

Fishing Effort had steadily increased

- ▶ Boat registrations in the Gladstone Regional Council area rose by 30% from 2000-2012 to around 7,000.
- ▶ Trailers at boat ramps indicate that fishing effort has increased steadily over the past 6 years by around 25%.
- ▶ There were around 23,700 fishing trips from key boat ramps in the Gladstone area from Nov 2011-Oct 2012.



Catch Rates have steadily decreased

- ▶ Catch rates for Wanderers Fishing Club have declined by around 50-60% from 1985-2010.
- ▶ Catch rates have declined by around 35% based on boat ramp surveys from 1995-97 and 2011-12.
- ▶ Seasonal catch rates from 2006-12 ranged from a low of 8.5 to a high of 24.9 fish caught/trip and from a low of 0.02 to a high of 7.9 fish kept/trip.
- ▶ Catch rates increased from spring 2007-autumn 2009 and declined since then.



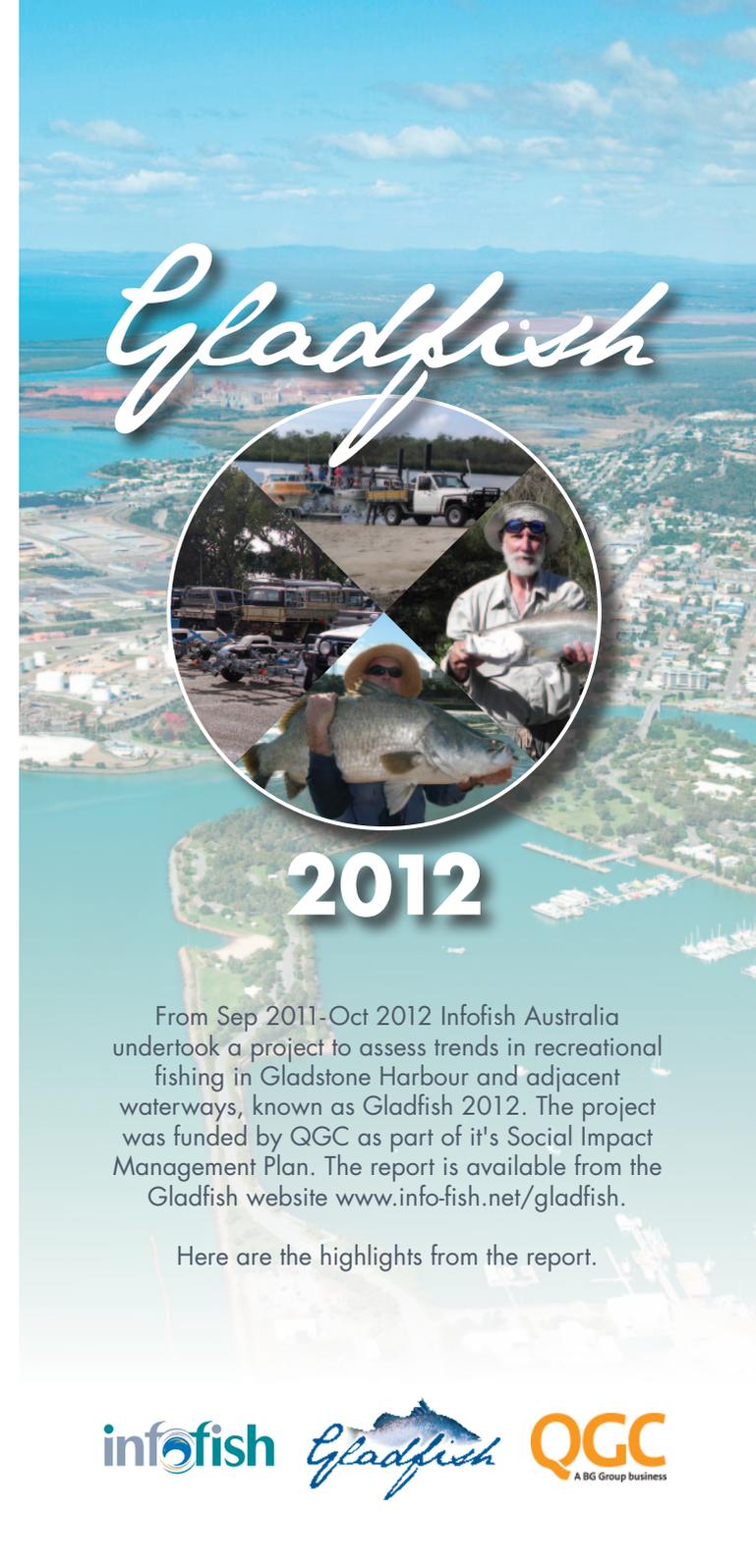
Species composition of the catch has changed

