

Recreational fishing is an important leisure activity for about 17% of the NSW population (about 1 million people) and recreational fisheries provide significant social and economic benefits to our society. It is important that we monitor the health and sustainability of these valuable fisheries from which we derive these enormous benefits. It is also important to collect information that describes the patterns of fishing effort (i.e. where people go fishing) and what anglers and spearfishers catch (i.e. species composition of fish kept, released and those used as bait). This type of information is vital for establishing the importance of different areas to recreational fishers and for measuring the real threats (if any) that fishing poses to biodiversity.

This leaflet provides a summary of the catches made by recreational anglers and spearfishers during the first year of surveys in your area. In the Hawkesbury River estuary (including Pittwater), we conducted 4,807 interviews with fishing parties (93% cooperative).

HAWKESBURY RIVER ESTUARY - Observed catches of anglers and spearfishers

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. seen during Interviews	%
1 YELLOWFIN BREAM	<i>Acanthopagrus australis</i>	1,891	27.6%
2 DUSKY FLATHEAD	<i>Platycephalus fuscus</i>	1,599	23.3%
3 BLUE SWIMMER CRAB	<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>	397	5.8%
4 MULLOWAY	<i>Argyrosomus japonicus</i>	317	4.6%
5 TAILOR	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	293	4.3%
6 CHINAMAN LEATHERJACKET	<i>Nelusetta ayraudi</i>	269	3.9%
7 SAND WHITING	<i>Sillago ciliata</i>	208	3.0%
8 SILVER TREVALLY	<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>	175	2.6%
9 YELLOW-FINLED LEATHERJACKET	<i>Meuschenia trachylepis</i>	161	2.3%
10 LARGE-TOOTHED FLOUNDER	<i>Pseudorhombus arsius</i>	150	2.2%
TOTAL - Top 10 species		5,460	79.6%
54 other species		1,395	20.4%

In the oceanic waters off Broken Bay, we conducted 412 interviews with fishing parties (95% cooperative).

OCEANIC WATERS OUTSIDE BROKEN BAY

Observed catches of anglers and spearfishers

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. seen during Interviews	%
1 CHINAMAN LEATHERJACKET	<i>Nelusetta ayraudi</i>	530	25.0%
2 EASTERN BLUE-SPOTTED FLATHEAD	<i>Platycephalus caeruleopunctatus</i>	200	9.4%
3 SNAPPER	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	121	5.7%
4 SILVER TREVALLY	<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>	114	5.4%
5 TAILOR	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	76	3.6%
6 DUSKY FLATHEAD	<i>Platycephalus fuscus</i>	75	3.5%
7 DOLPHIN FISH	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	70	3.3%
8 YELLOWFIN BREAM	<i>Acanthopagrus australis</i>	67	3.2%
9 BLUE MORWONG	<i>Nemadactylus douglasii</i>	67	3.2%
10 KINGFISH	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	67	3.2%
TOTAL - Top 10 species		1,387	65.5%
47 other species		731	34.5%

We thank all of the people that have participated in the recreational fishing surveys.

The vital information collected to date will help fisheries managers to make informed decisions thereby ensuring a healthy and sustainable fishery for present and future generations. Your continued support is essential for the successful completion of this project. **For further information please contact: Dr Aldo Steffe Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre. (02) 9527-8411 or Aldo.Steffe@dpi.nsw.gov.au**