

What's the value of fish in the recreational and commercial sectors?

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Abstract only

Continued growth in the popularity of recreational fishing is adding to the pressure on fish stocks in Australia. The result has often been increasing competition for and conflict between recreational and commercial fishing sectors over reducing stocks. In this environment, various measures of the value of fish in the recreational sector have been used to compare with that in the commercial sector and to justify reallocation of fish from one sector to another.

The purpose of this paper is to briefly examine the different measures of the value of fish to the recreational sector commonly used and to discuss the effects of using these value measures of recreational fish for reallocating resources between the commercial and recreational sector. Amongst the value measures examined are the expenditure and the value, net of costs recreational fishers will be willing to pay (although they may not actually pay) to go recreational fishing. What constitutes an economic value and what is an appropriate measure of the economic value of fish in recreational fishing when comparing with that in the commercial sector for the purpose of reallocating fisheries resources is also discussed.