Reported landed annual catch from Commonwealth fisheries catch disposal records

**Description**

This dataset shows the annual landed catch (meaning the catch that is landed at port) in kilograms, by species and fishery, for Commonwealth fisheries managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

These data come from AFMA catch disposal records (CDRs), and have been recorded and submitted to AFMA by commercial fishers and fish receiver permit holders when fish are landed at port. Fish discarded at sea are not included in CDRs and therefore are not included in this dataset.

**Appropriate use and limitations of the data**

These annual catches are calculated from the date the fish was landed at a port. This means that comparisons with other datasets with different summations (for example, catch by fishing season or catch from the date the fish were removed from the ocean) may produce different results.

Care should be taken when interpreting trends in this data because there are many factors that can affect catches each year. Catch quantities can be impacted by management measures such as: total allowable catch, closures of fishing areas, reducing boat numbers, or banning the catch of a particular species. Similarly, changes in market demand can affect which species are targeted.

CDRs are used to monitor quota (see [Individual Transferable Quota](http://www.afma.gov.au/resources/glossary/))). AFMA total allowable catches (TAC)s are set for fishing seasons rather than calendar years. See [catchwatch](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/catchwatch-reports/) for seasonal catch to date compared to TAC for AFMA’s larger quota fisheries. Not all fisheries have CDRs, and in some fisheries the CDR program was started part-way through an annual time-period.

These catch disposal record data do not include catch by gear type. This information can be found in the “*Reported landed annual catch from Commonwealth fisheries logbooks*” and its metadata, which is published on *data.gov.au*. Note that catch weight data in logbooks are estimates only that have been recorded by fishers while at sea. It is used in combination with gear, effort, and spatial data from logbooks to inform stock assessments.

**Disclaimer**

The dataset provided by AFMA is comprised of raw (unprocessed) data as received from fishers and fish receivers, and may contain errors or be incomplete. Errors are more likely in species caught in low volumes. AFMA makes no warranty or representation that the data is accurate or complete. Those who choose to use this data should make their own enquiries as to its accuracy and completeness, and AFMA assumes no liability for any errors or omissions in the data provided, or for any decision by a person who chooses to rely on the data.

**Metadata**

**Title:** Reported landed annual catch from Commonwealth fisheries catch disposal records

**Date First Published:** October 2013

**Last Update:** July 2025

**Update Frequency:** Calendar year

**Authoring Agency:** [Australian Fisheries Management Authority](http://www.afma.gov.au/)

**Subject:** Fisheries catch

**Agency Program:** [Catch Disposal Records](http://www.afma.gov.au/monitoring-enforcement/catch-disposal-records/)

**Agency Jurisdiction:** Commonwealth

**Temporal Coverage:** Calendar years 2002 to 2023

**Spatial Coverage:** Australia’s EEZ

**Granularity:** Calendar year, Fishery, Species, Weight (kg)

**Collection Mode:** Self reporting. CDRs are completed by both fishers and fish receivers.

**Licence:** [Creative Commons - Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY 3.0)](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/deed.en)

**Notes:**

Shark weights are trunked weight (headed and gutted).

Weights of other fish are whole (green) weights.

The shaded cells in the Table 1 below show the years for which CDR data is included for each fishery (noting, however, that if a fishery has zero catch for a particular year, no data will appear for that year in the dataset).

Catch from the aquarium and hand collection sectors of the Coral Sea Fishery are not included. CDR records from High Seas fishing have not been included.

**Table 1: Included data by fishery and year**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | BSCZSF | CSF | CTS | ECDW | ETBF | GAB | GHAT | HIMI | MITF | SBTF | SPF | SSJF | STR | WTBF |
| 2002 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2003 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2004 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2006 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2007 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2008 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2009 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2010 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2011-2023 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Glossary:**

**Fishery**: A group of fishers and boats that fish under the same set of rules defining an Authority that allows them to operate. Often these rules will specify: the species that may (or may not) be caught; the method(s) that can be used to catch them; and/or the area of waters that the fishers/boats can operate in. There are many variations on this and while many Commonwealth fisheries have restrictions on all three variables (species, method, area), some are only a mixture of two of them. Many fishers hold Authorities to operate in more than one fishery, and fishery areas can overlap when they catch different species using different methods. Fisheries can also change names over the years. The fisheries described in this dataset have been normalised to the [current fishery names](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/).

