

4. Identification of Town Resource Clusters

Identification of TRCs

Town Resource Clusters (TRCs) represent clusters of mutually interdependent towns or communities which have a clear relationship to a specific geographic region or area of marine resource use.

The identification of TRCs was based on the homeports of fishing businesses, as reported in Part A of this research series (Fenton & Marshall 2001a), because it was considered that much of the business expenditure, the residential location of employees, the household expenditure patterns of employees and the use of social infrastructure services among employees would centre around the homeports of fishing businesses.

An examination of all homeports of fishing businesses as identified in the survey questionnaire of this research series (Fenton and Marshall 2001a), indicated that the majority of fishing businesses were located in major regional and sub-regional centres on the Queensland coast. In some instances suburbs within the regional centre were identified as the homeport. However, suburb locations were classified as part of an identified regional centre on the basis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics definition of urban centres and localities.

Table 4.1 identifies the major regional centres which harvesters used as homeports, which were used to define the TRCs. Where the homeport of a fishing business was not located within a major regional centre, the location of business expenditure and the residential town location of the business operator was used to classify the business within a TRC. Many of the TRCs consisted of a major regional centre in which the majority of fishing businesses were located and smaller towns and communities surrounding the regional centre in which other fishing businesses were also located.

As shown in Table 4.1, this procedure classified 100% of harvest businesses within a TRC.

Once the initial TRCs had been defined using information about the location of the homeports of fishing businesses, the residual location of harvest operators were also located within these TRCs. This was undertaken using a similar procedure used in locating the homeports of fishing businesses. Where the residual location was not a homeport within a TRC as previously identified, the town location of household expenditure and use of social infrastructure services was examined in locating the hometown within a TRC.

Table 4.1 Harvest Businesses in TRCs

TRC	Frequency	Percent
Port Douglas	2	2.0
Cairns	14	13.9
Innisfail	3	3.0
Lucinda	1	1.0
Townsville	5	5.0
Airlie Beach	1	1.0
Mackay	9	8.9
Yeppoon	3	3.0
Gladstone	4	4.0
Hervey Bay	5	5.0
Maryborough	1	1.0
Tin Can Bay	4	4.0
Mooloolaba	8	7.9
Brisbane	32	31.7
Southport	9	8.9
Total Harvesters	101	100.0

