



2020

TASMANIAN WILDCAPTURE WORKFORCE

PROFILE REPORT

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This report was prepared by Dr. Lisa Denny for the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council to address objectives of the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Workforce Plan 2019:

- 1. To prepare the seafood industry for the new work order through a better understanding of workforce demand and training needs**
- 2. To deliver and extend workforce development outcomes and outputs to stakeholders**

The Tasmanian Seafood Workforce Project is funded by Skills Tasmania - Workforce Development Grant Round



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Tasmanian Seafood Industry Wildcapture Workforce Snapshot

Those who work in the wildcatch sector are either owner/operators, subcontractors or employed on casual, as needed basis. Employment is impacted by a range of factors including weather, fishing seasons, catch limits, beach price and other external factors, estimating the size of the workforce. Subsequently, calculating the number of people working in the wildcatch sector is empirically challenging.

TSIC, in consultation with the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) at the University of Tasmania, has developed an estimation tool to calculate the number of fishers working in Tasmanian waters on a given day for each fishery sub-sector. This tool has been used to extract and quantify wildcapture workforce data for the purpose of this annual snapshot report. The full methodology report can be read at <https://seafoodjobs.org/seafood-workforce/>

This snapshot report undertakes an annual estimate of workforce size and demographics using data collected by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water, and the Environment (DPIPWE) in FILMS (Fisheries Integrated Licensing and Monitoring System) through the fishing licencing and catch record processes. Robust estimates of total workforce size for each fishery subsector are reported. This report also provides a demographic profile of active supervisors only and does not capture the age profile or regional location of crew members. The term “Supervisor” refers to the active fisher responsible for the license on the day of fishing. They may be an active owner/operator, or a supervisor operating/leasing a licence on behalf of the owner.

Note, the Tasmanian Scallop season was closed for 2020, so no profile report has been produced for this sector.

2020 Wildcatch Workforce Profile

In 2020, there were on average 364 people working in the wildcatch sector workforce in Tasmania. Throughout the year of 2020 this number fluctuated between a minimum of 203 people and a maximum of 429 people (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Total active Tasmanian Wildcatch Fisheries Workforce for 2020.

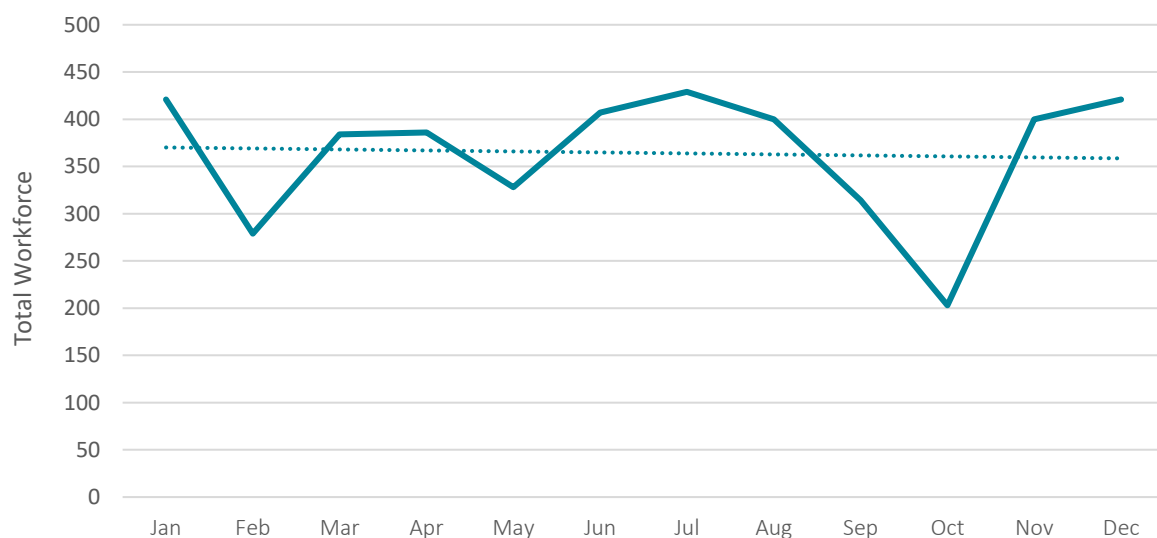


Table 1. Active Tasmanian Wildcatch Fisheries Workforce by sub-sector for 2020.

