



# What the charter boats are catching



## *The charter update 2013*

The charter fishing industry has been operating in WA for decades.

The first charter review in 1990 was “to maintain or enhance the aquatic biological resources of Western Australia, and to encourage aquaculture, for the social and economic benefit of the community, consistent with conservation of the State’s natural resources”.<sup>1</sup>

In 2001 log books were introduced so data could be gathered from charter operators. This information has been vital for research and management, as it is instrumental in assessing licence numbers, fish stocks and management plan implementation.

As of 1 July 2014 the charter regulations were updated and introduced a new log book. Charter operators are now only required to report fishing charters. Non-extractive components (e.g. details of sightseeing or diving charters) have been removed from the daily log sheets.

This booklet will give an overview of the charter industry since 2001 to 2013 and separate snapshot of 2013 activities for each management zone: North Coast (Pilbara/Kimberley), Gascoyne Coast, West Coast and South Coast.

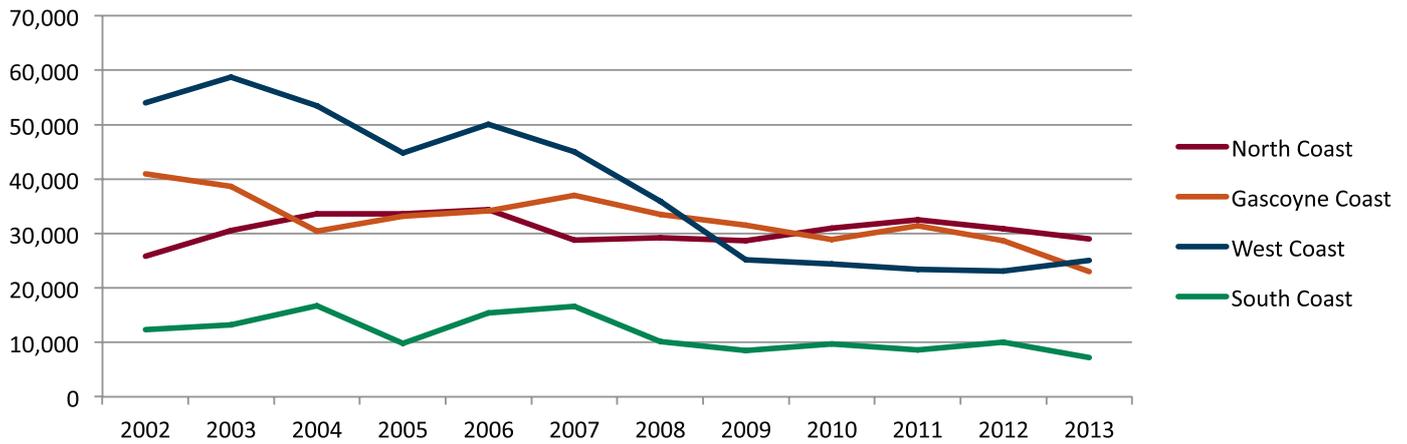


<sup>1</sup> Millington, P (1990). Future policy for charter fishing operations in Western Australia. Fisheries Management Paper No. 35. Department of Fisheries, W.A. 4 p.

