanner Crabs	90	9.0	220
Lobster	11	1.1	27
Pearl	5	0.5	12
Total	12	100.0	2,444

Note: All rows are independent, percentages should not be summed.

Table 5.3 and Figure 5.2 show the percentage of fishing businesses undertaking trawl, line, netting or crabbing activities across each of the 22 identified TRCs. Trawl fishing is most common amongst fishing businesses from the five TRCs of Brisbane (18%), Bundaberg (13%), Cairns (12%), Mooloolaba (10%) and Townsville (9%) which together accounts for 62% of all trawl fishing businesses in Queensland.

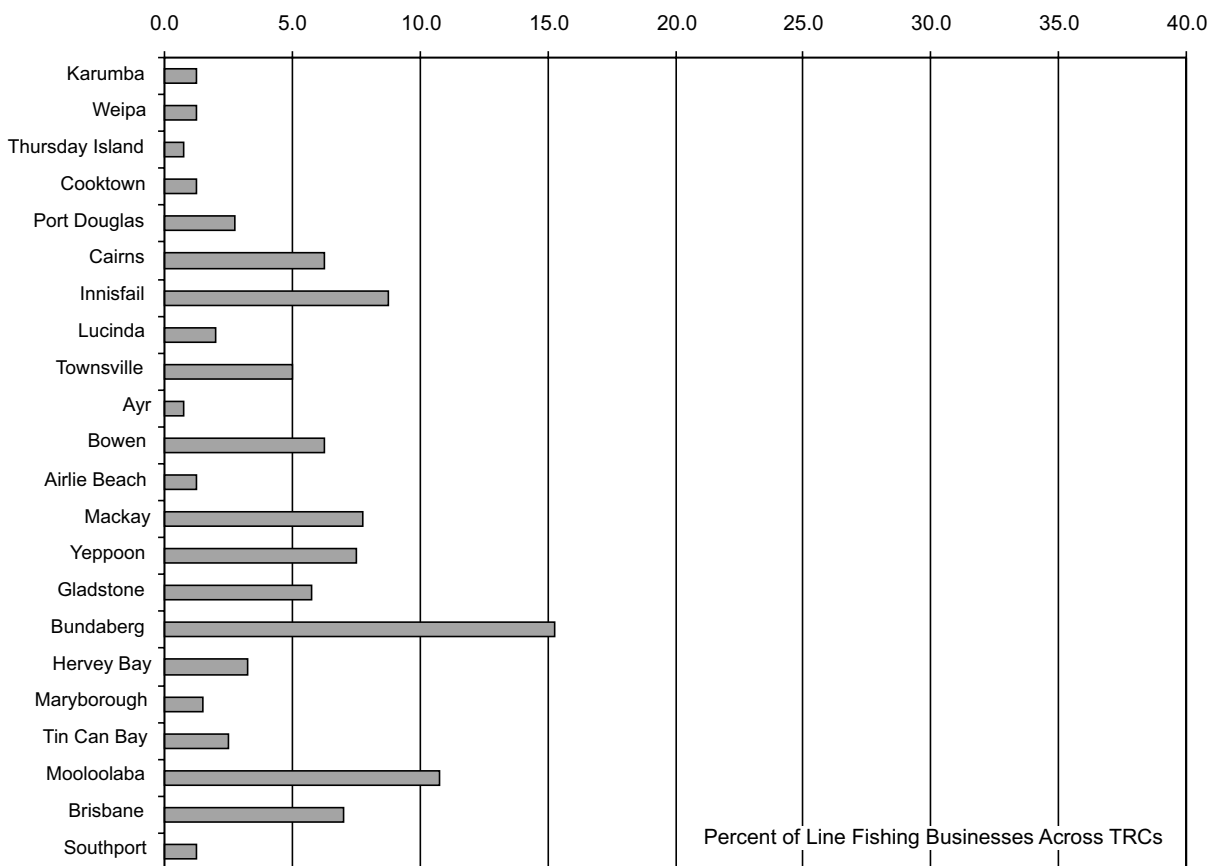
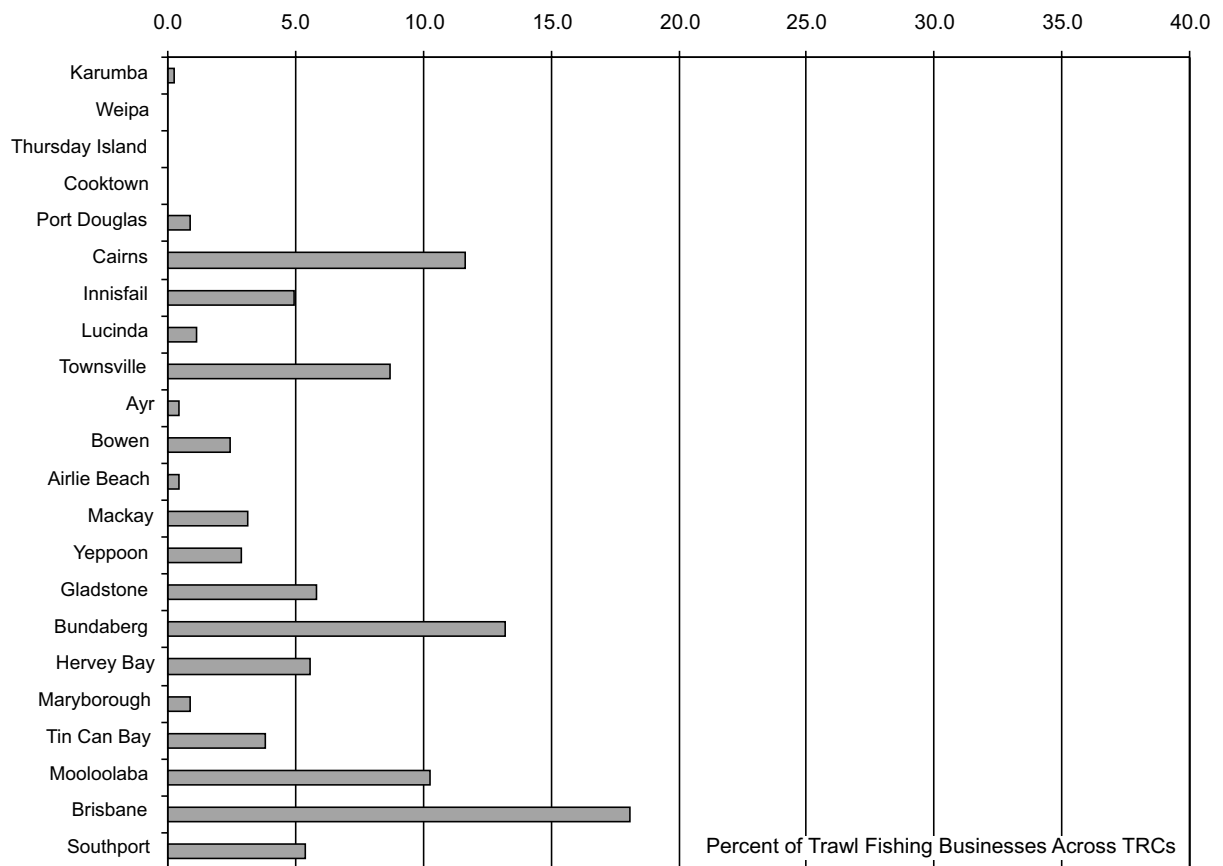


Figure 5.2 Percentage of Fishing Business Undertaking Fishing Activities Across TRCs.

