



Gone Fishing

South Australian Recreational Fishing Survey 2013/14

KEY FINDINGS



South Australians love to fish!

Just how much they love to fish is revealed in the third assessment of recreational fishing in South Australia.

The survey of fishing activity was conducted between December 2013 to November 2014 to provide robust estimates of recreational fisher participation rates, demographics and catch and effort for key species.

The information gathered will assist fisheries managers and scientists to sustainably manage our recreational fisheries throughout the state, preserving fish stocks and securing the health of our fisheries now and into the future.

The survey consisted of three parts:

1. A telephone survey of over 9,000 randomly chosen households to determine participation and demographics of recreational fishers. Following this screening process 610 households were recruited to participate in a 12-month diary survey.
2. Supplementary on-site surveys to provide information on harvested lengths of key species.
3. Two short surveys at the completion of the 12 month survey, to measure the additional fishing effort from originally non-intending fishers and to determine the attitudes and motivation of the previously surveyed fishing households.

Overall, the survey reveals an increase in participation in recreational fishing by SA residents since 2007/08, particularly in the 5-14 year-old age group. Boat-based fishing had established itself as the preferred fishing platform and Spencer Gulf was the most popular fishing region.

Fishing with a rod and line was by far the most dominant fishing method, with King George Whiting, Blue Swimmer Crab; Australian Herring; Southern Garfish and Southern Calamari rounding out the top five species caught by recreational fishers in 2013/14.

Recreational fishing is a significant economic and social contributor to South Australian communities. Our coastal and inland waters are home to exceptional fishing experiences and the State Government is committed to protecting and enhancing these opportunities for all South Australians.

Download the complete South Australian Recreational Fishing Survey 2013/14 report at www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing

Recreational Fishing Survey Snapshot 2013/14

277,000
SA residents
are fishers

More
5-14 year olds fish
than any
other age
group

Blue Swimmer Crabs are the
most common
shellfish taken

Female
participation
is highest
among
5-14 year olds

89
different
species
were caught
in SA waters

Yabbies
were
the **most commonly targeted**
freshwater
species

Spencer Gulf
is SA's **most popular** fishing
region

60.5% of fishing
is boat-based
vs **39.5%** is
shore-based

King George Whiting, Blue Swimmer Crab and Australian Herring were the most popular species taken

87%
of fishing
takes
place in
marine
waters

South Australians
spent nearly
1 million days
fishing

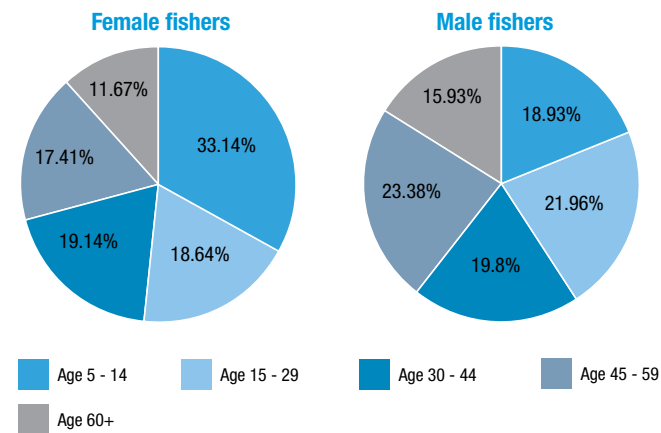
More than **50%**
of **Snapper** &
70% of **Black Bream** &
Mulloway
are released

Participation rates

More than 277,000 South Australians participated in recreational fishing during the survey, which is an increase of more than 40,000 since the last survey in 2007/08.

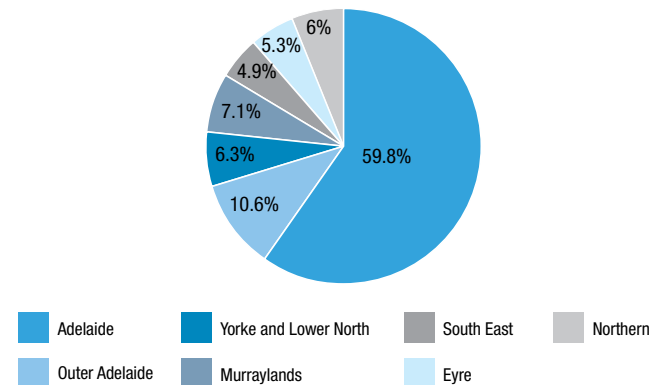
Recreational fishers by age and gender

Overall, recreational fishing remains more popular among males, with males aged 45-59 representing the largest group of recreational fishers. However, the greatest growth in participation occurred in the 5-14 year age group where female participation in this age group almost doubled since the last survey.



Recreational fishers by location

The highest number of fishers came from Adelaide, while the most avid fishers surveyed were from the Eyre (West Coast) region where fishers spent an average of 5.9 days fishing.



