



QUEENSLAND STATEWIDE REVIEW 2025

INFORMATION RATING



Key species: Barramundi, Australian Bass, Dusky Flathead

Fish timeframe: 2016-2025

Fisher timeframe: 2021-2025

Scroll through the dashboard to cover all subjects or for information on a specific subject go to:

STATEWIDE OVERVIEW

QUEENSLAND STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

TYPE OF FISHERY STATEWIDE

FISHER ACTIVITY

FISHER EFFORT

FISHER TRAVEL

WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE

GENDER

KEY SPECIES

BARRAMUNDI

BASS

FLATHEAD

STATEWIDE OVERVIEW

Summary for 2025

- There were an additional 19,470 fish tagged in 2025 with 1,424 recaptures providing a continued assessment at a statewide level.
- An assessment of taggers and those recapturing fish suggests there is little difference in their fishing activity in terms of fishing seasonality, weekdays fished and fishing locations.

This dashboard provides a statewide overview of tagging activities with a focus on Barramundi, Australian Bass and Dusky Flathead which account for over 50% of all fish tagged and provide coverage of the statewide tagging activity. Recapture fishers also provide a near random sample of recreational fishers in the areas covered by tagging activity.

As tagging is predominantly in estuaries, waterways and lakes fish are not highly mobile so most recaptures are made in the same area as fish are tagged. Tag locations are associated with waterways in close proximity to population centres and cover most areas of the state where recreational fishing occurs.

At the statewide level fishing effort, based on days fished by taggers and those recapturing fish, suggests that Covid restrictions had some impact on fishing in 2020 and 2021 although there were some regions that were impacted more than others, particularly those fished by travelling fishers. Since then there has been a rebound in activity that has continued in 2025, with an increase in recaptures by interstate fishers. Those that were from interstate (3%) mostly came from NSW and Victoria (90%).

The average proxy travel distance for recapture fishers over the past 5 years was around 120-140km except in 2023 when it was 95km. For intrastate and interstate fishers the average was around 400-500km except in 2022 when it was 622km.

Recapture rates by gender have been around 6-7% for females from 2021-2023 and rose to 8.8% in 2024 and fell back to 6.2% this year, which is around the long-term rate. This suggests that female activity has remained steady in relation to recapturing fish.

Overall tag and recapture details are provided for the 3 species tagged the most being Barramundi, Bass and Flathead. These species account for 58% of the total tagging effort. Based on recaptures of legal sized fish by other than taggers, 37% of Barramundi, 12% of Bass and 58% of Flathead were kept. This suggests that for Barramundi and Bass that these are predominantly experiential fisheries while for Flathead it is predominantly a harvest fishery.

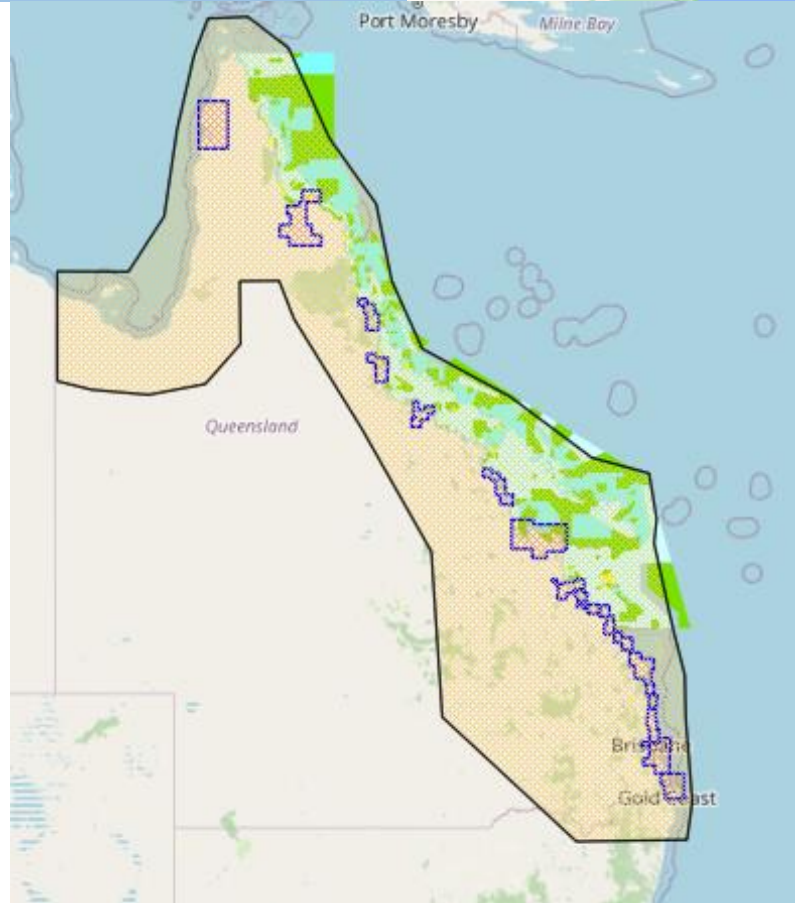
Tag rates and fish lengths at the statewide level have remained steady over the past decade and have not shown any particular trend.

QUEENSLAND STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

All of Queensland



Extent of Suntag tagging



TYPE OF FISHERY STATEWIDE

DATA RELIABILITY

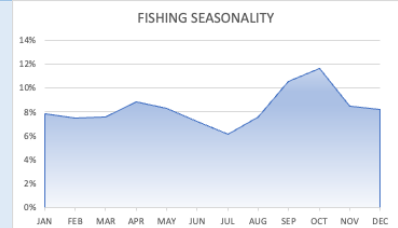
Sample size (days fished)
Tag days (blue arrow)
Recaptures (orange arrow)
Confidence %
Error %
2021-2025

Reliability level	LOW		MODERATE		MODERATE		HIGH	
Samples	10	41	68	271	384	664		
Confidence	80%	80%	90%	90%	95%	99%		
Error	20%	10%	10%	5%	5%	5%		



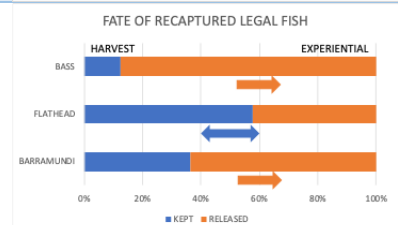
Seasonality
Days fished combined
Taggers
Recapture fishers
2021-2025

Days 21681
 Months most effort
 Fishers combined Oct
 Nov
 Apr



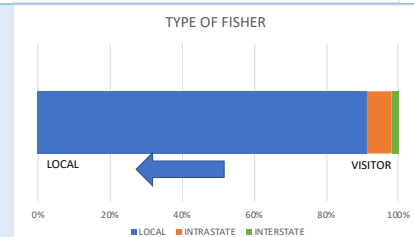
Harvest or experiential fishery
Fate of recaptured legal key species (ex-taggers)
2021-2025

Kept
 Barramundi* 378/656 (37%)
 Flathead 121/210 (58%)
 Bass 178/1256 (12%)
 *open season only



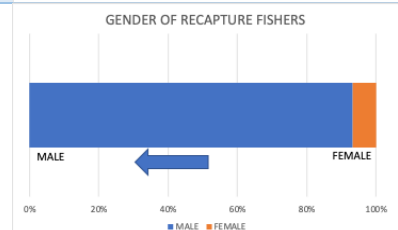
Local or visitor fishery
2021-2025

Recapture fishers 6459
 Local 5123 (79%)
 Intrastate 1112 (17%)
 Interstate 224 (3%)