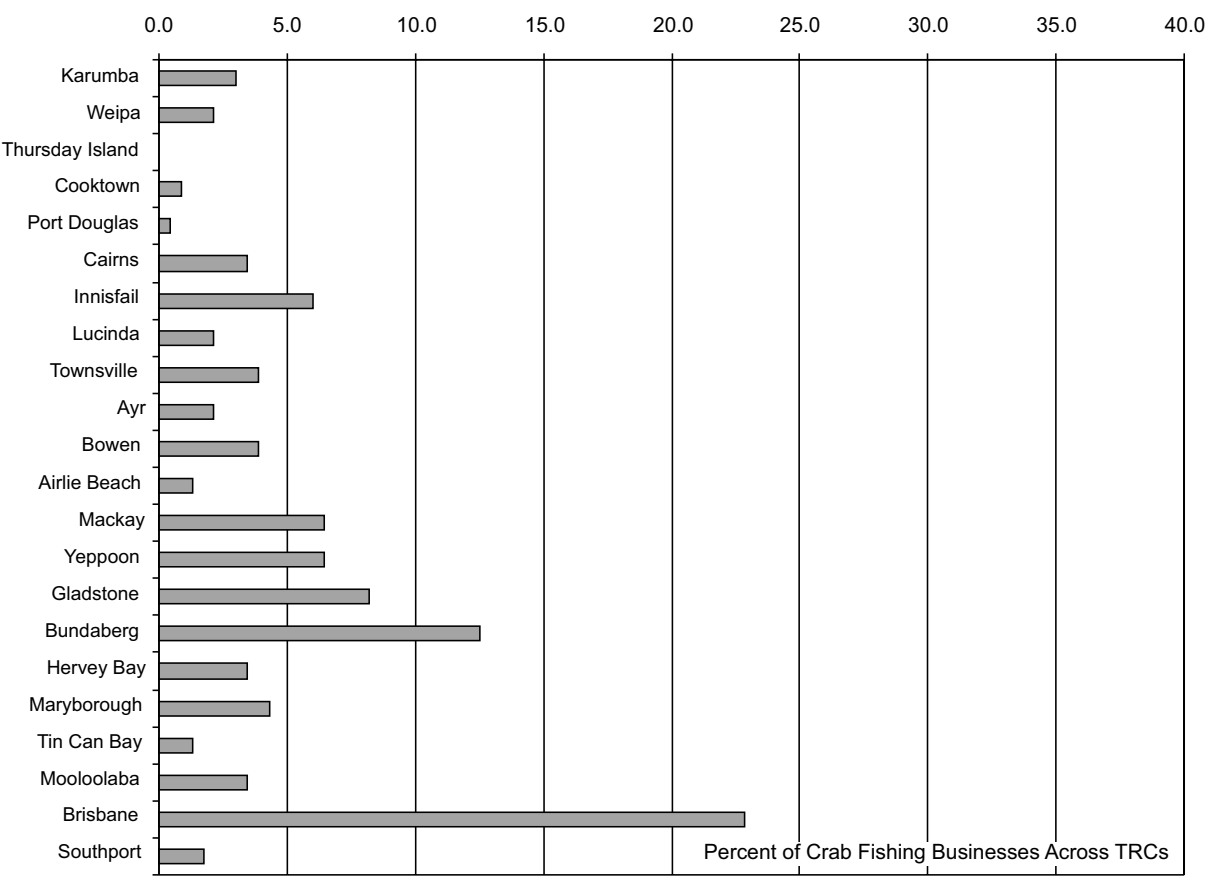
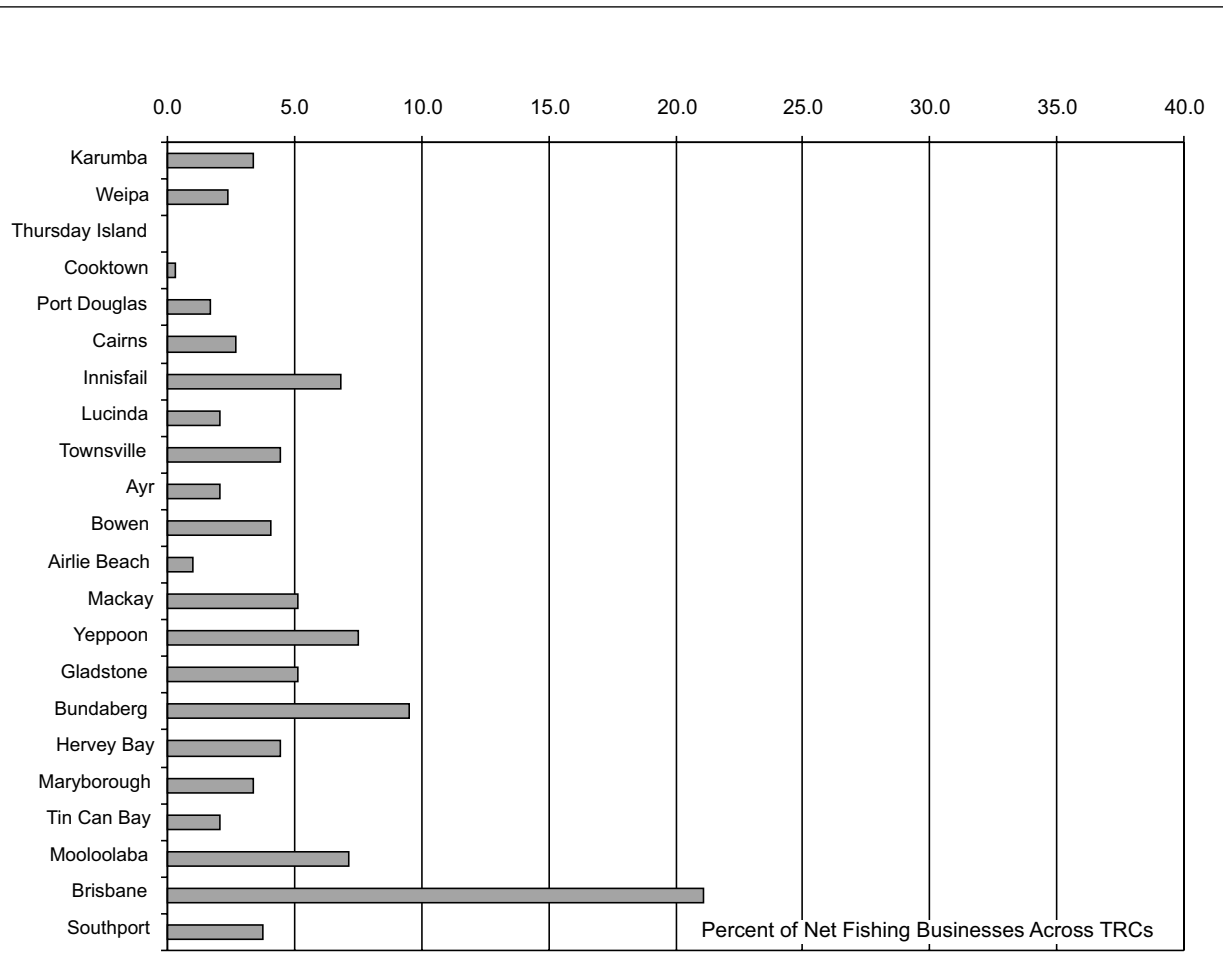


Figure 5.2 Percentage of Fishing Business Undertaking Fishing Activities Across TRCs.

Line fishing is most common from homeports within the Bundaberg (15%) and Mooloolaba (11%) TRCs, while crabbing occurs most commonly from businesses located in the TRCs of Bundaberg (13%) and Brisbane (23%). Netting occurs most commonly from the Brisbane TRC (21%), although it is also reasonably common within the Bundaberg (9%) and Innisfail (7%) TRCs.

**Table 5.3. Type of Fishing Activity Across TRCs**

TRC	Percent Trawl	Percent Line	Percent Crab	Percent Net
Karumba	0.2	1.3	3.0	3.4
Weipa	0.0	1.3	2.2	2.4
Thursday Island	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
Cooktown	0.0	1.3	0.9	0.3
Port Douglas	0.9	2.8	0.4	1.7
Cairns	11.6	6.3	3.4	2.7
Innisfail	4.9	8.8	6.0	6.8
Lucinda	1.1	2.0	2.2	2.0
Townsville	8.7	5.0	3.9	4.4
Ayr	0.4	0.8	2.2	2.0
Bowen	2.5	6.3	3.9	4.1
Airlie Beach	0.4	1.3	1.3	1.0
Mackay	3.1	7.8	6.5	5.1
Yeppoon	2.9	7.5	6.5	7.5
Gladstone	5.8	5.8	8.2	5.1
Bundaberg	13.2	15.3	12.5	9.5
Hervey Bay	5.6	3.3	3.4	4.4
Maryborough	0.9	1.5	4.3	3.4
Tin Can Bay	3.8	2.5	1.3	2.0
Mooloolaba	10.3	10.8	3.4	7.1
Brisbane	18.1	7.0	22.8	21.1
Southport	5.4	1.3	1.7	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Fishing activities are not undertaken independently and during a 12 month period many fishers engaged in other fishing activities. Table 5.4 shows the percentage co-occurrence of fishing activities within the past 12 months. For instance, of those fishers who undertook line fishing within the past 12 months, 32% also engaged in netting, 28% in crabbing and 24% in trawling. Further examination of Table 5.4 shows considerable co-occurrence of fishing activities, with 67% of those engaged in crabbing also engaged in netting and 46% of those fishing for spanner crabs also engaged in line fishing.

**Table 5.4 Queensland State: Co-occurrence of Fishing Activities**

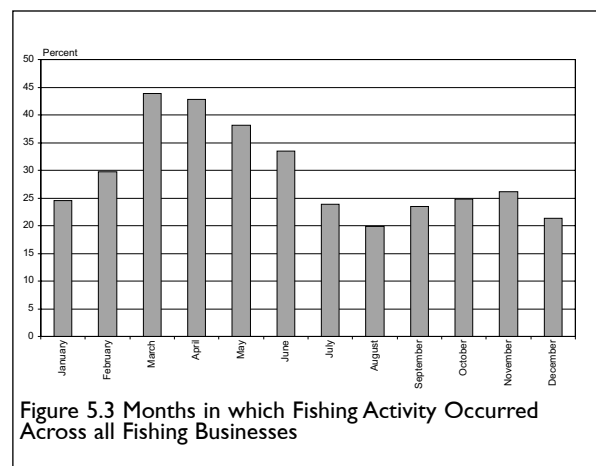
	Line Fishing	Trawl	Crabbing	Netting	Spanner Crabs
Line fishing	414 <i>100.0</i>	100 <i>21.2</i>	116 <i>48.9</i>	131 <i>42.8</i>	41 <i>45.6</i>
Trawl	100 <i>24.2</i>	471 <i>100.0</i>	47 <i>19.8</i>	63 <i>20.6</i>	13 <i>14.4</i>
Crabbing	116 <i>28.0</i>	47 <i>10.0</i>	237 <i>100.0</i>	160 <i>52.3</i>	37 <i>41.1</i>
Netting	131 <i>31.6</i>	63 <i>13.4</i>	160 <i>67.5</i>	306 <i>100.0</i>	21 <i>23.3</i>
Spanner crabs	41 <i>9.9</i>	13 <i>2.8</i>	37 <i>15.6</i>	21 <i>6.9</i>	90 <i>100.0</i>

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

Table 5.5 and Figure 5.3 show the frequency of fishing activity for all fishing business in Queensland across of fisheries. Most fishing activity occurs between March and June, with the lowest frequency of fishing activity in August and December.