**Fish Species**: The species of fish (including molluscs, crustaceans and sharks) that can be caught in a fishery. Species are described by their standard name (according to the [Australian Fish Names Standard](https://www.fishnames.com.au/)), their CAAB number and their scientific name.

**Research catch allowance**: A research catch allowance is a quantity of fish that may be caught for research purposes under an AFMA scientific permit. The research contributes to AFMA fishery management decisions.

**Catch disposal records (CDRs):** When fish are landed, the accurate weight of fish is recorded in AFMA catch disposal records (CDRs) by both the fisher and fish receiver permit holder. The forms are submitted to AFMA and the data is entered into the AFMA database. AFMA uses catch weights from CDRs to make deductions from fishers’ quota holdings (catch allowances). The forms used for [AFMA CDRs](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/logbooks-and-catch-disposal/) are available on the AFMA website.

**CAAB**: **C**odes for **A**ustralian **A**quatic **B**iota. CAAB is a coding system for aquatic organisms in the Australian region. It is maintained by CSIRO Division of Marine and Atmospheric Research, Australia (CMAR). Users can search the [CAAB database](http://www.marine.csiro.au/caab/) for information such as currently accepted scientific name, common name, and approved marketing name for a fish species.

**Australian Fishing Zone**: Waters adjacent to Australia and its external territories (excluding Torres Strait and the Antarctic Territories), which extend from defined baselines to 200 nm seawards, but not including coastal and excepted waters. Agreed boundaries apply where these zones intersect the 200 nm zones of other nations. Within the AFZ, Australia exercises jurisdiction over all fishing by Australian and foreign boats.

**Keywords:** Catch, Commonwealth, Fish, Fishery, Landings.

**Table 2: Fisheries**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Fishery Code** | **Fishery Name** | **Description** |
| BSCZSF | Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery | Fishing for scallops in the central zone of the Bass Strait. |
| CSF | Coral Sea Fishery | Trawl, trap, line, and hand collection in the Coral Sea. NOTE: This dataset does not include catch for the hand collection sector. |
| CTS | Commonwealth Trawl Sector  | Trawling off southeast Australia. CTS is a sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. |
| ECDW | East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector | Trawl fishing in the area adjacent to (but not within 25 nautical miles of) Lord Howe. ECDW is a sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. |
| ETBF | Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery | Fishing for tuna and billfish off the east coast of Australia. |
| GAB | Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector | Trawl fishing off the Great Australian Bight. GAB is a sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. |
| GHAT | Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector | Fishing for shark and scalefish off southern and eastern Australia, using gillnets, hooks and traps. GHAT is a sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. |
| HIMI | Heard and McDonald Islands Fishery | Fishing in the Heard and McDonald Islands sub-Antarctic zone. Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). |
| MITF | Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery | Fishing around Macquarie Island sub-Antarctic (not CCAMLR). |
| SBTF | Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery | Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna using purse seine and longline. The Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery covers the coast around Australia, out to 200nm.  |
| SPF | Small Pelagic Fishery | Fishing for Jack Mackerel and other small pelagic fish off southern and eastern Australia. The fishery extends from the Qld-NSW border around southern Australia to just north of Perth. |
| SSJF | Southern Squid Jig Fishery | Jigging for squid off southern and eastern Australia. |
| STR | South Tasman Rise Trawl Fishery | Trawling on the South Tasman Rise within the Australian Fishing Zone. |
| WTBF | Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery | Fishing for tuna and billfish off the southern and western coasts of Australia. |