



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



Product of Infofish Australia



Supported by Sun Tag and
Department of Primary Industries

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.

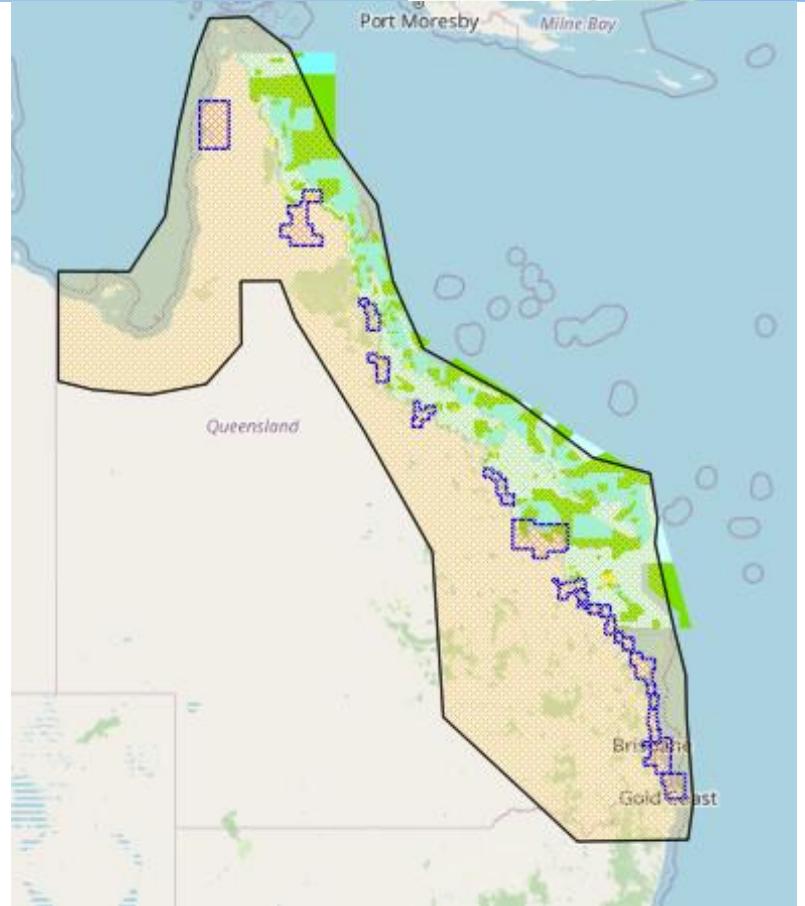
Tag rates and fish lengths at the statewide level have remained steady over the past decade and have not shown any particular trend.

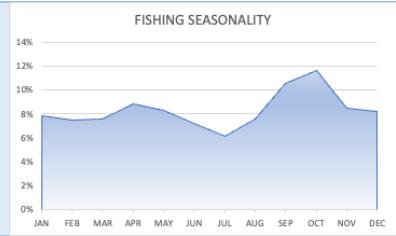
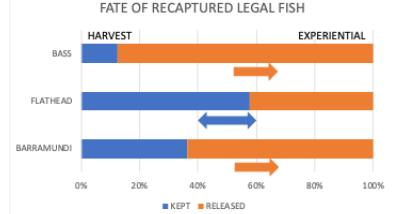
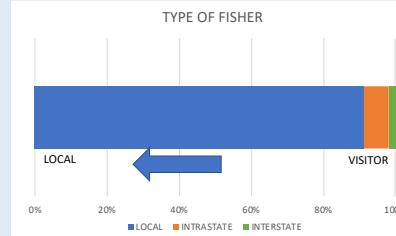
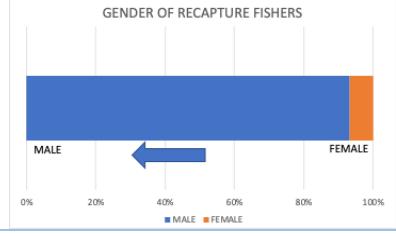
QUEENSLAND STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

