



Saddletail snapper | *Lutjanus malabaricus*

## A Snapshot of the Demersal Fishery

### Area

The fishery extends from 15 nautical miles seaward of the low watermark to the Australian Fishing Zone outer limit, but excluding the Timor Reef Fishery, and between the Queensland and Western Australian maritime borders.

### Licences

There are currently 60 licences in the fishery, all of which have unrestricted transferability.

### Gear

Drop line and trap.

### Catch

The fishery targets Goldband snapper, Saddletail snapper and Scarlet snapper, with secondary species including emperors, cod and various reef species.

### Product Form

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

### Markets

Catch is sold primarily in Australia at this time.

### Season

There is no closed season for the Demersal fishery.

### Management

The fishery is managed under Northern Territory legislation by the Northern Territory Government on behalf of a Joint Authority comprising the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments. It is managed by input controls.

### General

The fishery is currently underfished, primarily because of a combination of factors including distance from operating ports, lack of sufficient infrastructure at key points around the Northern Territory, costs and the huge and mostly remote area of the fishery. In recent years a gradual increase in the number of vessels operating in the fishery has occurred and this is expected to continue.

Supported by:



Northern Territory Government