# Trends between 2002 and 2013

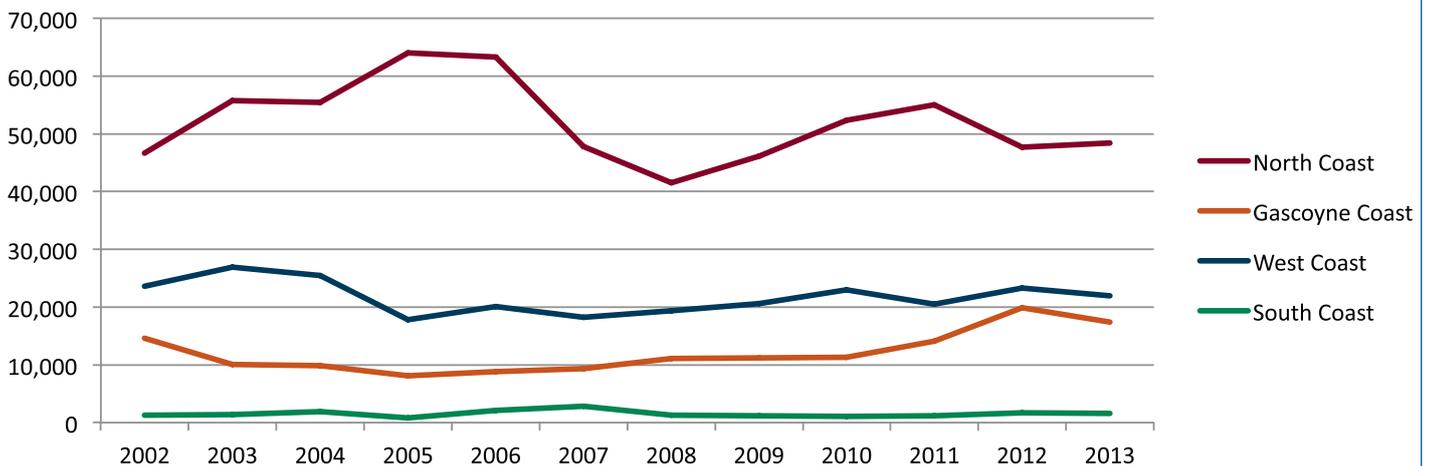
## Total fish kept

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
North Coast	25,822	30,579	33,619	33,630	34,371	28,773	29,235	28,627	30,987	32,530	30,847	28,996	368,016
Gascoyne Coast	40,949	38,602	30,415	33,189	34,122	36,965	33,459	31,554	28,849	31,439	28,675	22,995	391,213
West Coast	54,022	58,747	53,489	44,781	50,067	45,057	35,896	25,139	24,411	23,382	23,094	25,066	463,151
South Coast	12,388	13,259	16,754	9,851	15,434	16,589	10,186	8,512	9,757	8,567	10,027	7,204	138,528
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>133,181</b>	<b>141,187</b>	<b>134,277</b>	<b>121,451</b>	<b>133,994</b>	<b>127,384</b>	<b>108,776</b>	<b>93,832</b>	<b>94,004</b>	<b>95,918</b>	<b>92,643</b>	<b>84,261</b>	<b>1,360,908</b>



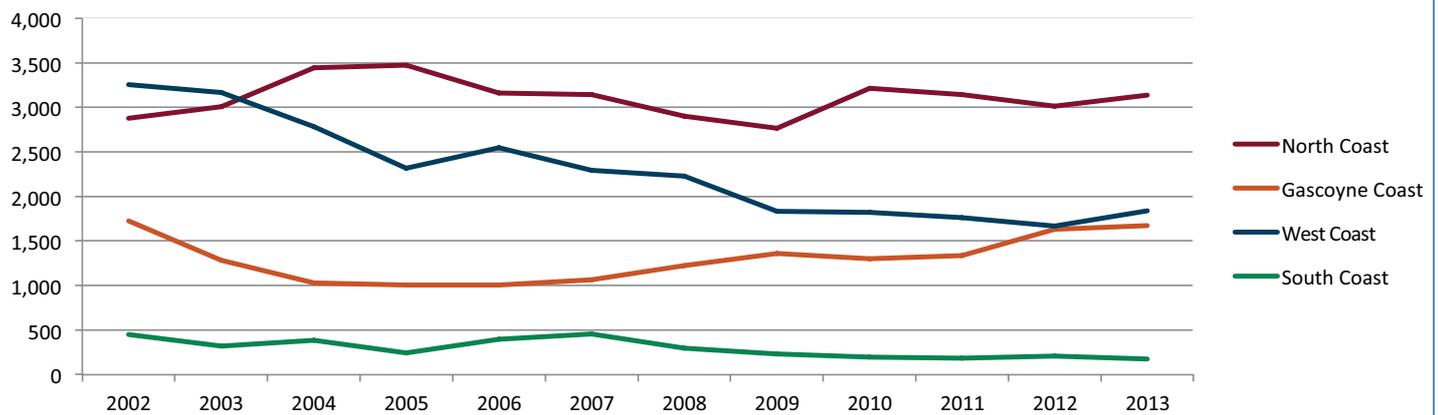
## Total fish released

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
North Coast	46,702	55,779	55,468	63,995	63,249	47,763	41,527	46,184	52,305	55,067	47,657	48,434	624,130
Gascoyne Coast	14,625	10,067	9,812	8,066	8,816	9,381	11,087	11,209	11,327	14,141	19,933	17,357	145,821
West Coast	23,558	26,877	25,460	17,814	20,054	18,182	19,403	20,640	22,946	20,518	23,282	21,943	260,677
South Coast	1,248	1,345	1,907	811	2,113	2,877	1,307	1,157	1,059	1,158	1,729	1,621	18,332
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86,133</b>	<b>94,068</b>	<b>92,647</b>	<b>90,686</b>	<b>94,232</b>	<b>78,203</b>	<b>73,324</b>	<b>79,190</b>	<b>87,637</b>	<b>90,884</b>	<b>92,601</b>	<b>89,355</b>	<b>1,048,960</b>