**Table 5.5 Queensland State: Peak Fishing Months During the Past 12 Months**

Months	Sample Count	Percent of Fishery
January	224	24.5
February	271	29.7
March	401	43.9
April	391	42.8
May	348	38.1
June	306	33.5
July	218	23.9
August	182	19.9
September	215	23.5
October	226	24.8
November	239	26.2
December	195	21.4



**Figure 5.3 Months in which Fishing Activity Occurred Across all Fishing Businesses**

Table 5.6 and Figure 5.4 provides a description of the seasonal variation in fishing activities by businesses. The frequency with which trawl fishing occurs throughout the state appears to be reasonably constant throughout the year, although there is a tendency for trawl fishing to be somewhat less frequent between December and February.

There is a trend in frequency of line fishing across the 12 months from relatively low frequencies in January and February to high frequencies of occurrence through July to November.

In general, crab fishing and line fishing do not occur at the same time of the year. Crab fishing is most common between January and March and least common in the months from July to September. Net fishing is most common between February and September, with November to January being the least common months for net fishing. Spanner crab fishing is relatively constant throughout the first six months of the year, peaking in September and October and is less frequent in December (Figure 5.4).

Table 5.6  
Queensland State: Seasonal Variations in Fishing Activity

Months	Sample Count	Percent of Fishery
<b>Line Fishing</b>		
January	255	64.6
February	254	64.3
March	269	68.1
April	278	70.4
May	295	74.7
June	311	78.7
July	324	82.0
August	319	80.8
September	315	79.7
October	315	79.7
November	309	78.2
December	279	70.6
<b>Trawl</b>		
January	355	76.0
February	369	79.0
March	426	91.2
April	428	91.6
May	417	89.3
June	414	88.7
July	386	82.7
August	388	83.1
September	397	85.0
October	394	84.4
November	397	85.0
December	360	77.1
<b>Crabbing</b>		
January	171	74.7
February	181	79.0
March	172	75.1
April	159	69.4
May	154	67.2
June	134	58.5
July	119	52.0
August	115	50.2
September	122	53.3
October	128	59.9
November	152	66.4
December	165	72.1
<b>Netting</b>		
January	172	57.5
February	218	72.9
March	221	73.9
April	222	74.2
May	232	77.6
June	239	79.9
July	227	75.9
August	221	73.9
September	208	69.6
October	192	64.2
November	167	55.9
December	163	54.5
<b>Spanner Crabs</b>		
January	57	64.8
February	57	64.8
March	57	64.8
April	59	67.0
May	59	67.0
June	58	65.9
July	61	69.3
August	66	75.0
September	71	80.7
October	75	85.2
November	60	68.2
December	42	47.7

Note: Seasonal variation in lobster and pearl fishing has been excluded given the low sample count.

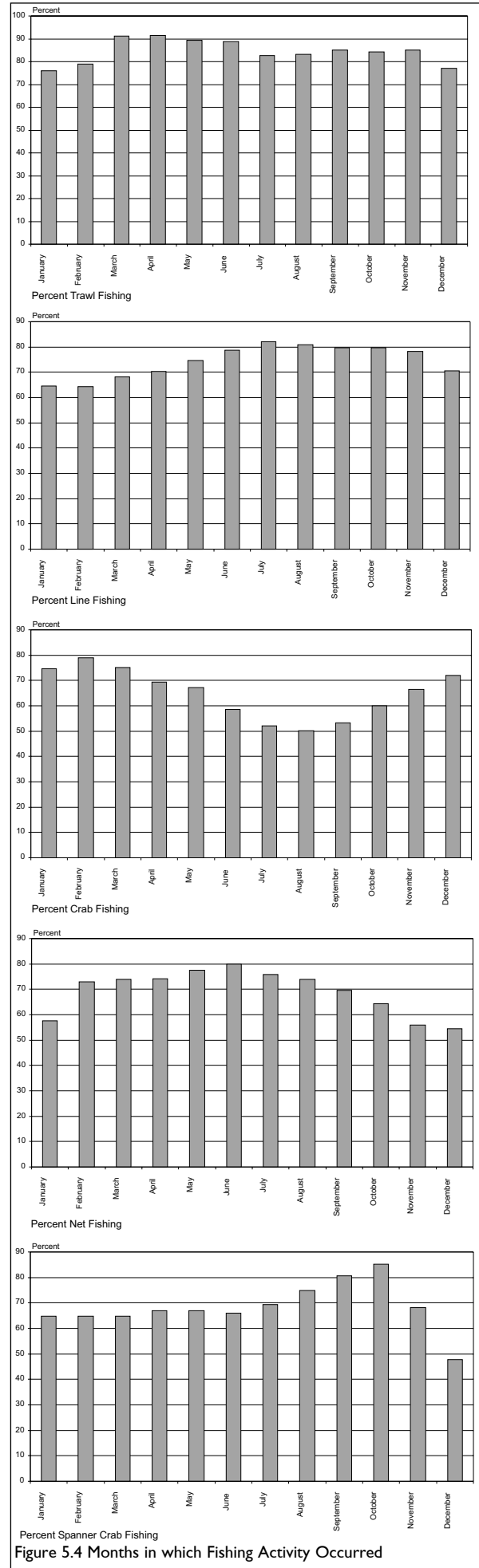


Figure 5.4 Months in which Fishing Activity Occurred

## Location of Resource Use

Figure 5.5 shows the location of resource use among across all commercial fishing operations in Queensland. High density use is found in coastal areas between Tin Can Bay and Yeppoon, Townsville and Bowen, and Cooktown to Cairns.

Figures 5.6 to 5.9 show the location of resource use for specific fishing activities, including trawl, netting, line fishing and crabbing. In relation to trawl fishing, high density use is found in Moreton Bay and Princess Charlotte Bay and coastal areas between Port Douglas and Cairns, Innisfail and Bowen and between Yeppoon and Hervey Bay (Figure 5.6).

The distribution of resource use among line fishers is shown in Figure 5.7. Areas of relatively high resource use include the Swains Reefs and reefal areas to the east of Mackay. Other areas of relatively significant resource use include coastal areas between Moreton Bay and Yeppoon and numerous coastal areas between Airlie Beach and Port Douglas.

Figure 5.8 shows the location of resource use among net fishers in Queensland. The identification of many non coastal areas of resource use among net fishers is due to net fishing co-occurring with other fishing activities. However, Figure 5.8 shows areas of relatively high resource use to be located in Moreton Bay, areas surrounding Fraser Island, Hervey Bay and Tin Can Bay and coastal areas between Yeppoon and Gladstone.

Relatively high densities for crabbing occurs in similar locations to that of net fishing, with again high levels of

resource use found in Moreton Bay, areas surrounding Fraser Island and coastal areas between Yeppoon and Gladstone.

## Fishing Industry Employees

Table 5.7 identifies the number of employees of commercial fishing businesses within Queensland for both peak and off-peak seasons. The majority of businesses in both peak and off peak seasons have between two and three full-time employees (inc. the owner or operator). There is little part-time or casual employment by these businesses. The average number of employees per business during their peak season for that business is 2.9, while in the off-peak season it is 2.5. In total it is estimated that during the peak season there are 7,088 full-time equivalent employees while in the off-peak season there are 6,110 full-time equivalent employees.

Table 5.8 and Figure 5.10 show the number of full-time equivalent employees for both peak and off-peak seasons in all 22 TRCs in Queensland. Relatively high levels of peak employment occur within the TRCs of Brisbane (16%), Bundaberg (12%), Cairns (12%) and Mooloolaba (10%). Together these four TRCs account for 50% of all peak employment in Queensland's commercial fishing industry.

Table 5.8 also shows that in several TRCs the number of full-time equivalent employees vary significantly between peak and off-peak seasons. For instance, in the TRCs of Weipa, Lucinda, Ayr, Airlie Beach and Mooloolaba employment is reduced by 20% and 25% between peak and off-peak periods.

Table 5.7. Queensland State: Number of Employees

Number of Employees	Full-Time Count	Full-Time Percent	Part-Time Count	Part-Time Percent	Casual Count	Casual Percent
<b>Peak Season</b>						
Nil	46	4.7	863	86.6	877	93.3
1	289	29.0	77	7.7	58	0.0
2-3	463	46.4	41	4.1	42	6.7
4-5	114	11.4	9	0.9	8	0.0
6-7	47	4.7	3	0.3	5	0.0
8-9	15	1.5	3	0.3	3	0.0
10-11	3	0.3	0	0.0	3	0.0
12-13	9	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
14+	11	1.1	1	0.1	1	0.0
Total Businesses	997	100.0	997	100.0	997	100.0
Total Employees	2,652		267		297	
Mean Number of Employees per Business (Peak)		2.9				
Estimated Number Employed in Queensland		7,088				
<b>Off-Peak</b>						
Nil	68	6.8	902	90.8	904	91.0
1	331	33.3	51	5.1	53	5.3
2-3	438	44.1	29	2.9	23	2.3
4-5	94	9.5	6	0.6	5	0.5
6-7	30	3.0	3	0.3	3	0.3
8-9	12	1.2	1	0.1	2	0.2
10-11	4	0.4	0	0.0	2	0.2
12-13	8	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
14+	8	0.8	1	0.1	1	0.1
Total Businesses	993	100.0	993	100.0	993	100.0
Total Employees	2,321		188		205	
Mean Number of Employees per Business (Off-Peak)		2.5				
Estimated Number Employed within the TRC		6,110				

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 2,444 fishing businesses.