Recapture fishers
Gender (ex-taggers)
2021-2025

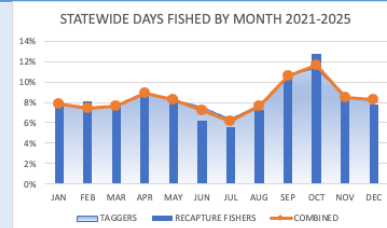
Recapture fishers 4911
 Male 4581 (93%)
 Female 330 (7%)



FISHER ACTIVITY

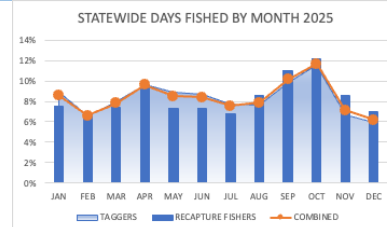
Monthly activity
Days fished
Taggers
Recapture fishers
2021-2025

Taggers	16912
Recap fishers	4769
Month	%
Combined Oct	12%
Sep	11%
Apr	9%



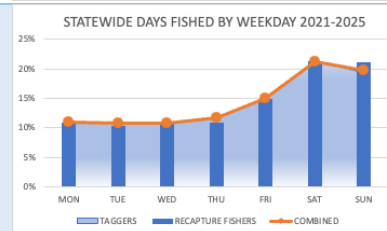
Month activity
Days fished
Taggers
Recapture fishers
2025

Taggers	3149
Recap fishers	1074
Month	%
Combined Oct	12%
Sep	10%
Apr	10%



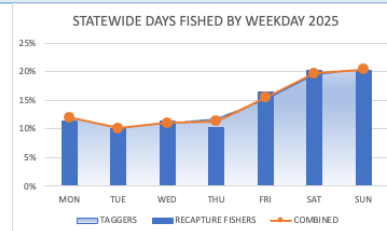
Weekday activity
Days fished
Taggers
Recapture fishers
2021-2025

Taggers	16912
Recap fishers	4769
Day	%
Combined Weekend	41%
Weekdays	59%



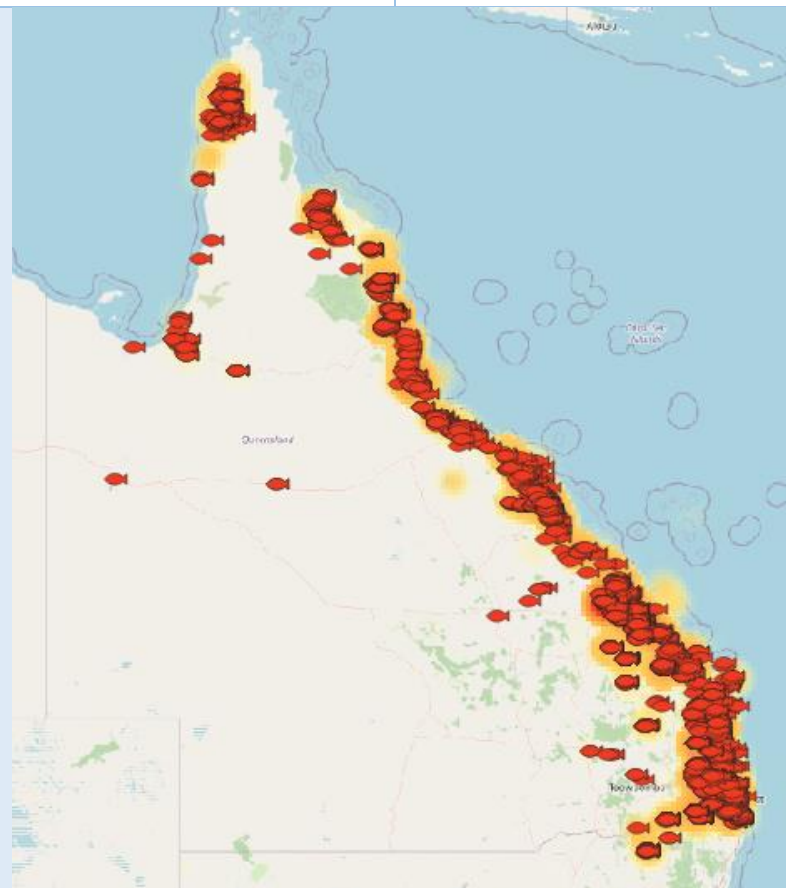
Weekday activity
Days fished
Taggers (1,445)
Recapture fishers (471)
2025

Taggers	3149
Recap fishers	1074
Day	%
Combined Weekend	40%
Weekdays	60%



Location activity
Tagged fish (red-orange heatmap)
Recaptured fish (red fish)
2021-2025

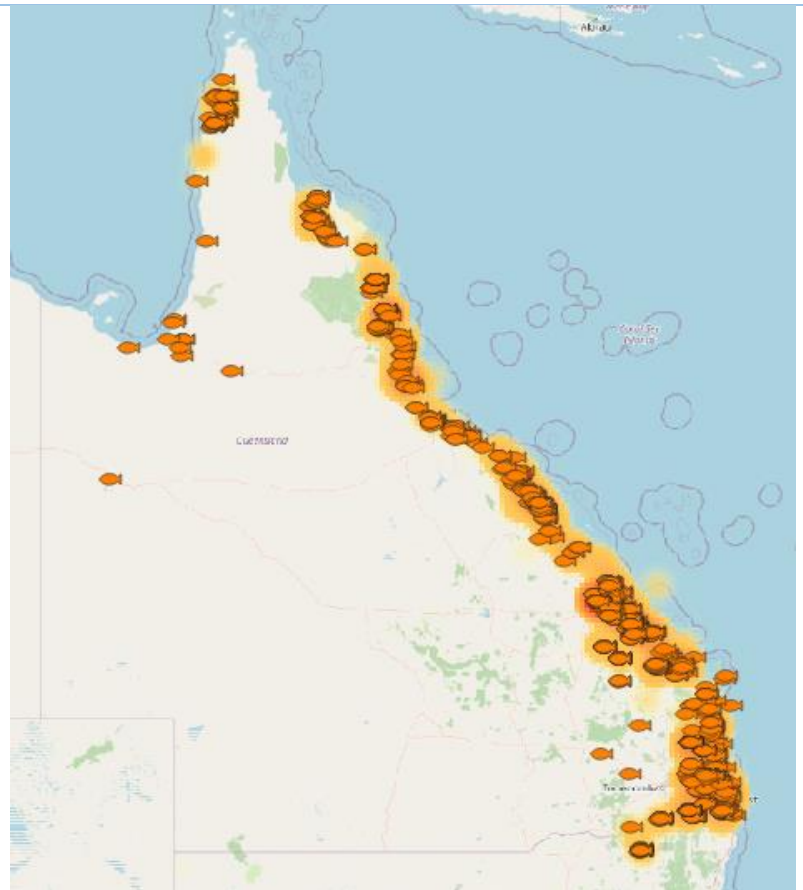
Tagged	86516
Recaptured	6841



Tagged fish (red-orange
heatmap)
Recaptured fish (orange
fish)
2025

Tagged
Recaptured

19470
1424



FISHER EFFORT

Days fished

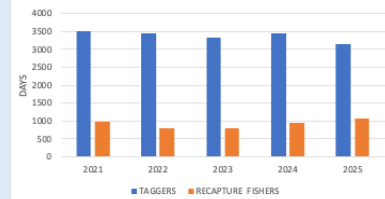
Taggers

Recapture fishers (ex-taggers)