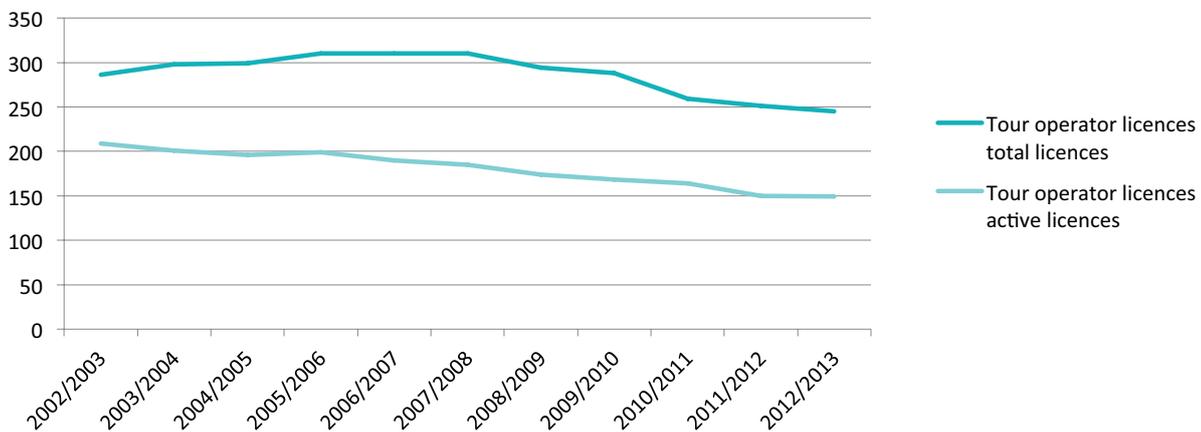


## Fishing days for 2002 to 2013

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
North Coast	2,877	3,006	3,447	3,477	3,161	3,144	2,900	2,766	3,214	3,147	3,017	3,140	37,296
Gascoyne Coast	1,728	1,282	1,032	1,009	1,005	1,068	1,225	1,358	1,300	1,336	1,632	1,675	15,650
West Coast	3,258	3,169	2,787	2,320	2,547	2,292	2,227	1,835	1,821	1,763	1,665	1,838	27,522
South Coast	451	320	387	247	398	455	300	235	198	188	209	176	3,564
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,314</b>	<b>7,777</b>	<b>7,653</b>	<b>7,053</b>	<b>7,111</b>	<b>6,959</b>	<b>6,652</b>	<b>6,194</b>	<b>6,533</b>	<b>6,434</b>	<b>6,523</b>	<b>6,829</b>	<b>84,032</b>