All of Queensland



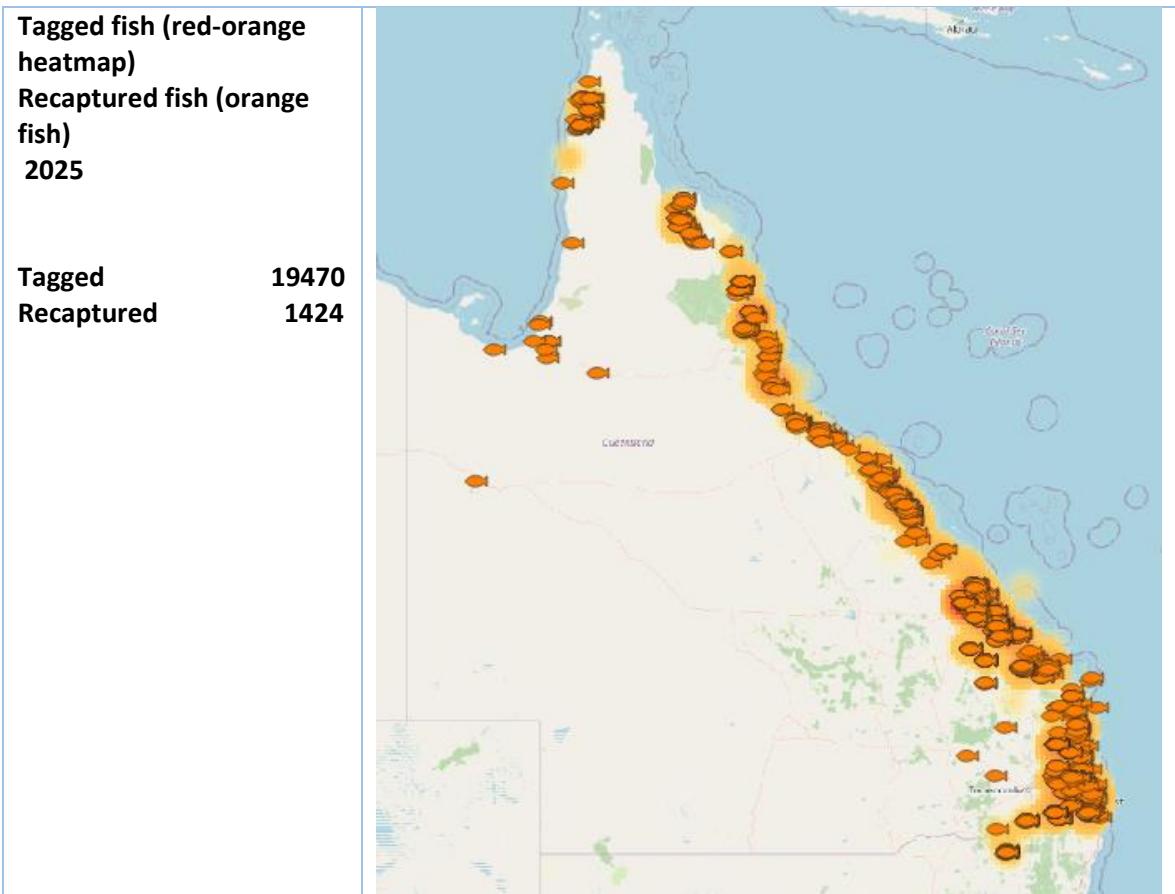
Extent of Suntag tagging



TYPE OF FISHERY STATEWIDE																													
DATA RELIABILITY																													
Sample size (days fished) Tag days (blue arrow) Recaptures (orange arrow) Confidence % Error % 2021-2025		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Reliability level</th> <th>LOW</th> <th>MODERATE</th> <th>MODERATE</th> <th>HIGH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Samples</td> <td>10</td> <td>41</td> <td>68</td> <td>384</td> <td>664</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Confidence</td> <td>80%</td> <td>80%</td> <td>90%</td> <td>90%</td> <td>99%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Error</td> <td>20%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>5%</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 					Reliability level	LOW	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH	Samples	10	41	68	384	664	Confidence	80%	80%	90%	90%	99%	Error	20%	10%	10%	5%	5%
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Seasonality Days fished combined Taggers Recapture fishers 2021-2025	Days Months most effort Fishers combined	21681 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%	
Month activity Days fished Taggers Recapture fishers 2025	Apr	9%	
	Taggers	3149	
	Recap fishers	1074	
	Month	%	
	Combined		
	Oct	12%	
Weekday activity Days fished Taggers Recapture fishers 2021-2025	Sep	10%	
	Apr	10%	
	Taggers	16912	
	Recap fishers	4769	
	Day	%	
	Combined		
Weekday activity Days fished Taggers (1,445) Recapture fishers (471) 2025	Weekend	41%	
	Weekdays	59%	
	Taggers	3149	
	Recap fishers	1074	
	Day	%	
	Combined		
Location activity Tagged fish (red-orange heatmap) Recaptured fish (red fish) 2021-2025	Weekend	40%	
	Weekdays	60%	
	Tagged	86516	
	Recaptured	6841	



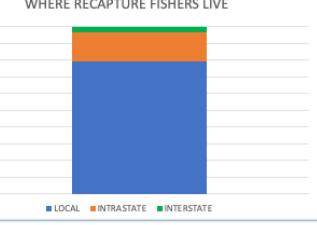
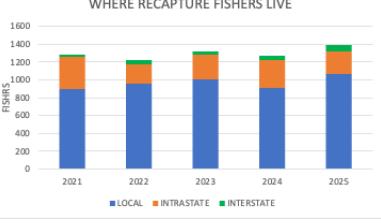
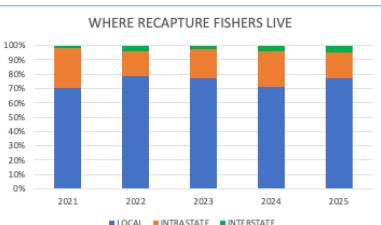
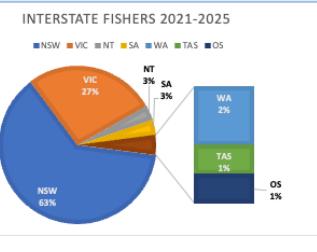
FISHER EFFORT

Days fished Taggers Recapture fishers (ex-taggers) 2021-2025	Year	Taggers	Recaps	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Taggers</th> <th>Recaps</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>3515</td> <td>979</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>3438</td> <td>791</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023</td> <td>3330</td> <td>791</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024</td> <td>3433</td> <td>954</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>3149</td> <td>1070</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Taggers	Recaps	2021	3515	979	2022	3438	791	2023	3330	791	2024	3433	954	2025	3149	1070																																																											
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FISHER TRAVEL

