Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Ross Lobegeiger Report to Farmers

Aquaculture production summary for Queensland 2012–13

Great state. Great opportunity.

Queensland Government

Dedication

In 2011 there was widespread support for the renaming of this report to the *Ross Lobegeiger Report to farmers*. This change was to help acknowledge and honour the pivotal role that Ross played in developing and supporting the Queensland aquaculture industry. As Supervising Extension Officer, Ross provided the aquaculture industry with almost 20 years of dedicated service. Ross was responsible, as co-author, for producing the very first annual edition of this report in 1991. He then went on to produce a total of 19 issues. As such, Ross Lobegeiger's name has become intrinsically linked with the report and it seems only fitting for the publication to continue to carry his name.

Tragically, Ross Lobegeiger passed away on Saturday 9 October 2010. Ross was such a well-known and enormously liked individual that his loss has been felt deeply by a great many people from all facets of Ross' extensive social and professional network, including the aquaculture industry.

This publication has been compiled by Michael Heidenreich of Fisheries Queensland, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

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1.0 Overall value and production

The total value of the Queensland aquaculture industry increased 1%, with the value of production increasing from $86.6 million in 2011–12 to $87.6 million in 2012–13. Although this was a slight increase, the barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) sector decreased in value by 7.5% from $21.3 to $19.7 million.

In 2012–13, the total value of fisheries production in Queensland decreased by 1.9% to $269.5 million. While the total value of aquaculture production increased slightly in 2012–13, the wild harvest fishery in Queensland had decreased to $182 million in 2012–13 (Table 1). Therefore, the relative importance of aquaculture to Queensland's total fisheries production has only increased marginally, from 31.5% in 2011 –12 to 32.9% in 2012–13. Similar trends in Queensland's fisheries and aquaculture production can be seen in the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) figures (Note: difference in ABARE figures to Queensland figures due to ABARE exclusion of hatchery production that is sold to supply aquaculture grow out operations).

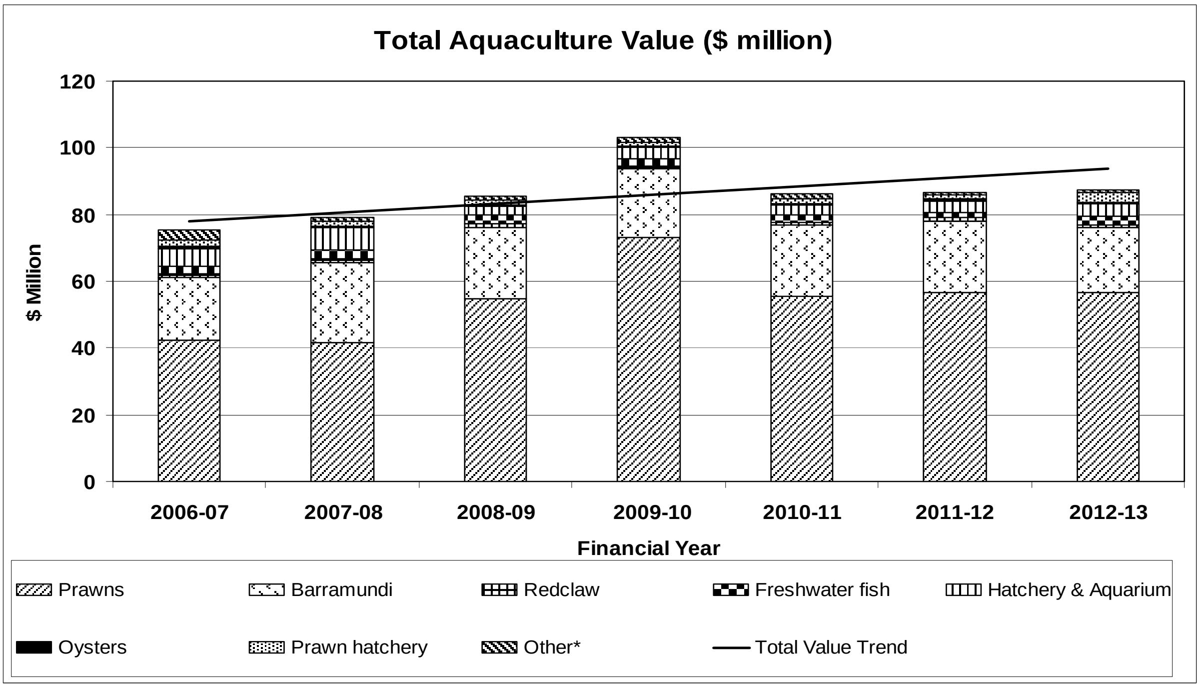
Table 1: Queensland fisheries production – gross value (2008-09 to 2012-13).