## Tour operator licences

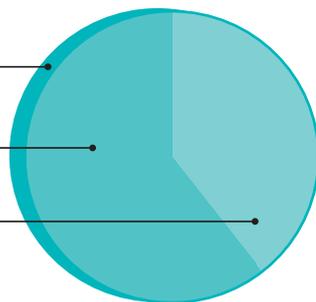


## 2013 current licences

Tour Operator Licences – 245

Active Licences – 149

Non-Active Licences – 96



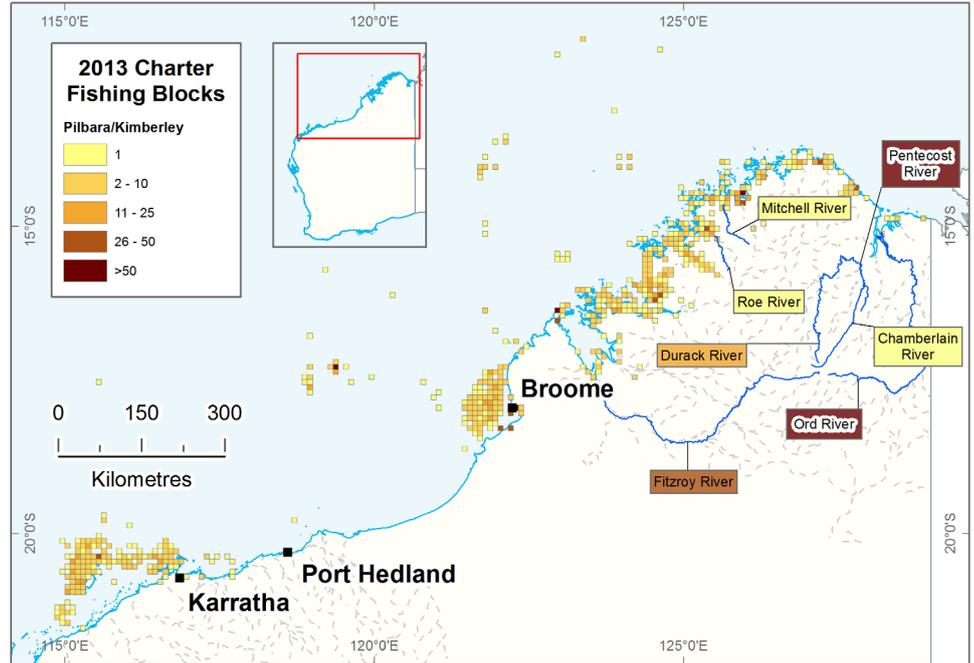
## Fishing days

**6,829** total fishing days in 2013.

# Key findings

## North Coast Management Zone - 2013

- The number of active tour operators for 2013 was 62.
- The top 5 fish kept were: fingermark bream, rankin cod, oysters, mangrove jack and saddletail seaperch.
- The top 5 fish released were: barramundi, fingermark bream, mangrove jack, stripey seaperch and estuary cod.
- The total numbers of fish caught were 28,998 (kept) and 48,343 (released).



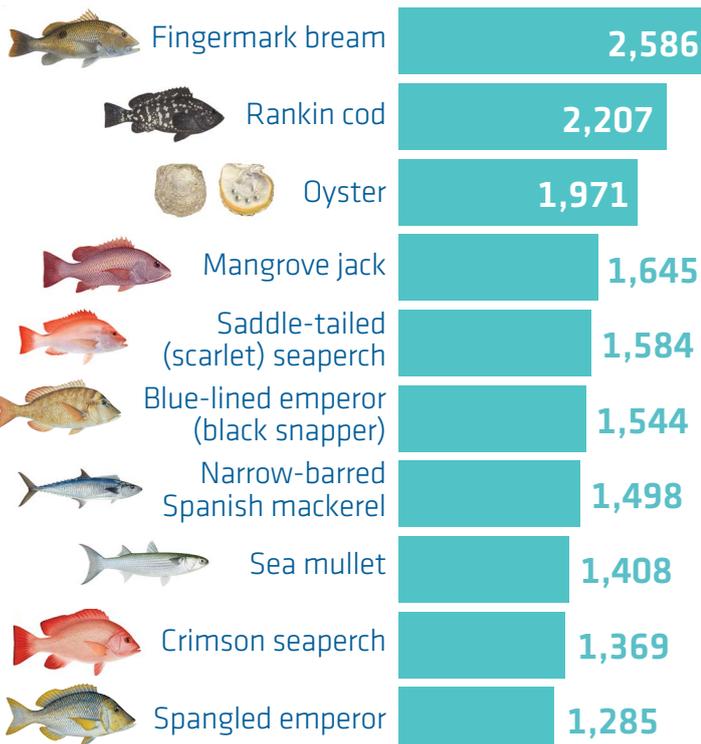
This map represents how many times fishing occurred in each block.

### Fishing days

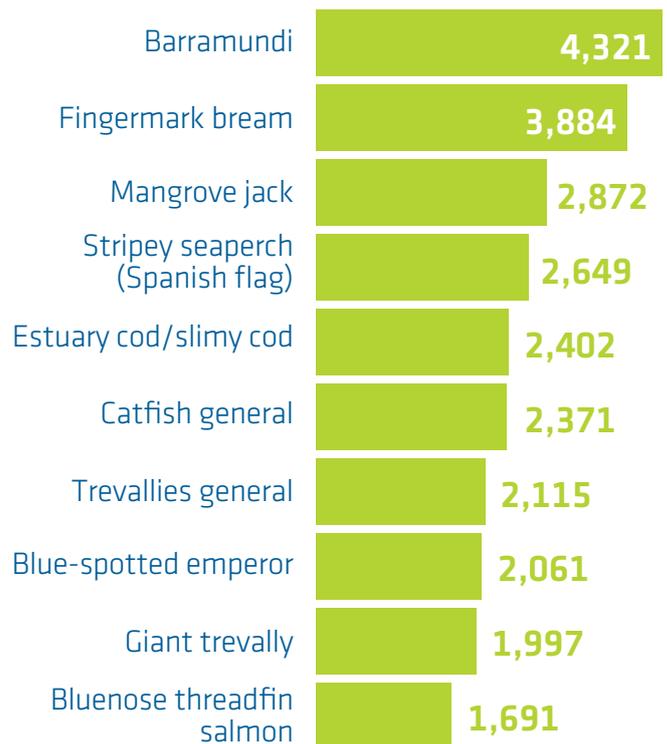
**2,766** fishing days in 2009.