Maximum shown in green, minimum shown in grey.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
Abalone Fishers	56	4	28	47	53	52	62	64	66	75	72	77	55
Abalone Workforce	66	8	44	64	80	66	90	90	82	96	84	86	71
Commercial Dive Fishers	20	24	28	24	25	25	24	10	22	18	19	18	21
Commercial Dive Workforce	40	38	44	46	44	40	42	22	42	36	36	30	38
Giant Crab Fishers	11	11	7	2	3	1	1	1		1	1	4	4
Giant Crab Workforce	12	4	7	2	2	2		2	2	9	15	14	6
Rock Lobster Fishers	121	70	123	120	80	132	138	128	62	0	102	134	101
Rock Lobster Workforce	204	126	202	209	140	219	225	212	110	0	179	216	170
Scalefish Fishers	76	76	63	48	44	58	53	53	61	44	71	60	59
Scalefish Workforce	99	103	87	65	62	80	72	74	78	60	86	75	78

Note: October is season closure for RL fishery.

Supervisors (fishers) represented around 66% of the total workforce in 2020 (Table 1).

100% of active supervisors were male.

Table 2. Wildcatch Fisheries Workforce – sub-sector as a proportion of total workforce for 2020

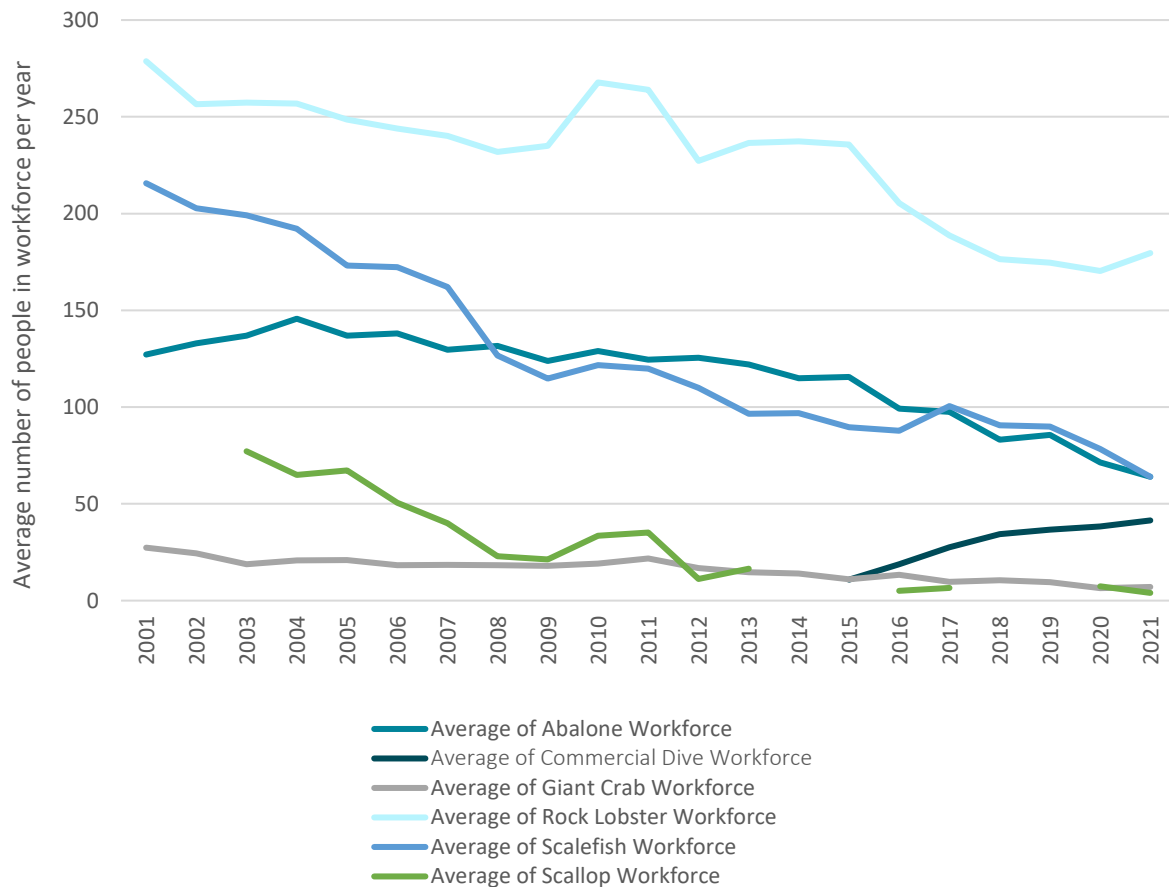
	%
Abalone	19.6
Commercial dive	10.5
Giant crab	1.6
Rock lobster	46.8
Scalefish	21.5
Scallop	0
Total	100

