



Goldband snapper | *Pristipomoides multidens*

A Snapshot of the **Timor Reef Fishery**

Area

Approximately 8,400nm² adjacent to the boundary of the Australian/Indonesian fishing zones, 200nm north west of Darwin.

Licences

There are 11 licences in the Timor Reef fishery, two having a restriction on temporary transferability.

Gear

Both droplines and traps are permitted. A dropline is a vertical line with between 6 and 40 hooks. Traps have a minimum size of 0.5m³ and are limited to 45 per licence.

Catch

The majority of the catch is Goldband snapper but important secondary species include Red emperor, cod and Saddletail snapper.

Product form

Whole fresh on ice.

Markets

Most of the catch is sold on Australian markets.

Season

There is no closed season for the Timor Reef fishery, but normally it is most productive between October and May.

Management

This fishery is managed under Northern Territory legislation on behalf of a Joint Authority comprising the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth.

General

This deep water fishery is some 24 hours steaming north west of Darwin and has been developed since the mid 1980's. It is the premier dropline and trap fishery in the Northern Territory. The main species caught have an excellent shelflife and enjoy good demand in Sydney and Brisbane in particular. Vessels are usually away for trips of 10 days and in an average year a vessel can travel some 16,500nm.

To reduce the number of licences in this fishery a two for one licence reduction scheme has been in place for several years. Under the scheme, to obtain an unrestricted licence, two restricted licences must first be purchased.

Depending on the type of vessel and licence used, investments in fishing operations can range from \$1.5 million to over \$4 million.

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