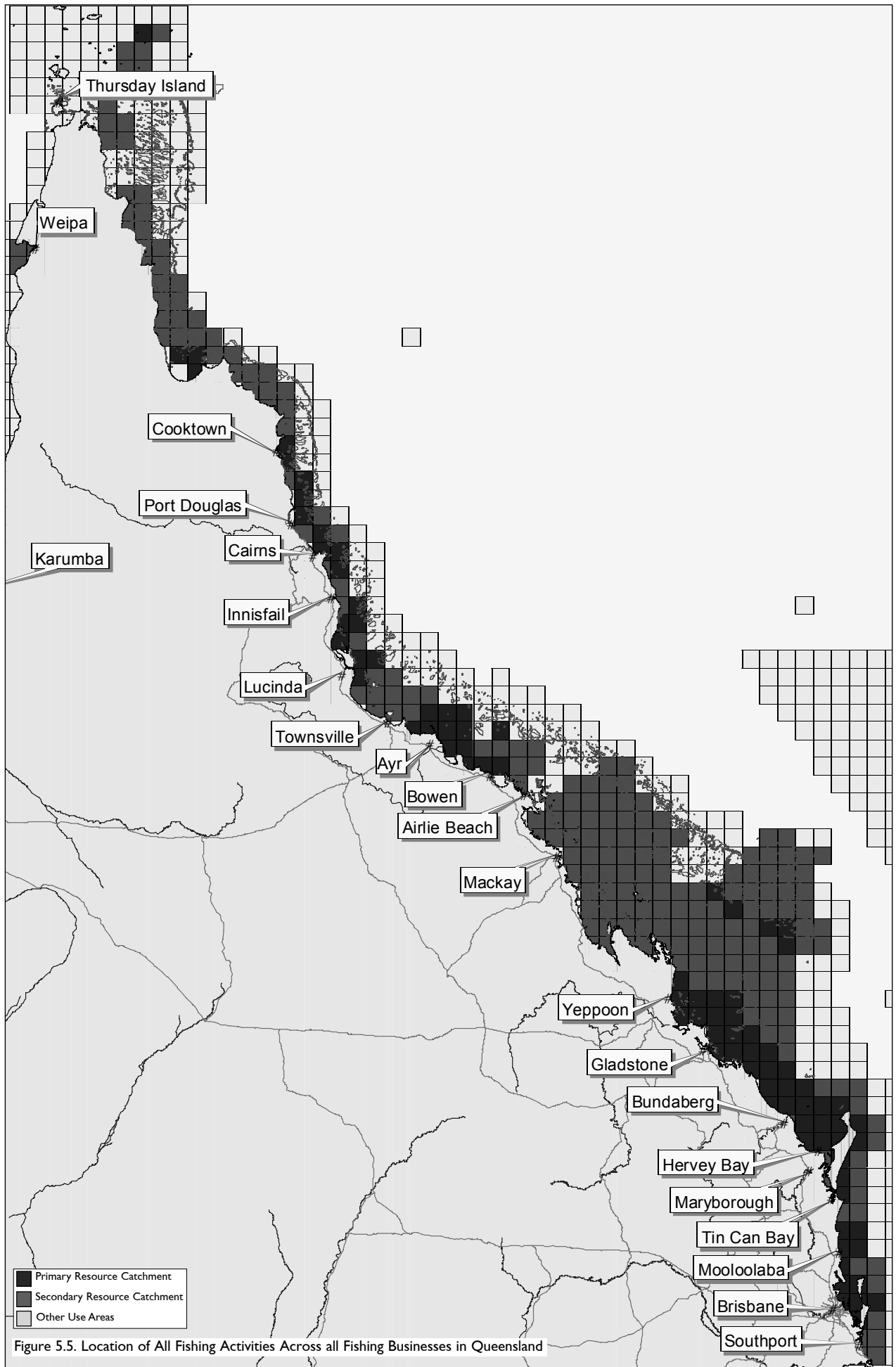


Figure 5.5. Location of All Fishing Activities Across all Fishing Businesses in Queensland