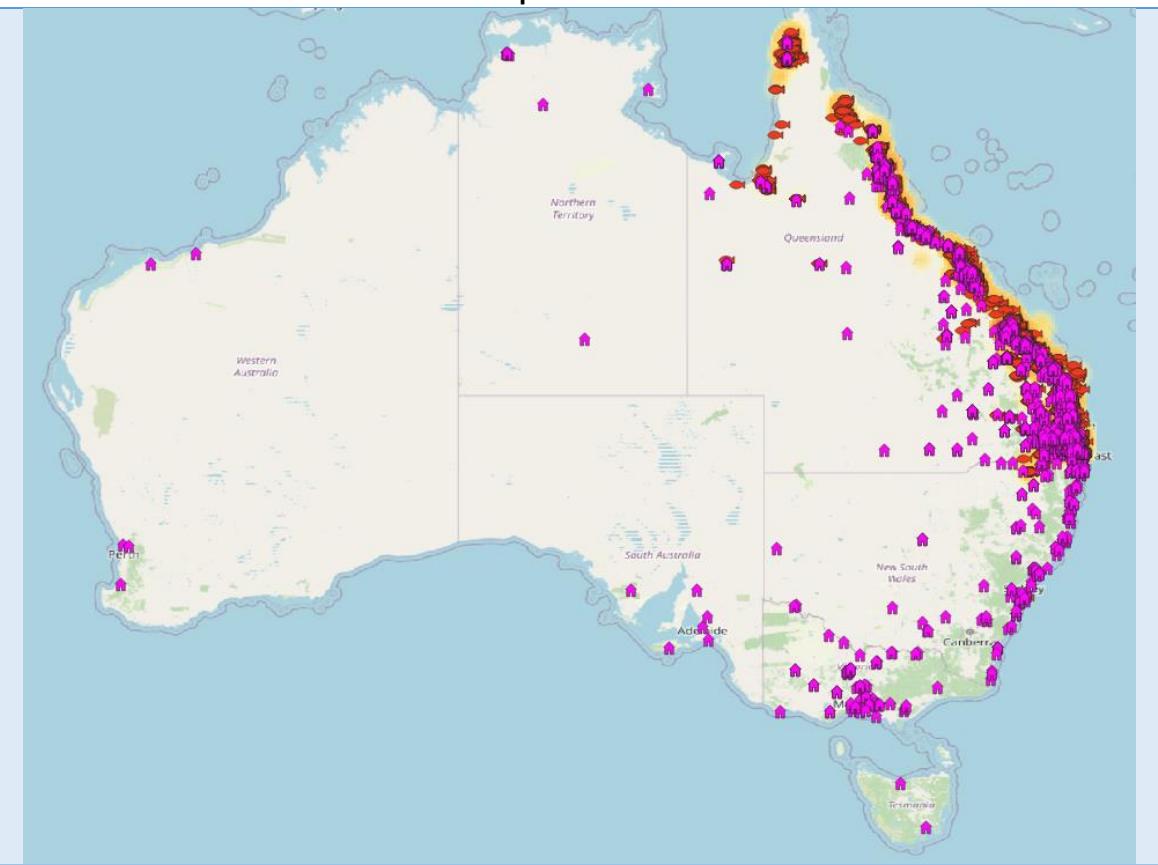
Cumulative distance where fishers live to recapture location (travel proxy) 2021-2025	Year	Distance (km)	
	2021	162116	
	2022	165727	
	2023	131395	
	2024	162813	
	2025	184736	
Cumulative distance where fishers live to recapture location (travel proxy) 2021-2025			
Distance (km) home to recapture location Local Intrastate Interstate 2021-2025	Trips	6459	
	Local	Range (km)	
		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%)						
Where recapture fishers live Local (1-79km) Intrastate (Qld) Interstate 2021-2025	Interstate	224 (3%)						
	2021	Local	899	Qld	356	Oth	26	
	2022	Local	961	Qld	210	Oth	50	
	2023	Local	1007	Qld	273	Oth	32	
	2024	Local	908	Qld	308	Oth	56	
	2025	Local	1065	Qld	251	Oth	69	
Where recapture fishers live Local (1-79km) Intrastate Interstate 2021-2025	2021	Local	70%	Qld	28%	Oth	2%	
	2022	Local	79%	Qld	17%	Oth	4%	
	2023	Local	77%	Qld	21%	Oth	2%	
	2024	Local	71%	Qld	24%	Oth	5%	
	2025	Local	77%	Qld	18%	Oth	5%	
	2025	Local	77%	Qld	18%	Oth	5%	
State of origin Recapture fishers 2021-2025	NSW		63%					
	VIC		27%					
	NT		3%					
	SA		3%					
	WA		2%					
	TAS		1%					
	Overseas		1%					