2021-2025

Year	Taggers	Recaps
2021	3515	979
2022	3438	791
2023	3330	791
2024	3433	954
2025	3149	1070

DAYS FISHED EACH YEAR 2021-2025



Fisher effort

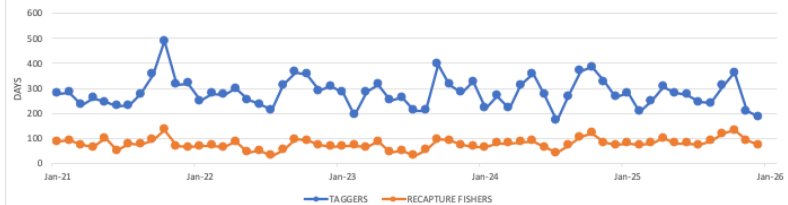
Days fished per month

Taggers

Recapture fishers (ex-taggers)

2021-2025

DAYS FISHED BY MONTH TAGGERS AND RECAPTURE FISHERS 2021-2025

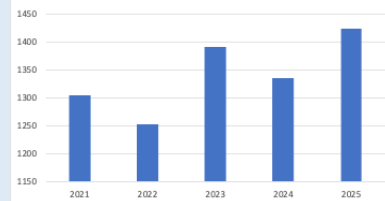


Total recaptures

2021-2025

Year	Recaptures
2021	1304
2022	1252
2023	1392
2024	1336
2025	1424

TOTAL RECAPTURES

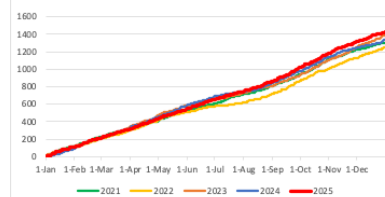


Recapture fishers

Cumulative recaptures

2021-2025

CUMULATIVE RECAPTURES



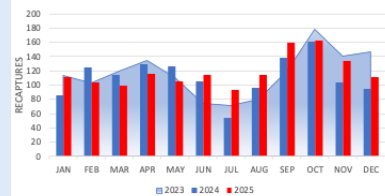
Recapture fishers

Monthly recaptures

2023-2025

Year	Recaptures
2023	1392
2024	1336
2025	1424

RECAPTURES LAST 3 YEARS



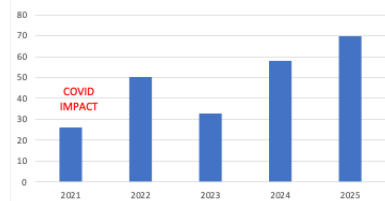
Recapture fishers

Interstate fishers

2021-2025

Year	Recaptures
2021	26
2022	50
2023	33
2024	58
2025	70

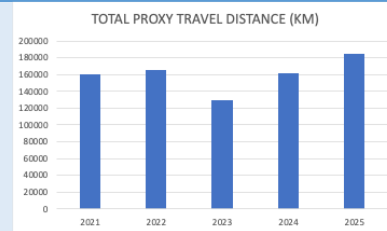
INTERSTATE RECAPTURES



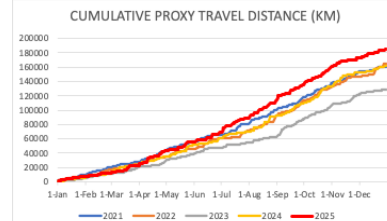
FISHER TRAVEL

Cumulative distance where fishers live to recapture location (travel proxy) 2021-2025

Year	Distance (km)
2021	162116
2022	165727
2023	131395
2024	162813
2025	184736

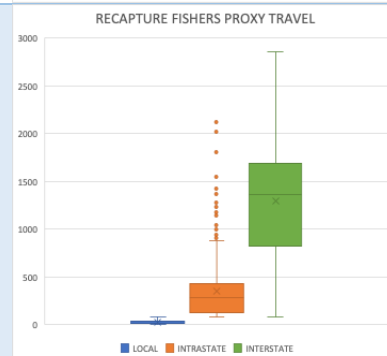


Cumulative distance where fishers live to recapture location (travel proxy) 2021-2025



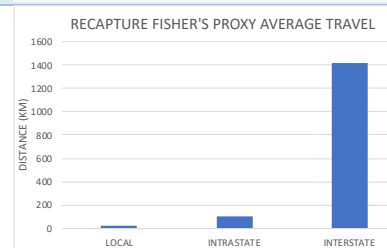
Distance (km) home to recapture location
Local
Intrastate
Interstate
2021-2025

Trips	6459
Range (km)	
Local	1-78
Intrastate	81-2120
Interstate	83-3613



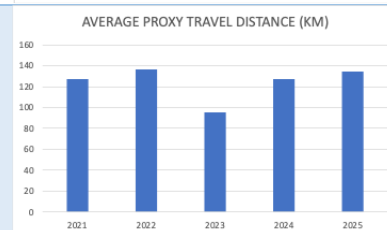
Average distance (km) home to recapture location (travel proxy) 2021-2025

Trips	6549
Local	25
Intrastate	354
Interstate	1293



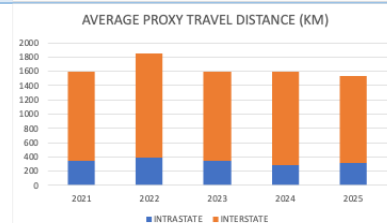
Average distance (km) where all fishers live to recapture location (travel proxy) 2021-2025

	Av Distance (km)
2021	127
2022	136
2023	95
2024	127
2025	134



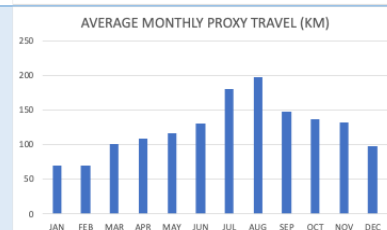
Average distance (km) Intrastate fishers Interstate fishers (proxy travel) 2021-2025

	Av Distance (km)
2021	413
2022	622
2023	465
2024	514
2025	504



Average monthly distance where fishers live to recapture location (travel proxy) 2021-2025

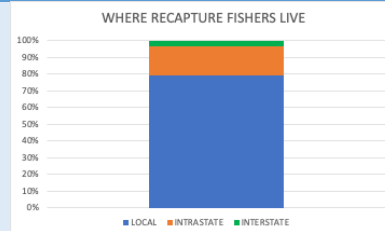
	Av distance (km)
High	
Aug	198
Jul	180
Low	
Jan-Feb	70



WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE

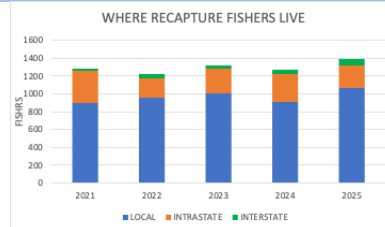
Where recapture fishers live
2021-2025

Recapture fishers 6459
Local 5123 (79%)
Intrastate 1112 (17%)
Interstate 224 (3%)



