



CapReef News 4

January 2008

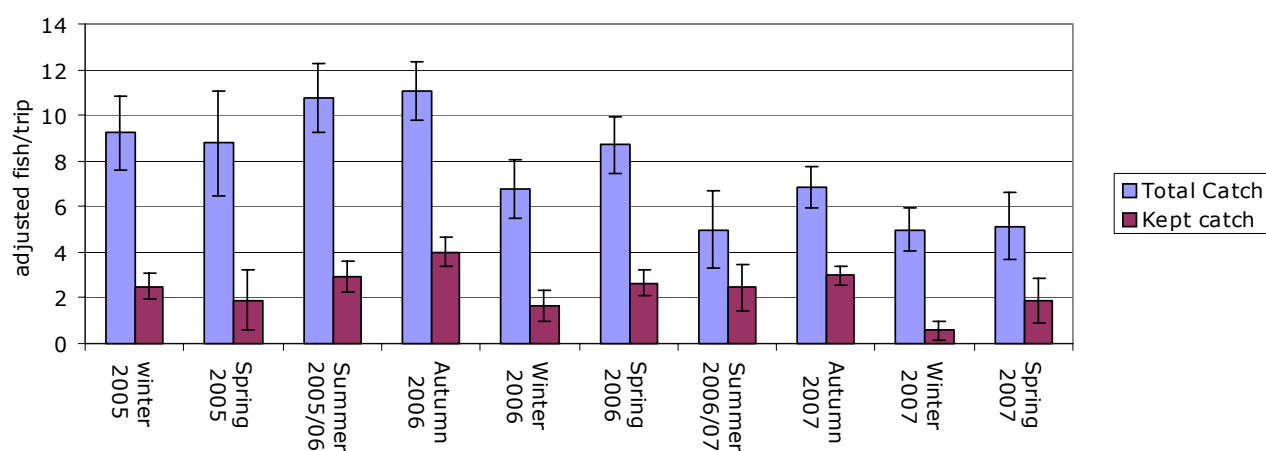
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Update of Offshore Fishing catch rates

Preliminary catch rates for spring 2007 are now available bringing to 10 seasons where rates are available. Catch rates are calculated based on an adjusted fishing trip which is 2 people on an 8 hour fishing trip. Catch rates are for offshore fishing only and now includes data from Stanage Bay to Bundaberg. For comparison catch rates should be compared between corresponding seasons each year. Since winter 2005 we have collected details on over 6,500 fishing trips (including estuary trips since winter 2007).

Catch rates by season



CapReef concept being extended to Bundaberg and Mackay

Following the success of CapReef in the past 2 years the concept is being extended to Bundaberg and Mackay with further interest from other areas to the north. The Bundaberg area will be included as part of CapReef while in Mackay it is being established as Mackreef. The Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) in each area has provided strong support to get things going.

Fishing trips are now being collected from the Bundaberg area with local volunteers doing trailer counts and surveys at key boat ramps while individuals are providing details of their fishing trips. Geoff Hodge of the Bundaberg Sportfishing Club is helping coordinate local effort. Anyone that would like to help can contact Geoff on 07-4159-9871 or the CapReef hotline on 1800-077-001. Photo is boat ramp at Burnett Heads.

A meeting is proposed for January to get Mackreef up and running in Mackay. The meeting will look to establish a local steering committee and determine what should be done to get things going.

There is also interest in the CapReef concept from the Cairns and Port Douglas areas and presentations will be made to the local LMACs in February.



More BRUV data being collected

Following on from the successful release of the BRUV (Baited Remote Underwater Video) DVD video data continues to be collected. Footage is being obtained on the same day in similar habitats both inside and close by outside green zones to get a comparison. Footage collected to date has been mainly around the Keppels and off Emu Park. Footage was also obtained following the research tagging in the green zones with a number of tagged fish observed in the footage. Images here were obtained on the same day inside the green zone at Split Rock (left) and outside the green zone at Pelican Island (right) off Emu Park.



Research Tagging in Green Zones

Tagging of fish in the green zones (under permit from GBRMPA) around the Keppel Islands was undertaken in November-December 2007 as part of research being undertaken by David Williamson of James Cook University. This work will provide useful data on any "spillover" of fish from green zones. CapReef volunteers assisted with the tagging of around 3,000 fish in the green zones around Middle Island, Clam Bay and Egg Rock. Over 400 of these fish were recaptured during the tagging. Anyone recapturing a tagged fish in the CapReef area, especially around the Keppels, is urged to report the details to the Suntag hotline on toll free 1800-077-001. GPS locations (kept confidential) for recaptured fish will assist in determining movement. Photo is of the tagging team that took part in tagging of the fish in green zones.

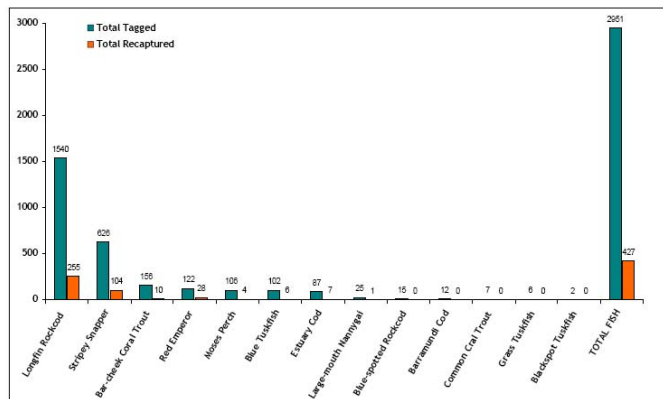


FIGURE 1: Total number of fish captured, tagged and released in Marine National Park (Green) zones of the Keppel Island group between 19th November & 1st December 2007. Green bars are the total number of fish tagged within each species; orange bars are the total number of recaptures for each species.