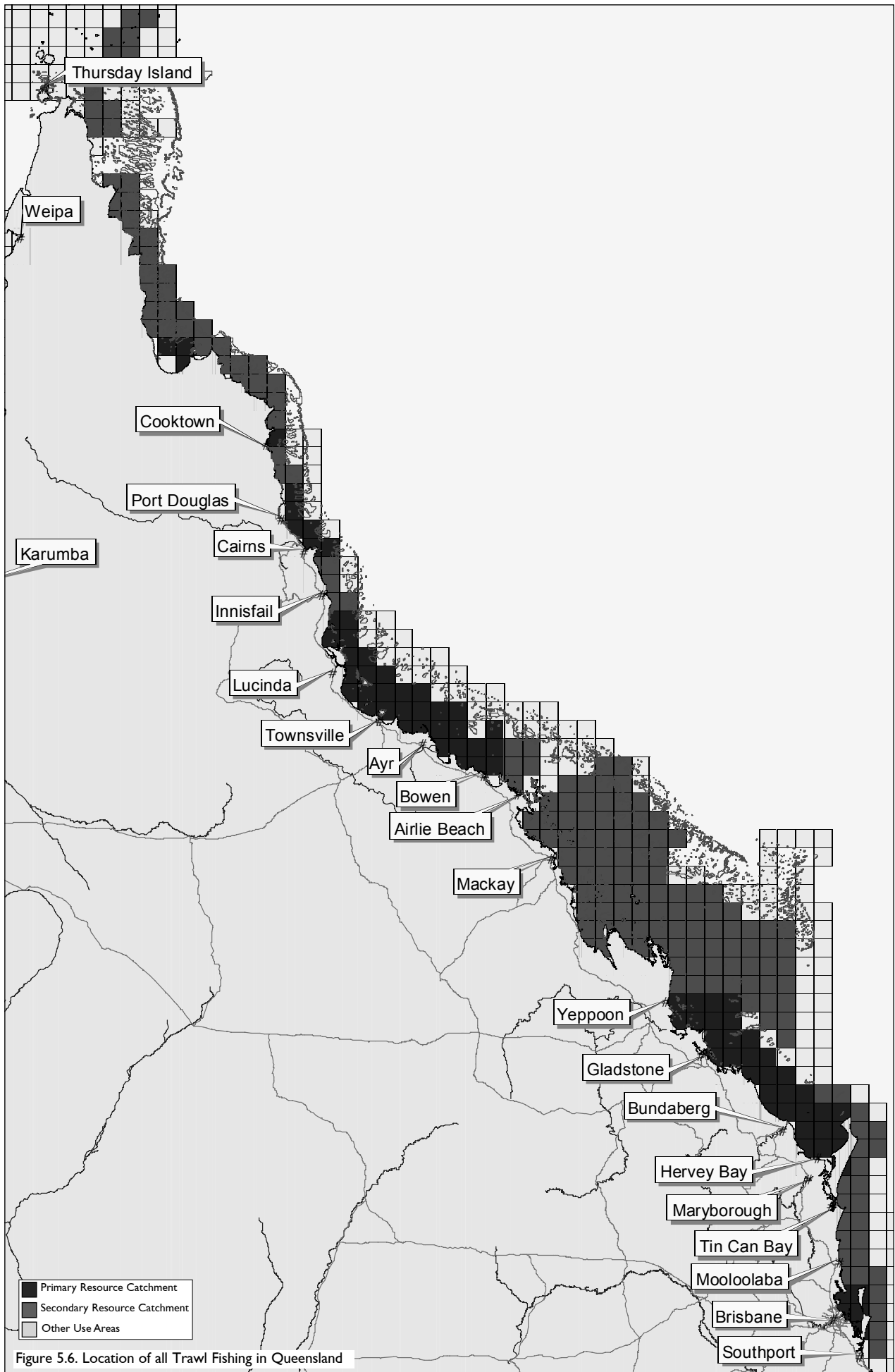


Figure 5.6. Location of all Trawl Fishing in Queensland

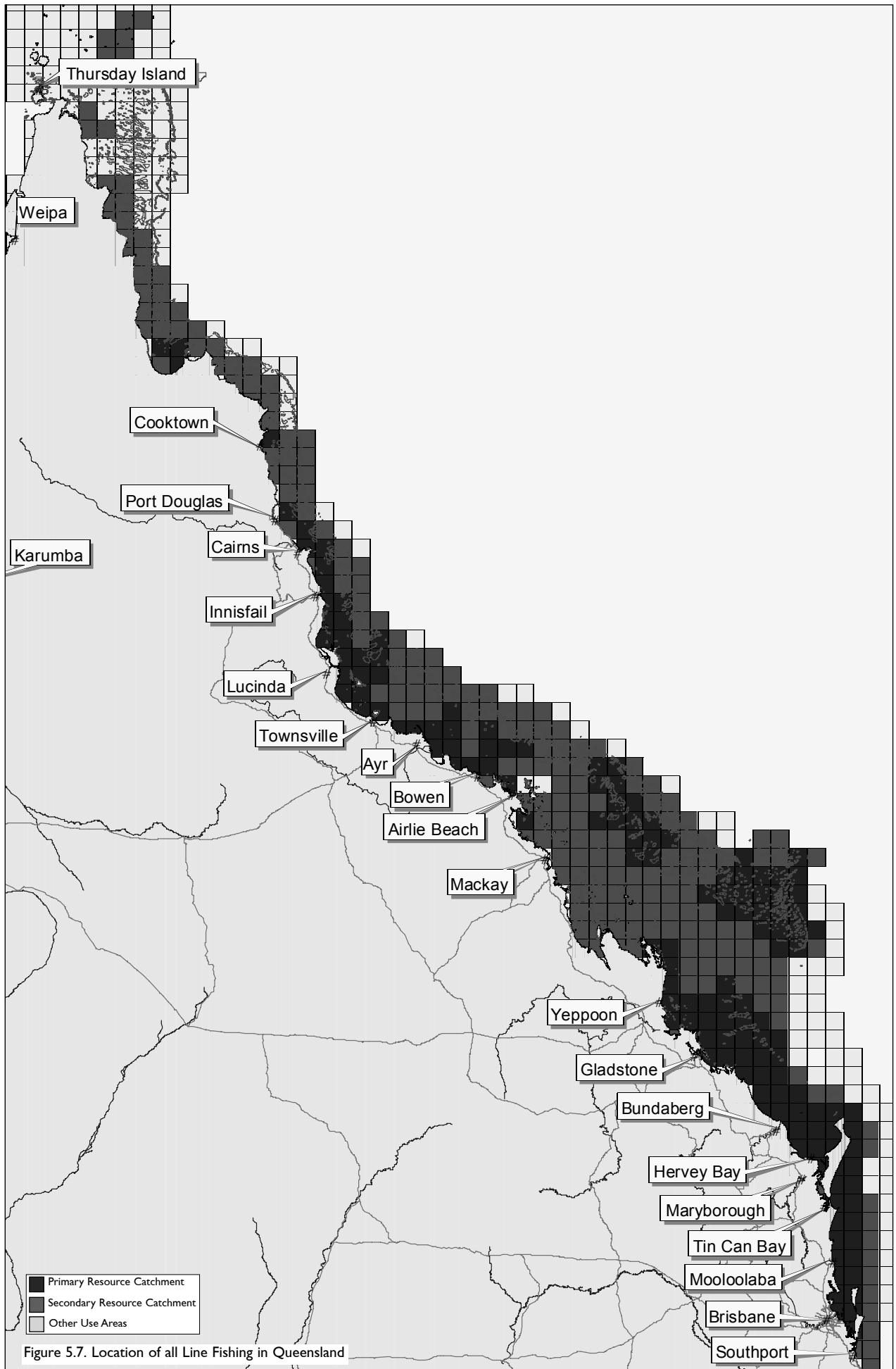
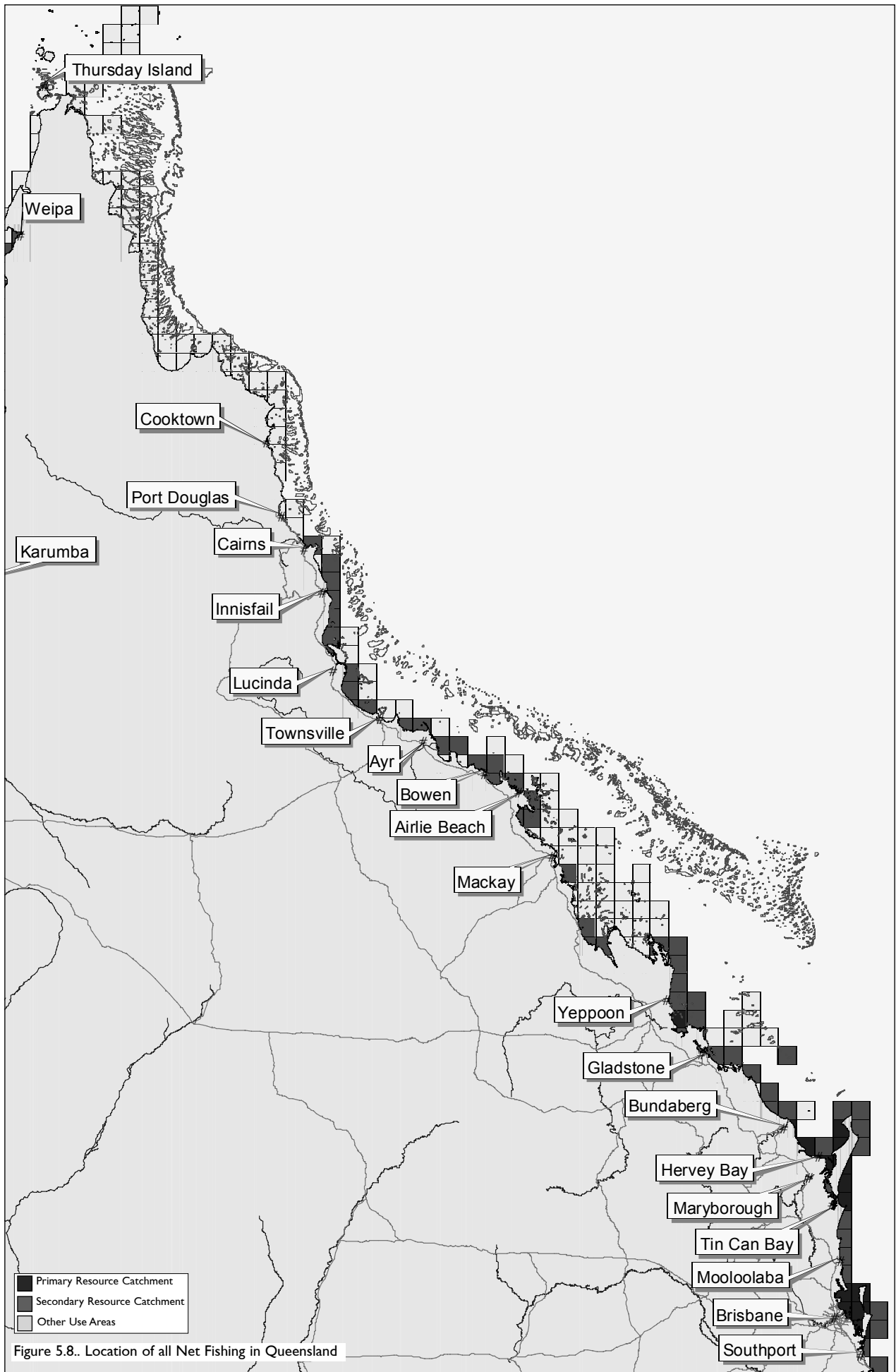


