

Addendum to 'The National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey' Edited by G.W Henry and J.M. Lyle July 2003

Note: the revisions are colour highlighted. Figure 5.5 has also been revised.

Page 12

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY:

A national survey of recreational and indigenous fishing was conducted in Australia during 2000-01. The survey was a joint initiative of Commonwealth and State governments. Grants from the Natural Heritage Trust, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, State and Territory fisheries agencies supported the project. The national survey was a multifaceted project designed to provide a range of information about non-commercial fishing in Australia. The project comprised three independent surveys, the National Recreational Fishing Survey, the Indigenous Fishing Survey of Northern Australia and the Overseas Visitor Fishing Survey. Different methodologies and analytical approaches were required for each of these surveys, reflecting their varying characteristics. A telephone/ diary survey methodology was developed to collect information on recreational fishing in Australia with non-response and behavioural biases being assessed by a suite of innovative follow-up surveys. Modified on-site survey techniques were used to collect information from indigenous fishers in northern Australia while an existing survey instrument developed by the Bureau of Tourism Research was used to obtain information on overseas visiting fishers.

An estimated 3.36 million Australian residents, aged 5 years or older, fished at least once in the 12 months prior to May 2000. This represented a national recreational fishing participation rate of 19.5%. New South Wales had the greatest number of recreational fishers (999,000) followed by Queensland (785,000) and Victoria (550,000). Almost 70% of the nation's recreational fishers resided in these three eastern States. However, the highest fishing participation rates were recorded from Northern Territory (31.6%), Tasmania (29.3%) and Western Australia (28.5%). Regional participation rates were lowest in Sydney (13.1%) and Melbourne (10.2%) but, by virtue of their population sizes, these capital cities accounted for large proportions of the fishers in each State.

An estimated 1.8 million Australian households contained at least one recreational fisher representing 24.4% of households nationally. On average, each fishing household contained 1.9 recreational fishers. Recreational fishing was more popular amongst males (2.3 million fishers) than females (1.1 million fishers) with the predominance of males involved in fishing evident across all age groups. By age group, the greatest number of fishers was in the 30-44 age bracket (644,000 males and 320,000 females), though participation rates were highest among the 5-14 age group (33% for males and 23% for females). Fishing club membership among recreational fishers was low (4.3% nationally) and the number of recreational fishing licence holders varied according to state jurisdictional arrangements. It was estimated that over 511,000 boats, with a capital value of \$3.3 billion, were used for recreational fishing in the 12 months prior to May 2000.

5.9.2. Age and Gender

Nationally, recreational fishing was more popular with males, with over twice as many males (2.28 million) than females (1.08 million) aged 5 or older participating in recreational fishing in the 12 months prior to May 2000. This represented approximately 26.7% of the male and just 12.4% of the female resident population (Figure 5.5, Appendix 5.5). The ratio of participation rates for males and females in each of the States and Territories, apart from Victoria, was relatively consistent, ranging between 1.8-2.3 times higher for males. In Victoria, however, the participation rate amongst females was very low (just 6.8%), about 2.8 times lower than for males (18.8%), a fact that contributed significantly to the low overall participation rate for that State. The reason for the disproportionately low participation amongst females in Victorian is unclear but would appear to be an important feature of the recreational fishery in that State.

The predominance of males involved in fishing, by number and proportion of population, was evident across all age groups (Figure 5.5, Appendix 5.5). By age class, the greatest numbers of recreational fishers were in the 30-44 age group for both sexes (644,000 males and 320,000 females), although participation rates were highest amongst children in the 5-14 age class (28.1% overall or 33.2 and 22.8% for males and females, respectively). Participation rates fell slightly in the 15-29 age group (19.9% overall), increasing again in the 30-44 age bracket (22.8%), and then declined progressively in each subsequent age group, to just 3.5% (7.2% of males and 0.9% of females) for the 75 years plus group. This general pattern of participation by age and gender was relatively consistent for each State and Territory (Appendix 5.5).

