

# Angling for information

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2022/23 SURVEY

OF RECREATIONAL FISHING

IN TASMANIA



This is the fifth statewide recreational fishing survey in Tasmania since 2000/01. The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies conducted a survey to understand recreational fishing participation and catch, especially for scalefish and cephalopods.

Over **2,000** Tasmanian households were contacted in late 2022 to see if they fished recreationally.

Of those, **464** households (representing almost **1,300** people) then provided detailed information about their fishing activities over the following 12-months.

The survey findings allow us to better understand recreational fisheries and the information is used in stock assessments to help sustainably manage Tasmania's fisheries.

This is a snapshot of the 2022 – 23 survey results.



**Who's fishing in Tasmania, how often do they go, how and where do they fish, and what's the catch?**

In addition to these general fishing surveys, specialised surveys are conducted for rock lobster and abalone. More information can be found on these surveys and the catch of these species at [www.utas.edu.au/imas/research/fisheries-and-aquaculture/reports-and-resources](http://www.utas.edu.au/imas/research/fisheries-and-aquaculture/reports-and-resources).

# The fishers



1 in 4

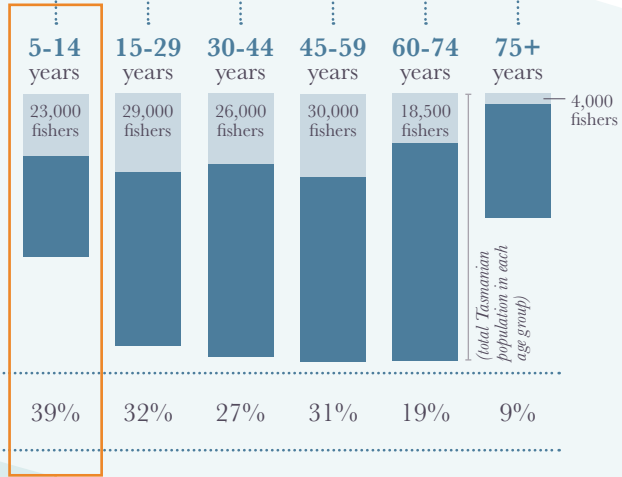
Tasmanians went fishing  
[ 130,500 persons ]  
at least once in 2022



Twice  
as many



men 86,000 as women 44,500



Percentage of Tasmanians in each age group who fished at least once a year:



Fishing was **most popular among younger people**, with over one in three participating in the 5-14 years age group. Participation rates declined from 60 years of age.

**N & NE**

27% of resident population participating in fishing

35,000 fishers

**SE**

9% of resident population participating in fishing

11,300 fishers

**W & NW**

24% of resident population participating in fishing

31,000 fishers

**HOBART**

40% of resident population participating in fishing

53,200 fishers

# The effort

During 2022-23 Tasmanians spent the equivalent of almost half a million days fishing.

The average number of days fished was:

**5 days**  
per person

**25%** of fishers accounted for more than half of the total days fished

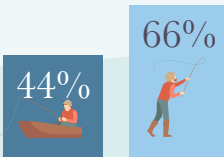
highlighting that

a relatively small group of keen fishers contribute significantly to overall recreational catch and effort.

## Effort by water type

Freshwater:

**19%**

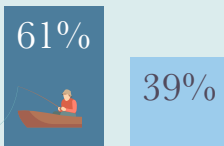


boat

onshore

Saltwater:

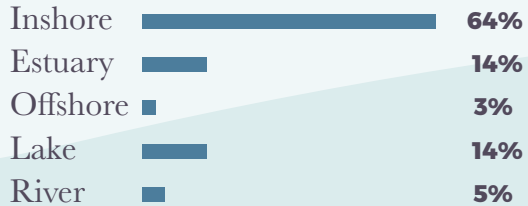
**81%**



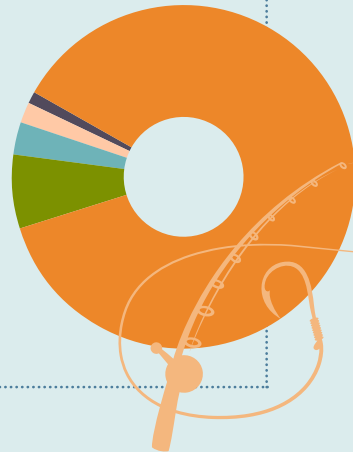
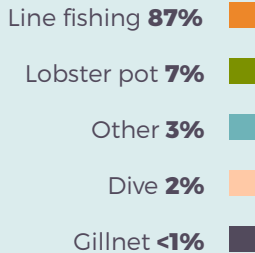
boat