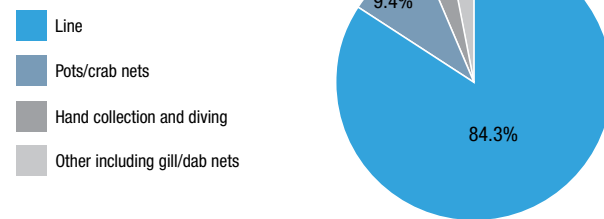
Fishing effort

South Australians spent an estimated 965,000 days fishing in 2013/14. While the vast majority of fishers (70%) spent four days or less fishing a year, 20% of fishers were extremely active, fishing for more than 20 days a year and accounting for 56% of total fishing days.

Boat-based fishing was the dominant fishing platform, with 60.5% of fishing activity undertaken from personal, hire or charter boats. Shore-based fishing from beaches, rocks, wharves and jetties accounted for 39.5% of fishing effort. This is a shift from the last survey, where fishing platforms were evenly split, and it is thought that the increased popularity of boat-based fishing may be due to improved access to boats and boat ramps as a result of improved living standards.

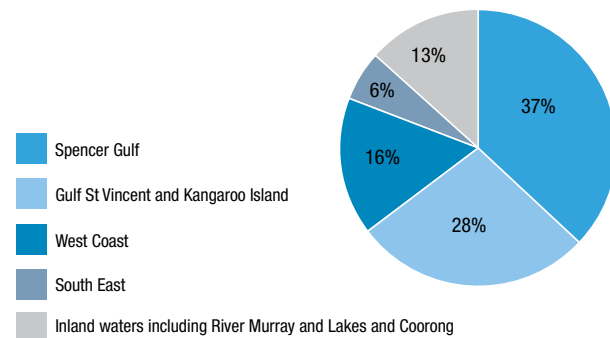
Fishing with a rod and line remains the preferred fishing method for 84% of fishers followed by pots/crab nets.

Fishing methods



Fishing effort in regions

Most fishing (87%) took place in marine waters, including estuaries, inshore and offshore waters, whereas freshwater fishing accounted for 13% of total effort.



Species caught

More than 89 different species/species groups were caught by fishers in 2013/14. An estimated 12.7 million finfish, shellfish and freshwater species were caught in SA. Of these, 8.2 million (65.2%) were retained by fishers and 4.4 million (34.8%) were released due to regulations (eg. size limits, closures), for ethical reasons, undesirability or sport fishing where catch and release is practised.

King George Whiting was the most popular finfish species taken, while Blue Swimmer Crab and Yabbies were the most commonly caught shellfish and freshwater species, respectively.

Release rates varied significantly across species, ranging from very high – more than 70% - for Mulloway, Black Bream and Silver Perch, to very low rates – less than 5% - for Southern Calamari.

Estimated annual catch of key finfish, shellfish and freshwater species 2013/14

Species	Number Caught	Release Rate (%)	Total recreational harvest
MARINE FINFISH			
King George Whiting	2.0 million	27.6	1.46m/367 tonnes
Southern Garfish	980,566	11.3	870,147/79.2 tonnes
Snapper	437,329	52.5	207,809/332 tonnes
Australian Salmon	220,332	32.7	148,361/56.23 tonnes
Mulloway	47,238	79.1	9,883/59.5 tonnes
MARINE SHELLFISH			
Blue Swimmer Crab	2.46 million	42	1.42m/375.8 tonnes
Pipi (Goolwa Cockle)	1,076,368	64.9	378,158/3.78 tonnes
Southern Calamari	480,016	1.3	473,803/154.93 tonnes
Southern Rock Lobster	102,931	39.4	62,346/74.9 tonnes
FRESHWATER SPECIES			
Yabbies	271,237	78.3	58,977/4.9 tonnes
Carp	223,750	N/A	205,882/482,79 tonnes
Golden Perch (Callop)	116,153	67.8	37,367/37.4 tonnes



More information

We all have a role to play in protecting our fisheries and it can start with learning about the rules that apply to recreational fishing and encouraging friends and family to do the same.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture have some great resources available with all the information you'll need to enjoy recreational fishing in South Australia. Find out about size, bag and boat limits, fishery openings and closures, gear restrictions and all the latest fishing news via the resources below:

- On the web visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing
- On your smartphone download the free SA Recreational Fishing Guide smartphone app from pir.sa.gov.au/recfishingapp (available for iPhone, Windows and Android devices)
- Call the 24-hour Fishwatch hotline on **1800 065 522**
- Or text SMS Fish for instant answers on size, bag and boat limits. Simply SMS a fish name to **0427 767 995**

You can also be PIRSA's eyes and ears out on the water. If you see or hear about illegal or suspicious fishing activity, report it to the Fishwatch hotline on **1800 065 522**. Callers can choose to remain anonymous.