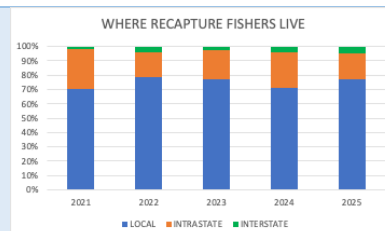
Where recapture fishers live
Local (1-79km)
Intrastate (Qld)
Interstate
2021-2025

	Local	Qld	Oth
2021	899	356	26
2022	961	210	50
2023	1007	273	32
2024	908	308	56
2025	1065	251	69



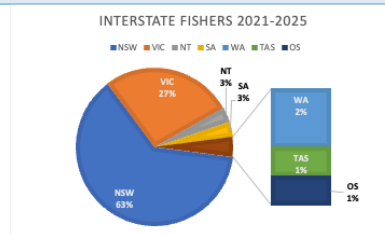
Where recapture fishers live
Local (1-79km)
Intrastate
Interstate
2021-2025

	Local	Qld	Oth
2021	70%	28%	2%
2022	79%	17%	4%
2023	77%	21%	2%
2024	71%	24%	5%
2025	77%	18%	5%



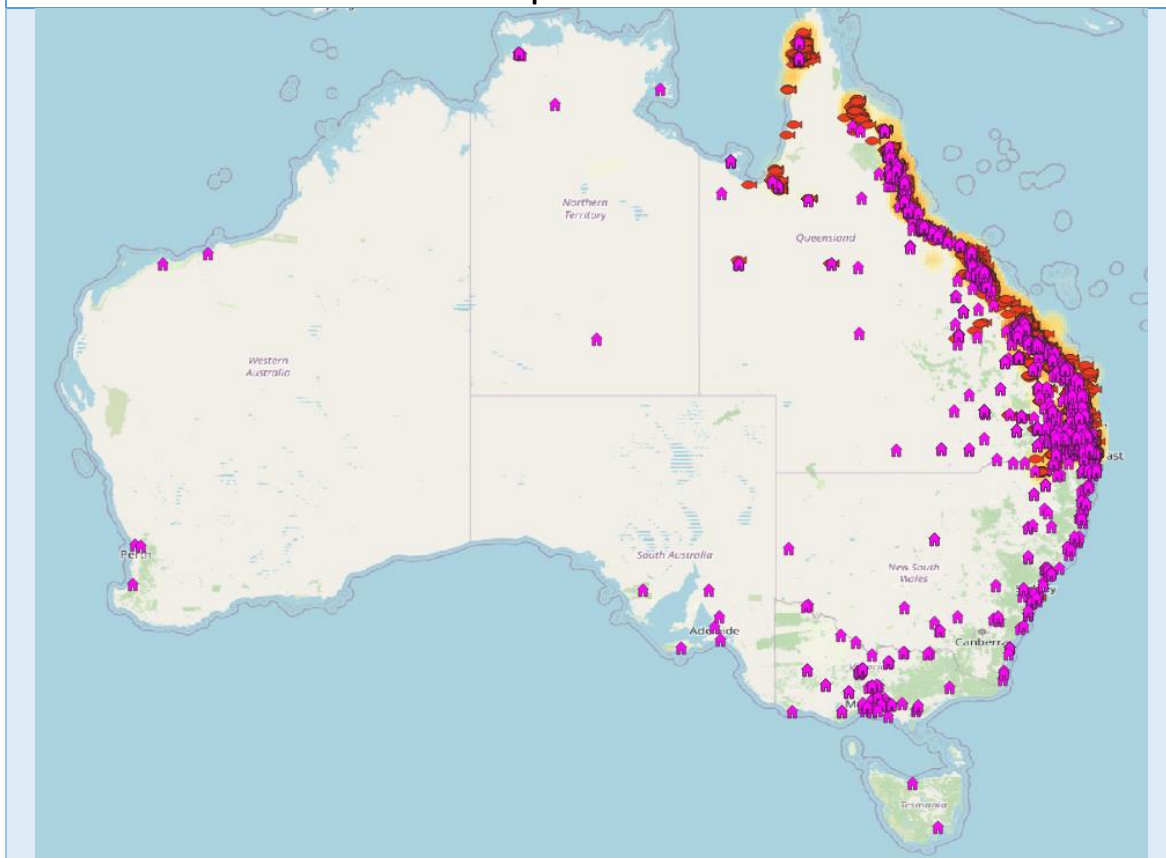
State of origin
Recapture fishers
2021-2025

NSW	63%
VIC	27%
NT	3%
SA	3%
WA	2%
TAS	1%
Overseas	1%



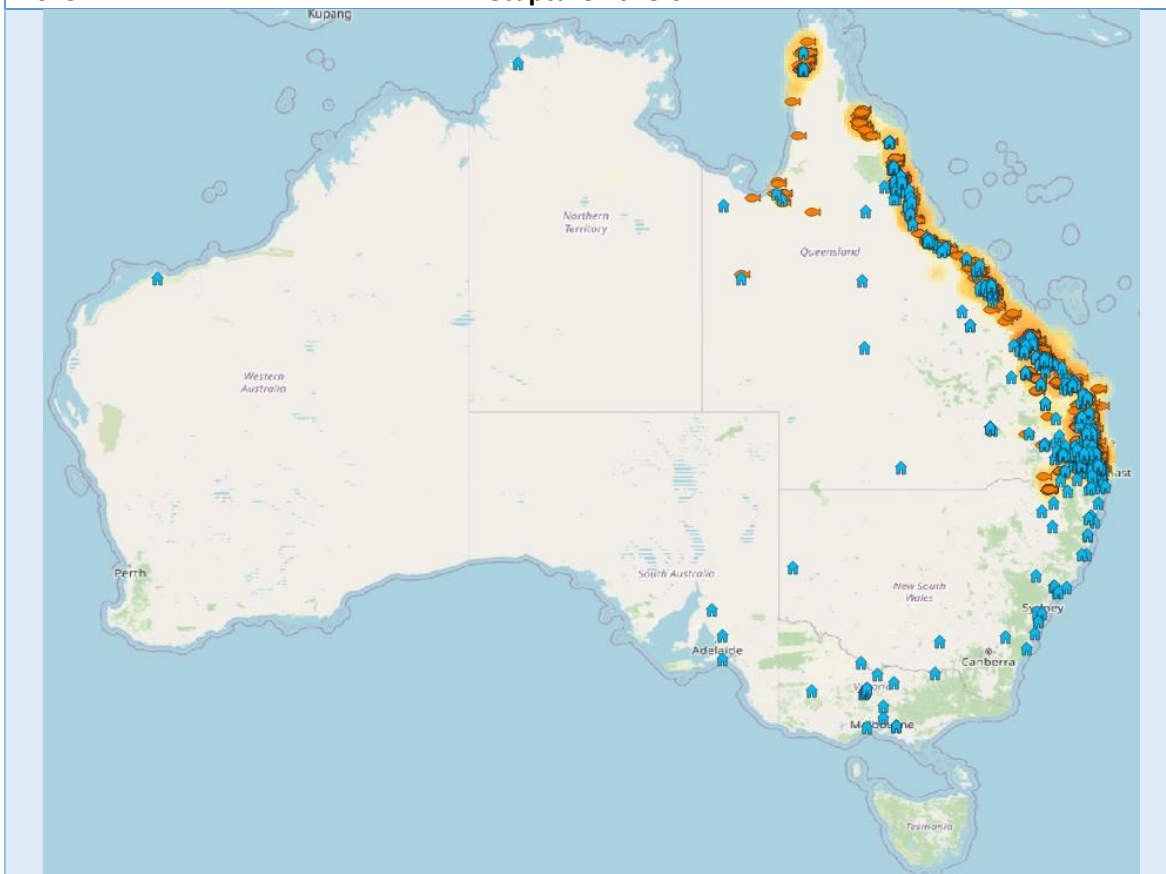
**Where fishers live (pink houses) that recaptured fish (red fish)
2021-2025**

