



Black jewfish | *Protonibea diacanthus*

A Snapshot of the Coastal Line Fishery

Area

The fishery extends from the high watermark at the coast to 15 nautical miles seaward of the low water mark, between the Queensland and Western Australian maritime borders.

Licences

There are currently 56 licences in the fishery and these are a mixture of both restricted and unrestricted in terms of transferability.

A two for one licence reduction scheme is still in place. This means that if a restricted licence is sold, the purchaser must buy another restricted licence and have the two exchanged for an unrestricted licence before fishing can occur.

Gear

Drop line, vertical line and trap.

Catch

The fishery targets jewfish, snappers, emperors, cod and various reef species.

Product Form

Frozen fillets, whole fish on ice (gilled and gutted).

Markets

Primarily the Northern Territory and Sydney.

Season

There is no closed season for the Coastal Line fishery.

Management

The fishery is managed under Northern Territory legislation by the Northern Territory Government under an Offshore Constitutional Settlement with the Commonwealth.

General

Historically this fishery has generally been confined to an area within 100 to 150 km or so from Darwin, primarily as vessels have been fairly small and the market has generally been for fresh fish.

The fishery's resources are significantly under utilised at present, although this could quickly change if facilities and adequate transport services are made available at key locations around the coast.

A typical Coastal Line operation, with licence and vessel, has an investment in the vicinity of \$125,000 to \$140,000.

Supported by:



Northern Territory Government