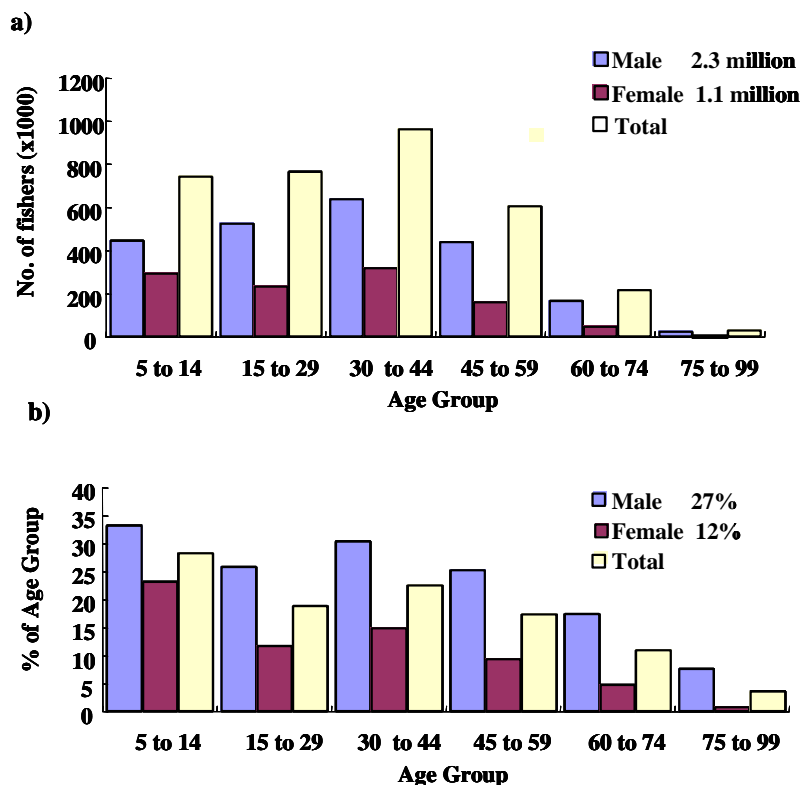


Figure 5.5 Fishing participation in the 12 months prior to May 2000 by age class and gender for Australian residents aged 5 or older: (a) Number of persons and (b) proportion of the resident population.

10.2.1. Participation in Recreational Fishing

- ❖ In the twelve months prior to May 2000, an estimated 3.36 million Australians, aged 5 years or older, went recreational fishing at least once, representing a national recreational fishing participation rate of 19.5%.
- ❖ An estimated 1.8 million Australian households contained at least one recreational fisher, representing 24.4% of households nationally.
- ❖ New South Wales had the highest number of recreational fishers (999,000) followed by Queensland (785,000) and Victoria (550,000). But the highest participation rates were recorded from Northern Territory (31.6%), Tasmania (29.3%) and Western Australia (28.5%).
- ❖ Regional participation rates were lowest in urban centres, e.g. Sydney (13.1%) and Melbourne (10.2%), but by virtue of their large populations, urban centres contained large numbers of fishers, often dominating the fisher populations at the State or Territory levels.
- ❖ Based on numbers of fishers, there was an average of 1.9 fishers per fishing household nationally, with a range of 1.8 (Victoria) to 2.0 (Queensland).
- ❖ Recreational fishing was more popular with males (2.3 million fishers) than females (1.1 million fishers) and distinct patterns in the age structure of fishers were observed.
- ❖ The 30-44 age group contained the highest number of recreational fishers (644,000 males and 320,000 females), although participation rates were highest among the 5-14 age group (33% for males and 23% for females).
- ❖ In Australia, more than 511,000 boats with a capital value of \$3.3 billion were used for recreational fishing in the 12 months prior to May 2000.
- ❖ Australian recreational fishing boats were most commonly engine powered, between 4-5 metres in length and kept on a trailer. About half the vessels were equipped with a depth sounder and about 20% had GPS, though the likelihood of electronic aids being present increased with vessel size.

Appendix 5.5 Number of recreational fishers and proportion of the resident population by age class and gender and State or Territory of residence.