Rock lobster continues to be the largest sector by workforce size in 2020, employing 46.8% of the wildcapture sector (Table 2).

Trends over time

Figure 2. tracks the average number of people actively participating in each fishery sub-sector, per year. This includes supervisors and crew as a total workforce estimate. Data is presented as an average because the number of active participants in the fishery fluctuates by month and season. All sectors except Commercial Dive have been trending down since 2011.

Figure 2. Sub-sector workforce trends from 2001 to 2021.



Please refer to <https://seafoodjobs.org/seafood-workforce/> for a more detailed and interactive version of this trend chart.

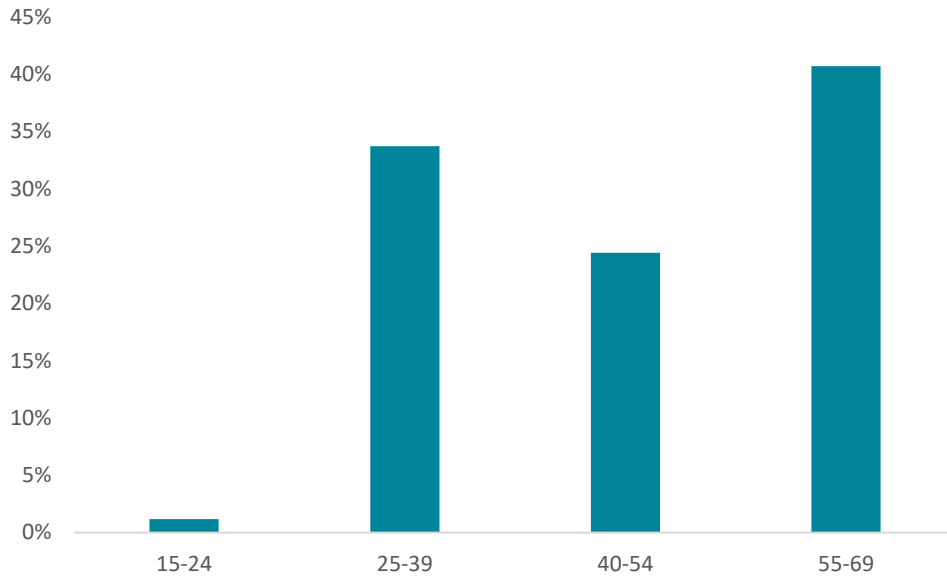
Demographic Analysis

This section of the report provides a demographic profile of active supervisors only and does not capture the age profile or regional location of crew members. The term “Supervisor” refers to the active fisher responsible for the license on the day of fishing. They may be an active owner/operator, or a supervisor operating/leasing a licence on behalf of the owner.

Age profile of Abalone fishers

The average age of active Abalone fishers in 2020 was 48 years old. The proportion aged 55 to 69 is the largest (almost 40% of the workforce) and indicates an ageing abalone workforce (Figure 3).

