

# Coastal Crabber

life as a professional fisher



*This is story about  
the everyday life of a  
modern day  
professional fisher  
and how he looks  
after the environment he  
works in. The careful  
management of the  
fishery allows Troy to  
continue supplying mud  
crabs to  
'YOU'.*

Written by: Donna English, Patrick Sachs and  
Naomi Brydon

2014 National Seafood Industry Leadership Program

Team: *Full Steam Ahead*

Motto: *Driven to educate our youth*

Images and story content: Troy Billin, Mud Crabber,  
Clarence River, NSW

This is Troy's boat that he uses to catch his live mud crabs that are supplied to the fish markets.

Professional fishers in NSW require a Licensed Fishing Boat Number. This is marked on the side of the boat.



Troy is required to purchase a professional fishing licence, this allows him to fish.

Mud crabs have been an important source of food for many thousands of years and Troy's fishing methods will help make sure that this continues.



Fishers see themselves as fish farmers whose survival depends on how well they care for their fishing grounds.



This is Troy, he's a professional mud crabber from the Clarence River in New South Wales.

Troy checks his crab traps daily and any undersized crabs are released back into the sea alive.

Small boats are used to minimise impact on the local environment.

Troy only carries 10 crab traps on his boat. This makes sure that he does not overfish the local river.



Mud crabs have to be tied, this stops them from biting each other and the fisher!

There is very little else caught in the fishery as the traps are specially designed to only catch mud crabs.



All the mud crabs are sorted into sizes and weighed before being packed for sale.



Troy keeps a diary or log book of every catch, from the area where he drops the traps into the sea, to the local and interstate fish markets that buy them.

You should eat about two to three meals of seafood per week as it has lots of vitamins, minerals and good oils.

Each month Troy has to send his catch diary or log book data to the N.S.W Department of Primary Industries.





Troy's favourite thing about being a professional fisher is that he knows that the seafood he catches tastes great and comes from well managed waters!

Troy supplies live mud crabs to the local Clarence River market. He also transports live crabs by road to Sydney Fish Market, where wholesalers, restaurants and retailers purchase them to sell to you.



This e-book publication developed by the 2014 National Seafood Industry Leadership Program participants.

The e-book publication was produced to demonstrate the ease in which industry can educate and connect with the youth in their local community.

This 'tool' (e-book) is as part of a toolkit of education resources developed to enable the industry sectors of the Australian seafood community to develop their own products to reflect the specific needs of their sector.

## 2014 National Seafood Industry Leadership Program Vision & Mission

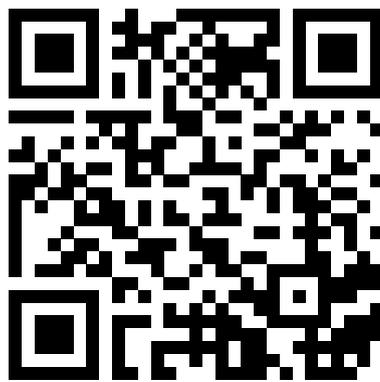
### *Vision*

*We, the Australian Seafood community, are stewards of the aquatic environment. United, we ensure a sustainable supply of quality seafood.*

### *Mission*

*To enhance the seafood community's reputation through education, promotion and improving relationships.*

The 2014 National Seafood Industry Leadership Program participants would like to thank Rural Training Initiative, Jill Briggs and Chris Calogeras and the program sponsors.



This QR Code will link you to footage on The Sustainable Mud Crab Story - NSW Commercial Mud Crab Fishery