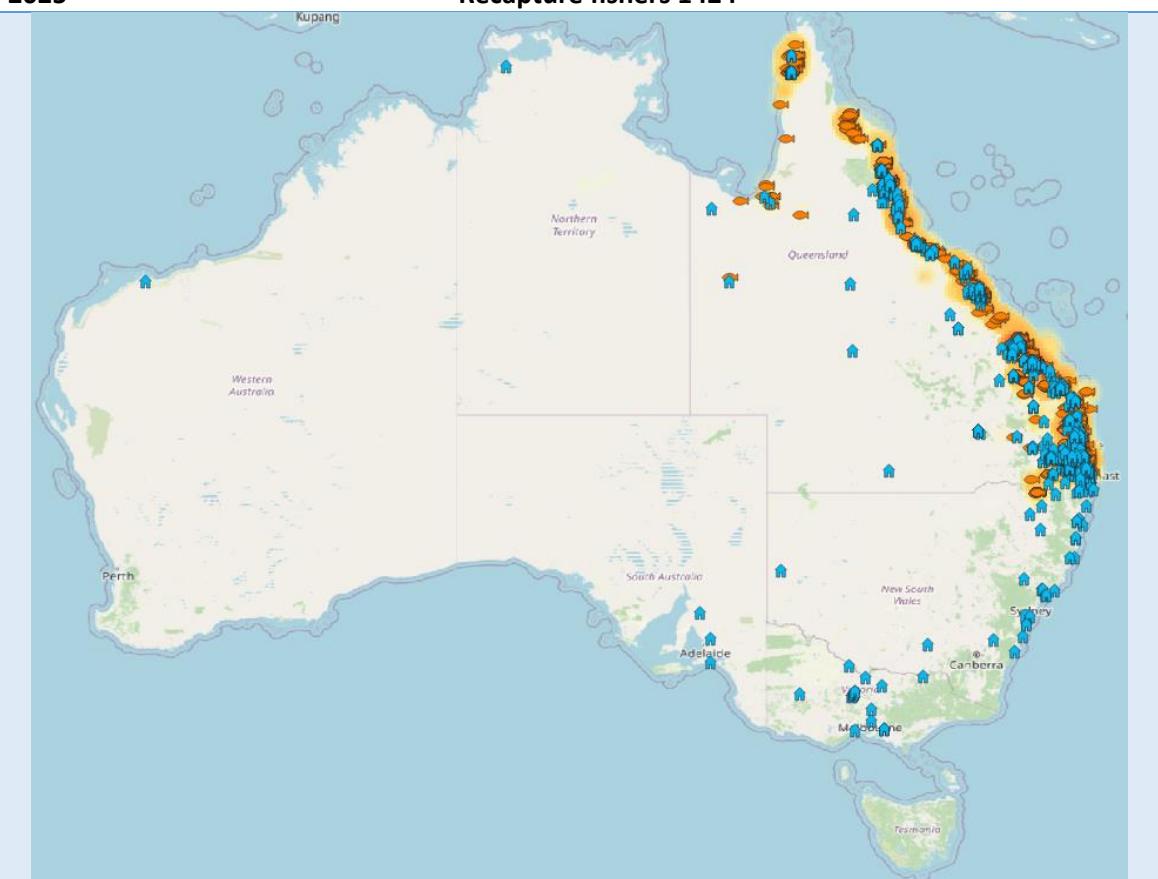
Where fishers live (pink houses) that recaptured fish (red fish)
2021-2025

Recapture fishers 6838



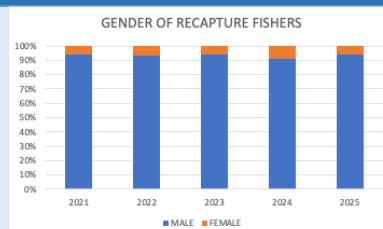
Where fishers live (blue houses) that recaptured fish (brown fish)
2025