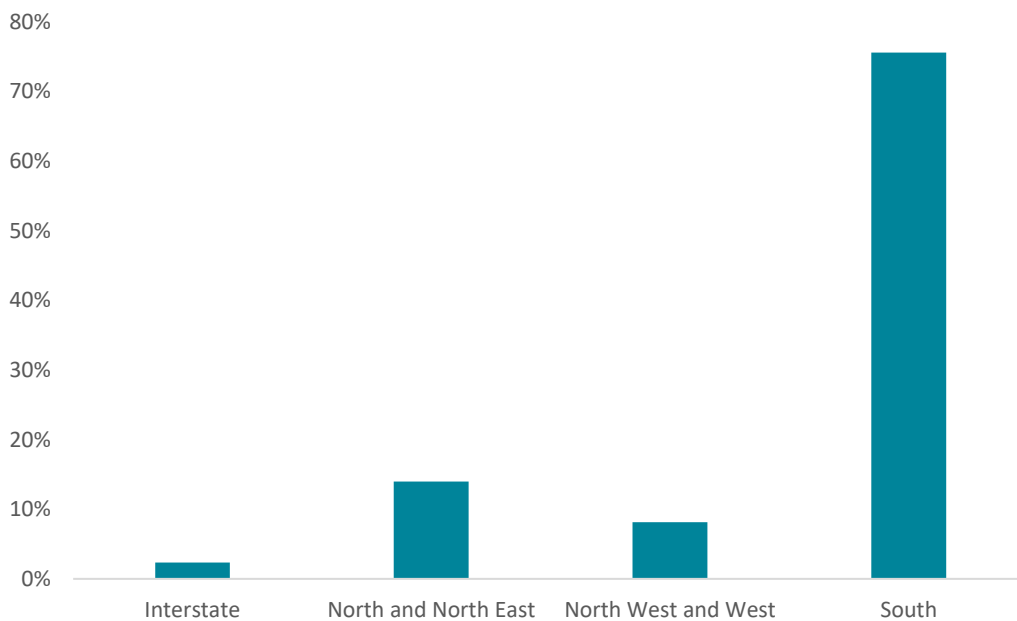
Figure 3. Age profile of Abalone fishers 2020, Tasmania



Place of residence of Abalone fishers

The majority of Abalone fishers (76%) live in the Southern region of Tasmania (Figure 4).

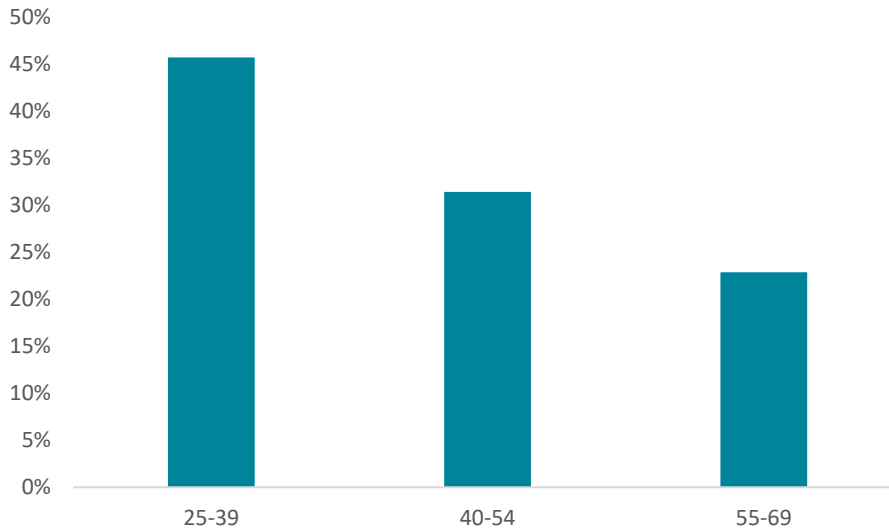
Figure 4. Place of residence of Abalone fishers 2020, Tasmania



Age profile of Commercial Dive fishers

The average age of active Commercial Dive fishers in 2020 was 43 years old. The proportion aged 25 to 39 is the largest (45% of the workforce) and indicates strong recruitment to this workforce (Figure 5).