Recapture fishers 6838



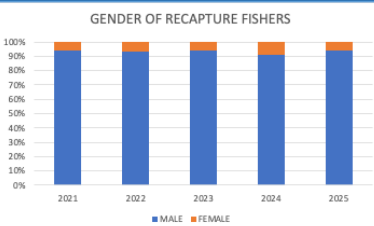
**Where fishers live (blue houses) that recaptured fish (brown fish)
2025**

Recapture fishers 1424



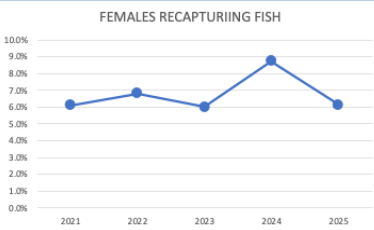
GENDER




Gender of recapture
fishers (ex- taggers)
2021-2025

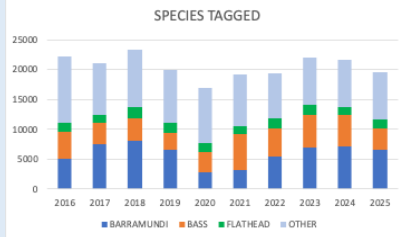
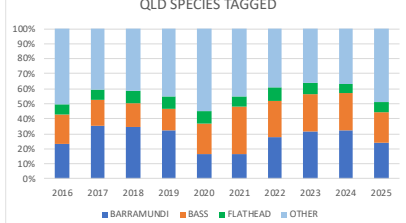


Trend in females
recapturing fish (ex-
taggers)
2021-2025

	Female
2021	6.1%
2022	6.8%
2023	6.0%
2024	8.8%
2025	6.2%

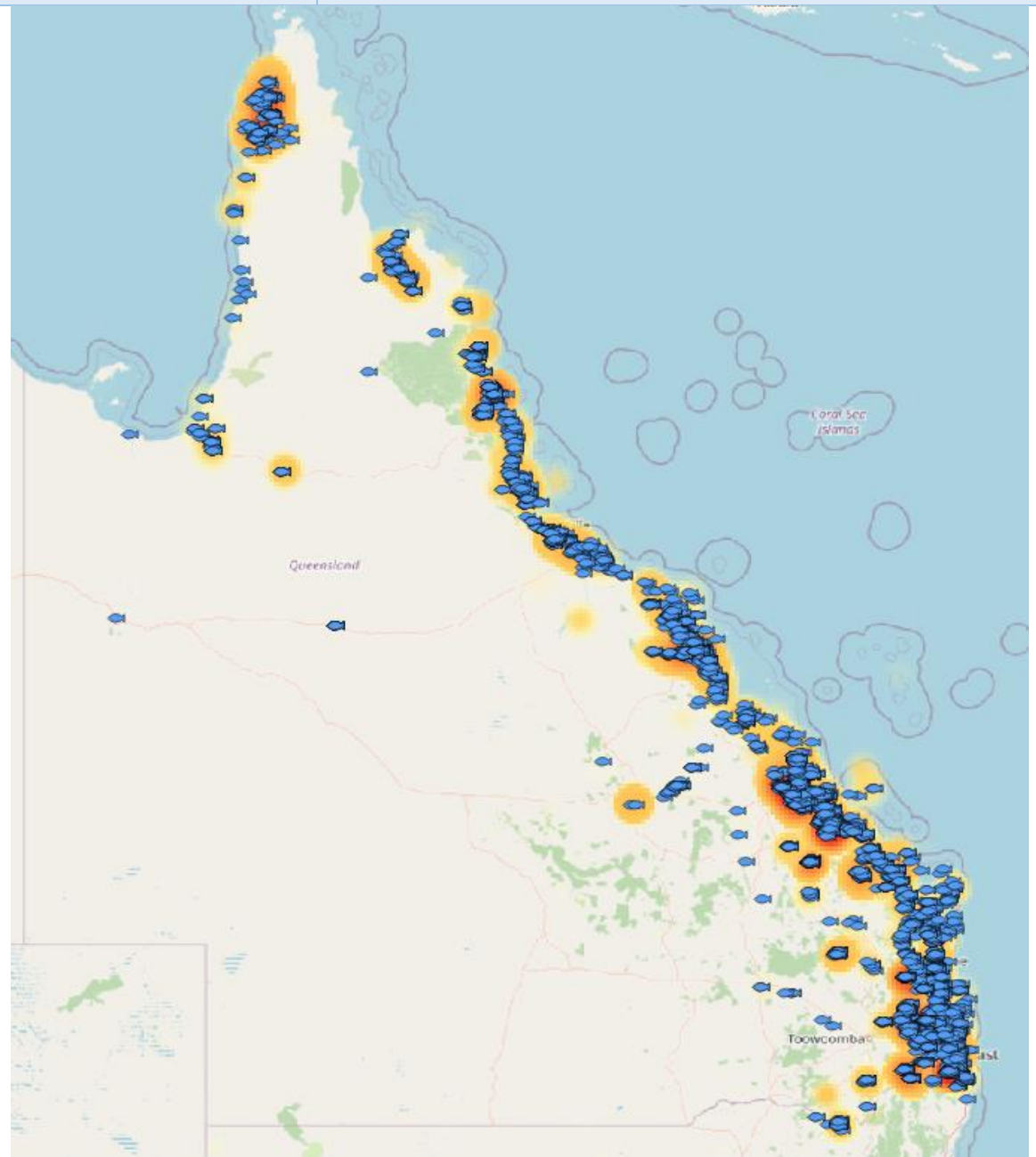


KEY SPECIES				
BARRAMUNDI	AUSTRALIAN BASS		DUSKY FLATHEAD	
				
TAGGED AND TAG RATE				
Tag and effort taggers	High	Low	Now	
Tagged fish	Tagged			
Days fished	2018	2020	2025	
2016-2025	23338	17014	19470	
	Days fished			
	2018	2023	2025	
	4277	3335	3151	
Fish tagged	Tagged		205314	
Recaptured	Recaptured		15584	
2016-2025	Recapture rate		7.6%	
	Tagged 2025		19470	
	Recaptured 2025		1448	
Tag rate	High	Low	Now	
Fish/day	Tag rate			
2016-2025	2023	2020	2025	
	6.6	4.8	6.2	
	10 year average		5.6	

SPECIES				
Species composition Numbers tagged 2016-2025	Top 3 species Barramundi Bass Flathead Other species	59335 42981 15434 87564		
Species composition Percentage tagged 2016-2025	Barramundi Bass Flathead Top 3	29% 21% 8% 58%		

