

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. At Bellambi, we conducted 708 interviews with fishing parties (95% cooperative).

BELLAMBI - Observed catches of anglers and spearfishers

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. seen during Interviews	%
1 SNAPPER	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	867	14.7%
2 EASTERN BLUE-SPOTTED FLATHEAD	<i>Platycephalus caeruleopunctatus</i>	818	13.9%
3 CHINAMAN LEATHERJACKET	<i>Nelusetta ayraudi</i>	787	13.4%
4 SILVER SWEEP	<i>Scorpius lineolata</i>	590	10.0%
5 SLIMY MACKEREL	<i>Scomber australasicus</i>	406	6.9%
6 BLUE MORWONG	<i>Nemadactylus douglasii</i>	291	5.0%
7 YELLOWTAIL	<i>Trachurus novaezelandiae</i>	274	4.7%
8 MAORI WRASSE	<i>Ophthalmolepis lineolatus</i>	262	4.5%
9 SILVER TREVALLY	<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>	241	4.1%
10 SIX-SPINED LEATHERJACKET	<i>Meuschenia freycineti</i>	144	2.4%
TOTAL - Top 10 species		4,680	79.6%
65 other species		1,198	20.4%

A summary of catches from all other oceanic sites is provided below. This information is based on 4,577 interviews with fishing parties (91% cooperative).

ALL OCEANIC SURVEY SITES - Observed catches of anglers and spearfishers

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. seen during Interviews	%
1 CHINAMAN LEATHERJACKET	<i>Nelusetta ayraudi</i>	6,125	19.6%
2 EASTERN BLUE-SPOTTED FLATHEAD	<i>Platycephalus caeruleopunctatus</i>	5,979	19.1%
3 SNAPPER	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	2,448	7.8%
4 SILVER TREVALLY	<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>	1,840	5.9%
5 SLIMY MACKEREL	<i>Scomber australasicus</i>	1,530	4.9%
6 YELLOWTAIL	<i>Trachurus novaezelandiae</i>	1,419	4.5%
7 SILVER SWEEP	<i>Scorpius lineolata</i>	1,377	4.4%
8 BLUE MORWONG	<i>Nemadactylus douglasii</i>	1,053	3.4%
9 MAORI WRASSE	<i>Ophthalmolepis lineolatus</i>	775	2.5%
10 TAILOR	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	720	2.3%
TOTAL - Top 10 species		23,266	74.4%
93 other species		8,013	25.6%

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**