Recapture fishers 1424



GENDER

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

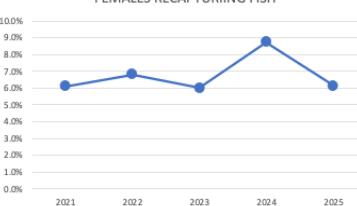


**Trend in females
recapturing fish (ex-
taggers)
2021-2025**

2021
2022
2023
2024
2025

Female
6.1%
6.8%
6.0%
8.8%
6.2%

FEMALES RECAPTURING FISH



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

2016-2025

4277 3335 3151



Fish tagged

Tagged

205314

Recaptured

Recaptured

15584

2016-2025

Recapture rate

7.6%

2016-2025

Tagged 2025

19470

2016-2025

Recaptured 2025

1448



Tag rate

High Low Now

Fish/day

Tag rate

2023 2020 2025

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

59335

Bass

42981

Flathead

15434

Other species

87564

SPECIES TAGGED



Species composition

Percentage tagged

2016-2025

Barramundi

29%

Bass

21%

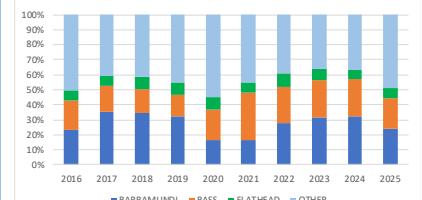
Flathead

8%

Top 3

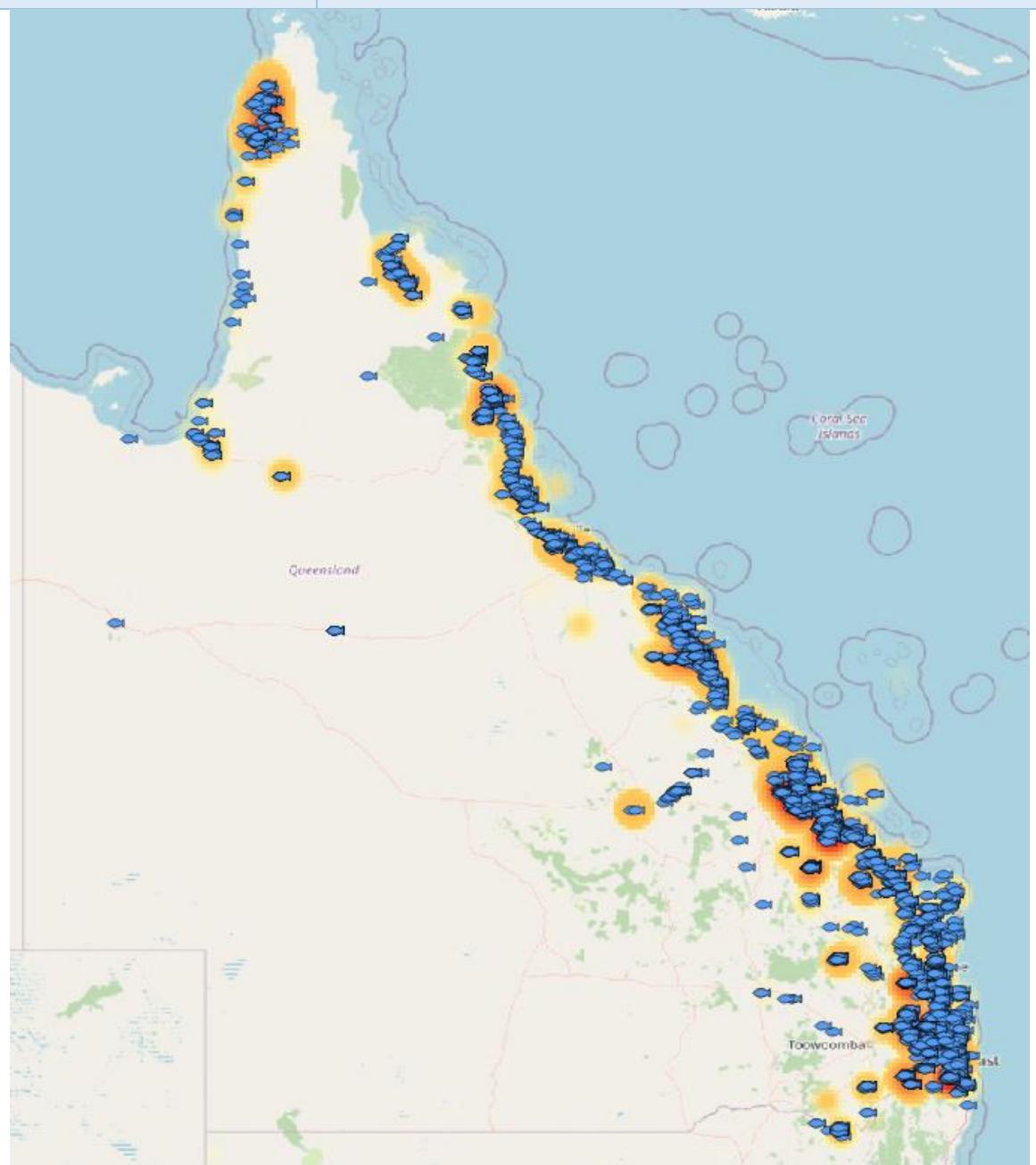
58%

QLD SPECIES TAGGED



TAG LOCATIONS

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



BARRAMUNDI



DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (fish/year)

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

Tagged (blue arrow)

Recaptures (orange arrow)

Confidence %

Error %

2021-2025



TAGGED AND TAG RATE

Tag and effort taggers

High Low Now

Tagged fish

Tagged

Tag days

2024 2020 2025

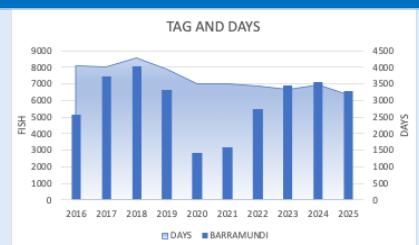
2016-2025

7087 2858 6561

Days fished

2018 2023 2025

4277 3335 3151



Fish tagged

Tagged

59335

Recaptured

5706

2016-2025

Recapture rate

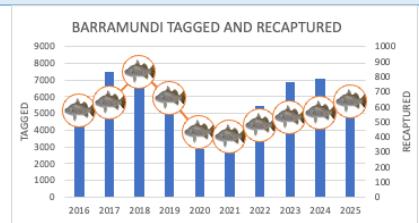
9.6%

Tagged

6561

Recaptured

634



Tag rate

High Low Now

Fish/day

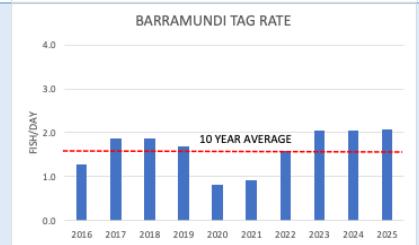
2023 2020 2025

2016-2025

2.1 0.8 2.1

10 year average

1.6



LENGTHS

Average length (mm)