TAG LOCATIONS

All fish	Tagged	205314
Tagged (red-orange heatmap)	Recaptured	15548
Recaptured (blue fish)		
2016-2025		



BARRAMUNDI



DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (fish/year)
Tagged (blue arrow)
Recaptures (orange arrow)
Confidence %
Error %
2021-2025

Reliability level	LOW	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH
Samples	10	41	68	271
Confidence	80%	80%	90%	90%
Error	20%	10%	10%	5%



TAGGED AND TAG RATE

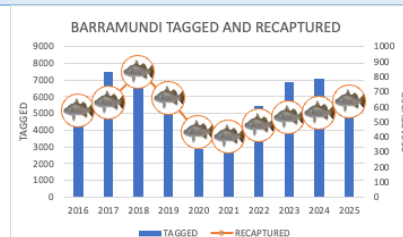
Tag and effort taggers
Tagged fish
Tag days
2016-2025

High	Low	Now
Tagged		
2024	2020	2025
7087	2858	6561
Days fished		
2018	2023	2025
4277	3335	3151



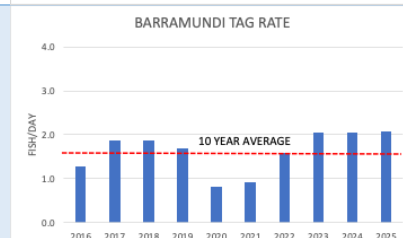
Fish tagged
Recaptured
2016-2025

Tagged	59335
Recaptured	5706
Recapture rate	9.6%
Tagged	6561
Recaptured	634



Tag rate
Fish/day
2016-2025

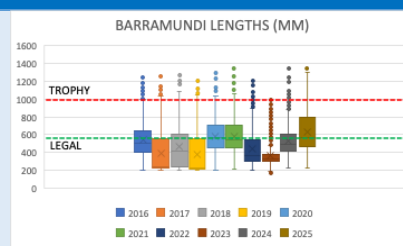
High	Low	Now
Tag rate		
2023	2020	2025
2.1	0.8	2.1
10 year average		1.6



LENGTHS

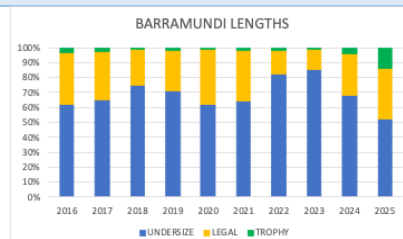
Average length (mm)
Bars show length range
Dots show outliers
2016-2025

High	Low	Now
Average length		
2021	2023	2025
567	417	643
Max		
2024	2022	2025
1385	1210	1380



Species composition
Percentage tagged
2016-2025

High	Low	Now
Legal-trophy		
2020	2023	2025
37%	14%	34%
Trophy		
2024	2023	2025
4%	1%	14%

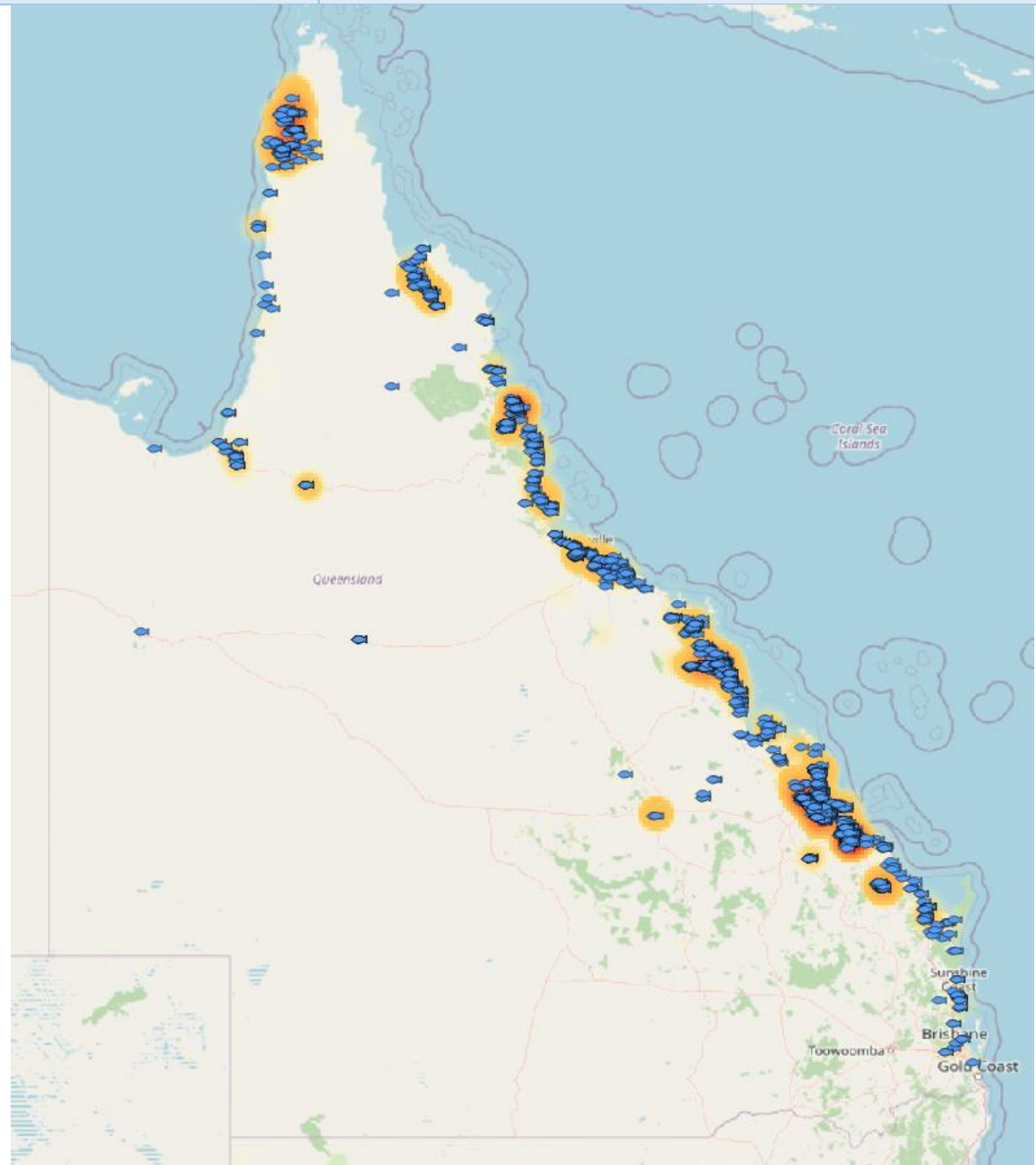


LOCATIONS

Barramundi
Tagged (red-orange
heatmap)
Recaptured (blue fish)
2016-2025

Tagged
Recaptured

59335
5838



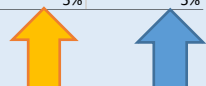
BASS



DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (fish/year)
Tagged (blue arrow)
Recaptures (orange arrow)
Confidence %
Error %
2021-2025

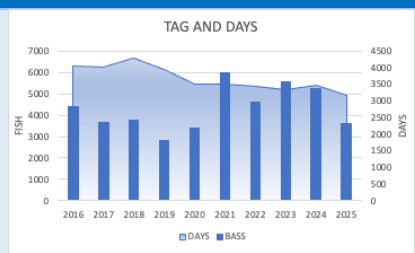
Reliability level	LOW			MODERATE		MODERATE		HIGH	
Samples	10	41	68	271	384	664	99%	99%	99%
Confidence	80%	80%	80%	90%	90%	95%	95%	95%	99%
Error	20%	10%	10%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%