**3,140** fishing days in 2013.

### Top 10 fish kept



### Top 10 fish released



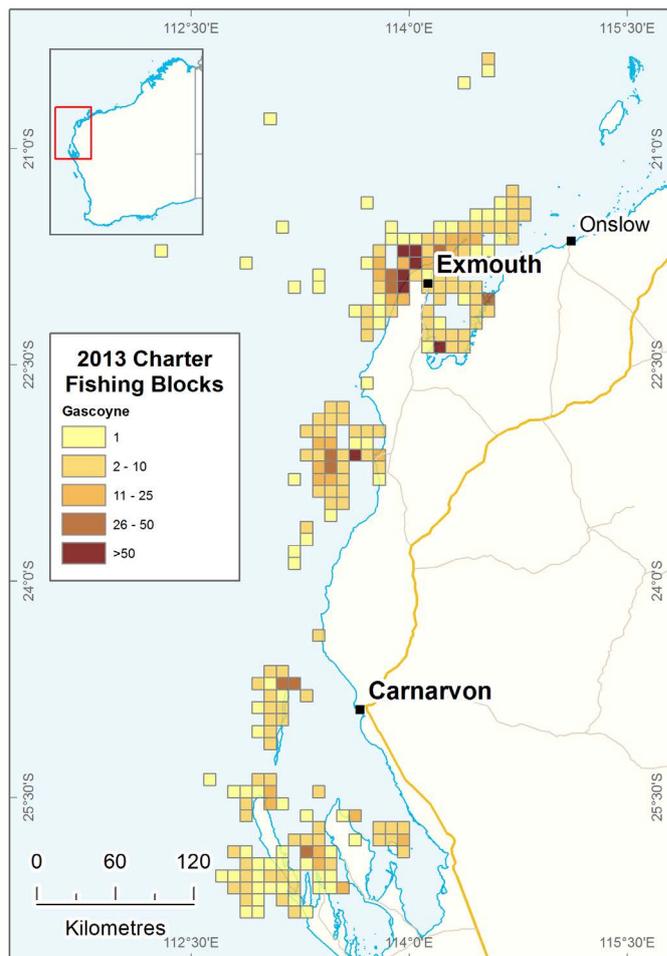
## Gascoyne Coast Management Zone - 2013

- The number of active tour operators for 2013 was 33 operators.
- The top 5 fish kept were: pink snapper, sweetlip emperor (red throat), goldband snapper, spangled emperor, rosy jobfish.
- The top 5 fish released were: pink snapper, blue-lined emperor, spangled emperor, blue-spotted emperor, sweetlip emperor (red throat).
- The total numbers of fish caught were: 22,995 (kept) and 17,357 (released).

### Fishing days

**1,358** fishing days in 2009.

**1,675** fishing days in 2013.



This map represents how many times fishing occurred in each block.

### Top 10 fish kept

	Pink snapper	<b>5,914</b>
	Sweetlip emperor (red throat)	<b>2,145</b>
	Goldband snapper	<b>1,787</b>
	Spangled emperor	<b>1,714</b>
	Rosy jobfish (rosy snapper)	<b>1,190</b>
	Red emperor	<b>1,036</b>
	Blue-lined emperor (black snapper)	<b>971</b>
	Robinson's seabream	<b>942</b>
	Rankin cod	<b>805</b>
	Sharptooth jobfish	<b>735</b>

### Top 10 fish released

Pink snapper	<b>6,919</b>
Blue-lined emperor (black snapper)	<b>1,669</b>
Spangled emperor	<b>879</b>
Blue-spotted emperor	<b>736</b>
Sweetlip emperor (red throat)	<b>536</b>
Giant trevally	<b>464</b>
Golden trevally	<b>357</b>
Indo-Pacific sailfish	<b>328</b>
Mangrove jack	<b>319</b>
Stripey seaperch (Spanish flag)	<b>319</b>