Figure 5.7. Location of all Line Fishing in Queensland



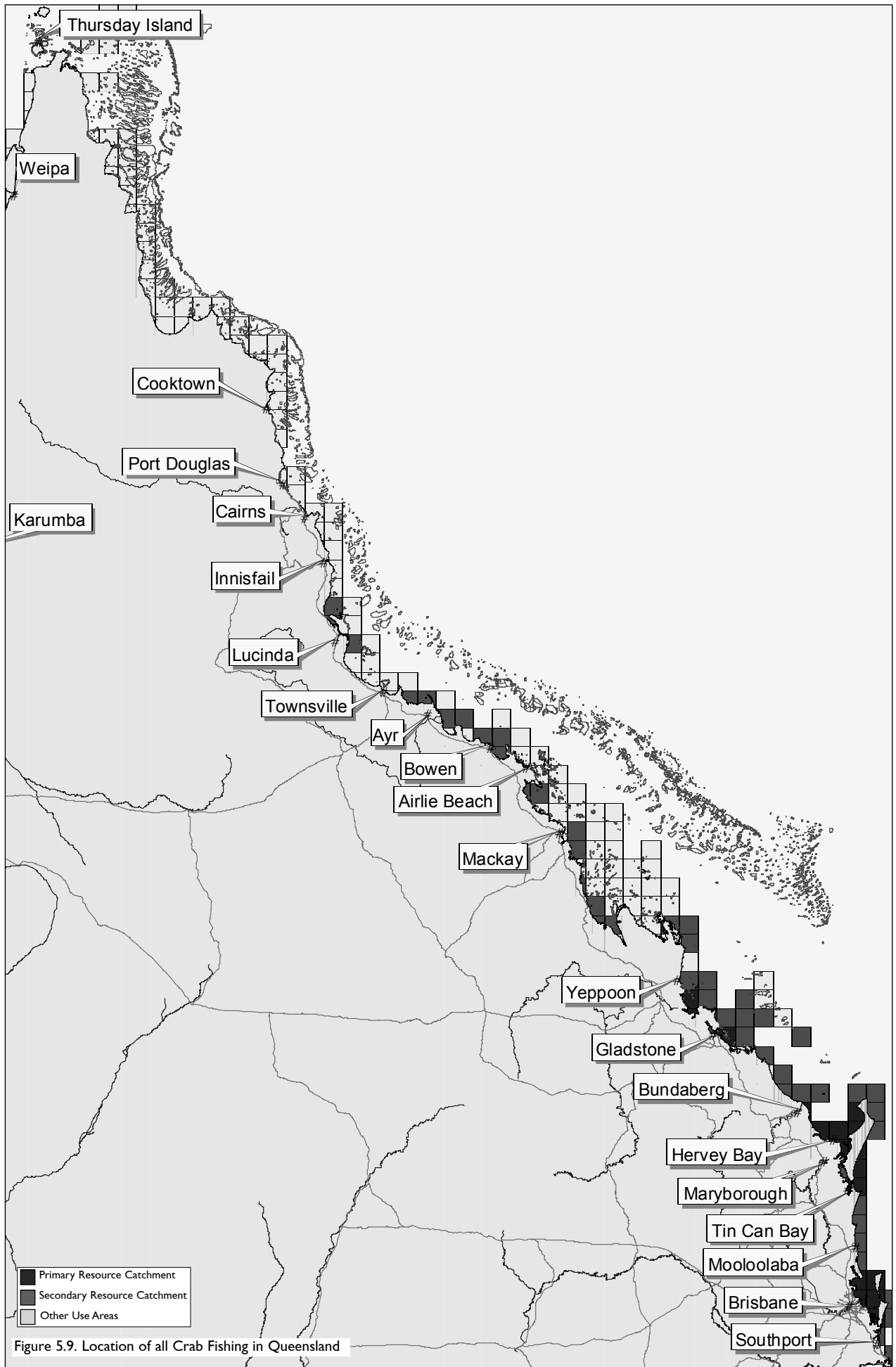


Figure 5.9. Location of all Crab Fishing in Queensland

**Table 5.8**  
Number of Full-Time equivalent Employees Across TRCs

TRC	Peak Employment		Off-Peak Employment		Percent Change
	Count	%	Count	%	
Karumba	99	1.5	84	1.4	-15.2
Weipa	50	0.7	38	0.7	-24.0
Thursday Island	77	1.1	75	1.3	-2.6
Cooktown	42	0.6	37	0.6	-11.9
Port Douglas	62	0.9	62	1.1	0.0
Cairns	787	11.6	633	10.9	-19.6
Innisfail	402	5.9	348	6.0	-13.4
Lucinda	68	1.0	50	0.9	-26.5
Townsville	428	6.3	352	6.0	-17.8
Ayr	27	0.4	21	0.4	-22.2
Bowen	217	3.2	175	3.0	-19.4
Airlie Beach	35	0.5	27	0.5	-22.9
Mackay	464	6.9	440	7.5	-5.2
Yeppoon	214	3.2	184	3.2	-14.0
Gladstone	354	5.2	341	5.8	-3.7
Bundaberg	829	12.3	737	12.6	-11.1
Hervey Bay	377	5.6	355	6.1	-5.8
Maryborough	61	0.9	58	1.0	-4.9
Tin Can Bay	195	2.9	179	3.1	-8.2
Mooloolaba	676	10.0	523	9.0	-22.6
Brisbane	1,070	15.8	917	15.7	-14.3
Southport	225	3.3	196	3.4	-12.9
Total	6,759	100.0	5,832	100.0	-13.7

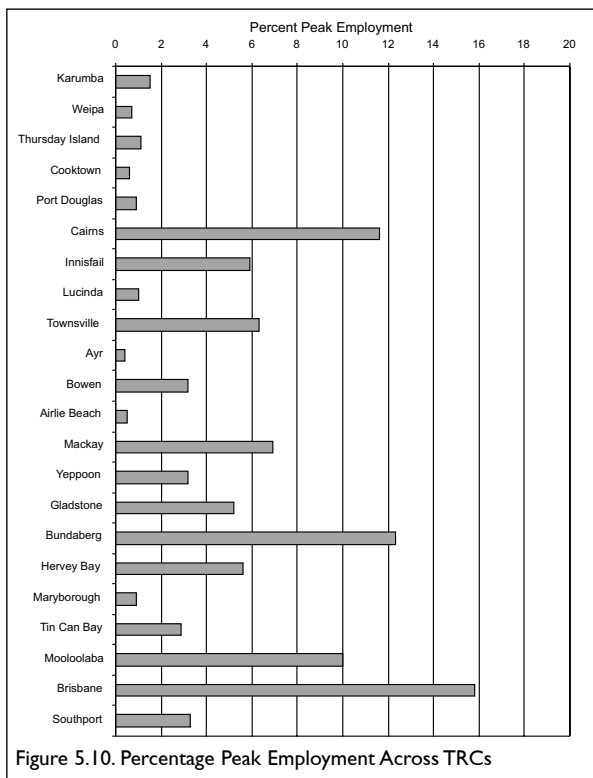


Figure 5.10. Percentage Peak Employment Across TRCs

### Business Ownership and Size

Table 5.9 shows the number of years the current owner or operator has owned the fishing business. On average fishing businesses within Queensland had been owned for 14.6 years. Approximately 50% of fishing businesses had been owned for less than 10 years, with a further 28% being owned for less than five years.

**Table 5.9**  
Queensland State: Number of Years of Current Ownership of the Fishing Business

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-5	277	28.0	28.0
6-10	197	19.9	47.9
11-15	135	13.6	61.5
16-20	116	11.7	73.2
21-25	99	10.0	83.2
26-30	81	8.2	91.5
30+	84	8.5	100.0
Total	989	100.0	

Mean Number of years owned or operated 14.6

Note: Standard error of 0.37 for number of years ownership

Table 5.10 and Figure 5.11 shows the mean number of years of ownership by the current owner of the fishing business across TRCs. Businesses in Cooktown and Weipa have been owned by their current owner for an average of approximately eight years, while in contrast businesses in Mooloolaba and Southport have been owned for 15 and 21 years respectively.

**Table 5.10**  
Mean Years of Current Ownership of the Fishing Business by TRC

TRCs	Mean Years	Standard Error
Karumba	13.8	2.8
Weipa	8.4	2.8
Thursday Island	20.3	1.7
Cooktown	7.6	2.9
Port Douglas	12.4	2.0
Cairns	13.4	1.4
Innisfail	15.6	1.7
Lucinda	16.0	3.3
Townsville	12.5	1.1
Ayr	12.2	4.2
Bowen	10.7	2.0
Airlie Beach	18.2	6.3
Mackay	13.5	1.2
Yeppoon	18.0	1.7
Gladstone	10.9	1.3
Bundaberg	12.4	1.1
Hervey Bay	14.6	1.7
Maryborough	18.0	3.4
Tin Can Bay	14.0	2.7
Mooloolaba	15.1	1.2
Brisbane	16.6	0.9
Southport	21.3	2.1

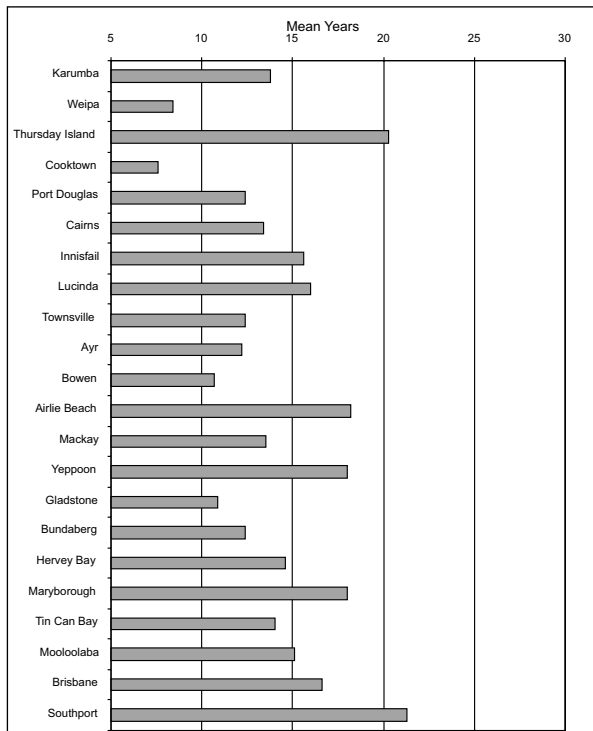


Figure 5.11. Mean Years Business Ownership Across TRCs

The average number of years all fishing businesses in Queensland had been operating was 18.2 years (Table 5.9). Approximately one-third of all businesses had operated for less than 10 years, with nearly half of all businesses having operated for less than 10 years.

Table 5.11  
Queensland State: Number of Years Business has been Operating

Number of Years	Sample Count	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-5	178	18.4	18.4
6-10	161	16.7	35.1
11-15	133	13.8	48.9
16-20	155	16.1	65.0
21-25	108	11.2	76.2
26-30	116	12.0	88.2
31-35	30	3.1	91.3
36+	84	8.7	100.0
Total	965	100.0	

Mean Number of years owned or operated 18.2

Note: Standard errors of 0.46 for number of years operated

Table 5.11 and Figure 5.12 shows the mean number of years fishing business had been operating, irrespective of its current ownership, across all TRCs. Businesses in Maryborough and Southport appear to have operated longer than many other businesses found within other TRCs.

Table 5.13 shows that the majority of fishing businesses within Queensland (64%) operated only one fishing boat.

Table 5.12  
Mean Years of Business Operating by TRC

TRCs	Mean Years	Standard Error
Karumba	19.4	4.9
Weipa	13.6	3.4
Thursday Island	19.8	1.8
Cooktown	14.3	5.5
Port Douglas	17.5	3.8
Cairns	18.0	1.6
Innisfail	18.5	2.1
Lucinda	19.3	2.8
Townsville	16.7	1.2
Ayr	14.6	4.1
Bowen	14.7	2.3
Airlie Beach	18.2	6.3
Mackay	17.7	1.8
Yeppoon	21.3	1.9
Gladstone	15.0	1.5
Bundaberg	14.8	1.1
Hervey Bay	18.2	1.9
Maryborough	25.0	9.3
Tin Can Bay	17.2	2.8
Mooloolaba	19.1	1.8
Brisbane	20.2	1.3
Southport	24.1	2.8

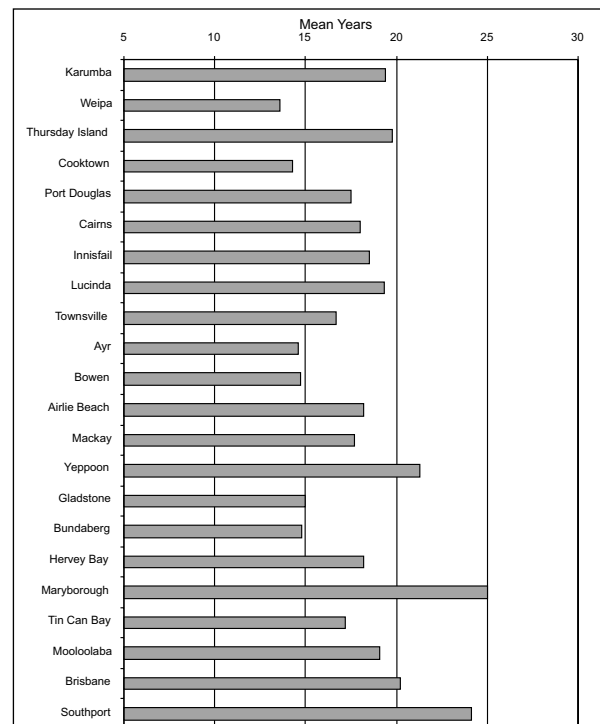


Figure 5.12. Mean Years Business Operating Across TRCs

**Table 5.13**  
Number of Boats Operated by Fishing Businesses

Number of Boats	Sample Count	Percent
0	6	0.6
1	641	64.5
2	164	16.5
3	96	9.7
4	38	3.8
5	17	1.7
6 or more	32	3.2
Total Number of Businesses	994	100.0
Mean Number of Boats Operated		1.7

Note: Standard errors of .05 for number of boats operated.