TAGGED AND TAG RATE

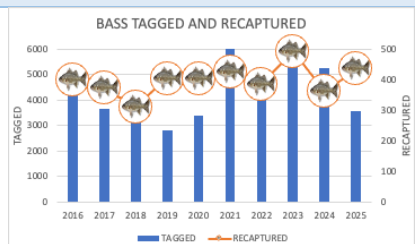
Catch and effort taggers
Tagged fish
Tag days
2016-2025

High	Low	Now
Tagged		
2021	2019	2025
5994	2798	3582
Days fished		
2018	2023	2025
4277	3335	3151



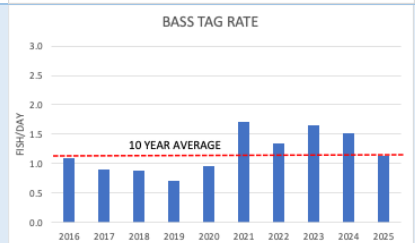
Fish tagged
Recaptured
2016-2025

Tagged	42981
Recaptured	3985
Recapture rate	9.3%
Tagged 2025	3985
Recaptured 2025	435



Tag rate
Fish/day
2016-2025

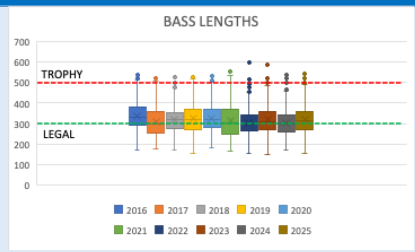
High	Low	Now
Tag rate		
2021	2019	2025
1.7	0.7	1.1
10 year average		1.2



LENGTHS

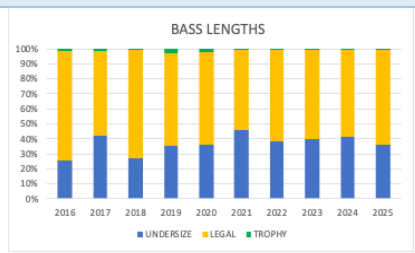
Average length (mm)
Bars show length range
Dots show outliers
2016-2025

High	Low	Now
Average length		
2016	2021	2025
338	314	321
Max		
2024	2017	2025
640	550	545



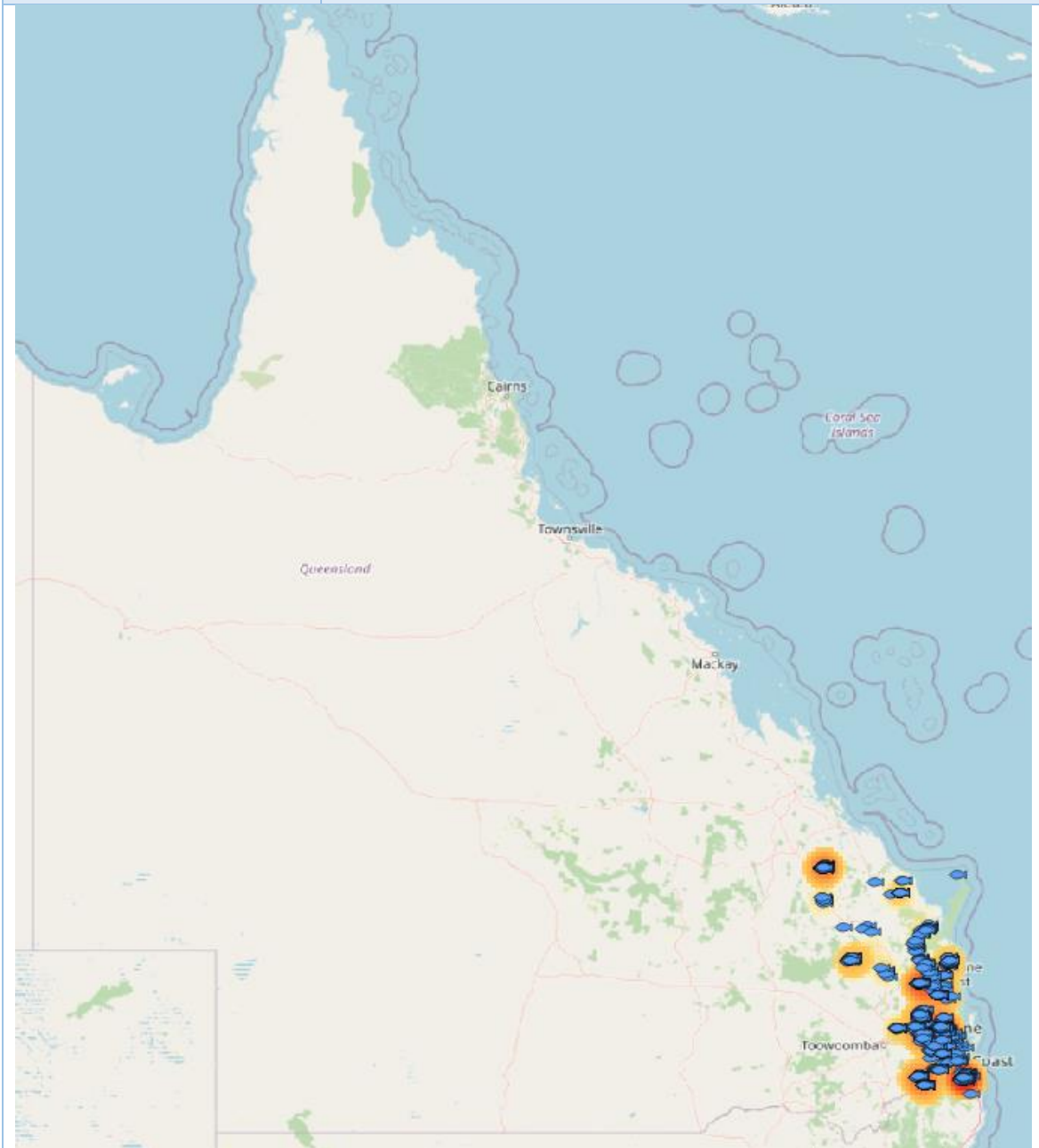
Species composition
Percentage tagged
2016-2025

High	Low	Now
Legal-trophy		
2016	2021	2025
73%	53%	63%
Trophy		
2019	2023	2025
2.6%	0.3%	0.5%



LOCATIONS

Bass	Tagged	42981
Tagged (red-orange heatmap)	Recaptured	3985
Recaptured (blue fish)		
2016-2025		



FLATHEAD



DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (fish/year)
Tagged (blue arrow)
Recaptures (orange arrow)
Confidence %
Error %
2021-2025

Reliability level	LOW	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH
Samples	10	41	68	271
Confidence	80%	80%	90%	90%
Error	20%	10%	5%	5%



TAGGED AND TAG RATE

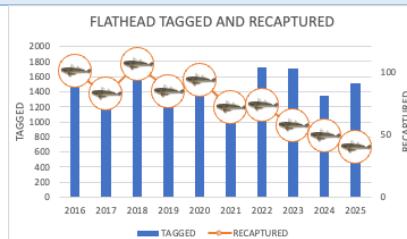
Tag and effort taggers
Tagged fish
Tag days
2016-2025

