

**FISHERIES  
FACT SHEET** No. 4

# Barred javelin

*Pomadasys kaakan*



A coastal demersal species, they can be found in turbid inshore waters.



Image source: QDAF

**Other names:** Spotted Grunter, Javelin Fish, Queensland Trumpeter

## STOCK STRUCTURE

Unknown

**Only one study exists regarding the life history and status of Barred Javelin in Eastern Queensland waters.**

(N. Szczecinski, 2012)

Most biological knowledge comes from Iran, Pakistan and Kuwait waters. More known about the species in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

## FISHERIES



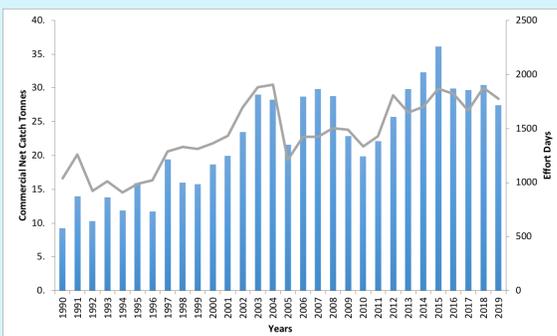
Recreational anglers\* - grey nomads  
Commercial fishing  
Fishing charter  
Indigenous

## GEAR



Handline      Trap  
Set Net      Spearfishing

## STATUS & TRENDS



**Figure 1:** Commercial catch and effort of grunter and barred grunter in commercial net fishery in East coast fishing region from 1990-2019. [Source: QDAF QFish]

- **Prime target species** for recreational anglers and **important byproduct** for the commercial sector.
- **Recreational fishers tend to land larger volumes** of barred javelin than the commercial sector.
- **Sex-selective catch with a female bias** is present in recreational catches in Lucinda. This preferential harvesting could potentially **restrict future reproductive capacity**.
- **Seasonal tourist fishing pressure** demonstrates need for site-specific fisheries monitoring and management
- Due to high levels of release, **post-release mortality rates** should be investigated.

## \*Grey Nomads Impact

**Grey nomads:** people over the age of 50 who travel for an extended period (at least 3 month) of time within their own country.

- **Winter pulses of recreational fishing** in small communities such as Lucinda may be **significantly impacting population status** of Barred Javelin.
- **Grey nomads CPUE** likely **exceeds that of local anglers** according to a site-specific study in Hinchinbrook Channel.
- **Fishing** listed as the **main activity** bringing grey nomads to Lucinda, with Barred Javelin stated to be a common target species.



**Figure:** Barred javelin distribution in Australia [Source: Atlas of Living Australia]

## MOVEMENT & MIGRATION

- Older studies (1997) show **localised restricted distributions** in the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- High presence of female in recreational catch suggests sexual segregation occurring in Lucinda.
- Found to be more abundant in inshore shallow waters and estuaries as the species can **tolerate a range of salinities and turbidities**.
- 2017 boat ramp surveys indicate Barred Javelin as a the top recreational species caught in the **Hinchinbrook, Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville regions**.

## AGE & GROWTH

Size @ maturity	28-32 cm TL (F); 60 cm (M)
Age @ maturity	2-3 years (F)
Longevity	80 cm TL; 36 years (Kuwait)
Fecundity	Unknown

## SPAWNING



**Transient seasonal spawning aggregations.**

Spawners form shoals nearshore or river mouths during the winter. Spawning period occurs from August-March with peak in September-October. Some females (20%) found to be in spawning condition all year.

## MANAGEMENT LINKS:

**Queensland Government Species ID guide:**

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/fish-identification-information/fish-species-guide/fish-species-id-info/profile?fish-id=barred-javelin>

## REFERENCES

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Martin, T., Wild, S., Webley, J. and Staunton-Smith, J. (2019) Performance of Queensland's net-free zones. Technical Report. State of Queensland. <https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Pomadasys-kaakan.html>

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**did you know?**

**Grunter hunters**

think barred javelin are an underrated fish, labeling them

**"dogged fighters"**

and a true sport fish that are a challenge on a light tackle.



Image: Kevin Long [Source: Atlas of Living Australia]

We acknowledge Australia's traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and recognise their roles, past and present, as custodians, scientists, and innovators in the care and wise use of country.

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