High Low Now

Bars show length range

Average length

Dots show outliers

2021 2023 2025

2016-2025

567 417 643

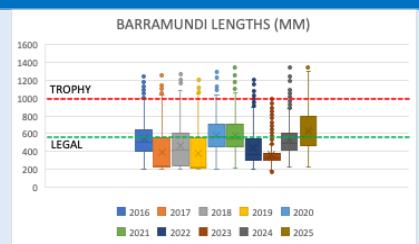
Max

2024

2022 2025

2016-2025

1385 1210 1380



Species composition

High Low Now

Percentage tagged

Legal-trophy

2016-2025

2020 2023 2025

2024

37% 14% 34%

Trophy

2024

2023 2025

2016-2025

4% 1% 14%

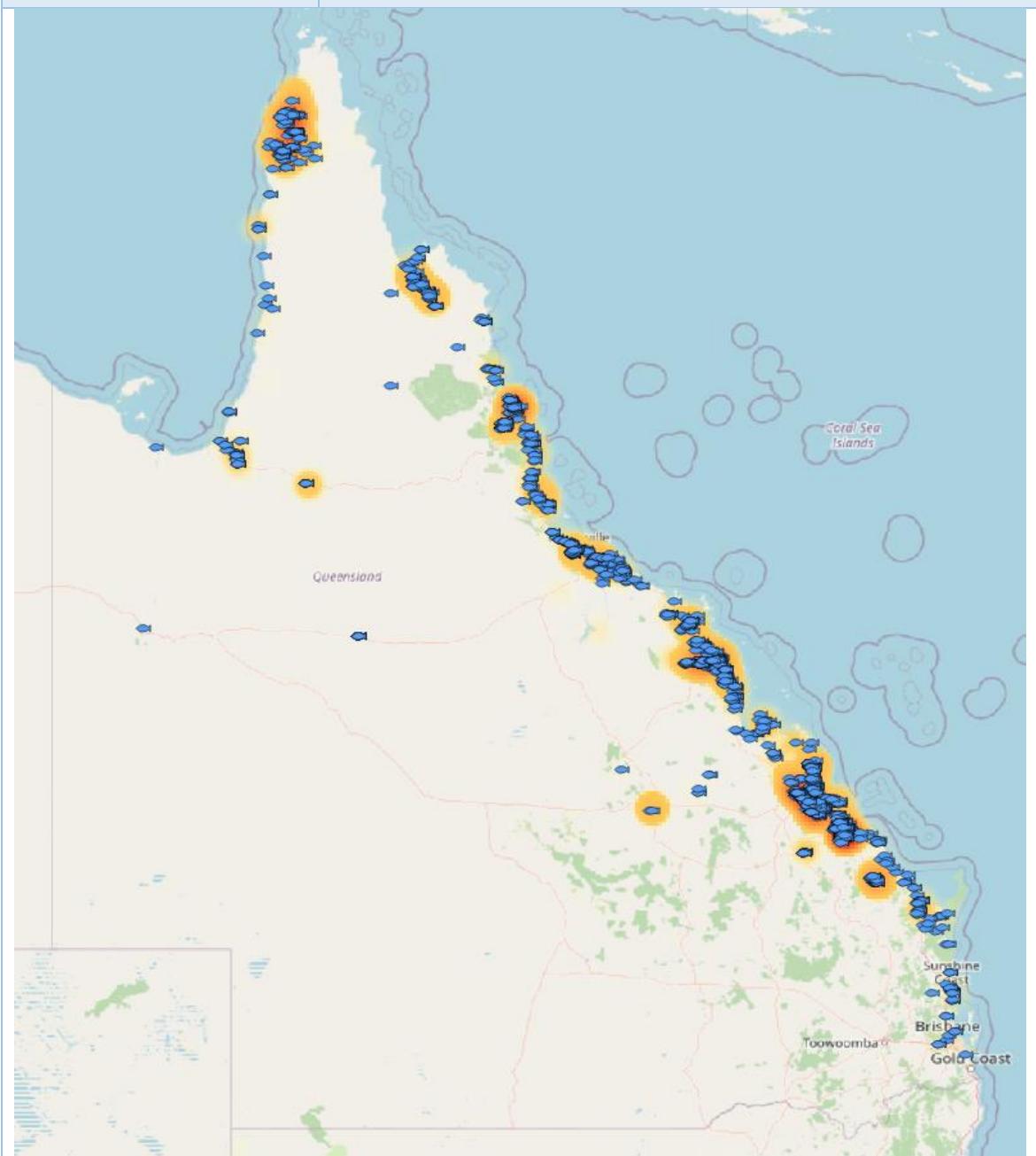


LOCATIONS

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

Tagged
Recaptured

59335
5838



BASS



DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (fish/year)

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

Tagged (blue arrow)

Recaptures (orange arrow)

Confidence %

Error %

2021-2025



TAGGED AND TAG RATE

Catch and effort taggers

High Low Now

Tagged fish

Tagged

Tag days

2021 2019 2025

2016-2025

5994 2798 3582



Days fished

2018 2023 2025

4277 3335 3151

Fish tagged

42981

Recaptured

3985

2016-2025

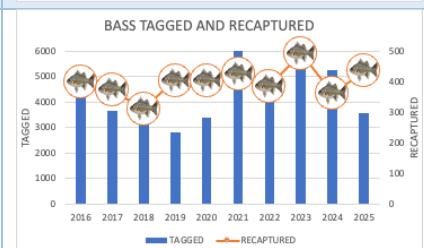
9.3%

Recapture rate

3985

Tagged 2025

435



Tag rate

High Low Now

Fish/day

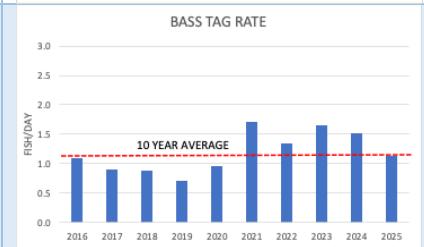
2021 2019 2025

2016-2025

1.7 0.7 1.1

10 year average

1.2



LENGTHS

Average length (mm)