High	Low	Now
Tagged		
2018	2021	2025
1965	1313	1515
Days fished		
2018	2023	2025
4277	3335	3151



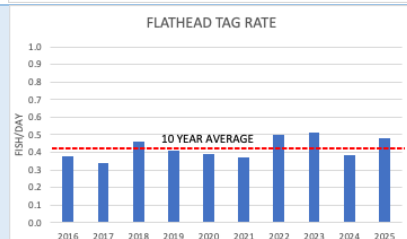
Fish tagged
Recaptured
2016-2025

Tagged	15434
Recaptured	755
Recapture rate	4.9%
Tagged 2025	1515
Recaptured 2025	40



Tag rate
Fish/day
2016-2025

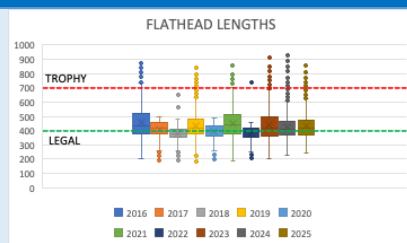
High	Low	Now
Tag rate		
2023	2020	2025
0.5	0.3	0.5
10 year average		0.4



LENGTHS

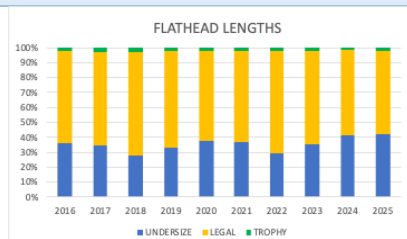
Average length (mm)
Bars show length range
Dots show outliers
2016-2025

High	Low	Now
Average length		
2021	2023	2025
457	428	434
Max		
2019	2020	2025
970	840	860



Species composition
Percentage tagged
2016-2025

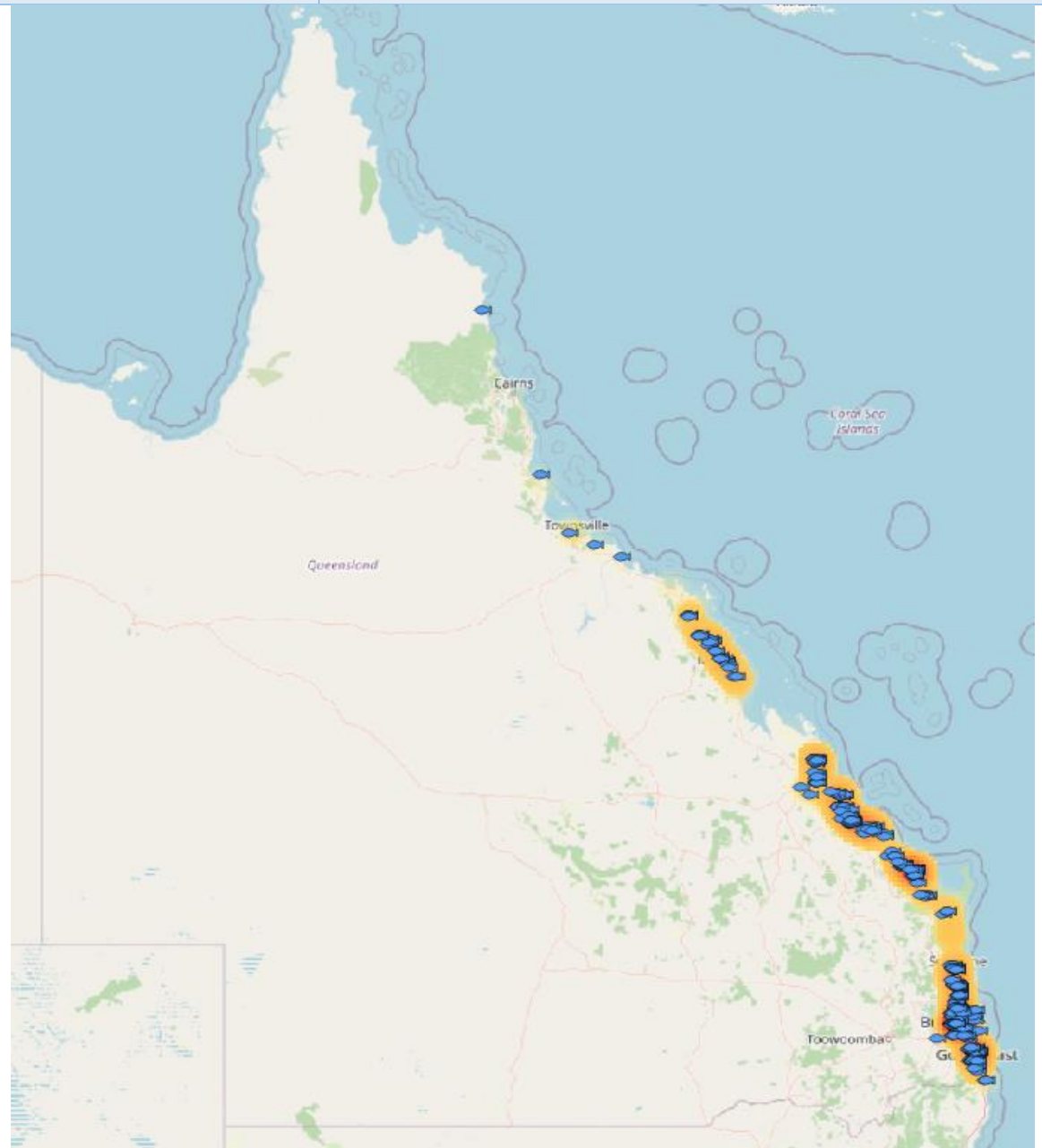
High	Low	Now
Legal-trophy		
2017	2023	2025
70%	57%	61%
Trophy		
2017	2023	2025
3%	2%	2%



TAG LOCATIONS

Flathead
Tagged (red-orange
heatmap)
Recaptured (blue fish)
2016-2025

Tagged	15434
Recaptured	755



Data sources

Data used in the Queensland Crystal Bowl are:

- Tag and recapture records for Queensland from Suntag records from Infish database from http://crystalbowl.infishaustralia.com.au/infish/f_infish.htm.
- Postcodes from Australia Post website at <https://auspost.com.au/postcode>.

Data analysis

- Data reliability for fishers based on the sample size over the past 5 years for days fished by taggers and by fishers recapturing fish.
- Data reliability for fish based on average number of fish tagged and recaptured per year over the past 5 years.
- Catch rates calculated as number of fish tagged/day for taggers with a minimum of 12 fisher days (at least 1 per month) to provide a reliable catch rate.
- For Barramundi undersized fish are <580mm, legal fish are ≥580 and <1000mm and trophy fish are ≥1000mm.
- For Australian Bass undersized fish are <300mm, legal fish are ≥300 and <500mm and trophy fish are ≥500mm.
- For Dusky Flathead undersized fish are <400mm, legal fish are ≥400 and <700mm and trophy fish are ≥700mm.
- Locations based on Infish grid maps for Queensland.
- Distance from where fishers live to recapture location is the straight-line distance between locations based on Google Earth coordinates with Local <80, Intrastate ≥80 and Qld postcode, Interstate postcode other than Qld.