The mean number of boats operated by fishing businesses across each of the 22 TRCs is shown in Table 5.14 and Figure 5.13. With the exception of Weipa, Ayr and Maryborough which operate a relatively high number of boats, all other TRCs operate similar number of boats.

**Table 5.14**  
Mean Years of Business Operating by TRC

TRCs	Mean Number of Boats	Standard Error
Karumba	1.5	0.3
Weipa	2.0	0.4
Thursday Island	1.1	0.1
Cooktown	1.5	0.3
Port Douglas	1.1	0.1
Cairns	1.6	0.1
Innisfail	1.5	0.1
Lucinda	1.9	0.4
Townsville	1.6	0.2
Ayr	2.6	0.6
Bowen	1.8	0.3
Airlie Beach	1.7	0.3
Mackay	1.8	0.2
Yeppoon	1.9	0.3
Gladstone	1.7	0.2
Bundaberg	1.7	0.1
Hervey Bay	1.8	0.2
Maryborough	3.0	0.6
Tin Can Bay	1.5	0.2
Mooloolaba	1.9	0.2
Brisbane	1.7	0.1
Southport	1.5	0.2

The majority of boats (61%) operated by businesses were between 3 and 10 metres, with over 37% of all boats being less than 6 metres (Table 5.15). Only 6% of boats were over 19 metres, with the mean length of the largest boat operated by a business being 11.4 metres.

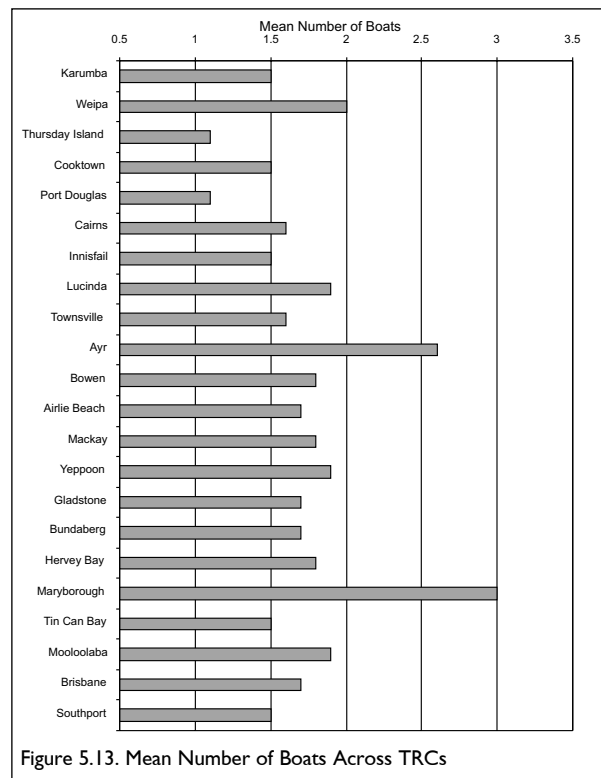


Figure 5.13. Mean Number of Boats Across TRCs

**Table 5.15**  
Queensland State: Length of Boats Operated by Fishing Businesses

Length of Boat (metres)	Sample Count	Percent
3-6	621	36.9
7-10	406	24.1
11-14	285	16.9
15-18	274	16.3
19-22	76	4.5
23-26	22	1.3
Total Number of Boats	1,684	100.0
Mean Length of Boats Operated (metres)		9.9
Mean Length of Largest Boat Operated (metres)		11.4

Note: As mean length of boats in a multiple response, standard errors cannot be computed.  
Standard error of 0.14 for mean length of largest boat

Table 5.16 shows the mean length of boats with each TRC and the mean length of the largest boat owned by each fishing business within each TRC (Figure 5.14). Smaller boats tend to be operated out of the TRCs of Lucinda, Ayr, Airlie Beach and Maryborough, while relatively larger boats operate from the TRCs of Cairns, Townsville, Gladstone, Hervey Bay, Tin Can Bay and Southport.

Table 5.16  
Mean Length of Boats and Largest Boat by TRC

TRCs	Mean Length of Boats (Metres)	Mean Length of Largest Boat (Metres)
Karumba	11.4	11.6
Weipa	8.2	10.6
Thursday Island	11.9	11.5
Cooktown	8.3	10.1
Port Douglas	9.4	10.1
Cairns	13.1	14.6
Innisfail	10.1	10.6
Lucinda	6.9	9.4
Townsville	11.9	13.5
Ayr	5.6	7.1
Bowen	8.5	10.3
Airlie Beach	5.9	8.1
Mackay	8.9	11.3
Yeppoon	9.9	9.9
Gladstone	9.9	12.1
Bundaberg	10.2	11.3
Hervey Bay	12.0	13.2
Maryborough	6.2	7.7
Tin Can Bay	10.9	12.2
Mooloolaba	10.7	11.7
Brisbane	8.4	10.0
Southport	10.3	12.0

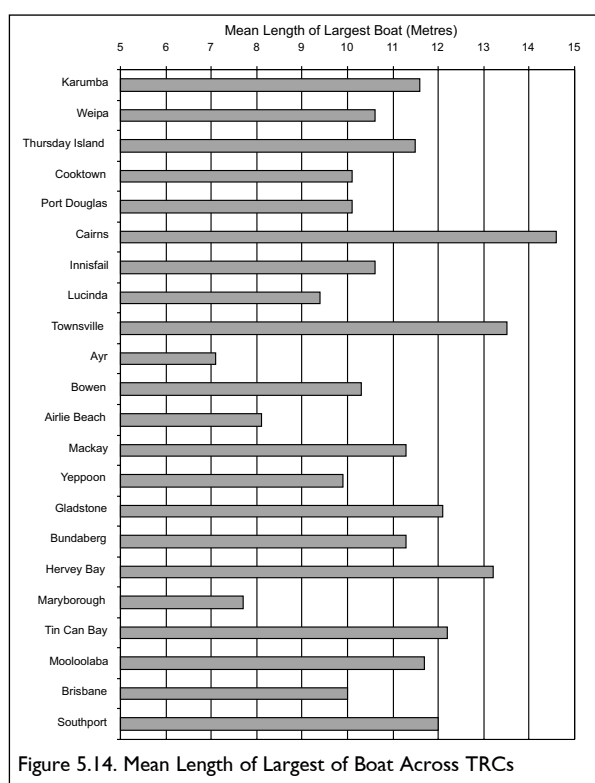


Figure 5.14. Mean Length of Largest of Boat Across TRCs

### Value of Production and Debt Levels

Table 5.17 shows for the 12 months prior to the survey, the wholesale value of all products sold by fishing businesses in Queensland. Forty-three percent of businesses within Queensland had production values less than \$100,000 for the previous 12 months, while 80% of businesses had production values of less than \$300,000 during the previous 12 months.

It is estimated that the 2,443 commercial fishing businesses in Queensland have a gross value of production of approximately \$314 million, with the median gross value of production for each business being \$129,000.

Table 5.17  
Wholesale Value of Product (Annual value)

Wholesale Value (\$,000)	Sample Count	Sample Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than \$100	427	42.8	42.8
\$101 - \$200	214	21.4	64.2
\$201 - \$300	162	16.2	80.5
\$301 - \$400	85	8.5	89.0
\$401 - \$500	38	3.8	92.8
\$501 - \$600	18	1.8	94.6
\$601 - \$700	13	1.3	95.9
\$701 - \$800	4	0.4	96.3
\$801 - \$900	10	1.0	97.3
\$901 - \$1,000	3	0.3	97.6
Over \$1,000	23	2.3	100.0
Total	998	100.0	

Median GVP for QLD Population \$128,629  
Estimated Total GVP for QLD Population \$314,241,000

Note: Queensland total GVP based on 2,443 businesses (2,679 licenced businesses with 8.8% latency) with a median GVP of \$128,629.

Table 5.18 and Figures 5.15 and 5.16 show the Annual Gross Value of Production (GVP) and the median annual GVP of all 22 TRCs. The TRCs of Cairns (\$53 million), Bundaberg (\$37 million), Townsville (\$35 million) and Brisbane (\$33 million) together account for \$158 million in production, which is approximately half of the commercial fishing GVP for Queensland.

Furthermore, Table 5.18 and Figure 5.16 shows the TRCs of Thursday Island, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Gladstone to have a relatively high median annual gross value of production when compared to the remaining TRCs.