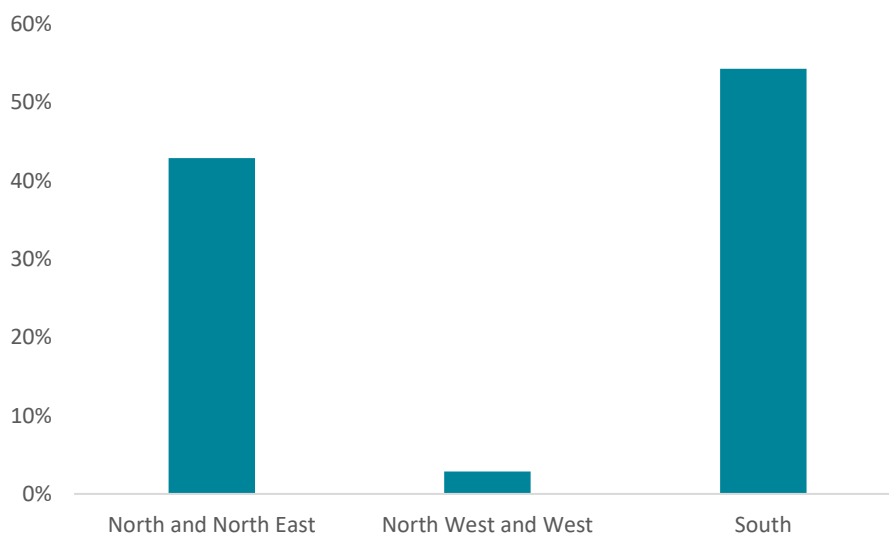
Figure 5. Age profile of Commercial Dive fishers 2020, Tasmania



Place of residence of Commercial Dive fishers

54% of Commercial Divers live in the Southern region, and 43% in the North and North-eastern region of Tasmania (Figure 6).

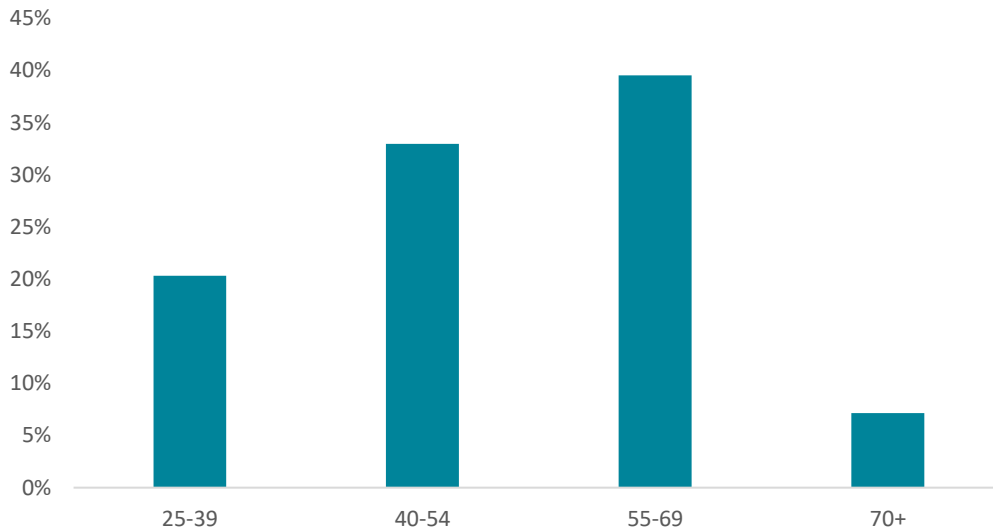
Figure 6. Place of residence of Commercial Dive fishers 2020, Tasmania



Age profile of Rock Lobster fishers

The average age of active Rock Lobster fishers in 2020 was 52 years old. The proportion aged 55 to 69 is the largest (40% of the workforce) and indicates an ageing workforce (Figure 7).