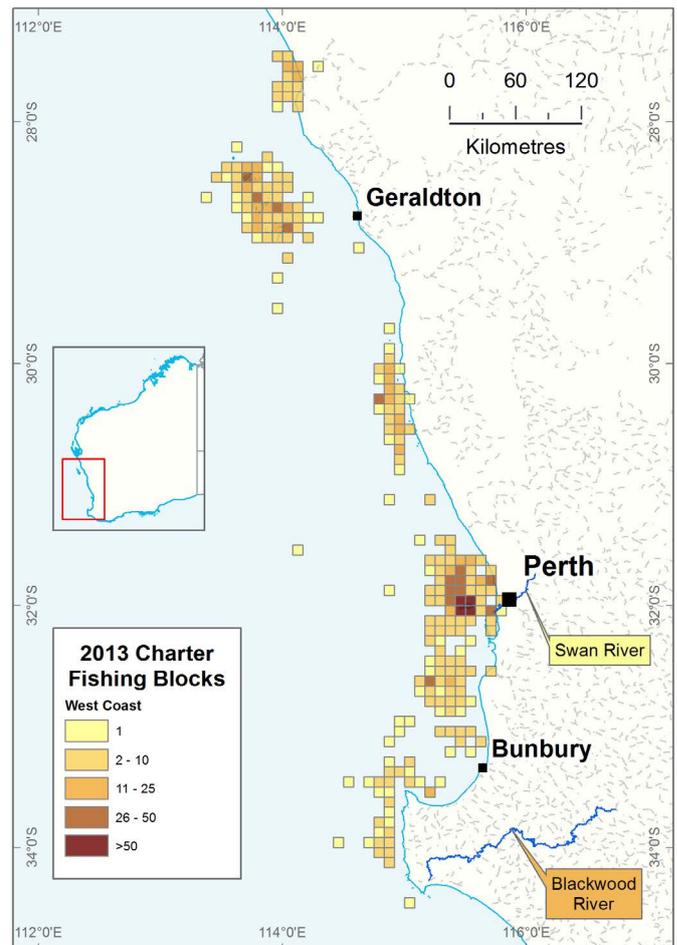
## West Coast Management Zone - 2013

- The number of active tour operators for 2013 was 68 operators.
- The top 5 fish kept were: pink snapper, baldchin groper, break sea cod, WA dhufish, skipjack trevally.
- The top 5 fish released were: pink snapper, WA dhufish, sweetlip emperor (red throat), baldchin groper, samson fish.
- The total numbers of fish caught were: 25,006 (kept) and 21,943 (released).

### Fishing days

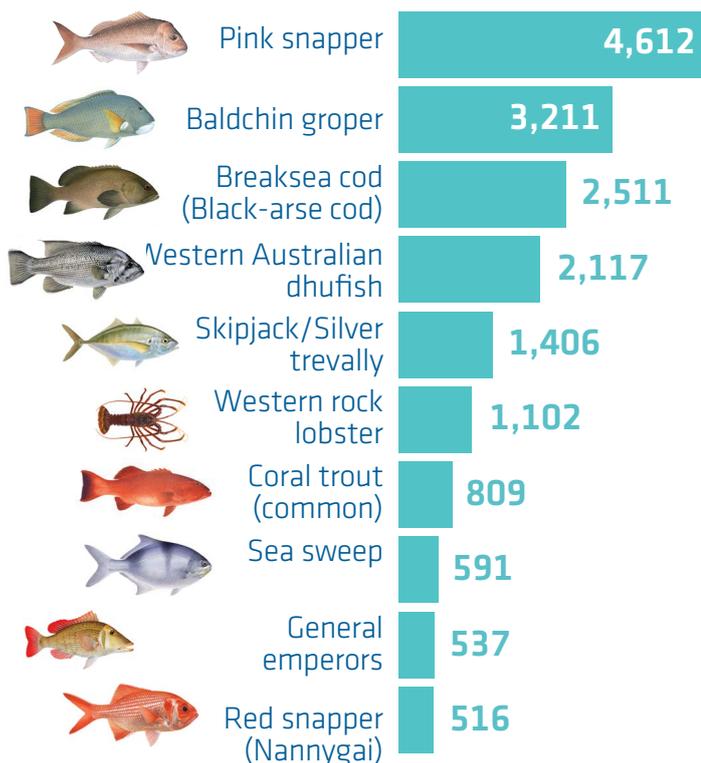
**1,835** fishing days in 2009.