Table 5.18  
Annual GVP and Median GVP for Businesses by TRC

TRCs	Annual GVP ('000)	Median GVP ('000)
Karumba	2,790	90
Weipa	2,795	175
Thursday Island	5,278	278
Cooktown	1,502	100
Port Douglas	4,729	139
Cairns	53,195	277
Innisfail	12,611	94
Lucinda	3,427	95
Townsville	35,487	232
Ayr	798	50
Bowen	10,563	151
Airlie Beach	333	24
Mackay	28,220	237
Yeppoon	7,183	70
Gladstone	28,436	218
Bundaberg	37,065	121
Hervey Bay	19,874	179
Maryborough	1,815	50
Tin Can Bay	13,946	179
Mooloolaba	13,288	113
Brisbane	33,167	87
Southport	18,481	189

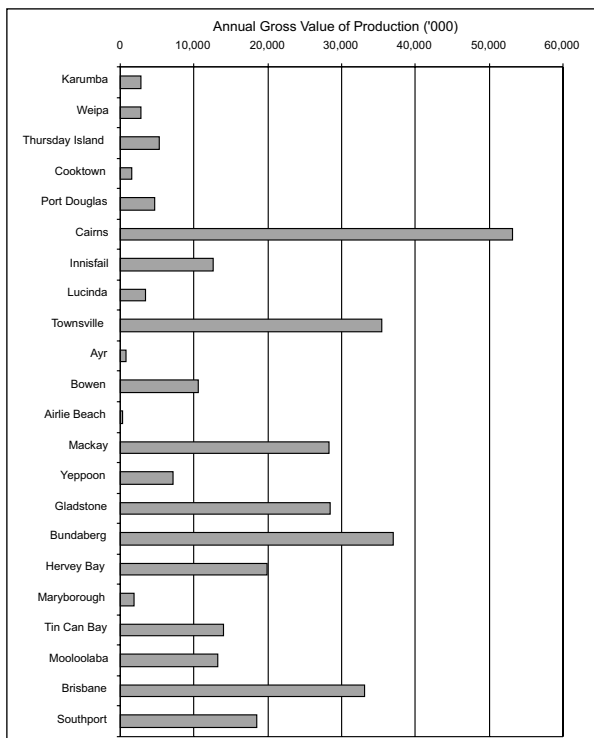


Figure 5.15. Annual Gross Value of Production Across TRCs

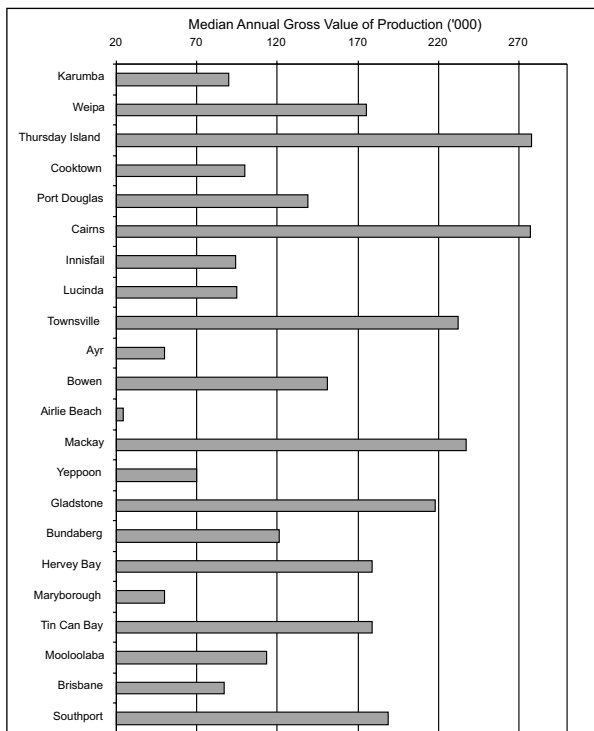


Figure 5.16. Median Gross Value of Production Across TRCs

All fishing business operators were asked what percentage of their business assets were not owned outright by their business. This provided a general indication of the level of business debt. Table 5.19 shows that 60% of businesses within Queensland reported no debt. The overall median debt level within Queensland was 16.6% of business assets.

Table 5.19  
Queensland State: Business Debt Levels

Percent of Assets Not Owned	Sample Count	Percent
Nil	495	60.1
1 – 10%	53	6.4
11 - 20%	43	5.2
21 - 30%	53	6.4
31 – 40%	27	3.3
41 – 50%	79	9.6
51 – 60%	15	1.8
61 – 70%	10	1.2
71 – 80%	9	1.1
81 – 90%	13	1.6
91 – 100%	27	3.3
Total	824	100.0
Median Debt Level for QLD Population		16.6%

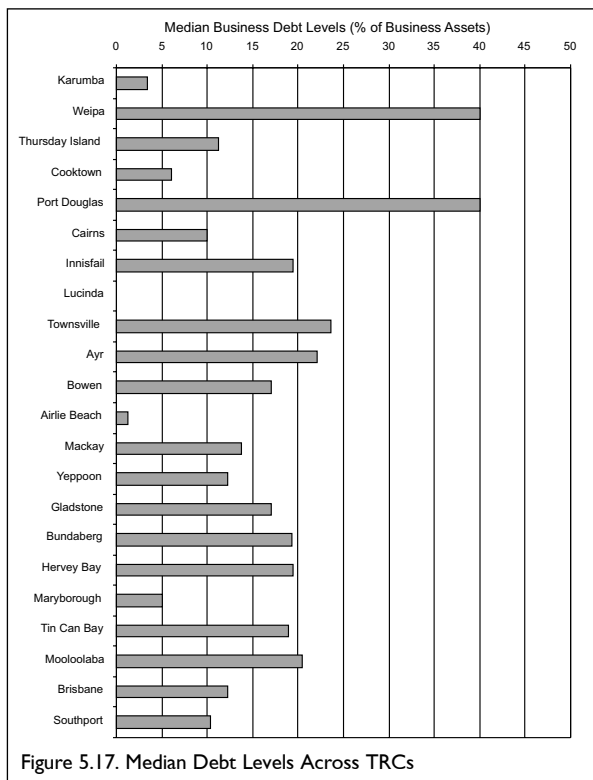
Note: Debt level defined as the percentage of total business assets not owned outright by the business.

Table 5.20 and Figure 5.17 shows the median percentage debt levels across all TRCs. The highest median debt levels are found in the Weipa and Port Douglas TRCs, while the lowest median debt levels are found in the Karumba, Cooktown, Airlie Beach and Karumba TRCs.

Table 5.20  
Median Debt Levels by TRC (Percent of business assets)

TRCs	Median Debt (%)
Karumba	3.4
Weipa	40.0
Thursday Island	11.2
Cooktown	6.0
Port Douglas	40.0
Cairns	10.0
Innisfail	19.4
Lucinda	-
Townsville	23.6
Ayr	22.1
Bowen	17.1
Airlie Beach	1.2
Mackay	13.7
Yeppoon	12.3
Gladstone	17.0
Bundaberg	19.3
Hervey Bay	19.4
Maryborough	5.0
Tin Can Bay	19.0
Mooloolaba	20.5
Brisbane	12.2
Southport	10.3

Note: Median debt level for Lucinda is not reported as there were insufficient data.



## EMPLOYEE PROFILES

Table 5.21 provides basic demographic and social profile information of owner-operators and employees throughout Queensland. Information shown in these profiles will be used in further studies to develop indices of sensitivity to change for both owner-operators and employees.

**Table 5.21**  
**Queensland State: Owner-Operator and Employee Profiles**

Profile	Owner/ Operators	Employees	All QLD
Estimated Number of Employees <sup>b</sup>	2,444	4,644	7,088
Mean age of fisher	45.3	33.1	37.3
Age range	19-79	15-79	15-79
Percent males	98.5	94.7	94.8
Mean years resident in town	23.2	16.9	19.1
Mean number of years in fishing industry	20.9	8.3	12.6
Median hours per week in fishing industry	70.0	60.0	60.0
Percent moved town to retain employment	26.2	17.5	20.5
Percent currently employed in other industry	17.9	42.8	34.2
Percent previously employed in other industry	73.6	66.9	69.2
<b>Housing tenure</b>			
Rent	17.1	42.4	33.6
Mortgage	29.7	14.9	20.1
Own home	49.8	21.0	31.1
Other (eg, live with parents, on boat)	3.4	21.6	15.2
<b>Education</b>			
Year completed school			
Primary school	9.3	3.3	5.2
Year 8	9.4	7.3	8.0
Year 9	13.0	11.4	11.9
Year 10	45.7	43.7	44.4
Year 11	6.9	11.8	10.1
Year 12	15.8	22.5	20.2
Percent completed trade or TAFE certificate	37.4	37.8	37.7
Percent completed industry or business course	17.5	14.0	15.2
Percent with business plan <sup>c</sup>	22.9	—	22.9
Percent active fishing group member	46.5	14.8	25.7
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Percent married or relationship	82.8	51.0	62.0
Percent with partner employed in business <sup>d</sup>	56.1	—	56.1
Median hours per week employed in business	20.0	—	20.0
<b>Partners Income<sup>de</sup></b>			
Full-time employment	31.8	25.6	28.3
Part-time employment	19.9	17.4	18.5
Casual employment	9.4	13.3	11.6
Not employed	38.9	43.7	41.5
<b>Family Composition</b>			
Mean family size	4.0	2.2	2.6
Estimated number of total family members	9,776	10,217	18,429
<b>Dependency Ratios</b>			
Age Dependency Ratio <sup>f</sup>	32.3	34.4	33.4
Elderly Dependency Ratio	2.9	1.7	2.3
Child Dependency Ratio	29.4	32.7	31.2
Family Member Industry Dependency Ratio <sup>g</sup>	35.5	9.5	23.9
<b>Gross Individual Income</b>			
Less than \$16,000	14.6	46.1	34.6
\$16,000 - \$26,000	16.3	21.5	19.6
\$26,000 - \$36,000	20.7	22.9	22.1
\$36,000 - \$52,000	23.2	5.1	11.7
\$52,000 - \$78,000	13.3	2.8	6.6
Over \$78,000	11.9	1.6	5.4
Average Income (\$)	39,420	20,653	27,471

Note: a Owner/operator sample of 1008, employee sample of 536.

b Based on estimates derived in Table 5.7.

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