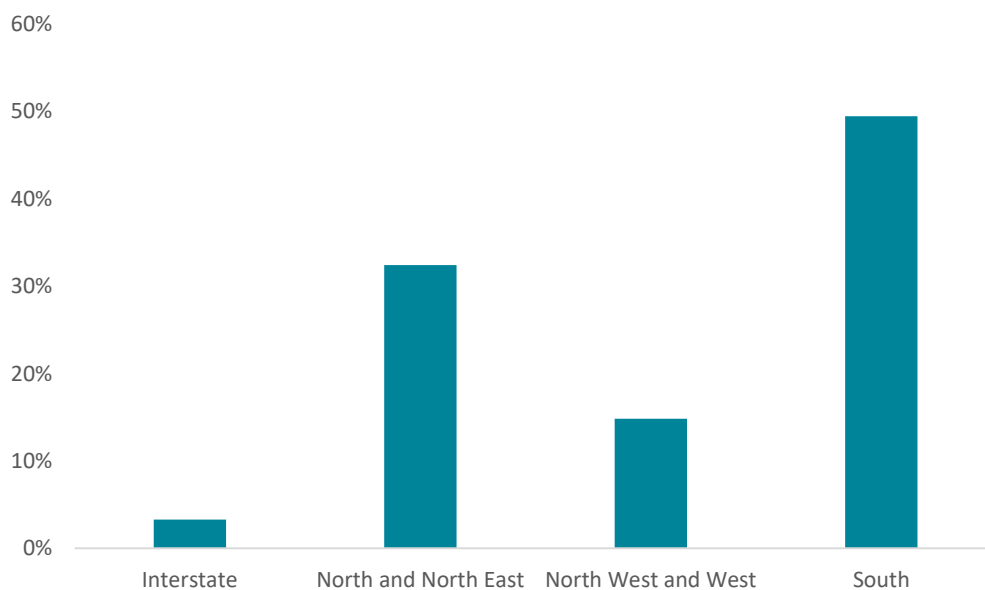
Figure 7. Age profile of Rock Lobster fishers 2020, Tasmania



Place of residence of Rock Lobster fishers

49% of Rock Lobster fishers live in the Southern region, and 32% in the North and North-eastern region of Tasmania which includes King Island (Figure 8).

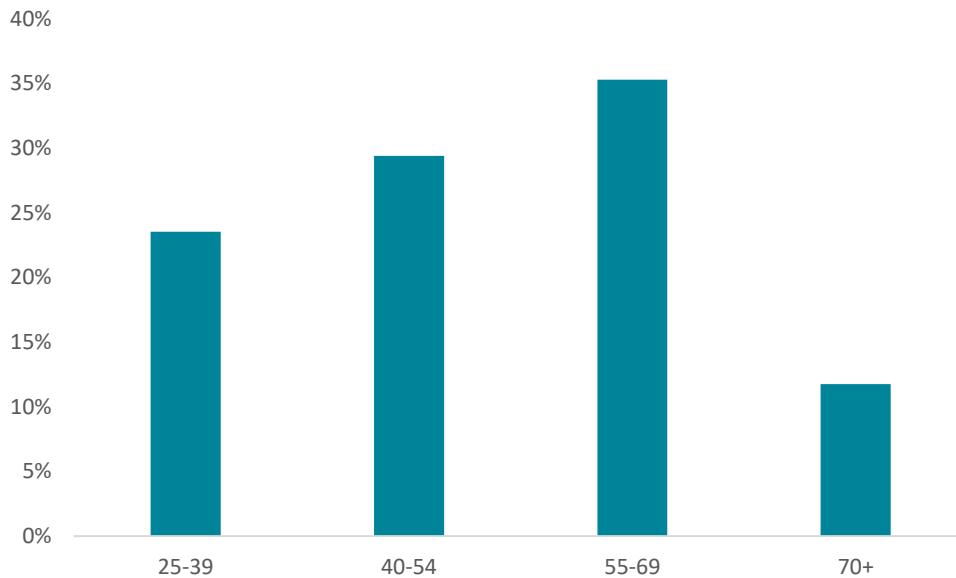
Figure 8. Place of residence of Rock Lobster fishers 2020, Tasmania



Age profile of Giant Crab fishers

The average age of active Giant Crab fishers in 2020 was 53 years old. The proportion 55 to 69 is the largest (35% of the workforce) and indicates an ageing workforce (Figure 9).