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## Water body fished



## Fishing method



# What's the catch?

## SOUTH-EAST

45%

of fish and cephalopods caught in Tasmania

*Key species:*

**Sand Flathead  
Tuna  
Gurnard**



## WEST

2%

of fish and cephalopods caught in Tasmania

*Key species:*

**Sand Flathead  
Australian Salmon**



## INLAND

10%

of fish and cephalopods caught in Tasmania

*Key species:*

**Trout**



## NORTH

22%

of fish and cephalopods caught in Tasmania

*Key species:*

**Sand Flathead  
Gurnard  
Australian salmon**



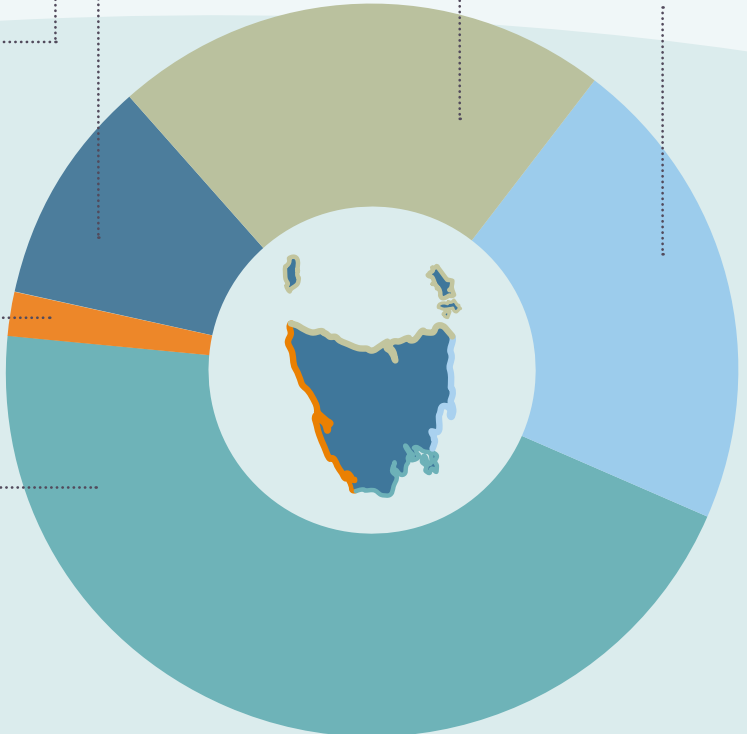
## EAST

21%

of fish and cephalopods caught in Tasmania

*Key species:*

**Sand Flathead  
King George  
Whiting  
Australian salmon**



# Catches of key recreational scalefish and cephalopods

## Numbers of key fish and cephalopod species caught, kept and released for 2022-23

Species		Weight	Caught	Kept	Released
Sand Flathead		128 t	1,024,466	381,261	63%
Australian Salmon		41 t	183,519	92,174	50%
Trout			171,458	73,081	57%
Other flathead	  		58,808	33,482	43%
King George Whiting		13 t	52,061	25,875	50%
Shark species	  		46,958	9,945	79%
Southern Calamari		29 t	39,146	37,849	3%
Wrasse		6 t	35,059	5,130	85%
Barracouta		7 t	31,783	18,732	41%
Gould's squid		15 t	31,547	29,370	7%
Black Bream			28,811	8,188	72%
Tuna species	  		28,323	12,313	57%
Leatherjacket		2 t	20,144	3,573	82%
Striped Trumpeter		39 t	10,122	7,228	29%

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

**IMAS**

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies



Tasmanian  
Government



Fish illustrations by  
Peter Gouldthorpe ©NRE Tas

The full report is available here:

[utas.edu.au/imas/research/fisheries-and-aquaculture/reports-and-resources](https://utas.edu.au/imas/research/fisheries-and-aquaculture/reports-and-resources)