	Queensland figures (1)		
Year	**Total fisheries ($m)**	**Aquaculture ($m)**	**Aquaculture (%)**
2006-07	261.1	77.4	27.4
2007–08	288.5	80.3	27.8
2008–09	308.5	85.5	27.7
2009–10	325.7	103.0	31.6
2010–11	275.9	86.3	31.3
2011-12	276.8	86.6	31.5
2012-13	269.5	87.6	32.5
	ABARES figures (1)		
Year	**Total fisheries ($m)**	**Aquaculture ($m)**	**Aquaculture (%)**
2007–08	283.5	75.3	26.6
2008–09	306.6	83.6	27.3
2009–10	323.3	100.6	31.1
2010–11	273.5	83.9	30.6
2011-12	275.7	83.1	31.3
2012-13	265	82.9	31.2

(1) The Queensland figures include hatchery production for farm stocking and impoundment stocking. Farm stocking details and product supplied to aquaculture growout operations are excluded from the figures used by ABARES.

Sources: ABARES and Fisheries Queensland, part of the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry

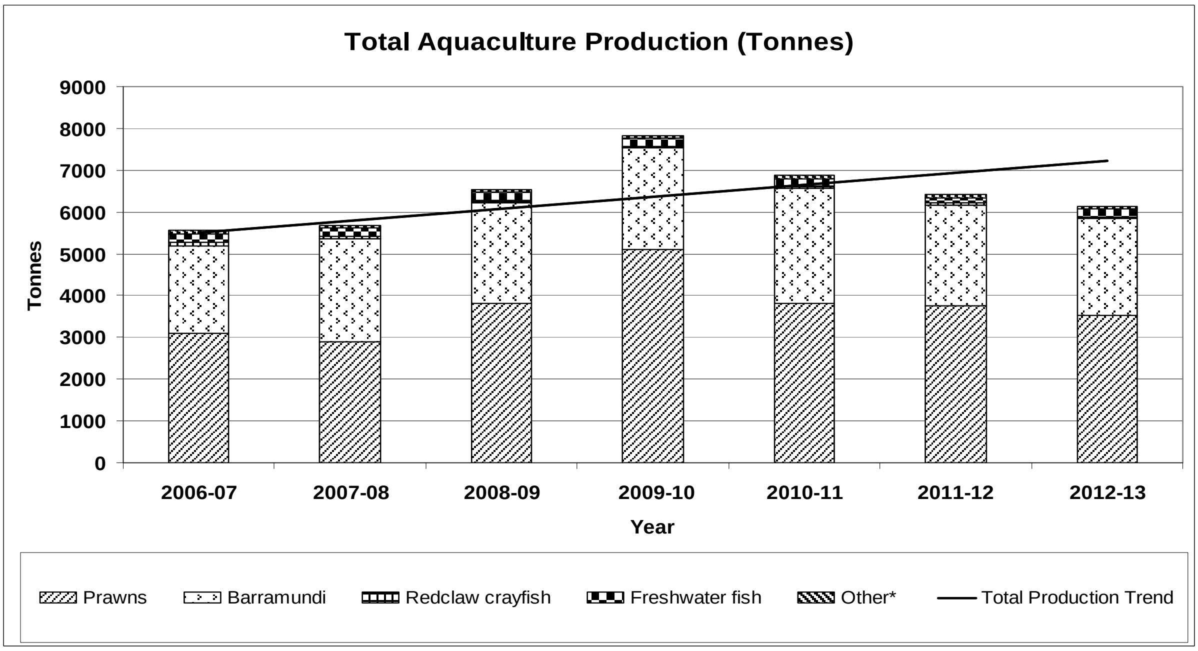
The trend of aquaculture industry growth in Queensland over the past six (6) years can be seen in Figure 1. The most valuable sectors of the Queensland aquaculture industry continues to be prawns and barramundi respectively. Actual dollar value of each sector is given in Table 2. Acknowledging that there will always be some degree of fluctuation between years (due to climatic issues etc), there is still a clear trend that the overall industry value has been increasing at a rate of 4.3% per annum since1999–2000 (Figure 1). Gains in value in the 2012–13 financial year has been in the freshwater fish, prawn hatchery, other hatchery and aquarium sectors. The edible oyster sector is holding steady, and the value declined for prawns, barramundi and redclaw crayfish sectors.



*'Other' includes pearls, crabs, sea scallops, marine fish and eels.

Figure 1: Trend in value ($million) of Queensland aquaculture production.

While the overall production tonnage has decreased in the last three (3) years, the long term fourteen (14) year average has the industry still increasing at a rate of 5.9% per annum (Figure 2). Actual production figures (tonnes) for each sector are given in Table 3.



*'Other' includes crabs, sea scallops, marine fish and eels.

Figure 2: Trend in Queensland aquaculture total production (tonnes).