State/Territory	Age class	Males	% pop	Females	% pop	Total	% pop
NSW	5 to 14	134,437	30.0%	86,813	20.4%	221,251	25.3%
	15 to 29	161,010	23.8%	59,296	8.8%	220,305	16.4%
	30 to 44	193,970	27.2%	95,496	13.3%	289,465	20.2%
	45 to 59	137,662	23.5%	46,358	8.0%	184,020	15.8%
	60 to 74	55,173	16.3%	16,271	4.5%	71,444	10.2%
	75 plus	11,218	8.7%	796	0.4%	12,015	3.8%
	Total		693,471	24.0%	305,030	10.4%	998,501
VIC	5 to 14	76,237	23.3%	41,475	13.3%	117,712	18.5%
	15 to 29	89,322	17.3%	37,764	7.5%	127,086	12.5%
	30 to 44	120,161	22.8%	39,642	7.3%	159,804	14.9%
	45 to 59	81,090	19.1%	23,761	5.5%	104,851	12.3%
	60 to 74	30,412	12.3%	4,722	1.8%	35,134	6.9%
	75 plus	4,213	4.5%	1,004	0.7%	5,217	2.3%
	Total		401,435	18.8%	148,368	6.8%	549,803
QLD	5 to 14	98,323	38.4%	72,528	30.0%	170,851	34.3%
	15 to 29	132,708	35.2%	67,555	18.1%	200,263	26.7%
	30 to 44	138,098	36.2%	84,941	21.6%	223,039	28.8%
	45 to 59	95,091	29.1%	42,120	13.0%	137,210	21.1%
	60 to 74	37,448	21.4%	11,334	6.4%	48,782	13.8%
	75 plus	3,928	6.0%	972	1.1%	4,900	3.2%
	Total		505,596	32.0%	279,449	17.5%	785,045
SA	5 to 14	42,608	42.0%	29,908	31.2%	72,516	36.8%
	15 to 29	53,027	35.1%	26,386	18.1%	79,413	26.7%
	30 to 44	61,628	38.2%	30,039	18.3%	91,668	28.1%
	45 to 59	42,165	30.5%	17,719	12.5%	59,883	21.4%
	60 to 74	17,854	21.3%	3,400	3.8%	21,254	12.2%
	75 plus	2,816	8.1%	677	1.4%	3,492	4.1%
	Total		220,098	32.8%	108,129	15.7%	328,227
WA	5 to 14	61,463	45.2%	39,739	30.8%	101,202	38.2%
	15 to 29	75,921	37.0%	41,677	20.8%	117,599	29.0%
	30 to 44	87,671	42.2%	48,253	22.8%	135,924	32.4%
	45 to 59	62,882	36.6%	26,086	15.5%	88,968	26.2%
	60 to 74	22,273	25.3%	9,186	10.1%	31,459	17.6%
	75 plus	3,173	10.3%	1,101	2.5%	4,274	5.8%
	Total		313,383	37.3%	166,042	19.7%	479,425
TAS	5 to 14	17,809	51.4%	10,601	32.1%	28,410	42.0%
	15 to 29	18,362	40.0%	11,203	24.4%	29,565	32.2%
	30 to 44	23,332	48.0%	11,434	22.3%	34,767	34.8%
	45 to 59	16,576	37.8%	6,436	14.5%	23,012	26.1%
	60 plus	7,447	20.7%	1,389	3.3%	8,836	11.3%
	Total		83,526	40.0%	41,064	18.9%	124,590
NT	5 to 14	5,845	42.1%	3,542	32.5%	9,387	37.9%
	15 to 29	8,315	41.3%	3,673	20.4%	11,989	31.4%
	30 to 44	9,751	44.6%	4,240	22.3%	13,991	34.2%
	45 to 59	5,676	37.3%	1,897	16.9%	7,573	28.6%
	60 plus	839	16.6%	153	4.0%	992	11.1%
	Total		30,427	39.9%	13,505	21.4%	43,932

State/Territory	Age class	Males	% pop	Females	% pop	Total	% pop
ACT	5 to 14	7,953	36.4%	4,421	21.0%	12,374	28.8%
	15 to 29	8,567	23.3%	5,005	14.1%	13,571	18.8%
	30 to 44	9,098	26.6%	5,778	15.9%	14,876	21.1%
	45 to 59	7,239	25.1%	2,983	10.0%	10,222	17.4%
	60 plus	2,250	14.3%	173	1.0%	2,423	7.2%
	Total		35,108	25.6%	18,360	13.0%	53,467
AUSTRALIA	5 to 14	444,675	33.2%	289,026	22.8%	733,702	28.1%
	15 to 29	547,232	27.0%	252,560	12.7%	799,792	19.9%
	30 to 44	643,710	30.7%	319,824	14.9%	963,534	22.8%
	45 to 59	448,380	25.9%	167,359	9.7%	615,740	17.8%
	60 to 74	172,677	17.7%	46,628	4.5%	219,306	11.0%
	75 plus	26,368	7.2%	4,549	0.9%	30,918	3.5%
	Total		2,283,043	26.7%	1,079,947	12.4%	3,362,990