

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 Port Hacking estuary, we conducted 2,695 interviews with fishing parties (95% cooperative).

PORT HACKING ESTUARY - Observed catches of anglers and spearfishers

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. seen during Interviews	%
1 SQUID	<i>Loligo spp.</i>	629	15.0%
2 YELLOWTAIL	<i>Trachurus novaezelandiae</i>	561	13.4%
3 YELLOWFIN BREEM	<i>Acanthopagrus australis</i>	450	10.7%
4 SAND WHITING	<i>Sillago ciliata</i>	401	9.6%
5 DUSKY FLATHEAD	<i>Platycephalus fuscus</i>	250	6.0%
6 SILVER TREVALLY	<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>	168	4.0%
7 TAILOR	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	139	3.3%
8 BLUE SWIMMER CRAB	<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>	130	3.1%
9 LUDERICK	<i>Girella tricuspidata</i>	128	3.1%
10 YELLOW-FINLED LEATHERJACKET	<i>Meuschenia trachylepis</i>	118	2.8%
TOTAL - Top 10 species		2,974	71.0%
51 other species		1,217	29.0%

In the oceanic waters off Port Hacking, we conducted 1,092 interviews with fishing parties (96% cooperative).

OCEANIC WATERS OUTSIDE PORT HACKING

Observed catches of anglers and spearfishers

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. seen during Interviews	%
1 CHINAMAN LEATHERJACKET	<i>Nelusetta ayraudi</i>	3,326	37.3%
2 EASTERN BLUE-SPOTTED FLATHEAD	<i>Platycephalus caeruleopunctatus</i>	1,696	19.0%
3 SQUID	<i>Loligo spp.</i>	662	7.4%
4 SILVER TREVALLY	<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>	307	3.4%
5 SLIMY MACKEREL	<i>Scomber australasicus</i>	272	3.1%
6 MAORI WRASSE	<i>Ophthalmolepis lineolatus</i>	213	2.4%
7 SILVER SWEEP	<i>Scorpius lineolata</i>	196	2.2%
8 YELLOWTAIL	<i>Trachurus novaezelandiae</i>	187	2.1%
9 SNAPPER	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	159	1.8%
10 RED MORWONG	<i>Cheilodactylus fuscus</i>	150	1.7%
TOTAL - Top 10 species		7,168	80.3%
70 other species		1,749	19.6%

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**