2.0 Aquaculture sector production and value

Queensland's marine prawn industry produces three species of prawns—black tiger (*Penaeus monodon*), banana (*P. merguiensis*) and kuruma (*P. japonicus*). Production in the prawn sector decreased by 6.2% (from 3751 tonnes in 2011–12 to 3518.7 tonnes in 2012–13), while the value increased by 2.4% (from $57.9 million in 2011–12 to $59.3 million in 2012–13). This increase in value was helped by the average price increasing from $14.95/kg in 2011–12 to $16.08/kg in 2012–13. Hatchery sales of prawns for the year were $2.7 million, which was significantly more than previous year. The number of producing farms declined from the previous year, from 20 farms in 2011–12 to 19 farms in 2012–13.

Barramundi production decreased by 4%, with 2416 tonnes sold in 2011-12 and 2319.1 tonnes sold in 2012-13. The value of the barramundi sector decreased by 7.5%, from $21.3 million in 2011–12 to $19.7 million in 2012–13. Over this period the average price (whole fish basis) decreased by 3.9%, from $8.82/kg to $8.48/kg. The majority of barramundi production is in pond-based systems. The number of producing farms increased from 17 to 20.

Table 2: Queensland aquaculture production – gross value by sector ($ million).

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011-12	2012-13
Prawns (includes prawn hatchery)	$43.0	$55.8	$74.3	$56.9	$57.9	$59.3
Barramundi	$24.3	$21.4	$20.7	$21.2	$21.3	$19.7
Redclaw crayfish	$1.1	$1.1	$1.0	$0.9	$0.9	$0.8
Freshwater fish	$2.3	$2.6	$2.2	$2.2	$1.7	$2.5
Hatchery and aquarium	$6.6	$2.7	$3.2	$2.9	$3.4	$3.8
Edible oysters	$0.6	$0.5	$0.5	$0.5	$0.5	$0.5
Other (1)	$2.4	$1.5	$1.2	$1.7	$0.9	$1.1
Total	**$80.3**	**$85.5**	**$103.0**	**$86.3**	**$86.6**	**$87.6**

* Not available for publication (included in 'Other')
(1) Includes marine fish, eels, crabs and pearls in some years.

The freshwater fish growout sector currently produces silver perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*), jade perch (*Scortum barcoo*), Murray cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*) and Australian bass (*Macquaria novemaculeata*). The total production of freshwater fish (species other than barramundi) was 196.8 tonnes, which has increased from the 135 tonnes produced in 2011–12. The value of the sector also increased to $2.5 million, up from $1.7 million 2011–12.

Silver perch production has increased this reporting season to 94.6 tonnes, up from 74.6 tonnes for 2011–12. The value of the silver perch sector also increase from $886,000 in 2011–12 to $1.1 million. Jade perch production increased from 30.7 tonnes in 2011–12 to 59.4 tonnes for 2012–13. The value of jade perch sales totalled at $745,000, with an average price of $12.54/kg. While Murray cod remains a significant contributor to the freshwater fish sector, in 2011–12 only a few growers produced Murray cod and detailed production data cannot be published due to client confidentiality.

Production of the redclaw crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) sector decreased by 1.5% (from 41.4 tonnes in 2011–12 to 40.8 tonnes in 2012–13). Value of the redclaw sector decreased to $760,000 (down from $862,000 in 2011–12).

The number of producing farms decreased from 28 to 23 for 2012–13. Average prices decreased from $20.82/kg in 2011–12 to $18.62/kg.

Table 3: Queensland aquaculture production (tones) by sector.

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011-12	2012-13
Marine prawns	2888	3821	5115	3822	3751	3518.7
Barramundi	2464	2400	2410	2746	2416	2319.1
Redclaw crayfish	65	68	57	52	41	40.8
Freshwater fish	198	192	177	177	135	196.8
Other *	58	39	63	101	73	65
Total	**5673**	**6520**	**7822**	**6898**	**6416**	**6140**

* 'Other' includes marine fish, eels, sea scallops and crabs.

The hatchery sector, producing native fish fingerlings and ornamental aquarium species, sold 15.8 million fish during 2012–13; this was 52% more than the 10.4 million fish sold during 2011–12. The value of the hatchery sector increased significantly, from $3.07 million in 2011–12 to $3.8 million for 2012-13.

Total edible oyster production has seen a significant increase by nearly 57%, from 129,500 dozen in 2011–12 to 203,020 dozen in 2012–13. The value of the edible oyster industry also increased from $513,000 in 2011-12 to $522,590. Average price per dozen of oysters has decreased from $3.97 to $2.57.

The combined Queensland aquaculture industry employed 466 full-time equivalents (FTEs)—calculated by combining numbers of permanent and casual labour. This equates to a decrease in staff of 153 FTEs in 2011–12. The prawn farming sector was the largest employer at 264.4 FTE workers or 56.7% of the industry's total labour force.

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