**1,838** fishing days in 2013.

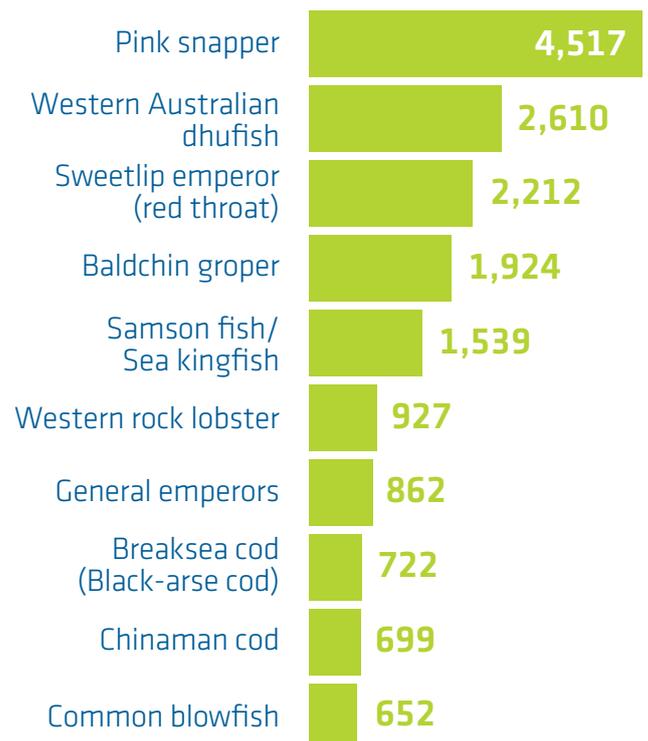


This map represents how many times fishing occurred in each block.

### Top 10 fish kept

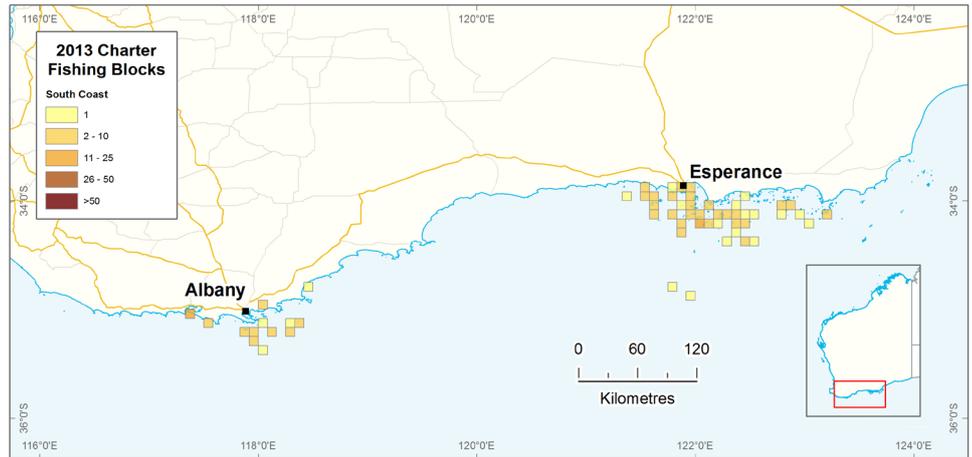


### Top 10 fish released



## South Coast Management Zone - 2013

- The number of active tour operators for 2013 was less than 10.
- The top 5 fish kept were: red snapper, swallowtail, break sea cod, Queen snapper and sea sweep.
- The top 5 fish released were: red snapper, King George whiting, swallowtail, black bream and Australian herring.
- The total numbers of fish caught were 7,204 (kept) and 1,621 (released).



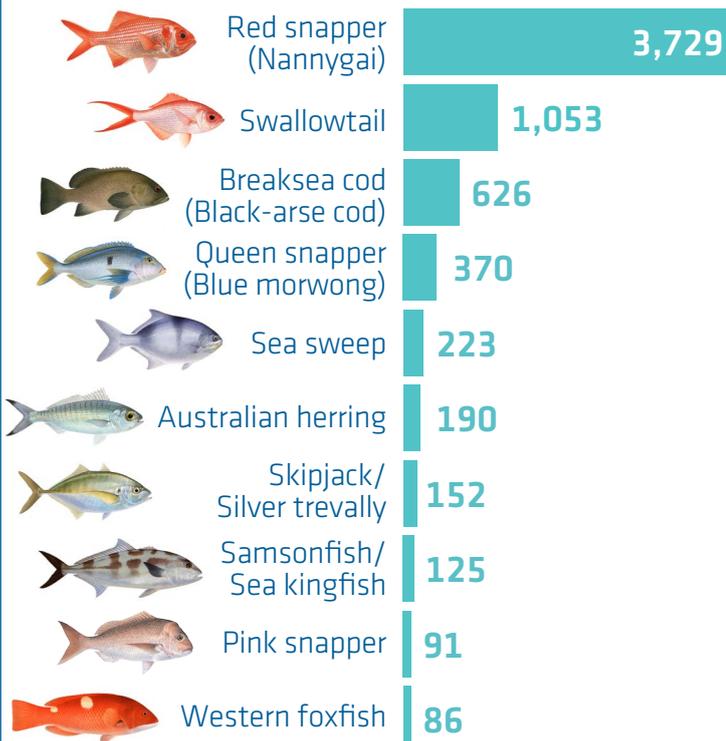
This map represents how many times fishing occurred in each block.