High Low Now

Bars show length range

Average length

2016-2025

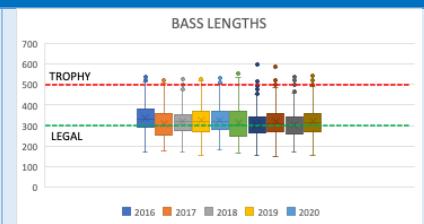
2021 2025

338 314 321

Max

2024 2017 2025

640 550 545



Species composition

High Low Now

Percentage tagged

Legal-trophy

2016-2025

2021 2025

73% 53% 63%

Trophy

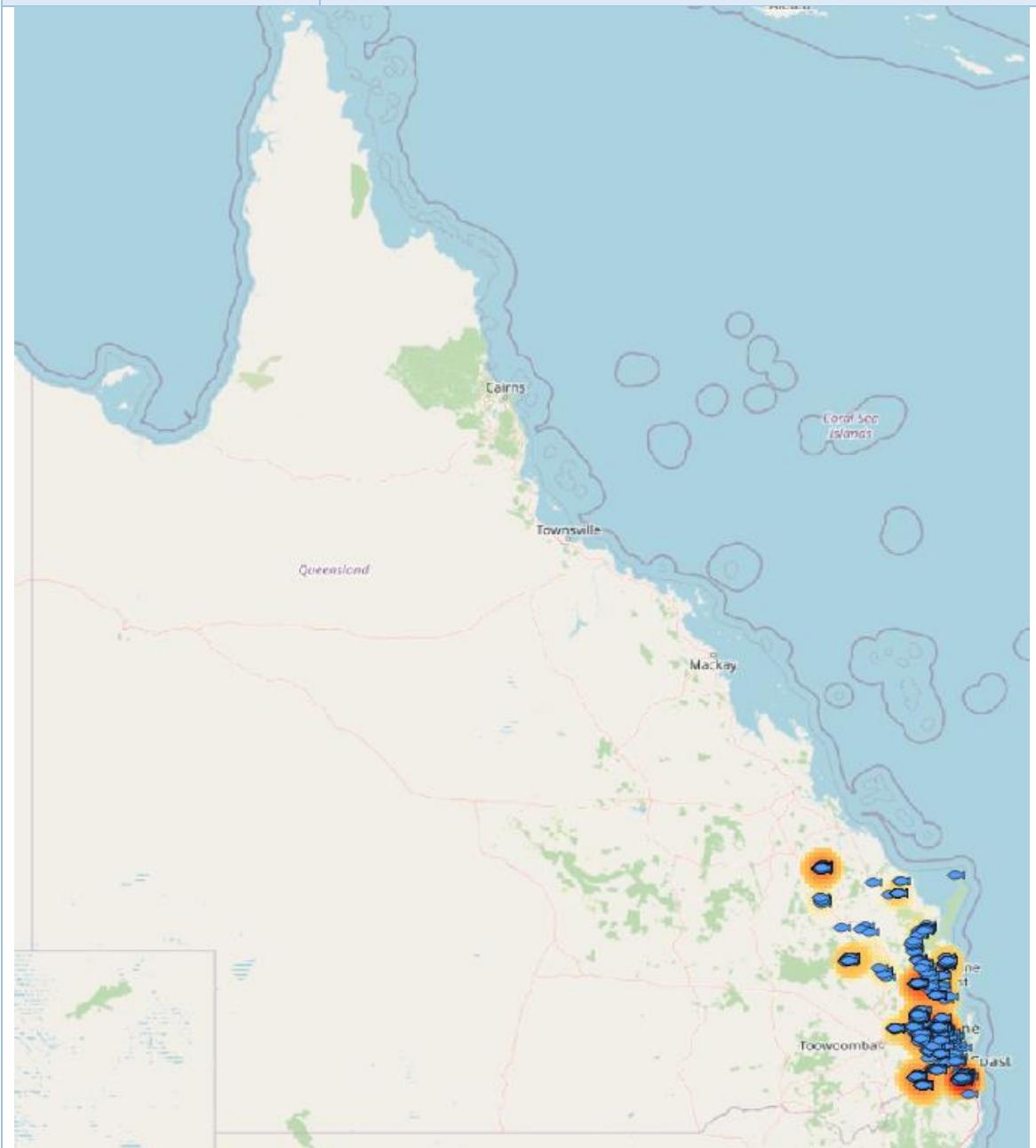
2019 2023 2025

2.6% 0.3% 0.5%



LOCATIONS

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



DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (fish/year)

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

Tagged (blue arrow)

Recaptures (orange arrow)

Confidence %

Error %

2021-2025



TAGGED AND TAG RATE

Tag and effort taggers

High Low Now

Tagged fish

Tagged 2021 2025

Tag days

2018 2021 2025

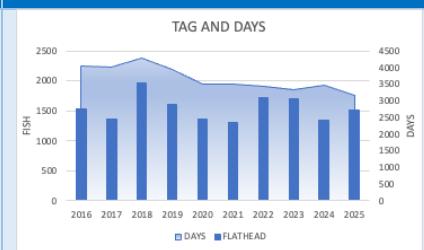
2016-2025

1965 1313 1515

Days fished

2018 2023 2025

4277 3335 3151



Fish tagged

Tagged 15434

Recaptured

Recaptured 755

2016-2025

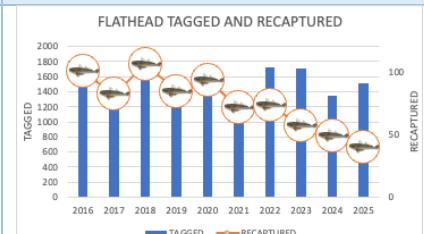
Recapture rate 4.9%

Tagged 2025

1515

Recaptured 2025

40



Tag rate

High Low Now

Fish/day

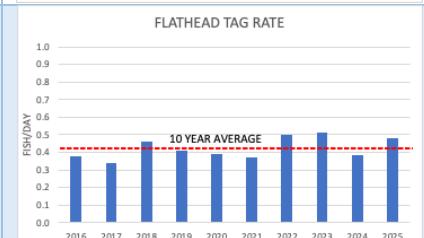
2023 2020 2025

2016-2025

0.5 0.3 0.5

10 year average

0.4



LENGTHS

Average length (mm)

