

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	ix
1 TAXONOMY	1
1.1 <i>Lethrinus</i> spp.	1
1.2 <i>Lutjanus</i> spp.	1
1.3 <i>Plectropomus</i> spp.	1
1.4 Studies in Progress	2
2 DISTRIBUTIONS AND HABITATS.....	3
2.1 <i>Lethrinus</i> spp.	3
2.1.1 Known GBR Distributions	3
2.1.1.1 Long-nosed Emperors	3
2.1.1.2 Nebulosus-like Emperors	3
2.1.1.3 Small (<50cm), shallow-bodied, no thumbprint	3
2.1.1.4 Thumbprints	4
2.1.1.5 Striped species	4
2.1.1.6 Other species	4
2.1.2 Habitats Elsewhere	5
2.1.2.1 Long-nosed Emperors	5
2.1.2.2 Nebulosus-like	5
2.1.2.3 Small, shallow-bodied, no thumbprints	5
2.1.2.4 Thumbprints	6
2.1.2.5 Striped species	6
2.1.2.6 Other species	6
2.1.3 Summary	7
2.2 <i>Lutjanus</i> spp.	7
2.2.1 Distributions and Habitats	7
2.2.2 Summary	11
2.3 <i>Plectropomus</i> spp.	12
2.3.1 Known GBR Distributions	12
2.4 Studies in Progress	12
3 EARLY LIFE HISTORIES.....	17
3.1 <i>Lethrinus</i> spp.	17
3.1.1 Descriptions and Identification of Larvae and Eggs	17
3.1.2 Ecological Information	17
3.1.2.1 Horizontal Distributions	17
3.1.2.2 Vertical Distributions	17
3.1.2.3 Seasonality	17
3.1.2.4 Growth and Length of Larval Period	17

3.2	<i>Lutjanus</i> spp.	18
3.2.1	Descriptions and Identification of Larvae and Eggs	18
3.2.2	Ecological Information	18
3.2.2.1	Horizontal Distributions	18
3.2.2.2	Vertical Distributions	18
3.2.2.3	Seasonality	19
3.2.2.4	Growth and Length of Larval Period	19
3.3	<i>Plectropomus</i> spp.	19
3.3.1	Descriptions and Identification of Larvae and Eggs	19
3.3.2	Ecological Information	19
3.3.2.1	Horizontal Distributions	19
3.3.2.2	Vertical Distributions	20
3.3.2.3	Seasonality	20
3.3.2.4	Growth and Length of Larval Period	20
3.4	Recruitment Variability	20
3.5	Studies in Progress	21
4	REPRODUCTION	22
4.1	<i>Lethrinus</i> spp.	22
4.1.1	Sexuality	22
4.1.2	Size and Age at Maturity	22
4.1.3	Seasonality	23
4.1.4	Spawning	23
4.1.5	Fecundity	23
4.2	<i>Lutjanus</i> spp.	23
4.2.1	Sexuality	23
4.2.2	Size and Age at Maturity	23
4.2.3	Seasonality	24
4.2.4	Spawning	24
4.2.5	Fecundity	24
4.3	<i>Plectropomus</i> spp.	24
4.3.1	Sexuality	24
4.3.2	Size and Age at Maturity	24
4.3.3	Seasonality	24
4.3.4	Spawning	25
4.3.5	Fecundity	25
4.4	Hermaphroditism and the Effects of Fishing	25
4.5	Studies in Progress	26
5	AGE, GROWTH, MORTALITY AND LONGEVITY	27
5.1	<i>Lethrinus</i> spp.	27
5.1.1	Studies on the Great Barrier Reef	27
5.1.2	Studies of GBR Species made Outside the GBR	29
5.2	<i>Lutjanus</i> spp.	29
5.2.1	Studies on the Great Barrier Reef	29
5.2.2	Studies of GBR Species made Outside the GBR	30

5.3	<i>Plectropomus</i> spp.	30
5.3.1	Studies on the Great Barrier Reef	30
5.3.2	Studies of GBR Species made Outside the GBR	32
5.4	Other Genera	32
5.5	A Comment on Validation of Checks on Otoliths and the Use of Mark Release Recapture Techniques	32
5.6	Summary.....	33
5.7	Studies in Progress	34
6	CATCH AND EFFORT	41
6.1	Overview of Current Situation	41
6.2	The Commercial Fishery	42
6.2.1	Catch Information	42
6.2.2	Effort Information	43
6.3	The Recreational Fishery	44
6.3.1	Catch and Effort of the Small-Boat Recreational Fleet	44
6.3.2	Catch and Effort of the Charter Boat Fleet	46
6.3.3	Catch and Effort in the Recreational Spear fishery	48
6.4	Summary.....	48
6.4.1	Commercial Line Fishery	48
6.4.2	Recreational Fishery	48
6.4.2.1	Small-Boat Fishery	48
6.4.2.2	Charter Boat Fishery.....	49
6.4.2.3	Spear fishery	49
6.5	Studies in Progress	49
7	STOCK STRUCTURE	56
7.1	Studies in Progress	57
8	MOVEMENTS, MIGRATION AND SEASONALITY OF FISHERY	58
8.1	Seasonality of Fisheries	58
8.2	Movements and Migration	58
8.2.1	<i>Lethrinus</i> spp.	58
8.2.2	<i>Lutjanus</i> spp.	59
8.2.3	<i>Plectropomus</i> spp.	59
8.3	Movement Between Reefs	60
8.4	Studies in Progress	61
9	DESCRIPTIONS OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	62
9.1	Bottom Fishing	62
9.1.1	Deep-water, Night-time.....	62
9.1.2	Shallow-water Night-time	62
9.2	Trout Fishing.....	63
9.2.1	Wogging.....	63
9.2.2	Tinny Fishing.....	63