### Fishing days

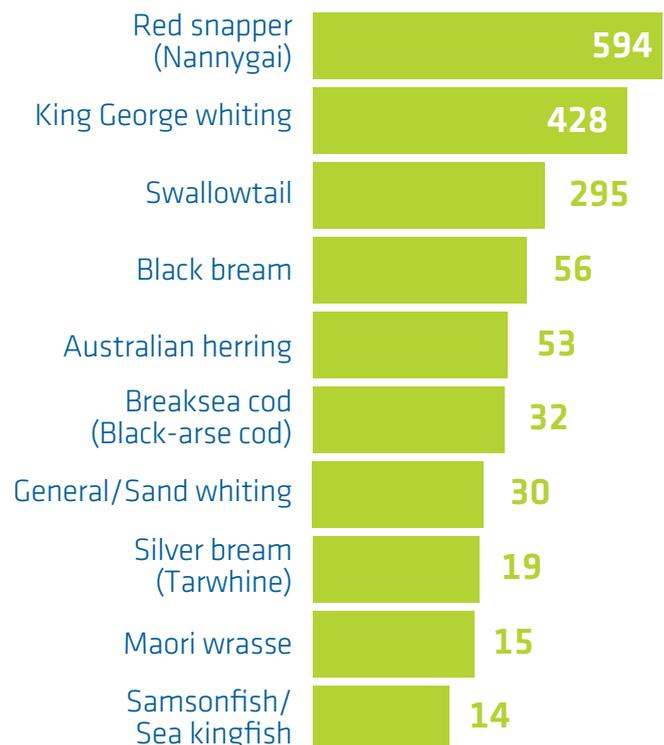
**235** fishing days in 2009.

**176** fishing days in 2013.

### Top 10 fish kept



### Top 10 fish released



# Big fish!

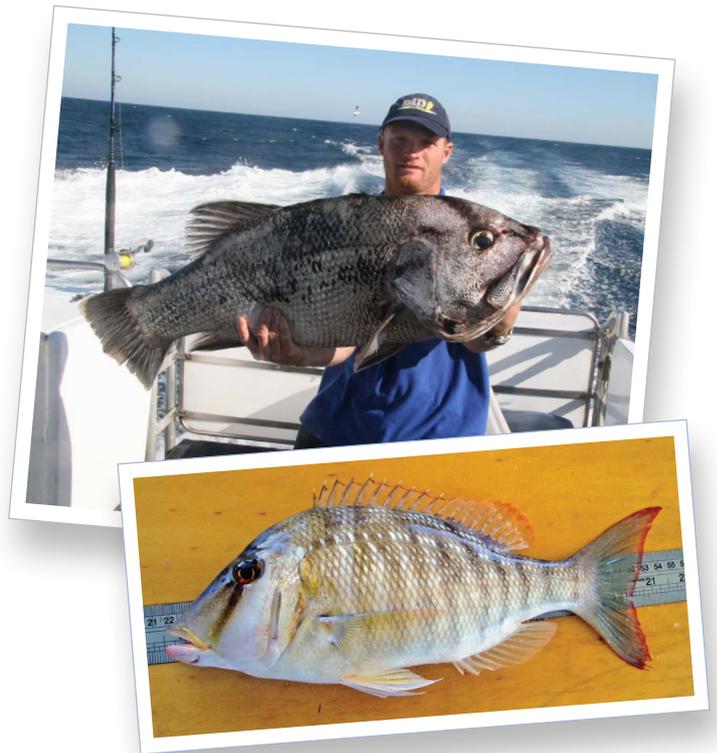
The charter industry has been providing fish length data between 2002 and 2013.

Our records over that time show the following:

- Breaksea cod measuring 670 mm.
- Red snapper measuring 800 mm.
- Dhufish measuring 1,400 mm.
- Blue-lined emperor/black snapper measuring 820 mm.
- Queen snapper measuring 1,250 mm.

Please continue to measure all fish kept.

Please send in your photos if you catch anything that is above its usual size, different or unusual. The photos are for validation purposes only.



## New email address for tour operators

**TourOperator@fish.wa.gov.au**

This email is for tour operators to contact the Department for information and enquiries. All emails will be referred to the relevant staff from this central point.

## Further information:

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES  
Western Australian Fisheries and  
Marine Research Laboratories**

39 Northside Drive  
Hillarys WA 6025  
PO Box 20, North Beach WA 6920  
T (08) 9203 0111 F (08) 9203 0199  
TourOperator@fish.wa.gov.au

**[www.fish.wa.gov.au](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au)**

*Fish for the future*

