

# NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub – Project 10.1 Factsheet

## SELTMP 2013: Commercial Fishing in the Great Barrier Reef

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### Project summary

“SELTMP 2013: Commercial Fishing in the Great Barrier Reef” is one of a series of technical reports from the *Social and Economic Long Term Monitoring Program* (SELTMP; NERP Project 10.1) for the GBR region. It presents a snapshot of socio-economic data and indicators relevant to the current state of GBR based commercial fishing. It includes a wide range of secondary data, particularly from Fisheries Queensland, as well as the substantial primary data collected through the 2013 SELTMP surveys of 211 commercial fishers who fish in the GBR Line, Trawl, Net, Pot and Harvest fisheries.

### Why the research is needed

Over 750 commercial fishing and harvest licences are active in the GBR, providing essential seafood to local and other markets, and a value of production of \$122.9 million in 2011/12<sup>1</sup>. While effort and harvest are monitored on an ongoing basis by Fisheries Queensland, information about the fishers themselves is collected more sporadically, and at different scales. This report provides an understanding of how fishers interact with the GBR, their attachment to their region and occupation, how they value and perceive the GBR, and their willingness to be stewards. This information will help ensure the needs and values of fishers are considered in future management, and that commercial activities are managed sustainably.

### Key findings

Some of the key findings include:

- Of the 759 active licences, most are held by owner-operators (92% of surveyed fishers). Most (85%) licence owners own one licence only. Most fishing types use only 1 port, except for Net and Trawl. Most Trawlers roam a long way from their home port, while most Net and Pot fishers stay very close to their home port.
- Most fishers are very attached to fishing, agreeing the fishing industry is a lifestyle, not just a job, and that they plan to still be fishing in 5 years time.
- Commercial fishers overwhelmingly agreed the aesthetic beauty of the GBR is outstanding. They valued the GBR most highly for (1) biodiversity, (2) the economy, and (3) lifestyle.



Commercial fisheries in the GBR are diverse, including Line, Trawl, Net, Pot and Harvest, defined by method



Most fishers operate one main vessel, and sizes vary by fishery type

### Outcomes

- Results from SELTMP Survey 2013 have assisted the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority with their preparation of the 2014 Outlook Report and the Strategic Assessment of the GBRWHA.
- Finalisation of a series of technical reports for each key user group, including “Commercial Fishing in the Great Barrier Reef”.

<sup>1</sup>Dellot Access Economics (2013). Economic Contribution of the Great Barrier Reef. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville. Available online: [http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/66417/Economic-contribution-of-the-Great-Barrier-Reef-2013.pdf](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/66417/Economic-contribution-of-the-Great-Barrier-Reef-2013.pdf)

Find this project at [www.nerptropical.edu.au](http://www.nerptropical.edu.au)  
Theme 3: Managing for resilient tropical ecosystems  
Program 10: Socio-economic value of GBR goods and services  
Project: 10.1 Social and economic long-term monitoring program

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