10	INTERACTIONS BETWEEN FISHERIES	64
10.1	Line Fishing: Commercial and Recreational	64
10.2	Line Fishing: Reefs and Inter-Reefs	64
10.3	Trawling and Line Fishing	64
11	YIELD ESTIMATES AND SPAWNING POTENTIAL	65
11.1	Surplus Production Models	65
11.2	Yield-Per-Recruit Models	65
11.3	Spawning Potential	66
12	MANAGEMENT MEASURES	67
12.1	The Commercial Line Fishery	67
12.1.1	Responsibility for Management	67
12.1.2	Management Measures	68
12.1.2.1	Controls on Fishing Effort	68
12.1.2.2	Gear Restrictions	68
12.1.2.3	Restrictions on Catch	69
12.1.2.4	The Recent Review of the Reef Line Fishery	69
12.2	The Recreational Line Fishery	69
12.2.1	Responsibility for Management	69
12.2.2	Management Measures	70
12.2.2.1	Controls on Fishing Effort	70
12.2.2.2	Gear Restrictions	70
12.2.2.3	Restrictions on Catch	70
12.3	GBRMPA Zoning: The Role of Reef Closures in Fisheries Management	72
12.4	Fisheries Management and Spatial Closures to Fishing	74
12.5	Effects of Reef Closures on the Great Barrier Reef	75
12.6	Potential Target Species of the Line Fishery in the Future	76
12.7	Summary	77
12.8	Studies in Progress	77
13	RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESEARCH PRIORITIES	85
13.1	Distributions and Habitats	85
13.2	Early Life Histories	85
13.3	Reproduction	86
13.4	Age, Growth, Mortality and Longevity	86
13.5	Catch and Effort	86
13.6	Stock Structure	87
13.7	Movements and Migration	87
13.8	Yield Estimates and Spawning Potential	87
13.9	Management Measures	88
	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	89
	REFERENCES	90
APPENDIX	Contact Addresses of Persons Providing Unpublished Information	102

TABLES

1	Species of emperor (<i>Lethrinus</i> spp.) likely to be encountered on the Great Barrier Reef	13
2	A key to commonly seen synonyms and misidentifications of the Great Barrier Reef emperors	14
3	Species of snapper (<i>Lutjanus</i> spp.) likely to be encountered on the Great Barrier Reef	15
4	Commonly seen synonyms and misidentifications of Great Barrier Reef snappers	16
5	Species of coral trout (<i>Plectropomus</i> spp.) known to occur on the Great Barrier Reef	16
6	Commonly seen synonyms and misidentifications of Great Barrier Reef coral trout.....	16
7	Age and size at maturity of lethrinids in the New Caledonia lagoon.....	26
8	Growth Parameters, Mortality Parameters, Longevity and Method of Growth Determination of <i>Lethrinus</i> , <i>Lutjanus</i> and <i>Plectropomus</i> spp.	36
9	Growth Parameters, Mortality Parameters, Longevity and Method of Growth Determination of <i>Lethrinus</i> spp.	37
10	Growth Parameters, Mortality Parameters, Longevity and Method of Growth Determination of <i>Lutjanus</i> spp.....	39
11	Estimated landings of reef fish at Queensland Fish Board depots between 1957 and 1981	50
12	Estimated landings of fish in Queensland from various sources from 1966/67 to 1990	51
13	Summary of some catch and effort data collected for the small-boat recreational fleet, Great Barrier Reef region.....	52
14	Summary of some catch and effort data collected for recreational fishing from charter boats fishing in the Great Barrier Reef region	53
15	Summary of catch-effort data collected from fishing club competition records where clubs have used charter boats or club boats to fish the Great Barrier Reef	54
16	Catch composition of Recreational and Commercial reef-demersal line fisheries by region, 1980-81	55
17	Distances moved by three species along northern reef slope of Heron Reef.....	61

18	Summary of information relevant to zoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and relevant to the reef line fishery of the Great Barrier Reef, 1991	79
19	Potential advantages and disadvantages of the use of long-term spatial closures to fishing in management of reef fisheries	80
20	Summary of evidence for effects spatial closures to fishing or reduced fishing pressure on stocks of reef fishes on the Great Barrier Reef	82