CapReef wants your Mackerel Frames

CapReef is now providing support to the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Long Term Monitoring Program by collecting frames from Spanish and Spotted Mackerel. What is required are all the frames from an individual catch, that is if you catch 3 Spanish Mackerel we would like to get all 3 frames. Just fillet the fish and leave everything else including the gut intact.

Anyone fishing offshore from north of Yeppoon to Agnes Waters is urged to keep frames from these species and contact CapReef to arrange collection. Contact Wendi Parsons on 04-0231-9855 or ring the CapReef hotline 1800-077-001 to arrange the collection of frames. We are providing a neat "Good Grief CapReef" drink cooler for each set of frames.



CapReef data collection being extended to estuaries

Fishing trips details are now being collected from estuaries from Stanage Bay to Bundaberg. This information will provide a useful addition to that being collected on offshore fishing as many species use rivers, creeks and estuaries as part of their life cycle. As well as fishing trip details fish are being tagged to obtain information on their movement, especially those moving offshore. You can now provide details of all your fishing trips to CapReef and get a neat cap or drink cooler for 5 trips and a CapReef t-shirt for 10 trips. Just ring the CapReef hotline 1800-007-001 after you have been fishing and we will get the details. Alternatively we can provide an electronic form that you can fill in and email back to us. Just contact us at infofish@zbc.com.net to get a copy of the form.

Catch rates for estuary fishing are only available for the past 2 seasons, winter and spring 2007 so it is too early to provide any trend information.



Fishing Competitions provide more information to CapReef

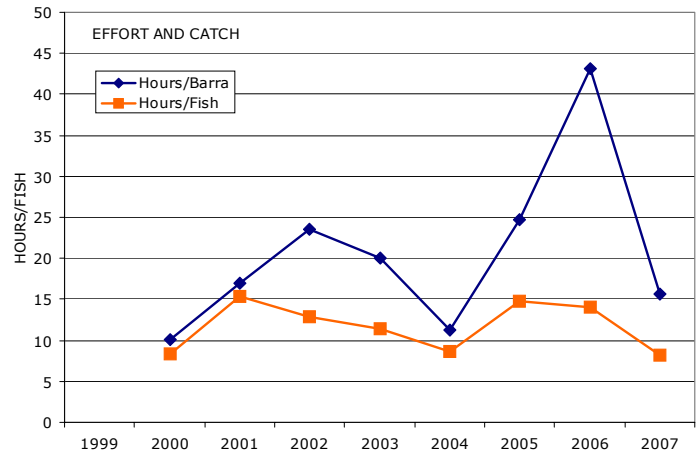
Fishing competitions provide very useful information on fishing and catches. In the CapReef area there are a number of large competitions where CapReef has been collecting data. The Boyne Tannum Hookup is the largest event and CapReef has collected data on fishing in that competition for the past 3 years. Data have also been collected from the Stange Bay Easter competition for the past 2 years.

With the extension of CapReef to estuaries data from the Rocky Barra Bounty have also been included. This event is in the Fitzroy River and the last event was held in October 2007. Data have been collected at this event since it started in 1999 so provides a useful snapshot of trends in catch rates.

The graph shows the catch rates for Barramundi and all fish caught during the event. This shows that the Barramundi catch rate for 2007 was much better than 2006 and within the range over the longer term. The catch rate for all species has remained reasonably steady.

A report providing details of information collected during the Bounty is available from the website www.info-fish.net.

With the extension of CapReef to Bundaberg we will look at collecting additional information from major competitions in that area as well.

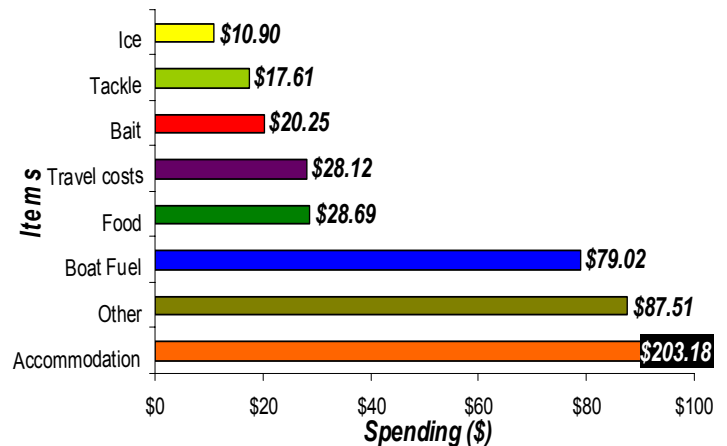


How much is spent on fishing in the CapReef area?

During 2007 Prabha Prayaga of the Central Queensland University undertook, with assistance from CapReef, an expenditure survey on offshore fishing. The survey was focussed on the Capricorn Coast and particularly trips out from Rosslyn Bay. Over 300 surveys were completed and preliminary results are now available.

The graph shows the average spent on each trip. How does your expenditure compare? Just a small tip is if your expenditure exceeds these figures it would not be wise to show your spouse the graph.

Accommodation is only applicable to visiting fishers.



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