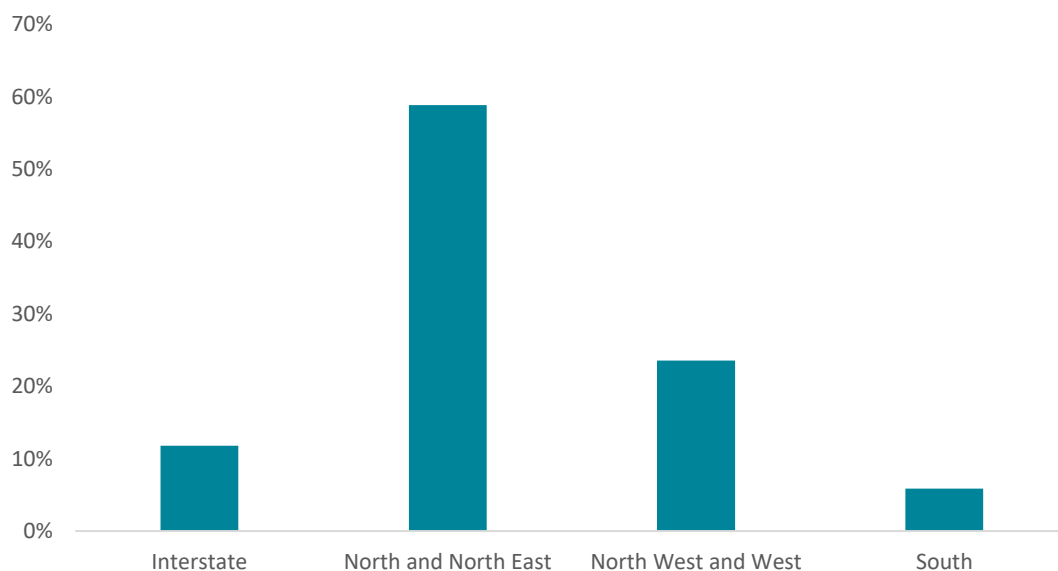
Figure 9. Age profile of Giant Crab fishers 2020, Tasmania



Place of residence of Giant Crab fishers

59% of Giant Crab fishers live in the North and North-eastern region of Tasmania, this includes King Island (Figure 10). 24% of active Giant Crab fishers live in the Northwest and West, this is the largest representation of any sector residing in the Western region of Tasmania.

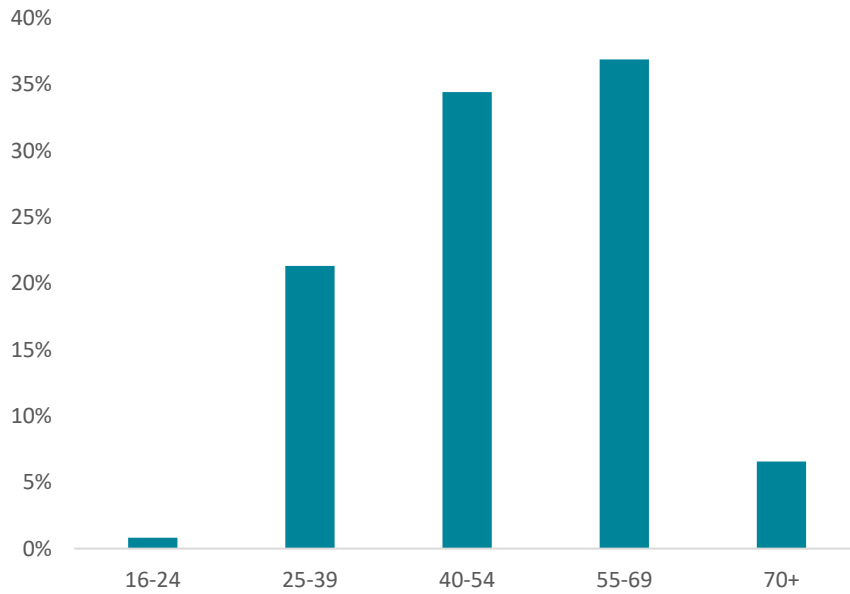
Figure 10. Place of residence of Giant Crab fishers 2020, Tasmania



Age profile of Scalefish fishers

The average age of active Scalefish fishers in 2020 was 51 years old. The proportion 55 to 69 is the largest (37% of the workforce) and indicates an ageing workforce (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Age profile of Scalefish fishers 2020, Tasmania



Place of residence of Scalefish fishers

46% of Scalefish fishers live in the Southern region and 30% in the North and Northeast region of Tasmania (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Place of residence of Scalefish fishers 2020, Tasmania