High Low Now

Bars show length range

Average length

Dots show outliers

2021 2023 2025

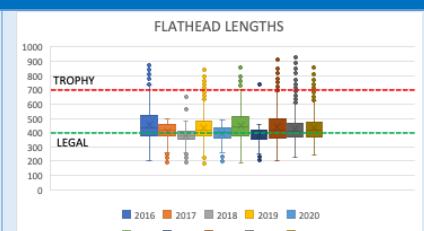
2016-2025

457 428 434

Max

2019 2020 2025

970 840 860



Species composition

High Low Now

Percentage tagged

Legal-trophy

2016-2025

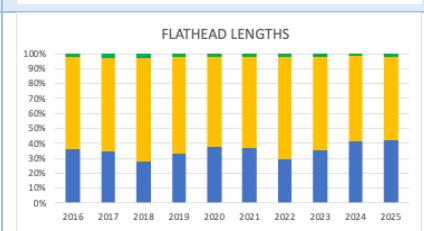
2017 2023 2025

70% 57% 61%

Trophy

2017 2023 2025

3% 2% 2%

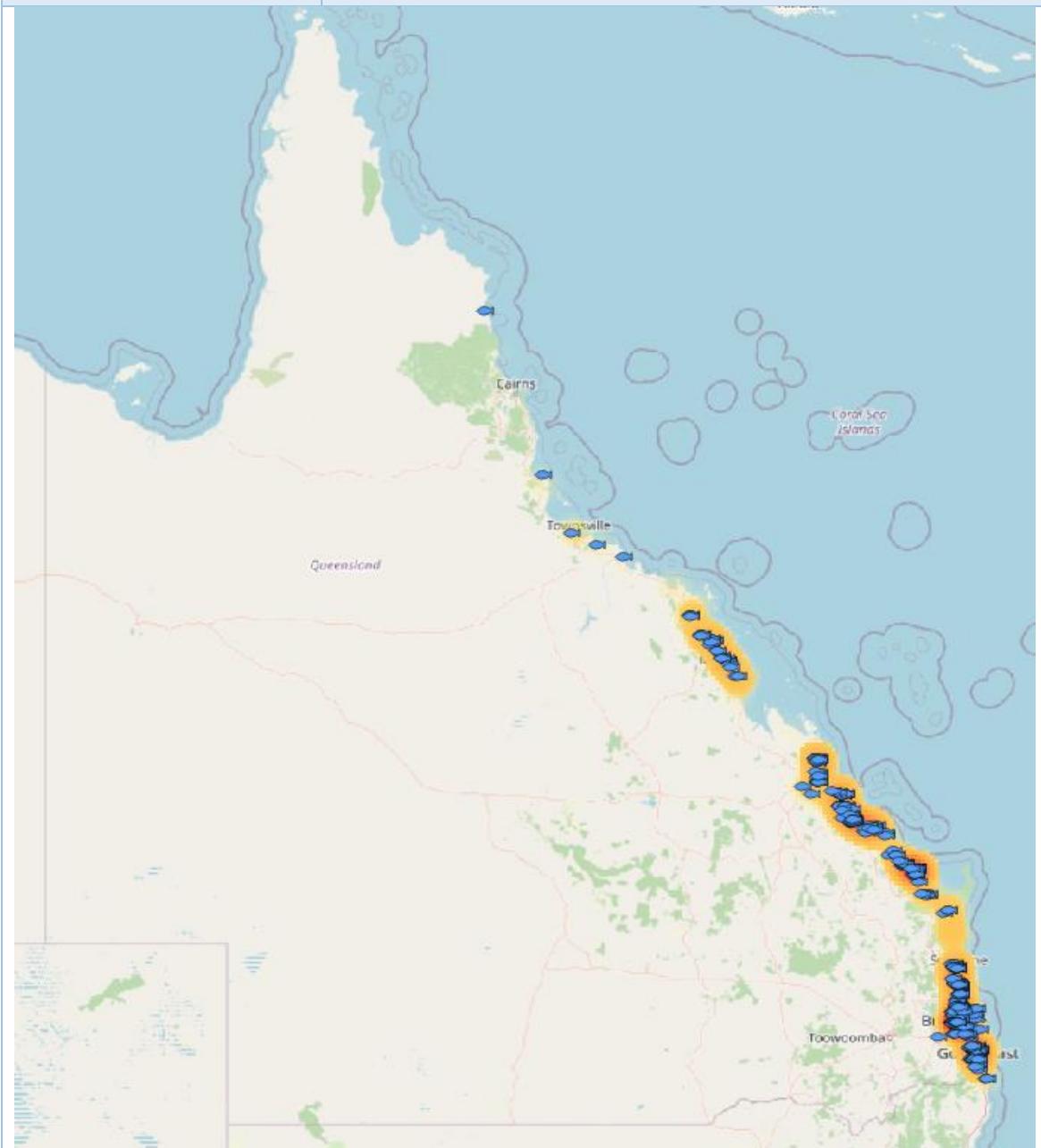


TAG LOCATIONS

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

Tagged
Recaptured

15434
755



Data sources

Data used in the Queensland Crystal Bowl are:

- Tag and recapture records for Queensland from Suntag records from Infofish database from http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/infofish/f_infofish.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 Infofish 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.