- ▶ The most caught species from 2006-12 was Bream (Yellowfin and Pikey) comprising 24.9% of the catch and 30.6% of the fish kept.
- ▶ From 2006-10 Barramundi were 3.1% of the catch and rose to 28.4% for 2011-12 following the influx of fish from Lake Awoonga.



Gladfish website www.info-fish.net/gladfish
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Gladfish supported by:



2012

From Sep 2011-Oct 2012 Infofish Australia undertook a project to assess trends in recreational fishing in Gladstone Harbour and adjacent waterways, known as Gladfish 2012. The project was funded by QGC as part of its Social Impact Management Plan. The report is available from the Gladfish website www.info-fish.net/gladfish.

Here are the highlights from the report.



Recreational fishers mostly satisfied with fishing

- Of 216 respondents to a survey of fishers' views most were male (95%), aged 31-50 (57%), rated recreational fishing as their most important outdoor activity (74%) and lived in the Gladstone area (89%).
- Based on the survey 78% were very satisfied or quite satisfied with the overall quality of fishing, however this was likely to have been influenced by the boost in Barramundi stocks from Lake Awoonga.
- 80% of respondents were very concerned or moderately concerned about diseased fish in the area and 45% thought that diseased fish had a high impact on the fish population.



Barramundi stocks highest in modern history

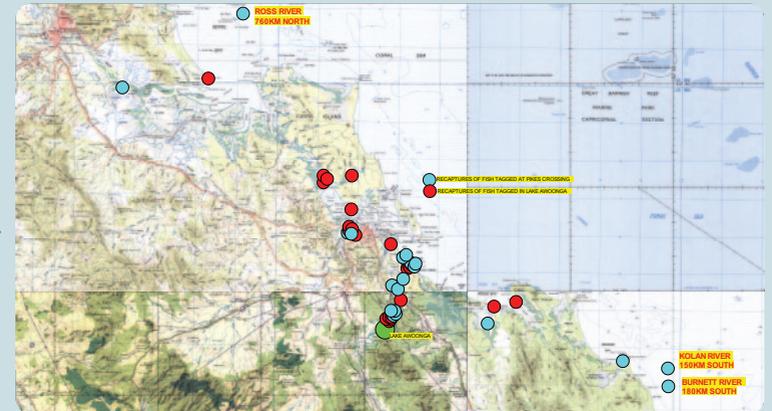
- Gladstone Area Water Board estimated that 20,000 Barramundi left Lake Awoonga from Dec 2010-Jan 2011 with approximately 1,200 perishing, principally due to physical trauma during the early stages of the spill event.



- The average size of Barramundi increased significantly after the influx of Barramundi from Lake Awoonga and ranged from 636-901mm from summer 2010-11 to spring 2012.



- Of tagged stocked fish in Lake Callemondah 66.7% were recaptured after leaving the lake and 91.9% were recaptured within 30km after going over the spillway.
- Of tagged stocked fish in Lake Awoonga 61.1% were recaptured within 25km (in the Boyne River) after going over the dam spillway.
- Of the fish tagged in Lake Awoonga and immediately below the dam at Pikes Crossing fish have been recaptured as far south as the Burnett River (Bundaberg) and as far north as the Ross River (Townsville).



- The health of 232 recreational caught Barramundi was assessed from Nov 2011-Oct 2012 with 3.5% reported as having a poor skin condition (SK5).
- Barramundi recruitment (baby fish) was poor in 2012 and that was consistent with river flows and rainfall not being conducive to good recruitment.

